

Impact of visa liberalisation on countries of destination

Common Template of EMN Study 2018

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Subject: Common Template for the EMN Study 2018 on the "***Impact of visa liberalisation on countries of destination***"

Action: EMN NCPs are invited to submit their completed Common Templates by **31 July 2018**. If needed, further clarifications can be provided by directly contacting the EMN Service Provider (ICF) at emn@icf.com

1 STUDY AIMS, SCOPE AND BACKGROUND

1.1 TARGET AUDIENCE

The target audience is national and EU officials/practitioners concerned with legal and illegal mobility and migration, including but not limited to cooperation with third countries on return and readmission, asylum trends and border control.

The results of the study will assist the target audience to take decisions on the need (or otherwise) to amend current policies and practices used to prevent and combat misuse and/or abuse of the visa-free regime¹, as well as identify the positive impact on Member States (MS) achieved since the introduction of visa liberalisation.

1.2 LEGAL FRAMEWORK

The border-free Schengen Area² cannot function efficiently without a common visa policy which facilitates the entry of visitors into the EU. The Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU) makes a distinction between short stay and long stay for third-country nationals (TCN), covering short stays in the Schengen acquis in Article 77(2) and long stays as part of a Common Immigration Policy in Article 79(2), thus excluding long stays from the scope of this study

The EU has established a common visa policy for transit through or intended stays in the territory of Schengen States of no more than 90 days in any 180-day period. The Visa Code³ provides the overall framework of EU visa cooperation. It establishes the procedures and conditions for issuing visas for short stays in and transit through the territories of EU countries. It also lists the non-EU

¹ The misuse of the visa-free regime e.g. entry and stay for purposes other than the intended short-term travel to the EU, overstay etc.

² To date the Schengen Area encompasses most EU States, except for Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Ireland, Romania and the United Kingdom. In some cases, a visa requirement may still be in place for the third countries analysed in this study (e.g. in Ireland and UK).

³ Regulation (EC) No 810/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 13 July 2009 establishing a Community Code on Visas (Visa Code)

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countries whose nationals are required to hold an airport transit visa when passing through the international transit areas of EU airports and establishes the procedures and conditions for issuing such visas.⁴

According to the Visa Code⁵ *'Bilateral agreements concluded between the Community and third countries aiming at facilitating the processing of applications for visas may derogate from the provisions of this Regulation'*. In line with this provision, Regulation (EC) No 539/2001⁶ establishes the visa requirements and visa exemptions for non-EU nationals entering the EU in view of a short stay. It also provides for exceptions to the visa requirements and visa waivers that EU countries may grant to specific categories of persons.

The regulation provides a common list of countries whose nationals must hold a visa when crossing the external borders of a (Member) State and a common list of those who are exempted from the visa requirement.

The two lists are regularly updated with successive amendments to Regulation (EC) No 539/2001. The decisions to change the lists of non-EU countries are taken on the basis of a case-by-case assessment of a variety of criteria also known as visa liberalisation benchmarks. Those include, *inter alia*:

- migration management;
- public policy and security;
- social benefits;
- economic benefit (tourism and foreign trade);
- external relations including considerations of human rights and fundamental freedoms; and
- regional coherence and reciprocity.

Notably, these decisions are sometimes taken as a result of successful visa liberalisation dialogues with the third countries concerned.⁷ Furthermore, Regulation 1289/2013 establishes a suspension mechanism to respond to emergency situations such as abuse resulting from Visa exemption. In this regard, the instrument sets out conditions under which Visa requirements can be temporarily reintroduced.

1.3 LITERATURE REVIEW AND AIM OF THE STUDY

Visa policies are considered a major instrument to regulate and control mobility and cross-border movements. Border policies dealing with short-term mobility represent the bulk of cross-border movement of people. While on the one hand migration policies have received considerable attention from comparative researchers, much less is known about global shifts in border policies dealing with short term mobility.⁸ Visa requirements often reflect the relationships between individual nations and generally affect the relations and status of a country within the international community of nations.⁹

In the adopted strategy for "A credible enlargement perspective for and enhanced EU engagement with the Western Balkans", the European Commission stated that visa liberalisation, which fosters

⁴ Based on Regulation 539/2011

⁵ Recital 26

⁶ Council Regulation (EC) No 539/2001 of 15 March 2001 listing the third countries whose nationals must be in possession of visas when crossing the external borders and those whose nationals are exempt from that requirement.- Official Journal L 081, 21.03.2001.

⁷ Visa requirements for non-EU nationals -<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legalcontent/EN/TXT/?uri=LEGISSUM:jl0031>.

⁸ Mau, Steffan, Gulzau, Fabian, Laube, Lene and Zaun Natascha (2015) The global mobility divide: How visa policies have evolved over time. *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies* 41, (8) pp. 1192-1213. ISSN 1369-183X

⁹ See: <http://www.henleyglobal.com/citizenship/visa-restrictions/> (accessed October 23, 2009)

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mobility, has improved regional cooperation and creates more open societies. The Commission shall monitor the continuous fulfilment of the specific requirements, which are based on Article 1 of Regulation (EC) No 539/2001 as amended by Regulation (EU) No 509/2014 and which were used to assess the appropriateness of granting visa liberalisation, by the third countries whose nationals have been exempted from the visa requirement when travelling to the territory of Member States as a result of a successful conclusion of a visa liberalisation dialogue conducted between the Union and that third country.¹⁰

Finding actual evidence concerning the effects of visa liberalization appeared to be a difficult task.¹¹ Studies conducted in the past have revealed that visa restrictions were costly, they carried an administrative burden and required additional personnel. The imposition of travel requirements did not reduce only inflows but also outflows, and thus, overall movement of persons.¹² In 2016, the Western Balkan region's total trade with the EU was over EUR 43 billion, up 80% since 2008.¹³ The importance of the visa liberalisation agreements has been demonstrated also by research that was pursued prior to the visa waiver agreements in light of the political commitments between the EU and its eastern neighbours, given the growing need for less division on the European continent.¹⁴ Furthermore, analysis showed that the prospects of visa liberalisation agreements constitute a powerful incentive for far-reaching reforms in the policy areas of freedom, security and justice.¹⁵ What has not been addressed thoroughly however, was whether measures affecting the granting of short-term visas could have an impact not only on short term travel but also on longer-term immigration and residence of foreign nationals.¹⁶ EU Member States have been facing different challenges caused by visa liberalisation, such as persisting irregular migration, and issues related to prevention and fight against organised crime.¹⁷

Whereas the limited research done in this field proved that there were clear benefits for the EU to conclude such agreements with third countries, the overall impact of visa liberalisation agreements with the Western Balkan and the Eastern Partnership countries remains vastly under-researched. Methodological challenges, such as research conducted in a fragmentary manner or the lack of uniform data across (Member) States had so far not allowed for a comparable analysis of the impact of visa liberalisation on the countries of destination.

Consequently, this EMN study aims to offer a comparative overview of (Member) States experiences with the functioning of visa-free regime. It will identify challenges, best practices and positive experience in different Member States and Norway, and provide up-to-date information on the latest tendencies in this area of migration policy. The study will cover Western Balkan and

¹⁰ Councils Regulation (EC) Nr. 539/2001 1a(2b).

¹¹ Forecasting migration between the EU, V4 and Eastern Europe, impact of visa abolition, Centre for Eastern Studies, 2014, https://www.osw.waw.pl/sites/default/files/migration_report_0.pdf

¹² The Effect of Visa Policies on International Migration Dynamics (2014), Working Papers, Paper 89, April 2014, University of Oxford, <https://pdfs.semanticscholar.org/23ae/89f7acdecb909aaa601210519ef48848917e.pdf>

¹³ Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions A credible enlargement perspective for and enhanced EU engagement with the Western Balkans - Strasbourg, 06.02.2018 COM(2018) 65 final.- https://ec.europa.eu/commission/sites/beta-political/files/communication-credible-enlargement-perspective-western-balkans_en.pdf

¹⁴ Consequences of Schengen Visa Liberalisation for the Citizens of Ukraine and the Republic of Moldova, Migration Policy Center, 2012, <http://cadmus.eui.eu/bitstream/handle/1814/23497/MPC-RR-2012-01.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y>

¹⁵ The Impact of Visa Liberalisation in Eastern Partnership Countries, Russia and Turkey on Trans-Border Mobility, CEPS Paper in Liberty and Security, 2014, <https://www.ceps.eu/publications/impact-visa-liberalisation-eastern-partnership-countries-russia-and-turkey-trans-border>

¹⁶ Forecasting migration between the EU, V4 and Eastern Europe, impact of visa abolition, Centre for Eastern Studies 2014, https://www.osw.waw.pl/sites/default/files/migration_report_0.pdf

¹⁷ Report from the Commission to the European Parliament and the Council First Report under the Visa Suspension Mechanism - Brussels, 20.12.2017 COM (2017) 815 final.- https://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/sites/homeaffairs/files/what-is-new/news/20171220_first_report_under_suspension_mechanism_en.pdf

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Eastern Partnership countries which have successfully concluded visa liberalisation dialogues according to the relevant action plans and roadmaps.

1.4 SCOPE OF THE STUDY

While there are 60 countries around the world that benefit from visa-free travel to the EU, in some cases, decisions on visa-free access to the Schengen Area may follow from bilateral negotiations (i.e. visa liberalisation dialogues).¹⁸ The visa liberalisation dialogues were successfully conducted between the EU and the **former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia** (2009), **Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina** (2010) as well as **Moldova** (2014), **Ukraine** (2017) and **Georgia** (2017). They resulted in granting visa-free travel to citizens of these countries.

This study will focus on those **Western Balkan and Eastern Partnership countries** which have successfully reached visa liberalisation agreements according to the relevant action plans and roadmaps, and more specifically on the **impact of visa liberalisation** on countries of destination. The visa-free regime is the most tangible benefit for the citizens of the Western Balkan countries in the process of their integration into the EU and one of the core objectives for the Eastern Partnership countries.

This study will consider the policies and practices of EU Member States and Norway following changes in migration flows raised by visa exemptions in the mentioned third countries. The scope of the study includes the period **2007-2017** and focuses on the immediate years prior to and after the visa waiver agreements entered into force.

Thus, the subjects of the study are third-country nationals¹⁹ from:

- Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (19/12/2009);
- Montenegro (19/12/2009);
- Serbia (19/12/2009);
- Albania (15/12/2010);
- Bosnia and Herzegovina (15/12/2010);
- Moldova (28/4/2014);
- Georgia (28/3/2017); and
- Ukraine (11/6/2017).

This study will limit itself in three respects: First, it investigates the impact of short-term Visa liberalisation and thus excludes effects of long-stay residence and Visa permits. Notwithstanding this limitation, the study may display medium and long-term impact on countries of destination ensuing from short-term Visa liberalisation.²⁰

Second, the study is based on the presumption that Visa liberalisation yields effects on cross-border mobility.²¹ Where it relies on quantitative data on short-term Visa mobility, it cannot establish a causal link between Visa liberalisation and cross-border mobility but rather indicates a correlative effect between the two.

¹⁸ See: http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_MEMO-17-5364_en.htm

¹⁹ Holders of biometric passports. The visa-free regime is valid for a period of maximum 90 days in any 180-day period.

²⁰ By doing so, the study tests the hypothesis of Czaika and De Haas who review short and long-term effects of Visa policies, including Visa waivers, on cross border mobility: Czaika, Mathias; De Haas, Hein: The Effect of Visas on Migration Processes. In: International Migration Review, Vol. 51, No. 4, pp. 893-926.

²¹ Which corroborates the findings of Landesmann, Leitner and Mara. Available at: <https://wiiw.ac.at/should-i-stay-should-i-go-back-or-should-i-move-further-contrasting-answers-under-diverse-migration-regimes-dlp-3561.pdf>

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Third, the study will not differentiate between TCNs from Visa exempt states who made use of the Visa free regime and those who entered the Union on a conventional short-term Visa regime. This limitation follows from the fact that Visa exemption is exclusively granted to TCNs who provide biometric passports and available data does not state the procedure pursuant to which (s)he entered the state of destination.

1.5 POLICY CONTEXT

At the political level, the Stockholm Programme underlined that the Visa Code “will create important new opportunities for further developing the common visa policy”. The Programme envisaged that “the access to the EU territory has to be made more effective and efficient” and that the visa policy should serve this goal.²² Visa liberalisation is one of the Union's most powerful tools in facilitating people-to-people contacts and strengthening ties between the citizens of third countries and the Union. At the same time, visa regimes are instrumental to restrict unlimited and unwanted migration and trans-border organised crime. Visa liberalisation is therefore granted to countries that are deemed safe and well-governed, meeting a number of criteria in various policy areas.

The EU has conducted bilateral negotiations with the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia, Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Moldova, Georgia and Ukraine.²³ Those dialogues were built upon ‘Visa Liberalisation Roadmaps’ for the Western Balkan countries and ‘Visa Liberalisation Action Plans’ (VLAP) for the Eastern Partnership countries. They included four blocks of requirements which the countries had to fulfil. These benchmarks related to document security, including biometrics; border management, migration and asylum; public order and security; and external relations and fundamental rights. These elements impinged both upon the policy and institutional framework (legislation and planning) as well as the effective and sustainable implementation of this framework.

During the visa liberalisation dialogues, the European Commission closely monitored the implementation of the Roadmaps and Action Plans through regular progress reports. It assessed the progress of all five Western Balkan countries in meeting the visa roadmap requirements first on 18 November 2008 and then on 18 May 2009.²⁴ Likewise, it has delivered progress reports on the implementation of the Action Plans on Visa Liberalisation for the Eastern Partnership countries.²⁵

Third countries that have concluded visa facilitation agreements with the EU should not only meet the benchmark criteria in advance, but continue complying with the visa liberalisation requirements after the agreement is reached. The Commission has the duty to monitor this compliance and report on those matters to the European Parliament and the Council, at least once a year in accordance with Article 1a (2b) of Regulation (EC) No 539/2011.

The European Commission published its First Report under the Visa Suspension Mechanism in December 2017. It focused on specific areas identified for each country where further monitoring and actions were considered necessary to ensure the continuity and sustainability of the progress achieved in the framework of the visa liberalisation process.²⁶

²² The Impact of Visa Liberalisation in Eastern Partnership Countries, Russia and Turkey on Trans-Border Mobility, CEPS Paper in Liberty and Security - <https://www.ceps.eu/publications/impact-visa-liberalisation-eastern-partnership-countries-russia-and-turkey-trans-border>

²³ An overview of the progress reports for Moldova, Georgia and Ukraine can be found here: http://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/what-we-do/policies/international-affairs/eastern-partnership/visa-liberalisation-moldova-ukraine-and-georgia_en

²⁴ Available at: <http://www.esiweb.org/index.php?lang=en&id=353>

²⁵ Available at: https://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/what-we-do/policies/international-affairs/eastern-partnership/visa-liberalisation-moldova-ukraine-and-georgia_en

²⁶ Available at: https://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/sites/homeaffairs/files/what-is-new/news/20171220_first_report_under_suspension_mechanism_en.pdf

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Visa liberalisation with third countries is linked to the return and readmission policy, as well as to asylum applications and border controls. The Frontex alert mechanism is crucial in this regard, providing a detailed analysis of the dynamic migration inflow trends from the two regions. The Frontex alert reports are instrumental for better understanding the phenomenon of the abuse of visa liberalisation, assessing its development and identifying concrete measures to tackle the challenges.²⁷ The contribution of the (newly adopted) Entry-Exit System is expected to be also significant as, among others, it aims at increasing the efficiency of (border) controls towards third-country nationals.

In this context, the following EMN products are relevant for this study:

- 2017 EMN Study "Challenges and practices for establishing the identity of third-country nationals in migration procedures"²⁸
- 2016 EMN Study "Illegal employment of third-country nationals in the European Union"²⁹
- 2015 EMN Study "Information on voluntary return: how to reach irregular migrants not in contact with the authorities?"³⁰
- 2012 EMN Study "Visa policy as migration channel"³¹
- 2011 EMN Inform "Migration and Development"³²

2 METHODOLOGICAL CONSIDERATIONS

The National Reports should be primarily based on secondary sources. In particular, information on national policies and approaches will be a key source of information, while available evaluations and view of experts should provide evidence of good practices and challenges in existing approaches regarding visa liberalisation.

2.1 AVAILABLE STATISTICS

- **Eurostat data**³³: available period 2008 – 2017
 - Number of third-country nationals found to be illegally present – annual data (rounded) [migr_eipre]
 - Number of third-country nationals refused entry at the external borders – annual data (rounded) [migr_eirfs]
 - Number of third-country nationals ordered to leave – annual data (rounded) [migr_eiord]
 - Number of third-country nationals returned following an order to leave – annual data (rounded) [migr_eirtn]

²⁷ Available at:

[http://www.europarl.europa.eu/registre/docs_autres_institutions/commission_europeenne/sec/2011/1570/COM_SEC\(2011\)1570_EN.pdf](http://www.europarl.europa.eu/registre/docs_autres_institutions/commission_europeenne/sec/2011/1570/COM_SEC(2011)1570_EN.pdf)

²⁸ Available at: [https://ec.europa.eu/home-](https://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/sites/homeaffairs/files/00_eu_synthesis_report_identity_study_final_en_1.pdf)

[affairs/sites/homeaffairs/files/00_eu_synthesis_report_identity_study_final_en_1.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/sites/homeaffairs/files/00_eu_synthesis_report_identity_study_final_en_1.pdf)

²⁹ Available at: [https://ec.europa.eu/home-](https://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/sites/homeaffairs/files/00_eu_illegal_employment_synthesis_report_final_en_0.pdf)

[affairs/sites/homeaffairs/files/00_eu_illegal_employment_synthesis_report_final_en_0.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/sites/homeaffairs/files/00_eu_illegal_employment_synthesis_report_final_en_0.pdf)

³⁰ Available at:

https://emnbelgium.be/sites/default/files/publications/info_on_return_synthesis_report_20102015_final_0.pdf

³¹ Available at: [https://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/sites/homeaffairs/files/what-we-](https://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/sites/homeaffairs/files/what-we-do/networks/european_migration_network/reports/docs/emn-studies/migration-channel/00b_synthesis_report_visa_policy_as_migration_channel_final_april2013_en.pdf)

[do/networks/european_migration_network/reports/docs/emn-studies/migration-channel/00b_synthesis_report_visa_policy_as_migration_channel_final_april2013_en.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/sites/homeaffairs/files/what-we-do/networks/european_migration_network/reports/docs/emn-studies/migration-channel/00b_synthesis_report_visa_policy_as_migration_channel_final_april2013_en.pdf)

³² Available at: [https://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/sites/homeaffairs/files/what-we-](https://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/sites/homeaffairs/files/what-we-do/networks/european_migration_network/reports/docs/emn-studies/emn-informs/0a_emn_inform_apr2011_migration-development_january2013_en.pdf)

[do/networks/european_migration_network/reports/docs/emn-studies/emn-informs/0a_emn_inform_apr2011_migration-development_january2013_en.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/sites/homeaffairs/files/what-we-do/networks/european_migration_network/reports/docs/emn-studies/emn-informs/0a_emn_inform_apr2011_migration-development_january2013_en.pdf)

³³ Available at: <http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/data/database>

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- Number of return decisions [migr_eiord];
 - Number of return decisions effectively carried out [migr_eirtn];
 - Number of voluntary and forced returns [migr_eirt_vol];
 - Number of asylum applications (monthly and yearly) [migr_asyappctzm and migr_asyappctza];
 - Number of rejected asylum applications [migr_asydcfsta];
 - Number of first residence permits, by reason [migr_resfirst]:
 - Number of first residence permits for family reasons;
 - Number of first residence permits for study reasons;
 - Number of first residence permits for the purposes of remunerated activity.
 - Third-country nationals who have left the territory by type of assistance received and citizenship [migr_eirt_ass]
 - Third-country nationals who have left the territory to a third country by type of agreement procedure and citizenship [migr_eirt_agr]
 - Third-country nationals who have left the territory to a third country by destination country and citizenship [migr_eirt_des]
- **Frontex data**³⁴: available period 2009 – 2017
 - Number of detections of illegal border-crossings by sea and land
 - **Europol data**³⁵: available period 2007 – 2017
 - Data on criminal proceedings, investigations or suspects of criminal acts
 - **European Commission, DG HOME Schengen Visa statistics**³⁶: available period 2010-2016
 - Uniform visas applied for in Schengen States' consulates in third countries;
 - Total uniform visas issued (including multiple entry visas) in Schengen States' consulates in third countries;
 - Total uniform visas not issued in Schengen States' consulates in third countries.
- **National data**

The Study also requests national-level data (see study section tables). Any statistical indicator that does not have EU level data (e.g. Eurostat) will rely on national data (e.g. year 2007 for which Eurostat data is not available). Should the requested statistics not be available in (Member) State, EMN NCPs are asked to indicate this and specify, to the extent possible, the reasons why this is the case.

- **Other relevant datasets**

The European Visa Database:

<http://www.mogensholth.dk/evd/default.aspx>

University of Oxford's International Migration Institute:

³⁴ Available at: <http://frontex.europa.eu/trends-and-routes/migratory-routes-map/>

³⁵ Available at: <https://www.europol.europa.eu/activities-services/main-reports>

³⁶ Available at: https://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/what-we-do/policies/borders-and-visas/visa-policy_en#stats

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<https://www.imi.ox.ac.uk/data/demig-data>

Aggregated data on the Schengen area as a whole:

<https://www.schengenvisainfo.com/schengen-visa-statistics-third-country-2016/>

The World Bank's World Development Indicators - Movement of people across borders:

<http://wdi.worldbank.org/table/6.13>

2.2 DEFINITIONS

The following key terms are used in the Common Template. The definitions are taken from the EMN Glossary 5.0 (2017) and should be considered as indicative to inform this study.

When discussing about illegal or irregular migration there is no unified terminology concerning foreigners. The UN and EU recommend using the term irregular rather than illegal because the latter carries a criminal connotation and is seen as denying humanity to migrants. Entering a country in an irregular manner, or staying with an irregular status, is not a criminal offence but an infraction of minor offences or administrative regulations. As a result, referring to Resolution 1509 (2006) of the Council of Europe Parliamentary Assembly, 'illegal' is preferred when referring to a status or process, whereas 'irregular' is preferred when referring to a person.

Asylum seeker – In the global context, a person who seeks protection from persecution or serious harm in a country other than their own and awaits a decision on the application for protection under the Geneva Convention of 1951 and Protocol of 1967 in respect of which a final decision has not yet been taken.

Country of destination – The country that is a destination for migration flows (regular or irregular).

European Border Surveillance System – A common framework for the exchange of information and for the cooperation between EU Member States and the European Border and Coast Guard Agency (Frontex) to improve situational awareness and to increase reaction capability at the external borders for the purpose of detecting, preventing and combating irregular immigration and cross-border crime, and contributing to ensuring the protection and saving the lives of migrants.

Facilitators of the unauthorised entry, transit and residence – Intentionally assisting a person who is not a national of an EU Member State either to enter or transit across the territory of a Member State in breach of laws on the entry or transit of aliens, or, for financial gain, intentionally assisting them to reside within the territory of a Member State in breach of the laws of the State concerned on the residence of aliens. Definition is based on Article 1(1)(a) and (b) of Council Directive 2002/90/EC of 28 November 2002 defining the facilitation of unauthorised entry, transit and residence.³⁷

Fraudulent travel or identity document – Any travel or identity document: (i) that has been falsely made or altered in some material way by anyone other than a person or agency lawfully authorised to make or issue the travel or identity document on behalf of a State; or (ii) that has been improperly issued or obtained through misrepresentation, corruption or duress or in any other unlawful manner; or (iii) that is being used by a person other than the rightful holder.

Illegal employment of third-country nationals – Economic activity carried out in violation of provisions set by legislation.

Illegal employment of a legally staying third-country national – Employment of a legally staying third-country national working outside the conditions of their residence permit and / or without a work permit which is subject to each EU Member State's national law.

Illegal employment of an illegally staying third-country national – Employment of an illegally staying third-country national.

³⁷ Available at: <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=CELEX:32002L0090:EN:NOT>

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Irregular entry – In the global context, crossing borders without complying with the necessary requirements for legal entry into the receiving State. In the Schengen context, the entry of a third-country national into a Schengen Member State who does not satisfy Art. 6 of Regulation (EU) 2016/399 (Schengen Borders Code).

Irregular migration – Movement of persons to a new place of residence or transit that takes place outside the regulatory norms of the sending, transit and receiving countries. There is no clear or universally accepted definition of irregular migration. From the perspective of destination countries it is entry, stay or work in a country without the necessary authorization or documents required under immigration regulations. From the perspective of the sending country, the irregularity is for example seen in cases in which a person crosses an international boundary without a valid passport or travel document or does not fulfil the administrative requirements for leaving the country.

Irregular stay – The presence on the territory of a Member State, of a third-country national who does not fulfil, or no longer fulfils the conditions of entry as set out in Art. 5 of Regulation (EU) 2016/399 (Schengen Borders Code) or other conditions for entry, stay or residence in force in that Member State.

Overstay(er) – In the global context, a person who remains in a country beyond the period for which entry was granted. In the EU context, a person who has legally entered but then stayed in an EU Member State beyond the allowed duration of their permitted stay without the appropriate visa (typically 90 days), or of their visa and / or residence permit.

Passport – One of the types of travel documents (other than diplomatic, service/official and special) issued by the authorities of a State in order to allow its nationals to cross borders³⁸. All third-country nationals subject to the visa-free regime have to carry a biometric passport to qualify for visa-free travel in the EU (except for UK and Ireland). Non-biometric passport holders from the visa-free third countries require a Schengen visa to enter the EU.

Pull factor – The condition(s) or circumstance(s) that attract a migrant to another country.

Push factor – The condition(s) or circumstance(s) in a country of origin that impel or stimulate emigration.

Refusal of entry – In the global context, refusal of entry of a person who does not fulfil all the entry conditions laid down in the national legislation of the country for which entry is requested. In the EU context, refusal of entry of a third-country national at the external EU border because they do not fulfil all the entry conditions laid down in Art. 6(1) of Regulation (EC) No 399/2016 (Schengen Border Code) and do not belong to the categories of persons referred to in Art. 6(5) of that Regulation. Regulation (EU) 2017/458 subsequently amended the Schengen Borders Code to reinforce the rules governing the movement of persons across borders and the checks against relevant databases at external borders.

Regularisation – In the EU context, state procedure by which irregularly staying third-country nationals are awarded a legal status.

Return decision – An administrative or judicial decision or act, stating or declaring the stay of a third-country national to be illegal and imposing or stating an obligation to return.

Schengen Borders Code – The rules governing border control of persons crossing the external EU borders of the EU Member States.

Short - stay visa – The authorisation or decision of a Member State with a view to transit through or an intended stay on the territory of one or more or all the Member States of a duration of no more than 90 days in any 180-day period.

³⁸ Available at: [http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/ALL/?uri=CELEX:52011XC0722\(02\)](http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/ALL/?uri=CELEX:52011XC0722(02))

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Third-country national – Any person who is not a citizen of the European Union within the meaning of Art. 20(1) of TFEU and who is not a person enjoying the European Union right to free movement, as defined in Art. 2 (6) of Regulation (EU) 2016/399 (Schengen Borders Code).

Third-country national found to be illegally present – A third-country national who is officially found to be on the territory of a Member State and who does not fulfil, or no longer fulfils, the conditions for stay or residence in that EU Member State.

Travel document – A document issued by a government or international treaty organisation which is acceptable proof of identity for the purpose of entering another country.

Visa – The authorisation or decision of a Member State required for transit or entry for an intended stay in that EU Member State or in several EU Member States.

Visa Code – Regulation outlining the procedures and conditions for issuing visas for transit through or intended stays in the territory of the Schengen Member States not exceeding 90 days in any 180-day period.

3 ADVISORY GROUP

For the purpose of providing support to EMN NCPs while undertaking this Study and for developing the Synthesis Report, an “Advisory Group” has been established, consisting of the original study proposer, LV EMN NCP, interested EMN NCPs, i.e. BE, CZ, DE, EE, LU, NL, NO, SI, SE, the European Commission and the EMN Service Provider (ICF). EMN NCPs are thus invited to send any requests for clarification or further information on the study to the following “Advisory Group” members:

Advisory Group Members	Email
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European Commission	Ramona.TOADER@ec.europa.eu Tania.VERLINDEN@ec.europa.eu Irregular migration and return policy - Dir C Migration and Protection

4 TIMETABLE

Date	Action
12 December 2017	First meeting of the Advisory Group for the Study (ICF Brussels) First draft proposal of the Common Template for review by Advisory Group / Odysseus / COM
6 March 2018	Second meeting of the Advisory Group for the Study Discussion on the revised first draft and work on the second draft of the Common Template begins
26 March 2018	Review by Advisory Group / Odysseus / EASO / COM of the second draft
4 April 2018	Deadline for second draft review of the Common Template by NCPs / Odysseus expert / EASO / COM and work on final draft begins
25 April	Deadline for final draft review and preparation to launch the study
8 May	Launch of the study
31 July	Submission of completed common template by NCPs
14 September	Circulation of the 1st draft of the Synthesis Report to all NCPs + EC + EASO + Odysseus experts to provide comments
28 September	Deadline for the NCPs to provide comments on 1st draft
12 October	Circulation of the 2nd draft of the SR to all NCPs + EC + EASO + Odysseus experts to provide comments

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Date	Action
26 October	Deadline for the NCPs to provide comments on 2nd draft
9 November	Circulation of the 3rd draft of the SR to all NCPs+ EC + EASO + Odysseus experts to provide final comments
16 November	Deadline for the NCPs to provide the final comments
30 November 2018	Finalisation of the Study, publication and dissemination

5 TEMPLATE FOR NATIONAL CONTRIBUTIONS

The template outlines the information that should be included in the National Contributions to this Study in a manner that makes the contributions reasonably comparable. The expected maximum number of pages to be covered by each section is provided in the guidance note. For national contributions the total number of pages should **not exceed 30 pages**, excluding the statistics.

A description of how each section will appear in the Synthesis Report is included at the beginning of each section so that EMN NCPs have an indication of how the contributions will feed into the Synthesis Report.

A limit of **40 pages** will apply to the Synthesis Report, in order to ensure that it remains concise and accessible.

Common Template of EMN Study 2018

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National Contribution from (**Member**) State³⁹

Disclaimer: The following information has been provided primarily for the purpose of contributing to a Synthesis Report for this EMN Study. The EMN NCP has provided information that is, to the best of its knowledge, up-to-date, objective and reliable within the context and confines of this study. The information may thus not provide a complete description and may not represent the entirety of the official policy of the EMN NCPs' (Member) State.

Top-line "Factsheet"

National Contribution (one page only)

Overview of the National Contribution – drawing out key facts and figures from across all sections of the Study, with a particular emphasis on the elements that will be of relevance to (national) policymakers. Please add any innovative or visual presentations that can carry through into the synthesis report as possible infographics and visual elements.

Since 1 April 2013, the Republic of Croatia has been applying the European Union's Common Visa Policy. Pursuant to the Government's Decision, the Republic of Croatia applies the Decision No 565/2014/EU according to which all third-country nationals who are holders of valid Schengen documents, as well as national visas and residence permits of Bulgaria, Cyprus, and Romania do not require an additional (Croatian) visa for Croatia.

Although visa liberalisation between the EU and the **Western Balkan** countries was conducted prior Croatian accession to the EU, following harmonisation with the EU visa system, Croatia has faced the growth in arrivals from the nationals of **Bosnia and Herzegovina** out of all other countries that are subject to this Study. Nevertheless, any identified changes in migration flows linked to the countries of Western Balkan are not related to the visa free-regime, but more since those countries have a historical links with Croatia, have a family relation (e.g. Croats are constitutive nation in Bosnia and Herzegovina), and/or found Croatia touristic attractive.

Regarding the countries of the Eastern Partnership, **Moldova** (2014), **Ukraine** (2017) and **Georgia** (2017), there were no any significant changes identified in migration flows after the commencement of visa-free regime was disaggregated. Only impact has been a decrease of the number of visa applications and consequently of the budget, a minimal increase of number of visitors staying in the hotels and increase of residence permit applications only for Ukrainians. However, an increase of the residence permit for Ukrainians was noted one year before the visa liberalisation was conducted. Hence, this should not be fully considered as an impact of the visa-free regime for Ukraine. Moreover, collaboration with Ukraine has improved in the field of labour migration after the introduction of visa liberalisation like the signing of the Co-operation Agreement between the Croatian Employment Service of Ukraine and Croatian Employment Service in April 2018, while the signing of the Agreement in the field of seasonal work of citizens of Ukraine in the Republic of Croatia in June 2018.

In summary, Croatia has not faced notable impact in migration area as such after the introduction

³⁹ Replace highlighted text with your (**Member**) State name here.

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of visa free-regime to Moldova, Georgia, and Ukraine. Likely, Croatia envisages that substantial impacts, especially for Ukrainian nationals, will be expected in the following years.

In addition to that, Croatia have not had any burdens since the introduction of the visa-free regime, and therefore have not implemented any measures in this regard.

Section 1: The National Framework

National Contribution (max. 6 pages, excluding statistics)

The aim of this Section is to provide an insight into the scale and scope of Member States experiences after the visa-free regime at national and EU level, as evidenced by quantitative and qualitative information. The section will also analyse the short and long-term trends after the visa-free regime entered into force, pull factors and links between the countries of origin and destination.

The synthesis report will aim to include infographics and visuals, therefore please take that into account when answering the questions / filling the tables by adding any innovative or visual presentations in your national reports that can carry through into the synthesis report. We also welcome any photos/images which are captioned, relevant and (data) protected with your national contribution.

When answering the questions in this section please consider the statistical data as presented in the tables listed below and detailed in Section 1.2:

Table 1.2.1: Total number of external border-crossings (persons) by nationals of visa-free countries;

Table 1.2.2: Total number of detections of irregular border-crossings from nationals of visa-free countries;

Table 1.2.3: Total number of short-stay visa applications by third country;

Table 1.2.4: Total number of short-stay visa application refusals by third country;

Table 1.2.5: Total number of asylum applications received from visa-free countries;

Table 1.2.6: Total number of positive decisions on asylum applicants from visa-free countries;

Table 1.2.7: Total number of negative decisions on asylum applicants from visa-free countries;

Table 1.2.8: Total number of positive and negative decisions on asylum applicants (top five nationalities, not limited to visa-free countries);

Table 1.2.9: Total number of residence permits applications (all residence permits) by third country;

Table 1.2.10: Total number of identity document fraud instances by third country;

If you do not have data as requested in the above tables, please explain why this is the case after each table in the relevant box.

Please do not leave any answer box or table cell blank or empty and insert N/A, NI or 0 as applicable.⁴⁰

SECTION 1.1: DESCRIPTION OF NATIONAL SITUATION

Q1.1 Please provide an analysis of the short term (within two years) and long-term (beyond two years) trends which appeared in your Member State after the commencement of visa-free regimes disaggregated by region and third countries of interest.⁴¹

⁴⁰ N/A – not applicable, NI – no information, 0 - collected data resulted in 0 cases.

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Please answer this question by making a link with the data presented in Tables 1.2.1, 1.2.2, 1.2.3, 1.2.4, 1.2.5 and 3.2.2.

Western Balkans - FYROM, Montenegro, Serbia, Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina:

Visa liberalisation between the EU and the **Western Balkan** countries was conducted prior Croatian accession to the EU. Any trends mentioned below covering short term and long-term period after the commencement of visa free- regimes disaggregated to third countries of interest at the EU level do not apply for Croatia.

Statistic summary covering short-term and long-term period

Within two years after the commencement of visa-free regime disaggregated to Western Balkan countries at the EU level, the number of detections of irregular border-crossings significantly decreased for nationals of FYROM (by 90%), Serbia (by 80%), Montenegro (by 75%), Albania (by 65%), and Bosnia and Herzegovina (by 40%). Covering a long-term period after the commencement of visa-regime the number of irregular border-crossings has stagnated for all countries, except for **Albanian** nationals, where it is identified the increase in irregular border-crossing as of 2014 until 2017 compare to 2011 and 2012 when the decrease was detected.

In the short-term period the number of asylum applications received from FYROM, Albania, and Bosnia Herzegovina has been a little decreased, while from Serbia much higher decrease of asylum applications is identified. The number of applications in the long-term period has been decreased in double, although an increase, but not significant, is noticed in **2016 and 2017** from **FYROM, Serbia, Albania, and Bosnia and Herzegovina** nationals. However, the total of applications, in general, is still quite low.

Total number of return decisions issued to nationals from the visa-free countries is decreased as well for all countries, within 2 years period after the commencement of visa-free regime, and this continued to apply for the longer period, except for **Albania** where it is identified increase of issued return decision as of 2014 until 2017.

As a conclusion, apart from other countries, Albania differs in terms of increase of the number of irregular border-crossings, which effected an increase of issuing the return decision during period of 2014 – 2017, regardless of the visa-free regime.

Eastern Partnership - Moldova, Georgia, Ukraine:

There were not identified any oscillation in the number of detections of irregular border-crossings and/or number of issued return decisions after the commencement of visa-free regime disaggregated to nationals from Moldova, Georgia, and Ukraine. Moreover, there were no asylum applications received from Moldova, Georgia or Ukraine.

Finally, visa-free regime disaggregated to Moldova, Georgia or Ukraine has not influenced in any new trends for the nationals of those countries in Croatia.

⁴¹ Please use information such as: increase of entries, number of asylum applications, refusals of entry, return and removal decisions in your answers.

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Q1.2. What are the main links between the countries of origin and your Member State or the applicable 'pull factors'⁴² disaggregated by region and third countries of interest?

Western Balkans - FYROM, Montenegro, Serbia, Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina:

The geography of Croatia is defined by its location— it is described as being a part of south-eastern Europe. Bordered, apart by other countries, by Bosnia and Herzegovina (for 1,009.1 km), Serbia (for 317.6 km) in the east, and Montenegro (for 22.6 km) in the south. Croatia is inhabited mostly by Croats (90%), while main minorities include Serbs (4.5%). In addition to the Serbs, there are small groups of Bosnian Muslims (Bosniaks), as well as a few thousand Albanians and fewer other nationalities that are a target group of this Study.

Croatia was a part of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (SFRY), together with Bosnia and Herzegovina, Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia (including the provinces of Kosovo and Vojvodina) and Slovenia, from 1946 until June 1991 when had declared independence. Difficult period in recent Croatian history was in the early 1990s when the Croats fought to expunge Serbs from areas they claimed were an intrinsic part of the Croatian state. These four years of struggle ended in 1995.

Many ethnic Croats reside in Bosnia and Herzegovina, where Croats have lived since the Slavs first migrated in the 6th and 7th centuries. Many of the Serbs in Croatia are descendants of people who migrated to the border areas of the Holy Roman Empire between the 16th and 18th centuries, following the Ottoman conquest of Serbia and Bosnia.

Croats speak Croatian, a South Slavic language of the Indo-European family which is a quite similar to Serbian and Bosnian. Therefore, there are no language barrier which is an edit value in case of job mobility.

The Croatian economy is very open to international trade. However, trade with Croatia's neighbours in south-eastern Europe is also significant. Bosnia and Herzegovina are a top buyer of Croatian exports.

Eastern Partnership - Moldova, Georgia, Ukraine:

⁴² These may include: presence of diaspora, historical links between countries, social assistance received by asylum seekers, probability of receiving a residence permit/long-term visa, schemes (tourism, family ties, business) for attracting certain categories of migrants using visa-free regime.

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Before 1991, Croatia and both Ukraine and Moldova were part of multinational socialist states, SFR Yugoslavia and Soviet Union. Croatia declared independence from Yugoslavia in June 1991. Ukraine and Moldova proclaimed independence from the Soviet Union in August 1991. There are many similarities in the Croatian and Ukrainian languages and closeness of cultures between with many historical connections. Moreover, a good commodity trade was identified in 2017 between Croatia and Ukraine.

Croatia's official positions on EU enlargement to the Eastern Partnership states were less frequent and unambiguous compared to the strong support for the Western Balkans. But since the outbreak of the crisis in Ukraine, Croatia intensified cooperation with the Eastern Neighbourhood countries in transmitting its recent EU accession experiences. It also signed several cooperation agreements and memorandums of understanding with these countries. In December 2014, the Croatian Parliament ratified the EU Association Agreements with Ukraine, Georgia, and Moldova. Croatia was arguing in favour of visa liberalization with Georgia and Ukraine.

Croatia has strongly been advocating for an EU perspective of Ukraine and other Eastern Partnership states. In the European Parliament, Mr. Plenkovic hold a position as a president of the EU-Ukraine Parliamentary Association Committee. He was elected as Head of the European Parliament observer delegation at the parliamentary elections in Ukraine held in October 2014. In July 2015 Mr. Plenkovic was declared one of the four "best friends of Ukraine" by the Brussels-based weekly, Kyiv Post. In March 2015 Mr. Plenkovic chaired the public hearing in the European Parliament on the European Neighbourhood Policy.

Q1.3. Which national institutions and/or authorities are involved in implementing the visa liberalisation process and what is their respective role in this process?⁴³

The Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs is the central authority for issuing visas, as well as providing political and technical opinions regarding visa liberalisation on the EU level. However, once the visa liberalisation is implemented, other institutions, i.e. the Ministry of the Interior is in charge of data analysis regarding overstay, illegal border crossing, criminal activities of third country nationals and similar.

Q1.4. Were there changes in your national legislation in connection with the introduction of the visa-free regimes? If yes, please explain their scope and impact on nationals coming from the third countries analysed in this study?

Since 1 April 2013, the Republic of Croatia has been applying the European Union's Common Visa Policy. The Regulation on visa regime lays down the visa regime of the Republic of Croatia in accordance with Article 4 of Council Regulation (EC) No 539/2001 of 15 March 2001 listing the third countries whose nationals must be in possession of visas when crossing the external borders and those whose nationals are exempt from that requirement (OJ L 81, 21.03.2001), as last amended by Regulation (EU) No 509/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 15 May 2014 amending Council Regulation (EC) No 539/2001. Each visa liberalisation must be mirrored through the changes of the EU visa acquis.

⁴³ For example: changes in instructions for border patrol agents and in equipment.

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Q1.5. Where there any public/policy debates related to the visa liberalisation process in you (Member) State? If yes, what were the main issues discussed and how did this impact national policy?

There were no public debates on the topic of the visa liberalisation, except some intergovernmental consultations related to that topic.

Q1.6. Do you have any other remarks relevant to this section that were not covered above? If yes, please highlight them below.

No.

Impact of visa liberalisation on countries of destination**SECTION 1.2: STATISTICAL INFORMATION**

Please provide, to the extent possible, the following statistics (with their source) along with, if necessary, an explanatory note to interpret them in particular when the statistics provided are partial, had to be estimated (e.g. on the basis of available statistics that differs from the below, or of first-hand research) or when they reflect any particular trends (e.g. a change in policy). If statistics are not available, please try to indicate an order of magnitude and why they are not available. When available, statistics from Eurostat should be used and presented annually covering the period between 2008 and 2017 inclusive. For year 2007, national data should be provided, if available.

At a minimum please provide data two years before and after the waiver agreement date for each third country (as highlighted in green in each table). Ideally, the study aims to present data for the whole period if available (e.g. from Eurostat).

When filling in the tables please do not leave blank cells and follow these conventions:

N/A – not applicable, in cases where the question is not applicable to your (Member) State please insert N/A in relevant cells.

NI – no information, in cases where there is no data available please insert NI in relevant cells.

0 – insert 0 whenever you have collected data and the result was 0.

*Impact of visa liberalisation on countries of destination*Table 1.2.1: Total number of external border-crossings (persons) by nationals of visa-free countries⁴⁴

Indicator	Period of interest (2007-2017) <i>(insert all available data or <u>at least</u> 2 years prior and after the visa waiver agreement date)</i>											Additional Information <i>(e.g. data source(s), explanation of trends and numbers for this indicator)</i>
	2007	2008	*2009	*2010	2011	2012	2013	*2014	2015	2016	*2017	
Total number of external border-crossings (persons) by nationals of visa-free countries												
FYROM	NI											
		NI	NI	NI	NI	NI	NI	NI	NI	NI	NI	
Montenegro	NI	NI	NI	NI	NI	NI	NI	NI	NI	NI	NI	
Serbia	NI	NI	NI	NI	NI	NI	NI	NI	NI	NI	NI	
Albania	NI	NI	NI	NI	NI	NI	NI	NI	NI	NI	NI	
Bosnia and Herzegovina	NI	NI	NI	NI	NI	NI	NI	NI	NI	NI	NI	
Moldova	NI	NI	NI	NI	NI	NI	NI	NI	NI	NI	NI	
Georgia	NI	NI	NI	NI	NI	NI	NI	NI	NI	NI	NI	
Ukraine	NI	NI	NI	NI	NI	NI	NI	NI	NI	NI	NI	
Total	NI	NI	NI	NI	NI	NI	NI	NI	NI	NI	NI	
Total number of external border crossings (persons)⁴⁵	NI	NI	NI	NI	NI	NI	NI	NI	NI	NI	NI	

⁴⁴ Information to be provided by inserting national data as gathered by competent authorities. The indicator refers to border-crossings at the external borders of the EU plus NO.

⁴⁵ All nationalities apply, to calculate the proportion out of the total number of border crossings (persons)

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**Visa waiver agreement dates: FYROM, Montenegro and Serbia (19/12/2009), Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina (15/12/2010), Moldova (28/4/2014), Georgia (28/3/2017) and Ukraine (11/6/2017).*

If you do not have data as requested in the above table (e.g. for year 2007), please explain why this is the case below:

Data are being collected after entering into force Regulation (EU) 2017/458 of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Regulation (EU) 2016/399 as regards the reinforcement of checks against relevant databases at external borders, as of 15 Mar 2017.

*Impact of visa liberalisation on countries of destination*Table 1.2.2: Total number of detections of irregular border-crossings from nationals of visa-free countries⁴⁶

Indicator	Period of interest (2007-2017) (insert all available data or <u>at least</u> 2 years prior and after the visa waiver agreement date)											Additional Information (e.g. data source(s), explanation of trends and numbers for this indicator)
	2007	2008	*2009	*2010	2011	2012	2013	*2014	2015	2016	*2017	
Total number of detections of irregular border-crossings from nationals of visa-free countries												
FYROM	280	181	96	22	19	26	27	32	29	11	12	Data source – IS MOI
Montenegro	35	25	28	6	8	6	8	7	9	2	3	Data source – IS MOI
Serbia	1468	603	192	141	136	114	78	103	78	103	92	Data source – IS MOI
Albania	1015	170	175	307	102	176	263	421	380	435	401	Data source – IS MOI
Bosnia and Herzegovina	517	454	520	408	267	323	195	187	171	137	129	Data source – IS MOI
Moldova	19	15	2	2	2	0	0	1	0	3	0	Data source – IS MOI
Georgia	8	1	1	4	6	2	1	0	2	0	1	Data source – IS MOI
Ukraine	15	2	3	4	6	4	3	9	7	8	7	Data source – IS MOI
Total	3357	1451	1017	894	546	651	575	760	676	699	645	Data source – IS MOI
Total number of detections of irregular border-crossings⁴⁷	4352	2366	1868	2435	3824	6839	4734	3914	3759	4496	4808	2015 and 2016 are only numbers for regional flow, it doesn't include "migration crisis"

*Visa waiver agreement dates: FYROM, Montenegro and Serbia (19/12/2009), Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina (15/12/2010), Moldova (28/4/2014), Georgia (28/3/2017) and Ukraine (11/6/2017).

⁴⁶ Information to be provided by inserting national data as gathered by competent authorities. Also see Frontex: Number of detections of illegal border-crossings by sea and land; Available at: <http://frontex.europa.eu/trends-and-routes/migratory-routes-map/>

⁴⁷ All nationalities apply, to calculate the proportion out of the total number of irregular border crossings.

Impact of visa liberalisation on countries of destination

If you do not have data as requested in the above table (e.g. for year 2007), please explain why this is the case below:

N/A.

*Impact of visa liberalisation on countries of destination*Table 1.2.3: Total number of short-stay visa applications by third country⁴⁸

Indicator	Period of interest (2007-2017) <i>(insert all available data or at least 2 years prior the visa waiver agreement date)</i>											Additional Information <i>(e.g. data source(s), explanation of trends and numbers for this indicator)</i>	
	2007	2008	*2009	*2010	2011	2012	2013	*2014	2015	2016	*2017		
Total number of short-stay visa applications by third country													
FYROM				N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	
Montenegro				N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	
Serbia				N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	
Albania					N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	
Bosnia and Herzegovina					N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	
Moldova							98	23	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	
Georgia							49	178	208	202	10		
Ukraine							13015	8919	8216	11231	3371		
Total							13162	9120	8424	11433	3381		
Total number of short-stay visa applications – all third countries⁴⁹							49958	76594	58898	66401	59693		

⁴⁸ See DG HOME Schengen Visa statistics, Available at: https://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/what-we-do/policies/borders-and-visas/visa-policy_en#stats. For MS that still apply visa requirements, please remove the N/A and complete the table in full.

⁴⁹ All nationalities apply, to calculate the proportion out of the total number of short-stay visa applications.

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**Visa waiver agreement dates: FYROM, Montenegro and Serbia (19/12/2009), Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina (15/12/2010), Moldova (28/4/2014), Georgia (28/3/2017) and Ukraine (11/6/2017).*

If you do not have data as requested in the above table (e.g. for year 2007), please explain why this is the case below:

Croatian Visa Information System (HVIS) (Official Gazette No. 36/13 and 105/17), Article 27 Paragraph (1) regulates that data in HVIS should be stored at a maximum of five years. Thus, only available statistical data are from 2013 onwards.	
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*Impact of visa liberalisation on countries of destination*Table 1.2.4: Total number of short-stay visa application refusals by third country⁵⁰

Indicator	Period of interest (2007-2017) <i>(insert all available data or at least 2 years prior the visa waiver agreement date)</i>											Additional Information <i>(e.g. data source(s), explanation of trends and numbers for this indicator)</i>	
	2007	2008	*2009	*2010	2011	2012	2013	*2014	2015	2016	*2017		
FYROM				N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	
Montenegro				N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	
Serbia				N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	
Albania					N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	
Bosnia and Herzegovina					N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	
Moldova							0	1	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	
Georgia							0	0	3	1	0	0	
Ukraine							1	8	19	11	4	4	
Total							1	9	22	12	4	4	
Total number of short-stay visa application refusals – all third countries⁵¹							252	880	1065	1362	1427		

⁵⁰ See DG HOME Schengen Visa statistics, Available at: https://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/what-we-do/policies/borders-and-visas/visa-policy_en#stats. For MS that still apply visa requirements, please remove the N/A and complete the table in full.

⁵¹ All nationalities apply, to calculate the proportion out of the total number of short-stay visa application refusals.

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**Visa waiver agreement dates: FYROM, Montenegro and Serbia (19/12/2009), Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina (15/12/2010), Moldova (28/4/2014), Georgia (28/3/2017) and Ukraine (11/6/2017).*

If you do not have data as requested in the above table (e.g. for year 2007), please explain why this is the case below:

Croatian Visa Information System (HVIS) (Official Gazette No. 36/13 and 105/17), Article 27 Paragraph (1) regulates that data in HVIS should be stored at a maximum of five years. Therefore, only available statistical data are from 2013 onwards.

*Impact of visa liberalisation on countries of destination*Table 1.2.5: Total number of asylum applications received from visa-free countries⁵²

Indicator	Period of interest (2007-2017)											Additional Information (e.g. data source(s), explanation of trends and numbers for this indicator)
	<i>(insert all available data or at least 2 years prior and after the visa waiver agreement date)</i>											
Total number of asylum applications received from visa-free countries	2007	2008	*2009	*2010	2011	2012	2013	*2014	2015	2016	*2017	
FYROM		5	5	1	1	1	5			5	10	
Montenegro		1	1	1					5			
Serbia		40	14	5	5	1		5	5	15	5	
Albania		3	3	1		1				5	5	
Bosnia and Herzegovina		9	9	12	4	3	5	10	5		10	
Moldova				2	1							
Georgia			3	1	2	1						
Ukraine			4	2	4	4		10	10	5		
Total		58	39	25	17	11	10	20	25	25	30	
Total number of asylum applications – all third countries⁵³		NI	NI	NI	NI	NI	NI	NI	NI	NI	NI	

*Visa waiver agreement dates: FYROM, Montenegro and Serbia (19/12/2009), Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina (15/12/2010), Moldova (28/4/2014), Georgia (28/3/2017) and Ukraine (11/6/2017).

⁵² See Eurostat: Asylum and first time asylum applicants by citizenship, age and sex Annual aggregated data (rounded) [migr_asyappctza]. For Georgia and Ukraine, monthly date may be considered.

⁵³ All nationalities apply, to calculate the proportion out of the total number of asylum applications.

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If you do not have data as requested in the above table (e.g. for year 2007), please explain why this is the case below:

N/A.

*Impact of visa liberalisation on countries of destination*Table 1.2.6: Total number of positive decisions on asylum applicants from visa-free countries⁵⁴

Indicator	Period of interest (2007-2017)											Additional Information (e.g. data source(s), explanation of trends and numbers for this indicator)
	<i>(insert all available data or at least 2 years prior and after the visa waiver agreement date)</i>											
Total number of <u>positive</u> decisions on asylum applicants from visa-free countries	2007	2008	*2009	*2010	2011	2012	2013	*2014	2015	2016	*2017	
FYROM												
Montenegro												
Serbia			1									
Albania												
Bosnia and Herzegovina												
Moldova				2								
Georgia				4								
Ukraine			1		1	4						
Total			2	6	1	4						

*Visa waiver agreement dates: FYROM, Montenegro and Serbia (19/12/2009), Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina (15/12/2010), Moldova (28/4/2014), Georgia (28/3/2017) and Ukraine (11/6/2017).

If you do not have data as requested in the above table (e.g. for year 2007), please explain why this is the case below:

N/A.

⁵⁴ See Eurostat: First instance decisions on applications by citizenship, age and sex Annual aggregated data (rounded) [migr_asydcfsta]; Total positive decisions, including only refugee status and subsidiary protection, rounded up to the unit of 5.

*Impact of visa liberalisation on countries of destination*Table 1.2.7: Total number of negative decisions on asylum applicants from visa-free countries⁵⁵

Indicator	Period of interest (2007-2017) <i>(insert all available data or at least 2 years prior and after the visa waiver agreement date)</i>											Additional Information <i>(e.g. data source(s), explanation of trends and numbers for this indicator)</i>
	2007	2008	*2009	*2010	2011	2012	2013	*2014	2015	2016	*2017	
FYROM		4	5	1	1	1	4	1	2	4	2	
Montenegro		1	1	1					10			
Serbia		38	14	5	5	5	2	5	8	11	3	
Albania			3	1		1		1	1	3	7	
Bosnia and Herzegovina		9	9	11	4	3	7	8	8	3	6	
Moldova					1					1		
Georgia			1	1	1	1			1			
Ukraine			3	1	1	4	1	9	7	3		
Total		52	36	21	13	15	14	24	37	25	18	

*Visa waiver agreement dates: FYROM, Montenegro and Serbia (19/12/2009), Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina (15/12/2010), Moldova (28/4/2014), Georgia (28/3/2017) and Ukraine (11/6/2017).

If you do not have data as requested in the above table (e.g. for year 2007), please explain why this is the case below:

N/A.

⁵⁵ See Eurostat: First instance decisions on applications by citizenship, age and sex, Annual aggregated data (rounded) [migr_asydcfsta]

*Impact of visa liberalisation on countries of destination*Table 1.2.8: Total number of positive and negative decisions on asylum applicants (top five nationalities, not limited to visa-free countries)⁵⁶

Indicator	Period of interest (2007-2017) <i>(insert all available data)</i>											Additional Information <i>(e.g. data source(s), explanation of trends and numbers for this indicator)</i>
	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	
Total number of <u>positive</u> decisions on asylum applicants (top five nationalities, not limited to visa-free countries)												
<i>Nationality 1</i>					2	10	10			35	100	
<i>Nationality 2</i>				1					5	20	20	
<i>Nationality 3</i>					1					5	10	
<i>Nationality 4</i>		1	1	2	6					15	5	
<i>Nationality 5</i>						5			5		5	
Total		1	1	3	9	15	10		10	75	140	
Total number of <u>negative</u> decisions on asylum applicants (top five nationalities, not limited to visa-free countries)												
<i>Nationality 1</i>			21	86	374	10	10	5	5	15	70	
<i>Nationality 2</i>		1		43	17					5		

⁵⁶ This is to provide a broader context; any nationality may be included in the top five. See Eurostat: First instance decisions on applications by citizenship, age and sex Annual aggregated data (rounded) [migr_asydcfsta]; Total positive decisions, including only refugee status and subsidiary protection, rounded up to the unit of 5.

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Nationality 3		6	9	16	34					10	40	
Nationality 4		14	12	5	65	5	5	5	5	5	5	
Nationality 5				9	2	40	65	55	20	45	25	
Total		21	42	159	492	55	80	65	30	80	140	

If you do not have data as requested in the above table (e.g. for year 2007), please explain why this is the case below:

N/A.

*Impact of visa liberalisation on countries of destination*Table 1.2.9: Total number of residence permits applications (all residence permits) by visa-free country⁵⁷

Indicator	Period of interest (2007-2017) <i>(insert all available data or at least 2 years prior and after the visa waiver agreement date)</i>											Additional Information <i>(e.g. data source(s), explanation of trends and numbers for this indicator)</i>
	2007	2008	*2009	*2010	2011	2012	2013	*2014	2015	2016	*2017	
Total number of residence permits applications (all residence permits) by visa-free country												
FYROM	1055	1286	1244	990	927	975	229	261	234	249		
Montenegro	86	83	101	105	119	114	39	41	59	76		
Serbia	1571	1517	1535	1544	1639	1497	430	456	446	678		
Albania	12	15	21	28	26	32	18	18	16	21		
Bosnia and Herzegovina	8119	12745	12079	9010	7661	6281	1284	1002	866	2381		
Moldova	56	51	37	29	26	19	4	2	7	6		
Georgia	4	4	14	3	3	4	1	2	1	1		
Ukraine	215	232	240	246	266	263	67	98	116	294		
Total	11118	15933	15271	11955	10667	9185	2072	1880	1745	3707		
Total number of residence permits applications (all residence permits)⁵⁸	19920	26139	25881	21979	20671	19471	19560	15169	12379	16237		

⁵⁷ Information to be provided by inserting national data as gathered by competent authorities. Also see Eurostat - Number of first residence permits issued by reason, EU-28, 2008-2016 [migr_resfirst]

⁵⁸ All nationalities apply, to calculate the proportion out of the total number of residence permit applications.

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**Visa waiver agreement dates: FYROM, Montenegro and Serbia (19/12/2009), Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina (15/12/2010), Moldova (28/4/2014), Georgia (28/3/2017) and Ukraine (11/6/2017).*

If you do not have data as requested in the above table (e.g. for year 2007), please explain why this is the case below:

N/A.

*Impact of visa liberalisation on countries of destination*Table 1.2.10: Total number of identity document fraud instances by visa-free country⁵⁹

Indicator	Period of interest (2007-2017) (insert all available data or <u>at least</u> 2 years prior and after the visa waiver agreement date)											Additional Information (e.g. data source(s), explanation of trends and numbers for this indicator)
	2007	2008	*2009	*2010	2011	2012	2013	*2014	2015	2016	*2017	
Total number of identity document fraud instances by visa-free country												
FYROM	62	33	8	5	1	5	2	3	2	9	2	Data source: IS MOI, NBMIS
Montenegro	6	4	2	1	0	2	3	4	1	2	1	Data source: IS MOI, NBMIS
Serbia	231	129	55	29	16	17	20	29	20	18	19	Data source: IS MOI, NBMIS
Albania	8	2	5	10	7	26	81	109	79	67	30	Data source: IS MOI, NBMIS
Bosnia and Herzegovina	44	41	35	41	49	19	25	38	41	35	9	Data source: IS MOI, NBMIS
Moldova	3	4	2	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	Data source: IS MOI, NBMIS
Georgia	1	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	Data source: IS MOI, NBMIS
Ukraine	13	4	3	0	1	0	2	2	0	3	1	Data source: IS MOI, NBMIS
Total	368	218	110	89	75	69	133	185	145	134	62	Data source: IS MOI, NBMIS
Total number of identity document fraud instances⁶⁰	500	321	253	206	248	242	285	330	315	234	199	Data source: IS MOI, NBMIS

*Visa waiver agreement dates: FYROM, Montenegro and Serbia (19/12/2009), Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina (15/12/2010), Moldova (28/4/2014), Georgia (28/3/2017) and Ukraine (11/6/2017).

⁵⁹ Information to be provided by inserting national data as gathered by competent authorities.

⁶⁰ All nationalities apply, to calculate the proportion out of the total number of identity document fraud instances.

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If you do not have data as requested in the above table (e.g. for year 2007), please explain why this is the case below:

N/A.

Impact of visa liberalisation on countries of destination**Section 2: Positive impact of visa liberalisation on (Member) States****National Contribution (max. 6 pages, excluding statistics)**

The aim of this Section is to analyse the positive impact of short-term visa liberalisation on countries of destination (i.e. Member States) and third-country nationals as evidenced by quantitative and qualitative information.

The synthesis report will aim to include infographics and visuals, therefore please take that into account when answering the questions / filling the tables by adding any innovative or visual presentations in your national reports that can carry through into the synthesis report. We also welcome any photos/images which are captioned, relevant and (data) protected with your national contribution.

When answering the questions in this section please consider the statistical data as presented in the tables listed below and detailed in Section 2.2:

Table 2.2.1: Total number of visitors staying in hotels and other accommodation establishments from the visa-free countries;

Table 2.2.2: Total number of first-time residence permit applications received from visa-free country nationals;

Table 2.2.3: Total number of first residence permits issued for remunerated activities reasons to visa-free country nationals;

Table 2.2.4: Total number of first residence permits issued for education reasons to visa-free country nationals;

Table 2.2.5: Total number of first residence permits issued to entrepreneurs (including self-employed persons) from visa-free countries.

If you do not have data as requested in the above tables, please explain why this is the case after each table in the relevant box.

Please do not leave any answer box or table cell blank or empty and insert N/A, NI or 0 as applicable.

SECTION 2.1: DESCRIPTION OF NATIONAL SITUATION

Q2.1. What impact did the visa liberalisation have on your (Member) State? Please provide a short description of your national situation.

Countries of the Western Balkan where visa exempted by the EU prior to Croatian accession to the EU, therefore identifying the impact after the introducing of the visa liberalization to those countries cannot be applied to Croatia.

In all, Croatia has the longest external EU border (more than 1,300 kilometres long) which touches besides some EU countries, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia, and Montenegro. Visa liberalisation, of primarily, Western Balkan countries has an edit value on the strengthening of the Croatian border control that contributes to the more effective migration management as those countries had to introduce biometric passports and improve passport security, likewise reinforce the institutional framework to better fight organised crime and corruption. Moreover, as Croatia is an extremely touristic country visa-free travel contributes that visitor of those countries can select Croatia as a tourist destination.

From the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs point of view, the only impact of the visa liberalisation, in relation to Eastern Partnership countries, has been decreased number of visa application and consequently budget (decrease in visa fees) in the Embassies/Consular Posts in third countries affected by the visa liberalisation.

Q2.1.1 If applicable, please categorise your answer to **Q2.1** by third country:

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Western Balkans - FYROM, Montenegro, Serbia, Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina:

Please refer to answer to the Q2.1.

Eastern Partnership - Moldova, Georgia, Ukraine:

There was no significant impact identified. Please refer to the last Paragraph to the answer Q2.1.

Q2.2. Did your (Member) State assess the impact of visa liberalisation as positive? If yes, please explain the reasons for your positive assessment and how this was reached (i.e. who was involved in the assessment and how they reached this conclusion). If no, explain why this is the case.

N/A.

Q2.2.1. Did your collaboration with relevant third countries improve within the field of migration since the introduction of visa liberalisation?⁶¹ If yes, please provide a short description and specific examples.

The Government of the Republic of Croatia adopted a decision to initiate procedures for concluding an Agreement with Ukraine in the field of seasonal work of citizens of Ukraine in the Republic of Croatia, and in the area of posted workers from companies based in Ukraine to work in the Republic of Croatia, in May 2018. The establishment of this cooperation would contribute to easier and faster provision of the necessary workforce to Croatian employers.

The international agreement has not yet been signed, and Ukraine's nationals in the Republic of Croatia can continue to work only through annual quota of foreigner's employment permits. Namely, the signing of international agreements is a complex process that includes the process of negotiating and in this moment, we cannot determine the timing of the process. It is important to point out that employers will even after the signing of the Agreement have to obtain a residence permit and work permit for Ukrainian citizens, but the citizens of Ukraine will not be limited by the annual quota of foreigner's employment permits but will be subject to the terms of the international agreement.

However, as a first step in cooperation with Ukraine in April 2018, the Agreement on Co-operation between the Croatian Employment Service and the State Employment Service of Ukraine was signed for exchanging experiences in the areas of the improvement of public employment services, provision of services to employers and provision of services to jobseekers.

Q2.2.2. Did your (Member) State identify specific economic benefits?⁶² If yes, please list them and provide a short description for each.

⁶¹ For example: in cases of return and readmission.

⁶² For example: an increase in direct investments from the respective third countries to your (Member) State.

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No.

Q2.2.3. Did your (Member) State experience a growth in tourism⁶³ from third-country nationals under the visa liberalisation regime? If yes, please provide a short description and specific examples.

Please answer this question by making a link with the data presented in Table 2.2.1.

No. Beginning of 2016 tourist that visited Croatia are registered with local tourist board through the eVisitor IT system, which provides insight into tourist traffic and accommodation capacities in Croatia. It generates statistical reports and marketing indicators in real time (i.e length of stay, location, gender, age, country of residence, type of facility, destination, etc), which enables more efficient monitoring of tourist traffic and revenues.

Regarding TCN's under the visa liberalisation regime covered by this Study, eVisitor has data for the following countries: FYROM, Montenegro, Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Ukraine. In general, the liberalization of visa regimes can be considered as a positive factor on emitive tourist travels, but data are showing the liberalization as itself is not creating a significant growth in tourism.

Q2.2.4. Did your (Member) State experience an impact on its labour market since the introduction of visa liberalisation? If yes, please provide a short description and specific examples, including background information on the link between visa free travel and access to the labour market in the national context.

Please answer this question by making a link with the data presented in Table 2.2.3.

No. The greatest number of issued working permits for the seasonal foreigners in 2017 were from nationals of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia, and Ukraine. However, this is not influenced by the introduction of visa liberalisation.

The Agreement on Co-operation between the Croatian Employment Service and the State Employment Service of Ukraine has been signed in May 2018, and after the introduction of visa liberalisation, in June 2018, an agreement between the Government of the Republic of Croatia and Ukraine on the employment of Ukrainian citizens on seasonal jobs in Croatia and the referral of companies based in Ukraine to work in Republic of Croatia.

Q2.2.5. Did your (Member) State experience a growth in the number of students arriving from third countries since the introduction of visa liberalisation? If yes, please provide a short description and specific examples.

Please answer this question by making a link with the data presented in Table 2.2.4.

No.

⁶³ For example: third-country national visitors staying in hotels and other accommodation establishments increased.

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Q2.2.6. Did your (Member) State experience a growth of entrepreneurship, including of self-employed persons from third countries since the introduction of visa liberalisation? If yes, please provide a short description and specific examples, including background information on the access to self-employment from visa free regimes in the national context.

Please answer this question by making a link with the data presented in Table 2.2.5.

No.

Q2.2.7. Did your (Member) State experience a growth in trade with third countries since the introduction of visa liberalisation? If yes, please provide a short description and specific examples (i.e. in which sectors / what type of goods or services).

No.

Q2.2.8. What other benefit (or positive impact) was identified by your (Member) State in relation to visa liberalisation that was not already captured in the previous questions, if applicable?⁶⁴

N/A.

⁶⁴ For example: agreements with third countries for exchange of students, scholars; social benefits (social assistance, social trust and cooperation).

SECTION 2.2 : STATISTICAL INFORMATION

Please provide, to the extent possible, the following statistics (with their source) along with, if necessary, an explanatory note to interpret them in particular when the statistics provided are partial, had to be estimated (e.g. on the basis of available statistics that differs from the below, or of first-hand research) or when they reflect any particular trends (e.g. a change in policy). If statistics are not available, please try to indicate an order of magnitude and why they are not available. When available, statistics from Eurostat should be used and presented annually covering the period between 2008 and 2017 inclusive. For year 2007, national data should be provided, if available.

At a minimum please provide data two years before and after the waiver agreement date for each third country (as highlighted in green in each table). Ideally, the study aims to present data for the whole period if available (e.g. from Eurostat).

When filling in the tables please do not leave blank cells and follow these conventions:

N/A – not applicable, in cases where the question is not applicable to your (Member) State please insert N/A in relevant cells.

NI – no information, in cases where there is no data available please insert NI in relevant cells.

0 – insert 0 whenever you have collected data and the result was 0.

*Impact of visa liberalisation on countries of destination*Table 2.2.1: Total number of visitors staying in hotels and other accommodation establishments from the visa-free countries⁶⁵

Indicator	Period of interest (2007-2017)											Additional Information <i>(e.g. data source(s), explanation of trends and numbers for this indicator)</i>
	<i>(insert all available data or <u>at least</u> 2 years prior and after the visa waiver agreement date)</i>											
Total number of visitors staying in hotels and other accommodation establishments from the visa-free countries	2007	2008	*2009	*2010	2011	2012	2013	*2014	2015	2016	*2017	
FYROM	26002	30087	30421	23376	25349	20999	23925	22366	26162	29572	30154	
Montenegro	7403	10231	9900	9798	12361	12353	13479	14619	16519	18381	19368	
Serbia	76929	87633	88794	86797	86582	85768	89768	94085	101397	111793	122881	
Albania					23823	18458	21739	22496	22377	27309	24020	
Bosnia and Herzegovina	222135	239539	231331	217051	222978	220375	211677	228711	279806	331314	354018	
Moldova						NI	NI	NI	NI	3886	4118	
Georgia									NI	993	1276	
Ukraine	29043	31603	35720	50280	56483	70584	51585	48386	50561	64703	77857	
Total												
Total number of visitors staying in hotels and other accommodation establishments⁶⁶	361512	399093	396166	387302	427576	NI	NI	NI	NI	587951	633692	

⁶⁵ Information to be provided by inserting national data as gathered by competent authorities.

⁶⁶ All nationalities apply, to calculate the proportion out of the total number of tourism visitors staying in hotels and other accommodation establishments.

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**Visa waiver agreement dates: FYROM, Montenegro and Serbia (19/12/2009), Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina (15/12/2010), Moldova (28/4/2014), Georgia (28/3/2017) and Ukraine (11/6/2017).*

If you do not have data as requested in the above table (e.g. for year 2007), please explain why this is the box below:

There are no data available for Moldova prior 2016.

*Impact of visa liberalisation on countries of destination*Table 2.2.2: Total number of first-time residence permit applications received from visa-free country nationals⁶⁷

Indicator	Period of interest (2007-2017) <i>(insert all available data or at least 2 years prior and after the visa waiver agreement date)</i>											Additional Information <i>(e.g. data source(s), explanation of trends and numbers for this indicator)</i>
	2007	2008	*2009	*2010	2011	2012	2013	*2014	2015	2016	*2017	
Total number of first-time residence applications received from the respective visa-free country												
FYROM	349	624	431	185	243	253	263	307	264	320	461	
Montenegro	36	28	37	31	55	47	48	46	66	88	116	
Serbia	577	520	487	494	441	380	463	516	440	911	1424	
Albania	4	6	11	17	10	14	16	20	16	28	472	
Bosnia and Herzegovina	3206	6520	2993	1131	1024	1007	1332	1048	937	4110	6372	
Moldova	7	7	7	3	8	6	5	4	6	8	5	
Georgia	0	2	7	1	1	2	2	2	1	4	1	
Ukraine	67	109	97	68	81	79	63	111	127	355	489	
Total	4246	7816	4070	1930	1863	1788	2192	2054	1857	5824	9340	
Total number of first-time residence applications⁶⁸	7541	11939	7862	4919	4890	5305	5932	6898	7344	11603	16163	

⁶⁷ Information to be provided by inserting national data as gathered by competent authorities.

⁶⁸ All nationalities apply, to calculate the proportion out of the total number of first-time temporary residence applications.

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**Visa waiver agreement dates: FYROM, Montenegro and Serbia (19/12/2009), Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina (15/12/2010), Moldova (28/4/2014), Georgia (28/3/2017) and Ukraine (11/6/2017).*

If you do not have data as requested in the above table (e.g. for year 2007), please explain why this is the case below:

N/A.

*Impact of visa liberalisation on countries of destination*Table 2.2.3: Total number of first residence permits issued for remunerated activities reasons to visa-free country nationals⁶⁹

Indicator	Period of interest (2007-2017)											Additional Information (e.g. data source(s), explanation of trends and numbers for this indicator)
	<i>(insert all available data or at least 2 years prior and after the visa waiver agreement date)</i>											
Total number of permits issued for remunerated activities reasons to visa-free country nationals	2007	2008	*2009	*2010	2011	2012	2013	*2014	2015	2016	*2017	
FYROM	82	341	187	33	32	34	38	34	40	82	137	
Montenegro	7	3	8	1	6	9	4	9	8	17	40	
Serbia	97	170	99	76	48	43	67	64	101	308	699	
Albania	3	0	1	7	1	2	1	1	4	5	290	
Bosnia and Herzegovina	1892	5091	1788	254	91	142	141	105	137	1612	4765	
Moldova	0	3	4	1	4	1	0	1	1	1	1	
Georgia	0	1	7	0	0	0	1	2	1	0	1	
Ukraine	16	55	33	25	25	28	31	24	35	185	343	
Total	2097	5664	2127	397	207	259	283	240	327	2210	6276	
Total number of permits issued for remunerated activities reasons⁷⁰	3175	7630	3709	1402	1163	1309	1186	987	942	2634	6987	

*Visa waiver agreement dates: FYROM, Montenegro and Serbia (19/12/2009), Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina (15/12/2010), Moldova (28/4/2014), Georgia (28/3/2017) and Ukraine (11/6/2017).

⁶⁹ See Eurostat: Number of first residence permits issued by reason, EU-28, 2008-2016 [migr_resfirst]

⁷⁰ All nationalities apply, to calculate the proportion out of the total number of permits issued for remunerated activities reasons.

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If you do not have data as requested in the above table (e.g. for year 2007), please explain why this is the case below:

N/A.

*Impact of visa liberalisation on countries of destination*Table 2.2.4: Total number of first residence permits issued for education reasons to visa-free country nationals⁷¹

Indicator	Period of interest (2007-2017) <i>(insert all available data or at least 2 years prior and after the visa waiver agreement date)</i>											Additional Information <i>(e.g. data source(s), explanation of trends and numbers for this indicator)</i>
	2007	2008	*2009	*2010	2011	2012	2013	*2014	2015	2016	*2017	
Total number of permits issued for education reasons to visa-free country nationals												
FYROM	12	9	21	12	10	9	7	30	20	31	44	
Montenegro	2	13	8	8	6	17	7	14	11	23	21	
Serbia	30	14	11	25	15	10	5	29	17	27	14	
Albania	0	3	1	0	3	1	1	4	4	3	6	
Bosnia and Herzegovina	18	59	36	36	43	44	41	63	51	77	42	
Moldova	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	1	
Georgia	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	
Ukraine	9	7	6	5	16	8	2	10	8	32	57	
Total	71	105	83	86	93	89	63	150	113	196	185	
Total number of permits issued for education reasons⁷²	322	334	392	330	458	712	397	392	426	526	591	

⁷¹ See Eurostat: Number of first residence permits issued by reason, EU-28, 2008-2016 [migr_resfirst]

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**Visa waiver agreement dates: FYROM, Montenegro and Serbia (19/12/2009), Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina (15/12/2010), Moldova (28/4/2014), Georgia (28/3/2017) and Ukraine (11/6/2017).*

If you do not have data as requested in the above table (e.g. for year 2007), please explain why this is the case below:

N/A.

⁷² All nationalities apply, to calculate the proportion out of the total number of permits issued for education reasons.

*Impact of visa liberalisation on countries of destination*Table 2.2.5: Total number of first residence permits issued to entrepreneurs (including self-employed persons) from visa-free countries⁷³

Indicator	Period of interest (2007-2017) (insert all available data or <u>at least 2 years prior and after the visa waiver agreement date</u>)											Additional Information (e.g. data source(s), explanation of trends and numbers for this indicator)
	2007	2008	*2009	*2010	2011	2012	2013	*2014	2015	2016	*2017	
Total number of first residence permits issued for entrepreneurs (including self-employed persons) from visa-free countries												
FYROM	NI	NI	NI	NI	NI	0	0	1	1	1	1	
Montenegro	NI	NI	NI	NI	NI	0	0	0	0	0	1	
Serbia	NI	NI	NI	NI	NI	5	5	3	2	6	2	
Albania	NI	NI	NI	NI	NI	0	0	0	0	0	1	
Bosnia and Herzegovina	NI	NI	NI	NI	NI	3	4	4	4	3	8	
Moldova	NI	NI	NI	NI	NI	0	0	1	0	0	0	
Georgia	NI	NI	NI	NI	NI	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Ukraine	NI	NI	NI	NI	NI	2	0	3	4	1	0	
Total	NI	NI	NI	NI	NI	10	9	12	11	11	13	
Total number of first residence permits issued	NI	NI	NI	NI	NI	76	55	32	21	27	28	

⁷³ Information to be provided by inserting national data as gathered by competent authorities.

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for entrepreneurs (including self-employed persons)⁷⁴												
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**Visa waiver agreement dates: FYROM, Montenegro and Serbia (19/12/2009), Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina (15/12/2010), Moldova (28/4/2014), Georgia (28/3/2017) and Ukraine (11/6/2017).*

If you do not have data as requested in the above table (e.g. for year 2007), please explain why this is the case below:

N/A.

⁷⁴ All nationalities apply, to calculate the proportion out of the total number of first residence permits issued for entrepreneurs (including self-employed persons).

Impact of visa liberalisation on countries of destination**Section 3: Challenges of visa liberalisation on (Member) States****National Contribution (max. 6 pages, excluding statistics)**

The aim of this Section is to investigate migratory risks since the introduction of visa-free regimes and the differences in the capacity of (Member) States to meet emerging challenges after the visa-free regimes were established as evidenced by quantitative and qualitative information.

The synthesis report will aim to include infographics and visuals, therefore please take that into account when answering the questions / filling the tables by adding any innovative or visual presentations in your national reports that can carry through into the synthesis report. We also welcome any photos/images which are captioned, relevant and (data) protected with your national contribution.

When answering the questions in this section please consider the statistical data as presented in the tables listed below and detailed in Section 3.2:

Table 3.2.1: Total number of nationals from the visa-free countries refused entry at the external borders;

Table 3.2.2: Total number of return decisions issued to nationals from the visa-free countries;

Table 3.2.3: Total number of voluntary returns (all types) by nationals of visa-free countries;

Table 3.2.4: Total number of forced returns by visa-free country;

Table 3.2.5: Total number of nationals from the visa - free countries found in illegal employment;

Table 3.2.6: Total number of smuggled persons from the visa-free countries (final court rulings);

Table 3.2.7: Total number of trafficked persons from the visa-free countries (final court rulings);

Table 3.2.8: Total number of identified facilitators of unauthorised entry, transit and residence from the visa-free countries (final court rulings);

Table 3.2.9: Total number of nationals found to be illegally present from the visa-free countries;

Table 3.2.10: Total number of overstayers from the visa-free countries.

If you do not have data as requested in the above tables, please explain why this is the case after each table in the relevant box.

Please do not leave any answer box or table cell blank or empty and insert N/A, NI or 0 as applicable.

SECTION 3.1 : DESCRIPTION OF NATIONAL SITUATION**Q3.1.**

Please answer this question by making a link with the data presented in Section 3.2, while specific challenges can be detailed in sub-questions **Q3.1.2** to **Q3.1.7**.

N/A.

Q3.1.1 If applicable, please categorise your answer to **Q3.1** by third country:

Western Balkans - FYROM, Montenegro, Serbia, Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina:

N/A.

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Eastern Partnership - Moldova, Georgia, Ukraine:

N/A.

Q3.1.2 Did your (Member) State encounter a rise in illegal employment since the introduction of visa liberalisation? If yes, please provide a short description and specific examples.

Please answer this question by making a link with the data presented in Table 3.2.5.

According to the data of the Labour Inspectorate of the Ministry of Labour and Pension System, during period from 2007 to 2016, there has been a decrease in the number of illegal work of foreigners, while in 2017 there has been identified an increase. Regardless of that, it cannot be argued that these movements had a causal link with the liberalization of the visa regime.

Along with that, the Labour Inspectorate does not keep the data on the citizenship of aliens for which it has been determined they worked in the Republic of Croatia without a residence permit or work permit or a work application certificate. Therefore, available data are not relevant as there are containing the citizens of the European Union.

Q3.1.3 Did your (Member) State encounter a rise in smuggled and/or trafficked persons from the visa-free countries since the introduction of visa liberalisation? If yes, please provide a short description and specific examples.

Please answer this question by making a link with the data presented in Tables 3.2.6 and 3.2.7.

No. There has been identified increase of trafficked persons in 2017 from Bosnia and Herzegovina, but it is not related to introduction of visa liberalisation.

Q3.1.4 Did your (Member) State encounter a rise in the number of identified facilitators of unauthorised entry, transit and residence since the introduction of visa liberalisation? If yes, please provide a short description and specific examples.

Please answer this question by making a link with the data presented in Table 3.2.8.

No. There has been identified increase of trafficked persons in 2017 from Albania, but it is not related to introduction of visa liberalisation.

Q3.1.5 Did your (Member) State encounter a rise in the number of nationals found to be illegally present from the visa-free countries since the introduction of visa liberalisation? If yes, please provide a short description and specific examples.

Please answer this question by making a link with the data presented in Table 3.2.9.

N/A.

Q3.1.6 Did your (Member) State encounter a rise in the number of overstayers since the introduction of visa liberalisation? If yes, please provide a short description and specific examples.

Please answer this question by making a link with the data presented in Table 3.2.10.

N/A.

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Q3.1.7 Did your (Member) State encounter any signs of possible misuse of the visa liberalisation?⁷⁵ If yes, please provide a short description and specific examples.

No.

Q3.2. Did your (Member) State as a country of destination face any administrative burden⁷⁶ since the introduction of the visa-free regime? If yes, please provide a short description and specific examples.

No.

Q3.2.1. If applicable, please list the institutions that faced administrative burdens.

N/A.

Q3.3. Did your (Member) State as a country of destination face any security risks since the introduction of the visa-free regime? If yes, please provide a short description and specific examples.

No.

Q3.3.1. Did the visa liberalisation regime increase the security risks in your (Member) State? If yes, please provide a short description explaining why and provide examples.⁷⁷

No.

Q3.3.2. If applicable, what types of offences⁷⁸ were committed by third-country nationals in your (Member) State after the commencement of the visa-free regime?⁷⁹ Where there any significant differences compared to the time before the visa-free regime started?

N/A.

⁷⁵ For example, dealing with cases when persons enter the country legally but later become illegally employed, are staying in the country legally, but are working without a work permit or apply for asylum without reasonable grounds.

⁷⁶ For example: significant increase of residence permit applications, increased demand for work permits, more time-consuming border control procedure due to the lack of visas. etc.

⁷⁷ For example: did your (Member) State identify any increased terrorism risks arising from the entry or residence of respective TCNs.

⁷⁸ Please use this pre-defined list of categories: cybercrime; drugs offences; economic and financial offences; illicit immigration; illicit trafficking (not drug related); offences against property; offences against public order and safety; offences against public trust (e.g. fraud, forgery, counterfeiting); offences against the person; sexual exploitation of children (including child pornography); sexual offences against adults; terrorism-related activity; trafficking in human beings and smuggling of migrants.

⁷⁹ This applies to third-country nationals who do not live your country, but visited (short stay of up to 90 days).

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Q3.3.3. If applicable, what was the rate of offences (final court rulings) committed by third-country nationals⁸⁰ in your (Member) State after the commencement of the visa-free regime? Where there any significant differences compared to the time before the visa-free regime started?

N/A.

Q3.4. What is the role and impact of irregular migration facilitators that provide their services to third-country nationals with an entry ban? Please provide a short description with specific examples about your (Member) State situation and make a clear distinction between people who assist migrants and people who are profiting from facilitation.

Please answer this question by making a link with the data presented in Table 3.2.6, 3.2.7 and 3.2.8.

According to the Aliens Act, Article 43, Paragraph 2 people who assist migrants for illegal border crossing in cases of saving life, preventing, hurting, providing medical assistance and/or providing humanitarian aid in accordance with special regulations are not considered as a facilitation to the irregular migration.

Q3.4.1 How did the activities of irregular migration facilitators impact your (Member) State?⁸¹ Please provide a short description with specific examples about your (Member) State situation.

N/A.

Q3.4.2. If applicable, please list and explain any challenges and risks identified by your country related to the activities of irregular migration facilitators, while making a clear distinction between people who assist migrants and people who are profiting from facilitation.

N/A.

Q3.5. What other challenge (or negative impact) was identified by your (Member) State in relation to visa liberalisation that was not already captured in the previous questions, if applicable?

N/A.

⁸⁰ See above.

⁸¹ Did their activities lead to increases in irregular border-crossings, enhanced border controls or document fraud?

SECTION 3.2 : STATISTICAL INFORMATION

Please provide, to the extent possible, the following statistics (with their source) along with, if necessary, an explanatory note to interpret them in particular when the statistics provided are partial, had to be estimated (e.g. on the basis of available statistics that differs from the below, or of first-hand research) or when they reflect any particular trends (e.g. a change in policy). If statistics are not available, please try to indicate an order of magnitude and why they are not available. When available, statistics from Eurostat should be used and presented annually covering the period between 2008 and 2017 inclusive. For year 2007, national data should be provided, if available.

At a minimum please provide data two years before and after the waiver agreement date for each third country (as highlighted in green in each table). Ideally, the study aims to present data for the whole period if available (e.g. from Eurostat).

When filling in the tables please do not leave blank cells and follow these conventions:

N/A – not applicable, in cases where the question is not applicable to your (Member) State please insert N/A in relevant cells.

NI – no information, in cases where there is no data available please insert NI in relevant cells.

0 – insert 0 whenever you have collected data and the result was 0.

*Impact of visa liberalisation on countries of destination*Table 3.2.1: Total number of nationals from the visa-free countries refused entry at the external borders⁸²

Indicator	Period of interest (2007-2017) (insert all available data or <u>at least</u> 2 years prior and after the visa waiver agreement date)											Additional Information (e.g. data source(s), explanation of trends and numbers for this indicator)
	2007	2008	*2009	*2010	2011	2012	2013	*2014	2015	2016	*2017	
FYROM	1261	694	585	283	267	380	165	275	285	200	354	Data source: IS MOI, NBMIS, EUROSTAT since Croatia entered EU. Data from 2007 till 2013 are given for the entire Croatian border
Montenegro	344	150	136	124	133	170	90	45	90	65	148	Data source: IS MOI, NBMIS, EUROSTAT since Croatia entered EU, the data from 2007 till 2013 are given for the entire Croatian border
Serbia	4378	3026	1950	1674	1711	1572	1235	730	740	765	30	Data source: IS MOI, NBMIS, EUROSTAT since Croatia entered EU, the data from 2007 till 2013 are given for the entire Croatian border
Albania	326	503	418	952	817	755	1125	1560	1730	1955	2379	Data source: IS MOI, NBMIS, EUROSTAT since Croatia entered EU, the data from 2007 till 2013 are given for the entire Croatian border
Bosnia and Herzegovina	13382	10209	8315	6310	6002	4454	4515	3540	3525	3525	3519	Data source: IS MOI, NBMIS, EUROSTAT since Croatia entered EU, the data from 2007 till 2013 are given for the entire Croatian

⁸² See Eurostat: Third-country nationals refused entry at the external borders - annual data (rounded) [migr_eirfs]

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												border
Moldova	424	543	543	451	188	25	10	5	10	0	6	Data source: IS MOI, NBMIS, EUROSTAT since Croatia entered EU, the data from 2007 till 2013 are given for the entire Croatian border
Georgia	35	46	48	39	34	10	20	45	20	25	NI	Data source: IS MOI, NBMIS, EUROSTAT since Croatia entered EU, the data from 2007 till 2013 are given for the entire Croatian border
Ukraine	828	1534	435	332	311	37	220	185	170	185	114	Data source: IS MOI, NBMIS, EUROSTAT since Croatia entered EU, the data from 2007 till 2013 are given for the entire Croatian border
Total	20978	16705	12430	10165	9463	7403	7380	6385	6570	6720	6550	Data source: IS MOI, NBMIS, EUROSTAT since Croatia entered EU, the data from 2007 till 2013 are given for the entire Croatian border
Total number third-country nationals refused entry at the external borders⁸³	NI	NI	NI	NI	NI	NI	NI	NI	NI	NI	NI	

**Visa waiver agreement dates: FYROM, Montenegro and Serbia (19/12/2009), Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina (15/12/2010), Moldova (28/4/2014), Georgia (28/3/2017) and Ukraine (11/6/2017).*

If you do not have data as requested in the above table (e.g. for year 2007), please explain why this is the case below:

There is no data available on the total number TCN's that refused entry at the external borders.

⁸³ All nationalities apply, to calculate the proportion out of the total number third-country nationals refused entry at the external borders.

Table 3.2.2: Total number of return decisions issued to nationals from the visa-free countries⁸⁴

Indicator	Period of interest (2007-2017)											Additional Information (e.g. data source(s), explanation of trends and numbers for this indicator)
	(insert all available data or <u>at least 2 years</u> prior and after the visa waiver agreement date)											
Total number of return decisions issued to nationals from the visa-free countries	2007	2008	*2009	*2010	2011	2012	2013	*2014	2015	2016	*2017	
FYROM	NI	NI	280	144	210	164	80	90	70	80	85	Data source – IS MOI, EUROSTAT
Montenegro	NI	NI	39	18	31	16	20	25	20	10	20	Data source – IS MOI, EUROSTAT
Serbia	NI	NI	445	422	340	312	215	245	215	255	255	Data source – IS MOI, EUROSTAT
Albania	NI	NI	189	341	140	207	295	440	420	480	390	Data source – IS MOI, EUROSTAT
Bosnia and Herzegovina	NI	NI	2075	1703	1354	1011	1045	770	695	645	760	Data source – IS MOI, EUROSTAT
Moldova	NI	NI	12	15	5	1	0	0	0	0	5	Data source – IS MOI, EUROSTAT
Georgia	NI	NI	8	2	2	3	0	0	5	0	0	Data source – IS MOI, EUROSTAT
Ukraine	NI	NI	32	12	21	21	10	15	20	25	20	Data source – IS MOI, EUROSTAT
Total	NI	NI	3080	2657	2103	1735	1665	1585	1445	1495	1535	Data source – IS MOI, EUROSTAT
Total number of return decisions issued to third-country nationals⁸⁵	NI	NI	NI	NI	NI	NI	NI	NI	NI	NI	NI	

⁸⁴ See Eurostat: Third-country nationals ordered to leave - annual data (rounded) [migr_eiord]

⁸⁵ All nationalities apply, to calculate the proportion out of the total number of nationals ordered to leave.

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**Visa waiver agreement dates: FYROM, Montenegro and Serbia (19/12/2009), Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina (15/12/2010), Moldova (28/4/2014), Georgia (28/3/2017) and Ukraine (11/6/2017).*

If you do not have data as requested in the above table (e.g. for year 2007), please explain why this is the case below:

There is no data available on the total number of return decisions issued to TCN's.

*Impact of visa liberalisation on countries of destination*Table 3.2.3: Total number of voluntary returns (all types) by nationals of visa-free countries⁸⁶

Indicator	Period of interest (2007-2017) (insert all available data or <u>at least</u> 2 years prior and after the visa waiver agreement date)											Additional Information (e.g. data source(s), explanation of trends and numbers for this indicator)
	2007	2008	*2009	*2010	2011	2012	2013	*2014	2015	2016	*2017	
Total number of voluntary returns (all types) by nationals of visa-free countries												
FYROM	NI	NI	123	76	61	84	31	45	35	55	65	Data source – IS MOI, EUROSTAT
Montenegro	NI	NI	16	12	15	9	9	15	15	5	15	Data source – IS MOI, EUROSTAT
Serbia	NI	NI	186	235	160	154	100	125	105	130	130	Data source – IS MOI, EUROSTAT
Albania	NI	NI	17	26	41	31	27	80	115	145	100	Data source – IS MOI, EUROSTAT
Bosnia and Herzegovina	NI	NI	1330	1140	936	579	526	455	415	395	510	Data source – IS MOI, EUROSTAT
Moldova	NI	NI	4	8	2	0	3	0	0	0	0	Data source – IS MOI, EUROSTAT
Georgia	NI	NI	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	Data source – IS MOI, EUROSTAT
Ukraine	NI	NI	9	5	10	10	8	5	5	15	10	Data source – IS MOI, EUROSTAT
Total	NI	NI	1687	1502	1225	867	704	725	690	745	830	Data source – IS MOI, EUROSTAT
Total number of voluntary returns (all types) – all third-country nationals⁸⁷	NI	NI	NI	NI	NI	NI	NI	NI	NI	NI	NI	

⁸⁶ Information to be provided by inserting national data as gathered by competent authorities. Also see Eurostat: Number of voluntary and forced returns [migr_eirt_vol];

⁸⁷ All nationalities apply, to calculate the proportion out of the total number of voluntary returns.

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**Visa waiver agreement dates: FYROM, Montenegro and Serbia (19/12/2009), Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina (15/12/2010), Moldova (28/4/2014), Georgia (28/3/2017) and Ukraine (11/6/2017).*

If you do not have data as requested in the above table (e.g. for year 2007), please explain why this is the case below:

There is no data available on the total number of voluntary returns (all types) – all TCN's.
--

Table 3.2.4: Total number of forced returns by visa-free country⁸⁸

Indicator	Period of interest (2007-2017) (insert all available data or <i>at least 2 years prior and after the visa waiver agreement date</i>)											Additional Information (e.g. data source(s), explanation of trends and numbers for this indicator)	
	2007	2008	*2009	*2010	2011	2012	2013	*2014	2015	2016	*2017		
Total number of forced returns by visa-free country													
FYROM	168	147	65	34	53	33	50	25	15	0	5	Data source – IS MOI, EUROSTAT	
Montenegro	22	18	16	4	1	7	2	0	5	0	5	Data source – IS MOI, EUROSTAT	
Serbia	1120	563	176	125	134	84	98	70	65	65	45	Data source – IS MOI, EUROSTAT	
Albania	848	160	160	288	81	123	194	245	175	165	175	Data source – IS MOI, EUROSTAT	
Bosnia and Herzegovina	675	582	592	476	297	224	197	150	125	95	75	Data source – IS MOI, EUROSTAT	
Moldova	21	10	3	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	Data source – IS MOI, EUROSTAT	
Georgia	3	4	1	3	6	1	1	0	0	0	0	Data source – IS MOI, EUROSTAT	
Ukraine	17	6	0	2	3	2	2	5	0	0	0	Data source – IS MOI, EUROSTAT	
Total	2874	1490	1013	934	576	474	544	495	385	325	305	Data source – IS MOI, EUROSTAT	
Total number of forced returns - all third-country nationals⁸⁹	NI	NI	NI	NI	NI	NI	NI	NI	NI	NI	NI		

*Visa waiver agreement dates: FYROM, Montenegro and Serbia (19/12/2009), Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina (15/12/2010), Moldova (28/4/2014), Georgia (28/3/2017) and Ukraine (11/6/2017).

⁸⁸ Information to be provided by inserting national data as gathered by competent authorities. Also see Eurostat: Number of voluntary and forced returns [migr_eirt_vol];

⁸⁹ All nationalities apply, to calculate the proportion out of the total number of forced returns.

There is no data available on the total number of forced returns – all TCN's.	
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*Impact of visa liberalisation on countries of destination*Table 3.2.5: Total number of nationals from the visa - free countries found in illegal employment⁹⁰

Indicator	Period of interest (2007-2017)											Additional Information (e.g. data source(s), explanation of trends and numbers for this indicator)
	<i>(insert all available data or at least 2 years prior and after the visa waiver agreement date)</i>											
Total number of nationals from the visa-free countries found in illegal employment	2007	2008	*2009	*2010	2011	2012	2013	*2014	2015	2016	*2017	
FYROM	28	57	45	38	28	20	18	5	19	13	21	Data source – IS MOI
Montenegro	0	0	3	5	5	3	1	1	1	0	1	Data source – IS MOI
Serbia	18	101	109	172	70	38	51	40	52	26	46	Data source – IS MOI
Albania	0	0	0	0	2	0	1	0	3	0	5	Data source – IS MOI
Bosnia and Herzegovina	594	1718	1444	983	953	422	377	295	230	136	202	Data source – IS MOI
Moldova	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	2	Data source – IS MOI
Georgia	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	Data source – IS MOI
Ukraine	0	0	0	2	1	2	0	0	0	18	0	Data source – IS MOI
Total	640	1876	1601	1200	1059	486	448	341	305	180	256	Data source – IS MOI
Total number third-country nationals found in illegal employment⁹¹	NI	NI	NI	NI	NI	NI	NI	NI	NI	NI	NI	

⁹⁰ Information to be provided by inserting national data as gathered by competent authorities. Also see Eurostat: Third-country nationals found to be illegally present - annual data (rounded) [migr_eipre]

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**Visa waiver agreement dates: FYROM, Montenegro and Serbia (19/12/2009), Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina (15/12/2010), Moldova (28/4/2014), Georgia (28/3/2017) and Ukraine (11/6/2017).*

If you do not have data as requested in the above table (e.g. for year 2007), please explain why this is the case below:

There is no data available on the total number of TCN's found in illegal employment.
--

⁹¹ All nationalities apply, to calculate the proportion out of the total number third-country nationals found in illegal employment.

*Impact of visa liberalisation on countries of destination*Table 3.2.6: Total number of smuggled persons from the visa-free countries (final court rulings)⁹²

Indicator	Period of interest (2007-2017) <i>(insert all available data or at least 2 years prior and after the visa waiver agreement date)</i>											Additional Information <i>(e.g. data source(s), explanation of trends and numbers for this indicator)</i>	
	2007	2008	*2009	*2010	2011	2012	2013	*2014	2015	2016	*2017		
Total number of <u>smuggled</u> persons from the visa-free countries (final court rulings)													
FYROM	NI	NI	NI	NI	NI	NI	NI	NI	NI	NI	NI	NI	
Montenegro	NI	NI	NI	NI	NI	NI	NI	NI	NI	NI	NI	NI	
Serbia	NI	NI	NI	NI	NI	NI	NI	NI	NI	NI	NI	NI	
Albania	NI	NI	NI	NI	NI	NI	NI	NI	NI	NI	NI	NI	
Bosnia and Herzegovina	NI	NI	NI	NI	NI	NI	NI	NI	NI	NI	NI	NI	
Moldova	NI	NI	NI	NI	NI	NI	NI	NI	NI	NI	NI	NI	
Georgia	NI	NI	NI	NI	NI	NI	NI	NI	NI	NI	NI	NI	
Ukraine	NI	NI	NI	NI	NI	NI	NI	NI	NI	NI	NI	NI	
Total	NI	NI	NI	NI	NI	NI	NI	NI	NI	NI	NI	NI	
Total number of <u>smuggled</u> persons from	NI	NI	NI	NI	NI	NI	NI	NI	NI	NI	NI	NI	

⁹² Information to be provided by inserting national data as gathered by competent authorities.

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third countries (final court rulings)⁹³												
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**Visa waiver agreement dates: FYROM, Montenegro and Serbia (19/12/2009), Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina (15/12/2010), Moldova (28/4/2014), Georgia (28/3/2017) and Ukraine (11/6/2017).*

If you do not have data as requested in the above table (e.g. for year 2007), please explain why this is the case below:

Those data were not and still not being collected.

⁹³ All nationalities apply, to calculate the proportion out of the total number of smuggled persons from third countries.

*Impact of visa liberalisation on countries of destination*Table 3.2.7: Total number of trafficked persons from the visa-free countries (final court rulings)⁹⁴

Indicator	Period of interest (2007-2017)											Additional Information (e.g. data source(s), explanation of trends and numbers for this indicator)
	<i>(insert all available data or at least 2 years prior and after the visa waiver agreement date)</i>											
Total number of <u>trafficked</u> persons from the visa-free countries (final court rulings)	2007	2008	*2009	*2010	2011	2012	2013	*2014	2015	2016	*2017	
FYROM							1					Statistical data from MOI Croatia identifies the victims of trafficking in human beings and they enjoy all the rights of victims irrespective of whether a final court decision has been brought or not. Croatia also recognizes the victims of trafficking in human beings when similar criminal acts are concerned (i.e. prostitution).
Montenegro												Statistical data from MOI
Serbia	3	1	3	1			1					Statistical data from MOI
Albania												Statistical data from MOI
Bosnia and Herzegovina	2	2	1	1	1		3	3	2		8	Statistical data from MOI
Moldova	1											Statistical data from MOI
Georgia												Statistical data from MOI

⁹⁴ Information to be provided by inserting national data as gathered by competent authorities.

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Ukraine												Statistical data from MOI
Total	6	3	4	2	1		5	3	2		8	Statistical data from MOI
Total number of trafficked persons from third countries (final court rulings)⁹⁵	6	3	4	2	1	1	5	3	2	8	9	Statistical data from MOI

*Visa waiver agreement dates: FYROM, Montenegro and Serbia (19/12/2009), Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina (15/12/2010), Moldova (28/4/2014), Georgia (28/3/2017) and Ukraine (11/6/2017).

If you do not have data as requested in the above table (e.g. for year 2007), please explain why this is the case below:

N/A.

⁹⁵ All nationalities apply, to calculate the proportion out of the total number of trafficked persons from third countries.

*Impact of visa liberalisation on countries of destination*Table 3.2.8: Total number of identified facilitators⁹⁶ of unauthorised entry, transit and residence⁹⁷ from the visa-free countries (final court rulings)⁹⁸

Indicator	Period of interest (2007-2017) (insert all available data or <u>at least</u> 2 years prior and after the visa waiver agreement date)											Additional Information (e.g. data source(s), explanation of trends and numbers for this indicator)	
	2007	2008	*2009	*2010	2011	2012	2013	*2014	2015	2016	*2017		
Total number of identified facilitators of unauthorised entry, transit and residence from the visa-free countries (final court rulings)													
FYROM	NI	NI	10	1	0	6	0	1	1	0	3	Data source – IS MOI	
Montenegro	NI	NI	1	1	0	2	2	0	4	0	3	Data source – IS MOI	
Serbia	NI	NI	19	12	0	8	4	11	2	18	14	Data source – IS MOI	
Albania	NI	NI	3	10	0	16	22	47	47	50	50	Data source – IS MOI	
Bosnia and Herzegovina	NI	NI	28	17	3	13	5	9	6	8	9	Data source – IS MOI	
Moldova	NI	NI	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	Data source – IS MOI	
Georgia	NI	NI	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	Data source – IS MOI	
Ukraine	NI	NI	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	2	Data source – IS MOI	
Total	NI	NI	51	41	3	45	34	68	60	76	81	Data source – IS MOI	

⁹⁶ This refer to the nationality of the facilitators. EU nationalities can be provided in the second part of the table.

⁹⁷ Facilitators of the unauthorised entry, transit and residence - intentionally assisting a person who is not a national of an EU Member State either to enter or transit across the territory of a Member State in breach of laws on the entry or transit of aliens, or, for financial gain, intentionally assisting them to reside within the territory of a Member State in breach of the laws of the State concerned on the residence of aliens (see Article 1(1)(a) and (b) of Council Directive 2002/90/EC).

⁹⁸ Information to be provided by inserting national data as gathered by competent authorities.

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Total number of identified facilitators of unauthorised entry, transit and residence (final court rulings)⁹⁹	NI	NI	NI	NI	NI	NI	NI	NI	NI	NI	NI	
EU nationality 1	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	
EU nationality 2	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	
EU nationality 3	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	
EU nationality 4	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	
EU nationality 5	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	

**Visa waiver agreement dates: FYROM, Montenegro and Serbia (19/12/2009), Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina (15/12/2010), Moldova (28/4/2014), Georgia (28/3/2017) and Ukraine (11/6/2017).*

If you do not have data as requested in the above table (e.g. for year 2007), please explain why this is the case below:

Those data have not being collected.

⁹⁹ All nationalities apply, to calculate the proportion out of the total number of identified facilitators of unauthorised entry, transit and residence.

*Impact of visa liberalisation on countries of destination*Table 3.2.9: Total number of nationals found to be illegally present from the visa-free countries¹⁰⁰

Indicator	Period of interest (2007-2017) (insert all available data or <u>at least</u> 2 years prior and after the visa waiver agreement date)											Additional Information (e.g. data source(s), explanation of trends and numbers for this indicator)
	2007	2008	*2009	*2010	2011	2012	2013	*2014	2015	2016	*2017	
Total number of nationals found to be illegally present from the visa-free countries												
FYROM	NI	NI	143	66	107	80	25	60	55	50	45	Data source – IS MOI, EUROSTAT
Montenegro	NI	NI	18	5	6	5	10	5	10	0	5	Data source – IS MOI, EUROSTAT
Serbia	NI	NI	207	155	199	137	80	155	130	160	145	Data source – IS MOI, EUROSTAT
Albania	NI	NI	127	215	47	85	265	260	235	275	300	Data source – IS MOI, EUROSTAT
Bosnia and Herzegovina	NI	NI	573	481	359	400	195	400	390	395	340	Data source – IS MOI, EUROSTAT
Moldova	NI	NI	8	9	3	1	0	0	0	0	0	Data source – IS MOI, EUROSTAT
Georgia	NI	NI	4	2	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	Data source – IS MOI, EUROSTAT
Ukraine	NI	NI	2	7	9	12	5	10	15	10	10	Data source – IS MOI, EUROSTAT
Total	NI	NI	1082	940	732	722	580	890	835	890	845	Data source – IS MOI, EUROSTAT
Total number of third-country nationals found to be illegally present¹⁰¹	NI	NI	NI	NI	NI	NI	NI	NI	NI	NI	NI	

¹⁰⁰ Information to be provided by inserting national data as gathered by competent authorities. Also see Eurostat: Third-country nationals found to be illegally present - annual data (rounded) [migr_eipre]

¹⁰¹ All nationalities apply, to calculate the proportion out of the total number of third-country national found to be illegally present.

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**Visa waiver agreement dates: FYROM, Montenegro and Serbia (19/12/2009), Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina (15/12/2010), Moldova (28/4/2014), Georgia (28/3/2017) and Ukraine (11/6/2017).*

If you do not have data as requested in the above table (e.g. for year 2007), please explain why this is the case below:

N/A.

Table 3.2.10: Total number of overstayers from the visa-free countries¹⁰²

Indicator	Period of interest (2007-2017)											Additional Information (e.g. data source(s), explanation of trends and numbers for this indicator)
	(insert all available data or at least 2 years prior and after the visa waiver agreement date)											
Total number of overstayers from the visa-free countries	2007	2008	*2009	*2010	2011	2012	2013	*2014	2015	2016	*2017	
FYROM	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	
Montenegro	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	
Serbia	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	
Albania	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	
Bosnia and Herzegovina	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	
Moldova	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	
Georgia	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	
Ukraine	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	
Total	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	
Total number of third-country nationals overstayers¹⁰³	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	

¹⁰² Information to be provided by inserting national data as gathered by competent authorities. Also see Eurostat: Third-country nationals found to be illegally present - annual data (rounded) [migr_eipre]

¹⁰³ All nationalities apply, to calculate the proportion out of the total number of third-country national overstayers.

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**Visa waiver agreement dates: FYROM, Montenegro and Serbia (19/12/2009), Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina (15/12/2010), Moldova (28/4/2014), Georgia (28/3/2017) and Ukraine (11/6/2017).*

If you do not have data as requested in the above table (e.g. for year 2007), please explain why this is the case below:

N/A.

Impact of visa liberalisation on countries of destination**Section 4: Measures put in place to deal with possible misuse of visa-free regimes by (Member) States*****National Contribution (max. 6 pages)***

The aim of this Section is to evaluate the measures put in place by Member States to deal with the possible misuse of visa-free regimes, how effective these measures were and more generally how did Member State respond and cooperate in cases of an influx of asylum seekers from the visa-free countries.

The synthesis report will aim to include infographics and visuals, therefore please take that into account when answering the questions by adding any innovative or visual presentations in your national reports that can carry through into the synthesis report. We also welcome any photos/images which are captioned, relevant and (data) protected with your national contribution.

Please do not leave any answer box empty and insert N/A or NI as applicable.

SECTION 4.1 : DESCRIPTION OF NATIONAL SITUATION

Q4.1. Did your (Member) State implement certain measures (if any) to deal with the challenges that appeared after the commencement of the visa-free regime? Please provide a short description of your national situation.

Specific measures can be detailed in sub-questions **Q4.1.2** to **Q4.1.7**.

No.

Q4.1.1 If applicable, please categorise your answer to **Q4.1** by third country:

Western Balkans - FYROM, Montenegro, Serbia, Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina:

N/A.

Eastern Partnership - Moldova, Georgia, Ukraine:

No.

Q4.1.2. If applicable, did your (Member) State implement measures to increase the efforts to promote voluntary return? If yes, for which nationalities and explain their impact.

No. Assisted voluntary return is not established still in Croatia.

Q4.1.3. If applicable, did your (Member) State implement measures to expand the legal possibilities of stay? If yes, for which nationalities and explain their impact.

N/A.

Q4.1.4. If applicable, did your (Member) State implement measures to fight illegal employment? If yes, please explain their impact and add specific examples.

The provisions of the Aliens Act (Official Gazette 130/11, 74/13, 69/17 and 46/18) provide misdemeanour measures for the employer, the responsible person of the employer and the alien. In addition to that, provisions provide the administrative measure of temporary prohibition of performing the activity by means of an oral rescript to the record, for a period of 30 days, which will prohibit the employer - legal person or employer as physical person - to carry out the activity,

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or for an alien to provide services to a foreign employer in the supervised business premises, if it is determined that during the supervision of the employer has worked for that employer contrary to the provisions of that law. The purpose of misdemeanour provisions and administrative measures is deterrence, both to the supervised employer and to others, from the use of the work of foreigners' contrary to the provisions of the Aliens Act.

Q4.1.5. If applicable, did your (Member) State implement measures to fight the smuggling and/or trafficking of persons from the visa-free countries? If yes, please explain their impact and add specific examples.

N/A.

Q4.1.6. If applicable, did your (Member) State implement measures to fight the activities of facilitators of unauthorised entry, transit and residence? If yes, please explain their impact and add specific examples.

N/A.

Q4.1.7. If applicable, did your (Member) State implement measures to reduce the incidence of nationals found to be illegally present in your country? If yes, please explain their impact and add specific examples. Please also see **Q4.4** (on overstayers) before answering to avoid overlap.

N/A.

Q4.1.8. If applicable, what was the effectiveness of the measures listed above and which of them were most successful in reaching their intended goals? Please provide any good practices / lessons learned you have identified.

N/A.

Q4.2. Did your (Member) State implement measures to deal with administrative burdens since the introduction of the visa-free regime?¹⁰⁴ If yes, please list and explain these measures, their impact / effectiveness and add any good practices / lessons learned you have identified.

No.

Q4.3. Did your (Member) State implement measures to deal with the possible misuse of visa liberalisation?¹⁰⁵ If yes, please list and explain these measures, their impact / effectiveness and add any good practices / lessons learned you have identified.

¹⁰⁴ For example: significant increase of residence permit applications, increased demand for work permits, more time-consuming border control procedure due to the lack of visas. etc.

¹⁰⁵ For example, dealing with cases when persons enter the country legally but later become illegally employed, are staying in the country legally, but are working without a work permit or apply for asylum without reasonable grounds.

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No.

Q4.4. How did your (Member) State deal with cases when third-country nationals entered the country legally, but did not legalize their stay after 90 days (overstayers)? Please provide a short description of such instances while highlighting any measures implemented by your country to deal with this. If applicable, what was the impact / effectiveness of these measures and are there any good practices / lessons learned you have identified?

In accordance with the Aliens Act (Official Gazette 74/13, 69/17, 46/18) a foreigner residing illegally and a foreigner whose legal residence terminates pursuant to a decision of the state body, shall be ordered by a return decision to leave the country. On the grounds of individual assessment done by the responsible officials, it is decided whether his/her entry and residence can be prohibited.

Q4.4.1 In the case of overstayers from the visa-free countries, does your (Member) State apply a different return procedure compared to the usual procedure? If yes, please provide a short description of such instances while highlighting any good practices / lessons learned you have identified.

N/A.

Q4.4.2 Does your (Member) State apply any special procedures in cases where overstayers have lost their identification documents or in instances where there are problems with their identification? If yes, please provide a short description of such instances while highlighting any good practices / lessons learned you have identified.

N/A.

Q4.4.3 If applicable, what was the effectiveness of these procedures (see **Q4.4.1** and **Q4.4.2**) and were they successful in reaching their intended goals? Please provide any good practices / lessons learned you have identified.

N/A.

Q4.5. How did your cooperation with the visa-free countries evolve over time in terms of assistance and information exchange, before and after the visa-free regime commencement?¹⁰⁶ Please provide a short description and specific examples of your national situation disaggregated by region and third countries of interest.

Western Balkans - FYROM, Montenegro, Serbia, Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina:

¹⁰⁶ For example, in terms of information campaigns in the third countries working on the elimination of 'push factors' – unemployment, poverty, poor conditions in the national health system, assistance to visa-free countries from Member States and reintegration assistance to returnees.

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N/A.

Eastern Partnership - Moldova, Georgia, Ukraine:

Q4.5.1. If applicable, how effective was the cooperation with third countries to reach your desired goals? Where there any particular differences in your interactions with different third countries and did you identify any good practices / lessons learned?

N/A.

Q4.6. If applicable, how did your (Member) State respond to the influx of asylum seekers from the visa-free countries? Please provide a short description of the measures taken and any good practices / lessons learned you have identified.¹⁰⁷

N/A.

Q4.6.1 If applicable, were the measures of your (Member) State effective to manage the influx of asylum seekers from the visa-free countries? Please provide a short description of your national situation highlighting any good practices / lessons learned you have identified.

N/A.

Q4.6.2 If applicable, how did your (Member) State cooperate with other (Member) States found in a similar situation (i.e. influx of asylum seekers from the visa-free countries)? Please provide a short description of your national situation and any good practices / lessons learned you have identified.

N/A.

Q4.6.3 Did you receive assistance from the EU to deal with the influx of asylum seekers from the visa-free countries? If yes, how effective was the assistance in supporting your (Member) State? Please provide a short description of your national situation and any good practices / lessons learned you have identified.

No.

¹⁰⁷ For example, using the concept of safe country of origin.

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Q4.7. What other measure (or good practice / lesson learned) was adopted by your (Member) State in relation to visa liberalisation that was not already captured in the previous questions, if applicable?

At the same time, are there any planned measures that will be adopted in the nearby future?¹⁰⁸

N/A.

¹⁰⁸ For example, in relation to Ukraine or Georgia for which the visa waiver agreement entered into force in 2017.

Section 5: Conclusions

National Contribution (max. 3 pages)

The aim of this Section is to outline the main findings of the Study and present conclusions relevant for policymakers at national and EU level.

The synthesis report will aim to include infographics and visuals, therefore please take that into account when answering the questions by adding any innovative or visual presentations in your national reports that can carry through into the synthesis report. We also welcome any photos/images which are captioned, relevant and (data) protected with your national contribution.

Please do not leave any answer box empty and insert N/A or NI as applicable.

Q5.1. With regard to the aims of this Study, what conclusions would you draw from the findings reached in elaborating your National Contribution?

N/A.

Q5.2. What do you consider to be the relevance of your findings to (national and/or EU level) policymakers?

N/A.