



COUNTRY FACTSHEET: NORWAY 2014

EUROPEAN MIGRATION NETWORK

1. Introduction

This EMN Country Factsheet provides a factual overview of the main policy developments in migration and international protection in Norway during 2014, including latest statistics.

2. Common European Asylum System

As of 1st January 2014 the **Dublin III regulation was implemented** in Norwegian law and an **amendment to the Immigration Act and its Regulation entered into force**. The amendment regards fundamental national interests or foreign policy considerations in immigration cases. The possibility of expelling foreign nationals who represent a threat to national security was expanded, while respecting the requirements of due process.

An **amendment to Section 78 of the Immigration Act** entered into force in April 2014. The amendment concerns requests for reopening cases decided by the Immigration Appeals Board. The objective was to reduce the resources spent on such requests, which are numerous but often lacking substance.

On 30th September 2014 the Ministry of Justice and Public Security instructed the Directorate of Immigration to make **exemptions from the Dublin-procedure** in cases where there is a high probability that international protection will be rejected and where the police states that the person can easily be returned to his/her country of origin. This allows Norway to take the applicant out of the Dublin-procedure in cases where it is more cost effective to return the person to his or her country of origin.

In 2014, the Norwegian Parliament passed a legislative amendment concerning the **police's deadline** for bringing an arrested person pursuant to the Immigration Act before the District Court. The amendment entered into force in January 2015.

Norway became **an associated member of the EASO** in 2014. The Norwegian Country of Origin Information Centre, Landinfo, has for a longer period of time been an important part of the common

European work on COI, now being organized by the EASO.

Due to the Syrian crisis, Norway continued to financially support the UNHCR resettlement programme. For 2014 Norway expanded the quota for the resettlement with additional 500 Syrian refugees (the original quota set at 1,220).

3. Unaccompanied Minors and other Vulnerable Groups

No specific policy developments were reported with regard to unaccompanied minors in 2014. However, a bill that obliges employees in reception centres to **report information of great importance** to immigration authorities upon their request in cases concerning unaccompanied minors was passed in 2014. Employees also have the right to provide such information on their own initiative.

A new provision in the Immigration Regulations regarding a **one-time solution for children and their families** who have stayed in Norway for a prolonged period of time, entered into force on 1st July 2014. The provision applies to children who had stayed in Norway for more than three years and who otherwise meet certain criteria.

4. European Policy on Legal migration and Integration

4.1. PROMOTING LEGAL MIGRATION CHANNELS

Norway plans to support a **Migration Response centre in Sudan** (Khartoum) which will be operated by IOM Sudan in 2015. The centre will provide information on the risks of migration, offer assistance to vulnerable migrants such as: tracing their family, assisted voluntary return (AVR) services etc. Norway will also continue funding Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration programmes from Turkey, Egypt and Libya.

4.2. ECONOMIC MIGRATION

Norway reported it plans to extend work permits for **offshore employees** to include work for the same employers in the mainland. The duration of permits for independent contractors will be extended from four to six years. Further planned changes will allow self-employed immigrants to be employed elsewhere, however these concern special cases, for example doctors.

4.3. FAMILY REUNIFICATION

The Government proposed to introduce an **age limit** requirement of 24 years **for family establishment**. Couples that can clearly demonstrate the ability to support themselves and the family establishment are exempted. The aim is to combat forced marriage and ensure that the couple is self-sufficient.

Moreover, the Government has proposed to **raise the financial support requirement for establishing a family** to NOK 300,000 (approx. 32,000 euro). Exemptions are made for couples that clearly demonstrate the ability to support themselves and where the family establishment or reunification is not subject to coercion. Both proposals were on public hearing.

4.4. INTEGRATION

Norway implemented programmes for **free core time in kindergarten** in six districts of Oslo, and in some areas of the cities of Bergen and Drammen. The aim is to improve children's language and social skills in preparation for primary school. As of August 2014, targeted pilot projects were carried out, these targeted children from families with low income.

In June 2014 a new digital **Norwegian language proficiency test** for adult immigrants was implemented. The test is based on the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages, it covers the proficiency levels A1 to B1 and it replaced the former paper based tests.

In 2014, a new national strategy on **social housing** for the period 2014-2020 was launched. Measures provided by the strategy will also benefit immigrants.

Norway is in the process of implementing the 2013-2016 action plan for making better use of the competence of immigrants in the labour market – **We need the immigrants' competence**. For example, two grant schemes were implemented in 2014, one focused on supporting company-based mentor and trainee programmes for persons with an immigrant background, while another scheme aimed at strengthening and developing regional and local entrepreneurship counselling and thus adapting the services to the needs of immigrants.

4.5. MANAGING MIGRATION AND MOBILITY¹

The **Visa Code** is fully implemented in Norwegian legislation. Norway also continued to work on the Commission proposals for the recast of the Visa Code and the new touring-visa (T-visa). The Visa Information System (VIS) has been rolled out in the first sixteen regions in line with the timeframe determined by the European Commission.

Norway reintroduced a border internal control on 24th-31st July 2014, due to a terrorist threat. 165,000 persons were checked; out of which 17 were refused entry, five persons arrested and 12 persons applied for asylum.

4.6. EXTERNAL DIMENSION OF EU MIGRATION POLICY

No further policy developments were reported under this policy area in 2014.

5. Irregular Migration and Return

5.1. THE FIGHT AGAINST FACILITATION OF IRREGULAR MIGRATION

No further policy developments were reported with regard to smuggling in 2014.

Regarding the misuse of student migration, in May 2014 the Immigration Regulation's provision regarding a one-year permit to study Norwegian language for foreign nationals who are skilled workers was repealed. The Regulation's aim was to facilitate the entry and recruitment of highly skilled workers, nevertheless, the Regulation did not work as intended given that an increased number of workers did not meet the skills required for the permit.

In May 2014 and July 2014 Norway started its first negotiation rounds on the EU readmission agreements with **Pakistan and Turkey** respectively. The second rounds are planned in the course of 2015.

6. Actions against Trafficking in Human Beings

No further policy developments were reported under this policy area in 2014.

STATISTICAL ANNEX

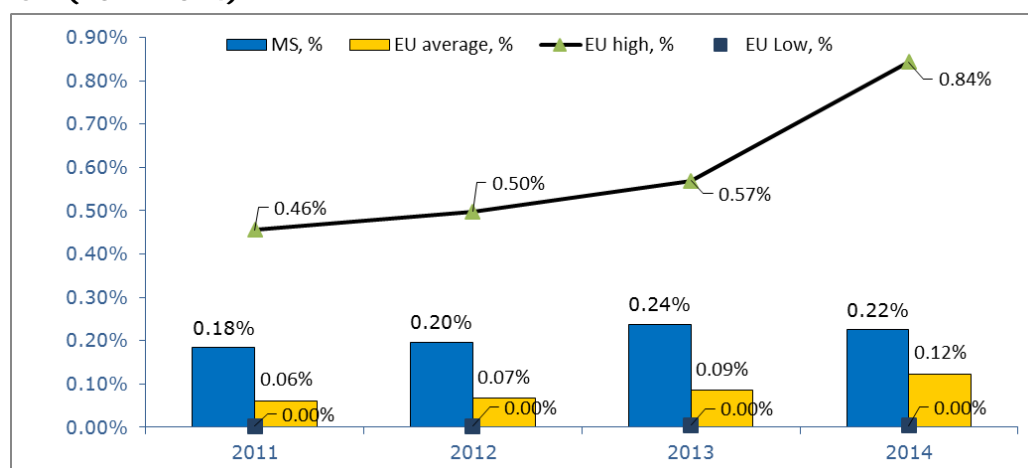
The Statistical Annex provides an overview of the latest available statistics for Norway on aspects of migration and asylum (2011-2014), including residence, asylum, unaccompanied minors, irregular migration, return and visas. Where statistics are not yet available, this is indicated in the Annex as "**N/I**" and when statistics are not applicable, this is indicated as "**N/A**".

¹ "Managing migration and mobility" refers to the following themes: visa policy, Schengen governance and border monitoring.

Statistical Annex: Immigration and Asylum in Norway (2011-2014)

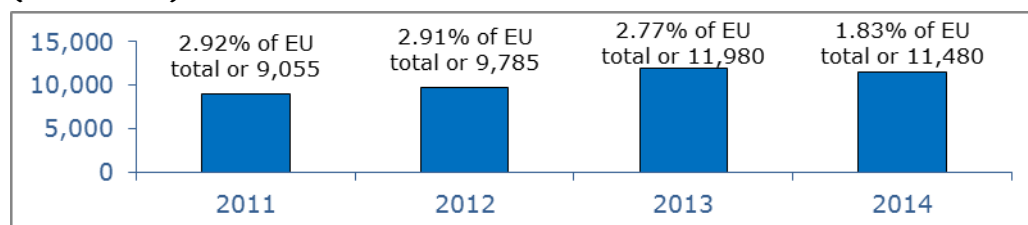
1. COMMON EUROPEAN ASYLUM SYSTEM

Figure 1: Asylum applications as a share of the total population in Norway, EU average and EU high and low (2011-2014)



Source: Eurostat migration statistics (migr_asyappctza), data extracted 20/07/2015

Figure 2: Number of asylum applications and as a share of the total number of applications in the EU (2011-2014)



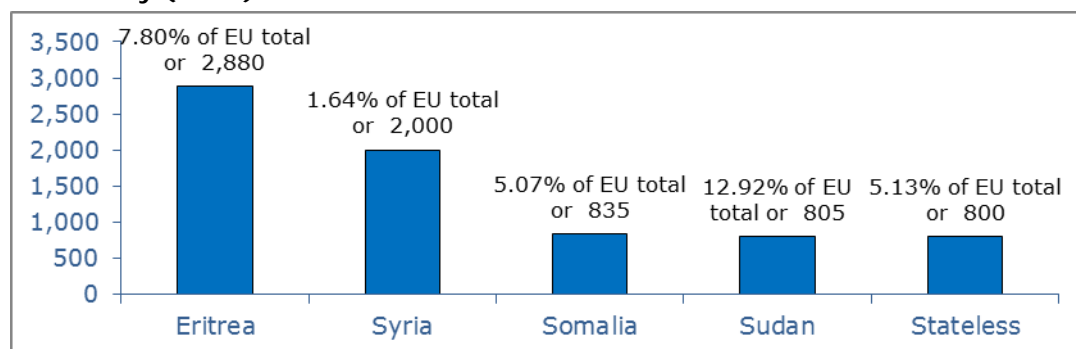
Source: Eurostat migration statistics (migr_asyappctza), data extracted 21/07/2015

Table 1: Asylum applications: Top five third-country nationalities (2011–2014)

2011			2012			2013			2014		
Nationality	Nr	% of total	Nationality	Nr	% of total	Nationality	Nr	% of total	Nationality	Nr	% of total
Somalia	2,215	24%	Somalia	2,180	22%	Eritrea	3,250	27%	Eritrea	2,880	25%
Eritrea	1,255	14%	Eritrea	1,185	12%	Somalia	1,695	14%	Syria	2,000	17%
Afghanistan	980	11%	Afghanistan	985	10%	Syria	865	7%	Somalia	835	7%
Russia	365	4%	Sudan	470	5%	Afghanistan	725	6%	Sudan	805	7%
Iran, Iraq	355	4%	Iran	440	4%	Sudan	600	5%	Stateless	800	7%

Source: Eurostat migration statistics (migr_asyappctza), data extracted 21/07/2015

Figure 3: Asylum applications: Top five third-country nationalities as a share of EU total per given nationality (2014)



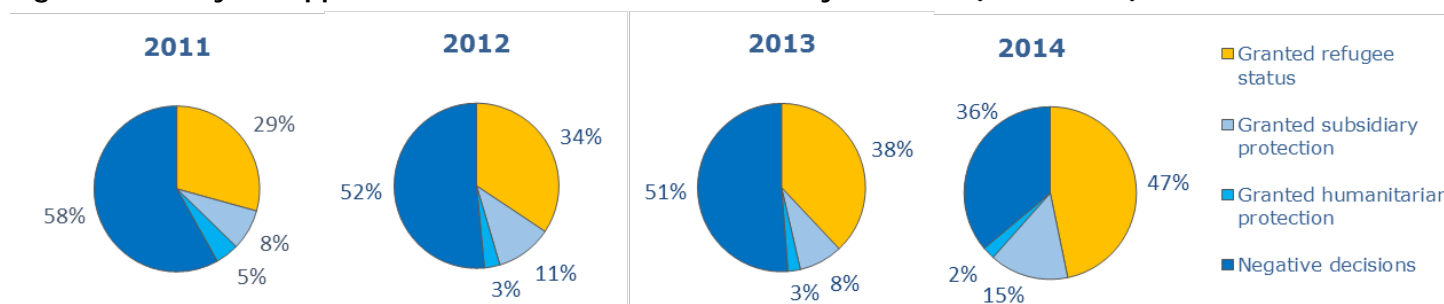
Source: Eurostat migration statistics (migr_asyappctza), data extracted 21/07/2015

Table 2: Asylum applications - First instance decisions by outcome (2011-2014)

	Total decisions	Positive decisions	Of which:		Humanitarian reasons	Negative decisions
			Refugee status	Subsidiary protection		
2011	9,590	4,015	2,810	765	440	5,575
2012	10,695	5,180	3,675	1,185	325	5,515
2013	11,830	5,770	4,495	995	285	6,060
2014	7,680	4,910	3,590	1,140	180	2,770

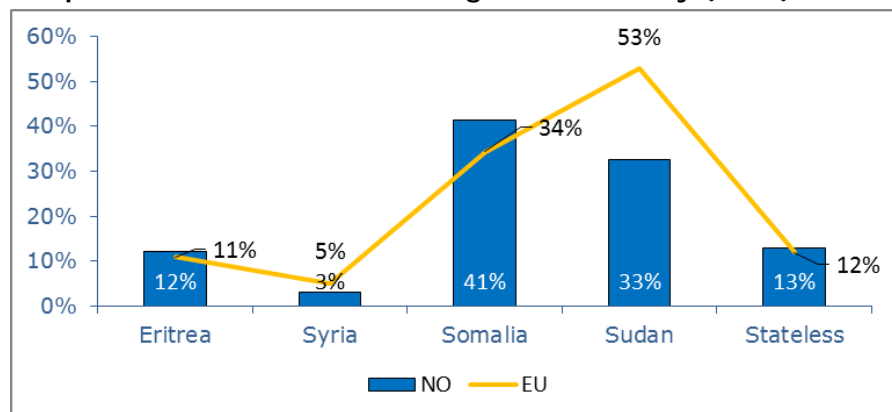
Source: Eurostat migration statistics (migr_asydcfst), data extracted 22/07/2015.

Figures 4-7: Asylum applications - First instance decisions by outcome (2011-2014)



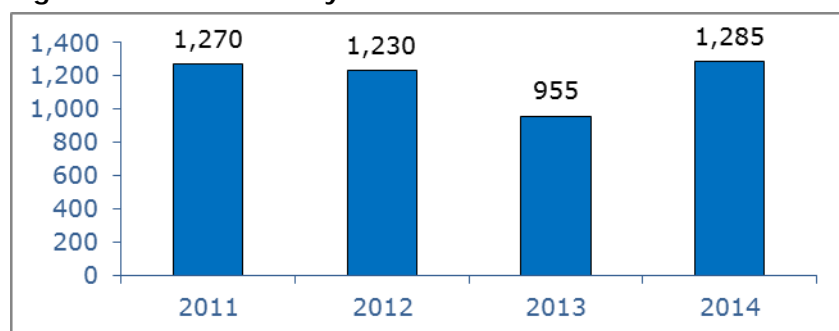
Source: Eurostat migration statistics (migr_asydcfst), data extracted 22/07/2015

Figure 8: Negative decision rate for the top five nationalities of applicants at the first instance in comparison with EU for the same given nationality (2014)



Source: Eurostat migration statistics (migr_asydcfst), data extracted 23/07/2015

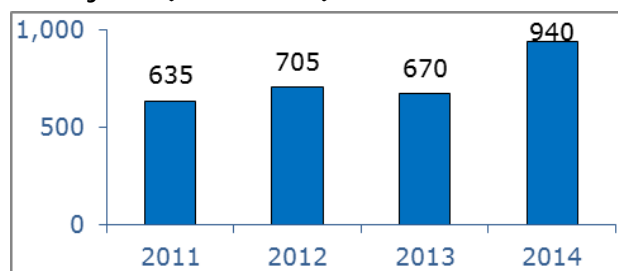
Figure 19: Third-country nationals resettled



Source: Eurostat migration statistics (migr_asyresa), data extracted 23/07/2015

2. UNACCOMPANIED MINORS

Figure 11: Unaccompanied minors applying for asylum (2011-2014)



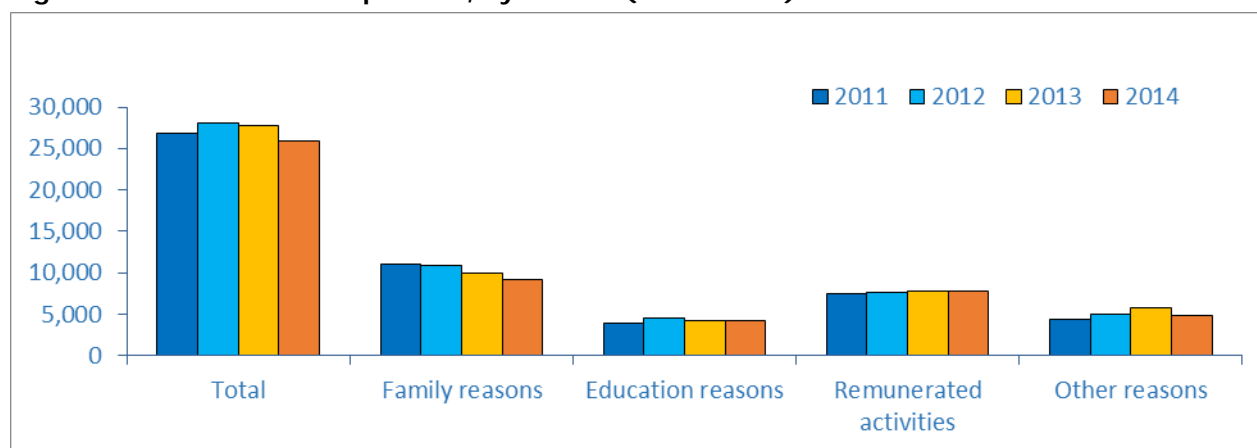
Source: Eurostat Asylum applicants considered to be unaccompanied minors by citizenship, age and sex Annual data (rounded) [migr_asyunaa], data extracted 23/07/2015

Table 3: Unaccompanied minors (2011-2014)

	2011	2012	2013	2014
Unaccompanied minors (total)	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Unaccompanied minor asylum applicants	635	705	670	940

3. EUROPEAN POLICY ON LEGAL MIGRATION AND INTEGRATION

Figure 12: First residence permits, by reason (2011-2014)



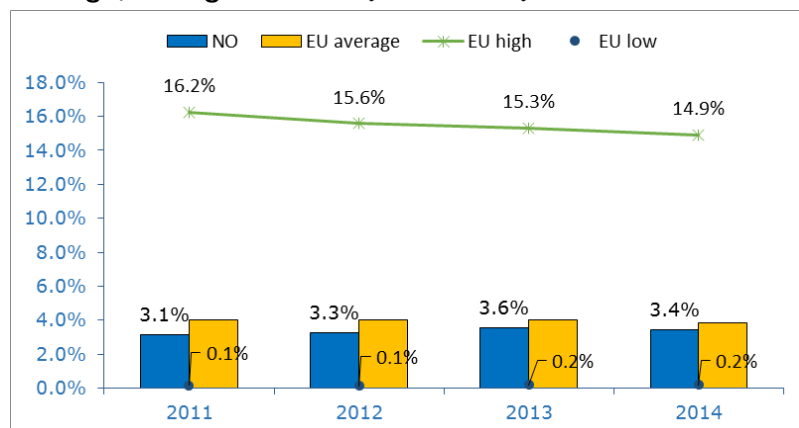
Source: Eurostat (migr_resfirst), data extracted 23/07/2015

Table 4: First residence permits: Top five third-country nationalities (2011 – 2014)

2011	2012	2013	2014
1. Philippines – 2,827	1. Philippines – 2,966	1. Philippines - 2,689	1. Philippines - 2,417
2. Somalia – 2,036	2. Somalia – 2,730	2. Eritrea - 2,685	2. India - 2,382
3. Eritrea – 1,597	3. India – 2,087	3. Somalia - 2,317	3. Eritrea - 2,312
4. India – 1,579	4. Eritrea – 1,652	4. India - 2,097	4. Somalia – 1,676
5. USA – 1,373	5. USA – 1,411	5. USA - 1,387	5. Syria - 1,363

Source: Eurostat migration statistics (migr_resfirst), data extracted 03/08/2015

Figure 13: Resident population of third-country nationals as a share of total population in Norway, EU average, EU high and low (2011-2014)



Source: Eurostat migration statistics (migr_pop1ctz), data extracted 23/07/2015

4. IRREGULAR MIGRATION AND RETURN

Table 5: Number of third-country nationals refused entry at external borders (2011 – 2014)

Third country nationals:	2011	2012	2013	2014
Refused entry at external borders	150	175	235	250
Found to be illegally present	1,925	2,760	3,180	3,720
Ordered to leave	15,855	14,680	14,245	15,355
Returned following an order to leave	4,415	3,735	5,050	6,350

Source: Eurostat migration statistics (migr_eirfs)(migr_eipre)(migr_eiord)(migr_eirtn) , data extracted 24/07/2015

Table 6: Third-country nationals returned (2011-2014)

	Returned as part of forced return measures	Returned voluntarily	Returned through an Assisted Voluntary Return Programme
2011	4,745	N/I	1,815
2012	4,905	N/I	1,750
2013	5,935	N/I	1,890
2014*	2,547	N/I	1,622

Source: EMN Country Factsheet 2013 and *EMN Annual Policy Report on Immigration and Asylum 2014, Statistic Annex

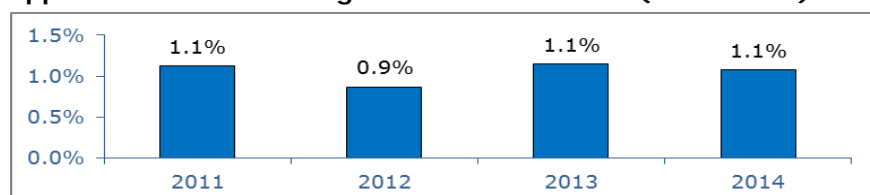
5. SECURING EUROPE'S EXTERNAL BORDERS

Table 7: Number of Schengen visas applications (2011 – 2014)

	2011	2012	2013	2014
Uniform visas (short-stay visas)	151,071	130,933	197,826	179,550

Source: DG Migration and Home – Complete statistics on short-stay visas issued by the Schengen States

Figure 14: Uniform visa applications received in Norway as a share of the total number of uniform visa applications in all Schengen states consulates (2011-2014)



Source: DG Migration and Home affairs – Complete statistics on short-stay visas issued by the Schengen States

Table 8: Top five countries in which the highest number of visa applications for Norway was lodged

2011		2012		2013		2014	
Country	Number	Country	Number	Country	Number	Country	Number
Russia	53,753	Russia	47,651	Russia	60,766	China	50,231
China	30,076	China	20,733	China	57,195	Russia	46,894
Philippines	10,758	Philippines	7,508	Philippines	14,147	Philippines	15,685
Thailand	7,963	Thailand	6,979	Thailand	8,707	Thailand	9,721
Ukraine	6,926	Ukraine	6,623	India	8,201	India	8,994

Source: DG Migration and Home affairs

6. ACTIONS AGAINST TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS

Table 9: Number of traffickers arrested as suspects and traffickers convicted

	2011	2012	2013	2014*
Convictions	N/I	N/I	N/I	2
Arrested / otherwise involved in a criminal proceeding	N/I	N/I	N/I	105

Source: *EMN Annual Policy Report on Immigration and Asylum 2014, Statistic Annex

7. ASYLUM AND MIGRATION EU FUNDING SOURCES (2007-2013 AND 2014-2020)

Table 10: Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF) allocation to Norway in euro per area

Areas	AMIF 2014-2020
Asylum	N/A
Legal Migration and Integration	N/A
Return	N/A
Technical Assistance	N/A
Special cases (resettlement/transfer)	N/A
TOTAL	N/A

Source: DG Migration and Home affairs

Table 11: Internal Security Fund (ISF) allocation to Norway in euro per area

Areas	ISF 2014-2020
ISF Borders	14,317,819
ISF SA Frontex	-
ISF SA Consular cooperation	-
ISF Borders Emergency Assistance	-
ISF Police	-
TOTAL	14,317,819

Source: DG Migration and Home affairs

Table 12: SOLID funds allocation in euro and share of total funds allocated to Norway (2007-2013)

SOLID FUNDS	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	TOTAL
European Refugee Fund (ERF)	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
European Return Fund (RF)	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
European Fund for the Integration of TCN (EIF)	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
External Borders Fund (EBF)	N/A	N/A	1,611,049 (1.0%)	1,572,108 (0.8%)	2,102,826 (0.9%)	2,838,543 (0.9%)	3,354,773 (0.8%)	11,479,299 (0.7)

Source: DG Migration and Home affairs