



# EMN BULLETIN

The EMN Bulletin provides policymakers and other practitioners with an outline of recent migration and international protection policy developments at EU and national level. The 5<sup>th</sup> edition of the EMN Bulletin provides information from the period June 2013 to October 2013, including (latest) relevant published statistics.

Specific topics covered are [general policy developments](#); [legal migration](#); [international protection](#); [eradication of trafficking in human beings](#); [borders, including Schengen and visas](#); [external dimension](#); [irregular and return migration](#); [integration and citizenship](#); and [additional complementary statistics](#).

## SPECIAL NOTE

Following the tragic accident outside Lampedusa, European Commissioner for Home Affairs Cecilia Malmström has released a [statement](#) highlighting the importance of Europe's solidarity and support both towards migrants and countries experiencing increasing migration flows. Cooperation and dialogue with countries of origin and transit has also been stressed by Commissioner Malmström as a necessary step in order to continue to address the migration phenomenon. In order to improve the identification and rescue of vessels at risk, the development of [EUROSUR](#), which is expected to be operational by December 2013, is also highlighted as an important tool.

Regarding international protection, Commissioner Malmström has also called upon the EU Member States to further engage in resettlement activities for those in need of international protection.

## WHAT IS THE EUROPEAN MIGRATION NETWORK (EMN)?

A network co-ordinated by the European Commission, assisted by two Service Providers, in co-operation with National Contact Points (EMN NCPs) established in each Member State plus Norway. Its purpose is to provide up-to-date, objective, reliable and comparable information on migration and asylum with a view to supporting policymaking in the European Union in these areas, as well as to the wider public. More information, as well as all EMN outputs, is available from [www.emn.europa.eu](http://www.emn.europa.eu).

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## 1. GENERAL POLICY DEVELOPMENTS

- ★ Outcomes of the [JHA Council Meeting on 7th and 8th October 2013](#) included an in depth discussion on the **Syria conflict and the protection of refugees** on the basis of the latest developments. Ministers also discussed the tragedy at sea near the Italian island of **Lampedusa** where more than 300 African migrants are confirmed to have drowned. EU Justice and Home Affairs ministers met with their **Eastern Partnership** counterparts (from Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine) to discuss cooperation and future prospects in this field. The participants adopted a **joint declaration** which will serve as input for the preparations for the third Eastern Partnership Summit in Vilnius, which will take place on 28th and 29th November 2013.
- ★ Eurostat released the 2013 edition of the [pocketbook European social statistics](#). The publication overall provides a comparative overview of the social statistics of 27 Member States, Candidate Countries and EFTA states.
- ★ The OECD released its [International Migration Outlook 2013 in June this year](#). The report provides an analysis of recent migration developments and policies within the OECD countries. It also includes analytical information on the fiscal impact of immigration in OECD countries and the discrimination against immigrants.
- ★ On 8<sup>th</sup> October 2013 the European Commission released jointly with the Organisation of Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) the results of the [Survey of Adult Skills](#). The Survey provides comparable data on literacy, numeracy and problem solving skills for the adult population in 24 countries. The results highlight striking differences in skills levels between countries.
- ★ The European Council released its [Conclusions on 25<sup>th</sup> October 2013](#).

## 2. LEGAL MIGRATION

### STATISTICS

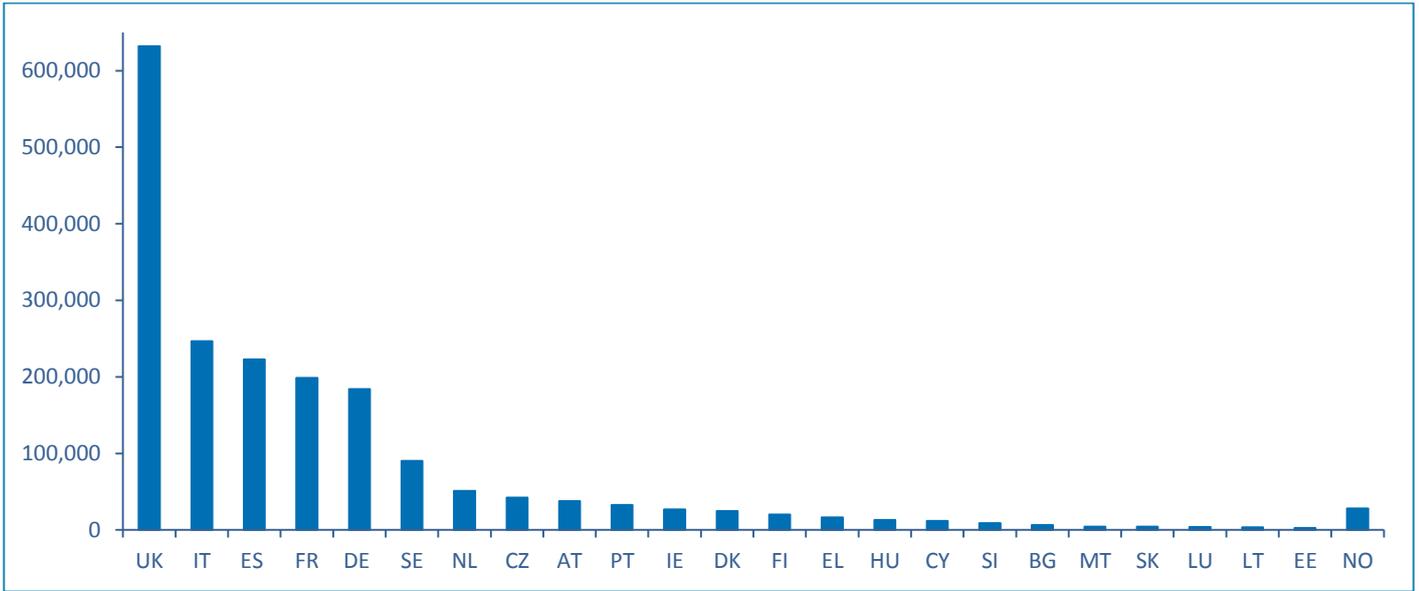
- ★ Recent statistics released from Eurostat and presented in Figures 1a and 1b below provide an overview of **residence permits** issued in 2012 by reason (family, education, remunerated activities and others). The latest statistics show that the three top Member States which have issued most residence permits are the **United Kingdom**<sup>1</sup> (631 940), **Italy** (246,760) and **Spain** (223 026). The

Member States which issued permits mainly for **family reasons** were Greece (73% of all permits), Luxembourg (63%), Spain (53%), Italy (49 %) and Sweden (49 %).

- ★ The highest proportions of permits issued for the **purpose of education** were **Ireland** (63%), **Hungary** (33%) and the **United Kingdom** (31%).
- ★ Those Member States that issued permits mostly for the **purpose of remunerated activities** were **Cyprus** and **Lithuania** (both 59%), **Slovenia** (50%) and **Czech Republic** (42%).
- ★ Lastly, the highest share of permits issued for 'other reasons' (including international protection) were **Malta** (68%), **Austria** (38%) and **Bulgaria** (38%).
- ★ In the **United Kingdom**: The Office for National Statistics' [Migration Statistics Quarterly Report](#) (produced with Home Office, Department for Work and Pensions and National Records of Scotland) was published on 29th August 2013. This provides quarterly data on UK migration flows, visas, asylum and settlement. In addition, the Home Office's [Immigration Statistics April to June](#) was published on 29<sup>th</sup> August 2013. The latter provide the latest UK figures on those subject to immigration control, for the period up to year ending March 2013. Topics included: admissions, visas, asylum, settlement, citizenship, detention, removals and voluntary departures.
- ★ In **Ireland**: The Central Statistics Office released, the [2013 Population and Migration Estimates for Ireland](#) which shows the number of immigrants coming to Ireland increased slightly to 55 900 in the year to April 2013 while emigration is estimated to have reached 89 000 in the same period (up 2.2 per cent ). Total net outward migration was -33 100.
- ★ Following the deadline for the transposition of the **EU Blue card** Directive (2009/50/EC), which was set by 19<sup>th</sup> June 2011, new data has been made available for some Member States regarding the number of Blue cards issued. For those Member States for which statistics are available, the data shows that 86% of all EU Blue cards were granted by **Germany**, followed by **Luxembourg** with 6% and **Austria** with 4%. It should be considered that, in some Member States, low figures might be due to the recent transposition of the Directive. Figure 1c below presents the number of EU Blue Cards granted in Member States in 2012.

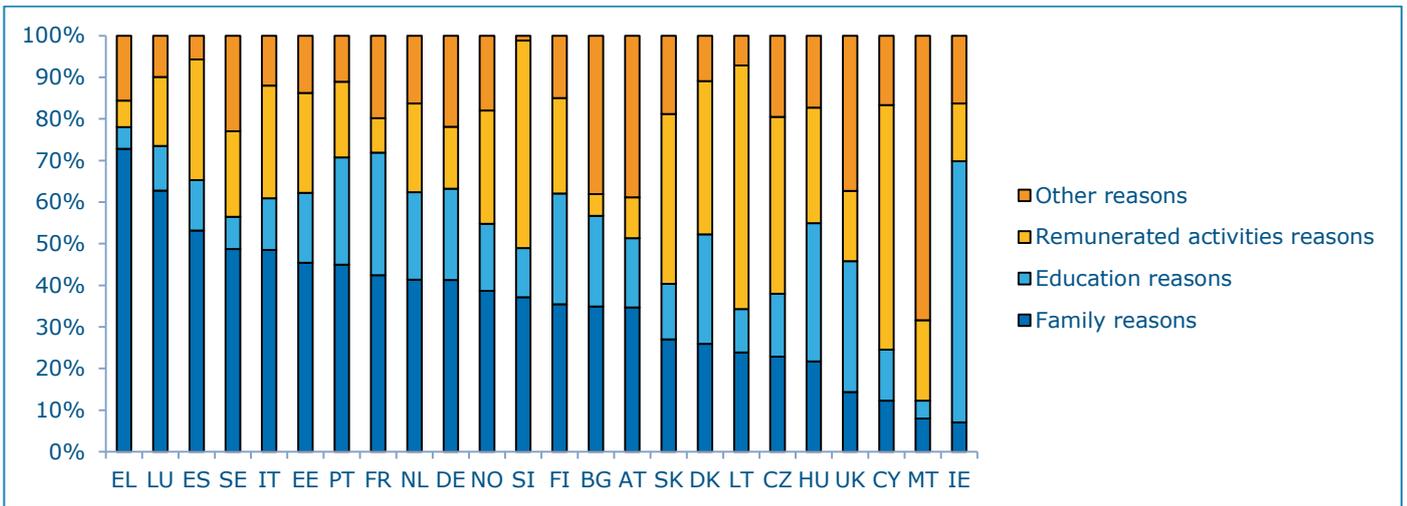
<sup>1</sup> Please note that UK does not operate a system of residence permits as such. Data on passenger arrivals, visas and asylum processes are used to compile data for the UK's equivalent systems.

Figure 1a: Total first residence permits issued in 2012



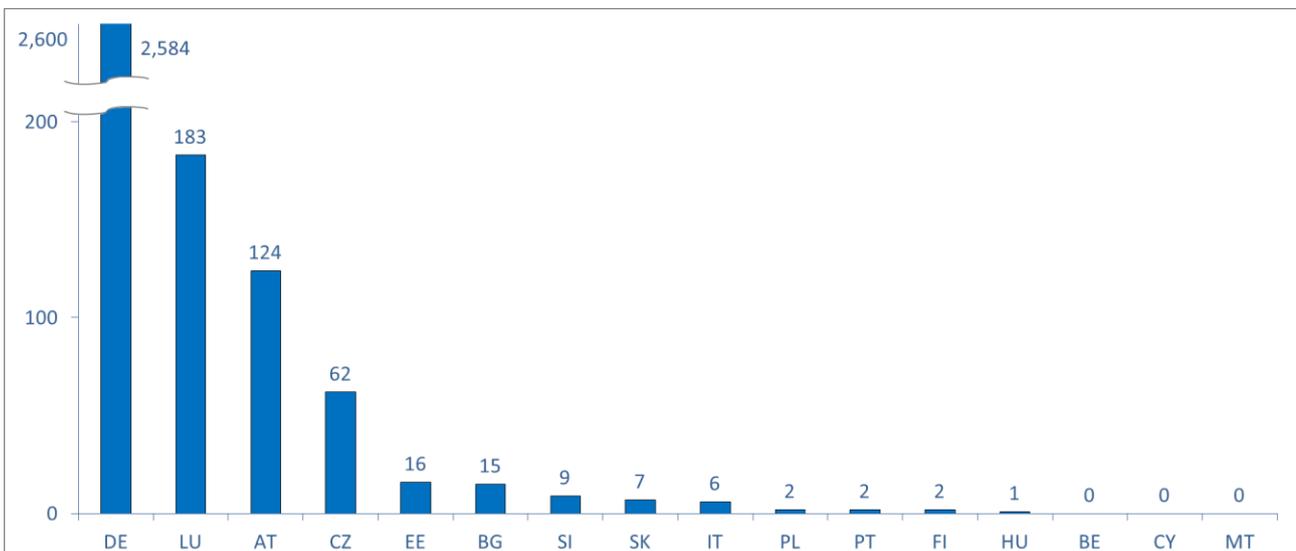
Source: Eurostat, accessed on 1 October 2013. No data for BE, LV, PL and RO available

Figure 1b: First residence permits issued, by reason in 2012



Source: Eurostat, accessed on 1 October 2013. No data for BE, LV, PL and RO available

Figure 1c: Total number of EU Blue Cards granted in 2012



Source: Eurostat, accessed on 1 October 2013

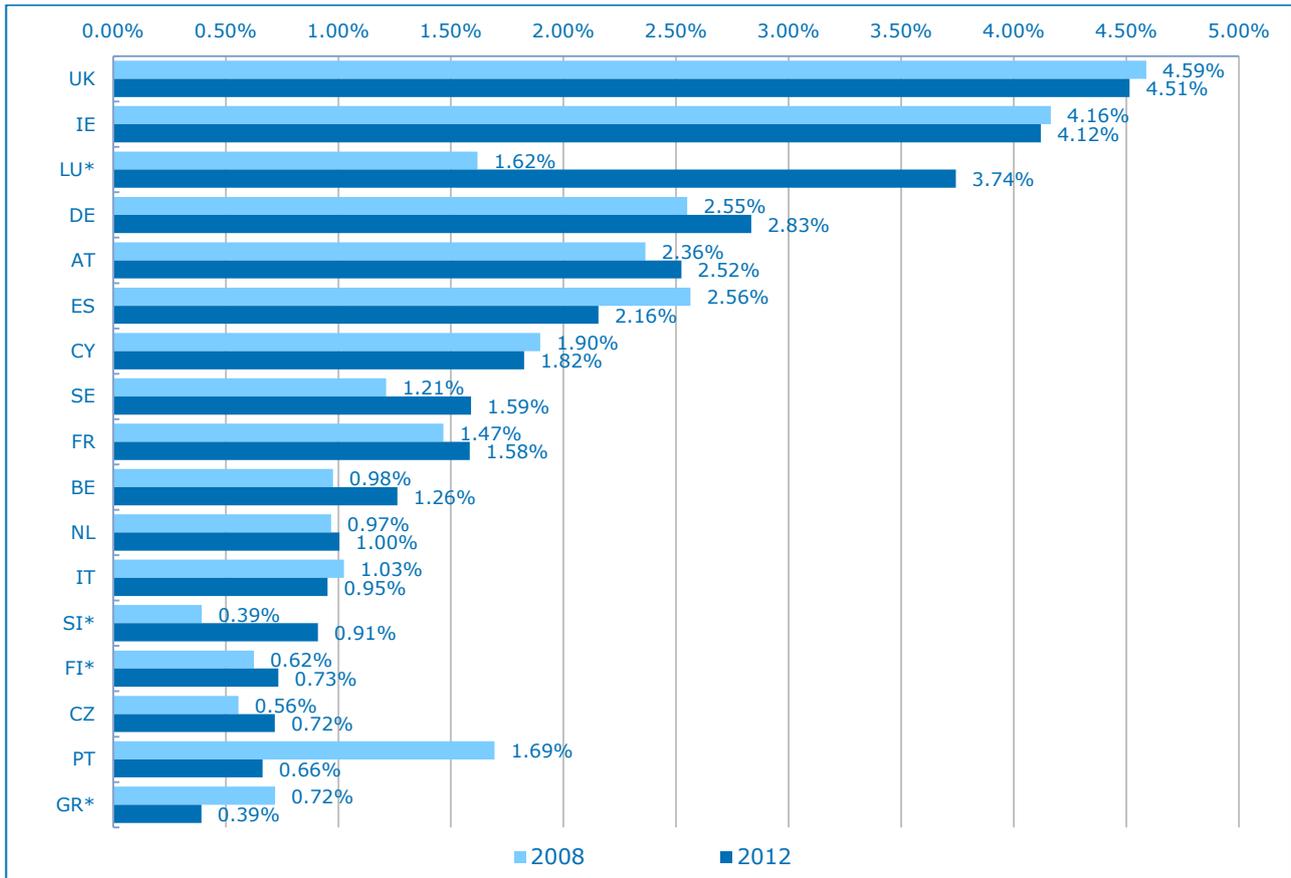
## EU DEVELOPMENTS AND UPDATES

- ★ EMN Study [Attracting Highly Qualified and Qualified Third Country Nationals](#) was published in October 2013. The purpose of the Study was to outline policies and concrete practical measures in Member States that aim to attract (highly) qualified third-country nationals. More specifically, it provides an overview of national policies and EU acquis aimed at attracting this group of workers; outlines concrete practical measures which are being implemented to achieve the goals of the national policies and; draws conclusions on good practices and lessons learnt with regard to attracting (highly) qualified third-country nationals. The Study shows that during 2012 there were 1.6 million third country nationals working in high skill occupations within the EU. From the Study, an overview of selected Member States on the proportion of employed third-country nationals working in high-skill occupations (ISCO 1-3) for the years 2008 and 2012 is provided by Figure 1d (below), while Figure 1e provides the share of employed third-country nationals (ISCO categories 1-3) on the total number of third-country nationals employed during 2012.
- ★ The EMN Study [on Intra-EU mobility of third country nationals](#) was released in July 2013. The conclusions highlighted the importance of quantifying the phenomenon given that currently, there is limited availability of relevant statistics on intra-EU mobility of third-country nationals, statistics. Where statistics on overall movements of third-country nationals were available in Member States, over a five year time period, the **trend in intra-EU mobility for third-country nationals, however defined, has been upwards**. Whilst the study did not set out to measure the impact of the provisions of the migration Directives in relation to mobility, in all but one of the above Member States, the upward

trend in mobility of third-country nationals was **greater than that of EU citizens**. However, from the limited statistics available on overall movements of third-country nationals in absolute terms, it seems clear that these remain **small when compared with movements of EU citizens** across Member States.

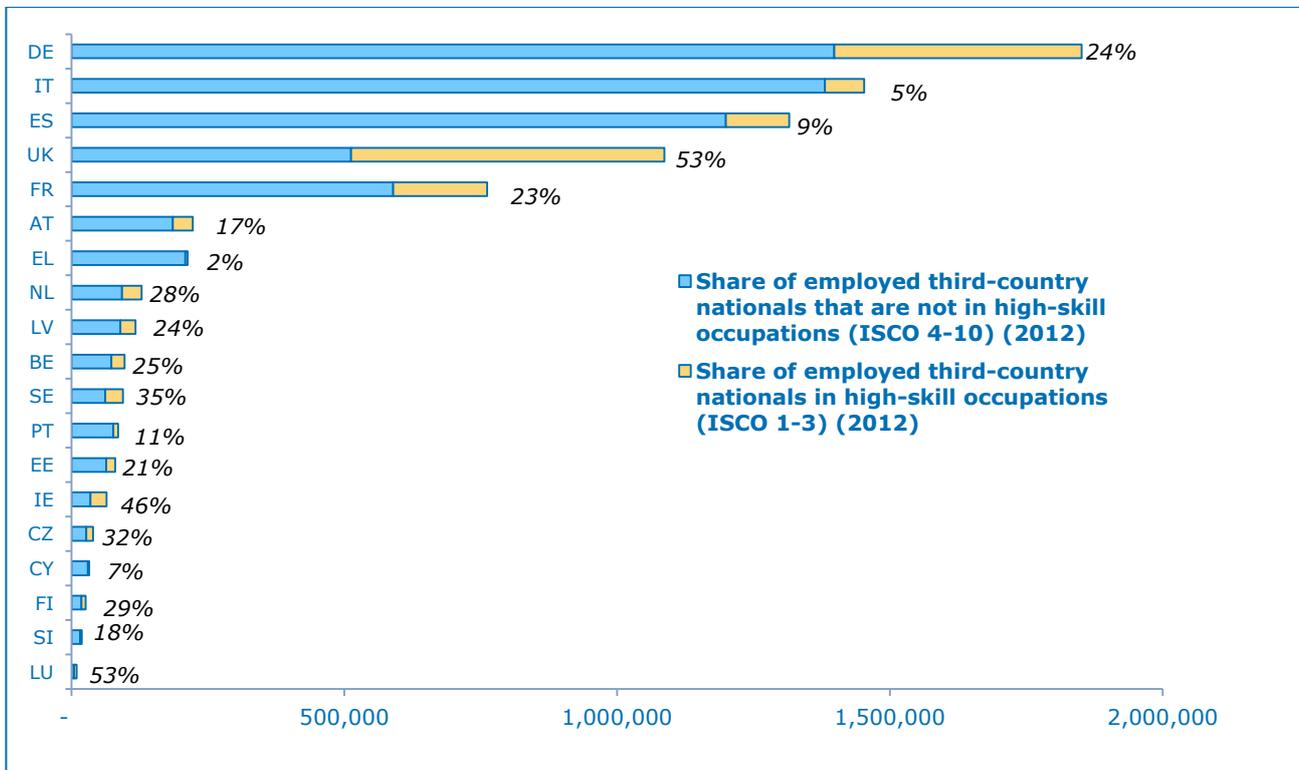
- ★ The European Parliament's Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs (LIBE), released in July 2013 [the Draft report](#) on the proposal for a Directive on the conditions of entry and residence of third-country nationals for the purposes of **research, studies, pupil exchange, remunerated and unremunerated training, voluntary service and au pairing (recast)**. The report stressed that while the document was being drafted, on-going negotiations on the proposal for a Directive on the Conditions of Entry and Residence of Third-Country Nationals for the Purpose of Seasonal Employment and the proposal for a Directive on the Conditions of Entry and Residence of Third-Country Nationals in the Framework of an Intra-Corporate Transfer, were taking place. Consequently, some issues negotiated in the context of these files are relevant also for the recast of the Directive on the conditions of entry and residence of third-country nationals for the purposes of research, studies, pupil exchange, remunerated and unremunerated training, voluntary service and au pairing; the aim of the Rapporteur is to take into consideration the outcome of those negotiations.
- ★ The European Commission has released the [August Edition](#) of the Social Agenda, in which it explains how to overcome obstacles to working in another EU country.
- ★ On 25 July 2013 the European Parliament published its [draft report](#) on the proposal for a Directive on measures facilitating the exercise of rights conferred on workers in the context of freedom of movement for workers.

Figure 1d: Proportion of employed third-country nationals working in high-skill occupations (ISCO 1-3) during 2008-2012



Note: Data for those Member States with an (\*) is characterized by low reliability. No reliable data or no data was available for the outstanding EU Member States. Source: Eurostat, Labour Force Surveys

Figure 1e: Share of employed third-country nationals (ISCO categories 1-3) on the total number of third-country nationals employed in 2012



Note: No reliable data or no data was available for the outstanding EU Member States. Source: Eurostat, Member State Labour Force Surveys

## NATIONAL DEVELOPMENTS

- ★ **Croatia:** During the reporting period, the Republic of **Croatia** officially joined the EU as the newest Member State. A range of new provisions regarding **legal migration** have entered in to force. For example: an Ordinance on the Manner of Determining Conditions for Entry and Stay for the nationals of the EEA Member States and their family members, as well as of family members of Croatian nationals (Croatian Official Gazette, Numbers: 126/12 and 81/13); the Ordinance on Stay and Work of Highly Qualified Third Country Nationals ([Croatian Official Gazette](#), Numbers: [120/12 and 81/13](#)); and the Ordinance on the Amendments to the Ordinance on Status and Work of Aliens entered into force (Croatian Official Gazette, Number: 81/13). The Regulation on Temporary Application of Rules related to the Work of EEA Member State nationals and their family members (Croatian Official Gazette, Number: 79/13) also entered into force.
- ★ **Netherlands:** The [Modern Migration Policy Act entered into force on 1<sup>st</sup> June 2013](#); it primarily relates to the regular purposes of stay such as employment, study and family reunification. Sponsors and foreign nationals are now able to use the Admission and Residence Procedure (TEV). They no longer have to submit two separate applications for a regular provisional residence permit and a residence permit. After the regular provisional residence permit has been issued, the Ministry of Security and Justice (IND) will automatically grant the residence permit.

### *Economic migration*

- ★ **Estonia:** Amendments to the Aliens Act entered into force on 1<sup>st</sup> September 2013. The main aim of the amendments is to speed up the admission procedure of **highly-qualified** labour migrants and foreign **students** and to facilitate their **integration** into Estonian society. According to the amendments, after a visa is issued to enter the country, a residence permit for employment or study reasons can be obtained. The amendments also introduced the definition of 'highly-qualified worker'. The Police and Border Guard Board have now the right to make available to third-country nationals, introduction / accommodation programmes when they apply for /renew their permits. The programmes include basic course on the Estonian state, society and culture, and the courses are coupled with specialised modules targeting different groups, for example, senior specialists, international students, entrepreneurs and their family members.
- ★ **Ireland:** Effective from 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2013, a new pilot [Atypical Working Scheme](#) is now available to non-EEA nationals who, in certain

### *General legal migration*

- circumstances, are required by a company/organisation in Ireland to undertake short-term contract work in Ireland (between 15-90 days), a scenario not currently provided for under existing Irish legislation. A non-refundable application fee of €250 applies.
- ★ **Italy:** The Italian Ministry of Labour and Social Policies published the [Third Annual Report on Migrants' Labour Market](#) (July 2013). The percentage of foreign workers in search of employment increased but at the same time, employment trends are more positive for foreign workers due to the increase of job opportunities within specific sectors. Overall, the contribution of foreign workers, both employed and self-employed, to the national economy is significantly increasing. The [Excelsior Survey 2013](#), the main national source of information on labour market forecast promoted by the Italian Association of the Chambers of Commerce with the participation of the Ministry of Labour, highlighted an **unmet migrant labour demand** despite the current economic crisis.
- ★ **Luxembourg:** The EU's Single Permit Directive (2011/98/EU) was transposed by the Law of 19 June 2013 which modifies the Law of 29 August 2008 on free movement of persons and immigration. The transposing law was published in the Mémorial n°106 of 25 June 2013 and entered into force on the same day.
- ★ **Poland:** A [new bill on foreigners](#) was submitted to the Lower Chamber of the Parliament on 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2013. The second reading of the bill is scheduled for early November.
- ★ **Spain:** On 30<sup>th</sup> September 2013 the new Law "Support for entrepreneurs and their internationalisation" was published. The Law contains a chapter on international mobility which aims to increase Spain's attractiveness as a destination for foreign investment, entrepreneurship and business. The new measures are focused on investors, entrepreneurs, intra-corporate transferees, researchers and highly qualified workers, working for companies considered of national interest (taking into account level of investment, strategic sectors or creation of jobs) as well as their spouses and children. The visas and authorisations will be managed through a fast-track procedure.
- ★ **United Kingdom:** On 6<sup>th</sup> of September 2013, a written [ministerial statement](#) was laid in Parliament outlining a number of changes to the Immigration Rules. These included several small changes to economic routes to make them more

attractive and more flexible for businesses. These changes include new provision in Tier 1 for artists of exceptional promise, removing the English language requirement for intra-company transferees, making it easier for graduate entrepreneurs to switch into Tier 2, and waiving share ownership restrictions for senior staff earning £152 100 or more.

#### *Student migration*

- ★ **Italy:** Following the Law Decree approved by the Council of Ministers on 9<sup>th</sup> September 2013, international students are no longer obliged to renew their resident permit every year. The resident permit for education purposes will now have the same duration as the study course.
- ★ **Ireland:** The Department of Education and Skills announced [changes which modify fee arrangements for migrant students living in Ireland](#). Legally resident, non-EEA students who gain Irish or other EEA citizenship before or during their third level studies will no longer be required to pay full tuition fees, which can exceed €10 000 a year.
- ★ **France:** A [new law on higher education](#) aims to improve the reception and professional integration of students, young graduates and researchers.
- ★ **The Netherlands:** Overall, [the Netherlands aims to attract more talent from abroad](#) and become a more attractive destination for talented foreign students, researchers and knowledge workers. The Netherlands Bureau for Economic Policy Analysis (CPB) recently concluded that foreign students have considerable economic value for the Netherlands. The CPB estimates that, if one in five foreign students stays in the Netherlands after graduating, public revenues would increase by €740 million. The Social and Economic Council recently published an advisory opinion entitled '[Make it in the Netherlands!](#)' which stresses the importance of attracting and retaining talented foreign students.

#### *Family migration*

- ★ **Italy:** The benefits provided to family members of EU citizens and also to civil partners, were extended by Law no. 96/13 of 6th August 2013 which amended the rules on the right of free movement of EU citizens.

### 3. INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION INCLUDING ASYLUM PLUS DEVELOPMENTS IN RELATION TO UNACCOMPANIED MINORS

#### STATISTICS

- ★ The latest data available on Eurostat show that the **number of asylum applicants** during the first half of 2013 was much higher when compared to the same periods in 2012 and 2011 and exceeded the 2012 number by some 33%. (See Figure 2a).
- ★ **Germany, France** and **Sweden** accounted for nearly 50 per cent of all asylum applications in the EU27 in the first half of 2013. When compared with the first half of 2012, **Germany** and **Hungary** experienced the **highest increase in asylum applications** e.g. Germany reported an increase of 19 360 applications whereas Hungary reported an approx. 11 000 increase, while in **Belgium** and **Romania** the number of asylum applications decreased by 3 125 and by 970 applicants respectively.
- ★ Most asylum applicants in the first half of 2013 were citizens of the **Russian Federation** (25 280) and **Syria** (16 710) showing increases of 166% and 147% respectively when compared to the first half of 2012. In the second quarter of 2013 the **number of first instance decisions** in EU27 increased by 18 per cent when compared to the same period in 2012. Most decisions were issued to citizens of **Syria** (7 585), **Afghanistan** (6 045) and the **Russian Federation** (4 930).
- ★ Overall, the total number of **asylum applications withdrawn** in the first half of 2013 in the EU 27 increased by 1.3 per cent<sup>2</sup> compared to the same period in 2012; most of these were in **Sweden** (2 550), **Germany** (1 785) and **Greece** (1 750)<sup>3</sup>. Out of all applications withdrawn by third country nationals, citizens of the **Russian Federation** (1 055 or 8.5%), **Pakistan** (1 005 or 8.1%) and **Serbia** (740 or 5.9%) were most represented.
- ★ The **highest number of positive first instance decisions** in Q2 2013 was recorded in **Sweden** (recording 22% of all positive decisions within EU), **Germany** (20%) and **Italy** (14%).
- ★ Most **positive decisions** were received by citizens of **Syria, Afghanistan** and **Somalia** in the second quarter of 2013, amounting for almost 50 per cent of the total number of positive decisions issued. When compared with the same

<sup>2</sup> The increase is higher as no data for all months of the first half of 2013 are not available from Greece, Austria, Malta, Czech Republic (May, June); UK, Cyprus, Lithuania, (June); Romania (February-June); and Spain (March and June)

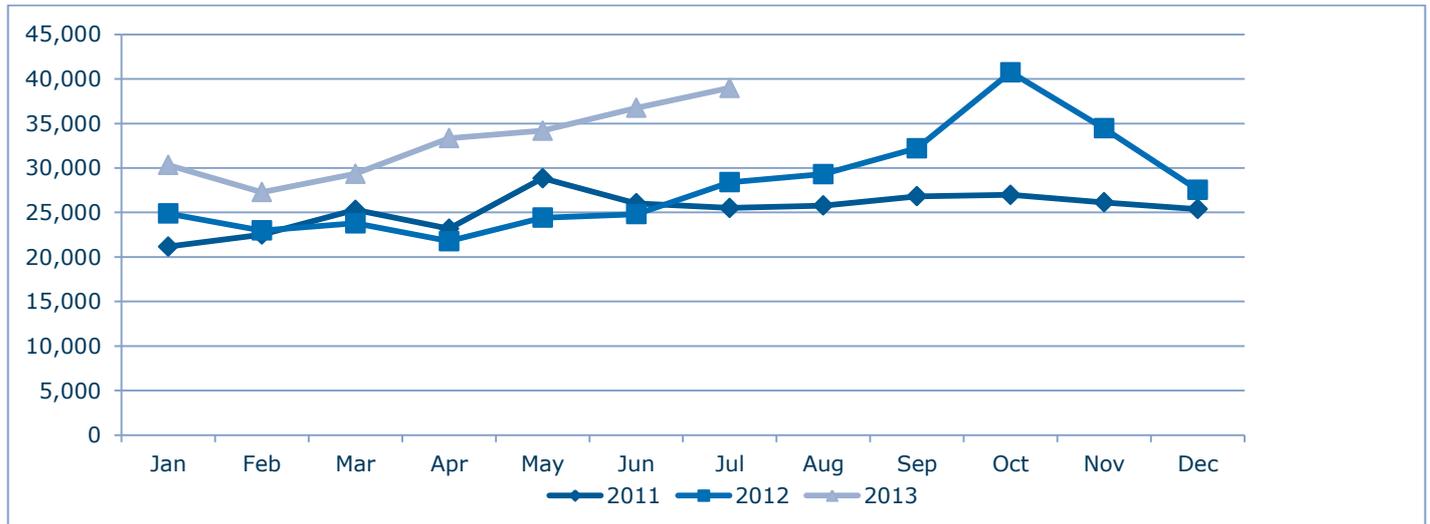
<sup>3</sup> However no data for May and June were available).

period in 2012, the **number of positive decision for citizens of Syria increased** by 2 200 or 50%.

★ The total number of **negative decisions** increased by 6 100 or almost 15 per cent in Q2 of 2013 when compared to the same period in 2012.

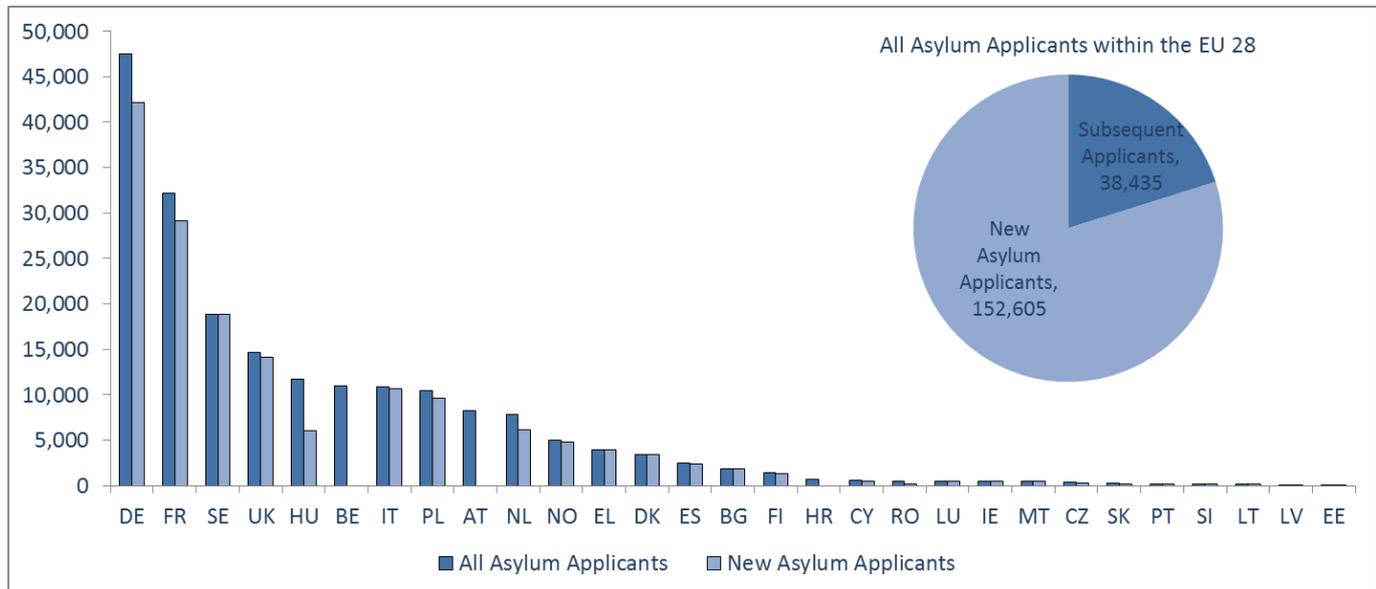
The highest numbers of negative decisions were recorded in **France** (24%), **Germany** (20%) and **Sweden** (12%). Most negative decisions in Q2 2013 were issued to citizens of the **Russian Federation** (7.7%), **Pakistan** (7.6%) and **Afghanistan** (5.5%). (See figure 2c)

Figure 2a: Asylum applications in EU-28, January 2011-July 2013



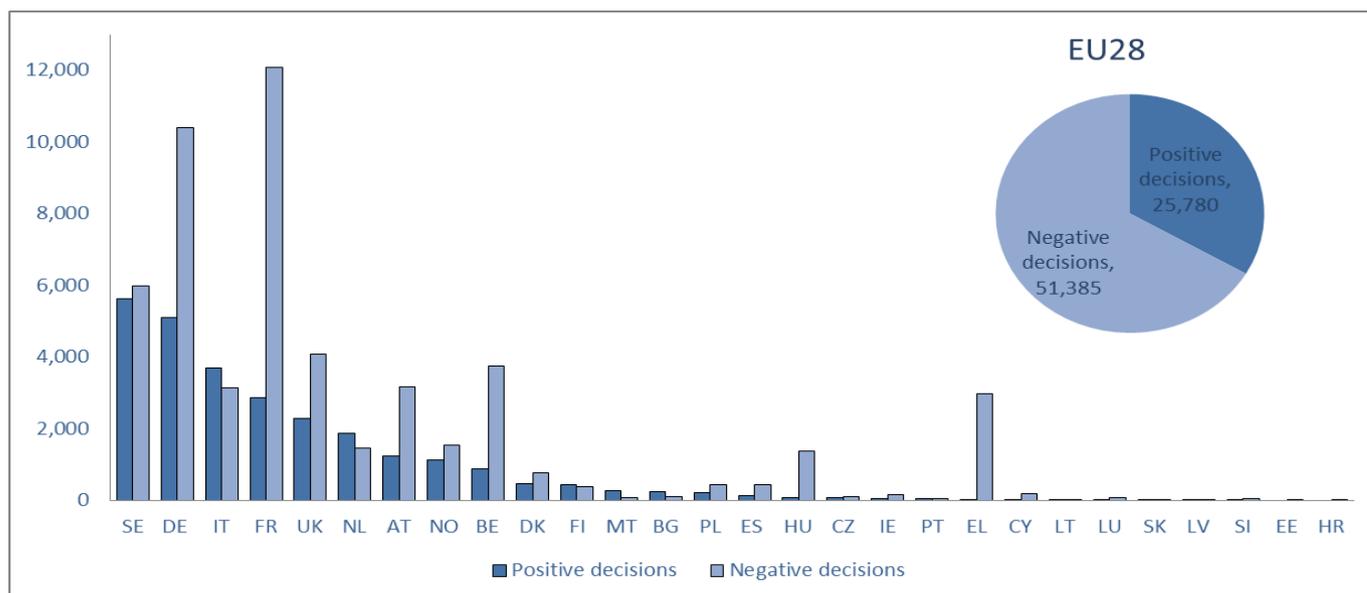
Source: Eurostat, accessed on 29 October 2013,.

Figure 2b: Asylum and new asylum applicants by (Member) State, first half of 2013 (monthly data)



Source: Eurostat, accessed on 7 October 2013

Figure 2c: First instance asylum decisions, second quarter 2013 (quarterly data)



Source: Eurostat, accessed on 7 October 2013- Data on EU 28 include Dublin decisions as negative ones (according to Art. 4 862/2007)

#### EU DEVELOPMENTS AND UPDATES

- ★ The 2013 EMN Study on [“Organisation of Reception Facilities for Asylum Seekers in different EU Member States”](#) was launched in early April 2013; the first results will be published in November 2013.
- ★ The European Parliament’s LIBE Committee agreed on a [resolution voted on 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2013](#), that the EU and its Member States should guarantee safe entry and fair asylum procedures to **Syrian refugees**. Furthermore, the EU was called to provide humanitarian aid and support to Syria and called Syria’s neighbouring countries to keep their borders open.
- ★ The European Parliament published on 26<sup>th</sup> August 2013 its [report on the situation of unaccompanied minors in the EU](#).
- ★ The European Asylum Support Office (EASO) released its [first quarterly asylum report for 2013](#); EASO’s. The report showed that the total number of asylum applicants within the EU during the 1st quarter 2013 was 15% lower than in the 4th quarter 2012.
- ★ The second [Annual Report on the Situation of Asylum in the European Union for 2012](#) was also published on 8<sup>th</sup> July 2013. EASO published its [2014 work programme](#) on 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2013. The programme aims to support Member States’ implementation of the recast asylum package through training, practical cooperation activities, common Country of Origin Information (COI) and quality reports. According to the work programme EASO will also further develop its ‘Early warning and Preparedness System’ in addition to operational support, particularly to Greece and to Italy.

#### NATIONAL DEVELOPMENTS

- ★ **Austria:** In the framework of a humanitarian action, and with the operational support of the International Organization for Migration (IOM), Austria [agreed to admit 500 Syrians](#) and to grant them asylum. Among these individuals were Christians and other vulnerable persons who are selected in cooperation with the UNHCR.
- ★ **Belgium:** On 22<sup>nd</sup> August 2013, [two laws amending the Belgian asylum procedure were published](#), including a modification of the definition of new elements in case of multiple application, a change of the competent instance to review new elements and the implementation of the ‘first country of asylum’ concept.
- ★ **Bulgaria:** The draft amendments to the Bulgarian Law on Asylum and Refugees, which aim to transpose the Qualification Directive (2011/95/EU) into national legislation, have been sent for approval to all ministries before its adoption.
- ★ **Croatia:** The Ordinance on the Amendments to the Ordinance on Forms and Data Records in the Asylum Procedure entered into force on 1st July 2013 (Croatian Official Gazette, Number: 81/13); an amendment Act to the Asylum Act is also ongoing. Such amendments aim to **harmonise the provisions of the Asylum Act** with Articles 2, 9, 10, and 28 of the recast Qualification Directive (2011/95/EU) as well as with Articles 7, 12, 23, 25 and 32 of the Asylum Procedures Directive (2005/85/EC), and with Council Regulation (EC) No. 343/2003 establishing the criteria and mechanisms for determining the Member State responsible for examining an asylum application lodged by a third-country national in one of the

Member States. This Act Proposal shall aim to fulfil the requirements under the Council Regulation (EC) No. 2725/2000 on the establishment of the "Eurodac" for the **comparison of fingerprints** for the effective application of the Dublin Convention by regulating procedures in cases where temporarily taking fingerprints is not possible. On 18<sup>th</sup> July 2013, the Croatian Government adopted a Protocol on Treating Children Separated from their Parents – Foreign Nationals, which regulates international cooperation and the obligations of competent ministries in relation to **unaccompanied minors**.

★ **Cyprus:** On 12 July, 2013 new legislative amendments were published in the [Official Gazette of the Republic of Cyprus](#), under the Refugee Law Regulations for **Reception Conditions** (R.A.P. 255/2013). The amendments replace the provision of public subsistence (under the Public Subsistence and Services Law) to applicants for international protection with a special scheme by the Social Welfare Services which provides financial aid or aid in kind in the form of monthly vouchers that ensure the applicants' basic needs for food and clothing are met. A monthly subsistence for rent, electricity, water and other expenses is also provided. Following the amendments, the level of allowance for personal expenses for applicants residing in Reception and Accommodation Centres will thus be specified by a Decree from the **Council of Ministers** rather than set out under the Regulations for Reception Conditions. A Decree by the Council of Ministers was published in the Official Gazette on 14<sup>th</sup> August, 2013, whereby the financial allowance provided to applicants accommodated in reception centres was specified/readjusted.

★ **Estonia:** On October 1<sup>st</sup> 2013, amendments to the Act on Granting International Protection to Aliens entered into force. The Act provides the establishment of a detention centre as a result of a merger between the initial reception centre, under the auspices of the Ministry of Social Affairs, and the expulsion centre, under the Police and Border Guard Board. The detention centre will allow the detention of asylum seekers for initial asylum proceedings or whenever necessary, for example, in the interests of the protection of national security and public order. The amendments also clarified the procedure for application, representation and provision of services to **unaccompanied minors** and **adults with restricted legal capacity** applying for asylum or as beneficiaries of international protection.

★ **Finland:** A Finnish government decision regarding an additional quota of refugees stated that Finland will accept 500 Syrian refugees next year. The [Government decided on 20<sup>th</sup> September 2013, to increase the refugee quota](#) for 2014 by 300 persons. In addition, the Ministry of the Interior

decided that 200 places, from the standard quota of 750 places, will be allocated to Syrian refugees. Finland, as part of the international community, is keen to alleviate the humanitarian crisis in Syria. However, the decision to accept 500 Syrian refugees in 2014 has raised disquiet among opposition MPs; Jussi Halla-Aho, an immigration opponent, has [filed written parliamentary questions on the matter](#). The number of asylum seekers **increased** during the first half of 2013 in Finland, and between January and June 2013, in total 1 480 asylum seekers arrived, representing some 16% more compared with 1 274 arrivals in the same period during the previous year.

★ **France:** - The Ministry of Interior launched [the national consultation on the asylum reform](#) which should lead to a range of reform proposals by the end of October 2013.

★ **Germany:** The transposing law of the recast **Qualification Directive** (2011/95/EU), "[Gesetz zur Umsetzung der Richtlinie 2011/95/EU](#)", was published on 5<sup>th</sup> September 2013 and will enter into force on 1<sup>st</sup> December 2013. Two of the amendments already entered into force on 6<sup>th</sup> September 2013, those being: the possibility of preliminary remedy against transfer decisions in the Dublin Process and; the reduction of the waiting period for asylum seekers to take up employment (article 1 no. 27). Also, Directive 2011/51/EU, extending the scope of the **Long Term Residence Directive** (2003/109/EC) to beneficiaries of international protection, was transposed by the 'Law to improve the rights of internationally protected persons and foreign workers' ([Gesetz zur Verbesserung der Rechte von international Schutzberechtigten und ausländischen Arbeitnehmern](#)) and published on 5<sup>th</sup> September 2013. The Law also transposed several regulations of the EU Single Permit Directive 2011/98/EU. During 2013, as part of the **resettlement programme 2012-2014**, with a quota of 300 per annum, [Germany will resettle a total of 250 refugees currently staying in Turkey](#), and coming from Iraq, Iran and Syria. A total of 100 refugees arrived in Germany on 16<sup>th</sup> July 2013; another 50 refugees will be non-Syrian refugees. **Regarding humanitarian reception**, a total of [107 Syrian refugees arrived at Hanover Airport](#) on 11<sup>th</sup> September 2013.

★ **Italy:** The Syrian conflict has caused an increase in boat landings in the Southern coasts. The Ministry of Interior estimated that 9 805 Syrian nationals, out of 35 000 landings, arrived in Italy from the beginning of 2013 to October 2013.

★ **Latvia:** During the reporting period, amendments to the Law on the Status of a Long-Term Resident of the European Community in the Republic of Latvia were introduced in order to transpose Directive 2011/51/EU which extends the scope of the Long Term Residence Directive (2003/109/EC) to beneficiaries of international protection.

- ★ **Luxembourg:** On 13<sup>th</sup> September 2013, the Council of Government approved a plan, proposed by the Minister of Immigration, to host 60 refugees from Syria. The re-cast Qualification Directive (2011/95/EU) and Directive 2011/51/EU amending Council Directive 2003/109/EC to extend its scope to beneficiaries of international protection were transposed by the Law of 19<sup>th</sup> June 2013, which entered into force on 25<sup>th</sup> June 2013.
- ★ **The Netherlands:** From 1<sup>st</sup> June 2013, foreign [unaccompanied minors follow the same asylum procedure as all other asylum seekers](#). Following careful procedures, where their asylum application has been rejected, unaccompanied minors have to return to their country of origin or the country where they previously resided. If, through no fault of their own, unaccompanied minor foreign nationals aged below 15 cannot return to their country of origin within three years after they have submitted their first application, they may qualify for a special residence permit, the so-called permit under the extended no-fault policy, providing certain conditions are met.
- ★ **Norway:** In June 2013, the Norwegian Directorate of Immigration (UDI) launched an international Call for Tender (CfT) for projects to develop improved medical methods for assessing the age of children and young adults, with a total budget of approximately €375 000. Four project proposals, including one from Australia and one from the UK were received; a decision will be taken in mid-October 2013.
- ★ **Poland:** [the number of asylum applications submitted in Poland is still on the rise](#). As of 24<sup>th</sup> October 2013, the number amounted to 14 282 applications, reaching the highest number in the history of the Polish asylum system (about 92% were first asylum applications). As in previous years, the largest number of asylum applications (nearly 13 000) was filed by citizens of Russia (in particular of Chechen origin), accounting for 86% of all applications.
- ★ **Spain:** Article 32 of the Organic Law 4/2000, of 11<sup>th</sup> January 2013 on rights and freedoms of aliens in Spain and their social integration has been modified by Organic Law 4/2013, of 28<sup>th</sup> June 2013, in order to transpose and comply with the provisions of Directive 2011/51/EU amending the Directive 2003/109/EC extending its scope to the beneficiaries of international protection. Article 57 of the Organic Law has been modified to reflect a system of enhanced protection in the case of expulsion of beneficiaries of international protection who enjoy long-term resident status.
- ★ **Sweden:** In early September 2013, the Swedish Migration Board made a new assessment of the severity of the Syrian conflict; based on this assessment, the norm for asylum applicants from Syria will now be to grant a [permanent residence permit](#). Before the new assessment, approximately half of the asylum seekers from

Syria were granted **permanent residence permits** and the other half were granted **three-year residence permits** based on individual assessments of their asylum case and whether the need for asylum was based on individual grounds or general grounds such as armed conflict. Sweden received a high number of Syrian asylum seekers in 2012 and this trend has continued in 2013. However, since the new assessment, the number of asylum seekers from Syria has drastically increased; in September 2013 Sweden received approximately 1 700 asylum seekers each week, of whom 700 were from Syria.

- ★ **United Kingdom:** The ministerial statements of 6<sup>th</sup> September 2013, which were laid in Parliament, also outlined Immigration Rules amendments such as: changes to slow the path to settlement for refugees, and those granted humanitarian protection who have committed crimes. Applications for settlement from refugees will be refused for 15 years from the date of their sentence if they have been sentenced to over 12 months' imprisonment; for seven years if they have been sentenced to up to 12 months' imprisonment; and for two years if they have been given a non-custodial sentence. Discretion to delay the route to settlement will apply in the case of repeat offenders

## 4. ERADICATION OF TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS

### EU DEVELOPMENTS AND UPDATES

- ★ The results of the EMN Study on "[Identification of Victims of Trafficking in Human Beings](#)", launched in April 2013 will be available in November 2013 from the [EMN website](#).
- ★ On the eve of the 7<sup>th</sup> EU Anti-Trafficking Day, [Commissioner Malmström highlighted the progress achieved by Europe to combat trafficking in human beings, but stressed that more needed to be done](#). The link between the Internet and trafficking in human beings as a means to recruit victims of trafficking and as a tool to help prosecution and raise awareness was highlighted as one area requiring more research.
- ★ The European Commission has recently published the document '[The EU rights of victims of trafficking](#)' which is available in all official EU languages.
- ★ [Guidelines for the identification of victims of trafficking in human beings](#) were also published by the European Commission in order to ensure better coordination and increase coherence in this area and especially for border guards and consular services.
- ★ The OSCE released on 8<sup>th</sup> July 2013 its report on '[Trafficking in human beings for the purpose of organ removal in the OSCE region: Analysis and Findings](#)'. This is the first research paper by OSCE

which is based on an analysis of available case studies in the OSCE region.

- ★ A '[Guide to the Trafficking of Women](#)' has been published by the international project 'Border Woman' ([Mujer Frontera](#)). The guide has been written by immigrant women who have been victims of trafficking in human beings. The document describes their experiences as well as the existing support mechanisms and main policy instruments against trafficking.

## NATIONAL DEVELOPMENTS

- ★ **Croatia:** During 2012 and 2013, the project "Enhancing Identification of Victims of Trafficking in Human Beings", financed within the framework of the EU Instrument of Pre-accession Assistance (IPA), was carried out as part of the 2010 IPA Programme for Croatia. The Government Office for Human Rights and the Rights of National Minorities acted as the beneficiary administration and Romania as a partner country. The project goals included strengthening of the capacity of the relevant stakeholders (State Attorney's Office, Ministry of Interior, State Inspectorate, NGOs etc.) in combating human trafficking, thus increasing protection measures for victims of trafficking in human beings. The project ended in July 2013 and the following results have been achieved: research on main trends in trafficking in Croatia; enhanced efficiency of the victim identification system in Croatia; development of guidelines related to identification, assistance and protection of human trafficking victims and; public awareness-raising campaign.
- ★ **Finland:** [The number of victims of sexual exploitation in the system of assistance for the victims of trafficking in human beings has increased](#). From 1<sup>st</sup> January to 30<sup>th</sup> June 2013 a total of 24 people, including one minor, were accepted into the system of assistance for victims of trafficking in human beings, co-ordinated by the Joutseno Reception Centre. A total of 16 people, forming the majority of those that were accepted into the system of assistance, have been victims of human trafficking related to sexual exploitation.
- ★ **Hungary:** A new [National Strategy against Human Trafficking](#) was adopted for the period 2013-2016 by the Hungarian Government in accordance with the EU Strategy towards the eradication of trafficking in Human Beings.
- ★ **Ireland:** Legislation criminalising forced labour was passed by the Irish Government and will transpose the EU Directive on preventing and combating trafficking in human beings (2011/36/EU) into Irish Law. [The Criminal Law \(Human Trafficking\) Amendment Act 2013](#) criminalises human trafficking for the purposes of forced begging and criminal activity, two forms of exploitation not covered by previous legislation. The 2013 Act adopts the definition of 'forced labour' from the International Labour Organisation
- Convention No. 29 of 1930 on Forced or Compulsory Labour. It will also provide more child-friendly provisions for child witnesses and children giving evidence, by increasing the age threshold to 18 years old for out-of court video recording.
- ★ **Italy:** Law no. 96/13 of 6 August 2013 transposed Directive 2011/36/EU on preventing and combating trafficking in human beings and protecting its victims. The new provisions will facilitate the coordination between the institutions involved in the protection and assistance of victims of human trafficking and those responsible for international protection.
- ★ **Luxembourg:** The Parliament continues the discussion on bill n° 6562, regarding the transposition of the Directive 2011/36/EU on preventing and combating trafficking in human beings and protecting its victims. On 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2013 and 10<sup>th</sup> July 2013 the aforementioned bill received positive legal opinions from the Council of State and the Consultative Commission of Human Rights.
- ★ **The Netherlands:** The Dutch approach to trafficking in human beings, in which increasingly more organisations are involved, is doing relatively well, but concerns remain, as evidenced by the [new periodical report of the National Rapporteur](#). In her recommendations, the National Rapporteur discusses the most urgent topics, such as victims; the prostitution sector and; new forms of trafficking in human beings, and highlights that the government should become more alert to new forms of trafficking in human beings outside the sex industry. Key recommendations of a [new report on trafficking victims in the Netherlands](#) propose that the Netherlands should also focus on the identification of victims, their needs and their eligibility for treatment programmes, rather than on the identification of indicators to start criminal proceedings. The report highlights that victims of trafficking in human beings in the Netherlands are characterised as exceptionally vulnerable, due to their young age, low educational level, problematic family background, lack of money, and insufficient knowledge of the Dutch language.
- ★ **Poland:** Nationwide measures have been undertaken to raise awareness on trafficking in human beings among the most vulnerable groups such as: students, Poles migrating for work purposes, economic migrants coming to Poland and young women. Some of the measures implemented included: movie reviews on forced labour as a result of human trafficking screened in five Polish cities; publishing information leaflets; preparing preventative movie spots addressed to employment agencies; and the launch of [an information portal](#) - [www.handelludzmi.eu](http://www.handelludzmi.eu). The portal provides a contact form, which can be completed anonymously to provide information on unlawful exploitation as a victim of trafficking in

human being for an individual or to report on behalf of another person.

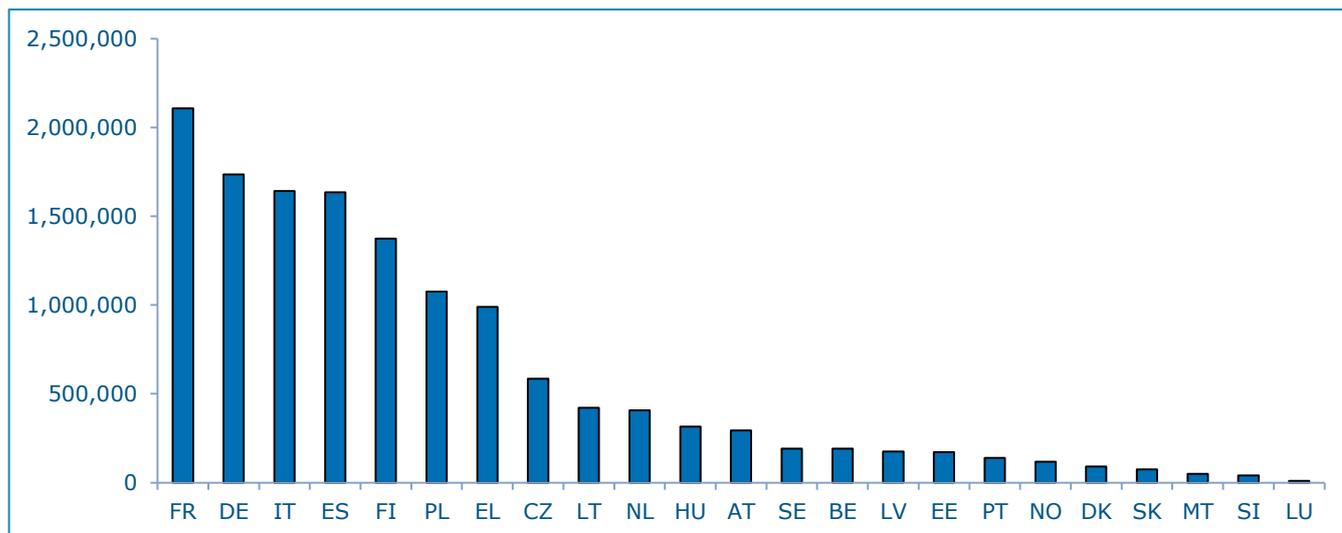
## 5. SCHENGEN, BORDERS AND VISAS

### STATISTICS ON SCHENGEN SHORT STAY VISAS (UP TO 3 MONTHS STAYS).

- ★ Recent data shows that there have been no significant changes regarding the numbers of **Schengen visas** issued by the Member States.

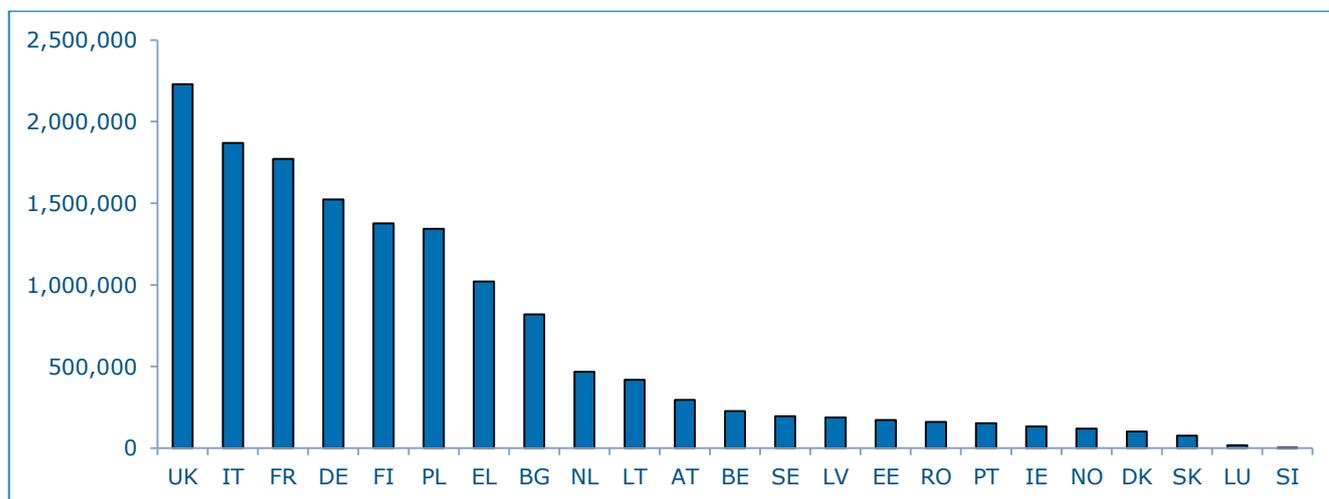
From all those Member States for which data was available, data shows that **France** continues to have the highest number of Schengen visas issued, representing 15.23% of the total, followed by **Germany** (12.54%), **Italy** (11.87%) and **Spain** (11.82%). When looking at the total number of *general* visas issued, incl. the **United Kingdom**, the latter has the highest number of **total visas issued**. See figures 3a and 3b below.

Figure 3a: Number of Schengen short stay visas issued by EU Member States, 2012



Source: Schengen Visas DG HOME Statistics on Visa Policy and EMN NCP information provided for 2012 Country Factsheets.

Figure 3b: Number of total visas issued by EU Member States, 2012.



Source: Schengen Visas DG HOME Statistics on Visa Policy and EMN NCP information provided for 2012 Country Factsheets.

### EU DEVELOPMENTS AND UPDATES

- ★ The [European Commission has recently proposed to the Council to open negotiations between the EU and Morocco](#) on an agreement to facilitate the procedures for issuing short-stay visas. The implementation of the EU-Morocco Mobility Partnership is currently on-going. Therefore, in this context that the Commission now proposes to

- open negotiations for facilitating the issuing of short-stay visas to Moroccan citizens.
- ★ On 12<sup>th</sup> September 2013 the European Parliament adopted amendments to the EU visa rules ([Regulation 539/2001](#)) including a new visa waiver suspension mechanism to ensure that visa-free travel does not lead to irregularities or abuse. Overall, amendments will allow, under strict conditions and under the Commission's

assessment, for the temporary reintroduction of the visa requirement for citizens of a certain third country;

- ★ [Judgment of the Court of Justice in Case C-291/12](#): Visa: concerns the validity of Article 1(2) of Council Regulation (EC) No 2252/2004 of 13 December 2004 on standards for security features and biometrics in passports and travel documents issued by Member States (OJ 2004 L 385, p. 1). The Court ruled that nothing capable of affecting the validity of Article 1(2) of the above Council Regulation had been revealed.
- ★ The European Parliament also adopted on 12 September 2013 its [legislative resolution](#) on the proposal for a regulation amending Council Regulation (EC) No 539/2001 listing the third countries whose nationals must be in possession of visas when crossing the external borders and those whose nationals are exempt from that requirement.
- ★ The results of the open consultation on [Improving procedures for obtaining short-stay 'Schengen' visas](#) launched on March 2013, are now available. A total of 1084 responses were received from individuals, whereas, 40 different professional organisations (e.g. advocacy/interest groups, business associations) responded with written contributions.
- ★ On 17 September 2013 [an expert meeting on biometric data in large visa, borders and asylum databases](#) (EURODAC, VIS and SIS II) took place at FRA, to gather input from relevant experts and stakeholders to a future FRA project on this topic, and examined the processes for collection, storage and usage of biometrics in these three databases from a fundamental rights perspective. The FRA project is planned to start in 2014.
- ★ As from 19 July 2013, the European Commission introduced [new passport criteria requirements](#) for non EU citizens travelling to Europe. Non-EU citizens are now required to have valid passports with a validity which shall last until at least three months after the intended date of departure from the territory of the Member States and their passport shall have been issued within the previous 10 years.

## NATIONAL DEVELOPMENTS

- ★ **Lithuania:** In order to improve the accessibility of consular services, the Lithuanian Ministry of Foreign Affairs signed an agreement on external service providers in 2013. As a result, 28 visa centres were opened in Russia and Ukraine to receive applications by aliens for the issuance of visas. The applications are examined and visas are issued by Lithuanian visa services.
- ★ **Poland:** Local border traffic between Russian Federation and Poland continues to rise sharply. As of 15<sup>th</sup> October (more than a year after traffic

was launched- in July 2012) the number of Russian citizens from the Kaliningrad Oblast granted with a permit to cross the border under the local border traffic regime was up to 140 777 (in 2012, Poland issued approx. 72 500 cards both to citizens of Ukraine and Russian Federation).

- ★ **Portugal:** On 13th August 2013, Portugal signed a mechanism which will streamline the border control procedures between the Migration and Foreigners Service of Angola and the Immigration and Borders Service of Portugal.

## 6. EXTERNAL DIMENSION

- ★ The [United Nations High Level Dialogue on Migration and Development 2013](#) was held on 2<sup>nd</sup> – 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2013. The event was marked as an opportunity to discuss the progress accomplished in the global discussions about migration policies worldwide, and to outline issues that still need academic research, policy developments at national, regional and global level. Member States also unanimously adopted a [Declaration](#) calling for the respect of human rights and international labour standards. The Declaration also reiterates the Member States' commitment in their fight against human trafficking, in addition to condemning racism and intolerance. The High Level Dialogue was composed by [eight agenda points](#) for which participatory Member States provided their [statements](#).
- ★ The International Labour Organisation (ILO) published its report on "[Domestic workers across the world: Global and regional statistics and the extent of legal protection](#)". The report highlights the magnitude of domestic work and presents national statistics as well as global and regional estimates on the number of domestic workers. According to the report, domestic workers represent a significant share of the labour force worldwide.
- ★ The European Parliament LIBE Committee published on 17 July 2013 its [recommendation](#) regarding the draft Council Decision on the conclusion of the Agreement between the European Union and the Republic of Cape Verde on the readmission of persons residing without authorisation.
- ★ The Diaspora Ministerial Conference on "Diasporas and Development: Bridging Societies and States" took place in Geneva on 18 and 19 June 2013 The [recommendations and deliberations](#) of the have been now published.

## NATIONAL DEVELOPMENTS

- ★ **Hungary:** Bilateral agreements concerning legal migration were established with third countries in the sphere of Working Holiday Programmes. Hungary concluded a Working Holiday Scheme

(WHS) Agreement with **New Zealand** in 2011, although its fulfilment required several legal modifications and it has now entered into force in 2013. **Hungary** also completed negotiations on a WHS Agreement with the **Republic of Korea** which entered into force in July 2013. Negotiations are on-going regarding the conclusion of a WHS agreement with **Taiwan** (the text was just recently initiated), **Australia** and **Canada** as well as with **Argentina**.

- ★ **Italy:** In light of the Mobility Partnership with **Morocco**, Italy has continued its efforts regarding the improvements of the existing agreements, which are currently on-going, as Morocco is one of the major countries of origin of migration flows to Italy. Also, several projects are on-going, managed by IOM (SALEMM, BOSLA 2 and Protection of Victims of Trafficking) and IDOS (IPRIT) in addition to the dissemination of the Arabic edition of the EMN Glossary.
- ★ **Luxembourg** ratified two conventions on social security with Brazil and Uruguay. Both conventions were ratified by Law of 30 July 2013 and published in the Mémorial n° 153 and n° 154, respectively, on 23<sup>rd</sup> August 2013.
- ★ **Poland:** During the reference period, Poland hosted two important study visits. The first was undertaken as part of the project "Supporting the Establishment of Effective Readmission Management in Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia" coordinated by IOM, and consisted of a visit of the delegation of the Georgian government concerning the policies and practices of migrant accommodation centres (30<sup>th</sup> September – 4<sup>th</sup> October 2013). The second was organised within the framework of Pilot Project 4 of the Prague Process Targeted Initiative (11<sup>th</sup> - 13<sup>th</sup> September 2013) and consisted of a visit of representatives from the State Migration Service of Ukraine concerning asylum and international protection. On 1st September 2013, Poland launched a four-month project entitled "Strengthening migration management in the area of border protection in Tunisia" carried out by the Ministry of the Interior and the three partners from Tunisia: the Tunisian Ministry of the Interior, Police and the Border Guard. The project consists of a series of training

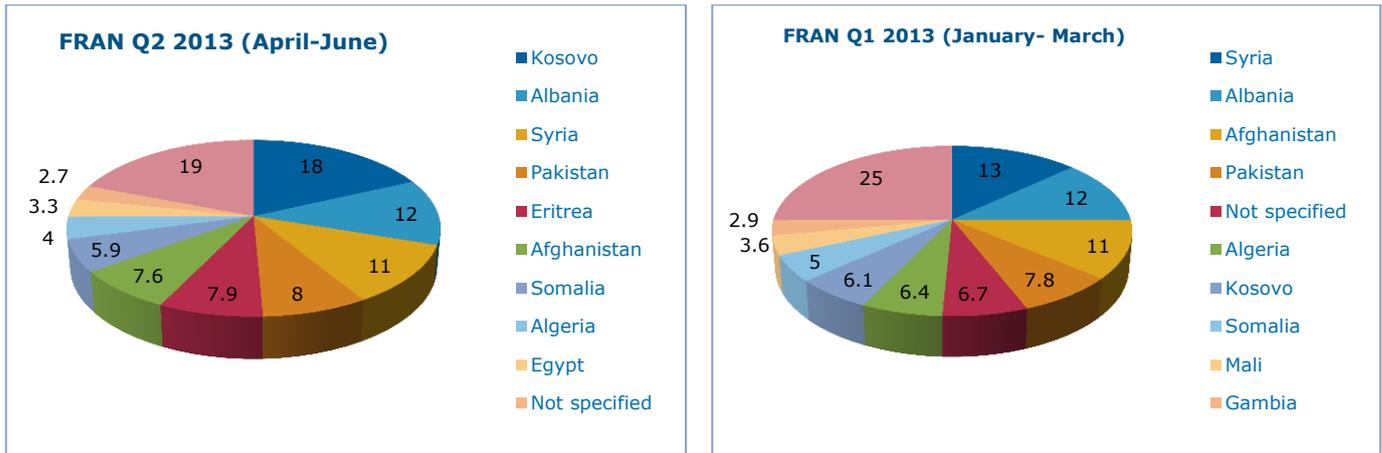
courses in Tunisia and a study visit and workshop in Poland (tasks now completed) and internships which aim to build practical skills in organising returns, including returns carried out by air. Separate training will also be designed for representatives of Tunisian non-governmental organisations, focusing on issues related to 'managing' refugee movements, humanitarian aspects of the presence of refugees in Poland and the situation of minors and women.

## 7. IRREGULAR AND RETURN MIGRATION

### STATISTICS

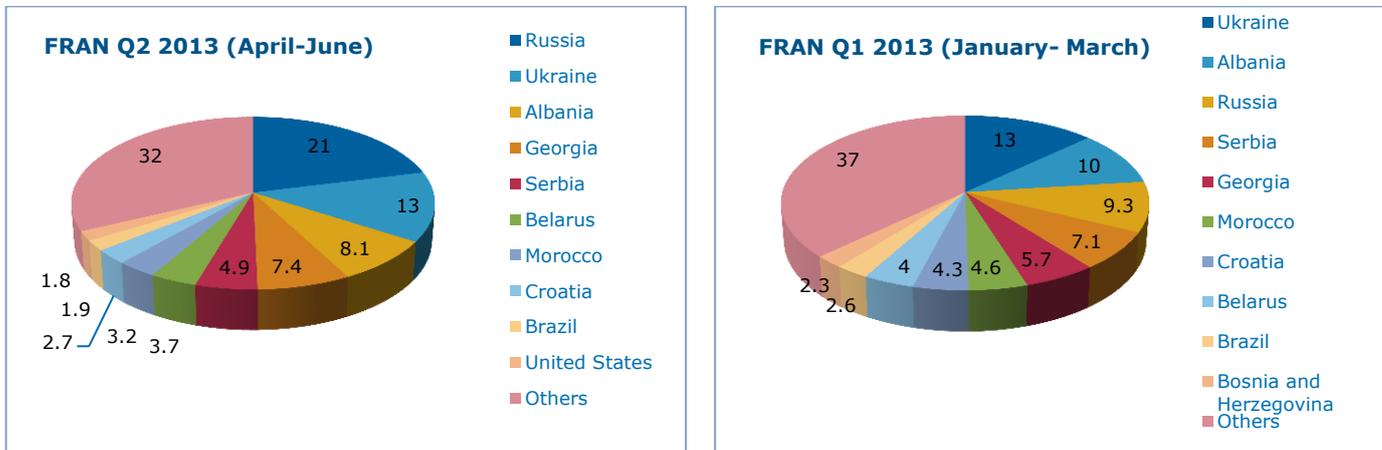
- ★ The [Frontex FRAN Quarterly Report Q2 of 2013](#), was published in October 2013. Overall, the Report states that in Q2 2013, there were **24 805** detections of illegal border-crossing along the external borders of the EU, which represents a **7.4% increase** when compared with the same quarter in 2012 and a **155% increase** compared to the previous quarter. Frontex reports that this represents the highest increase between two consecutive quarters recorded since 2008. The changes were attributed to two factors: better weather conditions in the Mediterranean Sea allowing increased attempts at the sea border; and a sharp increase in detections at the land border between Serbia and Hungary.
- ★ In terms of detection at all external borders, the nationalities representing the highest numbers of those detected in Q2 were **Kosovo** (4 456), **Albania** (1 199) and **Syria** (1 248). Migrants from **Kosovo** recorded the highest increase between Q2 2012 and Q2 2013. The number of **Syrians** detected for illegal border-crossing increased strongly between the first and the second quarter, totalling 2 784 in Q2 2013. The report states that this represents an increase of 123% compared to the previous quarter. Such detections however are still lower than at their peak of 3 923 in Q3 2012. Detections of **Afghans** crossing the border illegally decreased compared to the situation a year ago and the total in Q2 2013 was the lowest for any second quarter since 2008.

Figure 7a: Illegal cross-border crossing - Top ten nationalities (in percentages)



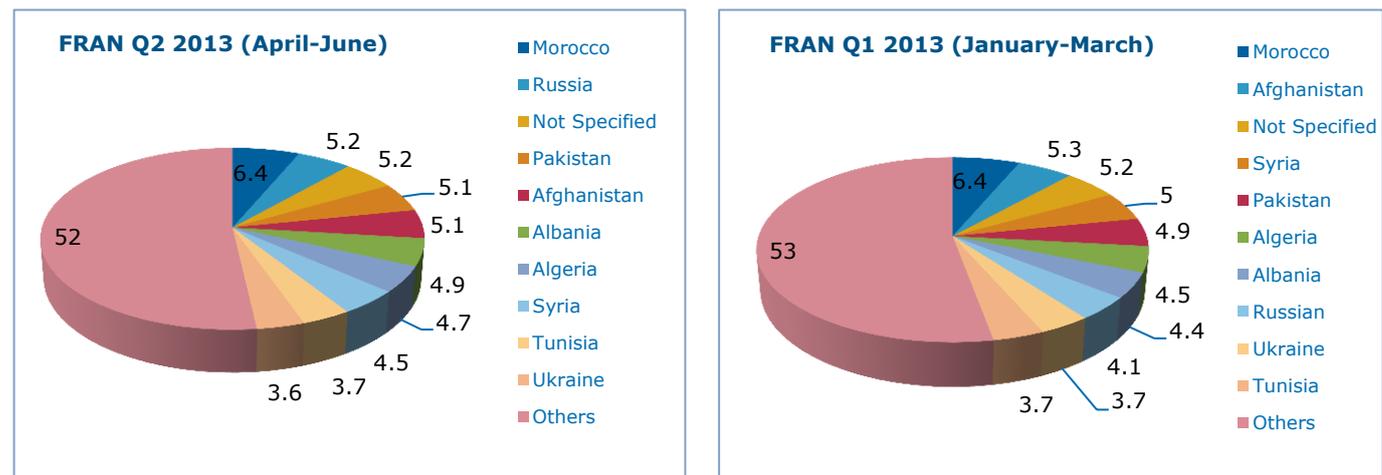
Source: FRONTEX FRAN 2013- Quarter 2 (April - June 2013) and Quarter 1 (January-March 2013)

Figure 7b: Refused Entry - Top ten nationalities (in percentages)



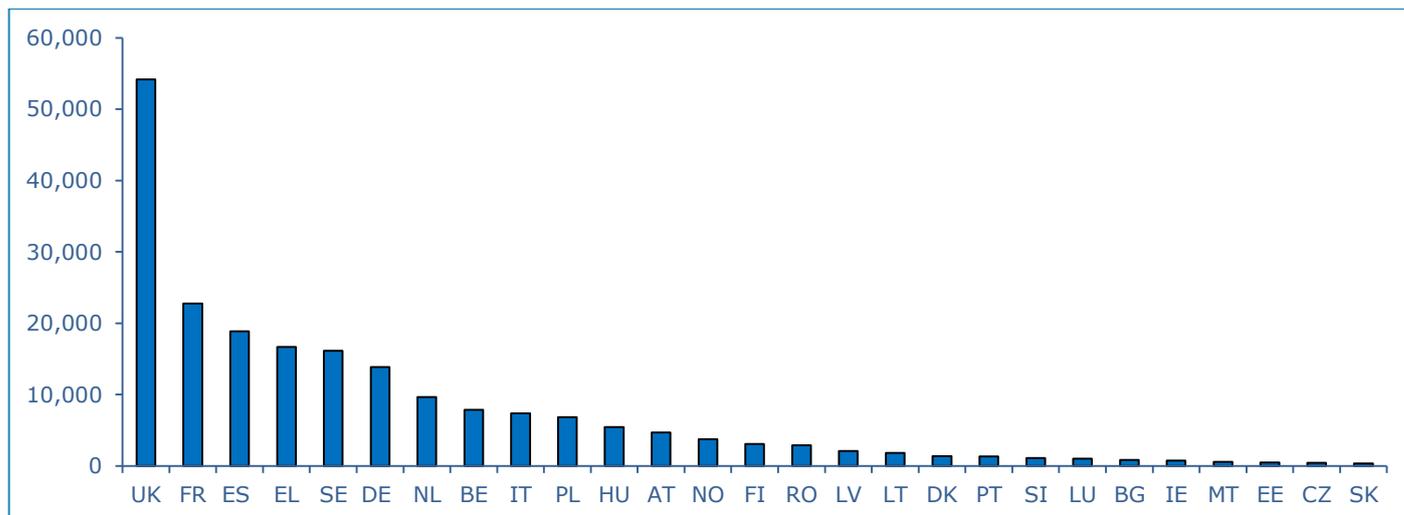
Source: FRONTEX FRAN 2013- Quarter 2 (April - June 2013) and Quarter 1 (January-March 2013)

Figure 7c: Illegal Stay- Top ten nationalities (in percentages)



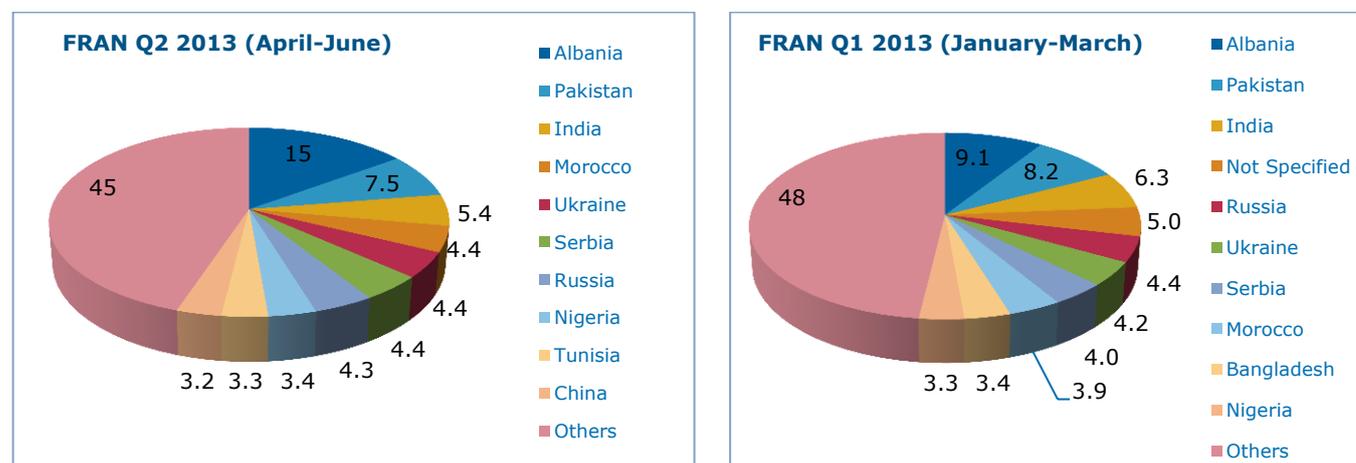
Source: FRONTEX FRAN 2013 - Quarter 2 (April - June 2013) and Quarter 1 (January- March 2013)

Figure 7d: Third country nationals returned following an order to leave- by EU Member State in 2012



Source: Eurostat, accessed 7 October 2013

Figure 7e: Effective Returns- Top ten nationalities (in percentages)



Source: FRONTEX FRAN – Quarter 2 (April-June) Quarter 2 (January-March 2013)

## EU DEVELOPMENTS AND UPDATES

- ★ In August 2013, the Fundamental Rights Agency published the report [EU solidarity and Frontex: fundamental rights challenges](#). The report reviews the solidarity measures the EU has established to support those countries most affected by irregular arrivals by sea and focuses on the fundamental rights challenges such measures raise.
- ★ Frontex [Eastern Borders Annual Risk Analysis 2013 report](#) was published in July 2013. The report highlighted a 52% increase on the detections of illegal border-crossing when compared to 2011 as well as an increase on the regular passenger flows during 2012.

## NATIONAL DEVELOPMENTS

- ★ **Croatia:** On 27<sup>th</sup> June 2013, the Act on the Amendments to the Aliens Act entered into force (Croatian Official Gazette 74/2013). The Act is a

further step towards harmonisation with the EU *acquis* and addresses content-related and normative defects in the 2011 Aliens Act. The adoption resulted in the transposition of the Return Directive (2008/115/EC). Pursuant to the Aliens Act, the Ordinance on the Treatment of Aliens also entered into force on 5 July 2013 (Croatian Official Gazette 86/2013). During the reporting period, Croatia also participated within Frontex activities, where two Border Police Directorate officers completed a standardised forced removal course. The officers obtained a certificate which allows them to act as a head of group when participating in Frontex joint return flights of third-country nationals.

- ★ **Germany:** A Regional Court in Munich has ruled that the pre-removal detention of an Eritrean national in a mainstream prison is in contradiction with EU law, in particular with the Return Directive. Previous to this ruling, another chamber

of the same court requested an urgent preliminary ruling procedure regarding a similar case, however the case was not accepted by the European Court of Justice. Further information on the case will be available within the next bulletin edition.

- ★ **Finland:** According to data from the Police, the number of third-country nationals found to be illegally present between January and August 2013 has slightly risen compared to the same period last year, 2 265 compared with 2 205 in 2012. This correlates with a slight increase also in the number of asylum seekers. The number of third-country nationals refused entry either at the external borders or within the country, also rose with a total of 3 733 in the period Jan-Aug 2013 compared to 3 401 in the period Jan-Sep 2012. Finnish tax officials reported that there are [twice as many foreign construction workers as thought](#), reporting some 53 000 foreign construction workers in Finland. The Finnish Construction Trade Union stated that the introduction of **personal tax identification numbers** on building sites has helped address, but not eliminate, illegal operations in the sector.
- ★ **Italy:** A total of 1 900 additional places were reserved to irregular migrants entitled to benefit from voluntary return programmes. Returns should be implemented by 2015. Departure compensation is also envisaged for all beneficiaries, along with travel costs full coverage.
- ★ **The Netherlands:** The government announced that [families with minors will be placed in aliens' detention only in exceptional circumstances](#). At present, families may be held in aliens' detention for up to two weeks, but according to the Minister for Immigration this should be allowed only in cases where the family has previously evaded supervision. All other families with minor children will be placed in family accommodation, with return to the country of origin as the primary objective (as in the detention centres). This development is in response to recommendations put forward in the report 'Lost Time' ('[Verloren Tijd](#)') published by the Advisory Committee on Migration Affairs (ACVZ). In July 2013, the [State Secretary of Security and Justice visited Iraq to discuss the return of rejected asylum Iraqis to their homeland](#). During the two-day visit to both Baghdad and Erbil (Kurdistan Region) the State Secretary spoke with several Iraqi and Kurdish ministers about migration and return. The visit has resumed the dialogue between the Netherlands and Iraq in the field of return at the political level with both the central Iraqi authorities and the Kurdish region, and represents an important step towards a long-term joint solution with Iraq on the issue of return.

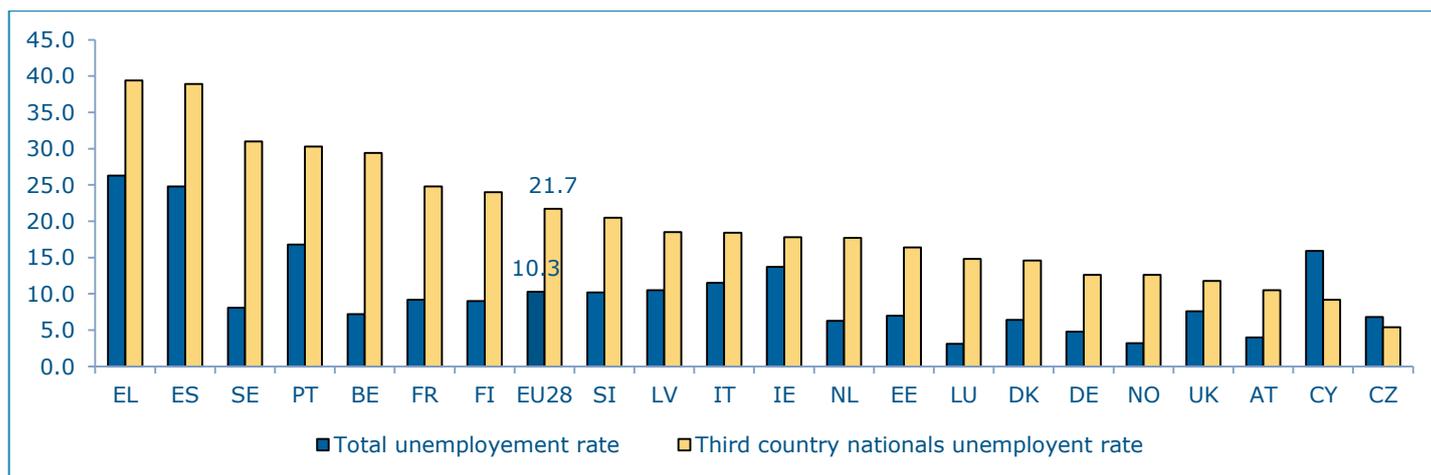
- ★ **Spain:** The collection of best practices within a reference framework for Assisted Reintegration Programmes will be funded through grant programmes on the Voluntary Return of Migrants in 2013, and will inform common guidelines for all Programmes. Amongst other things, they will aim: to better meet the vulnerability situations; to encourage networking; to apply the gender approach transversally; to improve management efficiency and; to assist on job search advice, information, and guidance back in the country of return. In addition, instructions have been specifically issued to manage the Voluntary Return of victims of trafficking in human beings, in order to ensure a quick, confidential reintegration.

## 8. INTEGRATION, INCLUDING CITIZENSHIP

### STATISTICS

- ★ An overview of the unemployment rates of third country nationals compared to that of the Member States' total unemployment rate during the second quarter of 2013 is shown in Figure 8 below.
- ★ In the second quarter of 2013, the unemployment rate for third country nationals across the EU 28 was 21.7% compared with a total unemployment rate reported at 10.3%.
- ★ The **highest unemployment rates** for third country nationals were reported by **Greece** (39.4%) and **Spain** (38.9%), which are higher than their total unemployment national rates of 26.3 and 24.8% respectively. Sweden followed with 31.0%, compared with a total unemployment rate of come 8.1%.
- ★ The gap between the total unemployment rate and the unemployment rate of third country nationals was 11.4 percentage points (p.p.) for the EU28 (data unavailable in some MS), which was higher when compared to the fourth quarter of 2012 (10.7p.p.).
- ★ The lowest differences between the total unemployment rate and the third-country national unemployment rates were found in **Ireland** and **United Kingdom**, where these differed by 4.1 and 4.2 p.p. from the total unemployment rate respectively. The highest differences between the total unemployment rates and third country national unemployment rates was found in **Sweden** (22.9 p.p.), **Belgium** (22.2 p.p.), **France** (15.6 p.p.) and **Finland** (15.0 p.p.).
- ★ Only two countries, **Cyprus** and **Czech Republic**, reported a total unemployment rate which is higher than the third country nationals' unemployment rate. The difference was 1.4 and 6.7 p.p. respectively.

Figure 8: Unemployment rate by (Member) State in second quarter 2013



Source: Eurostat Labour Force Survey Q2 2013, accessed 7 October 2013. No data for BG, HR, LT, HU, MT, PL, RO and SK are available.

### EU DEVELOPMENTS AND UPDATES

- ★ The results on the EMN Study: "[Migrant Access to Social Security and Health Care](#)" are expected in early 2014. EMN acknowledges the cooperation with DG EMPL in developing this Study;
- ★ The European Commission report "[Using EU Indicators of Immigrant Integration](#)" prepared by the European Services Network (ESN) and the Migration Policy Group (MPG) has now been published. Overall the report provides the different approaches, on which indicators could be used to understand national contexts, evaluate the outcomes of policies and create targets to improve integration.
- ★ On September 2013, the IOM released its report "[The World Migration Report 2013: Migrant Well-Being and Development](#)". The report is also based on Gallup World Poll findings which surveyed more than 25 000 migrants in over 150 countries.
- ★ The OECD released its publication on "[Indicators of Immigrant Integration 2012](#)". The report describes the how immigrants and their children are integrating into OECD societies and it judges their integration progress against key indicators.
- ★ The Fundamental Rights Agency has published the Analysis of FRA Roma survey results by gender. The survey results showed that there are important differences between Member States that need to be taken into account when developing and implementing Roma inclusion policies and actions.

### NATIONAL DEVELOPMENTS

- ★ **Belgium:** A new measuring instrument, the 'Socio-economic monitoring', maps the position of employees on the labour market according to their Belgian, European or non-European origin. The [first report](#) on this issue was published in September 2013.

- ★ **Croatia:** On 25 July 2013, the Government of the Republic of Croatia issued an Action Plan for eliminating obstacles to the application of certain rights regarding the integration of aliens into the Croatian society.
- ★ **Italy:** The Ministry of International Cooperation and Integration launched an intense debate in order to change the rules governing the acquisition of Italian citizenship. Also Article 33 of Decree-Law no. 69/ 2013 included new provisions concerning the right of citizenship of the foreign born in Italy. According to the latter, if, as a result of errors or failures attributable to the parents or the public administration, the foreigner is not in possession of the necessary personal certificates to prove his/her continuous residence, he or she may now present another type of documentation for application purposes. The Ministry of Interior also sponsored several integration projects at local level, with a specific stress on language training, through the EIF's available resources.
- ★ **France:** On 3 July 2013 the publication of a parliamentary report on the situation of elderly migrants was launched. The latter seeks to ease the rules governing the migrants' right of residence and access to citizenship. Another publication was also launched on 30 August regarding the two decrees on naturalisation which particularly aim to experience new harmonised procedures for reviewing applications for citizenship and soften language requirement.
- ★ **Latvia:** Amendments to the Citizenship Law came into force in October 2013. The amendments provided the following: the possibility to obtain dual citizenship; facilitated the procedure how children of non-citizens and stateless persons are recognised as citizens of Latvia and; changes in the naturalisation process.

## 9. OTHER EMN OUTPUTS AND DEVELOPMENTS

- ★ **Cyprus:** on 18<sup>th</sup> October 2013, the CY EMN NCP held its national Conference on the **Common European Asylum System: towards harmonisation** which explored the history of asylum policy and the implications of recent and planned changes in the EU acquis.
- ★ **France:** on 18<sup>th</sup> October 2013, the FR EMN NCP held a National Conference on Attracting (highly) qualified third country nationals to France and the EU.
- ★ **Belgium:** on 30<sup>th</sup> September 2013, the Belgian EMN NCP organised a [lunch meeting to present the results of the EMN-study](#) on “**Attracting (highly) qualified third country nationals to Belgium**”. The event was covered by national media, including television, radio and newspapers.
- ★ **Italy:** on 26<sup>th</sup> - 27<sup>th</sup> September 2013, the Italian NCP held its first 2013 National Network Meeting. The main topics were: **Migration, Discrimination and Equal Opportunities**. Participants included migration and asylum experts from all Italian regions.
- ★ **Norway:** On 30 September 2013 the Norwegian EMN NCP its Annual Conference on the topic of **Reception Facilities**. A conference report and all materials from the event are available from the [NO EMN NCP website](#).
- ★ **Poland:** on 26<sup>th</sup> June 2013 the Polish EMN NCP organised the fifth National Migration Network conference on international labour migration of skilled third-country workers to EU countries. The full account of the meeting is available [here](#).
- ★ **Slovak Republic:** on 20<sup>th</sup>- 22<sup>nd</sup> August 2013 EMN NCP organised an educational seminar: **Labour Migration: Opportunities and challenges**. All materials from the seminar are available on the [SK EMN NCP website](#).