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YEARS

EMN

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NATIONAL CONTACT POINT - MALTA

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Integration = Belonging

Migrants in Malta need to be given a voice, be recognised for their true value, and build their sense of belonging within society. It is for this reason that on December 15, 2017, the Ministry for European Affairs and Equality launched the long-awaited *Migrant Integration Strategy and Action Plan (Vision 2020)*.

Implementation started in earnest once the document was finalised. The inter-ministerial committee on integration is already working on a concrete work programme to deliver the expected results. The Forum on Integration Affairs was

reconstituted and started meeting. The Integration Unit has set the ball rolling on all the measures listed in the Action Plan. These measures put in place a solid foundation for integration governance for the foreseeable future, and also launch the "I Belong" programme outlined in the Strategy.

The Strategy creates a framework for understanding successful integration through the level of the migrants' own sense of belonging to Maltese society and the space Maltese society allows for such integration in its different sectors

and strata. Over the years, the pattern of migratory flows has changed, and Malta is today a receiving country, which in turn means that we are becoming increasingly diverse ethnically, culturally and linguistically. These changes have happened before here almost everywhere in other developed countries and are a result of our prosperity. We can learn from the mistakes of integration policy elsewhere to prevent repetition, as well as identify what is unique to what Malta needs in terms of integration governance and programmes.

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MINISTRY FOR HOME AFFAIRS
AND NATIONAL SECURITY

EMN Glossary A User Friendly Tool

One of the main objectives of the EMN is to improve the consistency and comparability of information between Member States. The development of a comprehensive glossary that identifies and describes different concepts central to asylum and migration policy in the EU is one of the main activities undertaken by the EMN to achieve this objective.

The EMN Glossary is an effective and user-friendly tool which facilitates discussions on the basis of a common vocabulary. Moreover, it allows to better understand national perceptions of a particular migration topic, which often varies from country to country.

The EMN Glossary is continuously being developed by the EMN's Glossary and the Thesaurus Working Group (GTWG), which includes representatives from EMN National Contact Points (NCPs) and, in some cases, experts from EMN NCP networks. Representatives from EASO, UNHCR, IOM, Frontex, FRA, OECD and ILO are invited regularly to attend the GTWG meetings and put forward suggestions for new terms and comments on existing ones. Such cooperation is intended to ensure the relevance of the EMN Glossary to a broad audience at national, European and international level.

The first edition of the EMN Glossary was published in 2010 and was very well received by legislators, policymakers and practitioners across the EU. The second edition, printed in 2012, Version 2.0 contained more than 300 terms with translations taken principally from the EU acquis. There was also a refinement of previous definitions and additional translations of the complete glossary, also in French, German, Italian, Portuguese and Spanish which served to broaden its accessibility. In 2014 the Glossary Version 3.0 was printed by the EMN. This third edition contained almost 400 terms with translations taken mainly from the EU acquis, of which almost 100 were new and more than 120 were reviewed, revised and amended to improve their clarity and comparability. The online version of the 3.0 Glossary was updated in December 2015 with the addition of 29 new terms reflecting the most recent European policy on migration and asylum. Almost 250 amendments of existing words were also made, like correcting or updating translations and amending and updating definitions.

In 2015 the Maltese National Contact Point printed its first national version of Version 3.0 with terms translated into Maltese by Professor Anthony Aquilina from the University of Malta, Translation and Interpretation Department. The Maltese

NCP distributed the glossary books to its stakeholders, to the University of Malta Library and since then hands out yearly contributions to students attending the course of the Department of Translation, Terminology and Interpreting Studies at the University of Malta.

Since the publication of Version 3.0 in 2014 of the EMN Glossary, the GTWG has continued to add to the already existing terms and developed Version 4.0 and Version 5.0 of the glossary.

On the 15th May 2018 the EMN will be celebrating its 10-year anniversary. By this date a completely revised version of the online glossary will be uploaded on the EMN website. Version 6.0 of the up-dated Glossary will include terms related to return management which were requested by the European Commission.

Increasing better exchange of information is essential for the development of a forward-looking comprehensive and responsive European migration and asylum policy. The Glossary and the work produced by the EMN is a tangible and practical tool to meet the current immigration challenges. This helps to foster a meaningful and productive debate among the Member States and the Commission.

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Malta's Actions Against Human Trafficking

Malta is currently implementing its fourth National Action Plan against Human Trafficking, which Action Plan builds on the achievements of the preceding Actions Plans that, among other things, established a Monitoring Committee and a Stakeholders' Taskforce. Since 2011 Malta has therefore benefited from an overarching structure that ensures proper coordination among stakeholders and review of ongoing work.

Although the fight against human trafficking is and will remain ever ongoing, the figures attest to the fact that Malta's capacity relating to the detection of cases

has been enhanced. Over the last few years more victims have been successfully identified by the Police Force and assisted by Aġenzija Appogg. Moreover, the corresponding number of prosecutions has also been increased. In this regard, it would have to be said that training delivered to officers involved in the detection of cases and apprehension of offenders has borne fruit, given that cases of labour trafficking are now also being addressed. At the same time, the reality of trafficking for sexual exploitation is also being borne in mind. Moreover, in a proactive fashion, the current National Action Plan provided for training in relation to the detection of child trafficking

cases. Whilst it is hoped that no such cases will ever emerge, it was deemed important for the Maltese competent authorities to be prepared for such an eventuality.

Plans are also in hand to conduct research among sectors of the migrant population in Malta with a view to identifying vulnerabilities to human trafficking. The outcome of such research should enable the Ministry for Home Affairs and National Security to design future actions in this field. Moreover, the Ministry will be resuming an information campaign to raise awareness of human trafficking amongst the general public.

Public Health Aspects of Migration

Migration is unfolding as a major force shaping 21st century global policies. Europe is becoming increasingly ethnically diverse.¹

The vulnerable health of migrants and substantial health inequalities call upon the duty of the health community to demonstrate active leadership and an engaging response to ensure equitable health services.

Responding promptly and effectively to the immediate health needs of refugees and migrants is resource intensive and can be particularly taxing and socially disruptive on host countries when not fully prepared. When health systems become overloaded beyond their capacity, the safe delivery of healthcare to its entire population may become jeopardised. Indeed, international collaboration and support needs to go beyond assessment of a country's health capacity needs but reach out in the field during times of crises.

There is a common fear amongst citizens of receiving countries that migrants pose a risk of transmission of communicable diseases. Migrants from developing

countries are usually young and healthy but several studies report they may be carriers for prolonged periods. The infectious diseases depend on the origin of migrants. The sub-Saharan African region is more prevalent for human immunodeficiency virus (HIV), chronic hepatitis B and C virus infection, and latent tuberculosis. Identifying and treating such infections may have an impact both for the individual concerned and for public health. The main public health concern is for cases of active TB. It is therefore important that procedures are in place to screen, isolate and treat accordingly and the necessary funds for such endeavours are made available. Appropriate identification and treatment reduces risks associated with communicable disease. On the other hand receiving countries may not have adequate infrastructure to cope with mass influx and poor reception conditions may themselves give rise to outbreaks of communicable disease placing migrants who are previously healthy at risk and promote further spread of infections.

Ongoing care and support of migrants by the host countries' national health system requires that migrants access the services available. Often, despite the availability of universal coverage for necessary treatment, migrants do not seek health care services because of cultural issues. On

the other hand, health care workers may be unaccustomed to caring for migrants and may not understand cultural norms and practices. There is a need for training and deployment of cultural mediators to enable migrants to access health care services effectively.

From the other side of the spectrum, when it comes to cross-border collaboration including WHO support, development aid should also be targeted to develop health care infrastructure, training of health care workers and preparedness support for mass influx situations. In regions where there is conflict, health care systems are destroyed, health care workers leave and efforts need to be made to rebuild their health care systems.

Developing health systems creates employment opportunities in countries of origin for people with different skills and generally serves to improve the quality of life. Hence, initiatives that support measures to deal with crisis, prevalent diseases, and outbreaks in developing countries at the international level are also crucial.

Indeed, cross border collaboration plays a crucial role when it comes to ensuring effective, sustainable, resilient and equitable mechanisms of preparedness and response to large influxes of migrants.

1 Around 9% of its total population are comprised of migrants, World migration report (2010). The future of migration: building capacities for change. Geneva: International Organization for Migration.

EMN 10th Anniversary

The European Migration Network will be celebrating its 10th Anniversary in May 2018. A report launched in time for the said Conference will highlight the aims of this Conference, thus positioning the EMN as a key source of information on asylum and migration in the EU. This report will emphasize on the analytical work of the EMN, highlighting key policy developments and the importance of EMN Studies, reports and Ad-Hoc Queries have had, and are still having, on under-researched topics, together with the impact such studies have had at EU and National Level.



JHA Council under the Bulgarian Presidency of the Council of the European Union

The Bulgarian Presidency of the Council of the European Union chaired for the first time the informal Justice and Home Affairs Council Meeting, which took place on the 25th January 2018. The three main issues on the agenda of Home Affairs Ministers were the Reform of the Common European Asylum System, Global Aspects of migration and Border management issues, in particular the political aspects of Integrated Border Management. With regard to the reform of the common European asylum system, which started in 2016 in response to the unprecedented migration crisis, the Bulgarian Presidency is working towards the finalisation of the reform, in order to have a flexible, effective and reliable system, which will enable an adequate EU response to future challenges.

The working lunch was dedicated to the global aspects of migration in the context of the upcoming negotiations on the UN Global compact for safe, orderly and regular migration. The Ministers underlined the need to achieve a balance between the interests of the countries of origin, transit and final destination, and discussed how to ensure a result-oriented implementation of the global compact, taking into account its non-binding character.

The Ministers also addressed border management issues, in particular the political aspects of the Integrated Border Management concept. Participants stressed the need to strengthen border control, a crosscutting priority that is of key importance both to enhancing EU internal security and to better migration management. The debate was focused on issues such as cooperation with third countries, increasing the number of returns of illegally staying third country nationals, interagency cooperation in the context of border management, etc.

During the press conference, the EU Commissioner for Migration, Home Affairs and Citizenship, Dimitris Avramopoulos, highlighted the fact that, three and a half years after the launch of the temporary emergency relocation scheme in September 2015, relocation is a success story, as more than 38,000 migrants have been relocated from Italy and Greece to other EU Member-States. He also pointed out that there had been a significant decrease in the number of arrivals of migrants on European shores. However, the EU Commissioner emphasized the need for vigilance, as the future is unknown. When the new legislative proposals come into force these will help to provide the EU with the necessary means to address a similar influx phenomenon. He highlighted the importance of a system that prevents secondary movements, together with sanctions for abuse, also including the importance of a better balance between responsibility and solidarity amongst member states. The EU Commissioner went on to state that he fully supports the approach of the EU Bulgarian Presidency, to prioritise and intensify the work on the Dublin Regulation, so significant progress on all elements of the asylum reform can be made, with leaders reaching an overall agreement by June 2018.

The Commissioner also explained to the press how systematic checks on everyone crossing the EU's external borders are being carried out. He said that around 1,700 officers from the European Border and Coast Guard, are now supporting over 100,000 national border guards to control the external borders; he urged the EU Member-States to use the EU Border and Coast Guard to its full potential for return purposes. He stressed that if Europe wants to keep the door open to those who are in genuine need of international protection, Europe needs to return people who have no right to stay on EU territory. About the issue of return, he turned his attention to EU

Member-States who also need to do their part by ensuring swifter and more effective return procedures. He confirmed that progress had been made on readmission with third countries, and on cooperation with Europe's international partners on an approach to manage migration globally in a humane and efficient way. Commissioner Avramopoulos ended his address to the press by mentioning that, the EU now has a clear roadmap for the coming months and that he looks forward to moving ahead together.

During the Justice and Home Affairs Council held on the 8th March in Brussels Home Affairs Ministers held an exchange of views on the state of play and way forward for a number of current migration issues. A general agreement on the need to strengthen the external dimension of EU migration policy was expressed. Many delegations also highlighted the fact that a comprehensive migration policy allowing better management of potential crises requires work on the external dimension to go hand in hand with stronger measures on the internal dimension.

It was mentioned that the present migratory situation is more stable, with arrivals down by 30% compared with 2014 – 1 year before the 2015 crisis. This is the result of collective efforts and work by Member-States. However, Commissioner Avramopoulos emphasized it was important to avoid becoming complacent as much remains to be done. Arrivals on the Eastern and Central Mediterranean have fallen, but less so for the Western Mediterranean. Therefore, it is vital to remain vigilant. Ministers were urged to step up their efforts on return, re-admission and border management on the one hand, while increasing legal channels for migration and resettlement, notably from Niger, in order to address the situation in Africa, and particularly in Libya.