

Press Release

## EMN Annual Report explores trends on migration and asylum in 2022

The European Migration Network (EMN) has released its **Annual Report on Migration and Asylum**, providing an overview of the key developments in the contributing EMN Member and Observer Countries<sup>1</sup> throughout 2022. The most significant event that marked this period was the influx of people escaping the war in Ukraine, which led to the activation of the **Temporary Protection Directive**. This new challenge added to already existing ones including related to demography, labour market, and the impact of migration on Member States' societies.

*Brussels, 06 July 2023*

Undoubtedly, the Russian war against Ukraine commencing on 24 February, stood out as the most significant occurrence of the year. As a result, on 4 March 2022, the **Temporary Protection Directive** was activated for the first time in over two decades since its adoption, offering immediate protection and a standardized set of rights. To date, there have been more than four million registrations for temporary protection in the EU and Schengen Associated Countries, with more than three million registrations recorded during the first half of 2022.

2022 saw a significant **rise in asylum applications**, with approximately 966,000 applications, representing an increase of about 50% compared to 2021 and the highest number since 2016. Additionally, irregular border crossings reached approximately 330,000 incidents, marking a 64% increase compared to the previous year. These developments created a strain on the asylum systems and reception capacities of both Member States and Norway.

Moreover, sustained and heightened pressures were observed at the external borders of the Mediterranean countries, along the Western Balkan route, and at the EU's borders with Belarus. The **amplified migratory flows**, coupled with the conflict in Ukraine, raised concerns regarding security implications and the subsequent risks of migrant smuggling and cross-border criminal activities. Consequently, several EU Member States strengthened their **border control measures**.

The impact of the Covid-19 pandemic receded in 2022. This allowed for the lifting of travel restrictions and return operations could resume.

**Attracting and retaining qualified workers** remained a top priority for EMN Member and Observer Countries in 2022. Throughout the year, the identification of labour shortages and bottlenecks highlighted the ongoing need for reforms to enhance the recruitment of skilled individuals and improve the management of legal migration.

At EU level, the European Commission launched the **'Skills and Talents Package'** aimed at attracting talent and to facilitate the EU's transition to a green and digital economy, as well as the **Talent Pool Pilot** facilitating job-matching for Ukrainians as a first stage. Several EU Member States implemented **Skills Mobility Partnerships** to promote sustainable approaches to skilled migration and mobility. Similarly, Georgia, as an EMN Observer Country, adopted a new development strategy that prioritizes labour migration facilitation and the strengthening of its diaspora abroad to enhance the country's development.

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<sup>1</sup> Norway, Georgia, Republic of Moldova, and Armenia.

## The Report:

- Title: "EMN Annual Report on Migration and Asylum 2022"
- Period covered: The situation in 29 Member States, Norway, Georgia, Republic of Moldova and Armenia in 2022.
- Subject: The report provides an overview of key developments and cross-cutting themes in all areas of migration and asylum, set in the context of statistics developed by Eurostat. A more detailed Statistical Annex prepared by Eurostat is published alongside the Annual Report.

## The EMN

The **European Migration Network (EMN)** is an EU network of migration and asylum experts who work together to provide objective, comparable policy-relevant information and knowledge on emerging issues relating to asylum and migration in Europe. The EMN consists of National Contact Points (NCPs) in the EMN Member (EU Member States except Denmark) and Observer Countries (NO, GE, MD, UA, ME, AM, RS), the European Commission and the EMN Service Provider (ICF). The EMN was **established in 2008** (Council Decision 2008/381/EC) and amended by Regulation (EU) No 516/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council in April 2014.

### Contact:

#### European Commission – EMN

Mr. Magnus Ovilius

Head of Sector Forecasting, Preparedness and Policy Monitoring, Chair of the EMN, Directorate-General for Migration and Home Affairs, European Commission

Email: [magnus.ovilius@ec.europa.eu](mailto:magnus.ovilius@ec.europa.eu)



EMN website: [www.ec.europa.eu/emn](http://www.ec.europa.eu/emn)



Twitter: <https://twitter.com/EMNMigration>



LinkedIn: [www.linkedin.com/company/european-migration-network](http://www.linkedin.com/company/european-migration-network)



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