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ANNUAL REPORT ON MIGRATION AND ASYLUM 2023 IN [EMN MEMBER OR OBSERVER COUNTRY]

NATIONAL REPORT (PART 2)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The importance of the migratory phenomenon and the need to organize it in an appropriate way to promote its positive effects on both the migrant, the society of origin and destination, is growing day by day, determining that migration policy is a political priority in Spain.

For the Government, the identification of real opportunities for safe, orderly and regular migration has been a real objective to be achieved in line with the commitment made to collaborate in the implementation of the 23 objectives of the Global Compact on Migration, and also in line with the 2030 Agenda.

The migration budget for 2023 has increased by 29% compared to the initial accounts for 2022, reaching a total of 814 million euros. More than €630 million has been allocated to the concerted action, which will allow the entities of the Reception System and the Humanitarian Care Programme to change their funding model. This new figure will make it possible to provide stability, draw up a multi-year plan and improve transparency. In addition, it is a pioneer in the General State Administration.

Progress has also been made in the implementation of the Recovery, Transformation and Resilience Plan with the remodelling and acquisition of land and buildings to address the migratory phenomenon in different parts of Spain.

For its part, the Directorate-General for Migration has a budget of more than €62 million for next year in order to deal with matters such as pensions for Spaniards living abroad, assistance pensions for returning Spaniards or the signing of agreements to be able to enter into contracts at origin.

In 2023, the favourable impact of the two reforms to the regulations of the Immigration Law undertaken in recent months will be appreciated. "The first has already provided a reality of the present and the possibility of the future to some 15,000 minors and ex-guardians, providing a regular way of access to the labor market, and the second allows, among other things, to solve the bottlenecks of stressed labor sectors and rationalize the figures of arraigo."

Integration is also an essential pillar of a global migration policy. Promoting integration means improving social cohesion and combating discrimination and racism, taking advantage of all the benefits derived from migration, thus improving the perception of migration in the country of destination.

The Recovery, Transformation and Resilience Plan (2021-2023), approved by the European Union in September 2021, is the framework strategy of the Government of Spain to guide this recovery, as well as to promote structural transformations that allow for sustainable and resilient development. Component 22 of the Plan includes the reform of the humanitarian assistance and reception system for applicants and beneficiaries of international protection, with the aim of increasing its capacity and strengthening the efficiency of its response; It also provides for the deployment of the Minimum Vital Income, activated in 2020, as a structural measure to combat social exclusion produced and sustained in the absence of income.

1. INTRODUCTION

The 2023 Annual Policy Report of the Spanish National Contact Point for the European Migration Network (EMN) presents the key developments in migration in 2023 in Spain. The reference period of this report is from 1 January to 31 December 2023. The National Contact Points for the European Migration Network produce annual reports on migration and asylum that describe the development of migration and asylum policy and present annual statistics.

The reporting process has two stages. In the first stage of reporting, the National Contact Points collect monitoring information on migration and asylum matters for the European Commission. The Commission uses the data in compiling an annual report on migration and asylum for the EU as a whole, as well as Norway.

The Spanish National Contact Point collected the monitoring information from official resources and by allocating the responsibility for reporting to the relevant authorities responsible for each area. The participants in the reporting included the Ministry of Inclusion, Social Security and Migration, the Ministry of the Interior, the Ministry for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation and the Ministry of Justice. This Annual Report on Migration and Asylum is the second part of reporting. It is primarily aimed at the national audience. The key findings of the

first part of the reporting process are included in this report. The European Migration Network also publishes a separate statistical review, Key figures on immigration 2023. The structure and headings of the report are based on a model jointly agreed on by the European Migration Network.

2. OVERARCHING AND CROSSCUTTING CHANGES TO NATIONAL MIGRATION AND ASYLUM SYSTEMS

The articulation of an orderly, regular and safe migration policy is the main axis of Spanish migration policy. In this regard, during 2022 and 2023 a series of regulatory instruments have been developed to facilitate the entry, residence and work of migrants in Spain.

.- Trilateral Agreement between the United States, Spain and Canada, to "*promote safe, orderly, humane and regular migration*" of people in Latin America, through the opening of opportunities for regulated movement in the three countries.

.- Law 11/2023, of May 8. Partial transposition of Directive (EU) 2021/1883 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20 October 2021 on the conditions of entry and residence of third country nationals for the purposes of highly qualified employment and repealing Council Directive 2009/50/EC. Modification of Law 14/2013, of September 27, on support for entrepreneurs and their internationalization.

.- Law 28/2022, of December 21, on the Promotion of the Start-up Ecosystem, which aims to foster the creation, growth and relocation of emerging companies in Spain, especially micro, small and medium-sized entrepreneurial companies, and establish conditions that favor their capacity for internationalization; attract talent and international capital for the development of the Spanish ecosystem of emerging companies; to stimulate public and private investment in emerging companies and to favor the interrelation between companies, financing agents and territories to increase the possibilities of success of emerging companies, with special attention to the promotion of poles of attraction of emerging companies in rural environments, and especially in those areas that are losing population, in the interest of greater social and territorial cohesion.

.- Ley 14/2013, Article 74 bis. Telework of international character.

Authorization to remain in Spain to exercise a labor or professional activity at a distance for companies located outside the national territory, by means of the exclusive use of computer, telematic and telecommunication means and systems. In the case of exercise of a labor activity, the holder of the authorization for telework of international character will only be able to work for companies located outside the national territory.

.-Organic Law 2/2023, of March 22, 2002, on the University System amends Organic Law 4/2000, of January 11, 2000, on the rights and freedoms of foreigners in Spain and their social integration, insofar as it relates to the rights of foreigners in Spain.

3. LEGAL MIGRATION

Work-related migration

Article 39 of Organic Law 4/2000 of 11 January 2000 on the rights and freedoms of foreigners in Spain and their social integration regulates the collective management of contracts at origin, establishing that the current Ministry of Inclusion, Social Security and Migration may approve, in accordance with the national employment situation, an annual forecast of occupations and, where applicable, the expected number of jobs that can be filled through this channel in a given period, to which only those foreign workers who are not in Spain or reside in Spain and who are initially selected in their countries will have access.

[Order ISM/1302/2022, of December 27, 2022,](#) regulates the collective management of contracts at origin for 2023.

It is important to note that the hiring of Moroccan seasonal workers for the Spanish agricultural sector has been consolidated as a good practice of circular migration, which, taking into account the needs of the labour market of both the country of origin and the country of destination, favours the positive impact of a well-managed migration policy.

At the coordination meeting for the Circular Migration Agreement between the kingdoms of Spain and Morocco, which was held in October 2022 in Tangier (Morocco), with representatives of the governments of Spain and Morocco, as well as the business organizations ASAJA, Freshuelva, UPA, Federation of Cooperatives of Andalusia, Association of Citrus Growers and Fresón de Palos,

Among other issues, the contingent for the 22/23 campaign was decided. This contingent will be made up of 16,000 people, of which 11,000 are repeaters of previous processes and 5,000 are new ones.

The success of these programs has led to them being worked with other countries as detailed below.

On the occasion of the agreement signed on 28 May 2021 between the Kingdom of Spain and the Republic of Honduras, relating to the regulation and organisation of labour migration flows between the two states, a pilot project was launched for the 2021-2022 campaign in Huelva, through which 250 workers were hired in the agricultural sector. For the 2022-2023 agricultural campaign, the quota of people from Honduras will be increased to 550.

In the same way, another pilot project has been carried out with Ecuador with 250 workers, to also meet the labor needs in the Huelva campaign under the framework of the agreement previously signed between the two countries.

Likewise, in the 2022-2023 campaign, new selection processes are planned for agricultural projects in Colombia and Senegal.

Audiovisual sector

The audiovisual sector has undergone a global revolution in recent years. Digital transformation, the emergence of new business models and new technologies have drastically changed the way audiovisual content is produced and the boundaries of national audiovisual consumption markets have blurred.

Progressively, this sector has been gaining weight in the Spanish economy, and this has been included in the "Digital Spain 2025" strategy (ED2015), where it is proposed as one of its axes to improve the attractiveness of Spain as a European audiovisual platform to generate business and jobs, with a goal of increasing audiovisual production in our country by 30% by 2025.

To respond to this objective, on 23 March 2021, the Council of Ministers reported favourably on the so-called "Spain Audiovisual Hub of Europe" plan, whose objectives are to improve the attractiveness of our country for its consolidation in the coming years as: (1) A global investment platform and global business environment in the audiovisual field; (2) Country exportador de productos audiovisuales, (3) Polo de atracción de talento en el ámbito audiovisual.

Specifically, measure 13 of the aforementioned plan provides that the Ministry of Inclusion, Social Security and Migration, the Ministry of the Interior and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, European Union and Cooperation will approve the necessary regulatory amendments to simplify the administrative procedure for granting authorisations and visas to professionals in the audiovisual sector, a sector that is considered strategic due to its impact on the national economy.

In compliance with this obligation, these ministries prepared a report to analyse the regulations governing the entry and stay procedures for professionals in the audiovisual sector, detect problems and propose solutions.

This report concludes that the procedures for the entry and permanence of professionals in the audiovisual sector are bureaucratic, dispersed and require different requirements, thus generating a certain legal uncertainty for companies and professionals in the audiovisual sector themselves. For this reason, it is necessary to standardise the criteria, streamline and simplify the procedures in the same legal instrument and eliminate unnecessary and bureaucratic requirements in order to encourage Spain to become a "Hub of the Audiovisual Sector".

To this end, on 2 November 2022 the Council of Ministers approved the instructions determining the procedure for the entry and stay of third-country nationals active in the audiovisual sector.

These instructions articulate three ways depending on the period of permanence of the professional in Spain:

A first route for professionals in the audiovisual sector who are going to stay in Spain for up to 90 days in any 180-day period, who will be exempt from the obligation to obtain a work permit.

A second route for those professionals in the audiovisual sector who are going to stay in Spain for a period of more than 90 days, up to a maximum of 180 days. In these cases, foreigners will be able to obtain a visa that will constitute sufficient title to stay and work in Spain during its validity. In addition, it is envisaged that those foreigners who had initially come to Spain for a period of 90 days of stay in any period of 180 days may, exceptionally, Apply for a residence permit for the audiovisual sector for a maximum period of 180 days.

Finally, a residence permit is developed configured as a single permit for those foreigners who are going to reside and work in the audiovisual sector for more than 180 days.

In addition, it enables the possibility for artists or professionals to remain in Spain with their spouses or partners with a similar affective relationship, minor children, as well as adult children or dependent dependent ascendants. Also, it must be taken into account that, if the artist or professional is a minor, he or she can enter and remain in Spain with his or her parents or guardians in order to preserve the interests of the minor.

Digital nomads

The Government of Spain has developed, in the aforementioned Law on the promotion of the ecosystem of start-ups, the figure of the international teleworker or "digital nomad".

Until now, the immigration regulations do not contemplate a migratory category that allows a foreigner to telework from Spain. Although there was already a demand to regulate this type of figure in the field of migration before covid-19 impacted our society, the pandemic has accelerated this need.

Spain has a large number of advantages that make it very attractive for teleworkers: in addition to the climate, the way of life, public safety, culture and gastronomy, it is the first country in the European Union to deploy fibre optics, it has excellent universities and there is a growing number of technological research and development clusters and creative industries around which an international ecosystem of professionals is developing not only freelancers, but they work for a company for someone else and choose Spain as their place of residence and work, and in many cases, they are accompanied by their families.

The new figure, like the rest of the categories regulated in Law 14/2013, of 27 September, allows foreigners to apply for it whether they are abroad or in Spain.

In the first situation, you will need to apply for an international teleworker visa, the duration of which will be a maximum of one year. At the end of the validity of the visa, you can apply for a residence permit for a period of 3 years, as long as you maintain the conditions of teleworker.

If, on the other hand, the foreigner is in Spain in a regular situation, for example, as a tourist or studying, he or she could apply for a teleworker permit, which is valid for three years, extendable for two years if they maintain the conditions of

teleworker. This procedure is very agile and is requested before a specialized Unit for the processing of permits for qualified professionals, known as the Large Companies and Strategic Groups Unit. The processing is carried out in 20 days, which means that the response that the foreigner will receive from this unit will be in less than 20 days.

In order to attract and retain talent, it is necessary to make it easier for workers to be accompanied by their families and for them to access the labour market in a simple and agile way. Therefore, in both cases, "digital nomads" will be able to process the authorizations jointly of their direct relatives, i.e. spouses or common-law partners, children and dependent ascendants. Family members of working age will be able to work automatically without being subjected to an economic needs test or any restriction, as well as all the figures of Law 14/2013.

Working Holiday Visas

The purpose of these agreements, which are bilateral in nature, is to facilitate administrative procedures relating to entry and stay (for a period of one year, except for the one signed with Canada, which provides that it may be either a maximum of 6 months or a maximum of 12 months) in the territory of the parties to the agreement for young people (between 18 and 30 years of age or between 18 and 35 years of age in the case of Argentina and Canada) from the other country, so that they can deepen their life experiences, improve their knowledge of the language, culture and society of the destination country and, in addition, acquire professional experience through authorization to work (generally for the entire period of stay, except in the case of Argentina and New Zealand, which only allow it for 6 months).

With regard to their legal nature, it should be noted that these are international treaties whose content is legally binding on both States, which means that, in the event of a conflict with Spanish legislation on immigration, the former would prevail over the latter.

[Agreement between the Kingdom of Spain and the Argentine Republic](#) on a youth mobility programme, signed in Buenos Aires on 10 April 2018, entered into force on 10 February 2023, and published in the Official State Gazette of 26 January 2023.

Proyecto Women as financially Independent rural actors (WAFIRA)

It is a legal migration pilot project with Morocco, funded by the EU through the MPF. The Migration Partnership Facility (MPF) is an EU-funded initiative aimed at the implementation of the "Global Approach to Migration". The project consists of training seasonal women who come to Spain every year from Morocco within

the framework of the GECCO circular migration programme, so that on their return to Morocco they can start income-generating activities, thanks also to the financial and technical support that the project will offer them. There are a total of 250 women, who will be divided into two batches: 50 of them will participate in the first batch, who will receive their training during the 2022 campaign, and the other 200 will do so in the 2023 campaign. The initial duration of the project will be 36 months (October 2021 to October 2024).

Migration Agreement between Spain, the USA and Canada.

The Government of Spain is increasingly orienting migration policy towards encouraging regular, orderly and safe routes, and with increasing emphasis, with the aim of filling vacancies in the labour market by promoting integration, via employability, in our country, and offering training and employment opportunities to migrants. This vision is fully aligned with that of countries with a long history in the integration of migrants, as well as with Europe's vision of moving towards pathways linked to the labour market and talent.

More than one million people have arrived in Spain from Latin America in the last five years. In 2022, half of the people arrived without a long-term visa, family card or application for international protection. Spain has signed bilateral migration agreements with different countries in the region: the Dominican Republic (2001), Ecuador (2001), Colombia (2001), Honduras (2021) and Guatemala (2023). Within the framework of these agreements, circular (seasonal) migration projects are carried out, and, in addition, within the framework of the program for the arrival of highly qualified workers in 2022, 3,700 people arrived from Colombia and Central American countries. In this context, the Trilateral Agreement on Migration has been signed with the United States and Canada: This agreement has meant progress in this direction: the United States has deployed Regional Centers to Facilitate Regular Migration (SMOs) that have already begun to operate in Colombia, Guatemala and Costa Rica, with the intention of extending to other countries. These are centres operated by UN agencies, namely UNHCR and IOM. These centres facilitate the procedures for migrants by helping to define their eligibility according to the criteria of the countries of destination. Spain will be one of the destination countries along with the USA and Canada.

Spain has pledged to promote regular migration pathways linked to the labour market, expanding its circular migration projects and also with the implementation of a new complementary procedure to resettlement that was approved by the Council of Ministers on 3 May.

This new complementary pathway is characterized by selecting people based on their employability. This also contributes to improving the integration of refugees into the host society, by facilitating their arrival in Spain through job offers. To implement this approach, it is necessary to identify sponsors (companies) willing to offer employment contracts to refugees.

4. INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION

The Office for Asylum and Refugees (OAR) registered 163,218 applications for international protection in 2023, an all-time high since its creation, 37 per cent more than in the previous year and the highest number since the creation of the office in 1992. It has also resolved 92,963 cases in the last year, in addition to 1,022 stateless status and more than 33,900 temporary protections for people displaced by the Russian invasion of Ukraine. These figures place Spain as the third country receiving international protection in the European Union.

By nationality, the country of origin with the highest number of applicants was Venezuela, with 60,534 requests, 37 percent of the total, followed by Colombia (53,564) and Peru (14,306). The three countries account for 78.6 per cent of the total number of registered cases.

5. TEMPORARY PROTECTION AND OTHER MEASURES IN RESPONSE TO PERSONS FLEEING THE WAR IN UKRAINE

As of March 31, 2024, there are a total of 293,131 Ukrainians with valid residence documentation in Spain. This is an increase of 196,536 people (203%) in the year and a half that has elapsed since December 31, 2021, the date before the aggression and exodus caused by the war, which is taken as a reference point in this monthly statistic. As can be seen in the graph, almost all of this increase is due to the issuance of permits (residence and work) by Temporary Protection (198,537 as of 31 March 2024), both to people who arrived in Spain after the start of the war, and to people who resided in Spain previously but did not have residence documentation at the time of the start of the conflict and, Evidently, he could not return to his country of origin safely.

The largest monthly increase occurred in April 2022, i.e. the second month after the start of the application of the temporary protection mechanism in Spain, with an increase of more than 52,000 people with a valid Temporary Protection Authorisation, compared to the 27,000 in force in March. Since May 2022, the monthly increases in the number of Temporary Protection authorisations in force among Ukrainian residents in Spain have been progressively reduced.

As of March 31, 2024, the number of temporary protection permits in force among people of Ukrainian nationality is 198,537, representing an increase of 4,559 people compared to the previous month. As of 31 March 2024, the rest of Ukrainian nationals with valid residence documentation mostly have a long-term residence permit (69,227 according to national regulations and 2,578 according to the EU Long-Term Residents Directive), followed at a long distance by temporary residence and work permits for employees (3,062) or that allow both employment and self-employment (2.183). The rest are due to non-lucrative residence, family reunification, contracts and the exercise of activities regulated in Law 14/2013 (highly qualified, entrepreneurs, investors, researchers, etc.) or even some people with authorization for international protection who arrived, for the most part, before the start of the war.

In addition, just over 9,000 Ukrainians reside in Spain who enjoy free movement as family members of EU citizens (including Spain) and even 94 family members of Britons with TIES under the Withdrawal Agreement. These residence permits were initially approved, in March 2024, for a period of 1 year. Subsequently, in March 2023, the duration of these was extended by another year, so their validity period was extended until March 4, 2024. For this reason, Order INT/169/2024, of February 26, 2024, extending the validity of foreigners' identity cards issued to people affected by the conflict in Ukraine who are beneficiaries of temporary protection, has determined the extension of residence permits for exceptional circumstances for temporary protection until March 4, 2025. For this reason, the Central Registry of Foreigners has generated a new authorization for the automatic extension of all residence permits for exceptional circumstances for temporary protection, which expired on March 4, 2024. For this reason, by type of authorisation, extensions become the most frequent as of 31 March 2024, with 62%, and a monthly variation of more than 100,000%, since the automatic approval of the extension authorisation was carried out during the month of March.

6. UNACCOMPANIED MINORS AND OTHER VULNERABLE GROUPS

Unaccompanied minors

Age assessment.- Organic Law 8/2021 on the comprehensive protection of children and adolescents against violence provides that when the age of majority of a person cannot be established, he or she shall be considered a minor, pending the determination of his or her age.

Medical tests for the determination of the age of minors shall be subject to the principle of promptness, shall require the prior informed consent of the person concerned and shall be carried out with respect for their dignity and without risk to their health, and cannot be applied indiscriminately. In no case may comprehensive nakedness, genital examinations or other particularly invasive medical tests be performed.

Combating violence in childhood is a human rights imperative. In order to promote the rights of children and adolescents enshrined in the Convention on the Rights of the Child, it is essential to ensure and promote respect for their human dignity and physical and psychological integrity through the prevention of all forms of violence.

This Law also regulates the protocols for action in centres for the protection of minors. These protocols should contain specific measures for prevention, early detection and intervention in possible cases of abuse, sexual exploitation and trafficking in human beings. The gender perspective will be particularly taken into account in the development of these actions.

This organic law also relates to the commitments and goals of the 2030 Agenda in several areas, and very specifically to target 16.2: "End abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence and torture against children."

Transition to adulthood.- Royal Decree 903/2021 was approved, modifying the legal regime of unaccompanied minors who reach the age of majority, in order to avoid the situation of supervening irregularity and social exclusion and to favor their integration by preventing unaccompanied foreign minors reaching the age of majority to be undocumented, consolidating that they can access the labour market from the age of 16 (and after reaching the age of 18).

The residence of minors who are protected in Spain by a Public Administration or, by virtue of a judicial decision, by any entity, is considered regular. Despite this, the lack of documentation of these minors posed, in practice, significant difficulties not only while maintaining this condition but, especially, at the time when they reach the age of majority.

These difficulties had a negative impact on their inclusion and integration into society, especially in the case of minors girls unaccompanied because of their greater vulnerability.

Until now, the conditions to be met by minors under guardianship who reached the age of majority were those for the non-profit residence permit with a series of particularities. These rules did not conform to the particularities of the collective, as well as to the educational or inclusion programs that public and private institutions direct to these young people, in order to accompany them towards their transition to adulthood and an independent life.

This regulation removes the obstacles that prevent the documentation of the unaccompanied foreign minor supervised by a public entity and design a residence regime for them at the time they reach the age of majority, different from the non- profit residence regime, which is provided for other purposes far from the situation of these young people.

The final objective of the reform is to promote inclusion and reduce the vulnerability of these young people. The reform approved is expected to benefit approximately 15,000 people.

A separate regime is created for unaccompanied minors who reach the age of majority. For those who reach the age of 18 being documented a regime of their own is established and the condition to have sufficient financial means has been reduced to a more appropriate amount. Now, it will be necessary a monthly income that exceeds the Minimum Vital Income, or that it is proven that its support is insured within a program developed by a public or private institution. Income from employment, from any social system, as well as other amounts that may be received, will be computable.

In the case of minors who reach the age of 18 without documentation, a new system is established to document them. They would have access to an authorization to reside and work with the same requirements mentioned above.

For young people who are between 18 and 23 years old and are undocumented a procedure is launched so that, as for undocumented minors above, they will be situation and from being socially excluded as a result. The period for proving the impossibility of return is reduced from 9 to 3 months. When these three months have passed, the aliens offices will document these persons ex officio without this procedure interfering with a possible repatriation. The validity of the initial authorization is increased from one to two years and of the renewal authorization to three years. In addition, they all of them will be able to have access to the social services as any other foreigner in a regular situation, such as the minimum living income. Six months after the reform, the new legal framework has led to the granting of authorisations to more than 9,300 people, 3,504 minors and 5,817 young people in foster care.

In addition, the reform has led to the integration into the labour market of many of the young people who received documentation thanks to the new system put in place. In the first four months of the implementation of the reform, the number of minors and ex-custodians in employment had already doubled (4,599 registered with the Social Security, compared to just over 2,700 before the reform).

As of December 31, 2021, the Central Registry of Foreigners (RCE) had a total of 11,280 people between the ages of 16 and 23 who had a residence permit as unaccompanied minors or ex-guardian youth. Two years later, as of December 31, 2023, this number has risen to 15,045 people, which implies an absolute growth of 3,765 people. In terms of distribution by sex and nationality, no significant changes have been observed. The percentage of women has remained around 6 per cent. In terms of nationality, two years ago, Moroccan nationals accounted for more than 71% of the total. As of December 31, 2023, this proportion remains at 67%. The person's age plays a crucial role in this analysis. Prior to the reform of the immigration regulations of 19 October 2021, minors aged 16 and 17 faced difficulties in finding employment and, upon reaching the age of majority, many lost their legal status in Spain. As of December 31, 2021, 35% (3,991 people) of the study group belonged to the age group of 16 and 17 years. However, two years later, only 14% of the total group (2,124 people) belonged to this group, which is equivalent to a decrease of 47% in two years. On the other hand, among young people who have stopped receiving guardianship and are between 18 and 23 years old, the number increased from 6,568 to 13,340 between June 2021 and 2023, a growth of 104% in two years. However, as of December 31, 2023, there was a slight decrease, reaching 12,921 people. This negative trend has resulted in a decrease of close to 10% in the main nationalities of this group. Prior to the October 2021 reform, once unaccompanied minors were handed over to public child protection entities, they had up to nine months to apply for a residence permit from the Government Delegations and Sub-delegations, in order to document them (art. 196 of Royal Decree 557/2011, of 20 April²). This timeframe was too long, especially considering the average age of unaccompanied minors entering the protection system (generally over 16 in recent years). As a result, many of them reached the age of majority without having been documented, despite having spent months in the protection system and having the status of ex-wards. The 2021 reform has reduced the documentation period for unaccompanied minors from nine to three months, with the aim of significantly reducing the number of minors in care who reach the age of majority without having obtained the appropriate residence permit or the Foreigner's Identity Card.

7. INTEGRATION AND INCLUSION

National integration strategy

Even though migrants integration programs are managed by regional administrations, the Secretariat of State for Migration publishes every year a call for grants for NGOs to implement some specific programmes.

In 2021, 29,3 million euros were distributed.

Fighting racism and discrimination

A Protocol to Combat Illegal Hate Speech Online was approved. Is the first major agreement reached between the public administration, civil society organizations and companies providing hosting services. The growth of hate speech on the internet has intensified due to the health, economic and social crises caused by the COVID-19 pandemic and this protocol will contribute to strengthening collaboration and cooperation in the fight against the eradication of illegal hate speech online in our country.

8. CITIZENSHIP AND STATELESSNESS

A total of 242,342 foreigners obtained Spanish nationality by residence in 2023, a figure that doubles that recorded the previous year (121,891), according to data collected by the Ministry of Justice.

2023 was a particularly active year in the processing of this type of file as 256,817 applications were resolved, the highest figure in recent years, and 94% of them in a positive sense, in line with previous years.

Although as year after year more requests for Spanish nationality have continued to arrive, 2023 also saw the highest number of applications in recent years, with 194,753. In addition, this last year closed with 218,237 files pending resolution, counting the accumulated of previous years.

9. BORDERS, VISA AND SCHENGEN

In 2022, 1,119,149 visas were issued, 929,913 short-term (83%) and 188,166 long-stay (17%). This is the third year in a row that long-stay visas have exceeded 10%. There were 1,070 airport transit visas. The number of visas issued during 2022 has increased by 135% compared to 2021, with this increase being much greater in short-stay visas (183%) than in long-stay visas (30%). In any case, and despite the remarkable recovery in international mobility due

to the end of the pandemic in 2021, visa figures have not yet reached the levels of previous years. Given that long-stay visas require a prior administrative procedure in Spain, by a family member or an employer, which delays the processing process and, where appropriate, the final granting of the visa, it may happen that the intensity of the recovery takes longer to be appreciated. Airport transit visas saw a 20% year-on-year decrease.

Visa holders originating in the United States (25 years), China (28 years) and Saudi Arabia (30 years) are the youngest among those granted in 2022. At the other end of the scale are those from Cuba with an average age of 41 years. By sex, the groups in which the proportion of visas issued to women is highest are the United States, China, Russia, the Dominican Republic and Belarus, for which women represent between 61% and 56% of visas issued in 2022; and the most masculin are Egypt, India and Algeria with only between 32% and 38% of visas issued to women. The increase in the number of visas issued has been widespread to almost all nationalities, in many cases exceeding variations of 100 per cent. The largest increases compared to 2021 have been for nationals of South Africa (623%), India (418%) and China (371%). It is worth noting the annual decrease of 75% in visas issued to Ukrainian nationals, since the approval and application of the Temporary Protection Directive, which allows them to obtain residence and work authorization in Spain without prior visa requirements.

10. IRREGULAR MIGRATION INCLUDING MIGRANT SMUGGLING

In 2023, 56,852 irregular immigrants arrived in Spain, 82% more than in 2022. Part of this increase is due to the record number of irregular immigrant arrivals in the Canary Islands, which in 2023 were 39,910 people. This is 82.1% more irregular immigrant arrivals in 2023 compared to 2022, when 31,219 people came to our country. There have not been so many migrant arrivals since 2018, when 64,298 arrived in Spain. The large number of cayucos arriving in the Canary Islands in 2023 skyrocketed the numbers of irregular immigrants who came to Spain by sea. In fact, of the 55,618 people who arrived by sea in Spain, 71.8% (39,910 people) did so on the Canary Islands coasts in a total of 610 boats. The number of arrivals in the Canary Islands is 154.5% more than in 2022.

11. TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS

National strategic policy developments

The National Strategic Plan against human trafficking 2021-2023 (PENTRA) has been approved. This Strategic Plan is the first comprehensive tool in Spain to address all forms of human trafficking. This Plan has a multisectoral character, involving in its development different agencies of the General State Administration, such as the Ministry of the Interior; Ministry of Justice; Ministry of Equality; Ministry of Social Rights and Agenda 2030; Ministry of Inclusion, Social Security and Migration; Ministry of Labour and Social Economy; Ministry of Education and Professional Training; Ministry of Foreign Affairs, European Union and Cooperation; as well as the General Council of the Judiciary and the General State Prosecutor's Office. It has also benefited from the collaboration of specialized civil society organizations and international organisations (IOM, ILO, UNHCR).

The main points of this plan are: to place the victim at the centre of any action of the public authorities, to adapt the attention to the victims to the different situations of vulnerability, to adequately address the gender dimension, to focus on an integral concept of trafficking that covers all the purposes of this crime, to establish a multidisciplinary perspective that guarantees the necessary interaction of all public and private actors, with special attention to civil society, and finally, to carry out an adequate approach to the demand for services of the victims of trafficking in human beings.

1. Detection and prevention of trafficking in human beings
2. Protection, assistance and recovery of the victims
3. Prosecution of the crime
4. Cooperation and coordination
5. Increasing knowledge about this phenomenon

For each of these priorities, action lines (16) and measures (62) have been established that require a prior and fundamental effort in terms of a legislative reform, as well as firm commitment by all stakeholders.

Within the National Strategy against Organized Crime and Serious Crime 2019-2023, approved by the National Security Council, the fight against human trafficking was prioritized, including different lines of action in this matter, such as the reinforcement and improvement of the protection and assistance to victims, the prevention and prosecution of the crime as well as the necessary inter-institutional cooperation and coordination at national and international level.

Guardia Civil continues to raise awareness on its social networks, where the campaigns #trabajoforzoso and Passport to indicators of trafficking remain.

During this year brochures have been delivered on the different days of action of the operational actions carried out within the EMPACTS. Likewise, they have been handed.

International cooperation

Regarding international cooperation, Law Enforcement Agencies (Policía Nacional and Guardia Civil) carry out operational and strategic activities both at a bilateral level and within multilateral Institutions and organizations (UN, EUROPOL, INTERPOL, EUROJUST, IBERRED...etc.).

As an example of this issue, we can point out the current participation of Guardia Civil in a project of the Assistance Program against Transnational Organized Crime (El PAcCTO) on indicators of victims and situations of trafficking.

Likewise, in relation to the Multidisciplinary Platform against Criminal Threats (EMPACT), Policía Nacional and Guardia Civil have exponentially increased its importance at European level for the next cycle 2022-2025 in the priority of human trafficking.

Guardia Civil also collaborates within the European project "The Training and Operational Partnership Against Organized Crime" (TOPCOP), developed by the European Police College (CEPOL).

The partner countries of the project are Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine. Guardia Civil was involved in the training sessions aimed at specialists in trafficking from different Moldovan institutions, giving several lessons during the month of December 2021 in Chisinau.

Detection and identification of victims of human trafficking

The National Police has developed specialized teams of interviewers in the main seaports where boat arrivals are most frequent to gather information about smuggling routes, smugglers and the phenomena in general.

The procedure for the referral of possible victims of human trafficking requesting international protection at the Adolfo Suárez Madrid-Barajas airport continues, to establish the guidelines for action when foreigners of legal age or family units (including minors) requesting international protection arrive at Adolfo Suárez Madrid-Barajas airport.

When any professional with responsibility for this process suspects that they may be victims of human trafficking will proceed, and they will be correctly referred within the framework of the Reception System for applicants and beneficiaries of international protection.

The purpose is to ensure that victims have access, in the shortest possible time, to the resources most appropriate to their situation. The problem is approached from a "victim-centered" approach that seeks to guarantee a coordinated response from the public authorities to ensure the rescue, immediate attention and recovery of the victims, while promoting their protection and the exercise of the rights of those who were deprived.

A noteworthy phenomenon during this period has also been the large influx of small boats arriving in the Canary Islands. We highlight this fact because it has been a very important migratory phenomenon, since from 1 January 2021 to 10 August 2021, 7,678 people were dealt with in the different islands (44.86% in Las Palmas de Gran Canaria). A priori, being a profile mostly of men (6,353 men out of the total of 7,678 people), the cases of indications of trafficking were very occasional but a change in this trend was perceived at the end of the second semester of 2021.

Indications were discovered of transfers of women from the Canary Islands, and their subsequent abandonment of the reception facility assigned to them on the mainland within a few days, leading to the conclusion that it was not a migration process as such, but rather that there were hidden trafficking networks, and that once on the mainland they wanted to take charge of their goods.

In view of this situation, four major measures were taken by the General Directorate of Humanitarian Assistance and International Protection Programmes, which were as follows:

- .- Detection of possible victims of human trafficking in the CGCs by specialised professionals, prior to the transfer of single women from the Canary Islands to the mainland. Purpose: Detection of possible cases for more appropriate management.
- .- Set up specific centres for trafficking in the Canary Islands and expand the centres for women.
- .- As an awareness-raising mechanism, inclusion in the minimum information to be provided according to the Information Provision Protocol.
- .- Massive training for the detection of possible cases of trafficking to the entities that manage the system's facilities in the Canary Islands, as well as to their service providers.

12. RETURN AND READMISSION

Spain continued developing the voluntary return programme with the collaboration of the NGOs and IOM.

- The Spanish strategy is based on developing voluntary return and reintegration projects managed by non-governmental organisations and international organisations specialising in the care of immigrants.

Grants are announced annually, on a competitive basis, for voluntary return projects co-financed by the FAMI Fund (up to 90%). The amount of the subsidy: 2,700,000 euros and the period of execution: from July 1 to June 30

There are currently 2 types of assisted voluntary return and reintegration projects that can be subsidized: Assisted Voluntary Return Project and Productive Voluntary Return Project.

The main objective of all the projects is to provide third-country nationals in a situation of special vulnerability with the possibility of voluntarily returning from Spain to their countries of origin through individualised return and reintegration itineraries. The productive voluntary return project includes a business project associated with the return.

- The main benefits and services offered in the voluntary return projects are:
 -
 - Psychosocial information, support and counselling
 - Personalized return and reintegration itinerary
 - Payment of visa fees or obtaining travel documents
 - Payment of the return ticket to your country of origin from the place of domicile in Spain
 - Pocket money, €50 per person up to a maximum of €400 per household
 - Financial aid of €400 per person, up to a maximum of €1,600 per family unit, as aid for their first settlement in the country of return.
 - In the case of the Productive Voluntary Return Program, there are also actions aimed at supporting the entrepreneurial capacities and skills of returnees, such as:
 - Specialist professional advice and training in business initiative management prior to departure.
 - Continuous technical assistance throughout the return and start-up itinerary of the business.
 - Follow-up and technical assistance after arrival in the country of return through the intervention of counterparts and/or delegations of the entity in the country of return.
 - Financial aid for the start-up of entrepreneurship.

- The amount shall not exceed €6,000 and shall not be less than €1,000.
- In addition to the annual calls for grants for voluntary return projects co-financed by the AMIF fund, since 2019 an agreement has been signed annually with IOM for the implementation of assisted voluntary return and reintegration projects. The main features and services offered in these projects are the same as those offered in the call.

Agreements with IOM

In addition to the annual calls for grants for voluntary return projects co-financed by the AMIF fund, since 2019 an agreement has been signed annually with IOM for the implementation of assisted voluntary return and reintegration projects. The main features and services offered in these projects are the same as those offered in the call. The amount of the Agreement signed in December 2022 for Voluntary Return: 1,900,000 euros and the execution period is January 1 to January 31.

From January to 30 September 2023, the number of returnees totalled 1,695.

13.MIGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION

The importance of linking migration and development lays the foundations of Spanish migration policy, which emphasises, now more than ever, cooperation with countries of origin and transit, and which has among its priorities the need to build bridges of regular migration together, fighting against irregular routes and working hand in hand against the root causes of migration. All of this is done through an approach based on mutual understanding and trust among States, which, as is well known, are not always easy to achieve.

Cooperation in this area seeks to contribute to the management of migratory flows, promoting the regions of origin from very different perspectives (institutional, economic, social, etc.) and, at the same time, combating human smuggling and trafficking.

The complexity of the relationship between migration, development and security is evident, but it is understood in Spain that this should not be an obstacle that limits or paralyzes them.

The "Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration" stresses the importance of addressing the migration issue, taking into account that its implementation can help implement the United Nations 2030 Agenda, thus assuming that international migration is a multidimensional reality of special importance for the sustainable development of countries of origin. Transit and destination.

Spain aligns itself with these objectives and shows its commitment to promoting the positive effects of migration and adequately managing the negative ones, by promoting a comprehensive vision of migration, which generates the conditions conducive to sustainable development.

In recent years, the European Union, within the framework of the European Agenda on Migration, has been linking migration policy and development cooperation policy, establishing that cooperation with countries of origin and transit and the implementation of projects to address the root causes of migration are a key element of migration policy.

Spain has first promoted and then assumed the link between migration and development, trying to strengthen and integrate both policies more and more, which has made it possible to implement certain lines of action. It has been actively involved in the European Union, advocating this vision even in the face of hostile contexts, and has contributed to the Emergency Trust Fund for Africa.

In the first geographical area, bilateral and regional migration cooperation projects (with ECOWAS) continued to be implemented. The "Africa 2023 Focus", an instrument for the implementation of the III Africa Plan, which includes actions related to the field of migration, also continues to be applied.

Likewise, through the EU (via NDICI), Spain continues to support actions with a migratory component in Africa. Also noteworthy is Spain's leadership in applying the "Team Europe" approach to the external migratory dimension, with the creation of the first migratory Team Europe Initiative (TEI) focused on the Atlantic route and the western Mediterranean, chaired by Spain. Italy and France lead another migratory TEI for the central Mediterranean, replicating the previous one. Both TEIs were launched in 2022.

Similarly, in 2022 Spain chaired the Rabat Process, a Euro-African migration dialogue framework, which encompasses fifty-five states (including all EU states), the EU and the AU. During his presidency, he promoted a restructuring

of its highest management body (the CoPil, by French name, "Pilotage Committee"), to make it more representative. It also held a Ministerial Conference in December 2022 at which a new Political Declaration and Action Plan (dubbed the "Cadiz Plan") were adopted.

In the second half of 2023, it is among the priorities of the Spanish presidency of the EU to give a major boost to the new European pact on migration and asylum. Within the framework of this presidency, the priorities identified in the field of migration are: (1) Addressing the five pillars of the comprehensive approach to migration, (2) monitoring the migration situation and relationship with partner countries, (3) addressing the contribution of labour migration to the EU labour market and of diasporas in Europe to their countries of origin, (4) strengthen the fight against migrant smuggling and trafficking in human beings, (5) analyze the financing of the external dimension of migration, and (6) incorporate the gender approach to migration.

In Latin America, Spain continues to support the MIRPS, a regional framework that promotes a coordinated response to forced displacement in Central America and Mexico. Also noteworthy is Spain's participation in the Resettlement Diplomacy Network (RDN), a US initiative launched in 2023, as a follow-up to a project announced during the ministerial week of the United Nations General Assembly in 2022. This high-level platform aims to promote common political priorities in order to strengthen the global resettlement system and increase access pathways for refugees to third countries.

Irregular migration and human trafficking pose serious risks to the victims who suffer from it. Spain is working in the region together with the security forces of African countries to deal with this problem. At FIIAPP, we contribute to this fight through projects such as A-TIPSOM. This European cooperation project works to combat human trafficking and irregular migrant smuggling in Nigeria, paying special attention to the case of women and children, the main victims of trafficking.

With the Joint Investigation Teams of the National Police, we work through the ECI Niger project to support the government of Niger in the fight against criminal networks of irregular immigration and human trafficking. In Senegal, this problem is also being addressed through the POC project to combat irregular immigration and trafficking.

In Latin America, Spain continued to develop its leadership among countries outside these regions in the Comprehensive Regional Framework for Protection

and Solutions (MIRPs) for Central America and Mexico (Spain assumed leadership of the MIRPS support platform in June 2020 and convened a MIRPS High-Level Meeting in June 2021 in which 110 million pledged) and in the follow-up to Venezuela's migration and asylum crisis (Spain co-hosted the first international donor conference in May 2020 at which USD 2.5 billion was pledged, and participated in the second conference hosted by Canada in June 2021, Spain committed €100 million at both events).

The gender approach, with special attention to the promotion of women's productive capacities and the improvement of sexual and reproductive health, will be mainstreamed in all activities. A line of cooperation on women and development in sub-Saharan Africa will be launched, leading to a regional programme.

In line with the 2030 Agenda and the 2015 Valletta Declaration, work will be carried out on migration and development. Maximum coordination with the EU will be sought, both in the implementation of projects financed with EU resources and in bilateral projects.

Spain's international cooperation policy for development is the main translation into public policies of its citizens' commitment to the countries and communities that suffer the most from inequality and poverty in its multiple dimensions.

Spanish Cooperation contributes to a new global social contract for sustainable and equitable development, marked by the 2030 Agenda, in which no one is left behind.

Since the adoption of Law 23/1998 on International Development Cooperation, the political and legal framework has changed significantly. In this regard, highlights the adoption of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in 2000, the Paris Declaration (2005), the high-level forums of Accra (2008) and Busan (2011), the articulation of the Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation and, more recently, the adoption in 2015 of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, of the Paris Agreement on Climate Change, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, as well as the adoption in 2017 of the European Consensus on Development.

Within this general framework, the Draft Law on Cooperation for Sustainable Development and Global Solidarity, approved in January 2022, updates Spain's development cooperation policy to the current parameters of the global concert and the commitments of the 2030 Agenda.

Among other objectives, it promotes greater integration into the European Union's policy and cooperation system and an effective and comprehensive management of Official Development Assistance, establishing a more robust structure and a more coordinated, strategic and effective action of all cooperation actors.

The strategic planning of our Cooperation is articulated, among other instruments, through the Master Plan prepared by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, European Union and Cooperation with the participation of other institutions of the Spanish system of cooperation for sustainable development.

The Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation (AECID), an agency attached to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, European Union and Cooperation, through the Secretary of State for International Cooperation, is the main body responsible for the promotion, management and execution of public policies of Spanish Cooperation for Sustainable Development. The AECID has 48 External Cooperation Units (UCE) spread across Latin America and the Caribbean, Africa and Asia. Of these, 31 are Technical Cooperation Offices (OTC), 13 are Cultural Centers (CC) and 4, located in Bolivia, Colombia, Guatemala and Uruguay, are Training Centers (CF).

Spanish Cooperation is widely recognised internationally and participates in the preparation, coordination and monitoring of policies for sustainable development at the global level through its active participation in multilateral development organisations and initiatives, in particular the United Nations system, the European Union, the European Union of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and the G20, placing the 2030 Agenda as its fundamental reference.

14. SPANISH EMN NATIONAL CONFERENCE.

On 16 and 17 November, the Conference of the European Migration Network was held within the framework of the Spanish Presidency of the Council under the title "*Shaping the future of EU legal migration: "Where are we and where do we want to go?"*".

Opening day by Ylva Johansson, European Commissioner for Home Affairs, and Isabel Castro, Secretary of State for Migration. Both highlighted the importance

of migration, as well as the need to promote policies that promote tolerance and integration. This opening was followed by the three high-level sessions.

High-Level Session 1: "*European Labour Migration Policies in the Face of Different Challenges*". This panel analysed the challenges we face, in particular whether the measures being taken at EU and national level are sufficient or whether other tools and initiatives, both legislative and otherwise, need to be considered to address these challenges.

- During the meeting, the challenges that EE.MM have to face regarding the need to cover certain sectors with qualified labour were highlighted, as well as the companies themselves in terms of the integration of these workers.
- The impact of labour migration in countries of origin was also highlighted, not only economically but also in terms of circular migration and the enrichment it brings to countries of origin in other areas.
- He also exposed the "urgency" of changing the narrative regarding migration due to the high negative impact it has.
- In conclusion, it was stressed that the European Union needs migration and it is necessary to know how to manage it, which is why policies must be as innovative as possible.

High-Level Session 2: "*External Dimension of Labour Migration Policies - Tools and Good Practices*". During this panel, the needs of both countries of origin and transit were identified, the challenges to be addressed, good practices and areas for improvement, and reflected on current and future pathways for the development of labour migration based on collaboration and cooperation between States.

- The ideas that stood out the most were the need for dialogue between countries of origin, destination and transit.
- The need to manage migratory movements externally with respect to the E.U., as well as training at origin.
- Circular migration was highly valued for its added value compared to countries of origin and the "win-win" that it entails.
- The need for a larger-scale perspective is also very important with respect to being able to handle projects with a greater impact. As well as longer-term time management.
- Irregular migration also stood out for being an enemy to be fought against and its great impact on the narrative as well.

- In conclusion, there is a need for dialogue between the different actors throughout the migration process and the development of policies and programmes.

High-Level Session 3: "Complementary Work Pathways". This panel highlighted recent initiatives and progress made in relation to complementary work-related pathways for people in need of international protection. As a complement to resettlement, these pathways allow displaced people to access existing labour migration pathways, use their skills and help alleviate labour shortages in host countries.

- The Spanish participation in these complementary pathways and in the pilot projects carried out and how we can better "deal" with the obstacles to be faced with their implementation was highlighted.
- The need to provide greater flexibility in the interpretation of highly qualified workers was also emphasized, because otherwise it is not possible to meet the demand for the work on time.
- As for the complementary labor pathways exposed in the panel, they should be seen as complementary to migration policies and the need to recognize that traditional solutions do not work.
- In conclusion: Public-private participation and its coordination is essential and necessary, as reflected in this panel after the presentation of the program carried out by Ikea Iberia and the life experience of the beneficiary of International Protection.

Second day of the Conference and intended to cover a more technical point of view.

Expert Session: "Progress, Achievements and Good Practices in Labour Migration Policies" - This session addressed, from a technical point of view, the regulatory framework for migration and the reforms being carried out in the EU and its Member States. The aim of this session was to identify good practices, analyse lessons learned, and how to move forward on coherent and pragmatic regulations.

- In this panel, the talent and competence package was presented and how it has been shown that joint efforts between countries is necessary.
- Access to information as a tool of power regarding which profiles are in demand in order to ensure that migration is orderly and effective has proven to be more than necessary.

- In conclusion, the need to work in a coordinated manner between the Ministries involved in order to offer a more agile management, measure the impact of the reforms as something fundamental to be able to continue achieving objectives and know how to demonstrate the advantages of the measures carried out was highlighted.

Expert Session 2: "A Sectoral View: Long-Term Care, Transport and Construction Sectors" - The main objective of this session was to analyse the specific situation of various sectors in which vacancies are expected in the coming years. To this end, the possible measures that are being taken or that can be taken from a migratory point of view were analyzed.

- This panel gathered the points of view of both the sectors that currently require labour (such as the transport sector) and those that, in the future, in relation to the current population pyramid will also demand (care sectors).
- What was highlighted and demanded to a greater extent was less bureaucratization of procedures, ease of access to training in countries of origin, as well as the need for job orientation focused on the necessary sectors.

15.- SPANISH UE COUNCIL PRESIDENCE

The Spanish Presidency has pushed for regular, orderly and safe migration to occupy greater weight in the European debate and agenda, advocating a comprehensive approach to migration, which cannot and should not pivot exclusively on the fight against irregular migration. To this end, the last JAI Council of the Swedish Presidency established the following as priorities for the Spanish Presidency:

- Advance negotiations on legal migration directives: 1) reach an agreement with the European Parliament on the Single Permit Directive; (2) approve the general guidelines of the proposal for the long-term residence directive and start trilogues.
- External dimension: encourage debate on the importance of cooperation with third countries by establishing regular migration routes.
- Address the new proposal for a regulation on a European talent pool.
- Address the future status of Temporary Protection for people fleeing the war in Ukraine.
- Maximise the potential of voluntary return.

[Single-permission policy](#). agreement on the text was reached between the European Parliament and the Council during the political trilogue on 18 December.

[Long-Term Residence Directive-EU](#) . The negotiating mandate was adopted in COREPER on 23 November with a comfortable majority. The opening political trilogue with the European Parliament took place on 30 November 2023. The first technical meeting (ITM) with the European Parliament, the last under the Spanish Presidency, was on 14/12.

[Continue to ensure temporary protection for people fleeing war](#). On the Commission's proposal, the Council decision to extend temporary protection until 4 March 2025 was adopted.

[External dimension: encourage debate on the importance of cooperation with third countries by establishing regular migration routes](#). The EMR Conference resulted in a discussion at the highest level, as well as several bilateral meetings regarding the elements of talent partnerships and future relations with partner countries on migration. It also made it possible to address the complementary pathways of legal migration, for those people who may be in need of international protection, something that the COM incorporated in its Communication of April 2022 and in which ES has been a pioneer. There was a high representation from ANUR, IOM and the United States.

[Maximise the opportunities for voluntary return and expand the geographical scope of the FRONTEX agency's tool to carry out these operations \(jrs\)](#) by incorporating Ibero-American countries with high rates of voluntary return from Spain (mainly Colombia, with 23% of returns, and Honduras, with 22%). A discussion on the potential of voluntary return has been achieved as part of the European Return Strategy, promoting the reintegration part and emphasising the importance of not only assisted but productive return.

[Meeting of the High Level Group for the Fight against Hate Speech and Hate Crimes \(HLG\)](#): On 10 and 11 October, a meeting of the High Level Group on Hate was held in Madrid, chaired by ES (Director of the Observatory Against Racism and Xenophobia) and the European Commission. The meeting aimed to address issues related to progress in the fight against hate crimes and hate speech, the protection of victims, the training of government bodies, data collection, the renewal of the Code of Conduct signed by the European Commission and internet platforms in view of the implementation of the DSA, analyse the progress of national plans to combat racism, in order to comply with the "EU Anti-Racism Action Plan for 2020-2025".

[Red Europea de Integración – European Integration Network](#).

Forum bringing together representatives of national public authorities from all the Member States of the European Union, together with Iceland and Norway, with

the aim of promoting cooperation in the actions and policies for integration developed by the Member States, as well as to promote dialogue on integration between European authorities, national, regional and local organizations, and civil society organizations.



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EMN ANNUAL REPORT ON MIGRATION AND ASYLUM

NATIONAL REPORT PART 2: ANNEXES

ANNEX A: METHODOLOGY AND DEFINITIONS

Methodology

This section should include brief information on how the report was produced and who contributed to it. Information to be provided should include the following:

- Methods used in identifying and selecting sources of information, legislative and statistical sources used and whether the previously given criteria used to define what is considered as a 'significant development/debate' was modified in any way;
- An overview of the type and sources of information used, including statistics;
- Which, if any, organisations/institutions/individuals were contacted to obtain the relevant information;
- Any problems that were encountered;
- Whether any aspects (or statistics) could not be addressed (or provided) in accordance with these specifications. If alternative information was provided, one should outline how the alternative information should be interpreted in relation to what was requested in these specifications;
- Whether any reservations/caveats should be applied to any of the information included and, if so, how.

It is particularly important to provide appropriate detail(s)/reference(s) to developments cited. For example, provide details of the reason(s) why a cited development (e.g. institutional change) occurred (for example by including the objectives for and drivers of the change) to avoid making the information seem anecdotal. Similarly, for media reports, and this is linked to the approach used for describing a significant development/debate, provide details of the rationale followed for describing a particular development.

Terms

To the extent possible, terms and their definitions as given in the EMN Glossary should be used. If this is not possible for some term(s), or they do not exist in the Glossary, then this section should provide the (national) definitions used.

Where different and appropriate, 'national' definitions should be compared with definitions used in any relevant EU Directives or other EU legislation. If definitions are the same in national and EU legislation, this should be highlighted.

ANNEX B: IMPLEMENTATION OF EU LEGISLATION

The purpose of this Section is for you to provide information on how policy and legislative developments and decisions taken by the EU have had an impact at national level, e.g. in terms of modifications to national policy and/or legislation and/or practices resulting from such EU developments.

Detail any experiences, debates, both at political level and within the wider society (e.g. issues raised by migrant (support) associations, academia) in the implementation or non-implementation (in which case outline the reasons for this) of the most significant EU legislation in asylum and migration, both for directives previously (before 2022) transposed into national legislation, as well as those transposed during 2022. Any impact or changes or experience with the entry into force of EU re-admission agreements, including with respect to bilateral agreements which existed before, can also be included.

Include also any experiences in cooperating with EU Member States or within EMN Members and Observer Countries (good or bad) in the implementation of EU legislation (e.g. differences in treatment of nationals compared to other EU and/or third country nationals, consequences at national level in exercising of right to free movement). The purpose is to identify any consequences as a result of approaches that may be taken by another country for which a (positive or negative) impact in your country has been observed.

Indicate also, whenever possible and if applicable, where information provided by the EMN (e.g. through studies, reports, informs, ad-hoc queries) has served to inform such developments. In addition, and if known, indicate if information from other sources (e.g. IOM, ICMPD, GDISC, OECD, UN) has been used to the same purpose. In particular, this section should identify aspects/topics which might merit further consideration by policymakers.

ANNEX C: NATIONAL STATISTICS

Please include here any national statistics relevant to the thematic sections 3-13 (if not integrated into the text. You may wish for example, to include tables of data, making specific reference to (aspects of) these in the narrative sections.

ANNEX D: BIBLIOGRAPHY/REFERENCES/SOURCES

Please include here any relevant references or information sou