



April - June 2026

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NEWS FROM EMN MEMBER AND
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**RECENT AND UPCOMING EMN
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NEWS FROM THE EU

On 26 March, the European Commission's Directorate-General for Migration and Home Affairs and Directorate-General for Research and Innovation co-chaired the [first meeting of the Talent for Innovation Attraction Platform](#). The event brought together migration, employment and innovation experts from relevant EU platforms and wider stakeholders. A [second meeting](#) was held on 15 June, co-chaired by the same Directorates-General alongside the Directorate-General for Education, Youth, Sport and Culture, reinforcing cross-sector collaboration on talent attraction.

On 8 May, the European Commission published a report on the [state of play of the Pact on Migration and Asylum's implementation](#). It highlights significant progress by EU Member States, with the core elements of the new system now in place.

On the same day, the European Commission adopted two new reports on the [Employers Sanctions Directive](#) and the [Seasonal Workers Directive](#), assessing efforts to ensure fair working conditions for third-country nationals, prevent migrant exploitation and tackle illegal employment.

The European Commission welcomed the [political agreement](#) between the European Parliament and the Council on a Regulation establishing a [new Common European System for Returns](#) which took place on 1 June. Proposed in March 2025, the new rules are a key deliverable under the European Commission's [political guidelines](#) and the [European Asylum and Migration Management Strategy](#). They form a central part of the EU's comprehensive approach to migration, complementing the Pact on Migration and Asylum.

On 16 June, the Council of the EU reached a partial negotiating position on '[Global Europe](#)', the EU's main external financing instrument for 2028–2034. The proposal streamlines existing tools into a single framework, including setting out a balanced approach to migration and forced displacement. It combines incentives for cooperation with measures linked to partner countries' obligations, including readmission, while giving the Council a key role in assessing their use. The approach aims to strengthen migration partnerships, support sustainable solutions and uphold international obligations.

On 16 June, the European Commission presented the [Channel Action Plan](#), setting out a coordinated European response to the challenges posed by the Channel migration route. The Action Plan builds on the reduction in irregular border crossings into the EU while recognising that migrant smuggling networks

continue to adapt. It is structured around three pillars: strengthening migration diplomacy with key partner countries, disrupting migrant smuggling networks by targeting their business model and criminal infrastructure, and reinforcing border management and operational cooperation, including through EU agencies. Given the shared nature of the challenge, close cooperation with the United Kingdom is an essential component of the Action Plan.

On 19 June 2026, the European Commission and the United Kingdom's Home Office signed an [Administrative Arrangement](#) formalising the UK's participation in the European Migration Network (EMN) as an EMN Observer Country. The agreement was signed in Brussels by Director-General for Migration and Home Affairs, Beate Gminder, and UK Director General for the Migration and Borders Group, Dan Hobbs. It marks a step forward in strengthening cooperation and information exchange on migration policy and practice.

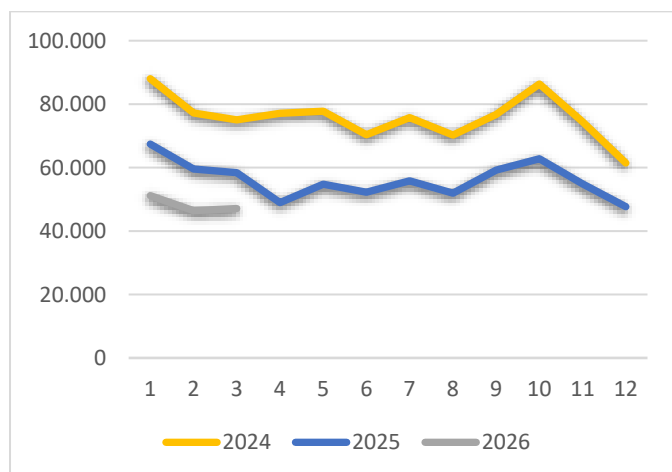
In June 2026, the Council of Europe, the European Court of Human Rights and the EU Agency for Fundamental Rights published the latest edition of the [Handbook on European law relating to asylum, borders and immigration](#). The handbook provides a comprehensive overview of the legal framework governing these areas, combining both EU law and standards under the European Convention on Human Rights. It serves as a key reference for policymakers and practitioners working across migration and asylum.

CJEU clarifies scope of border procedures and detention

On 16 April, the Court of Justice of the EU ruled in joined Cases [C-50/24 to C-56/24](#) on the use of border procedures and detention conditions for asylum applicants. The case concerned applicants at Brussels airport held in facilities located within Belgian territory but treated as border zones. The cases involved the interpretation of [Directive 2013/32/EU](#) (Asylum Procedures Directive) and [Directive 2013/33/EU](#) (Reception Conditions Directive), in conjunction with Article 47 of the [Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union](#).

The Court found that EU law does not require border procedures to take place at geographically defined borders. It clarified that such procedures may also apply in facilities within national territory, provided they are legally designated as border or transit zones, while ensuring respect for fundamental rights.

Figure 1: First time asylum applicants



Source: Eurostat [migr_asyappctzm](#), first-time asylum applicants, extracted on 3 July 2026.

NEWS FROM EMN MEMBER AND OBSERVER COUNTRIES

1. General developments

Bulgaria

Changes to registration for temporary protection in Bulgaria

As of 1 May, renewal of [temporary protection registration](#) cards is no longer handled by the Ministry of Interior, with re-registration now managed by the State Agency for Refugees. New applicants can register either with the Agency or at regional offices of the Ministry. The measure also extends temporary protection in Bulgaria until 4 March 2027, ensuring continued support for beneficiaries.

Cyprus

EMN Cyprus High-Level Presidency Conference

On 19-20 May, EMN Cyprus hosted the [EMN Cyprus High-Level Presidency Conference](#) 'Taking stock of the Pact on Migration and Asylum: turning strategy into reality' in Nicosia. The overarching theme of the conference was to review the EU's preparedness ahead of the Pact's full application, focusing on Strategy implementation and how the Pact can deliver key strategic priorities. Notable speakers, experts of EU and international organisations, contributed to the fruitful discussions and outcome of the conference.

Extension of temporary protection status for displaced Ukrainians

On 17 June, the Asylum Service of the Deputy Ministry of Migration and International Protection, announced the [automatic extension of the temporary protection status](#) for Ukrainian nationals until 4 March 2027. Beneficiaries who already hold temporary protection are not required to submit a new application to the Asylum Service, ensuring continuous access to residence, employment, and healthcare.

Greece

Temporary protection framework reformed

A [law published on 11 June](#) strengthens the temporary protection framework by linking residence permits to access to healthcare, employment and social security, and providing for their withdrawal if a permit is obtained in another EU Member State. It also removes geographic restrictions on work authorisation and guarantees access to pre-school, primary and secondary education for minors under the same conditions as Greek nationals, improving inclusion and mobility for beneficiaries.

Ireland

Changes to supports and new residence scheme for Ukrainians

On 26 May, the Government approved a [package of measures](#) to provide more certainty to Ukrainians displaced by the war, and to transition Ukrainian citizens out of temporary protection. Measures include the phased withdrawal of state-contracted accommodation by March 2027, with exceptions for vulnerable individuals, reducing the Accommodation Recognition Payment to EUR 400 from October, and introducing a Temporary Protection Transition Scheme offering an alternative residence pathway.

Latvia

Support measures for Ukrainian civilians extended

On 12 May, Latvia amended its [National Support Plan](#) for Ukrainian civilians to include a new measure aimed at reducing early school leaving and social exclusion among students. It provides individual and group subject consultations, as well as access to support staff and mentoring. The initiative seeks to strengthen integration into the education system and wider society.

Lithuania

Guidelines for migration policy updated

On 8 April, the [guidelines](#) were changed to reflect the evolving geopolitical situation, legal changes and migration trends. The revised framework aims to address demographic challenges, labour market needs, national security interests and the integration of foreigners, while ensuring effective migration management aligned with the state's interests

Netherlands

Rules to prevent duplicate temporary protection

As of 15 June, the Dutch Immigration and Naturalisation Service (IND) will [refuse temporary protection](#) to individuals already protected in another EU Member State and may revoke permits granted in error on this basis. The policy aligns with EU efforts to prevent multiple protection statuses and ensure responsibility lies with a single country. It is also intended to ease pressure on the national reception system.

Poland

Residence permit applications for residence permits and special national residence permit for beneficiaries of temporary protection digitalised

On 27 April, new legislation amending the Act on Foreigners and certain other acts came into force. The amendment introduces an online system for submitting residence permit applications via the [Case Management Module](#), replacing in-person paper procedures. From 4 May, Ukrainian beneficiaries of temporary protection can apply for a three-year residence permit if they meet [specific criteria](#), including continuous protection status. Upon collecting the card, temporary protection status is withdrawn, marking a transition to a standard residence framework.

Spain

Extraordinary administrative regularisation of migrants approved

On 14 April, the Government approved a [Royal Decree](#) introducing an extraordinary regularisation process for migrants already in the country. The measure targets individuals in an irregular situation or asylum applicants who can prove residence before 1 January 2026 and at least five months' continuous stay prior to applying. Applicants must meet conditions including a clean criminal record and no risk to public order, with applications open from 16 April to 30 June.

Transition from temporary protection to residence permits

Since April, beneficiaries of temporary protection can apply for the permits provided for both in Entrepreneurs Law, of 27 September, on support for entrepreneurs and their internationalisation, and in the Immigration Regulation (Royal Decree 1155/2024), whose procedures can be initiated from inside the country. In addition, [instructions](#) have been adopted in June to ensure a homogeneous interpretation and application of the measure.

Norway

Eligibility for collective protection revised

From 4 May, Norway has [restricted access to collective protection](#) for Ukrainian men aged 18–60. Exceptions apply to those who are sole caregivers, exempt from or unable to perform military service, or included in medical evacuation programmes. The changes apply to new applications only, with affected individuals still able to seek protection through the regular asylum procedure.

Georgia

Legislative changes strengthening migration governance and preventing irregular migration

On 25 June, Parliament adopted a [package of amendments](#) to strengthen migration governance and address irregular migration. The revised legislation updates rules on entry, stay, residence permits and returns, while clarifying provisions on study, work and family reunification permits. It also reinforces frameworks related to public security, appeals and expulsion procedures, aiming to improve the overall coherence and effectiveness of migration management.

2. Legal migration

Austria

Mobility agreement between Austria and Uzbekistan

On 7 May, the [mobility agreement between Austria and Uzbekistan](#) was signed. The agreement aims to establish comprehensive cooperation, including efforts to combat irregular migration, criminal smuggling rings, and trafficking in human beings. It also provides for cooperation in the field of removals, as well as for improved exchange on opportunities for the mobility of skilled workers, students, and researchers.

Belgium

Stricter conditions for renewing student residence permits

On 7 May, [new rules](#) governing the renewal of residence permits for third-country national students were adopted. Applicable from the 2026/2027 academic year, the amendments introduce stricter requirements regarding study progress, maximum study duration and changes of study programme. They also establish additional conditions for students attending non-recognised higher education institutions, including proof of definitive enrolment, payment of tuition fees, language proficiency and sufficient financial resources.

Croatia

Amendments to the Aliens Act

On 15 May, [amendments to the Aliens Act](#) introduced new rules on labour migration, including longer validity of seasonal work permits, extended temporary residence permits for students, longer unemployment periods during validity of residence and work permits, and measures intended to facilitate legal migration while strengthening safeguards against abuse of the system.

Estonia

Labour shortage scheme introduced

On 4 May, [amendments to the Aliens Act](#) were adopted. They aim to address the shortage of qualified labour. The most significant change replaces the existing short-term employment exemption with a labour shortage occupation scheme, allowing temporary residence permits for employment to be granted under more favourable conditions in occupations experiencing labour shortages.

France

Higher fees for third-country national students

[A 20 May decree](#) raises tuition fees for most third-country national students to around EUR 3 000 per year in undergraduate studies, up from EUR 178. Part of the 'Choose France for Higher Education' plan, it tightens application of differentiated fees and limits university exemptions to 20% by 2028.

Ireland

Changes to jobs eligible for an employment permit announced

On 28 May, [occupations lists](#) were amended following a review, with the result that six new roles are now eligible for Critical Skills Employment Permits and 11 roles are now eligible for General Employment Permits (nine without quota and two subject to newly established quotas). The roles are across health, construction and transport sectors.

Latvia

Amendments to the Immigration Law

On May 20, extensive [amendments](#) to the Immigration Law came into force, clarifying the procedure for issuing residence permits in accordance with the [common regulation of the European Union](#). The changes abolish residence permits based on securities purchases, remove preferential treatment for Belarusian nationals, restrict certain routes to permanent residence, and strengthen employee protections.

Lithuania

Rules on illegal work and updates employment provisions for foreigners

On 22 May, [amendments](#) were made to tighten employers' liability for illegal work. The changes also address practical issues in employment conditions, including employer changes; while introducing more favourable provisions for highly qualified specialists, researchers and master's and doctoral students.

Luxembourg

Procedure for obtaining biometric passports amended

On 23 April, the Grand-Ducal Regulation was [amended](#) to adapt the procedures for obtaining biometric passports and biometric travel documents for foreigners, stateless persons and refugees, as well as the provisions relating to consular fees for the legalisation of documents.

Netherlands

Application of right to family life in migration cases narrowed

Following a European Court of Human Rights judgment on 2 June, the Netherlands revised its [policy](#) on residence rights based on family life. The updated rules restrict the presumption of family life between parents and adult children to more limited cases, the presumption is now limited to settled young adults facing expulsion who still live with their parents and have not formed their own family. The change aligns national practice more closely with ECHR case law.

Spain

Changes to temporary residence permits granted on humanitarian grounds

As of 12 June, [no residence permits](#) will be granted or renewed for humanitarian reasons linked to international protection, which were granted mainly to Venezuelan citizens. In parallel, transitional measures have been introduced, allowing the holders of these permits to modify them towards residence and work permits, thus ensuring the continuity of their administrative situation.

Georgia

Description of work residence permit refined

On 15 April, [amendments to the Law on the Legal Status of Aliens and Stateless Persons](#) were introduced. These legislative changes further refine the description of work residence permit by clarifying the applicable eligibility criteria, requirements, and conditions for obtaining this type of residence permit.

Exceptions to the 'Right to Work' requirement introduced

On 2 April, [Government Ordinance No. 520](#) 'On Approval of the Procedure for Reviewing and Deciding on the Granting of Georgian Residence Permits' was amended to establish a list of categories of foreigners who are exempt from the requirement to obtain the 'right to work'.

3. International protection including asylum

France

Housing access for foreign nationals regulated

On 26 May, a [new circular](#) introduced measures to improve access to housing for foreign nationals in emergency accommodation. Prefects are tasked with strengthening administrative follow-up to support transitions into stable housing and streamline pathways out of shelters. Furthermore, the Government is making the stabilisation of residence status a lever for access to housing for people in regular situations.

Ireland

Family reunification policy for beneficiaries of international protection changed

Effective from 12 June, [amendments](#) introduce stricter conditions for family reunification for beneficiaries of international protection. Applicants must now wait two years before applying, demonstrate sufficient financial resources, and not rely on certain social or housing supports, with some exceptions for minors. The changes also limit eligibility under the general non-EEA family reunification policy, tightening access to family reunification pathways.

Netherlands

Suspension of the processing of Lebanese asylum applications

On 1 June, the Minister of Asylum and Migration imposed [a decision and departure moratorium](#) for Lebanese applicants for international protection due to the fragile security situation in Lebanon. Decisions on asylum applications and on return are put on hold for a six-month period. Moreover, (forced) returns of rejected asylum seekers to Lebanon are postponed for the same period. The Immigration and Naturalisation Service (IND) will therefore [temporarily suspend](#) the processing of asylum applications from applicants from Lebanon.

Serbia

Reception and migration response plans adopted

In April, Serbia adopted a [Reception Plan for Ukrainian citizens and vulnerable populations who have left Ukraine or who can not return due to armed actions](#), alongside a [Response Plan for Increased Influx of Migrants on the Territory of the Republic of Serbia](#). Together, the plans establish a coordinated national framework for reception, assistance and migration management, aligned with domestic legislation and international standards.

4. Unaccompanied minors and other vulnerable groups

Austria

Guardianship over unaccompanied minors from day one established

On 11 June, an [amendment](#) to the General Civil Code and the Uncontested Matters Act was promulgated. Provisions regarding guardianship over unaccompanied minors from the very first day were established, as set forth in the government programme in accordance with the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, the Federal Constitutional Act on the Rights of Children and the Reception Conditions Directive.

Greece

Unaccompanied and separated minors framework strengthened

On 11 June, new measures under [Law 5307/2026](#) reinforce Greece's protection system for unaccompanied and separated minors by aligning it with the national guardianship framework. The reform clarifies the roles of the General Secretariat for Vulnerable Persons and Institutional Protection within the Ministry of Migration and Asylum and the National Guardianship System. It introduces temporary representatives ([Article 72](#)) to support and represent minors from arrival until a guardian is appointed, defining their duties and responsibilities. In addition, it increases the maximum caseload for guardianship officers ([Article 93](#)) to better address needs across different regions.

5. Integration and inclusion

France

2026 integration policy priorities

On 7 April, an [instruction](#) sets out the government's priorities for the integration of newly arrived migrants in 2026. It focuses on implementing the new requirements introduced by the 26 January 2024 Law (French language proficiency and a civic exam), strengthening local partnerships to support integration pathways, and promoting labour market integration, particularly in sectors facing labour shortages.

Lithuania

VERTIS system became available to all foreigners and relevant institutions

From 1 May, the VERTIS system's free translation services became [publicly available](#) to all foreigners and relevant institutions. Previously offered only on an ad-hoc basis, the expanded access makes communication faster and more efficient, while also supporting the independence of foreigners and improving their integration into services in Lithuania.

Luxembourg

Ombudsman report highlights gaps in reception and family reunification

On 6 May, the Luxembourg Ombudsman published his [2025 report](#), highlighting poor accommodation conditions in National Reception Office (ONA) facilities and urging municipalities to create more reception places for applicants and beneficiaries of international protection. It also notes very long family reunification processing times, rising from about 17 months in summer 2025 to 34 months at the start of 2026.

Spain

Integration and Citizenship Plan adopted

On 30 June, the President of the Government announced the new [Integration and Citizenship Plan](#). The plan includes 16 measures aimed at advancing integration and inclusion, decent work, order, regularity, rights, obligations and rules of coexistence, including the regularisation process, the creation of a future State Agency for Human Mobility, employment in high-demand sectors, an extraordinary provision of vocational training, and the strengthening of public services, among others.

Slovak Republic

Cultural orientation course for beneficiaries of international protection introduced

The new [Act on International Protection](#), which entered into force on 12 June, introduced a cultural orientation course as part of the initial integration support provided to beneficiaries of international protection. The course aims to facilitate their integration into Slovak society by improving their understanding of the country's legal system, institutions, rights, obligations and everyday life.

6. Citizenship and statelessness

Finland

Citizenship test to be introduced in 2027

On 16 June, the President approved [amendments to the Citizenship Act](#) regarding the introduction of a citizenship test. The test is the final stage of a broader reform, which tightens the conditions for acquiring Finnish citizenship. It will assess knowledge of Finnish society and its principles. The amendments will enter into force in 2027.

Ireland

Removal of appeal rights for short-stay visa refusals

From 1 June, the [right of appeal](#) for refused short-stay (type C) visas was removed, meaning applicants can no longer challenge these decisions. Exceptions apply to third-country nationals covered by EU free movement rules. Appeal rights remain unchanged for long-stay (type D) visas, including employment, study and most family-related applications.

Italy

Italian court upholds new citizenship restrictions

On 6 May, the Italian Constitutional Court [dismissed challenges](#) to recent changes to citizenship rules limiting the automatic transmission of citizenship *jure sanguinis* for individuals born abroad with another nationality. The law remains in force, with exceptions for those meeting specific criteria, such as prior application, exclusive Italian ancestry, or a parental residence requirement, confirming its continued legal effect.

Sweden

More stringent requirements for Swedish citizenship

On June 6, a [bill introducing more stringent requirements for citizenship](#) entered into force. It introduces *inter alia* stricter requirements on residence, raised from five to eight years; on self-support; and on knowledge of Swedish language and Swedish society. The purpose is to enhance the status of the citizenship and to increase the individual's opportunities to actively participate in society.

7. Border management and irregular migration

Austria

Extension of temporarily reintroduced border controls

On 12 June, an [amendment](#) to extend the temporarily reintroduced border controls at the internal borders with the Slovak Republic, the Czech Republic, the Republic of Slovenia and Hungary was promulgated. Border controls were extended until 15 September 2026.

Estonia

Police unit deployed to Latvia

In June, a 12-member police unit from the Estonian Police and Border Guard Board was deployed to Latvia to [support the Latvian authorities in preventing irregular border crossings](#) at the Belarus–Latvia border. The unit is composed of officers from all regional prefectures of the Police and Border Guard Board. Its members include police officers with medical training, document examination specialists, drone pilots, and two police service dogs.

Finland

Eastern border to remain closed

On 4 June, the Government renewed its [decision on the closure of the border crossing points between Finland and Russia](#) to prevent instrumentalised migration. The submission of applications for international protection will continue to be centralised at other border crossing points open to air and maritime traffic on Finland's external borders.

France

New Franco-British agreement to combat irregular English Channel crossings

On 22 April, France and the United Kingdom concluded a [new agreement to strengthen efforts to combat irregular crossings of the English Channel](#). It provides for up to EUR 766 million in UK funding over a three-year period, an increase in personnel deployed along the French coastline, and the deployment of new surveillance capabilities, with part of the funding being contingent on achieving agreed results.

Lithuania

Border monitoring with Latvia is intensified in response irregular secondary migration

On June 19, the Ministry of the Interior increased border patrols and the use of surveillance technology to [strengthen border controls](#) and improve the detection and prevention of irregular migration in response to a surge of irregular secondary migration.

Poland

Buffer zone on the Polish-Belarusian border extended

On 3 June, the Minister of the Interior and Administration signed a [regulation maintaining the buffer zone on the Polish-Belarusian border](#) for another three months. This decision stems from the need to maintain the highest level of operational vigilance and ensure highly effective border protection. The regulation will be in force from 3 June to 31 August.

Temporary border controls with Lithuania and Germany prolonged

On 5 April, [temporary border controls with Germany and Lithuania were extended](#) for another six months, from 5 April to 1 October. The decision aims to further curb illegal migration and strengthen Poland's security.

Georgia

Cooperation Agreement signed

On 18 April, an [Agreement on Cooperation](#) between the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Georgia and the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Uzbekistan was signed, within the framework of which the Parties shall cooperate in combating various crime, including extending collaboration in the fight against organised crime, trafficking in human beings and illegal migration.

8. Trafficking in human beings

Greece

Identification and referral of trafficking victims strengthened

[Law 5307/2026](#), adopted on 11 June, introduces measures to improve the identification and referral of victims of trafficking within reception and international protection systems. Authorities and service providers must promptly inform the National Referral Mechanism when potential victims are identified. These provisions are integrated into the framework for applicants with special reception needs, reinforcing safeguards and ensuring a more coordinated response.

Serbia

New law strengthens framework to combat trafficking and protect victims

On 23 April, the [Law on the Prevention and Suppression of Trafficking in Human Beings and Protection of Victims](#) enters into force on 1 January 2027, and establishes a national institutional mechanism to address trafficking. It defines the roles of relevant authorities, sets out measures for prevention, and strengthens victim identification procedures and rights. The law also reinforces the criminal justice response, supporting a more coordinated and effective approach to tackling trafficking.

9. Return and readmission

Austria

Agreement between Austria and Kazakhstan promulgated

On 24 April, the [agreement between Austria and Kazakhstan](#) on the readmission and transit of persons residing unlawfully was promulgated. One of the objectives is to establish rapid and effective procedures for the identification and safe and orderly return of all persons who do not (or no longer) meet the conditions for entry and residence in the territory of the contracting states.

Belgium

Lifetime entry ban for foreign nationals posing a threat to public order or national security

On 23 April, the [Belgian Chamber of Representatives adopted a bill](#) introducing the possibility of imposing a lifetime entry ban on certain foreign nationals considered to pose a serious threat to public order or national security. The measure applies to persons registered in the national database on terrorism, extremism and radicalisation and amends the Law of 15 December 1980 on access to the territory, residence, establishment and removal of foreign nationals.

Cyprus

New Assisted Voluntary Repatriation Scheme for families to Syria

On 9 June, the implementation of the new, revised [Assisted Voluntary Repatriation Scheme for Syrian families](#), was launched. Under the Scheme, one adult family member may remain in Cyprus for employment purposes, with a special two-year residence permit and unrestricted access to the labour market until 31 August 2028. The rest of the family may return to Syria, benefiting from increased financial incentives.

Finland

Legislative amendments on removal from the country and entry bans

On 12 June, [legislative amendments to the Aliens Act](#) that make the provisions on removal from the country and entry bans more effective entered into force. The amendments are intended to speed up the enforcement of deportation decisions. In addition, an entry ban may now be imposed in advance if a person is considered a serious danger to security.

Greece

Return and repatriation updated

On 11 June, [Law 5307/2026](#) introduced new provisions on return border procedures and repatriation within the temporary protection framework. The measures define the scope of border return procedures, competent authorities, detention conditions, crisis-related derogations and the use of return hubs. They also update rules on voluntary and forced returns after the end of temporary protection, including safeguards such as the suspension of returns in specific cases, strengthening the overall legal framework for return management.

Netherlands

Amounts for reintegration and return support increased

From 1 May, the Netherlands increased [financial support for return and reintegration](#) to align with updated EU standards and inflation adjustments. The revised amounts apply across all return programmes, ensuring consistency and preventing disparities between providers. Eligible individuals, including those with a return decision or withdrawn application for international protection, may access support covering pre-departure counselling and post-arrival assistance.

Sweden

Strengthened tools to increase returns

On 15 June, the Parliament passed [amendments to several laws](#) to provide the Swedish Migration Agency and the Swedish Police Authority with better tools to implement return decisions. The laws introduce, *inter alia*, an obligation for certain authorities to submit information about an alien if there is reason to assume that they do not have the right to stay in Sweden. The amendments come into force 13 July.

10. Migration and development

Czech Republic

Priorities for external migration assistance programmes set

On 4 May, the Government approved the priorities and EUR 11.8 million budget for the Ministry of the Interior's Aid in Place and [MEDEVAC programmes](#). The initiatives focus on humanitarian assistance and migration management in regions affected by displacement, with Ukraine as the main priority, followed by the Middle East and Africa. They support the EU's external dimension of migration through aid and capacity-building.

Italy

Training project to support legal migration pathways launched

On 10 June, a [new project](#) led by the Ministry of Labour and Social Policies, in partnership with Sviluppo Lavoro Italia and funded by the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund, aims to support legal migration and labour market integration. It will provide vocational and civic-language training to 300 workers from Ecuador, Ethiopia and Uzbekistan, with applications open from 24 June to 8 July.

11. EU legislation transposition

Estonia

Single Permit Directive transposed

On 4 May, [amendments to the Aliens Act](#) were adopted with the aim to transpose Directive (EU) 2024/1233 into Estonian law.

Amendments to strengthen measures against trafficking in human beings adopted

On 18 June, [amendments to the Penal Code and the Victim Support Act](#) were adopted to transpose Directive (EU) 2024/1712 into Estonian law. The amendments strengthen the legal framework for combating trafficking in human beings and enhance the protection and support available to victims.

Croatia

Amendments to the Aliens Act

On 15 May, [amendments to the Aliens Act](#) were adopted, implementing Directive (EU) 2024/1233. The amendments aim to improve the area of work of third-country nationals and the integration of foreign workers, by introducing mandatory learning of Croatian language. The amendments also contain provisions regarding screening, border return procedures, as well as monitoring mechanisms.

Italy

Directive (EU) 2024/1712 on combating trafficking in human beings transposed

On 4 June, the Council of Ministers approved the [legislative decree](#) implementing Directive (EU) 2024/1712, aimed at strengthening the national framework for the prevention and suppression of trafficking in human beings and the protection of victims. The measure results from inter-institutional coordination led by the Department for Equal Opportunities and involves the competent national authorities.

Single permit for work approved

On 9 April 2026, the Council of Ministers definitively approved [the decree introducing a single procedure for the residence and work permit for third-country nationals](#), implementing Directive (EU) 2024/1233. The measure establishes a 30-day deadline for the issuance of permits (90 days for renewals) and introduces information obligations for employers.

RECENT EMN PUBLICATIONS

- EMN inform 2025: [Safe countries of origin and safe third countries: criteria for identifying and examining applications in light of the new Asylum Procedure Regulation \(EU\) 2024/1348](#)
- EMN inform 2025: [Bridging the digital divide - Digital services in legal migration procedures for accessibility and inclusion](#)
- EMN inform 2025: [Statelessness in the European Union, Norway, Georgia and Serbia](#)
- EMN inform 2025: [Alternatives to providing housing in-kind for applicants for international protection](#)
- EMN [2025 Asylum and Migration Overview](#) and [EMN-Eurostat Statistical Annex](#)

UPCOMING EMN PUBLICATIONS

- EMN study: Fostering the labour market integration
- EMN inform: Early integration of applicants for international protection
- EMN summary: Recognition of qualifications and skills