



### AD HOC QUERY ON 2020.66 International Students (Part 2)

## Requested by Adolfo SOMMARRIBAS on 21 October 2020

Compilation produced on 21 January 2021

Responses from Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Slovakia, Spain, Sweden (22 in Total)

### Disclaimer:

The following responses have been provided primarily for the purpose of information exchange among EMN NCPs in the framework of the EMN. The contributing EMN NCPs have provided, to the best of their knowledge, information that is up-to-date, objective and reliable. Note, however, that the information provided does not necessarily represent the official policy of an EMN NCPs' Member State.

# 1. Background information

The EMN Study entitled Attracting and retaining international students in the EU included information on Attracting and retaining international students up to December 2018. EMN Poland will like to update some of the questions included in the study for policy reasons.

# 2. Questions

The following responses have been provided primarily for the purpose of information exchange among EMN NCPs in the framework of the EMN. The contributing EMN NCPs have provided, to the best of their knowledge, information that is up-to-date, objective and reliable. Note, however, that the information provided does not necessarily represent the official policy of an EMN NCPs' Member State.

1. Does your Member State has changed its policy in attracting and retaining international students since January 2019 or the answers provided in the study are still valid?

Available choices: Yes, No, Not Applicable

- 2. If you answered YES to question 1, can you please explain which amendments have being introduced.
- 3. If you answered YES to question 1, are there any financing or aid programmes in order that graduated third-country nationals and their family members can easily access the labour market?
- 4. Does your Member States allows that graduates from a higher education institution can study without paying educational fees in exchange of working after the end of their studies in certain sectors where there is a shortage of workforce (i.e. medical services)?
- 5. Does your Member State provides certain facilities (i.e. providing funding to obtain accommodation) in order that these graduates access the labour market?
- 6. Does your Member State has placed mechanisms for preventing misuse of the international student procedure, especially to obtain access to the EU but their final objective is to study in another MS? YES/NO. If YES, please explain.

We would very much appreciate your responses by 2 December 2020.

## 3. Responses

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Wider
Dissemination<sup>2</sup>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> If possible at time of making the request, the Requesting EMN NCP should add their response(s) to the query. Otherwise, this should be done at the time of making the compilation.

|   | EMN NCP<br>Austria | Yes | <ol> <li>Not Applicable Such changes are not known.</li> <li>n/a</li> <li>Regarding the collection of tuition fees and their remission, see Bassermann, "Attracting and retaining international students in Austria", p. 46ff (https://www.emn.at/wpcontent/uploads/2019/06/emn-national-report-2018_a)</li> <li>Such an offer is not known.</li> <li>Referring to the immigration of international students, for several years, the focus has been on preventing misuse of the students' residence title, and not on attracting international students (Bassermann, "Attracting and retaining international students in Austria", p. 30).</li> </ol> |
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| = | EMN NCP<br>Belgium | Yes | 1. No 2. / 3. /   |

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> A default "Yes" is given for your response to be circulated further (e.g. to other EMN NCPs and their national network members). A "No" should be added here if you do not wish your response to be disseminated beyond other EMN NCPs. In case of "No" and wider dissemination beyond other EMN NCPs, then for the Compilation for Wider Dissemination the response should be removed and the following statement should be added in the relevant response box: "This EMN NCP has provided a response to the requesting EMN NCP. However, they have requested that it is not disseminated further."

|                     |     | <ul> <li>4. No</li> <li>5. No</li> <li>6. No. (And Belgium raises the question that in such a situation the student would still need the academic admission from an higher education institution in another Member State. And once the permission from the higher education institution obtained the student could apply for a residence permit in that other Member State – so no reason to transit via Belgium).</li> </ul>   |
|---------------------|-----|---|
| EMN NCP<br>Bulgaria | Yes | <ol> <li>No</li> <li>N/A</li> <li>No, because this is also not available for Bulgarian and EU citizens. However, this is envisaged with the last amendments to the Higher Education Act (February 2020). The measure has not been applied yet and the certain conditions for its implementation are under discussions.</li> <li>During their study, the foreign students have the same accommodation possibilities as the local citizens. No special opportunities are envisaged after the graduation.</li> <li>The students are allowed to reside on the territory after they have been enrolled as such in a higher education institution established on the territory of Bulgaria – for the period of the</li> </ol> |

|                    |     | study. According to the Directive 2016/801/EU they also have the right to reside and seek employment in Bulgaria for 9 months after completion of their study. Regarding the possibilities for intra-EU mobility, our legislation is in compliance with Directive 2016/801/EU.  |
|--------------------|-----|---|
| EMN NCP<br>Croatia | Yes | <ol> <li>In general, national policies related to attracting and retaining international students have not changed. However, certain modifications have been introduced in order to prevent substantial reduction of international students. The National Center for Application to Study Programmes has been flexible in relation to admission of international students (e.g. prolonged deadlines for submitting documents, possibility to apply for the second deadline and be admitted outside the quotas if scored higher than admitted students). In case of study programmes in foreign languages, admission and enrolment procedures are carried out by respective higher education institutions which extended deadlines and provided application through online procedures.</li> <li>Furthermore, in order to ensure the continuation of learning mobility the Ministry of Science and Education recommended higher education institutions to enable blended mobility in the academic year 2020/2021. Recommend measures include: providing online teaching for international students when epidemiological measures do not allow face-to-face teaching and learning, and physical mobility in periods of favorable epidemiological situation.</li> <li>At present studying without paying education fees in exchange of work after the end of the</li> </ol> |

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|            |                              |     | study is applied only in military studies. However, there is one example of finished programs. The Ministry of Science and Education funded doctoral studies abroad in the area of agriculture and the selected candidates were obliged to work at the university which suffered a great loss of human capital after the war in the early 1990s.  5.  6. There are no such mechanisms at national level. Higher education institutions themselves carry out procedures for accepting international students. |
|------------|------------------------------|-----|--|
| ( <b>4</b> | EMN NCP<br>Cyprus            | Yes | 1. No 2. N/A 3. N/A 4. No 5. No 6. No  |
| L          | EMN NCP<br>Czech<br>Republic | Yes | Yes     introduced.     The Amendment of the Act on Residence of Foreign Nationals in the Territory of the Czech Republic  |

| No. 326/1999 Coll. that came into force on the 31st July 2019 implemented into the Czech national legislation the Directive (EU) 2016/801 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 May 2016 on the conditions of entry and residence of third-country nationals for the purposes of research, studies, training, voluntary service, pupil exchange schemes or educational projects and au pairing.  The Amendment introduced other benefits:  • The holder of the long-term residence permit for the purpose of scientific research may stay in the Czech Republic up to 9 months after the end of the research project for the purpose of job seeking or starting business activities.  • There was introduced also more favourable regime for family members of these researchers who can apply for long-term residence permit for the purpose of family reunification without previous residence in the Czech Republic etc.  3.  The Amendment introduced other benefits:  • The holder of the long-term residence permit for the purpose of scientific research can stay in the Czech Republic up to 9 months after the end of the research project for the purpose of job searching or starting the business activities.  • There was introduced also more favourable regime for family members of these researchers who can apply for long-term residence permit for the purpose of family reunification without previous residence in the Czech Republic. There is also a system of scholarships based on international agreements or on government's decisions which are based on financial help to students not on the above mentioned exchange.  5. No |
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|                    |     | 6. No  |
|--------------------|-----|--|
| EMN NCP<br>Estonia | Yes | <ul> <li>2. The performance indicators of the government's funding for higher education as of 1.09.2020 take into account the share of foreign students who graduate instead of the share of enrolled foreign students.</li> <li>Comment: However, regarding the answers provided in the study about any changes planned to law/policy/practice regarding international students (Q1d) there is an update (not related to amendments introduced): <ul> <li>As of 2020, there is no plan to register students, who stay in Estonia temporarily, in the population register.</li> <li>Moreover, there is draft proposal (in the second reading) in the parliament whereby the rules of foreigners staying, studying and working in Estonia are being rearranged. According to the Minister of the Interior (now former Minister of the Interior), the current education migration regulation has to be changed, as it does not sufficiently take into account the need to ensure public order and national security. Amendments regarding education migration include for example limiting options for foreigners studying in Estonia to take family members with them, limiting access to residence permit for permanent settlement (except for those who have completed doctoral studies), discontinuing the access for needs-based study allowance for those foreigners with temporary residence permit studying in Estonia etc.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> |

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Member State

### 3. N/a.

However, in addition to the measures mentioned in the national report for the study "<u>Attracting and retaining international students in the EU</u>", in 2019 Work in Estonia introduced a spouse program "Re-invent yourself" with the objective to find professional activities for the partners of foreign specialists recruited to Estonia.

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Higher education is free of charge in Estonia for those studying full-time and in Estonian (except for those studying in private HEIs, where eveyone pays educational fees). For English speaking Bachelor and Master programmes tuition fees must be paid in different Estonian HEIs (however, tuition fee waivers and scholarships exist). Yet, there are no such national schemes which would enable the graduates from a higher education institution to study without paying educational fees in exchange of working after the end of their studies in certain sectors where there is a shortage of workforce.

5. No such specific funding is available.

6. In order to mitigate the risk of illegal immigration and absconding, the Police and Border Guard Board has taken several steps in cooperation with the relevant HEIs. In addition to cooperation with the relevant HEI-s, the administrative procedure with regard to granting a visa or a residence permit established by the Aliens Act should prevent most cases of misuse. If a misuse is discovered after the visa or residence permit has been granted, the visa or residence permit shall be revoked.

| EMN NCP<br>France | Yes | 1. No 2. The new attractiveness strategy for international students was announced on 19 November 2018 (see the study on Attracting and retaining international students in France). The strategy, "Choose France", is based on six main focuses: Simplifying visa policy; Doubling lessons in French as a foreign language (FLE) and in English; Creating a label to improve the quality of welcome; Applying differentiated tuition fees and tripling study grants; Increasing France's presence abroad; Launching a global campaign. On 1st March 2019, several provisions of the Law No. 2018-778 of 10 September 2018 "for a managed immigration, an effective right of asylum and a successful integration" entered into force. These measures aim to promote the attractiveness of France for international highly-qualified workers, foreign students and researchers, and to transpose the "Students and Researchers" Directive (EU)2016/801.  3. No. 4. No. 5. No. 6. Yes. In order to verify that an international student does not misuse the international student procedure, French authorities verify during the residence permit renewal application the real and serious nature of the studies followed by the foreign national, as well as the reality of their residence in France. Two cumulative criteria may be taken into account by the administration to assess the real and serious nature of the studies:  - attendance in the study course and exams;  - the control of reasonable progress in the chosen university course.  Thus if the student in fact intended to study in another MS, during the residence permit renewal application procedure, French authorities should prove that they do not attend assiduously courses and exams in France, that they do not have an accommodation on a permanent basis in France, etc. |
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|      | EMN NCP<br>Germany | Yes | 1. Yes  2. The Skilled Labour Immigration Act (Fachkräfteeinwanderungsgesetz) which entered into force on 1 March 2020 introduced a regulation according to which skilled workers holding a university degree can also be granted a residence permit to perform skilled work generally requiring (only) vocational training for which their training qualifies them (Section 18b subsection 1 of the Residence Act (Aufenthaltsgesetz – Aufenth(S)). This opens up career prospects for skilled workers holding a university degree even below their qualifications, enabling them to remain in Germany. In principle, however, the aim should be to ensure that these skilled workers holding a university degree also find jobs that are commensurate with their qualifications in the long term.  An English version of the Residence Act is available at: https://www.gesetze-im-internet.de/englisch_aufenthg/index.html  3. They have access to the Federal Employment Agency.  4. No. However, it is permissible for an employer and a student to enter into a contractual employment relationship within the framework of a so-called dual course of study combining parallel academic studies with paid vocational training or employment after the student has graduated.  5. No.  6. No. |
|------|--------------------|-----|---|
| iiii | EMN NCP<br>Greece  | Yes | 1. No Our NA implements the Erasmus+ Programme according to the rules set by the Commission.4.International Credit Mobility (ICM) Action under Erasmus+ aim to help individual learners from all over the world to acquire skills, support their professional development and deepen their understanding of other cultures, as it allows mobility between Programme and Partner countries.Erasmus+ supports traineeships (work placements, internships, e.t.c.) abroad for students   |

|   |                    |     | currently enrolled in higher education institutions at Bachelor and Master level as well as for doctoral candidates. Students can also combine their Erasmus+ traineeship with a study period abroad. Students and doctoral candidates from Partner Countries may receive a monthly contribution to their expenses abroad of between EUR 800 and EUR 900, depending on the cost of living in the Programme Country. For students and doctoral candidates going to Partner Countries from Programme Countries, the rate is EUR 700 per month for all Partner Countries. The mobility of Professors and HEIs staff, as well as non-academic organizations staff is also funded through Erasmus+. Staff coming from Partner Countries may get a daily contribution to their expenses of between EUR 140 and EUR 180 (depending on the cost of living in the Programme Country). Staff from Programme Countries going to Partner Countries will get EUR 180 per day.  2.  3.  4. Erasmus students don't pay fees during their mobility period abroad.  5. Erasmus students may have access to university accommodation for free or at a very low cost, in case there are rooms available. This service is provided to students only and not their family members.  6. An Erasmus student signs an agreement for his/her mobility period specifying the host institution and the period of mobility. |
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| = | EMN NCP<br>Hungary | Yes | 1. No<br>2. N/A<br>3. N/A   |

|   |                    |     | <ul> <li>4. No</li> <li>5. No</li> <li>6. Yes The migration authority is in contact with the educational authorities and the Hugher Educational Institutations. When the international student fails to meet the requested criteria of academic advancement or misled the authorities for in the interest of obtaining the right of residence, the residence permit is withdrawn.</li> </ul> |
|---|--------------------|-----|--|
| • | EMN NCP<br>Ireland | Yes | <ol> <li>No</li> <li>Answers in the EMN Ireland study attached are still valid. p_201905201247112019_attractingandretaininginternationalstudents_21.05.2019_1.pdf</li> <li>No</li> <li>No</li> <li>No</li> <li>No</li> <li>No</li> <li>No - not in this context.</li> </ol>  |
|   | EMN NCP<br>Italy   | Yes | 1. No  |

|   |                   |     | 2. N/A 3. N/A 4. No 5. No 6. No   |
|---|-------------------|-----|---|
| = | EMN NCP<br>Latvia | Yes | <ol> <li>Yes</li> <li>At the end of the 2019, the Cabinet of Ministers adopted Regulation No 637 "Amendments to Regulation No 55 "Regulations Regarding Employment of Foreigners" 42, which cancels the requirement to publish a vacancy in cases where a third-country national who is to be employed has already been employed during his or her studies and wishes to continue his or her employment with the same employer after obtaining his or her education.</li> <li>No.</li> <li>No.</li> <li>Students' initial temporary residence permit exceeds the expected study period for four months, while after graduation students can apply for a temporary residence permit to seek employment or start a business up to 9 months. During the validity of the study permit students can work until the expiry of the temporary residence permit (also during the four months period that exceeds the study period indicated in the agreement), while employment during the 9 month period is not allowed.</li> </ol> |

|   |                       |     | 6. Yes.  The Immigration Law stipulates that a residence permit can be revoked or it cannot be renewed if a student has not made sufficient progress in studies. It means that studies in one study program cannot more than for one year exceed the study time stipulated in the study agreement (if the study agreement has been signed for up to three years) or it cannot exceed the study time stipulated in the study agreement for more than two years if the study program is longer than three years. A residence permit will not be revoked if the prolongation of studies is based on circumstances beyond the control of the foreigner. Additionally, the residence permit can be refused if within last 5 years period a student more than twice has been excluded from the study program due to the insufficient progress. |
|---|-----------------------|-----|--|
|   | EMN NCP<br>Lithuania  | Yes | 1. No 2. N/a. 3. N/a. 4. No. 5. N/a. 6. No.  |
| П | EMN NCP<br>Luxembourg | Yes | 1. No<br>2. N/A.   |

|    |                        |     | <ul> <li>3. N/A.</li> <li>4. No. The educational fees in Luxembourg are very low (400€ for the first two semesters and then 200€ per additional semester at the University of Luxembourg) to implement this kind of programmes.</li> <li>5. No.</li> <li>6. Yes. The student residence permit can only be used for studying in a higher education institution in Luxembourg. So, if the third-country nationals try to use the residence permit to try to register in another university of another Member State and the TCN is not attending his/her courses at the higher education institution, the university will report this absence to the Directorate of Immigration which will immediately begin a procedure of withdrawal of the residence permit in accordance article 101 (1) 1 of the amended law of 29 August 2008 on free movement of persons and immigration (Immigration Law).</li> </ul> |
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| II | EMN NCP<br>Netherlands | Yes | <ol> <li>Yes</li> <li>In December 2019, the minister of Education, Culture and Science proposed some amendments to Dutch law regarding education, which also targeted law concerning international students. The legislative proposals were approved by the Dutch Lower House, and will be likely be passed by the Duth Upper House early next year (2021).</li> <li>First, amendments have been made to the Wet taal en toegankelijkheid (Law Language and Accessibility)[1], [2]</li> <li>Some of the most important amendments include:</li> </ol>  |

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| Previous law stated that educational institutions had to stimulate the development of their students' Dutch skills. The new law expands on this, by:  Giving educational institutions the job to provide opportunities to international students to work on their expressive abilities in Dutch. This is aimed at increasing the bond between these students with the (regional) population/society, as well as with the labor market. This can also help international students with getting a job in the Netherlands after they have finished their studies.  Obliging educational institutions that substantially provide their education in another language than Dutch, to prove that this is in the best interest of their students. This is the case if two of the following five criteria are met:  The provided education is very internationally oriented; The corresponding labour market is internationally oriented; Stimulation of intercultural exchange between students is essential to acquire the knowledge, skills and insights that the education is aimed at; The education is provided in close cooperation with (educational) institutions or companies that are internationally oriented and where another language than Dutch is spoken; Teachers with the required expertise are mainly non-Dutch speakers  Second, amendments have been made to the Wet op het hoger onderwijs en wetenschappelijk onderzoek (Law concerning higher education and scientific research), Wet studiefinanciering 2000 (Law study financing 2000), and the Wet op het onderwijstoezicht (Law concerning education supervision)2,[3]:  In the new law, there were some changes made concerning tuition fees:  There is a higher minimal tuition fee for non-EEA-students. This was introduced to ensure that the arrival of more new non-EEA-students. This was introduced to ensure that the arrival of more new non-EEA-students does not put pressure on the financing of educational institutions. The new minimum is the same as the maximal tuition fee for EEA-students (which is also introduced in this new |

| The Dutch cabinet has observed that it is less necessary to attract international students (since there is already a considerable stream of international students coming in), which is why the new law aims to use the funding given to international Neso-offices (of Nuffic) for the strengthening of knowledge diplomacy of Dutch embassies instead. This is done to ensure Dutch educational and scientific interests abroad.  Furthermore, the new law decreases the amount of Holland-Scholarships for incoming students, and instead doubles the amount of scholarships for Dutch students wanting to go abroad, especially for students for whom studying less abroad is less attainable (a total of 1540 scholarships starting from study year 2020-2021).  Third, an amendment has been made to the Besluit uitvoering Wet arbeid vreemdelingen (Decision execution alien labor law):[4]  Since the first of January 2020, students with a valid study residence permit do not need a labor permit (tewerkstellingvergunning, TWV) to participate in representative/advisory boards, or in boards of study/student associations.  [1] See Wetvoorstel taal en toegankelijkheid (Legaslative proposa Language and Accesibility): https://www.tiyekoverheid.nl/anderwerpen/onderwijs-en-internationaliseri [2] https://www.rijksoverheid.nl/onderwerpen/onderwijs-en-internationaliseri [3] https://www.rijksoverheid.nl/documenten/kamerstukken/2020/09/21/id-9629 [4] See Staatsblad van het Koninkrijk der Nederlanden, 486: https://zoek.officielebekendmakingen.nl/stb-2019-486.html  3. No.  4. No.  5. No.  6. Yes. The educational institutions (acting as recognized sponsors) are responsible for careful attraction and selection of students and therefore can contribute as such a mechanism. Nevertheless, this is not the main aim of the recognized sponsorship. The Netherlands wants to attract and retain |
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|   |                   |     | international students, and therefore aims to establish a smooth process in which there is trust in the recognized sponsor and in the cooperation. For more information about the recognized sponsorship, please refer to 2020.66 question 1.  |
|---|-------------------|-----|--|
| _ | EMN NCP<br>Poland | Yes | <ol> <li>No         The policy initiated with the entry into force of the Act of 20 July 2018 The Law on Higher Education and Science is still valid. It is also worth mention, that the policy in attracting and retaining international students is more attractive now, because according to the amendment to the Act on the Card of the Pole (Karta Polaka) the scholarships for the Polish diaspora are addressed to foreigners of Polish origin from all countries of the world.     </li> <li>3.         4. No         </li> <li>5. No         </li> <li>6. One of such mechanism is the following regulation.         According to the amendment to the Act on foreigners a non-university-type non-public higher education institutions are subject to the obligation of approval by the Minister of the Interior and Administration for the purposes of admitting foreigners taking up or continuing studies. Approval the higher education institutions is a condition for issuing a national visa for the foreigner as well as a temporary residence permit for the purpose of studying.     </li> </ol> |

| EMN NCP<br>Portugal | Yes | <ol> <li>No changes in the law or policy but a ordinance came out to regulate the the streamlining of visa issuance procedures for foreign students regulating no. 5 of art. 91 of Law no. 23/2007 of July 4th Ordinance no. 111/2019 of April 12th defined the streamlining of visa issuance for foreign students regulating art.91 of law 23/2007 of july 4th</li> <li>In June 2019 SEF launched the Smart SEF ID Pilot Project, a tool that will allow the creation of a digital identity for college students to renew their Residence Permit. It is an innovative project, in partnership with the University of Coimbra, which will enable a complete digital process for the renewal of the Residence Permit for university students. The creation of a digital mobile entity for foreign university students generated through a mobile application and the use of registration kiosks available at the accredited universities represents a further step of SEF towards modernization.</li> <li>No</li> <li>No</li> <li>No</li> <li>No</li> <li>No</li> </ol> |
|---------------------|-----|--|
| EMN NCP<br>Slovakia | Yes | No major amendments have been made yet. However, changes are expected in the upcoming period. E.g. according to the document "Modern and successful Slovakia" published in October 2020  |

|                  |     | by the Ministry of Finance, there are significant changes planned such as attracting higher number of international students – according to the document, the support scheme should be launched in 2022. Moreover, The Strategy for Internationalisation of Higher Education in Slovakia (as mentioned in the study) has been still in the process of preparation.  3. N/A  4. Students receiving governmental scholarship can study without paying university fees. The Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport of the Slovak Republic also provides a benefit to cover fees of language courses and other costs related to their study for students receiving scholarship.  5. No.  6. No. |
|------------------|-----|---|
| EMN NCP<br>Spain | Yes | <ol> <li>No         All the information provided in the 2018 study remains valid.</li> <li>2.</li> <li>3.</li> <li>4. No</li> <li>5. Once completed their studies, international students can change their migration statuses to another type of residence permit including different types of work permits depending on the activity setting out in the Law 14/2013         This law will be applied if the student wants to work as a researcher, as a high qualified professional (HQP) or wants to start up a business in Spain. The required conditions depends on the type of work</li> </ol>   |

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|                       |     | permit requested. Anyway the new residence/work permit should be requested before the expiration of the permit for the study stay.  Moreover, the new permit allows transit. The transposition of the Students and Researchers Directive (Directive (EU) 2016/80) has created a new residence permit for students in order to stay for the purpose of job-searching or entrepreneurship. This residence permit can be requested by students that have finished their studies and allows them to stay in our country for a non-extendable maximum period of 12-months (the Directive refers to a minimum period of time of nine months).  After 12 months if the student has not find a job or set up a business, it is required to apply for a new residence permit in order to stay legally in our country.  6. No. This situation has not been detected |
|-----------------------|-----|---|
| <br>EMN NCP<br>Sweden | Yes | 1. No 2. 3. 4. NO 5. NO 6. NO   |

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