

**EMN**

Europska migracijska mreža



HRVATSKA

# ANNUAL OVERVIEW

## 2022

December, 2022

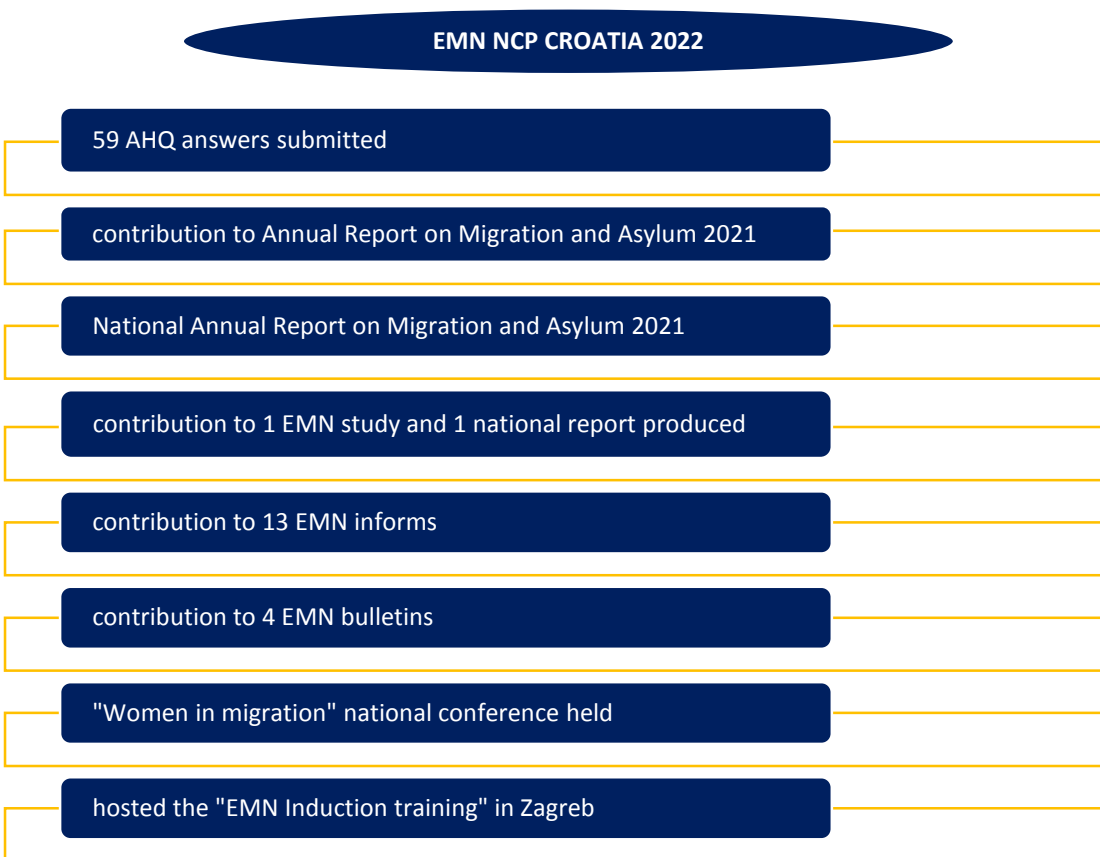
# 1 INTRODUCTION

The European Migration Network was established in 2008 by the EU Council with the aim of providing support to the European political decision-making on migration questions. Croatia joined the EMN in 2013 after entering the European Union. From the beginning of 2019, the role of the National Contact Point for Croatia is held by Ministry of Interior.

The **EMN Status Report 2022 Croatia** briefly presents the EMN NCP Croatia’s outputs produced during 2022: summarizes the networking activities that took place at EU and national level and provides information about the dissemination and communication activities undertaken to promote the work of EMN to policymakers and wider audiences. It also provides information on how the EMN NCP HR was managed during 2022.

# 2 EMN NCP HR OUTPUTS IN 2022

This section provides an overview of the main EMN outputs and impacts, within the framework of the EMN Work Programme 2021/2022. It focuses on the activities undertaken to respond to and anticipate policy-makers’ needs, and the subsequent collection and analysis of information and statistics to meet these needs, in various formats (see below).



## 2.1. Annual report on Migration and Asylum 2021

Each year, the EMN produces its Annual Report on Migration and Asylum, presenting the key European and national developments in the fields of migration and asylum that took place during the previous year. The report consists of two parts.

The EMN published the **Annual Report on Migration and Asylum 2021**, which explores trends in migration and asylum across the EU and Norway. The COVID-19 pandemic continued to affect migration in 2021, although to a lesser extent than the previous year. Travel restrictions and health measures remained in place in most Member States. As the epidemiological situation gradually improved during the year, in 2021 there was an increase in the number of asylum requests in EU member states and Norway (28.2%) compared to 2020. The number of returns has increased significantly; with an 80% increase in voluntary returns, and a 46% increase in forced returns compared to 2020.

The EU and its member states have recorded continuous progress in long-term priorities and strategic commitments in the context of migration and asylum. In September 2021, one year after the adoption of the New Pact on Migration and Asylum, the Commission published a report on progress achieved and key developments in relevant areas.



Last year, the EMN NCP HR prepared [the seventh annual report on migration and asylum](#), which covers the period from 1 January to 31 December 2021. The report presented the context of the development of asylum and migration policy in 2020 and provided an overview of news through the following migration thematic areas: legal migration, international protection, unaccompanied minors and other vulnerable groups, integration, citizenship and statelessness, borders, visas and Schengen, irregular migration and migrant smuggling, trafficking in human beings and return and readmission.

## 2.2. EMN studies



### Third-country national victims of trafficking in human beings: detection, identification and protection

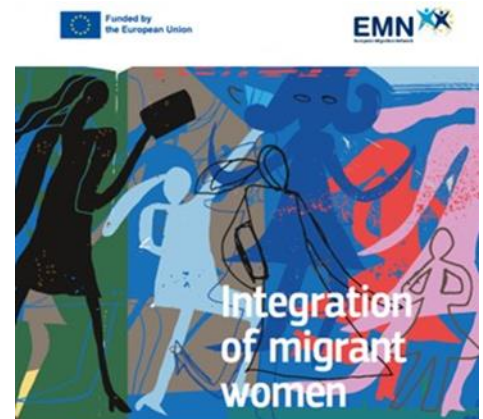
European Migration Network Study  
March 2022



The EMN published three studies in 2022: “Third-country national victims of trafficking in human beings: detection, identification and protection”; “Integration of migrant women” and “Detention and alternatives to detention in international protection and return procedures”. The latter study was published in 2022. Related informs and flashes were produced for each published study to facilitate dissemination. These study packages were published on the EMN website, on the EMN NCP HR national website, and disseminated through the EMN bulletin and via the EMN’s mailing list.

The EMN NCP HR created one national report in 2022, as contribution to the study “Labour market integration of applicants for international protection”.

As in previous years, all studies and national reports were developed in collaboration with relevant policymakers, experts and practitioners on a national level. The studies and national reports were developed from national contributions based on desk analysis of secondary information including existing legislation and policy documents, reports, academic literature, internet resources as well as reports and information from national authorities and civil society stakeholders. Statistics were sourced from Eurostat, national authorities and other (national) databases.



European Migration Network Study  
September 2022

## 2.3. EMN informs

Ten EMN informs were published in 2022, as following: “Preventing, detecting and tackling situations where authorisations to reside in the EU for the purpose of study are misused for other purposes”; “Skills Mobility Partnerships: Exploring innovative approaches to labour migration”; “The use of digitalisation and artificial intelligence in migration management”; “Attracting and retaining international researchers”; “Mapping of mental health policies for third-country national migrants”; “Incentives and motives for voluntary return”; “Secondary movements of beneficiaries of international protection”; “Bilateral readmission agreements”; “Transition of unaccompanied minors to adulthood” and “Sanctions applicable to applicants for international protection who commit serious breaches of the rules of the accommodation centres or display seriously violent behavior” (REG WG inform, restricted).

Special ad hoc questionnaires collected information related to the implementation of the Temporary Protection Directive (TPD), launched in response to the refugee crisis caused by Russia's invasion of Ukraine on 24 February, 2022. Using this data, three special informs were published: " Application of the Temporary Protection Directive (scope and registration)", "Arrangements for accommodation and housing for beneficiaries of temporary protection" and "Access to services for beneficiaries of temporary protection".

Each year, the EMN NCP HR participates in the production of informs based on contributions collected through ad-hoc inquiries and which are more concise than situation reports. All informs are published on the EMN NCP HR official website.

#### **2.4. EMN AHQ**

The EMN ad-hoc query (AHQ) tool continued to operate throughout 2022 to obtain comparative information from across EU Member States and Norway, on specific and timely topics. In 2022, the EMN NCP HR submitted their contribution to 59 AHQ. AHQ topics that Member States launched in 2022 included economic migration, protection, return, irregular migration, students, visas, residence and others.

The event that marked the year 2022, not only in Europe and the world, influenced the work of EMN. Namely, when the Russian Federation started an armed invasion of Ukraine on 24 February, a large number of Ukrainians decided to leave their homeland. For this reason, on 4 March, 2022, the Council adopted an implementing decision introducing temporary protection due to the massive influx of people fleeing Ukraine due to the war. Due to this extraordinary situation, EMN as a network of the European Commission collected all relevant data concerning displaced persons from Ukraine.

Eight ad hoc questionnaires were launched, which collected information related to the implementation of the Directive on temporary protection, family reunification, access to employment, housing, health and social care, education, etc. EMN NCP Croatia gave its contributions and answers to ad-hoc questionnaires and was also included in the summaries, and the already mentioned informs, which were created on the basis of information collected by the AHQs.

## 2.6 Immigration Portal

The Immigration Portal continues to be a useful source of information for newcomers, making the complex information easily accessible, and to reduce irregular migration. The European Commission, using updated information provided by EMN NCPs, maintained the portal during 2022. EMN NCP HR submits the information regularly and will submit a comprehensive update on the Immigration



Portal in line with new Aliens Act. Due to legislative changes in the area of legal migration, extensive updates to the EU Immigration Portal were provided during 2022.

## 3 NETWORKING AT EU LEVEL

### 3.1 National Contact Point and Steering Board

EMN became a functional virtual network in response to travel restrictions imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic that began in 2020. This approach continued in 2022 due to the economic crisis caused by the events in Ukraine, and for climatological reasons (fuel consumption, environmental pollution). Five meetings of the Steering Board (from the 30th to the 34th meeting) and eight meetings of the National Contact Points (from the 117th to the 125th meeting) were held virtually during the year. Some meetings were held live (in a hybrid format), such as the 121st NCP meeting held during the French Presidency Conference in Paris, and the 123rd NCP meeting held after the Czech Republic Presidency Conference in Prague. HR NCP members participated in a live meeting held in Prague.

### 3.2 Working groups

Working groups continued to meet regularly throughout 2022.

The **EMN Communication and Dissemination Working Group (CDWG)**, led by EMN France and EMN Finland, met twice in 2022, and members of EMN NCP Croatia participated virtually in both meetings. In 2022, the working group published new EMN visual identity guidelines. Also, the group worked on updating the EMN communication and dissemination strategy, and coordinating the introduction of national communication plans. A member of the HR NCP participated in the meeting of the working group that took place in Tbilisi, Georgia, on September 19, 2022.

The **Working Group on Cooperation with Third Countries (CTC WG)** held two virtual meetings in the past year. Since in 2020 four non-EU countries (Armenia, Montenegro, Serbia and Ukraine) expressed their interest in cooperation with EMN, in 2022 the process was finalized, and these countries officially received observer status. Croatia participated in the introductory meeting with Observer Countries held on 30 March and the topic of the meeting was organization of a workshop for old and new EMN members held on 3 May. That workshop was organized in Zagreb in July (EMN Induction Training).

Members of EMN NCP Croatia attended **EMN Information and Awareness Raising Campaigns Working Group (INFO WG)** held on 13 December, 2022. The meeting was held to present the experiences and conclusions of the PARIM project (Raising awareness of the dangers of irregular migration in Pakistan) funded by AMIF since 2021 and now approaching its end. At the meeting, it was announced that the working group will be chaired by Cyprus - Mr. Kyriaki Kamenou.

In 2021, EMN started with creating the EMN official video. EMN NCP Croatia actively participated in that ad hoc working group. The working group met virtually during 2021, and the meetings continued in 2022, and the video was published in March of 2022. Members of EMN NCP Croatia participated in the production of Croatian subtitles for the video. You can watch the video on the official website of EMN and on the website of EMN NCP Croatia ([link](#)).

### **3.3 Conferences and other events**

Members of EMN NCP Croatia participated in the Estonian conference **"Rethinking migration"** held online. The conference of EMN Estonia took place on 27 January 2022 and consisted of two sessions. The first session of the conference explored innovative policies in the field of migration, specifically the introduction of talent and skills mobility partnerships and other innovative pathways to create a "triple-win situation" for countries of origin, destination, and the migrants themselves. The aim of such partnerships is to provide a comprehensive framework to better address labour shortages and match skills needs between the EU and third countries, while at the same time engaging third countries strategically on migration. Talent partnerships also occupy a central role in 'The New Pact on Migration and Asylum'. Additionally, other interesting examples of innovative work-related pathways like digital nomad visas are explored as well. Alongside policy innovations, there have been significant changes in the tools used in migration management. The use of new technologies has been growing substantially over the last decades, altering nearly every sphere of human life, including migration and

asylum management. The global Covid-19 pandemic, however, accelerated the speed of digital transformations in the field of migration and asylum globally. The second session of the conference focuses on the possibilities of using digitalisation and AI in migration management.

EMN NCP Croatia participated in the launch event for the publication of the EMN and OECD joint inform entitled "**The use of digitalization and artificial intelligence in migration management**" held on 10 February, 2022. Representatives of EMN NCP Croatia also participated in the online launch event for the publication of the study "**Third-country national victims of trafficking in human beings: detection, identification and protection**" held on 31 March, 2022.

On June 15, 2022, marking the EMN Day, **the Annual Report on Migration and Asylum for 2021** was published, and EMN NCP Croatia attended the online event.

In October 2022, the **Presidency Conference of the EMN Czech Republic** was held under the title "EU and labor migration: needs, strategies and challenges", and members of the EMN and SB attended in Prague. Through a total of four panels, the topics of labor migration routes, cooperation with countries outside the European Union, migrant workers in the EU and attracting talent and the impact of new technologies on labor migration were discussed. Examples of good practice of innovative initiatives, projects and programs were presented at the conference.

A member of the HR NCP attended the national conference organized by **EMN Estonia and Georgia**, which took place in Tbilisi, Georgia. The topic of the conference was decision-making in the context of migration through more advanced digital systems. In Malta, on October 28, 2022, **the national conference of EMN Malta** was held on the topic of new geopolitical challenges in migration and cultural and religious diversity. Members of EMN NCP Croatia attended the conference live. Coinciding with the end of the COVID pandemic, the war in Ukraine has already had a significant impact across Europe and beyond. Europe faces a challenging migration scenario, which is virtually unprecedented in scale. The impact of migration from Ukraine must be assessed in context, as people from other regions and continents, including the Middle East, Africa, and Asia, continue to migrate into EU member states, sometimes via irregular or unofficial channels, often to seek protection. The current scenario therefore poses renewed challenges in the migration and integration fields. This conference explored these challenges and the manner in which they may be addressed. In addition, the **EMN Spain organized a national conference** that took place on 1 December, 2022 in Madrid, where members of the EMN NCP HR team participated. The theme of the conference was narratives in the context of migration. In the creation of migration policy, as in



other areas, the narrative is one of the main drivers of public behavior, a powerful shaper of perception and a decisive factor in the process of shaping public opinion. At this conference, the analysis of the narrative and its impact on society was presented, and the good practices of the Member States were presented.

On 5 and 6 July 2022, hybrid **Induction training** for the members of the European Migration Network (EMN) took place in Zagreb, Hotel Dubrovnik. Training was organized by the National Contact Point for the Republic of Croatia (EMN Croatia) with the support of EMN LU. The aim of the training was to ensure a common understanding of the structure and role of the EMN and how it fits into the wider migration and asylum landscape at national, EU and international levels, as well as to ensure a common approach to EMN national networks and products developed at the national level. NCPs were provided with support in their roles in developing and contributing to EU level outputs and in relation to managing, monitoring and reporting on EMN grants. The training was primarily intended for new members of the EMN NCP teams in Member States and members of national contact points of observer states (Ukraine, Georgia, Moldova, Armenia, Montenegro and Serbia), but also provided opportunity for already established EMN NCP staff members to have a refresher course on a specific aspect of EMN.

## **4 NETWORKING AT NATIONAL LEVEL**

### **4.1 National conferences and workshops**

In 2022, the EMN NCP HR organized a wide range of activities and outputs, including national conferences and networking events, hosted websites and disseminated newsletters, amongst other activities. In this way, the EMN NCP HR animates their national networks of relevant stakeholders working on migration and asylum policies and facilitates the exchange of information and alignment of objectives. During 2022, EMN NCP Croatia organized two online meetings of the national EMN network for members of the national migration network:

- **12<sup>th</sup> national network meeting** was organized on 29 September 2022. Approximately 20 participants of the National Migration Network, which consists of national authorities and non-governmental and international organizations, including the Ministry of Interior, which acts as the EMN NCP HR, attended the meeting. The meeting was an opportunity for all participants to present news in their respective fields and work on the issue of migration since the last meeting of the network.
- **13<sup>th</sup> national network meeting** took place on 16 December 2022. The meeting was attended by about 20 participants of the National Migration Network, which consists of state bodies, including the Ministry of Interior and non-governmental and international organizations.

Apart from two meetings of the national network, EMN NCP Croatia organized a **national hybrid conference** marking the World Refugee Day, entitled "Women in Migration". EMN NCP Croatia and the Ministry of the Interior of the Republic of Croatia held a national conference "Women in Migration" in Zagreb and online, on 23 June, 2022. The aim of the conference was to further raise awareness about women in migration and their role in integration into the new society, the challenges they face, to present the EU framework and national policies and strategies of Member States in the field of integration of migrant women, to exchange ideas and good practices through the testimonies of migrant women themselves, an active role they should play in policy-making and decision-making processes, in order to enable their more successful and equal inclusion in society. The conference brought together a number of participants live and online, including representatives of ministries and other relevant state administration bodies, academia, representatives of international organizations and NGOs, experts and participants from other Member States and provided an opportunity to learn about specific challenges and to get acquainted with policies, concrete projects and activities in the field of integration that are targeted at migrant women. The conference was covered by the media and was broadcasted in the central informational programme of the Croatian Radiotelevision (HRT), on 23 June, 2022.

As for national events, on 3 February, 2022, members of EMN NCP Croatia held a meeting with representatives of the Office for Human Rights and Rights of National Minorities. And on 7 February, representatives of EMN NCP Croatia participated in a meeting at the Police Academy.

Also, in May, members of EMN NCP Croatia participated in the conference "**Economy outside the box: New neighbors on the Croatian labor market**" organized by the Center for Cultural Dialogue.

Office for Human Rights and Rights of National Minorities of the Government of the Republic of Croatia organized an international conference in Zagreb "**Integration of persons granted international protection - transfer of good practices on European and international level**" on 13 and 14 October, 2022. Members of our team attended the conference. The goal of this conference was the exchange of examples of good practices, in order to harmonize and improve the existing systems of integration of persons granted international protection. The conference was organized as part of the project "INCLuDE - Interdepartmental cooperation in the empowerment of citizens of third countries", co-financed by the Fund for Asylum, Migration and Integration (AMIF).

On 16 December, 2022, in Zagreb, as part of the 13<sup>th</sup> meeting of the National Migration Network, a **panel discussion entitled "International protection seekers and the labor**

**market"** was held. The opening speech was held by Mrs. Ivana Perlić Glamočak, who also moderated the panel discussion on the topic of international protection and the labor market, together with Mr. Vlatko Večkovec and Mrs. Elizabeth Filipaj. Mr. Večkovec from the Reception Center for International Protection Seekers in Zagreb talked about how international protection seekers find employment and where they are employed, and Ms. Filipaj from the Croatian Employment Service talked about their rights and formal employment processes. After that, a presentation was held on the subject of the TALENT POOL pilot project for displaced persons from Ukraine. This project was presented by Mrs. Perlić Glamočak and Mrs. Filipaj. The project was launched in October.

## **5 EU TALENT POOL**

The European Commission launched a pilot project called "EU Talent Pool" for displaced persons from Ukraine, in which the Republic of Croatia is participating among other EU countries. EMN NCP team coordinator Ivana Perlić Glamočak and CES representative Elizabeta Filipaj participated in the meetings of the working group that began to be held in May. The EU talent pool was officially launched on the EURES portal page on 10 October, 2022.

The talent database helps in identifying and mapping the skills of job seekers and facilitates their connection with employers in the EU. Beneficiaries of temporary protection will be able to find employment more easily: they can use the talent database to create a resume, present their skills and professional experience, and thus express their interest in finding employment in the Republic of Croatia.

The pilot initiative is implemented through the EURES portal, which brings together national employment offices, private employment agencies and employers across the EU. CVs published through the EU Talent Base will also be visible to registered employers in all EURES countries.

More information about the EU talent pool, as well as how to apply to the pool, can be found at the following link: [https://eures.ec.europa.eu/eu-talent-pool-pilot\\_en](https://eures.ec.europa.eu/eu-talent-pool-pilot_en).

## 6 EMN NATIONAL WEBSITE

The EMN website is the main vehicle for the EMN to make its outputs publicly available, updated on a regular basis. Every NCP maintains their own national website, which is linked to the EMN website. The EMN NCP HR regularly updates its website, notifies about all of EMN publications and publishes announcements and reports from various events and other news in the field of migration. You can access EMN NCP HR official website on this link:

<https://emn.gov.hr/>



EMN Nacionalna kontaktna točka za Republiku Hrvatsku (EMN NCP HR)

EMN  
European Migration Network  
Europska migracijska mreža  
HRVATSKA

Objavljen letak „Zapošljavanje i socijalna skrb za ukrajinske državljane“

Novi informacijski letak EMN-a: „Sprječavanje, otkrivanje i rješavanje situacija s izbjeglicama“

Ostale vijesti

Vlada prihvatala Odluku o uvođenju privremene zaštite u Republici Hrvatskoj za raseljene osobe iz Ukrajine  
08.09.2022. | Plika i vijest

Novi informacijski letak EMN-a i OECD-a „Partnerstva za mobilnost i spolnost: istraživanje inovativnih pristupa rješavanju migracije“  
02.09.2022. | Plika i vijest

Diošni zavod za statistiku objavio je preliješnu mjesečnu ispolješnu neto i bruto plaku Republike Hrvatske za 2021. godinu  
02.08.2022. | Plika i vijest

## 7 EMN BULLETIN

The EMN bulletin is designed to provide quarterly updates to policymakers on major EU and national developments in the field of migration and asylum policy, and statistical trends. New developments are presented under broad thematic headings that can be accessed through links from the top menu.

In 2022, to improve the accessibility and outreach of the bulletin, the length was shortened, and the key findings were presented in an even more succinct newsletter format, the bulletin news flash. The bulletin is distributed to approximately 1 200 external contacts in addition to the internal EMN mailing lists, on a quarterly basis.

The EMN NCP HR contributed to EMN Bulletins throughout the year 2022. Contributions were submitted for 37<sup>th</sup>, 38<sup>th</sup>, 39<sup>th</sup> and 40<sup>th</sup> EMN bulletins.