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**Ad-Hoc Query on 2023.23 DIGITILISATION OF IDENTITY DOCUMENTS AND RESIDENCE
PERMITS ISSUED TO THIRD-COUNTRY NATIONALS**

Requested by Luxembourg on 26 June 2023

Compilation produced on 28 August 2023

**Responses from Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia,
Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg,
Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden plus Georgia, Ukraine (25
in Total)**

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1. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

One of the reasons which makes the digitalisation of residence permits and identity documents worth investigating are the challenges related to physical documents, such as issuing documents and processing applications. Physical documents have significant drawbacks compared to electronic ones. The information on them cannot be updated, the process of issuing them cannot be scaled without large investments, and they are inflexible, with additional costs related to their secure storage and transport. It is problematic to keep the security features up to date. The risk associated with misuse of lost and stolen documents is also of concern for the authorities.^[1]

The above-mentioned challenges faced by Member States lead the EU to further explore digitalisation. The future development of the EU large-scale IT systems, especially VIS and Eurodac, will recast those systems as a primary source of information on third-country nationals residing legally on a long-term basis in the EU. Changes brought by the recast VIS Regulation, ETIAS and the proposed digitalisation of the Schengen visa sticker include:

- - Registration of all applications for residence permits and long-term national visa applications in VIS,
 - Registration of all residence permits and long-term visas issued by Member States in VIS,
 - Digital-only registration of almost all short-term visitors, as well as digital-only means of verifying the legality of their stay in the Member States (ETIAS for visa-waiver countries, VIS for Schengen visa recipients), via EES-VIS and EES-ETIAS interoperability.

While the process of issuing Schengen visas has been thoroughly evaluated and recommendations have been made, resulting in the adoption of a draft proposal for a regulation proposing digitalisation of the visa procedure^[2], no such assessment has been conducted with regard to Regulation (EU) 2017/1954 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 October 2017 amending Council Regulation (EC) No 1030/2002 laying down a uniform format for residence permits for third-country nationals^[3], which serves as a basic norm in the matter of format of residence permits issued to third-country nationals in the EU.

In addition, the Russian invasion in Ukraine and breakdown of supply chains during the COVID-19 pandemic have shown that many Member States are not or will not be able to issue physical documents to third-country nationals in cases where the numbers of third-country nationals applying for temporary protection, international protection or residence permits in

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Member States drastically increase. As an example, this issue has proven particularly relevant with regard to establishing Diia.pl^[4] – an electronic document issued by the Republic of Poland to a citizen of Ukraine or another foreigner whose stay in the territory of Poland is considered legal under the Act on assistance to Ukrainian citizens in connection with an armed conflict in the territory of this state – as a document equivalent to a residence permit, allowing its holder to cross the internal borders of EU Member States.

[1] On the benefits of digitalising the EU visa procedure and visa sticker, see communication and factsheet by the European Commission on visa digitalisation (April 2022), https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_22_2582, last accessed on 08 June 2023.

[2] Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Regulations (EC) No 767/2008, (EC) No 810/2009 and (EU) 2017/2226 of the European Parliament and of the Council, Council Regulations (EC) No 1683/95, (EC) No 333/2002, (EC) No 693/2003 and (EC) No 694/2003 and Convention implementing the Schengen Agreement, as regards the digitalisation of the visa procedure, <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=celex%3A52022PC0658>, last accessed on

[3] Regulation (EU) 2017/1954 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 October 2017 amending Council Regulation (EC) No 1030/2002 laying down a uniform format for residence permits for third-country nationals, https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=uriserv:OJ.L_.2017.286.01.0009.01.ENG&toc=OJ:L:2017:286:FULL, last accessed on 23 May 2023.

[4] Diia.pl – electronic document for war refugees from Ukraine [only in Polish] <https://www.gov.pl/web/mswia/diia-pl--elektroniczny-dokument-dla-uchodzcow-wojennych-z-ukrainy>, last accessed on 23 May 2023.

We would like to ask the following questions:

- 1. Does your Member State or EMN Observer Country identify any problems/challenges related to issuing physical identity documents and residence permits to third-country nationals and their use (e.g. possibility of misuse of documents, challenges relating to increased arrivals of third-country nationals, updating the data, etc.)?**
- 2. Does your Member State or EMN Observer Country already issue digital identity documents or residence permits to third-country nationals? (YES/NO). If YES, please provide a description of the format and use of these digital documents.**

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- 3. If you answered “Yes” to question 2, has your Member State or EMN Observer Country experienced advantages with digital documents over physical documents? If applicable, this should also include good practices and advantages not related specifically to the issuing and use of these documents (issues such as storage or supply of materials to produce physical documents).**
- 4. If you answered “Yes” to question 2, has the introduction of digital identity documents or residence permits helped address problems or challenges specific to migration management (e.g., in responding to increased arrivals of third-country nationals, combating identity fraud) in your Member State or EMN Observer Country?**
- 5. Has your Member State or EMN Observer Country made any steps towards issuing digital-only identity documents or residence permits to third-country nationals? If YES, please provide more information on these plans and their timelines.**
- 6. If your Member State or EMN Observer Country has introduced digital-only identity documents or residence permits, or is planning to do so, what are the main security concerns which have had to be addressed or which are being considered? Security concerns could include, inter alia, features guaranteeing the authenticity of the document and combating its illegal duplication or measures to check the integrity of the data and to identity fraud, all while taking into account the need for swift verification of the validity (for instance during border checks).**
- 7. Has your Member State or EMN Observer Country experienced or foreseen any other problems with the issuing and recognition of digital-only identity documents or residence permits, including potential challenges faced by third-country nationals holding such documents? (if applicable)**
- 8. Has your Member State or EMN Observer Country experienced difficulties with the social acceptance of digital-only identity documents or residence permits from third-country nationals to whom they would be issued, and by the general public? (if applicable)**

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9. Has your Member State or EMN Observer Country experienced or foreseen any legal issues with the introduction of digital-only identity documents or residence permits to third-country nationals? (if applicable)

10. Has your Member State or EMN Observer Country had to adopt or foresee any additional requirements for the protection of fundamental rights when issuing digital-only documents to third-country nationals? (if applicable)

11. According to the assessment of your Member State, what would be the main challenges for implementing the EU-wide recognition of digital-only identity/residence documents (assuming that the revised VIS will store data on valid residence permits)? (if applicable)

12. Are there any lessons learnt from the procedure of information sharing of the EU Digital Covid Certificate which could apply to sharing data relevant for digital-only identity documents and residence permits (as it was the first large-scale experience of EU Member States sharing and verifying personal data of residents in the EU)? (if applicable)

We would very much appreciate your responses by **8 August 2023**.


2. RESPONSES

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¹ If possible at time of making the request, the Requesting EMN NCP should add their response(s) to the query. Otherwise, this should be done at the time of making the compilation.

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		Wider Dissemination ²	
	EMN NCP Austria	Yes	1. No. 2. No. 3. n/a 4. n/a 5. No. 6. No, an introduction of digital-only ID documents or residence permits for third-country nationals is currently not planned. 7. n/a 8. n/a 9. n/a

² A default "Yes" is given for your response to be circulated further (e.g. to other EMN NCPs and their national network members). A "No" should be added here if you do not wish your response to be disseminated beyond other EMN NCPs. In case of "No" and wider dissemination beyond other EMN NCPs, then for the Compilation for Wider Dissemination the response should be removed and the following statement should be added in the relevant response box: "This EMN NCP has provided a response to the requesting EMN NCP. However, they have requested that it is not disseminated further."

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			<p>10. n/a</p> <p>11. n/a</p> <p>12. n/a</p>
	EMN NCP Belgium	Yes	<p>1. Yes. Safety features are updated and tightened very regularly in Belgium. Attempts to obtain an authentic document in a fraudulent way remain the most frequent (look alike...) despite the provisions in place to fight against identity fraud at the level of the application and issuance processes. The challenge is therefore to simplify/digitalize the application and issuance process while maintaining the same level of security and ensuring the identification of natural persons. This is the reason why according to Belgian authorities the passage to the municipality and the face to face control remain essential.</p> <p>2. No</p> <p>3. Not applicable</p> <p>4. Not applicable</p> <p>5. No. At the moment Belgium is planning to introduce the digital identity wallet for Belgian nationals as a first step but it is not decided to extend it to third-country nationals.</p>


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			<p>6. One of the main problems raised is the control of a “revoked” digital-only identity document and the security level of the smartphone.</p> <p>7. When it comes to the issuing and recognition of digital-only identity documents, there might be difficulties when it comes to the authenticity verification (e.g. is specific hardware or software needed?) by the authorities (at city, regional or national level), but also by private companies (telecom providers, banks, ...). The electronic medium on which these identity documents will be stored will probably be a smartphone. But what if a vulnerable third-country national is digitally illiterate or lacks the financial resources to buy a smartphone?</p> <p>Council Regulation (EC) No 1030/2002 of 13 June 2002 lays down a uniform format for residence permits for third-country nationals and doesn't foresee dematerialization. Regulation (EU) 2017/1954 also doesn't foresee dematerialization. Belgian authorities wonder if this Council Regulation has to be reviewed before digitalization can take place.</p> <p>One of the main problems raised is the control of a “revoked” digital-only identity document and the security level of the smartphone. A digital-only identity document or residence permit should be considered as a derivative product of a physical electronic document and whose use has to be limited to online services. Therefore, physical electronic document remain essential and should not be fully replaced by a digital-only document.</p> <p>8. Not applicable</p>
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			<p>9. Not applicable</p> <p>10. Not applicable</p> <p>11. Not applicable</p> <p>12. The main constraint was to make the match between the holder and a valid certificate, because there is not yet a common management of a uniform and interoperable EU unique identifier. The match was done visually on the basis of the first and last name indicated on an identity document, which is not sufficient for secure, unique and automated identification.</p>
	EMN NCP Bulgaria	Yes	<p>1. No</p> <p>2. No</p> <p>3. N/A</p> <p>4. N/A</p> <p>5. No</p> <p>6. N/A</p> <p>7.</p>

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			<p>The Bulgarian legislation does not provide for the possibility of proving residence status with a digital document. In practice, the content and veracity of such documents cannot be verified at the border checkpoint because of the lack of appropriate technical means or digital platforms for data verification, and last but not least, the impossibility of entering data from such type of documents in the Automated Information System "Border Control" – MoI, as a basis for visa exemption.</p> <p>8. N/A</p> <p>9. N/A</p> <p>10. N/A</p> <p>11.</p> <p>12.</p>
	<p>EMN NCP Croatia</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>1. In recent years, an increase in the number of issued residence and work permits has been noticed in the Republic of Croatia due to the need to fill seasonal jobs and deficit occupations. However, as far as biometric permits that are physically issued to citizens of third countries, no problems have been seen in practice (in terms of their forgery or identity fraud).</p> <p>2.</p>


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			<p>No. In the Republic of Croatia, a system of digital issuance of residence permits to citizens of third countries has not been introduced, but biometric residence permits are issued to them in accordance with Regulation (EU) 2017/1954 of the European Parliament and of the Council of October 25, 2017 amending Council Regulation (EC) no. 1030/2002 on establishing a uniform form of residence permits for citizens of third countries.</p> <p>3. -</p> <p>4. -</p> <p>5. -</p> <p>6. -</p> <p>7. -</p> <p>8. -</p> <p>9. -</p> <p>10. -</p> <p>11. -</p> <p>12. -</p>
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	<p>EMN NCP Cyprus</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>1. The main challenge faced relates to increase of needs for blank residence permits, as a result of unforeseen situations such as the war in Ukraine. This results to additional costs and procurement procedures.</p> <p>2. No</p> <p>3. N/A</p> <p>4. N/A</p> <p>5. No</p> <p>6. N/A</p> <p>7. N/A</p> <p>8. N/A</p> <p>9. It is foreseen that in case digital only identity documents or residence permits to third-country nationals are implemented relevant legislative arrangements will be necessary.</p> <p>10. N/A</p> <p>11. N/A</p> <p>12. N/A</p>
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	EMN NCP Czech Republic	Yes	<p>1. The Czech Republic has experienced challenges related to physical documents, especially in the context of the war in Ukraine and the associated massive influx of people arriving to the territory. The governmental offices did not have capacities to issue everyone with a visa sticker on their travel documents. Also, often the refugees themselves did not have any travel documents and the visa sticker had to be marked outside. The capacity of visa stickers was not enough. At the time, the legitimacy of residence had to be marked only by a stamp on or outside the travel document. Once TPD was activated, the issuing of visa stickers was resumed. However, extraordinary measures had to be taken, such as printing a large number of documents (that are normally issued in lower numbers) or a significant increase in staff and technical support of the relevant state authorities. With the extension of temporary protection, new visa stickers have to be issued to all temporary protection holders who have applied for the extension. The process of issuing new visa stickers had been spread over 8 months for capacity and staff reasons.</p> <p>For third-country nationals (non-holders of temporary protection), the Czech Republic issues physical documents with biometric data. The process of issuing physical documents with biometric data is demanding in terms of personnel and technical equipment. Moreover, the client has to physically come to the office two times (first to scan the biometric data and then to obtain the card).</p> <p>Therefore, digitization in the Czech Republic would speed up and simplify the process of issuing documents. Yet paper documents are perceived positively, especially in terms of security, since they are characterized by the high financial and technical complexity of acquiring a complete fake document and the high difficulty of altering the actual document. In connection with digitisation, the Czech Republic perceives several security risks, such as high cyber risk of misuse of documents, high</p>


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			financial costs for IT specialists, limited access to digital documents between different institutions or system compatibility of various migration stakeholders.
			2. No.
			3. N/A
			4. N/A
			5. N/A
			6. N/A
			7. N/A
			8. N/A
			9. N/A
			10. N/A
			11. N/A
			12. N/A

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	 EMN NCP Estonia	Yes	<p>1. Main challenges for Estonia are: limited resources (specially in terms of finding additional capacity if necessary), updating security features (Estonia launched eID card in 2001 with a unique key/chip to provide digital signature and access public services – from healthcare to business registry, from e-voting to e-residency. Since then, Estonia has encountered some issues regarding the digital vulnerability) and developing both new as well as already existing national databases (e.g. RIS - migration information system, MIGIS - migration surveillance system, VIISA 2.0 - visa information system and RAKS2 - international protection system).</p> <p>Another challenge was related to the extension of temporary residence permits for Ukrainian war refugees as the volume of applications was expected to be high during a very short timeframe. To better handle the volume, Estonian Police and Border Guard Board (PBGB) developed an online environment specially for submitting applications for the extension of temporary protection. In the beginning of December 2022, appr. 41,000 people had applied for temporary protection and more than 17,000 were expected to apply for extension online in the month-long period beginning in December 10 (up to 3 months before the expiration).</p> <p>2. No. However, Estonia issues e-Resident's digital ID-s which is a physical card but enables the owner to provide a digital signature in an electronic environment. e-Resident's digital-ID allows a TCN to participate in public-law and private-law operations in Estonia regardless of his/her physical location. However, this does not grant the right to reside in Estonia. For data security, there's no central database. A distributed Data Exchange Layer enables secure, encrypted data flows between decentralised databases. KSI blockchain technology designed in Estonia means that data exchanges,</p>
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			<p>communications, storage, and log files are independent and fully accountable. E-Residency digital ID cards can make Qualified Electronic Signatures (QES), the highest trust level of digital signature under the EU's eIDAS framework.</p> <p>3. N/A</p> <p>4. N/A</p> <p>5. No.</p> <p>6. N/A</p> <p>7. One challenge that could rise from legal aspect is that residence permit proves the right of residency and is connected to legal rights with more impact than digital visa or Covid-certificate. The operability and reliability of IT-systems could be an issue and fall-back solution for proving the status should be considered as the need to prove the right of residency is not connected only with travelling. Issuing digital resident permits is connected to the legal status and thus the application, renewal or changing the status and digitalisation of these processes should be part of the digitalisation process.</p>
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			<p>8. N/A</p> <p>9. Please see response to Q7.</p> <p>10. N/A</p> <p>11. Please see response to Q7.</p> <p>12. In 2021, Estonia joined the first wave of countries launching EU digital COVID certificates. Patients could create digital COVID certificates for themselves via the 'Patient Portal'. Three new and different types of certificates were available - proof of vaccination, proof of having had COVID-19, or proof of a negative coronavirus test result. However, Estonia did not create an application for checking the certificates so that restaurants and other service providers started using apps developed in other countries. Several apps faced problems regarding not accepting new certificates issued within 2 weeks and certificates confirming the 'booster dose'. Thus, to some extent, there was confusion.</p>
+	EMN NCP Finland	Yes	<p>1. No exceptional or unconventional challenges have been identified in issuing physical travel documents and residence permits. When issuing any travel doc, especially residence permit establishing a reliable identity is a great challenge is no reliable documentation is provided. Foundational documents which often serve as the</p>


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		<p>basis for a passport are the most vulnerable documents in the entire issuance process. (ref. ICAO Evidence of identity and CEN TC/224 WG19 Breeder Documents 17894-5).</p> <p>2. No</p> <p>3. No</p> <p>4. No</p> <p>5. Finland is taking part in EU Commission funded pilot where the DTC Type 1 is being tested (based on ICAO specifications). The Outcomes of the pilot will support the impact assessment conducted by the Commission ahead of legislative proposal for a EU regulation. Within this pilot Finland is testing defect management and the digitalisation of the EU eRP – residence permit card. The aim is to create a 2D barcode/datamatrix with biometric data included for digital issuance and same level of security as DTC Type 1. The pilot has recently begun and will conclude by the end of 2023 and consequently no results are to this date available.</p> <p>6. See previous answer. After the conclusion of the DTC pilot tangible results will support in identifying challenges.</p> <p>7. No</p> <p>8. No</p>
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			<p>9. No</p> <p>10. No</p> <p>11. It would require a EU regulation for implementation and the insurance of global interoperability. To make this possible the upcoming EU regulation on DTC will support ICAO 9303 standards enabling global interoperability.</p> <p>12. The EU DCC was limited to member states by design, thus making interoperability most difficult. The sharing of verifiable information is essential for any cross-border documentation even more so if the information is only in digital format.</p>
	<p>EMN NCP France</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>1. Documents and residence permits as physical objects ensure maximum security by combining physical security (holograms, transparent edges) and electronic security (cryptography in electronic chips and, where applicable, barcodes). The electronic document will no longer include physical security but only electronic security. In addition, measures will have to be put in place to prevent electronic falsification and counterfeiting, high-level identification and authentication within the framework of the e-IDAS regulation (Electronic Identification and Services) to prevent identity fraud and the implementation of high-level IT security to protect personal data in a smartphone environment with Apple or Microsoft support.</p> <p>2. NO.</p>


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		<p>France is committed to securing physical documents by strengthening physical and electronic security.</p> <p>3. N/A.</p> <p>4. N/A.</p> <p>5. NO. Discussions are being held on the dematerialisation of visas, but no timetable has yet been set.</p> <p>6. The main issues are at two levels: 1) Ensuring that the person claiming to have a right has not falsified or counterfeited the document submitted. This requires that the data transmitted for the creation of the electronic document is reliable and secure and that the individual has not fabricated the electronic document himself. 2) Ensuring that the personal data contained in the electronic document cannot be used by a third person either by entering the support (smartphone, applications via the Internet) or by the data voluntarily leaving the support to be stored at a given time outside the support (cloud, database, etc.).</p> <p>7. In France, any means can be used to prove identity. However, no difficulties have been reported concerning proof of identity by third parties. On the other hand, the lack of confidence in an electronic document makes it impossible to ensure perfect proof of identity.</p>
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			<p>8. N/A.</p> <p>9. N/A.</p> <p>10. N/A.</p> <p>11. The main difficulties would be related to the security of these documents and the protection of personal data in smartphones linked to the Internet and IT supports such as Apple or Microsoft.</p> <p>12. The Covid digital certificate is based on the cryptography of barcodes recognised by the Member States. It also requires a large centralised biometric database containing all personal data. In addition, the Covid certificate requires the use of an authoritative physical document at two points to prove identity:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - During enrolment in a centralised database, to ensure that the administrative authority does not issue a document to a person who is not who they claim to be; - When checking the certificate to ensure that the person presenting the document is who they claim to be. <p>Thus, the dematerialisation of a document can only be accessory to a physical document which must still exist.</p>
	EMN NCP Germany	Yes	1.


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			<p>2. Yes. In accordance with Commission Decision C(2020)2672, the visa sticker is provided with a 2D barcode. With the help of the app "VDS Reader", the 2D barcode can be checked to see whether the issuance was made in an authorised manner.</p> <p>3. The 2D barcode contains the file number of the Central Register of Foreigners. The file number allows the file to be accessed digitally.</p> <p>4.</p> <p>5. Germany is currently carrying out a project to redesign documents relating to aliens' law. It is planned that it will also be possible to print a 2D barcode on each paper document in the future. In perspective, the general issuance on security paper would have to be examined if the 2D barcode serves as a security feature and thus exceptions (printing on office paper, sending via PDF) would theoretically be possible. Timetable is not yet announced.</p> <p>6. A cost-effective security feature is the signed 2D barcode, which additionally stores personal data of the document holder - including a photograph if the barcode is large enough. Germany is currently investigating the practicalities of a coloured 2D barcode to store more data volume on a smaller 2D barcode area.</p> <p>7.</p> <p>8.</p>
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			<p>9. The opening of a bank account or e.g. the registration of a SIM card (telephony) should always be taken into consideration as these services are often used by refugees / foreign nationals.</p> <p>10. If a 2D barcode is additionally printed on a document, this must be pre-authorized in the relevant legislation and/or regulation.</p> <p>11. Unless private entities do not have access (even hit/no-hit access) to the large EU databases, digital documents must be accompanied by means of verifiability (validation/authentication application) for open source applications on the one hand and for governmental purposes on the other.</p> <p>12.</p>
	<p>EMN NCP Hungary</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>1. Regarding questions 1., 2.,3. and 4., from an aliens policing point of view, the useage of false or counterfeit residence permits in aliens policing proceedings is not common. In connection with these questions the National Directorate-General for Aliens Policining (hereinafter: Directorate-General) has not encountered any legal problems.</p> <p>In addition, we would like to note that residence permit documents are subject to EU legislation, namely</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regulation No 1030/2002 of the Council of the European Union on laying down a uniform format for residence permits for third-country nationals and • Regulation No 2019/1157 of the European Parliament and of the Council on strengthening the security of identity cards and of residence documents issued

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			<p>to EU citizens and their family members exercising their right of free movement.</p> <p>In Hungary, these rules also apply and are the basis for issuing the relevant documents. Regarding questions 1., 2.,3. and 4., from an aliens policing point of view, the useage of false or counterfeit residence permits in aliens policing proceedings is not common. In connection with these questions the National Directorate-General for Aliens Policining (hereinafter: Directorate-General) has not encountered any legal problems.</p> <p>In addition, we would like to note that residence permit documents are subject to EU legislation, namely</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regulation No 1030/2002 of the Council of the European Union on laying down a uniform format for residence permits for third-country nationals and • Regulation No 2019/1157 of the European Parliament and of the Council on strengthening the security of identity cards and of residence documents issued to EU citizens and their family members exercising their right of free movement. <p>In Hungary, these rules also apply and are the basis for issuing the relevant documents.</p> <p>2.</p> <p>Regarding questions 1., 2.,3. and 4., from an aliens policing point of view, the usage of false or counterfeit residence permits in aliens policing proceedings is not common. In connection with these questions the National Directorate-General for Aliens Policining (hereinafter: Directorate-General) has not encountered any legal problems.</p> <p>In addition, we would like to note that residence permit documents are subject to EU legislation, namely</p>
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			11. - 12. -
	EMN NCP Ireland	Yes	<p>1. In Ireland, once the Department of Justice Immigration Service Delivery grants permission to stay, it is necessary to register it with immigration authorities within 90 days. Upon successful registration an Irish Residence Permit card is issued. Those living in Dublin, register at the Immigration Service Delivery Registration Office in Dublin, however, those living outside of Dublin register with the Garda National Immigration Bureau (GNIB) who operates a network of registration offices throughout the country.</p> <p>The Department of Justice Immigration Service Delivery (ISD) has indicated that, in certain cases, long wait times for issuing of residence permits, arising from the volume of new applications received and pandemic-related issues are a challenge, depending on whether or not it is a first registration or a renewal of permission. For first registrations an in-person appointment is required for the collection of biometrics and therefore, staffing is the issue. However, for online renewals, multiple non-interoperable systems are the issue. Both issues are seasonal, dependent on volume of applications received, and location dependent. It should be noted that there is currently no wait time for a Dublin-based first registration and a three month wait time for rest of country.</p> <p>In addition, the Department of Justice Migration Policy Division has indicated that there are occasionally issues where the Registration Office is not informed by TCNs that their address has changed/the wrong or old address is supplied on renewal. This</p>

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			<p>can lead to Irish Residence Permit (IRP) cards being sent to the wrong address. If cards are not returned to sender, this represents a security risk as cards can fall into the wrong hands. If cards are returned to sender, this creates an increased administrative burden as the applicant must be contacted and the card re-sent to the correct address. The Department of Justice Immigration Service Delivery (ISD) added that there is further increased administrative burden when cards are collected at the registration office, where, often, due to manual nature of system input, cards are reprinted due to errors in name and/or other details.</p> <p>2. No.</p> <p>3. Not applicable.</p> <p>4. Not applicable.</p> <p>5. No.</p> <p>However, Ireland has made steps towards the digitalisation of immigration processes as part of the Justice Plan 2021 and Justice Plan 2022 where, in both, the government pledges to “deliver a fair immigration system for a digital age”. The Department of Justice Migration Policy Division has indicated that as it stands, ePermits are issued for various immigration schemes. These permits support an application to register a permission to remain and receive an Irish Residence Permit (IRP) card. For example:</p> <p>1) Atypical Working Scheme : ePermit issued in PDF once application approved.</p>
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			<p>2) Labour Market Access Scheme for international protection applicants: ePermit issued in PDF once application approved. The Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment employment permits are also issued digitally in PDF format once the application is approved. These ePermits are brought to registration appointments as part of their supporting documentation. However, ePermit information is also accessible to immigration officers in the Garda National Immigration Bureau (GNIB) IT system. It is envisaged that should Ireland implement a single application procedure, permissions will also issue as ePermits in PDF format. However, at present, it is not intended that such an ePermit would replace the physical IRP card.</p> <p>6. Not applicable.</p> <p>7. According to the Department of Justice Immigration Service Delivery (ISD), physical Irish Residence Permit (IRP) cards can easily be presented as a form of verification to police, prospective employers, education providers, etc. It is therefore necessary to consider how these cohorts will have easy access to digital residence permits to verify eligibility to reside/ work/ study etc.</p> <p>8. Not applicable.</p> <p>9. Not applicable.</p> <p>10. Not applicable.</p>
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			<p>11. Not applicable.</p> <p>12. The Department of Health identified the following lessons learned: The importance of maintaining the trust of citizens when introducing digital solutions of this kind. Public trust and buy in was enhanced by the decision to publish the source code of the app. A well organised communication campaign, clear legal basis and early engagement with national Data Protection Commissioners Office if recommended are important. Stakeholder engagement and transparency during execution are critical for adoption. Technically the solutions must be safe, secure, robust, scalable and reliable.</p> <p>The Office of Government Chief Information Officer (OGCIO) further advised to: Apply the same approach of standardisation and interoperability to digital-only identity documents and residence permits. Implement robust security measures and adhere to GDPR principles when sharing data and swiftly implement data sharing protocols to enable efficient cross-border services and access to relevant information. Identify and address potential challenges during the implementation of data sharing to enhance effectiveness and maintain flexibility in the approach to data sharing, allowing for adjustments as necessary to accommodate evolving requirements. Educate citizens about the purpose, benefits, and usage of digital-only identity documents and residence permits to promote acceptance and understanding.</p> <p>The Office of Government Chief Information Officer (OGCIO) also suggested several lessons learned from the DCC to digital-only identity documents and residence permits including: Limit the information shared to only necessary details, ensuring only essential data is included without unnecessary personal information. Implement advanced encryption</p>
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			<p>and security features to ensure the integrity of digital identity documents and residence permits, preventing unauthorized alterations or tampering. Establish robust trust models, evaluate possibly (biometric authentication) or multi-factor verification, to ensure authenticity and legitimacy, reducing the risk of fraudulent use. Develop reliable online and offline verification procedures, allowing authorities to verify their authenticity and legitimacy during both digital and physical interactions.</p> <p>In addition to these lessons learned described above, the Irish study “Public Views on Digital COVID-19 Certificates: a Mixed Methods User Study”[1] can provide useful insights into lessons learned from the Digital COVID-19 Certificates (DCC) regarding the social acceptance of digital-only documents. This research found that the research sample reported concerns with the oversharing of personal information, risks related to potential unintentional breaches of privacy and the security of their data, and the temporality of the data.</p> <p>Finally, The Department of Justice Immigration Service Delivery (ISD) has noted that the DCC does not include biometrics so the risks outlined regarding privacy and data security are of greater concern.</p> <p>[1] Nurgalieva, L., S. Ryan, A. Balaskas, J. Linqvist and G. Doherty. (2022). Public Views on Digital COVID-19 Certificates: a Mixed Methods User Study. In Proceedings of the 2022 CHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems (CHI '22). Association for Computing Machinery, New York, NY, USA, Article 75, 1–28. https://doi.org/10.1145/3491102.3502066</p>
	EMN NCP Italy	Yes	1.


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			<p>The decision adopted by our state to issue an electronic residence permit to Ukrainian citizens, temporary protection recipients, confirms the tendency to provide this type of permit and to avoid the use of paper documents, which also entail many problems related to controls procedure during the movement of these individuals in other states. The security guarantees of the electronic permit are certainly higher than paper permits. For this reason, the second kind is issued only in cases of necessity or urgency and for temporary reasons.</p> <p>2. Yes, as mentioned before, most residence permits are electronic and conform to the model required by the EU.</p> <p>3. Yes, especially regarding protection and security, because they are easier to verify even during border or territory control service.</p> <p>4. As the implementation showed, an electronic residence permit is more difficult to falsify than a paper permit, which has lower security standards.</p> <p>5. Yes. In addition to all the types already provided, since August 2021, Italy is also granting electronic residence permits to third-country nationals who are family members of EU citizens rather than paper permits.</p> <p>6.</p>
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			<p>Security standards are guaranteed by the Istituto Poligrafico e Zecca dello Stato, which carries out all relevant controls to ensure the emission of a document having high-quality standards that are difficult to falsify or emulate.</p> <p>7. NA</p> <p>8. NA</p> <p>9. NA</p> <p>10. NA</p> <p>11. Probably the privacy aspect, because we have observed how many European countries, even when it concerns the exchange of information between States, do not want to provide information about the data of individuals, despite the matter also having implications for state order and security.</p> <p>12. It could be considered a benchmark, as also the creation of the TP Platform at the European level concerning the temporary protection of Ukrainian citizens. In this specific case, there were no particular problems in sharing permits.</p>
	EMN NCP Latvia	Yes	<p>1. Latvia issues a document called foreigner's identity card, its primary purpose is to assign electronic identity tools to a person. When registering in Latvia's Register of Natural Persons a foreigner is assigned a Latvian personal identity number, as well as</p>


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			<p>the right to be issued a personal identity card or eID card with the aim of receiving an electronic identity verification tool. Unlike other types of identity cards, a foreigner's eID card is not a mandatory identity document. Foreigners are issued an eID card for the assignment of electronic identity tools, which overall provide an opportunity to use a range of services provided by the state, for example, to use the public administration e-services and an e-address, to electronically identify themselves and sign documents. A foreigner's identity card is not a travel document and does not certify a person's right of residence in Latvia. There have been cases where persons want to receive such a document in order to present it in other EU countries as a travel document and certify the person's right of residence in Latvia.</p> <p>2. No</p> <p>3. N/A</p> <p>4. N/A</p> <p>5. No</p> <p>6. N/A</p> <p>7. N/A</p> <p>8. N/A</p> <p>9. N/A</p>
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			<p>10. N/A</p> <p>11. One of the most serious challenges would be related to the implementation of the project (financial resources and limited administrative capacity) if there is an intention to implement the project mandatory and EU-wide. Latvia does not see any serious challenges if MS would introduce digital-only residence documents after an adoption of a respective EU regulation on this issue.</p> <p>12. N/A</p>
	EMN NCP Lithuania	Yes	<p>1. Over the past few years, the number of applications received increased by approximately 30% every year, leading to a corresponding increase in the number of documents issued. Besides the increased workload, however, the Migration Department does not have any information regarding problems/challenges related to issuing physical identity documents and residence permits to third-country nationals.</p> <p>2. YES. As of 18 January 2023, Lithuania issues digital temporary residence permits. This is currently limited to the Ukrainian war refugees who are beneficiaries of temporary protection in Lithuania. Plastic temporary residence permit cards are no longer issued to these persons. The digital temporary residence permit is issued in PDF format and is delivered via the Lithuanian migration information system (MIGRIS). The permit can be printed out</p>

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			<p>or saved to a phone. The digital temporary residence permit is issued in Lithuanian and English languages. It indicates the following data:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Name(s) and surname(s) • Date of birth • Place of birth • Facial image • Personal number in Lithuania • Citizenship • Sex • Date and place of the permit's issue • Date of the permit's expiration • The number of the temporary residence permit • The type of residence permit (temporary residence) • Grounds for the issue of the permit • A QR code with encoded information about the temporary residence permit <p>The veracity of the data and the validity of the temporary residence permits can be checked on the website of the Migration Department <www.migracija.lt/e-permit> by scanning the QR code on the permit. The webpage presents the validity status and the following information about the temporary residence permit:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "Document is valid" (against a green background) – if the temporary residence permit is valid • "Document is invalid" (against a red background) – if the temporary residence permit is invalid • "Document has not yet become valid" (against a red background) – if the temporary residence permit has not yet become valid
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		<p>The Migration Department has prepared visual instructions for checking the validity of the digital temporary residence permit: <https://youtu.be/WaZajiTXX0o>.</p> <p>3. Several advantages of digital documents can be identified.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Digital documents can be ordered and issued faster than physical documents. 2. There are cost savings to the state since there is no need to produce plastic cards and since digital processes require fewer administrative resources. 3. It is also more convenient for the client – there is no need to arrive at the department physically and the document can be easily accessed from the personal MIGRIS account at any time, as well as shared and stored on electronic devices such as smartphones, which eliminates the need to carry physical copies. <p>4. Digital temporary residence permits have helped manage the Ukrainian refugee crisis. They are currently issued only to the beneficiaries of temporary protection and more than 42 thousand temporary residence permits have been issued so far. Since these permits were sent to personal MIGRIS accounts online, correspondingly, the introduction of digital permits saved more than 42 thousand visits to regional departments. Moreover, after the application of temporary protection was extended, persons who had been issued temporary residence permits on the grounds of temporary protection as plastic cards could have their permits replaced by digital temporary residence permits, and the process of extension was digitized as well and took place in MIGRIS.</p>
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			<p>5. No. This matter is currently under discussion but there are no specific plans or timelines yet.</p> <p>6. N/A</p> <p>7. First, it takes time for both other Member States and Lithuanian users to get acquainted with a new form of identity document, which can cause practical difficulties for clients. Second, there are technical issues. While verifying the validity of a digital temporary residence permit by scanning a QR code is convenient, the QR code does not contain a facial image due to size limitations. Third, although Lithuania has not encountered this issue in the case of the beneficiaries of temporary protection, requiring digital-only documents may exclude individuals who lack access to technology or digital literacy skills, potentially leading to discrimination and unequal treatment.</p> <p>8. Yes. It takes time not only for other Member States but also for users in Lithuania to get acquainted with a new digital ID format and recognize it in their processes.</p> <p>9. No</p> <p>10. No</p>
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			<p>11. The main challenges involve spreading information about it to all Member States, as well as ensuring the availability of technical capacity to verify validity.</p> <p>12. It was useful that the COVID certificate had a unified form. If some Member States already had their unique digital document forms approved and implemented, it will be difficult for other Member States to identify or recognize documents. In other words, achieving interoperability and standardization of digital document formats and technologies across different countries and systems may be a complex task.</p>
	EMN NCP Luxembourg	Yes	<p>1. No. During the Covid-19 pandemic, the problem for issuing new residence permits was limited as the borders were closed and the new residence permits were handled by appointment so there was no significant backlog. The renewal of residence permits was foreseen by the law of 20 June 2020 on introducing temporary measures to the implementation of the amended law of 29 August 2008 on free movement of persons and immigration (Immigration Law), that renewed all the residence permits that expired during the State of Crisis until the 31st of August 2020. When dealing with the beneficiaries of temporary protection coming from Ukraine, the Luxembourgish authorities put in place a one-stop-shop which allowed the people coming from Ukraine to apply for the temporary protection through an appointment procedure. This system allowed an organized way to deal with the inflow of Ukrainians. The same system was used for the renewal of the certificate of temporary protection.</p>


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			<p>It is important to mention that in order to issue a residence permit in Luxembourg, the applicant has to have to previous obtain in most cases a temporary authorization of stay for a specific residence permit, which has to be presented at the moment that the third-country national applies for the residence permit. This reduces significantly the misuse of document.</p> <p>Also, in Luxembourg, once a third country national is issued a residence permit, s/he is registered in the National Registrar of Physical Persons, so any changes on domicile, etc. is automatically updated in the system.</p> <p>2. No.</p> <p>3. N/A.</p> <p>4. N/A.</p> <p>5. No. At the moment the Ministry of Digitalisation is planning to introduce the digital wallet for Luxembourgish nationals as a first step (id cards and driver licenses) but it is not decided to extend it to residence permits.</p> <p>6. As the first digital documents have not been issued it is difficult to answer this question at the moment.</p> <p>7. Potential problems of digital-only residence permits are: - Problems of inclusion and accessibility of digital solutions due to very varied digital skills and equipment of the beneficiaries of a residence permit;</p>
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			<p>- For users, the added value of using a digital-only solution is limited, as residence permits are not considered to be identity documents. So, even if residence permits are no longer document-based, holders must have a parallel identity document (national passport issued by a third country).</p> <p>8. N/A.</p> <p>9. N/A.</p> <p>10. N/A.</p> <p>11. N/A.</p> <p>12. The Covid pandemic highlighted the need, for a system that could both certify that a person did not have Covid and that their information was safe in the places or countries they would be travelling to. This allows the impulse of the Digital Wallet in Luxembourg.</p>
	EMN NCP Netherlands	Yes	<p>1. In the Netherlands, the Immigration and Naturalisation Service (Immigratie en Naturalisatiedienst, IND) recently had to deal with backlogs in document issuing due to a high demand/influx and staff shortages at the counters (loketten). In order to cope with this high demand, now and in the future, the IND has the ambition to structurally reduce the number of required in-person visits to the counters by applicants and residence permit holders. An applicant or residence permit holder has to visit the counters, for instance, to take a photo or fingerprint, or to pick up its residence</p>

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			<p>documents. The IND is currently working on plans to reduce the needed visits as far as the legal framework allows this. Digitalisation could play an important part in this. Currently, the situation is under control and backlogs have been reduced. No further major problems and challenges, including challenges related to misuse of physical identity and residence documents, have been identified.[1]</p> <p>[1] Information provided by the Immigration and Naturalisation Service (Immigratie- en Naturalisatiedienst, IND) on 3 July and 31 July 2023.</p> <p>2. NO</p> <p>3. N/A</p> <p>4. N/A</p> <p>5. So far the Immigration and Naturalisation Service (Immigratie- en Naturalisatiedienst, IND) has not taken any steps to issue digital-only identity documents or residence permits. However, in the Future Information Provision (Toekomstige Informatievoorziening, TIV) of the IND, a potential vision for the future has been outlined with regard to the processing of the extensions of residence documents of highly skilled migrants and students. In this potential vision, it is foreseen that highly skilled migrants or students can submit their biometric data to the IND remotely, and a digital residence document can be issued. The status of this vision for the future is still a concept, and these plans have not yet been further elaborated.[1]</p>
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			<p>[1] Information provided by the Immigration and Naturalisation Service (IND) on 13 July 2023.</p> <p>6. N/A</p> <p>7. N/A</p> <p>8. N/A</p> <p>9. N/A</p> <p>10. N/A</p> <p>11. It is not possible for EMN the Netherlands to provide an official assessment of the Netherlands of the main challenges for implementing the EU-wide recognition of digital-only identity/residence documents. However, we have consulted national experts to take stock of main challenges. According to our experts, main challenges at the moment include: 1) the Dutch legal framework has to be amended to facilitate the recognition of digital-only identity/residence documents; 2) from a practical / logistical point of view, recognition of digital-only identity/residence documents is not yet enforceable; 3) a lack of expert knowledge on the vulnerability to fraud of the digital-only identity/residence documents; 4) the condition needs to be fulfilled that other governmental stakeholders (outside the migration domain) should be able to conduct controls on the digital-only identity and residence documents of third-country nationals. Think for instance of national labour authorities monitoring employers who have third-country employees on their pay-roll.[1]</p>
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			<p>[1] Information provided by the Immigration and Naturalisation Service (IND) on 3 July 2023 and the Ministry of Justice and Security on 21 July 2023.</p> <p>12. No, in case of the Netherlands it is not relevant at the moment to learn from the procedure of information sharing of the EU Digital Covid Certificate for digital-only identity documents and residence permits, as there are no concrete plans for digital-only identity documents and residence permits.[1]</p> <p>[1] Information provided by the Immigration and Naturalisation Service (IND) on 3 July 2023.</p>
<p> EMN NCP Poland</p>		<p>Yes</p>	<p>1. The major challenges for Poland include difficulty in estimating future influx of third-country nationals due to economic or political situation, or humanitarian crisis; the costs and timeline necessary for establishing additional capacity (being subject to tender and supply issues); the long-drawn process of updating security features; limited number of potential contractors/suppliers; misuse of revoked or lapsed resident permits or identity documents. Another problem is related to photography. Current workflow of issuing physical document is not focusing on aspect of photo itself and often bringing own photo by person is allowed. Such workflow could lead to potential security risk, especially if photo is examined by officer which is not aware of security issues of potential photo manipulation made by person. Security level could be increased if photo is made on site.</p> <p>2. YES.</p>

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			<p>The Minister of Digital Affairs provides a tool (mObywatel application), which provides an electronic document confirming the identity of beneficiaries of temporary protection “Diia.pl”, issued to persons who crossed the Polish-Ukrainian border after 24 February 2022 in connection with the armed conflict on the territory of Ukraine (issued based on the Act of 12 March 2022 on assistance to citizens of Ukraine in connection with the armed conflict in the territory of that state (Journal of Laws of 2022, item 583)).</p> <p>Diia.pl is a document confirming identity, e. g. in offices, in front of services, in order to use the rights or obtain assistance referred to in the above Act, access to the offices of public entities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - fulfils the role of a residence permit; - together with a valid travel document, allows you to cross the external border of the EU; - allows movement within the Schengen area for 90 days in any 180-day period. <p>A one-time trip outside the Polish borders of the holder of Diia. pl for a period of more than 1 month, causes the loss of the rights resulting from the above Act, including the rights to own Diia.pl.</p> <p>Diia.pl may have any person who:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - crossed the Polish-Ukrainian border after 24 February 2022 and legally resides in the territory of the Republic of Poland on the basis of the Act of 12 March 2022 on assistance to citizens of Ukraine in connection with armed conflict on the territory of that country and who received National Identification Number (PESEL). <p>Diia.pl is available in the Application on the User's mobile device, which allows personal data of a User, who is to be downloaded from the Register, as well as to be stored in an encrypted form on the User's mobile device, and be presented to other persons in order to confirm the User's identity.</p>
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			<p>3. Ability to issue a secure identity document in a timely manner without need to renegotiate contracts or procure necessary materials in case of unforeseen influx of third-country nationals and to establish new equivalent documents within a feasible timeline (designing secure physical documents and setting up new production lines may take months or even years in some circumstances). Digital documents also do not require secure shipping or storage, which helps to reduce costs of creating and issuing those documents. Taking into account the number of Ukrainians applying for temporary protection, the issuance of documents in paper form would cause a significant burden for local government offices. The electronic version of the document significantly accelerated the process.</p> <p>4. Introduction of digital identity documents lessened overall burden on the administration caused by influx of third-country nationals and reduced logistical challenges faced by administration.</p> <p>5. Nothing more than already mentioned case.</p> <p>6. There is need for common (EU/Schengen-wide) security standards, if such schemes were extended to include possibly all third-country nationals legally residing in a Member State, especially with regard to border checks, probably via a centralised system or verification mechanism.</p>
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		<p>There is a problem with the need to quickly verify documents at the border. It could be that passenger is having digital document and Border Guards is not ready to read data properly</p> <p>7. General, generational hesitancy of the public and non-public stakeholders towards non-physical means of identification is one of the biggest obstacles to propagation only of digital-only documents or residence permits. Thorough training of all stakeholders, including law enforcement authorities, is necessary to limit potential challenges faced by third-country nationals. Reducing public bias against a digitalised documents via information campaigns is also necessary.</p> <p>8. We can foresee a general, generational attitude of the general public, as well as non-public stakeholders (business) and law-enforcement hesitancy towards the recognition of said documents.</p> <p>9. Introduction of an electronic identity document issued to the beneficiaries of temporary protection (Diia.pl) required from Poland the notification to the European Commission on abovementioned document, in line with art. 39 of the Regulation of the European Parliament and Council (EU) 2016/399 of 9 March 2016 on a Union Code on the rules governing the movement of persons across borders (Schengen Borders Code). It has to be underlined that in current legal state, the format of residence documents is uniformly regulated in Council Regulation (EC) No 1030/2002 of 13 June 2002 laying down a uniform format for residence permits for third-country nationals. In case the</p>
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			<p>electronic document was to be introduced at the EU level, new legal regulation in regard to its format had to be adopted as well.</p> <p>What should also be taken into account is that some stakeholders outside public sector are reluctant to accept digital-only identity documents or residence permits, if they are not explicitly obliged to do so.</p> <p>It is also important to underline that one may access Diia.pl only if:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - within 30 days of arrival in Poland, go to the Municipal Office along with paper documents, allowing verification and confirmation of identity, then - PESEL number is issued (only issued in designated municipal points in Poland); - a trusted profile is broadcast (broadcast only at designated municipal points in Poland); - UKR status is issued (broadcast only at designated points in Poland). <p>The above data is entered into the Contact Data Register.</p> <p>The mObywatel application downloads data for the Diia.pl service only from state registers. The Diia.pl document will appear in the mObywatel application after meeting the above conditions. It has attributes that allow to confirm its authenticity. In addition, the Minister of Digital Affairs also provides a tool for confirming the authenticity of documents in the mObywatel- mWeryfikator application.</p> <p>10. Note that since Poland already issues a digital version of its identity document via mObywatel application, we do not foresee wide-ranging fundamental rights implications in case of third-country nationals.</p> <p>11.</p>
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			<p>The biggest challenge would be to extend the exchange of information to a wider community of stakeholders beyond ones foreseen by VIS regulation. Community stakeholder needs only access to specific information to confirm person's identity and/or legal status. A study would need to be conducted on feasibility of establishing such a service that is secure, minimises data sets available to a stakeholder and can be relied upon.</p> <p>12. Experience of information sharing of EU Digital Covid Certificate could allow for sharing, if a common digital standards were to be established, of identity data or verification of veracity of identity data for non-government level entities, such as healthcare providers, transport and utility companies, services, confirming current legal migration status of a person. Reading digital document without checking its integrity and whether it has been issued by trusted source could lead to serious potential security gaps.</p>
	<p>EMN NCP Portugal</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>1. Yes, due to the large influx of foreigners eligible to be issued with physical residence permits, the process has been slow throughout all the phases of the granting process.</p> <p>2. No.</p> <p>3. -</p>


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			<p>4. -</p> <p>5. No.</p> <p>6. -</p> <p>7. -</p> <p>8. -</p> <p>9. The legislation regarding the issuance of digital-only identity documents or residence permits to third-country nationals will be changed, but we do not foresee major problems if the political decision is favourable.</p> <p>10. Data protection will be an issue, but we already issue digital documents to national citizens, meaning that the experience is in place to solve any arising issues.</p> <p>11. One of the main challenges will be the regular and timely exchange of certificates to assure the integrity and authenticity of digital-only identity/residence documents.</p>
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			12. Although we are talking about different issuing authorities, the experience gained with COVID and the issuance of temporary residence certificates (with a digital seal) will be of a major help.
	EMN NCP Slovakia	Yes	1. No. 2. No. 3. NA 4. NA 5. No. 6. NA 7. NA 8. NA 9. NA 10. NA


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			<p>11. NA</p> <p>12. The involvement of the National Health Information Centre in the international exchange of information on COVID-19 vaccination, recovery and testing is based on EU specifications available here: Technical specifications for EU Digital COVID Certificates - Volumes 1-5 (europa.eu).</p> <p>In light of the experience gained, we consider that some of the lessons learned from the information exchange process on the EU Digital COVID Certificate could be used to exchange data relevant for digital identity documents and residence permits. Please note that the necessary requirements and new use cases need to be analysed in detail.</p>
	<p>EMN NCP Slovenia</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>1. No.</p> <p>2. No.</p> <p>3. n/a</p> <p>4. n/a</p> <p>5. no</p> <p>6. n/a</p> <p>7. n/a</p>

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			<p>8. n/a</p> <p>9. n/a</p> <p>10. n/a</p> <p>11. There may be challenges related to digital document forgeries and access to relevant databases.</p> <p>12. Some experience may be useful, however there is no sufficient information to indicate any in detail.</p>
	EMN NCP Spain	Yes	<p>1. Yes</p> <p>2. The top-3 nationalities in 2022 in the Western Mediterranean route were Algeria, Morocco and Syria; and in the Western African route Morocco, Senegal and Cote d'Ivoire. No other breakdowns are available.</p> <p>3.</p>


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			<p>For both routes (Western Mediterranean and Western African) there is an annual cycle with a minimum of arrivals around February-March and a maximum during and after the summer. However, weekly arrivals are strongly influenced by the weather. Additionally, other factors act on a longer term:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fluctuating cooperation by third countries of transit due to political circumstances. Changes may happen from one day to the next, due sometimes to isolated politically-relevant facts. • Push factors, such as the political or economic situation in the countries of origin, droughts, etc. • Success of irregular migration through alternative routes. E.g., Eastern Mediterranean and Central Mediterranean routes, or Western Mediterranean and Western African routes in relation to each other. <p>Some of these factors are impossible to predict.</p> <p>4. Analysis of periodic cycles is a good practice, as is prospective work that takes into account other circumstances that may act on mid and long term. However, what is most important is having a sufficient reaction capacity to face initial trends that can afterwards be complemented by reinforcements. Part of this reaction capacity is based on good relations with countries of origin and, especially, transit, so that even if relations deteriorate, some channels remain open in order to find mitigating cooperation alternatives.</p>
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			<p>5.</p> <p>6.</p> <p>7.</p> <p>8.</p> <p>9.</p> <p>10.</p> <p>11.</p> <p>12.</p>
	EMN NCP Sweden	Yes	<p>1.</p> <p>The Swedish Migration Agency issue only residence documents. The residence permit card is issued in accordance with EU regulation (EC) No 1030/2002 and contains the holder's photograph and 2 fingerprints on the contactless chip. The Swedish Tax Agency issues id-cards.</p> <p>There are no substantial problems with the issue of these documents, however, the distribution and issue to the holder of the produced card can pose challenges to both the holder and the authority. There is also a certain time delay from the decision to grant a residence permit to the distribution of the physical card.</p>


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			<p>2. NO, concerning residence permits we are bound by the EU regulation that requires a physical card in harmonized format. Identity documents are issues by the Swedish Tax Agency also as pysical cards.</p> <p>3. Not applicable</p> <p>4. Not applicable</p> <p>5. Not applicable</p> <p>6. Not applicable</p> <p>7. Not applicable</p> <p>8. Not applicable</p> <p>9. Not applicable</p> <p>10. Not applicable</p> <p>11. Not applicable</p> <p>12. No information available.</p>
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	EMN NCP Georgia	Yes	<p>1. No. According to the law of Georgia “On the Public Service Development Agency” (PSDA), the PSDA is responsible for maintaining and continuously improving the Civil Registry. The Civil Registry is systematic set of data on registration of civil acts, registration of individuals by place of residence and issuance of identity documents (including for foreigners). The formation of the Civil Registry as a unified electronic database began in 2006-2007 and the developing process is still ongoing. Since 2011, PSDA issues electronic ID cards including E-residence cards for foreigners. Currently, the material information on the assignment of a personal number and the issuance of identity documents is fully digitalized and relevant data is stored in the electronic database. Applications for issuance of residence permits and related identity documents are received and decisions are made electronically, through the special software. Consequently, the data on issuance of residence permits and ID documents are immediately reflected in the relevant database ensuring swift update of the data and minimizing misuse of the document.</p> <p>2. Yes. As mentioned above since 2011 PSDA issues E-residence cards, which is a high-tech counterfeit-resistant identity document. E-residence card contains embedded chip and software with contact and contactless interfaces. Chip contains following applications: eMRTD (electronic machine-readable travel document) which is ICAO (International Civil Aviation Organization) compliant, and has IAS (Identification, Authentication, and Signature) Application - Qualified electronic signature creation device that can be also used for electronic identification and authentication of its holder and for protection of electronic communication. The forms and specifications of the E-residence card were established by Order of the Minister of Justice (№ 91 of 14 July 2011) „On Approval of Forms and Specifications</p>
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		<p>of an Electronic Identification Card of a Citizen of Georgia and an Electronic Residence Card (Temporary and Permanent) of a Foreigner Residing in Georgia”. E-residence card is made of a laminated polycarbonate (unmixed, pure polycarbonate) plate, by using a multilayer technology, applying the card plate, stacked and laminated into a mono-body under the conditions of heat and pressure.</p> <p>3. Unlike non-electronic documents, the electronic residence card is a high-tech, trusted, tamper-proof document, which is impossible to falsify. Particularly, an electronic data carrier contains an electronic copy of the data visually marked on the card. The electronic residence card is also equipped with qualified authentication and qualified signature facilities, which the holder of the card can use as well.</p> <p>4. E-residence cards introduced in parallel to the national ID cards, consequently it has not been directly linked to any migration management related issues. However, as mentioned above E-residence card is a high-tech, tamper-proof document, which is distinguished by high reliability and is resilient to any identity fraud.</p> <p>5. No, at the moment.</p> <p>6. N/A. see above response on Q 5.</p> <p>7. N/A. see above response on Q 5.</p> <p>8. N/A. see above response on Q 5.</p> <p>9. N/A. see above response on Q 5.</p>
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			<p>10. N/A. see above response on Q 5.</p> <p>11. N/A for Georgia.</p> <p>12. Yes. During the implementation of Covid-19 certificate, Georgia used new technologies and innovations like digital signature with QR code. Generally, the most important thing was that population learned how to use digital technologies on a daily basis, which encourages us to speed up processes to digitalize civil and identity documents to the greatest extent possible within the national legal system.</p>
	EMN NCP Ukraine	Yes	<p>1. In accordance with the Ukrainian legislation, the entry and stay in Ukraine of foreigners are allowed on basis of a passport document or a stateless person's identity document issued by the foreign authorities and recognized by Ukraine. In order to ensure a proper identification of foreigners and to minimize the risks related to possible illegal use of identification documents and residence permits, the National System of Biometric Verification and Identification has been established. The National System of Biometric Verification and Identification is an automated system established in the interest of national security, economic prosperity, and human rights. Its primary purpose is to facilitate the identification of foreign nationals and stateless persons entering or departing from Ukraine and to ensure the effective monitoring of their compliance with Ukraine's immigration regulations and requirements during their stay on the territory of the country. Currently, the State Migration Service of Ukraine does not see a significant increase in the number of foreigners in Ukraine. However, it is</p>

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			<p>important to note that Ukraine is currently under martial law due to the full-scale military invasion of Ukraine by the russian federation.</p> <p>2. No. Ukraine issues residence permits to foreigners in the form of a plastic card with implanted contactless electronic chip, containing information about the person, including biometric data and personal characteristics (digitalized face image and signature).</p> <p>3. ---</p> <p>4. ---</p> <p>5. As of today, the introduction of digital-only documents for foreigners is not planned. However, an experimental project on the displaying and usage of the digital copies of the permanent and temporary residence permits (e-permit) is being carried out in Ukraine currently. Among the positive aspects of the mentioned project are the following: e-permits for permanent and temporary residence are more secure than ordinary physical documents. Everyone can verify the authenticity of the document without using the special equipment — simply by scanning the QR code. The use of e-residence permits is fast, progressive, secure, and convenient because it is always accessible — right on your smartphone. You can use it at any moment and should not worry about losing them.</p>
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			<p>Thanks to the e-residence permit, individuals can confirm their identity and get access to the banking and postal services, us them while visiting private and public institutions.</p> <p>6. The introduction of digital-only identity documents and residence permits for foreigners is not planned at the moment.</p> <p>7. The introduction of digital-only identity documents and residence permits for foreigners is not planned at the moment, so there is no forecast of possible problems with their issuance and recognition.</p> <p>8. The introduction of digital-only identity documents and residence permits for foreigners is not planned at the moment.</p> <p>9. The introduction of digital-only identity documents and residence permits for foreigners is not planned at the moment.</p> <p>10. The introduction of digital-only identity documents and residence permits for foreigners is not planned at the moment.</p> <p>11. ---</p>
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