

Living in an area of Justice,
Freedom and Security

European Migration Network: Development, Status & Perspectives



European Commission

Directorate General Justice, Freedom and Security

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European Migration Network **Content**



European Migration Network

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Policy background

- **Need to exchange information on all aspects of migration identified in initial development of common EU Asylum & Migration Policy (Laeken 1999).**
- **Establishment of an EMN and the possibility of setting up a permanent structure in the future was welcomed by European Council (June 2003).**
- **Hague Programme has reinforced the need for the collection, provision, exchange and efficient use of up-to-date information and data on all relevant migratory developments.**

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Why EMN? - Information gaps

- **No single reference point to access information;**
- **Insufficient comparable and up-to-date information and analysis;**
- **Lack of up-to-date and comparable statistical data and analysis thereof;**
- **Lack of knowledge of practice in other Member States.**

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Objective (Article 1)

- Meet information needs thru' provision of up-to-date, objective, reliable and comparable information, with a view to supporting policymaking in the EU;
- Provide this information also to general public.

Increasing emphasis, even before legal base adoption, on undertaking activities of relevance to meeting these objectives.

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European Migration Network **Composition (Article 3)**

- **National Contact Points (Article 5)**, designated by Member States, at least 3 experts (does not have to be government Ministry).
- **All Member States (except DK) have to nominate an EMN NCP.**
- **Commission (Article 6) –**
 - ☞ **co-ordinates** work of Network, incl. that it reflects political priorities of Community;
 - ☞ **assisted by a Service Provider in organisation of the work of the EMN (Article 6(3));**
 - ☞ **adopts** annual Work Programme;
 - ☞ **awards** Operating Grants to EMN NCPs.

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European Migration Network **Steering Board (Article 4)**

- Provides political guidance to EMN activities.
- One Member from each MS, plus EP (Observer), COM (Chair, assisted by 2 scientific experts).
- Meets at least twice a year (own Rules of Procedure).
- Approves annual Work Programme, incl. budget.
- Reviews progress made by EMN;
- Provides succinct status report (to EP, Council, E&SC, CoR) at least once a year;
- Identifies strategic co-operations;
- Advises, when necessary, an EMN NCP(s) on how to improve their operations.

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National Contact Points

➤ **Activities** foreseen are to (Article 5(5)):

- ☞ Attend **EMN meetings** (5+/year) to *inter alia* review progress, exchange data and views, provide input into development Work Programme (Article 7);
- ☞ Prepare **National Reports**, incl. policy developments/analysis of statistics (Article 9);
- ☞ Contribute **national information** to information exchange system (Article 8);
- ☞ Develop capacity to issue and quickly respond to **Ad-Hoc Queries**;
- ☞ Establish **national migration network**, with wide-range of entities representing all relevant stakeholders, including organising meetings.



Outputs - Required

➤ **Annual Policy Report (Article 9)**

- Overview most significant political & legislative (incl. EU) developments, plus public debates.
- So far, four produced (2007, 2006, July '04 – Dec. '05, Jan. '03 – June '04).
- Will contribute also to Pact *methode de suivi*.

➤ **Annual Report on Asylum and Migration Statistics (Article 9)**

- Analysis of statistics provided by EUROSTAT.
- EMN NCPs contributed National Reports to 2002, 2003 plus 2004 & 2005. On-going 2006/7.



Outputs to come

➤ Work Programme 2008:

- The Organisation of Asylum and Migration and Policies in the EU Member States;
- Policies on reception, return and integration arrangements for, and numbers of, unaccompanied minors – an EU comparative study.

➤ Work Programme 2009:

- Programmes and strategies fostering Assisted Voluntary Return (AVR) and Reintegration from EU Member States;
- The different national practices concerning granting of non-EU harmonised protection statuses.

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Ad-Hoc Queries

- **Purpose** is to request **information** required on a **short-time** scale (1 – 2 weeks), & **any** EMN NCP plus EU institutions **can** make **request**.
- Procedure kept **simple** in order to have **flexibility**.
- **Requesting** EMN NCP is required to produce **compilation** (ultimately into Info. Exch. Sys.).
- In **2008**, **61** Ad-Hoc Queries launched. Typically **16+** MS responses.
- Recent **examples**: Trafficking – common research template, Family Reunification; Integration; Statistics; Directive 2005/85/EC; Return.

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European Migration Network **Glossary - Thesaurus**

- Developed in context of *Glossary and Thesaurus Working Group* (met 17 times so far, 6 in 2008).
- Aim of **Glossary** is to have common definitions of terms (using first those given in *EU acquis*) – a **tool** for **better comparability**.
- Currently some **300 terms** (with translations) in Glossary.
- Intention is to have first publishable version this year.
- Aim of **Thesaurus** is to permit structured searching of documents in **Information Exchange System**.

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Concluding Remarks

- EMN has now entered into new phase following adoption of legal base and involvement of all Member States.
- Its continued development requires EMN to have a proven role in the provision of information to support policymakers, also in co-operation with other (EU) entities.
- EMN NCPs, and their national partners, crucial to success of EMN in order *inter alia* to be able to present definitive overview of situation in EU-27.

Info.: <http://emn.sarenet.es>

