



January - March 2026

NEWS FROM THE EU

NEWS FROM EMN MEMBER AND OBSERVER COUNTRIES

1. General developments
2. Legal migration
3. International protection including asylum
4. Unaccompanied minors and other vulnerable groups

5. Integration and inclusion
6. Citizenship and statelessness
7. Border management and irregular migration
8. Trafficking in human beings
9. Return and readmission
10. Migration and development
11. EU legislation transposition

RECENT AND UPCOMING EMN PUBLICATIONS

NEWS FROM THE EU

On 29 January, the European Commission presented the first [European Asylum and Migration Management Strategy](#), which sets out the EU's political objectives on asylum and migration, with concrete priorities for the next five years. Priorities include stepping up migration diplomacy, enhancing control and security, creating a firm, fair and adaptable asylum and migration system, enhancing return and readmission, and boosting competitiveness via labour and talent mobility.

On the same day, the European Commission adopted its first-ever [EU Visa Strategy](#), setting out a framework for a visa policy that advances the EU's long-term interests, including increasing security, strengthening external border, and countering irregular migration. The strategy stipulates that to receive visa-free status, partner countries must meet requirements on issues ranging from respect for the rule of law to security cooperation and migration management. The EU Visa Strategy was accompanied by a [Commission Recommendation on attracting talent for innovation](#). The Recommendation includes measures aimed at making the EU more attractive to highly qualified and skilled professionals, students, researchers, startup founders, and innovative entrepreneurs in key sectors for the EU's competitiveness and strategic autonomy.

On 29 January 2026, Eurostat released the [2024 statistics on trafficking in human beings](#), with the majority of victims being non-EU nationals (64%). Nearly two-thirds (63%) of the total number of registered victims were women or girls. Trafficking for sexual exploitation continues to represent the predominant form of exploitation (46%), while trafficking for labour exploitation remains significant and increasingly detected (38%). Other exploitative purposes, including criminal activities, forced begging and use for benefit fraud, were at 16%.

On 23 February, the Council adopted the [first EU-wide list of safe countries of origin alongside a revision of the safe third country concept](#). The measures aim to further harmonise and streamline the EU's migration and asylum framework. The common list is intended to help EU Member States process asylum applications from nationals of those countries more efficiently. The revised safe third country concept also gives EU Member States greater flexibility to declare certain asylum applications inadmissible.

On 25 February, the European Commission launched an EU-wide awareness raising campaign to tackle human trafficking. The campaign '[End Human Trafficking. Break the Invisible Chain](#)' aims to shed light on this often-invisible crime and to enable citizens and victims to recognise the signs, report a suspected case of human trafficking and get support.

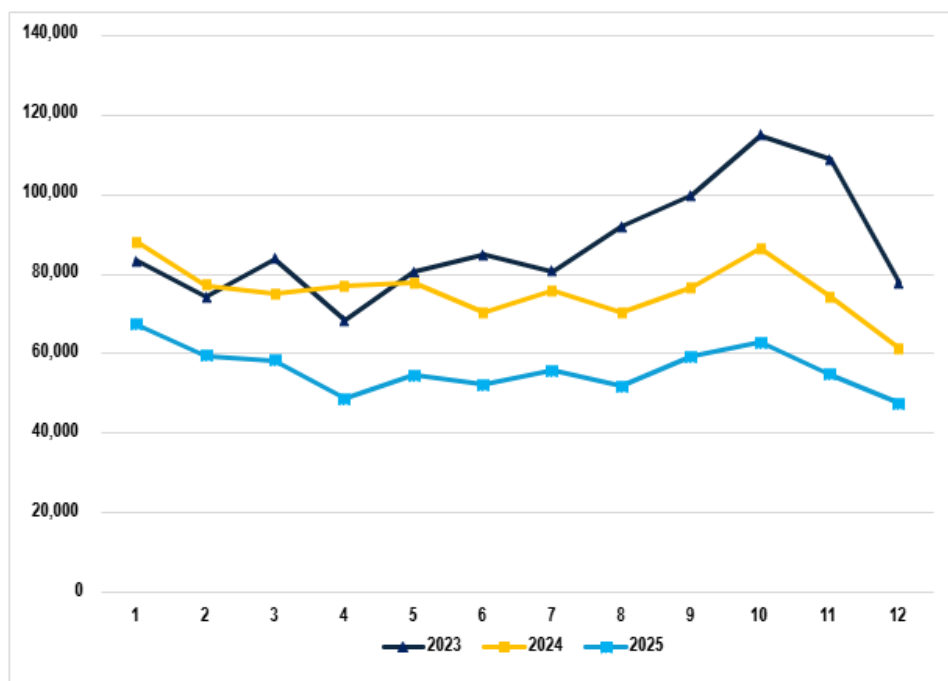
On 26 March, the European Commission launched the [first meeting of the Talent for Innovation platform](#). It brought together national experts on migration, employment and innovation, as well as other stakeholders working in the field of migration, employment, research and education, to discuss how to best attract and retain talent for the EU competitiveness.

CJEU clarifies calculation of detention periods under return procedures

On 5 March, the Court of Justice of the European Union (CJEU) delivered its judgment in case [C-150/24 \(Aroja\)](#) on the calculation of detention periods for illegally staying third-country nationals under the Directive 2008/115/EC (the Return Directive).

The Court clarified that under Article 15(5) and (6) of the Return Directive, all detention periods linked to the enforcement of the same return decision must be aggregated, even if interrupted by periods of liberty or changes in circumstances. It also confirmed that any extension beyond the initial six-month detention limit must be subject to judicial review, to be carried out as soon as possible after the extension decision.

Figure 1: First time asylum applicants



Source: Eurostat [migr_asyappctzm](#), first-time asylum applicants, extracted on 13 April 2026.

NEWS FROM EMN MEMBER AND OBSERVER COUNTRIES

1. General developments

Austria

Tuition Fee exemptions for Ukrainian nationals

On 18 February, an [amendment](#) to the Tuition Fee Regulation was promulgated, exempting students with Ukrainian citizenship from the tuition fee for the summer semester 2026.

Belgium

Governance model for new Federal Public Service Migration approved

On 27 March, the Council of Ministers approved the governance model for the [new Federal Public Service Migration](#), which is intended to enhance coordination across migration and asylum services and to transform a previously fragmented system into a more integrated administrative framework.

Bulgaria

Term of temporary protection extended

Following the adoption of Council of Ministers Decisions No. 190 and No. 191 on 17 February, [the re-registration process](#) for Ukrainian citizens under temporary protection has officially started. The measures extend temporary protection until 4 March 2027 and introduce new registration cards, with re-registration carried out by the State Agency for Refugees and the Ministry of Interior until 30 April.

Czech Republic

Extension of temporary protection for displaced persons from Ukraine

In January, the Czech Republic launched the extension of temporary protection for displaced persons from Ukraine. The [online registration](#), open from 8 January to mid-March 2026, followed a two-step procedure. In total, around 365 000 beneficiaries applied, securing their status until 31 March 2027.

Greece

Extension of temporary protection

Issuance of the [Act No. 4507/09.01.2026](#) of the Minister of Migration and Asylum on the extension of temporary protection to displaced persons from Ukraine until the 4 March 2027, following the Council Implementing Decision (EU) 2025/1460 of 15 July 2025.

Ireland

Migration permissions for beneficiaries of temporary protection extended

On 3 March, Ireland applied the [extension](#) to beneficiaries of temporary protection who are residing in Ireland with a Temporary Protection Certificate (yellow paper) that is valid until 4 March.

Italy

Decree-Law on security and migration adopted

On 24 February, [Decree-Law No. 23](#) was adopted and is currently being converted into law. It introduces a broad package of reforms on security and migration, updating rules on public security, police and judicial cooperation, and migration management, including new obligations for detained third-country nationals to cooperate in identification, revised procedures for refusal of entry, expulsion and return, expansion of reception and pre-removal detention centres, and simplified notification procedures for asylum applicants.

Latvia

Amendments to education financing for Ukrainian civilians

On 20 January, the Cabinet of Ministers adopted [Regulation No. 18](#) amending Regulation No. 488 of 26 July 2016. The amendment sets out the financing arrangements for Ukrainian civilians from 1 January to 31 August. It applies to those who, as of 1 September 2025, are registered in the State Education Information System and enrolled in general or vocational education programmes.

Luxembourg

Extension of temporary protection status until March 2027

On 13 February, the Ministry of Internal Affairs announced that the [temporary protection mechanism has been extended](#) for an additional year, until 4 March 2027. As a result, biometric cards issued to beneficiaries of temporary protection with an expiration date of 4 March 2026, must be renewed.

Georgia

Migration Strategy 2026 Action Plan enacted

On 1 January, the [Migration Strategy Action Plan](#) for 2026 entered into force. It comprises of 40 objectives and 88 activities to be implemented by the State Commission on Migration Issues member agencies and partner organisations. It is aimed at further strengthening migration governance and ensuring coordinated, evidence-based policy implementation.

Poland

Provisions of special assistance act for Ukrainian citizens repealed

On 5 March, the ['phasing out act'](#) entered into force, repealing selected provisions of the special Act on assistance to Ukrainian citizens. It ends extended rights such as prolonged departure deadlines and special temporary residence permits, reinstating full standard requirements under the Act on Foreigners.

Spain

Extension of temporary protection status

On 12 February, [Order INT/96/2026](#) was issued, extending the validity of the foreigner identity cards issued to persons affected by the conflict in Ukraine who are beneficiaries of temporary protection until 4 March 2027.

2. Legal migration

Croatia

Maintenance funds for third-country nationals

On 17 January, [Regulation on Amendments and Supplements on Maintenance Funds for Nationals of Third Countries](#) entered into force. The minimum monthly funds of support are EUR 825.93 (57% of the salary), EUR 1 043.28 for a two-member household, and EUR 144.90 for additional members. To regulate temporary residence for other purposes, the minimum monthly fund of support is EUR 869.40.

Finland

Processing fees for residence permit applications increased

On 1 January, the processing fees for residence permit applications were [increased](#) by between EUR 50 to EUR 250. The processing costs of almost all applications have increased due to the decrease in the number of residence permit applications, and increased workload in the processing of applications.

Latvia

Assessment list of countries for visa/residence permit applicants amended

On 27 January, [Amendment](#) to Cabinet of Ministers Regulation No. 554 of 21 June 2010 'Regulation Regarding the Countries for the Citizens of which an Additional Assessment shall be Performed when Issuing a Visa or a Residence Permit' was adopted. The amendment adds Tajikistan to the list and removes Bahrain, Indonesia, Qatar, Kuwait, Nigeria and Oman from the list.

Lithuania

New language requirements for foreign workers

From 1 January, foreigners working with customers in Lithuania are required to pass a [Lithuanian language exam at A1 level](#). After two years, A2 level will be required. Around 15 nationwide annual exams are planned for up to 800 candidates each.

Luxembourg

New national portal and talent desk to attract international talent launched

On 28 January, the Minister of the Economy, SMEs, Energy and Tourism, and the Minister of Labour, presented the new [national portal](#), along with the Talent Desk. These initiatives are part of the Government's strategy to attract, retain, and develop the skills essential to the competitiveness and innovation of the Luxembourg economy.

Migration-related legislative and policy updates

In March, Luxembourg adopted several measures affecting migration and residence rules. The Government Council approved draft [legislation](#) amending the law on free movement and immigration, expanding eligibility for student residence permits to include programmes delivered in Luxembourg by accredited foreign institutions. It also [approved changes](#) to procedures for issuing biometric passports and travel documents for foreigners, stateless persons and refugees. In addition, an [updated list of shortage occupations](#) was published, reducing the number of professions to 20 and allowing employers in these sectors to benefit from simplified recruitment procedures for third-country nationals.

Spain

Electronic register of immigration collaborators

On 2 March, the Ministry of Inclusion, Social Security and Migration has established the [Electronic Register of Immigration Collaborators](#) following [Order ISM/164/2026](#). The register expands access to electronic immigration procedures by authorising trade unions and non-profit organisations in migration and international protection to assist applicants - particularly vulnerable foreign nationals - free of charge.

Sweden

New labour migration rules

On 18 March, the Parliament approved [new legislation on labour migration](#) which introduces a higher wage requirement, mandatory comprehensive health insurance, and broader grounds to refuse work permits where employers fail to meet regulatory obligations. The new rules will enter into force on 1 June.

Georgia

Mandatory 'permit to work' introduced

On 1 March, amendments to the Law on Labour Migration entered into force, requiring foreign nationals to obtain a work permit before taking up employment. [Governmental Ordinance No. 70](#) of 20

February sets out the procedures for issuing this permit to labour migrants and self-employed foreigners. To streamline processing, the electronic systems of the Public Service Development Agency and the State Employment Support Agency were integrated in February allowing automatic information exchange.

Extending the legal stay of Ukrainian citizens fleeing the war

On 24 February, the Governmental Ordinance No.255 on 'Approval of the List of Countries Whose Citizens May Enter Georgia without a Visa' was amended. According to the [amendment](#), the visa-free stay of the Ukrainian citizens who entered and stayed in Georgia without leaving before 24 February 2025 was extended until 24 February 2027.

3. International protection including asylum

Belgium

Limiting reception for applicants already protected in EU suspended

On 27 March, the Belgian Council of State has suspended a [ministerial instruction](#) that systematically limited material assistance to international protection applicants who had already obtained protection in another EU Member State. The court ruled that the instruction exposed these individuals to the risk of severe hardship and potential homelessness.

Croatia

Amendments to the Act on international and temporary protection

On 11 February, the [draft Amendments](#) to the Act on International and Temporary Protection passed its first reading in the Croatian Parliament. The amendments aim to implement EU reception standards for asylum seekers and prevent system abuse and secondary movement. Key changes aligned with the Pact on Migration and Asylum, and include mandatory border asylum procedures and Eurodac registration.

Estonia

Supreme Court rules on family reunification for transgender refugee

In [case No 5-25-79/15](#) of 23 March, the Supreme Court upheld that the Police and Border Guard Board violated constitutional and international protection rights by refusing family reunification for the partner of a transgender refugee. The Court found that requiring marriage or registered partnership documents that cannot be obtained in the country of origin was unlawful. The judgment clarifies state responsibilities under asylum and human rights law when assessing family reunification applications.

Finland

Approved refugee quota for 2026

On 5 February, the Government approved the allocation of [Finland's 2026 refugee quota](#). Under the decision, Finland will receive 150 Afghan refugees from Iran, 120 Congolese refugees from Rwanda, 100 Syrian refugees from Turkey, 50 Venezuelan refugees from Peru, 30 refugees evacuated from Libya to Rwanda, and 50 individuals of any nationality requiring emergency evacuation. Resettlement efforts are co-funded by the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund.

Reception and spending allowance to remain at reduced level

On 1 January, the Government's [decision](#) to reduce the reception and spending allowance for people entitled to reception services has been extended until 11 June 2026. Permanent amendments are planned as part of a broader reform of the Reception Act.

France

Original documents no longer retained

Starting 1 March, the French Office for the Protection of Refugees and Stateless Persons (OFPRA) will [no longer retain original documents of asylum seekers](#). Original documents are now verified during the interview and returned to applicants at the end of the interview.

Greece

National list of safe countries of origin updated

On 20 January, [Joint Ministerial Decision No. 9603/2026](#) was adopted establishing the national list of safe countries of origin, in line with the annual mandatory review under national asylum law. The updated list maintains the same 18 countries as in the previous year, including Egypt, Albania, Georgia, Morocco and Pakistan.

Netherlands

Processing of asylum applications from Iran suspended

On 26 March, and due to the uncertain situation in Iran, the Immigration and Naturalisation Service (IND) announced that it will [temporarily suspend the processing of asylum applications from Iran](#) for six months. The Minister has imposed a six-month moratorium on decisions and returns. During this period, there will also be no forced returns of rejected asylum seekers to Iran.

Poland

Extension of restriction on applying for international protection

On 18 March, the Government [extended the temporary restriction](#) on submitting applications for international protection again, citing the continued instrumentalisation of migration by Belarus. The measure prolongs the limits first introduced in March 2025.

Spain

Adoption of the National Refugee Resettlement Programme for 2026

On 17 March, the Council of Ministers approved the [National Refugee Resettlement Programme](#) for Spain for implementation in 2026, with an estimated capacity of up to 1 200 places. This programme is co-funded by the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund.

4. Unaccompanied minors and other vulnerable groups

Greece

Code of Conduct for professionals working with unaccompanied minors

In February 2026, the Ministry of Migration and Asylum published a [Code of Conduct for professionals working with unaccompanied minors](#), alongside a circular on its implementation. The documents were disseminated to relevant child protection actors. In parallel, targeted training sessions on child protection, vulnerability and the legal framework on international protection were delivered to staff within the Reception and Identification Service.

Italy

Memorandum of understanding on unaccompanied foreign minors

On 23 March, a new [Protocol](#) between Sviluppo Lavoro Italia and UNICEF has been presented to support the integration and autonomy of unaccompanied foreign minors and young migrants. The agreement brings together initiatives such as [PUOI PLUS](#) and [Skills4YOUth](#), strengthening skills, guidance and access to employment through local networks.

Poland

Possibility of detention of unaccompanied minors

On 1 January, [an amendment](#) to Article 88a of the Act on Granting Protection to Foreigners enabling the detention of unaccompanied minors who have applied for international protection came into force. Previously, such detention was strictly prohibited. The aim of the changes is to better protect the well-being of minors.

5. Integration and inclusion

Austria

Summer school for exceptional students

On 18 February, the [School Organisation Act](#) was amended. The aim was to give schools more autonomy in areas such as German language support. Additionally, exceptional students are now legally required to attend summer school to improve their German language skills.

Cyprus

National Integration Strategy and Action Plan

On 4 February, Cyprus's Ministerial Council approved the [National Integration Strategy and Action Plan](#), being the first comprehensive government policy of the Republic of Cyprus in the field of integration of legally residing migrants, following a public consultation concluded in December 2025. This Strategy for the Integration of Migrants is fully aligned with the policies and funding principles of the European Union (EU), the Sustainable Development Goals, and the Global Compact for Migration.

Estonia

New language requirements for residence permit

From 1 January, foreigners applying for a residence permit for settling permanently must complete the state adaptation programme and demonstrate at least A2-level Estonian language proficiency. The [changes](#) aim to support integration and ensure migrants have basic language and societal knowledge before long-term residence.

France

Exclusion from housing assistance

On 2 February, a [draft finance bill](#) was adopted stipulating that, starting 1 July, foreign students from non-EU countries who are not eligible for need-based grants will be excluded from housing assistance, while students in precarious situations or with low incomes will still be able to benefit from it.

Greece

Amendments to integration provisions and coordination mechanism in the Migration Code

On 6 February, [Law 5275/2026](#) was adopted, introducing amendments to the Migration Code across several policy areas. Among other changes, it revises provisions on social integration by clarifying target groups, explicitly including beneficiaries of temporary protection and legally residing migrants, strengthening pre-integration measures linked to labour market access, and establishing an inter-ministerial coordination mechanism for migration policy and integration.

Lithuania

Administration system launched

In January, the [VERTIS system](#) was launched, to centralise and digitise interpretation services for migrants, enabling public institutions, municipalities and NGOs to request certified translation in over 40 languages for asylum, integration and social support procedures, improving access and reducing administrative burden.

Malta

Pre-departure integration measures launched in Malta

In line with Malta's Labour Migration Policy and Integration Strategy, [pre-departure integration measures](#) have been developed and launched. The programme covers life and integration in Malta, as well as rights and obligations at the workplace. The curriculum, developed with the Institute for Tourism Studies and the University of Malta, went live in January 2026. In parallel, efforts continued to promote participation in integration courses under the I Belong programme, which is currently being restructured.

Sweden

Imposed fees for interpretation services proposed

On 30 March, a Government-appointed inquiry presented [proposals](#) to introduce mandatory fees for publicly funded interpretation services and to prohibit authorities from using children as interpreters. The proposal aims to strengthen legal safeguards while increasing incentives for adults to acquire sufficient language skills.

Georgia

State Language Learning opportunities expanded

On 16 March, under a UNESCO-funded initiative, the LEPL Zurab Zhvania School of Public Administration developed a '[Sector-specific Language Course in IT, Web Design, and Graphic Design](#)' as part of 34 courses of the State Language and Integration Programme open to asylum seekers, beneficiaries of international protection, and Ukrainian citizens living in Georgia.

6. Citizenship and statelessness

France

New conditions for issuing multi-year residence permits

As of 1 January, [new rules](#) apply to third-country nationals seeking long-term residence in France. Applicants for a first multi-year residence permit or a first resident card must now provide proof that they have passed a civic examination and demonstrate sufficient proficiency in French (A2 for the multi-year permit and B1 for the resident card). The new requirements do not apply to residence permits that are not tied to the Republican Integration Contract (CIR), nor to beneficiaries of subsidiary protection, stateless persons, or their family members.

Italy

Recent provisions by the Constitutional Court

On 12 March, the Constitutional Court issued a [press release](#) rejecting certain constitutional challenges to recent citizenship provisions and declaring others inadmissible. The rules remain therefore in force and stipulate that individuals born abroad who hold another citizenship are considered never to have acquired Italian citizenship, including with retroactive effect. The Court confirmed three exceptions: prior recognition of citizenship, cases where a parent or grandparent held exclusive Italian citizenship, or situations where a parent has completed a qualifying period of residence in Italy.

7. Border management and irregular migration

Belgium

Biometric registration for third-country nationals at Brussels Airport postponed

On 29 March, Belgian Ministers announced the [postponement of the registration](#) of biometric data for third-country nationals entering the Schengen area. The measure was taken because of significant queues and operational disruptions at Brussels Airport, and affects the gradual implementation of the European Entry/Exit System (EES).

Finland

Changes to rules on non-urgent healthcare for irregular third-country nationals

Since 1 January, wellbeing services counties are not obligated to provide [essential non-urgent healthcare services](#) to third-country nationals who are residing or staying irregularly in Finland. Care must still be provided if denying it would be unreasonable or would seriously endanger another person. Likewise, pregnancy-related and essential disability-related healthcare services must be provided regardless of a person's residence status.

France

State medical aid procedures overhauled

Two new decrees issued on 6 February introduce significant changes to France's State Medical Aid (AME) system. The [first decree](#) updates the list of documents required for an AME application, now mandating the submission of official identity documents with a photograph. The [second decree](#) grants French consulates the authority to verify whether a visa applicant has previously received the AME during an earlier stay in the country.

Poland

Buffer zone of the Polish-Belarusian border extended by three months

On 5 March, the Minister of the Interior and Administration signed a [regulation](#) maintaining the buffer zone on the Polish-Belarusian border for the next three months. The buffer zone allows for more effective combating of irregular border crossing attempts. The regulation will be in force from 6 March to 4 June.

Georgia

Strengthening administrative detention procedures within the Migration Department

On 13 January, an [amendment](#) was made to Order No. 625 of the Minister of Internal Affairs of Georgia. It authorises Migration Department staff to prepare the necessary documentation, including detention protocols, in cases of administrative offences. This enables them to apply legally prescribed measures when detaining foreign nationals or other individuals, thereby strengthening the efficiency and effectiveness of detention procedures.

8. Trafficking in human beings

Italy

Policies against human trafficking and severe exploitation

Since January, and in the context of implementing the [National Plan against trafficking in human beings and severe exploitation for 2026–2028](#), a new Office for Policies Against Human Trafficking and Severe Exploitation has been established following the reorganisation of the Department for Equal Opportunities. The Office is responsible for coordinating prevention measures, combating trafficking and supporting victims.

9. Return and readmission

Austria

Readmission agreement with Mongolia

On 1 January, a [readmission agreement](#) with Mongolia entered into force. The agreement aims to strengthen cooperation in order to combat irregular migration effectively, and to introduce rapid and efficient procedures for identifying and returning individuals who do not or no longer fulfil the applicable entry or residence conditions.

Belgium

Belgium and Algeria sign agreements on readmission and visa exemption

On 31 March, [Belgium and Algeria signed two linked agreements](#), one on the readmission of irregularly staying Algerians and another providing a visa exemption for holders of Algerian diplomatic and service passports. The readmission agreement aims to speed up identification, i.e. by extending the validity of travel documents, and permitting the use of Algerian escorts during forced returns.

Finland

New decree on assistance for voluntary return

On 1 January, a [new decree on assistance for voluntary return for 2026–2027](#) entered into force. It maintained higher assistance for asylum seekers who apply for it within 30 days of the notification of the first negative asylum decision or the withdrawal of the application.

France

Decree clarifies rules on house arrest and detention of asylum seekers

In January, [Decree No. 2025-1345](#) came into effect which clarifies the legal framework governing the house arrest and detention of asylum seekers. It defines competent authorities, information duties and summons procedures, reinforces safeguards, access to a lawyer, and clarifies cooperation with the French Office for the Protection of Refugees and Stateless Persons and the periods of detention.

Greece

IOM voluntary returns

From 1 January to 28 February, 296 third-country nationals [departed voluntarily](#) to their country of origin. Further, according to the data provided by the Hellenic Police, 314 forced returns have been carried out during that period. Finally, 196 third-country nationals also departed voluntarily to their country of origin according to the Art.22 I.3907/11.

Netherlands

Temporary increase of return support for Syrians ended

From 1 January, Syrians will be eligible for [return assistance](#) in accordance with the standard monetary amounts for other countries of origin. This will bring an end to the temporary increased assistance that applied from 17 November to 31 December 2025. Both for applicants for and beneficiaries of international protection this amounts to EUR 2 800 per adult and EUR 1 650 per minor in cash.

Sweden

Repatriation grant substantially increased and first approvals issued

In January, [new legislative amendments](#) and a [new regulation](#) entered into force substantially increasing the financial grant for voluntary repatriation. The new rules set the grant at 350 000 SEK (approx. EUR 32 100) per adult, with a maximum of 600 000 SEK (approx EUR 55 500) per family, and provide the Migration Agency with additional tools to prevent abuse. The first grants have been approved under the new framework, although most applications have been rejected for not meeting the legal requirements.

10. Migration and development

Estonia

Special tribunal for the crime of aggression against Ukraine

On 11 February, Parliament approved the Council of Europe's enlarged partial agreement establishing the Administrative Committee of the Special Tribunal for the Crime of Aggression against Ukraine. Estonia became the first country whose [parliament formally endorsed](#) participation in supporting the tribunal's administration and financing.

Cooperation agreement to prevent corruption in Ukraine's reconstruction

On 4 March, Estonia, together with Latvia, Lithuania and Ukraine, signed an [agreement](#) to prevent corruption and misuse of funds in Ukraine's reconstruction. The initiative focuses on strengthening transparency, cooperation and oversight, including in the use of international and EU financial support.

Sweden

Project to strengthen migration governance between Sweden and Armenia

On 16 January, the Swedish Migration Agency together with the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency [officially initiated a project in Armenia](#), with the aim to strengthen the migration governance in line with EU-standards.

11. EU legislation transposition

Croatia

Amendments to the Aliens Act

On 20 February, [amendments to the Aliens Act](#), passed a first reading in the Croatian Parliament. The amendments aim to improve the area of work of third-country nationals and the integration of foreign workers, by introducing mandatory learning of Croatian language. The amendments also contain provisions regarding screening, border return procedures, as well as monitoring mechanisms.

Greece

Legal migration policies introduced

On 6 February, [new legislation](#) was adopted with provisions for the promotion of legal migration policies, for the transposition of Directive (EU) 2024/1233 on a single application procedure for third-country nationals to reside and work in the territory of an EU Member State, as well as amendments to the Migration Code (L5038/2023).

Luxembourg

Minimum salary threshold set for EU Blue Card eligibility

On 23 February, a [ministerial regulation](#) set the average gross annual salary used to determine the minimum pay required for highly qualified workers. To qualify for an EU Blue Card, applicants must meet the salary threshold set at EUR 65 652 per year.

Spain

Reference salary threshold for granting EU Blue Card

On 27 January, [Order PJC/44/2026](#) established the reference salary threshold for granting the EU Blue Card, as provided for in Law 14/2013 of 27 September on support for entrepreneurs and their internationalisation. Applicants must present a valid employment contract or firm job offer with an annual gross salary at least 1.4 times the average annual gross earnings published by the National Statistics Institute.

RECENT EMN PUBLICATIONS

- EMN inform: [Currently applicable asylum procedures at the border in view of implementing the Pact on Migration and Asylum](#)
- EMN inform: [Separated migrant children](#)
- EMN inform: [Safe countries of origin and safe third countries](#)

UPCOMING EMN PUBLICATIONS

- EMN inform: Alternatives to providing housing in kind
- EMN inform: Bridging the digital divide