



### **AD HOC QUERY ON 2020.75 Residence permit and labour market needs**

**Requested by COM on 11 December 2020**

**Responses from Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, France, Germany, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden (21 in Total)**

#### **Disclaimer:**

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## **1. Background information**

The purpose of the chapeau inform is to discuss the key issues that have arisen as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic based on information already gathered and new information to be collected. The Inform will compare and contrast the force majeure measures taken up to June/July 2020, based on the information already collected, with measures in place at a point in time as of 31 December 2020 in order to assess have policies evolved or not? The purpose is not to provide a timeline of developments but to highlight changes.

The Inform will discuss what are the challenges still faced by Member States at 31 December 2020, and whether or not any lessons have been learned in relation to crisis preparedness. In their answers to the AHQs, Member States are asked to reflect on the types of challenges faced, and how any measures taken have addressed those challenges.

This AHQ relates to the themes covered in the Inform # 1, the Working Document to support Inform # 1 and Inform # 3.

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A further AHQ will address gaps in the information: access to family reunification and general healthcare for those who no longer meet criteria due to a loss/drop in income; ensuring adequate living and working conditions for seasonal workers, in the context of public health and border control measures – quarantine/testing rules.

Please also see Concept Note and overview table of themes regarding the Umbrella Inform for further background.

**This AHQ counts for 2 queries.**

## **2. Questions**

**1. Please provide the situation as of 31 December 2020 in your Member State related to the following: a. measures in place during / due to the pandemic to maintain the processing of residence permit applications. Please distinguish between processing on the territory and outside the territory. Also distinguish please between new applications and renewals if possible. b.measures in place during / due to the pandemic in place to ensure legality of stay (tolerated stays; automatic extensions/change of status/change of employer). c. Income and other supports in place during / due to the pandemic for ALL migrants with a valid residence title (employed/self-employed) including those with a prolonged or tolerated stay.**

Guidelines: Please provide NEW information only to that previously supplied. Please also highlight if there has been any change in any measures applied as of 31 December 2020, or if the status quo has been maintained? Have there been any changes to underlying rules – e.g. re access to unemployment benefit, or are force majeure measures still applied?

**2. Please provide the dates of closure and re-opening of immigration offices due to COVID-19 in your Member State, during 2020? (only refer to offices in the territory)**

**3. Please provide information regarding (at 31/12/2020) if your Member State has been able to satisfy labour demand in key economic sectors through third-country nationals?**

Guidelines: Please provide NEW information only to the previous information supplied. Please indicate if the key sectors in which labour demand is needed have changed since the previous information supplied (i.e. from seasonal workers to healthcare workers).

**4. Has there been any contingency planning in your Member State regarding meeting labour demand for seasonal work (e.g. in agriculture, tourism sectors) in 2021?**

**5. Has there been any contingency planning in your Member State regarding meeting labour demand for essential workers (e.g. healthcare, transportation) in 2021?**

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**6. Has the COVID-19 pandemic resulted in any longer-term impact on labour market policy in your Member State? Please provide UPDATED information as of 31 December 2020.**

**7. Is COVID-19 related healthcare available to ALL migrants in your Member State? Please specify if COVID-19 related healthcare is free of charge or not to: i) migrants with a valid residence permit, including those with temporary tolerated stays/extensions ii) irregular migrants.**

We would very much appreciate your responses by **22 January 2021**.

**3. Responses**

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		Wider Dissemination <sup>2</sup>	
	EMN NCP Austria	Yes	1. a) For the processing of such applications in Austria, Art. 19 para 1a Settlement and Residence Act intends the following COVID-19 measures: As long as freedom of movement or interpersonal contact is restricted due to measures taken to prevent the spread of COVID-19, applications for renewal and for change of purpose contrary to para 1 shall not be submitted to the authorities in person, but by mail or electronically. The period of this regulation is limited until June 30, 2021. b) No automatic renewals of residence permits have been planned (see also answer to question 1a). No additional measures have been taken for changes of employer.

<sup>1</sup> If possible at time of making the request, the Requesting EMN NCP should add their response(s) to the query. Otherwise, this should be done at the time of making the compilation.

<sup>2</sup> A default "Yes" is given for your response to be circulated further (e.g. to other EMN NCPs and their national network members). A "No" should be added here if you do not wish your response to be disseminated beyond other EMN NCPs. In case of "No" and wider dissemination beyond other EMN NCPs, then for the Compilation for Wider Dissemination the response should be removed and the following statement should be added in the relevant response box: "This EMN NCP has provided a response to the requesting EMN NCP. However, they have requested that it is not disseminated further."

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			<p>Pursuant to Art 46a para 4, tolerated stays were processed by the authorities (first clause) and upon application (second clause) even during the COVID-19 pandemic. As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, the legislature introduced the 2nd COVID legislative package, which makes provisions contrary to procedural law regarding time limits for appeals specified in the decisions of the Federal Office for Immigration and Asylum (Federal Act on Accompanying Measures to COVID-19 in Administrative Proceedings, in Proceedings of the Administrative Courts and in Proceedings of the Supreme Administrative Court and the Constitutional Court, Federal Law Gazette I No. 16/2020): If the period for appeal had not expired on March 22, 2020, it was suspended. It began to run anew on 1 May 2020.</p> <p>c) No such measures were taken in Austria.</p> <p>---</p> <p>Source: Ministry of the Interior</p> <p>2.</p> <p>The Settlement and Residence Authorities ("Immigration Authorities") were operating throughout, but in-person hours of operation were restricted or discontinued around mid-March 2020. The measures mentioned in the answer to question 1a severely limited the need for people to appear in person. Appearing in-person before the Settlement and Residence Authorities is only possible by appointment or by registration until further notice.</p> <p>The Federal Office for Immigration and Asylum (BFA) was not "closed" either. From mid-March to May, office hours were limited to electronic/postal requests and telephone enquiries.</p> <p>---</p> <p>Source: Ministry of the Interior</p> <p>3.</p> <p>The Covid-related travel restrictions have led to challenges for the employment of foreign workers in Austria, especially in the first weeks of the pandemic in spring 2020. Overall, however, this has not resulted in a shortage of workers in Austria. Even in areas where workers often arrive at short notice,</p>
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			<p>e.g. harvest workers and 24-hour nurse aides, it was largely possible to maintain operations and supplies.</p> <p>---</p> <p>Source: Ministry of the Interior</p> <p>4.</p> <p>No. Needs-oriented annual regulations set quotas for the employment of seasonal and harvest workers from third countries for tourism, agriculture and forestry. The quotas for 2021 remain unchanged from the previous year.</p> <p>---</p> <p>Source: Ministry of the Interior</p> <p>5.</p> <p>Third-country Skilled Workers in a Shortage Occupation can already obtain a Red-White-Red Card for permanent settlement and employment in Austria more easily (without a labour market test). The 2021 Regulation for Skilled Workers includes, inter alia, health professionals such as physicians and nurses.</p> <p>---</p> <p>Source: Ministry of the Interior</p> <p>6.</p> <p>The pandemic and the measures needed to contain it have led to a huge increase in unemployment. At the end of December, around 460,000 people were unemployed, in addition to more than 400,000 people on short-time work. Austria already implemented labour market policies at the beginning of the pandemic, including short-time work and the Corona Job Campaign (a bundle of measures to boost worker qualifications). Once businesses fully reopen, the primary focus will be finding employment for the unemployed and those on short-time work.</p> <p>---</p>
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			<p>Source: Ministry of the Interior</p> <p>7. In Austria, employed persons who earn above the low income threshold are covered by health insurance under the social security system (among others, Art. 4 General Social Insurance Act). This also applies to regular migrants who are employed in Austria. Regular migrants therefore have Austrian health insurance, which also covers Covid-19-related treatment costs. At the same time, the granting of a residence permit requires, among other things, that the person has health insurance covering all health risks and that this insurance is liable to pay benefits in Austria (Art. 11 para 2 subpara 3 Settlement and Residence Act). Thus, unemployed regular migrants also benefit from health insurance coverage for Covid-19 in Austria.</p> <p>Tolerated stay status holders are covered by health insurance in Austria within the framework of material reception conditions and thus also for Covid-19 (Art. 6 para 1 subpara 5 Agreement between the Federal State and the Provinces on Basic Care).</p> <p>Irregular migrants do not have health insurance in Austria and therefore cannot receive insurance benefits.</p> <p>---</p> <p>Source: Ministry of the Interior</p>
	<p>EMN NCP Belgium</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>1. a. As mentioned in first series of COVID-19 AHQs (applications by e-mail for both first residence permits and renewals). b. As mentioned in first series of COVID-19 AHQs (extension of stay on the basis of force majeure). c. As mentioned in first series of COVID-19 AHQs (temporary unemployment benefits for employed workers meeting the general eligibility requirements). As regards “other supports”, it should be noted that migrants authorized to stay on the basis of force majeure who are not eligible for unemployment benefits may be entitled to social aid if they meet the conditions (most notably, being in need and</p>


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			<p>unable to live in dignity). This last measure already applied in 2020, but did not fall within the scope of the first series of COVID-19 AHQs.</p> <p>2. In Belgium, applications for residence permits in the territory are introduced at the level of the municipality. In 2020, some municipalities decided to close their offices during certain periods of the COVID-19 pandemic. The Immigration Office continued to process applications received from the municipalities. Its offices were closed for in person applications by applicants for international protection between 17 March and 3 April 2020.</p> <p>3. As of August 2020, economic migration is considered as an essential sector leading to an exemption from the general travel restrictions. As a consequence, in the final months of 2020 third-country nationals who were authorized to stay and work in Belgium (on the basis of the regions' general rules on economic migration) could once again travel to Belgium. The regions did not report particular challenges in satisfying labour demand in key economic sectors through third-country nationals on 31 December 2020. The Walloon Region did however adopt measures to accelerate the processing times of applications by health care workers (see Q5).</p> <p>4. The federal and regional governments did not set up a new contingency planning for seasonal work in 2021. Some of the measures mentioned in the first series of COVID-19 AHQs continued to apply (seasonal work considered as essential sector exempted from travel restrictions; permission to work for longer periods of time for seasonal workers already in the territory).</p> <p>5. In Wallonia, measures have been adopted to accelerate the processing times of applications by health care workers, including those engaged in COVID-19 testing and medical or pharmaceutical laboratories. In the Flemish Region, no contingency planning was set up. The general rules on economic migration apply, including facilitated access to certain shortage occupations without prior labour market testing. The Brussels-Capital Region did not set up any contingency planning, as sufficient measures were already in place to assure the absence of unnecessary hurdles in regard to much needed profiles in general, essential workers included.</p>
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			<p>6. It is too early to determine the longer-term impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the labour market policies in Belgium.</p> <p>7. As a rule, COVID-19 health care is available to all migrants in Belgium.</p> <p>i) For migrants with public health insurance, COVID-19 related health care is reimbursed by their insurance company. For this category of migrants, COVID-19 tests are free of charge provided they meet the general requirements (e.g. no free testing for persons returning from an orange zone). This category also includes migrants who can no longer meet their health insurance requirements due to COVID-19, as they will maintain their right to health insurance until 31 December of the next year, i.e. 2021 or 2022 (also see AHQ 2020.76).</p> <p>As regards migrants with a valid residence permit but without public health insurance, they will receive a receipt for COVID-19 testing to be submitted to their insurance company in view of reimbursement.</p> <p>ii) Irregular migrants can request financial support for preventive and curative “emergency health care” (including COVID-19 care) to the Public Centre for Social Welfare (PCSW). If they are found to be in need, the PCSW will be charged with the costs for the care requested (limited to a specific type of health care and for a specific period of time).</p>
	<p>EMN NCP Bulgaria</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>1. In reference to COVID-19, the following legislative provisions have been adopted in Bulgaria: Long-term and permanent residence permits for third-country nationals and documents issued for EU citizens and their family members which expire from 13 March 2020 to 31 January 2021 will be extended by six months.</p> <p>A foreigner with a permitted long-term residence in the Republic of Bulgaria, on which the period of residence expires during a declared emergency epidemic situation or within 9 months after the lifting of the emergency epidemic situation, may apply for extension of residence up to 9 months after the lifting of the emergency epidemic situation and this term shall not be considered as interruption when the foreigner applies for a long-term or permanent residence. A foreigner with a permitted long-term residence in the Republic of Bulgaria, on which the period of residence expires during a declared emergency epidemic situation or up to 9 months after the lifting of the emergency epidemic situation,</p>




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			<p>may enter the territory of the Republic of Bulgaria without a visa for a long-term residence under Art. 15, Para. 1 within 9 months after the lifting of the emergency epidemic situation.</p> <p>2. Migration offices have not been closed.</p> <p>3. There is not such new information available. In Bulgaria the third-country nationals are not significant part of labour force in the key economic sectors.</p> <p>4. No. For the moment in Bulgaria has not adopted any contingency planning regarding meeting labour demand for seasonal workers in 2021.</p> <p>5. No. For the moment in Bulgaria has not adopted any contingency planning regarding meeting labour demand for essential workers for specific positions in 2021.</p> <p>6. The foreign labour force is not crucial for the Bulgarian economy and the COVID-19 pandemic doesn't have a significant impact on the national labour migration policy regarding the national labour market needs.</p> <p>7. According to the Art. 83 of the Health Act the foreigners with long-term or permanent residence in the Republic of Bulgaria, shall use medical care (including COVID-19 healthcare) equally with the Bulgarian citizens. The foreigners, who stay continuously or for a short term in the Republic of Bulgaria or pass transit through its territory, shall pay the value of the medical care, rendered to them, at prices, determined by the medical establishment. The foreigners, who stay for a short term in the country or pass transit, shall be obliged to have concluded health insurance or insurance, covering the expenses for treatment and stay in a hospital for the time in the country as far as other is not provided in an international agreement, to which the Republic of Bulgaria is a party. These provisions shall not apply to foreigners who stay continuously or for a short term in the Republic of Bulgaria and with regards to whom are being applied the rules for coordination of the social security schemes.</p>
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			<p>According to the Art. 39, para 5 of the Health Insurance Act foreigners staying for a long or short term in the Republic of Bulgaria shall pay the value of the rendered medical care, unless an international agreement party to which is the Republic of Bulgaria provides other.</p>
	<p>EMN NCP Cyprus</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>1. a. On 31.12.2020 and since the lift of the lockdown in May, no specific measures were in place due to the pandemic. Only safety measures in the public service offices were implemented (use of mask, 1 person per 8 square meters, social distancing etc) Since 04.01.2021 asylum and migration authorities have suspended their services to the public, which are now limited to emergency cases. The examination of the pending applications continues as normally and all other operations continue as normally.</p> <p>b. No specific measures are in place.</p> <p>c. There are no specific measures for TCNs. However, they are included in the support measures announced by Ministry of Labour, Welfare and Social Insurance. The main measures are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Special allowance for companies and employees in hotels and other tourist accommodations</li> <li>- Special allowance for companies and employees related to tourism or affected by tourism</li> <li>- Special allowance for companies and employees that have completely suspended their work</li> <li>- Special allowance for companies and employees in specific economic activities</li> <li>- Special unemployment plan</li> <li>- Special sick leave allowance, for employees or self-employed persons with particular health problems,</li> <li>- Self-Employed Special Benefit for self-employed workers who have suspended their work</li> </ul> <p>For all the measures, further conditions may apply and all the details can be found here:  <a href="https://www.coronavirus.mlsi.gov.cy/home?lang=en">https://www.coronavirus.mlsi.gov.cy/home?lang=en</a></p> <p>2. The public service was closed from 17.03.2020 till 03.05.2020 (both dates included)</p> <p>3. Cyprus allowed asylum seekers to work in the agricultural sector, in order to successfully cover the labour demand, especially in potato production.</p>

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			<p>4. No.</p> <p>5. No.</p> <p>6. No data available</p> <p>7. Yes. Covid-19 related healthcare is covered by the National Health System. Irregular migrants are covered only for emergency cases.</p>
	<p>EMN NCP Czech Republic</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>1. a. Measures in place during / due to the pandemic to maintain the processing of residence permit applications. Please distinguish between processing on the territory and outside the territory. Also distinguish please between new applications and renewals if possible.</p> <p>As of December 31, 2020, the extent of offered visa services remained to be limited by the Protective Measure by the Ministry of Health of the Czech Republic at the consulates in the third countries.</p> <p>The consulates have adopted a number of measures to ensure their continuous performance, such as</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• acceptance of visa applications by prior appointment only to avoid gathering and mutual encounters of visa applicants,</li> <li>• limitation of numbers of consulate workers coming into personal contact with visa applicants and freshly accepted visa applications and other documents from the applicants,</li> <li>• using of personal protective equipment and requiring the same from the visa applicants,</li> <li>• keeping all the documents in a quarantine, whenever possible, before further manipulation with them,</li> <li>• observing higher hygienic standards, etc.</li> </ul> <p>Applications for long-term visas and residence permits lodged at embassies were processed within standard processing time. In accordance with the EU Council Recommendation, only selected categories of migrants were entitled to lodge their applications (seasonal workers, essential workers, highly qualified</p>

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			<p>workers, scientific researchers, students, family members – spouses and minor children, foreign nationals migrating for the purposes of cultural activities, sports or working holiday). There were no restrictions in place on the intake of applications in the territory of Czechia and the processing of applications for the extension.</p> <p>b. measures in place during / due to the pandemic in place to ensure legality of stay (tolerated stays; automatic extensions/change of status/change of employer).</p> <p>As of 31 December 2020, no exceptions concerning overstaying, extension of stay or changes of status were in place any longer. Standard rules were applied but specific circumstances were taken into consideration in reasonably justified individual cases. Simplified conditions for the change of an employer applicable to holders of Single Permits and EU Blue Cards were temporarily applicable for the duration of the state of emergency. If the new employer of a labour migrant assisted in the implementation of crisis measures, the migrant was not required to notify the Ministry of the Interior of the change of his/her jobs in advance and the length of his/her previous employment was not taken into account. (Otherwise, it is necessary to submit the notification at least 30 days in advance and no sooner than after 6 months since the date of the issuance of a Single Permits. EU Blue Card holders have to apply for the ministry's approval of the change of a job within the first two years or their stay).</p> <p>c. Income and other supports in place during / due to the pandemic for ALL migrants with a valid residence title (employed/self-employed) including those with a prolonged or tolerated stay.</p> <p>The Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs issued a table showing which persons (including foreign citizens with valid residence title) are entitled to specific benefits and where they can apply. Employers have been able to apply for financial assistance for the salaries of their employees (Antivirus Program). A benefit called Extraordinary Immediate Assistance is provided to persons including migrants affected by a serious extraordinary event. This benefit has been modified crucially in order to reflect the covid-19 crisis consequences. It can be provided to families or individuals due to a drop or a loss of their income in connection with the limitation of economic activities during the pandemic. The conditions have been</p>
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			<p>liberalized – the income limitation is much more lenient. The application form has been simplified and most communication with the relevant authority (Labour Office) can be done on-line.</p> <p>The benefit is intended to cover the basic living requirements (food, rent and other housing costs including mortgage, basic hygienic requirements including disinfection and face masks) and other necessary expenditures (costs for the operation of Internet and telephone services for families with children in case online schooling is required or children cannot attend school for other reasons). The maximum amount of the benefit is 15 times the individual's living minimum, i.e. up to 57,900 CZK.</p> <p>Other type of bonus which can be used by all self-employed persons (also by foreign nationals with valid residence title) is so called Compensation Bonus – 500 CZK per day.</p> <p>2. The immigration offices (of the Department for Asylum and Migration Policy of the Ministry of the Interior) were never closed in 2020. Only the scope of their services was limited to a varying degree. However, these offices still processed the applications which were delivered by mail.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• From March to May (i.e. during the first state of emergency declared due to the first wave of the Covid-19 pandemic), offices were opened with limited working hours mainly for those with urgent issues associated with their arrival to or their departure from Czechia.</li><li>• From June to September, offices were gradually reopening for all clients.</li><li>• From October to the end of the year (i.e. during the second state of emergency declared due to the second wave of the pandemic), only clients with a prior reservation of an appointment were allowed to visit the offices.</li></ul> <p>3. Yes. Admitted essential migrant workers have been allowed to enter the territory of the Czech Republic since 11 May 2020, therefore they were able to cover labour shortages in all key sectors of the Czech economy.</p> <p>4. Contingency planning took place within the meetings of state authorities which are responsible for the migration of foreigners, considering the needs of employers and their representatives. All restrictions and exceptions during the state of emergency were approved by the Czech Government. Following the end of the state of emergency, individual measures were approved by the Ministry of Health.</p>
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			<p>5. No.</p> <p>6. So far, covid-19 does not appear to have had a very significant impact on the labour market of the Czech Republic. For example, the unemployment rate only rose from 3.1 % to 4.0 % from January to December 2020.</p> <p>7. All foreign nationals with valid residence title are obliged to have a health insurance (either private one which they have to cover by themselves or public which is ensured by their employer). Irregular migrants staying in the territory of the Czech Republic can use the healthcare services, however they have to cover its costs.</p>
	<p>EMN NCP Estonia</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>1. Measures in place at a point in time as of 31 December 2020:</p> <p>a. Measures in place during/ due to the pandemic to maintain the processing of residence permit applications:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Processing on the territory (new applications and renewals) and outside the territory – The Police and Border Guard Board continued to process residence permit applications and registered short-term employment as usual. However, people were advised to use the self-service portal for short-term employment registration and post or email to apply for residence permit extensions, in order to reduce the number of clients in the service offices.</li> </ul> <p>b. Measures in place during/ due to the pandemic to ensure legality of stay (tolerated stays, automatic extensions/change of status/change of employer) – No such specific measure applied during or due to the pandemic were no longer in force as of 31 December 2020.</p> <p>c. Income and other supports in place during/ due to the pandemic for all migrants with a valid residence title including those with a prolonged or tolerated stay – There was a general support scheme of COVID-19 aid measures available in Estonia for local companies provided by state-owned financial institution <a href="#">Kredex</a> with an aim to mitigate the effects of the pandemic. There are also <a href="#">multiple support schemes</a> offered by Enterprise Estonia for operating companies, currently only one measure “Growth in crisis master class” is opened for applications, which aims to support companies planning to introduce a new product/service in new markets and expand the export capacity.</p>


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			<p>2. The service offices of the Police and Border Guard were closed on 13th of March to reorganise the work of the offices to limit the spread of the virus. The offices re-opened on 16th of March for urgent procedures. However, people were urged to not come to the service offices if they did not have an urgent need for it and rather use the self-service portal of the Police and Border Guard Board.</p> <p>3. According to the data of the <a href="#">Statistic Board</a>, employment rate decreased from 68,4 % in 2019 to 66,3 % in 2020 third quarter. Unemployment rate increased from 4,4 % from 2019 to 7,7 % in 2020 third quarter which is the highest level in the last 8 years. According to the data of the <a href="#">Estonian Unemployment Fund</a> situation at the labour market is expected to be stable for the next 9 months and there is no particular shortage of labour force and no oversupply. In addition, it is expected labour demand after next 9 months and it is expected there will be demand for IT specialists, industrial and production etc. engineers, health professionals, etc.</p> <p>4. No.</p> <p>5. No.</p> <p>6. No.</p> <p>7. Every person in the territory of Estonia has the right to receive emergency care. As of <a href="#">17th of July</a> the amendments to a <a href="#">regulation</a> No. 60 of the Minister of Health and Labor of 17 December 2018 "List of health care services provided to a person not covered by health insurance" adopted on 26th of June 2020 came into force whereby persons without health insurance were allowed the access to COVID-19 diagnosing and treatment free of charge (Estonian Health Insurance Fund finances the costs).</p>
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	<p>EMN NCP France</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>1. a) During the first lockdown in Spring 2020, all migration and consular offices were closed. Migration offices in France progressively reopened as from mid May and implemented an online service for simple applications and appointment for filing applications with strict sanitary protocol. After the first lockdown, French consulates restart the processing of visa applications with a priority given to international students.</p> <p>b) Due to the state of health emergency, the French authorities have taken measures to automatically extend certain residence documents to secure the situation of legally resident foreign nationals. Thus the period of validity of residence documents expiring between 16 March and 15 June 2020 was automatically extended by 6 months. No procedure was necessary and the right to work and all social rights were extended in the same way. In case of loss of jobs because of dismissals, unemployment benefits are extended as well as related rights.</p> <p>c) These measures listed below apply to all workers in France, including legal resident foreign nationals.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promotion of teleworking when possible</li> <li>• Work stoppage for people at risk regarding the Covid 19 and those living with persons at risks or if they suffer from Covid 19 symptoms.</li> <li>• since the start of the second lockdown (end October 2020), French employment agencies remain opened and can receive unemployed persons with strict sanitary protocol</li> <li>• various financial aids have been implemented by the government:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ exceptional aid for unemployed persons who rotated between unemployment and salaried activities in 2019 and did not recover a sufficient level of activity in 2020 because of the health crisis. This aid will be automatically paid during 4 months (Nov and December 2020 - Jan and Feb 2021)</li> <li>○ a 150 euros aid will be paid to the poorest families to help them to cope with financial difficulties due to health crisis as well as an additional aid of 100 euros per dependent child.</li> <li>○ The government has granted an extension of the rights to unemployment benefits for unemployed persons whose rights should end between 30 October 2020 and 31 January 2021. Usually, after 6 months, the allowance for the return to employment</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
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			<p>was reduced by 30% : this measure was suspended from 1st March 2020 to 31 March 2021.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ The reference period for calculating the duration of affiliation required for benefiting from unemployment allowance has been extended by the duration of the lockdown</li><li>○ The 12 month period as from the end of the last employment contract required to register to the French unemployment agency has been extended by the duration of the lockdown</li><li>○ Possibility to receive a replacement income or exceptional leave of absence for those parents who cannot telework and have to stay at home to keep their child because of the isolation period or the closure of schools</li></ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Other support measures for employers<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Partial / total unemployment is possible for those activities who had to close partially or totally at least until the end of 2020, with no cost for employers</li><li>○ Retroactive exemption of social charges for employers closed or with restricted activities</li><li>○ Loans backed by the government at attractive rates until the end of 2020</li></ul></li><li>● Specific measures for companies which are the most impacted by the crisis and had to close their activities :<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Allowances up to 10,000 euros thanks to a solidarity fund are applicable since early October 2020 to an enlarged list of activities which were not covered initially and to companies up to 50 employees</li><li>○ Extension of the housing support for seasonal workers applicable since 1 April 2020 : a monthly 150 euros allowance can be renewed within the limit of 600 euros.</li><li>○ Creation of dedicated jobs for young people and students and implementation of a plan to support their access to the labor market</li><li>○ Specific support and financial measures for tourism, car and plane industry, culture, etc</li></ul></li></ul> <p>2. Due to the state of health emergency, the French authorities have taken measures to automatically extend certain residence documents to secure the situation of legally resident foreign nationals.</p>
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			<p>Since mid May 2020 (the end of the first lockdown), filing of residence permit applications is possible through appointment, or by mail.</p> <p>Since mid June 2020, an online service is open for simple applications (renewal of receipt of residence permit, duplicates, circulation document for minors and change of address).</p> <p>For citizenship applications, interviews were resumed as from 15 June.</p> <p>As from the second lockdown (end October 2020) all public services are open with strict sanitary protocol.</p> <p><b>3. See in the previous AHQs dedicated to this topic the measures implemented in Spring 2020 to promote labour market needs in some specific activities and especially in agriculture sector because of the lack of TCN seasonal workers with several dedicated platforms and tools (dedicated platform where employers and workers could meet, etc.).</b></p> <p>In the context of the Covid-19 health crisis, the Government launched in March 2020 the #MobilisationEmploi platform – supported by the national recruitment agency <i>Pôle emploi</i> to promote recruitment in priority sectors while ensuring strict compliance with health requirements. It is now closed and workers have to contact the national recruitment agency <i>Pôle emploi which remains opened</i>.</p> <p><i>With all these initiatives and platforms the Government tried to satisfy labour demand in key economic sectors with national, European and legally resident TCN workers but until the end of the second quarter 2020 it was not possible to introduce TCN workers.</i></p> <p>After the lockdown, some measures were implemented through a Circular of 20 May 2020 which laid down the rules and sanitary protocol applicable to the entry of seasonal workers and posted workers into the territory. (SEE AHQ 2020.50)</p> <p>Foreign nationals engaged in the international transport of goods from third countries excluded from the lifting of restrictions have also been allowed to enter France at that time, providing they follow the sanitary protocol.</p> <p>4. In addition to the measures already mentioned ( extension of the maximum duration of stay from 6 to 9 months for seasonal workers leagally residing in France as from mid March 2020 and the circular of 20 May 2020 – see Q3), a specific operation was organized by the French Office for Immigration</p>
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			<p>and Integration (OFII) in October 2020 in Corsica with the arrival of more than 900 Moroccan workers in order to save the clementine harvests.</p> <p>The employers have paid for 5 charter flights with the company Transavia. Each year 20 to 30,000 tons of clementines are produced each year and they need at least 3 weeks to harvest them and not lose them.</p> <p>This operation was negotiated with the Interministerial Crisis Center, the Prefecture of Haute-Corse (Northern Corsica) and Moroccan authorities. Strict sanitary rules apply : all Moroccan workers had to have an "RT-PCR COVID" virological test at departure and arrival in France and after 7 days. If necessary they were isolated and a specific accommodation was organized.</p> <p>5. No contingency planning but a plan for acknowledgement of the TCN workers who were in the front line during the health crisis was implemented aiming at expediting the process for citizenship applications : as of 22 December 2020, 2,890 applications were filed, 74 people got French nationality and 693 are about to get it. List of job positions concerned : health or care professionals, housekeepers, child care, cashiers, etc.</p> <p>6. NO</p> <p>7. YES Covid 19 related healthcare is available and free of charge for all migrants either through social security scheme for legal migrants such as workers (salaried / self employed) and for students, or through the State Medical Aid applicable to irregular migrants.</p>
	<p>EMN NCP Germany</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>1. Facilitated procedure for renewals of long-term visa that could not be used due to Covid-19 related travel restrictions. Other than that, the status quo has been maintained.</p> <p>2. There was no nationwide closure of immigration offices. Closure occurred mainly for personal visits of most immigration offices and town halls during mid March/April 2020; however most of them accepted emergency applications.</p>

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			<p>3. No change in general.</p> <p>4. Continuation of existing measures, in particular exemption from travel restrictions.</p> <p>5. Essential workers, e.g. from the healthcare sector, are exempted from travel restrictions also in 2021.</p> <p>6. Yes, the regulations to facilitate access to short term work have been extended in order to prevent job losses. New incentives have also been put in place to encourage people to use short-time work to invest in further training. However, these measures apply to all employees, not only migrants.</p> <p>7. The healthcare is available for all migrants with a valid residence permit and those with tolerated/extended stays. Also persons with an unlawful or no long-term residence right will receive the necessary medical treatment including medication to cure illnesses or vaccinations to protect them by the competent local authority for social affairs.</p>
	EMN NCP Hungary	Yes	<p>1. a. State of danger due to the pandemic situation was declared on 4 November 2020. The immigration offices remained open ever since, but they receive clients only with pre-booked appointments. Third country nationals are advised to use <a href="https://enterhungary.gov.hu">https://enterhungary.gov.hu</a> for managing cases instead of appearing in person, when possible.</p> <p>The validity period of the issued residence documents, permanent residence and immigration permits – except for the short-term visa and entry visa for receiving a residence permit – is automatically extended <u>until the 30th day</u> after the end of the state of danger.</p> <p>Based on the above only the following documents which were still valid on the 4th of November 2020 or expired on that day will be extended:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Permanent residence card</li> <li>- Residence card issued to the family member of a Hungarian citizen</li> <li>- Permanent residence card for EEA nationals</li> </ul>


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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Residence permit</li> <li>- Immigration permit</li> <li>- Permanent residence permit</li> <li>- Interim permanent residence permit</li> <li>- EC permanent residence permit</li> <li>- National permanent residence permit</li> </ul> <p>c. No special income support is provided for migrants. They might be eligible for unemployment benefits. (a social insurance period of least 1 year is required).</p> <p>2. The offices remained open throughout 2020. However, they received only clients in duly justified and urgent cases with pre-booked appointments from March 17 to June 18 (the first period of state of danger). (During this time, the validity period of residence documents were also extended until the 45th day after the end of the period. Since the second state of danger period started on 4 November, only clients with pre-booked appointments.</p> <p>3. As Hungary mainly relies on her own workforce in key economic sectors, no major challenges occurred.</p> <p>4. No</p> <p>5. No</p> <p>6. Unemployment increased throughout 2020. The unemployment rate stood at 4,4% at the 3rd quarter compared to 3,7% of the 1st quarter. The trend may reduce demand for foreign workers.</p> <p>7. Emergency healthcare (in case of COVID-19 as well) is available to all migrants without regard to status.</p>
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			For other health service, health insurance is required. Health insurance or sufficient funds for covering health-related expenses is a pre-requisite of residence permits. Migrants with tolerated stay or extensions receive health insurance with their status.
	EMN NCP Ireland	Yes	<p>1. <u>a. measures in place during the pandemic to maintain the processing of residence permit applications</u></p> <p><u>Processing of applications in relation to immigration schemes on the territory:</u> Applications for immigration schemes continued to be processed in accordance with Covid 19 work restrictions. For example, applications for certain categories of application could be submitted by email. From September 2020, an online application process was launched for the atypical work permission scheme. <u>An online renewal system</u> for registration of immigration permissions for residents in the Dublin area was introduced on 20 July 2020.</p> <p><u>Processing of visa applications:</u> From 25 September 2020, decisions on certain long stay visas were being issued. It should be noted that this does not necessarily mean that the person could travel - other local factors could impact.</p> <p><u>Applications for short-stay visas continued not to be accepted</u> except for those in the Emergency/Priority categories. The Emergency/Priority list was expanded to include those specific categories of travellers, identified as having an essential function or need in the EU Council Recommendation (EU) 2020/912 of 30 June 2020. The updated list of exemptions deemed to fall into the Emergency/Priority cohort was as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Healthcare professionals, health researchers, and elderly care professionals;</li> <li>Immediate family members of Irish citizens (who are returning to their ordinary place of residence in Ireland);</li> <li>Persons legally resident in the State;</li> <li>Persons entitled to avail of the provision of the EU Free Movement Directive;</li> <li>Transport personnel engaged in haulage of goods and other transport staff to the extent necessary;</li> <li>Frontier workers;</li> <li>Seasonal workers in agriculture;</li> </ul>

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			<p>Diplomats, staff of international organisations and people invited by international organisations whose physical presence is required for the well-functioning of these organisations, military personnel and humanitarian aid workers and civil protection personnel in the exercise of their functions; Passengers in transit; Passengers travelling for critical family reasons; Seafarers; Third-country nationals travelling for the purpose of 3rd level study; Highly qualified third-country workers if their employment is necessary from an economic perspective and the work cannot be postponed or performed abroad.</p> <p><u>Processing of re-entry visa applications</u> recommenced from 20 July 2020. The <u>Irish Short Stay Visa Waiver Programme</u> is temporarily suspended from 10 July 2020. The Programme had allowed people visiting the United Kingdom on short stay visas from certain countries to travel to Ireland. Under the agreement, the visa holders had to leave Ireland before their permission to stay in the UK ended. The suspension of the Programme is being implemented because of a divergence in approach between Ireland and the UK in travel measures to combat the pandemic.</p> <p><u>Employment Permits</u> In March 2020, the Employment Permits Section of the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment implemented a Covid-19 contingency plan to ensure that the employment permit regime could continue to operate remotely throughout the crisis. Since 30th March, the employment permit system has been operating fully remotely and online for both new applications and renewals.</p> <p>Operational practices have been adjusted to replace the paper-based elements of the service to allow for a fully online process involving electronic/scanned documents and all decisions/outcomes now issue via e-mail rather than by post. Agreement was reached with the Immigration Service Delivery in the Department of Justice on arrangements to introduce, on a temporary basis, a type of "employment permit" and a similar soft copy process to transition to permanent residence permission.</p> <p><u>b. measures in place during/due to the pandemic in place to ensure legality of stay (tolerated stays; automatic extensions/change of status/change of employer)</u> <u>Automatic extension of residence permissions</u> On 22 December 2020, it was announced that current valid immigration permissions that are due to expire from 21st January 2021 to 20th April 2021 are automatically renewed to the 20th April 2021.</p>
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			<p>This is the sixth in the series of renewals of permissions. The renewal of permission is on the same basis as the existing permission and the same conditions attach. While permissions are automatically extended, it is possible for persons residing in the Dublin area to apply for renewal of immigration permission via the online system which was implemented from 20 July 2020.</p> <p><u>Change of status</u> Applications to change status to be permitted to work in healthcare as part of the Health Service Executive "Be on Call for Ireland" campaign could continue to be submitted.</p> <p><u>c. Income and other supports in place during/due to the pandemic for ALL migrants with a valid residence title (employed/self-employed) including those with a prolonged or tolerated stay</u> All migrants with valid residence permission continue to be entitled to apply for/avail of the mainstream Pandemic Unemployment Payment (PUP) in accordance with the conditions applicable to the scheme.</p> <p>2. <u>Answer refers to Burgh Quay Registration Office, Dublin which provides for registration of immigration permission for residents in the Dublin area. Residents outside Dublin continue to register at local registration offices in the police station network</u> 20 March 2020 - closed 20 July 2020 - re-opened for first time registrations by appointment. Online renewal system introduced from 20 July 2020 18 August 2020 - temporary closure to consider revised public health advice 24 August 2020 - Re-opened for first time registrations by appointment. Renewals online. 21 October 2020 - Closed. Renewals Online. 2 December 2020 - Re-opened for first time registrations by appointment. Renewals online. 23 December 2020 - closed until further notice. Renewals online.</p> <p>3. In March 2020, the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment published a Covid-19 contingency plan covering the measures to ensure the continued operation of the employments permit system during the pandemic. Employment permit applications for medical personnel have been prioritised with over 4,800 issued to January 2021. The Atypical Working Scheme, which is administered by the Department of Justice, continued to prioritise applications from medical personnel. Over 2,000 applications from medical personnel under the atypical scheme were dealt with in 2020.</p>
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			<p>4. Ireland does not participate in the EU Seasonal Workers' Directive and does not currently have a seasonal work employment permit. The drafting of a new Employment Permits Bill continues which includes consideration of a seasonal permission for Ireland.</p> <p>5. Since mid-March 2020, the processing of employment permit applications for medical personnel has been prioritised with over 4,800 issued since then. The Atypical Working Scheme continues to prioritise healthcare applications.</p> <p>6. Not at present.</p> <p>7. Yes. Covid-19 related healthcare including testing, referrals for testing and treatment is free of charge.</p>
	EMN NCP Italy	Yes	<p>1. Article 103 of <a href="#">Decree-Law n. 18 of 17 March 2020</a> covered the suspension of the time limits for administrative procedures, including those aimed at issuing or renewing residence permits, from 23 February to 15 April 2020. On April 8, 2020, <a href="#">Decree-Law n. 23 of 8 April 2020</a> has further extended the period of suspension for administrative proceedings until May 15, 2020. Since May 18 2020 to date the immigration offices are open, and provide all services to migrants always in compliance with Covid 19 prevention measures. The Council of Ministers approved the Decree no. 2 of January 14, 2021, which introduces further urgent provisions aimed at containing the spread of Covid-19. The text extends, until April 30, 2021, the deadline by which the measures may be adopted or reiterated in line with the Decree-Laws no. 19 and 33 of 2020.</p> <p>2. As mentioned in q1, the immigration offices have been closed from 17 march to 18 may 2020. Since then, they have been operating always in compliance with Covid 19 prevention measures.</p>


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			<p>3. On 19 May 2020, a new Decree, the so-called “Decreto Rilancio” (n. 34/2020), has been published. It allows the regularisation of part of the irregular migrants employed in the field of agriculture, livestock breeding and fisheries, personal assistance and domestic work (considered key economic sectors). More specifically, the so called “Decreto rilancio” provides for two possibilities to support the following two categories of foreign workers: “illegal immigrants”, who do not have a residence permit, and those who have an expired and not renewed permit.</p> <p>1. Those who are totally devoid of a residence permit (illegal immigrants), but already have a job or a possibility of being hired, may ask the employer to declare the existence of the ongoing employment contract, or to conclude a new employment contract. The decisive condition, however, is that the irregular foreigner proves that he or she arrived in Italy before 8 March 2020, when the Covid emergency broke out, and that he or she did not leave Italy during all this period.</p> <p>2. The second category of foreigners for whom regularization is envisaged is that of those who are in Italy with a permit that has expired since October 31, 2019 and has not been renewed or converted into another permit. For these, it is possible to apply for a temporary work permit for six months, and if in this period of time they find a stable job, they can convert the temporary permit into a permit for subordinate work reasons (Article 103 paragraph 2 of Legislative Decree Relaunch).</p> <p>Another legislative provision that allows Italy to satisfy its own labor demand is the “flows decree”. This is a provision by which the Italian government establishes every year the entry quotas for non-EU foreign citizens who can enter Italy for subordinate, autonomous and seasonal work.</p> <p>4. Please see q3</p> <p>5. Please see q3</p> <p>6. With the “August Decree” (Decreto Agosto - DECREE-LAW 14 August 2020, n. 104), the “Relaunch Decree” (Decreto rilancio - DECREE-LAW 19 May 2020, n. 34) and the “Cure Italy Decree” (Decreto cura Italia - Decree-Law 17 March 2020, n. 18, the Government has allocated a total amount of around 35 billion Euro to preserve employment and to guarantee adequate levels of income for workers and families. Measures have been introduced and extended, such as a special fund for all types of businesses and benefits for self-employed workers, as well as new measures to further extend support to families and businesses and to support and protect categories previously excluded from the various</p>
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			<p>protection instruments, such as domestic helpers, care-givers and others (in particularly fragile conditions).</p> <p>7. According to the Italian law, likewise Italian citizens, irregular migrants can by all means access free emergency medical care, regardless of Covid-19 epidemiological emergency.  <a href="http://www.salute.gov.it/imgs/C_17_opuscoliPoster_297_allegato.pdf">http://www.salute.gov.it/imgs/C_17_opuscoliPoster_297_allegato.pdf</a></p>
	EMN NCP Latvia	Yes	<p><b>1. Answer 1.a.</b>  <b>Measures in place during / due to the pandemic to maintain the processing of residence permit applications.</b></p> <p>In view of the increasing risks of the spread of the COVID-19 virus, <b>the Cabinet agreed to declare a state of emergency in Latvia two times - from 12 March to 10th June 2020 and from 9 November 2020 to 7 February 2021</b>, and this involves the institution of strong health safety measures. At the same time, respect for fundamental rights of residents and their access to services to ensure basic needs are guaranteed.</p> <p>On 5th June 2020 Latvia has adopted a Law on the Management of the Spread of COVID-19 Infection. The purpose of the Law is to prescribe the legal order during the spread of COVID-19 infection by providing for a set of appropriate measures for ensuring such scope of rights and obligations of private individuals which would be commensurate with public health and safety interests and effective operation of the State and local government authorities (hereinafter - the public authorities).</p> <p>The Law lays down basic principles for the operation of public authorities, and also the rights and obligations of public authorities and private individuals for the prevention and management of the threat to the State during the spread of COVID-19 infection.</p> <p>Upon determining the set of necessary measures, the following general principles shall be applied:  <u>minimizing the restrictions on human rights</u> - rights of persons shall be restricted only in cases where there are no other alternative measures that protect the public health and safety effectively;  <u>minimizing the threat to public health</u> - precautionary measures shall be determined by evaluating the threat of the COVID-19 infection spreading in Latvia and foreign counties and shall be implemented by evaluating all existing risks to minimize the threat of the repeated spread of COVID-19 infection;</p>

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			<p><u>limiting the accessibility of public services relevant to the society shall only be acceptable to the extent it is necessary for ensuring public health and safety, and also health and safety of the persons involved in the provision and receipt of services.</u></p> <p>According to the Law, until 30 June 2021, foreigners shall submit the documents for requesting or registering a residence permit sending them by post or electronically, and approve the application and documents appended thereto with a secure electronic signature. This condition shall apply both to the foreigners who stay in the Republic of Latvia and those who do not stay in the Republic of Latvia and wish to request a repeated residence permit or register a residence permit, or who are citizens of a European Union Member State, a country of the European Economic Area, or the Swiss Confederation. An inviter of the foreigner may submit an application for requesting or registering a repeated residence permit while the foreigner stays in the Republic of Latvia or outside it. Applications by post or electronically for a first time residence permit from those foreigners who are currently in a foreign country, are not accepted. Documents shall be submitted in person at the consular or diplomatic representations of Latvia.</p> <p><b>Answer 1.b.</b>  <b>Measures in place during / due to the pandemic in place to ensure legality of stay (tolerated stays; automatic extensions/change of status/change of employer).</b></p> <p>Each case of illegal stay of foreigners who are stacked in Latvia during the emergency state <b>is</b> examined individually, in most of cases the Latvian immigration authority takes a decision regarding issuing to a foreigner a D long stay visa (national visa) or prolonging a Schengen visa on humanitarian grounds. Those residence permit holders who reside in Latvia and have a delay of applying for a repeated residence permit or register a residence permit (ID card), in most of cases get the permission to legalize their status in Latvia by paying a state fee for examining of documents in accelerated time (5 working days).</p> <p><b>Answer 1.c.</b>  <b>Income and other supports in place during / due to the pandemic for ALL migrants with a valid residence title (employed/self-employed) including those with a prolonged or tolerated stay.</b></p>
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			<p>When examining the submission of a foreigner for the issuing or registration of a residence permit or the matter of annulling the foreigner's residence permit, the requirement of the Immigration Law regarding the existence of sufficient financial means for the person to stay in the Republic of Latvia, and also the requirement to perform active economic activity in 2020 (including payment of a specific tax amount) shall not be applicable. This provision shall not apply to foreigners who have submitted documents for requesting the first temporary residence permit after 10 June 2020.</p> <p>2. In year 2020 Latvian immigration offices have been working without interruption. The submission of the documents for requesting or registering a residence permit was / is possible by sending them by post or electronically if the application and documents appended thereto is approved with a secure electronic signature. Face-to-face customer service was / is provided only at the moment of submitting biometric data and residence permit (ID card) collecting. The time of appointment must be agreed before.</p> <p>3. According to the Ministry of Welfare, at the end of 2020, 14,470 vacancies were registered with the State Employment Agency. The largest number of vacancies was in the following sectors: Construction, Manufacturing, Administrative and support service activities, Transport and storage, Wholesale and retail trade. At the end of October 2020, there were 10,728 vacancies (63% of the total number of vacancies) indicated the desire to employ third-country nationals (of which 9,035 in Riga region - 84%). However, in general, the role of third-country nationals in the Latvian labor market is not very significant. According to the Office of Citizenship and Migration Affairs, as of the beginning of November 2020, 9879 valid work permits had been issued in Latvia, most often in the following sectors: land transport and pipeline transport; IT, consultancy and related activities; construction of buildings, etc.</p> <p>4. No special programs for the employment of seasonal workers are planned in Latvia.</p> <p>5. No special programs for the employment of third-country nationals are planned in Latvia.</p>
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			<p>6. At the end of 2020, 69 thousand unemployed were registered with the State Employment Agency and unemployment rate was 7.6% (for comparison, at the end of 2019, there were 58 thousand unemployed and the registered unemployment rate was 6.2%). During 2020, as a result of the unfavorable economic consequences caused by the Covid-19 pandemic, the number of vacancies registered with the SEA decreased. In total, approximately 76 thousand vacancies were applied, which was 28% less than the number of vacancies applied for in 2019 (106 thousand). It is expected that a similar trend will be observed at the beginning of 2021.</p> <p>7. A third-country national who is legally resident here but who does not have a permanent residence permit and who does not work here receives all services for his or her own or privately purchased insurance, unless he or she falls ill with Covid-19 and resides in LV. According to Law on Epidemiological Safety, we treat at public expense. Same regulation is for irregular migrants.</p>
	EMN NCP Lithuania	Yes	<p>1. There were 2 quarantines declared in Lithuania in 2020: <b>from March 16 to June 16 and from November 7</b>, which is still ongoing.</p> <p><b>a.</b></p> <p><b>-From 19/03/2020 to 16/06/2020</b>, the Procedure for issuing temporary residence permits to aliens during quarantine on the territory of the Republic of Lithuania was adopted, which introduced certain exceptions to the issue and renewal of TRPs in Lithuania for aliens who work in companies engaged in international commercial freight transport or carry out international commercial carriage of goods in all modes of transport and hold a document certifying their right to stay or reside in Lithuania (<i>reported previously</i>).</p> <p><b>-On 7 September 2020</b>, Amendments to the Procedure for the issue of temporary residence permits for aliens in the Republic of Lithuania, approved by Order of the Minister of the Interior of the Republic of Lithuania, entered into force establishing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a TRP issued to an alien <b>may now be collected by an employer</b>, a host company or a higher education institution who employs or undertakes to employ an alien, irrespective of whether the alien has declared his/her place of residence in Lithuania. It is now also possible to collect</li> </ul>

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			<p>TRP for aliens who have applied for a TRP to be issued or renewed on the <b>basis of family reunification, by a Lithuanian citizen or a foreigner family member in Lithuania;</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• the procedure for issuing TRPs was optimized to aliens <b>who apply for a TRP when they intend to engage in highly qualified employment (by issuing a "Blue Card")</b>, as researcher or lecturer in Lithuania, as well as to family members of these categories of aliens. Under the newly adopted regulation, a foreign national who has completed an application for a TRP in MIGRIS on one of the above grounds <b>has the option of choosing a 'virtual visit'</b>. In this case, the application for a TRP can be accepted on the day of the virtual visit. Once the Migration Department has established that all the necessary documents were submitted, a notice is sent to the alien stating that s/he must visit in person to provide biometric data (facial image and fingerprints) and original documents to the application. A residence permit will then be issued within a few days of the visit at the Migration Department and upon presentation of the biometric data and original documents.</li></ul> <p><b>b.</b></p> <p>-Foreigners whose period of legal residence in the Republic of Lithuania ended when the first quarantine was declared in Lithuania and who were unable to leave Lithuania in due time through no fault of their own, <b>were granted a tolerance period of 2 months from the end of the quarantine, i.e. until August 17, 2020.</b> During the tolerance period, aliens who were unable to leave Lithuania on time through no fault of their own were not subject to return decisions and no administrative responsibility for illegal stay was imposed. The tolerance period was also applicable to aliens for whom a return decision had already been taken before the quarantine was declared but the period for voluntary departure ended during the quarantine period.</p> <p>-<b>On September 21, 2020</b> Amendments to the Procedure for issuing visas, approved by Order of the Minister for the Interior of the Republic of Lithuania and the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Lithuania, entered into force, according to which, <b>in the event of a state-level emergency and/or quarantine, an alien applying for a TRP may be issued a multiple-entry national visa for a period of 5 months</b> if less than 180 days have elapsed since the expiry of the validity period of 1 year national visa. The alien applies for such visa to the Migration Department, together with an explanation that, for objective reasons, he was unable to apply for a temporary residence permit at least 2 months before the expiry of the visa.</p> <p><b>c.</b></p>
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			<p>Self-employed persons may receive a benefit of EUR 260, provided that they fulfil the conditions (the activity has been registered for at least 3 months prior to the local or global quarantine; due to restrictions on economic activity, etc. More information here: <a href="https://www.sodra.lt/en/benefits/important-information-for-insurants-res...">https://www.sodra.lt/en/benefits/important-information-for-insurants-res...</a>). Such persons are also waived from the mandatory health insurance (MHI) payments during the quarantine period (temporarily), while still having access to healthcare. The self-employed will be able to pay MHI contributions for the quarantine period within two years. After the quarantine has ended, MHI contributions will be paid as usual.</p> <p>Other foreign nationals with TRP or holders of long-term resident status who have lost their job or faced downtime during quarantine can receive a job-search allowance, wage subsidy allowance, wage subsidy allowance for downtime upon registration with the Employment Service. According to Employment Service data 6792 third-country nationals received support under COVID-19 measures in 2020. One person could receive support under several types of support.</p> <p>2. The Migration Department has never completely stopped customer service, i.e. the migration offices across the country have not been closed, some restrictions applied.</p> <p>3. On October 30, 2020, the Employment Service approved new list of professions in demand in the Republic of Lithuania by economic activity for the year 2021, which included <b>new sectors with labour shortages such as agriculture, forestry and fisheries</b>. Only construction, industry and services – were included in the list of professions with labour shortages in the Republic of Lithuania by type of economic activity for the second half of 2020.</p> <p>4. No, as the demand for seasonal work was limited in the recent years.</p> <p>5. No.</p> <p>6. It is still difficult to say as the quarantine is ongoing and strict measures are applied. It could be mentioned that the unemployment rate in Lithuania in 2020 increased; also according to the Ministry of Social Security and Labour information, there were 7642 third country nationals registered as actively seeking for a job in 2020 (in comparison, there were 1883 such TCNs registered in 2019).</p>
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			<p>7. Yes, for all migrants.</p> <p>During the emergency period due to the spread of COVID-19 throughout the territory of the Republic of Lithuania, the costs of personal healthcare (testing and treatment) provided to patients who are not entitled to publicly guaranteed (free) healthcare and who are suspected and/or diagnosed with COVID-19 disease (coronavirus infection) are covered by public funds.</p>
	EMN NCP Luxembourg	Yes	<p><b>1. a. Measures in place during / due to the pandemic to maintain the processing of residence permit applications. Please distinguish between processing on the territory and outside the territory. Also distinguish please between new applications and renewals if possible.</b></p> <p><u>Situation as of 31 December 2020</u></p> <p>The "Information" desk of the Foreigners Department that handles requests concerning the free movement of persons (European Union citizens and their family members) and concerning third country nationals' entry and residence is still closed for the public but remains accessible by phone and mail.</p> <p>.The "Enrolment/Issuance" desk of the Foreigners Department for the collection of biometric data and issuance of residence permits is open to the public since 13 May 2020, but only for foreigners invited by letter to take an appointment.</p> <p>The Foreigners Department is actually processing the applications for a first residence permit or the renewal of a residence permit in a normal time frame as the backlog due to the lockdown from March to May/June 2020 has mostly been worked up.</p> <p>The amended law from 20 June 2020 introducing certain temporary measures concerning the application of the amended law from 29 August 2008 on free movement of persons and immigration foresees an interdiction to enter Luxembourg. Measures taken in execution of this law by Grand Ducal Regulation will cease their effect on 31 December 2021.</p> <p>The amended Grand Ducal Regulation from 20 June 2020 actually foresees that the entry restrictions for third country nationals are in place until 31 March 2021.</p>

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			<p><b>b. measures in place during / due to the pandemic in place to ensure legality of stay (tolerated stays; automatic extensions/change of status/change of employer).</b></p> <p>On 18 March 2020, the Luxembourg government decided to extend the period of validity of visas, temporary residence permits, residence cards, and residence permits, which expire after 1 March 2020 for the duration of the state of crisis. Similarly, the residence of third-country nationals not subject to visa requirements whose stay has just exceeded 90 days is legal for the duration of the crisis. These measures have been automatic and have not required any special steps for third country nationals.</p> <p>With the end of the state of crisis (24 June 2020), the following temporary measures were adopted:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. For third-country nationals who made their arrival declaration between 1 January and 31 July 2020: the period within which they must apply for a residence permit is extended from 3 months to 6 months;</li><li>2. For residence permits issued by Luxembourg which expired after 1 March 2020: the period of validity is extended until 31 August 2020;</li><li>3. The stay of third-country nationals holding a short-stay visa and those not subject to the visa requirement whose stay has just exceeded 90 days after 1 March 2020: the stay was regularised until 31 July 2020.</li></ol> <p>To facilitate their exit from the Schengen area, the persons concerned could make an appointment with the Passports and Visas Office (BPVL) to issue a "return visa."</p> <p>There has not been any other decision taken in this area.</p> <p><b>c. Income and other supports in place during / due to the pandemic for ALL migrants with a valid residence title (employed/self-employed) including those with a prolonged or tolerated stay.</b></p> <p>There were no specific income or other support measures put in place during the pandemic for all migrants with a valid residence title including those with a prolonged or tolerated stay. The Luxembourg authorities have implemented various measures to maintain employment in the context of the health crisis of Covid-19. These measures apply <u>to all employees whatever their nationality, and to all companies impacted by the crisis</u>. We can mention :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• the partial unemployment granted to companies. This measure provided until 31 December 2020 has been extended in some cases until 30 June 2021.</li></ul>
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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• a temporary contribution to the uncovered costs of certain companies. This aid is allocated in the form of monthly capital grants calculated on the basis of uncovered costs to companies that, during all or part of the period between November 1, 2020 and March 30, 2021, will have suffered a loss of monthly turnover of at least 40% compared to the corresponding month of the year 2019.</li><li>• a new financial aid introduced for companies in the sectors most severely affected by the COVID-19 pandemic and whose financial situation makes it difficult to bear the new burden resulting from the increase in the minimum social wage scheduled for 1 January 2021 (2,8%).</li></ul> <p>2. The offices of the Directorate of Immigration were closed between 18 March until 13 May 2020 when they reopened. For the new regulations see answer to question 1. a.</p> <p>3. There is no information available. It is important to mention that the Luxembourg labour market depends fundamentally on workers from the European Union and cross-border workers coming from Belgium, France and Germany so in the needs of the essential services were satisfied through cross-border workers (i.e. healthcare workers) and not through third-country nationals. Furthermore, are always authorized to enter the territory of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg, highly qualified workers from third countries if their employment is necessary from an economic point of view and their work cannot be postponed or carried out from abroad. They are however subject to mandatory presentation at boarding of the result of a negative COVID-19 test carried out less than 72 hours before the flight, if they don't enter Luxembourg from a country exempted from these restrictions., It can also be noted that Luxembourg and its three neighboring countries have agreed to maintain the exceptional provision not to take into account telework days related to the COVID-19 crisis for the determination of the social security legislation applicable to cross-border workers until June 30, 2021. This agreement is important in order to avoid a change of affiliation in the event that the 25% threshold provided for in European legislation is exceeded for the workers concerned. Concretely, this means that a frontier worker who carries out his work from his home continues to be affiliated to the Luxembourg social security system until the end of June 2021.</p> <p>4. No.</p>
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			<p>5. No. Not at the moment.</p> <p>6. No. At the moment, the authorities continue assessing the situation to see the impact that Covid-19 has had on the labour market. It is too soon to determine if Covid-19 pandemic will have a longer-term impact on labour market policy in Luxembourg.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The unemployment passed from 6,1% in March 2020 to 6,9% in April 2020 but at the end of October 2020 the unemployment has stabilised at 6,3%.</li> <li>• The COVID-19 pandemic has affected salaried employment in Luxembourg since between the first and second quarter of 2020, it contracted by 0.7%, to 437,354 employees, according to Statec. This is the first decline in the indicator since the second quarter of 2009, when it had fallen by 0.3%.</li> </ul> <p>The impact has been different depending on the sector. Specialized activities and support services reported the largest quarterly decline in the indicator (-3%). This phenomenon can be explained by the presence in this sector of temporary employment agencies, where employment fell by 35.9% over a year.</p> <p>Other particularly exposed activities: trade, transport, accommodation and catering show a quarterly decline in salaried employment of 2.4%. Only two sectors are doing well: administration and other public services (+1.9% quarterly increase) and construction (+0.2% quarterly increase, especially since may).</p> <p>Another effect of the health crisis is that the growth in salaried employment of residents exceeds that of cross-border commuters in terms of annual variation: it stands at 1.4% for the former, and 1.2% for the latter, whereas in the past, the opposite situation has been observed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It should also be noted that the labour market test procedure for recruiting a third-country national had been lengthened <b>during the state of crisis (18 March until 24 June)</b>: if a company wants to hire a third-country national, the time limit for ADEM to examine whether the declared job offer can be filled by a registered job seeker has been extended, during the health crisis, from three to six weeks. If, within six weeks of a job being declared, ADEM has not offered the employer a candidate who meets the required profile for the declared position, the</li> </ul>
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			<p>employer may request a certificate certifying the right to recruit the person of his or her choice for that position. <b>This situation doesn't apply any more.</b></p> <p>7. Please specify if COVID-19 related healthcare is free of charge or not to:</p> <p>i) migrants with a valid residence permit, including those with temporary tolerated stays/extensions:</p> <p>The access to healthcare is based on a contributory system so legal migrants can obtain healthcare coverage through employment or by voluntary insurance. If the person is insured they will receive Covid-19 related healthcare.</p> <p>ii) irregular migrants:</p> <p>During the Covid-19 pandemic, to protect public health, irregular migrants had access to health care. They were able to go to hospital without risking a decision to return being taken against them or to be placed in the detention centre.</p> <p>This guarantee was introduced in order to avoid any psychological barrier for these people for fear of running the risk of administrative proceedings due to the lack of a valid residence permit to induce them to go to hospitals. They have been informed through the dedicated website (<a href="http://www.covid19.lu">www.covid19.lu</a>) and a hotline, as well as by civil society organisations in contact with third-country nationals and irregular migrants. In these cases the government will assume the costs.</p>
	<p>EMN NCP Netherlands</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>1. <u>A) Measures in place during/due to the pandemic to maintain processing residence permit application (in and out of territory/applications and renewals)</u></p> <p>The processing of applications for long-stay visa and residence permits has continued during the Covid-19 crisis. If possible, employees at the Immigration and Naturalisation Service (Immigratie &amp; Naturalisatie Dienst, IND) process the applications from their own home. If possible, the applicants receive the decision from the IND digitally or by post. If it is necessary for a client to collect his</p>

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			<p>residence document at an IND desk, an appointment can be made. At the IND desks safety precautions are in place. <a href="#">[i]</a></p> <p>Applying for and collecting of long-stay visas (Machtiging tot voorlopig verblijf, MVV) outside the Dutch territory</p> <p>In most cases, the condition for receiving a residence permit is that the client has travelled to the Netherlands with a long-stay visa (MVV). Applications for long-stay visa are still being accepted and processed. Applications for long-stay visa of certain group of foreigners are prioritized, for instance those of family members of migrants already residing in the Netherlands, essential workers, and those of students and highly skilled migrants.</p> <p>Some Dutch embassies abroad are (partly) closed, which means it is not always possible for a migrant to collect the approved long stay-visa. The 3-month period to collect a long-stay visa is extended with 6 months. If someone is not able to collect their visa within this period because of Covid-19 measures, the situation is treated with leniency if the individual collects the visa within 3 months after the 6 months.<a href="#">[ii]</a>In certain circumstances, passing an exam is a precondition for obtaining a long-stay visa. If the foreigner cannot collect the diploma because of the measures, the result-letter from the Executive Agency for Education (Dienst Uitvoering Onderwijs, DUO) will be accepted as evidence.</p> <p>Asylum applications</p> <p>In March the identification and registration of foreigners was halted and the Immigration and Naturalisation Service (IND) no longer carried out interviews both related to asylum and regular migration procedures. Registration of new asylum seekers was still conducted, but was limited to the necessary steps: assigning a registration number; taking fingerprints and searching Dutch and European databases; strip-searches and searches through luggage; brief intake and provision of documents. Prior to the registration, a medical check was carried out.<a href="#">[iii]</a></p> <p>As from April the asylum procedures were resumed gradually. The registration of new asylum seekers was being conducted with safety precautions to prevent contagion. Interviews were being conducted via videoconferencing systems. To facilitate this, a secured video connection was arranged between the reception location and the IND location. This initially mainly concerned accelerated procedures, additional hearings in the extended asylum procedure and registration hearings of foreign nationals who had recently arrived in the Netherlands. From May onwards physical interviews were resumed gradually. In the beginning this was only arranged for certain groups, for instance more vulnerable asylum seekers. In May the maximum legal decision period for asylum applications of 6 months was</p>
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			<p>furthermore extended with 6 months.<a href="#">[iv]</a> Since December, most hearings are being done physically once more. During physical interviews safety precautions are in place to prevent contagion.<a href="#">[v]</a> On the 15th of December, the Dutch government implemented a new lockdown. The new measures do not have impact on appointments with the IND, and asylum hearings are proceeding as usual. <a href="#">[vi]</a> Furthermore, for those who have filed an asylum application at the border (the 'border procedure'), the rest- and preparation-times have been extended due to Covid-19.</p> <p>Renewals</p> <p>Clients that want to renew their residence document can do so online or by post. An application can be made from abroad. Clients who cannot send documents in time due to the measures put in place, will be treated with leniency. Clients who cannot collect the residence permit or stickers at the IND service desk due to measures taken in place, are given the same rights, even though they do not have a physical permit.</p> <p>Court</p> <p>In March courts in the Netherlands were temporarily closed. On May 20th, all courts in the Netherlands were reopened. This means that the IND is also present at hearings again. The IND is responsible for the legal representation of the IND and other migration authorities in appeal proceedings before the Court, Council of State and international courts.<a href="#">[vii]</a></p> <p><u>B) Measures in place during/due to pandemic to ensure legality of stay (change of status/extension of stay)</u></p> <p>The following measures have been taken in regard to ensure legality of stay<a href="#">[viii]</a>:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Expired residence permit - Clients with an expired residence permit (&gt;90 days) who cannot return to their home country due to the travel restrictions, have to extend their permit. If it is not possible to extend the permit, the migrant is expected to leave the country the moment this is possible. Their overstay will not have consequences for future visa applications. If a third country national (TCN) has an expired residence permit (&gt;90 days) or there is an overstay and the TCN can return to the country of origin despite current circumstances, but is choosing not to return, the return decision could come with an entry ban placed upon this TCN.</li><li>• Expired visa - Clients with an expired visa (&gt;90 days) who cannot return to their home country due to the travel restrictions, can extend the visa under certain conditions.</li><li>• Extension of free period of stay- For migrants with certain nationalities it is possible to stay within the Netherlands for a maximum amount of days without a visa. Migrants who cannot</li></ul>
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			<p>return to their home country before reaching the maximum amount of visa-free days because of Covid-19 measures do not have to submit a request for an extension but are expected to leave the country the moment this is possible.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Expiration of period of stay abroad - If someone with a residence permit cannot return to the Netherlands because of the Covid-19 crisis and thereby extends their maximum period they are allowed to stay abroad, the permit will not be withdrawn.</li> <li>• Documents – Clients who cannot send documents in time due to the measures taken in place, will be treated leniently.</li> <li>• Collecting a permit - Clients who cannot collect the residence permit or stickers at the IND service desk due to measures taken in place, are giving the same rights even without the physical permit. In case of a first application of a single permit (GVVA) a supplementary document is required for a work permit. This document is still needed to have the right to work. If the migrant has not received the single permit, and with it the working permit, the migrant does not have the right to work yet.</li> </ul> <p><u>C) Income and other support in place during/due to pandemic</u></p> <p>If a third-country national has lawfully resided and worked in the Netherlands, the third-country national is entitled to unemployment benefit under the same conditions as Dutch nationals. Some permits hold the condition that a holder may not receive welfare benefits. In some cases the IND makes an exception for residence holders who use public means because of the Covid-19 crisis. <a href="#">[ix]</a></p> <p><u>Employed workers</u></p> <p>The employer must comply with the legal provisions regarding the employment contract. In many cases, the employment contract cannot simply be broken. In addition, the employer can make use of the temporary Emergency Measure, called 'tijdelijke Noodmaatregel Overbrugging voor Werkbehoud' (NOW), which means that wages can still be paid and the employment contract does not have to be terminated. If it is not possible to work, but wages continue to be paid and the employment contract continues, the permit will not be withdrawn if the COVID-19 crisis is the reason why someone cannot work. However, if the employment contract is (legally) terminated, the conditions of the residence permit in the Netherlands are no longer met. It is important that the employer notifies the IND of such changes. In such a case, an intention to withdraw the residence permit will be sent, whereby the foreign national will be given the opportunity to find a new employer within 3 months after the termination of the employment contract. If a new workplace is found, a new application must be submitted to the IND.</p>
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			<p>Work is only allowed once the new residence permit has been granted. However, if no new job is found within these three months, the residence permit will be withdrawn and the foreign national must leave the Netherlands. In times of the Covid-19 crisis it is decided to be accommodating with overstay by force majeure. Therefore, no immigration law consequences will be given if (knowledge) migrants no longer reside lawfully in the Netherlands and cannot return to their country due the travel restrictions as a result of COVID-19. <a href="#">[x]</a></p> <p>The above does not hold for persons with a residence permit for a 'family' purpose of residence. A residence permit for that purpose is only withdrawn if a person applies for social assistance, not if someone loses their job or experiences a drop in their salary. If the appeal to social assistance is caused by the COVID-19 outbreak, withdrawal (or non-renewal) will not be carried out.</p> <p>Employment loss The timeframe to allow the TCN to find another job before withdrawing the residence permit has not been modified during the COVID-19 crisis. Because of the temporary Emergency Measure provided by the government, employers can get financial support to continue to pay the labour costs. The emergency measure will offer sufficient relief in order for employers to continue to pay their employees. Therefore, the employment contracts do not have to be terminated, which means that residence permits do not have to be withdrawn. <a href="#">[xi]</a></p> <p>Self-employed and flex workers The self-employed can make use of the Temporary Emergency Measure, called 'Tijdelijke Overbruggingsregeling Zelfstandige Ondernemers' (Tozo). Self-employed persons can receive additional income support for living expenses and/or a working capital loan in case of liquidity problems. Flexible workforces who have lost half or more of their income can make use of the temporary Emergency Measure, called 'Tijdelijke Overbruggingsregeling Flexibele Arbeidskrachten' (TOFA). With this, flexible workforces who meet the conditions of the TOFA can receive a compensation. <a href="#">[xii]</a> If during the Covid-19 crisis, a self-employed or flex migrant worker makes an appeal to the TOZO or TOFA measures, they have to inform the Immigration and Naturalization Service of this. The self-employed or flex-working migrant will not lose their residence permit due to them making use of the TOZO or TOFA measures. Furthermore, if the self-employed or flex-working migrant is a sponsor in the application procedure for a residence permit for their partner or family member, the IND will consider the income of the sponsor sufficient even if they are making use of the TOZO or TOFA measures. This is only if the residence</p>
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			<p>permit application and sponsorship was made when the sponsoring migrant's income was sufficient and durable. If the applications for the residence permit and for the sponsorship were done when the income was already not sufficient and/or durable, the IND will not treat the situation leniently.</p> <p>Consequences of an income loss</p> <p>Holders of a legal residence permit and/or a long-stay visa for family migration or EU residence rights who are seeing a drop in their income or losing their income completely due to the COVID-19 crisis do not lose their rights to legal residence through withdrawal of their residence permit. Before COVID-19, such a drop in income for family migrants could possibly lead to the termination of the residence permit if this leads to an appeal to social assistance. During COVID-19, if a drop in income due to COVID-19 leads to a need to appeal to social assistance, the right to stay for the purpose of family migration or EU residence rights is never terminated. Furthermore, if someone made an application for a residence permit before the COVID-19 outbreak and experiences a drop in their income or loses their income completely due to the COVID-19 crisis, the application will be treated leniently if the person did meet the income requirement at the moment of application. This also holds for the income requirement for the referent. <a href="#">[xiii]</a> Leniency was also considered for international students who held a permit to study in the Netherlands in 2019-2020, and continued their studies in the following academic year (2020-2021).</p> <p>Expiration of orientation year</p> <p>Migrants holding an 'orientation year highly educated' need to find a job within a year. <a href="#">[xiv]</a> However, for this group the conditions for the reduced salary criterion for highly skilled immigrants have been made more flexible. Therefore, one can search for a job from abroad more easily. <a href="#">[xv]</a></p> <p><a href="https://ind.nl/Paginas/Coronavirus.aspx">[i] https://ind.nl/Paginas/Coronavirus.aspx</a>, consulted on 22 December 2020.</p> <p><a href="https://ind.nl/Paginas/Coronavirus.aspx">[ii] https://ind.nl/Paginas/Coronavirus.aspx</a>, consulted on 22 December 2020.</p> <p><a href="#">[iii]</a> Parliamentary Papers II, 2019-2020, 19637, no. 2592.</p> <p><a href="#">[iv]</a> Government Gazette (Staatscourant), 2020, no. 26964.</p>
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			<p>[v] National Government (2020), 'Asylum procedures resumed via interviews by videoconference'. <a href="https://www.ind.nl/en/news/Pages/Asylum-procedures-resumed-via-interview...">https://www.ind.nl/en/news/Pages/Asylum-procedures-resumed-via-interview...</a>, consulted on 16 December 2020.</p> <p>[vi] <a href="https://ind.nl/Paginas/Coronavirus.aspx">https://ind.nl/Paginas/Coronavirus.aspx</a>, consulted on 22 December 2020.</p> <p>[vii] Immigration and Naturalisation Service (IND), 'Rechtbanken open INJD weer aanwezig bij zittingen'. <a href="https://ind.nl/nieuws/Paginas/Rechtbanken-open-IND-weer-aanwezig-bij-zittingen.aspx">https://ind.nl/nieuws/Paginas/Rechtbanken-open-IND-weer-aanwezig-bij-zittingen.aspx</a>, consulted on 16 December 2020 (in Dutch).</p> <p>[viii] <a href="https://ind.nl/Paginas/Coronavirus.aspx">https://ind.nl/Paginas/Coronavirus.aspx</a>, consulted on 22 December 2020.</p> <p>[ix] <a href="https://ind.nl/Paginas/Coronavirus.aspx">https://ind.nl/Paginas/Coronavirus.aspx</a>, consulted on 22 December 2020.</p> <p>[x] <a href="https://ind.nl/Paginas/Coronavirus.aspx">https://ind.nl/Paginas/Coronavirus.aspx</a>, consulted on 22 December 2020.</p> <p>[xi] <a href="https://ind.nl/Paginas/Coronavirus.aspx">https://ind.nl/Paginas/Coronavirus.aspx</a>, consulted on 22 December 2020.</p> <p>[xii] <a href="https://ind.nl/Paginas/Coronavirus.aspx">https://ind.nl/Paginas/Coronavirus.aspx</a>, consulted on 22 December 2020.</p> <p>[xiii] <a href="https://ind.nl/Paginas/Coronavirus.aspx">https://ind.nl/Paginas/Coronavirus.aspx</a>, consulted on 22 December 2020.</p> <p>[xiv] The 'Orientation year highly educated persons' residence permit is a residence permit for persons who have completed a bachelor's or master's programme in the Netherlands or abroad in a top university in their field, who have completed a PhD or conducted scientific research. Persons can apply for the permit within three years after completing their studies or their research. It gives holders the right to search for and to take up employment in the Netherlands without any restrictions within one year. More information: Immigration and Naturalisation Service (2020), 'Looking for a job after study, promotion or research', <a href="https://ind.nl/en/work/working_in_the_Netherlands/Pages/Looking-for-a-jo...">https://ind.nl/en/work/working_in_the_Netherlands/Pages/Looking-for-a-jo...</a>, last accessed on 13 January 2021.</p> <p>[xv] <a href="https://ind.nl/Paginas/Coronavirus.aspx">https://ind.nl/Paginas/Coronavirus.aspx</a>, consulted on 22 December 2020.</p> <p>2. IND service desks</p> <p>On March 16th, all contacts within migration services were limited. Services of the IND service desks were limited to emergency cases. Yet, the processing of applications for long-stay visa and residence permits has continued during the Covid-19 crisis. If possible, IND employees process the application from their homes. If possible, the IND would deliver the residence document by post. If a client had to</p>
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			<p>collect his residence document at an IND desk he could make an appointment online. At the IND desks safety precautions have been in place.<sup>[i]</sup> On August 13th, the IND service desk became fully operational again.</p> <p>Asylum</p> <p>On March 16th, the identification and registration of foreigners was halted and the IND no longer carried out interviews both within asylum and regular migration procedures. From May onwards physical interviews were resumed gradually. In the beginning, this was only arranged for certain groups, for instance more vulnerable asylum seekers. In December most hearings are done physically again. During physical interviews safety precautions are in place to prevent contagion.<sup>[ii]</sup></p> <p>When an asylum application is submitted at the border the application is processed at the border, meaning that the asylum seeker is in border detention during the procedure of four weeks. Families and unaccompanied minors are not processed at the border.<sup>[iii]</sup></p> <p>Court</p> <p>On 16 March courts in the Netherlands were temporarily closed. On 20 May all courts in the Netherlands were reopened. This means that the IND is also present at hearings again. The IND is responsible for the legal representation of the IND and other migration authorities in appeal proceedings before the Court, Council of State and international courts.<sup>[iv]</sup></p> <p><sup>[i]</sup> Parliamentary Papers II, 2019-2020, 35300, no. 114.</p> <p><sup>[ii]</sup> National Government (2020), 'Asylum procedures resumed via interviews by videoconference'. <a href="https://www.ind.nl/en/news/Pages/Asylum-procedures-resumed-via-interview...">https://www.ind.nl/en/news/Pages/Asylum-procedures-resumed-via-interview...</a>, consulted on 16 December 2020.</p> <p><sup>[iii]</sup> <a href="https://ind.nl/Paginas/Coronavirus.aspx">https://ind.nl/Paginas/Coronavirus.aspx</a>, consulted on 22 December 2020.</p> <p><sup>[iv]</sup> Immigration and Naturalisation Service (IND), 'Rechtbanken open INJD weer aanwezig bij zittingen'. <a href="https://ind.nl/nieuws/Paginas/Rechtbanken-open-IND-weer-aanwezig-bij-zit...">https://ind.nl/nieuws/Paginas/Rechtbanken-open-IND-weer-aanwezig-bij-zit...</a> on 16 December 2020.</p> <p>3. National regulations are aimed at the demand from employers who employ third country nationals within the framework of the regulations. As far as is known, no problems have arisen where it was not possible to employ personnel from third countries.</p>
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			<p>4. No. As of 2011, no residence permits or work permits for the purpose of seasonal work have been issued to TCN in the Netherlands under the Seasonal Workers Directive. There is enough labour supply from Dutch and other EU citizens to do this work. For seasonal workers within the EU contingency planning has been made.</p> <p>5. The Netherlands has plans to ensure labour demand for any (national or TNC) essential worker with a 'corona job' meaning that they are employed in sectors that are overburdened due to COVID-19 (such as healthcare, education, monitoring/enforcement services aiding the police, day-care). However, these plans do not include policies/changed policies or procedures to facilitate the entry of TCNs working in essential occupations to ensure that labour market needs are being met during the COVID-19 crisis.<sup>[1]</sup></p> <p><sup>[1]</sup> <a href="#">Stand van zaken 'coronabanen'   Tweede Kamer der Staten-Generaal</a>, consulted on 14 January 2021.</p> <p>6. No.</p> <p>7. i) migrants with a valid residence permit, including those with temporary tolerated stays/extensions In the Netherlands everyone is entitled to necessary medical care, even without healthcare insurance. Permit holders are obligated by law to get a Dutch insurance within 4 months. Only permit holders with a foreign employer can, under certain conditions, also make use of a foreign insurance. People who have low income can receive a 'care allowance' to compensate the insurance fee.</p> <p>Asylum seekers Asylum seekers are entitled to free healthcare by making use of the 'Regeling Zorg Asielzoekers' (RZA) or 'Wet Maatschappelijke Ondersteuning' (WMO).</p> <p>ii) irregular migrants Undocumented migrants cannot be insured for healthcare. However, they are entitled to medically necessary care (which is determined by the doctor providing the care). If the undocumented migrant cannot afford the needed care doctors are entitled to a compensation for the given care, based on the healthcare law (Zorgverzekeringswet, Zvw) and the Aliens Act (Vreemdelingenwet, Vw)</p>
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	<p>EMN NCP Poland</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>1. a. no changes to the previously delivered information b. no changes to the previously delivered information c. no changes to the previously delivered information</p> <p>2.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Closure of direct customer service – 16 March 2020</li> <li>• Reopening of The Office for Foreigners direct customer service at Taborowa 33 in Warsaw - 25 May 2020 in compliance with sanitary rules resulting from the epidemic status in Poland. Direct services in cases concerning foreigners were also resumed by most voivodeship offices (it should be noted that there was a significant diversity in customer service in individual voivodship offices, regardless of the possibilities arising from their capacity or epidemic situation in a given region) However, still the vast majority of services are available only by prior appointment</li> </ul> <p>3. Yes, due to the solutions adopted to counteract the negative effects of the pandemic (detailed in the previous EMN Inform), at the end of the year we observe only a slight decrease in the number of work permits (here understood as different types of documents allowing to access Polish labour market) - both regarding the applications submissions and administrative decisions issued. Hence, the general numbers allow to claim that PL has been able to satisfy labour market demand in key economic sector through TCL ever since, however not on the same pre-pandemic level, which forces further interventions to come.</p> <p>4. The Ministry responsible for labour market and employment of foreigners actively participates in the governmental works on adoption new documents for the migration policy of Poland, which will draw new directions and solutions to adopt in the possible nearest future to improve the migration management. Also, 2021 will bring advanced conceptual works on general labour market reform.</p> <p>5. PL has introduced a further facilitations in the area of healthcare, namely: The Ordinance of the Minister of Development, Labour and Technology of November 20, 2020 amending the Ordinance on: cases in which entrusting work to a foreigner in the territory of the Republic of Poland</p>
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			<p>is permissible without the need to obtain a work permit, added the following groups of foreigners exempt from the obligation to have a work permit:</p> <p>The regulation abolishes the requirement to obtain a work permit for doctors, dentists, nurses, midwives and paramedics who have the right to practice in Poland acquired in accordance with the provisions of the acts specifying the rules of practicing a given profession. This solution will facilitate the employment of medical personnel with appropriate qualifications in accordance with the requirements set out by Polish law.</p> <p>6. The pandemic had a significant impact on the migration situation in Poland. In the initial period, we observed numerous returns of (mainly) Ukrainian citizens to their homeland, and after the period of freezing the economy, the situation on the Polish labour market clearly improved. From the end of May this year we observe a renewed increase in the demand for foreigners' labour, which is now at a level similar to that from before the pandemic. However, when comparing the y/y data from January to December 2019 and 2020, we can see slight declines:</p> <p>In 2020 (as of 31 Dec 2020), 418 thousand. work permits were issued, i.e. 7% less than the year before. During the whole year, 1,594 thousand. declarations on entrusting work to a foreigner were submitted and nearly 1 million 520 thousand. has been entered into the register (thus – approved). Year on year, both the number of submitted applications and entries decreased also by 7%. This situation was caused by a pandemic (due to the solutions adopted many foreigners have not been obliged to renew their documents, which resulted in the decrease in mentioned numbers), but the general trend in the interest of foreigners in working in Poland was maintained, and the staff shortages reported by employers were filled in, especially in the seasonal work sector. The demand for the work of foreigners in Poland is constant, although there may be differences depending on the industry, profession or region. Also in the longer term, assuming that it is possible to avoid a long and deep economic downturn, the employment of foreigners should maintain the upward trend.</p> <p>7. COVID-19 related healthcare available to ALL:</p> <p>Healthcare related to the diagnosis and treatment of SARS-CoV-2 infections is free of charge for all residents / residents of the territory Polish. Persons who are compulsorily or voluntarily insured who pay health insurance, including migrants with or without a valid residence permit temporary tolerated stay, use healthcare services publicly funded under health insurance. Costs healthcare services provided to</p>
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			<p>uninsured persons, including migrants with a valid residence permit or with temporary tolerated stays / extensions and illegal migrants are financed by the National Fund Health from funds from the COVID-19 Counteracting Fund and the state budget from the part administered by the minister responsible for health.</p> <p>National Management Crisis Plan in the event of a mass influx of foreigners into the territory The Republic of Poland indicates that the entity providing medical care has concluded contract for medical services with the Head of the Office for Foreigners (financing from the resources of the general reserve of the state budget). The same the cost of healthcare available to irregular migrants covers the Office for Foreigners.</p>
	EMN NCP Portugal	Yes	<p>1. a) Foreign citizens who have made requests for entry, stay or international protection in Portugal, pending in SEF (Portuguese Immigration and Borders Service) as of October 15, 2020, are considered to be in a regular situation until March 31 2021 (this is a measure that has been continuously extended from the very beginning of the pandemic measures (March 2020); New/further measures: SEF has the responsibility to disseminate these measures publicly, through all its internet sites and social networks and also to public services and forces and security services. SEF is to articulate with the Portuguese Mint and Official Printing Office (INCM), the necessary issue of documents for urgent and essential cases. SEF is also to adopt all internal instructions and procedures necessary to extend the automatic renewal of residence permits for international students and investigators.</p> <p>b)In accordance with Decree-Law no. 87-A / 2020, of 15 October, with regard to residence documents, visas and documents relating to the stay of foreign citizens in national territory that expired as of 24 February 2020 are accepted, under the same terms, until March 31, 2021. These documents continue to be accepted in the same terms after March 31, 2021, as long as their holder proves that he has already scheduled the respective renewal.</p>



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			<p>Order No. 10944/2020 of 8 November establishes that all foreign citizens with processes pending in SEF, whose request was made between 18 March and 15 October 2020, are temporarily in a regular situation in national territory, and access to all public services, namely to obtain their user number and card, access to the National Health Service or other health care rights, access to social support benefits, conclusion of lease contracts, conclusion of employment contracts, opening bank accounts and contracting essential public services. The processes are thus suspended during the period of appreciation and processing of the respective processes, guaranteeing equal treatment between foreign citizens.</p> <p>c) Decree-Law no. 20-C / 2020 of 7 May, which establishes Exceptional Social Protection Measures, remains in force (please note that this is directed to all Portuguese, EU and foreign citizens):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Extraordinary support measures are extended to members of statutory bodies of legal persons with management functions when they have workers at their service, extending to those with an annual turnover of up to 80 thousand euros, and to independent workers not covered, either for not having a contributory obligation, or for not fulfilling the other conditions of access to extraordinary support;</li> <li>• a new regime is established to cover self-employed workers who didn't meet the requirements of support of the reduction of activity. Self-employed workers who are exempt from paying contributions or who started their activity less than 12 months ago are covered, with support of up to 219.40 euros (half of the Social Support Index's amount);</li> <li>• extraordinary support due to activity reduction of self-employed workers who meet the conditions of access is expected to have a minimum limit set at 219.40 euros.</li> <li>• the guarantee periods for the attribution of social unemployment benefit are halved. Workers are entitled to initial unemployment benefit if they have:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 90 days of dependent employment, with the corresponding record of wages, in a period of 12 months immediately prior to the date of unemployment;</li> <li>- 60 days of work on behalf of others, with the corresponding record of wages, in a period of 12 months immediately prior to the date of unemployment, in the event where this has occurred due to the expiration of the fixed-term employment contract or termination of the employment contract by the employer during the experimental period;</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the procedure for attributing social integration income is streamlined, not depending on the signing of the integration contract;</li> <li>• a measure is created to include people who are excluded from the social protection system, giving financial support to workers who are not covered by the Social Security system, and who declare the beginning or restart of independent activity with the tax administration, with the granted support of 219.40 euros (half the amount of Social Support Index's). These people will have to remain linked to the Social Security system for a period of 24 months.</li> </ul> <p>2. 30 March 2020 - All SEF on site attendance closed, but the Service continued to provide in-person assistance for appointments considered urgent (that is, citizens who need to travel or who prove the urgent need to leave the national territory, for imponderable and unavoidable reasons, and citizens whose documents have been stolen or lost); 4th of May 2020 - Reopening of on site attendance with the rescheduling that was set for after the 1st of July (all SEF branches were previously open by appointment).</p> <p>3. N/a</p> <p>4. N/a</p> <p>5. All through the pandemics, public procurement procedures for health care workers were simplified, or even, if necessary due to emergency needs, exceptionally surpassed. However, measures in Portugal are never directed specifically to TCNs; they apply to all the resident population, whatever their nationality may be.</p> <p>6. N/a</p> <p>7. COVID-19 related healthcare is available to ALL citizens in Portugal, regardless of their nationality or legal situation. As for payments, citizens covered by the National Health System (SNS) are exempted from all related payments. Access to this system comes with legalisation, so irregular migrants may be asked to pay (but this, will not, in any case, mean healthcare will not be given).</p>
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	<p>EMN NCP Slovakia</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>1. Applications for granting/renewing/registration of residence are accepted only on the basis of an <a href="#">online booking</a>. Other life situations that the customer needs to deal with will be handled without the need for online booking. As of 31.12.2020, the reservation system was unavailable, the Aliens Police Departments were closed.</p> <p>As for the offices abroad, it depends on the epidemiological situation in the location and the measures related to COVID-19. If the epidemiological situation allows it, the residence permit applications are accepted on the basis of an appointment.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Same provisions as implemented during spring apply.</li> <li>2. Same provisions implemented during spring apply.</li> <li>3. New measures implemented in October: Self-employed persons who had to close their establishments on the basis of a decision of the Public Health Authority or have reduced their turnover by at least 20 % may apply for a flat-rate contribution to compensate for loss of income from self-employment. The amount of the allowance is in the range of 270-810 EUR.</li> </ol> <p>Selected self-employed groups which have no other income since 1. 10. 2020 may apply for a contribution to compensate for loss of earnings from earned income. The flat-rate contribution is fixed at 315 EUR.</p> <p>Employers (including self-employed employers) who had to close or limit their operations on the basis of a decision of the Public Health Authority of the Slovak Republic may apply for a contribution to the compensation of the employee's salary. The allowance shall amount to 80 % of its total cost of work, up to a maximum of 1100 EUR.</p> <p>Employers (including self-employed employers) who maintain jobs even in the event of interruption or limitation of their activity during a declared emergency may apply for an employee's salary allowance. The allowance may be granted either in the form of compensation for the employee's salary of a maximum of 80 % of his total labour price, a maximum of 1100 EUR or a flat-rate contribution to cover part of the wage costs per employee, depending on the decrease in turnover (270-810 EUR). The employer may choose only one of the options for the entire contribution period.</p> <p>2. Foreign Police departments were closed from 26.10. 2020 until 9.11.2020 and from 21.12.2020 until 31.12.2020.</p>
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			<p>3. Since the number of foreign nationals employed in Slovakia has faced a downward trend since the beginning of the pandemic, the labour demand in the economic sectors is considered to be satisfied. Seasonal work has been mostly covered by the domestic labour due to the increasing number of redundancies in the sectors affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. However, there is still a shortage of health workers, as has been shown during the nation-wide testing rounds and also in the growing cases of hospitalised patients affected by COVID-19. (information provided by the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family of the Slovak Republic)</p> <p>4. No. There is no information about a foreseen contingency planning. (information provided by the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family of the Slovak Republic)</p> <p>5. No. There is no information about a foreseen contingency planning. (information provided by the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family of the Slovak Republic)</p> <p>6. At the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, forecasts predicted an increase in unemployment above 10 %. Various support measures brought funding to employers, supported job retention and did not lead to a high unemployment rate. Despite the lockdowns, companies managed to restart production quickly and had a sufficient staff. (information provided by the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family of the Slovak Republic)</p> <p>7. Urgent healthcare is provided to all (including both foreign residents with granted residence permit and irregular migrants); COVID-19 healthcare is provided to everyone. (information provided by the Ministry of Health of the Slovak Republic)</p>
	<p>EMN NCP Slovenia</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>1. a. measures in place during / due to the pandemic to maintain the processing of residence permit applications. Processing on the territory</p>

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			<p>On 10 December 2020, the Government issued a Decree on temporary measures to reduce the risk of infection and prevent the spread of the infectious disease Covid-19 in all administrative matters (including residence permit matters), which entered into force on 11 December 2020.</p> <p>On the basis of the authorization from the General Administrative Procedure Act, the Decree determines temporary measures to reduce the risk of infection and prevent the spread of the infectious disease COVID-19 in the management of administrative procedures and decision-making in administrative matters:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. It is possible to submit applications electronically without a qualified electronic signature, which is otherwise mandatory for electronic business of clients with authorities. Customers are able to identify themselves with an officially assigned identification number (for example EMŠO, tax number) or another unique identifier determined by the authority for the purposes of electronic commerce;</li> <li>2. The possibility of submitting (written and oral) applications directly to the competent authority for the acceptance of the application is limited, except for applications which, by law, may only be submitted directly to this authority. In these cases, applicants have to agree with the authority on the timing of the application. The process of ordering permit by telephone or electronically is published by the authorities in a publicly accessible place and on a website;</li> <li>3. The Decree establishes the authority of the body to, if this is necessary for the protection of health, exclude the interested public from oral hearings or other procedural acts;</li> <li>4. The Decree restricts the right to inspect the documents of the administrative case on the premises of the body, if the entitled person can be guaranteed the exercise of this right with sent (physical or electronic) copy of the documents of the case;</li> <li>5. The Decree enables the service of decisions, resolutions and other documents to be performed by filing in an electronic mailbox that does not meet the security and technical conditions for a secure electronic mailbox under the General Administrative Procedure Act and the Decree on Administrative Operations. Such service takes place provided that the addressees agree and provide an e-mail address for this purpose.</li> </ol> <p>The Decree is valid until the epidemic is canceled or for a maximum of three months. Processing outside the territory</p>
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			<p>On 1. of September 2020 all restrictions encompassing Consulate's work regarding procedures for residence permit matters were abolished. During second wave of epidemic Slovenian Consular network, implemented following protection procedures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Mandatory hand disinfection for all entering Consulate's premises.</li><li>- Every person entering must schedule an appointment in advance.</li><li>- Only one person is allowed in the waiting room.</li><li>- Cashless business only.</li><li>- Wearing mask is mandatory.</li><li>- Disinfection and ventilation are applied in all rooms within the Consulate.</li></ul> <p>Consulates also follow given regulations, which were adopted in countries where they operate: curfew, region travel restrictions and ban on social gatherings.</p> <p>b. measures in place during / due to the pandemic in place to ensure legality of stay (tolerated stays; automatic extensions/change of status/change of employer).</p> <p>No new measures in this regard were adopted.</p> <p>c. Income and other supports in place during / due to the pandemic for ALL migrants with a valid residence title (employed/self-employed) including those with a prolonged or tolerated stay.</p> <p>The Rules on the method of determining sufficient means of subsistence provide that in the procedure for extension of the residence permit or issuing of permanent residence permit, a foreigner shall prove sufficient means of subsistence for the preceding six months and for the administrative unit's decision-making month. In view of the exceptional nature of the COVID-19 situation, the Ministry of the Interior issued instructions to administrative units, that regardless of the provisions of the above-mentioned Rules, the period during which the foreigner was ordered to temporarily wait for work due to the epidemic or was ordered to quarantine, shall not be taken into account. In such cases, therefore, the remuneration of foreigners in the months in which they received compensation is excluded and is taken into account only the last six-month period when they received their full salary. Similarly, sufficient funds during the administrative unit's decision-making month are not checked if the foreigner is still receiving compensation for salary.</p> <p>2. Immigration offices in the territory were never fully closed during 2020 due to COVID-19, consequently Slovenia cannot provide the dates of closure and re-opening.</p>
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			<p>3. The average unemployment rate in 2020 was 85.003 people, which is 14.6 % higher than in 2019. The main factor for this is Covid-19 pandemic. The latter has mainly influenced the following market areas: catering business, tourism, transport, trade and manufacturing. Due to higher rates of unemployment Slovenia has been able to satisfy labour market demands in 2020 mainly with its own nationals.</p> <p>4. Slovenia has no plans in this regard at the moment.</p> <p>5. Yes, at the end of 2020 Slovenia adopted Order determining the occupations in which the employment of foreigners is not tied to the labour market, which is valid till the end of June 2021. Among the occupations, which are not tied to the labour market, are also international carriers. Healthcare workers can be, in Covid circumstances, hired directly based upon the national interest.</p> <p>6. See attachment. slovenia_labour_market_information.pdf</p> <p>7. Yes, basic healthcare is available to all migrants.</p>
	<p>EMN NCP Spain</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>1. The Immigration Offices have been able to minimise the negative effects of the restrictions resulting from the pandemic, and have functioned normally through the electronic means enabled for that purpose, and as of 25 May in person, when the offices were opened to the public, combining the submission of applications through both face-to-face and electronic means.</p> <p>In 2020, the procedures for foreigners that could be processed electronically through the MERCURIO Platform were extended, with a significant advance in the digitisation of aliens' procedures, with the addition of four new large-volume procedures in the number of applications: Application for residence authorisation for family reunification (incorporated to MERCURIO in January 2020); EU Citizens' Family Residence Card (April); Residence for Exceptional Circumstances (June) and the newly incorporated application for authorisation of Residence and Work by Account (December).</p>

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			<p>As regards the renewal of long-term residence cards, this procedure can be carried out telematically. The automatic extension of these authorisations has therefore not been considered necessary. Due to delays in the issuance of Foreigners' Identity Card (TIE) a reminder has been introduced in the resolutions issued by the Immigration Offices, where it is underlined that the mere possession of such a resolution produces full effects about the administration and third parties, and its effectiveness is not conditioned to obtaining the TIES. This will allow migrants to prove their legal residence for the various administrative procedures until they obtain the TIE.</p> <p>As for the new residence visa applications:</p> <p>The visa sections of our Embassies and Consulates have not been suspended at any time during / due to the pandemic. In fact, the Orders passed by the Ministry of Interior regulating the entry into Spain have allowed entry with a national visa at all times. All of the previous, without prejudice to the legal provisions and restrictions established by foreign countries and Governments with regards to the opening of Embassies and Consulates on their territory. Therefore, even if the processing of long term visa applications has never been suspended, no visa stickers were issued during periods in which air and sea connections were suspended until the situation returned to normal.</p> <p>However, instructions were issued in June 2020 by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, European Union and Cooperation to expedite and facilitate the issuance and processing of visa applications by our Embassies and Consulates, giving priority to the following categories of applicants:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Students starting the academic course in September / October 2020;</li><li>Labor force working in essential sectors and activities relevant sectors of the Spanish and European economy (including seafarers working on Spanish ships and temporary workers);</li><li>Accreditation visas.</li></ul> <p>As for renewals / reissue of visas.</p> <p>Visas that could not be used due to national travel restrictions were reissued (free of charge) by our Embassies and Consulates.</p> <p>Type C Schengen visas to return to Spain were issued to those holders of residence permits who were abroad and could not benefit due to travel restrictions from the extension of residence permits established by the Order of the Ministry of Health SND/421/2020 of May 18, by which the validity of residence permits and / or work authorizations among other permits, whose validity had expired during the state of alarm or 90 days prior to its declaration, were automatically extended until 21 December 2020.</p>
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			<p>In relation to support during the pandemic, all legal migrants in Spain have the same rights as Spanish citizens.</p> <p>2. As indicated above, the Immigration Offices have been able to minimise the negative effects of the restrictions resulting from the pandemic, and have functioned normally through the electronic means empowered to do so, and from 25 May in person, when the offices were opened to the public, combining the submission of applications through both face-to-face and electronic means. During the last quarter of the year, progress was made in the digitalization of the procedures for applying for residence and work permits.</p> <p>3. It was sufficient with the measures already taken as informed in the previous report.</p> <p>4. Order ISM/1289/2020 of 28 December was published, regulating the collective management of contracts in the country of origin for 2021. It introduces improvements in the management of the seasonal recruitment procedure and provides for a wide range of measures for the protection of health in the context of Covid-19. For 2021, like previous years, the red fruit campaign in Huelva is the most important in our country in terms of demand for collective hiring at origin and is covered by workers from Morocco. This year's campaign has authorised 14,000 workers from Morocco.</p> <p>5. Royal Decree-Law 29/2020 of 29 September authorizes on an exceptional and transient nature the hiring of healthcare professionals who still lack the title of Specialist recognized in Spain, for the realization of functions typical of a specialty. The contract underwrote shall enable the performance of the healthcare activity and may be extended for up to twelve extended months for successive periods of three months.</p> <p>6. No</p> <p>7. In Spain, every worker can have access to public health insurance, even when he/she is unemployed. That can apply too, if they meet the requirements, to its relatives living in Spain at their charge.</p>
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			<p>Even irregular migrants living in Spain who meet the legally required conditions can receive public health insurance.</p> <p>The coverage and conditions of that public health insurance is determined in the “Cartera de servicios”<a href="https://www.mscbs.gob.es/en/profesionales/prestacionesSanitarias/Cartera...">https://www.mscbs.gob.es/en/profesionales/prestacionesSanitarias/Cartera...</a>, and it includes <b>primary care and hospitalization free of charge, even for Covid 19 reason.</b></p>
	<p>EMN NCP Sweden</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>1. a. Sweden so far never had a lock down. Since Sweden already before the pandemic had electronic application procedures for most kinds of residence permits no special measures were put in place. Persons have been able to apply for residence permits electronically during the pandemic which means that geographic location has not been of importance since an application can be made from any place. Of course the application can be affected if the applicant must visit a Swedish Mission Abroad which of course must obey the local rules in place in the host country. For example, the Swedish embassy in Tehran has chosen to postpone all scheduled interviews regarding migration cases until 2021 due to the worsening situation in the coronavirus pandemic. This was decided to try to limit the spread of infection. The Swedish Ministry of Foreign Affairs has temporarily suspended the "working holiday" visa programmes between Sweden and Argentina, Chile and Uruguay. Nationals of these countries can therefore currently not obtain a working holiday visa for Sweden.</p> <p>b. There have been no changes in the migration laws due to the pandemic meaning that the requirements are the same.</p> <p>c. There has been no specific support for migrants but during certain circumstances migrants can benefit from general support to certain branches in order to reduce unemployment and ease the economic consequences of the pandemic.</p> <p>2. The migration offices in Sweden have so far never been closed. Sweden so far never had a lock down. But the opening hours have been reduced and applicants have been encouraged to use telephone and email in order to contact the authorities and reduce the number of personal visits.</p> <p>3. This has not been an issue in Sweden in the second half of 2020 so no information is available.</p>

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			<p>4. Not to the best of our knowledge. The entry ban on non-essential travel to Sweden from all countries except EU Member States, the United Kingdom, Norway, Iceland, Liechtenstein and Switzerland does not apply to people with an essential need or function in Sweden, which may include seasonal workers in the agricultural, forestry and horticulture sectors.</p> <p>5. Not to the best of our knowledge. The entry ban on non-essential travel to Sweden from all countries except EU Member States, the United Kingdom, Norway, Iceland, Liechtenstein and Switzerland does not apply to people with an essential need or function in Sweden, which may include healthcare and transportation workers.</p> <p>6. Generally, the COVID-19 pandemic is expected to lead to relatively high levels of unemployment in Sweden and to make it more difficult for young people as well as newly arrived immigrants to get their first job. Apart from state measures to support businesses that cannot operate normally during the pandemic, some labour market policies have also been changed or made more flexible. For example, unemployed individuals including newly arrived beneficiaries of international protection can now take introductory, state-subsidised jobs (so-called extra-jobs and introductory jobs) for up to three years, instead of the normal two years.</p> <p>7. Yes. People from other countries who become ill while temporarily in Sweden are always entitled to emergency care, or necessary care which cannot be postponed until they return home.</p> <p>Adults and children who are seeking asylum, or who are in Sweden without permission, can get medical and dental care which cannot be postponed. If the asylum seeker is under 18 years of age, they will receive health and medical care on the same terms as children who live in the region where they seek care. The health care is free of charge.</p>
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AD HOC QUERY ON 2020.75 Residence permit and labour market needs

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