

MIGRATION AND ASYLUM: A CHALLENGE FOR EUROPE

Purpose

The situation of refugees has become even more desperate in recent years. Between 2014 and 2015 over 1 million people sought asylum in the European Union. The latest response to the situation is the European Agenda on Migration, which aims to strengthen the common migration and asylum policy by implementing various measures: helping refugees in difficulty during their travel to Europe, locating them in the EU, supporting Member States available to receive refugees, and coordinating national operations. EU operations 'Triton' and 'Poseidon' will be funded to the tune of EUR 176 million in 2016. The EU is also relocating refugees from Italy and Greece and providing further financial support to countries willing to take in refugees from camps in Syria and those that have set up first-aid centres for refugees on their territory. The European Parliament has expressed its concerns about EU financial support in the field of asylum and has asked the Commission to evaluate real needs until 2020.

Inside

This leaflet provides extracts from relevant supporting analyses prepared by European Parliament's policy departments for the committees on Budget, Budgetary Control, Employment and Social Affairs, Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs, Women's Rights and Gender Equality, Foreign Affairs, Development and the Subcommittees on Human Rights, and Security and Defence. Scan the QR code or click on the title of the publication to access it.



Publications

[Practices and approaches in EU Member States to prevent and end statelessness](#) - November 2015

This study describes the practices and approaches in all EU Member States regarding the prevention and eradication of statelessness. The study analyses the relevant international and European standards and assesses the different national practices in light of these standards. Since the prevention and eradication of statelessness depends on proper mechanisms to identify stateless populations, the subject of procedures for determining statelessness is addressed. The study ends with a detailed analysis of the possible role of the EU in preventing and reducing statelessness.



[EU funds for migration policies: analysis of efficiency and best practice for the future](#) - July 2015

This study provides an overview of EU funding and agencies in the field of migration, asylum and integration, including: the External Borders Fund, the Return Fund, the European Refugee Fund and the Fund for the integration of third-country nationals. The study begins with an assessment of their effectiveness and efficiency before examining whether the design of management, budgeting and control systems is effective in preventing the misuse of resources. It illustrates good practices, lessons learnt and recommendations on achieving greater implementation transparency.



[Trafficking in human organs - June 2015](#)



This study describes the situation of international organ trafficking, often committed by transnational criminal networks. It zooms in on the role of traffickers, international brokers, health professionals, recipients and suppliers. It also describes the EU's efforts, and those of other European organisations, in developing binding legal instruments and formulate policy actions to step up law enforcement and legal cooperation in combating organ trafficking. Recommendations for the EU for fighting and preventing organ trafficking and commercialism are also given.



[Towards a new European security strategy? Changes in the global security environment - June 2015](#)



As work on a new European Security Strategy begins, this paper examines the impact of changes in the security environment of Europe. It argues in favour of an ambitious new security strategy which, twelve years after the adoption of the 2003 European Security Strategy, is most needed. It presents an assessment of the changes in the institutional and political architecture of the EU in the post-Lisbon context and emphasises the multiple tools the EU is using to develop its security policy. Recommendations for the process and the substance of the future strategy are also given.



[EU cooperation with third countries in the field of migration - October 2015](#)



EU external cooperation in migration and asylum has increased considerably in terms of instruments of cooperation with third partner countries and of funds committed. With the current refugee crisis, it is set to increase even further. This study reflects on the imbalances of EU external action and on the lack of evidence on the impact and efficiency of EU funding regarding the objectives of migration policy, which sometimes conflict with development goals. It also gives recommendations for coordination of action and a reinforced partnership approach with third countries.



[Migrants in the Mediterranean: protecting human rights - October 2015](#)



This study focuses on the existing and planned EU policies and actions to protect the human rights of migrants before entering the EU by sea or after they have left the territory of the EU. Instruments of sea border surveillance and cooperation with third countries have generally included human rights safeguards, although implementation, monitoring and control remain problematic. The study therefore offers specific recommendations to ensure a coherent human rights-based EU approach to improve the protection of the rights of migrants aiming to reach the EU.



[Supporting European security and defence with existing EU measures and procedures - October 2015](#)



Focusing on the support of non-CSDP (Common Security and Development Policy) policies for CSDP measures, this study suggests that CSDP cannot effectively contribute to EU external action by itself, but only in coherence with other EU policies and instruments. It focuses on nine different areas: European Neighbourhood Policy, development cooperation, internal policies, financing instruments in the context of the EU's international crisis management, innovation policies, industrial policies, regional policy, trade policy, and space policy within the EU's defence policy.



[Exploring new avenues for legislation for labour migration to the EU - September 2015](#)



The paradox between the need for international labour migration to counter a demographic crisis and the lack of commensurate policy instruments to attract and integrate labour migration from third countries into the EU is a key strategic issue for Europe. This paper reviews the social and economic context of EU international labour migration policy, the relevant EU legislation, the available policy options and their feasibility. The options for opening up legal labour migration channels to the EU should be considered as part of the discussion about the European Agenda on Migration.



[Enhancing the Common European Asylum System and alternatives to Dublin](#) - July 2015



This study examines the reasons why the Dublin system of allocation of responsibility for asylum seekers does not work effectively. As it is based on the use of coercion against asylum seekers, it cannot serve as an effective tool to address existing imbalances in the allocation of responsibilities among Member States. The EU is faced with two challenges: preventing risks to the lives of people seeking international protection; and organising the distribution of responsibilities and costs. This study gives recommendations for resolving current practical, legal and policy problems.



[Humanitarian visas: option or obligation?](#) - September 2014



This study analyses existing EU legislation and practice on the issuing of humanitarian visas. It looks at whether the existing Visa Code actually obliges Member States to issue humanitarian visas. It also examines past implementation of humanitarian visa schemes by Member States and considers whether more could be done to encourage increased use of existing provisions in EU law. The study raises the question of whether the proposal of the European Commission for Visa Code reform would be an opportunity to lay down clear rules for humanitarian visa schemes.



[Reception of female refugees and asylum seekers in the EU: Case study Germany](#) - February 2016



In 2015, there has been a huge increase in the numbers of asylum seekers in the EU. A large majority of these asylum seekers are male. Consequently, female asylum seekers and girls represent a minority and are in need of protection. This research paper was provided for the delegation of FEMM Members to a refugee camp in Munich, Germany. It presents both the EU and the German legal framework concerning the reception of (female) refugees. Attention has been paid whether gender-sensitive asylum application procedures and reception conditions are provided in practice in Germany.



[EU financing for NGOs in the area of home affairs, security and migration](#) - January 2014



This study analyses the EU financing for NGOs in the area of home affairs, security and migration. It describes the general principles of EU financing for NGOs, quantifies and qualifies it (under central direct management) in the area of home affairs, security and migration and assesses the administrative burden faced by NGOs applying for and receiving grants. It also examines the state-of-play of measures undertaken by the Commission to ensure the transparency, effectiveness and efficiency of the EU financing for NGOs in the area of home affairs, security and migration.



[Access to shelters of undocumented migrant women fleeing domestic violence](#) - October 2013



The consequences of domestic violence are difficult to endure and undocumented women face the additional pressure of worrying about their immigration status. This document provides a literature review on the ability of undocumented migrant women experiencing domestic violence to access shelter and support. It brings together data on characteristics of this group and the difficulties they face in seeking help. It includes eight case studies and lessons about the political/economic, social and individual-level barriers to seeking help for preserving their human right to safety.



[Gender related asylum claims in Europe](#) - November 2012



Across the EU, women constitute on average one in three of those applying for asylum in their own right. This study considers the law, policies and practice for gender-related asylum claims in nine Member States. The resulting comparative analysis demonstrates the many disparities in the way Member States handle such claims. The report concludes that women are not guaranteed consistent gender-sensitive treatment when they seek protection in Europe. It also gives recommendations for a range of institutions in order to achieve a gender-sensitive asylum system across Europe.



[Discrimination of migrant workers at the workplace](#) – April 2014



Non-discrimination is a prerequisite for effectively guaranteeing the right of free movement of workers. This note discusses the legal framework protecting migrant workers against discrimination. It takes a closer look at the types of discrimination foreign-born workers may face in the workplace before summarising current opinion as to whether action is warranted to prevent migrant employment discrimination in the EU, and providing some best-practice examples.



[Labour market shortages in the EU](#) - March 2015



The study gives an overview of labour shortages, looking at their types and causes, their occurrence within the EU-28 and possible measures to counter them. There are no overall quantitative shortages at EU-28 level in the wake of the economic crisis, but qualitative shortages, especially relating to skills shortages and mismatch, occur in several regions, sectors, occupations and Member States. Employers and Member States are the prime actors to counter labour shortages effectively, but the EU can play an important supporting role.



[The European Year for Development: Demography and migration](#) - August 2015



If current trends continue, the world will have 9.7 billion inhabitants in 2050, but population growth will be unevenly distributed. The international community has recognised the need to promote regular, safe and orderly international migration that spurs development. Contrary to widespread views, emigration rates rise with economic development until countries reach an upper middle income status. Human mobility will be integrated in the post-2015 development agenda, and the European Parliament has insisted that the rights of migrants – particularly women – be part of it.



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Policy Departments

There are five policy departments within the European Parliament's DGs for Internal Policies and for External Policies. They are responsible for providing both in-house and external high-level independent expertise, analysis and policy advice at the request of committees and other parliamentary bodies (delegations, President, Bureau, Secretary-General). Their expertise covers all areas of activity of the European Parliament. They are closely involved in the work of committees which they support in shaping legislation on and exercising democratic scrutiny over EU policies.

Policy departments deliver policy analysis in a wide variety of formats, ranging from studies and in-depth analyses to briefings and the Fact Sheets on the EU. This written output serves a variety of purposes by feeding directly into the legislative work of a specific committee or serving as a briefing for delegations of members.

Policy departments also organise events, including workshops and expert panels, which enhance Parliament's analytical capacity and develop common approaches to current political issues.
www.europarl.europa.eu/supporting-analyses



Fact Sheets on the EU

The Fact Sheets provide an overview of European integration and of the European Parliament's contribution to that process. They cover six main themes: the EU's functioning; a citizens' Europe; the internal market; the economic and monetary union; sectoral policies; and external relations.

The online version, available in 23 languages, is updated regularly throughout the year.
www.europarl.europa.eu/factsheets

