



European Migration Network (EMN) Status Report 2019

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Summary of Key EMN developments in 2019

In line with the EMN Work Programme 2019/2020, the following key developments took place in 2019.

- During 2019, five **EMN Studies** were published. To facilitate the dissemination of the studies, each study package included an **EMN Inform** providing a short account of the main findings of the study, and a one pager **flash report**. In addition, visibility materials (e.g. press releases, sample social media posts and images) were made available to EMN NCPs to support the promotion of each of the studies at national level). Four EMN studies were launched in 2019, three of which were, or are to be, completed and published in 2020.
- The EMN also produced five **ad-hoc Inform**s providing a succinct account of specific topics relevant to policy makers. These included a series of three Inform's covering various aspects of return counselling for migrants developed in cooperation with IOM.
- In 2019, 22 EMN NCPs and COM launched in total 90 Ad-Hoc Queries, through the **EMN Ad-Hoc Query** online portal within the EMN Information Exchange System to gather information on specific topics of interest within a short timeframe. Ad-Hoc Queries responded to a wide range of migration and asylum issues, with the most common topics being related to return and protection.
- At **EU level**, nine meetings of the EMN were held in Brussels (two Steering Board and seven NCP meetings) along with twenty-four workshops related to the development of EMN products or discussion on EMN initiatives. Networking continued amongst the EMN NCPs, the Commission and a wide range of relevant stakeholders including the OECD, the Council of Europe, the Joint Research Centre (JRC), the European Parliament, Eurostat, EU Agencies such as EASO and Frontex and international organisations and NGOs.
- The **EMN Return Expert Group (REG)**¹ met three times in 2019 in both its constituencies (REG Practitioners and REG wider) to exchange information, including operational data, on return policy, and to support practical cooperation in return and reintegration. The REG reviewed its working modalities and agreed on piloting in 2020 a new approach based on thematic meetings.
- At least 37 **national events** were organised in 2019 bringing together a wide range of national policy-makers, academics, non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and other stakeholders to exchange information on recent research, debate policy priorities and other developments of interest and to exchange experiences and best practices through their activities. A majority of national events focused on international students, start-ups, and integration. Other topics addressed included specific aspects of legal migration, communication and information, human trafficking and reception.
- The EMN continued to disseminate information on migration and asylum to a wide audience, including the general public, through the **EMN Bulletin**, **EMN Conferences**, the **EMN Webpage** and **social media (i.e. LinkedIn and Twitter)**. To boost the visibility and dissemination of EMN products, the EMN Visual Identity guide was updated in order to ensure stronger and coordinated communication actions across EMN National Contact Points. The EMN Service Provider managed the EMN Twitter and LinkedIn account on a day-to-day basis throughout 2019.
- The EMN has made a significant step forward in enhancing its visibility at EU level through the delivery of three EU-level conferences: the conference **"A New European Agenda on Migration?"**, jointly organised with the European Commission and the OECD; the **conference on "Effective Alternatives to the Detention of Migrants"** co-organised with the Commission and the Council of Europe and EMN France; and the **EMN conference "From Tampere 20 to Tampere 2.0"** hosted by the Finnish EMN National Contact Point during its 2019 Presidency of the Council of the EU.
- The **management of the EMN** was assured by the Commission, with the support of the Service Provider. The EMN Work Programme 2019/2020 was adopted on 12 November 2018 as Commission Decision C(2018) 7367 (final). Progress made in the implementation of the Work Programme and next steps were discussed at regular EMN NCP meetings and through bilateral contacts with all EMN members.

1 Introduction

The present document constitutes the twelfth European Migration Network (EMN) Status Report.² In accordance with Article 4(5c) of Council Decision 2008/381/EC, the report provides a succinct overview of progress made by the EMN during 2019. The EMN Status Report 2019 briefly presents the EMN outputs produced in 2019 and the developments taking place in the year, as well as a summary of the networking activities that took place at EU and

¹ Building on the work of the former Voluntary Return Experts Group (VREN) funded under the EU Return Fund.

² As required by Article 4(5c) of Council Decision 2008/381/EC.

national level and the dissemination and communication activities undertaken to promote the work of EMN to policy-makers and wider audiences. It also provides information on how the EMN was managed in 2019.

2 EMN Outputs in 2019

This section provides an overview of the main EMN outputs and impacts, within the framework of the EMN Work Programme 2019-2020. It focuses on the activities undertaken to respond to and anticipate policy-makers' needs, and the subsequent collection and analysis of information and statistics to meet these needs in the form of:

- ★ **Annual Report on Migration and Asylum (ARM) 2018** and Country Factsheets;
- ★ **EMN Studies**, presenting an EU level overview of the main findings on a given topic, on the basis of national contributions produced by the EMN NCPs according to common specifications;
- ★ **EMN Informs**, succinctly summarising key points to note on a given topic;
- ★ **EMN Flashes**, one-page documents presenting the key points of an EMN Study;
- ★ **Ad-Hoc Queries**, a highly responsive mechanism for collecting comparative information;
- ★ **EMN Glossary**, of terms in the area of migration and asylum.

2.1 ANNUAL REPORT ON MIGRATION AND ASYLUM 2018

At the beginning of each year, the EMN produces a report to present the key European and national developments in the fields of migration and asylum of the previous year, thus providing a rich source of information to inform policy makers and the wider public across a range of issues. The document synthesises and analyses legislative and policy changes, as well as the actions and projects, reported by Member States and Norway.

During the first months of 2019, the EMN completed the reporting exercise for 2018 based on the national contribution from 27 EMN NCPs³ according to the Common Template (ARM Part 1 specifications) developed by the EMN to ensure comparability of the data. National contributions were largely based on desk analysis of existing legislation and policy documents, reports, academic literature, internet resources and reports and information from national authorities and practitioners. In parallel, each EMN NCPs also prepared a separate National Report (following the ARM Part 2 specifications) tailored for their respective national audiences.

The [Annual Report on Migration and Asylum \(ARM\) 2018](#) was published online and - with the support of the Belgian NCP - in hard copy in May 2019. The ARM 2018 was widely disseminated via the EMN's Twitter and LinkedIn accounts; on Twitter, relevant posts reached more than 20 000 impressions. As for each year, the ARM package included an [Inform](#), the Statistical Annex and the [Country Factsheets](#). The [Statistical Annex](#) included the most recent data available on relevant migration topics. Moreover, in 2019, for the first time, the report was accompanied by a [Flash report](#) which summarised in one page the key points of the document.

The ARM 2018 presented the measures that Member States and Norway adopted in managing the integration, reception and return of the large number of migrants who had arrived in the EU in the previous years. Whilst arrivals of asylum seekers and irregular migrants had decreased compared to pre-2015 levels, Member States and Norway introduced important changes in their legislation, policies and measures as a means to create legal migration pathways, promote inclusion of migrants as well as ensure protection of refugees and vulnerable groups.

In December 2019, the EMN finalised the specifications for the common template for the ARM 2019 (Part 1). The specifications were amended to reintroduce the section "Migration and development". A question was added to the introductory section on overarching changes concerning the preparations for the impact of the UK's departure from the EU ('Brexit'). As in previous years, the format of the specifications for Part 2 allowed more flexibility to EMN NCPs to address the needs and interest of their national audiences.

As in previous years, [Country Factsheets](#) were developed by the EMN for each NCP. The Factsheets outlined key national developments in migration and asylum during 2018 and presented relevant national migration and international protection statistics. Once validated by the NCPs, the Factsheets for 26 Member States and Norway were published in July 2019 on the EMN website.

2.2 EMN STUDIES⁴

The EMN finalised and published a number of policy-relevant studies in 2019 and contributed to the development of studies which are to be finalised in 2020. Eight studies were developed during 2019. Four studies from the EMN

³ Denmark and Romania did not participate in the EMN Annual Report in 2018; Norway did participate.

⁴ The various reports are available from the EMN website under "EMN Outputs: EMN Studies".

Work Programme 2017-2018 and one study from the EMN Work Programme 2019-2020 were published, while three further studies from the EMN Work Programme 2019-2020 were progressed during the year.

The studies were developed in collaboration with relevant policy-makers, experts and practitioners across the EU and have contributed or are expected to contribute directly to the policy-making process at EU level.

EU level synthesis reports were developed from national contributions based on desk analysis of secondary information including existing legislation and policy documents, reports, academic literature, internet resources as well as reports and information from national authorities and civil society stakeholders. Statistics were sourced from Eurostat, national authorities and other (national) databases.

Efforts were made throughout 2019 to enhance analytical comparative information, using reader-friendly visuals. In addition to the synthesis report, an EMN Inform and EMN Flash were produced for each study to facilitate the dissemination. Once finalised, the study packages were published on the EMN website, as well as on EMN NCPs' national websites, and publicised through social media (i.e. Twitter and LinkedIn), the EMN Bulletin and external mailing lists.

The findings of the EMN studies were also presented and discussed at various EMN national conferences. Some EMN national and synthesis reports were translated into other Member State languages to improve their dissemination amongst the national network members.

With a view to producing more focussed, analytical and shorter studies, the EMN developed a new methodology based on three lines of action: a stronger role for the Advisory Groups, common templates designed to produce more focused studies, and analytical conclusions. This new methodology will be applied to EMN studies as of 2020.

2018 EMN Studies finalised in 2019:

- ★ EMN Study 2018: 'Labour market integration of third-country nationals in EU Member States' (finalised in February 2019)
- ★ EMN Study 2018: 'The impact of visa liberalisation on countries of destination' (finalised in March 2019)
- ★ EMN Study 2018: 'Attracting and retaining international students in the EU' (finalised in September 2019)
- ★ EMN Study 2018: 'Beneficiaries of international protection travelling to the country of origin' (finalised in November 2019).

2019 EMN Studies finalised in 2019 or to be finalised in 2020:

- ★ EMN Study 2019: Migratory pathways for start-ups and innovative entrepreneurs (finalised in December 2019)
- ★ EMN Study 2019: Comparative overview of national protection statuses in the EU (to be finalised in May 2020)
- ★ EMN Study 2019: Pathways to citizenship in the EU Member States (to be finalised in June 2020)
- ★ EMN Study 2019: Third country nationals with a Residence Permit Who Pose a Threat to National Security: Policies and Practices in the EU (to be finalised in July 2020)

More information about each of the studies is provided below.

2.2.1 LABOUR MARKET INTEGRATION OF THIRD-COUNTRY NATIONALS IN EU MEMBER STATES

This [study](#) provided an overview of labour market integration policies in Member States targeting third-country nationals with the right to work in the EU, including examples of labour market integration measures adopted by both the public and private sector.

The study was based on contributions from 26 Member States.⁵ Most Member States were found to have dedicated labour market integration policies in place, which were combining both mainstream and tailored labour market integration measures. The three most common obstacles to labour market integration related to the accreditation of job qualifications and assessment of skills, discriminatory behaviours in recruitments processes, and insufficient language skills. Whereas public sector integration measures were found to primarily focus on the phase before accessing employment, private sector measures aimed more specifically at integrating the migrant worker into the workplace.

The study was published on 20 February 2019, coinciding with the World Day of Social Justice. It was widely disseminated via the EMN's official Twitter and LinkedIn accounts. For example, on Twitter the study received a total

⁵ AT, BE, BG, CY, CZ, DE, EE, EL, ES, FI, FR, HR, HU, IE, IT, LT, LU, LV, MT, NL, PL, PT, SE, SI, SK, UK.

of 8 637 impressions, which accounted for almost the half of the total impressions of the month February 2019. At national level, the study was widely disseminated by NCP to their national stakeholders- via email and via the EMN and institutional websites- and was used as a base to inform policy debates, as was for instance the case in Poland. In Slovakia, outcomes from the study served as a base for an EMN event held in January 2020, gathering relevant ministries, private sector representatives, employers' associations and other experts which lead to taking a decision on updating the Integration policy with focus on labour market integration in 2020.

2.2.2 IMPACT OF VISA LIBERALISATION ON COUNTRIES OF DESTINATION

The [study](#) aimed to provide information on the impact of visa liberalisation in specific areas (e.g. tourism, legal migration, bilateral cooperation) and looked at trends in irregular migration and other issues that have been observed in the EU Member States and Norway as countries of destination following visa liberalisation.

It was based on contributions from 26 EMN NCPs.⁶ Some of the impacts found included an immediate increase in short-term travel to the countries of destination from visa-free countries and an immediate reduction in the workload of consulate staff. Following visa liberalisation, however, Member States reported an overall increase in the number of asylum applicants from visa-free countries, most of which received a negative decision. In addition, the report noted an increase in the number of nationals from visa-free countries detected as overstaying their maximum period allowed after visa liberalisation in some countries.

The study was published in March 2019. It was widely disseminated via the EMN's official Twitter and LinkedIn accounts. In February 2019 alone, the twitter posts received 17 900 impressions of which half were related to the publication of this study. The EMN NCPs disseminated the study nationally, through the respective EMN and institutional websites and mailing lists. Its findings were also presented at national and cross border events. For instance the EMN Latvia organised a conference on 'The impact of visa liberalisation on countries of destination - challenges and solutions in the Baltic region', on 17 April 2019; EMN Poland presented the findings of the study in the framework of a multi-institutional project on visa liberalization perspective for Ukraine; EMN Luxemburg distributed copies of the study to the Embassy of the Republic of Georgia, in occasion of an event hosted by the Embassy discussing the consequences of the visa liberalisation on migration, held in October 2019.

2.2.3 ATTRACTING AND RETAINING INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS IN THE EU

The aim of this [study](#) was to explore the national practices in place in (Member) States to attract and retain third-country national students, focussing on legal migrants issued with a residence permit for study. The synthesis report was based on national contributions from 25 EMN NCPs.⁷

In 2017, the most popular destinations for students from third countries were the United Kingdom, France and Germany, and the highest number of international students came from China, the United States and India. Almost half of all Member States considered attracting and retaining international students a policy priority. Students from third countries were generally considered important for future investment, economic growth and innovation. Challenges identified by the study included the limited availability of courses taught in foreign languages, especially English, long processing times of applications for visas and residence permits, insufficient scholarship opportunities and student housing shortages.

The study was published in September 2019 and was disseminated via the EMN's Twitter and LinkedIn channels. The preliminary findings of the study were presented at the Nordic-Baltic Migration Conference 2019 "Education as a Driver for Integration", organised by EMN Estonia on 29 March 2019. National events were held in Austria, Lithuania, Germany, The Netherland and Poland to present the findings of the report and engage the wider audience on a discussion on this topic. The study was also presented at an EMN-led workshop organised by EMN Austria entitled "Student migration and their labour market integration in Canada and selected EU Member States" at the International Metropolis Conference held in Ottawa, Canada in June 2019, in which the synthesis report was introduced, EMN Ireland and EMN Sweden presented their national reports and representatives from Canada presented the Canadian perspective. The EMN Luxembourg published a national inform based on its national report, in English and French, for dissemination especially among university students. EMN The Netherland published an article in an academic and recognized journal on educational policy (the *Nederlands Tijdschrift voor Onderwijsrecht en Onderwijsbeleid* (NTOR)).

2.2.4 BENEFICIARIES OF INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION TRAVELLING TO THEIR COUNTRY OF ORIGIN: CHALLENGES, POLICIES AND PRACTICES IN THE EU, NORWAY AND SWITZERLAND

The [study](#) aimed to gather information on the reasons for travel of persons granted international protection in EU Member States, Norway and Switzerland to their country of origin, as well as to analyse the possible consequences of such acts on the international protection status and residence rights of the persons concerned.

⁶ AT, BE, CY, CZ, DE, EE, EL, ES, FI, FR, HR, HU, IE, IT, LT, LU, LV, MT, NL, PL, PT, SE, SI, SK, UK and NO.

⁷ AT, BE, BG, CY, CZ, DE, EE, EL, ES, FI, FR, HR, HU, IE, IT, LT, LU, LV, MT, NL, PL, PT, SE, SK, UK.

All 26 countries participating in the study⁸ reported that they informed beneficiaries of international protection of the possible consequences of either travelling to or contacting authorities in their country of origin. At the same time, countries faced challenges in assessing cases where such beneficiaries did travel to their country of origin and its impact on the international protection status, due to the complexity in obtaining evidence and to verifying the reasons for travel. The most common reason to travel stated by beneficiaries of international protection was found to relate to family issues, followed by marriage and business activities.

The study package was published in November 2019. The study was also disseminated via the EMN's Twitter and LinkedIn channels. The EMN Belgium also produced a video graphic to further disseminate this study. This was found to be a useful dissemination tool and thus also developed for future studies EMN NCPs disseminated the report at national level to institutional and civil society stakeholders, via their website, social media accounts and national events. The Netherlands presented the finding of the study at several high-level events. The Belgian Immigration Office considered the publication of this study as an opportunity to further take the lead in a European cooperation initiative for exchange of information, so called 'Refureturn' project. The latter was also presented at the EMN Return Expert Group to engage the cooperation of the return practitioners. The study was accompanied by a confidential annex, which outlined national practices regarding the monitoring and detection of beneficiaries of international protection travelling to and contacting national authorities of their country of origin. This annex was of restricted nature and thus only disseminated among EMN NCPs, the European Commission and relevant agencies.

2.2.5 EMN STUDY 2019: MIGRATORY PATHWAYS FOR START-UPS AND INNOVATIVE ENTREPRENEURS

The aim of the study was to gain an overview of migratory pathways that Member States have in place for start-ups and innovative entrepreneurs from third-countries to stimulate economic growth, innovation and raise global economic competitiveness. It was based on the national contributions of 25 Member States.⁹

The study inter alia found that fostering innovation and entrepreneurship was a national policy priority in the majority of Member States. Thirteen Member States reported to have specific admission schemes in place (mainly residence permits and/or visas) for start-up founders and innovative entrepreneurs from third countries. Member States without a specific scheme used other channels to admit start-up founders such as long-term visas and residence permits for self-employment and business activities, or investors permits.

The study was published in December 2019. In order to promote the publication, a specific flyer was also produced to announce the study and disseminated during several EMN events, in particular the European Conference from Tampere 20 to Tampere 2.0 organised by EMN Finland in October 2019. National events were organised in 2019 and 2020 in Austria, France, Ireland and Luxemburg specifically to present the results of the study and engage the national stakeholders in a debate on the topic, including policy makers, experts, and start-up founders. In Luxemburg, the national event also streamed online to reach a larger public.

The Irish national study was used by Irish policymakers as part of their review of the existing Start-Up and Entrepreneurs Programme for non-EEA entrepreneurs.

2.2.6 EMN STUDY 2019: COMPARATIVE OVERVIEW OF NATIONAL PROTECTION STATUSES IN THE EU

This study aims to provide a handbook guide to statuses granted in the EU Member States and Norway, which address a protection need, other than Refugee Status, Subsidiary Protection or Temporary Protection; a synthesis overview of statuses granted on particular grounds, their related procedures, rights, duration of stay, implementation and standard of protection and an overview of new statuses that have emerged in the EU due to the refugee and migrant 'crisis'. The study will also update the 2010 EMN study: "The different national practices concerning granting of non-EU harmonised protection statuses" and identify statuses that no longer exist.

The study package was published in May 2020 and disseminated via the website and social media accounts; an infographic was also produced by the Belgian NCP. EMN Ireland media released the Irish national report in January 2020. The publication received interest from national and regional media. In May 2020 EMN Ireland held a webinar on the theme and further disseminated the national and synthesis reports.

2.2.7 EMN STUDY 2019: PATHWAYS TO CITIZENSHIP IN THE EU

This study aims at mapping and comparing the various approaches of EU Member States and Norway regarding the acquisition of citizenship of third-country nationals. This includes the conditions and requirements for naturalisation, the function and meaning of citizenship, and the administrative processes used by the Member States to determine whether a person is entitled to citizenship or not. The study will also examine whether and under which conditions Member States permit dual (or multiple) citizenships, as well as the link between citizenship and integration.

The study will be published in June 2020.

⁸ AT, BE, BG, CY, CZ, DE, EE, ES, FI, FR, HR, HU, IE, IT, LT, LU, LV, MT, NL, PT, PL, SE, SK, UK, CH, NO.

⁹ AT, BE, BG, CY, CZ, DE, EE, ES, FI, FR, HR, HU, IE, IT, LT, LU, LV, MT, NL, PT, PL, SE, SI, SK, UK.

Ahead of the publication of the study, the EMN Luxembourg developed a national inform in national language. Furthermore, the EMN Luxembourg together with six other EMN NCP (AT, DE, FI, IE, NL, SE) proposed to the IMISCOE the organisation of a conference on this topic to be held in 2020/ 2021

2.2.8 EMN STUDY 2019: THIRD-COUNTRY NATIONALS WITH A RESIDENCE PERMIT WHO POSE A THREAT TO NATIONAL SECURITY: POLICIES AND PRACTICES IN THE EU

The study aims to provide objective and reliable information and existing data about third-country nationals with a residence right in the Member States and Norway, who pose a threat to national security (in the context of radicalisation) and to present a comparative overview of legislation, policies and practices in place. Its objective is also to identify competent institutions and cooperation mechanisms at national level, but also between Member States and Norway with regard to these individuals (in case of intra-EU mobility, transfers, etc.). Finally, the study will serve to identify challenges and explore good practices to be shared between Member States and Norway.

As this study deals with security issues, this study has been labelled 'EU-restricted' and for this reason any data exchanges regarding the study have been organised on a restricted area of the EMN-IES.

The study will be finalised in August 2020 and will not be publicly available. It will be circulated only among EMN NCPs, the European Commission and relevant EU Agencies.

2.3 EMN 'INFORMS' AND EMN 'FLASHES'

EMN Informs are designed to improve the dissemination of the findings of EMN Reports, Studies and Ad-Hoc Queries, and are specifically aimed at policy-makers, drawing out key policy / practice messages.

Informs typically are short (no more than five pages in length) and are made available on the public EMN website as well as national websites of EMN NCPs. However, some EMN Informs developed throughout 2019 were notably longer than the general EMN format and more complex in their scope, consisting also of additional annexes; this was for instance the case of the EMN Inform on "Statelessness in the European Union" and the EMN Inform on Missing Unaccompanied Minors in the EU", both published in 2020.

EMN 'Flashes' are one-page summaries and were introduced as a new EMN product in the second half of 2018. They aim to provide a succinct summary of each new EMN Study, and are designed as dissemination tools. Opening with a key research question to attract attention, they offer a snapshot of a study background, the key finding and in some cases key learning points in a user-friendly and visually engaging way. They also provide direct links to the synthesis report and to national reports. These 'one-pagers' have been developed in line with the EMN's efforts to increase awareness among the wider public and media.

Some of the EMN Flashes listed below were translated into other EU languages, such as French, German and Greek, in order to better disseminate the information to their national network members. Some EMN NCPs also develop their own Flashes to draw the attention of their national audience to specific outputs. EMN France produced own Flashes on the 10th EMN anniversary and its dedicated report, the 2019 EMN publications and the EMN Glossary.

In total, twelve EMN Informs and seven EMN Flashes were finalised during 2019, including those developed for the EMN Return Expert Group. The development of four EMN Informs was started in 2019, although these were only finalised in 2020. These were:

- ★ EMN Inform and Flash: '[2018 EMN Annual Report on Migration and Asylum](#)'
- ★ EMN Inform and Flash: '[Labour market integration of third-country nationals in EU Member States](#)'
- ★ EMN Inform and Flash: '[Impact of visa liberation on countries of destination](#)'
- ★ EMN Inform and Flash: '[Attracting and Retaining international students in the EU](#)'
- ★ EMN Inform and Flash: '[Beneficiaries of International Protection travelling to and contacting authorities of their country of origin](#)'
- ★ EMN Inform and Flash: '[Migratory Pathways for Start-ups and Innovative Entrepreneurs in the EU](#)'
- ★ EMN Inform and Flash: '[Missing Unaccompanied Minors in the EU and Norway](#)' (published in April 2020)
- ★ EMN Inform: 'Investors Schemes 'Golden Passports' and 'Golden Visas' (limited circulation)
- ★ EMN Inform: '[Statelessness in the European Union](#)' (published in January 2020)
- ★ EMN Inform: '[Policy and Approaches on Return Counselling for Migrants in Member States and Norway](#)', developed in the context of the work of the EMN Return Expert Group.

- ★ EMN Inform: ‘Policy and Practices for the training and support of return counsellors in their role to provide migrants with timely, unbiased and reliable information on return’, developed in the context of the work of the EMN Return Expert Group (published in January 2020).
- ★ EMN Inform: ‘Policy and practices on outreach and information provision for the return of migrants in EU Member States and Norway’ developed in the context of the work of the EMN Return Expert Group (published in January 2020).

2.4 AD-HOC QUERIES

During 2019, the EMN Ad-Hoc Query tool continued to gain recognition by policy-makers at EU and national levels as a highly responsive mechanism for collecting comparative information quickly from across the EU Member States and Norway on a specific, topical issue. The Commission reiterated the use and importance of the EMN Ad-Hoc Queries as a fundamental tool for addressing immediate information needs.

Since the introduction of the EMN Ad-Hoc Query tool in 2015, a total number of 1 107 EMN Ad-Hoc Queries have been launched. In 2019, 22 EMN NCPs and COM launched a total of 90 Ad-Hoc Queries (compared to 67 Ad-Hoc Queries launched in 2018). Due to their length, several AHQ had a budgetary value equivalent to 2 or 3 AHQ.

The Ad-Hoc Queries launched in 2019 responded to a wide range of migration and asylum issues. ‘Return’ accounted for 19.51 %, followed by ‘protection’ which accounted for 18.3 %. The Netherlands launched the highest number of Ad-Hoc Queries in the year (11), followed by Luxembourg (9).

In 2019, Ad-Hoc Queries were used as the basis for new EMN Informs developed in response to information needs beyond the study topics agreed for 2019. For example, dedicated AHQ were launched to collect information for the series of three informs on return counselling, information and outreach. A joint Ad-Hoc Query on ‘Nexus between recognition of stateless status and the right of residence’ was launched by the Ireland and Luxembourg EMN to contribute to the development of an update to the EMN Inform Statelessness in the EU – see above.

The average number of responses received per Ad-Hoc Query in 2019 was 21.45 which corresponds to over 1 416 individual responses collectively from EMN NCPs. The high average number of responses received continues to be an indication of the effective functioning of the tool and that both EU policy-makers and EMN members consider it to be a highly effective mechanism for obtaining an EU-wide perspective on an issue in a short timeframe.

Some EMN NCPs also produced user-friendly Ad-Hoc Query summaries and circulated these to the EMN for review and to ensure quality and accuracy. Some EMN NCPs subsequently made these available (in some cases in translated form, for example in Dutch and in French) to their national networks, sharing relevant comparative information on interesting and in some cases, challenging topics raised by Member States and Norway, either via their national websites or during meetings and events. This was for instance the case in France, where thus the AHQ were progressively more used by French policy makers to implement new measures or modify laws. For example, an AHQ dedicated to the tax on residence permits was used by competent services to modify the draft for the French 2020 finance law with a simplification in the number of different tax amounts. Other AHQs also contributed to implement a project aimed at improving the leisure equipment and creating new leisure activities in retention centres in France. Summaries of Ad-Hoc Queries were also used in the Netherlands to inform the Minister of Migration and Parliament or are published in news journals.

The EMN continued to coordinate and cooperate with relevant partners including EASO, Frontex and international organisations part of the EMN REG Wider Group to ensure synergies and avoid overlaps in data collection via AHQ. Such cooperation also took place at national level. For instance, the Luxembourg EMN organised a cluster meeting inviting representatives of EASO, of the IGC and GDISC.

2.5 REPORT ON CHILDREN IN MIGRATION

Following a request put forward by DG Justice in August 2019, and following consultation with EMN NCPs, the EMN Steering Board agreed at its 24th meeting in October 2019, that the EMN would collect information and data on children in migration, to contribute to the regular reporting of the Commission of national progress related to the Commission’s 2017 Communication on the protection of children in migration.

Data collection was organised through a questionnaire, initially drafted by the Commission and further refined and developed by EMN NCPs, in coordination with DG Home and DG Justice and with the support of the EMN Service Provider. The questionnaire was launched in January 2020 with completed questionnaires to be submitted by early June 2020.

A synthesis report summarising the main developments in Member States will be published in the second half of 2020. The questionnaire will progressively be integrated into the EMN’s annual reporting process on migration.

2.6 EMN GLOSSARY¹⁰

The EMN Glossary provides a common definition of up-to-date terms and concepts in all Member States and is widely regarded as a useful tool which improves comparability and thus supports policy discussions across the EU and at national level. A total of 24 new entries were finalised in 2019.

In 2019, the EMN focussed specifically on the development of entries for integration-related terms, as well as fostering the existing cooperation with EASO and Frontex, and establishing new relations with other external entities, particularly those working on the 'Interactive Terminology for Europe' (IATE) database. A total of 24 new entries were finalised in 2019. These entries will be published as Version 7.0 into the online Glossary on the EMN website.

Furthermore, the EMN Glossary App was further developed throughout 2019, with several EMN NCPs starting to work on the production of national language versions of the app (including Germany, Finland and Latvia).

In order to disseminate the German Version of the EMN Glossary, the LU EMN NCP conducted an outreach to state, city and university libraries in Germany at the end of 2019. A small number of libraries responded positively and either ordered printed copies of the German Version of the Glossary or have been provided with the PDF Version of the Glossary that will be included in their catalogue.

EMN France disseminated a one pager Flash report in French dedicated to the new version of the EMN Glossary and the new App.

2.7 IMMIGRATION TOOLKIT GAME

Following the decision taken at the 96th EMN NCP meeting on 9 November 2018, the EMN supported the Joint Research Centre (JRC) to develop a migration toolkit game aimed at educating school children between 12-17 years about the EU legal framework on migration and fighting misconceptions.

In 2019, two workshops were organised, on 18 June and 8 November respectively, to test and refine the game. Several EMN NCPs, representatives from the Commission and the EMN Service Provider attended the workshops, testing and providing inputs and suggestions for improvements. Throughout the year, the JRC provided updates on the game development on a regular basis during EMN NCP meetings.

The Migration Toolkit Game is expected to be launched in autumn 2020.

2.8 IMMIGRATION PORTAL

Following the request of the European Commission, EMN NCPs provided national updates for the EU Immigration Portal in 2019. This entailed the update of already-existing sections, as well as the creation of new sections inter alia referring to information regarding Intra-Corporate Transfers, volunteers and trainees.

3 Networking

At the EU level, networking continued amongst the EMN NCPs, in particular through the EMN NCP and REG meetings organised in Brussels and in the Member States. These were attended by a wide range of relevant stakeholders, including Commission Services such as the Joint Research Centre (JRC) and Eurostat, the European Parliament, EU Agencies (EASO, Frontex and the EU Agency for Fundamental Rights), and served to exchange information and ensure the coordination of activities with a view to avoiding overlaps. The EMN also exchanged information with NGOs and international organisations on issues of common interest.

At national level, EMN NCPs continued to be active in hosting national events and in developing and extending their national networks.

3.1 NETWORKING AT EU LEVEL

3.1.1 EMN NCPs MEETINGS AND NETWORKING

Seven EMN NCP meetings (from 98th to 104th), organised and hosted by the Commission and co-chaired by the SE NCP, were held in 2019. The meetings were typically attended by one or two delegates from each EMN NCP plus representatives from a wide range of stakeholders and relevant external entities. The meetings provided a forum to monitor the progress made in the implementation of the EMN Work Programme, plan future activities, discuss the findings of EMN studies and other outputs and engage in specific thematic discussions on topical issues. Regular updates were provided by the Commission on the management of EMN grants throughout the year.

Twenty-four EMN NCP workshops were held throughout 2019. These mostly included meetings of the EMN working groups and workshops to support the development of the Common Templates for the EMN Studies in 2019 or other EMN reports and products, such as the "questionnaire in children in Migration" and supporting partner organisations,

¹⁰ Available from the EMN website under 'EMN Outputs: [EMN Glossary](#)'

such as the JRC's "migration toolkit game". Workshops were used also to tackle emerging issues and upscaling capacities within the EMN. For instance, in view of the end of the work-programme period, a workshop was organised in August 2019 to discuss the EMN beyond 2020. A follow-up workshop was organised by the EMN Germany to discuss a revision of the EMN Study methodology to produce more focussed, analytical and shorter studies. Furthermore, three workshops related to communication and dissemination were hosted by EMN Austria, EMN Germany and EMN Belgium in 2019, which served to further develop the EMN's communication strategy at EU- and national level. Lastly, EMN Poland hosted an EMN Workshop on information sharing and cooperation with third countries hosted in June 2019 in Warsaw.

3.1.2 THE EMN RETURN EXPERT GROUP

The EMN Return Expert Group (REG), including national practitioners and representatives of EMN NCPs, continued its activities during 2019 and produced a series of outputs with a specific focus on issues relating to return.

The **EMN REG met three times** in 2019 (22nd –24th EMN REG meeting) in both its constituencies, the EMN REG Practitioners and the EMN REG Wider Group. The meetings were held respectively in Copenhagen, Helsinki and Vienna.

During the wider REG meetings, REG members had the opportunity to share and validate the information collected not only with Frontex, EASO, Eurostat, the JRC, ERRIN, EURINT and EURLO, but also with a broad range of international and non-governmental organisations active in the field of return. These organisations included: Caritas international, the International Organization for Migration (IOM), International Returns and Reintegration Assistance (IRARA), Detention in Action, PICUM- Platform for International Cooperation on Undocumented Migrants, Save the Children, UNICEF and Red Cross.

Key issues addressed by the EMN REG in 2019 included *inter alia*:

- ★ **Information, outreach and counselling for voluntary and forced return.** In addition to thematic discussion on this topic during the plenary REG meetings, a **series of four thematic focus groups** gathering practitioners from member States and Norway as well as representatives on NGOs and International organisations, were organised among interested REG members to address specific aspects of this topic and three EMN AHQ were launched. This resulted in the publication of a **series of EMN Informs** covering the different aspect of return information, outreach and counselling, published in July 2019 and January 2020.¹¹ The findings from this work, were used by the European Commission DG Home to draft non-binding guidelines for Member States on the design and management of return counselling programmes.
- ★ **Return and Reintegration approaches and assistance packages.** Specific aspects of this topic were addressed during EMN REG meetings. Furthermore, the EMN REG developed a tool – the **Return and Reintegration Assistance Inventory** – for practitioners to share information about national assistance to return and reintegration.
- ★ **Practices and challenges of city administrations to deal with irregular migrants.** To follow up to discussion held during the Plenary meetings, the **EMN Luxembourg organised in cooperation with IOM and ICMPD a workshop** focusing specifically on provisions of outreach, return counselling and disincentives to stay, held on the 24 May 2019.
- ★ **Migration detention and effective alternatives to detention.** Beside plenary discussions on approaches and good practices and effective alternatives to detention, **EMN Luxembourg** with the collaboration of the Luxembourg Detention Centre and the Return Department of the Directorate of Immigration, **organised a workshop** gathering senior management representatives of detention facilities across member states and Norway, held on 13 March 2019.

In 2019, the EMN REG also engaged in a reflection about the objectives and working modalities of the group. The achievement of the REG in establishing itself as a stakeholder's platform for cooperation in the field of return was acknowledged. The REG members developed **new working modalities** aiming at involving national experts in the field of return more constructively; these modalities were reflected in a work programme to be piloted in 2020 and, pending approval of the EMN Steering Board, to be included in the EMN work programme 2021–2022.

3.1.3 EMN INFORMATION AND AWARENESS-RAISING CAMPAIGNS WORKING GROUP

The EMN information and awareness-raising campaigns working group was established in November 2018 to support knowledge exchange and to provide an enhanced structured coordination between EU Member States, EU

¹¹ EMN Inform: "Policy and Approaches for Return Counselling for Migrants in Member States and Norway"; EMN Inform: "Policy and Practices for the training and support of return counsellors in their role to provide migrants with timely, unbiased and reliable information on return"; EMN Inform: "Policy and practices on outreach and information provision for the return of migrants in EU Member States and Norway".

bodies and, as needed, relevant external experts such as international organisations, e.g. UNHCR or IOM. The Netherlands EMN acted as co-Chair for the working group.

In 2019 the working group met twice, respectively in February and in October 2019, in Brussels. The group undertook a mapping of existing national and EU funded information campaigns held in third countries and in the EU to prevent irregular migration, made available on the EMN IES, and engaged in expert discussions to share good practices and evidence of the effectiveness of such campaigns.

3.1.4 EMN GLOSSARY WORKING GROUP

The EMN glossary working group met twice in 2019 (48th and 49th meeting) respectively in March and October 2019. The main issue addressed by the group related to cooperation and synergies with EASO, IATE, Frontex, FRA, UNHCR and IOM. Furthermore, the group discussed and finalised new entries for inclusion in the EMN Glossary Version 7.0 (see Section 2.6 for more details).

At the 49th EMN GTWG meeting on 17-18 October 2019 in Malta, organised in cooperation with EASO, representatives from IATE, Frontex, FRA, UNHCR and IOM were also invited to discuss possible synergies and new avenues for cooperation. As a follow-up to this event, a meeting with the IATE representatives (Council of Europe, Court of Justice to the EU and the Translation Centre for the Bodies of the EU) took place in February 2020 to further discuss possibilities of cooperation and streamlining the entries of the EMN Glossary and IATE.

3.1.5 EMN AD-HOC QUERY WORKING GROUP

The EMN Ad-Hoc Query Working Group (AHQ WG) continued to actively explore ways to enhance the use of Ad-Hoc Queries as a comparative research tool. The AHQ WG organised a meeting in April 2019 in Luxembourg. The main topic of discussion at the AHQ WG meeting was the issues experienced by NCPs relating to the use of the EMN-IES for launching and answering AHQ's with the main aim to list the issues NCPs were experiencing with the system.

In addition, the co-chair of the Ad-Hoc Query WG and the EMN Service Provider continued to provide feedback and assistance to EMN NCPs when launching and developing Ad-Hoc Queries.

3.1.6 COMMUNICATION AND DISSEMINATION WORKING GROUP

The EMN Communication and Dissemination Working Group (CDWG), previously co-chaired by the Estonian and Finnish EMN NCPs, appointed the EMN Luxembourg as new co-chair, to replace the Estonian co-chair during the year.

Supported by the Service Provider, the CDWG met regularly in 2019 to deliver on the EMN Communications and Dissemination Strategy, enhance EMN visibility as well as coordinate the introduction of national communication plans that were submitted in early 2020.

A special workshop was organised in Brussels in December 2019 in order to offer guidance and support to NCPs with the preparation of national communication plans.

3.1.7 ANNUAL REPORT ON MIGRATION AND ASYLUM WORKING GROUP

The Working Group for the Annual Report on Migration and Asylum, co-chaired by EMN Ireland and EMN The Netherlands, met on 19 September 2019 to discuss and prepare the launch of the 2019 specifications, as well as to collect feedback from EMNs NCPs regarding their experiences with the 2018 specifications. The meeting also provided an opportunity to exchange views on the use of ARM outputs at the national level, particularly against the network's efforts of increasing the visibility and dissemination of EMN outputs.

To ensure better comparability of data provided in the ARM Statistical annex, the template for the 2019 ARM Statistical annex was revised to only include data not available on Eurostat.

3.1.8 EMN STATELESSNESS PLATFORM

The Platform did not meet as such in 2019. However, the EMN Ireland and EMN Luxemburg jointly organised an EMN Platform on Statelessness technical conference Exploring the interrelationship between recognition of statelessness, residence permits and associated rights in the EU Member States and Norway, which was held in Dublin on 7 May 2019.

3.2 NETWORKING AT NATIONAL LEVEL

EMN NCPs bring together national networks of relevant stakeholders in the policy areas of migration and asylum, and organise national conferences and networking events, host websites, disseminate newsletters, etc. to share objective and comparable information.

In 2019, the majority of EMN NCPs organised one or more national network meetings and other events involving their network partners and, in most cases, representatives from the Commission or the EMN Service Provider.

EMN NCPs from other Member States were also invited to present an EU level overview of policies and practices in a certain thematic area or comparative national information. At least 42 national events were organised in 2019. These were designed to respond to national priorities and used also to promote recent or planned EMN Studies.

National conferences and event themes in 2019 included: international students (AT, EE, LT, MT, PL, SE); integration (EE, IE, UK); third-country national start-ups (FR, LU, SE); visa liberalisation (LV); migration communication (DE); information campaigns (AT), demography and labour market (ES); human trafficking (HU, PL); reception (CY); migration statistics (PT); attracting talented migrants (AT, EE, NL); main developments in the fields of migration and asylum in 2019 (BE), detention (LU), cooperation in the migration field (CY, PL); migration and health (SK), role of cities in managing migration (LU); irregular migration (SK), international migration and good governance (SK), conflict resolution/mitigation in asylum process (SK); labour migration (SK).

The EMN Slovakia organised the 7th edition of an EMN Educational Seminar on Migration with a specific focus on the Impacts and Opportunities of International Migration. The three-day Seminar has become a unique learning platform about migration organised in Slovakia which fosters networking, experience-sharing and discussions among (inter)national experts and participants. It reaches out also to the public through various evening events.

Some national events had a specific regional reach, and specifically targeted participants from all EU Member States and Norway. For instance, the EMN Luxembourg in collaboration of the Return Department of the Directorate of Immigration and the Luxembourg Detention Centre, organised the first Workshop of Representatives of Detention Centres on 13 March 2019. The event brought together representatives and practitioners of 17 Member States to discuss approaches and practices in managing migration detention facilities. A follow-up workshop was organised in February 2020.

A complete list of all conferences and events organised by EMN NCPs at national level can be found in Annex 1.

3.3 NETWORKING WITH OTHER RELEVANT ENTITIES AND WITH THIRD-COUNTRIES

The EMN continued to collaborate with other relevant entities during 2019, in line with its mandate to ensure that EMN activities remain consistent and coordinated with relevant EU instruments and structures.

Overall, co-operation with organisations included the regular participation of representatives of external entities (e.g. European Parliament, Eurostat, EASO, Frontex, FRA) in EMN NCP events and the provision of inputs to the EMN Annual Conferences and Studies. Furthermore, by establishing the wider REG meeting with relevant NGOs and international organisations, the EMN reinforced durable cooperation that ensured a smooth exchange with civil society and practitioners especially on voluntary returns. For the first time, in the context of the EMN REG asked for input from International Organisation and NGOs in the development of EMN Informs, notably for the preparation of the series of informs on return information, outreach and counselling.

The EMN was also invited to present the main findings at the European level of previous studies, for example the one-day conference on the issue of 'unaccompanied minors (entitled « The Urgency of New Answers ») which was organised by two French stakeholders (the Newspaper of Social Stakeholders and the School for the Protection of Childhood) in Paris on February 2019.

Following requests from national authorities in Georgia and Moldova to participate as observers, the EMN explored modalities for cooperation with third-countries, including attendance as observers to the EMN, and developed a draft paper setting out the basis for cooperation and its practical implementation. In June 2019, the Polish NCP organised a cluster meeting to discuss the scope and modalities for the cooperation with third-countries. Additionally, several EMN NCPs undertook an official visit to Moldova and Georgia to discuss the potential cooperation with the EMN. The EMN finalised its internal procedure for co-operation between the EMN and third countries, setting out the working arrangement for establishing administrative cooperation, which was adopted by the EMN Steering Board in June 2019.

In addition to bilateral cooperation with third countries, the EMN Lithuania took the leadership in exploring the possibility for the EMN to cooperate with regional migration cooperation platforms and dialogues, such as the Prague process. It is expected this issue will be discussed at the first EMN Steering Board meeting in 2020.

3.4 EMN INFORMATION EXCHANGE SYSTEM

An important element of ensuring efficient networking is the Information Exchange System (IES) of the EMN. In 2019, following the initiative of the European Commission, the process of moving the EMN-IES to a new platform was started.

During 2019 the implementation of the new EMN-IES was completed and various training sessions were held to train users in the functionality the new platform provided – training sessions were organised also by EMN Latvia and EMN Luxembourg. Various developments were actioned to ensure that the AHQ module was working correctly and access/restrictions were in place to view and disseminate AHQs.

The EMN-IES also expanded to host various other workspaces on the platform such as the statelessness workspace, the Return and Integration Assistance Tool (RIAT), and the Return and Reintegration Assistance Inventory (RRA). As such, the EMN -IES demonstrated have a great potential to be not only on intranet for the EMN, but a cooperation platform for a number of migration management activities. The EMN Netherlands organised a workshop on the data protection in the field of migration management and IT-aspects related to the use of the EMN IES.

4 Enhancing the EMN's Visibility

With the aim to further promote the EMN and increase its visibility, the EMN Service Provider in collaboration with the CDWG updated the EMN Visual Identity guide in autumn 2019. This document reflects the dissemination and visibility objectives as set by the “EMN Communication and Dissemination Roadmap” and serves as a point of reference for all communication and dissemination activities of the EMN at a central and national level. In addition, and in order to increase the visibility of EMN publications and events, the EMN Service Provider managed on a day-to-day basis the EMN Twitter and LinkedIn account throughout 2019.

All main EU level outputs continued to be made available to the wider public, principally through the [EMN website](#) and EMN NCP national websites and social media, and were also presented at workshops, seminars, meetings and conferences at the EU and national levels. NCP additionally undertook visibility initiative including for instance the preparation of video-graphics and use of national EMN social media accounts as well as through lecture podcasts or engaging with national media during selected events. The main activities in this area are highlighted below.

4.1 EMN ANNUAL CONFERENCES AND EMN DAY 2019

During the reporting period, the EMN has made a significant step forward in enhancing its visibility at EU level through the delivery the Brussels-based conference “**A New European Agenda on Migration?**”, jointly organised by the European Commission, OECD and EMN on 27 May 2019. The event was timed to coincide with the outcomes of the European Parliament elections; a panel of journalist discussed the implication of the electoral results on migration. It also served to launch the 2018 edition of the EMN Annual Report on Migration and Asylum. The event aimed to raise awareness among key stakeholders of the most recent developments in migration policy and the “migration landscape” at national, European and international level, and to stimulate discussion and debate on these topics. The conference was highly successful in attracting high level speakers from the European Commission and OECD, who each provided an endorsement of the role and value of the EMN as an information provider to policymakers in the field of asylum and migration policies. Furthermore, during the event, the communication and dissemination team shared live updates through the EMN official Twitter account, which helped to increase the number of followers. Lastly, the conference gathered around 150 participants from different local institutions and NGOs as well as from Member States, EMN NCPs and international organisations.

The EMN also cooperated with the Council of Europe and the European Commission’s DG HOME to organise a joint high-level conference on “**Effective Alternatives to the Detention of Migrants**” which took place in Strasbourg on the 4 April 2019. The event gathered close to 200 key national practitioners and policy makers from across Europe, aiming to provide a forum for constructive exchange and knowledge-sharing. The conference sought to identify ways to make alternatives to the administrative detention of migrants more effective, ensuring compliance with immigration procedures while upholding human rights. The emphasis was on supporting Member States in strengthening their capacity to effectively implement alternatives to detention, and to share practical know-how and concrete methods of achieving success in the field. The key conclusions and recommendations from the event were shared with participants and made publicly available on the EMN Website and on the [conference web page](#) hosted on the website of the Council of Europe, helping to increase visibility and impact of the findings. The conference discussion triggered further actions, at regional and national level, including launching the EMN 2020 study focusing on effectiveness of detention and alternatives to detention.

In October 2019, **EMN Finland organised the European Conference "From Tampere 20 to Tampere 2.0"** in Helsinki in cooperation with the Odysseus Network and the European Policy Centre. The high-level conference, which was special event in conjunction with the Finnish EU Presidency, highlighted relevant proposals and ideas for the next EU Commission to aid the drafting of asylum, migration and integration programmes. It gathered more than 300 participants and 65 high-level speakers from international organisations, EU agencies, the national and regional level, NGOs, as well as the European Commission. As a result of the event, a paper “From Tampere 20 to Tampere 2.0: Towards a new European consensus on migration” was published and also presented to the European Parliament LIBE Committee on the 2nd of December. A formal launching event with over 70 participants was organized in Brussels on the 11th of December. All meeting material, including the foreword by the Minister of the Interior of Finland was made available on the

4.2 EMN AND NATIONAL WEBSITES

The [EMN website](#) is the main vehicle through which the EMN makes its various outputs publicly available. Throughout the year, the website was updated on a monthly basis with new national and EU level products, and EMN NCPs also provided updated material for their national web-pages as required.

During the year EMN NCPs continued to maintain and develop their own **national websites** which linked reciprocally to the EMN website¹² and proved effective in attracting users to review and download materials or promote upcoming events. Based on website analytics data, EMN NCPs reported thousands of visits at their national EMN website. For instance: EMN Austria 1,214 unique visits; EMN Belgium 42,891 (of which 35,152 unique visitors); EMN Ireland 16,969 (in the first half of 2019), EMN Italy 5.745 total page views; EMN Latvia 17 200 page views.

Taken together, the EU and national websites represented a major asset with considerable capacity for the dissemination and sharing of information to very wide audiences.

4.3 EMN BULLETIN

The EMN Bulletin, designed to target policy-makers, continued to be produced on a quarterly basis throughout 2019. The Bulletin maintained its usefulness in providing information on the latest EU and national developments in migration and asylum policy including by incorporating the latest available statistics in the form of trends and short analyses of asylum and migration data. New developments were presented under broad thematic headings that can be accessed through links from the top menu. Four editions were produced during the year (25th, 26th, 27th, and 28th) respectively in January, April, September and November 2019. The EMN Bulletins were widely disseminated, including through the official EMN social media accounts, and highly appreciated at EU level and national level. EMN Bulletins are sometimes translated (in full or in a summarised version) by EMN NCPs (e.g. France and Greece) into their Member State language in order to better disseminate the information to their national network members.

The Bulletin's layout was updated in 2018 in line with the new visual layout adopted for EMN Studies and Informs. However, with a view to improving the accessibility and user-friendliness of the EMN Bulletin, in December 2019, ICF produced a draft concept note with suggestions for further improvements, both to the content and format of the Bulletin. One of the main objectives is to shorten the newsletter and provide more concise summaries of the national developments. As the EMN Bulletin is one of the main regular outputs addressed to policy makers and the wider public, this is expected to further increase the EMN's visibility, in line with the objectives of the CDWG Roadmap.

4.4 EMN INFORMATION LEAFLET

The revised EMN Information leaflet was published in September 2019 providing updated information on EMN Annual Conferences and events as well as on latest EMN publications. As in the previous editions, the leaflet summarised the aims, objectives and key outputs of the EMN and offered a list of all EMN NCPs, their latest organisational data and contact details.

5 Management of the EMN

The management of the EMN was coordinated by the Commission, with the support of the Service Provider. The EMN Work Programme 2019-2020 was adopted on 12 November 2018 as Commission Decision (2018) 7367 (final).

The EMN Steering Board met twice in 2019 (on 28 May and on 22 October 2019). The Steering Board is chaired by the European Commission and comprises one representative from all Member States, as well as observers from the European Parliament and Norway. Representatives of the relevant EU agencies may also attend.

In addition to overseeing the implementation of the EMN Annual Work Programme 2019-2020, the Steering Board continued to provide strategic guidance to the EMN by exchanging information on national and EU level strategic priorities in the fields of migration and international protection.

In the course of 2019, the Steering Board was especially called to give guidance on the EMN cooperation with third countries, which resulted in the adoption of internal procedures for co-operation between the EMN and third countries. The Steering Board also advised on the best approaches to the withdrawal of the United Kingdom from the EU and how this would be reflected in the EMN. The Steering Board was also called on to advise on procedures for restricted distribution of sensitive EMN studies.

¹² Links to the various national websites are provided via the [EMN website](#) "EMN NCPs" and http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/European_Migration_Network

The EMN Steering Board also engaged in preliminary discussions related to the financial management and planning for the EMN beyond 2020. The discussed changes included notably the impacts of the Brexit, the increased attention to communication and dissemination, the potential of the opening of the EMN to cooperation with third countries, and the adoption of a thematic approach for the EMN REG to be piloted in 2020 in view of being fully integrated in the EMN work programme 2021-2022.

During the October meeting, the Steering Board decided on the four EMN Study topics to be undertaken in 2020. Wider EU and external entities, such as the European Parliament, EASO, Frontex and EUROSTAT were invited to contribute to the discussions to ensure a more comprehensive approach.

The monitoring of progress made by EMN NCPs during the year concerning the activities implemented, the impacts made and the levels of expenditure, took place through the submission of Mid-term Progress Reports.

The Commission and the EMN Service Provider met regularly during 2019 to ensure the continued smooth functioning of the EMN, including the provision of support to the EMN NCPs; the preparation and planning of EMN Steering Board, EMN NCP and REG meetings as well as EMN Workshops and other events; the development of Synthesis Reports, Studies, EMN Informs; and the on-going development and functionality of the EMN IES, website and the Ad-Hoc Query module.

ANNEX 1: List of national events organised by EMN NCPs in 2019

Date	Organiser (EMN NCP)	Title of the event
15-16/01/2019	SK NCP	EMN Small Scale Meeting: Impacts of legislative changes on legal and irregular migration of TCNs
12/02/2019	AT NCP	EMN Communication Workshop
13/03/2019	LU NCP	Workshop: Workshop of Representatives of Detention Centres.
29/03/2019	EE NCP	Nordic Baltic conference "Education as Driver for Integration"
03-04/04/2019	SK NCP	EMN Small Scale Meeting: Implementation of the Act on Employment Services on labour migration of TCNs
17/04/2019	LV NCP	Conference: "The Impact of visa liberalisation on countries of destination- challenges and solutions in the Baltic region"
24/05/2019	LU NCP	Conference "The role of EU cities in managing migration – opportunities and challenges" in cooperation with the Directorate of Immigration, IOM and ICMPD
07/05/2019	IE NCP and LU NCP	EMN Platform on Statelessness Technical Conference "Exploring the interrelationship between recognition of statelessness, residence permits and associated rights in the EU Member States and Norway"
08/05/2019	SE NCP	Conference: "Attracting and Welcoming International Students"
09/05/2019	CY NCP	Conference: "Contingency Planning in the context of reception"
03/06/2019	UK NCP	Conference: "Home Office Indicators of Integration"
03-04/06/2019	PL NCP	Conference: "Cooperation with third countries in fight against smuggling and trafficking on human beings"
03-04/06/2019	SK NCP	EMN Small Scale Meeting: Procedures for resolving conflict situations in asylum facilities and in the integration process
05/06/2019	PL NCP	Workshop "Information sharing and cooperation with third countries"
12/06/2019	AT EMN	EU Migration Talks – Attracting and Retaining International Students
26/06/2019	DE NCP	Conference: "Communicating as Public Authorities in the Migration Context: Potential and Limitations"
26/06/2019	IE NCP	Conference: "Migrant integration: policy and place"
20-22/08/2019	SK NCP	7th EMN Educational Seminar on Migration "Impacts and Opportunities of International Migration"
20/08/2019	SK NCP	EMN Documentary Screening: The Good Postman (as part of 7th EMN Educational Seminar on Migration)

Date	Organiser (EMN NCP)	Title of the event
21/08/2019	SK NCP	EMN Discussion Evening with Play “Home (Where is Yours?)” by Nová scéna Theatre (as part of 7th EMN Educational Seminar on Migration)
05/09/2019	LT NCP	Conference “International students in Lithuania: state of play and future trends”
18/09/2019	PT NCP	Conference “Migration, Asylum and Statistics”
24-25/09/2019	SK NCP	EMN national network meeting “Providing healthcare for asylum seekers and beneficiaries of subsidiary protection”
25-26/09/2019	SK NCP	EMN Small Scale Meeting: Irregular migration of TCNs – administrative expulsion and detention
30/09/2019	LU NCP	Social event “Fostering entrepreneurial culture among students/researchers “
01/10/2019	LU NCP	Conference: “Attracting third-country national start-up founders and innovative entrepreneurs.”
03/10/2019	EE NCP	Conference: “Global Workplace is Here!”
07/10/2019	CY NCP	1st Annual National Network Meeting: “Ways of cooperation in the migration field”
10/10/2019	ES NCP	Conference: “Migration, Demography and Labour Market”
15/10/2019	HU NCP	Conference: “Transnational Cooperation on the Identification, Assistance and Referral of Third Country National Victims of Human Trafficking”
16/10/2019	MT NCP	Conference: ‘Inclusion and Empowerment of Migrant Students’
07/11/2019	FR NCP	Conference: 'Attraction and retention policies for international start-ups in France and in the EU'
14/11/2019	NL NCP	Conference: The Future of the Netherlands and Europe in the Battle for Talent
20-21/11/2019	HR NCP	National REG education – training for head of services for illegal migration on regional level
25/11/2019	SE NCP	Seminar: “Attracting start-ups and innovative entrepreneurs from outside the EU - a key in Sweden’s high skill ecosystems”
28/11/2019	PL NCP	Conference: “The level of internationalization of higher education institutions and migration policies of states”
03/12/2019	AT NCP	Conference: Migration and Communication - Information Campaigns in Countries of Origin and Transit
04/12/2019	AT NCP	Workshop "Evaluating Information Campaigns: A Practical Approach"
10/12/2019	BE NCP	BE NCP Asylum and Migration Policy Event

Date	Organiser (EMN NCP)	Title of the event
18/12/2019	AT NCP	EU Migration Talks - The Race for Innovative Talents
18/12/2019	NL NCP	Public event with IOM: International Migrants Day



June, 2020

European Migration Network (2020). Status report 2019. Brussels: European Migration Network.

Read more:

EMN website: <http://ec.europa.eu/emn>

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