

Newsletter of the

European Migration Network

A Virtual Information Exchange
System on Migration and Asylum
in Europe



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This newsletter...

first and foremost informs all interested parties about the European Migration Network (EMN), its aims and objectives and its current stage of development. Furthermore, it reports on important developments and upcoming events in the field of migration and asylum throughout the European Union.

Besides the profile of the Italian national contact point (NCP), this edition presents two regional reports, contributed by the Austrian and the German NCP. The work progress of the EMN since November 2004 is highlighted, with detailed descriptions of the EMN's second research study project and first small scale study. Finally, there is an overview of upcoming conferences, events and recent publications.

About the EMN

The EMN provides the Community, its Member States and in the longer term the general public with objective, reliable and comparable information on the migration and asylum situation. Under the general direction of the European Commission (DG Justice Liberty and Security) and in close co-operation with the Berliner Institut für Vergleichende Sozialforschung, fourteen National Contact Points (NCPs) have begun to carry out the tasks of gathering, co-ordinating, exchanging and analysing information and data on migration and asylum.

After most of the NCPs finalised their contributions to the pilot research project "The Impact of Immigration on Europe's Societies", they started with the second research project "Illegally Resident Third Country Nationals in the EU Member States: State approaches towards them and their profile and social situation" (see page 4) which must be completed in 2005. The EMN has also begun its first small scale study to quickly meet the upcoming European-level need for information about the capacity of reception centres and the social situation of asylum seekers in the Member States (see page 4). Finally, the network members contributed to the Annual Report on Statistics regarding migration, asylum and return (reference year 2002). Their contributions described and analysed the broader context of policy developments in the field of migration and asylum in light of the figures provided by the national statistical offices and EUROSTAT.

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Profiles Section

In this section of the EMN newsletter, NCPs will successfully present their work and EMN work progress.

The Italian National Contact Point

IDOS, the Italian National Contact Point within the EMN (<http://www.dossierimmigrazione.it/emn>) is a research institute that works in close collaboration with Caritas of Italy. During the 1990's, Caritas published several books per year on immigration. The most well-known among them is the "Statistic Dossier on Immigration" (an annual report published in 1991), which involves the IDOS team. The Dossier was the first organic and statistical publication to appear in Italy, and is still the most widely distributed to date (the last edition totalled 30.000 copies and was presented in some 40 Italian towns). The Dossier is a national initiative that involves Caritas of Italy, the Migrantes Foundation (the immigration office of Italian Bishops), various international organisations (UNHCR, IO, IOM), several Ministries (in particular the Ministry of Interior), public bodies (Welfare, Labour, CNEL-National Council for Economy

and Labour), different local authorities and the regional offices of Caritas. This initiative is responsible for producing local reports and promoting the Dossier in numerous towns through the organisation of meetings involving citizens and local authorities. IDOS collaborates with private and institutional bodies that produce and elaborate statistical data on immigration and asylum, in particular ISTAT and the Ministry of Interior, as well as with several research centres and universities. Whenever possible, researchers from other institutes contribute to the editing of some chapters. At the moment, IDOS is contributing to the data bank created by CNEL (National Council for Economy and Labour) that contains information and data concerning the socio-cultural integration of Migrants in Italian society. In June 2004 IDOS published another significant research volume entitled

Europe. Enlargement and Immigration. This book describes economic, social, cultural and religious aspects of this new European context. It compares the phenomenon of migration in Eastern countries before and after enlargement, analysing the situation of Romania, the Czech Republic and Poland in depth. The recent visit of the Italian NCP team to Poland, organised in the framework of the EMN, will lead to the publication of a book in the next few months containing the contributions of Italian and Polish experts. Furthermore, the IDOS staff offers assistance to undergraduate students who are writing their final dissertations. Several staff members are professors from Italian universities and Caritas operators.

Contributed by the Italian NCP

Reports Section

This section of the EMN newsletter includes contributions by the NCPs on the latest developments in immigration and integration issues within the EU.

Annual Expert Opinion by the German Council of Experts on Immigration and Integration

The Council on Immigration, chaired by Prof. Süßmuth and established at the Federal Office for Migration and Refugees, published its annual expert opinion entitled "Migration and Integration - Learning from Experience and New Challenges" on October 19th, 2004. By doing so, the Council on Immigration fulfilled its duty to regularly examine the national capacities of acceptance and integration, the current state of migration movements and their predictable development, and the impact of immigration on the economy and the labour market.

Chapter 1 of the annual expert opinion

describes the most important migration trends on the international, European and national German levels. The increase in global migration and the complexity of the causes behind it requires an international approach in asylum and migration policy that tries to maintain a delicate balance between openness and restriction, between migration and developing aid policy as well as between co-operation and clear distinction.

The Council on Immigration gives a detailed description of EU migration policy, which is the crucial point of reference for national asylum and migration policy in Germany. After a comprehensive outline of the

historical development and the present status of German asylum and migration, it offers a perspective on the development of a common European migration policy, emphasising the necessity of further common efforts (Chapter 2). Looking back on the migration history of Germany after World War II, the Council explains the migration's far-reaching social and cultural impacts, pointing out the success already achieved in integration by the accepting society as well as the migrants. This, however, also leads to the recognition that integration is a mutual social process over a longer period of time (Chapter 3).

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Chapter 4 points out the necessity of immigration in light of demographic developments. According to the Council on Immigration, immigration is undoubtedly of vital importance as far as young, qualified immigrants who, to a certain extent, may help lessen the impact of demographic changes are concerned.

The Council describes the measures taken so far in controlling immigration in Germany, and also mentions the problems caused by it as well as misleading controlling effects. It looks into the experience of other countries in the field of controlling immigration, giving examples of controlling measures and areas controlled in specifically selected countries. Concluding that the future common and harmonised European asylum system does not relieve European institutions from the responsibility to examine and consider other options and forms of granting protection and to include the responsibility of the transit countries for the refugees the Council refers to the current debate on establishing refugee reception facilities in Northern Africa without definitely taking a final stance.

Chapter 6 thoroughly deals with the impact of migration on the economy and its effects on the labour market. It expressively commends the labour opportunities for highly qualified people, business owners as well as foreign graduates from German schools of higher education introduced by the new Immigration Act (see EMN newsletter 02/04 of October 2004), arguing that the regulations are basically right.

The Council addresses integration extensively in Chapter 7, founding its own conception of integration on a social and cultural process which is guided and restricted by the values put forward in the German Constitution (Grundgesetz). Above all, it mentions the problem of education, since, as the Council argues, the German education system offers rather unfavourable preconditions for children and youth with a migration background. The crucial recommendation is therefore to foster language and intercultural learning starting as early as kindergarten with appropriately trained teaching personnel. Chapter 8 deals with the problems of migration and integration, such as illegal immigration, violence by and towards

immigrants as well as non-acceptance by some parts of the national population. The way of coping with the conflicts has influence on the national capacity of accepting and integrating migrants. Fighting illegal behaviour by migrants with the instruments offered by law and order is at least as important as a preventive integration policy.

The Council closes in Chapter 9 with reasons to improve the present state of the data compilation, which is necessary for determining indicators for a transparent and success-focused migration and integration policy as well as for the evaluation of controlling and integration measures. Through an international comparison, the Council shows the difficulties in developing an indicator system for estimating migration and integration potentials.

The expert opinion by the Council on Migration is available for download from the website of the Federal Office for Migration and Refugees at www.bamf.de.

Contributed by Peter Derst, German NCP

EMN Activities

This section of the newsletter highlights the ongoing work progress of the network.

Enlarging the Network to NGOs: First Experiences of the Austrian National Contact Point

Since Autumn of 2004, the Austrian NCP has initiated the task of progressively establishing and expanding its contacts to different actors in civil society in the fields of migration and asylum. The Austrian landscape of NGOs (non-governmental organisations) and NPOs (non-profit organisations) is characterised by a few internationally well-known organisations such as the Red Cross, Amnesty International, and Caritas, as well as a number of smaller Austrian grassroots NGOs that often specialise in practical fields such as legal counselling (Helping Hands), anti-discrimination

(ZARA) and/or specific target groups such as women (LEFÖ), unaccompanied minors, asylum seekers (Asylkoordination) etc. Yet the majority of organisations can be found at the level of self-organisation; only in Vienna are there more than 544 migrant organisations. Our criteria for approaching the different organisations has been therefore: already existing contacts (due to ongoing or former IOM projects), a certain standard of professionalism as well as their representativeness. The first contact is usually established by sending out an information letter with the first pilot study to show a visible result of our

work. Afterwards, an informal meeting takes place, in which the Austrian NCP presents its aim and purpose and provides a general overview over the European network. The reactions towards our approach have been manifold so far: interest and positive feedback about the intention of the EMN, but also a certain reluctance about the relevance of such a network at the Member States' level too. It has proven to be useful to combine a meeting with specific requests from our side such as information material or experiences regarding illegal immigration for the

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second pilot research project. This has created a climate of co-operation, which at the same time supports the NCP's research activities, but also considers the actual experience and background of the NGO. Our offer to put their data and a contact person on our website as a link (in the future maybe also reports and other publications) has been appreciated by many NGOs.

While the creation of a network of

Austrian researchers, where the mutual benefit of collaboration is evident, proved to be successful and smooth, the establishment of a similar network of NGOs is more challenging, since the mutual benefit might only lie in the long-term future of such a network. In order to ascribe more importance to the contribution of the civil society, the NCP Austria intends to organise a round table with NGOs and high-level policy makers in Austria, which will offer a forum for

exchange and multiplication of opinion. Enlarging the network with NGOs and other actors in the civil society is a step-by-step approach. It will need some more time to gain mutual confidence, which will depend partly on the work and performance of the NCP and the EMN in general.

Contributed by Mag. Sophie Hofbauer,
NCP Austria

The Second Research Project

"Illegally Resident Third Country Nationals in the EU Member States: State Approaches Towards them and their Profile and Social Situation"

The study aims to contribute an objective scientific perspective to the European debate regarding irregular immigration as well as respond to the issue's increased importance in union-wide politics and public debates, manifested in the Hague Programme from November 2004. Perceived as a threatening phenomenon, irregular immigration is supposed to undermine state sovereignty and put social and internal security at risk. By means of a systematic comparative method, differences and similarities in state approaches towards illegal immigrants will be identified in the European synthesis report, leading to a deeper understanding of the phenomena in Europe and a better informed policy making.

The study consists of the presentation of the legal and administrative frameworks and policy developments in the Member States as well as estimations concerning stocks and profiles of irregular migrants. The latter reflect on reliable data provided by different sources, and compare and analyse these data along with figures on the number of illegal immigrants and their countries of origin, age, gender, family status and regional concentration in each Member State. Further, it examines the policy actions to prevent illegal immigration, domestic control and patterns of voluntary and forced return. Other measures of rectification and remedy such as legalisation campaigns or access to social services, educational facilities and the labour market are also observed.

A special focus lies on the social and

economic situations and the political participation of illegal immigrants in the Member States: the fields of work they occupy, the professional qualifications of the immigrants; their daily life; and finally their involvement in the political arena. The last part of the investigation focuses on the impact that illegal immigrants have on the host society. The reception of the immigrants by the civil society, the identification of the main actors addressing the issue of illegal immigration and the analysis of patterns and problems of integration are discussed in the national studies.

The EMN study will be completed by eleven NCPs in summer of 2005.

Contributed by BIVS

First Small Scale Study

"Reception systems, their capacities and the social situation of asylum applicants within the reception system in the EU member states"

As a result of the upcoming European-level information need for reliable and comprehensive data on the states and capacities of existing reception facilities in the 25 EU Member States, the network members decided to carry out the above named study this year. In order to present a comprehensive examination of the reception systems in the Member States, the NCPs shall analyse the legal regulations affecting asylum applicants, the social conditions in the accommodation centres and

the provision of services in their reports as well. This problem oriented analysis shall include the perspectives of a variety of actors (NGOs, state institutions, management agencies of the centres, etc.).

The first chapter will examine the emergence and successive development of accommodation centres and other reception facilities. This will be followed by a brief description of the main administrative procedures undergone by the applicants, highlighting the legal requirements for

accommodation and receiving benefits.

The study will focus on analysing the number, location, capacity and organisation of accommodation centres and other reception facilities. The last chapter will concentrate on the provision of services and the general social situation of the applicants. The national reports are expected in May 2005.

Contributed by BIVS

Upcoming Events

This section features conferences and meetings proposed by the NCPs which are of inherent interest to EMN.

23.02 Workshop: European dialogue on migration - The new German Immigration Law in the light of the European migration and asylum policy ('Europäischer Migrationsdialog / Das neue deutsche Zuwanderungsgesetz - Europatauglich oder nationale Sackgasse?')

Berlin, Germany

Contact: DGB Bildungswerk, Migration und Qualifizierung, Jens Niethel.: +49-211-4301 141

http://www.migration-online.de/sub/seminaranmeldung.aWQ9MJY30Q_.html

migration@dgb-bildungswerk.de

25.- 26.02 "Induction Conference in Accession Countries", **France**

Conference in English and French language

contact: European Network Against Racism

43 rue de la Charité - 4th floor, B-1210

Bruxelles, Belgium

tel.: +32-2-2293570

fax +32-2-2293575,

info@enar-eu.org

www.enar-eu.org

15.-18.03. "The Enlarged EU and its Southern Neighbours"

Wiston House, Steyning, **West Sussex, UK**

Wilton Park Conferences, in association with the Maltese Ministry Of Foreign Affairs, the Mediterranean Academy of Diplomatic Studies and Foreign and Commonwealth Office, in Malta

<http://www.wiltonpark.org.uk/web/conferences/wrapper.asp?confref=WP776>

16.-20.03 6th Mediterranean Social and Political Research (MSPR) Meeting

Mediterranean Programme;

Florence and Montecatini, Italy

Robert Schuman Centre for Advanced Studies, European University Institute

Scientific Co-ordination: Imco Brouwer

[http://www.iue.it/RSCAS/Research/Mediterranean/mspr2005/](http://www.iue.it/RSCAS/Research/Mediterranean/mspr2005/Index.shtml)

[Index.shtml](http://www.iue.it/RSCAS/Research/Mediterranean/mspr2005/Index.shtml)

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31.03.- 03.04 3rd Marie Curie Conference "Multi-level governance of immigration flows" **Athens, Greece**

Berlin Institute for Comparative Social Research (BIVS), Germany

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fax: +49-30 4441085

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08.04 "International Roma Day"; Celebrating Roma Culture all over the World

Contact: Trans-European Roma Federation, 1 John Harper Street, C01

1RP **Colchester, UK**

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fax +44-1206-523528

ustiben.4@ntlworld.com

New Publications

The following research publications were published recently.

Sussex Centre for Migration Research: "Understanding voluntary return". Home Office Online Report 50/04

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs04/rdsolr5004.pdf>

Bill Edgar (Joint Centre for Scottish Housing Research, University of Dundee), Joe Doherty, (Joint Centre for Scottish Housing Research, University of St Andrews) and Henk Meert, (Institute for Social and Economic Geography, Catholic University of Leuven): "Immigration and Homelessness in Europe"

ISBN 1 86134 647 6

208 pages

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Available in English and French

www.feantsa.org

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