

Newsletter of the

European Migration Network

A Virtual Information Exchange
System on Migration and Asylum
in Europe



Issue No. 02/05
July 2005

This newsletter...

... first and foremost informs all interested parties about the European Migration Network (EMN), its aims and objectives as well as 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.

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 co-ordinated by the Berliner Institut für Vergleichende Sozialforschung, fourteen National Contact Points (NCPs) are gathering, co-ordinating, exchanging and analysing information and data on migration and asylum.

Since February 2005...

...the network has made progress in very practical ways. The network is steadily growing into an effective tool for monitoring and analysing migration issues on the national and European levels. The research and documentation efforts of the network are yielding first fruits:

The first EMN Policy Report on immigration and integration, focussing on relevant legal and policy developments in the fields of migration, asylum and settlement in the Member States, has been carried out. The country reports of four NCPs (Austria, Belgium, Germany, Ireland) are now available on the newly launched EMN website (www.european-migration-network.org) where all EMN reports are available for the public.

The country reports of the EMN Pilot Study on "The Impact of Immigration on Europe's Societies", have been finalised. An EU synthesis report, which summarises the findings presented in the national studies, was presented and lively discussed during the June EMN meeting. After a concluding discussion, the reports shall be presented

Contents

About the EMN	1
Activities since February 2005	1
Reports Section	2
<i>'Left behind against their will'</i> <i>by the Dutch Advisory Committee on Aliens Affairs (ACVZ)</i>	
EMN Activities	
<i>First Small Scale Study</i>	3
<i>The EMN Information System</i>	4
Up-coming Events	5
New Publications	6
Contact Details of the EMN members	7

to a wider audience at an enlarged EMN meeting in December 2005. The second EMN Research Study on "Illegally Resident Third Country Nationals in the EU Member States" is well underway.

In March 2005, the network's thesaurus working group came together to discuss the EMN thesaurus and the corresponding glossary. The commonly agreed vocabulary will be a central tool for harmonising data and facilitating

the search within them EMN information system.

The day before the EMN meeting in June, a special meeting took place with representatives of the new Member States. Discussed were their participation in further EMN activities. They were informed on how to designate and establish a NCP.

Finally, the six months long external evaluation of the EMN has come to an end.

DG JLS (DG Justice, Liberty and Security) is currently drafting a Green Paper to prepare the legal basis of the network for the time after 2006, which will be published in autumn 2005.

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.

'Left behind against their will'

by the Dutch Advisory Committee on Aliens Affairs (ACVZ)

For some time now both the media and politicians in the Netherlands have shown interest in the problem of women abandoned by their husbands in their country of origin without any identity documents or residence entitlement. This usually happens in the summer holiday period, and children are often left behind with their mothers. At the request of the Minister for Aliens Affairs and Integration, the Advisory Committee on Aliens Affairs (ACVZ) sets out in this report a number of recommendations on ways of dealing with this problem. The Minister asked the ACVZ to focus on three specific areas: (1) the nature and extent of the problem; (2) how the return of women who find themselves in this situation can be expedited and (3) what measures, under both criminal law and aliens law, can be taken against the men involved. The problem usually occurs where the relationship is conflictual and where there is little agreement on the upbringing of the children. A significant factor is that, in

the traditional role patterns in the country of origin the husband had much more scope for going his own way than the wife. Developments in the Netherlands in terms of equal rights have disrupted this role pattern and shifted the balance of power between the spouses. A group of migrant men would seem to be unwilling or unable to go along with this shift. To date, it has been known to occur largely in Morocco and Turkey, although there are indications that women are left behind in Egypt, Pakistan and Iran.

The guiding principle of this report is that women and children should not end up in a less favourable situation with regard to residence rights as a result of being abandoned. On the other hand, abandonment should not help them obtain residence rights for which they would not have been eligible otherwise. If a woman enters the Netherlands for the purpose of residence with her husband or partner, she will initially receive a residence permit that is linked to the existence of the relationship.

This is known as a dependent residence permit. After three years, she may be eligible for an independent residence permit. However, if she does not apply for this permit, her residence continues on the basis of the dependent permit. This construction is open to abuse by men wishing to keep their spouses in a precarious position with regard to residence rights. In this situation (where the dependent permit is extended) the woman continues to be dependent on the existence of the relationship and therefore, in a sense, on her husband for a long period of time, although the existing rules do not actually require this. The ACVZ believes that this situation is undesirable, and that the relevant legislation should be amended. This could strengthen the position of such women.

Abandoning your wife in your country of origin is not at present a criminal offence under Dutch law. There seems to be little point in making it an offence.

Nor is there much point in prosecuting other criminal offences relating to the abandonment, particularly if they were committed abroad. It emerges from the reports to the ACVZ and its own research into the problem at hand that virtually all abandoned women are no longer in possession of their identity or

residence documents. It is an established fact that only the holder of an identity and/or residence document has the right to have it in his/her possession. This applies in both the Netherlands and abroad. In the case of abandoned women, not having these documents in their possession has a considerable impact on their position.

The English summary of the report can be downloaded from the website of the ACVZ: www.acvz.com

Contributed by the Dutch NCP

EMN Activities

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

First Small Scale Study

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

Our goal to gather reliable and comprehensive information concerning the capacity of the reception facilities in the EU member states has been successfully achieved thanks to the national reports received in late May 2005. Nine NCPs have participated in this first small scale study: Austria, Czech Republic, Belgium, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Sweden and the Netherlands.

All reports have followed the pattern, which had been laid down in the draft specifications. This consisted firstly in writing a short historical overview of the emergence and successive development of the reception facilities in each country. As a second part, each report outlined the administrative and legal framework of the asylum application procedure. The information here collected was on different issues such as the duration of the application procedure, the existence

of legal assistance, the availability of interpreters etc. This was followed by an entire section on the organisation, number and capacities of the reception facilities. The NCPs have extensively written on issues such as who is responsible for the centres, who provides the funding, what are the average costs per person, how many applicants can be placed in a centre and so on. The reports also briefly highlighted any specific problems or shortcomings known in the reception systems. The fourth and final section of this small scale study was devoted to the social situation of asylum applicants within the reception centres. Here again, the reports gave an explicit overview of specific topics such as the supply of food and the equipment of the centres. The benefits asylum applicants can receive, e.g. financial and material support, and the services provided, such as schooling, vocational training, leisure activities, language courses

and health care, were also addressed.

All the national reports will be available on the EMN website to the public for download and will be published in the autumn 2005.

Once the first small scale study project will be completed, a second one will be launched. It shall examine the impact of immigration on one specific sector of the labour market and shall outline the different approaches of the member states adopted towards the management of migration flows for meeting the demands of the labour market. The choice of sector still needs to be agreed upon: it will either be the agricultural or the health sector.

Contributed by BIVS

The EMN Information System - Accelerating the Network's Publicity and Visibility

From now on, the EMN website will be opened to the general public in terms of presenting the network members, their activities and certain public outputs via the self-explanatory URL:

<http://www.european-migration-network.org>

This article describes in a nutshell these pieces of information and IT tools available from the EMN website.

The public user can gain insight into the main goals of the network and activities of the representatives and find out about the most newsworthy information published by the network's newsletter. Especially, public results like research studies are available for download by entering the respective website section, which classifies these documents according to different subjects. Thus, through visiting the EMN website, the interested user gets a clear picture of what the EMN is aiming at.

The EMN Information System

The NCPs compile information from a range of information sources mostly related to the research and analysis studies. Research reports, grey literature, annual statistical reports, recent and current publications, legislation, case-law, etc. will be documented along specified areas and incorporated by the NCPs into the EMN information system. Through the implementation of the web-

based EMN information exchange system, this data and information will be made easily accessible. The EMN information system, which is part of the EMN website, is focussing during the implementation phase on three different user groups:

- General public
- Partners, i.e. national network members and related projects
- Network Members, i.e. national contact points

Depending on the user visiting the EMN portal, the information system offers access to different kinds of information and tools. In the long term, the network is aiming at being as open as possible. The first step en route to an open information system was done this summer by means of opening the database search to partners of the NCPs. Thus, in addition to general information, EMN members and their national partners can use the search engine to retrieve contact data, publication or legal documents dealing with migration and asylum issues. Another data collection is currently under constitution and aims at providing insight into the information sources, i.e. documented internet links to relevant data suppliers.

Other IT Tools

Of course, the network working in the field of migration and asylum does not only provide public information, but also allows network members to find internal documents and specific tools relevant for

various activities:

In particular, the Members Area consists of a bulletin board allowing network members to participate in internal discussions, a document manager for downloading internal papers, and the central Repository Management System for managing national data collections. The latter tool is of utmost importance: It facilitates the documentation activities of the NCPs and fills the global EMN search engine.

Further Work

With respect to IT, the second half of the ongoing year will be determined by two main topics: Firstly, a user-friendly support for the EMN thesaurus within the central Repository Management System will be implemented. Secondly, it is expected that in the summer the import of national data records (initially publications) into that very system will be possible. As an ongoing activity, further services for the user of the information system shall be implemented, facilitating and enhancing data and information flows.

Contribution by Technical University
Berlin

Upcoming Events

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

17.7.–30.07.2005 Cultures in Dialogue 2005

Cultures in Dialogue invites 180 young Europeans (between 18 and 25 years of age) for debating on how to give recognition to national minorities within the EU. Participant's negotiations will result in a joint Resolution. As point of departure, the event will mark the 50th anniversary of the Copenhagen-Bonn Declarations whereby the Danish and German governments guaranteed the cultural rights of the Danish and German minorities.

Contact Cultures in Dialogue
c/o ACC Office
Falstersgade 44, St.Gården
DK-8000 Århus C
Co-ordinator John Petersen
Telephone +45 24 25 30 68
Fax +45 73 63 00 23
cid@acc.eu.org
<http://www.people.hojoster.dk>

09.09.–11.09.2005 Second Annual Conference of the Network of Excellence "International Migration, Integration and Social Cohesion (IMISCOE)"

University of Osnabrück / IMIS
Osnabrück, Germany

Contact:
Prof. Dr. Michael Bommers
soz-imis@uni-osnabrueck.de
Information: www.imiscoe.org

21.09.2005 Citizenship and Migration

Northern Ireland Centre for European
Co-operation
Workshop in Co-operation with
INCORE, University of Ulster

Topics of the workshop:

- Becoming citizens – migrant

workers, asylum seekers and
refugees – regulations and
human rights

- Racism – have we the diversity policies to deal with this increasing problem?
- North – South equivalence of rights in Good Friday Agreement context?
- Word games – is it assimilation, integration or citizenship?
- Dealing with practical problems – reception, benefits, housing, London – Dublin consulates, etc.
- European perspectives – EU policies, practices and direction.

Contact:
University of Ulster
Nicec@ulster.ac.uk
Fax: 00 44 (0) 2871 375560
contact: Dr. Leonard at 0044(0)7137
5520 or b.leonard@ulster.ac.uk
or
Press Office, Department of Public
Affairs
Tel: 028 9036 6178
Email: pressoffice@ulster.ac.uk

25.09.–30.09.2005 Seminar: Staatsangehörigkeitsrecht Einführung in das aktuelle Staatsbürgerschaftrecht

Veranstalter:
DGB Bildungswerk, Düsseldorf
Hamburg
Germany

The implementation of the newly reformed right to citizenship has brought up a lot of questions for the authorities and courts as well as for the applicants, which shall be raised and discussed during the seminar.

Information und registration:
Tel. +49(0) 211 4301 318
www.migration-online.de

29.09.05 – 02.10.05 EUROFOR Marie Curie Conference in Florence (Italy) on: International Organisations and the Settlement and Integration of Migrants and Refugees

The Berlin Institute for Comparative Social Research (BIVS) is currently organising, in cooperation with the European Research Forum on Migration and Ethnic Relations (EUROFOR), a series of twelve scientific conferences regarding the topic of migration management within the next four years (2004 – 2007). This project is part of the Marie Curie Conferences and Training Courses Programme of the European Commission and partly funded by DG Research. This conference will be the fourth event within the series. It will shed light on the recent and current development and implementation of settlement and integration policies for migrants and refugees in the European Union. There are 25 full scholarships available for early-stage researchers from the European Member States and Third Countries, covering travel and accommodation.

For more information and details on the grant application, see www.emz-berlin.de or contact the organisers directly at conferences@emz-berlin.de.

27.10.–29.10.2005 Migrations, Crises and Recent Conflicts in the Balkans

International Scientific Conference organised by the DémoBalk network, The Association of Demographers of Serbia and the International Association of French-speaking Demographers (AIDELF) Belgrade, Serbia and Montenegro.

The purpose of this scientific meeting is to give a versatile and complete balance mainly of demographic consequences of migrations caused by the socio-economic and political crises and armed conflicts, which took place in the Balkans during the 1990s. Both the external migrations (from the countries within the Balkans to the

countries outside of the Balkans, as well as among the countries within the Balkans) and the internal migrations will be considered.

Contact:
DemoBalk
University of THESSALY
LADS

Pedion Areos, Volos 38334
GREECE

For more information, please visit the website of the Institute of Social Sciences: www.idn.org.yu

New Publications

The following research publications were published recently.

Special Issue

From Emigration to Immigration to Transmigration? New Research Perspectives on Spain

Guest Editors: Gunther Dietz and Nadia El-Shohoumi

Spain has experienced a remarkable increase in its immigrant population in the last fifteen years. Some authors have even claimed that Spain has changed from being a classical country of emigration to a country of immigration. However, the data currently available does not support this affirmation. Although there are already more than 800,000 foreigners living with residence permits in Spain, there are still more than two million Spaniards living abroad. Despite much alarmist discourse, the statistically documented presence of foreigners in Spain makes it difficult to talk about 'massive' immigration, especially from the Maghreb and other African countries. Nonetheless, Spain

has rapidly evolved from being a classical country of emigration – directed basically towards northern and western Europe – to becoming a new 'pole of attraction' for immigration into the European Union.

Local, regional and national Spanish migration research has yet to achieve continuous integration into the international scientific community. This special issue on migration and migration research in Spain constitutes a pioneer initiative bringing together new research perspectives for the first time. The following articles shift from macro-level contextualisations and analyses, which provide the larger political framework

for understanding current migration trends, to micro-level case studies, carried out both in classical urban 'poles of attraction', such as in Barcelona and Madrid, as well as in 'new' scenarios of migrant-autochthonous relations, such as in rural Catalonia and Andalusia.

ISBN 3-88402-346-2
248 pages
Journal: Migration- a European Journal of International Migration and Ethnic Relations
Edition: 43/44/45
June 2005
Available at: Edition Parabolis (BIVS)
www.emz-berlin.de

Contact Details of EMN Members

European Commission

Directorate General Justice and Home
Affairs LX 4606/155,
1049 Brussels, Belgium
Stephen Davis
Stephen.Davis@cec.eu.int

Berlin Institute for Comparative Social Research

Schliemannstr. 23,
10437 Berlin, Germany
emn@emz-berlin.de

Technical University Berlin

Computation and Information Structures
Secr. E-N7, Einsteinufer 17,
10587 Berlin, Germany
markus.stuebing@tu-berlin.de

Austria: International Organisation for Migration

Nibelungengasse 13/4,
1010 Vienna, Austria
ncpaustria@iom.int

Belgium: SPF Intérieur DG Office des étrangers

59b Chaussée d'Anvers
1000 Bruxelles, Belgium
emn@ibz.fgov.be
www.ibz.fgov.be

Czech Republic: Ministry of the Interior Unit of International Relations and Information on Countries of Origin

Department for Asylum and Migration Policies
MV – P.O. Box 21/OAM
17034 Prague 7, Czech Republic
opu@mvr.cz

Finland: Statistics Finland

P.O. Box 4B, Statistics Finland
00022, Finland
www.stat.fi

France: Observatoire des statistiques de l'immigration et de l'intégration du Haut Conseil à l'intégration (HCI-OSII)

35, rue St. Dominique
75007 Paris, France
Caroline.bray@hci.pm.gouv.fr

Germany: Bundesamt für Migration und Flüchtlinge

Frankenstraße 210,
90461 Nürnberg, Germany
www.bamf.de

Greece: Centre of Planning and Economic Research

Hippokratous 22,
Athens 10680, Greece
kepe@kepe.gr

Ireland: Economic and Social Research Institute

4 Burlington Rd.,
Dublin 4, Ireland
www.esri.ie

Italy: Immigrazione Dossier Statistico

Viale Baldelli 41,
00147 Roma, Italy
www.dossierimmigrazione.it/emn/index.htm

Netherlands: Immigration and Naturalization Service Information and Analysis Centre (INDIAC)

2283 XL. Rijswijk, The Netherlands
emn@ind.minjus.nl
www.ind.nl

Portugal: Serviço de Estrangeiros e Fronteiras

Rua Conselheiro José Silvestre Ribeiro, 4,
1649-007 Lisboa, Portugal
emn@sef.pt
www.sef.pt

Spain: Observatorio Permanente de la Inmigración

C/Amador de los Rios, # 7,
28010 Madrid, Spain
www.imsersomigracion.upco.es

Sweden: Statistics Sweden

701 89 Örebro, Sweden
www.scb.se

United Kingdom: Home Office. Immigration Research and Statistics Service

Apollo House, 36 Wellesley Road,
Croydon CR9 3RR, United Kingdom
www.homeoffice.gov.uk