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EMN France

EMN France

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- Site of EMN France: <https://www.immigration.interieur.gouv.fr/Europe-et-International/Le-reseau-europeen-des-migrations-REM3/Le-reseau-europeen-des-migrations-REM2> (in French)

TABLE OF CONTENTS

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	7
INTRODUCTION	8
SUMMARY OF CHANGES TO THE NATIONAL MIGRATION AND ASYLUM SYSTEM IN 2019	9
OVERARCHING CHANGES TO THE NATIONAL MIGRATION AND ASYLUM SYSTEM IN 2019	12
1 LEGAL MIGRATION	14
1.1 Transposition of EU legislation on legal migration	14
1.2 Work related migration	14
1.2.1. Admission policies of specific categories of third-country nationals	14
1.2.2. Satisfying labour market needs - admission policies	17
1.2.3. 'Social dumping' and labour exploitation	17
1.2.4. Circular migration	20
1.3 Students and researchers	21
1.4 Family reunification and family formation of economic migrants	23
1.5 Information on routes to and conditions of legal migration	23
1.6 Other measures regarding legal migration	23
2 INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION INCLUDING ASYLUM	25
2.1 Implementation of the Common European Asylum System (CEAS) and related policy developments	25
2.1.1. Changes in legislation, policies and practices	25
2.1.2. Institutional changes in the national asylum system	35
2.1.3. Efficiency and Quality of the national asylum system	35
2.2 Relocation and resettlement programmes	38
2.2.1 Relocation	38
2.2.2. Resettlement and Humanitarian Admission Programmes	39
3 UNACCOMPANIED MINORS AND OTHER VULNERABLE GROUPS	41
3.1 Unaccompanied minors applying for asylum	41
3.2 Unaccompanied minors recorded within the child-protection system	41
3.3 Other vulnerable groups applying for asylum	44
3.4 Other vulnerable groups NOT applying for asylum	46
4 INTEGRATION	47
4.1 Integration of third-country nationals	47
4.1.1. Integration through socio-economic participation	47
4.1.2. Integration through active participation and social inclusion	53
4.2 Promoting integration of specific categories of third-country nationals	53
4.3 Promoting integration at local level and cooperation, consultation and coordination of local stakeholders	56
4.4 Awareness raising on migration in the hosting (Member) State	57

4.5	Integration measures in the countries of origin and/or involving diaspora communities	58
5.	CITIZENSHIP AND STATELESSNESS	59
5.1.	Acquisition of citizenship	59
5.2.	Statelessness	60
6.	BORDERS, VISA AND SCHENGEN	61
6.1.	Border control measures management	61
6.2.	Activities to improve the effectiveness of controls at the external borders	65
6.3.	Reinforced cooperation with third countries in the area of border management	66
7.	IRREGULAR MIGRATION INCLUDING MIGRANT SMUGGLING	68
7.1.	Preventing and tackling of misuse of legal migration channels	68
	7.1.1.Irregular migration as a result of visa liberalization	68
	7.1.2.False travel documents	70
7.2.	The fight against facilitation of irregular migration ('smuggling') and prevention of irregular stay	72
	7.2.1.Combatting facilitation of irregular migration (smuggling).....	72
	7.2.2.Cooperation with third countries to prevent irregular migration	74
	7.2.3.Monitoring and identifying irregular migration routes.....	77
8.	TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS	80
8.1.	National strategic policy developments	80
8.2.	Improving identification and provision of information to third country national victims of human trafficking	81
	8.2.1.Provision of information on assistance and support to third country national victims.....	81
	8.2.2.Identification of victims of trafficking in human beings	84
	8.2.3.Cooperation with third countries	88
9.	RETURN AND READMISSION	90
9.1.	Main national developments in the field of return	90
	9.1.1.Swift, sustainable and effective return	90
	9.1.2.Return of rejected asylum seekers	93
	9.1.3.Evidence of the effectiveness of the measures to ensure return.....	93
9.2.	Strengthening cooperation with third countries of origin and transit on return and reintegration management	94
	9.2.1.Involvement of third countries in return measures.....	94
	9.2.2.Ensuring implementation of all EU readmission agreements to their full effect	94

	9.2.3.Reintegration measures	96
10.	MIGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT	97
10.1.	Mobility partnerships.....	97
	10.1.1.Better organising legal migration and fostering well-managed mobility.....	97
	10.1.2.Preventing and combatting irregular migration and eradicating trafficking in human beings	98
	10.1.3.Maximizing the development impact of migration and mobility	98
10.2.	National actions to support migration and development	101

LIST OF ACRONYMS

- ADA: Asylum seeker's allowance
- AFD: French Development Agency (*Agence Française de Développement*)
- AGDREF: French central database for foreign nationals' residence permits
- C2I: Inter-ministerial Committee on Integration
- CESEDA: Code on Entry and Residence of Foreign Nationals and Right of Asylum (*Code de l'entrée et du séjour des étrangers et du droit d'asile*)
- CICID : Inter-Ministerial Committee on International Cooperation and Development
- CNCDH: National Consultative Commission for Human Rights (*Commission nationale consultative des droits de l'homme*)
- CNDA: National Court for Right of Asylum (*Cour nationale du droit d'asile*)
- CSI: Immigration Security Advisor (*Conseiller sûreté immigration*)
- DA : Directorate of Asylum within the ministry of the Interior
- DAAEN: Directorate for Reception and Support for Foreign Nationals and Nationality (*Direction de l'accueil, de l'accompagnement des étrangers et de la nationalité*) within the ministry of the Interior
- DCI: Department of International Cooperation (*Direction de la Coopération Internationale*) within the ministry of the Interior
- DCPAF: Central Directorate of the French Border Police (*Direction Centrale de la Police aux Frontières*) within the ministry of the Interior
- DCPJ : Central Directorate of the Judicial Police within the ministry of the Interior
- DEFDI : Division de l'expertise en fraud documentaire et à l'identité
- DiAir : Inter-Ministerial Delegation for the Reception and Integration of Refugees
- DGDDI : Direction générale des douanes et des droits indirects
- DPAF : Directorate of the French Border Police within the ministry of the Interior
- DGEF: General Directorate for Foreign Nationals in France (*Direction générale des étrangers en France*) within the ministry of the Interior
- DGPN : General Directorate of the National Police within the ministry of the Interior
- DGS : General Directorate for Health
- DGT: General Labour Directorate (*Direction générale du travail*) within the ministry of Labour
- EASO: European Asylum Support Office
- ILO: Immigration liaison officer (*OLI : officier de liaison immigration*)
- LPC : Consular laissez-passer
- MEAE: Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs (*Ministère de l'Europe et des Affaires étrangères*)
- MIPROF: Inter-ministerial mission for the protection of women against violence and the fight against trafficking in human beings
- MOOC: Massive Online Open Courses
- OCLTI: Central Office for Combating Illegal Employment (*Office central de lutte contre le travail illégal*) (ministry of the Interior)
- OCRIEST: French Office for the Repression of Unauthorised Immigration and the Employment of Foreign nationals without Residence Permits (*Office Central pour la Répression de l'Immigration irrégulière et de l'Emploi d'étrangers Sans Titre*) (ministry of the Interior)
- OCRTEH: Central Office for the Repression of Human Trafficking (*Office central pour la répression de la traite des êtres humains*) (ministry of the Interior)
- OFII: French Office for Immigration and Integration (*Office français de l'immigration et de l'intégration*)
- OFPRA: French Office for the Protection of Refugees and Stateless Persons (*Office français de protection de réfugiés et des apatrides*)
- IOM : International Organization for Migration
- ONDRP : National Observatory for Crime and Criminal Responses (*Observatoire national de la délinquance et des réponses pénales*)
- OQTF: Order to leave French territory
- PAF: Border police (ministry of the Interior)
- RIC : Republican Integration COnttract
- SDLII: Sub-Directorate for Combatting Irregular Migration (ministry of the Interior)
- SDV: Sub-directorate for visas (ministry of the Interior)
- SDST : sub-directorate for residence and employment
- THB: Trafficking in Human Beings
- UAM: Unaccompanied minors
- UNHCR: United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
- UNODC: United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
- VIS: Visa Information System (*Système d'Information des Visas*)
- VLS-TS : long-term visa equivalent to residence permit

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Following an introduction presenting the methodology and contributions to this report, a **summary** and an **overview of main asylum and migration policy developments in France in 2019**, the first section of this report **is dedicated to developments in legal migration** and more specifically to the continued application of the law of 10 September 2018 related to foreign nationals' residence in France, to the proposals of the interministerial committee on migration and integration for a redrafting of the migration policy and a new reception strategy for international students.

Section 2 addresses **main changes related to international protection and asylum** especially the measures for an increased accommodation capacity, a restructured accommodation scheme, extended residence rights for beneficiaries of subsidiary protection, and discussions at the European level regarding handling landings after maritime rescue operations.

Section 3 is dedicated to **unaccompanied minors and vulnerable groups** with the presentation of the new assessment system for unaccompanied minors.

Section 4 describes new measures related to the **integration policy** with new measures such as implementing new language pathways and the development of IT tools in order to favour French language knowledge.

While section 5 treats the question of **citizenship and statelessness**, section 6 deals with **borders, Schengen and visa** issues by insisting on a new national strategy for integrated management of borders for 2019-2024 and the continuation of the cooperation with the United Kingdom to fight against irregular migration.

Section 7 presents action plans for the **fight against irregular migration and migrant smuggling** and section 8 deals with policy preventing **violence against women and victims of trafficking in human beings (THB)**.

Lastly, section 9 is devoted to **return and readmission**, in particular through reinforced monitoring measures for efficiency of return decisions, the extension of the scope of assistance to return and the development of measures to prepare assisted return, while section 10 is dedicated to the links between **migration and development**.

INTRODUCTION

Objectives and methodology of this political report

The 2019 Annual Report on migration and asylum aims to cover changes to immigration and asylum policy and legislation which have taken place throughout the year.

EMN France, the French EMN National contact point, contacted the relevant departments and services in order to provide information relating to legislative and regulatory provisions as well as statistics about events which had marked 2019.

Contributions to this report

Thus, the Sub-Directorate for Residence and Employment (*Sous-direction du séjour et du travail - SDST*) as well as the Sub-Directorate for Visas (*Sous-direction des visas - SDV*) in the General Directorate for Foreign nationals in France (*Direction générale des étrangers en France - DGEF*) within the Ministry of the Interior contributed towards questions relating to **legal migration** for aspects relating to residence, employment and visas.

The General Directorate for Labour within the Ministry for Labour provided information related to social dumping and labour exploitation.

Contributions on **integration** were made by the Directorate for Reception and Support for Foreign nationals and Nationality (*Direction de l'accueil, de l'accompagnement des étrangers et de la nationalité - DAAEN*) in the DGEF.

The Sub-Directorate for Combatting Irregular Migration (*Sous-Direction de la lutte contre l'immigration illégale - SDLII*) within the DGEF addressed the issue of **Borders and Schengen area** as well as **irregular migration and return of migrants**. The French Office for Immigration and Integration (OFII) also contributed to the issue of voluntary return.

The section on **international protection and asylum policy** was prepared by the Asylum Directorate of the DGEF within the Ministry of the Interior as well as the French Office for the Protection of Refugees and Stateless Persons (OFPRA).

The Ministry for Justice (Department for the Legal Protection of Young People - *Direction de la protection judiciaire de la jeunesse*) contributed with material on **unaccompanied minors**, in addition to information provided by the OFPRA and the Sub-Directorate for Residence and Employment in the DGEF. The issue of **vulnerable groups** was also dealt with by the Sub-Directorate for Residence and Employment in the DGEF.

Several Ministries and bodies participated in drafting the section on **trafficking in human beings**: the Interministerial Mission for the Protection of Women Victims of Violence and the Fight against Trafficking in Human Beings (MIPROF), the French Office for the Suppression of Trafficking in Human Beings (*Office central pour la répression de la traite des êtres humains - OCRTEH*), the Central Office for Combatting Illegal Employment (*Office central de lutte contre le travail illégal - OCLTI*), the Delegation for Victims within the General Directorate of the National Police (DGPN) and the National Consultative Committee on Human Rights (*Commission nationale consultative des droits de l'homme - CNCDH*).

The mission for Democratic Governance (*Mission de la gouvernance démocratique*) of the General Directorate for Globalisation, Development and Partnerships (*Direction générale de la mondialisation, développement et des partenariats - DGM*) and the Sub-Directorate for Higher Education and Research within the Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs were also asked for information on the sections relating to legal migration routes and diasporas.

SUMMARY OF CHANGES TO THE NATIONAL MIGRATION AND ASYLUM SYSTEM IN 2019

OVERARCHING CHANGES TO THE NATIONAL MIGRATION AND ASYLUM SYSTEM IN 2019

In 2019 France continued to implement **the reform of its migration and asylum policies which started in 2018** with the Law of 10 September 2018 “for a managed migration, an effective right of asylum and a successful integration”. This reform includes in particular:

- strengthening the protection of individuals especially the most vulnerable.
- speeding up the timescale for processing asylum applications, and better distribute asylum seekers across the country,
- increasing the attractiveness and improve the reception of talents and skills;
- implementing a reworking of the integration policy;
- improving the effectiveness of the removal policy and extend the scope of the return assistance.

1. LEGAL MIGRATION

In 2019 the implementation of the law of 10 September 2018 was continued especially for measures related to the residence of third country nationals in France which were enforced in January and March 2019.

These measures especially aim at facilitating the mobility of high potential workers, the residence of ‘au pairs’ and of volunteers under the European voluntary service scheme as well as facilitating the recruitment in innovative companies.

The Inter-Ministerial Committee on Immigration and Integration of 6 November 2019 presented a reworking of the immigration policy in order to better answer the short and middle-term needs of the economy, identify and serve the long-term needs of the French economy and simplify tools and work permit applications.

Moreover, several measures related to the posting of workers for the provision of services and the reinforcement of the fight against illegal employment were implemented.

Lastly, within the framework of the new strategy “Welcome to France” launched in November 2018, the French Government continued to implement this policy in order to attract international students, including visa facilitations, simplification and harmonisation of the requested documents and improvement of reception conditions for students.

2. INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION INCLUDING ASYLUM

France continued the reform of its asylum policy with the implementation of several measures especially regarding increasing reception capacities, restructuring the reception capacities, giving an earlier access to the labour market for asylum seekers (six months after the filing of the asylum application), reviewing the material reception conditions and generalizing the regional management for asylum seekers under the Dublin III Regulation.

Additional human resources were allocated in order to shorten waiting times for making appointments at the one-stop services and reducing asylum applications processing.

New measures regarding reception of third country nationals in order to fight against fraud were implemented.

Regarding the residence of beneficiaries of subsidiary protection, they can now be issued a 4-year residence permit. Beneficiaries of international protection can be granted the access to social rights as soon as they are granted protection.

Lastly France actively participated in discussions at the European level in order to implement temporary arrangements establishing rules for handling landings on European Union soil after maritime rescue operations. France also announced to relocate additional migrants.

3. UNACCOMPANIED MINORS AND OTHER VULNERABLE GROUPS

A new system for evaluating persons presenting as minors and deprived temporarily or indefinitely of the protection of their family was implemented with the automated processing system known as "AEM" – (acronym for Appui à l'évaluation de minorité, or Minority Assessment Aid) which in particular facilitates heightened support from State entities in this procedure.

Reception places were also created, dedicated to disabled persons and women victims of violence or trafficking of human beings.

The Law of 10 September 2018 also modified the procedure for children who may be victims of sexual mutilations.

4. INTEGRATION

In 2019 the modified Republican Integration Contract and the pathway to Republican Integration were fully implemented following the decisions of the Inter-Ministerial Committee on Integration of 5 June 2018.

In particular a new language training pathway, development of new IT tools in order to favour French language knowledge, a new professional training and a new path dedicated to civic training were implemented.

5. CITIZENSHIP AND STATELESSNESS

Main changes in 2019 related to citizenship concern an increased level of French knowledge for applicants and a reduction in the citizenship application processing.

6. BORDERS, SCHENGEN AND VISAS

A new national strategy for integrated management of borders was implemented for the period 2019-2024 in order to carry out safety missions at the external borders while taking into account challenges and threats and respecting France's European and international undertakings.

France has continued to provide assistance and support to the different operations of the European Border and Coast Guards Agency - EBCGA (former Frontex).

It has also continued to cooperate with the UK with the conclusion of new joint actions to fight against irregular migration, especially regarding small boats.

7. IRREGULAR MIGRATION INCLUDING MIGRANT SMUGGLING

France has continued to implement actions plans to prevent and fight against irregular migration in some countries (Albania, Georgia) where a significant increase of irregular flows and unfounded asylum applications were registered following the visa liberalisation.

In addition the French Office for Immigration and Integration (OFII) has continued its promotion policy regarding voluntary returns.

New tools for the fight against document and identity fraud were also developed.

Regarding cooperation with third countries in order to fight against irregular migration, French authorities have reinforced their contacts with Morocco and Tunisia, in the framework of the management migration policy. Moreover France is very active in developing and increasing capacity in relation with reinforced legislative strategy, civil status, fight against trafficking and border controls. In 2019, the cooperation was reinforced in particular with Western African countries mentioned on the return policy framework (Senegal, Guinea, Ivory Coast and Mali).

8. TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS

The second action plan against trafficking in human beings for 2019-2021 was launched in October 2019. This plan confirms the Government's undertaking to strengthen its fight against trafficking in human beings and is coherent with the other actions such as the national plan to fight illegal employment (2019-2021), the national strategy for the reception and integration of refugees (2018-2021), the strategy of prevention and of fight against poverty (2018-2021), the strategy of crime prevention (2019-2024), the future national strategy for child protection or the launching of the local security police.

Stakeholders in charge of the fight against trafficking have continued to train investigators.

9. RETURN AND READMISSION

The Law of 10 September 2018 whose main measures related to irregular migration were enforced in 2019 enabled to strengthen the various follow up measures in order to improve the effectiveness of the supervision of foreign nationals subject to a return decision and extend the scope of the return assistance to irregular third country nationals in detention.

Measures aimed at improving retention conditions and increasing detention capacity were implemented in view of an increase in the length of detention.

French authorities also continued to develop facilities to help prepare for return with the objective to develop alternatives to detention for removal of third country nationals in an irregular situation and to streamline the pathways for asylum applicants by freeing up places in accommodation centres.

10. MIGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT

France supported the adoption of the UN Global Compact for safe, regulated and regular migration with especially a grant to the Fiduciary Fund.

The fight against irregular migration, smuggling and trafficking are among France's top priorities. Within the framework of its development cooperation policy, France supports some actions to reinforce some countries' capacities in Western Africa and Western Balkans to fight against trafficking.

Moreover France has continued its efforts to reinforce the mobility and migration contribution to development in countries of origin. Thus France with its European partners works to better integrate migration and development policy in different ways (through diaspora, dealing with root causes of migration, etc.). In addition to the 19 countries considered as a priority for development cooperation, France enlarged its policy to all countries covered by the Official Development Assistance.

OVERARCHING CHANGES TO THE NATIONAL MIGRATION AND ASYLUM SYSTEM IN 2019

Were there any overall changes in the national migration and asylum system in 2019? Y/N

In 2019 France continued to implement **the reform of its migration and asylum policies which started in 2018** with the Law of 10 September 2018 "for a managed migration, an effective right of asylum and a successful integration". This reform includes in particular:

- strengthening the protection of individuals especially the most vulnerable.
- speeding up the timescale for processing asylum applications, and better distribute asylum seekers across the country,
- increasing the attractiveness and improve the reception of talents and skills;
- implementing a reworking of the integration policy;
- improving the effectiveness of the removal policy and extend the scope of the return assistance.

In addition, the **first annual debate on the migration policy** as required by the French President was organized in October 2019 in order to discuss the impact of the measures implemented over the last two years, the overview of the migratory situation in France and related challenges.

Following these discussions, the Government presented on 6 November 2019 **an action plan** during an inter-ministerial committee on migration and integration.

This plan provides several actions to the international, European and local level, in all migration areas: asylum, irregular migration, integration, management and promotion of economic migration, as well as development support or access to rights.

This plan includes **20 measures with three main topics**:

- **adapt the migration policy to the new international and European situation** thanks to several leverages such as the Official Development Assistance, reinforced links between the French visa policy and third countries readmission policy; reinforced fight against fraud; adapted conditions for access of rights and for reception material conditions for asylum seekers;
- **take some decisions regarding reception and integration** including (i) an improved management of regular migration and a successful implementation of some processes for international talents and students; (ii) review of the conditions of access to citizenship with a higher level for French language; (iii) improvement of the reception conditions of third country nationals in the prefectures and of asylum seekers; (iv) an improved integration of third country nationals legally residing in France with increased efforts on French language training and professional integration;
- **improve the effectiveness of rules and respect of France's undertaking with two priorities** : reducing the asylum applications processing to six months in average and fight against irregular migration.

Were there any developments in your Member State in 2019 regarding preparations for the impact of the UK's departure from the EU for example, the development of a specific strategy, in relation to your Member State's immigration system?
Y/N

In view of the UK decision to leave the EU, the French Government adopted in 2019 by ordonnance¹ several measures related to residence in France of British citizens, especially:

- freedom of movement until 31 December 2020;
- during the transitory period until 31 December 2020, British citizens will keep their (social) rights as European citizens and will not have to apply for a residence permit.

In application of the Withdrawal Agreement, British nationals will only be required to hold a residence permit marked "Withdrawal Agreement" from 1 July 2021. In order to apply for the residence permit online in advance, a new version of the <https://contacts->

¹ Ordonnance n°2019-76 of 6 February 2019 regarding various measures related to entry, stay, social rights and professional activity, applicable in case of the lack of agreement regarding the UK's departure from the EU
<https://www.legifrance.gouv.fr/affichTexte.do?cidTexte=JORFTEXT000038100655&categorieLien=id>

demarches.interieur.gouv.fr website, adapted to the provisions of the withdrawal agreement, will be accessible from July 2020.

British citizens and their family members wishing to reside in France after 31 December 2020 will be subject to the same standard rules as Third country nationals and apply for a long-term visa and then visit the Prefecture to apply for the residence permit.

- British companies implemented in France will be maintained in regulated sectors (lawyers, accountants).
- British police officers will be maintained in French public administrations.

In order to answer British citizens' questions and worries and give some answers to the legal issues of the various possible scenario of the Brexit, a dedicated website was launched by the Secretariat General for EU Affairs: <https://www.brexit.gouv.fr/sites/brexit/accueil/vous-etes-britannique-en.html>

This website includes a list of frequently asked questions answered by all concerned ministries. Some questions related to the residence are answered by the General Directorate of Foreign Nationals in France (also available on the ministry of the Interior's website: <https://www.interieur.gouv.fr/Actualites/Le-ministere-de-l-Interieur-se-prepare-au-Brexit>).

This website is regularly updated and will avoid overcrowded offices in Prefectures.

In case of additional questions, British citizens can contact the ministry of the Interior through a dedicated email address: <https://www.interieur.gouv.fr/Contact/Brexit-Ecrire-au-ministere-de-l-Interieur>

1 LEGAL MIGRATION

1.1 Transposition of EU legislation on legal migration

EU Legislation	Equivalent National Legislation	Status*	Additional information
<i>Directive on the conditions of entry and residence of third-country nationals for the purpose of research, studies, training ...² (23 May 2018)</i>	Yes	In force	This directive was transposed into French law by the 10 September 2018 Law for a managed migration, an effective right of asylum and a successful integration ³ , certain provisions of which entered into force on 1 January and 1 March 2019
<i>Directive on the conditions of entry and stay of third-country nationals for the purpose of employment as seasonal workers (30 September 2016)⁴</i>	Yes	In force	This directive was transposed into French law in 2016 ⁵ .
<i>Directive on the conditions of entry and residence of third-country nationals in the framework of an intra-corporate transfer (29 November 2016)⁶</i>	Yes	In force	This directive was transposed into French law in 2016 ⁷ .

*Please state whether the equivalent national legislation is a) in force; b) passed but not in force c) in progress; d) not applicable.

1.2 Work related migration

1.2.1. Admission policies of specific categories of third-country nationals

1.2.1.1 Highly skilled/qualified workers

Were there any **new** developments in relation to highly skilled/qualified workers in 2019?

Development (Please describe)	Nature*
The Circular of 28 February 2019 on the implementation of Law N° 2018-778 dated 10 September 2018, for a managed migration, an effective right of asylum and a successful integration, is designed to facilitate mobility for "high potential" people , whose sojourn has received a positive evaluation from diplomatic or consular authorities. Article R. 313-41 of the CESEDA (Code on Entry and Residence of Foreign Nationals and Right of Asylum) thus provides for all "talent passport" cardholders to be issued systematically a provisional residence authorisation of up to six months while awaiting issuance of the first residence permit by the Prefecture. This measure enables them to leave France and re-enter without having to apply for a re-entry visa (Decree N° 2019-141, dated 27 February 2019, offering implementation guidance for the 10 September 2018 Law).	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Legislation <input type="checkbox"/> Policy <input type="checkbox"/> Practice/Other

*Please tick the appropriate box

² Directive (EU) [2016/801](#) of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 May 2016 on the conditions of entry and residence of third-country nationals for the purposes of research, studies, training, voluntary service, pupil exchange schemes or educational projects and au pairing.

³ Law N° 2018-778 of 10 September 2018, Act for a managed migration, effective right of asylum and a successful integration. <https://www.legifrance.gouv.fr/eli/loi/2018/9/10/INTX1801788L/jo/texte> (in French)

⁴ Directive 2014/36/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 26 February 2014 on the conditions of entry and stay of third-country nationals for the purpose of employment as seasonal workers.

⁵ See EMN Report 2016.

⁶ Directive 2014/66/EU on the conditions of entry and residence of third-country nationals in the framework of an intra-corporate transfer

⁷ See EMN Report 2016.

1.2.1.2 Intra-corporate transferees

Were there any **new** developments in relation to intra-corporate transferees in 2019?

Development (Please describe)	Nature*
<p>The 10 September 2018 Law amended the conditions for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • issuance of the temporary "ICT [intra-corporate transfer] intern" residence permit: abolition of the internship agreement requirement, extension of the prerequisite seniority in the firm (from three to six months) and introduction of a six-month period before a new "ICT intern" residence permit can be requested; • issuance of the temporary "ICT employee" residence permit: extension of the prerequisite seniority in the firm (from three to six months) and introduction of a six-month waiting period before a new "ICT employee" residence permit can be requested. <p>These provisions came into force on 1 March 2019, in application of Decree N° 2019-141, dated 27 February 2019.</p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Legislation <input type="checkbox"/> Policy <input type="checkbox"/> Practice/Other

*Please tick the appropriate box

1.2.1.3 Entrepreneurs, start-ups, and investors

Were there any **new** developments in relation to entrepreneurs, business start-ups and investors in 2019?

Development (Please describe)	Nature*
<p>Decree N° 2019-152 of 28 February 2019, which offers guidance on the implementation of the 10 September 2018 Law, sets forth the criteria for defining so-called "innovative" firms.</p> <p>According to the new Article D. 313-45-1 of the CESEDA, this refers to enterprises that have received:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - a form of public pro-innovation backing (as per the 28 February 2019 ruling); - pro-innovation funding from a legal entity or alternative investment fund (as per the 28 February 2019 ruling); - or support from a structure designed specifically to assist innovative firms. <p>In application of the Circular dated 28 February 2019, once recognised by the Minister of the Economy, the firm will be issued a certificate which may then be used by applicants so that they may benefit from an extension to the "talent passport" multiyear residence permit, as provided for by the law (Art. L. 313-20 (1) of the CESEDA).</p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Legislation <input type="checkbox"/> Policy <input type="checkbox"/> Practice/Other

*Please tick the appropriate box

1.2.1.4 Trainees, au-pairs and volunteers

Were there any **new** developments in relation to trainees, au-pairs and volunteers in 2019?

Development (Please describe)	Nature*
<p>In application of Directive 2016/801/UE, the 10/09/2018 Law instituted a residence permit especially for au pairs.</p> <p>Decree N° 2019-141 of 27 February 2019, which offers guidance on the implementation of Law N° 2018-778 dated 10 September 2018, lays down the conditions for the issuance of this special residence permit.</p> <p>When applying for the new temporary "au pair" residence permit, certain documents need to be submitted, as stipulated in Article R. 313-12 of the CESEDA, namely the agreement between the au pair and the family, proof of the applicant's understanding of the French language or level of schooling, and proof of health-care insurance.</p> <p>The ruling dated 4 March 2019 includes agreement templates and annexes, as well as an explanatory note. These templates set forth the organisation of activities and duties for the au pair (which are not to exceed 25 hours per week), procedure in case of early termination, the commitments and obligations of the signatories, required weekly time off (at least one day per week), and the minimum monthly amount of pocket money to be paid to the au pair (320 euros per month).</p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Legislation <input type="checkbox"/> Policy <input type="checkbox"/> Practice/Other
<p>Decree N° 2019-141 of 27 February 2019, offering guidance on the implementation of Law N° 2018-778 dated 10 September 2018, institutes a temporary long-stay visa (VLS-T in its French initials) under Article R. 311-3 with a maximum validity of one year and the special mention of "volunteer", which can be issued by Consulates to young foreign nationals wishing to stay in France as volunteers under the European Voluntary Service programme. This provision is regulated by Directive (EU) 2016/801 concerning the conditions of entry and of stay for third country nationals for the purposes of research, study, training, volunteer work and pupil exchange schemes or educational projects and au pairing, which requires the issuance of a permit or visa bearing this specific mention when applied for as part of the European Voluntary Service.</p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Legislation <input type="checkbox"/> Policy <input type="checkbox"/> Practice/Other
<p>Decree N° 2019-141 of 27 February 2019, which offers implementation guidance for Law N° 2018-778 of 10 September 2018, includes provisions regarding the exceptional admission for foreign nationals taken in by a Community Reception and Solidarity Organisation, as defined in Article L. 265-1 of the French Family and Social Action Code, provided that there is evidence of three continuous years of activity in said organisation, and of the genuine and serious nature of the activity and prospects for integration (Art. L. 313-14-1 of the CESEDA).</p> <p>Included among the supporting documents required under Article R. 313-25 of the CESEDA for foreign nationals applying for regularisation are: a report by the representative of the Reception and Solidarity Organisation, with specific mention of the type of work undertaken and corresponding volume of hours and the "prospects for the applicant's integration, especially with regard to their fluency in the language, skills acquired and, where appropriate, the person's professional aspirations as well as personal and family factors".</p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Legislation <input type="checkbox"/> Policy <input type="checkbox"/> Practice/Other

*Please tick the appropriate box

1.2.2. Satisfying labour market needs - admission policies

Were there any **new** developments to satisfy labour market and skill needs/shortages in relation to the employment of third-country nationals (which were not already covered in question 1.2.1 above) in 2019?

Development (Please describe)	Nature*
<p>The 28 February 2019 Circular regarding implementation of the Law of 10 September 2018 stipulates that, with a view to helping France to attract more foreign talent and respond to the recruitment needs of innovative firms, the "talent passport – qualified employee/innovative firm" initiative has been extended to include talented foreign nationals who did not gain their qualifications in France and wish to be employed by companies that the French Minister of the Economy has deemed innovative.</p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Legislation <input type="checkbox"/> Policy <input type="checkbox"/> Practice/Other
<p>Discussions in the Inter-Ministerial Committee on Immigration and Integration, which met on 6 November 2019 under the chairmanship of the Prime Minister, resulted in ambitious immigration policy measures.</p> <p>This Committee meeting came after the parliamentary debate, spearheaded by the Prime Minister on the occasion of the General Policy Statement on 12 June 2019, and introduced a migration reform comprising 20 proposals.</p> <p>This reform aims to respond to the French economy's human resource requirements through a professional migration policy that prioritises the economic effectiveness of migration and streamlined professional residence permit procedures.</p> <p>The Government proposed a series of targeted measures designed to meet the economy's short- and medium-term needs (by establishing the definition of qualitative objectives), to identify and fulfil the French economy's long-term requirements (in particular for rare skill sets) and to simplify the tools and procedures for work permits.</p> <p>The "talent passport", a multiyear residence permit for highly qualified workers, is expected to effectively address the skills and qualifications shortfalls highlighted by France's "Pacte Productif 2025" employment audit.</p> <p>The streamlined work permit issuance mechanism, notably paperless application procedures for "talent passports" and work permits, should be operational by early 2021.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Legislation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Policy <input type="checkbox"/> Practice/Other

*Please tick the appropriate box

1.2.3. 'Social dumping'⁸ and labour exploitation

Were there any **new** developments aimed at tackling labour exploitation and/or social dumping of third-country national workers legally residing in your (Member) State in 2019?

Development (Please describe)	Nature*
<p>Order N° 2019-116 dating 20 February 2019 for transposing Directive (EU) 2018/957 concerning the posting of workers for the provision of services into French law</p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Legislation <input type="checkbox"/> Policy <input type="checkbox"/> Practice/Other

⁸ While there is no definition of the concept of "social dumping" in EU law, the term is generally used to point to unfair competition due to the application of different wages and social protection rules to different categories of worker (Parliamentary questions, 27 May 2015, E-008441-15). The European Commission described the practice as a situation 'where foreign service providers can undercut local service providers because their labour standards are lower', more info at [Eurofound](#)

<p>The order clarifies the legal definitions governing firms' use of temporary posted labour and establishes specific user firms' information obligations regarding the temporary employment undertakings providing such labour.</p> <p>The principle of equal treatment is enshrined, and the core set of minimum applicable rights for posted workers is clarified and refined so as to introduce the notion of remuneration as addressed by the directive and the allowances paid to offset expenses incurred by employees in the course of their secondment, which are treated as professional expenses.</p> <p>Over and above the list of acts or omissions that are already subject to administrative sanctions, the order further identifies as sanctionable an employer's failure to respect the obligation to submit a substantiated notification for long-term postings extending beyond twelve months, and provides for the imposition of an administrative penalty on the user undertaking if it is unaware of its notification obligations when the employer is ignorant of the applicable remuneration rules.</p> <p>Finally, the order sets forth the conditions in which administrative penalties are imposed, adding that the administrative authority is to give due consideration to the good faith of the party guilty of non-compliance when issuing sanctions and, where appropriate, determining the amount thereof.</p> <p>The order is to enter into force on 30 July 2020.</p>	
<p><u>Decree N° 2019-555 dated 4 June 2019 including several provisions regarding the posting of workers and bolstered efforts to combat posted worker fraud (Official Journal of 5 June 2019)</u></p> <p>This Decree offers guidance as to the implementation of Law N° 2018-771 on the freedom to choose one's future career (Cf. 2018 EMN Report). It embodies the Government's determination to ensure truly equal treatment among workers employed by firms established on French soil and posted workers.</p> <p>It entails measures that adjust obligations regarding secondment of workers for low fraud risk situations and at the same time strengthens the applicable penalties and control measures so as to combat unfair practices.</p> <p>It thus grants a two-week time frame, for own-account secondment and activities listed in the 4 June 2019 ruling, for the submission, if requested by a labour inspection, of French translations of all or part of the documents listed in France's Labour Code. This concerns documents detailing the activity of the firm and, for activities listed in the 4 June 2019 ruling, documents relating to employees with work permits authorising third country nationals to undertake gainful employment. It establishes the methods, for both instructing parties and contracting parties, for verifying the regularity of the co-contracting party's situation as established abroad, with regard to the payment of any previously imposed penalties.</p> <p>It sets forth the procedures for suspending or prohibiting provision of service across borders in the event of non-payment of previously issued penalties and consistency measures concerning the representative in France.</p> <p>With regard to illegal work, the Decree enhances document disclosure obligations in the context of verifications by labour inspectors and empowers the Prefect to order the firm's administrative closure in the event of illegal labour practices, including unlawful employment of a foreign national without a work permit, even if the employer has not created any establishment in France.</p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Legislation</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Policy</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Practice/Other</p>

<p>Government Plan for improving immigration, asylum and integration policy – Inter-Ministerial Committee on Immigration and Integration, 6 November 2019</p> <p>One of this Plan’s measures is to enhance the tools and procedures for issuing work permits so as to better tailor them to the labour requirements of the private sector, and to make them simpler and more cost-effective.</p> <p>Moreover, certain criteria will be updated: for example, appraisal of the local employment situation before issuing a work permit is based on the “list of occupations under pressure” of which, according to the Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), only a mere 15% of the jobs listed are actually experiencing tension (and, conversely, other professions such as “developer / coder” are not taken into consideration).</p> <p>A fast-track work permit processing procedure will be established for firms that have received State recognition with regard to sector-specific criteria and to their organisation, as well as the compliance of their employment practices with labour law.</p> <p>Finally, paperless work permit processing procedures are to be developed in 2020.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Legislation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Policy <input type="checkbox"/> Practice/Other
<p>The 2019-2021 National Plan for combatting Illegal Work - National Commission for combatting Illegal Work, 8 July 2019</p> <p>The previous National Plan for combatting Illegal Work, covering the 2016-2018 biennium, saw developments in the legal framework for clamping down on illegal work and fraud regarding posted workers, for improving management of controls and streamlining cooperation between administrations or European countries.</p> <p>The 2019-2021 Plan comprises 34 actions built around four approaches and which together help guarantee workers’ basic rights:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ set priorities for controls to be undertaken in the sectors most affected by fraud, during major events and on large-scale projects; ▪ prevent the recourse to illegal labour and posted worker fraud, guaranteeing workers’ rights and ensuring information for both employers and employees; ▪ improve the effectiveness of controls, notably by holding contracting parties and instructing parties to account; ▪ facilitate coordination of partners, and manage and assess the plan with the aid of quantified objectives. <p>For recourse to foreign labour, the Plan provides for heightened controls for employers hiring foreign workers without work permits, for whom the working conditions are often precarious and harsh, and who are habitually poorly remunerated. The control services, in the framework of anti-fraud committees, which include labour inspectorate participation, are to ensure the effective reinstatement of employees’ social and pecuniary rights, of which these foreign workers are informed, including during verification operations.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Legislation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Policy <input type="checkbox"/> Practice/Other

**Please tick the appropriate box*

1.2.4. Circular migration

Were there any **new** developments regarding circular migration in 2019?

Development (Please describe)	Nature*
The creation of a temporary "job seeker" resident permit, in application of the 10 September 2018 Law "for a managed migration, an effective right of asylum and a successful integration", aims to foster circular migration (see section 1.3 below).	<input type="checkbox"/> Legislation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Policy <input type="checkbox"/> Practice/Other
<p>A meeting of the France-Brazil dialogue mechanism on migration issues was held on 1 July 2019.</p> <p>This meeting was co-chaired by the Director for Immigration from the French Ministry of the Interior and the Director of Security and Justice from the Brazilian Ministry of Foreign Affairs with a view to discussing cooperation between France and Brazil on migration.</p> <p>While much of the discussion focussed on relations between Brazil and French Guiana, the meeting also addressed the matter of the dynamic flow of people between Brazil and mainland France. There has been an 8% increase in the issuance of long-stay visas for France between 2017 and 2018, chiefly for students. This makes France the fourth-ranked destination for Brazilian students studying abroad.</p> <p>The meeting decided to hold a first bilateral follow-up committee meeting in September 2019 for the "Working Holiday Visa" agreement that entered into force 11 April 2018, so as to take stock of the system and adopt communications strategies for reaching untapped potential users.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Legislation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Policy <input type="checkbox"/> Practice/Other

*Please tick the appropriate box

Were there any **new** developments regarding bilateral labour agreements between your (Member) State and third countries in 2019?

Development (Please describe)	Nature*
Decree N° 2019-384, dating 29 April 2019, conveying publication of the agreement between the Government of the French Republic and the Council of Ministers of Bosnia-Herzegovina on youth mobility (Official Journal, 2 May 2019).	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Legislation <input type="checkbox"/> Policy <input type="checkbox"/> Practice/Other
Decree N° 2019-475, 20 May 2019 – Agreement between the Government of the French Republic and the Government of the Republic of Angola regarding facilitation mechanisms for visas and stays for professionals and interns (Official Journal, 22 May 2019).	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Legislation <input type="checkbox"/> Policy <input type="checkbox"/> Practice/Other
Decree N° 2019-779, 24 July 2019, conveying publication of the agreement between the Government of the French Republic and the Government of Georgia on stays and circular migration of professionals (Official Journal, 26 July 2019)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Legislation <input type="checkbox"/> Policy <input type="checkbox"/> Practice/Other
Decree N° 2019-834, 9 August 2019, conveying publication of the agreement in the form of an exchange of Notes between the Government of the French Republic and the Government of Australia regarding the working-holiday programme (Official Journal, 11 August 2019).	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Legislation <input type="checkbox"/> Policy <input type="checkbox"/> Practice/Other
Signing of a partnership agreement between the Government of the French Republic and the Government of the Republic of Kenya regarding the promotion and exchange of skills and talents, 13 March 2019.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Legislation <input type="checkbox"/> Policy <input type="checkbox"/> Practice/Other
Signing of an agreement between the Government of the French Republic and the Government of the Republic of Ghana regarding the promotion of volunteer work and exchanges of language assistants and volunteers, 9 July 2019.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Legislation <input type="checkbox"/> Policy <input type="checkbox"/> Practice/Other
Signature, on 12 September 2019, of an amendment to the partnership agreement on cultural cooperation and development between the Government of the French Republic and the Government of the Kingdom of Morocco, dated 25 July 2003, regarding French volunteers in the VIE international internship programme and Moroccan trainees.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Legislation <input type="checkbox"/> Policy <input type="checkbox"/> Practice/Other

*Please tick the appropriate box

1.3 Students and researchers

Were there any new developments in relation to a) Students and b) Researchers in 2019?

Development for a) STUDENTS (please describe)	Nature*
<p>As part of the new "Bienvenue en France" (Welcome to France) strategy, the Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs (MEAE), the Ministry of the Interior, and the Ministry of Higher Education, Research and Innovation (MESRI) worked on procedures designed to facilitate the issuance of student visas.</p> <p>In order to offer applicants helpful information regarding visa formalities, Embassies have been sent communications materials. They are designed to help potential international students prepare for their visa application formalities as far ahead of time as possible, and gather the necessary documents in advance so as to avoid being caught by surprise when validating their application at the academic phase. These materials are to be distributed to applicants at the end of the interview with the Cooperation and Cultural Action Service (SCAC).</p> <p>In the first year of its national strategy roll-out, France harmonised and simplified the list of documents required for a study visa application, notably by digitising more of the procedures for foreign students.</p> <p>The "Etudes en France" (Studying in France) portal serves as an interface for exchange among students, their host establishment and Embassies (SCAC).</p> <p>The France Visas website is a one-stop multilingual portal where students can consult all of the necessary information and make an on-line visa application.</p> <p>Prefectures are encouraged to establish dedicated counters in a growing number of university settings (this had already been rolled out in 20 <i>Départements</i> as of July 2019) and to more broadly disseminate a French/English communications support, designed for students, which was prepared mid-2019 and which outlines the formalities and explains which documents to submit.</p> <p>Finally, the VLS-TS (Long-stay visa equivalent to a residence permit) teleservice that has been created is of benefit primarily for student applicants (facilitating formalities).</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Legislation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Policy <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Practice/Other
<p>Under the 10 September 2018 Law, foreign nationals having obtained a Masters-level equivalent qualification in a higher education establishment with national accreditation will be able to access the new temporary "job seeker or new business creator" residence permit. This one-year permit replaces the temporary "MASTER" residence authorisation.</p> <p>The 27 February 2019 Decree stipulates that presentation of the qualification may be deferred until the temporary residence card is collected, and that the applicant needs to demonstrate health insurance cover.</p> <p>Furthermore, for applications relating to a start-up, the planned business needs to correlate with the applicant's field of studies.</p> <p>Finally, the temporary "job seeker or new business creator" residence permit allows bearers to undertake gainful professional activity until the end of their contract or the registration of their start-up.</p> <p>In the framework of circular migration, former students who have returned to their country of origin (or moved to another country) at the end of their studies in France, and who wish to come back for professional reasons, may use this category of residence permit to return to France and seek employment or set up a new business up to a maximum of four years after gaining their qualification.</p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Legislative <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Policy <input type="checkbox"/> Practice/Other

<p>On 19 November 2018, during the Academic Meetings for the Francophonie, the Government had announced a new strategy for attracting international students called "Choose France".</p> <p>The aim is to attract 500,000 international students by 2027. From the start of the 2019-2020 academic year, six key aspects of this reform were launched, with a visa policy simplification strategy, in cooperation with the Ministry of the Interior; significant increase in courses offered in French, foreign languages and English; a labelling mechanism for the reception of foreign students in France; and a global communications campaign, under the aegis of Campus France. The creation of a 10 million euro Support Fund called "Bienvenue en France" (Welcome to France), will enable the launch of these initiatives in 2019.</p> <p>Furthermore, as part of this reform, the French Government decided to increase the enrolment fees for non-Community international students (from outside the EU and where there are no partnership agreements in place between the establishments), enabling better funding of reception mechanisms for foreign students. Decree N° 2019-344, dated 19 April 2019, concerning enrolment fee exemptions for foreign students, provides for enrolment fee waivers for certain categories of students (for example, students with scholarships from the French Government, students coming to study in France under an international cooperation agreement or international exchange programme that includes a partial or full enrolment fee exemption).</p> <p>Students not affected by differentiated tuition fees are to pay the same fees as French students throughout their studies in public higher education establishments under the remit of the Ministry of Higher Education, Research and Innovation (MESRI).</p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Legislative <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Policy <input type="checkbox"/> Practice/Other
<p>Under the "Bienvenue en France" strategy, Campus France was entrusted with the task of implementing the "Bienvenue en France" Label, indicating an international standard of quality for the foreign student reception policy in France's higher education institutions.</p> <p>At the time of the second Commission on Labelling, on 16 October 2019, there were 37 establishments that had been awarded the Label.</p> <p>The Label is not only an informative tool offering international students a true snapshot of the treatment that they can expect in our establishments; it is also a tool for highlighting initiatives taken in this regard by the institutions and a seal of quality for improving reception mechanisms for foreign students in establishments. The ministry of the Interior also participates in this process.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Legislative <input type="checkbox"/> Policy <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Practice/Other
<p>Development for b) RESEARCHERS <i>(please describe)</i></p>	<p>Nature*</p>
<p>Ruling of 1 March 2019 concerning the notification procedure for mobility projects for researchers and members of their family.</p> <p>In application of the Directive (EU) 2016/801, the 10 September 2018 Law makes researcher mobility possible in a second Member State on a residence permit issued by a first Member State, so as to conduct part of the research (or teaching) work on the basis of a reception agreement with the first Member State.</p> <p>The 1 March 2019 ruling allows for researchers, and members of their family, already staying in another Member State and enrolled in a mobility programme as provided for by Directive (EU) 2006/801, 11 May 2016, to obtain permission to stay in France, after due notification by the French establishment receiving the mobility project participant to the Minister in charge of Immigration.</p> <p>This ruling sets forth, in particular, the documentation required, the conditions for admission of family members and the time frame (30 days) for appealing a refusal.</p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Legislation <input type="checkbox"/> Policy <input type="checkbox"/> Practice/Other

<p>Researchers holding a “talent passport” with the mention “Researcher” may also benefit from the new “job seeker or new business creator” residence permit as may, similarly, students and researchers taking part in mobility programmes (Erasmus Mundus, Marie Curie, etc.).</p> <p>The 27 February 2019 Decree stipulates that the residence permit may be issued after confirmation by the research entity that the research work has been completed and that presentation of said confirmation may be deferred until the temporary residence permit is collected. The applicant must also demonstrate health insurance cover.</p> <p>In addition, if the application is for the creation of a new business, the planned business needs to correlate with the applicant’s field of research.</p> <p>Finally, the temporary “job seeker or new business creator” residence permit allows bearers to undertake gainful professional activity until the end of their contract or the registration of their start-up.</p> <p>For holders of a “talent passport” residence permit with the mention “Researcher”, the right to reside may be extended to cover the couple’s children so that members of their family may come to France (and not only the children of the “talent passport” residence permit holder).</p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Legislative <input type="checkbox"/> Policy <input type="checkbox"/> Practice/Other
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*Please tick the appropriate box

1.4 Family reunification and family formation of economic migrants

Were there any **new** developments regarding family reunification and family formation in 2019?

Development (Please describe)	Nature*
<p>The 10 September 2018 Law amends Article L. 431-2 of the CESEDA. In its earlier wording, this Article barred the revocation of residence permits (and made renewal mandatory) issued to foreign nationals having entered France on the grounds of family reunification if separation occurred because of domestic violence against a spouse. Article 58 of the 10 September 2018 Law (applicable as of 1 March 2019) adds other forms of domestic violence to the already listed conjugal violence.</p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Legislation <input type="checkbox"/> Policy <input type="checkbox"/> Practice/Other

*Please tick the appropriate box

1.5 Information on routes to and conditions of legal migration

Were there any **new** developments in 2019 to improve the provision of information on the routes to and conditions of legal migration for third-country nationals?

YES, please see the section on students

1.6 Other measures regarding legal migration

Were there any **other new** developments regarding legal migration?

Development (please describe)	Nature*
<p>The 2020 Finance Act has altered the arrangements and rates of the taxes to be paid by foreign nationals when their residence permit and travel documents are issued. A Circular dating 31 December 2019 clarifies the tax scheme overhaul based on Article 26 of the 2020 Finance Act, which:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - institutes an overarching flat rate of €200 for residence permit issuance and renewal, and a reduced rate of €50 for certain categories of foreign nationals. - reduces to €200 the cost of a regularisation visa, which is required when issuing a first residence permit to foreign nationals whose situation is irregular and who are eligible to have their administrative situation regularised. - provides for tax exemptions for individuals who are protected, vulnerable or covered by relevant international agreements. 	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Legislation <input type="checkbox"/> Policy <input type="checkbox"/> Practice/Other

<ul style="list-style-type: none">- abolishes the surcharge for residence permit duplicate requests; the foreign national needs to pay only the applicable tax when renewing the residence permit in question.- raises the stamp duty from 19 to 25 euros.- sets the fees for future issuance of biometric travel documents to beneficiaries of subsidiary protection and to Stateless persons at 40 euros if they have been holders of multiyear residence permits for four years, and 45 euros if they have held a 10-year residence permit for five years.	
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**Please tick the appropriate box*

2 INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION INCLUDING ASYLUM

2.1 Implementation of the Common European Asylum System (CEAS) and related policy developments

2.1.1. Changes in legislation, policies and practices

2.1.1.1 Access to the asylum procedure⁹

Were there any **new** developments in relation to access to the asylum procedure (making, registering and lodging of applications for international protection in 2019)?

Development (Please describe)	Nature*
<p>a) First arrival on the territory (including information provided at the time of first arrival on the EU territory and services to help asylum seekers to access the asylum procedures on arrival);</p>	
<p>Decree N° 2018-1159, dated 14 December 2018, specifies the conditions under which foreign nationals appearing before the French Office for Immigration and Integration (OFII), police or gendarmerie, or penitentiary administration services are oriented to the appropriate authority for lodging their asylum application. In this regard, the foreign national is to address these services with the express aim of seeking asylum. Cases in which a foreign national is, for example, questioned by the police during an identity check, do need meet the criteria.</p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Legislation <input type="checkbox"/> Policy <input type="checkbox"/> Practice/Other
<p>The ruling dated 10 May 2019 lists the Prefects authorised to register asylum applications of foreign nationals already in mainland France and issue the first certificate of asylum application. In 2015 the procedure for determining which State is responsible for processing asylum requests was regionalised, on an experimental basis. The 10 May 2019 ruling served to ensure, in one single text, nationwide application of this regional management system of asylum seekers under the Dublin III Regulation (Regional Dublin Procedure Hubs), with a view to renewing asylum application registration certificates.</p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Legislation <input type="checkbox"/> Policy <input type="checkbox"/> Practice/Other
<p>b) Access to the asylum procedure (i.e. developments related to making and lodging applications, including at the border, within the (Member) State's territory and in detention);¹⁰</p>	
<p>In a drive to make entry refusal procedures for asylum cases or extended confinement in waiting areas swifter and more efficient, the Government established widespread use of video-hearings and relaxed certain contentious rules.</p> <p>Under the 10 September 2018 Law, therefore, for hearings before administrative judges concerning refused entry in asylum cases (Article L. 213-9 of the CESEDA) or before judicial judges concerning holding area confinement (Articles L. 222-4 and L. 222-6 of the CESEDA), video-hearings became the norm.</p> <p>Decree N° 2018-1159 of 14 December 2018, which complemented the provisions of the 10 September 2018 Law by amending Article R. 213-4 of the CESEDA, permitted the use, as of 1 January 2019, of communication by telephone for the interview with the protection officer, as an exception, if neither an in-person nor</p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Legislation <input type="checkbox"/> Policy <input type="checkbox"/> Practice/Other

⁹ Questions in this sub-section cover developments related to Articles 6 and 7 of Directive 2013/32/EU (Recast Asylum Procedures Directive).

¹⁰ This question refers to any developments related to the Member State's obligation to ensure that a person who intends to make an application for international protection has an effective opportunity to lodge it as soon as possible, in line with Directive 2013/32/EU (Recast Asylum Procedures Directive).

<p>video-conference interview with the applicant is possible. It is thus stipulated that such officers are to “ensure operational expertise. The manner in which they conduct the interview must enable verification of the person’s identity and guarantee confidentiality. They are to ensure that the person’s rights are fully respected.”</p>	
<p>A new protocol model, introduced in the Inter-Ministerial Instruction dated 16 August 2019 on improved coordination of follow-up on detained foreign nationals for whom a removal order has been issued, stipulates the procedures for registration and follow-up of asylum applications submitted in detention.</p> <p>This new protocol model sets forth that the registration and follow-up of asylum applications submitted in detention are to be performed without the foreign detainee leaving the detention centre. The entire asylum application circuit is thus managed remotely and in written form. The detention centre is notified by the Prefecture of the <i>Département</i> as to the outcomes of the asylum application procedure.</p> <p>This means that if detained foreign nationals wish to apply for asylum, they need to contact the one-stop service for asylum applicants which has territorial jurisdiction with a written request and the asylum application will be lodged via the detention centre’s services.</p> <p>Once the French Office for the Protection of Refugees and Stateless Persons (OFPRA) has processed the application, the decision is sent to the head of the detention centre at the centre’s address, who then delivers it in a sealed envelope to the applicant, who in turn counter-signs the official notification.</p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Legislation <input type="checkbox"/> Policy <input type="checkbox"/> Practice/Other
<p>c) Registration of applications for international protection (including subsequent applications and Dublin returnees), identification and fingerprinting.</p>	
<p>Significant human resources were deployed in 2019 (42 additional full time equivalent (FTE) posts created and 1200 contractor work-months allocated to Prefectures) so as to shorten waiting times for making appointments at the one-stop services.</p> <p>As a result the average application registration time at the one-stop services dropped from 19.5 working days in late 2017 to 7.8 days for 2018, and shrank to 4.4 days by late 2019.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Legislation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Policy <input type="checkbox"/> Practice/Other
<p>Since late 2019 a collaborative tool (“TNV Asile”) has been developed for Prefectoral asylum services. It enables dissemination of practical information sheets, sharing of information and asylum policy updates and better interaction between the heads of the one-stop services and Regional Dublin Procedure Hubs and the Directorate for Asylum.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Legislation <input type="checkbox"/> Policy <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Practice/Other

**Please tick the appropriate box*

2.1.1.2 Reception of asylum applicants

At the Inter-Ministerial Committee on Immigration and Integration meeting, 6 November 2019, the Government announced new measures with regard to the reception of foreign nationals, aimed notably at tackling fraud.

A Decree will be promulgated to reduce the period of national healthcare cover from 12 to 6 months for unsuccessful asylum applicants.

The Government reform also aims to put an end to concurrent payment of the asylum seeker’s allowance (ADA) and RSA income support (*Revenu de Solidarité Active*). Any RSA income support applications submitted by asylum seekers in the future will thus no longer be admissible. The Government is to submit a draft Decree in this regard to the Council of State, with a view to ensuring that those applying for refugee status only start receiving ADA income support pursuant to the conditions described in the texts from the date upon which they obtain refugee status.

Were there any new developments in relation to reception of asylum applicants in 2019?

Development (Please describe)	Nature*
<p>a) Reception of applicants (please include information on reception capacities – rise/fall/stable, material reception conditions, i.e. housing, food and clothing and financial support, contingency planning in reception, access to labour market and vocational training, medical care, schooling and education, residence and freedom of movement)</p>	
<p>Given the sustained high volumes of asylum applications in France, leading to greater accommodation pressures, the 10 September 2018 Law was aimed at intensifying asylum seekers’ obligations and improving geographical distribution in France.</p> <p>The accommodation policy for people seeking asylum in France aims to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Increase accommodation capacity by creating new places. <p>The Information issued 31 December 2018 on housing for asylum seekers and beneficiaries of international protection enables improved organisation of accommodation facilities and provides for a capacity increase in 2019, in order to achieve more than 107,000 beds, thanks to the creation of additional places via new Calls for Proposals.</p> <p>Total accommodation capacity reached 107,274 places by the end of 2019.</p> <p>The draft 2020 Finance Act had not originally provided for the creation of new places for asylum seekers and refugees. However, the Government has undertaken measures not only to accelerate procedures, but also to step up the structuring and fluidity of the stock of lodgings. These initiatives should deliver higher asylum seeker accommodation rates. The target rate has been set at 63%.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Structure the available housing stock by establishing standardised operational rules. <p>Three rulings from 19 June 2019 harmonised the operational rules for all accommodation properties (emergency accommodation and reception centres for asylum seekers) and cover:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the contract of stay between the accommodation management and the asylum applicant 	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Legislation <input type="checkbox"/> Policy <input type="checkbox"/> Practice/Other</p>

Development <i>(Please describe)</i>	Nature*
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the regulations governing the operation of accommodation sites • the specifications for accommodation premises <p>- Increase fluidity by buttressing Prefects' efforts to re-house refugees and return unsuccessful applicants who are no longer eligible for accommodation.</p> <p>The Instruction dated 4 March 2019 concerning accelerated re-housing for beneficiaries of international protection established objectives for 2019 for mobilising dwellings for refugees.</p> <p>The aim for 2019 was thus to secure 16,000 lodgings, while ensuring balanced geographical distribution of refugees across the country.</p> <p>The Instruction also recommended close cooperation among all of the regional stakeholders (management of accommodation centres, donors, regional OFII units, associations, public services and local authorities) so that the steering activities required for rolling out the housing mobilisation policy could be adapted locally.</p> <p>- Improve case management conditions, especially for the most vulnerable and in particular for women who are victims of violence and human trafficking.</p> <p>The Inter-Ministerial Integration Council, held on 5 June 2018, validated a measure aiming to enable accommodation structures to specialise in female asylum seekers and refugees having suffered violence or human trafficking. Against the backdrop of an overarching review on how to best cater for such women's vulnerabilities at every stage of their care, this measure ensures heightened, more apposite support and guarantees a protected environment. The measure was tested in two regions in 2018 (Ile-de-France and Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur). By the end of 2019, 300 specialised places for vulnerable women had been created in four regions (Ile-de-France, Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur, Nouvelle-Aquitaine and Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes).</p>	
<p>End of accommodation</p> <p>The Law of 10/09/2018 specifies that the mission of providing accommodation ceases "at the end of the month in which the applicant's right to remain on French territory [...] comes to an end" (Article L. 744- 5 of the CESEDA). Persons recognised as refugees or beneficiaries of subsidiary protection may, upon request, remain in the accommodation centre for a further three months, and this period may be renewed once. Persons whose asylum application has been turned down may, upon request, remain in the centre for a maximum of one additional month.</p> <p>From now on, not only the competent administrative authority, but also the housing centre's management, may seek an eviction order from the courts if an occupant whose eligibility has expired fails to vacate the premises after having been served formal notification (Article L. 744-5 (4) of the CESEDA / measure effective as of March 2019).</p> <p>Access to the labour market after six months and processing of work permit applications</p> <p>The 10 September 2018 Law amends the timeframe after which an asylum seeker may lawfully undertake gainful employment. Access to the labour market is thus</p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Legislation <input type="checkbox"/> Policy <input type="checkbox"/> Practice/Other

Development <i>(Please describe)</i>	Nature*
<p>now possible six months after the asylum application has been lodged (as opposed to nine months previously) if no ruling on the asylum application has been issued by OFPRA (Article L. 744-11 (1) of the CESEDA). This measure entered into force on 1 March 2019.</p> <p>The administrative authority then has a two-month period in which to process the work permit application, so as "to ensure that employment of the foreign national complies with ordinary legislation governing labour market access". If there is no response from the administration within this two-month period, authorisation is deemed granted. It is valid for as long as the person is eligible to remain on French soil.</p> <p>Arrangements for unaccompanied minors</p> <p>If unaccompanied minors hold a work permit relating to professional training or apprenticeship contracts, and lodge an asylum application, the work permit maintains full validity while the application is being processed (Article L. 744-11 (1) of the CESEDA, amended by Art. 49 of the 10 September 2018 Law). This measure entered into force 1 June 2019.</p>	
<p>The Decree of 28 December 2018 regarding material reception conditions, regulating implementation of the 10 September 2018 Law, specifies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the possible grounds for denial and withdrawal of material reception support Furthermore, the decision to refuse or halt material reception conditions must be in writing, be reasoned and becomes final only once the applicant has been given a two-week window of opportunity to appeal with written observations to the OFII. The applicant's degree of vulnerability is taken duly into consideration in the decision. The decision becomes effective from the moment that it is signed. The Decree states that for decisions made on that grounds that applicants have concealed their financial resources, provided false statements regarding their family situation or lodged multiple asylum applications under different identities, any financial support unduly paid to the beneficiary will need to be reimbursed. - the required conditions for issuing a provisional family certificate, which enables refugees and beneficiaries of subsidiary protection to justify the composition their family while awaiting full certification of their family situation and civil status by the French Office for the Protection of Refugees and Stateless Persons. - the possibility of transferring the asylum seeker's allowance (known by its French initials, ADA) by payment card. As of 5 November 2019, withdrawal cards have effectively been replaced by payment cards, which can be used wherever there is a POS payment terminal. At the beginning of each month, the allowance to which the asylum seeker is entitled is credited directly to the card. 	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Legislation <input type="checkbox"/> Policy <input type="checkbox"/> Practice/Other
<p>b) Detention during the asylum procedure (detention capacity – rise/fall/stable, practices regarding detention, grounds for detention, alternatives to detention, time limit for detention)</p>	
<p>The Decree of 28 December 2018 regarding material reception conditions, regulating implementation of the 10 September 2018 Law, indicates that incarceration or detention of a beneficiary triggers suspension of the asylum seeker's allowance.</p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Legislation <input type="checkbox"/> Policy <input type="checkbox"/> Practice/Other

Development (Please describe)	Nature*
Incarceration or detention of a member of the person's family leads to suspension of the corresponding part of the allowance.	

*Please tick the appropriate box

2.1.1.3 Asylum procedures¹¹

Were there any **new** developments in relation to asylum procedures in 2019?

Development (Please describe)	Nature*
a) Access to information and legal counselling/representation (including at the border and during the asylum procedure);	
<p>Video-conference hearings</p> <p>The 10 September 2018 Law extends the possibility of the National Court for Right of Asylum (known by its French initials, CNDA) using video-conferencing for hearings by rescinding the requirement for the applicant's consent. This constitutes an extension of the existing mechanism for French Overseas Communities (Article L.733-1 of the CESEDA). In parallel, there are many safeguards for asylum seekers built into in the system (requirement for high quality transmission; the hearing must be open to the public; the applicant is to be assisted by counsel and an interpreter, who should preferably be seated beside the applicant).</p> <p>Given the practical difficulties with the use of video-hearings, however, the CNDA and representatives of the legal profession decided, by common accord, as early as April 2019, to use mediation in order to find a sustainable solution to the problems arising from the rollout of this provision.</p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Legislation <input type="checkbox"/> Policy <input type="checkbox"/> Practice/Other
In 2019, OFPRA ran several training courses for its external partners. Several OFPRA officers thus visited the one-stop service counters and initial reception structures for asylum seekers to provide training on the language of interviews and asylum application procedures for accompanied minors.	<input type="checkbox"/> Legislation <input type="checkbox"/> Policy <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Practice/Other
b) Provision of interpretation;	
<p>Indication of the language to be used throughout the procedures upon registration of the application:</p> <p>As of 1 January 2019, with a view to streamlining procedures, the asylum seeker's stated language preference at the time of application registration is, pursuant to the 10 September 2018 Law, binding throughout the entire asylum application processing procedure (Articles L.741-2-1; L.723-6; L.733-5; R.723-5 and R.733-5 of the CESEDA). Applicants are informed when their application is registered of the languages in which they may be heard for all dealings with OFPRA and they are to indicate in which language they would prefer to be heard. If the preferred language is not among those listed, applicants may be heard in a language of which they have</p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Legislation <input type="checkbox"/> Policy <input type="checkbox"/> Practice/Other

¹¹ Questions in this sub-section cover developments related to Articles 8-43 and 46 of Directive 2013/32/EU (Recast Asylum Procedures Directive). and the Dublin III Regulation (for point b).

Development <i>(Please describe)</i>	Nature*
sufficient understanding. Contesting the choice of language is only possible at the appeal stage before the CNDA (Article L.741-2-1 of the CESEDA).	
c) Dublin procedure (including changes in: the organisational framework, IT systems, ¹² practical development and suspension of transfers to selected countries, detention in the framework of Dublin procedures);	
<p>Decree N° 2019-38 of 23 January 2019 concerning Prefects' authority to register asylum applications and implement procedures under the 26 June 2013 "Dublin III" Regulation sets forth the powers of Prefects of <i>Départements</i> with regard to renewing asylum application registration certificates of persons under the Dublin Regulation. Without amending the law currently in force, the Decree upholds the principle of the authority of Prefects of <i>Départements</i>, while nonetheless including the possibility of varying the arrangement by conferring authority to a Prefect across several <i>Départements</i>.</p> <p>The 10 May 2019 ruling identifies, more specifically, the Prefects empowered to register asylum applications and determine which States are responsible for handling them.</p> <p><i>Please refer to the section on Access to the asylum procedure</i></p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Legislation <input type="checkbox"/> Policy <input type="checkbox"/> Practice/Other
d) Special procedures: border procedures, procedures in transit zones, accelerated procedures, admissibility procedures, prioritised procedures or any special procedure for selected caseloads;	
According to Decree N° 2018-1159, issued 14 December 2018 for implementing the 10 September 2018 Law, the Notice of Hearing for asylum seekers placed under accelerated procedure or those who have filed a Re-examination Request, as of 1 January 2019, is to be sent by any means to the parties at least two weeks before the hearing date.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Legislation <input type="checkbox"/> Policy <input type="checkbox"/> Practice/Other
e) Safe country concept: safe country of origin, safe third country, European safe third country, first country of asylum (introduction of the concept into law, applicability of the concept in practice, measures undertaken to create, revise or implement a list of safe countries);	
<p>OFPPRA's Administrative Board, at its 5 November 2019 meeting, reviewed the list of safe countries of origin and decided against altering the list.</p> <p>In the case of the Republic of Benin, however, the Administrative Board decided to undertake a review of its status in six months' time.</p> <p>Finally, the Board called for extra vigilance regarding the situation of persons who were at risk because of their sexual orientation.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Legislation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Policy <input type="checkbox"/> Practice/Other
f) Procedures at first instance (relevant changes in: the authority in charge, organisation of the process, interviews, evidence assessment, international protection status determination, decision making, timeframes, case management, including backlog management);	

¹² For example, information on setting up new databases that allow managing of Dublin cases, problems with managing DubliNet which can cause a delay in sending/receiving Dublin requests, acquisition of new equipment, such as Eurodac machines etc. as it is a relevant development in boosting the capacity to conduct Dublin procedures.

Development <i>(Please describe)</i>	Nature*
<p>A decision taken by OFPRA’s Director General, dating 2 July 2019, set forth the organisational aspects for interviews in application of Article L.723-6 of the Code on Entry and Residence of Foreign nationals and Right of Asylum.</p> <p>The decision stipulates that the presence of only one lawyer or representative of an accredited association is authorised when the asylum seeker or beneficiary of international protection is interviewed.</p> <p>The decision furthermore prohibits trainee lawyers from accompanying their internship supervisors or interns from accompanying representatives of accredited associations.</p> <p>In light of the 10 September 2018 Law, however, OFPRA Director General may nonetheless authorise the presence of third parties accompanying disabled persons in addition to the lawyer or representative of an accredited association.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Legislation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Policy <input type="checkbox"/> Practice/Other
<p>g) Appeal/judicial review (changes in: organisation of the process, hearings, written procedures, timeframes, case management, including backlog management);</p>	
<p>According to the 3 July 2019 ruling, amending the ruling of 18 February 2016 concerning modes of submission or transmission for appeals, briefs, filings and procedural documents to the National Court for Right of Asylum, it is now possible to file appeals electronically.</p> <p>In this regard, lawyers with “CNDém@t” user accounts may send appeals, briefs, filings and correspondence to the Court using this application.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Legislation <input type="checkbox"/> Policy <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Practice/Other
<p>h) Country of origin information (changes or updates in: organisation, methodology, products, databases, fact-finding missions, cooperation between (Member) States).</p>	
<p>Fact-finding missions OFPRA organised two fact-finding missions in 2019 in which the National Court for Right of Asylum took part: one to Central Asia (Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan); and the other to Côte d’Ivoire. The reports from these missions will be available in 2020.</p> <p>Notes and reports Moreover, OFPRA’s Division for Information, Documentation and Research published, in 2019, 133 of its country-of-origin information reports on the OFPRA website (https://www.ofpra.gouv.fr/l-ofpra/nos-publications/les-publications-de-l-ofpra) (in French).</p> <p>Cooperation The Office continued its European cooperation activities, actively participating in information networks on EASO countries of origin, and drafting several European reports and a guide. The format of research notes has also been simplified so as to bring it more in line with European practice.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Legislation <input type="checkbox"/> Policy <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Practice/Other

*Please tick the appropriate box

2.1.1.4 Residence/entry documents and rights/obligations of beneficiaries of international protection

Were there any **new** developments in relation to the rights and obligations related to the status of beneficiary of international protection in 2019?

Development (Please describe)	Nature*
a) Residence/entry documents granted to beneficiaries of international protection (including length/duration):	
As of 1 March 2019, foreign nationals who have obtained subsidiary protection, as well as members of their family, are issued a multiyear residence card, valid for four years.	<input type="checkbox"/> Legislation <input type="checkbox"/> Policy <input type="checkbox"/> Practice/Other
b) Rights and obligations regarding family reunification, access to social welfare scheme, access to accommodation, healthcare, citizenship, education, employment etc.	
Fast-track benefit entitlement According to Article L.751-3 of the CESEDA (amended by Article 14 of the 10 September 2018 Law), as of 1 January 2019, refugees or beneficiaries of subsidiary protection may apply for social security eligibility on the basis of their family composition as noted during the asylum procedure, without waiting for the official reconstitution of civil status documentation by OFPRA. In this way the entitlement is deemed effective from the moment that protection is accorded, meaning that the persons concerned need not remain ineligible while waiting for their civil status documents to be established.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Legislation <input type="checkbox"/> Policy <input type="checkbox"/> Practice/Other

*Please tick the appropriate box

2.1.1.5 Provision of information on residence/entry documents and rights/obligations of beneficiaries of international protection

Were there any **new** developments in relation to the provision of information to beneficiaries of international protection on the rights and obligations related to that status, in a language that they understand or are reasonably supposed to understand in 2019?

Development (Please describe)	Nature*
Information on rights and obligations regarding family reunification, access to social welfare scheme, access to accommodation, healthcare, citizenship, employment and integration programme.	
- A new document, called a "provisional family certificate", was introduced on 1 January 2019, facilitating access to social security entitlements for families of refugees, because it attests to the family's composition in the interim, while the official civil status documentation is being reconstituted by OFPRA.	<input type="checkbox"/> Legislation <input type="checkbox"/> Policy <input type="checkbox"/> Practice/Other
- On 1 January 2019 a new social and administrative support mechanism was set up in initial asylum seeker reception structures, for refugees without accommodation and not under the system's care.	
- Preparation of 300 specialised places, reserved for women who have suffered violence or human trafficking, in accommodation centres for vulnerable refugees and asylum seekers. - Launch of a nation-wide Call for Projects by the Ministry of Labour regarding the professional integration of refugees, enabling support for specific programmes focussed on access to training and employment.	

*Please tick the appropriate box

2.1.1.6 Withdrawal of international protection

Were there any **new** developments regarding the withdrawal of international protection?

Development (Please describe)	Nature*
As of 1 January 2019, if appeals are filed against OFPRA decisions issued after that date and which withdraw protection for reasons of public order, the CNDA must hand down its ruling within a period of five weeks.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Legislation <input type="checkbox"/> Policy <input type="checkbox"/> Practice/Other

*Please tick the appropriate box

2.1.1.7 Cooperation with third countries

Were there any **new** policies/measures in 2019 implemented in cooperation with third countries, including activities related to the external dimension of the CEAS (e.g. participation in capacity building activities in third countries, Regional Development Protection Programmes or any relevant activities under Partnership Framework with Third Countries and European Neighbourhood Policy)?

<p>Bilateral cooperation 21 February 2019: OFPRA hosted a meeting with a delegation from the Office of the Commissioner-General for Refugees and Stateless Persons (Belgium) to discuss sexual orientation and gender identity. 29 August 2019: OFPRA hosted a meeting with a delegation of Tunisian institutional representatives, accompanied by a representative from the UNHCR Office in Tunis, in order to present the Border Procedure of the asylum system, with a view to drafting the country’s first legislation on asylum.</p> <p>Global Refugee Forum At the Global Refugee Forum, organised by the UNHCR on 16-18 December 2019, a multi-stakeholder partnership for capacity building on asylum matters (OFPRA, the CNDA, the General Directorate for Foreign Nationals in France – DGEF – of the Ministry of the Interior) was established for the benefit of countries intending to develop or consolidate their asylum system (such as Niger). This partnership is centred on technical cooperation and assistance in drafting legislation.</p>

2.1.1.8 Other developments in asylum legislation, policy and practices

Were there any **other new** developments in 2019 which were not covered above, in particular in relation to any specific challenges?

Development (Please describe)	Nature*
<p>The European Asylum Support Office, EASO, has been lending support since 2015 to those European Union Member States that are facing the most asylum-related pressure. To this end, EASO makes use of officials seconded by Member States’ administrations, known as “experts”.</p> <p>France remains firmly committed to its policy of placing at EASO’s disposal experienced officials from entities involved across the asylum chain: OFPRA, OFII, the DGEF and the network of Prefectures. To date, 169 French experts and 24 interpreters have been assigned in Greece, Italy, Malta and Cyprus.</p> <p>In 2019 France seconded 18 persons, including four OFPRA protection officers. Of these agents, 16 were assigned in Greece, one in Cyprus and one in Malta.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Legislation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Policy <input type="checkbox"/> Practice/Other

*Please tick the appropriate box

2.1.2. Institutional changes in the national asylum system

Were there any **new** institutional changes in the asylum field at ministry/agency/section level (including changes in mandate, creation of new entities, internal restructuring and transfer of competences, increase/decrease of staffing) in 2019?

Increased resources for OFPRA

The draft 2020 Finance Act provided for a very substantial increase in OFPRA's resources, including:

- a 30% increase in the operational subsidy paid by the State (from 70.56 to 91.66 million euros);
- a 25% increase in its human resources, thanks to its upper HR limit being raised by 200 FTE (from 805 to 1,005): 150 protection officers for processing asylum applications and 50 processing support posts, which will be assigned to support and logistics services. Moreover, rollout of the measure was brought forward to October 2019, with the issue of an authorisation to recruit 75 agents.

Increased resources for the CNDA

The draft 2020 Finance Act provided for a very substantial increase in OFPRA's resources, with increased credits that are of benefit chiefly to administrative jurisdictions and to the National Court for Right of Asylum (CNDA) in particular, since:

- the CNDA budget allocation, encompassing all categories of expenditure, rose by 11.9 million euros (+21.4%) between 2019 and 2020, to reach 67.5 million euros.

With 59 additional positions, including 30 rapporteurs, the Court's HR ceiling will reach 719 FTE, surpassing the payroll of all eight administrative appeals courts combined.

2.1.3. Efficiency and Quality of the national asylum system

Were there any measures undertaken to improve:

Development (Please describe)	Nature*
<p>a) Safeguards of the national asylum system (preventing and combatting unfounded applications, credibility assessment,¹³ establishing identity, nationality verification, detection of security concerns, age fraud) including information on tools, mechanisms and training provided to staff.</p>	
<p>Recruitment</p> <p>The recruitment of 150 protection officers between 2019 and 2020 should enable OFPRA to more swiftly process applications lodged as of 2020, and the aim is to reduce the target timeframe to two months by the end of 2021¹⁴.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Legislation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Policy <input type="checkbox"/> Practice/Other
<p>Training for external partners</p> <p>In 2019, OFPRA ran several training courses for its external partners. Over and above the abovementioned training provided at the one-stop service counters and initial reception structures for asylum (see section 2.1.1.3), OFPRA officials also organised courses for several higher education establishments, including the National School of Administration, and the Institute of Political Studies in Rennes. Moreover, as part of the implementation of the UK-France Sandhurst Treaty of 18/01/2018, OFPRA undertook nation-wide training and information outreach</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Legislation <input type="checkbox"/> Policy <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Practice/Other

¹³ According to EASO, credibility assessment is performed in order to establish if the applicant's statements substantiating the claim are truthful in the light of other circumstances of the case and other means of evidence.

¹⁴ Draft 2020 Finance Act, Immigration, Asylum and Integration Mission

Development <i>(Please describe)</i>	Nature*
<p>initiatives with the UNHCR and the DGEF concerning access for unaccompanied minors to asylum procedures.</p> <p>Awareness-raising measures</p> <p><i>Partnerships</i> OFPPRA also took part in awareness-raising initiatives. Partnerships were thus concluded with the association Libraries Without Borders, for the creation of video clips on the asylum procedure designed to better disseminate information to asylum seekers and protected persons.</p> <p><i>Participation in events</i> OFPPRA was also present at several events relating to asylum and statelessness, such as the National Day for Asylum Professionals organised by the Red Cross on 1 February 2019, the National Institute of Eastern Languages and Civilizations (<i>Institut National des Langues et Civilisations Orientales</i> - INALCO) Careers Forum, held 21 February 2019, and the Global Refugee Forum, organised by the UNHCR, 16-18 December 2019.</p> <p><i>Open Days</i> In addition, on World Refugee Day, 20 June 2019, OFPPRA held an Open Day, for the fifth consecutive year, for associations and lawyers.</p>	
<p>b) Quality of the national asylum system (internal measures to improve quality in decision-making processes and the content of issued decisions, e.g. creation of guidelines and instructions). Please include information on training, tools and mechanisms and state how results are measured.</p>	
<p>In-house training OFPPRA has modified its in-house training programme for new recruits, particularly reviewing protection officers.</p> <p>Quality control OFPPRA ensures regular quality control of the decisions issued, through assessment of quarterly and annual results.</p> <p>Doctrine and practice</p> <p><i>Harmonisation Committee</i> OFPPRA has also continued working on its doctrine and in-house practices over the course of three Harmonisation Committee meetings in 2019. Deliberations centred, in particular, on female genital mutilations (FGM), accompanied minors, the notion of civilians in the framework of category (c) subsidiary protection and the consideration of security issues when evaluating asylum applications.</p> <p><i>Family asylum applications</i> OFPPRA has changed the way that it handles accompanying minors in the framework of family asylum applications as defined by the 10 September 2018 Law (Article L.741-1 of the CESEDA). Minors protected under the old legal framework may request a letter attesting to the continuation of their entitlements; the legal value of this kind of document is recognised by all administrations.</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Legislation <input type="checkbox"/> Policy <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Practice/Other</p>

Development <i>(Please describe)</i>	Nature*
<p><i>Delegated signing authority</i> Furthermore, the charter for reviewing protection officers on delegation of authority to sign has been updated.</p> <p><i>Performance Management Plan</i> On 19 November 2019, the General Director of OFPRA initiated the creation of a Performance Management Plan, with the goal of working on a clear, collective roadmap so that OFPRA will continue to display excellence in the performance of its duties and to care for the well-being of its staff. To this end, a scoping paper was drafted, identifying five key orientations, each broken down into various topics. A working group, comprising agents from different services, was set up for each topic and an online platform for dialogue was created, which went live on 10 December 2019 so that all employees may freely discuss this Performance Management Plan.</p>	
<p>c) Efficiency of the processing of (first) applications and appeals (increasing speed, reducing costs, use of new technology, specialised training provided) of the national asylum system. Please indicate if there are any procedural changes, which are specific to subsequent applications.</p>	
<p>Timeframes for processing The time taken for case processing under the normal procedure at the CNDA was greater than nine months in the first half of 2019.¹⁵</p> <p>This situation is due to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the increased number of appeals filed, in connection with the continuing rise in asylum requests in France. - the cumulative effect of several currents of industrial action throughout 2018, but also in March 2019, against the planned rollout of video-hearings in Lyon and Nancy by the Court, in application of the 10 September 2018 Law. <p>However, the additional resources earmarked for the CNDA will be used to deal with the dramatic increase in asylum disputes (+53% between 2018 and 2020, according to OFPRA's latest estimates).</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Legislation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Policy <input type="checkbox"/> Practice/Other</p>
<p>Paperless procedure Deliberations are currently underway regarding an update of the OFPRA website, with the creation of "on-line user accounts" that could be used to summon and notify the user electronically. Through the website in its current form, asylum seekers can register changes of address and telephone number. Protected persons can also request copies of civil registry records on line (birth, marriage and death certificates).</p> <p>Asylum application forms OFPRA has issued new asylum application forms for minors who are joining family members or were born in France after their parents' asylum applications had been processed by OFPRA.</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Legislation <input type="checkbox"/> Policy <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Practice/Other</p>

*Please tick the appropriate box

¹⁵ Draft 2020 Finance Act, Immigration, Asylum and Integration Mission

2.2 Relocation and resettlement programmes

2.2.1 Relocation¹⁶

2.2.1.1 Intra-EU relocation mechanism

Did your Member State carry out activities in the framework of the voluntary relocation exercise coordinated by the European Commission since January 2019?

Two European summits were held, the first in July 2019 in Helsinki, and the latter in Paris, to make temporary arrangements establishing rules for handling landings on European Union soil after maritime rescue operations, and subsequent relocation by willing Member States.

Discussions of a technical nature were held between France, Germany, Italy and Malta, culminating in these four States adopting, on 23 September 2019 in Valletta, an agreement to create an automatic distribution system for migrants landing in Malta or Italy.

In parallel, France voluntarily undertook to relocate 1,098 individuals who had been rescued at sea from 2018. 835 of these persons did indeed arrive in France, 554 of whom from January 2019 onward.

OFPPA was involved in several relocation missions in Malta and Italy in the course of 2019. In total, 16 solidarity missions (11 in Italy and five in Malta) were conducted in 2019, resulting in 491 persons staying in France for relocation.

2.2.1.2 National relocation mechanisms

Were there any actions undertaken in 2019 with regard to relocation activities organised under national schemes (i.e. on bilateral basis, not EU level schemes)? This also includes informal relocation arrangements following disembarkation in Italy and Malta, outside of official EU-relocation programmes.

In 2019, 486 persons who had been rescued at sea arrived in France from Italy or Malta under the voluntary relocation mechanism.

In addition, Mr Christophe Castaner, Minister of the Interior, announced on 12 December 2019 that France **would relocate 400 refugees identified in Greece** "in the coming months" due to the heavy migration pressures weighing on that country.

This assistance was "unprecedented since 2017" and the end of the "relocations" programme which had been set up in 2015 to assuage the pressure on Italy and Greece from flows of migrants fleeing war at the peak of the migrant crisis. Between 2015 and 2017, the Minister stated, 4,322 persons had been relocated in France. Over that same period, some 30,000 persons had been distributed under this programme in Europe.

¹⁶ Relocation: The transfer of persons having a status defined by the Geneva Refugee Convention and Protocol or subsidiary protection within the meaning of Directive 2011/95/EU (Recast Qualification Directive) from the EU Member State which granted them international protection to another EU Member State where they will be granted similar protection, and of persons having applied for international protection from the EU Member State which is responsible for examining their application to another EU Member State where their applications for international protection will be examined. In the context of the EU emergency relocation programme, the transfer of persons in clear need of international protection, as defined in Council Decision 2015/1601 and 2016/1754, having applied for international protection from the EU Member State, CH or NO which is responsible for examining their application to another EU Member State, CH or NO where their application for international protection will be examined.(see EMN Glossary V6).

France has a long-running system of issuing **visas for asylum**. This mechanism, unique to France, is for persons demonstrating a personal pledge to liberty or citing risks of persecution in their country of origin within the meaning of the Geneva Convention. Since 2013, eligibility for asylum visas has been extended to Syrians fleeing the widespread violence and encountering the described difficulties in the initial country of reception. An asylum visa may be issued to people with ties – especially family ties – to France, or to those in particularly vulnerable situations. This special visa procedure has also been employed since 2014 for Iraqi nationals from persecuted religious minorities (predominantly Christian and Yazidi), notably after the advance of IS in the regions of Mosul and Sinjar.

This procedure has been mobilised for 7,563 Syrians and 7,572 Iraqis (figures as at 31 December 2019). Persons requesting asylum upon arrival, however, need to go to the one-stop service for asylum applicants and follow the usual asylum application procedure.

2.2.2. Resettlement and Humanitarian Admission Programmes¹⁷

EU Joint Resettlement Programmes and national resettlement programmes

	Type of programme	Name of programme	Resettlement quota	Number of resettlements carried out in 2019	Country/ies of origin of resettled persons	Challenges
EU programmes	EU Joint resettlement programme					
	Resettlements in framework of UNHCR programmes counting towards EU pledges		10,000 for 2017-2019 10,400 for 2020-2021 (Asylum Migration Integration Fund pledge)	4562 in 2019 (9965 out of the 10,000 programme - December 2017 to the end of 2019)	Syrian and sub-Saharan refugees and persons evacuated from Libya to Niger by the UNHCR For 2020 (5,200 persons): Lebanon 1500 Turkey 1500 Jordan 100 Egypt 500 Niger 450 (including 200 evacuees from Libya) Chad 750 Rwanda 200	

¹⁷ Resettlement: In the EU context, the transfer, on a request from the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and based on their need for international protection, of a third-country national or stateless person, from a third country to an EU Member State, where they are permitted to reside with one of the following statuses:

(i) refugee status within the meaning of Art. 2(d) of Directive 2011/95/EU (Recast Qualification Directive); (ii) a status which offers the same rights and benefits under national and EU law as refugee status. (see EMN Glossary Version 6).

					Others (framework agreement): 200	
National programmes	National Resettlement programme	Framework Agreement with the UNHCR	Approximately 150 to 200 persons annually	145 arrived in 2019		
	National Humanitarian Admission Programme	Humanitarian corridors (solidarity operation for taking in refugees coming from Lebanon)		519 persons accepted and 420 persons arrived in France (as at 31/12/2019)	Syrian or Iraqi refugees in Lebanon	
	Private Sponsorship programme/scheme					
	Ad-hoc special programmes (national or international initiatives)	Reception of Yazidi women (pledge by the President of the French Republic to Nobel Peace Prize laureate, Nadia Murad)	Approximately 100 women and their children between 2018 and 2019	103 women (466 persons) as at 31/12/2019	Iraq	

3 UNACCOMPANIED MINORS AND OTHER VULNERABLE GROUPS

3.1 Unaccompanied minors applying for asylum

Were there any **new** developments at national level in 2019 in relation to unaccompanied minors (UAMs) who were applying for asylum using the specific headings outlined below?

Development (Please describe)	Nature*
a) Increase/Decrease of human resources and/or training of staff;	
In 2019 OFPRA continued with its various training activities on the asylum procedure for UAMs, both for its external associates (notably, as of summer 2019, in the framework of a programme run by the General Directorate for Foreign Nationals in France) and for its in-house agents, especially reviewing protection officers handling the asylum applications of UAMs. Since 2015, reviewing protection officers undergo specific training on this issue, notably taught by OFPRA's "Minors" group of experts. New reviewing protection officers were therefore specially trained in 2019 to handle UAMs, bringing the total number of reviewing protection officers authorised to process these applications to 117.	<input type="checkbox"/> Legislation <input type="checkbox"/> Policy <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Practice/Other
b) Protection and care of UAMs, including reception facilities;	
The second National Action Plan against Human Trafficking, published 18 October 2019 under the aegis of the Inter-Ministerial Mission for Protecting Women from Violence and for combatting Human Trafficking (MIPROF) includes notably, in association with OFPRA, bolstered training activities for professionals on the trafficking of minors, as well as the geographical extension of the Experimental Paris Agreement on the protection of minors who are victim of human trafficking, to which OFPRA is party.	<input type="checkbox"/> Legislation <input type="checkbox"/> Policy <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Practice/Other
c) Provision of information (info material, e.g. videos, leaflets, booklets etc.);	
OFPRA has worked on updating its Guide on asylum for unaccompanied minors in France; this latest version was published in January 2020.	<input type="checkbox"/> Legislation <input type="checkbox"/> Policy <input type="checkbox"/> Practice/Other
d) Other.	
As of 1 June 2019, if unaccompanied minors hold a work permit relating to professional training or apprenticeship contracts, and lodge an asylum application, the work permit maintains full validity while the application is being processed (Article L. 744-11 (1) of the CESEDA, amended by Art. 49 of the 10 September 2018 Law).	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Legislation <input type="checkbox"/> Policy <input type="checkbox"/> Practice/Other

*Please tick the appropriate box

3.2 Unaccompanied minors recorded within the child-protection system

Were there any **new** developments at national level in 2019 in relation to unaccompanied minors (UAMs) who were recorded within the child protection system and may apply for a different migration status (other than asylum) using the specific headings outlined below?

Development (Please describe)	Nature*
a) Protection and care of UAMs, including reception or detention facilities;	
Decree N° 2019-57, of 30 January 2019, "concerning modalities for evaluating persons presenting as minors and deprived temporarily or indefinitely of the protection of their family" and "authorising the creation of a personal data processing system for these persons" institutes the automated processing system known as "AEM" – (acronym for Appui à l'évaluation de minorité, or Minority Assessment Aid) - and facilitates heightened support from State entities in procedures for assessing minority and unaccompanied status, implemented by Départements.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Legislation <input type="checkbox"/> Policy <input type="checkbox"/> Practice/Other
The aim of this database, named the Minority Assessment Aid ("AEM") , is to better ensure the protection of children, by reducing the burden and bottlenecks of social child and youth care services, thus reserving these services for persons who	

Development (Please describe)	Nature*
<p>truly need them. Having a national database will make such assessments faster and more reliable.</p> <p>As of 1 February 2019, <i>Département</i> Councils may, <u>only if they so wish</u>, ask the Prefecture to receive persons claiming to be minors in order to assist with their identification. The Prefecture will thus consult the existing applications to check, notably, if the applicant has already submitted a request for a residence permit (AGDREF is the French central database for foreign nationals' residence permits) or for a visa (VISABIO: French central database for foreign nationals' visas). The Prefecture will also enter the person's stated civil status information and biometric data (photo and fingerprints) into the new "AEM" Minority Assessment Aid database. Conditions for accessing the database and for data conservation are in strict compliance with the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). Oversight for the rollout of this database is provided by the the 'Commission National Informatique et Libertés' ('CNIL'), i.e., the French Data Protection Authority.</p> <p>The experimental phase of the "AEM" Minority Assessment Aid database commenced initially in three <i>Départements</i>: Essonne, Isère and Bas-Rhin. Next, as of 15 April 2019, nation-wide extension began. By the end of December 2019, 68 <i>Départements</i> had incorporated the system. This mechanism enhances the connection between <i>Département</i> Councils and the State and enables more reliable assessments and better care for UAMs.</p> <p>The ruling of 28 June 2019 issued in application of Article R. 221-12 of the Family and Social Action Code concerns the default State contribution to the sheltering and assessment phase for persons claiming to be minors and deprived temporarily or permanently of the protection of their family. This ruling relates to the disbursements made by <i>Département</i> Councils for assessments as of 1 January 2019.</p> <p>The ruling lays down that for social evaluations of minority and unaccompanied status, as well as for initial health care needs assessments of persons identifying as minors and deprived temporarily or permanently of the protection of their family, the default participation by the State is €500 per person evaluated, provided that the President of the <i>Département</i> Council certifies that all of the required cumulative conditions have been duly satisfied.</p> <p>The ruling specifies that when it comes to provision of shelter for persons claiming to be minors and deprived temporarily or permanently of the protection of their family, the default State funding contribution is set at €90 per person per day, for a maximum duration of 14 days, and thereafter €20 per person per day, for nine additional days maximum.</p> <p>These disbursements are due only if the President of the <i>Département</i> Council certifies that the persons are given accommodation that is appropriate for their situation, and are provided with initial social support.</p> <p>A ruling dated 28 November 2019 provides for experimentation with coordinated health care schedules for protected children and adolescents over a four-year period (2019-2022), which may be extended to five years, depending on the trial period's outcomes.</p> <p>The idea is to test a coordinated health care itinerary for protected children and adolescents, including care of symptoms and early mental health care, based on an annual set amount per child/adolescent, which will be 100% covered by the French social security system.</p> <p>The law sets forth that each child/adolescent is to undergo, upon entry into the child protection system, a medical and psychological assessment, which then serves as a</p>	

Development (Please describe)	Nature*
<p>basis for an individualised care plan with regard to their physical, psychological, emotional, intellectual and social development, for determining, in particular, which type of care they need.</p>	
b) Age assessment;	
<p>The "AEM" Minority Assessment Aid database, instituted by Decree N° 2019-57, 30 January 2019, through the use of fingerprints of persons presenting as minors, along with searches of the AGDREF database and VISABIO, makes it possible to combat fraud and abuses of the system, and thus helps in offering a more consistent and well-founded outcomes. In parallel, a practice manual for assessing minority and unaccompanied status was published in December 2019 by the Ministry for Solidarity and Health. This is a useful good practice guide designed for all professionals who are in contact with UAMs.</p> <p>The ruling of 20 November 2019 clarifies the conditions and methods for assessing UAMs.</p> <p>At every stage in the social evaluation, assessors are to compare the person's stated age with their physical appearance, behaviour, degree of independence and autonomy, ability to reason, and comprehension of the questions asked.</p> <p>Assessors need to be watchful for any signs that the person before them is a victim of exploitation or outside control. They are to inform victims of exploitation or human trafficking as to their rights, and ensure adequate support, where appropriate, if a complaint is to be laid.</p> <p>Finally, the ruling sets forth that any information gathered during the phase in which shelter for the minor is arranged needs to be communicated to the assessors, and duly taken into consideration in the social evaluation report.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Legislation <input type="checkbox"/> Policy <input type="checkbox"/> Practice/Other
c) Procedural safeguards (e.g. modalities on the assessment of best interests);	
<p>Persons deemed to be adults by the <i>Département</i> Council, notably through the data held in the "AEM" or through VISABIO and AGDREF searches, may appeal to the Juvenile Court judge to have their minority status recognised. The "AEM" database takes the existence of appeals before a judicial judge into account. If the appeal process results in the recognition of minority status for a person previously deemed an adult, the data entered in the "AEM" database are fully updated. The conditions for accessing the database and for data conservation are in strict compliance with the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). Oversight for the rollout of this database is provided by the 'Commission National Informatique et Libertés' ('CNIL'), i.e., the French Data Protection Authority.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Legislation <input type="checkbox"/> Policy <input type="checkbox"/> Practice/Other
d) Provision of information (info material, e.g. videos, leaflets, booklets etc.);	
<p>Persons claiming to be unaccompanied minors are provided with an information leaflet, written in a language that they understand, before their personal data are entered into the "AEM" database (fingerprints, digital photograph of their face and biographical information).</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Legislation <input type="checkbox"/> Policy <input type="checkbox"/> Practice/Other
e) Other.	
<p>Please see section 3.1. h) regarding unaccompanied foreign minors with professional training or apprenticeship contracts.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Legislation <input type="checkbox"/> Policy <input type="checkbox"/> Practice/Other

*Please tick the appropriate box

3.3 Other vulnerable groups¹⁸ applying for asylum

Were there any **new** developments at national level in relation to other vulnerable groups¹⁹ applying for asylum in 2019?

Development (Please describe)	Nature*
<p>a) Special reception facilities for vulnerable groups;</p> <p>In order to better cater for the special care requirements of disabled persons, the Circular of 31 December 2018 on housing sets objectives that the entire national reception centre network needs to work toward regarding the development of wheelchair-accessible places (viz. 2% of overall accommodation capacity in the regions over five years).</p> <p>Furthermore, as part of the implementation of measures under the National Strategy for Refugee Reception and Integration, adopted at the Inter-Ministerial Integration Council of 5 June 2018, the preparation of specialised accommodation places for women who are victims of violence or human trafficking commenced in 2018. This work is to continue in 2019 on the basis of case-by-case mutual agreements with operators after authorisation from the Prefectures concerned, against the quota of existing places in the national reception centre scheme or in the framework of newly created places through calls for tenders in 2019. An additional €13 is calculated per place per day, so as to enable enhanced support for these special user categories.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Legislation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Policy <input type="checkbox"/> Practice/Other
<p>b) Identification mechanisms/referrals;</p> <p>Since September 2018 the Directorate for Asylum has undertaken work with multiple partners (OFPRA, OFII, the Ministry of Health, the Inter-Ministerial Delegation on combatting Racism, Antisemitism and Anti-LGBT Hatred, and associations) with a view to better detecting and handling the vulnerabilities of applicants and refugees throughout the process. The idea is to arrive at an action plan, which will ultimately come in the form of a Circular disseminated among Prefects. The plan is to be drafted by a national working group (DA/OFPRA/OFII/the Directorate-General for Health and the Directorate-General for Social Cohesion) and three thematic working groups, bringing together stakeholders not only from institutions, but also associations (representatives of the networks running the housing centres and specialised associations), with a focus on representation of 'special needs' groups:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ persons with disabilities, serious illness and victims of psycho-trauma; ➤ women who have suffered violence and/or victims of human trafficking; ➤ persons who are vulnerable because of their sexual orientation. 	<input type="checkbox"/> Legislation <input type="checkbox"/> Policy <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Practice/Other
<p>c) Applicable procedural safeguards;</p> <p>An OFPRA decision of 2 July 2019 established the organisational modalities of interviews in application of Article L.723-6 of the CESEDA.</p> <p>The decision stipulates that the presence of only one lawyer or representative of an accredited association is authorised when the asylum seeker or beneficiary of international protection is interviewed.</p> <p>In light of the 10 September 2018 Law, however, OFPRA Director General may authorise the presence of third parties accompanying disabled persons in addition to the lawyer or representative of an accredited association.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Legislation <input type="checkbox"/> Policy <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Practice/Other
<p>d) Other.</p> <p>The 10 September 2018 Law amended several articles concerning children, citing risks of female genital mutilation, or male genital mutilation, if it risks altering the reproductive functions. In this regard, Article L.723-5 sets forth that if the</p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Legislation <input type="checkbox"/> Policy <input type="checkbox"/> Practice/Other

¹⁸ Other vulnerable groups include (accompanied) minors, disabled people, elderly people, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer or questioning, and intersex (LGBTQI) people, pregnant women, single parents with minor children, persons with serious illnesses, persons with mental disorders and persons who have been subjected to torture, rape or other serious forms of psychological, physical or sexual violence, such as victims of female genital mutilation, following the specific headings outlined.

¹⁹ Not including victims of human trafficking, as this is covered in Section 7.

Development (Please describe)	Nature*
<p>application is based on this type of fear, a medical certificate must be sent to OFPRA directly by the doctor, which constitutes a legal exception to the principle of doctor-patient confidentiality, which is justified by the concern for the child's best interests. Without exception, this certificate needs to be issued by a doctor specialised in forensic medicine from one of the health care establishments listed in the ruling INTV1721843A of 23 August 2017.</p> <p>Article L.752-3 of the CESEDA provides for periodic verifications of the physical integrity of minors at risk of female genital mutilations (FGM) and granted protection for this very reason.</p> <p>In order to ensure that the Office's protection is effective, legal representatives of children with refugee status or who are beneficiaries of subsidiary protection, in accordance with Article L. 752-3 of the CESEDA, are asked to have the child undergo medical examinations to verify the absence of genital mutilation. A period of three years is observed between examinations, unless the Office has serious grounds for believing that genital mutilation has been or could be performed.</p> <p>In cases of failure to produce this medical certificate, or of ascertainment that genital mutilation has been performed on a protected child, the Public Prosecutor and President of the <i>Département</i> Council are alerted, in application of Article 40 of the Code of Criminal Procedure and of Article 375 of the Code of Civil Procedure. Violating the physical integrity of a young girl or a woman in France is a criminal offence.</p>	
<p>The OFPRA participated in five seminars and conferences in 2019 on trafficking in human beings, including two specifically for Nigeria.</p> <p>In addition, on 28 May 2019, the members of the OFPRA group 'Trafficking in human beings' followed a training course organised by the National School for the Judicial Protection of Youth (ENPJ), School of the Ministry of Justice): "Children victims of trafficking: better identification to act and protect". Furthermore, the members of the Group and Heads of Section also received training on 13 November 2019 provided by the Committee against Modern Slavery.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Legislation <input type="checkbox"/> Policy <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Practice/Other
<p>In 2019 OFPRA ran training courses for reviewing protection officers on the subject of Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity. These courses were taught by the thematic expert group on the basis of in-house documents, drafted either in association with external partners in the framework of conferences (for example, on trans-identities), or through direct observation of the support work undertaken by specialised associations for LGBTI persons. The Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity ("SOGI") group also organises frequent meetings with these associations to discuss the difficulties talking about such issues experienced by asylum seekers out of fear.</p> <p>Furthermore, all of the interpreters working with the OFPRA branch in French Guiana received training by video-conference from the "SOGI", "Human Trafficking" and "Violence against Women" groups in October 2019 about interviewing vulnerable persons.</p> <p>The "SOGI" group also met with representatives from the Belgian Commissariat-General for Refugees and Stateless Persons to discuss these same issues and take part in meetings with journalists and activists from certain countries of origin of asylum seekers.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Legislation <input type="checkbox"/> Policy <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Practice/Other

*Please tick the appropriate box

3.4 Other vulnerable groups NOT applying for asylum

Were there any **new developments at national level in 2019 in relation to other vulnerable groups NOT** applying for asylum (such as (accompanied) minors, disabled people, elderly people, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer or questioning, and intersex (LGBTQI) people, pregnant women, single parents with minor children, persons with serious illnesses, persons with mental disorders and persons who have been subjected to torture, rape or other serious forms of psychological, physical or sexual violence, such as victims of female genital mutilation) , following the specific headings outlined below?

Development (Please describe)	Nature*
Other.	
<p>The second National Action Plan against Human Trafficking (2019-2021), under the remit of the Inter-Ministerial Mission for Protecting Women from Violence and for combatting Human Trafficking (MIPROF), drafted in cooperation with several Ministries and announced on 18 October 2019, includes two measures relating to the human trafficking victims’ right to stay in France: one provides for an enhanced role for the “Human Trafficking” experts in Prefectures; and the other aims to clarify the conditions for issuing residence permits for victims.</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Legislation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Policy <input type="checkbox"/> Practice/Other</p>

**Please tick the appropriate box*

4 INTEGRATION

4.1 Integration of third-country nationals

Foreign nationals admitted to France for the first time and wishing to settle in the country on a long-term basis commit to a personalised Republican integration programme and thus need to sign a Republican Integration Contract (RIC).

The objectives of this integration programme are to facilitate:

- the newly-arrived foreign national's understanding of the values and principles of the Republic,
- learning of the French language,
- social and professional integration,
- the means to autonomy.

It was in the year 2019 that the Republican Integration Contract was fully rolled out and the Republican integration programmes revamped, following the decisions of the Inter-Ministerial Integration Committee (C2I) on 5 June 2018.

4.1.1. Integration through socio-economic participation

Were there any **new** significant developments to facilitate integration of third-country nationals, through socio-economic participation in 2019?

Development <i>(Please describe)</i>	Nature*
a) Measures to improve attainment in schooling and/or the education system and/or vocational training:	
<p><u>Measures relating to higher education</u> <u>Reception and integration of students in exile: the AIMES programme</u> Since 2016 the Francophone University Agency (AUF) has been running the AIMES programme ('Reception and Integration of Migrants in Higher Education'). Launched as a call for projects among its member universities, this programme offers migrant students tools for learning French so that they can pursue their university studies in the French language.</p> <p>38 projects were selected for the 2018-2019 year and 1,632 places, most of which were in France, were offered to students. The most-represented country of origin was Syria (34%), followed by Sudan (18%). Overall, students representing 50 nationalities have benefitted from this scheme.</p> <p>1,502 refugee students benefitted from the language-learning and university study support activities funded by the Directorate for Reception, Support for Foreign Nationals and Nationality (known by its French initials, DAAEN) as part of the call for projects by the Francophone University Agency (AUF) for the 2018-2019 academic year. 48 establishments were involved. The aim was to prepare these students for university courses offered in the French language and thus foster their social integration and future professional life.</p> <p>Beyond this initiative, the Francophone University Agency (AUF), thanks to further DAAEN support in 2019, was able to launch an additional call for projects, under the AIMES programme, aiming to create a chain of learning between, on the one hand, associations with volunteer instructors teaching French as a Foreign Language at the basic levels (A1, A2), and, on the other hand, a neighbouring university which subsequently offers more advanced teaching (A2 or B1 toward B2). Eight universities are part of this scheme.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Legislation <input type="checkbox"/> Policy <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Practice/Other

<p>Measures to improve success at school and/or in the education system</p> <p>Among the key measures introduced in 2018 as part of the stronger integration policy for new arrivals on French soil, is the doubling of the number of OEPRE workshops for foreign parents of school pupils (OEPRE is the French acronym for "Opening the School to Parents for Children's Success") by 2020.</p> <p>This scheme was launched at the start of the 2008-2009 school year in schools and scholastic establishments. It is funded by the State (Ministries of the Interior and of Education) and offers training, in the form of workshops, for foreign parents (French language acquisition in the school context, learning how the school operates, and understanding the values of the Republic).</p> <p>The Inter-Ministerial Integration Committee (C2I) validated, on 5 June 2018, among the various different measures submitted for its perusal, reinforcement of the OEPRE scheme.</p> <p>The aim is to significantly increase the number of attendees, raise the average duration of the workshops and improve the training itself.</p> <p>A joint roadmap for 2018-2020 between the two Ministries has been validated, with the following objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • attract, train and gain the loyalty of instructors; • further integrate the OEPRE scheme into the Republican integration programme; • monitor and assess the organisation of the OEPRE scheme. <p>Against this backdrop, several initiatives have taken shape:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communication supports to promote the workshops, notably among parents and establishments, have been disseminated. • An updated teaching guide has been drafted, containing all the useful documentation in five sections: inform, welcome, run a workshop, train, and take part. • Between March and June 2019, thanks to sixteen local-level meetings based on partnerships, this scheme was incorporated more fully into the regional integration "ecosystems" and thus became more understandable and more visible for all stakeholders. • Quantitatively, the survey conducted regarding the 2018-2019 school year showed considerable growth as compared with the previous (2017-2018) school year (+46% workshop growth, peaking at 670, and +13% for the number of parents taking part, reaching 7,774 for the 2017-2018 school year). The proportion of women in the workshops is practically stable at 84.9% of participants in 2018-2019 as opposed to 84.4% for the previous school year. <p>Measures for improving vocational training</p> <p>Please refer to section d) below: "Integration into the labour market"</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Legislation <input type="checkbox"/> Policy <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Practice/Other
<p>b) Measures to enhance language skills:</p> <p>As of 1 March 2019, following the C2I's decisions taken on 5 June 2018, a new language course is on offer as part of the Republican Integration Contract (RIC). The Decree of 27 February 2019 amended Articles R.311-20 <i>et seq.</i> of the CESEDA in this regard.</p> <p>The new language acquisition course features a doubling of the number of hours, with three modules of 100, 200 and 400 hours, depending on the foreign national's initial level of French, and the creation of a specific 600-hour module designed for people who do not read or write in their own language.</p> <p>The learning units have been overhauled skill by skill and have been broken down into topics relating to public, practical and professional life so as to better dovetail with the needs of the people taking them.</p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Legislation <input type="checkbox"/> Policy <input type="checkbox"/> Practice/Other

<p>For persons reaching level A1 in these courses, a certification test is available, paid for by the State, enabling the participants to prove their competence in the French language.</p>	
<p>Choosing to follow a Republican integration programme, above and beyond the Republican Integration Contract, enables foreign nationals to continue with their language learning and attain level A2 in French. To this end, if they so desire, foreign nationals may request a 100-hour training course for free from OFII. Attainment of this level is one of the conditions for obtaining a 10-year residence permit. This linguistic level better aligns France with European standards and fosters foreign nationals' autonomy in our society, and notably their access to employment and vocational training.</p> <p>Furthermore, foreign nationals who so wish may request a free language course for oral level B1 (50 hours), also organised by OFII. Attainment of this level, among other conditions, is required for applying for French citizenship.</p> <p>Moreover, the Directorate for Reception, Support for Foreign Nationals and Nationality (DAAEN) has supported the development of digital tools for learning the French language. The Alliance Française Paris Ile-de-France has thus created a collection of MOOCs (massive open online course), all freely available on the France Université Numérique (FUN) platform, from levels A1 to B1 of the Common European Framework of Reference Languages, or CEFR (in the section "Vivre en France A1, A2, B1") as well as courses facilitating learning for professional purposes: "Travailler en France A2-B1", accessible from level A2. Since late March 2019, and still in partnership with the Ministry of the Interior, a mobile application, downloadable on Google Play, now complements the MOOC "Vivre en France A1", with language tips for everyday use.</p> <p>Finally, the DAAEN supported the national network of CARIF-OREF (Centre for Organisation, Resources and Information on Professional training - Regional Observatory for Employment and Training, which are regional bodies) in order to finalise work on the national cartography of language courses available and to identify nearly 14,000 courses, notably those of the French Office for Immigration and Integration (OFII) relating to Republican integration programmes, socio-linguistic workshops subsidised under Operational Programme Budget 104 (Action 12), and OEPRE workshops for foreign parents ("Opening the School to Parents for Children's Success"). This tool constitutes the most exhaustive inventory possible of available language courses, making them more visible and understandable, as well as helping better structure the support roles played by the various stakeholders with regard to recently-arrived foreign nationals. This makes it a most useful tool for planning learners' linguistic trajectories, offering leverage to ensure a more seamless flow between different language levels (A1, A2, B1 of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages, whether the courses be public (OFII contractors, Regional Councils, the <i>Pôle Emploi</i> (French unemployment agency) Job Office, etc.) or private, notably from the voluntary sector.</p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Legislation <input type="checkbox"/> Policy <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Practice/Other
<p>c) Access to social security, social assistance, healthcare, housing and other basic services;</p>	
<p>As part of a civic instruction training course (see below, section 4.1.2) which is a requirement for foreign nationals who have signed a Republican Integration Contract, this issue of rights and entitlements is covered, through, notably, the following four topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Employment: this segment aims to raise awareness among new arrivals as to the importance of work as a lever for integration. The course offers advice on 	<input type="checkbox"/> Legislation <input type="checkbox"/> Policy <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Practice/Other

<p>effective job hunting by explaining how the labour market works, its legal framework and identifying support structures. Finally, workplace codes are introduced and explained, as are the upskilling opportunities on offer in the framework of vocational training.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Health: this module helps foreign nationals identify health care professionals swiftly and provides support to help them navigate the health system registration formalities. - Parenthood: this new topic highlights the notions of parental authority and children’s rights. It also addresses issues relating to childcare solutions and schooling. The teaching segments enable a delineation of France’s principles and values (equal opportunity, gender equality, secularism, participation in school life, etc.) in the school setting. - Housing: several teaching segments focus on this subject, thus orienting foreign nationals toward housing solutions that are appropriate for their situation, and run through the regulatory conditions and criteria defining decent dwellings. <p>In addition, child-minding is offered while parents attend their language and civic instruction classes. The service providers selected by the French Office for Immigration and Integration (OFII) for the language and civic instruction courses identify child-care arrangements and availabilities so as to inform the course participants.</p> <p>Finally, the Ministry of Health, through a specific call for projects, and the Ministry of the Interior, through its national call for projects, support associations that help new arrivals access the health care system, and that work toward provision of care for psycho-trauma cases.</p>	
<p>The Inter-Ministerial Commission on Housing for Immigrant Populations (CILPI) directs the Migrant Worker Hostels Management Plan. The aim of this Plan is to integrate residents via housing and provide them with social support, encouraging them to become more autonomous and gain access to the services that are ordinarily available, over and above the migrant-specific services.</p> <p>Because of their vulnerability, due to heightened precariousness and failure to take up their rights, special attention is given to elderly migrant workers staying at Migrant Worker Hostels.</p> <p>In 2019, the CILPI’s stated objectives were to consolidate and enhance the reliability of its in-house procedures, establish a Studies Committee activity report and continue with its efforts to mobilise partners for the development of its professional tools and promotion of its activities (public events, workshops and study days).</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Legislation <input type="checkbox"/> Policy <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Practice/Other
<p>At the Inter-Ministerial Committee on Immigration and Integration meeting on 6 November 2019, the Government announced new measures for the reception of foreign nationals designed, notably, to tackle fraud.</p> <p>The Government envisages the structuring of health care schedules for newly-arrived foreign nationals in each <i>Région</i>, which will make it possible to tailor health care options to each person’s migration-specific vulnerabilities (such as psycho-trauma, or infectious diseases).</p> <p>An initial series of measures, however, aims to simplify and bolster the efficiency of State Medical Aid (in French, acronym AME) checks.</p> <p>By the end of 2019, therefore, processing of all AME requests nation-wide are to be clustered in just three social security branch offices. These three hubs, as of 2020, will be able to access the VISABIO database, and thus detect visa concealment.</p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Legislation <input type="checkbox"/> Policy <input type="checkbox"/> Practice/Other

<p>There is a plan to institute a requirement of three months' residence in France, from the visa or residence permit expiry date, to be eligible for the State Medical Aid.</p> <p>Furthermore, the Government has announced a forthcoming Decree that will clarify the timeframe during which certain types of programmed, non-urgent health care and services will no longer be covered. State Medical Aid beneficiaries will only be able to secure a waiver if a lack of care would have life-threatening or serious and long-lasting consequences.</p>	
<p>d) Integration into the labour market.</p>	
<p>Orientation and professional integration</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - In addition to language classes and civic instruction programmes – two vital pillars of integration – and given that work is also an essential part of integration, a professional integration element has been added to the Republican Integration Contract (RIC) by the 10 September 2018 Law “for a managed migration, an effective right of asylum and a successful integration”. - The interviews already offered to new arrivals on the day that they sign their RIC have now been enriched. They now also address employment issues. Foreign nationals seeking work are oriented, in accordance with their situation and needs, and if they are ready, toward a public employment service agent for a career guidance interview, and subsequent appropriate support. - In addition, interviews now also take place at the end of the RIC, which are a chance to take stock of the person's situation regarding training and work, followed by orientation toward the relevant public employment service, which offers a more in-depth interview. - This orientation and professional integration process has been up and running since 1 March 2019 for newly-arrived foreign nationals who have signed an RIC as of that date. <p>The State / Public Employment Service partnership charter</p> <p>In an extension of the 2016 framework agreement between the State, OFII and <i>Pôle Emploi</i> (France's unemployment agency / Job Office), now rolled out in every <i>Département</i>, a charter was signed on 5 April 2019 concerning the professional orientation and integration of newly-arrived foreign nationals with RICs, thus formalising the involvement of all public employment services.</p> <p>This partnership has enabled greater fluidity for newly-arrived foreign nationals in their orientation and pathway to employment, thanks to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - shared knowledge of the services on offer in each entity thanks to training courses for representatives who liaise with OFII. These courses were run in the month of February 2019 so that the system would be operational as of 1 March; - designated points of contact in each public employment service entity; - public employment service entities' commitment to give due consideration to the needs and profiles of newly-arrived foreign nationals. Depending on the profile, the person may be best oriented to either <i>Pôle Emploi</i>, APEC (Association for the Employment of Managers) or <i>Cap Emploi</i> (network of placement services for persons with disabilities), or to a <i>Mission Locale</i> (community aid projects for young people). <p>Dialogue and communication activities</p> <p>Since professional integration is a key factor in overall integration, a National Day dubbed “Successful Integration of Foreign Nationals through Employment” was held on 17 October 2019 to showcase the full commitment to this issue on the part of all stakeholders. In partnership with the Ministry of Labour and France's national employer confederation, MEDEF, the event was attended by some 350 participants (public stakeholders, professional federations, businesses and associations), to discuss ways to boost the employability of foreign nationals and ensure their professional integration.</p> <p>A specific communications strategy was also set forth, so as to identify further actions feeding into the Republican integration programme. This strategy led, in particular,</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Legislation <input type="checkbox"/> Policy <input type="checkbox"/> Practice/Other

to the creation of a visual identity for use on revamped communication tools, and the inception of a specific campaign for social media.

Additional mechanisms and projects

-The Integration through Language Acquisition Programme

For young people up to the age of 26, the Ministry of Labour and the Ministry of the Interior jointly developed the Integration through Language Acquisition Programme (PIAL in its French initials), launched in November 2018. This programme enables young people up to the age of 26 whose language skills are insufficient to take part in projects offered by their nearest *Mission Locale* (a public employment service body), to combine complementary language training, after the lapse of their Republican Integration Contract, use of the various services available through public employment entities and a monthly allowance.

-Professional integration projects subsidised by the DAAEN at the national level

Finally, in order to overcome difficulties frequently encountered by newly-arrived foreign nationals in getting companies to recognise their skills, professional experience and even their qualifications, several initiatives have been undertaken through the public employment services.

The project "Une Voix-e vers l'emploi" (A Voice and Path to Employment) is a made-to-measure training system aiming not only to ensure the linguistic and professional integration of newly-arrived foreign nationals, but also the professionalisation of stakeholders working with them. The project is run by France's National Agency for Adult Vocational Education (AFPA) and is operational in eight *Régions* and 19 AFPA catchment areas.

It is essentially a training programme of 229 hours, but which also includes a language assessment and four monitoring sessions. It centres on four modules:

- French for the workplace;
- Crafting a career plan;
- Techniques for searching for work or training;
- "Mon project, ma feuille de route" (My plan, my roadmap).

The occupations proposed are the ones where there is a reported demand in the eight *Régions* where the programme is run (waiting staff, catering, home carer, domestic help, order picker, etc.).

The EMILE project, a French acronym for "Committed to Mobility and Integration through Housing and Employment", launched in June 2019, aims to offer those who are having trouble integrating professionally and who are poorly housed in the Ile-de-France region the possibility of reaching their goals in a different geographical area where there is a shortage of labour and where housing is available. The goal is to reach 14 intake areas by 2021.

This scheme fosters social and professional integration, notably for newly-arrived foreign nationals, through voluntary geographical mobility.

In 2019, five pilot *Départements* (Cantal, Lot, Lozère, Seine-Maritime and Maine-and-Loire) offered to be partners of the project as they could offer opportunities for both employment and housing. Hosting plans are prepared in consultation with elected officials and local public services.

The project is based on a compatibility assessment regarding the beneficiary's skills, language ability and the required mobility for the target occupation. To this end, each EMILE programme beneficiary is eligible for a Mobility Kit, which includes financial relocation assistance (1,500 euros per household), funding for obtaining a driving licence, basic skills training and a trial period of practical experience in the workplace or on-the-job adaptation.

e) Other.	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - In terms of access to culture: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o The Ministry of Culture has established a Culture Pass for young people (including newly-arrived youths) once they come of age. With this Pass they can benefit from a credit of 500 euros that can be spent on cultural activities via a mobile application. As of June 2019, the scheme was rolled out to all 18-year-old volunteers in the first test areas and in nine new pilot <i>Départements</i>, reaching nearly 150,000 young people. - In terms of access to sport, the Ministry of Sport has undertaken several measures: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Outreach to sports federations regarding the benefits of organising activities for newly-arrived foreign nationals; o Increased school sports activities in units for newly-arrived pupils who speak foreign languages (a measure now incorporated into the wording of the specifications for the "Generation 2024" label rollout). 	<input type="checkbox"/> Legislation <input type="checkbox"/> Policy <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Practice/Other

*Please tick the appropriate box

4.1.2. Integration through active participation and social inclusion

Were there any **new** developments to promote the integration of third-country nationals through active participation and social inclusion in 2019?

Development (Please describe)	Nature*
<p>As of 1 March 2019, following the C2I's decisions taken on 5 June 2018, a new civic instruction training course is on offer as part of the Republican Integration Contract (RIC). The Decree of 27 February 2019 amended Articles R.311-20 <i>et seq.</i> of the CESEDA in this regard.</p> <p>Newly-arrived foreign nationals who have signed a Republican Integration Contract are to take part in a four-day civic instruction training course (instead of the previous two-day arrangement) spread over several months, facilitating foreign nationals' understanding and a more thorough grasp of the way that French society is organised and functions (notably the principles and values upon which the Republic is founded).</p> <p>The content of this new course is more specific and is taught more interactively, which fosters participants' assimilation of the concepts and principles imparted and offers them key insights for understanding our society. The principles of liberty, equality – especially equality between women and men – fraternity and secularism are elucidated and presented in a concrete way through different topics: discovering France, employment, health, housing and parenthood (see section 4.1.1 c) above). Given that this course is longer (four days) and less content-dense per session, it allows for better knowledge assimilation and progress between each session.</p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Legislation <input type="checkbox"/> Policy <input type="checkbox"/> Practice/Other

*Please tick the appropriate box

4.2 Promoting integration of specific categories of third-country nationals

Were there any **new** developments specifically targeted to facilitate integration of specific categories of third-country nationals, such as beneficiaries of international protection, family migrants, UAMs and other vulnerable groups etc. in 2019?

Development (Please describe)	Nature*
a) Measures to improve attainment in schooling and/or the education system and/or vocational training;	
<p>On 12 April 2019, the Minister of Higher Education announced during a visit to the University of Strasbourg that 2,000 student refugees could benefit from scholarships in time for the start of the next academic year, with the support of the Migrants in Higher Education (MEaS) network.</p> <p>This measure, with its estimated cost of around 8 million euros, is for students enrolled in "Gateway - Students in exile" University Diploma courses, designed to foster the integration of student refugees.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Legislation <input type="checkbox"/> Policy <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Practice/Other

<p>The number of universities offering these courses had risen from thirteen to thirty by the time that the 2019-2020 academic year started.</p>	
<p>b) Measures to enhance language skills;</p>	
<p>A digital application, developed by the association Forum réfugiés-Cosi, with support from the Consulate of the United States, has received backing from the DAAEN: "Happy FLE".</p> <p>Intended for foreign nationals looking to perfect their French, the application "Happy FLE" was designed with input from refugees so as to offer exercises that match their daily concerns (access to welfare entitlements, housing, nutrition, etc.) and enables users to progress at their own pace.</p> <p>"Happy FLE" may be used as a complement to conventional language classes on offer in the framework of a Republican Integration Contract.</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Legislation <input type="checkbox"/> Policy <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Practice/Other</p>
<p>c) Access to social security, social assistance, healthcare, housing and other basic services;</p>	
<p>The Information issued by the Ministry of the Interior on 18 April 2019 specifies the missions and operational modalities of temporary shelters for refugees and beneficiaries of subsidiary protection.</p> <p>The maximum length of stay permitted in a temporary shelter is nine months. This may be extended by three months, subject to a decision by OFII. Beneficiaries with their own resources pay a scaled contribution toward the accommodation costs.</p> <p><u>Support during administrative and legal formalities and for the exercise of the person's rights, health and social assistance or even support for finding language classes.</u></p> <p>Furthermore, temporary shelter teams need to offer support not only toward employment and vocational training, or the resumption of tertiary studies through a personalised plan, but also help for enrolling children in schools and assisting the parents.</p> <p>Finally, temporary shelters are to provide support toward sports, cultural or any other leisure activities, as well as help with accommodation, with the person's departure from the shelter and access to a long-term housing solution.</p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Legislation <input type="checkbox"/> Policy <input type="checkbox"/> Practice/Other</p>
<p>In a bid to ease bottlenecks in the reception structures for new arrivals and tackle the insalubrious encampments that tend to appear in the Paris region (10 to 15% of migrants living there are foreign nationals who have already have their papers), France has been trialling a Reception and Integration Centre for Refugees (CAIR in French) since 10 October 2019, in Paris.</p> <p>The Reception and Integration Centre for Refugees has 200 refugee beds for "unaccompanied men", who may stay for up to six months (renewable once).</p> <p>Refugees at the Reception and Integration Centre for Refugees are proposed personalised follow-up, help finding accommodation, French lessons and contact with the private sector.</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Legislation <input type="checkbox"/> Policy <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Practice/Other</p>
<p>2018 was a year of mobilisation and structuring of refugee integration initiatives, with the appointment of an Inter-Ministerial Delegate for the Reception and Integration of Refugees, and an Action Plan for the integration of new arrivals. However, re-housing refugees remained a Government priority for 2019.</p> <p>This is why the Instruction of 4 March 2019 established quantified objectives for the year 2019 concerning housing for refugees, with the requirement of reaching 16,000 places in 2019, balanced geographical distribution and the establishment of long-term local management.</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Legislation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Policy <input type="checkbox"/> Practice/Other</p>

<p>d) Integration into the labour market:</p> <p>The "Palais de la Femme" women's refuge/ Salvation Army, in cooperation with the associations "Adage" and "Les Bâtisseuses", launched a new integration project in November 2019 called "Terre de Femmes" (Women's World), exclusively for women eligible for Integration through Employment.</p> <p>This scheme focusses in particular on women who are beneficiaries of subsidiary protection or with refugee status.</p> <p>Employees in the scheme, as with all Integration through Employment initiatives, will also benefit from social and professional support.</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Legislation <input type="checkbox"/> Policy <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Practice/Other</p>
<p>e) Other.</p> <p>At the Inter-Ministerial Integration Committee meeting held on 5 June 2018 under the chairmanship of the Prime Minister, the DiAir (Inter-Ministerial Delegation for the Reception and Integration of Refugees) was entrusted with steering the rollout of the National Strategy for the Integration of Refugees.</p> <p>On Friday 26 October 2019, the DiAir announced the launch of the Volont'R initiatives – civic service for and with refugees – and Mento'R – a mentoring programme for refugees.</p> <p>Volont'R federates and supports reception facilities offering civic service assignments for or with refugees. The programme can mobilise up to 2,000 young people: on the one hand, 1500 youths aged between 18 and 25 years who can take part in a civic service assignment designed for refugees; and on the other, 500 young refugees who can be part of a civic service assignment tailored to their situation, which offers them an experience of belonging and civic participation. These assignments last eight months on average and the volunteer is paid a monthly allowance of €580.</p> <p>The aim of the Mento'R project is to build bridges between French society and newly-arrived refugees. In this regard, it is the municipalities that take the lead, so that their inhabitants can welcome refugees and help them learn French, help them discover French culture and support them in their new life in France.</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Legislation <input type="checkbox"/> Policy <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Practice/Other</p>
<p>On the occasion of the Agora 2019, 25 November, the DiAir officially launched the Refugees.info website, a collaborative digital platform providing clear, multilingual information for refugees and for those who work with them.</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Legislation <input type="checkbox"/> Policy <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Practice/Other</p>
<p>Launched in 2020 as a call for project, renewed in 2020, Fai'R aims at promoting the involvement of young people and facilitating the creation of links with refugees through different topics such as sport, culture, leisure, language, etc.</p> <p>DiAir and six associations winning the call (French Croix Rouge, Kabubu, Le tissu solidaire, Wintegreat, Benenova and JRS France) organized a day of intergenerational exchange in order to promote contacts between young French people, young refugees and old people in the framework of two workshops on cooking and sewing.</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Legislation <input type="checkbox"/> Policy <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Practice/Other</p>
<p>At the first Global Refugee Forum, held 17 and 18 December 2019 at the Palais des Nations in Geneva, and under the high patronage of Emmanuel Macron, President of the French Republic, the UNHCR, the United Nations Refugee Agency, the DiAir and the SNCF Group, France's national railway company, launched the "#AvecLesRefugees" Solidarity Train, which travelled throughout France. This was in partnership with the Sanofi Espoir Foundation, Generali's The Human Safety Net movement, the SNCF Foundation and the city authorities of Paris.</p> <p>The idea behind this roaming exhibition-on-rails was to create a space for encounters between refugees and the host country's communities, highlighting the roles played</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Legislation <input type="checkbox"/> Policy <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Practice/Other</p>

<p>by the municipalities and volunteer sector partners that assist refugees, to build a sense of commitment and to explore ways of fostering shared responsibility.</p> <p>In each of the towns where the train stopped, there was a day of solidarity with refugees, including events and exhibitions.</p>	
<p>ENIC NARIC France (the French information Centre for the academic and professional recognition of qualifications), within France Education International, implemented a specific procedure for the recognition of refugees' diplomas. This a free, simple and fast procedure. In 2019 the centre processed 23 956 applications, whose 3 8016 concern refugees, asylum seekers and beneficiaries of subsidiary protection (excluding regulated professions).</p>	
<p>Since 2017, the Council of Europe has proposed a European qualifications passport for refugees (EQPR), which gives to the refugees who lost their diplomas an assessment through a questionnaire and an interview. This passport also provides information on diplomas, academic training, professional experience and knowledge of languages.</p> <p>In November 2019, the second session of evaluation of refugees' qualifications was organized in Sevres, in France. 36 applications were processed and 29 passports issued. The next session will be organized in April 2020 at the University of Clermont-Auvergne.</p>	
<p>The reception programme dedicated to scientists into exile allowed to co-fund 199 reception projects for scientists in exile (out of 290 applications since its start in January 2017). 67 French establishments of higher education and research institutes hosted these scientists.</p>	

*Please tick the appropriate box

4.3 Promoting integration at local level and cooperation, consultation and coordination of local stakeholders

Were there any new relevant activities implemented by national, regional and/or local governments on the integration of third-country nationals involving the active participation of local authorities and/or civil society in 2019?

Development <i>(Please describe)</i>	Nature*
<p>Prefectures are responsible to implement at the regional level the reception policy of foreign nationals. They receive each year a note from the minister of the Interior who gives them annual guidelines and related budget for their implementation.</p> <p>The annual guidelines, given by the instruction of 17 January 2019, specifically targeted professional language training oriented on jobs locally identified as skills shortage, social and professional integration, and overall support to remove the obstacles to integration. For this purpose, the Interministerial Integration Committee (<i>Comité interministériel à l'intégration, C2I</i>) of 5 June 2018 decided to increase the appropriations for local integration policy, which were almost doubled.</p> <p>Moreover this instruction also asked the prefects to mobilise, coordinate and organize relationships between stakeholders in charge of foreign nationals' integration.</p> <p>Given the substantial resources allocated, the steering of this policy in the regions has been reinforced. In addition to regional correspondents, departmental referents have been appointed to coordinate actions at a more detailed level. Steering committees for the "integration of foreign nationals" have been set up in order to promote the establishment of real integration pathways by bringing together all the</p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Legislation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Policy <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Practice/Other

<p>actors of integration within the territory concerned (decentralised state services, the OFII, associative partners, public employment service, local authorities, etc.).</p> <p>For the first time in 2019, specific credits were allocated to prefects to establish with local authorities partnerships on joint actions in favour of newly arrived immigrants.</p> <p>The territorial dialogues with each region in order to discuss the local implementation of the annual guidelines for the reception and integration of newly arrived immigrants, which have been organised by the DAAEN since 2019, were held between April and July 2019.</p> <p>Furthermore, as every year, in November the DAAEN organised a meeting with its regional correspondents (regional Directorate of Youth, Sport and Social Cohesion (<i>Directions régionales départementales de la jeunesse, des sports et de la cohésion sociale, DRDJSCS</i>), Secretariats-General for Regional Affairs, (<i>Secrétariats généraux pour les affaires régionales, SGAR</i>)). This meeting was an opportunity to assess the national and local actions carried out in 2019 and to put into perspective the new challenges of the integration policy for newly arrived foreign nationals in 2020 (recognition of professional qualifications, women’s access to employment).</p>	
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4.4 Awareness raising on migration in the hosting (Member) State

Were there any **new** developments aimed at raising awareness / engaging the receiving community within the (Member) State in order to enhance its understanding of the phenomenon of migration and thereby promote integration and social cohesion (information campaigns, websites, etc.) in 2019?

Development (Please describe)	Nature*
<p>As part of the Rabat Process, the Euro-African Dialogue on Migration and Development founded in 2006, France, with support from the International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD), commissioned a study intitled “Social Immobility vs Social Mobility – the root causes of international emigration”. This study was carried out by Dr Nelly Robin (geographer and specialist on migration at the French Research Institute for Development), relying notably on a field study conducted in Senegal and in Italy. With a chiefly qualitative approach, this study focusses on the causes of emigration in the Rabat Process region, from the perspective of the primary migration stakeholders – people aspiring to emigrate, migrants and their families. The idea is not only to move beyond approaches that explain migration through exclusively external determinants (economic, demographic, environmental and political factors), but also to transcend the idea that the underlying causes of “irregular” migration and those of “regular” migration are dissimilar. The study’s initial findings were presented at the thematic meeting for the Rabat Process partner countries in Paris on the root causes of irregular migration, on 23 and 24 October 2018.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Legislation <input type="checkbox"/> Policy <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Practice/Other
<p>An International Migration and Development Action Plan was adopted by the Inter-Ministerial Committee on International Cooperation and Development (CICID) in February 2018. Co-drafted by the Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of the Interior, AFD, Expertise France, and the French Office for Immigration and Integration (OFII), and in cooperation with local authorities and civil society, this Action Plan includes, for the 2018-2022 period, new support commitments for migration’s positive contributions to development. It furthermore establishes a national monitoring, coordination and consultation framework (CNS) among the different stakeholders concerned. It encompasses five Strategic Objectives and some thirty specific Actions. Notable among these Objectives are Objective N° 4, which aims to guarantee respect for fundamental rights and to protect migrants (which necessarily entails assistance from the host country for migrants and asylum seekers), and Objective N° 5, designed to help a promote a responsible narrative on migration and the migration-development nexus.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Legislation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Policy <input type="checkbox"/> Practice/Other

**Please tick the appropriate box*

4.5 Integration measures in the countries of origin and/or involving diaspora communities

Pre-departure integration measures in countries of origin

Were there any new pre-departure policies / measures taking place in the countries of origin of third-country nationals to prepare for their integration after arrival in 2019? For example, language training, vocational training, recognition of qualifications and skills.

Development <i>(Please describe)</i>	Nature*
<p>Pre-departure preparation for arrival in France occurs in the country of origin, thanks to an operational system for disseminating practical, administrative and legal information, accessible in digital form and centred on the balance of rights and obligations that are part and parcel of living in France. This information can be found in the guide called "Living in France", drafted by the DAAEN and available in seven languages the websites of OFII, consular services, Embassies and the Ministry of the Interior.</p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Legislation <input type="checkbox"/> Policy <input type="checkbox"/> Practice/Other</p>

**Please tick the appropriate box*

5. CITIZENSHIP AND STATELESSNESS

5.1. Acquisition of citizenship

Were there any new developments in relation to the acquisition of citizenship (prerequisites and conditions) for legally residing third-country nationals in France during 2019?

Development <i>(Please describe)</i>	Nature*
<p>Decree no. 2019-136 of 27 February 2019 regarding the conditions for acquiring French nationality by virtue of the birth and residence in France of children born in Mayotte to foreign parents, amends the Decree of 6 May 2017 regarding civil status, to introduce the regulatory provisions provided for in Article 2495 of the Civil Code resulting from Article 17 of the Law of 10 September 2018.</p> <p>The Decree provides that the parent may have the legality of their stay and uninterrupted residence in France for more than three months from the date of birth of their child registered on the birth certificate of that child, evidence of which is required to enable a child born in Mayotte to foreign parents to acquire French nationality by birth and residence in France.</p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Legislation <input type="checkbox"/> Policy <input type="checkbox"/> Practice/other
<p>As part of the Inter-Ministerial Committee on Immigration and Integration of 6 November 2019, a number of measures were announced to improve French immigration, asylum and integration policy. Decree No. 2019-1507 of 30 December 2019, amending Decree No. 93-1362 of 30 December 1993 (as amended), relating to declarations of naturalisation, decisions on naturalisation, reintegration, loss, forfeiture and withdrawal of French nationality, increases the level of French language proficiency required for naturalisation candidates to B1 oral and written (as opposed to B1 oral previously), in line with the levels expected at previous stages of the integration process.</p> <p>The new regulations will be applicable from April 2020, the time it will take for accredited bodies to develop and organise language level certification and to develop new tests, including written French</p> <p>Raising the required language level is accompanied by the abolition of the system of exemptions provided for by the law (notwithstanding the legal exceptions for refugees over 70 years of age and for parents of French nationals over 65 years of age). The only remaining exemption is for persons whose state of health or disability makes it impossible to take a language test, provided that this incompatibility between the state of health and the test is evidenced by a medical certificate.</p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Legislation <input type="checkbox"/> Policy <input type="checkbox"/> Practice/Other
<p>The main challenges identified are around the long processing times due to the relevant departments being overloaded and the reliability of foreign civil status documents.</p> <p>A network of 43 platforms for access to French nationality was gradually deployed from 2015 in order to bring together services responsible for processing nationalities in place of the approximately 200 processing services in prefectures and sub-prefectures. These platforms are responsible for processing applications for naturalisation and declaration by marriage.</p> <p>It should be noted that a project to digitise the procedure for access to French citizenship from start to finish (the future ANF information system) is currently under way. The purpose of this project is to eliminate the tedious tasks associated with handling and processing paper applications required by the current process, to design highly efficient processes, and to make the application file visible as soon as it is submitted, thus providing a complete overview of the processing chain, particularly in terms of stocks and processing times. Experimentation with the future application on</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Legislation <input type="checkbox"/> Policy <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Practice/other

<p>the Nantes and Nanterre platforms, initially limited to the naturalisation procedure, has been launched and a gradual roll-out strategy has been defined.</p> <p>In addition, an action plan was published in June 2019 to improve the efficiency of the network of platforms providing access to French nationality. The objective is to identify recurring difficulties and find solutions related to how the activity is organised, the incompleteness of the applications received through the platform, the number of applications pending and those which have failed to comply with the various phases of the appraisal process.</p> <p>As part of this action plan, the platforms have been encouraged to implement these guidelines by committing to a “roadmap” approach. Nineteen of the 42 platforms have joined the scheme and ten “roadmaps” have been signed. This is set to continue in 2020.</p> <p>A good practice guide for the platforms has been drawn up and distributed, and a network of “assimilation contact persons” (one contact person per platform, responsible for providing support to processing officers and ensuring the communication of good practices) has been set up and trained.</p>	
<p>Concerning the challenges around the reliability of foreign civil-status documents, a seminar bringing together the fraud/civil status contact persons from the platforms for access to French nationality was held in June 2019 in Nantes. The seminar finalised thirteen draft reminder sheets drawn up by the sub-directorate for access to French nationality, around three themes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - civil status fraud; - false family declarations such as fraudulent acknowledgements of paternity; - other documentary fraud (false French nationality certificates, false certified copies, false language test certificates). <p>Accessible from the “French nationality” collaborative platform, they are designed to help the regional network to better detect these different fraudulent situations.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Legislation <input type="checkbox"/> Policy <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Practice/Other

*Please tick the appropriate box

5.2. Statelessness

STATELESSNESS DETERMINATION, STATUS AND RIGHTS GRANTED

Were there any new developments in relation to statelessness determination and status during 2019?

Development (Please describe)	Nature*
<p>Rights granted to recognised stateless persons</p> <p>Decree No. 2019-141 of 27 February 2019 implementing Act No. 2018-778 of 10 September 2018 for controlled migration, effective right of asylum and successful integration creates Article R.313-75-2 of the CESEDA relating to the multi-year residence permit bearing the words “beneficiary of stateless person status” or “family member of a beneficiary of stateless person status” and sets out the rules for submitting applications and processing such applications for residence permits.</p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Legislation <input type="checkbox"/> Policy <input type="checkbox"/> Practice/Other
<p>Article 21 of Decree No. 2018-1159 of 14 December 2018 implementing the Act of 10 September 2018 on controlled migration, effective right of asylum and successful integration amended Article R.812-2 of the CESEDA, which now provides that applicants for stateless person status may be assisted during their interviews at OFPRA by a lawyer or the representative of an association, under the conditions set out in the eighth and ninth paragraphs of Article L. 723-6 of the CESEDA.</p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Legislation <input type="checkbox"/> Policy <input type="checkbox"/> Practice/Other

*Please tick the appropriate box

6. BORDERS, VISA AND SCHENGEN

ENHANCED BORDER MANAGEMENT AT THE EXTERNAL BORDERS

6.1. Border control measures management

Were there any new developments in relation to border control measures/management implemented during 2019?

Development (Please describe)	Nature*
<p>Adoption of the national integrated border management strategy</p> <p>The new national strategy for integrated border management (2019-2024) was prepared by the Ministry of the Interior, the Ministry of Public Action and Accounts, the Ministry of the Armed Forces, the Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs, and the General Secretariat for the Sea, under the guidance of the General Secretariat for European Affairs. Its purpose is to set out the strategic guidelines issued by the French authorities in order to secure the external borders while taking account of the changing challenges and threats facing them, by mobilising appropriate budgetary and human resources, while complying with France's European and international commitments.</p> <p>The strategy includes the 11 strategic components presented in Article 4 of Regulation (EU) 2016/1624 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 14 September 2016 on the European Border and Coast Guard and takes into account the technical and operational strategy of FRONTEX for European integrated border management.</p> <p>These 11 components are (1) border control, (2) search and rescue at sea, (3) risk analysis, (4) cooperation between Member States supported and coordinated by FRONTEX, (5) inter-agency cooperation among national authorities responsible for border control, (6) cooperation with third countries, (7) technical and operational measures within the Schengen area, (8) the return of third-country nationals, (9) the use of state-of-the-art technology including large-scale information systems, (10) quality control mechanisms, and (11) solidarity mechanisms, in particular Union funding instruments.</p> <p>The strategy also includes three cross-cutting components: (12) fundamental rights, (13) training, and research and development. Research and development is dealt with within component (9), which is devoted to state-of-the-art technologies and information systems.</p> <p>In addition, the implementation of this national integrated border management strategy (IBM France) is broken down into 13 action plans. The officially approved IBM strategy was submitted to the European Commission on 21 October 2019 to be evaluated in the context of the EU Ad-Hoc queries on Schengen that began in autumn 2019.</p> <p>On the European level</p> <p>Towards better management of migrant flows: the contribution to the rapid reaction pool of the European Border and Coast Guard Agency (EBCGA, formerly FRONTEX)</p> <p><i>France's contribution to various agency operations and reserves:</i></p> <p>France contributes to joint operations by sending personnel from the police (the Central Directorate of Border Police (<i>Direction Centrale de la Police aux Frontières, DCPAF</i>); the Central Directorate of National Security Companies (<i>Direction Centrale des Compagnies Républicaines de Sécurité, DCCRS</i>); the Central Directorate for Public Security (<i>Direction Centrale de la Sécurité Publique, DCSP</i>), the Central Directorate for the Judicial Police (<i>Direction Centrale de la Police Judiciaire, DCPJ</i>) and the Préfecture de Police, the National Gendarmerie and Customs Service. The French Navy (<i>la Marine nationale</i>) and the Directorate General for Customs and Excise (<i>Direction générale des douanes et des droits indirects, DGDDI</i>) have made vessels and planes available to the agency.</p> <p>This contribution is broken down as follows:</p> <p>- Contribution to hotspots and the TRITON and POSEIDON operations</p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Legislation</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Policy</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Practice/Other</p>

In 2019, France deployed 409 experts (including 203 DCPAF staff) in the framework of joint operations (air, sea and land), mainly in Greece (Operation POSEIDON) and, to a lesser extent, in Italy (Operation THEMIS - significant reduction in arrivals) as part of staffing hotspots.

At the request of FRONTEX, and in order to deal with changes in migration routes, France redeployed experts (277, including from the DCPAF) from Italy to the southern borders of Spain (INDALO and MINERVA operations) to assist the Spanish authorities in joint operations at the external borders of the central Mediterranean and in the Atlantic (close to the Canary Islands) to control irregular migration flows to the EU.

In terms of contributing equipment to joint operations in 2019, as part of operation INDALO, the Customs Service deployed a coastal patrol vessel for 31 days, an aircraft for 61 days, and an offshore patrol vessel for 61 days.

In the first half of 2020, it is expected that France will deploy 194 experts to FRONTEX for joint operations.

In addition, in order to support FRONTEX operations, the French Navy will provide a deep-sea vessel, and the DGDDI will provide a coastal vessel, a deep-sea vessel and a surveillance aircraft.

-France's participation in charter flights (Joint Return Operations)

Since 2016, the DCPAF has invested heavily in organising joint European flights. Over the last two years, the number of flights organised by France under the aegis of FRONTEX has increased by 440%, from 10 flights organised in 2016 to 51 in 2019. Similarly, the number of returnees on board these flights has increased considerably (+31.71% compared to 2018). Reflecting the large flows of Albanian nationals in an irregular situation in France, weekly charters of large-capacity aircraft have proved more effective than daily shuttle flights using the DGPN and DCPAF small aircraft. In 2019, 47 European joint flights to Albania were organised by France, representing a total of 1,228 returnees. In 2019, the organisation of these flights was extended to Albanian families. Similarly, four European joint flights to Georgia were organised by the DCPAF. These operations were aimed at Georgian families and/or single people who had been held in administrative detention centres (*centres de rétention administratives*, CRAs).

Regarding the flights organised by France to Albania, several member countries of the FRONTEX took part in the operations. For example, Belgium, the Netherlands, Finland and Sweden could benefit from charter flights organised by France to implement the removal of 203 people: 188 for Belgium, seven for the Netherlands, five for Finland and three for Sweden.

In addition, in 2019, the 'Pôle Central Eloignement' with the support of the DGPN-DCPAF small aircraft, coordinated France's participation in 12 European joint flights organised by other FRONTEX Member States (+71.42% compared to 2018). These operations enabled the removal of 48 people (+92% compared to 2018).

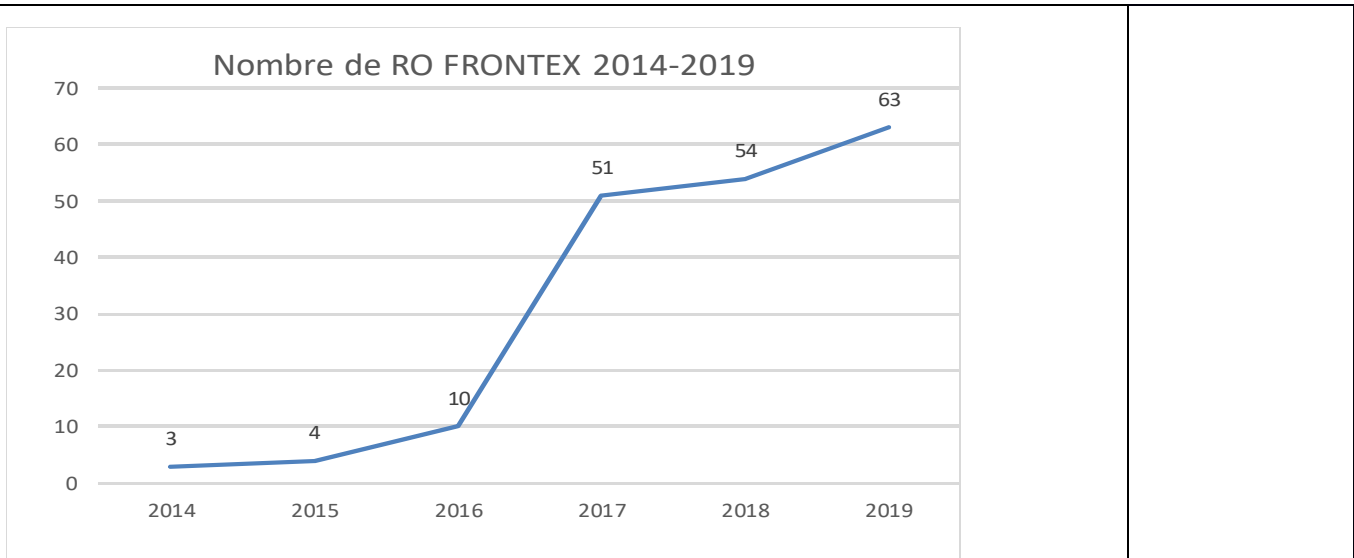
VOLS FRONTEX 2019 PAR DESTINATION				
	Nbre de vols	Total Eloignés	Majeurs	Mineurs
Albanie	47	1228	1193	35
Géorgie	12	141	116	25
Nigeria	3	11	11	0
Pakistan	1	3	3	0
Total général	63	1383	1323	60

FRONTEX flights by destination, 2019

No. of flights /Total persons returned/ Adults /Minors

Countries: Albania; Georgia; Nigeria; Pakistan; General total.

Number of FRONTEX return operations 2014-2019



Adoption of the new FRONTEX Regulation

The new "EBCG 2.0" regulation was adopted on 13 November 2019.

From 1 January 2021, FRONTEX will have an operational staff of 5,000 under its direct and exclusive command. This standing corps will gradually increase until 2027 to reach the target of 10,000, divided into four categories. Category 1 will be made up of staff belonging directly to FRONTEX, while Categories 2 and 3 will consist of staff who are made available to the Member States and countries associated with the Schengen area for 24 months renewable once, and for one to four months, respectively. Category 4, known as the "rapid reaction reserve", will be a duplication of the current rapid reaction pool.

Member States' contributions will be compulsory from 2021. At the end of each year, the members of the FRONTEX Management Board will determine the operational needs and the definition of the resources to be deployed for each of these two categories by the Member States.

Table of the French contribution to the standing corps of border guards and coastguards

	Category 1	Category 2	Category 3	Category 4	TOTAL
	FRONTEX officials	Long-term seconded staff 2 years, renewable	Short-term seconded staff 4 Months	Rapid reaction reserve	
2021	1,000	400 (46)	3,600 (408)	1,500 (170)	6,500
2022	1,000	500 (56)	3,500 (396)	1,500 (170)	6,500
2023	1,500	500 (56)	4,000 (454)	1,500 (170)	7,500
2024	1,500	750 (83)	4,250 (481)	1,500 (170)	8,000

2025	2,000	1,000 (114)	5,000 (566)	0	8,000	
2026	2,500	1,250 (141)	5,250 (593)	0	9,000	
2027	3,000	1,500 (170)	5,500 (624)	0	10,000	
* French contribution to the standing corps of border guards and coastguards.						
<p><u>Technological developments in border control</u></p> <p>In a context of constantly increasing traffic and, in the medium term, the implementation of the European entry/exit system (EES) planned for 2022, border control needs to evolve, while ensuring a high level of security given France's current security context.</p> <p>The following elements must also be put into perspective:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the strong political risk with regard to our position in Europe, particularly in the context of the French presidency of the EU Council in 2022; - fluidity issues; - the impact on the increase in waiting times, which is detrimental to the image and attractiveness of the region, in a highly competitive European ecosystem, particularly for airports; - forthcoming sporting events to be held in France in 2023 (Rugby World Cup) and 2024 (Olympic Games). <p>The move towards using IT systems to tighten controls will be confirmed in the coming months and years by the deployment of new national and European systems. A greater number of control tools are thus required, tools which are better used, and which evolve to strengthen border controls, make border guards more efficient and guarantee the fluidity that travellers expect. As part of its missions, the programme responsible for border control establishes a comprehensive French vision of the user's experience to ensure the overall coherence of the many projects currently under way and still to come.</p> <p>The programme's priorities include the deployment of a new manual control tool at border control posts which is planned for 2020: a high-performing piece of software (CTF) that can read chips, take biometric data, and automate consultation of the Wanted Persons File (FPR) for the DGDDI. Pilot projects have been rolled out at 17 sites and widespread deployment is scheduled for 2020.</p> <p>The PARAFE (the French acronym for Automated Fast-Track Crossing at External Borders) enables border crossing formalities to be carried out by automated barriers, supervised by a specialised border guard (one border guard supervises up to five barriers), while ensuring a level of control that complies with regulations. The significant increase in automated barriers (from 41 barriers in 2016 to 198 barriers in December 2019) and the broadening of the groups eligible to use them through the development of facial recognition biometrics since 2018, followed by a decree of 27 March 2019 making minors over the age of twelve entering the territory and of certain nationalities (San Marino, Andorra and Monaco) eligible to use the barriers, and the increased capacity of the central PARAFE system, allowed for a significant increase in the number of checks through more robust automated barriers (68.6% more checks through a PARAFE barrier compared to 2018).</p> <p>In order to best anticipate the increase in traffic as well as the new European information systems to come (European Travel Information and Authorisation System, ETIAS), a trial of pre-registration desks is to take place in the first half of 2020. Trials of new solutions will be</p>						<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Legislation <input type="checkbox"/> Policy <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Practice/Other

carried out with infrastructure managers to ensure that passengers' overall travel experience is optimised.	
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*Please tick the appropriate box

6.2. Activities to improve the effectiveness of controls at the external borders

Were there any new developments to ensure more effective control of the external borders, such as reinforcing border control staff, providing training, increasing overall resources, introducing action plans or protocols, etc. in 2019?

Development (Please describe)	Nature*
<p>Between 2016 and 2019, against a backdrop of migratory pressures, the re-establishment of internal border controls and the fight against terrorism, the DCPAF undertook significant efforts in terms of human resources, to post additional staff to airports. The number of border police officers responsible for cross-border control increased by 11.5% over this period (from 3,234 to 3,605 officers).</p> <p>In terms of locations in the Île-de-France, the Directorate of the French Border Police (DPAF) in Roissy welcomed more school leavers at the end of 2017. However, this department experienced ongoing staff departures during the year (examples: voluntary transfers, security assistants returning to study). These efforts are reflected in a 10% increase in the overall workforce of the DPAG Roissy between 2017 and 2019 (2017: 1,641, 2019: 1,805).</p> <p>With regard to the Orly platform, the commissioning of the junction building linking the former Orly South terminal to the Orly West terminal required an additional 100 national police management and enforcement staff and 25 security assistants. All these additional staff were appointed during the year. The DPAF Orly workforce thus rose by 39% from 496 in 2017 to 688 in 2019.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Legislation <input type="checkbox"/> Policy <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Practice/Other
<p>During the last Schengen evaluation on the management of external borders in 2016, three recommendations were issued about the DGDDI:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Regarding internal control mechanisms, in 2019, the DGDDI continued its work: rolling out the distribution of COVADIS statistical reports and issuing reminders on the reliability and correct use of the evaluation record within our management software. 2. Concerning risk analysis of the air and maritime sectors, actions have been taken on the local and national level. 3. A course on using English in ports and airports has been included in the DGDDI's national training plan for 2020. 	<input type="checkbox"/> Legislation <input type="checkbox"/> Policy <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Practice/Other

*Please tick the appropriate box

6.3. Reinforced cooperation with third countries in the area of border management

Please list any 2019 agreements, and other forms of bilateral and multilateral cooperation with third countries with an objective to strengthen the operational capacity in combatting irregular migration and controlling of external borders.

Title of agreement (where relevant)	Third country (countries) with whom the cooperation exists	Description (e.g.: Provision of border equipment, training of border guards, etc.).
Joint action plan on combating illegal immigration involving small boats	Concluded between France and the United Kingdom on 18 January 2019	<p>Provides for further joint actions to combat illegal migration using small boats.</p> <p>1/ Coordination of efforts on land and at sea to prevent crossings.</p> <p>2/ Supporting the fight against smugglers, human traffickers and related criminal networks in the Nord and Pas-de-Calais, through close cooperation between the police services concerned within the Joint Coordination and Information Centre (<i>centre conjoint d'information et de coordination, CCIC</i>).</p> <p>3/ At sea, the UK National Information Centre and the Cherbourg Maritime Prefecture will continue to work closely together.</p> <p>4/ UK funding of nearly €7m (balance of Sandhurst + additional financing of €3m for equipment, security on the various infrastructures and communication actions).</p>
Joint action plan to combat illegal immigration involving small boats crossing the Channel - Addendum September 2019.	Concluded between France and the United Kingdom on 11 October 2019.	<p>This addendum sets the main objective of reducing the number of migrants crossing the Channel.</p> <p>It also aims to promote cooperation between the French and British services in the fight against the "small boats" phenomenon.</p> <p>In 2019, 61 trafficking networks were dismantled on the national level, the victims of which were destined for Great Britain (compared to 48 in 2018).</p>

If information is available, please describe any evidence of the effectiveness of these measures.

The Coquelles Joint Coordination and Information Centre provided for by the joint declaration of the French and British Interior Ministers of 20 August 2015 has been in operation since 23 November 2018. It is designed to centralise information and monitor events in real time. The Joint Coordination and Information Centre is a permanent French-British information exchange and coordination centre the aim of which is to strengthen cooperation and joint actions at the common border in order to reduce the number of migrants transiting to the north of France and to tackle the criminal networks. It falls under the authority of the Prefect of the North area.

Its field of competence includes:

1. The management and prevention of threats to public order on cross-border transport infrastructure located in the Nord and Pas-de-Calais areas;
2. The fight against smugglers, human traffickers and related criminal networks in the Nord and Pas-de-Calais areas, through close cooperation between the police and intelligence services of both countries;
3. Crisis management in the event of acute migratory pressures. In operational terms, the Joint Coordination and Information Centre is therefore a crisis management centre and a decision-making support tool for the Prefect authorities with jurisdiction in the area.

Its main task is to collect first-level operational information and intelligence in order to co-ordinate actions on the ground to combat criminal activity on both sides of the Channel, but also:

- border management and surveillance;
- the exchange of information to combat illegal immigration and smuggling networks;
- the correlation of information intended to enable the joint production of a cross-channel "risk analysis".

The Joint Coordination and Information Centre internal regulations were signed on 25 November 2019 by Jean-Christophe Bouvier, Deputy Prefect for Defence and Security in the Nord area, and Emma Moore, Head of Operations for the UK Border Force.

The plan to fight against "small boats". A draft addendum to the joint action plan of 24 January was drawn up jointly by France and the United Kingdom to strengthen the fight against irregular Channel crossings using small boats.

The main objective of this addendum is to drastically reduce the number of migrants who successfully cross the Channel, before making it a marginal phenomenon.

Overall, the number of sea crossings in the first 10 months of 2019 was indeed much higher than in the previous year. This increase can be explained by two cumulative phenomena: firstly, migrants' anticipation of the effects of a possible Brexit and, secondly, the decrease in the availability of internal security forces on weekends due to other criminal phenomena, i.e. the mobilisation of internal security forces in other operations (the "yellow vest" movement and, since December 2019, the broader social movement). The smugglers thus increase the number of boats ready to leave during these targeted periods (equipped with life jackets, etc.) by meticulously planning the necessary logistics and adjusting them to the availability of police forces.

The priority of the enhanced action plan is therefore to deploy additional reserves from the National Gendarmerie, at a rate of 45 officers per day providing round-the-clock surveillance. Strengthening the law enforcement patrols on the Pale of Calais coast will thus more effectively prevent departures.

Significant progress has thus been made since August (the peak) in terms of the ratio between attempts (105 involving 1,123 passengers) and successes (140 involving 1,485 migrants) as well as the amount of material discovered or confiscated. At the end of October, the target of halving the number in comparison to the summer of 2019 was reached.

In order to eradicate this phenomenon, it is **also necessary to accompany the increase in staff with adequate technological resources** and to guarantee the effectiveness of returns.

The Sandhurst Treaty also provides for greater upstream cooperation with third countries. A quadripartite FR-UK-Niger-Nigeria project has been financed by the British (see section 7 below).

7. IRREGULAR MIGRATION INCLUDING MIGRANT SMUGGLING

7.1. Preventing and tackling of misuse of legal migration channels

7.1.1. Irregular migration as a result of visa liberalization

Were there any new developments introduced in 2019 to prevent irregular migration as a result of visa liberalisation?

Development (Please describe)	Nature*
<p>France continues to implement the action plans to prevent and combat illegal immigration decided with regard to certain countries (Albania, Georgia) for which a significant increase in irregular flows and unfounded asylum applications was observed following visa liberalisation.</p> <p>These action plans have given rise to various cooperative actions, including the deployment of French liaison officers in the security services and/or the main airports of these countries and, consequently, the strengthening of judicial and police cooperation through them, as well as experts in European projects. For example, the deployment of a French liaison officer to Georgia in May 2019 resulted in 56 people being denied boarding between June and October at Tbilisi airport. The presence of another temporary French liaison officer deployed between July and September in Kutaisi resulted in 527 refusals to board. Reciprocally, liaison officers from these countries are received in France in order to strengthen controls on entry into France.</p> <p>In order to block the risk of illegal residence and in particular the abuse of residence for the purpose of medical care at an early stage, the requirement to be in possession of a valid medical insurance certificate for third country nationals subject to a visa will henceforth also apply to third country nationals who are exempt from holding a visa when they arrive in the Schengen area for a short stay. On 27 November 2019, Annex 25 of the Schengen Manual was amended: "possession of valid medical insurance" became an obligation for all third-country nationals. In the absence of such a certificate, border guards may thus refuse entry on the basis of ground G of the standard form: "does not have sufficient means of subsistence for the duration of the intended stay and for their return to the country of origin [...] or transit".</p> <p>In 2019, ten Albanian networks and one Georgian network were dismantled.</p> <p>Albania An administrative arrangement was also signed between the two ministers of the Interior on 15 December 2017, and three Albanian liaison officers (ILOs) have been deployed in France since 19 March 2018.²⁰</p> <p>On 5 October 2018, Albania signed a cooperation agreement on border management with the European Commission in order to strengthen its capacity to combat illegal immigration by drawing on the capacities of FRONTEX. The Agency may operate at the external border of the EU and Albania, including on Albanian territory, and conduct return operations.</p> <p>The first FRONTEX operation outside the European Union was carried out on the land border between Albania and Greece on 22 May 2019 (deployment of 50 police officers from 12 States at the two border posts of Kakavia and Kapshticë, working jointly with the Albanian border guards).</p> <p>Georgia An administrative arrangement was signed on 9 May 2019 by the French Minister of the Interior and his Georgian counterpart in Tbilisi. It provides for the deployment of three Georgian liaison officers (ILOs) in France for one year (tacitly renewed), within the French services responsible for combating Georgian criminal organisations and irregular migration flows: (the DCPJ, the Gendarmerie and the DCPAF). The ILO</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Legislation</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Policy</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Practice/Other</p>

²⁰ ILOs are assigned to the DCPJ (SDLCODF-SIRASCO), the General Directorate for the National Gendarmerie (OCLDI) and the DCPAF (the DZPAF in Lyon). The ILO who was deployed at the DZPAF in Metz left the post on 19/03/2019 and has still not been replaced.

<p>deployed within the DCPAF has covered the regular Georgia/France routes at Beauvais and Roissy-Charles de Gaulle airports since 2 September 2019.</p> <p>This Georgian ILO proved to be a precious resource for the department she joined. Over a period of two months, she took part in:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) 114 second-line presentations at the two airports; 2) 49 non-admission measures at Beauvais-Tillé airport; 3) Seven non-admission measures at Roissy-Charles de Gaulle airport. <p>In addition to her migration-related activities, the IOL is assisting the Beauvais Research Mobile Unit in a case against a Georgian criminal organisation operating in the areas of assistance with residence, illegal employment and illegal taxi driving. She also provides expertise to the foreign nationals' department at the Beauvais prefecture, in order to optimise the processing of files concerning Georgian nationals.</p> <p>The "PROMETHEUS" project (an integral part of the DGEF/DCPAF and Directorate for International Cooperation (<i>Direction de la Coopération Internationale</i>, DCI) action plan and implemented by the operator CIVIPOL, which is a French initiative), was implemented on 1 December 2019. It provides for concrete actions to prevent illegal immigration from Georgia (in particular through low-cost flights from Kutaisi) as part of a multilateral framework (the Mobility Partnership Facility programme, managed by the International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD in French), as part of a multilateral framework, with the financial support of the EU).</p> <p>In light of the evolution of migration pressures from Georgia, and through Georgia's Internal Security Service, France has proposed to take the lead in this project, which is intended to be implemented over a 13-month period. This project is intended to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Expert missions in Georgia, which will complement FRONTEX operations, with police officers able to provide operational training at Georgian airports. In order to coordinate this project until December 2020, a French expert appointed by the DCPAF will lead the project in all areas covered by the DCPAF's field of competence. - Study and assistance missions by duly selected Georgian police officers in French airports impacted by Georgian migration. A Georgian liaison officer is expected to be deployed in early 2020 at Marseille airport. <p>In addition, as part of FRONTEX operations, France's contributed 11 experts in total to French FRONTEX missions in Georgia in 2019 (six in Kutaisi, four in Tbilisi, and one alternating between the two airports). Their role is to assist the Georgian police by making proposals for denied boarding. For the first half of 2020, France has negotiated a strong participation with a total of 10 experts: seven in Kutaisi and three in Tbilisi for missions of one month each. France has also offered to send an expert to the land border at Sarpi.</p>	
<p>The general policy of OFII to promote voluntary return to all countries has been in place for two years, and communication tools and local promotions by the OFII's regional departments have been renewed, particularly in accommodation facilities and within facilities preparing people for returning. Returns to Albania took place on four charter flights in 2019 from Lyon. These charter flights were organised by OFII. In 2019, 1,959 Albanian nationals accepted the €300 voluntary return assistance offered to return to their country.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Legislation <input type="checkbox"/> Policy <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Practice/Other

*Please tick the appropriate box

Effects of visa free regimes

Were there any new developments to monitor the effects of visa free regimes in France in 2019?

Development (Please describe)	Nature*
The way in which we monitor the effects of visa liberalisation has not changed. France continues to monitor the indicators for activating safeguard clauses.	<input type="checkbox"/> Legislation <input type="checkbox"/> Policy <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Practice/Other

*Please tick the appropriate box

Key findings of monitoring activities

In the framework of the European Safeguard Mechanism, since visa liberalisation took place, several criteria (illegal immigration, asylum applications, consular cooperation, public order disturbances) have been adopted to assess changes in the migration situation for countries benefiting from the liberalisation of Schengen short-stay visas.

However, the monthly activities monitoring Albania and Georgia that France has set up show that some criteria (especially migratory pressure and asylum applications) have risen to a concerning extent. Consular cooperation with these States is generally good, if not excellent, with rates of delivery of consular passes within the time limits for removal approaching 100%.

Dialogue with the Albanian and Georgian authorities continues:

Relations with the Albanian authorities were particularly strong in 2019 and were accompanied by resolute national and European action to combat illegal immigration from that country. The aim has been to curb abusive asylum applications that lead to misuse of the asylum procedure and saturation of the asylum system for the purpose of keeping the person in the territory.

As indicated above, consular cooperation with the countries concerned is excellent. Regular dialogue with the Albanian and Georgian authorities has, nonetheless, been established, notably within the context of the action plans.

In addition, the measures put in place in previous years to reduce the time taken to conduct investigations at first instance (increasing the number of OFPRA staff, prioritisation, investigation missions in the regions, adjustment of the suspensive nature of appeals, etc.) continued to be applied in 2019.

7.1.2. False travel documents

Were there any new developments in 2019 to prevent, identify and/or investigate fraudulent acquisition and use of false travel documents?

Development (Please describe)	Nature*
<p>Concerted work by the various services involved in the fight against documentary and identity fraud has provided new tools in the fight against this phenomenon:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The DCPAF now makes a document control site available to officers of the Ministry of the Interior. This site, referred to as FRAUDOC, provides access to information on authentic or falsified documents around the entire world, the latest alerts relating to false documents, European documentary reference databases (PRADO, IFADO), the contact details of specialists in "documentary fraud" in the PAF across the entire country, e-learning training modules, and contact details for specialists in the Documentary and Identity Fraud Division (<i>Division de l'expertise en fraude documentaire et à l'identité</i>, DEFDI). - The DEFDI includes a Central Operational Analysis Unit (<i>unité centrale d'analyse opérationnelle</i>, UCAO) which is responsible for cross-referencing on behalf of the investigative services of the DCPAF (OCRIEST and the Research Mobile Unit) based on information relating to unwarranted attempts to obtain the permit. 	<input type="checkbox"/> Legislation <input type="checkbox"/> Policy <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Practice/Other

This division also hosts two liaison officers from the Central Directorate for Public security (DCSP) responsible for creating and leading a national network of contact points on documentary fraud from the regional public security services. Between December 2017 and today, 620 local points of contact have been trained.

- In addition, the National Gendarmerie continues to develop its documentary fraud activity. After the creation in 2015 of a centre investigating platform against identity fraud (*Plateau d'Investigation contre la Fraude à l'Identité*, PIFI) within the judicial pole of the National Gendarmerie (*pole judiciaire de la Gendarmerie Nationale*, PJGN), a new local level was set up in 2016 in parallel with the network of 172 document fraud investigators. Staff in this new grade are trainers of secure permit investigators, who are responsible for carrying out first level checks on suspicious permits. They also play a role in providing training on the detection of false documents with military personnel assigned to elementary units. To date, 341 gendarmes have been qualified as trainers of secure permit investigators within the gendarmerie. In 2019, 19 document fraud investigators and 87 trainers of secure permit investigators were trained. 2019 **began** with a new training programme for document fraud investigators that will allow them to obtain a university degree in partnership with the University of Cergy-Pontoise.
- The Directorate for Immigration of the DGEF, notably through the Bureau to Combat Illegal Employment and Identity Fraud (*bureau de la lutte contre le travail illégal et les fraudes à l'identité*, BLTIFI) is responsible for devising actions to combat fraud committed by foreign nationals in terms of visas and residence permits. It provides legal and operational support to the services issuing permits within the consulates and prefectures. In partnership with the mission for securely issuing permits (*mission de délivrance sécurisée des titres*, MDST) it participates in the network of "fraud" contact points within the prefectures.
- In 2019, the number of people carrying forged documents arrested in France decreased (8,955 compared to 9,194 in 2018). Over the same period, the number of forged documents discovered fell (-0.1%, i.e. 17,475 compared to 17,493). This decrease was mainly due to variations in the investigation process (discoveries of forged diplomas rose by 373%, i.e., 71 compared to 15 in 2018; detections of forged driving licences fell by 24%, i.e., 1,354 compared to 1,786).
- In 2019, the National Gendarmerie arrested **924** holders of false documents (790 adults and 134 minors) compared to 928 in 2018 (780 adults and 148 minors), a decrease of 1.3% for adults and an increase of 9.5% for minors.
- In addition, the DCPAF (DEFDI) is responsible for feeding information into the FADO database (False and Authentic Documents Online). This is a European system into which all Member States enter information, providing the information on the official documents that they issue, information which is communicated by third countries on the authentic documents they issue and those relating to documents which have been discovered as frauds in the country. It provides effective decision-making support for staff involved in controls.
- This database can be consulted through FRAUDOC, the documentary site of the DCPAF or through CHEOPS NG.
- As part of preparing for the new European cycle to fight against organised crime, the Member States have defined certain types of criminality as having a cross-cutting nature, including documentary fraud. Given its prior commitment to the EMPACT FII OA ID FRAUD project, the DCPAG leads the Horizontal Expert Group on Document Fraud, on behalf of France and through the DEFDI. It is supported in this by a FRONTEx coordinator and a Europol coordinator. Within the context of this mission, the head of the DEFDI who chairs this horizontal group is required to conduct operational actions in the area of documentary fraud identified under the name "EMPACT O.A. 5.1 - Document fraud" (the fight against illegal immigration, environmental crime, financial crime and money laundering, fraud and counterfeiting of means of payment, synthetic drugs and new psychoactive substances).

<p>This cross-cutting work will enable the DCPAF and its European partners to have an overview of documentary fraud and organised crime in Europe. In 2019, this work was marked by the launch of the test phase of the ProfID project. ProfID is a tool developed by the École des Sciences Criminelles at the University of Lausanne, which enables a profile to be drawn up for each false document, in the same way as a fingerprint or DNA. ProfID can lead to the early detection, identification and tracking of international criminal networks that use false documents with a view to dismantling them. This ongoing experiment is already proving fruitful, as 262 documents have been profiled to date for France and 30 series have been created, covering 40% of recorded documents.</p> <p>Germany, the Netherlands, Austria, Finland, Romania, Great Britain and Norway have committed themselves to the second test phase of the project, which will be implemented in 2020. The Czech Republic, Spain, Portugal, Greece, Poland, Ireland, Cyprus and Estonia also support ProfID, making a total group of 17 countries.</p> <p>In 2020, thanks to the €100,000 funding from the "Document Fraud" priority, five specific actions can be financed under the priorities "illegal immigration", "trafficking in human beings", "payment fraud", "synthetic drugs" and "environmental crime".</p>	
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*Please tick the appropriate box

7.2. The fight against facilitation of irregular migration ('smuggling') and prevention of irregular stay

7.2.1. Combatting facilitation of irregular migration (smuggling)

Were there any new developments aimed at preventing and combatting facilitation of irregular migration (smuggling), including facilitation of unauthorised entry in 2019?

Development (Please describe)	Nature*
<p><u>Joint Investment Team in Niger</u></p> <p>A joint investment team (<i>équipe conjointe d'investissement</i>, ECI) was created in Niger in 2016 to combat criminal networks connected with irregular immigration, trafficking in human beings and trafficking of migrants. It consists of three French police and three Spanish police officers as well as 12 Nigerien police officers. From 1 January to 12 November 2019, the joint investment team for Combating Criminal Networks resulted in the arrest of 98 persons, 94 of whom were imprisoned, in 52 court cases. The secondment of these officers, which was due to end in December 2019, has been extended until December 2022.</p> <p>By specifically targeting networks whose operation and structure they seek to define, this entity has already achieved several significant successes: by the end of October 2019, 42 international networks and 35 nationalities had been identified. 317 smugglers have been arrested, of whom 301 were referred to the courts and 295 were taken into custody.</p> <p>Thanks to the impetus provided by the joint investment team, the Nigerien authorities have put an end to a highly permissive system. The country now plays a declining role in migration towards Europe: the increasing flow of migrants now move towards the Malian and then the Algerian routes.</p> <p>France's participation in the joint investment team Niger is set to continue, and the extension of the contracts of the three French police officers (two DCPAF and one DCPJ) was agreed at the end of December 2019 for a further three years.</p> <p><u>The ROCK project in Sudan</u></p> <p>Through the Directorate for International Cooperation (DCI) and the operator Civipol, France also chairs the consortium of Member States (United Kingdom and Italy) implementing the Regional Operational Centre in Khartoum (ROCK) project in Sudan.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Legislation <input type="checkbox"/> Policy <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Practice/Other

Financed by the European Emergency Trust Fund, this initiative aims to create a regional operational police cooperation centre, in order to combat criminal networks involved in trafficking and smuggling of human beings in the Horn of Africa. More specifically, the centre will be located within the Khartoum Police Academy. Liaison officers from the East African countries participating in the project will be deployed there and will exchange operational information under the supervision of European experts. This enhanced cooperation will make it possible to combat smuggling networks more effectively and provide an appropriate response to cross-border crime. Ultimately, European liaison officers could also be assigned to this centre.

Temporarily relocated to Nairobi during the 2019 summer for security reasons, the project team returned to Khartoum on 12 September 2019. A French technical advisor from the DCPJ joined the team at the end of September 2019. On 10 October 2019, following an on-site visit by the Head of the Eastern Africa and Horn of Africa Unit (DG DEVCO), the EU delegation in Khartoum authorised the deployment and return to Khartoum on mission of the seven designated area liaison officers (Djibouti, Egypt, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, Sudan, Southern Sudan and Uganda).

A Host Country Agreement was signed on 26 October 2019 between the African Union and the Sudanese authorities which, among other things, provides for the long-term recognition of the ROCK as a fully-fledged institution of the African Union, diplomatic status for the centre, and the provision by the African Union of a liaison officer to the centre. Nevertheless, the concrete conditions for the sustainability of the ROCK still need to be discussed with the African Union.

The project team and members of the ROCK were officially invited by Europol to take part in the Joint Operation Team Mediterranean meeting (JOT MARE) on 25 November 2019 in The Hague. This invitation is a mark of recognition of the ROCK. This was followed until 28 November 2019 by a study visit to a police and customs cooperation centre in Kerkrade (on the German-Dutch border), and meetings with Interpol and FRONTEX.

The Joint Operation Team DUNQETT project - Action of the EU/EMPACT policy cycle

For the new EMPACT 2018-2021 cycle, the DCPAF covers the OA 2.5 Joint Operation Team DUNQETT action. This project aims to dismantle channels facilitating secondary immigration movements on Europe's Atlantic coast. Five countries, Spain (co-leader of the project), Portugal, the United Kingdom, the Netherlands (co-leader) and Belgium are taking part in this action alongside France. The EUROPOL, FRONTEX, EUROJUST and INTERPOL agencies are also involved. This project has officially integrated Niger (joint investment team) and Senegal (the national division for the fight against migrant smuggling / *Division nationale de lutte contre le trafic de migrants - DNLT*) as strategic countries impacted by criminal networks of illegal immigration. This highly targeted and operational cooperation with countries with legislation and structures dedicated to combating trafficking aims to uncover and dismantle networks at a much earlier stage.

This project was officially launched on 13 March 2018 and continued in 2019 with a budget that was stretched. The last meeting took place in Paris on 28 and 29 November 2019 with all participants.

This project aims to:

- 1/ Dismantle criminal networks involved in migrant smuggling;
- 2/ Exchange operational information between police services;
- 3/ Exchange good practices and develop knowledge between operational departments.

Operational activities are based on:

- 1/ Developing joint investigation teams;
- 2/ Promoting innovative multidisciplinary approaches (debriefing with migrants intercepted in third countries);
- 3/ Identifying and sharing good practices and information between law enforcement agencies involved in the fight against migrant smuggling;
- 4/ Developing and strengthening operational activities in the field (surveillance, joint arrests).

<p>The joint investigation team in Niger is part of the European OA Joint operation team DUNQETT project within the current EMPACT cycle.</p> <p>JOT DUNQETT: the key elements in 2019</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Seven transnational networks have been dismantled; ✓ Five Joint Investigation Teams have been signed; ✓ Two strategic and six operational meetings have been held; ✓ One training session has been organised in Senegal; ✓ 33 cases are in progress; ✓ The budget is €140,000. <p>In 2020, two new member countries joined the project: Italy and Switzerland. The Czech Republic has not participated in the project since 2019. The reduced budget has been renewed for 2020.</p>	
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*Please tick the appropriate box

7.2.2. Cooperation with third countries to prevent irregular migration

Were there any specific activities developed in 2019 in France to prevent irregular migration in relation to the specific regions outlined below?

<p>a) The Western and Southern Mediterranean countries (Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Mauritania, Palestine, Syria and Tunisia);</p> <p>Morocco and Tunisia have been the subject of increased contacts from the French authorities, as part of the roadmap for controlled migration. This “roadmap” is led by a dedicated ambassador, Pascal Teixeira da Silva, in close partnership with the Ministry for Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of the Interior.</p> <p>In 2019, cooperation with Morocco was further strengthened through regular meetings of the thematic sub-groups constituting the Permanent Joint Migration Group (<i>groupe mixte migratoire permanent</i>, GMMP), leading in particular to the conclusion of minutes on the procedures followed regarding consular cooperation and procedural schemes for unaccompanied minors. This method has led to unprecedented results in the timely issuance of consular laissez-passer (LPC) for adults.</p> <p>The committee to monitor the concerted management agreement with Tunisia met in Paris in July 2019. This meeting provided an opportunity to take stock of consular cooperation and some progress was made as a result (including an increase in the period of validity of consular laissez-passer). The deployment of the Automated Fingerprint Identification System (AFIS) continues: AFIS terminals are now operational in the Tunisian consulates in Paris and Marseille and will be extended to the consulates in Lyon and Nice in 2020. This system allows the almost instantaneous identification of any person whose fingerprints are present in the civil status database.</p>
<p>b) The Eastern Partnership countries (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldavia and Ukraine):</p> <p>see section 7 “Irregular migration and smuggling of migrants”. Action plans are in place with regard to Albania and Georgia.</p>
<p>c) The Western Balkans countries (Albania, Bosnia Herzegovina, Kosovo, Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia);</p> <p>A seminar organised by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), in collaboration with the Regional Internal Security Attaché (<i>attaché de sécurité intérieure régional - ASIR</i>) and the Internal Security Service (ISS) of Bosnia and Herzegovina, took place in Sarajevo from 30 to 31 October 2019 on the themes of illegal migration channels and trafficking in human beings. It brought together more than 35 experts from France and eight countries in the region: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Greece, Northern Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia.</p> <p>As indicated below (see section 7 “Irregular migration and smuggling of migrants”), action plans are in place with regard to Albania and Georgia.</p>

Within this context, three Georgian liaison officers have been deployed in France since September 2019.

d) **Countries in the African Atlantic coast** (Gambia, Ghana, Nigeria, Democratic Republic of Congo, Ivory Coast, etc.).

France is particularly active in capacity building with regards to improving legislative strategy, civil status, the fight against trafficking in human beings and migrants, and border control. In 2019, cooperation was strengthened with the West African States listed on the migration return sheet (Senegal, Guinea, Côte d'Ivoire and Mali).

This included the signing of operational arrangements to establish a procedure for the issuance of consular passes. These arrangements have no binding force and are based on European or national initiatives.

The European Union has concluded several arrangements: one with Guinea, which entered into force in July 2017, and the other with Côte d'Ivoire, which has been in force since April 2019 and which has involved the deployment of a liaison officer to Paris.

In May 2019, France also concluded a minute on good consular practices with the Senegalese authorities.

This has led to significant improvements. Comparing the number of consular passes obtained within the time limits for removal during the first 11 months of 2019 to the same period the previous year, reveals that there was a 15% increase for Guinea, 30% for Senegal and 182% for Côte d'Ivoire, which has contributed to the increase in forced returns.

Côte d'Ivoire

On 22-23 October 2019, Côte d'Ivoire hosted the second regional conference of general directors and senior commanders of security forces in charge of fighting against migrant smuggling and trafficking in human beings, as a follow-up to the ministerial coordination meeting on the fight against migrant smuggling and trafficking in human beings (Niamey, 16 March 2018) and the first conference of general directors of security forces, magistrates and partner organisations (Niamey, 18 and 19 June 2018).

The objective of this second regional consultation conference was to take stock of the progress made on the recommendations of the Niamey Declaration and to consider the outlook 16 months after the adoption of the joint declaration by the ministers. Senegal has expressed interest in hosting the third follow-up conference in 2020.

This conference was followed by an additional "Rabat process" segment (24 October 2019), to raise awareness among the 58 participating States of the Rabat process, the Euro-African dialogue on migration.

In order to implement the commitments of this regional conference, the DCI has funded a regional "Joint Investigation Teams" initiative (Niamey, 21-23 May 2019). Aiming to promote the dismantling of international networks involved in smuggling migrants and trafficking in human beings, the ASIR brought together the heads of ECI Niger, the National Division to Combat Migrant Smuggling in Senegal, the joint Spanish-Mauritanian team in Nouadhibou and the heads of the judicial police services of the national police and gendarmeries of Mali, the Gambia, Guinea and Côte d'Ivoire, as well as magistrates, in order to improve operational collaboration between internal security services. This action was deployed in partnership with EUCAP Sahel, INTERPOL, UNODC and the permanent secretariat of the G5 Sahel.

In this regard, a prerequisite sheet for the creation of units dedicated to combating the smuggling of migrants and trafficking in human beings has been jointly drawn up.

In Côte d'Ivoire, a "Preventing and combating the trafficking of migrants and THB" joint operational partnership (JOP) will have a budget of €800,000 (Fund for Public Security / FSI-police). It was approved by the European Commission in October 2019.

Guinea

With regard to Guinea, a French inter-ministerial exploratory mission was organised in March 2018.

The objective was to establish a migration action plan for Guinea on the following themes:

- making the issue of travel documents more reliable in order to more effectively combat document fraud;
- creating an inter-ministerial agency to protect identity and combat networks (refocusing border police activities on essential missions and strengthening the national gendarmerie)
- creating a national biometric register of the population and laying the foundations for a Guinean civil registry

Following the visit by the French Ambassador for Migration, Pascal Teixeira, in February 2019 and Laurent Nuñez, Secretary of State to the Ministry of the Interior in June 2019 to promote this project, a workshop for the joint operational partnership was organised in Conakry on 25 and 26 September 2019 during which a French delegation was present. The delegation's objective was to identify with the Guinean authorities the measures to be implemented in the short, medium and long term to combat illegal immigration of nationals and fraud (documentary and identity fraud), and to obtain their support for a joint project under the JOP (Joint Operational Partnership), financed by a European Union Emergency Trust Fund (EUTF) of eight million euros, in parallel with other multilateral projects.

An assessment of the exercise carried out on-site with all the European actors (French Ministry of the Interior, the Ambassador in charge of migration, the EU delegation, a representative of the German Ministry of the Interior, and CIVIPOL) made it possible to analyse the key points for the success of the project.

-It is a question of distinguishing the different actions currently being carried out in Guinea. First, the project that has been conducted since June 2018 in Guinea (exploratory mission, organisation of a workshop in Guinea) which led to drafting two action sheets to establish joint operational partnerships on:

- * joint operational partnership sector reform contract: support for civil status reform in Guinea. Budget of 30 million euros approved (Emergency Fund Africa).

- * joint operational partnership to strengthen border control and identity security. Budget of eight million euros approved (Emergency Fund Africa).

Then, the Guinea joint operational partnership "Preventing and Combating Migrant Smuggling and THB". This joint operational partnership will be integrated into the "strengthening border control and identity security" joint operational partnership. It will have its own, much smaller budget (€800,000/FSI-police) and was approved by the European Commission in October 2019. The DCI plans to recruit an ITE (international technical expert) over two or even three years to carry out this project.

Mali

In Mali, France and Spain wish to join forces as part of a European-funded project to support the recently created (October 2019) team to combat illegal immigration. This is the practical reflection of a change in policy within Mali, since previously the theme of combating trafficking networks was not seen as a priority. The project will be presented to the European Commission in early 2020.

Senegal

In Senegal the national division to combat the smuggling of migrants, created in January 2018 within the border control authority (with 27 staff), had initiated 38 proceedings (12 related to smuggling of migrants; 26 for forged documents and use of forged documents): 160 arrests and 64 referrals.

In 2019, it opened an investigation into the passage of Senegalese migrants with falsified or improperly obtained visas (subsequently included in the JOT DUNQUETT action), and an investigation into a network for transporting Senegalese and Gambian nationals to Europe via Agadez (in conjunction with ECI Niger). It should also be noted that equipment for detecting and combating documentary fraud was provided with DCSD funding in November 2019.

Two police commanders work on a daily basis at the Border police: an international technical expert (ITE) immigration security advisor (CSI) and an international technical expert from the Senegalese National Division for the fight against migrant smuggling since September 2018. On 20 May 2019, on the occasion of a visit to Senegal by the French Minister of the Interior, Christophe Castaner, Ms Hatt (Directorate for International Cooperation) and the General Director of French Police, Ousmane Sy, signed the Joint operation team DUNQETT operational protocol, piloted by DCPAF and implemented by the international technical expert.

An international technical expert from the DCPAF was deployed in September 2018 by the DCI to implement the protocol. The joint operational partnership was joined by Spain and implementation began in December 2019: the project leader was appointed by the DCI and a deputy was appointed by Spain. The quality of procedures has improved, and better judicial monitoring has been observed.

The outlook for 2020 includes increasing the capacity of judicial investigation offices and making technical progress in the areas of monitoring and surveillance. The creation of regional branches of the Senegalese National Division for the fight against migrant smuggling is envisaged, as well as better cooperation with the Gambia, Morocco and Mauritania.

A Joint Operational Partnership (JOP) project was approved by the European Commission on 19 November 2018 and receives European funding from the European Union Emergency Trust Fund (EUTF). Implemented by a consortium composed of the DCI, the CIVI.POL advice operator and Spain (FIIAPP operator), this project aims to contribute towards combating criminal networks linked to irregular immigration, human trafficking and smuggling of migrants in Senegal. The project officially started on 1 November 2019 with the appointment of a project leader. The Senegalese participants (the Senegalese DNL, the Ministry of the Armed Forces, the Senegalese gendarmerie and the Ministry of Justice) have been thoroughly involved.

Cooperation under the Sandhurst Treaty

Within the context of the Sandhurst Treaty, the British government proposed to France a quadripartite project with Niger and Nigeria in February 2018, mainly to strengthen data collection and analysis, and border management. Within this framework, four sequences were organised: an exploratory mission (Niger, March 2018), a quadripartite meeting (Niger, June 2018), and two "operational cooperation" workshops (Lagos/Nigeria, October 2018; Niamey/Niger, 10-11 April 2019). This project is entirely financed by the British government. However, France, which is particularly active through the Niger SSI and Nigeria and the DCI, has not been able to advance all of its priorities.

In August 2019, a project manager took up post in Abuja (Nigeria) for three years. In early October 2019, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between the United Kingdom and the International Organization for Migration (IOM), promoting the installation of border crossing points in Niger and three mobile posts in Nigeria, as well as improving the inter-connectivity of the posts in Nigeria. This project has already made it possible to establish cooperation between the National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons (NAPTIP) and ECI Niger and thus to dismantle some human trafficking networks.

7.2.3. Monitoring and identifying irregular migration routes

Were there any new developments in 2019 with regard to identifying, monitoring and aggregating information on irregular migration routes in 2019?

Development (Please describe)	Nature*
Under the authority of the DCPAF, the National Unit for Migration Analysis (<i>pôle national d'analyse migratoire</i> , PONAM) aims to develop expertise on irregular migration flows for tactical and strategic purposes. This analysis looks at flows before they reach France, at the borders as well as in metropolitan France and overseas departments. Thus, it may contribute to improving prevention and responding to irregular flows. PONAM is, above all, a tool for centralising information with a focus on producing precise analyses (country files or focuses) and cross-cutting analyses on migratory trends. The	<input type="checkbox"/> Legislation <input type="checkbox"/> Policy <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Practice/Other

<p>information is then shared nationally in order to co-ordinate the operational efforts to counter irregular immigration, but also internationally through various European agencies fighting irregular immigration (FRONTEX, EUROPOL, etc.).</p> <p>PONAM is the reference unit for the ANARISK network: it leads this national risk analysis network by disseminating available notes to regional and local units, training them in the CIRAM 2.0 methodology recommended by FRONTEX, and requesting information and notes on observed phenomena.</p> <p>In addition to providing operational intelligence, the French network of 24 immigration liaison officers (ILOs) and 18 immigration safety advisers (ISAs) contributes towards identifying migration routes to Europe.</p> <p>In addition to their role on preventing irregular immigration, mentioned above, the ILOs play a general operational monitoring role and enable the analysis of migratory phenomena affecting their country of residence through information notes which enrich the Ministry of the Interior’s cross-cutting documentation.</p> <p>Finally, this information is also shared regularly with the ILOs in different countries, as part of European teams.</p> <p>This information contributes to dismantling networks.</p> <p>As the various investigations progress, these networks appear to be increasingly transnational and organised. They operate before migrants enter the country or facilitate their stay under cover of criminal activities. Depending on their continent of origin, irregular immigration networks adopt different operating methods (documentary and identity fraud, unwarranted paternity claims, marriages of convenience, fraudulent asylum applications).</p> <p>The network of ILOs and CSIs which the DCI has in several continents has enabled co-operation to be established with a view to strengthening the capacities of the local internal security forces through targeted training and discussions.</p> <p>As part of the Africa FRONTEX Intelligence Community project, the European Border and Coast Guard Agency (FRONTEX) organised its annual conference of European liaison officers in charge of immigration in Africa on 24 and 25 October 2019 in Las Palmas (Spain).</p> <p>The Ministry of the Interior also sent 23 staff members to the European Union, either as part of the civilian missions of the Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP), or as part of EU delegations (Sudan, Jordan, Lebanon, Nigeria, Mali, Tunisia and Senegal (with competence extended to the Gambia), or as part of projects financed by the European Union.</p>	
<p>Following the instructions of the General Director for Foreign Nationals in France, a “migration flow” meeting bringing together all the stakeholders affected by the topics on the meeting agenda (DIMM / DCPAF / DSED / DCI / DGPN) was organised several times in 2019. The purpose of the meetings is to enable cross-cutting discussions on the targeted countries or situations with a view to analysis and forecasting (identification of push/pull factors, possible changes in migration flows, cooperation actions to be carried out, levers to be implemented, etc.).</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Legislation <input type="checkbox"/> Policy <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Practice/Other

**Please tick the appropriate box*

In 2019, over 2017, 260 technical cooperation actions relating to immigration were taken by the DCI network, split as follows:

Geographic area:	Africa	North Africa and the Middle East	America	Asia	EU	Outside EU	Multizones
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Number of cooperation actions	96	16	10	37	46	52	3
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In 2019, 328 clandestine immigration routes were dismantled by the security forces in France, i.e., an increase of 2.2% compared to 2018. 1,791 people were arrested, of whom 1,477 were remanded in custody and 962 were referred to the courts. 13 routes recognised according to OCRIEST criteria were dismantled by the Gendarmerie in 2019.

8. TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS

8.1. National strategic policy developments

Were there any new developments or actions regarding the prevention and/or the fight against trafficking in human beings of third-country nationals (e.g. national action plans or national strategies introduced during 2019)?

Development (Please describe)	Nature*
<p>On 11 and 12 February 2019, the Council of Europe Group of Experts on Trafficking in Human Beings (GRETA) organised a series of meetings in Paris to discuss implementation of the most urgent recommendations made by GRETA in its second report on France (adopted in March 2017).</p> <p>GRETA experts met the secretariat of the National Consultative Commission on Human Rights (<i>Commission nationale consultative des droits de l'homme</i>, CNCDH) as well as representatives of the Ministers involved in combating THB and representatives of NGOs (in particular the "Ensemble Contre la Traite des Êtres Humains" collective. This visit by GRETA experts was coordinated by MIPROF as part of the discussions for the adoption of the 2nd National Action Plan.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Legislation <input type="checkbox"/> Policy <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Practice/Other
<p>In February 2019, the secretariat of the CNCDH met with representatives of the Council of Europe Group of Experts on Trafficking in Human Beings (GRETA). At the end of the meeting, recommendations were made to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Adopt a proactive criminal policy in this area to ensure effective protection for all victims of THB, regardless of the form of exploitation involved (including sexual or labour exploitation); - Establish a national mechanism for the identification and referral of victims; - Implement more protection for minors who are victims of THB; - Prepare a plan with measures and related budget commitments. 	<input type="checkbox"/> Legislation <input type="checkbox"/> Policy <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Practice/Other
<p>On European Anti-Trafficking Day (18 October 2019), the second National Action Plan against Trafficking in Human Beings (2019-2021) was announced by Marlène Schiappa, the French Secretary of State for Equality between Women and Men and Combating Discrimination. This plan was adopted following an inter-ministerial consultation process and was steered by the Inter-Ministerial Mission for the Protection of Women against Violence and Combating Trafficking in Human Beings (MIPROF) and in close cooperation with NGOs.</p> <p>The plan reaffirms the Government's commitment to increasing the fight against trafficking in human beings. It consists of 45 measures and is structured around the following priorities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Bringing the subject of human trafficking into the public domain and raising awareness among young people of the risks of exploitation; - Defining a strategy for identifying victims of trafficking to ensure their effective protection and care; - Ensuring unconditional protection for trafficked minors; - Intensifying efforts to dismantle criminal networks and prosecute exploiters; - Coordinating public action at local and national level; - Improving measures on the international scale. <p>The second action plan is consistent with other government actions currently under way such as the national plan to combat illegal employment (2019-2021), the national strategy for the reception and integration of refugees (2018-2021), the strategy to prevent and combat poverty (2018-2021), the crime prevention strategy (2019-2024), the future national strategy for the protection of children, and the establishment of a public security police force.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Legislation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Policy <input type="checkbox"/> Practice/Other

<p>Some of the measures in the second national action plan will be part of the poverty prevention strategy and future crime prevention and child protection strategies so that prevention actions for the most vulnerable victims can be undertaken.</p> <p>The MIPROF coordination committee will meet on 3 February 2020 to discuss implementation of the action plan.</p> <p>In an opinion on this plan of action published on 19 November 2019, the CNCDH recommends that <i>"the coordination committee provided for therein should meet as soon as possible in order to define an annual strategic plan including precise deadlines, detailed measures, monitoring indicators, an identified cost per measure and a dedicated source of funding."</i> The CNCDH also points out that without the allocation of human, technical and financial resources, this second plan could only be implemented very partially, much as was the case with the first (see the assessment of the first plan issued by the CNCDH on 6 July 2017).</p>	
<p>Following the launch of studies on the first 1,000 days of a child's life and the announcement of the National Strategy for the Prevention and Protection of Children, on 20 November 2019 on the occasion of the 30th anniversary of the International Convention on the Rights of the Child, the government announced a plan to combat violence against children.</p> <p>This plan is composed of 22 measures that are structured around five defined objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Raising awareness, training and information; - Speaking out, promoting identification and reporting; - Better protection for children in their daily lives; - Better support for child victims; - Preventing the risk of offences taking place and repeat offences. <p>Among these measures, the plan aims to tackle new forms of prostitution of minors.</p> <p>The plan provides for an assessment of the needs of each child victim and access to a graduated course of care, in particular through the creation of five new units specialising in the treatment of mental trauma as of 2020.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Legislation <input type="checkbox"/> Policy <input type="checkbox"/> Practice/Other
<p>With an increased budget for 2020, the draft budget for 2020 provides for an additional 1,398 jobs within the national police force.</p> <p>These posts will also make it possible to strengthen the services involved in missions to combat trafficking in human beings and to fight organised crime, in particular cybercrime.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Legislation <input type="checkbox"/> Policy <input type="checkbox"/> Practice/Other

*Please tick the appropriate box

8.2. Improving identification and provision of information to third country national victims of human trafficking

8.2.1. Provision of information on assistance and support to third country national victims

Were there any new developments in relation to the provision of information and assistance to third-country national victims (including child victims and applicants for asylum) during 2019?

Development (Please describe)	Nature*
a) Training and awareness-raising;	
For several years, OCLTI has been training police and customs investigators on the subjects of illegal employment, social fraud and trafficking in human beings for the	<input type="checkbox"/> Legislation <input type="checkbox"/> Policy <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Practice/Other

Development <i>(Please describe)</i>	Nature*
<p>purposes of labour exploitation as part of two one-week courses²¹ (Illegal employment investigator and specialised illegal employment investigator). To ensure greater effectiveness, the specialised illegal employment investigator course will be extended to two weeks from 2020 and will take place only in class, with content more focussed on complex investigations.</p> <p>For several years, OCRTEH has organised a five-day training course, specialising in the fight against sexual exploitation networks, for investigators in the regional departments. This training aims to provide knowledge on the typology of procurement networks, their modes of operation, identification and interviewing victims, investigation techniques and international cooperation. It also involves other actors in the fight against trafficking in human beings: victim support associations, magistrates and civil society partners (Western Union, hotel groups).</p>	
<p>A new training course "Investigating and Protecting Victims: Issues in Human Trafficking" took place in July 2019.</p> <p>The training, inspired by the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe, was designed and implemented by the National School for the Judiciary, the General Directorate of the National Gendarmerie, the Paris Bar, the Bus des Femmes, the association ALC Dispositif Ac.Sé, and the Ministry of the Interior (OCRTEH and the protection unit of the Paris Police Prefecture).</p> <p>This original and experimental programme includes a role-playing game for participants which is very close to reality, allowing them to draw concrete lessons on the necessary collaboration between stakeholders working with victims of trafficking.</p> <p>The objective was to assess what real collaboration could bring to correct the failures of the victim protection system and to improve the effectiveness of the fight against exploiters.</p> <p>Measure 15 of the second National Action Plan against Trafficking in Human Beings foresees this training programme being renewed on an annual basis.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Legislation <input type="checkbox"/> Policy <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Practice/Other
<p>The French NGO France Terre d'Asile regularly provides training to professionals likely to provide support to victims of trafficking.</p> <p>In its review, Les Cahiers du Social no. 41, 2019, entitled "Identifying migrant victims of human trafficking in Europe" the association published a practical guide for field workers (in French).</p> <p>This guide is a translation and adaptation of "<i>The identification of victims of human trafficking in transit and destination countries in Europe</i>", a guide developed by France Terre d'Asile and the Croatian Red Cross as part of the STEP Project "For the sustainable integration of victims of human trafficking through proactive identification and enhanced protection", funded by the European Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF).</p> <p>The guide includes definitions and characteristics relating to trafficking, indicators for victim identification, recommendations on communicating with victims and their needs for assistance and protection.</p> <p>Consult the guide (in French) online: https://www.france-terre-asile.org/images/stories/publications/pdf/CS_41_-_identification_des_personnes_migrants_victimes_de_traite.pdf</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Legislation <input type="checkbox"/> Policy <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Practice/Other

21 In 2019, 230 investigators were trained.

Development <i>(Please describe)</i>	Nature*
<p>The Information, Documentation and Research Division of OFPRA published two reports in 2019 on human trafficking for labour exploitation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Information, Documentation and Research Division, Côte d'Ivoire: Les victimes de la traite des êtres humains à des fins d'exploitation par le travail (Victims of trafficking in human beings for labour exploitation), Ofpra, 18/03/2019 (in French); - Information, Documentation and Research Division, Kosovo: Les femmes kosovares victimes de la traite des êtres humains à des fins d'exploitation sexuelle (Female Kosovar victims of trafficking in human beings for sexual exploitation), Ofpra, 18/04/2019 (in French); <p>This information enables OFPRA protection officers to examine the asylum applications of Ivorian and Kosovar nationals, taking into account the updated context of human trafficking in their countries of origin.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Legislation <input type="checkbox"/> Policy <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Practice/Other
<p>The National Action Plan to Combat Trafficking 2014-2016 recognises the 'Dispositif National Ac.Sé' (established by Decree No. 2007-1352 of 13 September 2007 on the admission for residence, protection, reception and accommodation of foreign victims of human trafficking) as the mechanism for protecting victims of trafficking and the preferred provider of training for professionals.</p> <p>The "Cahiers d'Ac.Sé" are a practical and technical tool, published by the coordination of the Dispositif National Ac.Sé. They include the proceedings of internal seminars, fact sheets and analytical documents on the phenomenon of trafficking in human beings and the care of victims.</p> <p>Two publications were released in 2019:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Les Cahiers d'Ac.Sé of October 2019: Le départ... et après? Mythes et logiques des migrations (Departure ... What next? The myths and logic around migration, in French) - Les Cahiers d'Ac.Sé of March 2019: Identités: en quête d'identité (Identities: looking for identity, in French). 	<input type="checkbox"/> Legislation <input type="checkbox"/> Policy <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Practice/Other
b) Measures on cooperation between national authorities;	
<p>An event was organised by MIPROF on 18 October 2019, on the occasion of the announcement of the second national action plan against human trafficking and the publication of the third edition of the survey on victims of human trafficking followed by associations in France in 2018. On this occasion, a round table bringing together representatives of NGOs, the Ministry of Justice, the child protection unit (<i>cellule départementale de recueil de traitement et d'évaluation</i>, CRIP) and the Ministry of the Interior made it possible to take stock of the phenomenon in Paris and to highlight the importance of working in partnership, particularly in the context of the Parisian system for the protection of minors who are victims of trafficking.</p> <p>During the European Anti-Trafficking Day on 18 October 2019, the International Organization for Migration (IOM France) and the association ALC organised a conference in Nice.</p> <p>The conference brought together representatives of the judiciary, law enforcement agencies, international organisations and NGOs. These experts presented the different forms of exploitation linked to trafficking in human beings and shared their experience in combatting trafficking and protecting victims.</p> <p>During the conference, IOM France and the association ALC also launched "Silhouettes", an information and prevention campaign. The aim of the campaign is to put a human face to the journeys of trafficked persons through the exhibition of</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Legislation <input type="checkbox"/> Policy <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Practice/Other

Development (Please describe)	Nature*
<p>five life-size plexiglass human figures representing a trafficked person with that person's biography at the centre.</p>	
<p>c) Measures on cooperation between national authorities;</p>	
<p>A new project, co-financed by the Erasmus+ programme, has enabled four European Union countries (Cyprus, Spain, France, Italy) to take part in "Cross-border cooperation and new technologies to train social workers in the field of trafficking in human beings".</p> <p>This project enables the organisation of cross-border training and the development of training and information tools shared by the four project countries, aiming at "promoting, developing and strengthening the knowledge and skills of social workers in the field of identification, accompaniment and protection of victims of trafficking in human beings".</p> <p>Between March and June 2019, 33 professionals took part in nine cross-border training courses, organised in the four partner countries.</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Legislation <input type="checkbox"/> Policy <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Practice/Other</p>

*Please tick the appropriate box

8.2.2. Identification of victims of trafficking in human beings

Were there any new developments in relation to the improvement of the identification of victims (including child victims and applicants for asylum) in 2019?

Development (Please describe)	Nature*
<p>a) Training and awareness-raising;</p>	
<p>A project entitled "ECHOES" took place from 1 January 2018 to 31 December 2019, to extend the work of ECPAT France (End child prostitution, child pornography and trafficking of children for sexual purposes) and make it sustainable with regard to two forms of the sexual exploitation of children:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The sexual exploitation of children in travel and tourism (ESEVT), upon which ECPAT France worked for three years as part of the European project entitled <i>Don't Look Away</i> (raising awareness among students and tourism professionals, speaking at conferences, developing awareness-raising tools, launching campaigns for the general public); - The sexual exploitation of children online (<i>L'exploitation sexuelle des enfants en ligne</i>) for which ECPACT conducted studies showing the links between offline and online child sexual exploitation. <p>The project stated that combating the sexual exploitation of children in travel and tourism and the sexual exploitation of children online required:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Improvements in information and training: tourism students, schoolchildren, private sector professionals, legal professionals and the general public; - Increased public and private commitment; - More reporting on exploitation situations that have occurred offline or online, in France and abroad; - Greater expertise on the sexual exploitation of children; - Ensuring access to justice for children who are victims of sexual exploitation online or in travel and tourism. 	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Legislation <input type="checkbox"/> Policy <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Practice/Other</p>

Development (Please describe)	Nature*
<p>b) Measures on cooperation between national authorities;</p> <p>In partnership with the National Observatory for Crime and Criminal Responses (ONDRP), MIPROF has developed a large survey of NGOs to improve knowledge of the phenomenon of trafficking, a phenomenon about which too little is known, in order to make this reality visible in accordance with the first action plan. Analysis of the results by type of exploitation makes it possible to highlight victims' profiles and the conditions under which they are exploited.</p> <p>This survey, initiated in 2015, is a first step towards the collection of reliable data in France on THB. It also makes it possible to make this reality, about which too little is still known, visible, to raise awareness among the public and professionals, and thus improve their ability to offer appropriate support to victims.</p> <p>Publication of this survey also corresponds to the "Grand angle" publication which takes stock of the available administrative data on trafficking and exploitation of human beings in France. This publication provides information on victims identified by police and gendarmerie units, as well as data on persons prosecuted and those convicted of at least one crime of trafficking or exploitation of human beings</p> <p>In 2019, the ONDRP and MIPROF published these two studies on European Anti-Trafficking Day on 18 October 2019.</p> <p>The main lessons learned from the survey are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - In 2018, 2,918 victims of human trafficking were monitored by 53 NGOs/institutions, compared to 1,857 victims who were monitored by 24 NGOs in 2016. - Of these 2,918 victims of human trafficking monitored in 2018, nearly three-quarters (74%) were victims of sexual exploitation. 17 per cent were victims of labour exploitation, 9% of them in non-domestic work and 8% in domestic work. Coercion to commit crimes concerned 5% of victims, and forced begging involved 3%. - The vast majority of trafficked persons followed are women (82%) and adults (83%). - The victims come from 79 different countries. Of the 2,918 victims, almost three-quarters (74%) were from Africa, and almost half (48%) from Nigeria. 	<input type="checkbox"/> Legislation <input type="checkbox"/> Policy <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Practice/Other
<p>In response to the increase in this phenomenon, an initial awareness-raising training course on human trafficking for labour exploitation was delivered to some 20 trainees, including labour inspectors and gendarmes, on 24 and 25 June 2019 in Paris. The Central Office for Combating Illegal Employment (<i>l'Office central de la lutte contre le travail illégal</i>, OCLTI) and the General Directorate of Labour (<i>Direction Générale du Travail</i>, DGT), in conjunction with the National Institute of Labour, Employment and Vocational Training (<i>l'Institut national du travail, de l'emploi et de la formation professionnelle</i>, INTEFP), provided this awareness-raising training. The participants heard from a magistrate from the Paris Public Prosecutor's Office and the NGO, the <i>Comité contre l'esclavage moderne</i> (CCEM).</p> <p>Two more training sessions were planned for the end of 2019 in Bordeaux and Montpellier.</p> <p>As part of the professional training it provides, the OCRTEH includes a module on victim identification and how to collect statements from victims through an appropriate interview format. In addition to this technical aspect, the aim of this training course is also to help trainees change the way they look at victims in order to take better account of their experiences. To this end, the OCRTEH systematically involves one or more victim support NGOs, giving priority to those working directly with prostitutes.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Legislation <input type="checkbox"/> Policy <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Practice/Other

Development <i>(Please describe)</i>	Nature*
<p>In the field of combatting trafficking in human beings, OCLTI, in conjunction with the National Institute for Labour, Employment and Vocational Training (<i>l'Institut national du travail de l'emploi et de la formation Professionnelle</i>, INTEFP) within the General Directorate for Employment, has developed a training module focusing on the offence of trafficking in human beings, incorporating investigation and intervention methodologies, legislative and administrative measures, various partnerships and the treatment of victims. In 2019, in Paris, Bordeaux and Montpellier, three sessions were given to about sixty trainees including labour inspectors, gendarmes, and an URSSAF inspector (Organizations for the payment of social security and family benefit contributions). During each training course, the participants heard from a magistrate from the Paris Public Prosecutor's Office and the Comité contre l'esclavage modern (CCEM), an NGO.</p> <p>In 2020, three new sessions are planned in Lille, Marcy l'Etoile and Paris.</p>	
c) Measures on cooperation between national authorities;	
<p>Efforts have been taken to strengthen operational cooperation in the field of trafficking in human beings for the purpose of labour exploitation, in particular at Europol level. Indeed, the fight against trafficking in human beings is one of the ten European operational priorities for the period 2018-2021. For the second consecutive year, OCLTI is involved in the EMPACT THB (trafficking in human beings for labour exploitation) as a leader and co-leader of action: first of all by identifying the geographical routes used, as well as the means of transport used by criminal organisations to move victims to the places of exploitation. The experience of action days dedicated to identifying situations of exploitation in the agricultural sector has been renewed, with particular emphasis on exchanging investigators between countries and cross-border controls.</p> <p>Finally, it has been shown over the course of the various surveys that the profits generated by exploiting labour are substantial and that it would be relevant for greater efficiency to highlight the economic model used for the purpose of disseminating shared guidance between States. The aim of this guidance would be to work in a similar way on the financial aspects of this type of case and to facilitate partnership working.</p> <p>For many years, the OCRTEH has had and continues to have a strong presence on the international scene and more particularly in the framework of the EMPACT THB projects and sub-projects carried out by Europol. The OCRTEH is a participating member in the ETUTU sub-project dedicated to the fight against sexual exploitation of victims from Nigeria since 2012 and is now co-leader of this action alongside Germany and Belgium. It is also heavily involved in the CHINESE sub-project dedicated to combatting trafficking in human beings from China. It also participates in meetings and discussions on financial investigations in the fight against trafficking in human beings during which it can share its operational experience.</p> <p>The OCRTEH is also a member of the Interpol group of experts on combating trafficking in human beings and, as such, represents France on this issue at the international level.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Legislation <input type="checkbox"/> Policy <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Practice/Other
<p>From 8 to 13 April 2019, under the aegis of Europol, joint action days to combat labour exploitation were organised throughout Europe. In France, the OCLTI has coordinated this extended operation, which led to the identification of 76 potential victims following 591 checks carried out in the country.</p> <p>https://www.europol.europa.eu/newsroom/news/302-potential-victims-of-labour-exploitation-in-agricultural-sector-identified-in-pan-european-action</p>	
<p>The Alert Actors Report project (September 2018-August 2020) was created between Member States of the European Union (Germany, Austria, Belgium, France, Netherlands) in order to pursue three main objectives in the fight against sexual exploitation of children between the participating countries:</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Legislation <input type="checkbox"/> Policy <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Practice/Other

Development <i>(Please describe)</i>	Nature*
<p>- To build a strong protective environment in the travel/tourism sector for children and against sexual exploitation, - To strengthen cooperation between the different actors and sharing good practices, - To improve reporting mechanisms to better address reports of child sexual exploitation.</p> <p>Over a two-year period (from 1 September 2018 to 31 August 2020), the project's activities will focus on four outcomes: improving vigilance through awareness raising and training in five European countries, improving private sector commitment, improving cooperation (private sector, national authorities, police / gendarmerie authorities of the five countries) and improving European reporting mechanisms.</p> <p>https://ecpat-france.fr/www.ecpat-france/wp-content/uploads/2018/09/Projet-Alert-Actors-Report-FR.pdf</p>	
<p>As part of the fight against trafficking in human beings for labour exploitation, the OCLTI coordinated a planned control operation on the European level in autumn 2019.</p> <p>On 17 July 2019, an operational meeting was held to organise the first Common Action Days dedicated to labour exploitation in the agricultural sector, for which OCLTI is the action leader within EUROPOL's EMPACT (Trafficking in Human Beings) initiative.</p> <p>The meeting was attended by some of the countries supporting this action (Portugal, Spain, Cyprus, Romania, Netherlands) as well as the person responsible for the Trafficking in Human Beings priority within EMPACT and the EUROPOL's AP PHOENIX office (office for the analysis of all information relating to trafficking in human beings) provided technical support.</p> <p>In addition to discussions on the organisation of these days, this meeting provided an opportunity to exchange views on the evolution of certain organised criminal groups, which use temporary or pop-up companies to set up veritable networks providing local employers with cheap labour, recruited abroad for this specific purpose.</p> <p>Another aim of these days is to encourage international cooperation between EU countries, and they are intended to facilitate the exchange of investigators, particularly during cross-border controls.</p> <p>Consideration is being given to the need to work together to exchange information and pool resources in order to identify and dismantle these criminal structures.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Legislation <input type="checkbox"/> Policy <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Practice/Other
<p>On 16 January 2019, the OCLTI met with those with overall responsibility for the fight against human trafficking within Europol, which has been established as a European priority in the fight against crime.</p> <p>As part of this initiative, known as "EMPACT", which aims to combat trafficking in human beings for the purpose of labour exploitation, the Office endeavours, through exchanges of information with partner countries, to gain a better understanding of the investigations linked to this issue, with the support of gendarmerie units. Indeed, a very sharp increase in situations of trafficking in human beings for the purpose of labour exploitation has been observed in France, often as a result of offences arising from the fraudulent posting of foreign workers.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Legislation <input type="checkbox"/> Policy <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Practice/Other

*Please tick the appropriate box

8.2.3. Cooperation with third countries

Were there any new developments involving cooperation with third-countries on the prevention and fight against trafficking in human beings in 2019?

Development (Please describe)	Nature*
<p>a) Training and awareness-raising;</p> <p>The PACKING project was developed between France and Nigeria in 2017 and aims to provide a better understanding of the role and interactions between different Nigerian groups in criminal networks of human trafficking for sexual exploitation in France.</p> <p>The ultimate aim is to achieve greater protection for Nigerian women who are victims of trafficking in human beings in Europe and the prosecution of the perpetrators and criminal networks involved.</p> <p>As part of the PACKING project, the "Religious, Social and Criminal Groups involved in the Trafficking of Nigerian Girls and Women - The Case of Temples, Women's Clubs and Cult Groups" was published (in French). The research highlights the beliefs, practices and rules of operation of religious groups, women's groups and "cults" in the trafficking process in both France and Nigeria.</p> <p>The elements developed are of considerable benefit to courts responsible for dealing with situations of trafficking in human beings: criminal courts, courts in charge of assessing asylum applications and courts ensuring the protection of fundamental rights.</p> <p>From 21 to 25 January 2019, a strategic and operational exchange took place in Abuja (Nigeria) between representatives of OCRTEH and NAPTIP (the Nigerian agency dedicated to the fight against trafficking in human beings) to assess the possibilities of strengthening cooperation between the two entities. This work also made it possible to meet the French representative within the European delegation and representatives of European countries (Great Britain, Italy, Switzerland, Spain) in order to better assess the challenges of cooperation with Nigeria.</p> <p>Also, as a continuation of the PACKING project (2017-2019), the "Don't Pay With your Life" project (2019-2022), which began in July 2019, aims at combating trafficking of Nigerian girls/women for sexual exploitation. It aims at engaging with and strengthening the capacities of these communities, particularly young people, to become involved in the fight against human trafficking, and to support the reintegration of young repatriated girls.</p> <p>OCRTEH is heavily involved in combatting sexual exploitation of Nigerian women and girls and has considerable experience in dismantling Nigerian human trafficking networks. In addition to the European actions supported by Europol, OCRTEH is developing bilateral cooperation with the Nigerian authorities in order to identify recruiters and smugglers in Africa and to trace the financial flows by which the proceeds of prostitution are repatriated. Several visits were made to Abuja in December 2017 and January 2019 in order to meet with NAPTIP officials and investigators to exchange views on this shared issue and to develop long-term cooperation projects. Contacts have also been initiated with the magistrate heading the Task Force recently set up by the governor of the state of Edo in order to better combat human trafficking in the Benin City region, where many of the victims exploited in Europe originate from. This unit, which works as closely as possible with the victims of trafficking, could become a key operational partner in the near future.</p> <p>The OCRTEH is also developing bilateral contacts with the Chinese authorities of the MSP on the basis of cases of Chinese sexual exploitation carried out in France but originating in China. Two international requests for mutual legal assistance in criminal matters have been made and are being processed in China. They could</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Legislation</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Policy</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Practice/Other</p>

Development <i>(Please describe)</i>	Nature*
<p>serve as a basis for the development of broader and continuous cooperation once the modalities of cooperation have been clearly defined in accordance with the legislation of each State. In view of the development of Chinese prostitution in France, this cooperation could be directed towards identifying the methods by which victims are recruited and transferred, and towards identifying the beneficiaries in China of the profits resulting from this exploitation.</p>	
<p>a) Joint investigation teams;</p>	
<p>Since the adoption in June 2014 of an inter-ministerial strategy for cooperation in the fight against trafficking in human beings in south-eastern Europe, a steering committee has been organised each year to review the actions implemented and examine the programme envisaged for the following year.</p> <p>OCRTEH wishes to revitalise operational cooperation with Eastern European countries, particularly Romania and Bulgaria, which apply European standards in the fight against organised crime. For example, a new joint investigation team should soon be signed with the Romanian judicial authorities concerning a case of active prostitution in France and Romania. This type of investigation makes it possible to carry out financial investigations into the members of criminal organisations who run the networks from their countries of origin and to consider the seizure and confiscation of assets acquired with the proceeds of the exploitation of victims.</p> <p>Although it is not yet part of the European Union, Albania is in the preparatory phase and is working to bring itself into line with European recommendations. While there are signs that sexual abuse of women and girls from Albania, which had disappeared from our territory, is beginning to reappear sporadically, OCRTEH has made it one of its priorities to identify Albanian institutional partners in order to exchange information at an earlier stage about the identification of potential victims and their exploiters.</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Legislation <input type="checkbox"/> Policy <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Practice/Other</p>

**Please tick the appropriate box*

9. RETURN AND READMISSION

9.1. Main national developments in the field of return

9.1.1. Swift, sustainable and effective return

General policy developments in the area of return

Were there any new developments with regard to the development of swift, sustainable and effective return in 2019?

Development (Please describe)	Nature*
<p><u>Improve the effectiveness of the supervision of foreign nationals subject to a return decision (<i>obligation de quitter le territoire français, OQTF</i>)</u></p> <p>Law No. 2018-778 of 10 September 2018 on controlled immigration, effective asylum and successful integration increases the effectiveness of the entire chain of surveillance measures for the enforcement of return orders.</p> <p>For example, during the period of voluntary departure, Article 26 of this law makes it possible to oblige a foreign national to whom an OQTF has been issued with a deadline for voluntary departure, to remain at an address designated by the administrative authority until that deadline expires (entry into force on 1 January 2019).</p> <p>As of November 2019, of the 13,343 OQTFs which were issued with a house arrest order, 52 were subject to follow-up action during the voluntary departure period.</p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Legislation <input type="checkbox"/> Policy <input type="checkbox"/> Practice/Other
<p><u>Improve the effectiveness of house arrest: oblige foreign nationals under house arrest to remain at home at specific times of the day.</u></p> <p>Article 31 of the Law of 10 September 2018 on controlled immigration, effective asylum and successful integration provides for the preparation for departure, to ensure the presence of the foreign national at home for a period of three hours every day of the week (entry into force 1 January 2019).</p> <p>Article 29 of the Law also extends the requirement of special justification in orders issued by the judge of freedom and custody (<i>juge des libertés et de la détention, JLD</i>) when they decide to place a detained foreign national under house arrest when a previous removal order has already been evaded: this precedent requires special justification even when the measure in question has ceased to have effect.</p> <p>The same article, in conjunction with Article 23 of the Law, requires the JLD to ensure that the proposed place of residence corresponds to the foreign national's effective and permanent place of residence in premises assigned as their main residence.</p> <p>Since the Act of 7 March 2016, when faced with a foreign national under house arrest who wilfully obstructs and prevents the automatic enforcement of their removal order by refusing to open the door of their home to the police, by refusing to follow them, or by failing to report for boarding when a flight has been booked, the administrative authority may refer the matter to the JLD for the purpose of entering the address.</p> <p>It is also possible to refer the matter to the JLD for the purpose of entering the address when the foreign national does not respond to summons without legitimate reason and when the police services have been unable, owing to the foreign national, to meet the necessary deadlines.</p> <p>Entering addresses under the supervision of the JLD is provided for in Articles L. 513-3, L. 561-2 and L. 742-2 of the CESEDA.</p> <p>At November 2019, of the 13,343 OQTFs with house arrest, 321 home visits were requested, with 309 granted and 228 completed.</p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Legislation <input type="checkbox"/> Policy <input type="checkbox"/> Practice/Other

<p>At November 2018, of the 17,214 OQTFs with house arrest, 245 home visits were requested, with 224 granted and 116 completed.</p> <p>It should be noted that, as confirmed by the Court of Cassation in a decision of 19 September 2018, failure to comply with the requirements relating to house arrest, in particular the obligation for foreign nationals to report periodically to the police, constitutes deliberate obstruction, making it impossible to enforce the removal order against them ex officio and justifying the administration's request to the JLD on the basis of Article L.561-2, paragraph 2, of the Code of Criminal Procedure of the CESEDA, for the police or gendarmerie to conduct a home visit in order to issue notification of a placement in detention.</p>	
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**Please tick the appropriate box*

(Assisted) voluntary return

Were there any new developments with regard to (assisted) voluntary return in 2019?

Development (Please describe)			Nature*
<p><u>Assisted return in detention</u></p> <p>Article 25 of Law No. 2018-778 of 10 September 2018 on controlled immigration, effective asylum and successful integration extends the scope of assisted return to third country nationals in an irregular situation who are in detention (CESEDA L. 512-5). This article entered into force on 1 January 2019.</p> <p>Since 15 July 2019, assisted return in administrative detention centres has been fully effective.</p> <p>This mechanism is implemented regarding third-country nationals subject to visa requirements.</p> <p>This assistance includes:</p> <p>Financial assistance paid electronically by issuing a code to the detainee at the time of departure.</p>			
	Number of detainees informed about assisted return in administrative detention centres since 02/01/2019	Number of assisted return grants approved since 15/07/2019	Number of detainees who left with return assistance
2019	534	112	Most represented countries: Algeria (40) Morocco (19) and Tunisia (24)
<p>The Decree of 6 September 2019 amended the Decree of 27 April 2018 relating to return and reintegration assistance in order to raise the ceiling of the increased amount of the lump-sum allowance to €1,850 until 31 December 2019. This possibility of an increase specifically concerned Iraqi, Afghan and Iranian nationals in the Hauts-de-France and Île-de-France regions.</p>			

**Please tick the appropriate box*

Use of (alternatives for) detention in return procedures

Were there any new developments with regard to the use of detention and alternatives to detention in return procedures in 2019?

Development (Please describe)	Nature*
<p><u>Creation of recreational activities and improvement of recreational activities in detention centres</u></p> <p>Improving the conditions of detention is a priority for the Government in view of the increase in the length of detention from 45 days to three months as of 1 January 2019.</p> <p>The French authorities have initiated a project to improve leisure facilities in detention centres and to create leisure activities in all detention centres: installation of multi-sport facilities, equipment, game consoles, subscriptions to sports channels. Detention centers hosting families with children have also been requested to renew their childcare equipment and enhance them with indoor games and outdoor facilities (slides, swings).</p> <p>Numerous projects to improve sports equipment (apparatus, football pitches, gyms), leisure activities (installation of televisions, subscriptions to sports channels, movie channels, game consoles) and entertainment (culture, sports) were carried out in all detention centres in 2019.</p> <p>For example, the Lille detention center has been equipped with game consoles, urban sports furniture, televisions and board games. At the Rennes detention center, sport apparatus and table football facilities have been installed and game consoles, board games and arts activities have been introduced.</p> <p><u>Increasing detention capacity</u></p> <p>In order to improve the effectiveness of the return policy, the French authorities are also planning a significant increase in the capacity of detention places:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - a plan to increase the number of places by 480 for the period 2017/2020 has been established - In 2019, 98 additional places were opened and were partially equipped. - By 2020, 55 new places will be added to those already open. 	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Legislation</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Policy</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Practice/Other</p>
<p><u>Measures to prepare for assisted return (DPAR)</u></p> <p>The French authorities continue to develop facilities to help prepare for return which aim both to develop alternatives to detention for removal of third country nationals in an irregular situation and to streamline the pathways for asylum applicants by freeing up places in accommodation centres for asylum applicants unduly occupied by people whose asylum applications have been definitively refused. The French authorities are continuing to roll out measures to prepare for assisted return (<i>dispositifs de preparation de l'aide au retour</i>, DPAR) for third country nationals in an irregular situation.</p> <p>As of November 2019, 15 DPARs were operational, including four in the Paris region and 11 in the provinces, with a total capacity of 956 places.</p> <p>Three DPARs opened in 2019: in Aisne (60 places, opened 01/01/2019), in Gironde (30 places, opened 16/04/2019), and in Ille et Vilaine (50 places, opened 28/10/19).</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Legislation</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Policy</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Practice/Other</p>

<p>A 55-place project is currently being opened in Doubs.</p> <p>The credits provided for in the draft 2020 budget will make it possible to open 130 new places.</p>	
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*Please tick the appropriate box

Operation of national forced return monitoring system

Were there any new developments with regard to the operation of the national forced return monitoring system (established in accordance with Article 8(6) of the Return Directive) in 2019?
²² **Y/N**

If **yes**, please elaborate below and state the **driver for the change / intended impact** in 2019. Please indicate the nature of each development in the tick boxes below.

Development (Please describe)	Nature*
<p>The Controller General of Prisons (<i>Contrôleur général des lieux de privation de liberté</i>) published the conclusions of the audit of forced return operations in her activity report: http://www.cglpl.fr/2018/rapport-dactivite-2017/</p> <p>The Controller General of Prisons controlled four forced return operations in 2018.</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Legislation</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Policy</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Practice/Other</p>

*Please tick the appropriate box

9.1.2. Return of rejected asylum seekers

Were there any new developments regarding the return of rejected asylum applicants (including measures in relation to reception and supports, (effective alternatives) to detention, etc.) in 2019?

Development (Please describe)	Nature*
<p><u>Implementation of removal decisions taken against failed asylum seekers</u></p> <p>The Law of 10 September 2018 ended the automatic suspensive nature of appeals before the National Court of Asylum (<i>Cour Nationale du Droit d'Asile, CNDA</i>) against OFPRA's decision to reject certain categories of asylum seekers placed under the accelerated procedure and, in particular, those from safe countries of origin.</p> <p>An OQTF can be issued at this stage and it is also possible to issue a house arrest order or a detention order for these failed asylum applicants (in force since 1 January 2019).</p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Legislation</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Policy</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Practice/Other</p>

*Please tick the appropriate box

9.1.3. Evidence of the effectiveness of the measures to ensure return

<p>In 2019, the total number of foreign nationals in an irregular situation rose by 19% with 23,476 removals executed in comparison to 19,957 in 2018. Forced removals increased by almost 20.6%.</p> <p>The forced returns of third country nationals to third countries increased by 24.7% to reach 8,858 removals in 2019, reaching their highest level since 2010. These forced returns were the most representative of the work of the police and Prefectoral services in the fight against irregular immigration. Finally, assisted returns also significantly increased (+33.2%). In total, more than 31,400 irregular foreign nationals left</p>
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²² Directive 2008/115/EC

the country in 2019 (departures, voluntary departures and spontaneous departures), a level 3.7% higher than in 2018.

9.2. Strengthening cooperation with third countries of origin and transit on return and reintegration management

9.2.1. Involvement of third countries in return measures

Were there any new developments regarding return activities implemented in cooperation with third countries in 2019?

Development (Please describe)	Nature*
See the response under the paragraph "Combating the <i>facilitation of irregular migration (trafficking) and preventing irregular stay</i> ", in the section "Cooperation with third countries to prevent irregular migration."	<input type="checkbox"/> Legislation <input type="checkbox"/> Policy <input type="checkbox"/> Practice/Other

*Please tick the appropriate box

9.2.2. Ensuring implementation of all EU readmission agreements to their full effect²³

EU Readmission Agreements (EURAs) (country)	National Development (i.e. implementation protocol, cooperation)	Date of agreement (If relevant)
ALBANIA	Implementation protocol signed 08 April 2013, ratified 27 April 2015 by Law No. 2015-469. Entered into force on 11 December 2015	01/05/2006
ARMENIA	Implementation protocol signed on 27 October 2016, currently being ratified.	01/01/2014
AZERBAIJAN	Negotiations are under way on a bilateral protocol to implement the EURA.	
NORTH MACEDONIA	Negotiations are under way on a bilateral protocol to implement the EURA.	01/01/2008
BOSNIA HERZEGOVINA	Implementation Protocol signed on 3 July 2014 entered into force on 1 February 2019.	01/01/2008
GEORGIA	Negotiations are under way on a bilateral protocol to implement the EURA.	01/03/2011
MONTENEGRO	Negotiations are under way on a bilateral protocol to implement the EURA.	01/01/2008
RUSSIA	Renegotiation of the implementing protocol signed on 1 March 2010 and which entered into force on 22 October 2010, is currently under way, on the request of Russia which wishes to standardise the practices agreed	01/06/2007

²³ Norway is invited to report on any national agreements in place.

	between it and Member States with which a protocol has been signed.	
SERBIA	Implementation protocol signed 18 November 2009, Law approving the protocol, entry into force 14 October 2014.	01/01/2008
SRI LANKA	Negotiations on a bilateral protocol to implement the EURA	01/05/2005
UKRAINE	Negotiations are under way on a bilateral protocol to implement the EURA.	01/01/2008

In order to support implementation of the European Union Readmission Agreements, France prepares and participates in the Joint Readmission Committees (JRCs) with relevant third countries.

In addition, France is committed to ensuring the application of all the provisions of the *standard operational procedures* (SOPs) concluded by the European Union with third countries. These SOPs aim to establish effective and transparent procedures for identifying persons who are illegally present on the territory of the Member States and returning them to their countries of origin.

COUNTRY	Signature
Afghanistan	04/10/2016
Bangladesh	20/09/2017
Côte d'Ivoire	Initialed on 30/05/2018
Ethiopia	05/02/2018
Gambia	04/05/2018
Guinea	27/07/2017

In addition, France is actively involved in the EURINT project. The EURINT project is an inter-State approach funded partly by European funding (Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund, AMIF), which aims to develop joint strategies on forced return based on exchanging practical information and experiences with third countries with whom consular cooperation is deemed to be difficult. France leads the working group on Algeria and participates in several working groups (Iraq, Democratic Republic of Congo, Morocco, Côte d'Ivoire).

France also participates in the EURLO programme. This Belgian initiative, funded by the AMIF and now transferred to FRONTEX, aims to deploy European liaison officers to strategic third countries.

With regard to assisted return, France (DGEF/OFII) is a member of the European Return and Reintegration Network (ERRIN), the aim of which is to increase the long-term return and reintegration of migrants to their countries of origin.

9.2.3. [Reintegration measures](#)

Measures to support reintegration may include developing a rights-based framework for re-integration and for temporary and circular migration.

Were there any new developments regarding reintegration activities including those implemented in cooperation with countries of origin in 2019?

Development (Please describe)	Nature*
In 2019, the OFII opened, via the ERRIN consortium, a reintegration scheme in two new countries: Nigeria and Ethiopia.	<input type="checkbox"/> Legislation <input type="checkbox"/> Policy <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Practice/Other

*Please tick the appropriate box

10. MIGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT

10.1. Mobility partnerships

Were there any new developments regarding France's participation in the EU Mobility Partnerships (MPs)/Common Agendas on Migration and Mobility (CAMMs) under the Global Approach to Migration and Mobility (GAMM)?

The activities and projects described below do not all fall within the scope of the MPs or the CAMMs but respond to European priorities in the field of the Global Approach to Migration and Mobility.

Since 2006, France has concluded bilateral agreements with countries of emigration in order to coherently manage migration flows by taking a partnership approach which is adapted, on the one hand, to the needs of two signatory countries and, on the other hand, to the migration profile of the partner country. These agreements for the concerted management of migration flows reflect France's overall approach to migration and mobility.

To date, 13 agreements have been ratified, resulting in effective rights. First of all, there are seven joint management agreements (JMAs) on migration flows with French-speaking African countries (in 2006 Senegal; in 2007 Gabon, Republic of Congo, Benin; in 2008 Tunisia, Cape Verde; in 2009 Burkina Faso). The agreement signed with Cameroon in 2009 never entered into force. In addition, five agreements on the mobility of young people and professionals were also reached (including Mauritius in 2008 and Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia in 2009). Finally, an agreement on labour migration also exists with Russia (which entered into force in 2011). Among these agreements, the joint mobility agreements are based on three components: the organisation of legal migration, the fight against irregular immigration and solidarity-based development. The last component illustrates the fact that migration and development are closely linked and postulates that lack of development is one of the causes of emigration. Within the context of these agreements, the initiatives financed have mainly given priority to vocational and university training, higher education, the improvement of living conditions in rural areas, the provision of health care, employment, and the creation of productive activities in disadvantaged and/or rural areas. These agreements have undoubtedly provided a framework for dialogue on migration issues. The chapter devoted to solidarity-based development provided an opportunity to set objectives, identify cooperation programmes and set credit limits.

10.1.1. Better organising legal migration and fostering well-managed mobility

The management of migration flows is also reflected in actions to promote legal and circular mobility. France promotes the mobility of students, researchers, young professionals, business people and talent. It also enables these categories to benefit from training or professional experience that will be beneficial to their country upon their return.

On the international level, France has actively supported the adoption of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration. This was adopted on 10 December 2018 in Marrakesh and negotiated under the auspices of the United Nations. France supported the adoption of this text, as it represents an important contribution towards better management of international migration flows. The final text is the first comprehensive and universally applicable text on migration. For destination countries, including France, it has the merit of covering most of the concerns expressed during the negotiations, including in particular:

- the non-legally binding nature of the text and the flexibility provided for its implementation;
- the commitment of countries of origin to cooperate with countries of destination to combat smuggling and trafficking in human beings and to facilitate the return and readmission of irregular migrants.

In order to show its support for implementation of this Pact, in November 2019 France made a contribution of €100,000 to the Migration Multi-Partner Trust Fund (MPTF), provided for by the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration, with a view to making it operational.

MOBILITY PARTNERSHIPS / CAMM	Name of the activity	Objective(s) and nature of the activity	Funding mechanism	Period of implementation	Partner(s) (if any)
Support to the EU-Tunisia MP	Lemma "Together for mobility"	Better integration of the migration issue in national policies and strategies - three themes: 1) managing labour migration projects; 2) mobilising skills of the diaspora for development; 3) supporting the reintegration of returning migrants.	EU (and some direct funding from member states)	2016-2019	

10.1.2. Preventing and combatting irregular migration and eradicating trafficking in human beings

The fight against irregular migration, smuggling of migrants and trafficking in human beings is one of France's main priorities. France's policy is in line with the Niamey Declaration of March 2018, which aims to improve coordination between countries of destination, transit countries and countries of origin with regard to border control, civil status and combatting networks. As part of its development cooperation policy, France supports actions to strengthen the capacities of States to combat trafficking in human beings in the regions of West Africa and the Western Balkans.

1. France supports the project to support the fight against human trafficking in the countries in the Gulf of Guinea. With a total budget of €18 million, including €17.4 million from the Emergency Trust Fund (ETF) and €0.6 million from the Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs, this project is in line with French priorities to combat migrant smuggling and human trafficking, and more specifically with the Priority Solidarity Fund (*Fonds de Solidarité Prioritaire*, FSP) project implemented between July 2013 and July 2017, with €800,000 funding from the Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs. This new four-year project (2018-2022) covers Guinea, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Togo, Benin and Nigeria. This region is indeed characterised by a pattern of cross-border and circular trafficking: these countries are at the same time territories of origin, transit and destination of trafficked persons.
2. In the framework of the implementation of the "Cooperation against Trafficking in Human Beings in South Eastern Europe" strategy, the Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs participates to funding bilateral cooperative actions aimed at strengthening the capacities of the states in the region to both better prevent trafficking in human beings, especially women and children, and to control and punish those responsible for these crimes. The strategic guidelines provide for cooperation within an area composed of ten countries (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Kosovo, Macedonia, Moldova, Montenegro, Romania, Serbia), with a particular focus on trafficking in minors.

10.1.3. Maximizing the development impact of migration and mobility

France's policy aims to strengthen the contribution mobility and migration can make to the development of countries and regions of origin. Thus, along with its European partners, France is committed, to better integrating migration and development policies in several ways: by highlighting migration in development policies; by addressing some of the root causes of migration; and by enhancing the contribution of diasporas to the development of countries of origin.

To this end, the Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs (MEAE) is pursuing its actions in four complementary directions, which are part of the "Migration and Development" strategy for 2013, namely

- 1. Supporting the solidarity potential of migrants through support for the activities of the Forum of International Organizations of Migration Issues (FORIM²⁴) and capacity building of international solidarity organisations for migration (OSIMs).** The Support Programme for international solidarity organisations for migration (*Programme d'Appui aux projets des Organisations de Solidarité Internationale issues de l'Immigration, PRA/OSIM*) is a national scheme to support, jointly fund, build upon and enhance the value of local development projects carried out by OSIMs. The scheme has been in existence since 2003. Managed by **FORIM**, it is financed by the French Development Agency (*l'Agence Française de Développement, AFD*). **In 2019, the MEAE granted €25,000 to FORIM for this programme.** The objectives of the PRA/OSIM are to: 1) strengthen the intervention capacities of the OSIMs and their federations on the national level in order to enable a change of scale in the positive impact of co-development; 2) jointly fund local development projects carried out by OSIMs; 3) highlight the effects of migration on the development of countries of origin and particularly the contribution migrants make through by promoting and building upon their practices; 4) strengthen the institutional communication of the mechanism and its governance. The countries of intervention eligible for the PRA/OSIM are countries eligible for the Development Assistance Committee (DAC) within the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). The sectors of intervention concerned by the mechanism are as follows: better access to health (in particular for women and children); better access to education (in particular for girls); access to drinking water, sanitation and an improved environment; economic development, creation or development of enterprises, income-generating activities, vocational training; rural and agricultural development; social development, in particular for young people and people who are disadvantaged or who have disabilities. The projects selected this year concern the countries listed in the footnote below, the vast majority of which are located in Africa.²⁵ In the same vein, the Support Programme for Solidarity Initiatives for Development in (*Programme d'appui aux initiatives de solidarité pour le développement, PAISD*) in Senegal should also be mentioned. Cofinanced by the government of Senegal (€2M), the EU (€12M) and the AFD (€2M), this project, launched in November 2017, is part of the continuation of Franco-Senegalese cooperation on migration. Contributions to the development of diasporas settled in Italy, Spain, France and Belgium are used for the development of Senegal's outlying regions (Tambacounda, Kédougou, Kolda, Sédhiou, Ziguinchor, Saint-Louis and Matam), but also for the creation of businesses. The funding covers 150 development projects to meet regional needs in the sectors of agriculture, education, health and access to drinking water; support for 300 businesses and the deployment of financial services and tools necessary for their development; and the organisation of 200 expert missions from the diaspora for the benefit of Senegalese institutions.
- 2. Supporting the investment potential of migrants (role of diasporas)** by setting up a website to facilitate and reduce the cost of remittances (www.envoirdargent.fr). In this respect, France has made international commitments to reduce the cost of remittances to 5% within the G20 framework and 3% within the framework of the United Nations Agenda 2030. In line with this, the AFD plans to implement the "DiasDev" project in 2020 which aims to facilitate remittances, savings and investments by diasporas in their countries of origin. The expected result is a greater promotion of diaspora savings in tools for financing investment in their countries of origin. Given the innovative nature of this project, a feasibility study was carried out in 2019 with a view to rolling out the project in 2020. This initiative, conducted jointly with the French (CDC), Italian (CDP), Moroccan, Senegalese and Tunisian public funding bodies, aims to strengthen existing tools provided by public and private actors in Europe and Africa, to improve the dissemination of offers to diasporas and to enable the development of new services for remittances for members of the diasporas, savings and investment in their countries of origin. In particular, this project will make it possible to continue the efforts made as part of the [envoirdargent.fr](http://www.envoirdargent.fr) website launched in May 2010 and co-financed by the Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs and the AFD. Aiming to reduce the costs of remittance transfers through greater transparency of costs and better knowledge of transfer methods, this site will be integrated into the DiasDev information platform as reference resource on the cost of remittances, making it easier to reduce costs. The Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs is also invested in supporting entrepreneurship and productive investment by diasporas, particularly through Phase 2 of the regional project MEETAfrica. Adopted by the Rabat Process Steering Committee in June 2015 on the basis of a proposal from France, the MEETAfrica project aims to support entrepreneurs from the African diaspora with French and German higher education qualifications through the creation of highly technological or innovative businesses in their home countries. The second phase of the programme, which has a budget of €8.5M will be led by Expertise France, in partnership with Campus France and with the financial support from

²⁴ Created in March 2002 with the support of the French public authorities, the FORIM is a national platform that brings together networks, federations and groupings of International Solidarity Organisations from Migration (approximately 700 OSIMs), engaged in integration actions in France and development actions in countries of origin.

²⁵ Mali (9), Senegal (9), Cameroon (7), Democratic Republic of Congo [DRC] (7), Benin (4), Côte d'Ivoire (4), Guinea (4), Madagascar (4), Mauritania (4), Comoros (3), Ghana (3), *Haiti* (3), Morocco (3), Central African Republic (3), Togo (3), Congo (2), *Armenia* (1), Burkina Faso (1), Burundi (1), Chad (1), *Venezuela* (1) and *Vietnam* (1).

the AFD (€3.5M) and the European Union Emergency Trust Fund (EUTF) (€5M). During this second phase, 1,000 project leaders will be welcomed and provided with guidance, and 250 entrepreneurs will benefit from personalised support.

3. Strengthening the capacities of partner countries in the south to integrate mobility and migration into their development strategies, following the example of the “Sharaka” project in Morocco and the “Lemma” project in Tunisia. The “Lemma” project is the MP support project signed between the EU and Tunisia. Throughout the project, the ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs has participated in various technical committees and steering committees in the Lemma project and has been particularly involved in Component 2 of the project, which aims to build capacity of the Tunisian authorities to mobilise the skills of Tunisians resident abroad and to promote the integration of migration into local development. As part of this component, the ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs has provided €240,000 of funding for a long-term expert position. This component reflects France’s priorities in terms of mobilising and enhancing the value of the diaspora as agents for the development of origin and host countries. The last Lemma project steering committee, held on 27 June 2019 in Tunis, approved the final deliverables and reviewed the main achievements of the project which ran from 2016 to 2019. The Lemma project has made it possible to mobilise considerable public and private expertise: 57% of this expertise was European, 12% Tunisian and 31% Franco-Tunisian. France was fully committed to the project by contributing public expertise. In this respect, FORIM (a historical partner of the Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs), the NGO GRDR Migration-Citoyenneté-Développement and the French institute of Demographic Studies (INED) have provided quality expertise. The Tunisian authorities involved in the project have expressed their satisfaction with the progress of the project and its main achievements.

4. Contributing to international dialogues and knowledge production on mobility, migration and development, such as the Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD) and participation in Euro-African migration dialogues such as the Khartoum Process and the Rabat Process. As part of the Rabat Process, a migration dialogue between the EU and West, Central and North Africa created in 2006, made the link between migration and development a priority. In this context, France, with the support of the International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD), commissioned a **study entitled “Social immobility versus social mobility - the root causes of international emigration”**. This study was carried out by Nelly Robin (geographer, migration specialist at IRD), based in particular on a field study carried out in Senegal and Italy. Using a largely qualitative approach, this study proposes examining the causes of emigration in the Rabat Process region from the perspective of the primary actors of migration - the candidates for departure, migrants and their families. The aim is not only to move beyond the approach that explains migration by purely external factors (economic, demographic, environmental, political factors), but also to move away from the idea that the causes of “irregular” and “regular” migration are distinct. The first results of this study were presented at the thematic meeting on the root causes of irregular migration that brought together the partner countries in the Rabat Process on 23 and 24 October 2018 in Paris. France is strongly involved in the Rabat Process, which it has chaired since 3 June 2019 for a period of one year. Within the framework of the French Presidency of the Rabat Process, four main events have been planned to implement our thematic priorities established during inter-ministerial consultations between the Ministry of the Interior (focal point of the Rabat Process) and the Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs (contact point) in February 2019. France organised a technical workshop on diaspora remittances and sustainable development in Abuja on 5 and 6 November 2019. This workshop, opened by the Nigerian Minister of Foreign Affairs and co-chaired by France and Belgium, aimed to bring together experts and practitioners on the issue of mobilising migrants’ remittances (especially their savings) towards specific actions to encourage productive investment in the countries of origin. Experts, public and private sector practitioners and Rabat Process partners were invited to participate in the workshop. The objective of this workshop was first and foremost to exchange good practices through the presentation of concrete tools and initiatives and to improve the common technical understanding on remittance mobilisation. At the end of this workshop, recommendations were formulated, and a mapping exercise of innovative initiatives was carried out. These documents were circulated to all workshop participants, Rabat Process Focal Points, and the partners of the Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs.

All these actions are taken into account in the “International Migration and Development” Action Plan. In line with the direction taken by the partners’ Migration and Development Strategy, an Action Plan on “International Migration and Development” was adopted at the Inter-Ministerial Committee on International Cooperation and Development (*Comité interministeriel de la coopération internationale et du Développement*, CICID) in February 2018. Jointly drafted by the Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of the Interior, the AFD, Expertise France, and the OFII, and in consultation with local authorities and civil society, this Plan has made new commitments for the period 2018-2022 to support the positive contributions of migration to development. It also establishes a national framework for monitoring, coordination and consultation (*cadre national de suivi, de coordination et de concertation*, CNS) between the various actors concerned.

This Plan is divided into five strategic objectives and some thirty concrete actions, namely:

- Objective 1: Improving migration governance for human security and development;
- Objective 2: Enhancing the contributions of migration to development;
- Objective 3: Mainstreaming the migration dimension into development policies;
- Objective 4: Ensuring respect for fundamental rights and protecting migrants;
- Objective 5: Promoting responsible discussions on migration and the link between migration and development.

As of 30 March 2019, the funding committed to implement some **108 projects and initiatives** (many over several years) in these five areas amount **to €1.58 billion** (including a substantial share of European financing) spread across the main French players and operators: AFD Group (€715M), MinInt/CIVIPOL (€211M), Expertise France (€105M), OFII (€18M), ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs (€7M).

Finally, in addition to the **19 priority countries**²⁶ for development cooperation, France has extended its scope of intervention in terms of support for migration policies to all **countries eligible for the APD**.²⁷ In this respect, through the work of the Ambassador in charge of migration, Pascal Teixeira in addition to the implementation of the “International Migration and Development” Action Plan, France is targeting seven priority countries: Côte d’Ivoire, Guinea, Mali, Niger, Senegal, Tunisia, Morocco.

10.2. National actions to support migration and development

Were there any significant new national legal/policy developments in your Member State and/or new national projects and/or other activities (e.g. national strategies or specific nationally funded-projects) aimed at facilitating migration and development with third countries not reported on above?

Development (Please describe)	Nature*
France promotes a balanced position on migration, a shared responsibility between countries of origin, transit and destination, as well as the link between migration and development. Indeed, aware of the importance of migrants’ capacity to work within the host country but also for the country of origin, France has drawn up guidelines on migration and development which were the subject of a “Mobility, Migration and Development” strategy published in 2013 by the Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs.	<input type="checkbox"/> Legislation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Policy <input type="checkbox"/> Practice/Other
An Action Plan on International Migration and Development was adopted by the CICID in February 2018. Jointly drafted by the Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of the Interior, the AFD, Expertise France, the OFII and in consultation with local authorities and civil society, this Plan has made new commitments for the period 2018-2022 to support the positive contributions of migration to development. It also establishes a national framework for monitoring, coordination and consultation (<i>cadre national de suivi, de coordination et de concertation, CNS</i>) between the various actors concerned. It includes five strategic objectives and some 30 concrete actions.	<input type="checkbox"/> Legislation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Policy <input type="checkbox"/> Practice/Other
As part of the French Presidency of the Rabat Process, France will organise an event on “International migration and development: integrating the migration dimension into development and development aid policies” in the first half of 2020, which will be co-financed by the ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs. The objective is to improve the understanding and knowledge of initiatives integrating the migration dimension in development and development assistance policies in the partner countries of the Rabat Process and to share good practices on the operational side,	<input type="checkbox"/> Legislation <input type="checkbox"/> Policy <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Practice/Other

²⁶ According to the CICID’s statement of findings of 8 February 2018, these 19 countries are: Benin, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Central African Republic, Chad, Comoros, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Gambia, Guinea, Haiti, Liberia, Madagascar, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Senegal and Togo.

²⁷ CICID Statement of Conclusions of 8 February 2018, paragraph 9.1.

<p>including the establishment of tools for guiding, monitoring and coordinating development and development assistance policies integrating migration. This event will provide an opportunity to present the origins, content and scope of France's "International Migration and Development" Action Plan 2018-2022.</p>	
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