



European Migration Network (EMN) Status Report 2018

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Summary of Key EMN developments in 2018

In line with the EMN Work Programme 2017/2018, the following key developments took place in 2018.

- To mark the occasion of its 10-year anniversary, the EMN organised the **conference 'Understanding Migration in the EU: past, present, future'** in Brussels on 15 May 2018, bringing together almost 200 policy-makers, researchers and practitioners from EU and national governments, academic institutions, international organisations and from civil society. The event was opened by the Commissioner for Migration, Home Affairs and Citizenship, Mr. Dimitris Avramopoulos. During the event, high-level representatives from the Commission, international organisations, academics and practitioners shared the floor to contribute their perspectives on migration and on the role of the EMN as a provider of up-to-date information on migration developments in the last 10 years. During this occasion, the EMN presented a number of new products including:
 - The **Annual Report on Migration and Asylum (ARM) 2017** presented the key developments for 2017 across all policy areas in the field of migration and asylum. As in previous years, Country Factsheets were also developed to provide a user-friendly and succinct overview per EU Member State and Norway.
 - The **EMN 10 Year Anniversary Report** titled 'Understanding Migration in the European Union: Insights from the European Migration Network 2008-2018' took stock of and presented key trends in asylum and migration flows and policy developments over the last 10 years.
 - The **EMN Glossary Version 6.0** to mark the 10th anniversary of the network and its impact on policy making.
 - An **EMN promotional video**, developed by BE EMN NCP and introducing the EMN and its work in an informal and accessible way.
- During 2018, three **EMN Studies** on topical issues such as effectiveness of return and the national approaches to unaccompanied minors following status determination were completed and widely disseminated among national, EU and international audiences. The studies have been used to feed into the various stages of the policymaking cycle at EU and national levels. Four new EMN studies were launched in 2018 and were expected to be finalised at different stages throughout 2019. The range of issues covered by these studies included: labour market integration, the impact of visa liberalisation on countries of destination, national practices to attract and retain international students, as well as beneficiaries of international protection travelling to the country of origin.
- EU and national policy-makers in Member States and Norway continued to use the **EMN Ad-Hoc Query** online portal within the EMN Information Exchange System to gather information on specific topics of interest within a short timeframe. Over 67 EMN Ad-Hoc Queries were launched in 2018. This decrease in numbers compared to previous years was due to the migration of the EMN Ad-Hoc Query module from the old system to the new EMN-IES. The most frequent themes addressed in Ad-Hoc Queries concerned legal migration and mobility, accounting for up to 27 % of all Ad-Hoc Queries in the year. Legal migration or integration issues accounted for 19 % of all Ad-Hoc Queries, followed by "miscellaneous" (16 %). The facility remains widely used: 25 EMN National Contact Points (NCPs) launched at least one Ad-Hoc Query in 2018. Norway launched the highest number of Ad-Hoc Queries in the year (6 Ad-Hoc Queries), followed by France (5), Czech Republic, Estonia, Ireland, Luxembourg, the Netherlands and the Slovak Republic (4).
- At **EU level**, networking continued amongst the EMN NCPs, the Commission and a wide range of relevant stakeholders including the OECD, the Council of Europe, the Joint Research Centre (JRC), the European Parliament, Eurostat and EU Agencies such as EASO and Frontex. In total, nine meetings of the EMN were held in Brussels (two Steering Board and seven NCPs meetings).
- At **national level**, EMN NCPs continued to bring together a wide range of national policy-makers, academics, non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and other stakeholders to exchange information on recent research, debate policy priorities and other developments of interest and to exchange experiences and best practices through their activities. At least 15 national events were organised in 2018. For example, EMN Norway commissioned a high level academic paper on sustainable migration that was peer reviewed during an event in Oslo and disseminated during a further event in Brussels.
- The EMN continued to disseminate information on migration and asylum to a wide audience, including the general public, through the **EMN Bulletin**, **EMN Conferences**, the **EMN Webpage** and **social media (i.e. LinkedIn and Twitter)**. The latter was launched in December 2018 on the occasion of the Norway EMN NCP event on Sustainable Migration, held in Brussels.

- As well as the EMN's 10 Year Anniversary event, two **EMN Conferences** were organised by the EMN National Contact Points of the Member States holding the 2018 Presidencies of the Council of the EU, i.e. Bulgaria and Austria. The conferences focused respectively on 'Crossroads of Migration: Challenges and Success Factors in Managing Migration Flows' and 'Managing Migration -from reacting to shaping'. EMN NCPs also contributed to dissemination activities through their national newsletters, websites, social media, national conferences and other events.
- The **EMN Return Expert Group (REG)**¹ continued to actively exchange information, including operational data, on return policy, and to support practical cooperation in return and reintegration. The REG met four times in 2018 and held four wider meetings covering various topics including cooperation with international organisations and NGOs on voluntary returns; alternatives to detention, EU travel documents as well as return counselling practices and return counsellors. REG-related meetings and workshops enabled participants to share information with relevant external entities including Eurostat, Frontex, the European Asylum Support Office (EASO), as well as representatives of the EU-funded joint activities such as the European Return and Reintegration Network (ERRIN), the European Initiative on Return Management (EURINT) and the European Return Liaison Officers' network (EURLO). For example, the REG participated in a workshop on return counselling organised by ERRIN held in Berlin (Germany) on 4-5 September 2018.
- The **management of the EMN** was assured by the Commission, with the support of the Service Provider. The EMN Work Programme 2017/2018 was adopted on 13 December 2016 as Commission Decision C(2016) 8267 (final). Progress made in the implementation of the Work Programme and next steps were discussed at regular EMN NCP meetings and through bilateral contacts with all EMN members.

1 Introduction

The present document constitutes the tenth European Migration Network (EMN) Status Report.² In accordance with Article 4(5c) of Council Decision 2008/381/EC, the report provides a succinct overview of progress made by the EMN during 2018. The EMN Status Report 2018 briefly presents the EMN outputs produced in 2018 and the developments taking place in the year, as well as a summary of the networking activities that took place at EU and national level and the dissemination and communication activities undertaken to promote the work of EMN to policy-makers and wider audiences. It also provides information on how the EMN was managed in 2018.

2 EMN Outputs in 2018

This section provides an overview of the main EMN outputs and impacts, within the framework of the EMN Work Programme 2017-2018. It focuses on the activities undertaken to understand and anticipate policy-makers' needs, and the subsequent collection and analysis of information and statistics to meet these needs in the form of:

- ★ **Annual Report on Migration and Asylum (ARM) 2017** and Country Factsheets;
- ★ **EMN Studies** (presenting an EU level overview of the main findings on a given topic, on the basis of national contributions produced by the EMN NCPs according to common specifications);
- ★ **EMN Informs** (succinctly summarising key points to note on a given topic);
- ★ **EMN Flash** (a one-page document presenting the key points of an EMN Study);
- ★ **Ad-Hoc Queries** (a highly responsive mechanism for collecting comparative information);
- ★ **EMN Glossary** (of terms in the area of migration and asylum).

2.1 ANNUAL REPORT ON MIGRATION AND ASYLUM 2017

Each year, the EMN reports on the most significant EU and national policy and legislative developments, as well as on public debates, in the fields of migration and international protection, and provides the latest relevant statistics. This process entails the collection and analysis of NCPs' national contributions, which provide an overview of key developments in their Member State. The latter are then synthesised to provide a comparative overview of key developments across the EU.

During 2018, the EMN completed the exercise for 2017 and started the planning of the Annual Report on Migration and Asylum (ARM) 2018. The 2017 report was compiled in early 2018 and published in May 2018.

¹ Building on the work of the former Voluntary Return Experts Group (VREN) funded under the EU Return Fund.

² As required by Article 4(5c) of Council Decision 2008/381/EC.

In order to contribute to the ARM, each Member State completed a common EU-level template (ARM Part 1 specifications plus statistics template) focussing on key policy developments in 2017. These national contributions were then synthesised into the EU-level report. The information collected by EMN NCPs on international protection was in agreement with and then used by EASO to compile EASO's own annual report, thus avoiding duplication in data collection. EMN NCPs also developed a separate National Report (following the ARM Part 2 specifications) tailored for their respective national audiences.

The [EMN Annual Report on Migration and Asylum](#) constitutes the only report which provides an EU overview of all policy developments relevant in the field of migration and asylum in one publication. The ARM comprises also a [Statistical Annex](#) with the most recent data on relevant migration topics. For the ARM 2017, and in view also of the EMN 10 Year Anniversary Event, a new publication format was designed and delivered which introduced new design elements such as infographics. The new format was well received by EMN NCPs and it served as the basis for the new visual identity of all EMN products. In 2018, the report was presented during the 10 Year Anniversary event held on 15 May 2018 in Brussels (see section 4.1 for more information).

The specifications, designed as a common template for the ARM 2018 (Part 1), were finalised in November 2018. The specifications were significantly amended in 2018 and new elements introduced to improve the comparability of the information collected and to facilitate the development of infographics and other visual elements. The information and statistical data collected at the national level was also revised to ensure it remained relevant to the most recent policy priorities and developments at EU level. The section on international protection was again developed in cooperation with EASO. The format of the specifications for Part 2 continued to provide flexibility to EMN NCPs when preparing their national reports in line with the needs and interest of their national audiences.

The ARM 2017 took stock of the changing trends and measures in all Member States and Norway regarding international protection and asylum, the situation of unaccompanied minors, integration, trafficking in human beings, legal and irregular migration, return, and the development impact of migration. The report also compiled information on policies implemented by Member States and Norway to secure their borders.

The report showed how various Member States and Norway changed their national asylum procedures, reception conditions and the qualification of persons seeking international protection. The ARM also highlighted the inputs provided the Commission to further harmonise legal migration procedures and the efforts made by Member States to attract specific groups of workers, such as the high-skilled.

As in previous years, [Country Factsheets](#) were developed by the EMN for each NCP. The Factsheets outlined key national developments in migration and asylum during 2017 and presented relevant national migration and international protection statistics. Once validated by the NCPs, the Factsheets were published in early September 2018 on the EMN website for 25 Member States and Norway.

2.2 EMN 10 YEAR ANNIVERSARY REPORT

[EMN 10 Year Anniversary Report](#) titled 'Understanding Migration in the European Union: Insights from the European Migration Network 2008-2018' took stock of and presented key trends in asylum and migration flows and policy developments over the last 10 years. The Report opened by highlighting how immigration had become an issue of increasing importance to the public across the EU over time, and how sentiments towards immigration from outside the EU have changed as the result of the war in Syria and other crises in the region, emphasising the importance of good migration management to ensure public confidence. The Report then explored how key European migration and asylum policies evolved over the 10-year period, adapting to the recent migration crisis, whilst managing the long term needs of both host populations and migrants. The information base for this analysis was drawn from 10 successive EMN Annual Reports on Asylum and Migration and Status Reports, EMN Studies and Ad-Hoc Queries collecting information on a wide range of asylum and migration topics, EMN Informs, briefing papers and other documents developed by the EMN during the 10 year period (2008-2018). Importantly, the Report showed how the EMN consistently met the evolving needs of its audiences over time, to provide them with timely, high quality, impartial and comparative information that was not available elsewhere.

2.3 EMN STUDIES³

The EMN finalised and published a number of policy-relevant studies in 2018, and contributed also to the development of studies which are to be finalised in 2019 respectively. Seven studies were developed during 2018. Three studies from the EMN Work Programmes 2017-2018 were finalised and four were in progress during the year. The studies were developed in collaboration with relevant policy-makers, experts and practitioners across the EU and have contributed or are expected to contribute directly to the policy-making process at EU level. They are also used to inform policy-makers, practitioners, academic researchers and the wider public about the research topics in focus.

³ The various reports are available from the [EMN website](#) under "EMN Outputs: EMN Studies"

EU level synthesis reports were developed from national contributions based on desk analysis of secondary information including existing legislation and policy documents, reports, academic literature, internet resources as well as reports and information from national authorities and civil society stakeholders. Statistics were sourced from Eurostat, national authorities and other (national) databases. The EMN studies remained, in general, short in length, analytical, and included comparative information presented in tabular format rather than as descriptive text. Once finalised, studies were published on the EMN website, as well as on EMN NCPs' national websites, and publicised through social media (i.e. LinkedIn), the EMN Bulletin and external mailing lists.

The findings of the EMN studies were also presented and debated at the two EMN conferences, EMN NCP national conferences and at external events. Some EMN national and synthesis reports were translated to other Member State languages to improve their dissemination amongst the national network members.

Studies finalised in 2018 included:

- ★ EMN Study 2017: 'The effectiveness of return in EU Member States'
- ★ EMN Study 2017: 'Changing influx of asylum seekers 2014-2016';
- ★ EMN Study 2017: 'Approaches to unaccompanied minors following status determination in the EU plus Norway'.

Studies finalised or to be finalised in 2019:

- ★ EMN Study 2018: 'Labour market integration of third-country nationals in EU Member States' (finalised in February 2019);
- ★ EMN Study 2018: 'The impact of visa liberalisation on countries of destination' (finalised in March 2019);
- ★ EMN Study 2018: 'Attracting and retaining international students in the EU' (to be finalised in June 2019);
- ★ EMN Study 2018: 'Beneficiaries of international protection travelling to the country of origin' (to be finalised in June 2019).

More information about each of the studies is provided below.

2.3.1 THE EFFECTIVENESS OF RETURN IN EU MEMBER STATES

The [study](#) set out to investigate the good practices and challenges in Member States' application of EU rules on return and equivalent standards and was structured in line with the [Commission's 2017 Communication on a more effective return policy](#) and the accompanying [Recommendation](#). The good practices and challenges related to national implementing measures or interpretations of concepts used under EU law (e.g. risk of absconding) or of the conditions to implement certain provisions. It presented an estimate of the scale of the population of irregular migrants issued a return decision but whose return to a third country had not been carried out.

The study found that return was increasingly a topic for national debate and was widely considered a priority across Member States. The national practices implementing the EU framework – or equivalent standards – varied across Member States, due to different administrative practices, different interpretations of rules, as well as EU case law. Challenges faced by Member States primarily related to the risk that a third-country national might abscond; the difficulty in arranging voluntary departures in the timeframe defined in EU rules and standards or equivalent; the application of rules and standards on detention, as well as the length of the return procedure, in particular when the decision is appealed.

The study was developed on the basis of national contributions from 22 EU Member States⁴ and was published in February 2018. The key findings were presented during the 18th EMN REG meeting held in Krakow, Poland in February 2018 and during the EMN Annual Conference held in Sofia, Bulgaria in June 2018. Furthermore, the study contributed to the work of the EMN REG (see section 4.1.2) and contributed valuable information for the Proposal for a Directive on common standards and procedures in Member States for returning illegally staying third-country nationals (recast) published on 12 September 2018 (COM(2018) 634 final, p.5).

At national level, the EMN NCP of the Czech Republic organised a national conference on the effectiveness of return. The results of the conference and the discussion served as a basis for new amendments on legislation and the improvement of practical cooperation among experts in this field. The summaries of two EMN ad-hoc queries ('Return Directive (2008/115/EC) and the obligation to respect the non-refoulement principle in so-called return procedure' and the 'Effective remedy against the decisions related to return') also provided useful information for the new legislation proposals.

⁴ AT, BE, CY, CZ, DE, EE, EL, ES, FI, FR, HR, HU, IE, IT, LT, LV, LU, NL, SE, SI, SK, UK.

2.3.2 CHANGING INFLUX OF ASYLUM SEEKERS 2014-2016

The [study](#) provided an overview of the changes to national strategies, approaches and measures in response to increases or decreases in the influx of asylum seekers over the period 2014-2016. It reviewed the asylum policies and organisational measures introduced over this period and Member State plans for future changes. Published in August 2018, the study showed how 24 EU Member States⁵ and Norway responded to the unprecedented migratory movements of 2015 by providing an overview of the changes to national strategies, approaches and measures in their countries.

The study showed that authorities in Member States and Norway responded in different ways through a range of measures, categorised broadly under: border control and law enforcement; (wider) reception services; registration and asylum procedures and integration measures. Some countries adopted similar measures, in particular, those enhancing law enforcement and border control and those increasing reception places, immigration service staff and financial resources. Other countries adopted measures that specifically responded to the individual challenges they faced, based on the type of influx experienced (and the phenomenon of secondary movements⁶), geographical location and policy preferences.

The EMN was invited to present the key findings of this study to the EASO Progress Meeting on 'Analysis of how the policies of EU+ countries influence the distribution of asylum seekers', held on 12 October 2018 in Valletta (Malta).

2.3.3 APPROACHES TO UNACCOMPANIED MINORS FOLLOWING STATUS DETERMINATION IN THE EU PLUS NORWAY

The [study](#) provided an overview of Member States' approaches to unaccompanied minors following a final decision on their asylum/ other status application. Thus, the study examined the pathways open to unaccompanied minors after the completion of the status-determination procedure which either granted or refused the protection status. In relation to the latter, the study covered instances when unaccompanied minors were ordered to leave the territory, but the return decision was not or could not be enforced, resulting in statuses such as temporary and tolerated stay (available for example to child victims of trafficking).

In addition, the study also examined how Member States were dealing with UAMs who are approaching or have reached the age of 18 and the cases where UAMs abscond. To the extent possible, the study also presented comparable data on the scale of unaccompanied minors currently present in the Member States and Norway, as well as over time (2014-2017), supplementing it with national statistics where available.

The study was developed on the basis of national contributions from 25 Member States⁷ and Norway and was published in July 2018. The Synthesis Report of this study was also translated into French in order to better disseminate the information to national network members.

Three national events were organised by the Italian, German and Finnish EMN NCPs, in 2018 on the topic of unaccompanied minors (see section 4.1).

2.3.4 LABOUR MARKET INTEGRATION OF THIRD-COUNTRY NATIONALS IN EU MEMBER STATES

This [study](#) informed the target audience (e.g. practitioners, policy officers and decision-makers at both EU and national level) and the Commission on the application of integration measures for third-country nationals across Member States, excluding measures only designed for beneficiaries of international protection, asylum seekers and students/graduates. Acknowledging the multiple dimensions involved (socio-economic, cultural, civic, political participation, etc.), the study focusses on the socio-economic dimension of integration, examining the different labour market integration measures for legally staying third-country nationals with the right to work in the EU.

The study was based on contributions from 25 Member States.⁸ Most Member States were found to have dedicated labour market integration policies in place, which were combining both mainstream and tailored labour market integration measures. The three most common obstacles to labour market integration related to the accreditation of job qualifications and assessment of skills; discriminatory behaviours in recruitments processes, and insufficient language skills. Whereas public sector integration measures were found to primarily focus on the phase before accessing employment, private sector measures aimed more specifically at integrating the migrant worker into the workplace.

The study was published on 20 February 2019, coinciding with the World Day of Social Justice. It was widely disseminated via the EMN's official Twitter and LinkedIn accounts, as well as by EMN NCPs.

⁵ AT, BE, CZ, DE, EE, EL, ES, FI, FR, HR, HU, IE, IT, LV, LT, LU, MT, NL, PL, PT, SE, SI, SK, UK.

⁶ The phenomenon of migrants, including refugees and applicants for international protection, who for different reasons move from the country in which they first arrived to seek protection or permanent resettlement elsewhere. (EMN Glossary: https://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/content/secondary-movement-migrants_en)

⁷ AT, BE, BG, CZ, DE, EE, EL, ES, FI, FR, HR, HU, IE, IT, LV, LT, LU, MT, NL, PL, PT, SE, SI, SK, UK.

⁸ AT, BE, BG, CY, CZ, DE, EE, EL, ES, FI, FR, HR, HU, IE, IT, LT, LU, LV, MT, NL, PL, PT, SE, SK, UK

2.3.5 THE IMPACT OF VISA LIBERALISATION ON COUNTRIES OF DESTINATIONS

The aim of the report was to investigate the (short-term) impact of visa liberalisation on EU Member States and Norway and consider their policies and practices following changes in migration flows by nationals of the countries benefitting from the visa-free regime resulting from visa liberalisation. Likewise, considering the different legal frameworks applied in Ireland and the UK, these two Member States' experiences are contrasted against the general EU trends (which, with some exceptions, they mirror).

Visa-free travel is an important achievement in regional cooperation with benefits for all States participating in visa liberalisation. Based on contributions from 25 Member States and Norway⁹ and published in March 2019, this study has shown that impacts in countries of destination have been both direct and indirect, and that following visa liberalisation, both positive and negative trends have been observed. The main direct impacts included an immediate increase in short-term travel to the countries of destination from visa-free countries and one of the main indirect impacts related to the facilitation of access to the labour market in specific Member States. The European Commission is closely monitoring the visa liberalisation benchmarks. In this regard, the Western Balkan and Eastern Partnership visa-free countries are actively taking measures to address existing challenges, however further efforts are needed to guarantee the sustainability of such actions and to increase awareness among all countries, that the benefits of the visa-free travel regime comes with certain responsibilities and obligations

2.3.6 BENEFICIARIES OF INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION TRAVELLING TO THE COUNTRY OF ORIGIN

The study aims to map information on the reasons for travel of persons granted international protection in EU Member States, Norway and Switzerland to their country of origin. While such acts do not automatically imply a misuse of their international protection status, they could, in certain circumstances, contradict the grounds that led to granting protection, namely the individual's well-founded fear of persecution in the country of origin (or habitual residence for stateless persons) or real risk of suffering serious harm. Furthermore, the study aims to analyse the possible consequences of such acts on the international protection status and residence rights of the persons concerned. Additionally, an annex has been developed to collect data on the way Member States monitor and detect beneficiaries of international protection travelling to their country of origin through records held by the airports of the State that granted them protection or the airports of other (neighbouring) States. However, due to the national sensitivity of such information, the data collected through the annex will not be published but will be made available in the restricted workspace of the EMN-IES.

The study has so far received contributions from 24 Member States¹⁰ and from Norway and Switzerland and is currently under development. It will be published in mid-2019.

2.3.7 ATTRACTING AND RETAINING INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS IN THE EU

The study aims to explore what national practices are in place in Member States to attract and retain third-country national students. It is timely in that it is based on up to date information available in view of the deadline to transpose the 2016 EU Students and Researchers Directive by May 2018. The current study provides an update of an earlier EMN study on this topic developed in 2012/3 to feed into the development of the 2016 Students and Researchers Directive, and examines the changes in national policies on attracting and retaining students that have taken place.

Focussing on legal migrants issued with a residence permits for study reasons, the study does not include beneficiaries of international protection. Next to changes in policies, the incentives in place in EU Member States to attract and retain international students are examined, in addition to the admission criteria, language requirements and the process for the recognition of diplomas. Furthermore, an overview of the bilateral and multilateral cooperation agreements in place with third countries covering international students is provided.

The study has so far received contributions from 25 Member States¹¹ and is currently under development.

2.3.8 THE ORGANISATION OF ASYLUM AND MIGRATION POLICIES IN EU MEMBER STATES

A review was launched at the end of 2018 for this output. EMN NCPs were encouraged to update their factsheets, as well as their country-based organograms, as required with any new national developments. EMN NCPs proposed to revise the current national template for both the factsheets and organograms. This review process was carried out by the Annual Report on Migration and Asylum (ARM) working group and finalised in November 2018. No updates to national reports were received during 2018 for this report, however, almost all EMN NCPs plan to update their factsheets including organograms and have started to submit these along with their ARM (Part 1) reports.

⁹ AT, BE, CY, CZ, DE, EE, EL, ES, FI, FR, HR, HU, IE, IT, LT, LU, LV, MT, NL, NO, PL, PT, SE, SI, SK, UK

¹⁰ AT, BE, BG, CY, CZ, DE, EE, EL, ES, FI, FR, HR, HU, IE, IT, LT, LU, LV, MT, NL, PT, SE, SK and UK

¹¹ AT, BE, BG, CY, CZ, DE, EE, EL, ES, FI, FR, HR, HU, IE, IT, LT, LU, LV, MT, NL, PL, PT, SE, SK, UK

2.4 EMN INFORMS AND EMN 'FLASHES'

EMN Informs are designed to improve the dissemination of the results of EMN Reports, Studies and Ad-Hoc Queries, and are specifically aimed at policy-makers, drawing out key policy / practice messages. Informs typically are short (no more than four pages in length) and are made available on the public EMN website. It should be noted however, that three of the latest Informs produced by the EMN and those developed under the REG were notably longer than the general EMN format and more complex in their scope, consisting also of additional annexes and including tables of comparative data. A guidance note prepared during 2018 setting out the scope and scale of Informs and the modalities for their development was agreed by EMN NCPs to improve consistency.

Whilst EMN Informs are in general widely disseminated, a limited number of REG Informs, addressing specific return implementation issues were disseminated to Member States only. Due to the sensitivity of the topic the EMN Inform 'Detecting Document Fraud' circulation was also limited.

In total, nine EMN Informs were finalised during 2018 and two during 2019,¹² including those developed for the REG. These were:

- ★ EMN: 'Challenges and practices for establishing applicants' identity in the migration process EU (2018);
- ★ EMN: 'The effectiveness of return in EU Member States: challenges and good practices linked to EU rules and standards EU (2018);
- ★ EMN: 'Safe countries of origin (2018);
- ★ EMN: 'Detecting document fraud (2018);
- ★ EMN: 'Changing Influx of Asylum Seekers (2014-2016) (2018);
- ★ EMN: 'Approaches to unaccompanied minors following status determination in the EU plus 2017 (2018);
- ★ EMN: 'Social benefits and rights for beneficiaries of international protection' (2018);
- ★ EMN: 'The Impact Of Visa Liberalisation On Countries Of Destinations' (2019);
- ★ EMN: 'Labour market integration of third-country nationals in EU member states' (2019);
- ★ EMN REG: 'EU travel document for return' (2018);
- ★ EMN REG: 'Return counselling practices and return counsellors' (2018).

Some EMN Informs were translated by EMN NCPs into other EU languages in order to better disseminate the information to their national network members, including French, German and Greek.

The EMN Inform on 'Detecting document fraud 2018' was presented by EMN NCP representatives in a Cluster Meeting that took place in Athens on 5 and 6 December 2018, to Europol in The Hague on 14 February 2019 and to the Romanian Council Presidency on 2 April 2019.

EMN 'Flashes' are one-page summaries and were a new product of the EMN, developed in the second half of 2018. They aim to provide a succinct summary of each new EMN Study finalised, and are designed as dissemination tools. Some of the below EMN Flashes were translated into other EU languages, such as French and Greek, in order to better disseminate the information to their national network members. Opening with a key research question to attract attention, they offer a snapshot of a study background, the key finding and in some cases key learning points in a user-friendly and visually engaging way. They also provide direct links to the synthesis report and to national reports. These 'one-pagers' have been developed in line with the EMN's efforts to increasingly reach the wider public and media. Three EMN Flashes were published in 2018 and one in 2019 to promote 2018 EMN studies however, one was also developed in relation to the EMN Inform on 'Social Benefits and Rights for Beneficiaries of International Protection' as it was a lengthy document.

- ★ **EMN Flash #1 – 2018** 'What happens to unaccompanied children on arrival in Europe following status determination?'

This one-page summary introduced the EMN study on 'Approaches to unaccompanied minors following status determination in the EU plus Norway'. It included an infographic on unaccompanied minors requesting asylum in the EU plus Norway between 2014-2017, highlighting the top five countries of origin and the top five destination countries and the unaccompanied minors' characteristics.

¹² These 2019 Informs are mentioned here as they relate to 2018 EMN Studies.

★ **EMN Flash #2 – 2018** ‘How did Member States react to the fluctuations of the influx of asylum seekers?’

This one-page summary introduced to the EMN study on ‘Changing influx of asylum seekers 2014-2016’. It includes an infographic with the number of applications for international protection over the period 2013-2017.

★ **EMN Flash #3 – 2018** ‘How are social benefits and rights granted to beneficiaries of international protection in Europe?’

This EMN Flash introduced the EMN Inform on ‘Social benefits and rights for beneficiaries of international protection.’ It highlighted five key findings and the level of social benefits and rights with regards education, healthcare, housing, family reunification and financial allowances.

★ **EMN Flash #4 – 2019** ‘How can first generation third-country national migrants be helped to integrate into EU labour markets?’¹³

This one introduced the EMN study on ‘Labour market integration of third-country nationals in EU Member States.’ It highlighted five key findings and three key learning points on labour market integration.

2.5 AD-HOC QUERIES

During 2018, the EMN Ad-Hoc Query tool continued to gain recognition by policy-makers at EU and national levels as a highly responsive mechanism for collecting comparative information quickly from across the EU Member States and Norway on a specific, topical issue. The Commission reiterated the use and importance of the EMN Ad-Hoc Queries as a fundamental tool for addressing immediate information needs.

Since the introduction of the EMN Ad-Hoc Query tool, a total number of 1 023 EMN Ad-Hoc Queries have been launched. In 2018, the overall number of Ad-Hoc Queries launched was slightly lower than that reported in previous years because of the migration of the Ad-Hoc Query Module from the old system to the new EMN-IES. 25 EMN NCPs launched in total 67 Ad-Hoc Queries (compared to 101 Ad-Hoc Queries launched in 2017). Norway launched the highest number of Ad-Hoc Queries in the year (6 Ad-Hoc Queries), followed by France (5). Moreover, in 2018, the EMN launched a 10 Year Anniversary Ad-Hoc Query to collect information to produce the EMN 10 Year Anniversary report. The results were shared with the Commission to provide EU policy-makers with a clear snapshot of the impact that EMN had in EU Member States and Norway. Two EMN Informs were developed after the launch of joint Ad-Hoc Queries (‘Detecting Document Fraud 2018’ – LU NCP and NL NCP and ‘Social benefits and rights for beneficiaries of international protection – HR NCP, LU NCP, NL NCP and PL NCP).

Consistent with 2017, the average number of *responses* received per Ad-Hoc Query in 2018 was 22 which corresponds to over 1 474 individual responses collectively from EMN NCPs. The high average number of responses received continues to be an indicator of the effective functioning of the tool and that both EU policy-makers and EMN members consider it to be a highly effective mechanism for obtaining an EU-wide perspective on an issue in a short timeframe. For example, the Slovak EMN NCP of reported that the information gathered through the 2018 Ad-Hoc Query on ‘Strategy of managed labour mobility of foreigners’ contributed to the development and elaboration of the new Strategy of the same name in their country, adopted in autumn 2018.

In 2018 Ad-Hoc Queries responded to a wide range of migration and asylum issues. Legal migration and mobility themes accounted for 19 %, followed by ‘miscellaneous’ which accounted for 16 %, and addressed diverse topics such as collection of biometric data, climate change and migration, and the use of cloud and skype technologies in immigration cases. Ad-Hoc Queries covered topics ranging from civic integration policy to identity and document fraud as well as travel documents.

Some EMN NCPs also produced user-friendly Ad-Hoc Query summaries and circulated these to the EMN for review and to ensure quality and accuracy. Some EMN NCPs subsequently made these available (in some cases in translation, for example in French) to their national networks, sharing relevant comparative information on interesting and in some cases, challenging topics raised by Member States and Norway, either via their national websites or during meetings and events.

In 2018, Ad-Hoc Queries were increasingly forming the basis of new EMN Informs developed in response to information needs beyond the study topics agreed each year. For instance, Ad-Hoc Queries were used to refresh information that had already been collected and synthesised by the EMN to support two new Informs (Detecting Document Fraud” and “Social Benefits and Rights for Beneficiaries of International Protection”).

The EMN Ad-Hoc Query Working Group (WG) and its co-chairs – the LU and UK EMN NCPs - continued to actively explore ways to enhance the use of Ad-Hoc Queries as a comparative research tool. The WG organised a workshop in April 2018 to improve cooperation and minimise overlapping on data gathering with EASO, Frontex and other EU Agencies as well as to amend the Ad-Hoc Queries Vade-mecum, and was subsequently invited to a meeting hosted by EASO on Ad-Hoc Query Systems, held on 26 June 2018 in Valletta, Malta.

¹³ Although this Flash was published only in 2019, it is mentioned here as it relates to a 2018 EMN Study.

The meeting brought together the main stakeholders who operate query systems (EASO, EMN, GDISC and IGC) to inform each other of the different mechanisms in place, plans for the future as well as to discuss how to build synergies in order to avoid duplication. A follow-up query group meeting was hosted in Geneva on 22 October 2018. The EMN WG Chair is developing a prototype of the first repository of the Ad-Hoc Queries of the different networks. The first prototype was presented in Geneva on 22 October 2018. The second prototype was presented in a meeting in Luxembourg on 14 March 2019.

In addition, the co-chair and the EMN Service Provider continued to provide feedback and assistance to EMN NCPs when launching and developing Ad-Hoc Queries.

2.6 EMN GLOSSARY ¹⁴

The EMN Glossary provides a common vocabulary of up-to-date terms and concepts in all Member States and is widely regarded as a useful tool which improves comparability and thus supports policy discussions across the EU and at national level.

In 2018, the EMN published the 6th edition of the EMN Glossary. The interactive document was updated to reflect the most up-to-date developments in the field of asylum and migration and contained more than 450 terms. This new version (6.0) was made available on the EMN website as an interactive online Glossary and as a printed edition in an improved visual layout. A term-by-term review of the Glossary was carried out to ensure that all entries were correctly reflected. The Slovak EMN NCP organised the joint printing process for Glossary version 6.0. Printed versions, funded by several EMN NCPs¹⁵ (AT, CZ, FI, IE, LU, LV, SE) were also distributed at the EMN 10 Year Anniversary Event. In addition, the online glossary available on the EMN website was fully updated and re-launched, including improvement to its visual design.

Furthermore, the EMN supported the development of an EMN Glossary mobile 'app', an initiative of the Italian EMN NCP. The Glossary and Thesaurus Working Group (GTWG) prepared a concept note outlining the process of developing national language versions of the app and ensuring future updates.

In 2018, EMN NCPs continued to provide suggestions for new terms to be added to the current version of the EMN Glossary. Three meetings of the GTWG were organised in 2018,¹⁶ in addition to a workshop on 6 February 2018 to discuss how external stakeholders can be involved in the development of the EMN Glossary more systematically. For this purpose, representatives from EASO, UNHCR, IOM, Frontex, FRA, OECD and ILO were invited to regularly attend GTWG meetings and put forward suggestions for new terms or comments on existing ones. Next to promoting the EMN Glossary, such cooperation is intended to ensure the relevance of the EMN Glossary to a broad audience at national, European and international levels.

In 2018, the GTWG identified 34 new terms to be added to the EMN Glossary and discussed these during its meetings. As of December 2018, the entries for 11 terms were finalised.

A German language version of the Glossary 5.0 was published and printed in 2018 in a coordinated effort of the EMN NCPs of Austria, Germany and Luxembourg.

2.7 EMN PLATFORM ON STATELESSNESS

The EMN Platform on Statelessness, with the collaboration of UNHCR and the Greek EMN NCP organised a EMN Statelessness Retreat in Athens on 4-6 July 2018. The event not only provided three days of intensive training, raising awareness and capacity building on statelessness but also brought together EMN NCPs, government officials, European NGOs, practitioners and international organisations. As a follow-up to this event, a technical conference will take place in Dublin on 7 May 2019.

2.8 EMN STATISTICS WORKING GROUP

In 2018, the EMN Statistics working group was re-instated, with a first meeting hosted by the UK EMN NCP on 20 November 2018 in London. As national data collection systems are not harmonised and migration and asylum statistics may therefore differ for non-substantive reasons, it is the EMN's ambition to present statistics that are comparable between (Member) States and over time. Against this background, the aim of this meeting was to discuss current statistical challenges with migration data, also in light of the ongoing EMN Studies, and to update the EMN statistics guidelines. A second meeting of this working group is planned for June 2019.

3 Networking

At the EU level, networking continued amongst the EMN NCPs, in particular through the EMN NCP and REG meetings organised in Brussels and in Member States. These were attended by a wide range of relevant stakeholders, including Commission Services such as the Joint Research Centre (JRC) and Eurostat, the European Parliament, EU Agencies (EASO, Frontex and the EU Agency for Fundamental Rights), and served to exchange information and ensure the coordination of activities with a view to avoiding

¹⁴ Available from the EMN website under "EMN Outputs: [EMN Glossary](#)"

¹⁵ AT, CZ, FI, IE, LU, LV, SE

¹⁶ 45th GTWG meeting on 7 March 2018 (Brussels, Belgium), 46th GTWG meeting 12 June 2018 (Malmö, Sweden), 47th GTWG meeting on 3 October 2018 (Vienna, Austria)

overlaps. The EMN also exchanged information with NGOs and international organisations on issues of common interest. At the national level, EMN NCPs continued to be active in hosting cluster meetings and in developing and extending their national networks.

3.1 NETWORKING AT EU LEVEL

3.1.1 NETWORKING AMONGST EMN NCPs

Seven EMN NCP meetings (from 91st to 96th), organised and hosted by the Commission and co-chaired by the SE NCP, were held in 2018. The meetings were typically attended by one or two delegates from each EMN NCP plus representatives from a wide range of stakeholders and relevant external entities. The meetings provided a forum to monitor the progress made in the implementation of the EMN Work Programme, plan future activities, discuss the findings of EMN studies and other outputs and engage in specific thematic discussions on topical issues. Regular updates were provided by the Commission on the management of EMN grants throughout the year.

Nineteen EMN NCP workshops were held throughout 2018, in the framework of the formal EMN NCP meetings or in response to specific needs. For example, workshops were held to support the development of the Common Templates for the EMN Studies in 2018, discuss the EMN Communication Strategy and agree on further development of the EMN social media.

Among the conferences organised, the **EMN 10 Year Anniversary Event** took place in Brussels on 15 May 2018 and brought together almost 200 policy-makers, researchers and practitioners from EU and national governments, academic institutions, international organisations and from civil society. The event was opened by the Commissioner for Migration, Home Affairs and Citizenship, Mr. Dimitris Avramopoulos, Mr. Milko Berner, the Deputy Minister of Interior of the Republic of Bulgaria, Mr. Claude Moraes, Member of European Parliament, Ms. Irupe Aguirrezabal Quijera, representing the European Bureau of the International Organization for Migration, and Ms. Sophie Magennis from the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. During the event, high-level representatives from the Commission, international organisations, academics and practitioners shared the floor to make the point on migration and the contribution provided by the EMN network in the last 10 years. During this occasion, the EMN presented two reports prepared as conference documents: the 2017 Annual Report and the EMN 10 Year Anniversary Report.

EMN NCPs continued to organise cluster meetings, bringing together representatives from several EMN countries in order to discuss operational policies, specific outputs or strategic issues. For example, the Maltese EMN NCP organised a cluster meeting on 'National experiences in reaching policy-makers' (April 2018), while the Luxembourgish and Greek EMN NCP jointly organised a cluster meeting on 'Detecting Document Fraud' in Athens on 5 and 6 December 2018, in collaboration with the Dutch EMN NCP aiming at information exchange and capacity building. The French EMN NCP organised a cluster meeting on 'how to better take into account EMN publications for the development and implementation of national policies' (in November 2018).

3.1.2 NETWORKING AMONGST EMN REG MEMBERS

The REG, including participants from all EMN NCPs, continued its activities during 2018 and produced a series of EMN REG outputs with a specific focus on issues relating to return. In total, there were eight REG-related meetings in 2018. The meetings were hosted by the Commission or by an EMN NCP.

Out of the four regular REG meetings, one was held in Brussels in September 2018, whilst the ones in February, May and November took place in Krakow, Athens and Lisbon respectively. As a result, four REG wider meetings were organised closely to the regular REG meetings. The wider events covered various topics including:

- ★ Co-operation between national authorities and international organisations/ NGOs in the field of return, under the framework of the Communication from the Commission on a More Effective Return Policy in the EU: A Renewed Action Plan;
- ★ Incentives to return to a third country and support provided to migrants for their reintegration;
- ★ Collaboration with countries of origin on family tracing, supporting child protection systems, helping to address unaccompanied minors needs, adapting reception centres and access to educational systems.

During the wider REG meetings, REG members had the opportunity to share and validate the information collected not only with Frontex, EASO, Eurostat, the JRC, ERRIN, EURINT and EURLO, but also with a broad range of international and non-governmental organisations active in the field of return. These organisations included: Caritas international, International Returns and Reintegration Assistance (IRARA), the International Organization for Migration (IOM), European Programme for Integration and Migration (EPIM), Detention in Action, PICUM- Platform for International Cooperation on Undocumented Migrants, Save the Children, UNICEF and Red Cross.

In 2018, the REG members developed briefing papers (REG Informs) based on information gathered from the EMN REG via the EMN's Ad-Hoc Query tool. The Informs provided comparative information and analysis about return policies and practices in the Member States and Norway. For example, the REG Inform on 'EU travel documents for return' confirmed that, following the adoption of Regulation EU 2016/1953¹⁷, 12 Member States and Norway¹⁸ have to date made the EU travel document available in their country.

Based on the data collected in the Ad-Hoc Query 'Return counselling practices and return counsellors', a REG inform showed that return counselling was mostly delivered during pre-departure stage in forced or voluntary return, while only a minority of Member States¹⁹ or service providers also counselled third-country nationals on return during the stage of application to legal status beside asylum.

Exemplifying the EMN's success in providing relevant information to policy-makers, the Commission's Proposal for the recast Return Directive (COM(2018) 634 final) highlights that the information collected through the EMN REG has allowed for a comprehensive assessment of Member State's implementation of the EU's return policy.

3.2 NETWORKING AT NATIONAL LEVEL

EMN NCPs bring together national networks of relevant stakeholders in the policy areas of migration and asylum, and organise national conferences and networking events, host websites, disseminate newsletters, etc. to share objective and comparable information. In 2018, the majority of EMN NCPs organised one or more national network meetings and other events involving their network partners and, in most cases, representatives from the Commission or the EMN Service Provider. EMN NCPs from other Member States were also invited to present an EU level overview of policies and practices in a certain thematic area or comparative national information.

At least 15 national events were organised in 2018. These were designed to respond to national priorities and used also to promote recent or planned EMN Studies.

National conferences and event themes in 2018 included: unaccompanied minors (IT, DE, FI); legal migration (FR, LU, ES); diaspora (HR); main developments in the fields of migration and asylum in 2018 (BE); return (EE); positive impacts of regular, orderly and safe migration (ES); managing migration (AT); border control and irregular migration (BG), recognition of victims of trafficking in human beings (LV); forced migration (SK). EMN NCP Norway hosted two related events on sustainable migration policies, and prepared a high-level policy paper on this topic, in collaboration with leading academics that was debated and peer-reviewed first in Oslo and then presented to wider audiences in Brussels. The Slovak EMN NCP coordinator organised the 6th edition of a three-day EMN Educational Seminar on Migration which has become a unique learning platform about migration in the Slovak Republic and which fosters networking, experience-sharing and discussions among (inter)national experts and participants. Among the more than 70 registered participants were also representatives of other EMN NCPs. As in previous years, EMN NCPs have continued to link, to the extent possible, their national events to the policymaking process.

3.3 NETWORKING WITH OTHER RELEVANT ENTITIES

The EMN continued to collaborate with other relevant entities during 2018, in line with its mandate to ensure that EMN activities remain consistent and coordinated with relevant EU instruments and structures. Overall, co-operation with organisations included the regular participation of representatives of external entities (e.g. European Parliament, Eurostat, EASO, Frontex, FRA) in EMN NCP events and the provision of inputs to the EMN Annual Conferences and Studies. Furthermore, by establishing the wider REG meeting with relevant NGOs and international organisations, the EMN reinforced durable cooperation that ensured a smooth exchange with civil society and practitioners especially on voluntary returns. Moreover, the EMN 10 Year Anniversary Event brought together different organisations to discuss different views on various topics, with a focus on the main migration trends observed in the last ten years. The event was highly successful in attracting high-level speakers including the DG Migration and Home Affairs' Commissioner, who provided an endorsement of the role and value of the EMN as an information provider to policy-makers.

Following requests from national authorities in Georgia and Moldova to participate as observers, the EMN explored modalities for third-country EMN attendance as observers to the EMN. A model Working Arrangement establishing the administrative cooperation between the European Commission and the third country ministry for the participation of the third country in the EMN was discussed with EMN NCPs.

¹⁷ Regulation (EU) 2016/1953 on the establishment of a European travel document for the return of illegally staying third-country nationals, and repealing the Council Recommendation of 30th November 1994 (OJ L 311, 17/11/2016). Available at: <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32016R1953&from=EN>.

¹⁸ AT, BG, CZ, EL, FI, HU, LT, LV, NL, PL, PT, SK and NO

¹⁹ Bulgaria and Lithuania.

National authorities from Georgia and Moldova attended the 97th EMN NCP meeting in Brussels on 11 December 2018 and presented information about their national situations, and expressed interest in participating as observers in some elements of the work of the REG. Further work will take place during 2019 to establish an appropriate Working Arrangement which will require the prior unanimous approval by the EMN Steering Board to become operational.

Co-operation continued also at the level of the EMN Steering Board (see Section 5 below).

3.4 EMN INFORMATION EXCHANGE SYSTEM

An important element of ensuring efficient networking is the Information Exchange System (IES) of the EMN. In 2018, following the initiative of the European Commission, the process of moving the EMN-IES to a new platform was started. As of March 2019, the majority of content had been moved from the old system to the new one and most EMN NCPs and Steering Board members were granted access. The European Commission organised training sessions as well as an e-training session by EMN Luxembourg in the first quarter of 2019 for the users to learn about the new functionalities. Certain functionalities are still under development (e.g. the notification system) and a document setting out access protocols is expected to be finalised during 2019.

4 Enhancing the EMN's Visibility

The EMN Communications and Disseminations Working Group (CDWG), previously co-chaired by the Irish and Latvian EMN NCPs, appointed the Estonian and Finnish EMN NCPs as new co-chairs during the year. Supported by the Service Provider, the CDWG met regularly in 2018 to deliver on the EMN Communications and Dissemination Strategy, enhance EMN visibility as well as coordinate the organisation on the above mentioned EMN-10 Year Anniversary Event and the information briefing for the EMN 2017 Annual Report on Migration and Asylum (ARM).

Further activities took place in 2018 to increase the visibility of the EMN to policy-makers at national and European level, and to inform the wider public about the EMN's objectives and outputs. A Concept Note was developed looking specifically at the issue of working with the wider public, and two related cluster events took place for EMN NCPs, in Estonia (2018) and Austria (2019) to share tools and good practices.

The EMN Service Provider and seven EMN NCPs participated in the Odysseus Summer School on EU Immigration and Asylum Law and Policy. During the Summer School, the NCPs supported by the Service Provider, delivered three presentations in relation to three EMN outputs (i.e. the EMN 2017 Annual Report, the 2018 Study on the impact of visa liberalisation and the EMN Glossary). The three presentations raised a high level of interest from participants and contributed to the visibility of the EMN. Feedback on the quality of the Summer School was highly positive.

In order to increase the visibility of EMN publications and events, the EMN Communication and Dissemination Working Group's proposal to establish an EMN Twitter account was presented to and endorsed by the EMN Steering Board during the 22nd Steering Board Meeting in May. The EMN Communication and Dissemination co-chairs, supported by the EMN Service Provider launched the EMN Twitter account on the occasion of the Norwegian EMN NCP event on 'Sustainable Migration' organised in Brussels on 13 December 2018. In addition, a Social Media Strategy Concept Note was drafted with the aim to better disseminate the products and publications of EMN via social media, focussing primarily on the use of Twitter and LinkedIn.

All main EU level outputs continued to be made available to the wider public, principally through the [EMN website](#) – redesigned in 2017 – and EMN NCP national websites and social media, and were also presented at workshops, seminars, meetings and conferences at the EU and national levels. The main activities in this area are highlighted below.

4.1 EMN ANNUAL CONFERENCES 2018²⁰

Two EMN Annual Conferences were held in 2018.

The first conference, **'Crossroads of migration: Challenges and success factors in managing migration flows'** held in Sofia on 31 May and 1 June 2018 in the framework of the Bulgarian Presidency of the Council of the EU. The event aimed at identifying the common challenges and success factors in managing migration flows, including of irregular migration flows and those seeking international protection. The Conference was dedicated to the lessons learnt from the recent migration crisis and future development in the field of the effective management of irregular migration and external border security and the possibilities of the enhancement of the asylum procedures to this effect. It brought together representatives of EU Member States, European Commission, international organisations, national experts and academia. This event provided an opportunity for in-depth discussions, to present the latest best practices and lessons learned, and to review the new trends in the policies and practices of migration management. The aim was to contribute to the efforts of all experts by exchanging views and possible outlining of recommendations for further steps. The conference gathered around 120 participants from different local institutions and NGOs as well as from Member States, EMN NCPs and international organisations (for instance IOM and UNHCR).

²⁰ Conference Conclusions available on the [EMN website](#)

During the event, the EMN Service Provider presented the Study on 'The effectiveness of return in EU Member States: challenges and good practices linked to EU rules and standards'.

The second EMN Conference was held in the framework of the Austrian Presidency of the Council of the EU and it was entitled '**Managing Migration – from Reacting to Shaping**'. The Conference took place on 4 and 5 October 2018 in Vienna and gathered over 200 participants. Particularly the cooperation with countries of origin and transit was discussed as an essential component in developing new strategies. It brought together high-level representatives of the EU, Member States and third countries, as well as international organisations, NGOs and academic experts. This event provided an opportunity for in depth discussions on global migration trends and the role of the EU, options for a better protection system, local protection and support, as well as return and sustainable reintegration. The Conference discussed the major milestones to be completed towards the establishment of a sustainable migration framework in the medium- and long-term, based on research from academics from the University of Oxford in the UK.

For the first time, an Information Booth was set-up at the conference venue to disseminate EMN publications to the audience and Representatives of EMN NCPs and the Service Provider informed interested participants about the work of the EMN. A final [conference report](#) was prepared and printed in English and German.

The conclusions of both conferences were widely disseminated via the EMN and the EMN national networks.

4.2 EMN 10 YEAR ANNIVERSARY EVENT AND PROMOTIONAL VIDEO

The EMN's **10 Year Anniversary conference 'Understanding Migration in the EU: past, present, future'** in Brussels on 15 May 2018, was also highly effective in raising the visibility of the EMN, and high-level speakers including the Commissioner for Migration, Home Affairs and Citizenship, Mr. Dimitris Avramopoulos, endorsed the EMN for the high quality and relevance of its work. A short video explaining the composition, role and achievements of the EMN, developed by the EMN and presented in the context of the 10 Year Anniversary conference was also used during the Odysseus Summer School and in a number of national EMN events to raise the visibility of the network. Several EMN NCPs organised national events on the occasion of the 10-year anniversary, as for example the AT EMN NCP on 21 November 2018 in Vienna.²¹

4.3 EMN AND NATIONAL WEBSITES

The [EMN website](#) is the main vehicle through which the EMN makes its various outputs publicly available. Throughout the year, the website was updated on a monthly basis with new national and EU level products, and EMN NCPs also provided updated material for their national web-pages as required.

During the year EMN NCPs continued to maintain and develop their own [national websites](#) which linked reciprocally to the EMN website²² and proved effective in attracting users to review and download materials. Taken together, the EU and national websites represent a major asset with considerable capacity for the dissemination and sharing of information to very wide audiences.

4.4 EMN BULLETIN

The EMN Bulletin, designed to target policy-makers, continued to be produced on a quarterly basis throughout 2018. The Bulletin maintained its usefulness in providing information on the latest EU and national developments in migration and asylum policy including by incorporating the latest available statistics in the form of trends and short analyses of asylum and migration data. New developments were presented under broad thematic headings that can be accessed through links from the top menu. Four editions were produced during the year (21st, 22nd, 23rd and 24th) respectively in January, April, July and October 2018. In line with the new visual layout adopted for EMN Studies and Informs, the Bulletin's layout was also updated. The EMN Bulletins were widely disseminated and highly appreciated at EU level and national level. EMN bulletins are sometimes translated (in full or in a summarised version) by EMN NCPs (e.g. France and Greece) into their Member State language in order to better disseminate the information to their national network members. EMN Information Leaflet

The revised EMN Information leaflet was published in January 2018 reflecting the latest EMN Annual Conferences and provided an updated list of past and forthcoming EMN studies. It was updated in October 2018 ahead of the second EMN annual conference. As in the previous editions, the leaflet summarised the aims, objectives and key outputs of the EMN and offered a list of all EMN NCPs, their latest organisational data and contact details. A German translation of the revised EMN Information Leaflet was prepared by the EMN NCPs of AT, DE and LU.

²¹ <https://www.emn.at/en/emn-10-year-anniversary-in-austria-2-2/>

²² Links to the various national websites are provided via the [EMN website](#) "EMN NCPs" and http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/European_Migration_Network

5 Management of the EMN

The management of the EMN was assured by the Commission, with the support of the Service Provider. The EMN Work Programme 2017/2018 was adopted on 13 December 2016 as Commission Decision C(2016) 8267 (final).

The EMN Steering Board met twice in 2018 (on 28 May and on 19 October 2018). The Steering Board is chaired by the European Commission and comprises of one representative from all Member States, as well as observers from the European Parliament and Norway. Representatives of the relevant EU agencies may also attend.

Besides overseeing the implementation of the EMN Annual Work Programme 2017-2018, the Steering Board continued to provide strategic guidance to the EMN by exchanging information on national and EU level strategic priorities in the fields of migration and international protection. Unlike in the last years, under the EMN Work Programme 2017-2018, in order to ensure that the study' themes chosen remained topical and relevant in a fast-moving policy environment, the EMN Steering Board was requested to decide on three study topics for the following year at its autumn meeting and the fourth one only during the spring meeting, to ensure its on-going topicality. As a result, the exchange during the May meeting focussed on selection of the last study for 2018, namely 'Beneficiaries of international protection travelling to the country of origin'.

During the October meeting, the Steering Board decided on four of the EMN Study Topics, following a request from the EMN NCPs to ensure that the fourth study topic would not be changed in the following Steering Board meeting in the spring 2019. Wider EU and external entities, such as the European Parliament, EASO, Frontex and EUROSTAT were invited to contribute to the discussions to ensure a more comprehensive approach.

The Steering Board took a number of decisions in 2018, including:

- ★ The adoption of the fourth EMN Study 2018;
- ★ The adoption of the four EMN Study Topics to be developed in 2019;
- ★ The approval of the EMN Twitter account;
- ★ The approval of the EMN Status Report 2017;
- ★ The establishment of the new EMN Information and Awareness Campaigns Working Group (INFO WG).

The monitoring of progress made by EMN NCPs during the year concerning the activities implemented, the impacts made and the levels of expenditure, took place through the submission of Mid-term Progress Reports (no longer compulsory).

The Commission and the EMN Service Provider met regularly during 2018 to ensure the continued smooth functioning of the EMN, including the provision of support to the EMN NCPs; the preparation and planning of EMN Steering Board, EMN NCP and REG meetings as well as EMN Workshops and other events; the development of Synthesis Reports, Studies, EMN Informs; and the on-going development and functionality of the EMN IES, website and the Ad-Hoc Query module.



May, 2019

European Migration Network (2019). Status report 2018. Brussels: European Migration Network.

Read more:

EMN website: <http://ec.europa.eu/emn>

EMN LinkedIn page: <https://www.linkedin.com/company/european-migration-network>

EMN Twitter: <https://twitter.com/EMNMigration>