

EMN BULLETIN

The EMN Bulletin provides policymakers and other practitioners with updates on recent migration and international protection policy developments at EU and national level, and is structured to provide in all relevant themes. Edition 6 of the EMN Bulletin brings you information from the period October 2013 to February 2014, including (latest) relevant published statistics.

To access recent EU and National developments directly in your chosen policy area, please click on the following themes: [general policy developments](#); [legal migration](#); [international protection and asylum](#); [unaccompanied minors](#); [eradication of trafficking in human beings](#); [Schengen borders, and visas](#); [external dimension](#); [irregular migration and return](#); [integration and citizenship](#); [other EMN outputs](#); and [Annex: additional complementary statistics](#).

SPECIAL NOTE

The tragic accident offshore from the island of Lampedusa triggered a united call for action from European leaders and citizens alike. In response, the Justice and Home Affairs Council of 7th-8th October 2013 established [the Task Force Mediterranean \(TFM\)](#), charged with identifying all available EU tools to avoid such tragic events from happening again. The Commission launched a [Communication](#) on the work of the TFM on 4th December 2013, which emphasised the need for an **integrated and comprehensive** range of measures for the whole Mediterranean area. It set out five concrete areas of action for the Task Force, to achieve [two main purposes](#): to better address migration flows and to prevent further loss of life in the Mediterranean. The concrete actions areas are:

- i) Actions in cooperation with third countries;
- ii) Regional protection, resettlement and reinforced legal avenues to Europe;
- iii) Fight against trafficking, smuggling and organised crime;
- iv) Reinforced border surveillance contributing to enhancing understanding of the maritime situation and to the protection and saving of migrants' lives in the Mediterranean; and
- v) Assistance and solidarity with Member States dealing with high migration pressure.

The Communication stressed the need for long-term initiatives to complement the concrete action areas, including those aimed at addressing the root causes of migration - poverty, conflict, human rights violations, poor working conditions and unemployment.

The **European Council**, in its [Conclusions](#) of 19th-20th December 2013, called for the mobilisation of all efforts to implement the Communication's thirty-eight operational actions on the work of the TFM, and stressed the need to increase cooperation with third countries to help to prevent migrants from making hazardous journeys to the EU as a priority.

WHAT IS THE EUROPEAN MIGRATION NETWORK (EMN)?

A network co-ordinated by the European Commission, assisted by two Service Providers, in co-operation with National Contact Points (EMN NCPs) established in each Member State plus Norway. Its purpose is to provide up-to-date, objective, reliable and comparable information on migration and asylum with a view to supporting policymaking in the European Union in these areas, as well as to the wider public. More information, as well as all EMN outputs, is available from www.emn.europa.eu.

1. GENERAL POLICY DEVELOPMENTS

- ★ On 29th-30th January 2014, **DG HOME** organised the **Conference “An open and safe Europe – what next”** to debate the future challenges and priorities that Home Affairs policies must address in the new programming period following the end of the Stockholm Programme, which has provided the policy framework for the EU Home Affairs area since 2010. Hosted by Commissioner Malmström, the Conference brought together a wide range of stakeholders, including representatives from the EU Member States, the European Parliament, EU institutions and agencies, international organisations, civil society and academia. The Conference aimed to stimulate discussion on how future work on migration, asylum and security-related issues can make the EU a safer and more open place in which to live and work.

High level workshops focused on the maximisation of the benefits of migration, the credibility of the EU return policy, the implementation of a Common European Asylum System (CEAS) and access to asylum through legal routes. The input from stakeholders will feed into the **EU Communication on the “New agenda for Home Affairs”**, to be adopted at the end of February 2014, which will inform the strategic guidelines for Home Affairs policies post-Stockholm.



- ★ Prior to the above Conference, and also with a view to policies post-Stockholm programme, the **European Commission** launched on 29th October 2013, a **public consultation - “Debate on the future of Home Affairs policies: An open and safe Europe – what next?”**. The results of the consultation will also be used to contribute to the Commission’s Communication on the New Agenda for Home Affairs.
- ★ On the occasion of International Migrants Day held on 18th December 2013, **Commissioner Malmström’s statement this year stressed the importance of migration** as a call to Europe to consider migration an asset rather than a threat, noting that migration and mobility can play a

crucial role in economic growth and contribute to Europe’s economic recovery.

- ★ The **European Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA)** published **“Fundamental rights in the future of the European Union’s Justice and Home Affairs”**, taking into account also the results of two public consultations in this area launched by DG Justice in late 2013.

2. LEGAL MIGRATION

STATISTICS

- ★ Eurostat released updated statistics on first **residence permits** issued in the EU 28 and Norway during 2012: there were no substantial changes (see Figures in Annex, A1a and A1b). The three top Member States which have issued most residence permits continue to be the **United Kingdom¹** (631 940), **Italy** (246 760) and **Spain** (223 026). Member States which issued permits mainly for **family reasons** were **Greece** (73% of all permits), **Luxembourg** (63%), **Belgium** (54%), **Spain** (53%), **Italy** (49%) and **Sweden** (49%).
- ★ In **Germany**: the **Migration Report 2012** was published on 15th January 2014. The report shows that during 2012 there was a significant immigration increase (1 081 000 immigrants) while emigration has remained almost consistent (712 000 emigrants). Net migration has reported the highest numbers (369 000 people) since 1995 and 32 % higher than 2011.
- ★ In the **United Kingdom**: The Office for National Statistics’ **Migration Statistics Quarterly Report** (produced by Home Office, Department for Work and Pensions and National Records of Scotland) was published on 25th November 2013, giving quarterly data on UK migration flows, visas, asylum and settlement. The **Home Office’s Immigration Statistics Report (July to September 2013)** was also published on 28th November 2013, providing the latest UK statistics on those subject to immigration control. Topics included: admissions, visas, asylum, settlement, citizenship, detention, removals and voluntary departures
- ★ In **Poland**: the Office for Foreigners has published **provisional data** related to migration trends in 2013.

EU DEVELOPMENTS AND UPDATES

- ★ On 5th February 2014, the **European Parliament** voted to adopt the new Directive harmonising the

¹ UK does not operate a system of residence permits as such. Data on passenger arrivals, visas and asylum processes are used to compile data for the UK’s equivalent systems.

conditions of entry and residence, and the rights of **Seasonal Workers**. Following the vote, the Directive will need to be formally adopted by the Council, and then implemented by Member States within a two and a half year period. The new Directive is for seasonal workers who retain their principal place of residence in a third country, but stay legally and temporarily in the EU to carry out seasonal work, for example, in agriculture or tourism. Each Member State will determine a maximum period of stay between five and nine months in any 12-month period. The vote was welcomed by Commissioner Malmström in a [press release](#) on the same day.

- ★ The European Commission has released the [Social Europe guide, Volume 5](#). The guide is a bi-annual publication which provides an overview of EU policy in the field of employment, social affairs and inclusion. The guide also provides best practices of EU Member States.

Judgment of the European Court of Justice Case [C-87/12](#)

In the case *C-87/12, Ymeraga and Ymeraga-Tafarshiku*, the Court ruled that Article 20 TFEU must be interpreted as not precluding a Member State from refusing to allow a third-country national to reside in its territory, where that third-country national wishes to reside with a family member who is a European Union citizen residing in the Member State of which he holds the nationality and has never exercised his right of freedom of movement as a Union citizen, provided such refusal does not lead, for the Union citizen concerned, to the denial of the genuine enjoyment of the substance of the rights conferred by virtue of his status as a Union citizen.

Judgment of the European Court of Justice Case [C-86/12](#)

In the case *C-86/12 Alopka and Moudoulo* of 10 October 2013, involving Luxembourg, the Court of Justice of the European Union ruled that a Member State may refuse a third-country national with dependent EU citizen children to reside in its territory, in so far as such a refusal does not deprive those citizens of effective enjoyment of the substance of the rights conferred by virtue of the status of European citizenship.

NATIONAL DEVELOPMENTS

General legal migration

- ★ **Austria:** In order to transpose the EU Single Permit Directive (2011/98/EU) the Settlement and Residence Act has been amended. The amendments include the introduction of uniform application procedures for the issuance of single permits for specific groups of third-country nationals. The provisions of the Settlement and Residence Act have also been extended to beneficiaries of international protection and thus transposing [Directive 2011/51/EU](#).
- ★ **Lithuania:** New [migration policy guidelines](#) were approved by the Lithuanian government in January 2014. The Guidelines - a comprehensive policy document, setting out the main policy priorities in the field of migration and asylum - overall seek to encourage the return of Lithuanian citizens and attract foreign workers who match labour market needs in order to encourage economic development and innovation.

Lithuania shortened the timeframe for issuing a temporary residence from six to four months. The possibility for a fast-track procedure (two months) for individuals paying higher fees has also been introduced.

- ★ **Poland:** On 27th December 2013, the President of Poland signed a [new Act on Foreigners](#), which will introduce many important changes to regulations on immigration. The Act will enter into force in May 2014.

A [public consultation on the draft Action Plan-“Migration policy of Poland - the current state of play and further actions”](#) – was launched by the Ministry of the Interior on 20th December 2013. The document is the first strategic document on migration in Poland’s history.

Economic migration

- ★ **Finland:** Following the transposition of the EU Single Permit Directive, on 30th December 2013 Finland has approved legislation to provide [social security rights for third-country nationals](#) on the basis of their employment in Finland. The new law entered into force as from the 1st January 2014. In order to be eligible, third-country nationals are required to have worked in Finland for a minimum and continuous period of four months. The new law is expected to affect around 1 500 people annually. Previous to this law, third-country nationals working in Finland were covered under health insurances and only had access to social security rights if permanent residents in Finland.
- ★ **Ireland:** As from 1st January 2014 Ireland has introduced a [new employment permit and](#)

[immigration arrangements](#) for non-EEA doctors (including locum doctors) working in Ireland.

- ★ **Italy:** In October 2013, the Directorate General of Immigration and Integration Policy of the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy published a report on ["The labour market of foreign workers in Italy in the third trimester of 2013"](#). The report highlights a decrease in labour demand, alongside an increase in the number of people from third countries in search of employment.

On 5th November 2013, an inter-ministerial circular on the possibility of converting permits for seasonal work into permits for subordinate employment was released clarifying that seasonal workers may request a change of permit without having to return to their country of origin. This provision aims to regularise third-country nationals who have already experience of working in Italy rather than adopting new immigration quotas.

Following the Bilateral Agreement signed in 2012 between Mauritius and Italy, in January 2014, the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy, in collaboration with IOM, launched a project to facilitate the effective management of circular migration between the two countries. The project includes informative and training activities for Mauritian administrative agencies as well as pre-departure training of workers.

- ★ **Latvia:** Following the transposition of the EU Single Permit Directive (2011/98/EU), amendments were introduced to the Immigration Law of 5 December, 2013. As a result, as from 1st January 2014 work permits will no longer be issued in paper format, but the residence permit will be granted with a record – on the basis of the right to employment.
- ★ **Luxembourg:** On 2nd October 2013 the trial period of the so called 'Social Badge' has been launched, which aims to fight social dumping and to facilitate the posting of workers including those from third countries. Practically, employers must register prospective employees from third countries under the [Inspectorate of Labour and Mines](#) (*Inspection du Travail et des Mines*) and the worker must obtain the badge before being officially placed. The badge will include the employee's name and a bar code, which can be scanned by the inspectors to obtain all employees' necessary information. The official use of the badge is expected at the beginning of 2014.
- ★ **Malta:** The [government of Malta met with European Commission representatives](#) to discuss the Individual Investor Programme of the Republic of Malta. The Maltese Government presented the further amendments to the regulations issued under the Maltese Citizenship Act (L.N.450 of

2013), with a view to clarify that this programme will confer full rights, responsibilities and a full citizenship status. Overall, no certificate of naturalisation will be issued unless the applicant provides proof of Maltese residence for a period of at least 12 months, immediately preceding the day of issuing of the certificate of naturalisation

- ★ **Netherlands:** The State Secretary of Security and Justice, aiming to stimulate the Dutch economic growth, has introduced measures to provide [facilitated access for wealthy third-country nationals to residence permits](#). As of 1st October 2013 residence permits (of one year's duration) are issued to third-country nationals with an investment capital of at least EUR 1 250 000 to be invested in the Dutch economy.
- ★ **Poland:** As from 1st January 2014, [amendments on the regulations referring to the employment of third-country nationals entered into force](#). The amendments clarified legal provisions now applied to simplify procedures when issuing work permits to the citizens of Belarus, Georgia, Moldova, Russia, Ukraine and Armenia, previously employed on the basis of a declaration of intention to entrust work to a foreigner. Since the 1st January 2014 citizens of [Armenia have been granted with facilitated access to the labour market](#). Similarly to nationals of Belarus, Georgia, Ukraine, Moldova and Russia, **Armenian citizens are now permitted to take on a short-term job in Poland** (up to 6 months per year) on the basis of simplified rules.
- ★ **Spain:** Following the amendments and the First Additional Provision of the Spanish Asylum Law, on 13th December 2013 the government adopted a **New National Resettlement Programme**.
- ★ **Norway:** On 4th December 2013 the report ["Labour migrants from Central and Eastern Europe in the Nordic countries: Patterns of migration, working conditions and recruitment practices"](#) was published. The report, developed in cooperation with researchers from Fafo (Norway), FAOS (Denmark), CIRRA/MIRRA (Iceland), CMR (Poland) and SOFI (Sweden), presents the results from a project aimed to generate new comparative knowledge about labour migration from Central and Eastern Europe to the Nordic countries. The report covers, amongst others, factors that shape wage and working conditions and recruitment processes and practices for labour migrants.

Student migration

- ★ **Luxembourg:** On 14th October 2013, the [Administrative Tribunal followed the judgment of the European Court of Justice](#) (CJEU) and annulled the decision of the Ministry of Higher Education and Research to refuse granting financial aid to

students whose parents are cross-border workers, (EU Citizens and third country nationals). In the case *C-20/12 Elodie Giersch and others* of 20th June 2013, the CJEU judged that the residence condition gave rise to a difference in treatment amounting to indirect discrimination between the children of resident workers and cross-border workers.

- ★ **Netherlands:** In November 2013, the Minister of Education, Culture and Science launched the ["Make it in the Netherlands"](#) action plan. The plan includes a range of measures to attract international students and to establish strong ties with them in the Netherlands. The Minister provided a set of proposals to attract the foreign students, such as: liaising potential employers with the international students before the end of the studies, providing them with better information on the country's career opportunities and offering language courses.
- ★ **Poland:** The new Act on Foreigners, which will enter into force on 1st May 2014, introduces new measures to facilitate access for international students, including *inter alia* the possibility for a third country national graduate to be granted a one-year residence permit for the purpose of seeking employment, extending the validity period of a temporary residence permit and a more individual and flexible approach in terms of granting subsequent residence permit in situations where insufficient progress in education was noted.

Family migration

- ★ **Belgium:** On 3rd October 2013, the [Law of 2 June 2013](#), aiming to enhance the fight against marriages of convenience, entered into force. The Law has now been extended by including legal cohabitations of convenience. Similarly, on 14th November 2013, the Belgian Council of Ministers approved a new measure to also enhance the fight against marriage of convenience between Belgian municipalities, the so called "shopping between municipalities". The new measure will allow municipalities to verify whether a person has already been reported by other municipalities' registers in relation to marriage/legal cohabitation to provide/obtain a residence benefit.
- ★ **Ireland:** The Irish Department of Justice and Equality published a [new policy document on non-EEA family reunification](#). The document provides processing guidelines which will apply to family reunification cases from the beginning of 2014.

3. INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION AND ASYLUM; UNACCOMPANIED MINORS

STATISTICS

- ★ The latest statistics available on Eurostat show that the **number of asylum applicants** during the last quarter of 2013, was higher when compared to the same periods in 2012 and 2011 and exceeded the 2012 numbers by 25% (Figure 1a). **Germany accounted for half of the overall increase** of asylum applicants in all EU Member States in Q3 2013 when compared to the same quarter of the previous year. Overall the number of [first asylum applications increased](#) significantly by 69.8% (109 580) in **Germany** during 2013 when compared to 2012, followed by **France** (54 015), **Sweden** (49 035), **Italy** (24 615) and **United Kingdom** (24 495).
- ★ As shown in Figure 1b, according to preliminary statistics, in 2013 the total number of **asylum applications** was some 406 440, showing a **21% increase** when compared to 2012. **New asylum applications** accounted for 350 000, representing a **26% increase** when compared with the previous year.
- ★ **Germany, Greece and France** registered the highest number of **pending asylum applications** on 31st September 2013. Germany had almost three times more applications than the latter two (around 40 000 each).
- ★ The highest number of positive first instance decisions in Q3 2013 was recorded in **Sweden** and **Germany** (recording each one 20% of all positive decisions within EU), **Italy** (12%), **France** and **Netherlands** (9% each).
- ★ Figure 2a shows that, as in the previous quarter, in **Q3 2013** the number of **rejections²** in the EU 28 (56 400) was double the number of positive decisions (25 855), which were five times higher than rejections in **Bulgaria** and **Malta**. Member States where positive decisions exceeded rejections were **Romania, Finland, Italy, Netherlands** and **Sweden**.
- ★ **Hungary** and **Bulgaria** showed a significant increase in asylum applicants during the Q3 2013, when compared to Q3 in 2012. See Figure 2b. Other Member States that registered a significant increase between Q3 2012 and Q3 2013 were **Estonia, Latvia** and **Malta**.
- ★ Most asylum applications were submitted by citizens of **Syria** (14 190), **Russia** (10 290), **Afghanistan** (6 295), **Pakistan** (5 785), **Somalia** (5 630) and, with around 5 000, **Eritrea**

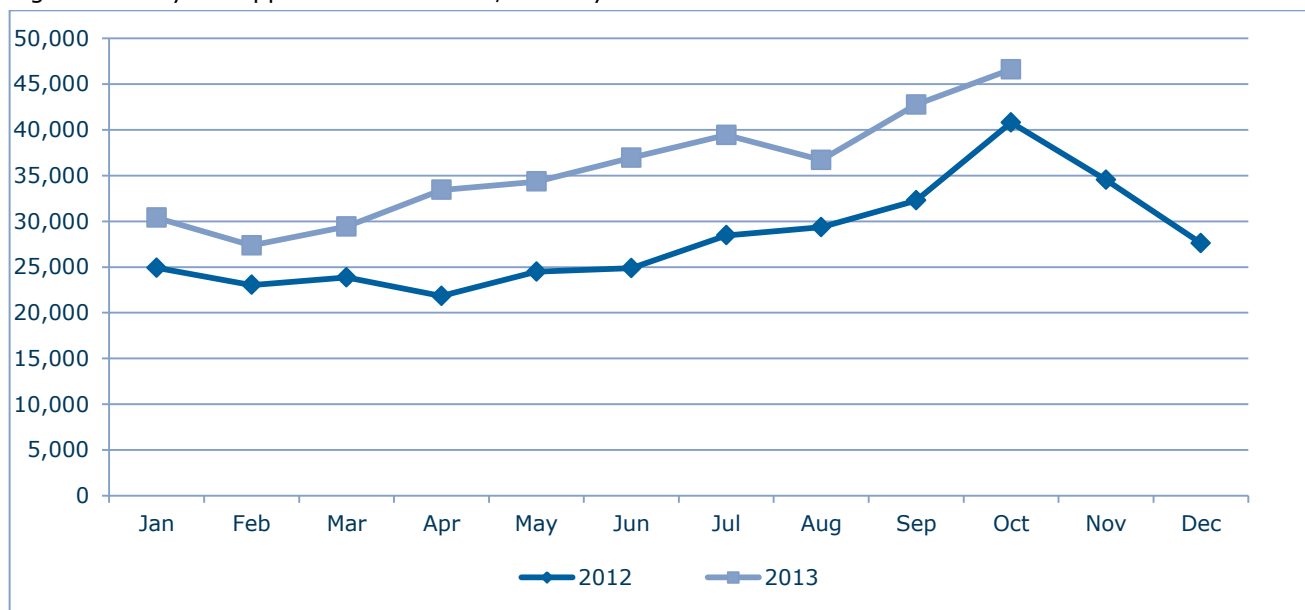
² The number of rejections includes also Dublin decisions (i.e. decisions to transfer a person to another Member State under the Dublin regulation (EC Regulation n. 862/2007).

and **Kosovo**. Figure 2c shows the relative change of the top nationalities submitting applications in the EU 28 from Q3 2012 to Q3 2013. It is worth noting that **stateless applicants quadrupled, while applications submitted by Egyptians, Eritreans, and Gambians tripled**. A considerable increase also occurred on the number of applications submitted by citizens of **Mali (+170%), Kosovo (+100%)** and

Bangladesh (+90%). No significant decrease from major nationality groups can be observed.

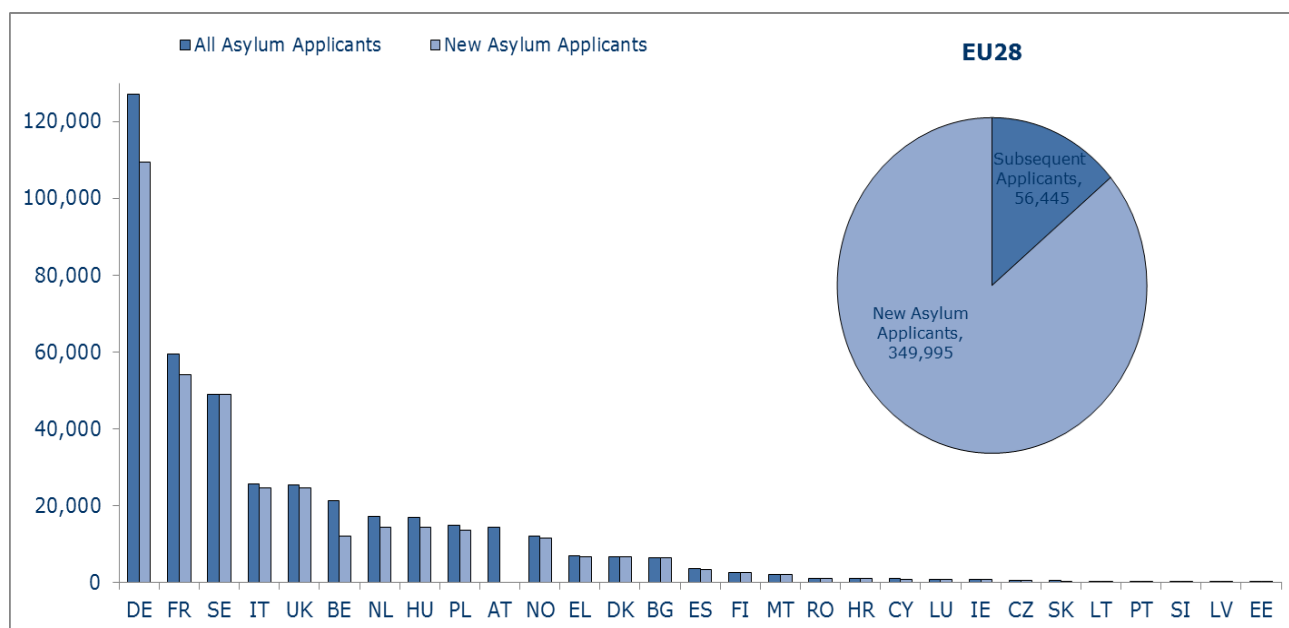
★ **Poland** has published [provisional 2013 data on asylum trends](#). Data highlighted that **the number of submitted applications for refugee status was highest in the history** of the Polish asylum system (15 000).

Figure 1a: Asylum applications in EU-28, January 2012-October 2013



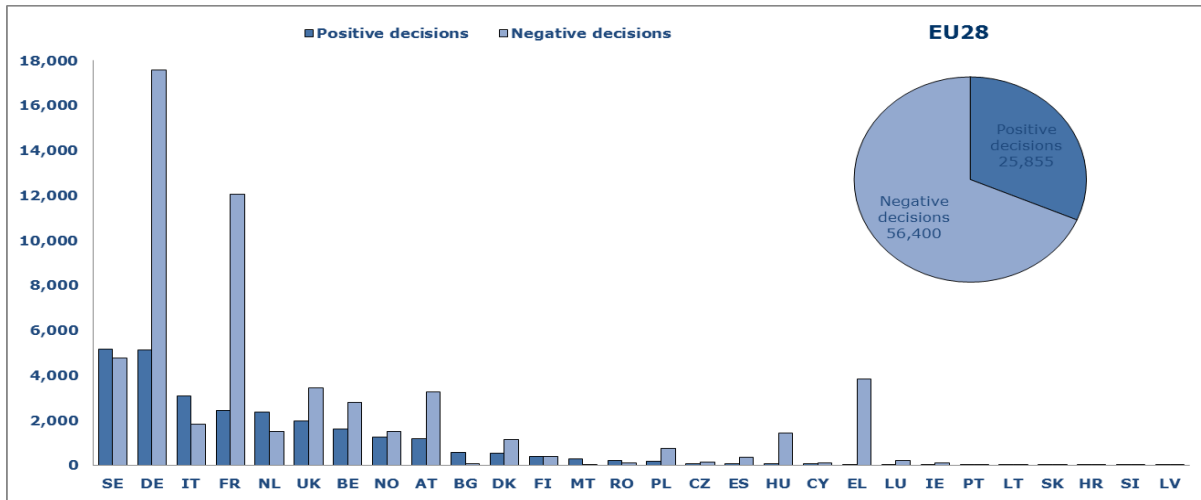
Source: Eurostat, accessed on 14 January 2014. November and December 2013 data was omitted as these were incomplete.

Figure 1b: Asylum and new asylum applicants by (Member) State, total 2013



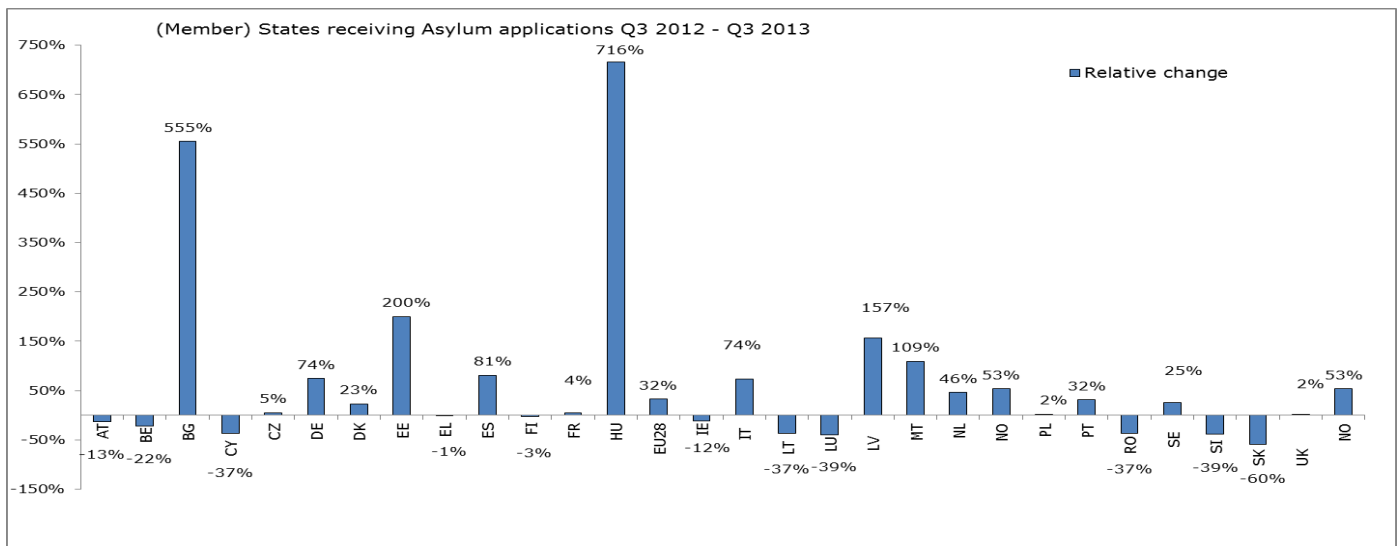
Source: Eurostat, accessed on 28 January 2014. These are intended as preliminary figures.

Figure 2a: First instance asylum decisions, third quarter 2013 (quarterly data)



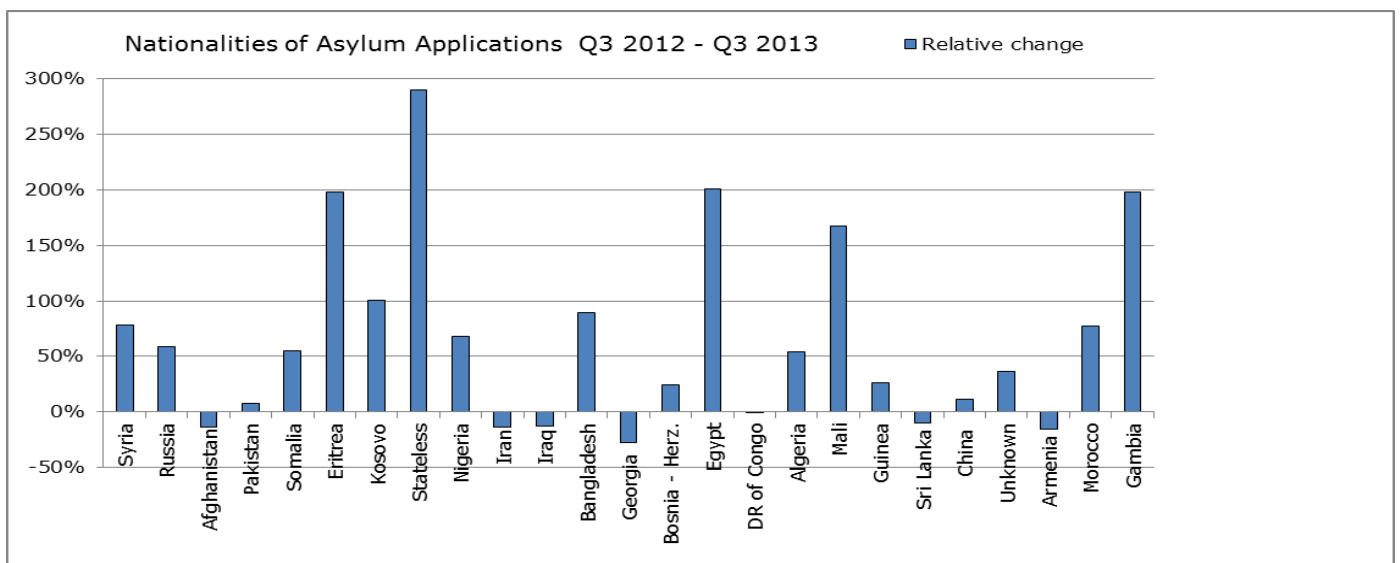
Source: Eurostat, accessed on 28 January 2014 – Negative decisions include also "Dublin decisions" (according to Art. 4, EC Regulation n. 862/2007)

Figure 2b: Asylum applicants, relative change between Q3 2012 and Q3 2013, in percentages



Source: Eurostat, accessed on 28 January 2014 - Data on EU 28 include Dublin decisions as negative ones (according to Art. 4 862/2007)

Figure 2c: Asylum applicants, relative change between Q3 2012 and Q3 2013 in percentages.



Source: Eurostat, accessed on 28 January 2014 - Data on EU 28 include Dublin decisions as negative ones (according to Art. 4 862/2007)

EU DEVELOPMENTS AND UPDATES

- ★ The 2013 EMN Synthesis Report on "[Organisation of Reception Facilities for Asylum Seekers in different EU Member States](#)" was published on 31st January 2014. The main aim of the Study, developed in cooperation with 23 Member States and Norway, was to identify good practices for flexible, efficient reception facilities whilst maintaining quality of reception conditions. The Study addresses similarities and differences in: the organisation of reception facilities (organisation); the provision of basic material reception conditions (legislation/quality); good practices of (Member) States in handling pressure on their reception system (flexibility); factors impacting on the in- and outflow of applicants (efficiency).
- ★ The European Commission published its [Proposal for a Council Decision on the conclusion of the Arrangement with Norway on the modalities of its participation in the European Asylum Support Office \(EASO\)](#) on 10th December 2013. The Proposal calls for the Council to approve, upon the EU Parliament consent, the Arrangement which provides the extension of Norway's participation in the work of EASO and its entitlement to receive support actions according to EASO's Regulation (EU) No 439/2010.
- ★ On 13th December 2013, [the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees \(UNHCR\) and EASO signed a working arrangement](#) in Geneva. The latter is aimed at strengthening the cooperation between EASO and UNHCR in the framework of the Common European Asylum System (CEAS) and the International Law for refugees.
- ★ Between November and December 2013, a number of EASO activities and publications were noted. For example, EASO published a [report on asylum flows from the Western Balkans](#) on 19th November 2013. The report aims to provide a comprehensive overview of the flow of asylum seekers from the Western Balkans towards EU Member States and associated countries, by providing a comparative analysis of trends, push-pull factors and the countries responses to the flow of asylum seekers from Western Balkan countries. Also at the end of November (27/28) EASO held its [third Consultative Forum Plenary meeting in Malta](#). The main topics of discussion included EASOs' role on the external dimension of the Common European Asylum System (CEAS), EASO's case study regarding the Western Balkans and EASO's work in Greece, amongst others.

NATIONAL DEVELOPMENTS

- ★ **Austria:** New procedures and a new institutional set-up entered into force in 2014 within the area

of international protection. Overall, the changes aim to transpose the Qualification Directive (2011/95/EU), particularly by extending the family concept and the validity of residence permits for individuals granted subsidiary protection (to up to two years.) Organisationally, a new overarching office, the [Bundesamt für Fremdenwesen und Asyl](#) (BFA) has been established, replacing the former Federal Asylum Office (*Bundesasylamt*). BFA responsibilities include: asylum procedure, elements of forced return procedure and several residence titles for humanitarian reasons. The Federal Administrative Court (Bundesverwaltungsgericht) has now been established as the second instance court for proceedings and is now responsible for the decisions on appeals lodged against BFA decisions and has replaced the Asylum Court (Asylgerichtshof) on these specific functions.

- ★ **Finland:** As from 1st January 2014, the Ombudsman for Minorities, currently responsible for monitoring activities to ensure legal protection and advancement of the status of ethnic minorities in Finland, will also [oversee the deportation process of asylum seekers](#) whose have received a negative decision. Previous to this appointment, there was no specific body responsible for the supervision of the deportation process for people in this situation, which was previously done by the police. New law amendments also included provisions to improve the asylum seekers' deportation process.
- ★ **France:** Following the transposition of Directive 2011/51/EU, on 30th October 2013, the [transposing legislation](#) has introduced the long-term resident status for third-country nationals who are beneficiaries of international protection.

Following a request from the Ministry of Interior, proposals for the asylum legislation reform were submitted on 28th November 2013 and the [report on the asylum reform](#) was developed after a wide consultation which took place between July and October 2013. The aim of the asylum reform is to provide new safeguards for asylum seekers, to improve asylum, reception and accommodation procedures and to enhance integration measures for beneficiaries of international protection.

On 16th December 2013, Albania, Georgia and Kosovo were included in [the list of safe countries of origin](#) by the Management Board of the French Office for the Protection of Refugees and Stateless Persons (OFPRA). The list is now composed by 18 countries.

- ★ **Ireland:** In order to give further effect to the Qualification Directive (2011/95/EU) Ireland introduced [new Regulations on Subsidiary Protection aiming at governing the investigation and determination of applications for subsidiary](#)

[protection](#) (S.I. No. 426 of 2013). These regulations came into effect on 14th November 2013. The Office of the Refugee Applications Commissioner ([ORAC](#)) will be now responsible for processing subsidiary protection applications at first instance.

- ★ **Italy:** On 17th December 2013 a [legislative Decree](#) was adopted to confer the status of long-term EU residents to refugees and beneficiaries of subsidiary protection, following the transposition of Directive 2011/51/EU, and favours the integration and intra-EU mobility of refugees and beneficiaries of international protection, even after the latter expires.

Also on 17th December 2013, the Ministry of the Interior and the Italian National Association of Municipalities (ANCI) signed an [agreement](#) to increase ANCI's role in providing operational support to the System for the protection of asylum seekers and refugees (SPRAR), which currently has 16 000 places for vulnerable applicants, such as, unaccompanied minors, the elderly and the disabled.

A public consultation was launched between the 24th October and 25th November 2013 on new draft [guidelines on unaccompanied minors: Implementing powers of the Directorate-General on Integration and Integration Policy](#), which were adopted on 22nd October 2013, and aim to define procedural regulations on, amongst others: census mechanisms, family investigations, voluntary assisted return, and the issuance of residence authorisation upon reaching the legal age of majority.

- ★ **Netherlands:** on 3rd December 2013 the State Secretary adopted recommendations from the Ombudsman's Report on [the medical care provided to foreign nationals](#). These included the **provision of more privacy for sick asylum seekers in reception centres**. The improvement and the availability of patients' transport for asylum seekers from reception centres will also be investigated, together with the length of waiting time. Foreign nationals in detention will no longer be transported to hospital in handcuffs, except in cases where there is a risk of absconding.

In December 2013, the Advisory Committee on Migration Affairs published its report ["No Country of one's own"](#) on treaty protection for stateless persons. The report concluded that no proper statelessness determination procedure was in place, and argued that an autonomous interpretation of the 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons implies that a residence permit should be granted to persons who are recognised as stateless, unless exclusion grounds apply. Finally the report stressed the need to **improve the facilitation of**

naturalisation of stateless persons and also of stateless children born in the Netherlands.

- ★ **Poland:** The **expert group** appointed to facilitate the identification of potential victims under asylum procedure, is currently **working on the elaboration of a new version of the asylum application**. This new version will put more emphasis on the identification of applicants' special needs. Additionally, training on identification of vulnerable groups has been provided to Border Guard officers working at detention centres as well as to officers responsible for the registration of asylum applications.
- ★ **Norway:** Following the general elections in September 2013, a right leaning government took office in October 2013. A **co-operation agreement has been concluded between the parties in government and two parties on the political centre**. Priorities have been set in the field of migration and asylum, including: to stress the importance of the assessment of a child's situation during the asylum application procedure and decisions; the differentiation of asylum seekers' reception centres and the referral of declined applicants to such centres and; the effective removal of irregular migrants and criminal foreign nationals.

4. ERADICATION OF TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS

EU DEVELOPMENTS AND UPDATES

- ★ The publication of the EMN Synthesis Report on the ["Identification of Victims of Trafficking in Human Beings"](#) is expected by the end of February 2014. The report will provide a summary of the national [contributions from 23 Member States and Norway](#). Overall the report outlines the national mechanisms for detection, identification and referral of victims of trafficking in human beings with international protection procedure (and in forced return procedures if they have received a (final) negative decision on their application(s) for protection or have abandoned the procedure). The study is the first of its kind to systematically outline practice to support the detection of and assistance to victims of trafficking who are in asylum and forced return procedures. The study provides information on the progress in the development of identification systems since the transposition of Directive 2011/36/EU and will serve as a baseline for monitoring progress in Member States' implementation of the recast asylum acquis.
- ★ On 20th November 2013, the European Commission published the [November Infringements packages](#) which provide information

on those Member States which have failed to properly comply with their obligations according to EU law.

NATIONAL DEVELOPMENTS

- ★ **Belgium:** The Centre for Equal Opportunities and Opposition to Racism published its [16th Annual Report on trafficking and smuggling in human beings](#) on the 15th October 2013. The report focusses on the **victims** of trafficking and smuggling, particularly on their non-punishment.
- ★ **Estonia:** A revised guideline for the identification of victims of trafficking in human beings was adopted in December 2013.
- ★ **France:** On 4th December 2013, the National assembly adopted a [bill aiming to transpose provision of the Trafficking in Human Beings Directive](#) (2011/36/EU). The bill also aims to combat prostitution and the protection of victims.
- ★ **Germany:** Following the transposition of Directive 2011-36/EU, between June 2011 and June 2012 the Federal Office, together with the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and United Nations Refugee Agency (UNHCR), developed the project "Identification and Protection of Victims of Human Trafficking in the Asylum Process". As a result of the project, **specialised decision makers for human trafficking have been established at all branches of the German Federal Office**. In addition, a **manual to better identify victims** during the asylum process has also been developed and will be in use soon. The manual provides indicators for human trafficking in order to facilitate the identification of potential victims. External experts will also provide special training for decision makers dealing with the asylum process, in order to enhance their ability to identify potential trafficking victims and to improve the assistance provided to victims. More information of the project can be found on [the EMN National Report on Trafficking on Human Beings](#).
- ★ **Italy:** Following the tragedies of Lampedusa, the operation '[Mare nostrum](#)' was launched. Mare nostrum is a military-assisted humanitarian operation aimed at increasing the efficiency of maritime rescue operations. The operation will be also synchronised with anti-human trafficking operations.
- ★ **Luxembourg:** On 15th January 2014, the Group of Experts on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings (GRETA) published the first evaluation round on the [Report concerning the implementation of the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings by Luxembourg](#).

- ★ **Poland:** An **expert group** has been appointed to design and implement a special procedure and a set of **indicators** to facilitate the identification of potential victims of human trafficking during the asylum and international protection procedures.
- ★ **Portugal:** The [National Plan for Prevention and Combating Trafficking in Human Beings 2014-2017](#) has been approved by the Portuguese government. The National Plan advances the commitments made by Portugal within the international fora, particularly within the United Nations, the Council of Europe, the European Union and the Community of Portuguese Speaking Countries.
- ★ **United Kingdom:** a [Draft Modern Slavery Bill](#) has been published by the UK Government in December 2013. Overall, the bill introduces several provisions such as: the establishment of an anti-slavery Commissioner who would work in close cooperation with the government and law-enforcement agencies; the increase in the sentence for human trafficking to life imprisonment; introduction of slavery and trafficking prevention and risk orders to tackle traffickers and; a new requirement for 'first responders' to report all suspected cases of human trafficking to the national referral mechanism (NRM).

5. SCHENGEN, BORDERS AND VISAS

EU DEVELOPMENTS AND UPDATES

- ★ The European Commission [Communication](#) following the tragic event in Lampedusa, also unveiled the [EU plans to tighten the sea patrols](#) of the EU borders as a preventative action. The proposal will involve Frontex participation together with the cooperation of EU Member States and their vessels to patrol the seas between Cyprus and Spain.
- ★ A report by the FRA on **Fundamental rights at airport checks on five major hubs in the EU** is expected to be published by March 2014. The report focuses on the tasks of border guards or immigration officers and fundamental rights issues that emerge in the context of entry checks, temporary holding, non-admittance and immediate referral to protection mechanisms at the airports.
- ★ On 2nd December 2013, the **European Borders Surveillance System** (EUROSUR) [became operational](#) in eighteen Schengen Member States (Southern and Eastern external borders) and Norway. EUROSUR is expected to contribute to the fight and prevention of cross border crime, but also to save the lives of those trying to reach the European shores. This is the first operational

phase of [EUROSUR](#) and the remaining eleven Schengen countries will join on 1st December 2014 (UK and Ireland do not take part in EUROSUR). The [EUROSUR Regulation](#) was officially published in the Official Journal of the European Union on 6th November 2013.

- ★ A **new visa waiver suspension and reciprocity mechanism entered into force on 9th January 2014** provided by a set of amendments to the EU visa rules (Regulation 1289/2013). The amendments will ensure that visa free travel does not lead to irregularities or abuse. The new visa waiver will contribute to preserving the integrity of the visa liberalisation processes and to build credibility vis-à-vis EU citizens. The mechanism does not target any specific third country or region currently on the visa-free list, but applies equally to all countries that benefit or will benefit from visa-free travel to the EU in the future.

The temporary suspension of a visa waiver will by no means be automatic, but the Commission, following the notification by Member States of an emergency situation, would assess the situation and the necessity of the temporary reintroduction of visa requirements for citizens of third countries. The decision to temporarily suspend the visa waiver would be adopted through [the comitology procedure](#).

- ★ The European Commission adopted its [first progress report on the implementation by Russia of the Common Steps towards a visa-free regime with the EU](#) on 18th December 2013. The report provides a full assessment on the four key fields considered essential to move towards a free visa regime with the EU: 1. Document security; 2. Migration issues; 3. Public security including anti-corruption; and 4. Human Rights related to freedom of movement.
- ★ On 16th December 2013, the [EU-Turkey visa liberalisation dialogue](#) was launched. Its aim is to progress towards the elimination of the visa obligation currently imposed on the Turkish citizens travelling to the Schengen area for a short term visit.
- ★ The [Fourth Biannual Report on the functioning of the Schengen area](#) was adopted by the European Commission on 28th November 2013. The report, which covers the period May 2013-October 2013, provides an overview of the state of the Schengen area, as well as the common implementation and interpretation of the common rules amongst the Schengen countries.
- ★ Following the [Commission's Report](#) of 15th November 2013 on the successful implementation by the Republic of Moldova of its Visa Liberalisation Action Plan, the European Commission [proposed a Visa-free regime](#)

[agreement to Moldova](#) on 27th November 2013. The Proposal will be now discussed by the European Parliament and the Council.

- ★ On 6th November 2013, the [EU Regulation 1051/2013](#) providing common rules on the temporary reintroduction of border control at internal borders in exceptional circumstances (legislative act) and the [Council Regulation on Border Control and Regulation on Schengen 1053/2013](#) (non-legislative act) were officially published in the Official Journal of the European Union. Both Regulations entered into force 20 days after its publication.

NATIONAL DEVELOPMENTS

- ★ **Austria:** Following the establishment of the Federal Administrative Court, a new possibility to appeal in visa procedures has now been introduced. The Aliens Police Act has been also amended regarding the Visa Code in order to clarify that its provisions only apply to national visas.
- ★ **Italy:** On 21st of November 2013, during a high-level bilateral encounter, Italy and France signed a joint declaration in favour of an EU migration policy with more emphasis on Mediterranean third-countries. The negotiation of appropriate Mobility Partnerships and a more flexible and efficient use of existing resources were also discussed.
- ★ **Netherlands:** On 10th December 2013 the Senate approved a [bill to introduce the use of biometric data](#) for family migration and residence permits for study or work purposes. The use of fingerprints and digital passport photos is expected to improve the identity check of third-country nationals during their application process. The use of biometric data is already applied for third-country nationals seeking for asylum.

United Kingdom: From 1st January 2014 a new, straightforward and [free alternative to a visa for short-term visitors](#) from Oman, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates has entered into force. The UK intends to extend similar arrangements to Kuwait later in 2014.

6. EXTERNAL DIMENSION

EU DEVELOPMENTS

- ★ On 5th December 2013 a [Mobility Partnership was officially launched and signed between the EU and Azerbaijan](#). The mobility partnership sets political objectives and a number of cooperation areas for further dialogue between the EU and Azerbaijan to ensure the effective management of movement of people. The partnership follows the Visa

Facilitation Agreement previously signed by both parties on 29th November 2013.

NATIONAL DEVELOPMENTS

- ★ **Italy:** The projects “Immigration Pathways of Regularisation in Italy” (I.P.R.IT.) and “Safe and Informed Immigration between Italy and Senegal” delivered several activities in the last quarter of 2013. The I.P.R.IT **final Conference** was held in Rabat on 6th December 2013, and aimed to promote legal migration for citizens of Morocco. The Safe and Informed Immigration project held two training courses in Dakar for Senegalese **social communicators and legal and administrative institutions**. The project also disseminated television videos and radio commercials on legal migration to Italy and on the risks of irregular migration.

the Arab spring in 2011. The **strong rise is mainly attributed to increased detections at the Italian sea border**, specifically in the Central Mediterranean region (Sicily and Lampedusa primarily). Maritime detections also increased in the Ionian and Eastern Aegean Seas.

- ★ Regarding the number of detections at all external borders, the **top three nationalities** representing the highest numbers of those detected in Q3 2013 were **Syrian** (11 825), **Eritrean** (6 686) and **Somalian** (2973).
- ★ **Migrants from Syria** recorded the highest increase between Q2 2013 and Q3 2013 and **represented 28% of the total**. The **number of Eritreans detected** for illegal border-crossing **also increased significantly** between the second and the third quarter of 2013, but the surge was particularly significant if compared to 2012 data.
- ★ **Detections of persons from Afghanistan** crossing the border illegally **continued to decrease** compared to the situation a year ago (-41%) although the total in Q3 2013 was higher than the previous quarter. A **considerable increase was recorded for detections of persons from Egypt**; the numbers quadrupled compared to Q2 2012. In **Poland**, the number of third-country nationals illegally employed **decreased** in 2012 by 29% when compared to 2011, and by 36% when compared to 2010.
- ★ In **Norway**, a total of **5 934 foreign nationals were removed** during 2013, **the highest annual number since 2004**.

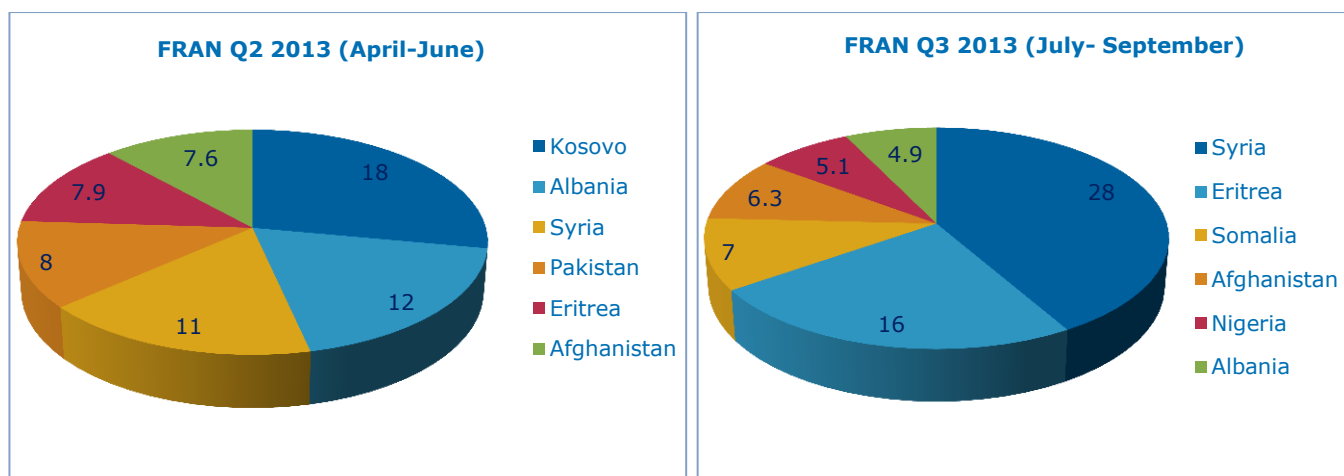
The most recent statistics on irregular migration and return are shown in Figures 3a-c below.

7. IRREGULAR MIGRATION AND RETURN

STATISTICS

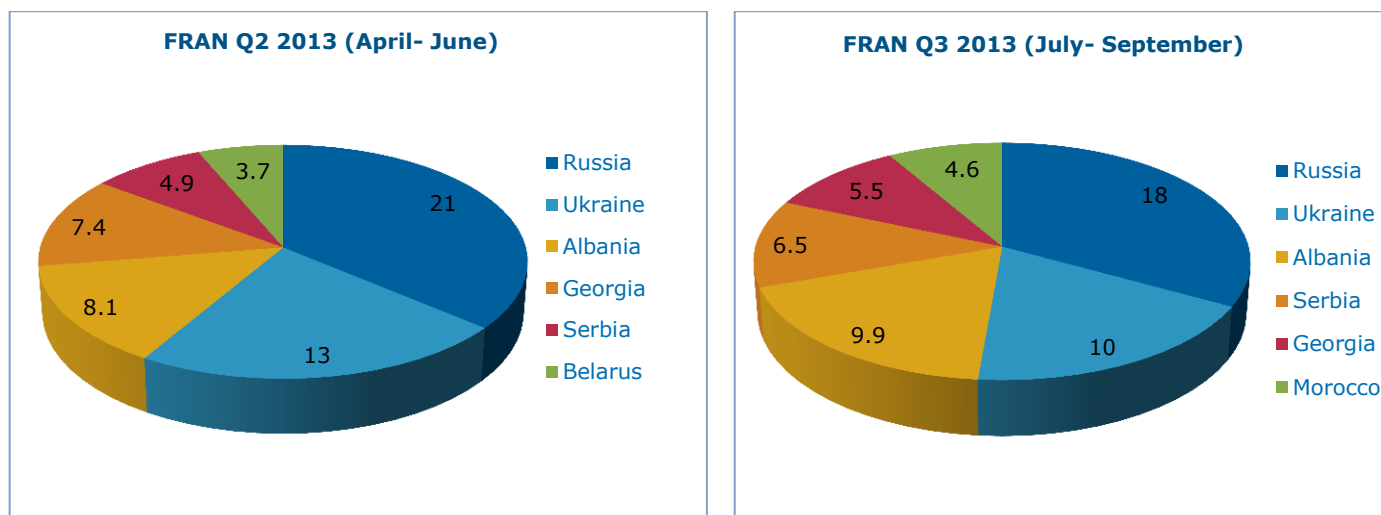
- ★ The FRONTEX [Fran Quarterly Report Q3 of 2013](#) was recently published on 31st January 2014. Overall, the report states that in Q3 2013, there were **42 618 detections of illegal border-crossing** along the external borders of the EU, **representing a 93% increase** when compared with the same quarter in 2012 (nearly double) and a 72% increase compared to the previous quarter (Q2 2013). The report stresses this is the **highest increase recorded at any single quarter since 2008**.
- ★ Detections of illegal border-crossing at the EU maritime borders were higher than any stage of

Figure 3a: Illegal cross-border crossing - Top six nationalities (in percentages)



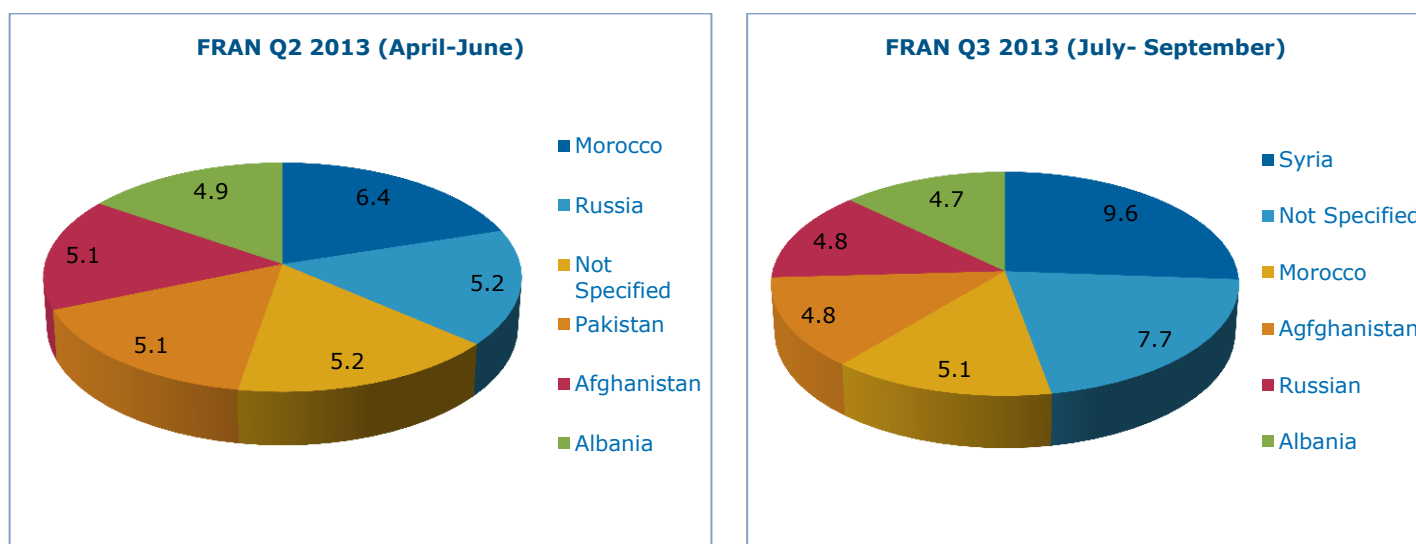
Source: FRONTEX FRAN 2013- Quarter 2 (April – June 2013) and Quarter 3 (July- September 2013)

Figure 3b: Refused Entry - Top six nationalities (in percentages)



Source: FRONTEX FRAN 2013– Quarter 2 (April – June 2013) and Quarter 3 (July- September 2013)

Figure 3c: Illegal Stay- Top six nationalities (in percentages)



Source: FRONTEX FRAN 2013 – Quarter 2 (April – June 2013) and Quarter 3 (July- September 2013)

EU DEVELOPMENTS AND UPDATES

- ★ The [EU-Turkey Readmission Agreement](#) was signed and a Visa Liberalisation Dialogue launched on 16th December 2013. The aim of the readmission agreement is to establish, on the basis of reciprocity, procedures for the rapid and orderly readmission, by each side, of the nationals of the EU Member States and Turkey, and to the readmission of any other persons (including third country nationals and stateless persons) having entered or residing on the territory of the other side in an irregular manner. The agreement has been sent to the Council of the European Union, to the European Parliament, and to the Turkish Grand National Assembly for ratification.
- ★ On the 11th November 2013 Frontex published the [Code of Conduct for Return operations](#). The Code, composed of 18 Articles distributed among its five chapters, sets out the main procedures and

common principles to be observed by Member States during joint return operations.

- ★ A **report on the criminalisation of migrants in an irregular situation** and of persons engaging with them is **expected to be published by FRA** by the end of February. The report provides information on the use of certain types of sanctions to counteract irregular migration as well as a comparative overview of the EU Member States' legislation and case law.

NATIONAL DEVELOPMENTS

- ★ **Italy:** On 15th October 2013, the Council of Ministers **adopted the Law no. 120** which provided **urgent measures** to meet the extraordinary needs **linked to the exceptional influx of third-country nationals** and reception problems. Overall, the measures established a

Fund, within the Ministry of Interior, with a 190 million euro budget for 2014.

- ★ **Lithuania:** In October 2013, amendments to the Law on the Legal Status of Aliens regulating detention of asylum seekers were adopted by the Parliament. The law has introduced grounds for detention of asylum seekers whose asylum applications are clearly unrelated to the threat of persecution or are based on fraud as well as when there is a ground for believing that they may abscond in order to avoid return. These amendments aim to prevent asylum seekers from submitting fraudulent applications.
- ★ **Netherlands:** [More liberties for detained foreign nationals](#) were announced on 21st December 2013. For instance, detainees will be able to move around freely and with minimum supervision within the institution from eight o'clock in the morning to ten o'clock in the evening, they will be entitled to at least forty hours of daytime activities per week and they will be allowed to make calls with their mobile telephone. Attention will also be paid to vulnerable groups that are in need of extra care. Families with children will, in principle, not be detained, unless they have evaded supervision before.
- ★ **Poland:** The Deputy Minister of the Interior appointed a team to do a series of [controls in detention centres for foreigners](#). The controls started on 20th January 2014 and aim to monitor the implementation of recommendations formulated after the inspections carried out at the end of 2012 and more recent changes announced by the Minister of the Interior.

The new Act on Foreigners (to enter into force on 1st May 2014) introduces alternatives to detention in Poland.

- ★ **United Kingdom:** In October 2013 the Home Office introduced [new legislation to reform immigration laws](#). The reforms aim to ensure a fair immigration system to hard-working people and legal migrants, while combating illegal migration.

Norway: From January 15th 2014, **penalties for violation of the prohibition on entry for expelled foreigners have been increased.** Before this increase, foreigners who violated the terms risked a fine or imprisonment for a term not exceeding 6 months (normally imprisonment for

approximately 35 days). The new regulation increases the penalty to fine or imprisonment for a term not exceeding 2 years (normally imprisonment for 1 year or more). In addition, following the increased emphasis on the removal of illegally staying foreign nationals, the state budget for returns has been increased to 150 million Norwegian kroner (approx. 18 million euro) thereby enabling the police to return 6 700 persons in 2014, 1 800 more than the returns originally planned by the previous Government.

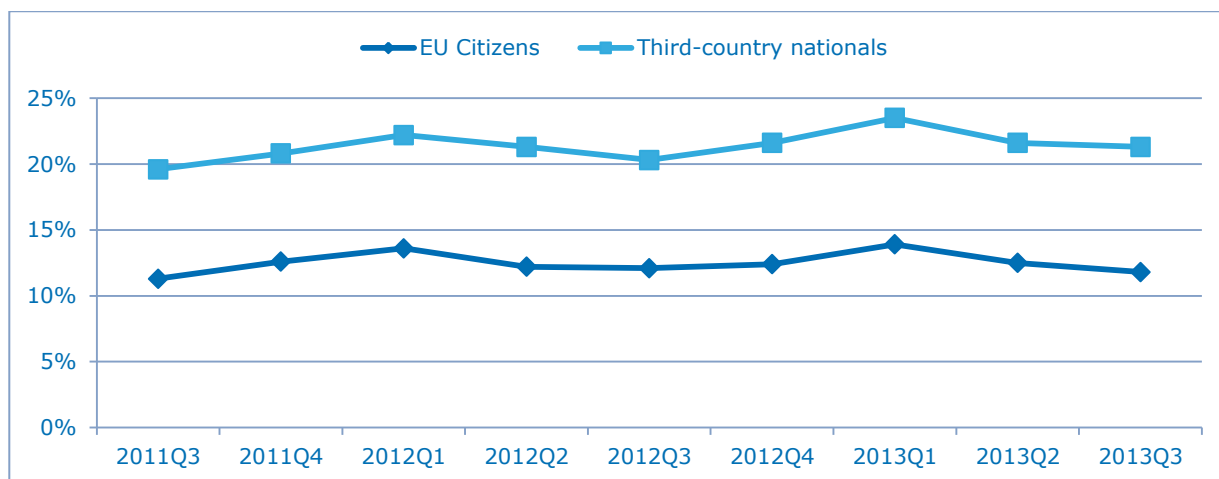
8. INTEGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP

STATISTICS

- ★ Figure 4a provides an indicative trend of the unemployment rate in the course of 2012 and 2013. Data is provided from the third quarter of 2012 to the third quarter of 2013. It is worth noting that the same **trend is found for third country nationals as for EU citizens.** However, during the same reference periods, **the difference in the unemployment rate between the two categories remains consistently at 8-9%.** The unemployment rate increased for both EU and TCNs during the first quarter of 2012 similarly to the first quarter of 2013. The same low unemployment rates correspond to the same period in both 2012 and 2013. (Data were available on Q3 2013).
- ★ The **higher unemployment rate** of third-country nationals can be observed also **at national level in almost all Member States.** The EU 28 average unemployment rate of third-country nationals is 21.3%, representing more than double that registered for Member States' nationals (10.1%). Please see Figure 4b for Q3 2013.

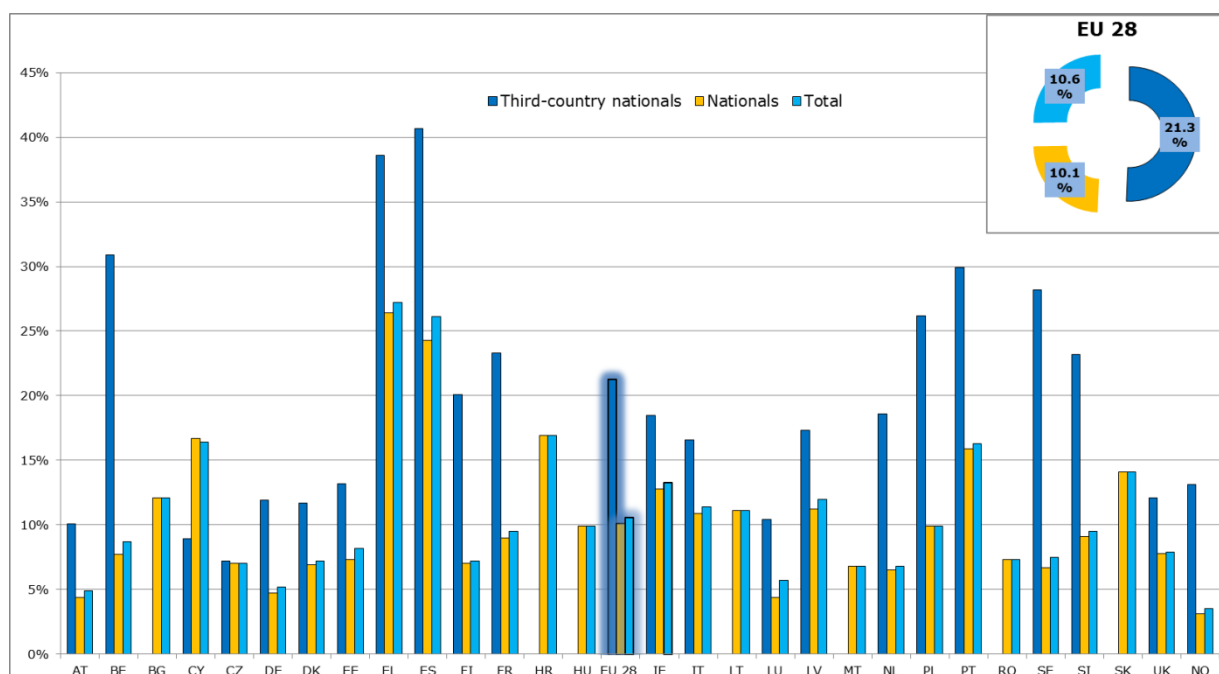
The highest **absolute values of TCNs unemployment** were registered in **Spain** (40.7%), **Greece** (38.6%) and **Belgium** (+30.6%). Countries registering absolute values above the EU average (+11% of difference between nationals and TCNs) were **Sweden** (+23%), **Spain, Poland** (+16%), **France, Portugal, Slovenia** (+14%) **Finland** (+13%), **Netherlands and Greece** (+12%). **Cyprus** was the only country with nationals having higher unemployment rate (16.7%) than TCNs (8.9%).

Figure 4a: 2011 and 2012 trend of unemployment rate for EU citizens and Third country nationals (age 15-64)



Source: Eurostat, accessed on 28 January 2014.

Figure 4b: Unemployment rates – Third Quarter 2013



Source: Eurostat, accessed on 28 January 2014. No complete data on unemployment rate for third-country nationals available for BG, HR, HU, LT, MT, and RO, SK.

EU DEVELOPMENTS AND UPDATES

- ★ On 17th January 2014 the European Commission published its [Joint Report on the application of two Directives: the Racial Equality Directive \(2000/43/EC\) and the Employment Equality Directive. \(2000/78/EC\)](#). The Commission reported that European Union rules to tackle discrimination on grounds of racial or ethnic origin, religion or belief, disability, age and sexual orientation have now been transposed by all Member States in national law.
- ★ The [Council recommendation on effective Roma integration measures](#) in the Member States was adopted on the 9th December 2013. This is the

[first adopted EU legal instrument for Roma inclusion](#). The 28 EU Member States have therefore committed to implement a set of recommendations provided by the European Commission in order to set up the economic and social integration of Roma people.

- ★ The **European Integration Forum** organised its [10th meeting on 26th and 27th November 2013](#). The main topic was the “Participation of migrants in the democratic process- Towards a more inclusive citizenship”.
- ★ The results on the **EMN Study: “Migrant Access to Social Security and Health Care”** are expected in

early 2014. EMN acknowledges the cooperation with DG EMPL in developing this Study.

NATIONAL DEVELOPMENTS

- ★ **Austria:** National Council elections took place in September 2013. As a result, Integration will now be the responsibility of the Federal Ministry for European and International Affairs. The agenda was previously managed within the Federal Ministry of the Interior.
- ★ **Belgium:** On 26th November 2013, the first edition of the [Flemish Migration and Integration Monitor](#) was published. Overall, the report gathers administrative and statistical data on migration and the integration progress of migrants and persons of foreign origin (second generation immigrants) in the Belgian region of Flanders.
- ★ **Estonia:** The Ministry of the Interior has initiated the development of introduction courses for newly-arrived immigrants. These courses will be offered from the beginning of 2015 and will be target-group specific (e.g. work-related migration, study, family reunification, international protection). The courses will include a welcome pack, basic Estonian language, and a short practical overview of the organisation of society and everyday life in Estonia.
- ★ **Germany:** The pilot project "[Foreigners Offices- Welcome Offices](#)" (*Ausländerbehörden-Willkommensbehörden*) was officially launched on 10th October 2013. The aim of the project is to introduce and enhance a 'welcome culture' in the Foreign offices of each of the Federal *Länder*. Measures will be introduced by providing inter-cultural training for staff members and by building up a network between the Foreign offices and local actors. The project, involving ten Federal *Länder*, will run for two years.
- ★ **Italy:** On 13th November 2013, the [Statistical Immigration Dossier](#), was published. The latter is compiled by IDOS Study and Research Centre under the sponsorship of the Presidency of the Council of Minister's National Office Against Racial Discrimination (UNAR). The report includes an introduction on immigration and citizenship written by the Minister of Integration addressing issues such as: the change of the Italian migratory model and the new purpose of shifting from the emergency approach on immigration, to the adoption of a long-term policy plan aimed at the integration of third-country nationals.
- ★ **Luxembourg:** On December 2013 [amendments to the Election Law](#) were introduced, abolishing the residence condition (of two years) required to participate in elections.

On 13th November 2013, all active and retired workers, from all nationalities / countries of

residence, who have worked or currently work in Luxembourg, were [invited to participate in the election of the representatives for the Chamber of Employees](#) (*Chambre des salariés*). All companies employing at least 15 workers were [required to organise social elections for staff representatives](#). The Chamber of Employees represents the interest of active and retired employees before public administrations.

On 16th November 2013, the **first "National Conference on Integration at the Local Level"** took place in Luxembourg. The Conference presented and exchanged good practices in integration, including the progress made in developing a communal plan on integration. A round table, with elected local officials, was held to debate the [integration policies](#) implemented by the various communes.

- ★ **Netherlands:** On 20th December 2013 the Council of Ministers approved **a proposal** submitted by the Minister for Immigration, **to amend the Netherlands Nationality Act**. According to the amendments, third-country nationals who seek to acquire Dutch nationality will soon be [eligible only after seven years of lawful residence](#) in the Netherlands (previously only five years were required). Studies show that immigrants' chances of finding paid work and taking educational courses increases if they have lived in the country for a longer time.

On 19th December 2013, the Minister of Social Affairs and Employment announced the start of **pilot projects**, within the municipalities, with ['participation statements'](#) for newcomers to the Netherlands. As part of a broader package of measures to ensure successful integration, the statements aim to advise newcomers on their rights and obligations and on the fundamental values that underpin Dutch society. Participation statements are intended for migrants both from EU and non-EU countries and will begin in January 2014.

- ★ **Poland:** A [second round of public consultations](#) on the "Integration policy of foreigners in Poland – goals and guidelines" took place in October 2013. This was the first strategic document to address challenges in integration of foreigners,
- ★ **Portugal:** The Portuguese government approved the [National Plan for Equality, Gender, Citizenship and Non-Discrimination 2014-2017](#). The National Plan aims to reinforce education, health and labour market measures, amongst others.
- ★ In **Norway:** During the last four general elections, the participation among Norwegian citizens with an immigrant background has remained stable at around 50 per cent. In total, [53% of Norwegian citizens with a migrant background participated at](#)

[the general election in 2013](#). Participation rates for migrant women overall were higher than for migrant men, and participant rates of young voters (18-25) were higher than in the 2009 general elections overall, but not for young persons with a migrant background. Immigrants' participation in elections continues to increase along with their age and length of residency, though this trend was less clear in the most recent election. A total of 213 000 persons with an immigrant background had the right to vote in 2013, 50 000 more than in 2009, accounting for 6% of the electorate.

9. OTHER EMN OUTPUTS

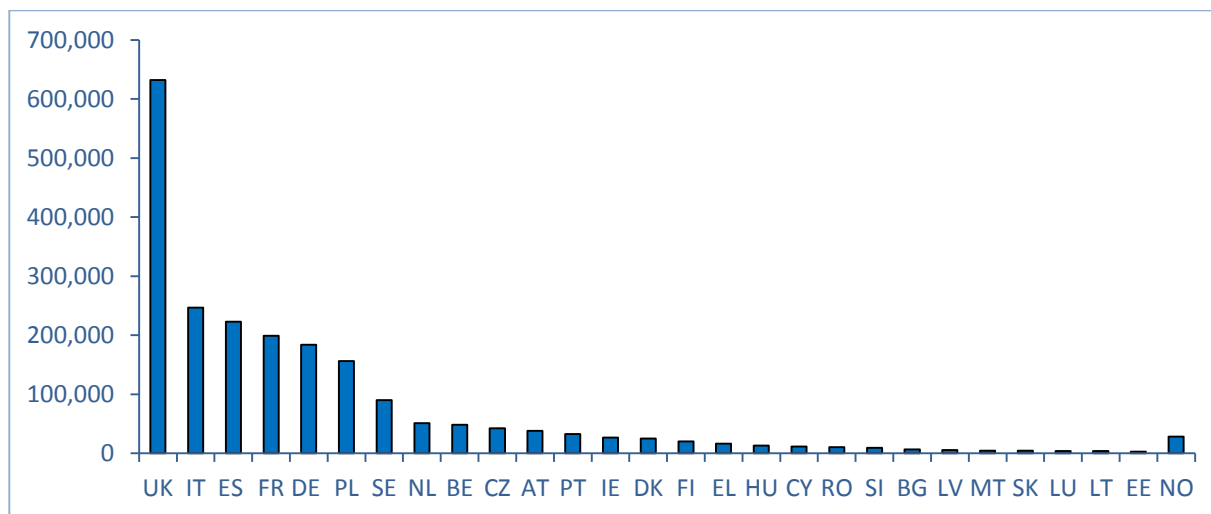
- ★ **Belgium:** The Belgian EMN NCP organised the conference "[Reception System for Asylum Seekers - Comparison, Reflection and Challenges](#)" on 25th October 2013. The conference focused on asylum seekers in Belgium and the EU.
- ★ **Italy:** On 29th November 2013, the Ministry of Interior organised an [international conference](#) in the framework of the Italian EMN NCP activities. Through a comparative approach and with the participation of 16 Member States' delegations, the Conference addressed EU policy to attract highly

qualified third-country nationals to EU Member States. The EMN Study on Attracting Highly Qualified and Qualified Third Country Nationals was presented during the Conference.

- ★ **Poland:** On 28th November 2013 the Polish EMN NCP organised the [sixth National Migration Network conference](#) on the identification of vulnerable groups and the organisation of the reception system for third-country nationals seeking refugee status in Poland.
- ★ **Norway:** On 6th January 2014 the "[International Migration 2012-2013 - IMO report for Norway](#)" was published. The report is the result of [Norway's annual contribution to the reporting system on migration for the OECD](#) and is based on data from Statistics Norway and the Norwegian Directorate of Immigration. It provides statistics on migration and on the characteristics of immigrants and their Norwegian-born children, as well as an overview of the immigration and integration policies development. The report covers issues such as: immigration, integration in general, training, education, labour market issues, political participation, citizenship, discrimination, public debate and opinion.

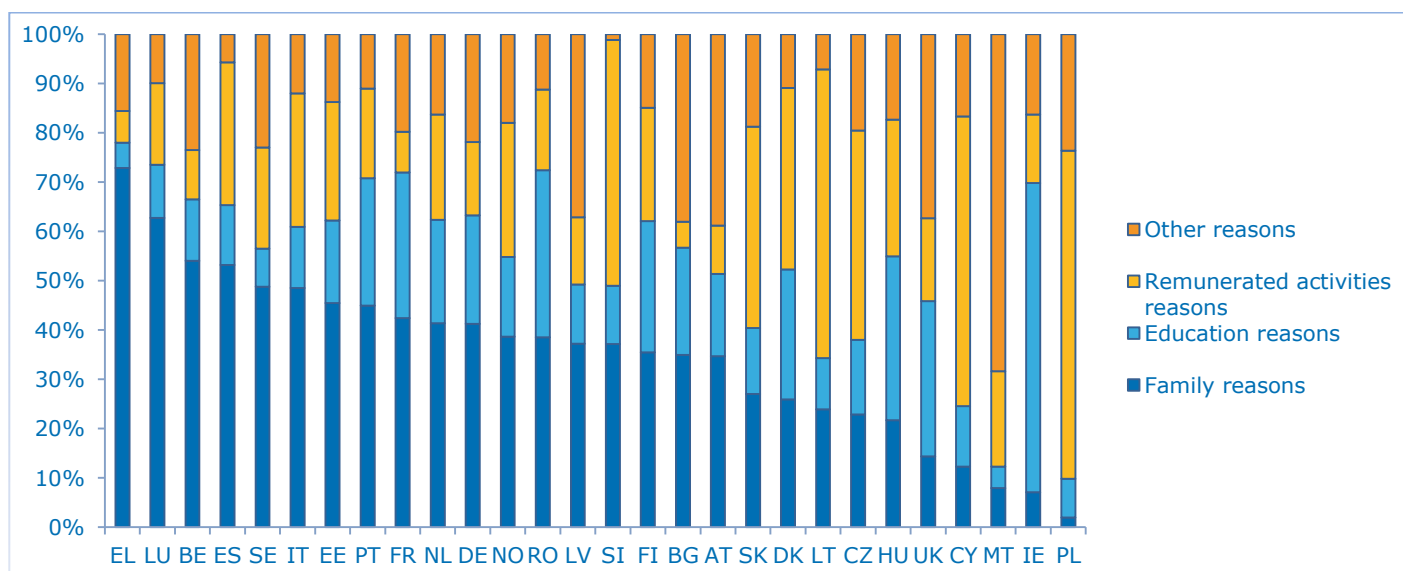
ANNEX: ADDITIONAL COMPLEMENTARY STATISTICS

Figure A1a: Total first residence permits issued in 2012



Source: Eurostat, accessed on 28 January 2014.

Figure A1b: First residence permits issued, by reason in 2012



Source: Eurostat, accessed on 28 January 2014