The following publications provided by the European Parliament's Research Service and Policy Departments provide background information and analysis for the third High-level Conference on Migration and Asylum taking place on 10 December 2021 in the European Parliament. The aim of the Conference is to promote a broad dialogue on the management of migration in Europe, deepening the inter-parliamentary process launched in November 2021, when the first edition of the event took place.

**The European Commission’s New Pact on Migration and Asylum**  
*Study by Katharina Eisele and Meenakshi Fernandes, August 2021*

This ‘Horizontal Substitute Impact Assessment of the European Commission’s New Pact on Migration and Asylum’ was requested by the European Parliament’s Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs (LIBE). The impact assessment focuses on the main proposed changes implied by the European Commission’s New Pact, with a particular focus on the following four proposals: 1) Asylum and Migration Management Regulation (RAMM); 2) Crisis and Force Majeure Regulation; 3) Amended Asylum Procedure Regulation (APR); and 4) Screening Regulation. The horizontal substitute impact assessment critically assesses the ‘system’ and underlying logic of the proposed New Pact with the aim to analyse how the four Commission proposals would work and interact in practice. The impact assessment also assesses whether and to what extent the proposed New Pact addresses the identified shortcomings and implementational problems of the current EU asylum and migration law and policy. Moreover, the impact assessment identifies and assesses the expected impacts on fundamental rights, as well as economic, social and territorial impacts of the proposed New Pact.

**The EU Approach on Migration in the Mediterranean**  
*Study by Marion Schmid-Drüner, June 2021*

This study examines the EU approach on migration in the Mediterranean, covering developments from the 2015 refugee crisis up to the Covid-19 pandemic, assessing the effect these events have had on the design, implementation, and reform of EU policy on asylum, migration and external border control, and documenting the ramifications these changes have had on the actors who operate and are impacted by these policies, including immigration authorities, civil society organisations, and the migrants themselves. It includes a review of the state of play of relevant EU asylum and migration legislation, an appraisal of the situation in the Mediterranean, and a thorough examination of the external dimension of the EU migration, asylum and border policies, focusing on cooperation with third countries (Turkey, Libya and Niger), incorporating human rights and refugee law considerations and an analysis of the implications of funding allocations under the EU Trust Fund for Africa and the Refugee Facility in Turkey. The main goal is to test the correct application of EU and international law, having regard to increased allegations of human rights violations, undue criminalisation, and complicity of the EU in atrocity crimes committed against migrants at sea, stranded in Libya, or contained in Niger and Turkey. The role of EU agencies (Frontex and EASO) is also assessed alongside the bilateral or multi-lateral initiatives adopted by MS to confront the mounting challenges at the common external borders of the
EU, incorporating the principle of solidarity and fair sharing of responsibility (Article 80 TFEU) as a horizontal concern.

**Matching priorities and resources in the EU budget: Climate action, migration and borders**
*Briefing by Alessandro D’Alfonso, May 2021*

Over the past two decades, the European Union (EU) has been entrusted with a growing number of objectives and responsibilities. However, ensuring financing of related activities through the EU budget has often proven problematic, as this has long been capped at around 1% of the Union’s gross national income (GNI). During the preparation of the post-2020 EU multiannual financial framework (MFF), climate action, migration and border management were identified among the emerging priorities.

**The external dimension of the new pact on migration and asylum: A focus on prevention and readmission**
*Briefing by Eric Pichon, graphics by Eulalia Claros, May 2021*

The New Pact on migration and asylum proposed by the Commission has an external aspect: building on current EU migration partnership frameworks, it aims to reinforce international partnerships with a view to ensuring effective returns, combating migrant smuggling more effectively, and developing legal migration channels. The European Parliament often emphasises this point, while warning at the same time that security and migration management concerns should not result in diverting funds from core EU development cooperation objectives. This is also a concern among academia and non-governmental organisations dealing with migration issues: several have pointed out that the Commission’s proposals for the above-mentioned pact put a lesser emphasis on pathways to legal migration than on measures aimed at incentivising third countries to retain possible irregular migrants or to accept returns.

**Turkey: 2019 and 2020 country reports**
*‘At a glance’ note by Branislav Stanicek, May 2021 [also in DE, ES, FR, IT, PL]*

Turkey’s relations with the European Communities/Union date back to 1959, with milestones including the Ankara Association Agreement (1963) and Customs Union (1995). Turkey is a key strategic partner of the EU on issues such as migration, security, counter-terrorism and trade. However, following democratic backsliding, in June 2018 the Council of the EU decided to freeze accession negotiations.

**The traumas endured by refugee women and their consequences for integration and participation in the EU host country**
*Study by Marion Schmid-Drüner, April 2021*

This study focuses on the trauma that refugee and asylum-seeking women suffer when reaching their host country. Drawing on an extensive survey of scientific literature, international organisations’ reports, websites, press, and discussions with relevant experts, it highlights survivors’ different needs and the structural, cultural and psychological barriers to their resettlement in the EU. It argues for coordinated, gender- and culturesensitive policies, EU collective responsibility in managing the refugee crisis and multi-level interventions from an intersectionality perspective.

**Implementation of the EU Trust Funds and the Facility for Refugees in Turkey - Update**
*In-depth Analyses Alix Delasnerie, March 2021*

This paper proposes a factual overview of recent developments in the implementation of the EU Békou Trust Fund for the Central African Republic, the EU Regional Trust Fund in response to the Syrian crisis (Madad), the EU Trust Fund for Peace in Colombia, the EU Trust Fund for Africa, and the Facility for Refugees in Turkey.

**Pushbacks at the EU’s external borders**

**ACCESS THESE PUBLICATIONS AND MORE**
- European Parliament Think Tank: europarl.europa.eu/thinktank
- Supporting Analyses for Committees: europarl.europa.eu/supporting-analyses
Briefing by Anja Radjenovic, March 2021

The briefing covers EU member states’ practice of stopping asylum-seekers and migrants in need of protection at or before reaching the EU’s external borders (‘pushbacks’), which may contravene fundamental rights, EU values and international and European humanitarian laws. National human rights institutions and civil society organisations claim that pushbacks involve excessive use of force by national authorities and EU agencies at external borders, and migrants’ degrading treatment and arbitrary detention. The European Parliament has criticised pushbacks and, to address potential fundamental rights breaches, in September 2020, the European Commission presented a proposal on pre-entry screening of third-country nationals at EU external borders as part of its new pact on migration and asylum.

Common procedure for asylum
Briefing by Anita Orav, March 2021

As part of the common European asylum system (CEAS), the Asylum Procedures Directive sets out procedures for granting and withdrawing international protection in Member States in accordance with the Qualification Directive. Following the large influx of asylum-seekers to the European Union after 2014, the directive was criticised for its complexity, the too broad discretion for Member States and resulting differences in treatment and outcomes. After the deadlock of the 2016 Commission proposal to replace the directive with a regulation establishing a common harmonised procedure for international protection in all participating Member States, the Commission proposed in September 2020 an amended regulation under its new pact on asylum and migration, with targeted amendments for overcoming contentious issues on border procedure and return. The amended proposal is currently being examined by the co-legislators with a view to fixing their positions in order to resume trilogue negotiations shortly.

Recast Eurodac Regulation
Briefing by Anita Orav, March 2021

Eurodac - a biometric database in which Member States are required to enter the fingerprint data of asylum-seekers in order to identify where they entered the European Union - was established in 2000 and reviewed in 2013, its main purpose being to facilitate the application of the Dublin Regulation. The 2013 revision broadened the scope to provide law enforcement authorities with access to the Eurodac database. As part of the reform of the common European asylum system (CEAS) in 2016, the European Commission proposed a recast Eurodac Regulation. The co-legislators reached a partial agreement on the proposal in 2018. As part of the broader migration and asylum pact, the new Commission presented an amended proposal on 23 September 2020. The Commission expects the co-legislators to promptly adopt the proposal on the basis of the agreement already reached.

Data on returns of irregular migrants
Briefing by Eulalia Clarós Gimenio and María Díaz Crego, March 2021

The Return Directive is the main piece of EU legislation governing return procedures. In general terms, under this directive, Member States must issue a return decision (an administrative or judicial decision imposing an obligation to leave the territory) for every third-country national found to be irregularly present on their territory. A proposal to recast the EU Return Directive is currently under discussion in the European Parliament and in Council. This infographic sets out the key data relating to EU return policy.

Proposal for a crisis and force majeure regulation
Briefing by Nikolai Atanassov, January 2021

As part of its proposed new pact on asylum and migration in September 2020, the European Commission published a crisis and force majeure regulation proposal in the field of migration and asylum. It establishes a
mechanism to deal with third-country nationals’ mass influxes and irregular arrivals in a Member State and sets out the solidarity mechanism procedure for returning irregular migrants through the option for a return sponsorship on behalf of another Member State, established in the Asylum and Migration Management Regulation (AMR). It also shortens deadlines in a crisis situation compared to usual AMR procedures, and introduces some crisis situation derogations in the asylum crisis management procedure, the return crisis management procedure, and in registering international protection applications.

**Understanding EU action against migrant smuggling**
*Briefing by Katrien Luyten, January 2021*

More than 90% of irregular migrants arriving in the EU use facilitation services for (part of) their journey. This business generates major profits for the criminal organisations involved, but also entails serious risks for the people smuggled. Combating migrant smuggling is a shared challenge that requires cooperation between EU and non-EU countries. In the second quarter of 2021, the Commission will present its 2021-2025 EU action plan against migrant smuggling.

**Search and rescue in the Mediterranean**
*Briefing by Anja Radjenovic, January 2021*

International law imposes an obligation to render assistance to persons and ships in distress at sea, which must be provided regardless of the persons’ nationality or status or the circumstances in which they are found. These rules have to be applied without prejudice to the obligations deriving from international humanitarian law and international human rights law, including in particular the prohibition of refoulement. Search and rescue (SAR) and disembarkation.

**Understanding EU action against migrant smuggling**
*Briefing by Katrien Luyten, January 2021*

Around 90% of those who cross the external European Union (EU) borders illegally do so with the assistance of migrant smugglers. Furthermore, the facilitation of irregular migration is a highly profitable criminal activity, in particular when compared with the relatively low risks incurred. Even though detections of illegal border crossings are currently at their lowest level since 2013, the migrant smuggling business shows sustained high levels of demand.

**Screening of third-country nationals at the EU external borders**
*Briefing by Costica Dumbrava, November 2020*

As part of its comprehensive pact on migration and asylum, in September 2020, the Commission put forward a proposal for a new regulation on screening third-country nationals at the external borders, aiming to clarify and streamline the rules on dealing with third-country nationals who are not authorised to enter or stay in the EU. The proposal introduces a pre-entry screening procedure allowing national authorities at external borders to channel irregular third-country nationals to the appropriate procedure, i.e. asylum or return procedures.

**Asylum procedures at the border**
*Study by Wouter van Ballegooij and Katharina Eisele, November 2020*

Fast-tracking procedures at European Union external borders for determining whether individuals are entitled to international protection is a priority in the proposed Pact on Migration and Asylum. This European Implementation Assessment concludes that current Member State practice does not result in uniform and effective reviews of applications for international protection on the basis of a fair process.

**Reforming asylum and migration management**
Briefing by Anja Radjenovic, October 2020

This legislative briefing covers the legislative proposal on asylum and migration management, presented by the European Commission in September 2020 with a view to replacing the 2013 Dublin Regulation that determines the EU Member State responsible for examining asylum applications. While the proposal would ‘essentially preserve’ the current criteria for determining this responsibility, it would also make changes and additions to the regulation, especially on solidarity and responsibility-sharing for asylum-seekers among Member States.

The need for solidarity in asylum policy

‘At a glance’ note by Anja Radjenovic, September 2020

In early September 2020, a fire in the over-crowded migrant camp of Moria in Greece pushed thousands of people onto the streets, exacerbating the already dire conditions faced by asylum-seekers and migrants. The incident also shows the need to find a solution to a crisis of solidarity in EU asylum policy that has remained unresolved since the unprecedented influx of migrants into the EU in 2015. The European Commission presented a new pact on asylum and migration on 23 September 2020, including a compromise on solidarity and fair sharing of responsibility for asylum-seekers among EU Member States.

Hotspots at EU external borders – State of play

Briefing by Katrien Luyten and Anita Orav with Eulalia Claros, September 2020

The hotspot approach was introduced in 2015, at the height of the migration crisis, to help frontline Member States deal with the arrival of disproportionate numbers of migrants. Hotspots are facilities for initial reception, identification, registration and fingerprinting of asylum-seekers and migrants arriving in the EU by sea. Even though the numbers of arrivals have decreased considerably since 2015, the hotspot approach remains the key strategy for addressing migratory pressures in Greece. Since their inception and despite some improvements, the majority of the hotspots have suffered from overcrowding, and concerns have been raised about camp facilities and living conditions. These shortcomings lead to increasing tensions among migrants, and a devastating fire in the Moria camp on the Greek island of Lesvos on 8 September only aggravated the existing problems.

EU External Migration Policy and the Protection of Human Rights

In-Depth Analysis by Violeta Moreno-Lax, September 2020

This in-depth analysis focuses on the human rights implications of EU external migration policy interventions: (1) identifying human rights obligations owed to third-country nationals when engaging in cooperation with third countries and non-EU actors; (2) assessing the means and level of compliance with these obligations when designing and implementing the main policy instruments; and (3) determining the existence and adequacy of operational, reporting, monitoring and accountability mechanisms available in each case to track and respond to potential violations. Particular attention is paid to soft-law tools, on account of their enhanced potential to erode the enforceability of obligations, to downgrade democratic accountability and generally undermine the rule of law. Paving the way for the New Pact on Migration and Asylum, special emphasis is placed on cooperation under the Global Approach to Migration and Mobility, the EU Agenda on Migration and the Migration Partnership Framework, including informal arrangements concluded by Frontex or by the Member States themselves. Four case studies guide the analysis and illustrate findings: (1) the EU-Turkey Statement; (2) the multi-modal cooperation with Libya; (3) the Joint Way Forward with Afghanistan; and (4) collaboration with Niger under the EUCAP Sahel mission. The in-depth analysis reveals that the full effect of the EU fundamental rights acquis in extra-territorial situations has not been duly accounted for and proposes a system to ensure compliance with the relevant standards covering the pre-conclusion, design, adoption, implementation, evaluation and review phases, highlighting the role of the European Parliament and civil society organisations.

Climate Change and Migration
Study by Marion Schmid-Drüner, July 2020
This study examines legal and policy responses to environmental migration and displacement. Following a review of international, regional and national initiatives and legal instruments, it offers recommendations on ways to better address root causes and consequences of the climate change-migration nexus in Europe and beyond.

The Return Directive 2008/115/EC
Study by Katharina Eisele, July 2020
The Return Directive aims at ensuring that the return of non-EU nationals without legal grounds to stay in the EU is carried out effectively, through fair and transparent procedures that fully respect the fundamental rights and dignity of the people concerned. This European Implementation Assessment finds several protection gaps and shortcomings regarding the four key measures of the Return Directive – return decision, enforcement of the return decision, entry ban, and detention – which may lead to fundamental rights violations for irregular migrants. Moreover, EU return and readmission policy has increasingly resorted to informal cooperation in the external policy dimension.

Unaccompanied migrant children in Greece: New relocation scheme
Briefing by Ingeborg Odink, May 2020
As part of its emergency measures in support of Greece the Commission has launched a new voluntary relocation scheme for the around 1 600 unaccompanied minors staying in the overcrowded hotspots on the Greek islands. This briefing examines the proposed scheme and the situation in the Greek hotspots, highlighting the structural shortcomings in the protection of this group of particularly vulnerable children. Severe shortages in reception capacity have led Greece to continue to detain unaccompanied children in unsuitable conditions in police stations and other facilities until places are made available for them (so-called 'protective custody'), a practice that has been condemned by the European Court of Human Rights.

Tackling the coronavirus outbreak: Impact on asylum-seekers in the EU
Briefing by Anja Radjenovic, April 2020
The restrictions on people's movements and access to EU territory adopted in the fight against the pandemic could disproportionately affect the most vulnerable, including asylum-seekers, and their fundamental rights under EU and international law. The situation of asylum-seekers during the coronavirus pandemic is especially critical in the EU hotspots. In Greece, for instance, reception capacity has been stretched to the limit and the country has been struggling to ensure the safety of the most vulnerable asylum-seekers, especially unaccompanied minors.

New avenues for legal and labour migration
In-Depth Analysis by Marion Schmid-Drüner, April 2020
The Commissions Legal Migration Fitness check of March 2019 found the objectives of the EU's legal migration directives still relevant to the EU's needs, but found that it presents a fragmented system which impacts the coherence and effectiveness of the system as a whole. In view of the upcoming LIBE own-initiative report on “New avenues for legal labour migration”, this in-depth analysis presents short summaries of relevant research on the subject since 2015, covering the role and effects of migration policies, the mobility of third-country nationals in the EU, how to attract international talent to the EU and how to improve integration in the host society.

Solidarity in EU Asylum policy
Briefing by Anja Radjenovic, March 2020
Continued failure to reform the EU asylum system, as well as the implementation of temporary solidarity measures based on ad-hoc solutions, has exposed a crisis of solidarity that shows no signs of being resolved. The von der Leyen Commission has made it clear that the new EU asylum system 'should include finding new forms of solidarity and should ensure that all Member States make meaningful contributions to support those countries under the most pressure'.

Emergency measures on migration: Article 78(3) TFEU
'At a glance' note by Anja Radjenovic, March 2020

Article 78(3) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU) provides for the adoption of provisional measures in emergency migratory situations at the EU’s external borders. On 1 March 2020, in the light of events on its Turkish border, Greece announced that it wanted Article 78(3) TFEU to be used to ensure full EU support in the situation of a sudden influx of third-country nationals into the EU.

Family reunification rights of refugees and beneficiaries of subsidiary protection
Briefing by Anja Radjenovic, February 2020

While EU law guarantees refugees and holders of subsidiary protection – the two types of beneficiaries of international protection – equal treatment in most areas, differences remain, among others, as regards family reunification in accordance with the Family Reunification Directive. Unlike refugees, beneficiaries of subsidiary protection do not enjoy the favourable conditions associated with the right to family reunification. According to many legal experts, the fact that beneficiaries of subsidiary protection face stricter requirements regarding family reunification than do refugees disregards the particular circumstances related to their forced displacement and the corresponding difficulties they are likely to face in meeting these stricter requirements.

Fit for purpose? The Facilitation Directive and the criminalisation of humanitarian assistance to irregular migrants: 2018 update
Study by Ottavio Marzocchi, December 2019

This study aims to update the 2016 study “Fit for purpose? The Facilitation Directive and the criminalisation of humanitarian assistance to irregular migrants”. It takes stock of and examines the latest developments that have taken place since 2016, specifically the legislative and policy changes, along with various forms and cases of criminalisation of humanitarian actors, migrants’ family members and basic service providers. The study uses the notion of ‘policing humanitarianism’ to describe not only cases of formal prosecution and sentencing in criminal justice procedures, but also wider dynamics of suspicion, intimidation, harassment and disciplining in five selected Member States – Belgium, France, Greece, Hungary and Italy. Policing humanitarianism negatively affects EU citizens’ rights – such as the freedom of assembly, freedom of speech and freedom of conscience. When civil society is effectively (self-)silenced and its accountability role undermined, policies to combat migrant smuggling may be overused and give rise to serious breaches of the EU’s founding values, notably the rule of law, democracy and fundamental rights. Moreover, policing humanitarianism negatively affects wider societal trust and diverts the limited resources of law enforcement from investigating more serious crimes.

Situation of migrants in Bosnia and Herzegovina
Briefing by Branislav Stanicek, November 2019

Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) has become a major transit route for migrants heading to western Europe. Reception capacities were expanded in 2018 using EU funds, but remain inadequate, sparking a humanitarian crisis in some places. Access to asylum in BiH is effectively being denied to migrants who seek to claim it. The Croatian government has meanwhile been accused of mistreating migrants and pushing them back into BiH, in violation of international norms on non-refoulement. Croatia has committed to investigating these allegations.
La mise en œuvre du nouveau cadre de partenariat avec les pays tiers: Le cas du Niger
Briefing by Marta Latek, September 2019 [in French]

Niger, a crossroads for many Sahel migration routes, has responded to EU requests to fight irregular migration. This is a key objective of the EU’s new partnership framework, which offers opportunities for cooperation in return for a tougher migration policy. Niger has criminalised assistance to foreigners in transit, but the resulting decrease in migratory flows is having a negative impact on the local economy, threatening the fragile balance between ethnic groups and with central government, and increasing insecurity for migrants and locals alike.

Briefing by Marion Schmid-Drüner, April 2019

The (still to be achieved) common EU immigration policy covers legal migration; the support of Member States’ actions for the integration of third country nationals; combating irregular immigration through an effective return policy; concluding readmission agreements with third countries; and combating trafficking in human beings. Throughout the 2014-2019 legislative term and with a view to overcoming the migration crisis, Parliament as co-legislator has contributed to enhancing the legal avenues to the Union and preventing irregular migration, notably through the interoperability of data bases; the strengthening of border control and effective returns; and the creation of a European network of immigration liaison officers as a decisive part of a holistic approach to migration. It has also discussed best practices on integration with national parliaments.

Briefing by Udo Bux, April 2019

Gradually since 1995, checks at the internal borders were abolished and a single external border was created. Ever since, the EU had tried to advance with a common policy on external borders and its various aspects, such as border controls, visas, asylum, regular migration and return. There has also been a considerable impact on internal border controls (Schengen area). Considerable progress was made regarding safeguarding the EU’s external borders during the legislative term 2014-2019, although the migratory crisis of 2015 made deficiencies of the European common policy evident.

Common European Asylum System: achievements during the legislative term 2014-2019
Briefing by Ina Sokolska, April 2019

The right to asylum is a fundamental right and recognising the refugee status where the criteria are fulfilled is an international obligation, first recognised in the 1951 Geneva Convention on the protection of refugees and the Protocol of 31 January 1967 relating to the status of refugees. In the EU, an area of open borders and freedom of movement, Member States need to have a joint approach to guarantee high standards to persons in need of international protection through establishment of a Common European Asylum System based on fundamental rights. The European Parliament always strongly promoted a Common European Asylum System in accordance with the Union’s legal commitments. The Parliament worked as well as for the reduction of illegal migration as well as for the protection of vulnerable groups. In 2015, the unprecedented high number of arrivals of refugees and irregular migrants in the EU exposed a series of deficiencies and gaps in Union policies on asylum. Therefore, the European Commission proposed in May and July 2016 a third package of legislation to reform of the Common European Asylum System, and the European Parliament took an active part as a co-legislator to achieve this objective.

The integration of Refugees in Denmark, Finland and France
Study by Stefan Schulz, March 2019

ACCESS THESE PUBLICATIONS AND MORE
European Parliament Think Tank europarl.europa.eu/thinktank
Supporting Analyses for Committees europarl.europa.eu/supporting-analyses
This study presents a comparative overview of recent policy developments in Denmark, Finland and France. The focus of the analysis is on progress achieved in the last three years in the adaptation of the reception and integration system for the high numbers of new arrivals and on the main challenges encountered. Special attention is given to changes in perceptions, public opinion and political discourse with respect to the asylum and integration of refugees and how this influenced policy strategy.

**The Cost of Non-Europe in the Area of Legal Migration**  
*Study by Elodie Thirion and Wouter Van Ballegooij, March 2019*

Further EU action in the area of legal migration could address obstacles experienced by Third Country Nationals within the European Union. Depending on the policy option pursued these options could result in up to €21.75 billion in benefits. Further gains could be made by addressing the fragmented national policies in this area, which are currently undermining ability of the EU as a whole to attract the workers and researchers.

**The proposed Return Directive (recast)**  
*Study by Katharina Eisele, February 2019*

On 12 September 2018, the European Commission published a proposal for a recasting of the 2008 Return Directive, which stipulates common standards and procedures in Member States for returning irregular migrants who are non-EU nationals. Effectively returning irregular migrants is one of the key objectives of the European Union’s migration policy. However, Member States currently face challenges: national practices implementing the EU rules vary and the overall return rates remain below expectations. The proposal was not accompanied by a Commission impact assessment. The European Parliament’s Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs (LIBE) therefore asked the European Parliamentary Research Service to provide a targeted substitute impact assessment of the proposed recast Return Directive. The assessment considers the main expected impacts of the key provisions of the Commission proposal, focusing on the social, human rights and financial impacts, as compared to the current situation (status quo). On the basis of the legal and economic studies carried out for this impact assessment, it appears that the Commission proposal for a recast Return Directive has significant legal, social, human rights and economic implications, which in principle would have deserved consideration in the context of a proper impact assessment process conducted ex-ante by the Commission.

**The global compact on refugees: Strengthening international cooperation to ease the plight of refugees in the world**  
*Briefing by Ionel Zamfir, January 2019*

Recent large-scale flows of refugees and migrants have heightened global awareness of the plight of people forced to flee war, insecurity or persecution, exposing the international community’s inability to respond and the uneven distribution of the burden among countries. A UN 2018 compact focuses on mechanisms for achieving a fairer distribution of the responsibilities related to refugees. It has been criticised, among other things, for its non-binding nature and for excluding victims of natural disasters from its scope.

**The concept of ‘climate refugee’: Towards a possible definition**  
*Briefing by Joanna Apap, January 2019*

With climate change, the number of ‘climate refugees’ is set to rise, but there is no clear definition of them and they are not covered by the 1951 Refugee Convention. The EU has yet to recognise climate refugees formally, but it has expressed concern and taken action to support and develop resilience in countries potentially affected by climate-related stress.

**Brexit and Migration**  
*Study by Marion Schmid-Drüner, October 2018*

---

**ACCESS THESE PUBLICATIONS AND MORE**

- European Parliament Think Tank  
  europarl.europa.eu/thinktank
- Supporting Analyses for Committees  
  europarl.europa.eu/supporting-analyses
This study focuses on the future relationship between the UK and the EU following the UK’s withdrawal from the EU in the field of migration (excluding asylum), including future movement of EU citizens and UK nationals between the EU and UK. Moreover, it investigates the role of the Court of Justice of the EU.

The Cost of Non-Europe in Asylum Policy  
*Study by Cecilia Navarra and Wouter van Ballegooij, October 2018*  

Current structural weaknesses and shortcomings in the design and implementation of the Common European Asylum System (CEAS) have a cost of EUR 50.5 billion per year, including costs due to irregular migration, lack of accountability in external action, inefficiencies in asylum procedures, poor living conditions and health, and dimmer employment prospects leading to lower generation of tax revenue. Seven policy options for the EU to tackle the identified gaps and barriers would bring about many benefits including better compliance with international and EU norms and values, lower levels of irregular migration to the EU and costs of border security and surveillance, increased effectiveness and efficiency of the asylum process, faster socio-economic integration of asylum-seekers, increased employment and tax revenues and reinforced protection of human rights in countries of return. Once, considered the costs, the net benefits of these policy options would be at least EUR 23.5 billion per year.

Oversight and Management of the EU Trust Funds - Democratic Accountability Challenges and Promising Practices  
*Study by Beata Grzebieluch, May 2018*  

This study provides a comparative assessment of the governance and oversight frameworks of selected EU trust funds (EUTFs) and the Facility for Refugees in Turkey (FRT). It explores how these EUTFs and the FRT add to and ‘mix’ the instruments set up under the EU Multiannual Financial Framework. It addresses the issue of their added value in light of the EU Better Regulation guidelines, their impact on the role of the European Parliament as a budgetary authority and the right to good administration. The study recommends reducing the complexity of the EUTF and FRT governance frameworks, and strengthening their consistency with the EU’s cooperation efforts in third countries and EU Treaty values. Finally, it recommends reinforcing the venues for democratic accountability, fundamental rights and rule-of-law impact assessments, which are trust-enhancing.

EU funds for migration, asylum and integration policies  
*Study by Jean-Jacques Gay, April 2018*  

The European Union significantly increased its funding for migration, asylum and integration policies in the wake of the increased inflow of asylum seekers in 2015. This study provides an overview, an analysis and an evaluation of the use of these funds, based on publicly available information, insights from interviews with various stakeholders and a survey of non-governmental organisations. It also offers recommendations on how to improve the use of funds and allocation keys to Member States.

Integration of refugees in Austria, Germany and Sweden: Comparative Analysis  
*Study by Susanne Kraatz, January 2018*  

This note presents a comparative analysis of policies and practices to facilitate the labour market integration of beneficiaries of international protection in the main destination countries of asylum seekers in 2015/2016, namely Austria, Germany and Sweden. It focuses on the development of policy strategies to adapt the asylum and integration system to the high numbers of new arrivals. Special attention is given to the political discourse and public opinion on asylum and integration of refugees. Innovative approaches with respect to labour market integration are highlighted as well as gaps. Finally, the study includes lessons learned from recent policy developments as well as policy recommendations in order to improve labour market integration of asylum seekers and refugees.
Agreements linked to readmission (see also online interactive version)


Areas targeted by main migration funding programmes


eprs@europarl.europa.eu | www.europarl.europa.eu/thinktank | www.ep.parl.union.eu (Intranet)

You can access this Topical Digest online: http://www.europarl.europa.eu/EPRS/TD_HLC_Migration.pdf