

Common Template of EMN Study 2018

Impact of visa liberalisation on countries of destination

National Contribution from the Netherlands

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.

In this study, an overview is provided of the impact of visa liberalisation in countries of the Western Balkans (Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia¹, Albania and Bosnia and Herzegovina²) and the Eastern Partnership countries (Moldova³, Georgia and the Ukraine⁴) on the Netherlands.

There has been no formal evaluation in the Netherlands of the impact of visa liberalisation on the Netherlands. There are, however, some indications of the impact.

The number of asylum application by third-country nationals from visa-free countries has increased in the past few years. But as far as the share of the visa-free countries in the asylum influx in the Netherlands in 2017 is concerned, it cannot be concluded that the rise observed in it was directly connected with visa liberalisation. It seems rather to be a consequence of migrants from the countries surrounding the EU taking advantage of the increased asylum influx of 2015-2016. Two possible pull factors for the arrival of asylum seekers from visa-free countries in the Netherlands are (a) that asylum seekers in the Netherlands are provided with accommodation and an allowance for living expenses during the procedure, and (b) that asylum seekers who have exhausted all appeals are eligible for a return programme.

The impact of visa liberalisation on the Dutch economy has not been analysed. There are, however, some indications of the impact.

- The number of tourists from the Ukraine (visa-free since June 2017)⁵ increased by 35% in 2017 (see also question 2.2.3).

¹ Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia have been visa-free since 2009.

² Albania and Bosnia and Herzegovina have been visa-free since 2010.

³ Moldova has been visa-free since 2014.

⁴ Georgia and the Ukraine have been visa-free since 2017.

⁵ Unfortunately, no figures are available for other visa-free countries.

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- The number of third-country nationals from visa-free countries who have obtained residence permits for remunerated activities reasons has not risen structurally since the introduction of visa liberalisation and remains low in absolute numbers (see also question 2.2.4).⁶
- The number of students from visa-free countries who came to the Netherlands in the period 2008-2017 has increased. This increase is, however, in line with the increase in the total number of third-country nationals who have received a residence permit for education reasons, so it is not easy to see any connection with visa exemption (see also question 2.2.5).

There are indications that trade with most visa-free countries has increased in the past period, but no full overview is available. The visa-free countries are not among the main trading partners of the Netherlands. (see also question 2.2.7).

The Netherlands has been faced with the following challenges since the introduction of visa liberalisation:

- A rise can be seen in the past few years (in 2016 and 2017) in the number of illegal Albanians found. This became apparent five years after the introduction of visa liberalisation (see questions 3.1.5 and 3.1.7 for more information).
- The Netherlands has been confronted for a considerable time with asylum seekers from safe countries, especially from the Western Balkans and Georgia. After refusal of their asylum applications, some of these third-country nationals from the Western Balkans still made use of return assistance under the 'Return and Emigration Assistance from the Netherlands' (REAN) programme implemented by the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) (plane ticket, replacement travel documents and a financial contribution of €200). Consequently, the State Secretary of Security and Justice, partly at the request of the Lower House of Parliament, decided that from 28 September 2016, third-country nationals from Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia were no longer eligible for return assistance under the REAN programme implemented by IOM. By way of the Repatriation and Departure Service (DT&V), third-country nationals from these countries who wanted to return independently were still offered a plane ticket.⁷ Changes have recently been made to this (see question 4.1 for a more detailed explanation).

The Netherlands has implemented various measures since the introduction of visa liberalisation to deal with the challenges. Several measures have been taken to reduce the number of asylum applications from safe countries (including visa-free countries), especially the Western Balkans. For example, asylum applications from these safe countries are handled in an accelerated procedure called Track 2, a zero days departure period is applicable, a two-year entry ban has been imposed and additional reintegration assistance has been abolished for visa-free countries (see also question 4.1 for information on return assistance and 4.6 for more information on the three-track policy).

According to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (BuZa), cooperation with third countries has improved since the introduction of visa liberalisation. Aspects such as security and migration are discussed more quickly and easily.⁸ Readmission Agreements have been concluded with all visa-free countries concerned in the process leading to visa liberalisation.⁹ This has been dealt

⁶ For more information see:

https://www.werk.nl/werk_nl/werkgever/wervingsadvies/werkvergunning/aanvragen/tewerkstellingsvergunning

⁷ EMN (2017): Policy Overview 2016. Migration and Asylum in the Netherlands.

⁸ Interview with a policy officer from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, 26-06-2018 in The Hague.

⁹ Interview with a policy officer from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, 26-06-2018 in The Hague.

with properly in all countries and the cooperation with these countries is good.¹⁰

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.¹¹

¹⁰ Interview with a policy officer from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, 26-06-2018 in The Hague.

¹¹ N/A – not applicable, NI – no information, 0 - collected data resulted in 0 cases.

Impact of visa liberalisation on countries of destination**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.¹²

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.

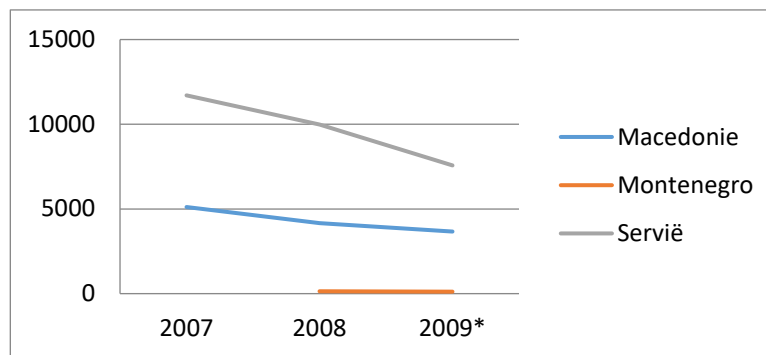
Western Balkans - FYROM, Montenegro, Serbia, Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina:

Applications for short-stay visas

The number of applications for short-stay visas by third-country nationals from the Western Balkans decreased in the year before the introduction of visa liberalisation (see below and Table 1.2.3).

Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia (visa-free since 2009)

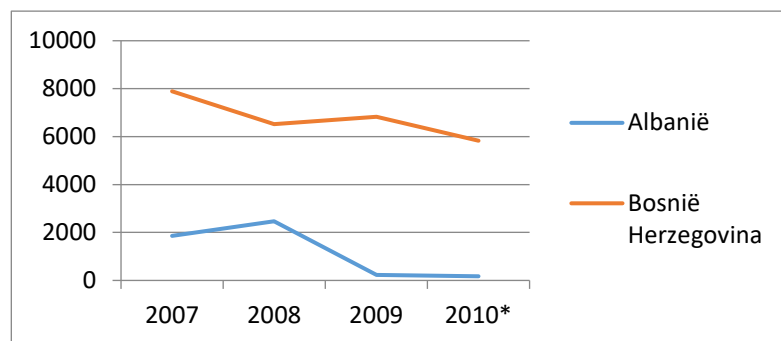
Graph 1: Total number of short-stay visa applications by third country



Source: Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina (visa-free since 2010)

Graph 2: Total number of short-stay visa applications by third country



Source: Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Percentage short-stay visa application refusals

For Albania a clear increase and for Montenegro a slight increase can be seen in the percentage of rejected applications for short-stay visas in the year before these countries were exempted from the visa requirement. The total number of applications for short-stay visas from these two

¹² Please use information such as: increase of entries, number of asylum applications, refusals of entry, return and removal decisions in your answers.

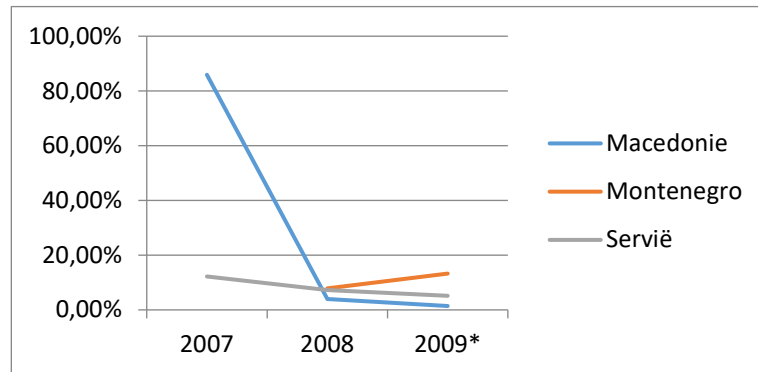
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countries is low.

For Macedonia and Serbia a slight decrease can be observed in the percentage of refusals the year that these countries were exempted from the visa requirement. The percentage of refusals short-stay visas submitted by third-country nationals from Bosnia and Herzegovina has hardly changed (see below and Table 1.2.4).

Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia (visa-free since 2009)

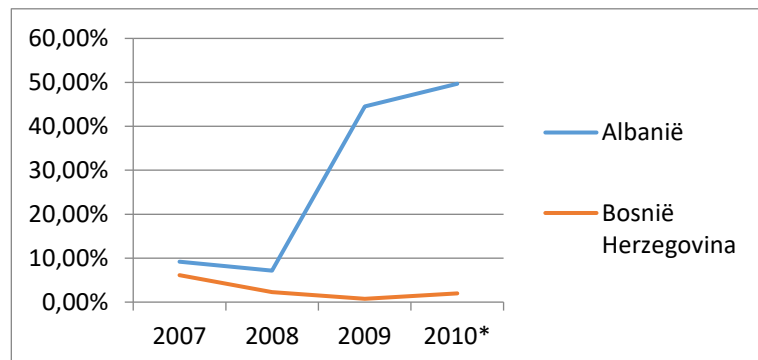
Graph 3: Percentage of short-stay visa application refusals by third country



Source: Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina (visa-free since 2010)

Graph 4: Percentage of short-stay visa application refusals by third country



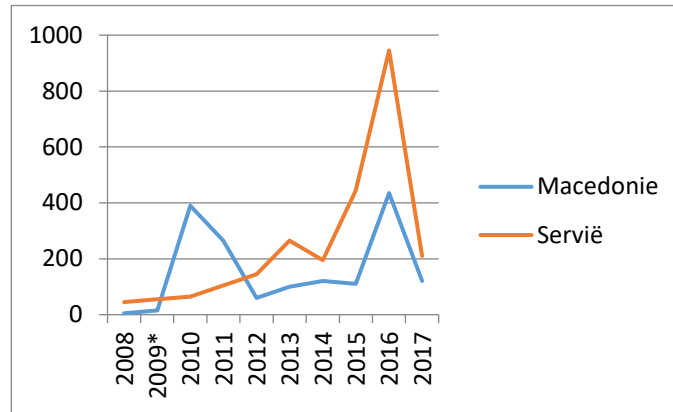
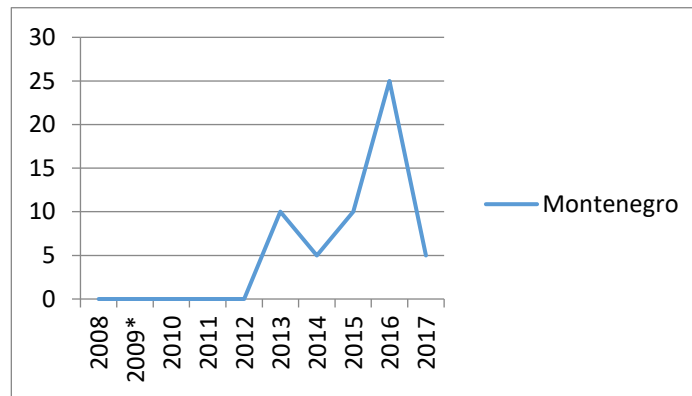
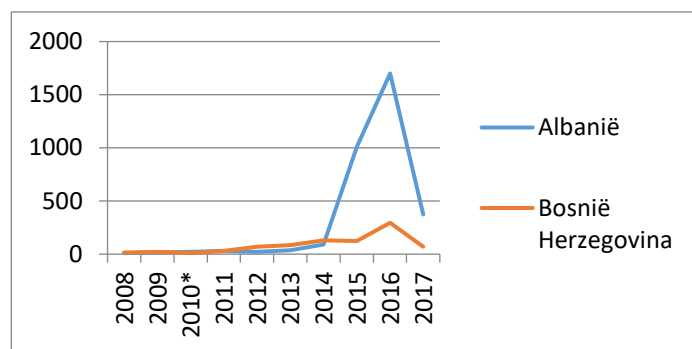
Source: Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Number of asylum applications

The number of third-country nationals from the Western Balkan countries who applied for asylum in the year of, or the years after, liberalisation increased (slightly).

Nevertheless, no clear trends can be seen in the short and long-term effects of the introduction of visa liberalisation where asylum applications by third-country nationals from these visa-free countries are concerned, except for Macedonia.

In Macedonia, an increase can be seen from 15 applications in 2009 to 390 applications in 2010, while in 2011 there were 265 applications (short-term effect). Afterwards, a decrease can be seen, followed by a peak in 2016. The peak in 2016 applies to all Western Balkan countries. In 2017 the asylum applications from the Western Balkan countries decreased again (see below and Table 1.2.5).

Impact of visa liberalisation on countries of destination**Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia (visa-free since 2009)****Graph 5: Total number of asylum applications received from visa-free countries****Source: Eurostat****Graph 6: Total number of asylum applications received from visa-free countries****Source: Eurostat****Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina (visa-free since 2010)****Graph 7: Total number of asylum applications received from visa-free countries****Source: Eurostat****Number of return decisions**

The number of return decisions issued to third-country nationals from Western Balkan countries increased considerably, especially for Macedonia, in the two years after the introduction of visa liberalisation, namely from 75 to 375 return decisions in 2010, while there were 335 return decisions in 2011. Afterwards, a decrease can be seen again, followed again by a peak in 2016. The peak in 2016 applies to all Western Balkan countries. In 2017 the return decisions that were issued to third-country nationals from Western Balkan countries subsequently decreased

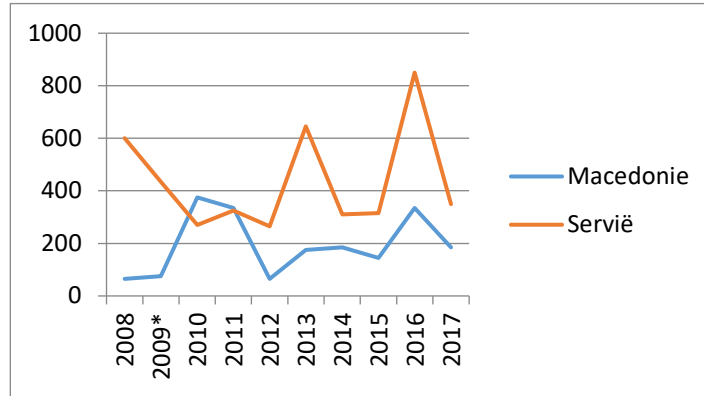
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again.

For Serbia a decrease can be seen from 435 to 270 return decisions one year after the introduction of visa liberalisation. For Albania a slight decrease can be seen in the two years after the introduction of visa liberalisation, from 110 to 105 return decisions, and to 65 return decisions in 2012 (see below and Table 3.2.2).

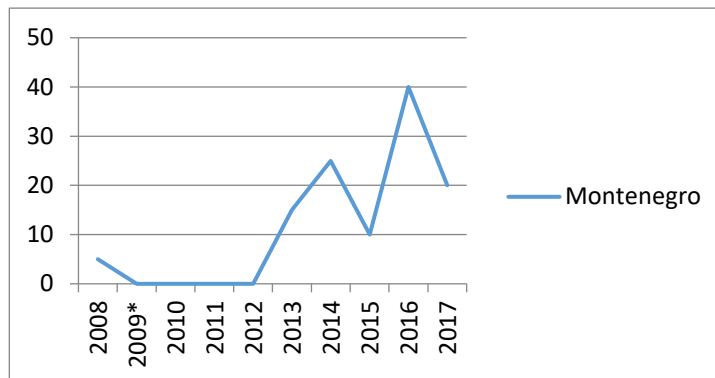
Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia (visa-free since 2009)

Graph 8: Total number of return decisions issued to nationals from the visa-free countries



Source: Eurostat

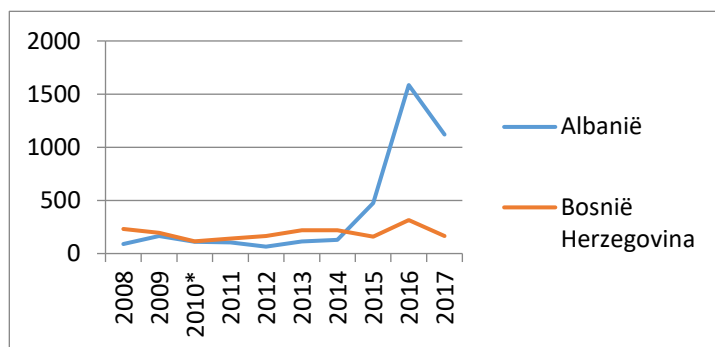
Graph 9: Total number of return decisions issued to nationals from the visa-free countries



Source: Eurostat

Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina (visa-free since 2010)

Graph 10: Total number of return decisions issued to nationals from the visa-free countries



Source: Eurostat

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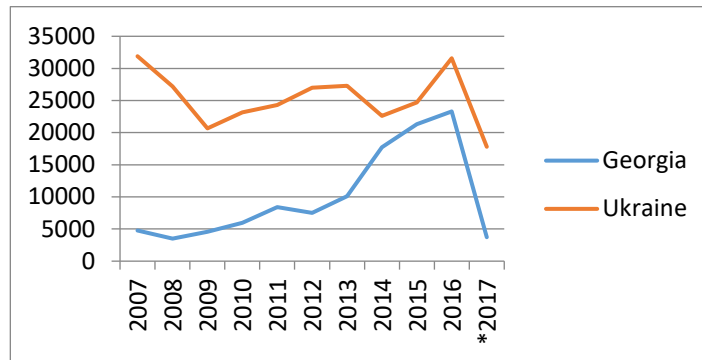
Eastern Partnership - Moldova, Georgia, Ukraine:

Applications for short-stay visas

The number of applications for short-stay visas for the Netherlands from third-country nationals from Eastern Partnership countries (Moldova, Georgia and Ukraine) decreased in the year before the introduction of visa liberalisation (see below and Table 1.2.3).

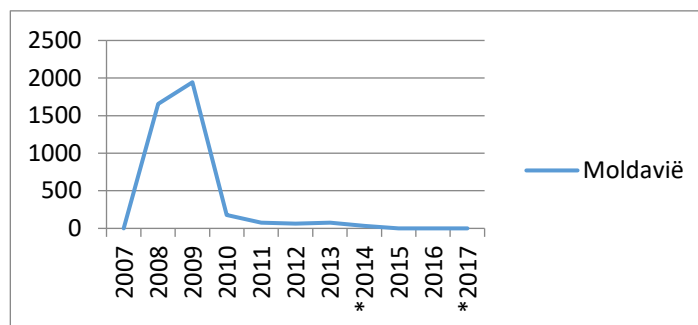
Moldova (visa-free since 2014), Georgia, Ukraine (visa-free since 2017)

Graph 11: Total number of short-stay visa applications by third country



Source: Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Graph 12: Total number of short-stay visa applications by third country

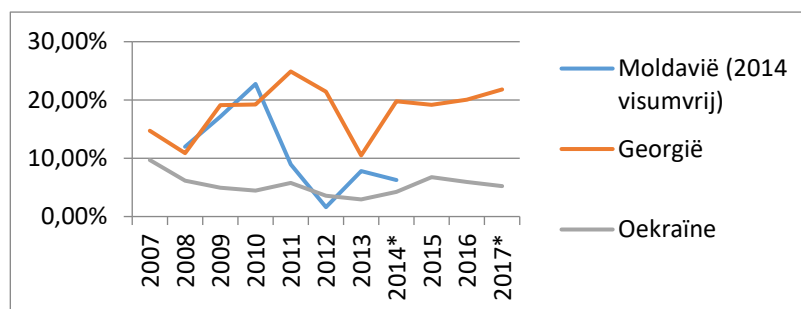


Source: Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Percentage of refusals of applications for short-stay visas

For Moldova and Ukraine, a decrease can be seen in the percentage of refusals of applications for short-stay visas in the year of visa liberalisation. For Georgia a slight increase can be seen from 20.04% to 21.83%.

Graph 13: Percentage of short-term visa application refusals by third country



Source: Ministry of Foreign Affairs

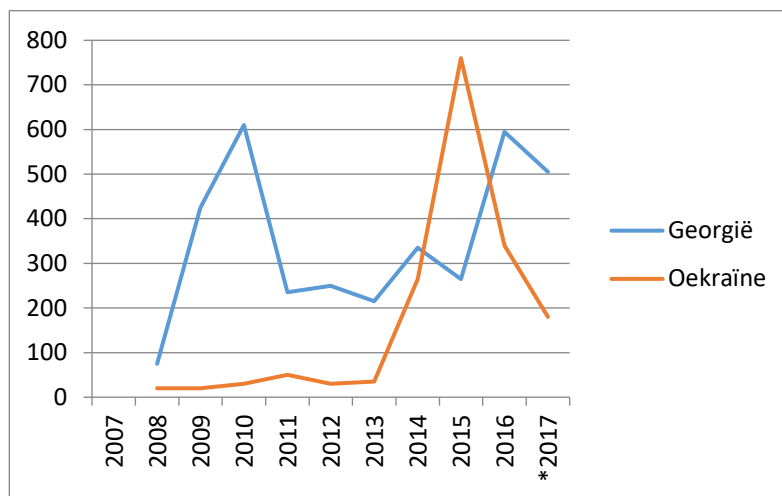
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Number of asylum applications

The number of asylum applications from Moldovans remained stable in the years around the time of visa liberalisation. Since 2017, a clear increase can be observed in first asylum applications by Moldovans, from 15 to 340. The increase seems to be continuing this year, given the fact that 640 Moldovans already submitted first asylum applications up to and including October 2018.¹³ A simple reason for this increase cannot be given at present.¹⁴ Asylum applications by Ukrainians decreased in the year of visa liberalisation from 340 to 180. In 2015 a peak could be seen of 760. A decrease was also seen in the number of Georgians in the year of visa liberalisation, from 595 to 505 applications. In 2015, however, the number of asylum applications by Georgians was 265.

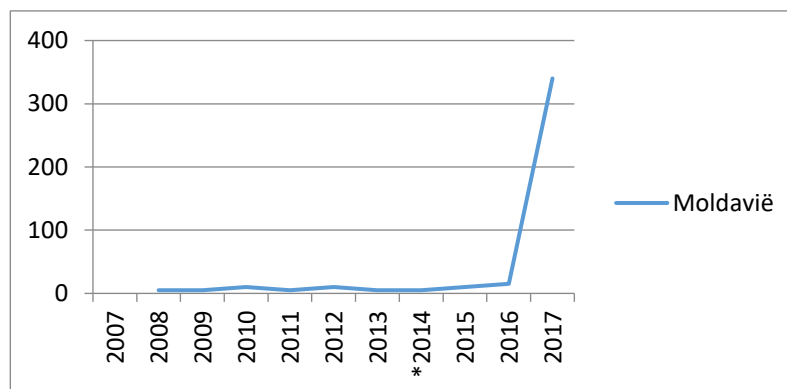
No trends can be observed yet in the short and long-term effects of the introduction of visa liberalisation when it comes to asylum applications from these visa-free countries, because the introduction took place recently.

Graph 14: Total number of asylum applications received from visa-free countries



Source: Eurostat

Graph 15: Total number of asylum applications received from visa-free countries



Source: Eurostat

Number of return decisions

The number of return decisions issued to Moldovans remained the same in the years around the

¹³ IND, Asylum trends. See: <https://ind.nl/en/about-ind/figures-and-publications/Pages/Asylum-Trends.aspx>

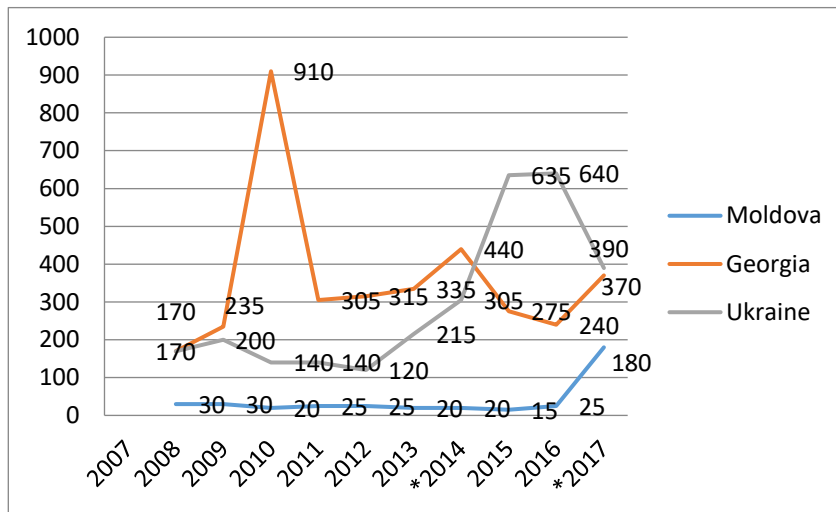
¹⁴ Interview with the Royal Netherlands Marechaussee (Koninklijke Marechaussee), 26 June 2018.

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time of the introduction of visa liberalisation, with a peak in 2017. For Ukrainians, a peak can be seen in 2015 and 2016, but there was a decrease in the year of visa liberalisation from 640 to 390 return decisions. For Georgians a decrease was seen in 2015 and 2016, with an increase in the number of return decisions in 2017, the year that Georgia was exempted from the visa requirement

No trends can be observed yet in the short and long-term effects of the introduction of visa liberalisation when it comes to the issue of return decisions to third-country nationals from these visa-free countries, because the introduction took place recently. A clear peak can be seen only for Moldova two years after the introduction of visa liberalisation.

Graph 16: Total number of return decisions issued to nationals from the visa-free countries



Source: Eurostat

Q1.2. What are the main links between the countries of origin and your Member State or the applicable 'pull factors'¹⁵ disaggregated by region and third countries of interest?

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

Pull factors for third-country nationals from the Western Balkan countries:

- Third-country nationals from visa-free countries are allowed to stay in The Netherlands for 90 days without a visa. After this period, they have to leave The Netherlands. Asylum seekers in the Netherlands are provided with accommodation and an allowance for living expenses during the procedure. By starting an asylum procedure – which for most third-country nationals from visa-free countries has no chance of success – they can make use of these services.
- In the Netherlands, third-country nationals who want to return to their country of origin are eligible under certain conditions for return assistance. This may consist of basic

¹⁵ 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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departure assistance via the REAN programme of IOM (information on independent return, assistance in obtaining a (replacement) travel document, a plane ticket and an assistance contribution of €200) and additional reintegration assistance in the form of a return project. A return project assists the third-country national with his/her departure from the Netherlands and his/her reintegration in the country of origin.¹⁶ Among other things, assistance can consist of limited financial assistance and assistance in kind, such as information, advice, training, medical assistance, assistance in finding work or starting a business (see the answer to question 4.1). From 1 January 2016, all visa-free countries have been excluded from additional reintegration assistance. An evaluation has meanwhile taken place of the effects of these and other measures relating to return assistance. It has emerged that the measures have had some unintended effects on the actual implementation. In order to strengthen independent return and prevent third-country nationals who have no right to stay (anymore) from staying longer than necessary in the Netherlands, third-country nationals from the Western Balkans (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia), Moldova, Ukraine and Georgia are eligible for return support under certain conditions (see question 4.1 for further explanation).

- A diaspora from former Yugoslavia is present in the Netherlands, initially as a result of labour migration mainly in the 60s and 70s, and later as a result of the flow of refugees during the war in former Yugoslavia in the 90s.¹⁷

Eastern Partnership - Moldova, Georgia, Ukraine:

Pull factors for third-country nationals from the Eastern Partnership countries:

A possible pull factor for these countries as well for coming to the Netherlands is the return assistance, accommodation and allowance for living expenses during the asylum procedure (see also the answer to question 1.2.).

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?¹⁸

In the Netherlands several institutions and/or authorities are involved in implementing the visa liberalisation process.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs is responsible for the process and the course of introducing visa liberalisation. This is done in cooperation with the Ministry of Justice and Security. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has no insight into the possible effects of visa liberalisation in terms of asylum or irregular migration. The expertise and responsibility for this rests with the Ministry of Justice and Security.¹⁹

The following parties are also involved: the Immigration and Naturalisation Service (they give border instructions to the Royal Netherlands Marechaussee); the Royal Netherlands Marechaussee (Koninklijke Marechaussee) (they are involved in monitoring within the Netherlands and in border control; KLM Royal Dutch Airlines (they check for documented or undocumented persons on checking in); the Repatriation and Departure Service (DT&V) (when

¹⁶ European Migration Network. 2014. *Asylum and Migration Glossary 3.0: a tool for better comparability produced by the European Migration Network.*

¹⁷ Hessels, T. (2005) "Voormalig Joegoslaven in Nederland," *Bevolkingstrends: Statistisch kwartaalblad over de demografie van Nederland* 53 (1), 98-103 (in Dutch).

¹⁸ For example: changes to instructions for border patrol agents and in equipment.

¹⁹ Interview with a policy officer from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, 26-06-2018 in The Hague.

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visa liberalisation has consequences for the number of returnees); and the National Police (supervision of third-country nationals and fighting crime).

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?

No, there were no changes in our national legislation in connection with the introduction of visa-free regimes, because Regulation (EC) No. 539/2001 in which it is stated which countries are required to have visas has direct effect.²⁰

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?

Yes, there were policy debates in the Netherlands related to the visa liberalisation process.

An example of a public (and political) debate in the Netherlands in relation to visa liberalisation is the time when Ukraine was exempted from the visa requirement. In this debate on 12 July 2016,²¹ the link was made with the advisory referendum in 2016 in the Netherlands on the Act for Approval of the EU Association Agreement with Ukraine²² and the question whether making Ukraine visa-free might lead to accession to the European Union. Much attention was paid to this in the media and this matter became part of the public and political debate.

The Netherlands has been exploring in the last few years the possibility to use a Visa Suspension Mechanism, in the event that the abolition of the visa requirement leads to sudden undesirable effects. To this end, EU legislation has been developed at the initiative of the Netherlands and France, which makes it possible to temporarily suspend visa liberalisation at the request of one or more Member States, in the event of a sudden increase in illegal residence, asylum or the sudden cessation of cooperation with return (see question 4.3 for a further explanation of the Visa Suspension Mechanism).²³ In practice, Visa Suspension Mechanism has not yet been used.

Recently, the Dutch media has regularly paid attention to the number of Albanians who are criminally active in the Netherlands. In response to this, the Dutch government explored if the Visa Suspension Mechanism for suspending visa liberalisation for Albania (a decision that is taken at EU level) would be helpful in addressing the issue. The yearly monitor, a report published by the European Commission about visa-free countries on the Western Balkan and about visa-free Eastern Partnership countries, plays an important role in this.

On 20 December 2017 the Commission published the first report under the Visa Suspension

²⁰ Council Regulation (EC) No 539/2001 of 15 March 2001 listing the countries whose nationals must be in possession of visas when crossing the external borders and those whose nationals are exempt from that requirement. Consulted on 24 August 2018. <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2001:081:0001:0007:NL:PDF>

²¹ Upper House. Debate over Visa liberalisation for Ukraine. Consulted on 24 August 2018. https://www.eerstekamer.nl/verslagdeel/20160712/visa-liberalisation_oukraine

²² National Government. Advisory referendum on Ukraine. Consulted on 11 July 2018. <https://www.rijksoverheid.nl/onderwerpen/associatieakkoord-oukraine/oukraine-referendum>

²³ *Parliamentary Papers (Kamerstukken) II*, 2013-2014, 21501-20 nr. 838

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Mechanism. The second report was published on 19 December 2018. The Commission concludes in both reports that all countries of the Western Balkan, including Albania, still meet the visa liberalisation requirements. Furthermore, the European Commission mentioned several points at which Albania and other countries exempted from visa requirements have to take action.²⁴ Considering this, there does not seem to be enough support in the EU to use the Visa Suspension Mechanism. The need for an effective approach to the identified problems remains fully in existence. In bilateral contacts the Netherlands continues to emphasize the importance of effective cooperation with Albania with regard to transboundary criminality and return of asylum seekers. In addition, the Dutch government continues to demand attention for the questions and concerns present in the Netherlands, and requested the Commission to actively continue monitoring the conditions of the visa liberalisation process.

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

N/A

²⁴ Report from the European Commission to the European Parliament and the Council. Second report under the Visa Suspension Mechanism. Consulted on 1 February 2019. https://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/sites/homeaffairs/files/what-we-do/policies/european-agenda-migration/20181219_com-2018-856-report_en.pdf

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 countries²⁵

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 external border-crossings (persons) by nationals of visa-free countries												
FYROM												
Montenegro												
Serbia												
Albania												
Bosnia and Herzegovina												
Moldova												
Georgia												
Ukraine												
Total												
Total number of external border crossings (persons)²⁶												

*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:

²⁵ 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.

²⁶ All nationalities apply, to calculate the proportion out of the total number of border crossings (persons)

NI - We cannot deliver the data for this table. Border crossings are not recorded in the Netherlands.

*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 countries²⁷

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 detections of irregular border-crossings from nationals of visa-free countries													
FYROM	N/A	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	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	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	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	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	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	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	N/A	
Total													
Total number of detections of irregular border-crossings²⁸													

*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).

²⁷ 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/>

²⁸ All nationalities apply, to calculate the proportion out of the total number of irregular border crossings.

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:

NI – No figures are available on the detection of illegal border crossings. The Netherlands has no external national borders. At the time it is observed at the border (airport or seaport) that someone does not fulfil the conditions for entry into the territory of the Netherlands, entry is refused so there is no question of illegal border crossing.

*Impact of visa liberalisation on countries of destination*Table 1.2.3: Total number of short-stay visa applications by third country²⁹

Indicator	Period of interest (2007-2017) (insert all available data or <i>at least</i> 2 years prior 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	5115	4160	3665	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	<p>Source: Ministry of Foreign Affairs</p> <p>For 2007, the applications are missing that third-country nationals submitted at a Netherlands diplomatic post outside the country of origin.</p> <p>The figures are exclusive of applications for a short-stay visa for the Netherlands submitted at the diplomatic post of another Member State. In several countries, the Netherlands is represented in relation to visas by another Member State. This means that the Netherlands did not perform the visa task itself, or only in certain cases.</p>

²⁹ 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.

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Montenegro	--	140	120	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	
Serbia	11705	9995	7570	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	
Albania	1870	2470	230	175	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	
Bosnia and Herzegovina	7895	6530	6825	5830	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	
Moldova	--	1660	1945	180	80	65	80	35	N/A	N/A	N/A	
Georgia	4755	3510	4570	5995	8415	7540	10115	17725	21310	23305	3710	
Ukraine	31900	27205	20655	23165	24325	27020	27315	22590	24720	31565	17805	
Total												
Total number of short-stay visa applications – all third countries³⁰		357.560	363.480	397.755	435.265	446.515	466.255	490.110	521.720	559.055	622.010	

*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

³⁰ All nationalities apply, to calculate the proportion out of the total number of short-term visa applications.

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Table 1.2.4: Total number of short-stay visa application refusals by third country^{31 32}

Indicator	Period of interest (2007-2017) (insert all available data or <u>at least</u> 2 years prior 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	85.9%	4.01%	1.42%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	
Montenegro	--	7.86%	13.27%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	
Serbia	12.21%	7.28%	5.15%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	
Albania	9.22%	7.16%	44.5%	49.68%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	
Bosnia and Herzegovina	6.13%	2.31%	0.75%	1.97%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	
Moldova	--	11.97%	17.13%	22.75%	8.97%	1.61%	7.79%	6.25%	N/A	N/A	N/A	
Georgia	14.72%	10.86%	19.11%	19.25%	24.89%	21.44%	10.49%	19.79%	19.19%	20.04%	21.83%	
Ukraine	9.7%	6.18%	4.95%	4.44%	5.79%	3.56%	2.94%	4.22%	6.78%	5.96%	5.20%	
Total												
Total number of short-stay visa application	--	7.23%	7.35%	6.45%	7.47%	6.88%	6.51%	6.19%	7.55%	8.88%	10.14%	

³¹ 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.

³² Source: Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

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refusals – all third countries³³												
--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

*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

³³ All nationalities apply, to calculate the proportion out of the total number of short-term visa application refusals.

*Impact of visa liberalisation on countries of destination*Table 1.2.5: Total number of asylum applications received from visa-free countries^{34 35}

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 asylum applications received from visa-free countries												
FYROM		5	15	390	265	60	100	120	110	435	120	
Montenegro		0	0	0	0	0	10	5	10	25	5	
Serbia		45	55	65	105	145	265	195	445	945	210	
Albania		10	15	20	30	20	35	90	1010	1700	375	
Bosnia and Herzegovina		15	20	10	30	70	85	130	125	295	70	
Moldova		5	5	10	5	10	5	5	10	15	340	
Georgia		75	425	610	235	250	215	335	265	595	505	
Ukraine		20	20	30	50	30	35	265	760	340	180	
Total												
Total number of asylum applications – all third countries³⁶		15.250	16.135	15.100	14.590	13.095	13.060	24.495	44.970	20.945	18.210	

*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).

³⁴ 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.

³⁵ Source: Eurostat [migr_asyappctza], extracted on 11/05/2018.

³⁶ All nationalities apply, to calculate the proportion out of the total number of asylum applications.

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 are no data available for 2007 in line with Eurostat definitions.

*Impact of visa liberalisation on countries of destination*Table 1.2.6: Total number of positive decisions on asylum applicants from visa-free countries^{37 38}

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 positive decisions on asylum applicants from visa-free countries												
FYROM		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Montenegro		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Serbia		5	0	0	0	5	5	0	5	0	0	
Albania		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	0	
Bosnia and Herzegovina		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Moldova		5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Georgia		0	5	5	5	0	5	5	0	5	5	
Ukraine		0	0	5	0	0	0	5	5	5	5	
Total		10	5	10	5	5	10	10	10	15	10	

*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:

³⁷ 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.

³⁸ Source: Eurostat [migr_asydcfsta], extracted on 11/05/2018.

There are no data available for 2007 in line with Eurostat definitions.

*Impact of visa liberalisation on countries of destination*Table 1.2.7: Total number of negative decisions on asylum applicants from visa-free countries^{39 40}

Indicator	Period of interest (2007-2017) (insert all available data or <u>at least 2 years</u> 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		10	10	320	275	35	80	100	40	215	110	
Montenegro		0	0	0	0	0	0	10	0	25	5	
Serbia		35	40	70	105	110	265	135	95	560	215	
Albania		5	10	15	25	15	30	60	315	795	345	
Bosnia and Herzegovina		10	15	15	25	65	70	95	70	220	65	
Moldova		5	0	5	5	10	0	0	5	0	150	
Georgia		50	120	735	225	240	140	280	70	135	230	
Ukraine		5	20	30	35	35	35	155	440	255	100	
Total		120	215	1190	695	510	620	835	1035	2205	1220	

*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:

³⁹ See Eurostat: First instance decisions on applications by citizenship, age and sex, Annual aggregated data (rounded) [migr_asydcfsta]

⁴⁰ Source: Eurostat [migr_asydcfsta], extracted on 11/05/2018.

There are no data available for 2007 in line with Eurostat definitions.

*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)⁴¹

Indicator	Period of interest (2007-2017) (insert all available data)											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 <u>positive</u> decisions on asylum applicants (top five nationalities, not limited to visa-free countries)												
Syria		10	25	45	25	585	1695	5440	7850	12895	2505	Source: Eurostat [migr_asydcfsta], extracted on 11/05/2018
Eritrea		155	245	305	430	270	585	3490	4875	3120	1390	
Somalia		1485	3845	3490	1675	950	855	335	120	100	100	
Iraq		2225	1850	1225	1245	1205	430	325	255	980	630	
Stateless		55	40	40	25	60	170	1365	1820	1695	235	
Total		3930	6005	5105	3400	3070	3735	10955	14920	18790	4860	
Total number of <u>negative</u> decisions on asylum applicants (top five nationalities, not limited to visa-free countries)												
Iraq		1100	2640	1030	1030	685	480	450	140	1050	975	
Afghanistan		265	715	1240	1455	1230	735	415	320	1090	1225	

⁴¹ 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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Somalia		815	2170	1840	950	655	345	235	145	145	165	
Iran		200	310	405	605	705	525	320	125	395	810	
Armenia		100	245	400	565	390	295	235	75	45	85	
Total		2480	6080	4915	4605	3665	2380	1655	805	2725	3260	

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 are no data available for 2007 in line with Eurostat definitions.

*Impact of visa liberalisation on countries of destination*Table 1.2.9: Total number of residence permits applications (all residence permits) by visa-free country⁴²

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 residence permits applications (all residence permits) by visa-free country												
FYROM												
Montenegro												
Serbia												
Albania												
Bosnia and Herzegovina												
Moldova												
Georgia												
Ukraine												
Total												
Total number of residence permits applications (all residence permits)⁴³												

⁴² 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]

⁴³ 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:

These data are not readily available.

*Impact of visa liberalisation on countries of destination*Table 1.2.10: Total number of identity document fraud instances by visa-free country⁴⁴

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	5	5	10	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	Source: Royal Netherlands Marechaussee (Koninklijke Marechaussee)
Montenegro	0	5	0	0	5	0	0	5	0	0	0	0	
Serbia	5	5	10	5	5	10	10	15	10	10	10	10	
Albania	25	55	25	40	70	100	90	85	155	125	130		
Bosnia and Herzegovina	0	5	5	5	0	5	5	5	5	5	0		
Moldova	15	10	5	5	5	5	5	0	0	5	0		
Georgia	5	15	25	15	10	15	15	10	5	20	15		
Ukraine	15	25	20	10	20	20	10	10	50	25	15		
Total													
Total number of identity document fraud instances⁴⁵	1155	1335	1035	980	1015	845	870	1055	990	885	950		

*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).

⁴⁴ Information to be provided by inserting national data as gathered by competent authorities.

⁴⁵ 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.

According to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the collaboration with countries on migration has improved since the introduction of visa liberalisation. Matters such as security and migration are discussed more quickly and easily.⁴⁶

The impact of visa liberalisation on the Dutch economy has not been analysed. There are, however, some indications of the impact.

- The number of tourists from Ukraine (visa free since June 2017)⁴⁷ increased by 35% in 2017 (see also question 2.2.3).
- The number of third-country nationals from visa-free countries who have obtained a residence permit for remunerated activities reasons has not structurally increased since the introduction of visa liberalisation and remains low in absolute numbers (see also

⁴⁶ Interview with a policy officer from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, 26-06-2018 in The Hague.

⁴⁷ Unfortunately, no figures are available for the other visa-free countries.

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question 2.2.4).⁴⁸

- The number of students who came to the Netherlands from visa-free countries in the period 2008-2017 has increased. This increase is nevertheless in line with the increase in the total number of third-country nationals who have received a residence permit for education reasons, so a direct connection cannot be made with visa waivers (see also question 2.2.5). In addition, the procedure for these countries in relation to obtaining a residence permit for education reasons has not changed. The waiver of the visa requirement for short stays does not, in fact, mean that these third-country nationals are exempted from the requirement of possession of a temporary residence permit (MVV). See the answer to question 4.1.3 for a more detailed explanation.
- There are indications that trade with most visa-free countries has increased in the past period, but a complete overview is lacking. The visa-free countries are not among the main trading partners of the Netherlands (see also question 2.2.7).

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

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

See question 2.2.3, question 2.2.4, question 2.2.5 and question 2.2.7 for an elaboration of the above-mentioned information for the countries Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia, Albania and Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Eastern Partnership - Moldova, Georgia, Ukraine:

See question 2.2.3, question 2.2.4, question 2.2.5 and question 2.2.7 for an elaboration of the above-mentioned information for the countries Moldova, Georgia and Ukraine.

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.

There was no formal assessment of the impact of visa liberalisation on the Netherlands.

Q2.2.1. Did your collaboration with relevant third countries improve within the field of migration since the introduction of visa liberalisation?⁴⁹ If yes, please provide a short description and specific examples.

Yes, according to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the collaboration with relevant third countries on migration has improved since the introduction of visa liberalisation. But there was also more

⁴⁸ For more information see:

https://www.werk.nl/werk_nl/werkgever/wervingsadvies/werkvergunning/aanvragen/tewerkstellingsvergunning

⁴⁹ For example: in cases of return and readmission.

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intensive collaboration during the process. Visa liberalisation provides for a dialogue with the relevant countries. Matters such as security and migration are now discussed more quickly and easily.⁵⁰

Visa liberalisation is generally linked to a Readmission Agreement, which facilitates return and readmission to the country of origin.⁵¹ According to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the relevant countries are very willing to collaborate. The Dutch embassies have played a major role in this regard. In addition, the local EU delegation has played an important role in collaborating to ensure a dialogue with these countries about other matters such as security and migration.⁵²

Q2.2.2. Did your (Member) State identify specific economic benefits?⁵³ If yes, please list them and provide a short description for each.

No, the Netherlands did not identify any specific economic benefits of visa liberalisation.

Q2.2.3. Did your (Member) State experience a growth in tourism⁵⁴ 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.

This is not known. Information is available only on the development of tourism from Ukraine. The number of tourists from Ukraine rose in the period from 2007 to 2017.⁵⁵ This only concerns guests who stayed in hotels (and similar accommodations such as guesthouses, motels, etc.). The rise in the number of tourists from Ukraine is in line with the rise in the total number of tourists that came to the Netherlands in this period (See Table 2.2.1). It is notable that the number of tourists from Ukraine increased in 2017 by 35% (from 29,000 tourists in 2016 to 39,000 tourists in 2017). It has been possible since 11 June 2017 for Ukrainians to travel to the Netherlands (and the Schengen area) for 90 days without a visa.

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 study has been done of the impact of visa liberalisation on the labour market and, in view of this, it cannot be said whether visa liberalisation has had an impact on the labour market. The number of labour migrants to the Netherlands from visa-free countries has not substantially increased, except for a one-off increase in the number of labour migrants from Bosnia and Herzegovina in 2011.⁵⁶

The total number of residence permits issued for remunerated activities reasons increased in the

⁵⁰ Interview with a policy officer from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, 26-06-2018 in The Hague.

⁵¹ EMN Netherlands national contact point (2015), *Policy Overview 2015*. The Hague: Ministry of Security and Justice.

⁵² Interview with a policy officer from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, 26-06-2018 in The Hague.

⁵³ For example: an increase in direct investments from the respective third countries to your (Member) State.

⁵⁴ For example: third-country national visitors staying in hotels and other accommodation establishments increased.

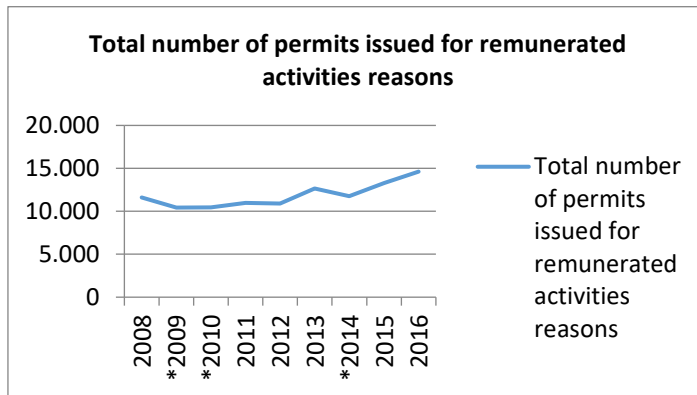
⁵⁵ Disaggregation according to other visa-free countries is unfortunately not possible.

⁵⁶ This means that the number of third-country nationals from Bosnia and Herzegovina who come to the Netherlands for a long stay (as labour migrants) has increased. For more information see: https://www.werk.nl/werk_nl/werkgever/wervingsadvies/werkvergunning/aanvragen/tewerkstellingsvergunning

Impact of visa liberalisation on countries of destination

Netherlands in the period 2008-2016 with a peak in 2013.

Graph 17: Total number of residence permits issued for remunerated activities reasons

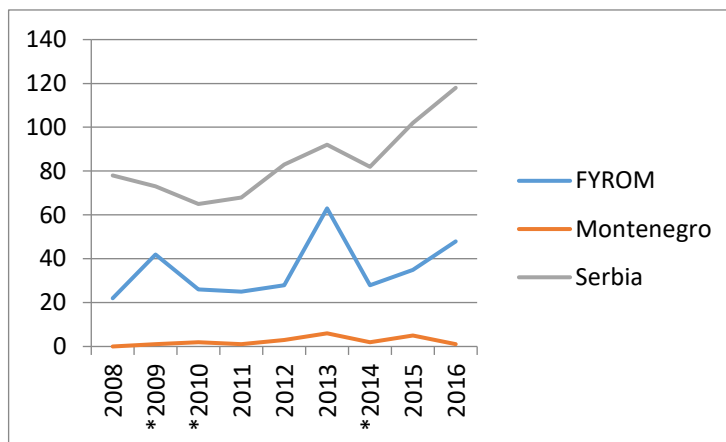


Source: Eurostat

Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia (visa-free since 2009)

The number of third-country nationals from Macedonia and Montenegro who have received a residence permit for remunerated activities reasons decreased in 2010 (a year after these countries became visa-free). There was an increase afterwards with a peak in 2013 from both countries. The increase is in line with the increase in the total number of third-country nationals who received a residence permit for remunerated activities reasons (see Graph 13).

Graph 18: Number of residence permits issued for remunerated activities reasons

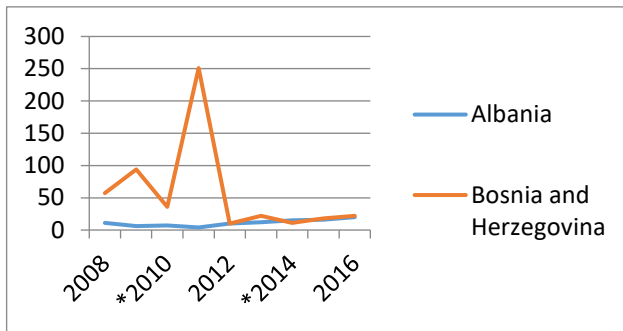


Source: Eurostat

The number of Serbians who have received a residence permit for remunerated activities reasons has increased since 2011 except for 2014.

Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina (visa-free since 2010)

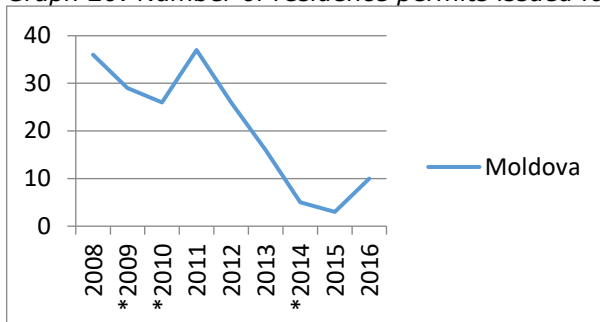
Bosnia and Herzegovina has been visa-free since 2010. After Bosnia and Herzegovina became visa-free, a once-only increase took place in the number of third-country nationals from Bosnia and Herzegovina who received a residence permit for remunerated activities reasons. The number of residence permits issued for remunerated activities reasons increased from 36 issued (2010) to 251 issued (2011). In 2012 the number decreased again to 10 issued. It cannot be demonstrated whether this is the consequence of visa liberalisation.

Impact of visa liberalisation on countries of destination**Graph 19: Number of residence permits issued for remunerated activities reasons****Source: Eurostat**

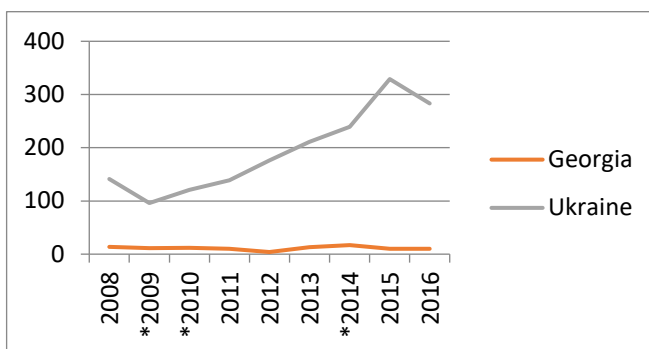
The number of third-country nationals from Albania who received a residence permit for remunerated activities reasons was low during the whole period.

Moldova (visa-free since 2014)

The number of third-country nationals from Moldova who received a residence permit for remunerated activities reasons decreased in the period 2008-2015. There was a slight increase in 2016.

Graph 20: Number of residence permits issued for remunerated activities reasons**Source: Eurostat****Georgia, Ukraine (visa-free since 2017)**

The figures for the years 2017 and 2018 are not yet available. Consequently, no analysis can be made of the number of labour migrants from Ukraine and Georgia.

Graph 21: Number of residence permits issued for remunerated activities reasons**Source: Eurostat**

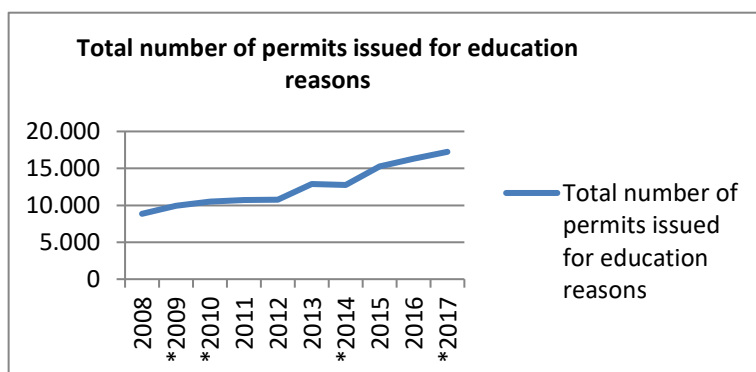
Impact of visa liberalisation on countries of destination

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.

Yes, the number of students from visa-free countries who came to the Netherlands in the period 2008-2017 roughly increased, subject to the accompanying fluctuations. The numbers remain very low. The increase is in line with the increase in the total number of third-country nationals who have received a residence permit for education reasons.

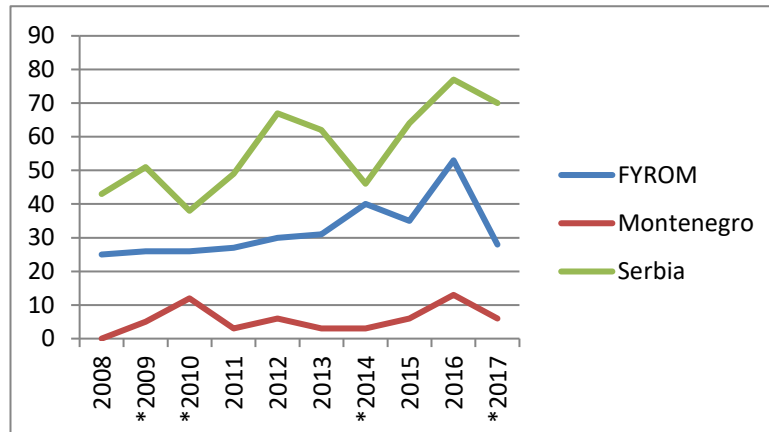
Graph 22: Total number of residence permits issued for education reasons



Source: Eurostat

Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia (visa-free since 2009)

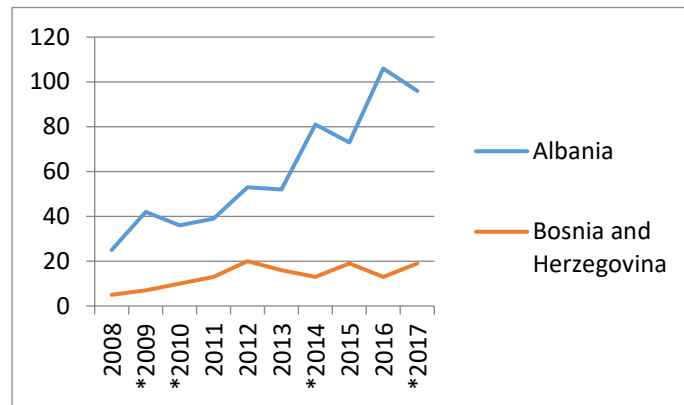
Graph 23: Number of residence permits issued for education reasons



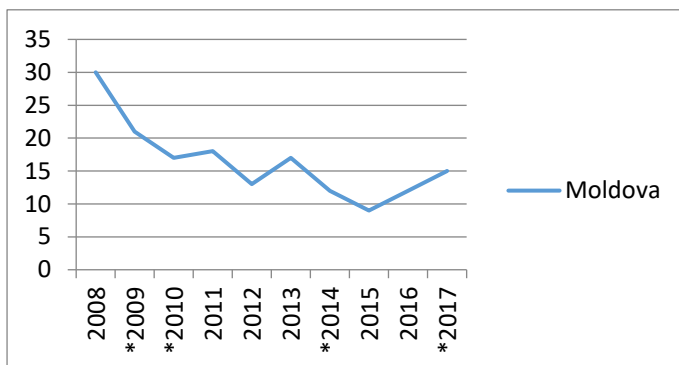
Source: Eurostat

The number of students from Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia increased in the period 2008 to 2017.

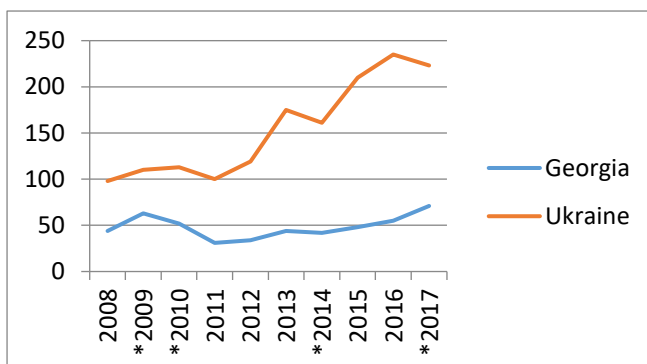
It is striking in this context that there was only an increase in the number of students from Montenegro in 2010 (a year after Montenegro became visa-free). The number of students from Macedonia remained constant during the whole period, with peaks in 2014 and 2016. The number of students from Serbia decreased in 2010. In total, the number of students from Serbia increased by about 60% in the period 2008 to 2017 (from 43 students in 2008 to 70 students in 2017). The number of students from Montenegro has remained relatively constant.

Impact of visa liberalisation on countries of destination**Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina (visa-free since 2010)****Graph 24: Number of residence permits issued for education reasons****Source: Eurostat**

The number of students from Albania and Bosnia and Herzegovina increased in the period from 2008 to 2017. The number of students from Albania was almost four times higher in 2017 than in 2008. The number of students from Bosnia and Herzegovina increased in the period from 2008 to 2012 and then remained constant with no more than 20 students who come to the Netherlands per year.

Moldova (visa-free since 2014)**Graph 25: Number of residence permits issued for education reasons****Source: Eurostat**

The number of students from Moldova decreased in the period from 2008 to 2015. A slight increase can be seen again in 2016 and 2017.

Georgia, Ukraine (visa-free since 2017)**Graph 26: Number of residence permits issued for education reasons**

*Impact of visa liberalisation on countries of destination***Source: Eurostat**

The figures for 2018 are not yet available. The number of students from the Ukraine increased by more than 100% in the period from 2008 to 2017, from 100 to about 200.

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.

NI

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).

A complete overview of the development in trade with visa-free countries after the introduction of visa liberalisation is lacking. To the extent that information is available, there seems to have been growth. The developments per country are described below. Visa-free countries are not among the main trading partners of the Netherlands.⁵⁷

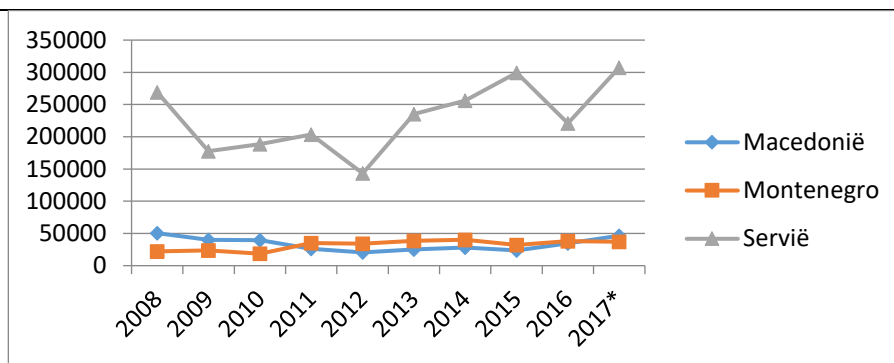
Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia (visa-free since 2009)

The surplus in the balance of trade of the Netherlands with Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia has remained the same since 2009. In the longer term, only the surplus in the balance of trade with Serbia has increased. According to Statistics Netherlands (CBS), the value of the exported goods to Macedonia in 2016 was just under 100 million euros, compared to 80 million in 2013. According to Statistics Netherlands, the goods imported by the Netherlands from Macedonia were valued at almost 58 million euros in 2016, compared to 54 million in 2008.⁵⁸ In 2016, the main goods exported to Macedonia were machines and transport materials (35 million euros) and manufactured goods (21 million euros). The main goods imported from Macedonia in 2016 were various manufactured products (38 million euros).

Graph 27: Balance of trade with the Netherlands, (in 1000€)

⁵⁷ For more information see <https://www.hst.nl/blog/top-5-exportcountries>, Consulted on 27 July 2018.

⁵⁸ For more information see <https://www.rvo.nl/sites/default/files/2017/04/Dossier-macedonie-april-2017.pdf>. Consulted on 26 July 2018.

Impact of visa liberalisation on countries of destination

Source: Statistics Netherlands (CBS)⁵⁹

According to Statistics Netherlands, the value of exported goods to Montenegro in 2017 was just under 45 million euros, compared to 37 million in 2011. According to Statistics Netherlands, the value of the goods imported by the Netherlands from Montenegro was almost 8 million euros in 2017, compared to 3 million in 2011. In 2017, the main goods exported to Montenegro were food and live animals (20 million euros) and machines and transport materials (20 million euros). The main goods imported from Montenegro in 2017 were raw materials, inedible, except for fuels (7 million euros).⁶⁰

According to Statistics Netherlands, the value of exported goods to Serbia in 2015 was about 422 million euros, compared to 372 million euro in 2008. According to Statistics Netherlands, the value of the goods imported by the Netherlands from Serbia in 2015 was about 110 million euros, compared to about 103 million euro in 2008.⁶¹ In 2015 the main goods exported to Serbia were machines and transport materials (142 million euros) and chemical products (139 million euros). The main goods imported from Serbia in 2015 were machines and transport materials (34 million euros) and food and live animals (33 million euros).

Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina (visa-free since 2010)

After an increase with a peak in 2015, the surplus in the balance of trade of the Netherlands with Albania and Bosnia and Herzegovina was again the same in 2017 as in 2010. In 2017, the surplus in the balance of trade with Albania also remained the same as in 2010 (after a slight decrease with a peak in 2011).

According to Statistics Netherlands, the value of our export of goods to Albania in 2016 was 56 million euros. According to Statistics Netherlands, the value of the goods imported by the Netherlands from Albania in 2016 was about 6 million euros.⁶² In 2016, the main goods exported to Albania were machines and transport materials (26 million euros). The main goods imported from Albania in 2016 were machines and means of transport (2 million euros) and

⁵⁹ For more information see:

<http://statline.cbs.nl/Statweb/publication/?VW=T&DM=SLNL&PA=81266NED&D1=a&D2=0&D3=8,37,90,140,155,157,180,209&D4=12,25,38,51,64,77,90,103,116,I&HD=180821-1310&STB=G1,G2,T,G3>. Consulted on 21 September 2018.

⁶⁰ For more information see

<http://statline.cbs.nl/Statweb/publication/?VW=T&DM=SLNL&PA=81266NED&D1=0&D2=a&D3=157&D4=51,64,77,90,103,116,129,142,155,168,I&HD=150407-1640&HDR=G2,T,G3&STB=G1>. Consulted on 21 September 2018.

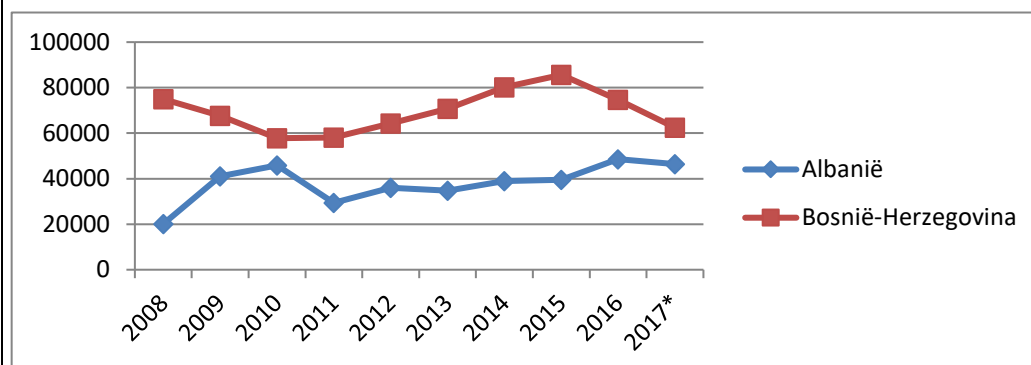
⁶¹ For more information see <https://www.rvo.nl/sites/default/files/2016/11/Handels-en-investeringscijfers-Nederland-Servie-June-2016.pdf>. Consulted on 26 July 2018.

⁶² For more information and the composition of the goods see <https://www.rvo.nl/sites/default/files/2017/04/Dossier-Albanie-april-2017.pdf>. Consulted on 26 July 2018.

Impact of visa liberalisation on countries of destination

manufactured goods (2 million euros).

Graph 28: Balance of trade with the Netherlands, (in 1000€)



Source: Statistics Netherlands (CBS)⁶³

No figures are available for the goods exported to and imported from Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Moldova (visa-free since 2014)

The surplus in the balance of trade of the Netherlands with Moldova, after a decrease in 2015, was again the same in 2016 as in 2014.

According to Statistics Netherlands, the value of the exported goods to Moldova in 2017 was just under 71 million euros, compared to 59 million in 2011.⁶⁴ According to Statistics Netherlands, the value of the goods imported into the Netherlands from Moldova in 2017 was almost 29 million euros, compared to 22 million in 2011.⁶⁵ In 2017, the main goods exported to Moldova were machines and transport materials (22 million euros) and food and live animals (13 million euros). The main goods imported from Moldova were various manufactured goods (9 million euros) and food and live animals (13 million euros).

Graph 29: Balance of trade with the Netherlands, (in 1000€)

⁶³ For more information see:

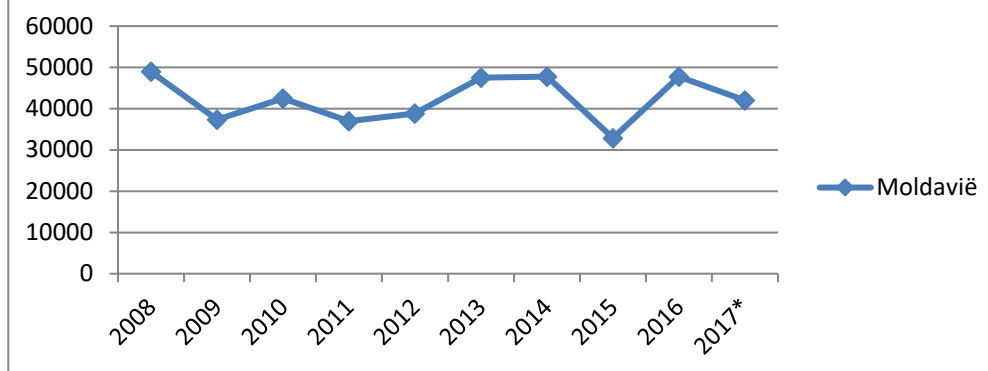
<http://statline.cbs.nl/Statweb/publication/?VW=T&DM=SLNL&PA=81266NED&D1=a&D2=0&D3=8,37,90,140,155,157,180,209&D4=12,25,38,51,64,77,90,103,116,&HD=180821-1310&STB=G1,G2,T,G3>. Consulted on 21 September 2018.

⁶⁴ For more information and the composition of the goods see

<http://statline.cbs.nl/Statweb/publication/?VW=T&DM=SLNL&PA=81266NED&D1=1&D2=a&D3=155&D4=51,64,77,90,103,116,129,142,155,168,&HD=150407-1632&HDR=G2,T,G3&STB=G1>. Consulted on 26 July 2018.

⁶⁵ For more information and the composition of the goods see

<http://statline.cbs.nl/Statweb/publication/?VW=T&DM=SLNL&PA=81266NED&D1=0&D2=a&D3=155&D4=51,64,77,90,103,116,129,142,155,168,&HD=150407-1631&HDR=G2,T,G3&STB=G1>. Consulted on 26 July 2018.

Impact of visa liberalisation on countries of destination

Source: Statistics Netherlands (CBS)⁶⁶

Georgia, Ukraine (visa-free since 2017)

The surplus in the balance of trade of the Netherlands with Ukraine is negative. In recent years a continuous decrease has taken place. The surplus in the balance of trade with Georgia increased slightly again after a decrease in 2015.

According to Statistics Netherlands, the export of goods to Georgia in 2017 amounted to 116 million euros, compared to 64 million euros in 2011.⁶⁷ According to Statistics Netherlands, the value of the goods imported into the Netherlands from Georgia 2017 was 46 million euros, compared to 14 million in 2011.⁶⁸ In 2017 the main goods exported to Georgia were machines and transport materials (31 million euro) and mineral fuels and lubricants (30 million euros). The main goods imported from Georgia in 2017 were chemical products (26 million euros) and manufactured goods, primarily ranked according to the raw materials (12 million euros).

Graph 30: Balance of trade with the Netherlands, (in 1000€)

⁶⁶ For more information see:

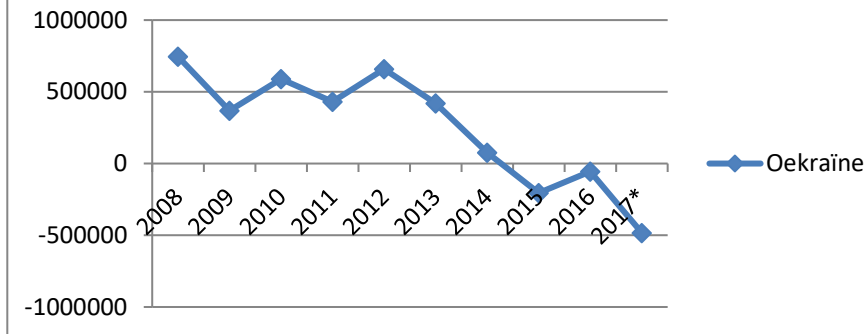
<http://statline.cbs.nl/Statweb/publication/?VW=T&DM=SLNL&PA=81266NED&D1=a&D2=0&D3=8,37,90,140,155,157,180,209&D4=12,25,38,51,64,77,90,103,116,I&HD=180821-1310&STB=G1,G2,T,G3>. Consulted on 21 September 2018.

⁶⁷ For more information and the composition of the goods see

<http://statline.cbs.nl/Statweb/publication/?DM=SLNL&PA=81266NED&D1=1&D2=a&D3=90&D4=51,64,77,90,103,116,129,142,155,168,I&HDR=G2,T,G3&STB=G1&CHARTTYPE=1&VW=T>. Consulted on 26 July 2018.

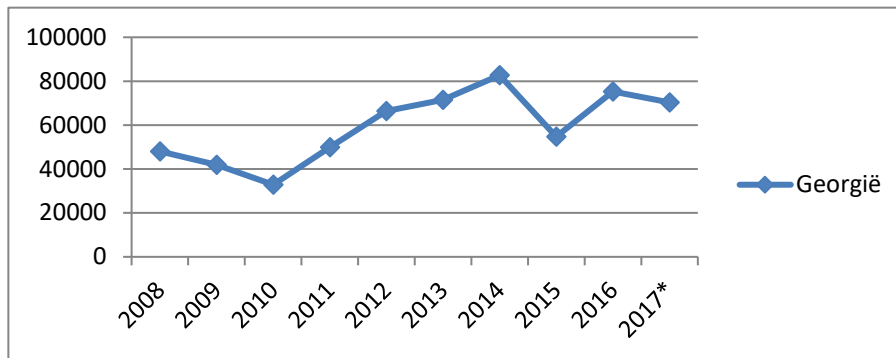
⁶⁸ For more information and the composition of the goods see

<http://statline.cbs.nl/Statweb/publication/?VW=T&DM=SLNL&PA=81266NED&D1=0&D2=a&D3=90&D4=51,64,77,90,103,116,129,142,155,168,I&HD=150415-1005&HDR=G2,T,G3&STB=G1>. Consulted on 26 July 2018.

Impact of visa liberalisation on countries of destination

Source: Statistics Netherlands (CBS)⁶⁹

Graph 31: Balance of trade with the Netherlands, (in 1000€)



Source: Statistics Netherlands (CBS)⁷⁰

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?⁷¹

N/A

⁶⁹ For more information see: <http://statline.cbs.nl/Statweb/publication/?VW=T&DM=SLNL&PA=81266NED&D1=a&D2=0&D3=8,37,90,140,155,157,180,209&D4=12,25,38,51,64,77,90,103,116,1&HD=180821-1310&STB=G1,G2,T,G3>. Consulted on 21 September 2018.

⁷⁰ For more information see: <http://statline.cbs.nl/Statweb/publication/?VW=T&DM=SLNL&PA=81266NED&D1=a&D2=0&D3=8,37,90,140,155,157,180,209&D4=12,25,38,51,64,77,90,103,116,1&HD=180821-1310&STB=G1,G2,T,G3>. Consulted on 21 September 2018.

⁷¹ For example: agreements with third countries for exchange of students, scholars; social benefits (social assistance, social trust and cooperation).

Impact of visa liberalisation on countries of destination**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

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 visitors staying in hotels and other accommodation establishments from the visa-free countries													
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	11 800	16 700	11 600	16 800	18 000	21 000	27 000	28 000	28 000	29 000	39 000	Source: Statistics Netherlands (CBS) Visitors in hotels and similar accommodations only.	
Total													
Total number of visitors staying in hotels and other	30 260 20 0	29 102 100	28 959 700	30 008 300	30 666 900	33 353 000	34 050 000	35 856 000	37 318 000	38 883 000	42 235 000	Source: Statistics Netherlands (CBS)	

Impact of visa liberalisation on countries of destination

accommodation establishments⁷²												Visitors staying in hotels, camp sites, holiday parks and group accommodations.
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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:

No disaggregation of the above-mentioned total is possible according to nationality.

⁷² All nationalities apply, to calculate the proportion out of the total number of tourism visitors staying in hotels and other accommodation establishments.

*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 nationals⁷³

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 first-time residence applications received from the respective visa-free country	2007	2008	*2009	*2010	2011	2012	2013	*2014	2015	2016	*2017	
FYROM												
Montenegro												
Serbia												
Albania												
Bosnia and Herzegovina												
Moldova												
Georgia												
Ukraine												
Total												
Total number of first-time residence applications⁷⁴												

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

⁷⁴ All nationalities apply, to calculate the proportion out of the total number of first-time temporary residence applications.

Impact of visa liberalisation on countries of destination

**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:

Not available

*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 nationals⁷⁵

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		22	42	26	25	28	63	28	35	48		Eurostat [migr_resfirst]
Montenegro		0	1	2	1	3	6	2	5	1		
Serbia		78	73	65	68	83	92	82	102	118		
Albania		11	6	7	4	10	12	15	16	20		
Bosnia and Herzegovina		57	94	36	251	10	22	11	18	22		
Moldova		36	29	26	37	26	16	5	3	10		
Georgia		14	11	12	10	4	13	17	10	10		
Ukraine		141	96	121	139	176	211	239	329	283		
Total												
Total number of permits issued for remunerated activities reasons⁷⁶		11.613	10.433	10.448	10.961	10.921	12.673	11.780	13.308	14.621		

*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).

⁷⁵ See Eurostat: Number of first residence permits issued by reason, EU-28, 2008-2016 [migr_resfirst]

⁷⁶ All nationalities apply, to calculate the proportion out of the total number of permits issued for remunerated activities reasons.

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 are no data available for 2007 in line with Eurostat definitions.
Data for 2017 were not available on Eurostat at the time this was written.

*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 nationals⁷⁷

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 permits issued for education reasons to visa-free country nationals												
FYROM		25	26	26	27	30	31	40	35	53	28	
Montenegro		0	5	12	3	6	3	3	6	13	6	
Serbia		43	51	38	49	67	62	46	64	77	70	
Albania		25	42	36	39	53	52	81	73	106	96	
Bosnia and Herzegovina		5	7	10	13	20	16	13	19	13	19	
Moldova		30	21	17	18	13	17	12	9	12	15	
Georgia		44	63	52	31	34	44	42	48	55	71	
Ukraine		98	110	113	100	119	175	161	210	235	223	
Total												
Total number of permits issued for education reasons⁷⁸		8.850	9.944	10.510	10.701	10.747	12.878	12.746	15.263	16.317	17.239	

*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).

⁷⁷ See Eurostat: Number of first residence permits issued by reason, EU-28, 2008-2016 [migr_resfirst]

⁷⁸ All nationalities apply, to calculate the proportion out of the total number of permits issued for education reasons.

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 are no data available for 2007 in line with Eurostat definitions.

*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 countries⁷⁹

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 residence permits issued for entrepreneurs (including self-employed persons) from visa-free countries												
FYROM												
Montenegro												
Serbia												
Albania												
Bosnia and Herzegovina												
Moldova												
Georgia												
Ukraine												
Total												
Total number of first residence permits issued for entrepreneurs												

⁷⁹ Information to be provided by inserting national data as gathered by competent authorities.

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(including self-employed persons)⁸⁰												
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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 are no data readily available in line with Eurostat definitions.

⁸⁰ 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. Did your (Member) State face certain challenges (if any) since the introduction of visa liberalisation? Please provide a short description of your national situation.

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**.

Yes, the Netherlands has been faced with several challenges since the introduction of visa liberalisation.

In the past few years (in 2016 and 2017) an increase can be seen the number of Albanians found to be illegally present. This is five years since the introduction of visa liberalisation (see questions 3.1.5 and 3.1.7 for more information).

The number of asylum applications by third-country nationals from visa-free countries has increased in the past few years. The share of the visa-free countries in 2017 in the flow of asylum seekers was actually 1% in 2008. In 2010 the share of visa-free countries in that year

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increased to 3%. Between 2010 and 2015, that share fluctuated between 2% and 4%, increasing in 2016 to as much as 16%. In 2017, 10% of the applications still came from the visa-free countries in that year (thus including Georgia and Ukraine). The fact that the share from visa-free countries in 2015 was still 4%, despite the sharp rise in the number of applications resulting from the increased influx from Syria, means that the number of applications from visa-free countries also rose sharply in that year. In 2015 and 2016 the number of applications by Georgians and Ukrainians also increased sharply, even though they were not visa-free at the time. This seems to indicate that the increase in the share in 2016 was not directly connected with visa liberalisation. It seems rather to have been a consequence of migrants from the countries surrounding the EU taking advantage of the increased influx of asylum seekers in 2015-2016.

Within migration policy, the administrative burdens for the Netherlands with respect to third-country nationals from visa-free countries have increased in several areas since the introduction of visa liberalisation. Identity checks have been intensified, more asylum applications are being handled, there have been more return decisions and entry bans imposed, and there has been an increase in independent and involuntary return. On the other hand, in other areas visa liberalisation has led to fewer administrative burdens because no visa is needed. Abolishment of the visa requirement has caused visa control to lapse and identity checking has become simpler.

The Netherlands has been confronted in recent years with an increase in the number of asylum seekers from safe countries, particularly the Western Balkans and Georgia. Some of these third-country nationals from the Western Balkans, mostly after refusal of the asylum application, made use of return assistance under the REAN programme implemented by the IOM (plane ticket, replacement travel documents and a financial contribution of €200). This return assistance was temporarily abolished in 2016. As of 1 July 2018, third country nationals from visa-free countries can under certain conditions make use of return assistance again. See question 4.1 for further developments.

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

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

Albania: In de period 2016 and 2017 a rise can be seen in the number of Albanians staying illegally in the Netherlands. This is five years since the introduction of visa liberalisation.⁸¹

Visa liberalisation could be one of the factors in these developments, but no direct connection can be shown.

Eastern Partnership - Moldova, Georgia, Ukraine:

Moldova: Since 2017 a significant increase has been observed in first asylum applications by Moldovans. In 2015 ten Moldovans in total submitted first asylum applications, in 2016 there were fifteen, and in 2017 a total of 340 first asylum applications were submitted. The rise seems to be continuing this year, as 640 Moldovans already submitted first asylum applications up to and including October 2018.⁸² For the time being, no direct reason can be given for this increase. Visa liberalisation could be one of the factors in these developments,

⁸¹ Third-country nationals may not have the right to stay in the Netherlands any longer, for example if they do not or no longer possess a valid residence permit, or if they have entered the Netherlands on a valid short-stay visa (or if the third-country national has a visa-free nationality, without a visa), but after the end of the term of validity of the visa (or if the third-country national does not have a nationality requiring a visa, the free period) they have not left the Netherlands (overstayers).

⁸² IND, Asylum trends. See: <https://ind.nl/en/about-ind/figures-and-publications/Pages/Asylum-Trends.aspx>

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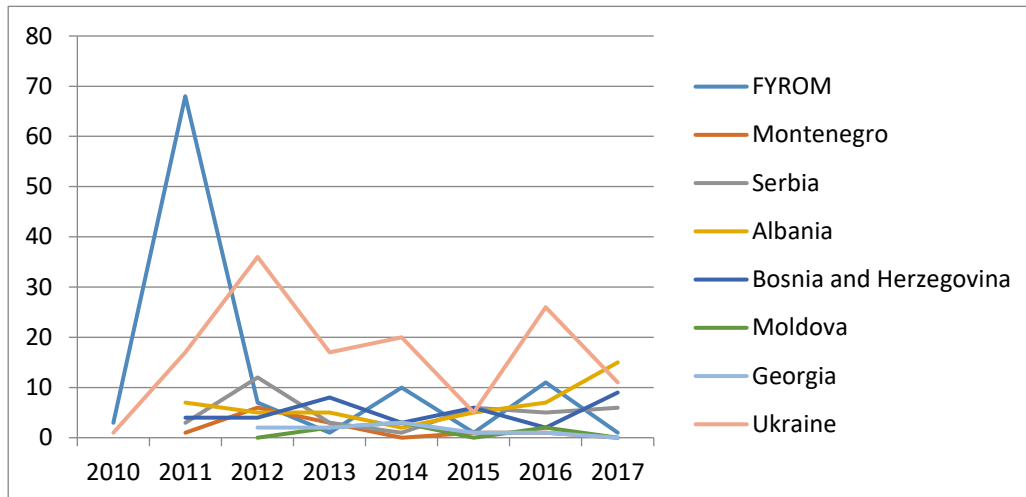
but no direct connection can be shown.

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.

No, the overview shows that the number of illegally employed third-country nationals from visa-free countries found during checks by the Inspectorate of the Ministry of Social Affairs and Employment (SZW) has not risen.

Graph 32: Number of illegally employed third-country nationals



Source: Inspectorate of the Ministry of Social Affairs and Employment (SZW)

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, the figures in Table 3.2.7. show that it cannot be directly concluded that visa liberalisation is accompanied in all cases by an increase in the number of victims of human trafficking. The numbers are generally very low. For the countries Albania and Macedonia, on average, there have been higher numbers of victims of human trafficking since visa liberalisation. In the case of the other countries mentioned, there is a reasonably constant line concerning the number of victims of human trafficking.

No information is available on the number of smuggled persons.

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.

NI

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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.

No, there was no rise in the period 2008-2017 in the number of third-country nationals from visa-free countries found to be illegally present in the Netherlands. An exception to this is Albania. A rise can be seen in 2016 and 2017. This is five years since the introduction of visa liberalisation. The number of Albanians found to be illegally present in the Netherlands in 2010 was 75 and in 2017 the number increased to 395. Visa liberalisation may be one of the factors in this rise, but this cannot be demonstrated.

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.

A complete overview of the total number of overstayers from the visa-free countries in The Netherlands is lacking. Therefore, no analysis can be made of the number of overstayers from the visa-free countries in The Netherlands.

Q3.1.7 Did your (Member) State encounter any signs of possible misuse of the visa liberalisation?⁸³ If yes, please provide a short description and specific examples.

Yes, signs have been encountered in the Netherlands of possible misuse of visa liberalisation. Examples of this are an increase in the number of Albanians staying illegally, an increase in stowaways and an increase in the number of asylum applications from visa-free countries, only a few of which are granted. Visa liberalisation may be a factor in these increases, but this cannot be demonstrated.

- The number of Albanians staying illegally in the Netherlands rose in 2016 and 2017. A rise can be seen in this (see also question 3.1.5 and Table 3.2.9). Visa liberalisation may be a relevant factor, but this cannot be said with certainty.
- The number of stowaways has increased in the past few years. The number of third-country nationals staying illegally in the Netherlands who attempt to reach the United Kingdom via Dutch seaports rose in the past few years. A great many of the stowaways have Albanian nationality. The Royal Netherlands Marechaussee has intensified the exit controls in Dutch ports in the past few years, for the purpose of detecting stowaways. This measure can prevent human smuggling and the number of victims will be limited from a humanitarian point of view.⁸⁴
- The share of visa-free countries in the influx of asylum seekers has increased since visa liberalisation, but it is not clear whether there is a connection or partial connection with visa liberalisation based on available statistics. Third-country nationals from visa-free countries are allowed to stay in The Netherlands for 90 days without a visa. After this period, they have to leave The Netherlands. Asylum seekers in the Netherlands are provided with accommodation and an allowance for living expenses during the procedure. By starting an asylum procedure – which for most third-country nationals from visa-free

⁸³ 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.

⁸⁴ Interview with the Royal Netherlands Marechaussee (Koninklijke Marechaussee) on 18 June 2018.

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countries has no chance of success – they can make use of these services share of the visa-free countries in 2017 in the influx of asylum seekers was in fact 1% in 2008. In 2010 the share of the visa-free countries in that year rose to 3%. Between 2010 and 2015 that share fluctuated between 2% and 4%, and rose again to a full 16% in 2016. In 2017, 10% of the applications still came from the visa-free countries in that year (thus including Georgia and Ukraine). The fact that the share from visa-free countries in 2015 was still 4%, despite the sharp rise in the number of applications resulting from the increased influx from Syria, means that the number of applications from visa-free countries rose as well in that year. In 2015 and 2016, the number of Georgians and Ukrainians also rose sharply, even though they were not yet visa-free at the time. This seems to indicate that the rise in the share in 2016 was not directly connected with visa liberalisation.

Q3.2. Did your (Member) State as a country of destination face any administrative burden⁸⁵ since the introduction of the visa-free regime? If yes, please provide a short description and specific examples.

Yes, there have been consequences for the administrative burdens in the Netherlands since the introduction of visa liberalisation.

On the one hand, visa liberalisation results in a reduction of the administrative burdens because no visa is needed. Abolishment of the visa requirement causes visa control to lapse.

On the other hand, an increase in controls, returns, illegal third-country nationals found, overstayers and stowaways lead to more administrative burdens (for the Repatriation and Departure Service (DT&V), the Royal Netherlands Marechaussee and the police (for example the Seaport Police and Aliens Police)).

At the same time there are more controls, resulting in an increase in administrative burdens. The Netherlands had an increased influx of Albanians in 2016 and 2017. This has led to more investigation into identity fraud, document fraud, stowaways and illegal stays. The Netherlands has had to use extra capacity (increased administrative burdens for the Royal Netherlands Marechaussee and the National Police).

The number of asylum applications by third-country nationals from visa-free countries with no chance of success has increased (increased administrative burdens for the IND).

Another negative impact on the administrative burdens may be that the threshold for coming to the Netherlands is lower, which can cause the number of passengers to rise. Higher mobility would result in a need for control of more passengers. This could cause more pressure on controls at the external border. No increased administrative burdens, but more people in total to control.

Since the introduction of visa liberalisation, there have thus been consequences for the administrative burdens in the Netherlands, but whether they are the direct consequences of visa liberalisation cannot be demonstrated.

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

- Royal Netherlands Marechaussee (Koninklijke Marechaussee)

⁸⁵ For example: significant increase in residence permit applications, increased demand for work permits, more time-consuming border control procedure due to the lack of visas. etc.

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- Repatriation and Departure Service (Dienst Terugkeer en Vertrek)
- Immigration and Naturalisation Service (IND)
- National Police

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, there have been no increase in security risks in the Netherlands that can be directly linked to visa liberalisation. Though, The Netherlands has been faced with several challenges since the introduction of visa liberalisation, but whether they are the direct consequences of visa liberalisation cannot be demonstrated. In recent years (2016 and 2017) an increase can be seen in the number of illegal Albanians found. This is five years since the introduction of visa liberalisation. In addition, the number of stowaways has increased in recent years, especially with Albanian nationality.

A measure the Netherlands could use in case of increased security risks linked to visa liberalisation is the Visa Suspension Mechanism. The Visa Suspension Mechanism is implemented Europe-wide. In the Netherlands, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs is responsible for any reliance on the Visa Suspension Mechanism at the European Commission. The Visa Suspension Mechanism is a legislative procedure for temporary implementation of the visa requirement (see also question 4.3 for more information about the Visa Suspension Mechanism). The Visa Suspension Mechanism has not yet been used in practice. Recently, the Dutch media has regularly paid attention to the number of Albanians who are criminally active in the Netherlands. In response to this, the Dutch government explored if the Visa Suspension Mechanism for suspending visa liberalization for Albania, would be helpful in addressing the issue (see also the answer to question 1.5).

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.⁸⁶

No, there has been no increase in security risks in the Netherlands that can be directly linked to visa liberalisation.

Q3.3.2. If applicable, what types of offences⁸⁷ were committed by third-country nationals in your (Member) State after the commencement of the visa-free regime?⁸⁸ Where there any significant differences compared to the time before the visa-free regime started?

No information is available on this.

Q3.3.3. If applicable, what was the rate of offences (final court rulings) committed by third-country nationals⁸⁹ in your (Member) State after the commencement of the visa-free regime?

⁸⁶ For example: did your (Member) State identify any increased terrorism risks arising from the entry or residence of respective TCNs.

⁸⁷ 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.

⁸⁸ 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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Where there any significant differences compared to the time before the visa-free regime started?

No information is available on this.

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.

No information is available on this.

Q3.4.1 How did the activities of irregular migration facilitators impact your (Member) State?⁹⁰ Please provide a short description with specific examples about your (Member) State situation.

No information is available on this.

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.

No information is available on this.

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

⁸⁹ See above.

⁹⁰ Did their activities lead to increases in irregular border-crossings, enhanced border controls or document fraud?

Impact of visa liberalisation on countries of destination**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 borders⁹¹

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 from the visa-free countries refused entry at the external borders												
FYROM		5	0	15	5	15	0	25	10	10	20	[Data van Eurostat migr_eirfs]
Montenegro		0	5	0	10	5	10	5	0	0	0	
Serbia		5	5	30	30	20	10	25	0	0	30	
Albania		10	15	15	25	50	40	105	185	200	285	
Bosnia and Herzegovina		5	0	5	10	5	0	5	0	5	10	
Moldova		10	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	10	25	
Georgia		10	20	35	50	60	60	45	50	40	50	
Ukraine		45	40	80	70	55	50	45	85	35	70	
Total		90	90	185	205	215	175	260	335	300	480	
Total number third-country nationals refused entry at the external borders⁹²												

⁹¹ See Eurostat: Third-country nationals refused entry at the external borders - annual data (rounded) [migr_eirfs]

⁹² All nationalities apply, to calculate the proportion out of the total number third-country nationals refused entry at the external borders.

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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 3.2.2: Total number of return decisions issued to nationals from the visa-free countries^{93 94}

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 return decisions issued to nationals from the visa-free countries												
FYROM		65	75	375	335	65	175	185	145	335	185	
Montenegro		5	0	0	0	0	15	25	10	40	20	
Serbia		600	435	270	325	265	645	310	315	850	350	
Albania		90	165	110	105	65	115	130	475	1585	1120	
Bosnia and Herzegovina		230	195	115	140	165	220	220	160	315	165	
Moldova		30	30	20	25	25	20	20	15	25	180	
Georgia		170	235	910	305	315	335	440	275	240	370	
Ukraine		170	200	140	140	120	215	305	635	640	390	
Total												
Total number of return decisions issued to third-country nationals⁹⁵		33200	35575	29870	29500	27265	32435	33735	23765	32950	31565	

⁹³ See Eurostat: Third-country nationals ordered to leave - annual data (rounded) [migr_eiord]

⁹⁴ Source: Eurostat [migr_eiord]

⁹⁵ 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:

N/A

*Impact of visa liberalisation on countries of destination*Table 3.2.3: Total number of voluntary returns (all types) by nationals of visa-free countries⁹⁶

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 voluntary returns (all types) by nationals of visa-free countries													Source: Repatriation and Departure Service (DT&V) The figures are rounded to tens. The figures pertain to departure from the Netherlands, including Dublin transfers. By "return" we mean all controlled departures from the caseload of DT&V (departure to the country of origin, Dublin departure and other departure). The figures come from the caseload of DT&V, so not all departure figures of the IOM are included in it (there is some overlap).
FYROM	<10	<10	<10	190	300	40	60	100	60	240	70		
Montenegro	0	<10	<10	<10	<10	0	<10	<10	<10	20	<10	Ibidem	
Serbia	0	<10	<10	<10	30	50	180	160	160	570	100	Ibidem	
Albania	<10	10	20	10	20	20	30	50	220	1170	220	Ibidem	
Bosnia and Herzegovina	<10	<10	<10	10	10	20	90	90	80	240	40	Ibidem	

⁹⁶ 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];

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Moldova	0	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10	130	Ibidem
Georgia	<10	10	20	70	30	40	40	60	30	70	110	Ibidem
Ukraine	<10	<10	30	30	20	30	10	60	380	520	70	Ibidem
Total												
Total number of voluntary returns (all types) – all third-country nationals⁹⁷	250	630	1.070	1.390	2.030	2.040	2.150	2.530	3.320	6.800	3.420	Ibidem

*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

⁹⁷ All nationalities apply, to calculate the proportion out of the total number of voluntary returns.

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Table 3.2.4: Total number of forced returns by visa-free country⁹⁸

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	
FYROM	10	10	20	20	20	30	20	10	<10	<10	20	The figures are rounded to tens. By "return" we mean all controlled departure from the caseload of DT&V (departure to the country of origin, Dublin departure and other departure). The figures come from the caseload of DT&V.
Montenegro	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10	Ibidem
Serbia	40	50	30	50	60	70	60	40	40	50	40	Ibidem
Albania	60	80	60	70	90	160	140	160	250	510	540	Ibidem
Bosnia and Herzegovina	40	30	40	40	30	20	30	10	20	30	20	Ibidem
Moldova	20	10	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10	Ibidem
Georgia	80	70	70	210	120	120	80	60	40	40	110	Ibidem
Ukraine	150	100	100	130	90	100	70	40	50	30	50	Ibidem
Total												
Total number of forced returns - all third-	3.640	4.020	3.930	4.260	3.260	3.280	2.480	1.780	1.560	1.940	2.470	Ibidem

⁹⁸ 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];

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country nationals⁹⁹												
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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

⁹⁹ All nationalities apply, to calculate the proportion out of the total number of forced returns.

*Impact of visa liberalisation on countries of destination*Table 3.2.5: Total number of nationals from the visa - free countries found in illegal employment¹⁰⁰

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 from the visa-free countries found in illegal employment												
FYROM	Nb	Nb	Nb	5	70	10	5	10	5	15	5	Source: Inspectorate of the Ministry of Social Affairs and Employment (SZW) Overview of the illegally employed TCNs found during controls by the Inspectorate of the Ministry of Social Affairs and Employment. Please name the top 5 labour sectors where TCNs were illegally employed (see footnote list for pre-defined sectors). ¹⁰¹
Montenegro	Nb	Nb	Nb	5	10	5	0	5	5	0	5	Please see above.
Serbia	Nb	Nb	Nb	5	15	5	5	10	5	10	5	Please see above.
Albania	Nb	Nb	Nb	10	5	5	5	5	10	15	10	Please see above.

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 Agriculture, forestry and fishing; Mining and quarrying; Manufacturing; Electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply; Water supply; sewerage, waste management and remediation activities; Construction; Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles; Transportation and storage; Accommodation and food service activities; Information and communication; Financial and insurance activities; Real estate activities; Professional, scientific and technical activities; Administrative and support service activities; Public administration and defence; compulsory social security; Education; Human health and social work activities; Arts, entertainment and recreation; Other service activities; Activities of households as employers; undifferentiated goods- and services-producing activities of households for own use; Activities of extraterritorial organisations and bodies.

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Bosnia and Herzegovina	Nb	Nb	Nb	5	5	10	5	10	5	10	5	<i>Please see above.</i>
Moldova	Nb	Nb	Nb	Nb	0	5	5	0	5	0		<i>Please see above.</i>
Georgia	Nb	Nb	Nb	Nb	5	5	5	5	5	0		<i>Please see above.</i>
Ukraine				20	40	20	20	5	30	15	20	<i>Please see above.</i>
Total				100	75	45	45	25	55	45	100	
Total number third-country nationals found in illegal employment¹⁰²												

**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 are no figures available for the years 2007, 2008 and 2009. Disaggregation by occupation/profession is not possible because the Inspectorate of the Ministry of Social Affairs and Employment (SZW) does not record the occupation/profession.

¹⁰² 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)¹⁰³

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 <u>smuggled</u> persons from the visa-free countries (final court rulings)												
FYROM												
Montenegro												
Serbia												
Albania												
Bosnia and Herzegovina												
Moldova												
Georgia												
Ukraine												
Total												
Total number of <u>smuggled</u> persons from third countries (final court rulings)¹⁰⁴												

¹⁰³ Information to be provided by inserting national data as gathered by competent authorities.

¹⁰⁴ All nationalities apply, to calculate the proportion out of the total number of smuggled persons from third countries.

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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:

NI - These figures are not registered by the Public Prosecution Service.
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*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)¹⁰⁵

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 <u>at least</u> 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 (1 January to 30 June inclusive)	
FYROM	-	-	5	-	10	30	-	-	5	-	-	Source: National Rapporteur on Trafficking in Human Beings / Coordination Centre for Human Trafficking (CoMensha) ¹⁰⁶ The figures do not relate to the number of convictions, but to the number of possible victims of human trafficking
Montenegro											-	

¹⁰⁵ Information to be provided by inserting national data as gathered by competent authorities.

¹⁰⁶ Source for 2007: Table B3.1.6 of [https://www.nationaalrapporteur.nl/binaries/nationaal-rapporteur-mensenhandel-\(2012\)mensenhandel-in-en-uit-beeld-cijfermatige-rapportage-2007-2011.interactieve-versie_tcm23-34750.pdf](https://www.nationaalrapporteur.nl/binaries/nationaal-rapporteur-mensenhandel-(2012)mensenhandel-in-en-uit-beeld-cijfermatige-rapportage-2007-2011.interactieve-versie_tcm23-34750.pdf)
 Source for 2008-2013: Table B1.2 of https://www.nationaalrapporteur.nl/binaries/nationaal-rapporteur-mensenhandel-in-en-uit-beeld-ii-update-cijfers-mogelijke-slachtoffers-2009-2013_tcm23-34723.pdf & Table B4.1.13 of https://www.nationaalrapporteur.nl/binaries/nationaal-rapporteur.mensenhandel-in-en-uit-beeld-ii.2014.interactief_tcm23-34731.pdf
 Source for 2014-2016: Slachtoffermonitor mensenhandel (Monitor of Victims of Human Trafficking) 2012-2016 (in Dutch) (does not contain exactly the same figures for the period 2008-2013 as the above-mentioned sources), Table B3.1:
<https://www.nationaalrapporteur.nl/Publicaties/Slachtoffermonitor-mensenhandel-2012-2016/slachtoffermonitor-mensenhandel-2012-2016.aspx>
 Source for 2017: <https://www.comensha.nl/files/Maandrapportage-CoMensha-jan-tm-June-2017-def.pdf>

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Serbia	-	5	5	5	5	-	-	-	5	5	-	
Albania	-	5	5	5	5	5	10	20	5	10	-	
Bosnia and Herzegovina	5	5	5	-	5	5	-	5	5	10	-	
Moldova	-	-	5	-	-	-	5	5	5	5	-	
Georgia	-	5	5	5	-	-	-	5	5	-	-	
Ukraine	5	5	5	5	10	10	5	10	10	5	5	
Total												
Total number of trafficked persons from third countries (final court rulings)¹⁰⁷	720	830	910	995	1225	1715	1440	1260	1150	955	410	<i>The figures for 2017 are only for the period from January to June</i>

*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:

The figures entered in the table above represent the number of possible victims of human trafficking. These figures are published by the National Rapporteur on Trafficking in Human Beings. No formal review is carried out in recording these figures, such as a convicting judgment in a criminal action. This is indeed what is asked for in the table, but those figures are not known.

Prosecution figures: https://www.nationaalrapporteur.nl/binaries/Monitor%20mensenhandel_cijfers%20vervolging%20en%20berechting%202011-2015_tcm23-117801.pdf

¹⁰⁷ 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 facilitators¹⁰⁸ of unauthorised entry, transit and residence¹⁰⁹ from the visa-free countries (final court rulings)¹¹⁰

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 identified facilitators of unauthorised entry, transit and residence from the visa-free countries (final court rulings)												
FYROM												
Montenegro												
Serbia												
Albania												
Bosnia and Herzegovina												
Moldova												
Georgia												
Ukraine												
Total												
Total number of identified facilitators of unauthorised entry, transit and												

¹⁰⁸ This refer to the nationality of the facilitators. EU nationalities can be provided in the second part of the table.

¹⁰⁹ 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).

¹¹⁰ Information to be provided by inserting national data as gathered by competent authorities.

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residence (final court rulings)¹¹¹												
EU nationality 1												<i>Please add the number of identified facilitators of unauthorised entry, transit and residence from EU MS (top 5 EU nationalities).</i>
EU nationality 2												<i>Please see above.</i>
EU nationality 3												<i>Please see above.</i>
EU nationality 4												<i>Please see above.</i>
EU nationality 5												<i>Please see above.</i>

**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:

NI – No complete overview is available on this.

¹¹¹ 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 countries^{112 113}

Indicator	Period of interest (2007-2017) (insert all available data or <u>at least 2 years</u> 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		15	15	25	20	45	20	20	20	25	15	
Montenegro		0	5	5	0	5	10	10	5	10	5	
Serbia		145	110	90	75	90	70	65	60	65	55	
Albania		80	75	75	65	100	100	130	155	370	395	
Bosnia and Herzegovina		40	35	35	35	30	30	25	30	30	30	
Moldova		10	10	10	5	10	5	0	10	15	25	
Georgia		95	140	280	160	60	45	50	25	35	75	
Ukraine		100	125	140	105	90	80	65	70	60	70	
Total												
Total number of third-country nationals found to be illegally present¹¹⁴		7.505	7.565	7.580	6.145	4.005	2.715	2.645	2.340	2.685	2.165	

¹¹² 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]

¹¹³ Source: Eurostat [migr_eipre], extracted on 11/05/2018

¹¹⁴ 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:

These figures concern third-country nationals who are not (or are no longer) residing legally under national immigration law in the territory of Member States. These third-country nationals come into the picture only if they have contact with the Royal Netherlands Marechaussee or the National Police in one way or another, for example if they violate the law.

Table 3.2.10: Total number of overstayers from the visa-free countries¹¹⁵

Indicator	Period of interest (2007-2017) (insert all available data or at least 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 overstayers from the visa-free countries												
FYROM												
Montenegro												
Serbia												
Albania												
Bosnia and Herzegovina												
Moldova												
Georgia												
Ukraine												
Total												
Total number of third-country nationals overstayers¹¹⁶												

¹¹⁵ 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]

¹¹⁶ 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:

NI – a complete overview of the total number of overstayers from the visa-free countries in The Netherlands is lacking. Therefore, no analysis can be made of the number of overstayers from the visa-free countries in The Netherlands.

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**.

Yes, the Netherlands has put various measures in place since the introduction of visa liberalisation.

Implementation of a three-track policy: In order to deal more efficiently with asylum applications, the IND implemented the 'three-track policy' in March 2016. Under this policy, different groups of migrants go through different procedures, called tracks. Asylum applications by third-country nationals who can travel to the Netherlands without a visa are, as a rule, dealt with in Track 2 as asylum applications with little chance of success (for more information see question 4.6).

List of safe countries of origin: Since 14 November 2015, the Netherlands has had a national list of 'safe countries of origin'. The list contains countries to which asylum seekers can return without danger, mainly North African countries and countries in the Western Balkans. Applications by asylum seekers from safe countries usually have little chance of success and therefore constitute a burden on the asylum process and corresponding facilities (for more information see question 4.6).

Information campaigns in countries of origin: The main development in the cooperation between the Netherlands and visa-free countries is that investments have been made in good provision of information about the fact that one cannot come to the Netherlands for a long stay or for paid activities reasons. These are information campaigns about what visa liberalisation precisely means, which contribute to expectation management. These information campaigns (not only in relation to the Netherlands) have mainly taken place in the Western Balkan countries, and were mainly carried out by the EU delegation present in the countries and/or region, but also by the European Member States themselves. Dutch ambassadors, for example, are also actively engaged in these campaigns themselves. The information campaign was particularly important in the run-up to visa liberalisation and just after its introduction in order to contribute to expectation management.

Return assistance: For a considerable time, the Netherlands was confronted by asylum seekers from the Western Balkans with no chance of success who made use of return assistance. The State Secretary of Security and Justice, partly at the request of the Lower House, therefore

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decided that, as of 28 September 2016, third-country nationals from Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia were no longer eligible for return assistance by IOM under the REAN programme. Via the Repatriation and Departure Service (DT&V), third-country nationals from these countries who wanted to return independently could still be offered a plane ticket.¹¹⁷ Since 1 January 2016, all visa-free countries have been excluded from additional reintegration assistance. At the time, additional reintegration assistance for former asylum seekers consisted of a financial reintegration contribution of €1,750 and assistance in kind worth €1,500. The financial reintegration contribution was abolished as of 1 July 2017 and the assistance in kind was replaced by an assistance package of €1,800, with a maximum of €300 in cash. As stated, visa-free countries are no longer eligible for this.

An evaluation has meanwhile taken place of the effects of these and other measures relating to return assistance. It has emerged that the measures have had some unintended effects on the actual implementation. The current State Secretary of Justice and Security will take several measures to strengthen independent return and prevent third-country nationals who have no right to stay (anymore) from staying longer than necessary in the Netherlands.

This means that on 1 July 2018 the following amendments entered into effect:¹¹⁸

- Third-country nationals from the Western Balkans (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia), Moldova, Ukraine and Georgia can only make use of the REAN programme via IOM if they are included in the caseload of DT&V.¹¹⁹ They are eligible for a plane ticket, assistance in obtaining a travel document and an assistance contribution of €100 at most. Vulnerable third-country nationals from these countries who are not included in the caseload of DT&V are also eligible for this assistance;
- Third-country nationals from the Western Balkans and the Ring around Europe are only eligible for the assistance contribution of €100 if they have insufficient means to travel home after arrival. IOM reviews whether this is the case.

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

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

Yes, a number of measures have been taken to reduce the asylum applications from safe countries (including various visa-free countries) and especially the Western Balkans. For example, asylum applications from these safe countries are handled in an accelerated procedure, called Track 2, a zero days departure period applies, a two-year entry ban is imposed and the additional reintegration assistance has been abolished for visa-free countries (see also questions 1.2 and 4.1 on return assistance and 4.6 for more information on the three-track policy).

Some of these third-country nationals from the Western Balkans, mostly after refusal of the asylum application, still made use of return assistance under the REAN programme implemented by the IOM (plane ticket, replacement travel documents and financial contribution of €200). This has led to rising costs and work pressure at the IOM, which is not

¹¹⁷ EMN (2017): Policy Overview 2016. Migration and Asylum in the Netherlands.

¹¹⁸ Letter to Parliament, *Ondersteuning bij zelfstandige terugkeer*, 8 June 2018 (in Dutch).

¹¹⁹ A third-country national is included in the caseload of the Repatriation and Departure Service (DT&V) when the DT&V has received a transfer file from the Immigration and Naturalisation Service (IND). Other options are that an illegally staying third-country national is detained by the Aliens Police, Identification and Human Trafficking Department (AVIM) or that a third-country national reports him/herself. If an illegally staying third-country national does not contact the authorities or seek contact via IOM, this third country national does not enter the picture at the DT&V.

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in proportion to the backgrounds of this group of third-country nationals, who usually apply for asylum here unjustifiably. That is why it was decided that from 28 September 2016, third-country nationals from Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia would no longer be eligible for the aforementioned assistance under the REAN programme implemented by IOM. As of 1 January 2017, all third-country nationals from visa-free countries were in principle no longer eligible for voluntary return assistance by IOM under the REAN programme. And since 1 July 2018, several amendments have entered into effect as a result of the evaluation of these measures (see question 4.1.).

Eastern Partnership - Moldova, Georgia, Ukraine:

See the answer to question 4.1.

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, other than the amendments with respect to return support on 1 July 2018 (see question 4.).

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.

No, no (new) measures have been implemented to grant legal possibilities for long stay. Short stay is facilitated by way of visa liberalisation. Long stay is laid down in the Aliens Act (Vw).

On the one hand, Dutch visa policy pertains to short stay visas, and on the other, to the visa that serves as a condition for the granting of a long stay: the temporary residence permit (MVV). The legislation in this area is a European matter and legislation in relation to the temporary residence permit is a matter for the Netherlands.

Newcomers who come to the Netherlands from outside the European Union for a stay longer than 3 months with a regular purpose of stay, such as family reunification, study or work, need a temporary residence permit (MVV) and a temporary regular residence permit. The temporary residence permit is a visa to settle in the Netherlands and is needed to enter the Netherlands. The temporary and regular residence permits are applied for simultaneously in the foreign country by way of the entry and residence procedure (TEV). When the application has been assessed positively, the temporary residence permit can be picked up at the embassy. After the temporary residence permit has been issued, the newcomer must travel to the Netherlands within 90 days.¹²⁰

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.

No, no (new) measures have yet been implemented to fight illegal employment aimed at illegal employment of persons from the countries of origin that are the subject of this study.

In The Netherlands measures have been implemented to fight illegal employment. These measures also apply to third-country nationals from visa-free countries, however, the measures are not specifically aimed at this group.

¹²⁰ EMN (2017): Policy Overview 2016. *Migratie en Asiel in Nederland* (Migration and Asylum in the Netherlands). (in Dutch)

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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.

No, no (new) measures have yet been implemented specifically aimed at fighting the smuggling of persons from visa-free countries.

In The Netherlands measures have been implemented to fight the smuggling and/or trafficking of persons . These measures also apply to third-country nationals from visa-free countries, however, the measures are not specifically aimed at this group.

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.

No, no measures have been implemented to fight illegal entry, transit and illegal residence that are specifically aimed at third-country nationals from visa-free countries.

Measures have been taken in the Netherlands to fight human smuggling. There are special human trafficking and smuggling teams at the Royal Netherlands Marechaussee and at the National Police engaged in this. At the internal borders, people are randomly stopped and searched for the purpose of checking, and information is obtained. The information is shared with the human smuggling teams. These measures are not specifically aimed at third-country nationals from visa-free countries.

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.

No, no measures have been taken that are specifically aimed at reducing the incidence of third-country nationals from visa-free countries illegally present in the Netherlands.

The Netherlands has taken measures to reduce the number of third-country nationals from third countries who are staying illegally. These measures come under the Internal Supervision of Foreign Nationals. This is aimed at careful monitoring of legal and illegal residence in order to prevent noncompliance with the conditions for residence, and to have third-country nationals found without legal residence carefully controlled and returned as quickly as possible.¹²¹ Examples of these measures are the intensification of Mobile Security Monitoring (MTV) checks (see question 4.1.5.) and the object and personal checks by the AVIM.¹²²

Object-oriented checks: Based on suspicions of e.g. illegal employment, certain workplaces or other objects are checked by the police, if necessary in collaboration with the Inspectorate of the Ministry of Social Affairs and Employment (SZW).

Person-oriented checks: The police conduct specific checks of certain third-country nationals. The

¹²¹ Report Aliens Police (Vreemdelingenpolitie), <https://www.rijksoverheid.nl/documenten/rapporten/2018/10/17/tk-bijlage-rapportage-vreemdelingenketen>. Consulted on 20 november 2018.

¹²² Aliens Police (Vreemdelingenpolitie), <https://www.politie.nl/themas/vreemdelingenpolitie.html#alineatitel-wat-doet-de-vreemdelingenpolitie>. Consulted on 8 August 2018.

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reason for this may be e.g. evading the obligation to report, but it may also be on the basis of a request, for example from the IND, or if the residence permit has lapsed.

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?¹²³ If yes, please list and explain these measures, their impact / effectiveness and add any good practices / lessons learned you have identified.

No, no measures have been taken to reduce the administrative burdens. The implementation of the three-track policy, the information campaigns and the list of safe countries of origin contribute however to the reduction of administrative burdens (see question 4.6).

Q4.3. Did your (Member) State implement measures to deal with the possible misuse of visa liberalisation?¹²⁴ If yes, please list and explain these measures, their impact / effectiveness and add any good practices / lessons learned you have identified.

No, the Netherlands has not implemented any national measures specifically aimed to combat the possible misuse of visa liberalisation. In a general sense, there is a broad range of measures to combat possible misuse. Please see the foregoing answers to the questions.

A measure the Netherlands could use to combat possible misuse of visa liberalisation is the Visa Suspension Mechanism. The Visa Suspension Mechanism is a legislative procedure for temporary implementation of the visa requirement. The procedure will be implemented if a country does not adhere to the agreements or does not continue to meet the benchmarks.

The Visa Suspension Mechanism is implemented Europe-wide. In the Netherlands, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs is responsible for any reliance on the Visa Suspension Mechanism at the European Commission. The criteria for such reliance are, however, mainly the purview of the Ministry of Justice and Security and the Immigration and Naturalisation Service (IND).

Visa Suspension Mechanism has not yet been used in practice. Alternative measures are always examined first. The EU, or the Netherlands itself, will first enter into discussions with the country in question to seek possible solutions together. The Western Balkan countries and the Eastern Partnership countries know that this is a possible measure.

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?

¹²³ 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.

¹²⁴ 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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At present, the Netherlands does not have a possibility to check proactively whether a third-country national has exceeded the permitted duration of stay of 90 days. Overstayers come into the picture only if they have contact with the Royal Netherlands Marechaussee or the National Police in one way or another, for example if they violate the law. The third-country national will have to return at such a time and will receive an entry ban after standing trial for the violation.

If the third-country national has travel documents and has exceeded the 90 days, he/she will be encouraged to depart as soon as possible. This is aimed at independent return, which the DT&V will assist if necessary.¹²⁵

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.

No, no different procedure is applied.

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.

No, the Netherlands applies the same procedure as that applicable to other third-country nationals.

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?¹²⁶ 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:

Readmission Agreements: Regarding return and readmission, Readmission Agreements were concluded with all relevant visa-free countries during the run-up to visa liberalisation.¹²⁷ A Readmission Agreement (RA) is an international agreement for the purpose of facilitating the return and readmission of nationals of the member countries. This concerns the return and

¹²⁵ The European Commission, Consulted on 11 July 2018 <http://www.consilium.europa.eu/nl/press/press-releases/2017/11/20/entry-exit-system-final-adoption-by-the-council/>

¹²⁶ 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.

¹²⁷ Reintegration Agreement (RA) (in Dutch: T&O), <https://www.dienstterugkeerenvertrek.nl/Werkindeuitvoering/Reismogelijkheden/terug-en-overnameovereenkomst.aspx>, Consulted on 24 July 2018 (in Dutch)

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readmission of third-country nationals who are not (or are no longer) residing legally in the territory of countries that have concluded an RA amongst them. The Netherlands is involved in this in the context of the Benelux and EU, and has concluded RAs with the various countries.

Eastern Partnership - Moldova, Georgia, Ukraine:

Readmission Agreements have been concluded with all these countries in the process leading to visa liberalisation (see also the answer to question 4.5.).¹²⁸

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?

Regarding return and the Readmission Agreements with the relevant countries, this has been dealt with properly by all countries and full cooperation has been rendered.¹²⁹

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.¹³⁰

The Netherlands has implemented several measures in response to the increased influx of asylum seekers from safe countries of origin, including visa-free countries. One of the measures is implementation of the three-track policy. In this context, the Western Balkan and Eastern Partnership countries come under Track 2.

Implementation of the three-track policy: In order to allow the handling of asylum applications to run more efficiently, in March 2016 the IND implemented the 'three-track policy'. Under this policy different groups of migrants go through different procedures, called tracks. Before the different tracks were implemented, all asylum applicants went through an eight-day procedure. The three-track policy has now made a distinction between asylum applicants with and without a good chance of success. Staff and budget are divided better and the handling of asylum applications runs more quickly. Asylum applications by third-country nationals who can

¹²⁸ Readmission Agreement (T&O), <https://www.dienstterugkeerenvertrek.nl/Werkindeuitvoering/Reismogelijkheden/terug-en-overnameovereenkomst.aspx>, Consulted on 24 July 2018 (in Dutch)

¹²⁹ Interview with a policy officer from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, 26-06-2018 in The Hague.

¹³⁰ For example, using the concept of safe country of origin.

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enter the Netherlands without a visa are, as a rule, handled in Track 2 as asylum applications without much chance of success.^{131 132}

Drawing up a list of safe countries of origin: Since 14 November 2015, the Netherlands has had a national list of 'safe countries of origin'.^{133 134} The list contains countries to which asylum seekers can return without danger, mainly North African countries and countries from the Western Balkans. The Netherlands uses the list of safe countries for example to take decisions on applications by asylum seekers in an accelerated procedure. Track 2 for safe countries of origin was developed for this within the three-track policy.

Applications by asylum seekers from safe countries usually have little chance of success and are therefore a burden on the asylum process and the corresponding facilities. Consequently, additional measures have been taken for these applications.^{135 136}

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.

An official evaluation of the measures has not yet taken place.

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.

No, there was no cooperation with other Member States specifically aimed at dealing with the influx of asylum seekers from visa-free countries.

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, the Netherlands did not receive assistance from the EU to deal with the increased influx of

¹³¹ *Parliamentary Papers (Kamerstukken) II*, 2015-2016, 19637, no. 2086. (in Dutch)

¹³² More information on the three-track policy can be found here: <https://www.vreemdelingenvisie.nl/vreemdelingenvisie/2016/04/wat-is-het-sporenbeleid>, Consulted on 25 October 2017.

¹³³ <https://www.rijksoverheid.nl/onderwerpen/asielbeleid/vraag-en-antwoord/lijt-van-veilige-countries-van-herkomst> Consulted on 02-11-2017.

¹³⁴ This list was extended three times in 2016 and contains mainly North African countries and countries from the Western Balkan region. The list of countries is included in the Aliens Regulations ([Voorschrift Vreemdelingen](#)).

¹³⁵ For more information see: <https://www.rijksoverheid.nl/actueel/nieuws/2016/10/11/staatssecretaris-dijkhoff-breidt-lijt-veilige-countries-verder-uit> Consulted on 25-10-2016

¹³⁵ EMN (2017): Policy Overview 2016. Migratie en Asiel in Nederland.(in Dutch)

¹³⁵ For more information see: <https://www.rijksoverheid.nl/onderwerpen/asielbeleid/vraag-en-antwoord/lijt-van-veilige-countries-van-herkomst> Consulted on 25-10-2016

¹³⁶ For more information see <https://www.rijksoverheid.nl/documenten/kamerstukken/2016/12/13/tk-maatregelen-tav-asielzoekers-uit-veilige-countries-van-herkomst-1docx>. Consulted on 19 December 2017.

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asylum seekers from visa-free countries.

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?¹³⁷

N/A

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?

The introduction of visa liberalisation of the Western Balkans (Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia, Albania and Bosnia and Herzegovina) and the Eastern Partnership countries (Moldova, Georgia and Ukraine) did not have a major impact on the Netherlands. There was no formal evaluation in the Netherlands of the impact of visa liberalisation on the Netherlands. Some positive effects can be mentioned and challenges identified, but whether these are the direct consequences of visa liberalisation cannot be demonstrated.

Possible positive effects of visa liberalisation

According to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the cooperation with third countries in relation to migration has improved since the introduction of visa liberalisation. Matters such as security and migration are discussed more quickly and easily.¹³⁸ Visa liberalisation is generally linked to a readmission agreement, which facilitates return to and readmission by the country of origin.¹³⁹ According to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the relevant countries are very willing to cooperate.

The Netherlands has not identified specific economic benefits due to visa liberalisation. An example of a possible effect of visa liberalisation on the Dutch economy is, however, that the number of students from visa-free countries who came to the Netherlands in the period 2008-2017 has risen. This rise is nevertheless in line with the rise in the total number of third-country nationals who have received residence permits for education reasons. The conclusion

¹³⁷ For example, in relation to Ukraine or Georgia for which the visa waiver agreement entered into force in 2017.

¹³⁸ Interview with a policy officer from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, 26-06-2018 in The Hague.

¹³⁹ EMN Netherlands national contact point (2015). *Policy Overview 2015*. The Hague: Ministry of Security and Justice (in Dutch).

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cannot be drawn from this that the rise is due to visa liberalisation. In addition, the fact is that the procedure for these countries for obtaining a residence permit for education reasons has not changed.

No study has been done of the impact of visa liberalisation on the labour market. The number of labour migrants coming to the Netherlands from visa-free countries has not substantially increased.

Regarding tourism from visa-free countries, information is only available on Ukraine and not on the other countries in this study. The number of tourists from Ukraine in 2017, the year of visa exemption, rose by 35%. It is therefore not known in this regard either whether visa liberalisation has led to a growth in tourism.

There are indications that the trade with most visa-free countries has grown in the past period, but a complete overview is lacking. The visa-free countries are not among the main trading partners of the Netherlands.

Challenges since the introduction of visa liberalisation

The Netherlands has been faced with several challenges since the introduction of visa liberalisation. In recent years (2016 and 2017) an increase can be seen in the number of illegal Albanians found from 155 in 2015 to 370 in 2016 and 395 in 2017. This is five years since the introduction of visa liberalisation. In addition, the number of stowaways has increased in recent years, especially with Albanian nationality. For the other countries no rise took place in the period 2008-2017 in the number of third-country nationals from visa-free countries who were found to be illegally present in the Netherlands.

The number of asylum applications by third-country nationals from visa-free countries has increased in recent years. But as far as the share of visa-free countries in the influx of asylum seekers into the Netherlands in 2017 is concerned, it cannot be concluded that the rise observed was directly connected with visa liberalisation. It seems rather to be a consequence of migrants from the countries surrounding the EU taking advantage of the increased influx of asylum seekers in 2015-2016.

Some of these third-country nationals from the Western Balkans, mostly after refusal of the asylum application, still made use of return assistance under the REAN programme implemented by the IOM (plane ticket, replacement travel documents and financial contribution of €200). This was abolished as of 28 September 2016. As of 1 January 2017, all third-country nationals from visa-free countries were in principle no longer eligible for voluntary return assistance from IOM under the REAN programme. Since 1 July 2018, a number of amendments have entered into effect as a result of the evaluation of these measures (see question 4.1.).

Another challenge for the Netherlands since the introduction of visa liberalisation relates to administrative burdens. On the one hand, visa liberalisation results in a reduction of the administrative burdens because no visa is needed. Abolition of the visa requirement has caused visa control to lapse and the control has become simpler. On the other hand, according to the Royal Netherlands Marechaussee (Koninklijke Marechaussee) and the police, an increase in checks, returns, illegally present third-country nationals found, overstayers and stowaways does lead to more administrative burdens: there are more checks, which causes an increase in the administrative burdens (see question 3.2 and question 4.1.7). These measures are not specifically aimed to reduce the number of illegally staying third-country nationals from visa-free countries.

The measures the Netherlands has implemented since the introduction of visa liberalisation were taken mainly to reduce the number of asylum applications from safe countries (including various visa-free countries) and particularly the Western Balkans. For example, asylum applications from these safe countries are handled in an accelerated procedure, called Track 2,

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a zero days departure period is applicable, a two-year entry ban is imposed and the additional reintegration assistance has been abolished for visa-free countries. The Netherlands has taken measures as well to reduce the number of illegally staying third-country nationals from those countries. It should also be noted in this context that these measures were not implemented in order to tackle the challenges of visa liberalisation (see question 4.1.7).

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

See the answer to question 5.1.