

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**



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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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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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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.

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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.

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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>

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