

40th EMN Quarterly Flash: July-September 2022



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Welcome to the EMN Quarterly Flash, our selection of the key developments in the areas of migration and asylum from July to September 2022. **The full PDF version of the EMN quarterly can be found [here](#).**

EMN news



Temporary Protection Directive

On 6 July 2022, Commissioner for Home Affairs, Ylva Johansson, [presented guidance for supporting the 'Safe Homes' initiative](#) at a dedicated session of the Ukraine Solidarity Platform. The guidance document consolidated experiences, considerations, and practices gathered across EU Member States as hundreds of thousands of Europeans opened their doors to host displaced persons from Ukraine.

On 2 August 2022, the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights [published an overview of how the EU Temporary Protection Directive is being implemented at the national level](#) in the nine EU Member States, where most people fleeing Ukraine have fled to, (Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Poland, Romania, Slovakia and Spain). It provides an outline of who is eligible for protection under the Directive, whether governments register people, information regarding unaccompanied minors, as well as the core rights accessible through the Directive such as employment, healthcare, education, and housing.

On 23 August 2022, the EU Justice and Home Affairs network, comprised of nine EU agencies, [published a joint paper on their actions and contributions undertaken towards the EU's solidarity with Ukraine](#). The paper underlines key activities such as reports and analysis, key challenges and potential solutions, the investigation of international crimes, supporting EU national authorities, and contributions to the enforcement of EU sanctions.

The European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA) [launched an online survey](#) to collect the views and experiences of people fleeing the war in Ukraine that is ongoing. FRA is also [releasing continuous updates related to fundamental rights](#) and implications for those fleeing Ukraine, including how the Temporary Protection Directive is being applied at the national level and concrete actions taken at the EU level.

On 6 September 2022, the European Agency for Asylum (EUAA) [signed a plan to activate the deployment of personnel, interpreters, and specialised training](#) to Bulgaria, as over 530 000 Ukrainians have arrived in the country this year.

General developments

The European Agency for Asylum (EUAA) announced that the rate of asylum and subsidiary protection reached its highest level since early 2017. Additionally, they published their [yearly overview on the state-of-play of forced migration monitoring systems across the EU](#), showing that the consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic continued to have an impact on returns and monitoring in 2021.

Building on the [10-Point Plan](#) that was presented in March by the European Commission to coordinate efforts supporting people fleeing the war in Ukraine, an EU Support Hub for Internal Security and Border Management in Moldova was launched.

[Guidelines on stricter visa processing for Russian citizens](#) was presented by the European Commission.

The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and the European Union [called for more use of technology to combat trafficking in human beings](#) and outlined ways in which technology can be implemented to this end.

Ukraine and Montenegro joined the European Migration Network as Observer Countries in August and September, respectively.

News from EMN Member and Observer Countries

Temporary Protection Directive

Updates on the national application of the Temporary Protection Directive were announced.

Bulgaria announced the rollout of specialised training for state officials to understand the new legal frameworks and requirements. **France** released an awareness-raising webinar on the risks of human trafficking for displaced persons fleeing the conflict in Ukraine. **Finland** and **Greece** adapted national regulations to the Operational Guidelines of the European Commission regarding the length of applicability of the Temporary Protection Directive. **The Netherlands** announced that from 19 July 2022 onwards, non-Ukrainian third-country nationals with a Ukrainian temporary residence permit (i.e. for work or education purposes) are no longer entitled to Temporary Protection in the Netherlands. The change, however, does not apply retroactively, meaning that those registered before 19 July 2022 will maintain their right to Temporary Protection until 4 March 2023.

Ireland, Latvia and **Spain** agreed financial and other support packages for individuals or families in receipt of Temporary Protection or to hosts providing accommodation to beneficiaries, sometimes with the possibility to backdate financial support to March. In **Ireland**, the Irish Accommodation Recognition Payment can be made to households hosting beneficiaries of Temporary Protection, and which have committed to hosting for at least six months. The payments can be backdated to 4 March 2022. **Lithuania** announced that, following a reduction in the number of refugees arriving, only one registration centre will remain operational.

Luxembourg facilitated entry into the labour market for child-care personnel who arrive from Ukraine.

Poland issued the first fully digital residence permit in the European Union that confirms Ukrainian refugees' legal stay in Poland and allows them to travel within the EU.

In **Sweden**, municipalities are to take on the responsibility of arranging housing for a certain number of Ukrainian refugees to more evenly distribute local efforts.

General developments

Legislative and policy changes were reported at the national level in several EMN Member and Observer Countries. **Austria** amended the Regulation Governing the Employment of Foreign Nationals, facilitating foreigners who hold a residence permit and have completed a training to practice certain professions. **Portugal** and **Spain** amended legislation to facilitate access to the labour market, namely for students. **Georgia** reported an amendment that expands and makes the functions of the State Commission on Migration Issues (SCMI) more effective.

Grants and budgets at national level show increased financing on migration topics. **France** plans to increase spending by 6% in 2023 for immigration, asylum, and integration, including increased means for the fight against irregular migration and increased

accommodation places for asylum seekers. The Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment in **Finland** granted municipalities €3 million to develop guidance and counselling services for migrants with the aim of improving integration and employment. **Spain** will have a budget of € 10.8 million, mostly financed by the European Commission, to implement a project to strengthen capacity and resilience in national reception and asylum systems.

New positions and national bodies were established. In **Greece**, there is now a Fundamental Rights Officer, as well as a Special Fundamental Rights Compliance Committee in the Ministry of Migration and Asylum. In **Slovenia**, a consultative body on migration, called 'A Safe, Solidarity-based and Inclusive Society,' was established.

Cooperation between countries was strengthened. Ministers of the Interior of **Lithuania** and **Moldova** signed agreements to strengthen cooperation on the prevention of irregular migration and trafficking in human beings, as well as facilitate the exchange of good practices on migration matters.

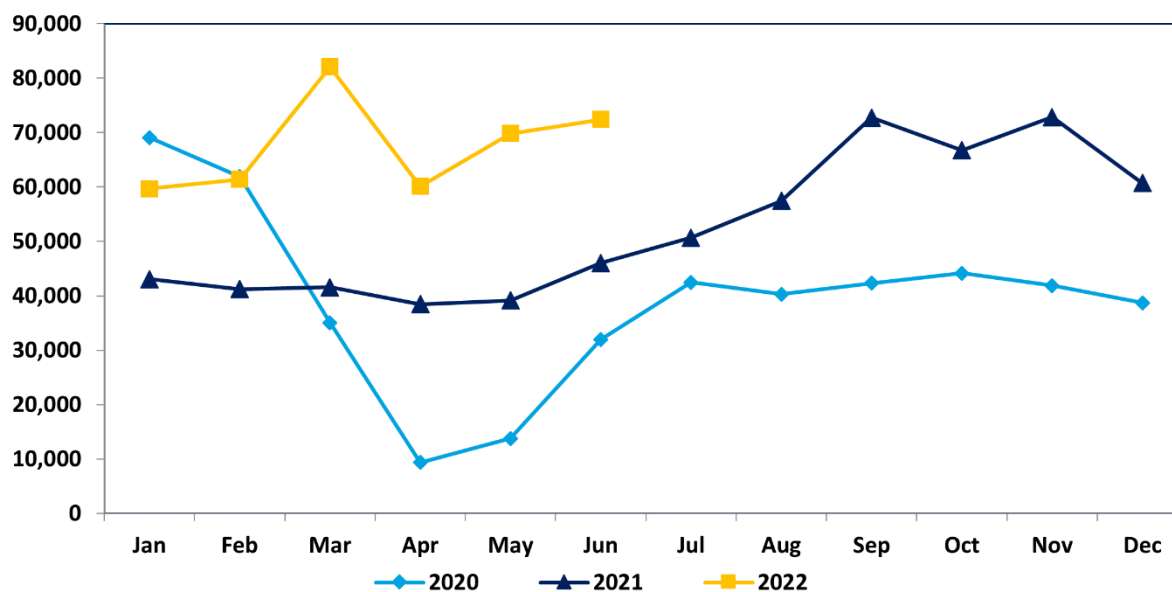
International protection including asylum

Legislative changes regarding reception, security and administrative processes took place. **Austria** increased the amount of funding per person receiving material support in the reception system retroactively from 1 March 2022. **Estonia** made legislative amendments to ensure protection of public order and national security in emergency situations. **Greece** introduced legislative amendments to reduce bureaucratic processes needed to issue residence permits to beneficiaries of international protection.

Reception capacity shifted at national level as countries tried to adapt to the increased need for accommodation. **Luxembourg** introduced a new, temporary accommodation structure for applicants of international protection. **The Netherlands** has rented two cruise ships for accommodation that can host 1 000 people each for six months and announced that additional crisis emergency shelters will be established to relieve pressure from the asylum system's housing capacity. In **Finland**, a record number of people were registered in the reception system following the war in Ukraine. In **Belgium**, reception capacities were under pressure and reached full capacity. The Federal Agency for the Reception of Asylum Seekers (Fedasil) went into 'crisis mode' in September, activating buffer places, transferring individuals to new reception places, and converting generic reception places into places for unaccompanied minors. As the capacity for housing refugees reached its limit in **Germany**, the federal government supported the Länder by making federal properties available for reception and looking into other support measures.

Georgia strengthened cooperation with North Macedonia to share good practices in the area of international protection, as well as with Belgium on effective migration management and integration measures.

Figure 1: Asylum applications in the EU-27, Q2 2022 (January-June 2022)



Source: Eurostat [\[migr_asyappctzm\]](#), total asylum applicants, extracted on 11 July 2022.

Unaccompanied minors and vulnerable groups

A new regulatory framework was introduced in **Greece** to regulate and facilitate the guardianship of unaccompanied minors. **Italy** launched a project on 'Language Literacy and Access to Education for Unaccompanied Minors' that aims to support their integration into society. **Portugal** received 20 transfers of unaccompanied minors, in line with the European Programme of Voluntary Relocation from Greece.

Legal migration and integration

On one hand, **legal amendments came into force to facilitate legal migration in several EU Member States**. In **Austria**, the list of shortage occupations was expanded and the quota for seasonal workers was increased. **Lithuania** made legal amendments to facilitate obtaining an EU Blue Card. **Italy** simplified procedures concerning entry into the country for the purpose of employment. **Germany** adopted a regulation to facilitate the migration of skilled workers by granting a one-year resident permit to non-criminal offenders that gives direct access to integration courses. On the other hand, legal amendments in **Estonia** restricted the circle of family members of a person who has been admitted for studies who can receive a visa. Additionally, legal amendments came into force regarding the revocation of citizenship in case persons enter a state or military of a foreign state that is deemed to be a threat to public order or national security.

In **Greece**, national law ratified the Memorandum of Understanding with Bangladesh regarding migration and mobility.

New services and programmes were implemented in several reporting countries. **Finland** now has an advisory service for employers to help international recruitment. The Ministry of Education, Sport and Youth in **Cyprus** released requirements to smoothly integrate Ukrainian students in the educational system, including free lunch and access to psychological support. **Estonia** initiated a mandatory and free adaptation programme for all registered Ukrainian refugees in receipt of temporary protection. In **Greece**, the HELIOS integration programme continued, tailored to beneficiaries of international protection, and now includes beneficiaries of temporary protection. **France** and **Germany** continued national programmes aiming to systematise and individualise support for refugees, planned to be upscaled at the beginning of 2023. **Luxembourg** abolished a five-year residence clause for foreign nationals wishing to register on the electoral list for the municipal elections. At the same time an information campaign was launched, 'I can vote,' to motivate non-Luxembourgish residents to register to vote.

Restrictions on residence permits emerged from evolving circumstances in some countries. **Latvia** terminated the possibility to extend temporary residence permits for citizens of Russia and Belarus who had received a resident permit based on investments or the purchase of real estate, with the exception of certain circumstances specified by EU regulation, such as for family reunification and international protection. As of 1 October 2022, UK nationals who have not yet applied for a residence permit in **the Netherlands** following Brexit will be required to demonstrate a justification for the late application.

Return

Greece and Georgia both cooperated with Frontex regarding return. **Greece** organised the return of Pakistani and Georgian nationals via the Frontex Joint Return Operations, while **Georgia** participated in the Collecting Return Operations coordinated by Frontex to safely return Georgian nationals.

Sweden tightened the grounds for expulsion due to criminal offences.

In **the Netherlands**, the Minister for Migration extended the decision and departure moratorium for political dissidents in Sudan for a duration of six months. No decisions on asylum applications by political dissidents from Sudan will be taken and no applicants will have to return for the duration of the moratorium.

Addressing human trafficking

Several EU Member States developed, adopted or modified national strategies to combat trafficking in human beings. In **Ireland**, a new Bill was outlined which includes plans to involve a broader range of actors in identification, while in **Italy**, a new plan was adapted to include a gender perspective and other key measures. In **Malta**, an Inter-Ministerial Committee was set up in view of developing and implementing a national strategy and action plan. **Croatia** published a report on the progress of the implementation of their national plan.

Poland created the Team for Coordination of Anti-Trafficking in Human Beings, which will shorten the decision-making process in this area, make the management process more flexible and increase effectiveness.

Information campaigns were carried out in **Malta, Spain** and **Georgia**. The campaigns mainly focused on preventing, identifying and/or responding to victims of trafficking in human beings. In Malta, this campaign was accompanied by an outreach session targeting third-country nationals in open community and detention centres on how to identify trafficking, as well as which services to contact if there are potential victims of trafficking.

Specific trainings aiming at capacity building to better identify and respond to victims of trafficking in human beings were conducted in Italy, Portugal and Spain. In Portugal, there were several trainings, including a training focusing on child trafficking, and another aimed at health professionals.

In **Poland**, the Ministry of the Interior and Administration has published a handbook entitled "Human trafficking - practical aspects of conducting proceedings" aimed specifically at practitioners.

Poland and **Italy** implemented specific measures to respond to the situation in Ukraine, especially the increased vulnerability to trafficking of individuals fleeing the country.

Regular meetings of operational anti-trafficking teams continued to happen in **Croatia** and **Georgia**.

Portugal conducted two Surveillance Operations to detect victims of trafficking in human beings in national airports.

External dimension

Several meetings were held discussing the integration of diasporas.

A session of the Council of the Government of the Republic of **Croatia** for Croats outside of Croatia was held in Zagreb, where challenges of return and reintegration of the Croatian diaspora were discussed from a development perspective. In July 2022, the National Plan for the Development of Relations between the Republic of Croatia and Croats outside the Republic of Croatia until 2027 was adopted. The plan contains three goals, including a focus on the return of the Croatian diaspora and their descendants to Croatia.

In **Georgia**, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) of Georgia hosted the awarding ceremony for the winners of the 2022 Diaspora Grant Programme. A meeting between the Georgian diaspora and the business sector was held in Nuremberg, Germany in September 2022. The purpose of the meeting was to share the knowledge and experience of Georgian compatriots living in Germany on local production standards, as well as partnership relations, access to the German market and interests of foreign investors. The event was conducted in the framework of the EU funded project, "A European Union innovative project for the competitiveness of the private sector in Georgia" implemented by IOM Georgia.

EU Legislation Transposition

In **Italy**, [the law on the Blue Card to implement the new EU Directive was adopted](#). The measure concerns the transposition of 12 European directives and the adaptation of national legislation to 21 European regulations. They simplified entry procedures and offers more advantageous conditions of stay for blue card holders. The new law also delegates the government to adopt one or more legislative decrees to adapt national legislation to Regulation (EU) 2019/816, which provides for a centralised system to identify Member States in possession of information on convictions handed down against third-country nationals and stateless persons and to integrate the European Criminal Records Information System.

Border management and irregular migration

Restrictions on the entry of Russian citizens came into force in several EU Member States.

Estonia, Lithuania, Latvia and Poland have entered into an agreement to restrict the issuance of visas and residence permits to Russian citizens for national security reasons, granting exceptions under certain circumstances such as those who have a long-stay national visa or to those who are family members of EU citizens. Latvia also announced increased border surveillance at border crossings with Russia. Additionally, **Finland** issued restrictions on the entry of Russian tourists, aiming to limit transit from Russia altogether.

Lithuania reported that the construction of a physical barrier along the border with Belarus was completed. **Poland** extended the ban along the state border with Belarus to a 200-metre distance, which will be enforced with the support of electronic installations on the dam present at the border.

EMN publications and events

Recent EMN publications:

- [EMN inform on the Application of the Temporary Protection Directive \(Scope and Registration\)](#)
- [EMN inform on Incentives and motives for voluntary departure](#)
- [EMN study on the Integration of migrant women in the EU and Norway: Policies and measures](#)
- [EMN inform on Bilateral readmission agreements](#)
- [EMN inform on Secondary movements of beneficiaries of international protection](#)

Stay tuned for upcoming EMN publications and events:

- EMN inform on Measures to support transition to adulthood for unaccompanied minors
- EMN inform on Possibilities for organising flexible housing in the context of international protection

- EMN inform on Enhancing prospects of displaced populations in non-EU first reception and transit countries
- EMN Youth Day will take place on 16 November 2022 which will focus on youth, migration narratives and policies



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