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French National Contact Point for
the European Migration Network

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- Site of the French National Contact Point for the EMN (in French): <http://www.immigration.interieur.gouv.fr/Europe-et-International/Le-reseau-europeen-des-migrations-REM3>

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LIST OF ACRONYMS

- ADA: Asylum seeker's allowance
- AFD: French Development Agency (*Agence Française de Développement*)
- AGDREF: French central database for foreigners' residence permits
- C2I: Inter-ministerial Committee on Integration
- CADA: Reception centre for asylum seekers (*Centre d'accueil pour demandeurs d'asile*)
- CAES : reception and administration situation examination centres
- CECRL : Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (*Cadre européen commun de référence pour les langues*)
- CESEDA: Code on Entry and Residence of Foreign Nationals and Right of Asylum (*Code de l'entrée et du séjour des étrangers et du droit d'asile*)
- CIR: Republican Integration Contract (*Contrat d'intégration républicaine*)
- CNCDH: National Consultative Commission for Human Rights (*Commission nationale consultative des droits de l'homme*)
- CNDA: National Court for Right of Asylum (*Cour nationale du droit d'asile*)
- CPH: Temporary Accommodation Centre (*Centre provisoire d'hébergement*)
- CSI: Immigration Security Advisor (*Conseiller sûreté immigration*)
- DA : Directorate of Asylum within the ministry of the Interior
- DAAEN: Directorate for Reception and Support for Foreign Nationals and Nationality (*Direction de l'accueil, de l'accompagnement des étrangers et de la nationalité*) within the ministry of the Interior
- DCI: Department of International Cooperation (*Direction de la Coopération Internationale*) within the ministry of the Interior
- DCPAF: Central Directorate of the French Border Police (*Direction Centrale de la Police aux Frontières*) within the ministry of the Interior
- DCPJ : Central Directorate of the Judicial Police within the ministry of the Interior
- DPAF : Directorate of the French Border Police within the ministry of the Interior
- DGEF: General Directorate for Foreign Nationals in France (*Direction générale des étrangers en France*) within the ministry of the Interior
- DGGN: General Directorate for the National Gendarmerie (*Direction générale de la Gendarmerie nationale*) within the ministry of the Interior
- DGPN : General Directorate of the National Police within the ministry of the Interior
- DGS : General Directorate for Health
- DGT: General Labour Directorate (*Direction générale du travail*) within the ministry of Labour
- DIRECCTE: Regional Office for Business, Competition, Consumer Affairs, Labour and Employment (*Direction régionale des entreprises, de la concurrence, de la consommation, du travail et de l'emploi*)
- DRJSCS : Directorate for Youth, Sport and Social Cohesion (*Direction régionale de la jeunesse, des sports et de la cohésion sociale*)
- EASO: European Asylum Support Office
- GUDA: one-stop shop for asylum applications
- HUDA: emergency accommodation for asylum seekers (*Hébergement d'urgence pour demandeurs d'asile*)
- ILO: Immigration liaison officer (*OLI : officier de liaison immigration*)
- LPC : Consular laissez-passer
- MEAE: Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs (*Ministère de l'Europe et des Affaires étrangères*)
- MIPROF: Inter-ministerial mission for the protection of women against violence and the fight against trafficking in human beings
- MOOC: Massive Online Open Courses
- OCLTI: Central Office for Combating Illegal Employment (*Office central de lutte contre le travail illégal*)
- OCRIEST: French Office for the Repression of Unauthorised Immigration and the Employment of Foreign nationals without Residence Permits (*Office Central pour la Répression de l'Immigration irrégulière et de l'Emploi d'étrangers Sans Titre*)
- OCRTEH: Central Office for the Repression of Human Trafficking (*Office central pour la répression de la traite des êtres humains*)

- OFII: French Office for Immigration and Integration (*Office français de l'immigration et de l'intégration*)
- OFPRA: French Office for the Protection of Refugees and Stateless Persons (*Office français de protection de réfugiés et des apatrides*)
- ONDRP : National Observatory for Crime and Criminal Responses (*Observatoire national de la délinquance et des réponses pénales*)
- OQTF: Order to leave French territory
- PAF: Border police
- SDLII: Sub-Directorate for Combatting Irregular Migration
- SDV: Sub-directorate for visas
- THB: Trafficking in Human Beings
- UAM: Unaccompanied minors
- UNHCR: United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
- UNODC: United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
- VIS: Visa Information System (*Système d'Information des Visas*)
- VLS-TS : long-term visa equivalent to residence permit

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Following an **overview of asylum and migration policy developments in France in 2018 (section 2)**, **section 3** of this report **is dedicated to developments in legal migration** and more specifically to the measures of the law of 10 September 2018 related to the residence in France of foreign nationals and reception conditions of highly qualified foreign nationals.

Section 4 addresses **changes which have taken place relating to international protection and asylum** with two laws related to asylum which aim in particular at the application of Dublin Regulation, **the reduction of processing asylum applications and a better distribution of asylum seekers on the territory**.

Section 5 is dedicated to **unaccompanied minors and vulnerable groups** while France had to launch in 2018 a reform related to shelter for and assessment of unaccompanied minors.

Section 6 describes **integration policy** with new measures such as implementing a national strategy for reception and integration of refugees and strengthening the personalized integration pathway through various concrete tools.

While section 7 treats the question of **citizenship and statelessness**, section 8 deals with **borders, Schengen and visa** issues by insisting on an improved management of migration flows, the re-establishment of internal border control and fight against terrorism.

Section 9 presents action plans for the **fight against irregular migration and migrant smuggling** and section 10 deals with policy preventing **violence against women and victims of trafficking in human beings (THB)**.

Lastly, section 10 is devoted to **return and readmission**, one of key public policy areas in France in 2018 with different measures aimed at reinforcing house arrest efficiency and effective return orders.

1. INTRODUCTION

Objectives and methodology of this political report

The 2018 Annual Report on migration and asylum aims to cover changes to immigration and asylum policy and legislation which have taken place throughout the year.

The French EMN National contact point contacted the relevant departments and services in order to provide information relating to legislative and regulatory provisions as well as statistics about events which had marked 2018.

Contributions to this report

Thus, the Sub-Directorate for Residence and Employment (*Sous-direction du séjour et du travail*) as well as the Sub-Directorate for Visas (*Sous-direction des visas*) in the General Directorate for Foreigners in France (*Direction générale des étrangers en France - DGEF*) within the Ministry of the Interior contributed towards questions relating to **legal migration** for aspects relating to residence, employment and visas. General Directorate for Labour within the Ministry for Labour provided information related to social dumping and labour exploitation.

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

The Sub-Directorate for Combatting Irregular Migration (SDLII) within the DGEF addressed the issue of **Borders and Schengen area** as well as **irregular migration and return of migrants**. The French Office for Immigration and Integration (OFII) also contributed to the issue of voluntary return.

The section on **international protection and asylum policy** was prepared by the Asylum Directorate of the DGEF within the Ministry of the Interior.

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

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

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

Relevant statistics (in annex) were provided by the competent ministries (Ministry for Justice with the Department for the Legal Protection of Young People and the Criminal Matters and Pardons Directorate - DACG); Ministry of the Interior with the Asylum Directorate and the Department for Studies and Statistics within the DGEF; the French Office for the Suppression of Trafficking in Human Beings (*Office central pour la répression de la traite des êtres humains* - OCRTEH) in connection with the General Directorate of the National Police (DGPN) and the Central Office for Combatting Illegal Employment (*Office central de lutte contre le travail illégal* - OCLTI). Some data were also issued from the annual OFPRA report and the mission for UAMs activity report.

2. Overview of changes in the migration and asylum policy in 2018 in France

CONTEXT

2018 was a transitional period for the **implementation of migration policies**.

In particular, it was marked by the adoption of the Law of 10 September 2018, which has three main objectives:

- (i) To strengthen the protection of individuals and initiate an ambitious reworking of the integration policy.
- (ii) To speed up the timescale for processing asylum applications, better distribute asylum seekers across the country, and increase the attractiveness and improve the reception of talents and skills;
- (iii) To improve the effectiveness of the removal policy.

The time taken to process asylum applications and to register applications at the one-stop shop has been reduced.

Reorganisation of the national programme for the reception of asylum seekers and the beneficiaries of international protection began with the creation of 4,500 additional accommodation places, and more than 2,000 places in reception and administration situation examination centres (CAES). Three thousand places in temporary accommodation centres for vulnerable refugees were also created to facilitate their integration and transition towards housing.

Assertive action was also taken by all relevant services to improve the results in terms of removal.

The integration policy was reworked, following the Interministerial Committee of 5 June 2018, which was devoted to the French integration contract as a key stage in the pathway of newly-arrived migrants in France. The linguistic and civic dimensions of the policy were strengthened and a professional dimension was also added.

Furthermore, a new age assessment support scheme was developed and improvements were made to the support provided to foreign minors.

MAIN EVOLUTIONS

Legal migration

The Law of 10 September 2018 introduced measures on the right of residence of foreign nationals in France (by improving the right of residence for vulnerable people) and the conditions under which highly-qualified foreign nationals are received (extension of the conditions for issuing the multi-annual "talent passport" residence permit).

It also transposed the **Students and Researchers Directive**.

Among other things, a new **strategy to attract international students was announced**. The Government's objective is to increase the number of foreign students and to strengthen the reputation of French higher education abroad.

International Protection including Asylum

2018 was marked by the adoption of two laws relating to asylum: **the Law of 20 March 2018 for the correct application of the European asylum regime** with regard to

application of the Dublin regulation and the **Law of 10 September 2018 “for a managed migration, an effective right of asylum and a successful integration”¹**, which has three aims in its section on asylum:

- To consolidate the right of residence for beneficiaries of international protection, stateless people and members of their families;
- To reduce the length of time to process asylum applications;
- To evenly distribute asylum applicants across the country, while rationalising the regime applicable to material reception conditions.

This year was also marked by the **continuation of the implementation of the direction the Government has defined, particularly regarding the reduction of timescales for processing asylum applications**, by increasing the resources dedicated to the relevant authorities and organisational measures. It was also marked by the **creation of 7,500 additional accommodation places (3,000 places in temporary accommodation centres for the most vulnerable refugees, 2,000 places in reception centres for asylum seekers, and 2,500 places in emergency accommodation) and nearly 3,000 places in reception and administration situation examination centres (centres d'accueil et d'examen des situations, CAES).**

Unaccompanied Minors and Other Vulnerable Groups

In 2018, the issue of unaccompanied minors and the most vulnerable foreign nationals was addressed from several angles:

- The sharp increase in the number of unaccompanied minors in the country has led to a number of challenges both in financial terms and in terms of reception and accommodation. A **reform of the programme to provide shelter for and assess young people presenting as unaccompanied minors** began in 2018;
- **Greater protection for the most vulnerable groups**, particularly by improving their right of residence.

Integration

The Interministerial Integration Committee (*Comité interministériel à l'intégration, C2I*), which was chaired by the Prime Minister on 5 June 2018, decided in favour of ambitious measures for the **policy to integrate newly-arrived foreign nationals.**

This **national strategy for the reception and integration of refugees** is based around seven priorities, which should henceforth be reflected in concrete measures and appropriate resources: strengthening the roll-out of the integration policy, involving each refugee in an improved integration pathway, improving French language ability and access to training and employment for refugees, guaranteeing access to housing for refugees, improving access to healthcare for asylum seekers and refugees, improving access to rights, and encouraging links between refugees and France.

This committee follows the report ordered by the Prime Minister and submitted by the member of Parliament, Aurélien Taché, on 19 February 2018. The report, entitled “For an ambitious integration

¹ Law No.2018-778 of 10 September 2018 “for a managed migration, an effective right of asylum and a successful integration”.
<https://www.legifrance.gouv.fr/eli/loi/2018/9/10/INTX1801788L/jo/texte> (in French).

policy for foreign nationals arriving in France”, presented 72 proposals for a more ambitious and assertive policy.

The groundwork for this reform was prepared throughout 2018, aiming to **strengthen the personalised integration pathway and the French Integration Contract (*Contrat d'intégration républicaine*, CIR)**, through a series of practical measures which will apply from March 2019, enabling newly arrived foreign nationals to play an active role in society.

Citizenship and Statelessness

The legislative provisions introduced in 2018 enabled the introduction of **new measures specific to stateless people**.

Borders, Schengen and Visas

For improved management of migration flows, France continues to contribute to various Frontex operations and reserves.

Against a backdrop of migration pressure, the re-establishment of internal border controls and the fight against terrorism, efforts have been taken to post additional staff to airports.

With regard to visas, France actively participates in the Visa Information System (VIS) and the Community Code on Visas.

Irregular Migration including Migrant Smuggling

As part of the fight against irregular immigration and fraudulent asylum applications, France has introduced action plans and cooperation agreements with certain third countries for which particular difficulties have been identified.

Measures that have been taken to fight against irregular immigration include an adapted procedure for processing asylum applications and regular meetings with the consular authorities of certain countries.

Several third countries are also the subject of reinforced contracts as part of the road map for controlled migration led by a dedicated ambassador, or participate in coordination meetings to fight against illegal migrants smuggling.

Trafficking in Human Beings

France continues its **policy of combating violence against women and victims of trafficking**. There have been improvements in how this violence is identified and how victims are treated.

Several awareness-raising campaigns have been led by various NGOs and professional training for people in contact with victims has been organised by the French authorities on trafficking in human beings.

Return and Readmission

France has continued its assertive approach to improving the effectiveness of house arrest and monitoring foreign nationals who have been issued with return decisions, as well as the implementation of removal decisions. Measures have also been taken regarding the length of detention, detention capacity and addressing the vulnerabilities of people in detention.

3. LEGAL MIGRATION

3.1 TRANSPOSITION OF EU LEGISLATION ON LEGAL MIGRATION

European Directives	Equivalent National Legislation	Status*	Additional information
<i>Directive on the conditions of entry and residence of third-country-nationals for the purpose of research, studies, training ...² (23 May 2016).</i>	yes	Adopted (the provisions on residence will enter into force on 1 March 2019)	Transposed by the Law of 10 September 2018 "for a managed migration, an effective right of asylum and a successful integration", some provisions of which will enter into force on 1 January and 1 March 2019.
Directive on the conditions of entry and residence of third-country-nationals for the purpose of research, studies, training (30 September 2016). ³	yes	In force.	see the annual report 2016 on migration and asylum policies in France
Directive on the conditions of entry and residence of third-country nationals in the framework of an intra-corporate transfer (29 November 2016). ⁴	yes	In force.	see the annual report 2016 on migration and asylum policies in France

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

3.2. ECONOMIC MIGRATION

3.2.1. ADMISSION POLICIES OF SPECIFIC CATEGORIES OF THIRD-COUNTRY NATIONALS

Highly skilled/qualified workers

Development	Nature*
The Law of 10 September 2018 extended the "talent passport": <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • by enabling innovative businesses recognised by a public body to recruit employees using the "talent passport"; 	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Legislation <input type="checkbox"/> Policy <input type="checkbox"/> Practice/Other

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

³ Directive 2014/36/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 26 February 2014 on the conditions of entry and stay of third-country nationals for the purpose of employment as seasonal workers.

⁴ Directive 2014/66/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 26 February 2014 on the conditions of entry and residence of third-country nationals in the framework of an intra-corporate transfer.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • by adding the possibility of issuing this residence permit to foreign nationals likely to participate in a significant and long-term way to France's economic, social international and environmental development and reputation. 	
<p>The Government continues to encourage the arrival of highly-qualified foreign nationals, particularly through simplified procedures and dedicated arrival facilities within prefectures (development of the "France Visas" portal which aims to help foreign nationals with their visa application), and the remote VLS TS system designed to facilitate procedures for having visas approved once in France. Both mechanisms also reduce the number of supporting documents which are required.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Legislation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Policy <input type="checkbox"/> Practice/Other

Intra-corporate transferees (ICT)

Development	Nature*
<p>The Law of 10 September 2018 changed the conditions for issuing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The "ICT intern" temporary residence permit: abolition of the requirement to have an internship agreement, extension of the length of service required within the company (from 3 to 6 months), and the introduction of a six-month time period before being able to apply for a new "ICT intern" card. • The "ICT employee" temporary residence permit: extension of the length of service required within the company (from 3 to 6 months) and the introduction of a six-month time period before being able to apply for a new "ICT employee" card. <p>(Provisions in force on 1 March 2019)</p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Legislation <input type="checkbox"/> Policy <input type="checkbox"/> Practice/Other

Trainees, au-pairs and volunteers

Development	Nature*
<p>The law of 10 September 2018 created a specific residence permit for au-pairs. This provision will enter into force no later than 1 March 2019.</p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Legislation <input type="checkbox"/> Policy <input type="checkbox"/> Practice/Other

No other measure were implemented in 2018 related to the following categories: seasonal workers, low and medium skilled workers, entrepreneurs and investors and other remunerated workers.

Moreover, France did not develop new measure to satisfy labour market needs and skill needs / shortages in relation to the employment of third country nationals.

3.2.2. SOCIAL DUMPING⁵ AND LABOUR EXPLOITATION

Development	Nature*
<p>Law No. 2018-771 of 5 September 2018 on freedom of choice regarding future employment (JORF 06/09/2018)</p> <p>The Law of 5 September 2018 includes specific provisions on the posting of workers and the fight against illegal employment (Articles 89 to 103), with the aim of defining on the one hand, a balanced regulation which does not create obstacles to non-fraudulent business and, on the other, effective and dissuasive inspection methods and sanctions.</p> <p>Provisions regarding posting of workers include a reduction in administrative requirements for certain foreign service providers (Articles 89 and 91), the possibility of adjusting the administrative requirements upon request addressed to the Regional Directorate for Business, Competition, Consumer Affairs, Labour and Employment (DIRECCTE) (Article 90) and the repeal of the set fee of 40 euros per posted worker ("stamp duty"; Article 92).</p> <p>The Law also introduced an increase in the ceiling for administrative fines applicable in the event of posting workers as part of international service provision, from €2,000 to €4,000 (Article 95), the removal of the suspensive nature of the contentious appeal upon execution of the collection document issued following a ruling on an administrative fine (Article 97).</p> <p>Finally, these provisions introduce a new reason for the temporary suspension of international service provision in the event of the non-payment of fines and an obligation upon contracting parties and authorities to ensure fines are paid (Article 96).</p> <p>The provisions on combating illegal employment state that "bogus" postings constitute a specific crime of undeclared employment through concealed activity. The provisions also strengthen the mechanism for temporarily closing/ceasing administrative activities in the event of undeclared work being performed and makes the communication of criminal sentences on the internet systematic for the most serious offences of undeclared employment ("black list").</p> <p>In addition, the provisions specify that logging camps must be subject to an employment inspection declaration. The lack of a declaration may now be sanctioned with an administrative fine of up to €5,000 per undeclared site.</p> <p>Finally, these provisions enable certain labour inspectorate officials to access, during their visits, any accounting or professional document or information, in any format, which is useful in their work to combat illegal employment. These officers now also have the right to communicate widely with third parties, with a view to combating illegal employment.</p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Legislation <input type="checkbox"/> Policy <input type="checkbox"/> Practice/Other

⁵While there is no definition of the concept of "social dumping" in EU law, the term is generally used to point to unfair competition due to the application of different wages and social protection rules to different categories of worker (Parliamentary questions, 27 May 2015, E-008441-15). The European Commission described the practice as a situation "where foreign service providers can undercut local service providers because their labour standards are lower", more info at [Eurofound](#).

<p>Finally, according to the latest statistics on illegal employment offences recorded by the Ministry of Employment, in 2016 there were 13,000 recorded violations. Illegal employment represented 80% of these violations, while the illegal employment of undocumented foreign nationals was second, at 11% of these violations. The next National Plan to Combat Illegal Employment (2019–2020) should include measures to strengthen these inspections and the effectiveness of penal and administrative sanctions.</p>	
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3.2.3. CIRCULAR MIGRATION

Circular migration

Development	Nature*
<p>In the context of the law of 10 September 2018, foreign nationals who hold a qualification at least equivalent to a Master's from an accredited national higher education establishment can access the new "seeking employment or creating a company" residence permit. This permit is valid for one year and replaces the "MASTER" temporary residence authorization. In the context of circular migration, former students who are returning to their country of origin and who are eligible for this residence permit may return to France for the purposes of seeking employment or creating a company up to four years after having obtained their qualification.</p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Legislation <input type="checkbox"/> Policy <input type="checkbox"/> Practice/Other

Other bilateral labour agreements between your (Member) State and third countries in 2018

Development	Nature*
<p>Franco-Brazilian agreement on the "holiday employment" programme, which entered into force on 11/04/2018 (signed 12/11/2013).</p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Legislation <input type="checkbox"/> Policy <input type="checkbox"/> Practice/Other
<p>Franco-Peruvian agreement on the "holiday employment" programme, signed 22/10/2018.</p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Legislation <input type="checkbox"/> Policy <input type="checkbox"/> Practice/Other
<p>Franco-Algerian agreement on the exchange of young workers, which entered into force on 05/04/2018 (signed 26/10/2015).</p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Legislation <input type="checkbox"/> Policy <input type="checkbox"/> Practice/Other

3.3. STUDENTS AND RESEARCHERS

Development for students	Nature*
<p>In the context of the law of 10 September 2018, foreign nationals who hold a qualification at least equivalent to a Masters from an accredited national higher education establishment can access the new "seeking employment or creating a company" residence permit. This permit is valid for one year and replaces the "MASTER" temporary residence authorization. In the context of circular migration, former students who are returning to their country of origin who are eligible for this residence permit may return to France for the purposes of seeking employment or creating a company up to four years after having obtained their qualification. (Provision in force on 1 March 2019)</p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Legislation <input type="checkbox"/> Policy <input type="checkbox"/> Practice/Other

<p>This same law facilitated the entry and residence of students and researchers in the country: the right of residence for students, researchers and au pairs will be safeguarded, particularly with a view to facilitating their mobility. In particular, students holding a qualification at least equivalent to a Master's will have the possibility of remaining in France for one year after the end of their studies to look for a job or create a company to gain their first professional experience. Access to the labour market will be simplified if the job relates to their training. (Provision in force on 1 March 2019)</p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Legislation <input type="checkbox"/> Policy <input type="checkbox"/> Practice/Other
<p>This law also enables students who are involved in an EU mobility programme or an agreement between establishments in two Member States to travel to France using the provisions of a residence permit from a first EU Member State. Researchers may also travel to a second EU Member State using a residence permit from a first Member State in order to carry out part of their research work on the basis of a reception agreement concluded in the first Member State.</p> <p>France decided to establish a notification procedure (not an exchange of the residence permit issued in the first Member State, but information provided in advance to the French authorities) The notification is carried out by the host entity. (Provision in force on 1 March 2019)</p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Legislation <input type="checkbox"/> Policy <input type="checkbox"/> Practice/Other
<p>As part of implementing the measures announced by the French President in his speech in Ouagadougou on 28 November 2017, the procedures for issuing circulation visas to African students holding a French higher education qualification have been made easier. Since 1 June 2018, it is possible for these graduates to download their French qualifications from the France Alumni platform, as authenticated degrees are taken into account when requesting a circulation visa. The France Alumni platform has been rolled out in 102 countries, including 25 African countries.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Legislation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Policy <input type="checkbox"/> Practice/Other
<p>In Paris on 19 November 2018, Prime Minister Edouard Philippe presented the new attractiveness strategy for international students.⁶ The objective is to welcome 500,000 international students between now and 2027.</p> <p>This new strategy is built on six pillars: simplification of the visa policy, doubling the number of courses taught in English and French as a foreign language (<i>Français Langue étrangère - FLE</i>) programmes, creation of a label to improve reception provisions, application of different registration fees and tripling study grants, increasing the reputation of France abroad, and renewing Government communication on the image of France abroad.</p> <p>This strategy will be implemented gradually in 2019.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Legislation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Policy <input type="checkbox"/> Practice/Other
Development for researchers	Nature*
<p>Researchers holding the "research" talent passport residence permit are also eligible for the new "seeking employment or company creation" residence permit as are students and researchers when they are involved in mobility programmes (Erasmus Mundus, Marie Curie...). (Provision in force on 1 March 2019).</p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Legislation <input type="checkbox"/> Policy <input type="checkbox"/> Practice/Other

⁶ Press pack, Attractiveness strategy for international students, 19 November 2018 (in French). https://www.gouvernement.fr/sites/default/files/document/document/2018/11/dossier_de_presse_-_strategie_dattractivite_pour_les_etudiants_internationaux_-_19.11.2018_0.pdf

<p>This “researcher - talent passport” residence permit can be extended to children of the couple in order to enable them to bring members of their family to France (and not only children of the holder of the “talent passport” residence permit). (Provision in force on 1 March 2019).</p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Legislation <input type="checkbox"/> Policy <input type="checkbox"/> Practice/Other
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3.4. FAMILY REUNIFICATION AND FAMILY FORMATION

Development	Nature*
<p>The Law of 10 September 2018 reformed Article L. 531-2 of the CESEDA. Its previous wording forbade the withdrawal (and made the renewal compulsory) of the residence permit issued to foreign nationals who entered France in the frame of family reunification when domestic life with their spouse broke down as the result of spousal violence. Article 58 of the Law of 10 September 2018 (applicable on 1 March 2019) added violence within the family to spousal violence.</p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Legislation <input type="checkbox"/> Policy <input type="checkbox"/> Practice/Other

3.5. INFORMATION ON ROUTES TO AND CONDITIONS OF LEGAL MIGRATION

Development	Nature*
<p>The roll-out of France Visa continued in 2018 in order to facilitate the on-line procedures for visa applications:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - General information in six languages, - Visa-assistant to guide the applicant to the right procedure - On-line submission and monitoring of the application <p>These features are accessible from mobile devices.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Legislation <input type="checkbox"/> Policy <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Practice/Other

3.6. OTHER MEASURE REGARDING LEGAL MIGRATION

Development	Nature*
<p>The Order of 21 February 2018 modified the list of diplomas and certificates attesting to the level of French that foreign nationals up to the age of 65 are required to have in order to receive a residence permit or a “long term resident - EU” residence permit”. Until 7 March 2018, a “sufficient” level of French was required. Evidence of an Initial Diploma in the French Language (<i>Diplôme Initial de Langue Française - DILF</i>) could be provided. From 7 March 2018, level A2 of the Council of Europe’s Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (Cadre européen commun de référence pour les langues - CECRL) is required. The Order of 21 February 2018 also defined three categories of qualifications, tests and certificates which are accepted as evidence of the required A2 level of French.</p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Legislation <input type="checkbox"/> Policy <input type="checkbox"/> Practice/Other
<p>On 1 September 2018, the <i>Centre International d’Etudes Pédagogiques (CIEP)</i> opened a site to authenticate the French language test (test de connaissance du français, TCF), a document required for foreign nationals requesting naturalisation or a 10-year residence permit.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Legislation <input type="checkbox"/> Policy <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Practice/Other

<p>Continuation of the procedure for outsourcing the receipt of visa applications from external service providers (United States and Canada in 2018, Mali, Burkina Faso, Guinea, Benin, Togo and Singapore in 2019).</p> <p>By the end of 2018, 90% of France's visa activity was outsourced in 36 countries and 112 collection centres around the world.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Legislation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Policy <input type="checkbox"/> Practice/Other
<p>Digitalisation of the procedure for approving long-term visas equivalent to residence permits (<i>visa de long séjour valant titre de séjour - VLS-TS</i>) by the French office for Immigration and Intégration (OFII) (roll-out on 18 February 2019) to enable foreign nationals holding a long-term residence visa equivalent to a residence permit to have their visa approved electronically.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Legislation <input type="checkbox"/> Policy <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Practice/Other
<p>The law of 10 September 2018 consolidated the right to residence for beneficiaries of international protection and members of their families. In particular, the law provides for the issuance of a multi-annual permit lasting four years to beneficiaries of subsidiary protection and stateless people.</p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Legislation <input type="checkbox"/> Policy <input type="checkbox"/> Practice/Other

4. INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION INCLUDING ASYLUM

4.1. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE COMMON EUROPEAN ASYLUM SYSTEM (CEAS) AND RELATED POLICY DEVELOPMENTS

4.1.1. CHANGES IN LEGISLATION, POLICIES AND PRACTICES

Access to the asylum procedure

2018 was marked by the adoption of two laws relating to asylum: the Law of 20 March 2018 for the correct application of the European asylum regime which relates to application of the Dublin regulation and the Law of 10 September 2018 "for a managed migration, an effective right of asylum and a successful integration", which has three aims in its section on asylum: to consolidate the right of residence for beneficiaries of international protection and stateless people as well as members of their families, to reduce the length of time it takes to process asylum applications, and to more evenly distribute asylum seekers across the country, while rationalising the regime applicable to the material reception conditions.

This year was also marked by a continuation of the implementation of the direction defined by the Government, in particular, reducing the time it takes to process asylum applications by increasing the resources allocated to the relevant authorities, and organisational measures. It was also marked by the creation of 7,500 additional accommodation places (3,000 places in temporary accommodation centres for the most vulnerable refugees (*centres provisoires d'hébergement*, CPH), 2,000 places in reception centres for asylum seekers (*centres d'accueil des demandeurs d'asile*, CADA) and 2,500 places in emergency accommodation) and nearly 3,000 places in reception and examination of administrative situation centres (*centre d'accueil et d'examen des situations*, CAES).

Development	Nature*
a) Access to the asylum procedure (including applications made at the border, within France and in detention) - including making and lodging applications;	
<p>In order to make the procedures for refusing entry on the grounds of asylum or by extending the length of time held in waiting zones more efficient and faster, the legislator is introducing the use of video-conference more widely and is making certain contentious rules more flexible.</p> <p>Thus, in the context of an audience with an administrative judge regarding a refusal of entry on grounds of asylum (Article L.213-9 of the CESEDA) or before a judicial judge in the event of being held in a waiting zone (Article L. -4 and L. 222-6 of the CESEDA), the Law of 10 September 2018 provides that video-conference facilities becomes standard.</p> <p>Decree No.2018-1159 of 14 December 2018, which completes the provisions of the Law of 10 September 2018 by modifying Article R. 213-4 of the CESEDA, now authorises the use of telephone communication for the interview with the protection officer, by way of derogation, if the interview cannot be conducted either in the presence of the person nor through a video conferencing service. It is specified that this officer "manages the operations. This officer carries out the interview in conditions that enable them to verify the identity of the person and that guarantee confidentiality. This officer ensures respect for the individual's rights."</p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Legislation <input type="checkbox"/> Policy <input type="checkbox"/> Practice/Other
b) Registration of applications for international protection (including subsequent applications and Dublin returnees), identification and fingerprinting.	
The ministerial instruction of 18 January 2018 provides for the implementation of several measures to reduce the time it takes to register asylum applications in one-stop shops for asylum applications (<i>guichets uniques pour demandeurs d'asile</i> , GUDA) to accelerate the introduction of asylum applications to French office for the	<input type="checkbox"/> Legislation <input type="checkbox"/> Policy <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Practice/Other

protection of refugees and stateless persons (OFPRA) with a view to processing them. The objective is to bring the timescale for registration to ten days in the first half of 2018 and to three days by the end of 2018. To achieve these objectives, the GUDA services were allocated more staff (+32 full-time equivalents, FTE) and the "job ceiling" for the OFII was lifted to support this work (+35 FTE).

Reception of asylum applicants

Development	Nature*
<p>a) Reception of applicants (please include information on reception capacities - rise/Fall/stable, material reception conditions, i.e., Housing, food and clothing and financial support, contingency planning in reception, access to labour market and vocational training, medical care, schooling and education, residence and freedom of movement)</p>	
<p>Given the ongoing high level of demand for asylum in France, which has led to an increase in accommodation needs, the Law of 10 September 2018 aims to increase the obligations upon asylum applicants and to more evenly distribute them across the country.</p> <p>The accommodation policy for asylum applicants in France aims to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Increase accommodation capacity through the creation of new places. - Increase fluidity by giving greater power to prefects in terms of rehousing refugees and returning failed applicants who have lost any right to accommodation. - Structure the housing stock so that it is more transparent and operates according to unified rules. - Improve the conditions of reception, particularly for the most vulnerable. <p>The information note of 31 December 2018 regarding the housing stock for asylum applicants and beneficiaries of international protection improves the structure of the housing stock and provides for an increase in 2019. In 2019, the housing stock capacity for asylum applicants should reach more than 97,000 places, through the creation of places as part of new calls for proposals.</p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Legislation <input type="checkbox"/> Policy <input type="checkbox"/> Practice/Other</p>
<p>Changes in the objective of the national scheme and regional schemes</p> <p>The first change regarding the material reception conditions is that the national reception scheme now addresses "asylum applicants" and "the integration of refugees" (Article L. 744-2, I of CESDA, modified by Article 13 of the Law of 10 September 2018). Consequently, the temporary accommodation centres (<i>centre provisoire d'hébergement - CPH</i>), which are reserved for beneficiaries of international protection, are now directly connected to the regional reception schemes (Article L. 744-2 of the CESEDA).</p> <p>This scheme not only establishes how accommodation places for asylum seekers are distributed, but also establishes "the proportion of asylum applicants to be hosted by region". That this "proportion" of asylum applicants will be calculated using a distribution criteria which takes into account socio-economic indicators, such as tax credits (<i>revenue de solidarité active, RSA</i>) are calculated.</p> <p>As modified by the Law of 10 September 2018, Article L. 744-2, I of the CESEDA establishes how accommodation places for asylum seekers are distributed and also establishes places for refugees within the region.</p> <p>The regional scheme is set in line with the national scheme for the reception of asylum applicants by the Government representative in the region, following an opinion from a consultative committee consisting of representatives of regional authorities, departmental national education services, managers of accommodation facilities for asylum seekers, and NGOs working to protect the rights of asylum seekers. This representative must present the strategy for receiving the country's</p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Legislation <input type="checkbox"/> Policy <input type="checkbox"/> Practice/Other</p>

asylum seekers and refugees within a region in terms of all aspects of the asylum policy: recording asylum applications, housing asylum seekers (infra-regional distribution of accommodation places: reception centres⁷, and actions to promote the integration of refugees (health, education, employment, housing).

Right to housing before submitting an asylum application

The CAES are integrated into the regional reception scheme and, thus, it is now recognised by the law that “a foreign national with no stable housing wishing to make an application for asylum may be admitted into one of the accommodation places mentioned in 2, before submitting their application for asylum.” “Decisions on admission and exit are taken by the OFII, and must take into account the personal and family situation of the foreign national.” (Article L. 744-3, para. 8 of the CESEDA).

Possibility of sending the applicant to another region

When the proportion of asylum applicants residing in one region exceeds the proportion set by the national reception scheme, the asylum applicant may be sent to a region other than the one where they initiated their administrative procedures (II, Article L. 744-2 of the CESEDA). The OFII decides upon the host region, taking into account the personal and family situation of the applicant, as well as their needs as identified during the evaluation, and the existence of facilities “specifically able to deal with victims of trafficking in human beings or serious cases of physical or sexual violence” (Article L. 744-2 of the CESEDA, II, para. 2). The OFII excludes vulnerable people from these directive provisions. As a consequence of these changes, receipt of material reception conditions is now subject to “acceptance by the applicant of the proposed accommodation or, where necessary, the identified region of orientation” (Article L. 744-7, 1 of the CESEDA).

Information on the consequences of violating obligations

Applicants must be informed in advance “in a language they understand or which it is reasonable to believe they understand, that by refusing or leaving the accommodation offered or the region they are directed towards mentioned in part 1 of this article, as well as not complying with the requirements set by the asylum authorities set out in part 2, will automatically lead to the refusal or, where applicable, the withdrawal of the material reception conditions” (Article L. 744-7, para. 2 of the CESEDA).

Authorisation to leave the region of residence

The asylum applicant must reside in the allocated region for the duration of the examination of their asylum application (Articles L. 744-2, II, para. 1 of the CESEDA). They may only temporarily leave the region with the OFII permission, except for urgent reasons or on summons of the authorities or courts. When solicited in this capacity, the OFII must issue its decision as quickly as possible, taking into account the personal and family situation of the applicant (Articles L. 744-2, II, para. 3 of the CESEDA).

End of accommodation

The accommodation mission ends “at the end of the month in which the asylum applicant’s right to remain in France [...] ends” (Article L. 744-5 of the CESEDA). People who are recognised as refugees or beneficiaries of subsidiary protection may, on their request, remain in the accommodation centre for three months, renewable on one occasion. People whose asylum applications have been refused may, upon their request, remain in the accommodation centre for a maximum of one month. However, if a formal notice has not been fruitful, the competent administrative authority as well as the manager of the accommodation may now ask the court to order the now illegible occupant to leave the premises (Article L. 744-5, para. 4 of the CESEDA / measure in force on 1 March 2019).

⁷ CAES, HUDA and CADA

<p>Election of domicile at the accommodation facility</p> <p>The Law of 10 September 2018 simplified the procedures for registering domiciliation for asylum applicants by making domiciliation compulsory at the first reception facility for asylum applicants (<i>structure de premier accueil des demandes d'asile</i>, SPADA) for asylum applicants with no accommodation in CADA or without a domicile.</p>	
<p>Withdrawal of material reception conditions</p> <p>Under the terms of the new wording of Article L. 744-7 of the CESEDA, modified by the Law of 10 September 2018, eligibility for material reception conditions is subject to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the applicant accepting the proposed accommodation or, where applicable, the region identified for their accommodation, where these proposals take into account each applicant's needs, personal and family situation given during the assessment provided for in Article L. 744-6, the available accommodation capacity, and the proportion of asylum applicants hosted in each region (Article L. 744-7, 1 of the CESEDA) ; - the applicant complying with the requirements of the authorities responsible for asylum (attendance at interviews, presentation before the authorities and communication of useful information to facilitate application processing (Article L. 744-7, 2 of the CESEDA). <p>From now on, failure to comply with these obligations will lead to the immediate and automatic withdrawal of reception conditions (definitive sanction) (Article L. 744-8, para. 1 of the CESEDA).</p> <p>In addition, the fact of having submitted several asylum applications under different identities is also a possible reason for withdrawal (Article L. 744-8, 1 of the CESEDA).</p> <p>Asylum seeker's allowance (ADA – allocation pour demandeur d'asile)</p> <p>The Decree of 28 December 2018 on material reception conditions sets out the conditions for refusing and withdrawing material reception benefits and introduces the possibility of using a payment card to pay the asylum seeker's allowance.</p> <p>Term of payment of the asylum seeker's allowance</p> <p>The law of 10 September 2018 provides that payment of the asylum seeker's allowance (ADA) ends not at the end of the appeal period against the OFPRA decision or the National Court for Right of Asylum (<i>Cour nationale du droit d'asile – CNDA</i>) decision but:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - either at the end of the month in which the applicant's right to remain in France under the conditions provided for in Articles L. 743-1 and L. 743-2 of the CESEDA has ended; - or on the effective date of transfer to another State if examination of their application falls within the jurisdiction of that State. <p>For persons who obtain the status of refugee or beneficiary of subsidiary protection, the allowance ends at the end of the month following that in which the decision is notified (Article L. 744-9 of the CESEDA).</p> <p>Replacement of the ADA by material assistance</p> <p>The new Article L. 744-9-1, II of the CESEDA created by the Law of 10 September 2018 authorises the administrative authority to terminate payment of the ADA when the applicant's right to remain in the country ends or when a transfer decision is notified. In both cases, the ADA can be "adjusted or replaced" by "material assistance".</p> <p>Access to the labour market after six months and processing applications for work permits</p> <p>The Law of 10 September 2018 modifies the period at the end of which an asylum applicant is allowed to exercise a professional activity. Access to the labour market is therefore now possible six months after the asylum application has been submitted,</p>	

<p>compared to nine months previously (Article L. 744-11, para. 1 of the CESEDA). This provision will enter into force no later than 1 March 2019.</p> <p>The administrative authority then has two months to examine the application for a work permit, in order to "ensure that the foreign national's employment complies with the mainstream conditions for access to the labour market". If the administration does not reply within this period, the authorisation shall be deemed to have been granted. It is valid for the duration of the right to remain in the country.</p> <p>Regime for unaccompanied minors</p> <p>When an unaccompanied foreign minor holds a work permit as part of an apprenticeship or career development contract, and submits an asylum application, this work permit is automatically maintained throughout examination of the application (Article L. 744-11, para. 1 of the CESEDA amended by Article 49 of the Law of 10 September 2018). This provision will enter into force no later than 1 June 2019.</p>	
<p>b) Detention during the asylum procedure (detention capacity - rise/fall/stable, practices regarding detention, grounds for detention, alternatives to detention, time limit for detention)</p>	
<p>Late asylum applications made when the foreign national is the subject of a previous removal order and is in detention:</p> <p>When an asylum application is submitted late, in the last two weeks of the second extended period of detention, the law of 10 September 2018 makes it possible to request the judge of freedoms and detention (<i>juge des libertés et de la détention</i>, JLD) to exceptionally extend the detention for two additional periods of fifteen days, within an overall limit of ninety days raising the maximum duration of detention to 90 days (Article L. 552-7 of the CESEDA). This provision guarantees that the asylum application will be processed and makes it possible to deal with late applications for asylum lodged with the sole aim of preventing the removal measure from being enforced, since the person concerned cannot be held in detention.</p> <p>The possibility of detaining or placing under house arrest foreign nationals who are the subject of a removal order, a judicial ban from the country or certain administrative bans from the country, whose asylum applications are pending or were submitted after the notification of one of these measures:</p> <p>These provisions, provided for by the Law of 10 September 2018 (Article L. 571-4 of the CESEDA), are particularly intended to deal with late asylum applications submitted by detained foreign nationals who must be released promptly, in an attempt to thwart execution of the removal order.</p> <p>In these cases, the OFPRA will reach a decision within 96 hours. In the event of refusal, the appeal will not automatically have a suspensive effect (see below, 2-1-3-c) and it will be up to the administrative judge to suspend execution of the removal order until the CNDA reaches a decision, noting that if this suspension is granted, it does not bring the detention or house arrest to an end.</p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Legislation <input type="checkbox"/> Policy <input type="checkbox"/> Practice/Other</p>
<p>Vulnerable persons in detention:</p> <p>The law of 10 September 2018 stresses the need to take vulnerability and disability into account during detention and that motor, cognitive and psychological disabilities and support needs must be taken into account when determining the conditions of detention (Article L. 551-1 of the CESEDA).</p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Legislation <input type="checkbox"/> Policy <input type="checkbox"/> Practice/Other</p>

Asylum procedures

Development	Nature*
a) Access to information and legal counselling/representation (including at the border and during the asylum procedure);	

Development	Nature*
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support from a third party during the interview <p>The Law of 29 July 2015 introduced the possibility of being accompanied during the interview by a lawyer or representative of an NGO authorised for this purpose (Article L. 723-6, para. 8 of the CESEDA). The Law of 10 September 2018 adds to this by providing that, when justified for the smooth running of the interview, applicants "with disabilities" may now request OFPRA's permission to be accompanied "by the health professional who usually follows them or by a representative of an NGO which provides assistance to people with disabilities" (Article L. 723-6, para. 9 of the CESEDA).</p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Legislation <input type="checkbox"/> Policy <input type="checkbox"/> Practice/Other
b) Provision of interpretation;	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Indication of the language of the proceedings when the application is registered: <p>With a view to streamlining procedures, the language declared by the asylum applicant at the time their application is registered can now be enforced against them throughout the procedure to examine the asylum application, pursuant to the Law of 10 September 2018 (Art. L7412-1; L. 723-6; L. 733-5; R. 723-5 and R. 733-5 of the CESEDA). When the application is registered, the foreign national is informed of the languages in which they may be heard and indicates the language in which they would prefer to be heard. In the absence of a choice, they may be heard in a language of which they have sufficient knowledge. The choice of language may only be contested during a judicial review before the CNDA (Article L. 741-2-1 of the CESEDA).</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Legislation <input type="checkbox"/> Policy <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Practice/Other
c) Dublin procedure (including changes in the organisational framework, IT systems, practical development and suspension of transfers to selected countries, detention in the framework of Dublin procedures);	
<p>To combat secondary movements, in particular those generated by applicants whose behaviour contravenes the purposes of the above-mentioned Regulation, the French legislator wished to introduce new provisions into national law specifically targeting applicants who have returned after an initial transfer.</p> <p>The law provides for the detention of persons under the Dublin procedure by inserting into national law the provisions necessary for application of Article 28 of the Dublin Regulation.</p> <p>It thus defines a non-negligible risk of absconding by listing twelve alternative criteria relating to the migratory route, attempts at fraud or obstruction, and criteria relating to accommodation conditions.</p> <p>The law now allows for the detention of persons under the Dublin procedure without waiting for a response from the requested Member State and without the need for prior notification of a transfer decision. This situation particularly applies to foreign nationals who are arrested while illegally in the country, who have not lodged an asylum application, and when it appears, following a consultation of the Eurodac database, that they have previously applied for asylum in another Member State. These persons, who are the subject of a removal order, may then legitimately be transferred to the Member State responsible for their asylum application.</p> <p>This measure also harmonises and simplifies the regime for the residence of foreign nationals under the Dublin Regulation. It puts an end to the system of house arrest during examination of the substantive application created by Article L. 742-2 of the Law of 29 July 2015 for a period of six months, renewable once, thus harmonising the system of house arrest under Article L. 561-2 of the CESEDA.</p> <p>In addition, Article L. 624-3 of the CESEDA, as amended by the Law of 10 September 2018, provides that a foreign national who returns to France after a transfer measure concerning them has been executed is liable to a penalty of three years' imprisonment and an additional penalty of expulsion from the country for a period not exceeding</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Legislation <input type="checkbox"/> Policy <input type="checkbox"/> Practice/Other

Development	Nature*
<p>three years. If such behaviour is found to have taken place, this may justify arrest and police custody before detention, in the absence of prosecution.</p> <p>Finally, insofar as new asylum applications submitted a few days after transfer to the relevant Member State is considered abusive and constitutes fraud, granting of the material reception conditions may be refused.</p>	
<p>Establishment of regional Dublin hubs</p> <p>With a view to the rigorous application of the Dublin Regulation, the principle of creating 11 specialised regional hubs for processing the Dublin procedure has been approved. Initially, 94 prefectures were responsible for the application of the Dublin Regulation in France.</p> <p>The aim is to create regional centralisation, through administrative units which specialise in the Dublin procedure.</p> <p>The Regional Dublin Hubs (<i>pôles régionaux Dublin</i>, PRD) were established between 1 September and 31 December 2018 and will be fully operational from 1 January 2019.</p> <p>The Regional Dublin Hubs have exclusive competence to conduct Dublin procedures initiated following the registration of an asylum application: sending the request, renewing the certificate, notifying decisions on transfers, house arrest or detention, managing and monitoring litigation, and organising transfers.</p> <p>This reorganisation does not concern the Île-de-France region, where each prefecture remains responsible for all Dublin missions.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Legislation <input type="checkbox"/> Policy <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Practice/Other
<p>Appeal against the transfer decision within a fifteen-day period</p> <p>Having shortened it to seven days by the law of 20 March 2018 "to enable correct application of the European asylum system", the Law of 10 September 2018 once again extends the time limit for appealing against the decision to transfer the application for protection to the State responsible for examining it to fifteen days (Article L. 742-4 of the CESEDA).</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Legislation <input type="checkbox"/> Policy <input type="checkbox"/> Practice/Other
<p>d) Special procedures: border procedures, procedures in transit zones, accelerated procedures, admissibility procedures, prioritised procedures or any special procedure for selected caseloads;</p>	
<p>Accelerated procedures and late asylum applications: Since the Law of 29 July 2015 on reform of the right of asylum, the CESEDA has provided that applicants who entered the country illegally or who remained in the country illegally would have their application placed under the accelerated procedure if they "presented" their application for protection more than 120 days after entering French territory (Article L. 723-2, III, 3 of the CESEDA). The Law of 10 September 2018 now allows the OFPRA to take a decision using the accelerated procedure on asylum applications lodged more than 90 days after the applicant's entry into France.</p> <p>Vulnerable persons: The Law of 10 September 2018 pays particular attention to vulnerable persons, in particular minors who may or may not be accompanied by an adult who is in a holding area. Without adding any specific procedural guarantee, this provision introduces a proportionality requirement and, as regards minors, whether or not they are accompanied, introduces obligations on border guards, who must respect human dignity in the performance of their duties and pay particular attention to minors (see Annex VII of the Schengen Border Code).</p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Legislation <input type="checkbox"/> Policy <input type="checkbox"/> Practice/Other

Development	Nature*
<p>e) Safe country concept: safe country of origin, safe third country, European safe country, first country of asylum (introduction of the concept into law, applicability of the concept in practice, measures undertaken to create, revise or implement a list of safe countries):</p>	
<p>In its Opinion of 16 May 2018 on the application of the concept of a “safe third country” (Opinion No. 394624), the Council of State stated that the fourth paragraph of the preamble to the French Constitution of 27 October 1946 and Article 53-1 of the French Constitution must be regarded, on the one hand, as obliging the French authorities to carry out a substantive examination of asylum applications submitted by foreign nationals claiming to be covered by the fourth paragraph of the preamble to the Constitution and on the other, as preserving France’s sovereign right to examine the merits of an asylum application, which would not fall within the scope of the preamble.</p>	Jurisprudence
<p>f) Procedures at first instance (relevant changes in: the authority in charge, organisation of the process, interviews, evidence assessment, international protection status determination, decision making, timeframes, case management, including backlog management);</p>	
<p>• Asylum applications submitted by foreign nationals accompanied by their minor children:</p> <p>The Law of 10 September 2018 now provides that, in such cases, the asylum application is considered to be submitted in the name of the applicant and his or her children (Art. L. 741-1 of the CESEDA). This provision also aims to speed up the processing of asylum applications.</p> <p>• Closing asylum examinations:</p> <p>The system for closing asylum claims has been clarified: the Law of 10 September 2018 amends Article L. 723-13 of the CESEDA to specify that if the application is not submitted to the OFPRA within 21 days of being registered (or eight days in the case of a review), unless there are legitimate reasons, closure is automatic.</p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Legislation <input type="checkbox"/> Policy <input type="checkbox"/> Practice/Other
<p>g) Appeal/judicial review (changes in organisation of the process, hearings, written procedures, timeframes, case management, including backlog management);</p>	
<p>Legal aid: Filing of the applications within 15 days of notification of the OFPRA decision (in force since 1 January 2019).</p> <p>Article 8 of the Law of 10 September 2018 requires that applications for legal aid are submitted exclusively within 15 days of notification of the OFPRA decision (the possibility of requesting legal aid up until the appeal period has ended has been abolished). Filing an application for legal aid suspends the period of appeal (it was previously “interrupted” by the appeal period) and resumes for the remaining period from notification of the decision on eligibility for legal aid.</p> <p>Language of the procedure</p> <p>Decree No. 2018-1159 of 14 December 2018 also clarifies the choice of language to be henceforth used throughout the proceedings.</p> <p>Following the amendment to Article L. 733-5 of the CESEDA (which sets out the conditions for contesting the conditions under which the applicant was heard by the OFPRA), Article R. 733-5 of the CESEDA now specifies that “pursuant to Article L. 741-2-1 of the CESEDA, the applicant shall be heard at the hearing in the language they indicated to the administrative authority when their asylum application was registered. In the absence of a choice by the applicant at the time of registration or in the event that this request cannot be met, they shall be heard in a language of which they has sufficient knowledge.”</p> <p>In addition, if the applicant contests the language in which they were heard by the OFPRA, they must indicate, within the appeal period, the language in which they wish to be heard. In this case, they are heard in that language. If this request cannot be</p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Legislation <input type="checkbox"/> Policy <input type="checkbox"/> Practice/Other

Development	Nature*
<p>met, they will be heard in a language which it is reasonable to expect them to understand.</p> <p>Extension of the competence of the single judge Article 8 of the Law of 10 September 2018 extends the jurisdiction of single judge formations ruling within five weeks (Article L. 731-2 of the CESEDA). For this type of audience, directed appeals against the following are now listed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - decisions terminating refugee status where the presence in France of the person concerned constitutes a serious threat to State security; or where the person has been convicted by a final ruling in France or a EU Member State or a listed third country, either for a crime or for an offence constituting an act of terrorism or punishable by 10 years' imprisonment, and the presence of this person constitutes a serious threat to society; - decisions to withdraw subsidiary protection on the grounds of a serious threat to public order, public security or State security, taken before or after protection was granted. <p>Video conferencing The law of 10 September 2018 extends the possibility for the CNDA to use video conferencing by removing the requirement for the applicant to consent. This is an extension of a scheme already provided in overseas France (Article L.733-1 of the CESEDA). At the same time, this is surrounded by guarantees for asylum seekers (the quality of the transmission must be ensured, the courtroom must be open to the public, the applicant must be accompanied by an adviser and an interpreter who must, in principle, be physically present next to the applicant).</p>	
<p>h) Country of origin information (changes or updates in organisation, methodology, products, databases, fact-finding missions, cooperation between (Member) States).</p>	
<p>Between 22 and 28 July 2018, the OFPRA organised a fact-finding mission to Georgia and Armenia with the participation of the CNDA. The report on this mission was published in December 2018 on the OFPRA website.</p> <p>Throughout 2018, researchers from the French Directorate of Information, Documentation and Research (<i>Direction de l'information, de la documentation et de la recherche, DIDR</i>) also continued their multilateral cooperation activities with EASO and bilateral cooperation with Sweden.</p> <p>Finally, this Directorate has expanded its press review of countries whose geopolitical situations warrant increased monitoring.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Legislation <input type="checkbox"/> Policy <input type="checkbox"/> Practice/Other

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

Development	Nature*
<p>a) Residence/entry documents granted to beneficiaries of international protection (including length/duration);</p> <p>The Law of 10 September 2018 consolidated the right of residence for beneficiaries of international protection and stateless people as well as members of their families by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - issuing a four-year multi-year residence permit for beneficiaries of subsidiary protection and stateless persons and for members of their families (Article L. 313-25 and L. 313-26 of the CESEDA) - automatically issuing a ten-year residence permit after four years of legal residence as part of the four-year multi-year permit (article L.314-11 of the CESEDA) - removing the condition of regular residence for family members of a refugee in order to be eligible for a ten-year residence card (article L.314-11 of the CESEDA). 	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Legislation <input type="checkbox"/> Policy <input type="checkbox"/> Practice/Other

The Law also extends family reunification to minor siblings of beneficiaries of protection (article L. 752-1 of the CESEDA).	
b) Rights and obligations regarding family reunification, access to social welfare scheme, access to accommodation, healthcare, citizenship, education, employment, etc.	
Accelerated eligibility Article L.751-3 of the CESEDA (amended by Article 14 of the Law of 10 September 2018) now makes it possible for refugees or beneficiaries of subsidiary protection to claim the rights for which they are eligible on the grounds of their family composition, as taken into account during the asylum procedure (in force since 1 January 2019). The aim is to claim eligibility as soon as protection is granted because it can take a long time for civil status documents to be drawn up.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Legislation <input type="checkbox"/> Policy <input type="checkbox"/> Practice/Other

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

Development	Nature*
Information on rights and obligations regarding family reunification, access to social welfare scheme, access to accommodation, healthcare, citizenship, employment and integration programme.	
Since 2018, an information video on travel, living and residence conditions in France, translated into several languages, has been shown to sub-Saharan refugees who have been accepted for resettlement in France from Niger and Chad, before their arrival in France.	<input type="checkbox"/> Legislation <input type="checkbox"/> Policy <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Practice/Other

Withdrawal of international protection

Development	Nature*
Refusal of and ending refugee status in the event of conviction for a serious crime.	
Article L.711-6, part 2 of the CESEDA extends the possibility of refusing or ending refugee status in cases where the person has been convicted of an act of terrorism or sentenced to ten years' imprisonment in an EU Member State or a third country on a list established by Decree (Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland).	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Legislation <input type="checkbox"/> Policy <input type="checkbox"/> Practice/Other

4.1.2. INSTITUTIONAL CHANGES IN THE NATIONAL ASYLUM SYSTEM

Establishment of regional Dublin hubs

With a view to the rigorous application of the Dublin Regulation, the principle of creating 11 specialised regional hubs for processing the Dublin procedure has been approved. Originally, 94 prefectures were responsible for the application of the Dublin Regulation in France.

The aim is to creation regional centralisation, through administrative units which are specialised in the Dublin procedure.

The Regional Dublin Hubs (*pôles régionaux Dublin*, PRD) were established between 1 September and 31 December 2018 and will be fully operational from 1 January 2019.

The Regional Dublin Hubs have exclusive competence to conduct the Dublin procedures initiated following registration of an asylum application: sending the request, renewing the certificate, notifying decisions on transfers, house arrest or detention, managing and monitoring litigation, and organising transfers.

This reorganisation does not concern the Île-de-France region, where each prefecture remains responsible for all Dublin missions.

Additional resources for the OFPRA

The OFPRA has seen regular staff increases since 2015 as a result of increases in its "job ceiling" (+55 FTEs in 2015, +140 FTEs in 2016, +115 FTEs in 2017 and +15 FTEs in 2018). The draft Finance Law of 2019 brings the "job ceiling" for the Office to 805 FTEs (+10 FTEs as part of the experiment in French Guiana).

Additional resources for the CNDA

In 2018, the CNDA saw significant budgetary and human resource increases to enable it to cope with the very sharp increase in the number of appeals. In addition to the 51 jobs created by the original Finance Act, 51 additional jobs were created during the year, bringing the Court's total number of permanent staff to 491. With the arrival of four new magistrates, these additional staff have made it possible to create four additional chambers. Furthermore, in 2018, 67 new rapporteurs were trained in legal, geopolitical and drafting aspects necessary for their work, while 40 asylum judges also received training adapted to their functions.

4.1.3. EFFICIENCY AND QUALITY OF THE NATIONAL ASYLUM SYSTEM

Measures undertaken to improve:

Development	Nature*
<p>a) Quality of the national asylum system (internal measures to improve quality in decision-making processes and the content of issued decisions, e.g. Creation of guidelines and instructions). Please include information on training, tools and mechanisms and state how results are measured.</p>	
<p>The OFPRA continues its regular quality control of decisions issued, with quarterly and annual reviews. During the year, the quality control manager held several meetings with protection officers to inform them of the conclusions of the quality control procedures and to engage in discussions with them.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Legislation <input type="checkbox"/> Policy <input type="checkbox"/> Practice/Other
<p>b) Efficiency of the processing of (first) applications and appeals (increasing speed, reducing costs, use of new technology, specialised training provided) of the national asylum system. Please indicate if there are any procedural changes, which are specific to subsequent applications.</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In 2018, the OFPRA changed its internal procedures regarding sending summons to the asylum application interview, which takes place as soon as the application is submitted, as a result of early request for interpretation. The purpose of this system is to reduce OFPRA's processing time for asylum seekers. Adjustment to the suspensive nature of the appeal against certain rejection decisions by the OFPRA: In order to speed up the processing of asylum applications and to discourage applications that may appear to be unconnected to a need of protection, the Law of 10 September 2018 removes the "automatic" suspensive nature of appeals to the CNDA for certain categories of foreign nationals under the accelerated procedure (nationals of safe countries of origin, certain reviews, people whose presence constitutes a serious threat to public order; L.743-3; L.743-4; and L.744-9-1 of the CESEDA). In these cases, a removal measure or obligation to leave French territory (<i>obligation de quitter le territoire français</i>, OQTF) may be issued as soon as the OFPRA's decision to reject the appeal is notified. The person concerned may ask the administrative judge, in the context of their appeal against the OQTF, to restore the suspensive effect of the appeal. It is only if the administrative judge grants this request that the execution of the removal order will be suspended, until the expiry of the period of appeal to the CNDA or, if such an appeal has been submitted, until the CNDA announces its decision. 	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Legislation <input type="checkbox"/> Policy <input type="checkbox"/> Practice/Other

Development	Nature*
<p>Asylum applicants who have been issued with an OQTF in these cases may also be placed under house arrest “for the purpose of rapid processing and effective monitoring of their asylum application, for a period of 45 days, renewable once” or administrative detention, “to determine the grounds for the claim, in particular to prevent a flight risk or when required by public policy and security considerations.” If the judge decides to suspend the execution of the removal order, he or she shall, with certain exceptions, terminate the house arrest or detention measures.</p>	

4.2. RELOCATION AND RESETTLEMENT PROGRAMMES

4.2.1. RELOCATION⁸

National relocation mechanisms

As part of the voluntary relocation operations for migrants rescued at sea, France welcomed 281 people in need of protection.

Six missions took place between July and October 2018 from Spain, Malta and Italy.

The main nationalities concerned were Sudanese, Eritrean and Somali.

4.2.2. RESETTLEMENT AND HUMANITARIAN ADMISSION PROGRAMMES⁹

EU Joint Resettlement Programmes

By creating a new Article L. 714-1 of the CESEDA, Article 7 of the Law of 10 September 2018 permanently enshrines resettlement missions in law, and provides that “asylum authorities may organise, if necessary by carrying out on-site missions, resettlement from countries outside the European Union of people in vulnerable situations benefiting from international protection. These people are authorised to settle in France by the competent authority.”

As part of Europe's resettlement commitments, the French President made a commitment at the end of 2017 to receive 10,000 refugees by 2019 as part of the resettlement operations with UNHCR, including 3,000 from Chad and Niger and 7,000 from Lebanon, Jordan and Turkey.

A commitment that is being kept thanks to strong partnerships: Between 1 December 2017, the start date of the commitment, and 31 December 2018, 5,403 resettled people effectively arrived in France (including 851 from Niger and Chad, and 4,323 from Turkey and Lebanon), representing 54% of the President's commitment at the halfway point in the reporting period. 5,157 resettled refugees arrived in 2018 alone.

• **An increase in the number of missions in third countries:** In 2018, 18 missions by the OFPRA and the Ministry of the Interior took place in countries of first asylum to identify beneficiaries of the programme.

⁸ Relocation: The transfer of persons having a status defined by the Geneva Refugee Convention and Protocol or subsidiary protection within the meaning of Directive 2011/95/EU (Recast Qualification Directive) from the EU Member State which granted them international protection to another EU Member State where they will be granted similar protection, And of persons having applied for international protection from the EU Member State which is responsible for examining their application to another EU Member State where their applications for international protection will be examined. In the context of the EU emergency relocation programme, the transfer of persons in clear need of international protection, as defined in Council Decision 2015/1601 and 2016/1754, having applied for International protection from the EU Member State, CH or NO which is responsible for examining their application to another EU Member State, CH or NO where their application for international will be examined. (See EMN Glossary V6).

⁹ Resettlement: In the EU context, the transfer, on a request from the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and based on their need for international protection, of a third-country national or stateless person, from a third country to an EU Member State, where they are permitted to reside with one of the following statuses: (i) refugee status within the meaning of Art. 2(D) of Directive 2011/95/EU (Recast Qualification Directive); (ii) a status which offers the same rights and benefits under national and EU law as refugee status. (See EMN Glossary V6).

- **A smoother flow of arrivals of Syrians, made possible by the creation of transit centres.** Five centres located in the Île-de-France, Dijon and Le Havre opened up places in order to accelerate the arrival of Syrians, pending their redirection towards permanent housing.

- **A new collective reception system was established to meet the specific needs of people from Chad and Niger,** including young people who have been tortured and involved in slavery in Libya and who present significant traumas. 15 reception centres have been set up in eight regions (Bas-Rhin, Gard, Allier, Dordogne, Ain, Rhône, Côte d'Or, Ariège, Puy-de-Dôme, Aisne, Eure-et-Loir, Nord and Sarthe), providing enhanced support over four months for resettled people from Africa. They are then supported for a period of eight months after their entry into permanent accommodation.

- **An extension of the operators involved and strengthening regional management**

Compared to 11 in 2016, 21 operators are now involved in searching for accommodation, reception and enhanced social support for refugees resettled for 12 months. In order to ensure regional involvement, an Instruction of 4 June 2018 called upon the regions to establish regional action plans to help operators and regions meet their deadlines and quantitative objectives.

National resettlement programmes

a) National resettlement programmes (UNHCR)

In 2008 France signed a framework agreement with UNHCR providing that around 100 cases of vulnerable refugees would be submitted to France every year for proposed resettlement. The files are examined within the Directorate for Asylum and people are given housing and receive reinforced support towards autonomy from NGO operators upon their arrival and for at least 12 months. The programme is financed by European funding. Between 1 December 2017 and 31 December 2018, 80 people arrived under this framework agreement and 19 Syrians arrived from countries where France does not carry out selection missions.

b) National Humanitarian Admission Programme

Reception in France of Syrian and Iraqi refugees through asylum visas

This mechanism was used for the benefit of Syrian nationals from 2013. Syrians who show personal commitment and a particular risk in the host country are eligible for an asylum visa. The scheme also extended to persons fleeing generalised violence, facing serious difficulties in the country of first reception and who are either at risk of refoulement, have links with France or are in a vulnerable situation. Syrians belonging to a religious minority and still residing in Syria may also be eligible. Since 2012, 6,612 visas have been granted to Syrian nationals, 998 of them in 2018.

In the summer of 2014, the French authorities agreed to receive Iraqi nationals who were persecuted or threatened because of their membership of a religious minority, particularly those who had fled the abuses committed by the Islamic State. This was initially planned for internally displaced persons, but has been extended to people in exile in a neighbouring country for these reasons since 2016. This specific reception mechanism was established primarily for people with family members in France or strong ties with France or who are in a particularly vulnerable situation. For people with no accommodation but whose vulnerable situation justified the granting of a visa, the NGO network is called upon to help find host families.

Since 2014, 7,151 visas have been issued for asylum for Iraqi nationals and in 2018, 1,013 people benefited from this agreement.

Humanitarian mission to Erbil

The OFPRA carried out a humanitarian mission to Erbil in December 2018, at the end of which 80 Yazidi women and children were protected. These were Iraqi Yazidi women who had been persecuted (reduced to sexual slaves) by the Islamic State Organisation since 2014.

C) Private sponsorship programme/scheme

A memorandum of understanding for the implementation of a solidarity operation to receive 500 refugees from Lebanon over a period of 18 months was signed on 14 March 2017 between the French Government and five NGOs (*Communauté de Sant'Egidio, the Fédération protestante de France, the Fédération de l'entraide protestante, the Conférence des évêques de France and the Secours catholique-Caritas France*). The purpose of this protocol is to allow the arrival in France, on the basis of an asylum visa, of Syrians and Iraqis who are refugees in Lebanon and are in a vulnerable situation, with no distinction of religion. These refugees are identified by NGO promoters involved in the project who agree to cover, at their own cost, travel, reception and accommodation costs until the person enters into mainstream accommodation. 294 people have been admitted to France under this programme since 2017, including 183 in 2018. The programme was extended to allow the initial objective to be achieved.

d) Ad-hoc special programmes (e.g. National initiatives, and/or international initiatives)

Four years after the advance of the Islamic State in Iraq, these traumas continue to have significant consequences. This is particularly the case for Yazidi women who lost their husbands or who were kept in slavery by the Islamic State, who have been profoundly marked by the violence they have suffered.

These women and their families need to rebuild themselves, to envisage a sustainable future in a country other than their own, by benefiting from reception conditions, humanitarian assistance and high quality healthcare adapted to their situation.

It is in this context that, on 25 October 2018, the French President made a commitment to 2018 Nobel Peace Prize winner, Nadia Murad, defender of the rights of the Yazidi minority, to engage in a specific reception operation. This operation will benefit 100 single women or women accompanied by their children, whose have a proven need of protection and who are particularly vulnerable due to the trauma they have suffered.

The first 16 families (83 people) arrived on 20 December 2018, the others will arrive throughout 2019. These families are housed and receive enhanced comprehensive support (healthcare, access to rights, schooling, language training, vocational training, employment support, etc.) for 12 months by NGOs who are already recognised by the Ministry of the Interior in the field of asylum.

5. UNACCOMPANIED MINORS AND OTHER VULNERABLE GROUPS

5.1. UNACCOMPANIED MINORS APPLYING FOR ASYLUM

Development	Nature*
<p>a) Increase/decrease of human resources and/or training of staff;</p>	
<p>Support provided by prefects, as part of the procedure to assess the age and isolation of people presenting as unaccompanied minors, has been improved. To this end, staff from the three pilot prefectures have been trained in the new age assessment support system, which includes the use of software to enable biometric and biographical data of persons who present as minors to be recorded. Officers in the three pilot prefectures also underwent awareness raising training on dealing with minors and vulnerable people.</p> <p>In 2018, the OFPRA reference group on minors organised three training sessions for law enforcement officers to clear them to deal with asylum applications from minors, including unaccompanied minors. By the end of 2018, about 100 protection officers had received this clearance.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Legislation <input type="checkbox"/> Policy <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Practice/Other
<p>b) Improvement of protection and care of UAMs, including reception facilities;</p>	
<p>Since 1 February 2019, Departmental councils may, <u>only if they so wish</u>, ask the prefecture to meet with the person who is presenting as a minor, in order to help with this identification. The prefecture will then examine the existing applications to find out whether an application for a residence permit (through the French central database for foreigners' residence permits (AGDREF: <i>application de gestion des dossiers des ressortissants étrangers en France</i>)) or a visa (through VISABIO – visa national database) has already been submitted by the applicant. It will also provide this new age assessment support file with the civil status information that has been declared and biometric information (photo and fingerprints). The conditions for accessing the file and storing the data are closely regulated by the GDPR. This file is implemented under the auspices of France's data protection authority (the National Commission for Information Technology and Civil Liberties – CNIL).</p> <p>The purpose of this file, referred to as the "age assessment support report" (AEM), is to provide better child protection, by reducing the load upon and overcrowding of child welfare services, to ensure it is reserved for those who actually need it. The existence of this national database will enable faster and more reliable assessments.</p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Legislation <input type="checkbox"/> Policy <input type="checkbox"/> Practice/Other
<p>The law of 10 September 2018 provides better protection for minors exposed to the risk of genital mutilation by exempting them from the applicable regulations on medical confidentiality by providing that doctors who carry out the examinations send the medical certificate directly to the OFPRA.</p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Legislation <input type="checkbox"/> Policy <input type="checkbox"/> Practice/Other
<p>c) Age assessment</p>	
<p>By registering the fingerprints of the person presenting as a minor and querying the AGDREF and VISABIO processing operations, the AEM file, created by Decree No. 2019-57 of 30 January 2019, makes it possible to combat fraud and procedural misuse and thus contribute to providing a more uniform and reliable response. At the same time, the Government is committed to revising the national assessment framework.</p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Legislation <input type="checkbox"/> Policy <input type="checkbox"/> Practice/Other

Development	Nature*
d) Procedural safeguards;	
<p>People who are assessed as being adults by the Departmental Council, particularly on the basis of information collected in the AEM or as a result of Visabio and AGDREF queries, may apply to the Juvenile Court judge for recognition of their minority. The AEM file takes into account situations in which an appeal is lodged with the judicial judge. If this leads to the recognition of the minority of someone previously assessed as being an adult, the information entered in the AEM is fully updated. The conditions for accessing the file and data retention are closely regulated by the GDPR. This file is implemented under the auspices of the CNIL.</p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Legislation <input type="checkbox"/> Policy <input type="checkbox"/> Practice/Other
e) Provision of information (info material, e.g. Videos, leaflets, booklets, etc.);	
<p>Written information is provided to the person presenting as an unaccompanied minor in a language they understand prior to recording their personal data in the AEM (fingerprints, digital facial images, biographical information).</p> <p>THE OFPRA has been working on updating a guide to asylum for unaccompanied minors in France, which will be published in 2019.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Legislation <input type="checkbox"/> Policy <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Practice/Other
f) Other	
<p>Regime for unaccompanied minors When an unaccompanied foreign minor holds a work permit as part of an apprenticeship or career development contract, and submits an asylum application, this work permit is automatically maintained during examination of the application (Article L. 744-11, para. 1 of the CESEDA amended by Article 49 of the Law of 10 September 2018). This measure entered into force on 1 June 2019.</p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Legislation <input type="checkbox"/> Policy <input type="checkbox"/> Practice/Other
<p>Extension of family reunification Unmarried minors who have been granted the status of refugee or subsidiary protection could previously only be joined by their direct ascendants of the first degree. Henceforth, they may request the right to be joined by their direct ascendants in the first degree (their parents), accompanied, where appropriate, by their unmarried minor children for whom they are responsible (the minor's brothers and sisters).</p>	

5.2. OTHER VULNERABLE GROUPS APPLYING FOR ASYLUM

Development	Nature*
a) Special reception facilities for vulnerable groups;	
<p>In order to meet the specific care needs of people with disabilities, the Circular of 31 December 2018 on the housing stock sets targets for the entire national reception system on the development of wheelchair accessible places (2% of the total capacity of the regional housing stock over five years).</p> <p>In addition, as part of implementation of the measures of the French National Strategy for the Reception and Integration of Refugees adopted by the Inter-ministerial Committee for Integration on 5 June 2018, specialised accommodation places for women who are victims of violence or trafficking in human beings were launched in 2018. This will continue in 2019 through mutual agreements with operators after consulting the prefectures concerned, on the quota of places already existing within the national reception system or as part of new places created by the 2019 calls for projects. An additional cost of €13 per place per day is planned in order to allow for increased support for these groups.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Legislation <input type="checkbox"/> Policy <input type="checkbox"/> Practice/Other

Development	Nature*
<p>b) Identification mechanisms/referrals;</p>	
<p>Since September 2018, the Directorate for Asylum within the Ministry of the Interior has been working in partnership with the OFPRA, the OFII, the Ministry for Health, Interministerial Delegation in charge of the fight against racism, antisemitism and anti-LGBT hatred (<i>Délégation interministérielle à la lutte contre le racisme, l'antisémitisme & la haine anti-LGBT – DILCRAH</i>) and NGOs to improve how the vulnerabilities of asylum seekers and refugees are identified and managed throughout the procedure. The idea is to draft an action plan by mid-2019, which will take the form of a circular to prefects. The method for drawing up the action plan is based on a national working group (Asylum Directorate within the ministry of the Interior /OFPRA/OFII/ General Directorate for Health and Directorate General of Social Cohesion) and three thematic working groups, bringing together public and NGO stakeholders (heads of managers' networks of institutions and specialised NGOs), prioritising entry by "groups":</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ people with disabilities, serious illnesses and victims of psychological traumas; ➤ women who are victims of violence and/or victims of trafficking in human beings; ➤ people in vulnerable situations due to their sexual orientation. <p>On 23 and 24 January 2018 in Brussels, the lead partner of the OFPRA Trafficking Reference Group participated in the final conference of the European TRACKS project (Identification of TRafficked Asylum seeKers' Special needs) on victims of trafficking applying for asylum, a transnational project co-financed by the European Commission.</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Legislation <input type="checkbox"/> Policy <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Practice/Other</p>
<p>c) Applicable procedural safeguards;</p>	
<p>The Law of 10 September 2018 simplifies procedures regarding applications for asylum by minors exposed to the risk of genital mutilation by introducing an exemption from the applicable regulations on medical confidentiality and providing that doctors who carry out the examinations send the medical certificate directly to the OFPRA.</p> <p>The Law of 10 September 2018 also provides that, where justified for the correct proceeding of the interview, asylum seekers with a disability may, at their request and with the authorisation of the Director General of the OFPRA, be accompanied by the health professional who usually treats them or by the representative of an NGO providing assistance to people with disabilities.</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Legislation <input type="checkbox"/> Policy <input type="checkbox"/> Practice/Other</p>
<p>d) Other.</p>	
<p>In line with the actions that the OFPRA has taken since 2013 on the specific protection needs of asylum applicants identified as being vulnerable in the sense of the European Directives, the five thematic reference groups on sexual orientation and gender identity, minors, torture, trafficking in human beings, and violence against women continued throughout 2018. Internal working documents were drafted and updated in order to take better account of vulnerability, and a number of training sessions were carried out with a variety of partners.</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Legislation <input type="checkbox"/> Policy <input type="checkbox"/> Practice/Other</p>

5.3. OTHER VULNERABLE GROUPS NOT APPLYING FOR ASYLUM

Development	Nature*
a) Applicable procedural safeguards;	
<p>The Law of 10 September 2018 provides that when the prefect receives an application for a residence permit for health reasons and intends to depart from the mandatory opinion given on the applicant's state of health and effective access to healthcare in the applicant's country of origin by a college of doctors, the prefect must provide special justification in their decision.</p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Legislation <input type="checkbox"/> Policy <input type="checkbox"/> Practice/Other
b) Other	
<p>Departments that had received an additional number of unaccompanied minors (UAMs) as of 31 December 2017 compared to 31 December 2016 were allocated exceptional state funding.</p> <p>The Decree of 23 July 2018 sets the amount of exceptional state funding to deal with unaccompanied minors entrusted to Departmental Councils by a decision of the courts.</p> <p>The amount of this funding is set at €12,000 per additional young person covered by child welfare (ASE) at 31 December 2017 compared to 31 December 2016.</p> <p>Article 57 of the Law of 10 September 2018 increases protection for people threatened with forced marriage who hold a protection order. The obligation to hold a long-stay visa has been abolished for this group; a temporary residence permit can now be renewed if criminal proceedings have been initiated, despite the fact that the protection order has not been renewed. Finally, a residence permit is now automatically issued in the event of the respondent being convicted through a final judgement.</p> <p>In addition, the "long-term EU" residence permit is now open to foreign nationals who are victims of trafficking in human beings or procurement after five years of regular and uninterrupted residence.</p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Legislation <input type="checkbox"/> Policy <input type="checkbox"/> Practice/Other

6. INTEGRATION

6.1. INTEGRATION OF THIRD-COUNTRY NATIONALS

6.1.1. INTEGRATION THROUGH SOCIO-ECONOMIC PARTICIPATION

General background information

The Inter-Ministerial Committee on Integration (C2I), which was held on 5 June 2018 and chaired by the Prime Minister, decided in favour of ambitious measures for the integration of newly arrived foreign nationals (nationals of a country outside the European Union who have held a first residence permit for less than five years and who wish to settle permanently in France).

This committee follows the report ordered by the Prime Minister and submitted on 19 February 2018 by member of Parliament, Aurélien Taché. The report, entitled "For an ambitious integration policy for foreign nationals arriving in France" presented 72 proposals for a more ambitious and assertive policy.

Taking up a number of the report's recommendations and based on additional proposals, particularly to meet the specific needs of refugees, the C2I drew up a major reform of the integration policy for newly-arrived foreign nationals, led by the Ministry of the Interior.

This reform was prepared throughout 2018, aiming to strengthen the personalised integration pathway and the French Integration Contract (*Contrat d'intégration républicaine*, CIR), through a series of practical measures which will apply from March 2019, enabling newly-arrived foreign nationals to play an active role in society.

Regarding the CIR, these measures, which are detailed below, are reflected in doubling the number of hours of language and civic training, setting up a specific language programme for non-readers/non-writers, and strengthening the labour-market integration component by formalising a link between the OFII and the public employment service.

Other measures are more specifically relevant to beneficiaries of international protection in the fields of language training and comprehensive and employment support (see below).

Finally, the C2I approved the allocation of additional funds to considerably bolster the integration policy for new arrivals (+€89.2 million, voted in the 2019 Finance Law) and in particular additional support measures for the CIR in terms of social, employment and linguistic support. These funds, which are delegated to the regions will be used primarily to finance comprehensive support measures for employment, in addition to and in coordination with the public employment service. Particular attention should be paid to partnerships with local and regional authorities in order to mobilise available skills to promote integration in the fields of vocational training, access to employment, social and community work.

Development	Nature*
a) Measures to improve attainment in schooling and/or the education system and/or vocational training;	
<p>- Measures to improve attainment in schooling and/or the education system</p> <p>Among the key measures undertaken in 2018 to strengthen the integration policy for newly-arrived foreign nationals is the doubling of the workshops for parents of foreign pupils "Opening School to Parents to Promote Children's Success" (<i>Ouvrir l'école aux parents pour la réussite des enfants</i>, OEPRE) by 2020.</p> <p>The OEPRE initiative began at the start of the 2008–2009 academic year within schools and educational establishments. Funded by the state (Ministries of the Interior and National Education), this initiative offers training, in the form of workshops, to foreign parents (learning French in a school environment, knowledge of how schools operates, understanding of French values).</p> <p>Doubling the number of workshops involves consolidating the achievements of existing training and addressing the difficulties identified: insufficient information on the system, failure to pool resources, etc. A roadmap for both Ministries was drawn up and sent to prefects and rectors in early November 2018. Both Ministries received 50% more funding for the 2018–2019 workshops.</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Legislation</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Policy</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Practice/Other</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Measures regarding higher education Doubling the number of French as a foreign language programmes for students wishing to pursue their studies in France (agreement with the <i>Agence Universitaire de la Francophonie</i> signed in November 2018). - Measures to improve attainment in vocational training See part D) below on "Labour market integration". 	
b) Measures to enhance language skills;	
<p>The C2I of 5 June 2018 decided to improve the language training available as part of the integration policy. This involves:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o doubling the number of hours of language training, which amount to 100, 200 or 400 hours depending on the foreign national's initial level of French; o the creation of a specific 600-hour module reserved for non-readers and non-writers; o Improving teaching methods by redesigning the approach to teaching; o The state covers the cost of certification for those who reach level A1 during these training sessions. <p>These new training courses will start in March 2019.</p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Legislation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Policy <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Practice/Other
c) Access to social security, social assistance, healthcare, housing and other basic services;	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Social/health matters <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Childcare is available during language and civic classes. Service providers selected by the OFII to provide language and civic training identify childcare facilities and availability, and inform those attending the training. o Through a call for projects, the Ministry of Health supports NGOs working to provide access to the healthcare system for newly-arrived foreign nationals and to promote the treatment of psychological traumas. 	<input type="checkbox"/> Legislation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Policy <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Practice/Other
d) Integration into the labour market;	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The C2I of June 2018 and the Law of 10 September 2018 "for a managed migration, an effective right of asylum and a successful integration" made labour market integration an integral part of the CIR. The personalised interview which newly-arrived foreign nationals take part in the day they sign their CIR has been improved. The employment aspect is now addressed and beneficiaries are referred to the right person in the public employment service the first time they are in contact with the OFII. The public employment service is then responsible for referring foreign nationals to the programme that best meets their needs, particularly vocational training. - In addition, the C2I decided to introduce an interview at the end of the CIR (effective in March 2019) to prepare a follow-up report for each foreign national on training, updating their employment situation and providing any new referrals, etc. - A partnership charter for all stakeholders (Ministries of the Interior and Employment, OFII, the public employment service – Pôle Emploi) is also being drafted in order to properly structure this career guidance and labour market integration. - Progress should also be highlighted in the national framework agreement which was signed between the Ministries responsible for integration and employment, the OFII and Pôle Emploi on 24 November 2016. As a reminder, this framework agreement aims to facilitate labour market access for these foreign nationals through an employment or training permit, by establishing an appropriate, 	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Legislation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Policy <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Practice/Other

<p>personalised pathway. It is now available in each Department and is monitored by a committee. This agreement encourages the sharing of useful tools to ensure beneficiaries are referred to the appropriate regional resource, such as the Pôle Emploi partnership resource base (<i>base de ressources partenariales</i>, BRP). Finally, this agreement made it possible to introduce a system for exchanging computer data between the OFII and Pôle Emploi in order to make it easier for these partners to identify signatories to the CIR and their background, in real time (language level, training/coaching recommended by the OFII and/or Pôle Emploi, professional experience, social obstacles, etc.).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - For young people under the age of 26, the Ministry of Employment and the Ministry of the Interior have jointly developed the Programme for Integration through Language Learning (<i>parcours d'insertion par l'apprentissage de la langue</i>, PIAL), which began in November 2018. This programme makes it possible to combine additional language training after the CIR, for young people under the age of 26 who do not have sufficient language skills to take part in the measures proposed by the local missions (public employment service), with the use of the public employment service's range of services, and the payment of a monthly allowance. <p>Finally, to overcome the difficulties often encountered by newly-arrived foreign nationals in terms of having their skills, professional experience and even qualifications recognised by companies, several actions have been initiated through the public employment service. For example, funding has been initiated through the skills investment plan to enable 500 foreign nationals to follow a group initiative to validate their prior learning (<i>validation des acquis de l'expérience</i>, VAE) with a view to obtaining a professional qualification from the Ministry of Labour.</p>	
<p>e) Other.</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Regarding access to French culture. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o The Ministry of Culture will open the "Culture Pass" to young newly-arrived foreign nationals when they reach the age of majority. The government's Culture Pass allows young people when they turn 18 to benefit from 500 euros to spend on cultural activities through a mobile app. This is currently being piloted in various departments (Bas-Rhin, Finistère, Guyana, Hérault, Seine-Saint-Denis), and should be rolled out nationally in the first quarter of 2019. - With regard to access to sport, the Ministry of Sport has taken various measures: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Raising awareness among sports federations of the importance of organising activities for newly-arrived foreign nationals; o Expansion of school sport in units for newly-arrived foreign pupils who are non-native speakers of French (measure included in the wording of the specifications for the "Generation 2024" label). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Legislation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Policy <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Practice/Other

6.1.2. INTEGRATION THROUGH CIVIL PARTICIPATION

Development	Nature*
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The C2I of 5 June 2018 decided to double the number of hours devoted to civic training, which will be increased in March 2019 from 12 to 24 hours. This module will be better distributed throughout the French integration process to make the most of trainees' language progress and to enable better assimilation of concepts. This training is designed to meet the immediate needs of foreign nationals by delivering essential practical messages on health, employment, parenthood and housing. It gives newly-arrived foreign nationals an introduction to the main characteristics of France. The second part of this training consists of simulations (practical workshops) to enable trainees to 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Legislation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Policy <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Practice/Other

Development	Nature*
establish links between the concepts learned and the situations they encounter on a daily basis.	

6.2. PROMOTING INTEGRATION OF SPECIFIC CATEGORIES OF THIRD-COUNTRY NATIONALS

General background information

In addition to the programmes mentioned in the 2017 report, and more particularly regarding refugees, the Inter-Ministerial Delegate for the Reception and Integration of Refugees (*délégué interministériel à l'accueil et l'intégration des réfugiés - DiAir*), a position created on 24 January 2018, is responsible, in partnership with the General Directorate for Foreign nationals in France (DGEF), for monitoring measures relating to the reception and integration of refugees.

Development	Nature*
Measures regarding higher education, <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Universities opened up means-tested grants to students who are beneficiaries of subsidiary protection (and no longer only refugees) at the beginning of the 2018 academic year. 	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Legislation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Policy <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Practice/Other
Measures to enhance language skills;	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - For asylum seekers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o opening of French language classes to certain categories of asylum seekers in clear need of protection (relocated applicants, beneficiaries of asylum visas). A pilot programme will be launched for people holding a long-term visa under the humanitarian corridor protocol. 	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Legislation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Policy <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Practice/Other
Access to social security, social assistance, healthcare, housing and other basic services;	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - For refugees: improving social and administrative support for refugees through a new six-month service for refugees who are not accommodated. 	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Legislation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Policy <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Practice/Other
Integration into the labour market	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - For refugees: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o support for projects contributing to the labour market integration of refugees through support pathways to and within employment and the creation of activities, recognition and development of skills, etc. (responses to the call for projects are currently being analysed); o more comprehensive and employment support programmes specific to refugees, in particular the HOPE programme (accommodation, guidance and pathways to employment) which offers refugees a comprehensive eight-month programme combining accommodation, social support, intensive language training and vocational training leading to a professional training contract with a company. At the end of the programme, refugees are recruited to jobs in sectors that are under pressure. Of the anticipated cohort of 500 refugees, 437 will have entered the programme by the end of December 2018. The rest will be carried over to the start of 2019. o An "ongoing assessment" event was organised on 17 December 2018. The plan to open it up to all labour market sectors has now been implemented. It is also planned to develop the Accelair programme in each region in 2019. This programme, run by the Forum Réfugiés-COSI NGO in the Rhône department, aims to promote the socio-professional integration of beneficiaries of international protection by providing a coordinated 	<input type="checkbox"/> Legislation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Policy <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Practice/Other

<p>response in terms of access to employment, training and housing. Support lasts between one and two years and all refugees are eligible. This programme is currently being developed in the Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes and Occitania regions.</p>	
Other.	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - In terms of access to sport for the reception and integration of refugees, the Ministry of Sport has mobilised its decentralised services to promote the involvement in sport of this specific group of people; - With regard to mobilising civil society for the reception and integration of refugees, the Ministry of Education launched a Civic Service programme (December 2018). 	<input type="checkbox"/> Legislation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Policy <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Practice/Other

6.3. PROMOTING INTEGRATION AT LOCAL LEVEL AND COOPERATION, CONSULTATION AND COORDINATION OF LOCAL STAKEHOLDERS

Development	Nature*
<p>Regional implementation of the policy to welcome and support foreign nationals is devolved to regional prefects, who are sent an instruction from the Minister of the Interior each year, setting out the annual guidelines for this policy and allocation of the necessary funds for their implementation.</p> <p>The annual guidelines for 2018, given in the instruction of 15 December 2017, targeted improvements to language and civic training, both of which are essential for the construction of integration pathways, as well as the development of actions aimed at access to employment.</p> <p>In addition, this instruction required regional prefects to ensure that they mobilise, coordinate and organise joined-up working between the many actors who contribute towards the integration of foreign nationals and who have a wide variety of statuses and approaches.</p> <p>Regional discussions, which have been organised by the Directorate for Reception, Foreigner Assistance and Citizenship (<i>Direction de l'accueil, de l'accompagnement des étrangers et de la nationalité</i> – DAAEN) with each region since 2016 to discuss local implementation of the annual guidelines on the reception and integration of newcomer foreign nationals, took place between April and July 2018.</p> <p>In addition, as is the case every year, in December 2018 DAAEN organised a meeting with its regional correspondents, the Departmental Regional Directorates for Youth, Sport and Social Cohesion and the General Secretariats for Regional Affairs. This was an opportunity to take stock of the national and local actions carried out in 2018 and to put into perspective the new challenges of the integration policy for newcomers in 2019 following the C2I and, in particular, the impact of the allocation of additional funding under the C2I for 2019 (+€89.2 M, voted in the 2019 finance law). This funding is an important incentive for the prefects to implement the integration policy according to the potential of each region and, in particular, to develop joint actions with relevant regional authorities.</p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Legislation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Policy <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Practice/Other

6.4. AWARENESS RAISING ON MIGRATION IN THE HOSTING (MEMBER) STATE

No, French authorities did not implement such actions in 2018. See plans for 2019 below.

Development	Nature*
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - In addition to the projects mentioned in the 2017 EMN Annual Report, a second wave of the longitudinal study on the integration of newcomers, known as "ELIPA", will be launched between 2019 and 2021 to gain a better understanding of the practical mechanisms of integration. This study will prioritise communication work which could be developed with the host community in France. 	<input type="checkbox"/> Legislation <input type="checkbox"/> Policy <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Practice/Other

6.5. INTEGRATION MEASURES IN THE COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN AND/OR INVOLVING DIASPORA COMMUNITIES**6.5.1. PRE-DEPARTURE INTEGRATION MEASURES IN COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN**

Development	Nature*
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - As indicated in the 2017 report, the DAAEN supports the <i>Alliance Française</i> Paris Île-de-France project, which consists of a collection of Massive Online Open Courses (MOOCs) dedicated to learning French, available on the <i>France Université Numérique (FUN)</i> platform. MOOCs for levels A2 and B1 of the CEFRL have been available since 2017. The A1 level MOOC was put online in 2018. - From their country of origin, foreign nationals can, therefore, access information about French language and culture at any time, through the internet, in a highly accessible and mobile format (mobile phone, tablet, computer). 	<input type="checkbox"/> Legislation <input type="checkbox"/> Policy <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Practice/Other
<p>Preparation for arrival in France takes place in the country of origin through an operational system for the provision of practical, administrative and legal information which is accessible online and which is focused on balancing the rights and obligations of living in France. This information is compiled in a guide entitled "Living in France" which was prepared by the DAAEN and which is available in seven languages on the websites of the OFII, consular services, embassies and the Ministry of the Interior.</p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Legislation <input type="checkbox"/> Policy <input type="checkbox"/> Practice/Other

6.5.2. INTEGRATION MEASURES INVOLVING THE DIASPORA COMMUNITIES IN FRANCE

Development	Nature*
<p>The involvement of the diaspora communities has been, and continues to be, a central element of the Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs' "Migration and Development" strategy. It is a component of the development policy which recognises the financial, technical and cultural contribution which migrants make to their countries of origin.</p> <p>1. On the national level</p> <p>A. Diaspora communities' contribution to development</p> <p>In France, promoting the contribution that migration makes to development is one of the five objectives of the Action Plan on International Migration and Development adopted by the Inter-Ministerial Committee on International Cooperation and Development (CICID) in February 2018. This action plan recognises migration as a</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Legislation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Policy <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Practice/Other

factor in the development of both countries of origin and destination and diaspora communities, through their financial remittances, as the world's leading actor in solidarity. Based on the observation that France is home to numerous, diverse, structured diaspora communities that work to promote the development of countries of origin, this action plan includes seven actions:

- To support the structuring and capacities of diaspora organisations to increase their contribution to the development of countries of origin and France;
- To promote regular migration routes, including professional and student migration, as well as all forms of circular mobility, at the regional and international levels;
- To continue to reduce costs and promote remittances from migrants and diaspora communities, particularly through digital and mobile tools;
- To support the investment and entrepreneurial potential of diaspora communities and their organisations;
- To promote the human capital of diaspora communities in France and the development of their regions of origin through greater mobility of skills;
- To support facilities for the reception of migrants and the provision of information in destination, transit and origin regions, based on the model of the Reception, Referral and Monitoring Offices (*Bureaux d'accueil, d'orientation et de suivi*, BAOS) for Senegalese nationals living abroad, the Reception and Referral Offices (*Bureaux d'Accueil et d'Orientation*, BAOM) and the *Maisons des Marocains du Monde* in Morocco;
- To improve assisted voluntary return and reintegration mechanisms from a development perspective.

Several actions have already been launched bilaterally or with European funding:

- Capacity-building with international NGOs to encourage development in countries of origin (*organisations de solidarité internationale issue des migrations*, OSIM): the MEAE works closely with the national platform of OSIM federations and groups, FORIM, which represents more than 700 migrant NGOs engaged in co-development actions, particularly in sub-Saharan Africa and the Maghreb. Through, for example, its support programme for projects for international solidarity organisations resulting from migration (PRA-OSIM) created in 2003, FORIM facilitates the implementation of co-development projects (prior to 2016 with MEAE funding, i.e., a total of €5.1M, and henceforth with the help of the French Development Agency (AFD)).
- The bilateral implementation of mobility, migration and development programmes: they allow for joint funding, with countries of origin, of initiatives carried out by migrant NGOs, such as, for example, the programme to support solidarity initiatives for development (in Senegal, which received French funding of 11 million euros from 2009 to 2016, managed since 2017 by AFD with funding from the Emergency Trust Fund for Africa (*Fonds Fiduciaire d'Urgence pour l'Afrique*, FFU).
- Support for business creation and productive investment by diaspora communities in order to generate jobs, promote growth and enhance the experience and expertise acquired in France by diaspora communities. The aim is to encourage and assist diaspora communities and migrant NGOs to better structure themselves and to channel and organise their contributions to the economic and social development of countries and regions of origin. Adopted in June 2015 as part of the Rabat Process, the European Mobilisation for Entrepreneurship in Africa (MEET Africa) programme, funded by the EU and France, supports entrepreneurs from the African diaspora who have graduated from French and German higher education establishments through the creation of companies in their countries of origin which have a strong technological focus or which provide innovative solutions in the agricultural, industrial and service sectors. A second phase of this project (MEET Africa II) is currently being considered.

B. Remittances

In line with the G20 objectives, France has made a strong commitment to facilitate remittances with the direct objective of reducing their costs, in particular by increasing competition between operators and through innovative approaches to financial education.

As a reminder, migrants' remittances to developing countries are estimated to be three times global official development assistance - ODA (466 billion dollars in 2017) and play a significant role in reducing poverty and increasing growth in countries of origin.

According to the World Bank, transfers from France to the rest of the world continue to increase and reached nearly €21 billion in 2017 (compared to around €19 billion in 2011), 25% of which is sent to the three Maghreb countries. The other corridors with significant remittances are certain EU countries (Spain, Portugal, Belgium, Italy, Germany), Senegal, China and Lebanon.

In recent years, France has implemented several concrete actions to facilitate remittances and reduce their costs:

- the www.voidargent.fr website, funded by the MEAE and the AFD enables migrants to compare the prices and services of 19 financial establishments in France regarding transfers to 26 countries. An external evaluation of the site was conducted in 2018, which led to general recommendations on supporting and further reducing the cost of remittances. Three main areas can be identified within these recommendations:
 - Encouraging innovation by supporting new players in the FinTech sector;
 - Establishing a framework for joint consultation between the various stakeholders (banks, money transfer companies, telephone operators, representatives of diaspora communities) in order to improve financial governance;
 - Encouraging the productive use of savings by the diaspora community to contribute to funding development and greater financial inclusion.
- In keeping with the www.voidargent.fr website, AFD plans to implement the DIASDEV project in 2020 (preceded by a feasibility study in 2019), which aims to facilitate transfers, savings and investments by diaspora communities in their country of origin by strengthening the existing tools promoted by public and private actors in Europe and Africa, improving the communication of offers to diaspora communities, and enabling the development of new transfer, savings and investment services for diaspora communities in their country of origin.

The cost of remittances from France has declined in recent years to an average of 6.6% in 2017, a decrease of more than 40% since 2011. The average cost in France is lower than the average of all G20 countries and lower than the global average of 7.1% in the first quarter of 2018.

2. At the regional level

The role of diaspora communities is part of the Valletta Action Plan adopted by the EU and Africa in November 2015 which constitutes the joint European-African migration roadmap.

The Rabat Process (which brings together European countries and countries of North, West and Central Africa) also addresses the relationship between diaspora communities and development in countries of origin and has inspired practical projects such as the MEET Africa project, mentioned above.

The Rabat Process Action Plan 2018-2020 thus recalls the importance of adopting or optimising strategies that promote the economic, social and cultural potential for development of diaspora communities, the importance of contributing to reducing the costs of remittances, and of promoting initiatives to support entrepreneurship and productive investment by young people in diaspora communities.

<p>When France takes over the chair of the Rabat Process in May 2019, it will attach particular importance to the issue of diaspora communities and the link between migration and development.</p> <p>In addition, several projects financed by the Emergency Trust Fund for Africa fall within this field of action, notably in Mali, Senegal, Cameroon and Tunisia.</p> <p>3. At the global level</p> <p>The Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration, adopted in Marrakech on 10 and 11 December 2018, contains two objectives and commitments that correspond to the same two areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Promote faster, safer and cheaper transfer of remittances and foster financial inclusion of migrants (objective 20);- Create conditions for migrants and diasporas to fully contribute to sustainable development in all countries (objective 19).	
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7. CITIZENSHIP AND STATELESSNESS

7.1. CITIZENSHIP

ACQUISITION OF CITIZENSHIP

Development <i>(Please describe)</i>	Nature*
Development of a specific information system that will ultimately allow applications to be filed and processed online. A pilot programme is scheduled to be implemented in June 2019.	<input type="checkbox"/> Legislation <input type="checkbox"/> Policy <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Practice/Other

7.2. STATELESSNESS

STATELESSNESS DETERMINATION, STATUS AND RIGHTS GRANTED

The law of 29 July 2015 created a specific permit in the CESEDA for stateless persons. In addition, they have been granted the right to family reunification in the same way as beneficiaries of subsidiary protection.

Development <i>(Please describe)</i>	Nature*
a) Good practices;	
Article 21 of Decree No. 18-1159 of 14 December 2018 implementing Law No. 2018-778 of 10 September 2018, provides that the OFPRA may allow applicants to appear with either a lawyer or an NGO representative, under the conditions provided for in the eighth and ninth paragraphs of Article L. 723-6 of the CESEDA. This article entered into force on 1 January 2019.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Legislation <input type="checkbox"/> Policy <input type="checkbox"/> Practice/Other
b) Rights granted to recognised stateless persons	
The Law of 10 September 2018 safeguarded stateless persons' right to residence with the issuance of a four-year multi-year residence permit to stateless persons and their family members, followed by a ten-year residence permit.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Legislation <input type="checkbox"/> Policy <input type="checkbox"/> Practice/Other

8. BORDERS, VISA AND SCHENGEN

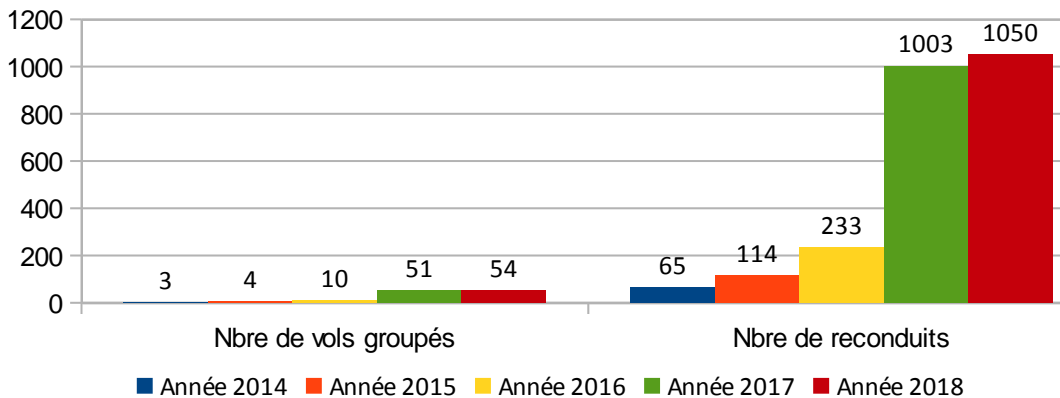
8.1. ENHANCED BORDER MANAGEMENT AT THE EXTERNAL BORDERS

8.1.1. BORDER CONTROL MEASURES/MANAGEMENT

Development	Nature*
<p>On the European level</p> <p>Towards better management of migrant flows: France's contribution to the rapid reaction pool of the European Border and Coast Guard Agency (EBCGA, formerly Frontex)</p> <p><i>France's contribution to various agency operations and reserves:</i></p> <p>France contributes to joint operations by sending staff from the different police forces, the National Gendarmerie and Customs. The French Navy (<i>Marine nationale</i>) and the Directorate General for Customs and Excise (<i>Direction générale des douanes et des droits indirects</i>) have made vessels and planes available to the agency.</p> <p>This is broken down as follows:</p> <p>- Contribution to hotspots and the TRITON and POSEIDON operations</p> <p>In 2018, France deployed 590 experts per month as part of joint operations (air, sea and land) mainly in Greece (operation POSEIDON) and Italy (Operation TRITON) in Central Mediterranean as part of providing Hotspots (474 experts) with various skill profiles defined by the Agency: experts in documentary fraud, experts in taking fingerprints, debriefing, screening, etc., including two Border Surveillance Officers (BSOs) from customs in Greece in November and December 2018 as part of a rapid reaction force exercise. In terms of contributing equipment for joint operations in 2018, the customs service deployed a coastal patrol vessel as part of operation THEMIS for 31 days and an aircraft for 30 days and an offshore patrol vessel for 62 days for operation POSEIDON.</p> <p>In the first half of 2019, 179 experts per month are expected to be deployed on Poseidon and Triton operations.</p> <p>- France also contributes towards the INDALO, MINERVA and HERA operations in order to provide assistance to the Spanish authorities during joint external border operations in the Central Mediterranean and in the Atlantic (close to the Canary Islands) to control irregular migration flows towards the EU.</p> <p>-France's organization of charter flights (Joint Return Operations)</p> <p>The General Staff Unit within the Central Directorate for the Border Police (<i>Direction centrale de la police aux frontières - DCPAF</i>)'s Centre for Return (<i>Pôle central de l'éloignement, PCE</i>) has been heavily involved in the organisation of European charter flights since 2017. Over the last two years, the number of flights organised by France under the aegis of FRONTEX has increased by 440%, from 10 flights organised in 2016 to 54 in 2018.</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Legislation</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Policy</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Practice/Other</p>

European charter flights organised by the Centre for Return between 2014 and 2018

Vois groupés européens organisés par le PCE de 2014 à 2018



Legend :

Number of charter flights / Number of people returned

Year 2014 in blue / Year 2015 in orange / year 2016 in yellow / Year 2017 in green / year 2018 in red

Frontex flights	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Number of flights	21	20	22	58	54
Number of third country nationals returned	152	202	283	1,029	1,050

In 2018, France organised 54 flights under the aegis of Frontex. In 2018, 48 European charter flights to Albania were organised by France involving 995 returned people. However, once again this year, the destinations of the European charter flights organised by the PCE have been diversified. Thus, six other flights were organised to the following countries: Guinea Conakry (two flights), Georgia (two flights), Armenia (one flight) and Kosovo (one flight). These six operations were carried out with the support of the DASH 08 Civil Security aircraft and resulted in the return of 55 people.

Regarding the flights organised by France to Albania, several member countries of FRONTEX were able to take part in the operations. For example, Belgium, the Netherlands and Iceland benefited from charter flights organised by France to implement the return of 290 Albanian nationals: 208 for Belgium, 77 for the Netherlands and five for Iceland.

-France's participation in charter flights organized by other Member States

In addition, in 2018, the Centre for Return within the Central Directorate for the Border Police (*Direction centrale de la police aux frontières – DCPAF*), with the support of the General Directorates of the National Police and that of the Border Police (DGPN-& DCPAF) shuttle, coordinated France's participation in seven European charter flights organised by other Member States of FRONTEX. These operations enabled the return of 25 people.

France's participation in charter flights organised by other Member States in 2018 by destination

Participations de la France des VGE organisés par d'autres MS en 2018 par destination					
Destinations	Egypte	Géorgie	Nigéria	Serbie	Total
Nombre de participations	1	4	1	1	7
Nombre de reconduits	1	17	3	4	25

Legend :

Destinations: Egypt, Georgia, Nigeria, Serbia, Total

Number of participations

Number of people returned

These 61 European operations, monitored by the centre for return in 2108, were all financed by FRONTEX.

On the national level

Law No. 2017-1510 of 30 October 2017 strengthening internal security and the fight against terrorism improved and clarified the scope of these controls. Thus, Article 78-2 of the French Criminal Procedure Code now authorises controls to be conducted around international "railway stations" and no longer only within publicly accessible areas inside these locations.

In addition, the length of time during which the police may carry out identity checks in the same area within a radius of 20 kilometres outside an internal land border was extended from six to twelve consecutive hours. Finally, the law now provides for the possibility of carrying out identity checks within a maximum radius of ten kilometres around the most sensitive port and airport border points, identified **by Decree¹⁰ due to the scale of the number of passengers and their vulnerability.**

- Legislation
 Policy
 Practice/Other

8.1.2. ACTIVITIES TO IMPROVE THE EFFECTIVENESS OF CONTROLS AT EXTERNAL BORDERS

Development	Nature*
<p>In a context of migration pressure, the re-establishment of internal border controls and the fight against terrorism, the Central Directorate for the Police Border has undertaken significant efforts in terms of human resources, to post additional staff to airports.</p> <p>An increase of 150 agents was recorded in 2018 at all national airport platforms.</p> <p>Regarding locations in the Île-de-France, the Directorate for the Police Border in Roissy received a boost in staff numbers with new recruits from the 2017 graduates of the <i>Ecole de Police</i>. However, this department experienced ongoing staff departures during the year (e.g. transfer for social reasons, security assistants returning to study).</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Legislation <input type="checkbox"/> Policy <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Practice/Other</p>

¹⁰ Decree of 28 December 2018 establishing the list of ports around which identity checks may be carried out pursuant to new paragraph 10 of Article 78-2 of the French Code of Criminal Procedure and document checks pursuant to new paragraph 2 of Article 67 quater of the French Customs Code: <https://www.legifrance.gouv.fr/eli/arrete/2018/12/28/INTV1809763A/jo/texte>

<p>The DCPAF therefore continues to call for the implementation of a systematic recruitment of <i>Ecole de Police</i> graduates as law enforcement officers to compensate for these departures and keep staff numbers up.</p> <p>These efforts are reflected in a 5% rise in the overall workforce of the Directorate for the Police Border in Roissy between 2017 and 2018. (2017: 1,735, 2018: 1,832).</p> <p>With regard to the Orly airport platform, staff numbers were also boosted with 2017 graduates from the <i>Ecole de Police</i>. In addition, Aéroport de Paris (ADP) is currently constructing a "link building" to connect the former Orly South terminal to the Orly West terminal. With a surface area of 80,000m², it will include a total of 32 workstations that will replace the 12 existing workstations in Orly West.</p> <p>This increase in workload involves retraining staff through the posting of 100 manager staff and 25 assistants in charge of security. In this context, 30 law enforcement officers were posted in December 2018 and a call for applications for 70 posts was issued. A further four officers will be requested for the next <i>Ecole de Police</i> graduating class.</p> <p>Although these additional staff are still awaited, the Directorate for the Police Border in Orly has already seen an increase of 43 personnel compared to 2017. (2017: 557, 2018: 600).</p> <p>Regarding the cross-border regulatory training provided in 2018 by the Resource Persons for Cross-Border Regulation for border guards assigned to different locations and entities¹¹ and the immigration divisions of Orly and Roissy airports, 455 training sessions took place, which improved the knowledge of 1,131 staff working in these services.</p>	
<p>During the last Schengen evaluation of the management of external borders in 2016, three recommendations were issued for the Customs authorities (DGDDI) ¹² :</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Regarding internal control mechanisms, in 2018, the DGDDI continued its work: rolling out the distribution of COVADIS statistical reports and issuing reminders on the reliability and correct use of the valuation header record in the management app. 2. Concerning risk analysis of the air and maritime sectors, actions have been taken on the local and national level. <p>On the national level, a meeting between the National Unit for Migration Analysis (<i>pôle national d'analyse migratoire</i>, PONAM) and the Customs authorities was held in April 2018. On the local level, the risk analysis units produced detailed information reports. These reports were submitted to the PONAM for analysis and were modified following their recommendations. A note was distributed to all services in 2018, accompanied by a standard template.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. A course on speaking English in ports and airports has been included in the DGDDI's national training plan for 2019. 	<input type="checkbox"/> Legislation <input type="checkbox"/> Policy <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Practice/Other

8.1.3. REINFORCED COOPERATION WITH THIRD COUNTRIES IN THE AREA OF BORDER MANAGEMENT

Title of agreement (where relevant)	Third country (countries) with whom the cooperation exists	Description (e.g.: Provision of border equipment, training of border guards, etc.).
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¹¹ SPAFA, the SPAFP, the Coquelles and Bastia SPAFT, the Lille, Cheriton and Côte d'Opale UCTs, the UT Cannes, the SNPF UCT

¹² Direction générale des Douanes et Droits indirects (DGDDI)

<p>The Treaty of Sandhurst between the French Government and the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland relating to strengthening cooperation for the coordinated management of their shared border.</p>	<p>Concluded between France and the United Kingdom on 18 January 2018.</p>	<p>Agreement signed during the meeting between the British Prime Minister, Theresa May, and the French President, Emmanuel Macron. The Treaty of Sandhurst supplements the Treaty of Touquet by formalising the increased commitment by the British authorities to transfer unaccompanied minors (UAMs) to their territory, cooperation in the fight against smugglers (creation of a joint information and coordination centre funded by the British authorities), return of foreign nationals in irregular situations, and joint action on migration flows at an earlier stage. This agreement is supported with €50M of funding from the British authorities aimed at strengthening the security of certain infrastructures, contributing towards the costs of accommodating the migrants and information campaigns, and encouraging the repatriation of migrants in irregular situations. The British authorities are committed to accelerating the process of receiving UAMs and vulnerable people who arrived in Europe before 18 January 2018.</p> <p>In 2018, the victims of 48 networks which were dismantled on the national level were headed for Great Britain (compared to 46 in 2017).</p>
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The joint information and coordination centre (*le centre conjoint d'information et de coordination, CCIC*) provided for by the joint declaration of the French and British Interior Ministers of 20 August 2015 entered into force at the start of November 2018. Its primary purpose is to act as a permanent Franco-British information and coordination centre and, in the event of a migration crisis, to act as a crisis management centre. It will also add value to the work carried out by the police and intelligence services in dismantling networks and seizing their criminal assets to prevent them from being rebuilt.

8.2. VISA POLICY

Development	Nature*
<p>Reform of Regulation 767/2008 on the VIS</p> <p>The Sub-Directorate for Visas (SDV) actively contributed to the preparation of draft Regulation (EC) No. 767/2008 on the "interoperability of the VIS", which provides for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - joining up the European Visa Information System with seven European databases (EES, ETIAS, EURODAC, ECRIS-TCN, Interpol-TDAWN, Europol-SLTD and an extended SIS module); - the introduction of four interoperability modules to conduct identity checks via a "European Research Portal", 	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Legislation <input type="checkbox"/> Policy <input type="checkbox"/> Practice/Other</p>

<p>- the provision of biometric and alphanumeric data to the VIS for applicants for long-stay visas and residence permits in all Member States,</p> <p>- improving the quality of the data entered (recording a "live facial image", collecting fingerprints from the age of six, scanning and automatic authentication of applicants' travel documents).</p> <p>These advances undoubtedly contribute to better controlling migration flows and are a decisive step towards strengthening European judicial and criminal cooperation and preventing serious crimes (terrorism, cross-border crime, trafficking in human beings) when making applications for residency within the Union.</p> <p>A negotiating mandate has been given to the Chair by the French Committee of Permanent Representatives and a draft should be submitted to Parliament for a vote in the first quarter of 2019.</p>	
<p>Reform of Regulation 810/2009 on the Community Code on Visas</p> <p>Launched in April 2014, the recast draft of this Regulation aims to facilitate the issuing of visas to applicants who contribute to the dynamism of the European economy while ensuring an effective fight against security and migration risks. The European Commission obtained a negotiating mandate in June 2018, including a new mechanism to connect the facilitation of visa issuance and cooperation in terms of readmission. The European Parliament adopted its report on this text on 11 December 2018 and the trilogue began on 18 December 2018.</p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Legislation <input type="checkbox"/> Policy <input type="checkbox"/> Practice/Other</p>

9. IRREGULAR MIGRATION INCLUDING MIGRANT SMUGGLING

9.1. PREVENTING AND TACKLING OF MISUSE OF LEGAL MIGRATION CHANNELS

9.1.1. IRREGULAR MIGRATION AS A RESULT OF VISA LIBERALISATION

Development	Nature*
<p>France has been able to establish action plans and cooperation agreements with certain countries for which particular difficulties had been identified, such as the increase in irregular immigration and asylum applications and the fight against criminal organisations.</p> <p>Indeed, although consular cooperation with some of these countries is very good (96% recognition rate of their nationals with Kosovo, around 80% for Georgia), satisfactory consular cooperation has only partially mitigated the effects of irregular immigration, since many failures regarding removal have been seen, for example due to the massive use of asylum applications (Albania) and, when these applications fail, the application for a residence permit for healthcare reasons being used as a delay tactic to remain in the country (Albania, Georgia).</p> <p>In view of the massive and continuous influx of Albanians in an irregular situation, a Ministerial action plan (DGEF/DCPAF) was drawn up in February 2017, aimed at strengthening checks on Albanians entering France, speeding up the processing of Albanian asylum applications, speeding up the adoption of removal measures following the rejection of such applications, increasing the use of bans on re-entry, and the intensification of return operations, where necessary with the help of FRONTEX.</p> <p>At Albania's request, a framework cooperation agreement to improve operational, technical and institutional cooperation in several areas, including a section dedicated to combating irregular immigration, was signed between the French and Albanian Prime Ministers on 28 March 2017.</p> <p>In July 2017, Albania also drew up an action plan aimed largely at preventing irregular immigration from Albania to the EU and particularly to France.</p> <p>Similarly, following the liberalisation of short-stay visas for Georgians, a significant increase in the number of Georgian nationals in an irregular situation was recorded, as well as in the number of Georgian asylum seekers, despite the fact that Georgia has been on the list of safe countries of origin since 2013. This is why, as part of his official visit to France on 4 July 2018, Giorgi Gakharia, Georgia's Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of the Interior, proposed to the French Minister of the Interior an action plan to combat irregular immigration by Georgian nationals. Additional measures to strengthen bilateral cooperation have also been proposed by France to Georgia. Among other things, Ministers also proposed strengthening cooperation between the two countries by signing a bilateral agreement on internal security to enable the establishment of a joint group dedicated to the fight against transnational organised crime.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Legislation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Policy <input type="checkbox"/> Practice/Other
<p>The OFII's general policy to promote voluntary return to all countries has been in place for two years, and communication tools and local promotions by the OFII's regional department have been renewed, particularly in accommodation facilities and as part of mechanisms preparing people for return. Returns were made on charter flights to Albania in 2017 and 2018 (departures from Lyon and Strasbourg).</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Legislation <input type="checkbox"/> Policy <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Practice/Other

These charter flights were organised by the OFII. In 2017, 1,555 Albanian nationals accepted the €300 voluntary return assistance offered to return to their country. This has increased almost fourfold in comparison with 2016, when 419 assisted returns were recorded.

Effects of visa free regimes

Development	Nature*
<p>In order to monitor the consequences of the visa liberalisation process, France has monitored migratory pressures, inspired by the European monitoring indicators, the purpose of which is to ensure that third countries which benefit from a visa exemption continue to meet the criteria on the basis of which they were granted exemption.</p> <p>As part of the implementation of its tools in France, the General Directorate for Foreign nationals in France (DGEF) within the Ministry of the Interior is particularly vigilant about regularly updating migration risk criteria falling within its direct competence. For other indicators (such as refusals of entry or criminal offences), the other relevant services of the Ministry of the Interior (the Central Directorate of Border Police (DCPAF), the General Directorate of the National Gendarmerie (DGGN)) provide the necessary data to the DGEF. A monthly review of developments is carried out, which will cover both new and existing countries benefiting from visa liberalisation.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Legislation <input type="checkbox"/> Policy <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Practice/Other

Key findings of monitoring activities

1. the concept of "safe country of origin" and the accelerated asylum procedure

Without being directly linked to the introduction of the visa waiver regime, France wished to maintain the concept of "safe country of origin" in its legislation, which allows applications from nationals of these countries to be placed under the accelerated procedure. When the law came into force, all the countries targeted in the study on the impact of visa liberalisation were, and continue to be, included on the national list of safe countries of origin. However, it appears that inclusion on the list of safe countries of origin and placement in the accelerated procedure are insufficient to contain the upward trend in asylum applications that may result from the visa-free regime for the nationalities concerned.

2. An adapted procedure for examining asylum applications

Measures have been taken at the OFPRA, which saw further increases in staff numbers in 2017, to give particular priority to the examination of Albanian applications.

Thus, as soon as their applications are submitted, applicants are summoned as quickly as possible, assessment of these requests is "pooled" (the protection officers of all the geographical divisions are called upon to process them), and appropriate processes have been put in place to simplify this review process.

Since 2013, the OFPRA has organised **training missions in the regions** in response to requests from public authorities and certain local NGOs. These missions reflect OFPRA's desire to **reduce processing times and to respond in particular to the concentration of asylum applications submitted by nationals of the Western Balkans in certain regions of France**, such as Lyon and Metz. Mobile missions provide an opportunity for some vulnerable people to avoid travelling to the OFPRA's headquarters in Fontenay-sous-Bois.

The OFPRA's regional missions to examine applications for protection from Western Balkan nationals increased from around three each year between 2013 and 2015, to eight in 2016 and 18 in 2017, covering up to six different cities.

Similarly, a specific effort is being made to ensure that decisions on the obligation to leave France following the rejection of an asylum application are taken quickly.

3. Regular meetings are organised with the consular authorities of certain third countries where difficulties with consular cooperation have been noted.

Dialogue with the Albanian and Georgian authorities has been established:

- Relations with the Albanian authorities were particularly fruitful in 2017 (visits from the French Ministry of the Interior in March and December 2017; visit by the Albanian Minister of Foreign Affairs in July 2017), and were accompanied by actions taken to combat irregular immigration from this country: processing of asylum applications was accelerated by redeploying OFPRA resources; the work of the police services increased and the number of irregular immigration channels dismantled increased; checks on exiting the country by the Albanian authorities increased (Action Plan launched at the end of July 2017); technical co-operation increased, with the decision to deploy Albanian liaison officers in France at the start of 2018.
- Cooperation between France and Georgia has been strengthened by an action plan to combat illegal immigration from Georgia, complementary measures and a bilateral agreement on internal security.

Initial feedback from the action plans that have been established has been positive and encouraging, as has cooperation with the political authorities of these countries. It is, however, still too early to draw any conclusions.

9.1.2.IRREGULAR MIGRATION AS A RESULT OF MISUSE OF LEGAL MIGRATION CHANNELS

Misuse of family reunification migration channels

Development	Nature*
The law of 10 September 2018 strengthens the checks carried out when recognising filiation relationships declared to the civil registrar and also adds a new basic condition for obtaining a residence permit as a parent of a French child. A foreign national who applies for a right of residence on this basis must, where parentage of the child has been established through a recognition of filiation not initiated by the individual, provide proof of their effective contribution to the child's education and maintenance. Where they are unable to provide such evidence because of a default by the recognised parent, they may provide supplementary evidence in the form of a judgement requiring the defaulting parent to meet their obligations.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Legislation <input type="checkbox"/> Policy <input type="checkbox"/> Practice/Other

9.1.3.FALSE TRAVEL DOCUMENTS

Development	Nature*
Article 55 of Law No. 2018-778 of 10 September 2018 "for a managed migration, an effective right of asylum and a successful integration" strengthens the system to combat the fraudulent recognition of filiation, enabling a foreign national to obtain a residence permit as a parent of a French child and/or protection against a removal order without due process. This system is structured as follows: - When the acknowledgement is registered by the civil registrar (new Articles 316-1 to 316-5 of the Civil Code), the person initiating the recognition of filiation must provide evidence of their identity and domicile. In addition, in the event of serious evidence suggesting, after hearing the person concerned, that the recognition of filiation is fraudulent, the civil registrar refers the matter to the Public Prosecutor, who, after a	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Legislation <input type="checkbox"/> Policy <input type="checkbox"/> Practice/Other

<p>period of 15 days, rules either to require the registration, to require a deferment of up to one month, renewable once, pending the results of an investigation, or to oppose the registration.</p> <p>- In the context of an application for a residence permit as a parent of a French child (section 6 of Article L. 313-11 of the Code on the Entry and Residence of Foreign nationals and the Right of Asylum - CESEDA), the foreign national must justify that the initiator of the recognition of filiation is effectively exercising their parental responsibilities by effectively contributing to the maintenance and education of the recognised child.</p>	
<p>Concerted work by the various services involved in the fight against documentary and identity fraud has provided new tools in the fight against this phenomenon:</p> <p>The Central Directorate for Border Police now makes available to officers of the Ministry of the Interior a document control site, referred to as FRAUDOC which provides access to information on authentic or falsified documents around the entire world, the latest alerts relating to false documents, European documentary reference databases (PRADO¹³, IFADO¹⁴), the contact details of specialists in "documentary fraud" in the Border Police across the entire country, e-learning training modules, and contact details for specialists in the Documentary and Identity Fraud Division (<i>Division de l'expertise en fraud documentaire et à l'identité</i>, DEFDI).</p> <p>-The Documentary and Identity Fraud Division (DEFDI) includes a Central Operational Analysis Unit (unité centrale d'analyse opérationnelle, UCAO) which is responsible for cross-referencing on behalf of the investigative services of the Central Directorate for the Border Police (French Office for the Repression of Unauthorised Immigration and the Employment of Foreign nationals without Residence Permits¹⁵ - OCRIEST and Research Mobile Brigade) based on information relating to unwarranted attempts to obtain a permit. This division also hosts two liaison officers from the Direction Centrale de la Sécurité Publique" ("Central Directorate of Public Security"- DCSP) responsible for creating and leading a national network of contact points on documentary fraud from the regional public security services. Since December 2017 and throughout 2018, 370 local contact people have been trained.</p> <p>- In addition, the national gendarmerie continues to develop its documentary fraud chain. After the creation in 2015 of the Central Investigation Platform against Identity Fraud (<i>plateau d'investigation contre la fraude à l'identité</i>, PIFI), within the judicial unit of the national gendarmerie (<i>pôle judiciaire de la gendarmerie nationale</i>, PJGN), a new grade was introduced in 2016 on the local level alongside the network of 172 documentary fraud investigators (EFD). Staff in this new grade are trainers of secure permit controller (<i>formateurs des contrôleurs des titres sécurisés</i>, FCTS), who are responsible for carrying out first level checks on suspicious permits. They also play a role in providing training on detecting false documents with soldiers assigned to elementary units (COB/BTA). To date, 227 gendarmes have been qualified as FCTS within the gendarmerie. In 2018, 27 EFDs and 85 FCTS were trained. 2019 began with a new training programme for EFDs that will allow them to obtain a university degree in partnership with the University of Cergy-Pontoise.</p> <p>- The DGEF's Directorate for Immigration, notably through the Bureau to Combat Illegal Employment and Identity Fraud (<i>bureau de la lutte contre le travail illégal et les fraudes à l'identité</i>, BLTIFI) is responsible for devising actions to combat fraud committed by foreign nationals in terms of visas and residence permits. It provides legal and operational support to the services issuing permits within the consulates and prefectures. In partnership with the mission for securely issuing permits (<i>mission de délivrance sécurisée des titres</i>, MDST) it participates in the network of "fraud" contact points within the prefectures.</p> <p>- In 2018, the number of people carrying forged documents arrested in France remained stable (9,194 compared to 9,181 in 2017). The number of forged</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Legislation <input type="checkbox"/> Policy <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Practice/Other</p>

¹³ Register of identity and travel documents

¹⁴ Intranet False and Authentic Documents Online

¹⁵ Office Central pour la Répression de l'Immigration irrégulière et de l'Emploi d'étrangers Sans Titre - OCRIEST

documents discovered fell sharply (-25%, or 17,493 compared to 23,313), this decrease being mainly due to problems in the investigation (discoveries of forged diplomas fell 100% ; detections of forged driving licences fell by -28%, i.e., 1,952 compared to 2,717).

- In 2018, the National Gendarmerie arrested 928 people holding false documents (780 adults and 148 minors) compared to 1,196 in 2017 (1,114 adults and 82 minors), a decrease of 29.98% for adults and an increase of 80.49% for minors.
- In addition, the Documentary and Identity Fraud Division (DEFDI) within the DCPAF is responsible for feeding information into the FADO database (False and Authentic Documents Online). This is a European system into which all Member States enter information, indicating the information on the official documents that they issue, information which is communicated by third countries on the authentic documents they issue and those relating to documents which have been discovered as frauds in the country. It provides effective decision-making support for staff involved in controls.
- This database can be consulted through FRAUDOC, the DCPAF documentary site or through CHEOPS NG¹⁶.
- As part of preparing for the new European cycle to fight against organised crime, Member States have defined certain types of criminality as having a cross-cutting nature, including documentary fraud. Given its prior commitment to the EMPACT FII EMPACT ID FRAUD project, the DCPAG offered, on behalf of France and through the Documentary and Identity Fraud Division, to lead the Horizontal Expert Group on Document Fraud. The head of the Documentary and Identity Fraud Division, who takes on this role, is supported in this task by a FRONTEX coordinator and a Europol coordinator. As part of this role, the head of the Documentary and Identity Fraud Division may conduct operational actions in terms of documentary fraud (the fight against illegal immigration, crimes against the environment, financial crime and money laundering, fraud and counterfeiting payment methods, synthetic drugs and new psychoactive substances). All these operational actions identified fall within the scope of "EMPACT O.A. 5.1 "Document fraud".
- This horizontal work will enable the DCPAF and its European partners, to have an overview of documentary fraud and organised crime in Europe.

In terms of combating irregular immigration, the objectives are as follows:

- 1st objective: to continue to build on the handbook on identity and source documents, created in 2015 and entered into iFADO in 2016, as only 14 Member States have contributed to it;
- 2nd objective: to assess the conditions for registering ID documents and lost/stolen travel documents in various Member States' relevant digital databases;
- 3rd objective: to intercept the delivery of false documents through letters and packages;
- 4th objective: to improve data collection on technical and forensic descriptions, in partnership with operational units.

5th objective: to improve the collection of operational data relating to false documents (e.g. those featuring in mobile telephone or passenger name record - PNR data).

The **2018 results** of these actions are generally satisfactory:

- the draft manual on the conditions for obtaining identity documents has been taken over by FRONTEX in order to standardise contributions and produce a complete document in 2019;
- the evaluation of the conditions for reporting lost / stolen documents is under way, as is work on the delivery of documents or items by post;
- a Swiss project for profiling identity documents called "PROFID", which could meet the last two objectives, has attracted the interest of 17 countries, 12 of which wish to participate in a test phase in 2019.

¹⁶ Network management tool for mapping and monitoring a network

9.2. THE FIGHT AGAINST FACILITATION OF IRREGULAR MIGRATION 54SMUGGLING4° AND PREVENTION OF IRREGULAR STAY

9.2.1.COMBATTING FACILITATION OF IRREGULAR MIGRATION (SMUGGLING)

Development	Nature*
<p><u>Joint Investment Team in Niger</u></p> <p>A joint investment team (<i>équipe conjointe d'investissement</i>, ECI) was created in Niger in 2016 to combat criminal networks connected with irregular immigration, trafficking in human beings and migrant smuggling. It consists of three French police officers and three Spanish police officers as well as 12 Nigerien police officers. The work of the ECI in 2018 resulted in the arrest of 135 people, 127 of whom were detained in 82 court cases, representing a 67% increase in the number of detainees. Six national routes and eight international routes were dismantled. A request for an extension of this project, which will expire in December 2019, is being prepared.</p> <p><u>The ROCK project in Sudan</u></p> <p>Through the Directorate for International Cooperation (<i>Direction de la coopération internationale</i> - DCI) and the operator Civipol, France also chairs the consortium of Member States (United Kingdom and Italy) implementing the Regional Operational Centre in Khartoum (ROCK) project in Sudan. Financed by European funding, the Emergency Trust Fund, this initiative aims to create a regional operational police cooperation centre, the construction of which has been completed, in order to combat criminal networks involved in trafficking and smuggling of human beings in the Horn of Africa. More specifically, the centre will be located within the Khartoum Police Academy. Liaison officers from the East African countries participating in the project will be deployed there and will exchange operational information under the supervision of European experts. This enhanced cooperation will make it possible to combat smuggling networks more effectively and provide an appropriate response to cross-border crime. Ultimately, European liaison officers could also be assigned to the centre on a long-term basis.</p> <p>At the last Emergency Trust Fund (ETF)¹⁷ operational committee meeting in November 2018, the European Union approved budget support of €25 million, including €2 million for technical assistance in the field of security. With the agreement of the Mauritanian authorities, Spain and France could support Mauritania in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -structuring their border management services to combat organised crime and in particular the smuggling of migrants and trafficking in human beings, -the definition of a maritime safety strategy to coordinate the government's action at sea. -the management of migration and the treatment of migrants in accordance with human rights and applicable international conventions. <p>The migration context in Mauritania highlights the particular importance of improving the collection, sharing and analysis of migration data between the police, the gendarmerie and the Ministry of the Interior. The sectoral context highlights the fragmentation of the security system itself, combined with extreme centralisation of management and the lack of modern means of communication.</p> <p>Finally, France also conducted an exploratory mission to Guinea in June 2018 to explore ways to combat identity fraud and better manage migration, while encouraging the creation of a genuine Guinean civil registry. The project is currently being developed, in partnership with the German and Belgian partners.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Legislation <input type="checkbox"/> Policy <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Practice/Other
<p>Irregular African migratory flows have changed since July 2017, with a substantial shift from the Libyan coasts to the Algerian and Moroccan coasts towards the Spanish shores. Criminal networks have since developed within these countries and have become a pull factor. Since the summer of 2017, Western Europe has seen an increase in irregular</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Legislation <input type="checkbox"/> Policy <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Practice/Other

¹⁷ Fonds fiduciaire d'urgence pour l'Afrique (FFU)

<p>immigration from West Africa arriving and/or transiting through countries on the Atlantic coast.</p> <p>At the same time, transit countries such as Niger and Senegal are also affected.</p> <p><u>JOT DUNQETT-Empact policy project</u></p> <p>In connection with these phenomena, the DCPAF proposed the JOT DUNQETT project as part of the Empact policy cycle 2018–2021, with the objective of dismantling irregular immigration networks on the western edge of Europe and sharing operational data (operating methods, identities of migrant traffickers, etc.) between the countries involved in this action. The project also aimed to integrate countries in West and North Africa affected by criminal networks.</p> <p>Officially launched on 13 March 2018, the OA JOT DUNQETT is led by France and co-managed by Spain. Portugal, Great Britain, the Netherlands, the Czech Republic, FRONTEX, EUROPOL and EUROJUST are the founding members.</p> <p>An initial budget of 140,000 euro has been allocated and has already made it possible to fund meetings, operational meetings and the purchase of equipment for communication and investigation services (beacons, computers). It is expected that this budget will be renewed by an equivalent amount in 2019.</p> <p>This project aims to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1/ Dismantle criminal networks involved in migrant smuggling 2/ Exchange operational information between police services 3/ Exchange good practices and develop knowledge between operational departments. <p>Operational activities are based on:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1/ The development of joint investigation teams 2/ The promotion of innovative multidisciplinary approaches (debriefing with migrants intercepted in third countries) 3/ The identification and sharing of good practices and information between law enforcement agencies involved in the fight against migrant smuggling 4/ The development and strengthening of operational activities in the field (surveillance, joint arrests). 	
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9.2.2. PREVENTION OF IRREGULAR STAY

Development	Nature*
<p><u>Sanctions for refusing to have fingerprints and photographs taken</u></p> <p>Article 35 of Law No. 2018-778 of 10 September 2018 “for a managed migration, an effective right of asylum and a successful integration” reinforces the dissuasive aspect of the criminal sanction (one year’s imprisonment and a €3,750 fine) relating to the refusal to have fingerprints and photographs taken by allowing the criminal judge to issue an entry ban for a period not exceeding three years (immediate entry into force upon publication of the law).</p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Legislation <input type="checkbox"/> Policy <input type="checkbox"/> Practice/Other
<p><u>Sanctions for copycat fraud</u></p> <p>Article 35 of Law No. 2018-778 of 10 September 2018 “for a managed migration, an effective right of asylum and a successful integration” extends this criminalisation to the use of a residence permit or temporary document referred to in Article L. 311-14 of the CESEDA (temporary residence permit or receipt for a residence permit application), and to the entire country, including overseas departments (immediate entry into force upon publication of the law).</p>	
<p><u>Sanctions for obstructing the official execution of removal proceedings</u></p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Legislation <input type="checkbox"/> Policy <input type="checkbox"/> Practice/Other

Article 36 of Law No. 2018-778 of 10 September 2018 "for a managed migration, an effective right of asylum and a successful integration" recasts Article L. 624-1-2 of the CESEDA in order to specify the possibility of criminal sanctions for behaviour obstructing the official execution of removal orders and, in particular, refusals to embark (immediate entry into force as soon as the law is published).

9.2.3.COOPERATION WITH THIRD COUNTRIES TO PREVENT IRREGULAR MIGRATION

<p>a) The Western and Southern Mediterranean countries (Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Mauritania, Palestine*, Syria and Tunisia);</p> <p>Morocco and Tunisia have been the subject of increased contacts by the French authorities, as part of the roadmap for managed migration. These countries have been asked to be more co-operative, particularly on the consular level. In exchange for strengthening this cooperation, new capacity-building partnerships on the subject of controlling borders, fighting irregular immigration and improving civil records may be offered to these countries. This "roadmap" is led by a dedicated ambassador, Pascal Teixeira da Silva, in close partnership with the Ministry for Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of the Interior. Bilateral technical cooperation with these countries focuses particularly on the prevention of irregular immigration.</p>
<p>b) The Eastern Partnership countries (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldavia and Ukraine):</p> <p>With Georgia: During the meeting between the French Interior Minister and the Georgian Interior Minister on 4 July 2018, an action plan to combat irregular immigration between Georgia and France was drawn up with five objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To strengthen communication with Georgian citizens on the rules of movement and residence in the Schengen area (two communication operations were carried out in 2015 and 2017); • To strengthen repressive measures against entities encouraging the submission of abusive asylum applications (a law criminalising the incitement to abuse the right of asylum is currently under consideration by Parliament); • To strengthen exit controls (law under consideration by Parliament); • To strengthen the operational capacities of the security forces to control exits from the country, in collaboration with the French services of the DCPAF; • To strengthen cooperation on readmission. <p>The French Minister of the Interior proposed reinforcing cooperation by implementing the following measures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthening the French presence with the Georgian border police, through the creation of an immigration liaison officer post at Tbilisi airport and through the European "Prometheus" project, which could benefit from the deployment of French experts; as part of the assignment of an immigration liaison officer (ILO), an exploratory DCI/DCPAF mission was conducted in December 2018 to assess the current situation of border control at international airports. This mission could result in the deployment of a temporary mission. A resident immigration liaison officer post in Tbilisi is expected to open in September 2019 to strengthen our bilateral cooperation. An assessment of the equipment that the Georgian authorities may require, with a view to strengthening border control; • Awareness-raising within FRONTEX of the need to strengthen its action on border control for the benefit of Georgia.
<p>c) The Western Balkans countries (Albania, Bosnia Herzegovina, Kosovo, Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia);</p> <p>Strengthening political and operational dialogue with Albania: following alerts from the French authorities on the continued influx of Albanian nationals into the country, the desire to strengthen cooperation in the fight against irregular immigration and associated criminal organisations has been achieved in two ways: on the one hand, through the implementation by the Albanian authorities of an action plan (20 July 2017) and, on the other, through signature of an administrative arrangement (15 December 2017). This arrangement has resulted in the assignment of four Albanian liaison</p>

officers to the Border Police in Lyon and Metz zonal directorates, within the DCPJ¹⁸ (SIRASCO) and to the gendarmerie: hosting a police commissioner since 16 March 2018 (OCLDI¹⁹) with regard to Albanian crime. The DCPAF wishes to relocate a liaison officer within OCRIEST²⁰ (1 April 2019) to improve the response to Albanian migration flows. Two training courses were conducted in 2018 as part of the Franco-German programme on border control and documentary fraud. These actions will be continued in 2019.

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

On the strategic level, a Ministerial coordination meeting to combat migrant smuggling took place on 16 March 2018 in Niamey, Niger, under the auspices of Mohamed Bazoum, the Minister of State, the Minister of the Interior, Public Security, Decentralisation and Customary and Religious Affairs. This meeting brought together Ministers from countries of origin of irregular immigration: Côte d'Ivoire, Senegal, countries of transit: Burkina Faso, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Chad, Libya, and destination countries: Germany, Spain, France and Italy.

Also present were the European Union through the Commissioner for Migration and Home Affairs, Dimitri Avramopoulos, the African Union, CEN-SEN (Community of Sahel-Saharan States), IOM, UNHCR and UNODC.

In an unprecedented way, this conference demonstrated real ownership among countries of origin and transit of their commitments to combat migrant smuggling.

This Ministerial meeting was followed by the regional conference of directors general and senior commanders of the internal security forces on combating the smuggling of migrants and trafficking in human beings, on 18 and 19 June 2018.

The next annual follow-up meeting (June 2019, Côte d'Ivoire) will analyse implementation of commitments made to strengthen national legislative frameworks, operational control tools and their necessary coordination, capacity building, judicial cooperation, border control, and the protection of irregular migrants and victims of trafficking.

Senegal, Guinea, Côte d'Ivoire and Mali are also covered by the migration roadmap, as are Morocco and Tunisia. France is particularly active in capacity building regarding strengthening the legislative strategy, civil status, the fight against trafficking in human beings and migrants, and border control.

As at 30 November 2018, in Senegal, the national division to combat the smuggling of migrants, created in January 2018 within the PAF, had been called upon in 70 proceedings (12 for smuggling of migrants; 58 for forgery and use of forgeries): 137 arrests and 48 referrals. In March, it dismantled the first Senegalese branch of migrant traffickers between Senegal and Niger. The Central Directorate of the Judicial Police (DPJ) has, for its part, updated a visa trafficking network. Since October 2018, two police commanders have been working on a daily basis at the DPAF. It should also be noted that nine training sessions were organised for 213 Senegalese police officers. In this context, a joint operational partnership project has been approved by the European Commission and is receiving European funding. In September 2018, an international technical expert was deployed by the Directorate of International Cooperation to implement this project, and the Spanish authorities were offered the opportunity to participate in the project.

¹⁸ Central Directorate of the Judicial Police (*Direction centrale de la police judiciaire*).

¹⁹ Central Office for the Fight Against Itinerant Delinquency (*office central de lutte contre la délinquance itinérante*).

²⁰ Central Office to Combat Irregular Immigration and the Irregular Employment of Foreign Workers (*Office central pour la répression de l'immigration irrégulière et de l'emploi d'étrangers sans titre*)

9.2.4. MONITORING AND IDENTIFYING IRREGULAR MIGRATION ROUTES

Development	Nature*
<p>Under the authority of the Central Directorate for Border Police, the National Unit for Migration Analysis (<i>pôle national d'analyse migratoire</i>, PONAM) aims to develop expertise on irregular migration flows for tactical and strategic purposes. This analysis looks at flows before they reach France, at the borders and in metropolitan France and overseas departments. Thus, it may contribute to improving prevention and responding to irregular flows. PONAM is, above all, a tool for centralising information with a focus on producing precise analyses (country files or focuses) and cross-cutting analyses on migratory trends. The information is then shared nationally in order to co-ordinate the operational effort to counter irregular immigration, as well as internationally through various European agencies working to combat irregular immigration (FRONTEX, EUROPOL, etc.).</p> <p>In addition to providing operational intelligence, the French network of 27 immigration liaison officers (ILOs) and 18 immigration safety advisers (<i>Conseiller sûreté immigration -CSI</i>) contributes towards identifying migration routes to Europe.²¹</p> <p>In addition to their role in preventing irregular immigration mentioned above, the ILOs play a general operational monitoring role and enable the analysis of migratory phenomena affecting their country of residence through information notes which feed into the Ministry of the Interior's cross-cutting documentation.</p> <p>Finally, this information is also shared regularly with the ILOs in different countries, as part of European teams.</p> <p>This information contributes to dismantling irregular migration networks.</p> <p>As the various investigations progress, these routes appear to be increasingly transnational and organised. The networks start before migrants enter the country or facilitate their stay under cover of criminal activities. Depending on their continent of origin, irregular immigration networks adopt different operating methods (documentary and identity fraud, unwarranted paternity claims, marriages of convenience, fraudulent asylum applications).</p> <p>The network of DCI ILOs and CSIs in several continents has enabled co-operation to be established with a view to strengthening the capacities of the local internal security forces through targeted training and discussions. To this end, six ILOs (Turkey, Egypt, Serbia, Albania, Albania, Russia and Pakistan) participated in a regional seminar held in Istanbul in October 2018 in the presence of their European counterparts on the ground. This event was an opportunity to discuss the management of migration flows as well as the issue of combating criminal networks promoting illegal immigration in South-Eastern Europe. This seminar was organised at the initiative of the DCI, and attained full funding through the European Internal Security Fund-External Borders and Visas (ISF-EBV).</p> <p>The Ministry of the Interior also sends 20 staff members to the European Union, either as part of CSDP civilian missions, or as part of EU delegations (Sudan, Jordan, Lebanon, Nigeria, Mali, Tunisia and Senegal (with competence extended to the Gambia), or as part of projects financed by the European Union.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Legislation <input type="checkbox"/> Policy <input type="checkbox"/> Practice/Other

²¹ It should be noted that the ILO post in Brazil was abolished on 1 January 2018.

In 2018, 286 technical cooperation actions relating to immigration were taken by the DCI network, split as follows:

Geographic area:	Africa	North Africa and the Middle East	America	Asia	EU	Outside EU	Multizones
Number of cooperation actions	127	24	10	52	25	46	2

In 2018, 321 clandestine immigration routes were dismantled by the security forces in France, i.e., an increase of 6% in comparison to 2017. 1,812 people were indicted, of whom 1,434 were remanded in custody and 910 were referred to the courts. 11 routes recognised according to OCRIEST criteria, were dismantled by the *Gendarmerie Nationale* in 2018. 302 smugglers, landlords or accomplices were arrested (395 in 2017).

10. TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS

10.1. NATIONAL STRATEGIC POLICY DEVELOPMENTS

Development	Nature*
<p>Considerable progress has been made as a result of the 4th plan to prevent and combat violence against women (2014–2016). Violence is now better identified and victims are better dealt with; more is understood about violence against women and it is more widely reported.</p> <p>The 5th plan for mobilising and combating violence (2017–2019) reflects this determination to enable all women who are victims of violence to assert their right to be protected and supported, to escape violent situations, and to rebuild their lives. To this end, the plan sets three objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To secure and strengthen proven mechanisms to improve the lives of women who are victims of violence and ensure they have access to their rights - To strengthen public action where needs are greatest (children who are victims of domestic violence, young women particularly exposed to violence, in domestic settings and on the internet, women living in rural areas, etc.) - To eradicate violence at its roots through the fight against sexism, which trivialises the culture of violence and rape. <p>In total, more than €125 million will be committed between 2017 and 2019 to finance the measures in this plan.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Legislation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Policy <input type="checkbox"/> Practice/Other
<p>Following a consultation process launched in 2017, MIPROF²² organised several meetings with public partners and civil society to develop the 2nd National Action Plan. Some of the measures in the 2nd National Action Plan will be part of the poverty prevention strategy, future crime prevention and child protection strategies so that prevention actions for the most vulnerable victims can be undertaken.</p> <p>The future national action plan pays particular attention to child victims of trafficking and better identification of victims through a national training plan for all professionals.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Legislation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Policy <input type="checkbox"/> Practice/Other
<p>Following the adoption of the Law of 13 April 2016 to strengthen the fight against the prostitution system and supporting prostitutes, Departmental committees to combat prostitution were set up throughout 2018. Their role is to coordinate the various actors involved in this issue, in order to implement concerted local policies to combat prostitution and sexual exploitation and promote the implementation of a policy to support victims towards an exit route from the prostitution system.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Legislation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Policy <input type="checkbox"/> Practice/Other
<p>On 13–14 June and 3–4 December 2018, the National Consultative Commission on Human Rights (<i>Commission nationale consultative des droits de l'homme</i>, CNCDH) participated in the meeting of the European Network of National Rapporteurs and Equivalent Mechanisms in the field of Trafficking in Human Beings (THB) in Brussels. In addition to the usual exchange of experiences and good practices, this meeting provided</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Legislation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Policy <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Practice/Other

²² the Inter-Ministerial Mission to Protect Women against Violence and to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings (*Mission interministerielle de protection des femmes contre les violences et de lutte contre la traite des êtres humains*)

an opportunity for some ten European Union agencies to strengthen their commitment to the fight against trafficking in human beings.

10.2. IMPROVING IDENTIFICATION AND PROVISION OF INFORMATION TO THIRD-COUNTRY NATIONAL VICTIMS OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING

10.2.1. PROVISION OF INFORMATION ON ASSISTANCE AND SUPPORT TO THIRD-COUNTRY NATIONAL VICTIMS

Development	Nature*
<p>a) Training and awareness raising;</p> <p>No new measures to raise awareness of the various forms of exploitation have been implemented by the Government, as highlighted in the CNCDH's progress report for 2017, published on 7 September 2018. In this regard, in 2017 the CNCDH called on the Prime Minister to make human trafficking a major national issue.</p> <p>As part of the 2nd National Action Plan, awareness-raising and communication initiatives will be undertaken targeting groups such as minors and migrants.</p> <p>The Secours Catholique and the "Together Against Trafficking in Human Beings" collective (consisting of 25 NGOs) launched a campaign on Thursday 8 February 2018. Entitled #DEVENIR, this educational campaign shows the long process that helps trafficked children to free themselves from the control others have over them and to rebuild their lives. A booklet and a film were produced for this campaign. The booklet details various trafficking situations and the repercussions of each on children's bodies and minds.</p> <p>In November 2018, the Central Directorate of the Judicial Police (<i>Direction centrale de la police judiciaire - DCPJ</i>)'s Central Office for the Suppression of Trafficking in Human Beings (<i>Office central pour la répression de la traite des êtres humains</i>) conducted a training week for judges on trafficking in human beings for the purpose of sexual exploitation at the National school for Magistrates (ENM) Paris (50).</p> <p>Trafficking in human beings: don't be blinded by preconceived ideas! Open your eyes!</p> <p>The CNCDH is convinced that effectively combating intolerance, rejection and ensuring respect for the dignity and rights of all persons involves deconstructing the prejudices and preconceived ideas that young people hold.</p> <p>To this end, the CNCDH decided to produce a series of brochures to combat preconceived ideas, which it launched in 2017 with a first brochure devoted to ideas about combating trafficking and exploitation of human beings.</p> <p>Consult the brochure online (in French): www.cncdh.fr/fr/publications/la-traite-des-etres-humains-les-idees-recue-taveuglent-ouvre-les-yeux</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Legislation <input type="checkbox"/> Policy <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Practice/Other
<p>For several years, the Central Office for Combating Illegal Employment (OCLTI) has been training police and customs investigators about illegal employment, social fraud and trafficking in human beings for the purposes of labour exploitation as part of two one-week²³ courses (for illegal employment investigators and specialist illegal</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Legislation <input type="checkbox"/> Policy <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Practice/Other

23 In 2017, 307 investigators were trained.

Development	Nature*
<p>employment investigators). To ensure greater effectiveness, the ESTIF course will be extended to two weeks from 2020.</p> <p>Regarding trafficking in human beings, OCLTI, in conjunction with the National Institute for labour, employment and vocational training (<i>Institut national du travail, de l'emploi et de la formation professionnelle - INTEP</i>) of the General Directorate for Employment within the Ministry of Labour, has developed a training module focusing on the crime of trafficking in human beings, including investigation and intervention methods, legislative and administrative measures, various partnerships, and dealing with victims. From this year onwards, it will be provided to volunteer staff of partner administrations as well as to armed forces personnel.</p>	

10.2.2.IDENTIFICATION OF VICTIMS

Development	Nature*
<p>a) Training and awareness raising;</p>	
<p>Training professionals who are in contact with victims of trafficking in human beings was one of the main priorities of the first action plan. This training contributes to the identification and identification of victims of trafficking.</p> <p>MIPROF, in close collaboration with relevant professionals, has developed numerous educational tools which each professional can use to raise their awareness of THB.</p> <p>With regard to trafficking in minors, two tools have been developed: one for judges and investigators and the other for social workers involved in child welfare and judicial youth protection.</p> <p>The Ordinance of 7 April 2016 on the enforcement of labour law and the Law of 13 April 2016 on strengthening the fight against the prostitution system enabled labour inspectors to identify offences related to THB. Training tools have been developed to enable them to better identify victims in the course of their duties and awareness-raising activities have been carried out with trainee labour inspectors.</p> <p>On several occasions in 2018, MIPROF travelled to raise awareness of THB among professionals (youth judicial protection social workers, magistrates and labour inspectors).</p>	
<p>The France Terre d'Asile NGO regularly provides training to professionals likely to come into contact with victims of trafficking.</p> <p>In particular, this training aims to strengthen the effectiveness of social and legal support by understanding the definition of trafficking in human beings, its various forms of exploitation and the difference between it and migrant smuggling, the ability to identify victims of trafficking and obstacles to the verbalisation of their experiences in order to better record their views, and finally the ability to support them so that they can benefit from shelter and regularisation of their administrative situation (obtaining a residence permit and/or protection under the terms of asylum).</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Legislation <input type="checkbox"/> Policy <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Practice/Other</p>
<p>b) Measures on cooperation between national authorities;</p>	
<p>In partnership with ONDRP, MIPROF has developed a large survey of NGOs to improve knowledge of the phenomenon of trafficking in order to make this situation, of which still too little is known, more visible, in accordance with the first action plan. Analysis of the results by type of exploitation makes it possible to highlight victims' profiles and the conditions under which they are exploited.</p> <p>This survey, which is very instructive, is a first step towards collecting reliable data on THB in France. Initiated in 2015, it is intended to be renewed every year, and will contribute towards raising public and professional awareness. Increasing vigilance on this subject and improving knowledge among professionals will make it possible to offer support that is adapted to victims' needs.</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Legislation <input type="checkbox"/> Policy <input type="checkbox"/> Practice/Other</p>

Development	Nature*
<p>MIPROF coordinated and led the implementation of the 1st National Action Plan against Trafficking in Human Beings. In order to strengthen its role as national coordinator, a coordination committee was created within MIPROF by a Decree dated 11 August 2016. This committee, composed of specialised NGOs and institutions which are members of the steering committee, is responsible for monitoring national actions to combat trafficking in human beings. It met in 2017 and 2018.</p> <p>As the plan was coming to an end, MIPROF launched a consultation process in 2017, which made it possible, following discussions with the ministries concerned and specialised NGOs, to identify the measures in the first plan which should be renewed or consolidated in the second plan. The numerous meetings of the steering committee made it possible to define the main directions of the second plan and to establish the measures to be taken by the Ministries concerned.</p>	
c) Measures on cooperation between national authorities;	
<p>Efforts have been taken to strengthen operational cooperation in the field of trafficking in human beings for the purpose of labour exploitation, in particular at Europol level. Indeed, the fight against trafficking in human beings is one of the ten European operational priorities for the period 2018-2021. OCLTI is a stakeholder in the EMPACT THB (Trafficking in Human Beings for the Purpose of Labour Exploitation) programme, in other words leading work to report on the "THB threat for labour exploitation" at European level; joint leader on work to produce a leaflet for posted workers and employers to inform them of their rights and duties respectively; leading operational work action dedicated to TEH for labour exploitation in agriculture and which should result in the implementation of coordinated controls at European level.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Legislation <input type="checkbox"/> Policy <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Practice/Other

10.2.3.COOPERATION WITH THIRD COUNTRIES

Development	Nature*
a) Training and capacity-building measures;	
<p>On 27 November 2018, training on trafficking in human beings was held in Chisinau at the Moldovan National Judicial Institute in cooperation with the <i>Ecole Nationale de la Magistrature</i> (ENM), the Central Directorate of the Judicial Police and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC). Two French experts from the Central Office for the Suppression of Trafficking in Human Beings conducted the training for 15 judges from headquarters and 15 judges from the Moldovan prosecutor's office, as part of initial and ongoing training.</p> <p>The objective of this training was to encourage the Moldovan judicial training school to develop, as France does, a training session of at least one day dedicated to the management of human trafficking cases.</p> <p>From 26 to 30 March 2018, training was held in Montenegro on the criteria for identifying trafficking in human beings and investigative techniques. Training was coordinated by the European Commission (Directorate General for Enlargement), the office of the National Coordinator to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings, the Montenegro Ministry of the Interior and a magistrate "responsible for combating trafficking in human beings in South-East Europe" at the permanent French representative to the United Nations in Vienna. Around thirty participants exchanged views over a period of three days on the issue of identifying victims of trafficking.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Legislation <input type="checkbox"/> Policy <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Practice/Other

Development	Nature*
<p>Between 21 and 25 January 2019, a strategic and operational exchange took place in Abuja (Nigeria) between representatives of the Central Office for the Repression of Human Trafficking (OCRTEH) and the NAPTIP (the Nigerian agency dedicated to the fight against trafficking in human beings) to assess the possibilities of strengthening cooperation between the two entities. This work also made it possible to meet the French representative within the European delegation and representatives of European countries (Great Britain, Italy, Switzerland, Spain) in order to better assess the challenges of cooperation with Nigeria.</p>	
b) Joint investigation teams;	
<p>Since the adoption in June 2014 of an inter-ministerial strategy for cooperation in the fight against trafficking in human beings in South-Eastern Europe, a steering committee has been organised each year to review the actions implemented and examine the programme envisaged for the following year.</p> <p>The 2018 programme focused on cooperation with countries in south-east Europe located on the trafficking route to France, continuing the strengthened partnership between France and south-east European countries of origin and transit.</p> <p>The French strategy in south-east Europe for 2018 includes 14 commitments by France to combat trafficking in human beings in this region. The actions are implemented in 11 countries in south-east Europe, all connected to the French strategy to combat trafficking in human beings: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Kosovo, North Macedonia, Moldova, Montenegro, Romania, Serbia and, since December 2016, Greece, in particular regarding activities related to the fight against trafficking in human beings in the context of the migration crisis.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Legislation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Policy <input type="checkbox"/> Practice/Other
c) Information and prevention campaigns.	
<p>As part of the EMPACT THB, France and Bulgaria are responsible for drafting and circulating a guide for workers in the agricultural sector, both from within and outside the EU. The purpose of this guide is to indicate or recall the main rights to which workers are entitled, but also the obligations that companies are bound by.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Legislation <input type="checkbox"/> Policy <input type="checkbox"/> Practice/Other

11.RETURN AND READMISSION

11.1. MAIN NATIONAL DEVELOPLENTS IN THE FIELD OF RETURN

11.1.1.SWIFT, SUSTAINABLE AND EFFECTIVE RETURN

General policy developments in the area of return

Development	Nature*
<p><u>Improve the effectiveness of the supervision of foreign nationals subject to a return decision (obligation to leave French territory, OQTF)</u></p> <p>Law No. 2018-778 of 10 September 2018 “for a managed migration, an effective right of asylum and a successful integration” improves effectiveness along the entire chain of surveillance measures for the enforcement of orders to leave French territory.</p> <p>Thus, during the period of voluntary departure, Article 26 of this Law allows the foreign national to whom an OQTF has been issued with a deadline for voluntary departure, to reside in a place designated by the administrative authority, until that deadline expires (entry into force 1 January 2019).</p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Legislation <input type="checkbox"/> Policy <input type="checkbox"/> Practice/Other
<p><u>Improve the effectiveness of house arrest: obligation upon foreign nationals under house arrest to remain at home at specific times of the day.</u></p> <p>Article 31 of the Law of 10 September 2018 “for a managed migration, an effective right of asylum and a successful integration” provides for preparation for departure, to ensure the presence of the foreigner at home for a period of three hours every day of the week (entry into force 1 January 2019).</p> <p>Article 29 of the Law also extends the requirement that orders issued by the judge of freedom and custody (<i>juge des libertés et de la détention - JLD</i>) that decide to place a detained foreign national under house arrest when a previous removal order has already been evaded must include special justifications: this precedent requires special justification even when the measure in question has ceased to have effect.</p> <p>The same article, in conjunction with Article 23 of the Law, requires the judge of freedom and custody to ensure that the proposed place of residence corresponds to the foreign national’s effective and permanent place of residence in premises assigned as their main residence.</p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Legislation <input type="checkbox"/> Policy <input type="checkbox"/> Practice/Other
<p>Development of possibilities for using audiovisual communication media</p> <p>The Law of 10 September 2018 facilitates the use of video hearings in the context of judicial hearings. This saves resources regarding transfers and escorts by lifting the condition that foreign nationals must consent to this procedure, which nevertheless remains subject to the judge’s approval (effective from 1 January 2019).</p> <p>The Law also specified that the right of a foreign national in detention to communicate by any means, including by telephone, with any person of their choice, including their counsel, applies inside detention facilities and not during transfers and escorts. Indeed, during these periods, the availability and effectiveness of means of communication are very uncertain and, furthermore, offer no guarantees in terms of confidentiality.</p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Legislation <input type="checkbox"/> Policy <input type="checkbox"/> Practice/Other

Issuing entry bans

Development	Nature*
<p>Law No. 2018-778 of 10 September 2018 “for a managed migration, an effective right of asylum and a successful integration” clarifies the legal provisions relating to bans on re-entry (Article L. 511-1 of the CESEDA) in order to ensure compliance with Article 11 of the Return Directive:</p> <p>-systematic pronouncement of an ‘entry ban’ when the foreign national has remained illegally on French territory at the end of the period of voluntary departure set by the return decision. These provisions come into force on 1 January 2019.</p> <p>The starting point for an entry ban is set as the date of execution of the decision requiring the foreigner to leave French territory, i.e., the date upon which they reach a third country. This new rule is established in accordance with the European case law of the Court of Justice of the European Union (Ourhami-Netherlands judgement of 26 July 2017) and the recommendation of the Council of the European Union (article L.511-1 of the CESEDA). These provisions come into force on 1 January 2019.</p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Legislation <input type="checkbox"/> Policy <input type="checkbox"/> Practice/Other

(Assisted) voluntary return

Development	Nature*
<p>In January 2018, the OFII launched a website dedicated to voluntary return and reintegration (www.retourvolontaire.fr).</p> <p>Available in 18 languages, it provides users with all the necessary information concerning the different types of assistance offered by the OFII, the procedures to apply for it, the steps to be taken and the practical organisation of departure and arrival, all on a single platform.</p> <p>It also features testimonies from beneficiaries who, through videos or written interviews, provide an account of their personal journey.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Legislation <input type="checkbox"/> Policy <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Practice/Other
<p><u>Extension of the scope of beneficiaries of assisted voluntary return</u></p> <p>Article 25 of Law No. 2018-778 of 10 September 2018 “for a managed migration, an effective right of asylum and a successful integration” extends the scope of assisted return to TCNs in an irregular situation in detention (article L. 512-5 of the CESEDA). This provision, which came into force on 1 January 2019, will be implemented gradually.</p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Legislation <input type="checkbox"/> Policy <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Practice/Other
<p><u>New developments in the field of return and reintegration</u></p> <p>The Decree of 27 April 2018 on assisted return and reintegration specifies that the Director General of the OFII may exceptionally decide, after a request from the prefect of the competent department and informing the director of the DGEF, in the context of specific operations to encourage return, to award an increased lump sum allowance, up to a maximum of €1,200.</p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Legislation <input type="checkbox"/> Policy <input type="checkbox"/> Practice/Other

Use of (alternatives for) detention in return procedures

Development	Nature*
<p><u>Increase in the length of detention</u></p> <p>Article 29 of Law No. 2018-778 of 10 September 2018 “for a managed migration, an effective right of asylum and a successful integration” extends the maximum duration of assisted return to TCNs in an irregular situation from 45 to 90 days (modification to article L. 512-7 of the CESEDA). This provision, which came into force on 1 January 2019, will make it possible to ensure the removal chain operates more smoothly and, in particular, will provide sufficient time for obtaining consular laissez-passers and to counter tactics to delay and obstruct the execution of removal measures by certain foreign nationals.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Legislation <input type="checkbox"/> Policy <input type="checkbox"/> Practice/Other
<p><u>Increasing detention capacity</u></p> <p>In order to improve the effectiveness of the return policy, the French authorities are also planning a significant increase in the capacity of detention places:</p> <p>-450 detention places are to be created by 2019, 200 of which were created in the first quarter of 2018.</p>	
<p><u>Taking the vulnerability of persons in detention into account</u></p> <p>The specific needs of vulnerable persons must be particularly accounted for during their detention (Law No. 2018-778 of 10 September 2018: entry into force on 1 January 2019).</p>	
<p><u>Creation of recreational activities and improvement of recreational activities in detention centres</u></p> <p>Improving the conditions of detention is a priority for the Government in view of the increase in the length of detention from 45 days to three months as of 1 January 2019.</p> <p>The French authorities have initiated a project to improve leisure facilities in detention centres (CRAs) and to create leisure activities in all detention centres: installation of multi-sport terrains, equipment, game consoles, subscriptions to sports channels. Retention centers for asylum seekers (CRA) which house families with children have also been asked to renew their childcare equipment and improve it with indoor games and outdoor facilities (slides, swings).</p> <p>The Marseille CRA (with a capacity of 136 places), the vast majority of whose residents are single men, was the precursor to the development of these activities when it set up weekly drawing courses and music workshops run by local NGOs in September 2018.</p>	
<p><u>Measures to prepare for assisted return (DPAR)</u></p> <p>The French authorities continue to develop facilities to help prepare for return which aim both to develop alternatives to detention for removal of third country nationals in an irregular situation and to streamline the pathways for asylum applicants by freeing up places in accommodation centres for asylum applicants unduly occupied by people whose asylum applications have been definitively refused. The French authorities continue to roll out measures to prepare for assisted return for third country nationals in an irregular situation.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Legislation <input type="checkbox"/> Policy <input type="checkbox"/> Practice/Other

<p>At 1 November 2018, 14 centres had been opened with a total capacity of 789 places throughout the country (Rhône, Paris, Bouches-du-Rhône, Moselle, Bas-Rhin, Haut-Rhin, Seine-et-Marne, Seine-Saint-Denis, Val-d'Oise, Essonne and Hauts-de-France and Hauts-de-Seine, Haute-Garonne).</p> <p>The total capacity of the facilities in service is 809 places.</p>	
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Operation of national forced return monitoring system

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

Other actions related to swift, sustainable and effective return

Development	Nature*
<p><u>The AGDREF national biometric system</u></p> <p>Since March 2018, prefectures have had access to a biometric database containing fingerprints and photographs of foreign nationals applying for a residence permit, who have been the subject of a return decision, who are in an irregular situation, or who have applied for asylum.</p> <p>This software should be used by the investigating services to check the fingerprints of foreign nationals in an irregular situation against those already registered in the database and to record the fingerprints and photographs of foreign nationals who are subject of a removal procedure.</p> <p>This software has been tested in pilot sites since 1 January 2019 within the national police and the national <i>gendarmerie</i> before being rolled out more widely in 2019.</p> <p>Therefore, if a third-country national is arrested and declares another identity, the competent police forces will have the possibility of using biometric data to verify the identity of the person concerned.</p> <p>A modernised removal module in the app for managing the files of foreign nationals in France (AGDREF) has been available since 1 September 2018 in order to increase the effectiveness of the legal security of procedures.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Legislation <input type="checkbox"/> Policy <input type="checkbox"/> Practice/Other

11.1.2.RETURN OF REJECTED ASYLUM SEEKERS

Development	Nature*
<p><u>Implementation of removal decisions taken against rejected asylum seekers</u></p> <p>The Law of 10 September 2018 ends the automatic suspensive nature of appeals before the National Court of Asylum (CNDA) against the OFPRA's decision to reject certain</p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Legislation <input type="checkbox"/> Policy <input type="checkbox"/> Practice/Other

<p>categories of asylum seekers placed under the accelerated procedure and, in particular, those from safe countries of origin.</p> <p>A return decision (order to leave French territory, OQTF) can be taken at this stage and it is also possible to issue a house arrest order or a detention order for these rejected asylum seekers (in force since 1 January 2019).</p>	
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11.1.3.EVIDENCE OF THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE MEASURES TO ENSURE RETURN

<p>In 2018, the total number of foreign nationals in an irregular situation rose by 13.6% with 19,957 removals conducted in comparison to 17,567 in 2017. Forced removals increased by almost 10%.</p> <p>The forced returns of third country nationals to third countries amounted to 7,105 removals in 2018 compared to 6,602 in 2017, reaching its highest level since 2010. These forced returns were the most representative of the work of the police and Prefectoral services in the fight against irregular immigration. Finally, assisted returns almost doubled (+92%).</p> <p>In total, more than 30,000 illegal foreign nationals left the country in 2018 (departures, voluntary departures and spontaneous departures), a level 22% higher than in 2016.</p>
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11.2. STRENGTHENING COOPERATION WITH THIRD COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN AND TRANSIT ON RETURN AND REINTEGRATION MANAGEMENT

11.2.1.INVOLVEMENT OF THIRD COUNTRIES IN RETURN MEASURES

Development	Nature*
<p>France is heavily involved in efforts to improve the delivery of consular laissez-passers on both the European level by exchanging best practices (e.g. EURINT network) and by strengthening bilateral relations.</p> <p>Thus, an Ambassador in charge of migration was appointed in September 2017, in order to improve relations with six priority countries at the origin of irregular immigration to France and the conclusion of operational arrangements or formal agreements is being sought at European or possibly bilateral level.</p> <p>In this respect, the most successful actions are undoubtedly those undertaken with Morocco, which have led to the establishment of a structural dialogue on migration issues, in particular on the issue of re-entry, within the framework of the Permanent Joint Migration Group (which meets twice a year) and dedicated sub-groups. This renewed framework for consular cooperation has had genuine operational implications (tightening of consular management by Morocco) and encouraging results through the implementation of a new procedure for undocumented foreign nationals who are presumed to be Moroccan.</p> <p>In general, closer contacts have been established with the authorities of countries that present a "migration risk" (e.g. Albania), allowing for improvements to the issue of consular laissez-passers within the time limits necessary for removal.</p> <p>These approaches, together with the EU's approach, have already produced some results, for example with Guinea, whose implementation of the operational arrangement concluded with the EU in summer 2017 has led to start to improve consular cooperation with that country.</p> <p><u>Identification missions</u></p> <p>Three identification missions with third countries were organised by the French authorities in 2018:</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Legislation</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Policy</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Practice/Other</p>

<p>One Senegalese mission, in June 2018: 45 hearings, 39 recognitions, 14 consular laissez-passers issued and seven removals carried out.</p> <p>Two missions with Côte d'Ivoire in 2018:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -The first (26 April and 11 May) -The second (24 to 28 September 2018) <p>In total, 72 presumed Ivorian nationals were presented, and 55 consular laissez-passers were issued (including a collective laissez-passer for 21 persons valid until 31/12/2019 and one for 12 persons issued for applications which were submitted previously).</p>	
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11.2.2. ENSURING IMPLEMENTATION OF ALL EU READMISSION AGREEMENTS TO THEIR FULL EFFECT²⁴

European readmission agreements (EURAs) (country)	National development (e.g. implementation protocol, cooperation)	Entry into force (where relevant)
ALBANIA	Implementation protocol signed 08 April 2013, ratified 27 April 2015 by Law No. 2015-469. Entered into force on 11 December 2015	01/05/2006
ARMENIA	Implementation protocol signed on 27 October 2016, currently being ratified.	01/01/2014
NORTH MACEDONIA	Discussions under way to begin negotiations on a bilateral implementation EURA protocol	01/01/2008
BOSNIA HERZEGOVINA	Implementation protocol signed on 3 July 2014, currently being ratified.	01/01/2008
CÔTE D'IVOIRE	Shared document-SOP25 between Côte d'Ivoire and the EU on procedures for the identification and re-entry of presumed Ivorian migrants in an irregular situation in the EU -	
GEORGIA	Discussions under way to begin negotiations on a bilateral protocol to implement the EURA	01/03/2011
MONTENEGRO	Discussions under way to begin negotiations on a bilateral protocol to implement the EURA	01/01/2008
RUSSIA	Implementation protocol signed on 1 March 2010, entry into force 22 October 2010. Renegotiation of this protocol is currently under way, on the request of Russia which wishes to standardise the practices agreed between it and Member States with which a protocol has been signed.	01/06/2007

²⁴ Norway is invited to report on any national agreements in place.

²⁵ SOP standard operational procedures.

SERBIA	Implementation protocol signed 18 November 2009, Law approving the protocol, 7 July 2014 Entry into force: 14/10/2014	01/01/2008
SRI LANKA	Discussions under way to begin negotiations on a bilateral protocol to implement the EURA	01/05/2005
UKRAINE	Discussions under way to begin negotiations on a bilateral protocol to implement the EURA	01/01/2008

In order to support implementation of the European Union Readmission Agreements (EURA), France prepares and participates in the Joint Readmission Committees (JRCs) with relevant third countries. In 2017 and 2018, France took part in the preparation of the JRCs for Albania (26-09-2017 and 02/10/2018), Armenia (24-01-2018), North Macedonia (09-10-2017 and 04/10/2018), Azerbaijan (05-07-2017 and 17/09/2018), Bosnia (29-06-2017 and 05/07/2018), Georgia (21-03-2017 and 14/06/2018), Montenegro (29-03-2017 and 02/05/2018), Russia (04-10-2017 and 11/12/2018), Serbia (03-10-2017 and 11/10/2018), Sri Lanka (16-02-2018), Ukraine (22-09-2017 and 28/09/2018).

In addition, France takes part, has established, or is establishing actions aiming to increase consular cooperation with priority third countries with regard to the volumes of measures announced by France in relation to nationals of these countries.

On the European level, the DGEF and the DCPAF are actively involved in the EURINT approach. The EURINT project is an inter-State approach funded partly by European funds (Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund, AMIF), which aims to develop joint strategies on forced return based on exchanging practical information and experiences with third countries with whom consular cooperation is deemed to be difficult. France chairs the working group on Algeria.

As part of the implementation of "compacts" (migration packages), France has supported the European Commission in the course of several missions targeting ECOWAS countries (in July 2016 in Mali and Côte d'Ivoire).

On the bilateral level in 2017, France launched an action plan to "guarantee the right to asylum and better management of migration flows" which contained, in particular, a "roadmap" for the six countries considered to be priorities in terms of the fight against irregular immigration: Morocco, Tunisia, Senegal, Côte d'Ivoire, Mali and Guinea. In 2018, this roadmap was extended to seven countries with the addition of Algeria.

The purpose of this "roadmap" is to tailor the monitoring of migration issues in order to develop a shared reference system with the third countries concerned, making it possible to improve the rate of return, by drawing on a register of incentive measures: capacity-building in border management, capacity support for population management (civil status) and regional control (fight against smuggling networks). These incentives are used insofar as the partner country shows itself to be genuinely more cooperative, particularly on the issue of consular cooperation. If cooperation does not improve, negative levers, such as visa restrictions, may be activated.
