

Press Release

The European Migration Network releases the Annual Report on Migration and Asylum 2023

The European Migration Network (EMN) has released its Annual Report on Migration and Asylum for 2023, published alongside a Statistical Annex developed by Eurostat. The Annual Report is a comprehensive document outlining the most significant legal and policy developments and statistical trends that occurred in 2023 at European Union (EU) level, across EMN Member (EU Member States except Denmark) and Observer Countries, including Norway, Georgia, Moldova, Ukraine, and Serbia and statistical inputs provided by Armenia and Montenegro.

Brussels, 10 July 2024

At EU-level, the most significant development in 2023 was the political agreement [reached in December](#) by the European Parliament and the Council of the EU on the Pact on Migration and Asylum, which was thereafter adopted in 2024. The Pact aims among others to ensure that the EU has strong and secure external borders, that people's rights are guaranteed, and that no EU Member State is left alone under pressure.

First-time applications for asylum increased overall across the EU in 2023, exceeding one million applications, a level not seen since 2016.

EMN Member Countries responded by adopting measures to increase efficiency of asylum procedures and alleviate pressure on reception capacities. Other measures to support asylum seekers included increased healthcare-related support and developments to facilitate entry into the national labour market in some EMN Member Countries. 2023 was also marked by an increase in irregular migration directed to the EU, with approximately 380 000 detected illegal border crossings, a 17% increase from 2022, the highest annual figure since 2015-2016.

These increases prompted EMN Member Countries to strengthen border management and adopt new measures to combat migrant smuggling and prevent irregular migration.

Amidst the ongoing war in Ukraine, the EU extended temporary protection for displaced persons from Ukraine until March 2025. Temporary protection was prolonged again in 2024 until March 2026. EMN Member Countries and Norway provided shelter to approximately 4.3 million beneficiaries of temporary protection. Further efforts were directed to integration measures, including housing, education, and labour market access, to support displaced persons from Ukraine.

Additionally, in alignment with the EU-wide Entry/Exit System and the European Interoperability Framework, several countries advanced digitalisation efforts notably with new visa application procedures and digitalised residence permit issuance. Enhanced IT capabilities facilitated the integration of national systems into the EU's migration databases.

Attracting and retaining talent to meet labour market needs remained a key priority for most EMN Member and Observer Countries. Many governments introduced policies to simplify admission procedures for various workers, particularly those highly skilled or in shortage occupations. Measures to facilitate the mobility and stay of students and researchers were also widely pursued. At EU-level, the [EU Talent Pool](#) was presented as an initiative to match employers in the EU with jobseekers from non-EU countries,

simplify qualifications recognition procedures, and promote both student and labour market mobility.

EMN Member Countries continued to address racism and discrimination, protecting victims of trafficking, unaccompanied minors, and other vulnerable groups, including LGBTIQ. Training, awareness-raising, cross-border cooperation, and legislative amendments were among the measures adopted reflecting a commitment to inclusivity and protection.

The inform:

- Title: " Annual Report on Migration and Asylum 2023"
- Subject: The EMN Annual Report 2023 details migration and asylum legal updates, policy changes, and statistics across the EMN.

The EMN

The European Migration Network (EMN) is a Europe-wide network consisting 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 is supported by the EMN Service Provider, providing information on migration and asylum. The EMN was set up in 2008 by the European Commission on behalf of the European Council in order to satisfy the need for a regular exchange of reliable information on migration and asylum related issues on a European level.

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



EMN website: www.ec.europa.eu/emn

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



LinkedIn: www.linkedin.com/company/european-migration-network



YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/@EMNMigration>