





## October - December 2024

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#### **NEWS FROM THE EU**

### **General developments**

On 27 November, the European Parliament approved the new College of Commissioners. The Austrian Magnus Brunner is the new <u>Commissioner for Internal Affairs and Migration</u>, expected to design and implement a new European Internal Security Strategy, oversee the implementation of the Pact on Migration and Asylum, design a new strategy on integration and work on legal migration pathways to attract skills and talents to the EU, and promote integrated border management.

The 9th European Migration Forum took place on 28 and 29 November. It <u>focused</u> on the implementation of the Pact on Migration and Asylum, highlighting the key role of civil society, with Commissioner Ylva Johansson delivering her <u>last address</u> as Commissioner of DG Home Affairs.

On 7 November, the first meeting of the High-Level Resettlement and Humanitarian Admission Committee took place: an important step in the implementation of the new Resettlement Regulation. The meeting brought together representatives of the European Parliament, the Council, the European Commission, all 27 Member States, the European Union Agency for Asylum, UNHCR, IOM, and civil society organisations.

On 4 December 2024, <u>the Commission proposed</u> to introduce a progressive start of operations for Europe's new digital border system - the Entry/Exit System (EES). The system will register non-EU nationals travelling for a short stay, each time they cross the EU external borders. Once the negotiation process is finalised and a date for the start of the system is set by the Commission, it will give Member States 6 months to deploy the EES across their borders. More information at <u>Questions</u> and answers Europe's New Digital Border System.

On 19 December, the European Council adopted <u>conclusions</u> on several topics including Ukraine, the Middle East, and migration, emphasising resilience and crisis prevention. The Council notably welcomed the European Commission's intention to put forward a legislative proposal on returns in early 2025, and called on the co-legislators to advance on files with a migration dimension as a matter of priority.

On 17 October, the EU <u>announced</u> a € 30 million package to prevent irregular migration from Senegal, aiming to strengthen Senegalese local authorities' capacity to aid migrants and combat smuggling.

The EU <u>adopted</u> two new regulations to improve border security and fight terrorism by enhancing the collection and transfer of advance passenger information. The decisions were greenlit by the Council on 12 December.

On 12 December, the Council also <u>decided</u> to lift land border controls with Bulgaria and Romania starting on 1 January 2025. This historic move makes Bulgaria and Romania full Schengen members, benefiting their citizens and the EU as a whole.

By 12 December, EU Member States were also expected to submit to the European Commission their National Implementation Plans concerning the Pact on Migration and Asylum.

On 13 December, EU Member States reached an <u>agreement</u> on their position on an EU law to prevent and counter migrant smuggling, and standardise penalties and definitions across the EU.

Also in December, the European Commission organised the 17<sup>th</sup> meeting of the <u>European Integration Network</u> which gathered representatives from EU Member States and Norway to discuss the use of EU funds to support migrants' integration and the participation of migrants in the design and implementation of integration-relevant policies. Furthermore, DG HOME relaunched the <u>Urban Agenda Partnership for the inclusion of migrants and refugees</u> in December. New members included cities and regions in EU Member States bordering Ukraine.

## Court of Justice of the European Union (CJEU) ruling on safe countries of origin

On 4 October, the <u>CJEU</u> ruled that the fact that a third country derogates from obligations under the ECHR does not preclude it from being designated as a safe country of origin. However, EU Member States must assess the nature and extent of the designation's implementation. The designation of a third country as a safe country of origin must also cover its entire territory.

## CJEU ruling on family benefits under the Single Permit Directive

On 19 December, the <u>CJEU</u> ruled that EU Member States cannot reject applications for family benefits in cases where the single permit cannot prove that the family members for whom the family benefits are claimed for entered the territory of the Member State lawfully.

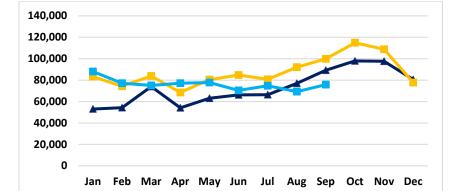


Figure: First-time asylum applications in the EU-27 (July - September 2024)

2023

Source: Eurostat [migr\_asyappctzm], first-time asylum applicants, extracted on 8 January 2025.

#### **NEWS FROM EMN MEMBER AND OBSERVER COUNTRIES**

# 1. General developments

#### **Poland**

# Migration strategy of Poland for 2025-2030 adopted

On 15 October, the Council of Ministers adopted the document <u>Take Back Control</u>. Ensure <u>Security</u>. A comprehensive and responsible migration strategy for Poland for 2025-2030. The strategy describes ways for Poland to regain control over migration processes, placing security at the centre of this policy. The government aims to stop illegal immigration at the eastern border.

## Georgia

## Migration Strategy 2025 Action Plan adopted

On 27 December, the State Commission on Migration Issues (SCMI) <u>adopted</u> the 2025 Action Plan (AP) of the 2021-2030 Migration Strategy of Georgia. The AP includes 40 objectives and 94 activities to be implemented by SCMI member and partner agencies in 2025.

# **Republic of Serbia**

# Strategy for refugees and internally displaced persons 2024 to 2030 adopted

On 15 November, the <u>Strategy</u> for resolving the problems of refugees and internally displaced persons for the period from 2024 to 2030 was adopted. The main goals are to improve their conditions in places of displacement and origin.

## 2. Legal migration

#### Austria

## Regulation on seasonal workers quotas 2025

In December, two regulations entered into effect implementing the annual list of <u>shortage occupations</u> and specifying the <u>seasonal</u> workers quotas for the temporary employment of foreigners in tourism, agriculture and forestry.

#### Croatia

# Memorandum of labour cooperation with the Philippines signed

In October, a <u>Memorandum of Cooperation</u> with the Republic of the Philippines was signed to enhance labour market and employment capacity. The agreement focuses on improving employment services, providing better support to employers and job seekers, and facilitating international employment mediation.

#### **Estonia**

#### **Increased state fees**

On 10 December, the <u>Statutory Fees Act</u> was amended increasing the state fees for identity document procedures and third-country national status procedures. The amendment, which came into force on 1 January 2025, was introduced to bring state fees in line with actual costs and to change the behavioural habits of customers, encouraging the use of self-service environments where possible.

#### **Finland**

## New minimum income limit for residence permits introduced

On 20 December, <u>amendments</u> to the Aliens Act increasing the income requirement for a residence permit for an employed person were issued. As of 1 January 2025, the new minimum income requirement was raised from epsilon 1 399 to epsilon 1 600 per month.

#### **Greece**

#### 2025 third-country national worker quotas established

On 30 December, the Greek Ministerial Council <u>determined</u> the maximum number of positions for dependent (under the direction and control of an employer) and seasonal work for third-country nationals in 2025 as totalling 89 290. This includes 41 670 positions for dependent work, 45 620 for seasonal work, and 2 000 for highly qualified employment.

#### **Ireland**

#### Irish immigration residence permits renewal procedure changed

From November, all responsibility for renewal of Irish immigration residence permits transfers from the Garda National Immigration Bureau (GNIB) to the Registration Office of Immigration Service Delivery (ISD) of the Department of Justice, and can be done using the ISD online renewal portal.

# Online self-service portal for immigration customers launched

Launched in October, the Digital Contact Centre (DCC) is part of a larger modernisation project planned for the broader immigration system. The <u>self-service portal</u> allows immigration customers to book and amend first-time registration appointments, check on the status of their applications, and more.

## **Italy**

## New provisions on the entry of foreign workers introduced

On 11 October, a <u>decree</u>-law, transposed into law on 9 December 2024, was issued to simplify and combat abuse of the requirements for the entry of foreign workers. The decree introduces several amendments including new residence permits for victims of labour exploitation, biometric data for short-term visas, and an extra quota of 10 000 entries for the social and family care sector in 2025. It also includes digitalisation of procedures and suspends administrative proceedings for certain high-risk countries.

## **Family reunification**

The decree-law also introduced new <u>measures</u> concerning the right to family reunification of third-country nationals by establishing more stringent requirements on housing and extending the waiting period, under which the sponsor must have resided in Italy before being eligible for family reunification, to two years.

#### Latvia

## **Migration services fees**

On 26 November, Cabinet Regulation No. 731 'Regulations on the State Fee for Migration Services' was approved, increasing all state fee rates for migration services in order to motivate persons to submit justified applications in a timely manner.

# New employment regulations for foreign workers

On 10 December, <u>Amendments to Regulations No. 55</u> "Regulations on the Employment of Foreigners" were approved. The decree stipulates that from 1 January 2025, employers must cooperate with the State Employment Agency (SEA) by justifying the number of vacant jobs, evaluating candidates proposed by the SEA, and providing reasons for rejecting candidates.

#### Lithuania

# The quota of foreign workers set for 2025

In December, Lithuania set a 2025 <u>work quota</u> of 24 830 foreign workers, reduced from previous years based on labour market data. Starting in 2025, the quota will not exceed 1.4% of Lithuania's resident population. Once the quota is reached, employers can only hire foreigners if they offer a salary above the national average wage.

# Malta

## **New labour migration policy**

On 8 January, Malta published a new Labour Migration Policy for public consultation. Its guiding principles are stability in the labour market, protection of workers' rights and working conditions, aligning labour migration to workforce needs and a skills-based approach to migration. The consultation is open until 9 February. The full document is <a href="https://example.com/here/bessel-stable-resetting-new-market-

#### **Spain**

### Regulations on foreigners' rights and integration updated

On 19 November, <u>Royal Decree 1155/2024</u> was approved, which updates the Regulation of Organic Law 4/2000 on the rights and freedoms of foreign nationals and their social integration. This new decree aims to simplify immigration processes, enhance legal certainty, and align national law with EU directives to better support the integration and protection of migrants and their families.

#### 3. International protection including asylum

#### Suspension of asylum applications for Syria and Lebanon across Europe

Following recent significant events in Syria, and the fall of the Assad regime, several European countries temporarily suspended the processing of asylum applications from Syrian nationals, including **Austria**, **Belgium**, **Germany**, **Greece**, **Italy**, **Luxembourg**, **Malta and the Netherlands**. This response aims to reassess the geopolitical situation and ensure appropriate measures are in place.

Following recent significant events in Lebanon, two European countries temporarily suspended the processing of asylum applications from Lebanese nationals. On 2 October, **Belgium** announced the

<u>suspension</u> of decisions on subsidiary protection status for applicants from Lebanon. On 15 November, **the Netherlands** <u>temporarily suspended</u> asylum decisions and deportations to Lebanon.

#### **Finland**

## International protection becomes temporary in nature

In November, the President of the Republic approved <u>amendments</u> to the Aliens Act, granting refugees a residence permit for three years instead of four. The first residence permit based on subsidiary protection will be issued for one year. New grounds have been introduced for refusing or ending international protection status. These amendments are effective from 2 January 2025.

#### Greece

#### New guidelines for long-term residence for beneficiaries of international protection

A new <u>circular</u> provides guidance on the implementation of legislation in case a beneficiary of international protection is granted the long term resident status (i.e. a procedure to avoid duplication regarding the residence permits of the two statuses).

# Updates on the list of 'safe countries of origin'

On 27 December, a <u>Joint Ministerial Decision</u> revised the national list, characterising the following countries as safe countries of origin: Egypt, Albania, Algeria, Armenia, Georgia, The Gambia, Ghana, India, Morocco, Bangladesh, Benin, Nepal, Pakistan, Senegal, Togo, Tunisia, Moldova, and Angola.

#### **Italy**

# Amendments regarding international protection procedures adopted

On <u>9 December</u> the Italian parliament adopted a law on migration management that also amended some provisions on international protection. The reform covers in particular the inclusion of Italy's list of safe countries of origin into primary law and removed from the previous list those countries of origin where parts of the territory are not considered to be safe. The amendments also shorten appeal deadlines for certain convicted individuals as well as for applicants processed under the accelerated border procedure. Furthermore, the new law requires asylum seekers to cooperate with the police authorities, including by allowing access to their electronic devices.

### CJEU ruling on safe countries of origin implemented

Following the CJEU judgment of 4 October 2024 (Case C-406/22), several Italian courts, in particular Rome, have <a href="held">held</a> that this interpretation of EU law precludes the qualification of certain countries as safe for specific applicants. Consequently, the detention orders issued by the police for applicants brought to the centres in Albania were not validated by the Tribunal of Rome because the application of the border procedure to these applicants is pending further requests for a CJEU preliminary ruling, that is expected for April 2025. Indeed, several preliminary references to the CJEU are pending, while the Court of Catania has opted to directly disapply the national law.

#### Lithuania

# **Reception and Integration Agency operational**

In October, it was <u>announced</u> that the Reception and Integration Agency under the Ministry of Social Security and Labour will be operational from January 2025. The Agency will be responsible for managing temporary accommodation, transport, health screening and care, and provide legal and translation services.

### Temporary housing provided to vulnerable foreigners at their own expense

In December, the Ministry of Social Security and Labour <u>announced</u> that, from January, foreigners without housing can stay in temporary accommodation for up to three months at their own expense. Free of charge accommodation will be available for those who were denied asylum and temporary residence permits, and others meeting specific criteria. This measure aims to support foreigners in crisis.

### **Slovak Republic**

## New limits on accommodation allowances for beneficiaries of temporary protection

On 15 December, <u>Act No. 342/2024</u> further limited the accommodation contribution for beneficiaries of temporary protection to 60 days, thereafter only granted to those meeting vulnerability criteria under the Asylum Act. The change takes effect on 1 March 2025.

#### **Sweden**

## Information sharing routines to be improved

In December, the Swedish government <u>tasked</u> the Migration Agency, the National Police Authority, and relevant Swedish foreign missions to improve their procedures for sharing information that could lead to revocation of protection status in certain circumstances— for instance when individuals with protection status travel to their home countries.

# 4. Unaccompanied minors and other vulnerable groups

#### **Greece**

## New helpline for unaccompanied minors

In October, the Ministry of Migration and Asylum, in collaboration with the Greek Telecommunications Organisation (OTE), launched the <u>five-digit helpline - 15107</u>. This service aims to support the tracing and protection of unaccompanied minors, offering accommodation, psychosocial and legal support, and facilitating their registration with the authorities.

#### Luxembourg

# 2024 Annual Report on Children's Rights

On 20 November, the Ombudsman for Children and Youth (OKaJu), presented its 2024 <u>annual report</u>. The report emphasised the need for better support and integration measures for migrant children, particularly unaccompanied minors, improved access to education, healthcare, and social services, and the importance of protecting their rights in their new communities.

# 5. Integration and inclusion

#### **Finland**

## Overall responsibility of municipalities for integration increased

In December, a comprehensive reform of the Integration Act (681/2023) was <u>announced</u>, aiming to speed up the integration and employment of migrants and strengthen their knowledge of Finnish society. Municipalities will now be required to produce an integration programme containing all the initial municipal integration services to be provided.

#### Germany

#### New rules for integration courses to speed up integration

On 27 November, the Federal Government adopted a <u>new ordinance on integration courses</u>, aligning the courses closely with individual learning requirements. This came into force on 7 December.

#### **Greece**

# Social integration of former unaccompanied minors (HELIOS junior)

The <u>Integration Decision</u> 'HELIOS junior' programme funded by AMIF was approved. It aims to create a specially adapted integration mechanism for unaccompanied minor third-country nationals (around 2 000 people over three years) who reach the age of 18, to facilitate their integration into the labour market and their transition to independent living.

#### **Italy**

#### Socio-labour inclusion paths for vulnerable migrants

On 9 December, a € 42 million notice was announced to <u>fund 6 200 socio-labour inclusion paths</u> for vulnerable third-country nationals over the next five years. The beneficiaries, identified through the reception network, will receive orientation services and participate in a six-month traineeship. During and after the traineeship, they will be assisted in finding further employment or training opportunities.

#### Latvia

# New cohesion development plan approved

On 17 December, the <u>Development Plan</u> for a Cohesive and Civically Active Society for 2024-2027 was approved. The plan includes measures aimed at the inclusion of third-country nationals, beneficiaries of international protection and asylum seekers, into Latvian society through promoting social inclusion, cultural education and access to essential services.

## Luxembourg

## National education report spotlighting diversity and inclusion

On 9 December, the Ministry of National Education, Children and Youth and the University of Luxembourg jointly <u>presented</u> the fourth national report on education. The report highlighted the importance of addressing the growing heterogeneity of the school population and combatting educational inequalities linked to the migratory and linguistic context.

### Sweden

#### New legislation to facilitate integration of Ukrainians

On 2 October, the Swedish Parliament adopted <u>new legislation</u> to further simplify the registration of Ukrainians with temporary protection in the national public registry. This will enhance their access to public employment services, social services, and healthcare, thereby easing the integration process.

## 6. Citizenship and statelessness

# **Austria**

# Repeal of provision on the Citizenship Act

On 28 November, the Constitutional Court repealed a <u>provision</u> of the Citizenship Act 1985 (entering in force on 31 December 2025) for violating the principle of objectivity. According to the repealed provision, citizenship must not be granted if the applicant has been legally punished for an administrative offense with a fine of at least € 1 000 or a primary prison sentence.

#### **Finland**

## Longer period of residence for citizenship required

As of 1 October, the period of residence required for acquiring Finnish citizenship <u>was extended</u> to eight years as the standard. However, for applicants who meet specific language skills requirements, the required period of residence would be five years. The change emphasises the importance of successful integration as a prerequisite for citizenship.

#### **France**

# New accessibility measures for French citizenship certificate applications

Since the adoption of <u>Decree No. 2024-969 on 30 October</u>, applicants for a French citizenship certificate can now receive information and documents from the court clerk also through non-electronic means, if they lack access to digital tools or struggle to use them.

#### **Italy**

### Recognition of Italian citizenship iure sanguinis

On 3 October, <u>new guidelines</u> were issued concerning the most recent jurisprudence of the Supreme Court regarding the recognition of Italian citizenship iure sanguinis. To obtain recognition, the applicant must prove that none of their ancestors along the entire line of descent voluntarily renounced Italian citizenship.

# 7. Border management and irregular migration

### Austria

#### Temporary reintroduction of border controls

On 15 October, Austria temporarily reintroduced border controls at its internal borders with <a href="the Czech Republic">the Czech Republic</a> and the Slovak Republic, allowing crossings only at designated points until 15 April 2025 to ensure public peace, order and security. Similarly, on 11 November, Austria reinstated border controls at its borders with Slovenia and Hungary, with the same restrictions in place until 11 May 2025.

### **Belgium**

### Priority plan to counter migrant smuggling agreed

On 10 December, Belgium, France, Germany, the Netherlands and the UK, in the presence of the European Commission and its agencies, Europol and Frontex, <u>agreed</u> on a <u>five-point priority plan</u> to tackle irregular migration and migrant smuggling in 2025. Key priorities include targeting illicit financial flows that sustain smuggling networks and tackling organised crime groups' use of social media to advertise the dangerous journey across Europe and the Channel.

#### **Estonia**

## Additional funding for border management secured

On 11 December, the European Commission <u>approved</u> granting an additional € 19.4 million to strengthen border management in Estonia. The funds will be used for upgrading electronic surveillance equipment, improving telecommunication networks, deploying mobile identification devices, and countering drone attacks. These measures aim to ensure real-time situational awareness and enhance the mobility of border patrols.

#### **Finland**

# Additional funding for eastern border surveillance secured

In December, Finland <u>was set to receive</u> € 50 million in additional funding from the European Commission to strengthen surveillance at the eastern border. Finland's 1 340-kilometre-long border with Russia is also an external border of the EU. More effective surveillance of the border will strengthen the security of the EU as a whole in the changing landscape of hybrid threats and instrumentalised migration.

#### France

# Readmission agreement with Kazakhstan signed

On 5 November, France and Kazakhstan signed a <u>readmission agreement</u>, which aims to strengthen cooperation in combating irregular migration. It provides for the readmission of Kazakhstani nationals, as well as nationals of third countries or stateless persons holding a Kazakhstani residence permit or having transited through Kazakhstan, provided they have not been granted asylum in France.

# Internal border controls until April 2025 extended

In November, the French government <u>notified</u> the European Commission and six neighbouring states (Belgium, Germany, Italy, Luxembourg, Spain and Switzerland) that it will maintain border checks on land, air and sea routes from 1 November until at least April 2025 due to security threats and irregular migration concerns.

#### Latvia

### **European integrated border management**

On 18 December, the <u>Integrated Border Management Plan</u> of the Republic of Latvia 2024 – 2028 was adopted. The plan's strategic objectives and orientations are drawn from the multiannual strategic policy of European Integrated Border Management and the Technical and Operational Strategy for European Integrated Border Management 2023-2027, and contribute to the implementation of the European Integrated Border Management principles at national level.

### Luxembourg

On 24 December, the <u>Law of 18 December</u>, implementing several European regulations relating to the Schengen Information System (SIS) came into force. The Law also defines the competent authorities to enter reports of persons in the SIS.

#### The Netherlands

## Airport transit visa requirement

From 25 November, passengers with nationality of Chad, Senegal, Mauritania and the Central African Republic <u>will be subject</u> to an airport transit visa requirement. Since October, there has been a significant increase in the number of passengers from these countries seeking asylum at Dutch airports. As a result, passengers from these countries must now hold an airport transit visa if they are travelling to a destination outside the Schengen area.

#### Internal border controls introduced

In order to combat irregular migration and migrant smuggling, the Netherlands have temporarily reintroduced internal EU border controls which started on 9 December, for a period of six months.

#### **Poland**

## Border zone temporary ban extended for another 90 days

The Ministry of the Interior and Administration extended the <u>temporary ban</u> on staying in the border zone adjacent to Belarus for another 90 days, effective from 10 December. The measure, initially

introduced to reduce migratory pressure, has led to a 41% decrease in migration after almost 180 days of operation.

# Additional funding for Poland for border protection

In December, the European Commission <u>announced</u> the allocation of an additional € 52 million for measures to strengthen the protection of Poland's border with Russia and Belarus under the Border Management and Visa Policy Instrument 2021-2027.

# 8. Trafficking in human beings

## Croatia

## New National Plan for the Suppression of Trafficking in Human Beings adopted

The <u>National Plan</u> was adopted on 31 October. The plan is a medium-term strategic planning act to ensure coordinated action by state administration bodies in the field of combatting trafficking in human beings, to improve existing policies and raise the level of knowledge and awareness of trafficking in human beings.

#### **Poland**

## Funding allocated to support victims of human trafficking

On 30 December, the Ministry of the Interior and Administration <u>signed</u> an agreement with the La Strada Foundation - Foundation Against Human Trafficking and Slavery and the Dialog Foundation. Funding covers activities such as a 24 hour helpline, emergency assistance, safe accommodation and institutional training.

# 9. Return and readmission

#### **Austria**

## Voluntary return and removal to the Syrian Arab Republic

In December, the Federal Minister of the Interior <u>announced</u> the <u>suspension</u> of all asylum and family reunification applications from Syrian citizens. The government will review all protection granted to Syrians and develop a return programme, offering up to  $\leq 1\,000$  for <u>voluntary returnees</u>. A list for forced removals is also being prepared, pending clarification of the situation in Syria.

# Cyprus

#### **Voluntary returns to Syria**

To facilitate Syrian nationals who wish to return voluntarily to their country of origin, the Republic of Cyprus published procedural information in December 2024. This information is provided on the <u>Asylum Service website</u> in Arabic and Greek.

# Serbia

# Memorandum of Understanding on return signed

On 8 November, the Commissariat for Refugees and Migration and ICMPD signed a Memorandum of Understanding. This <u>MoU</u> will enable the implementation of the EMPOWER Programme, which will improve the Assisted Voluntary Return Programme (AVRR) in Serbia.

# 10. Migration and development

### Austria

#### Financial aid for various third countries

In December, Austria announced several humanitarian aid packages, assigned mainly from the Foreign Disaster Fund, for <u>Afghanistan</u>, the <u>Middle East</u>, various <u>African</u> countries and the <u>Syrian Arab Republic</u>.

#### **Italy**

# Community reconciliation and reintegration of Iraqis returning from the Syrian camp in Al-Hol

On 24 October, a project agreement was <u>signed</u> in Baghdad with the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, launching a three-year period of cooperation to strengthen the reintegration capacities of Iraqi citizens returned from the Al-Hol camp in north-eastern Syria, primarily affecting women and children.

### Lithuania

## 'Global Lithuania' 2025-2027 action plan approved

In October, the government approved the <u>2025–2027 action plan</u> with nearly 100 institutions implementing actions to strengthen diaspora ties, promote cultural identity, support youth engagement, and encourage return migration through education, cultural initiatives, and integration programmes.

#### **Sweden**

# Three billion SEK strategy on migration adopted

In October, a new <u>strategy</u> for global development cooperation on migration, returns and voluntary repatriation was adopted. The strategy comprises three billion SEK (€ 260 914 500) between 2024-2028 and aims to strengthen synergies between migration policy and development assistance policy.

# 11. EU legislation transposition

## Italy

# A new law was adopted on fining employers

On 14 November, in accordance with Directive 2014/36/EU, a <u>new law</u> provided for fines ranging from € 350 to € 5 500 for employers who bring foreign seasonal workers to Italy, hire them and place them in unsuitable or overpriced housing, or automatically deduct the rent from their pay.

#### Latvia

## **Several EU Legislations transposed**

In recent months, Latvia has adopted several important legislative amendments. On 12 December, <a href="mailto:amendments">amendments</a> to the Personal Identification Documents Law were adopted to implement the **EU Emergency Travel Document (ETD) Directive**, introducing a single type of emergency travel document. On 7 November, <a href="mailto:amendments">amendments</a> to the Law on Social Services and Social Assistance were passed, defining the rights of **EU Blue Card** holders and their family members to social services. Additionally, on the same day, <a href="mailto:amendments">amendments</a> to the Disability Law were adopted, clarifying the rights of EU Blue Card holders and their families to disability status and assistant's benefits.

# Extension of temporary protection for displaced persons from Ukraine across the EU

Following Council Implementing Decision (EU) 2024/1836 issued in June, several EU Member States recently announced amendments to their national legislation to reflect the decision at the national level.

**Italy**: On 27 December, Italy issued <u>Decree-Law No. 202</u>, which extended the renewal of temporary protection permits until 4 March 2026. The decree also allows for the conversion of residence permits into work permits and the continuation of support measures and reception activities. Additionally, the deadline for Ukrainian citizens to temporarily exercise social and health professional qualifications in the national territory has been extended to 31 December 2025.

**Latvia:** On 21 November, <u>amendments</u> to the Law on Assistance to Ukrainian Civilians were adopted, stipulating that from 11 December, Ukrainians will be issued temporary residence permits for three years, instead of two. The amendments also extend the deadline for the provision of accommodation and meals as well as the reimbursement of medical-related expenses for vulnerable groups, and increase the one-time benefit in a crisis situation paid by municipalities.

# **RECENT EMN PUBLICATIONS**

- EMN-OECD inform: <u>Implementation of measures for civic training as an important tool for</u> integration of third-country nationals
- EMN inform: Governing the accommodation of international protection applicants
- EMN-OECD inform: Migration diplomacy: An analysis of policy approaches and instruments
- **EMN inform:** Application of the Temporary Protection Directive: Challenges and good practices in 2023
- EMN inform: Processing the biometric data of third-country nationals

# **UPCOMING EMN PUBLICATIONS**

- EMN study: Illegal employment of third-country nationals: 2017-2022 situation analysis
- EMN inform: New and innovative ways to attract foreign talents into the EU
- EMN inform: Designing migration strategies