

NORWAY

EMN ANNUAL REPORT ON ASYLUM AND MIGRATION 2015

Version 2: 9th November 2015

1. LEGAL MIGRATION AND MOBILITY

1.1. Economic migration

1.1.1. *Satisfying labour market needs - admission policies*

Please describe any *new or planned* labour migration admission policies, measures or changes to the existing legislation regarding labour market and skill needs/shortages in relation to the employment of third-country nationals.

Changes that went into effect 15 January 2015:

Skilled workers who do not need a visa to enter the country can receive a permit to remain in the country as job-seeker for 6 months.

Off-shore workeres on permanent installations can be allowed to work on the mainland for the same employer.

Duration of permits for self-employed contractors was extended from 4 to 6 years.

I special cases, self-employed individuals can be granted a permit to also engage in employment alongside activity as self-employed.

Planned changes that were sent out for comments/hearing in the fall of 2015:

Early work scheme: Proposed change to limit scheme to skilled workers with skills at a high level (tertiary education), lower the criteria for employers and simplify the application process. Goal is to make the scheme easier for the police to administer and to limit abuse.

Job-seekers permit: Extend the permit for skilled job-seekers to include researchers and extend the duration to one year (from existing duration of six months).

1.1.2. *Efforts to avoid ‘social dumping’*

Social dumping refers to the practice where workers from third countries are exploited as “cheap labour” in order to increase profit margins of companies.¹ This would entail measures aimed at ensuring recruitment on the domestic labour market, if it is able to meet demand. It would also entail ensuring equal treatment of third country workers to nationals and EU citizens as regards working conditions, including pay.

Please describe any *new or planned* measures to prevent and/or detect social dumping

¹ <http://www.eurofound.europa.eu/areas/industrialrelations/dictionary/definitions/socialdumping.htm>

Strategy to combat illegal workplace practices:

The Government launched a strategy to combat illicit workplace practices in January 2015 and work within this strategy is headed by the Prime Minister.

The background for the strategy: Information from the police and other public regulatory authorities indicate that illegal workplace practices have been on the rise by employers who, by systematically breaking laws and regulations on workplace practices, are able to extract illicit profits. Many of these offenders operate in sectors with a large share of foreign workers. There have also been cases of more severe exploitation of foreign workers, through serious breaches of the regulations on working hours as well as in relation to wages and working conditions.

Details about the strategy: The explicit measures in the strategy were drafted in dialogue with unions and employer organisations. The aim is to ensure a level playing field for honest employers by making it more difficult for dishonest businesses to operate and thrive.

The main measures encompass:

- **Broad and continuous cooperation between public authorities and organizations in the labour market, with particular focus on certain branches**
- **Increased cooperation between public authorities and institutions such as the police, tax offices, the labour inspection authority, the welfare administration and customs.**
- **Strict rules for businesses that supply goods or services to public offices and institutions.**
- **Making it easier for workers and customers to find serious businesses**
- **Improving information to foreign workers on rights and regulations**
- **Improving cooperation with authorities in other countries**

General application of collective wage agreements:

General application of collective agreements is an important instrument for counteracting social dumping in Norway. It entails that at least some minimum wages, benefits or working conditions in collective agreements are made legally binding for *all* employers and employees within the relevant industry and/or occupation, regardless of whether or not they are members of an employers' organisation or a trade union. The regulations may be applied either in the entire country or in selected regions. The regulations also apply to foreign workers sent to work in Norway.

The law is meant to guarantee that foreign workers receive wages and working conditions equivalent to those of Norwegian workers and to prevent competition based on unacceptable working conditions in the Norwegian labour market.

A committee, called *Tariffnemnda* in Norwegian, makes the decision to introduce general application regulations², after formal application for review from either an employer organisation or a trade union. The composition of the committee, which includes one representative from both an employer organisation and a trade union,

² Tariffnemnda consists of five members: one representing employers (employer organizations), one representing workers (unions) and three neutral members.

is designed to keep as much control as possible in the hands of the negotiating partners in the labour market and reflects the fact that it is these partners that have the best insights into the relevant wage agreements and working conditions.

The decision to invoke general application of a collective agreement requires documentation that foreign workers are, or can be, subjected to wages or working conditions that in sum are worse than those stipulated in national wage agreements or which otherwise prevail in a given region for the relevant occupation or industry. General application of collective agreements was already in place prior to the start of 2015 in four sectors of the economy, construction, shipbuilding and maritime construction, agriculture and cleaning. It was introduced in four additional sectors, seafood industries, electrical work, trucking, and passenger bus transport, in 2015

1.1.3. *Facilitating admission*

Please describe any *new or planned* policies / measures to facilitate admission and access of the following categories of migrants. Please concentrate on any additional incentive mechanisms, besides those introduced through the transposition and implementation of EU legislation.

No changes for any groups.

1.1.4. *Guaranteeing certain rights for third-country nationals who are already legally resident on the territory*

Please describe any *new or planned* policies / measures or practices to facilitate access to the following:

No changes

1.2. Students and researchers

Please describe any *new or planned* policies / measures or practices to facilitate greater mobility of students and researchers and towards meeting labour market needs. Please specify any incentive mechanisms for students and researchers, besides those introduced through the transposition and implementation of EU legislation.

Nothing to report

1.3. Family reunification

Please describe any *new or planned* policies/measures or practices to regulate family reunification- Specifically those to further promote the integration of third-country nationals coming for the purpose of family reunification.

Norway has not adopted or implemented any such changes in 2015. But in December 2015 the Ministry of Justice and Public Security proposed changes in the Immigration Act concerning family reunification. It is proposed to introduce a subsistence requirement and a requirement of four years of work or study before family reunification may be granted for refugees. It is also proposed that an application for family reunification may be refused if family reunification is possible in another state, which the family has a stronger connection to. The public hearing is finished, and the Government is now working on a legislative proposal, which is to be presented to the Parliament in April 2016.

1.4. Managing Migration and Mobility

1.4.1. *Visa Policy*

Please describe any *new or planned* policies/measures or practices in relation to the implementation of the Visa Code and the Visa Information System (VIS). Specifically describe new developments in relation to biometric visas (share of visas issued which are biometric, regions covered, pilot measures and testing, cooperation between (Member) States' consulates and the set up joint consular services for visas).

VIS has been fully rolled out. All visas are biometric and registered in VIS. Norway has no plans for pilot projects or joint set ups.

- a) Please report on any relevant **2015 progress** in relation to cooperation between (Member) State consular services and the set-up of **new** joint consular services for visas by listing the visa representation agreements signed and the (Member) States involved in the Table below.

(Member) State with which the visa representation agreement exists	Country acting as representative
Belgium	
Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) – Lubumbashi	Belgium
Jamaica - Kingston	Belgium (started 1.1.16.)
Denmark	
Tanzania - Dar Es Salaam	Norway
Bangladesh – Dhaka	Denmark
Morocco – Rabat	Denmark
Mozambique – Maputo	Denmark
Finland	
Angola – Luanda	Norway
Algeria - Alger	Finland
Iceland	
Pristina	Norway
Lithuania	
Kampala – Uganda	Norway
Kosovo – Phristina	Norway
Malawi – Lilongwe	Norway
Sri Lanka – Colombo	Norway
Sudan – Khartoum	Norway
Kazakhstan – Astana/ Almaty	Lithuania

Luxembourg	
Malawi – Lilongwe	Norway
Malta	
Malawi – Lilongwe	Norway
Nederland	
Malawi – Lilongwe	Norway
Spain	
Venezuela – Caracas	Spain (starting 16.1.16)

1.4.2. *Schengen Governance*

Please describe any *new or planned* developments in relation to Schengen Governance. Where relevant, please include any (planned) actions in relation to the new Schengen acquis, temporary suspension of Schengen, developments in relation to Regulation (EU) No 1342/2011 facilitating border crossing for Kaliningrad area etc.

The Norwegian government decided on 25 November 2015 to temporary reintroduce border control at the Norwegian internal borders. The decision was made in order to remedy the serious threat to public policy and internal security posed by the consequences of the unpredictable migratory pressure and the ensuing challenges to the functioning of the Norwegian society. The border control has so far been prolonged until 15 March 2016. Since the re-introduction of internal border control, there has been a significant decrease in the number of asylum seekers to Norway.

1.4.3. *Ensuring that all Member States have efficient migration management systems in place in order to be prepared for fluctuating migration pressures*

- a) Please describe any specific measures undertaken to address unexpected movements of third country citizens to your own country (including contingency planning in the field of asylum)
- b) Please provide any evidence of the effectiveness of these measures, where available.
- c) Please describe any challenges faced by your Member State while implementing such measures – particularly during the migrants and refugees influx experienced in 2015.

The unexpected influx of asylum-seekers to Norway in the autumn of 2015 was by and large managed through established procedures and systems – including the activation of existing crisis management procedures. The Norwegian migration system was pressed to the limits, but managed to handle the challenges. New reception facilities for asylum-seekers were established and short-time accommodation in hotels was utilised to a large degree. Simplified registration procedures were used in the periods with exceptionally high arrivals. The Norwegian Directorate of Immigration was strengthened in order to expand the capacity to handle the high number of asylum applications. The Norwegian Directorate of Immigration received assistance from the Norwegian Directorate for Civil protection in order to identify and prepare new accommodation facilities. At

one point, steps were being taken to prepare for establishment of larger camps with pre-fabricated barracks or tents in order to accommodate the high number of migrants, but none of these plans were actually implemented before the influx fell sharply towards the end of the year.

In the aftermath of the crisis, steps have been taken to establish revised emergency plans to prepare for a possible new sharp rise in the number of asylum-seekers. Relevant public services have examined their emergency plans and made preparations in accordance with the experiences from the autumn of 2015. More detailed plans for assistance from the Norwegian Directorate of Civil Protection are being developed. Plans for expanding the ability to accommodate high numbers of migrants are being developed, including the possibility of the swift establishment of camps with barracks or tents or accommodation on ships. A large-scale scenario analysis under the auspices of the Norwegian Directorate of Immigration has served to identify challenges and potential stow-pipes in the migration system as a whole. Based on the experiences from last autumn, the Norwegian authorities are better prepared to manage possible new extraordinary high numbers of migrants in the future.

2. INTEGRATION

2.1.1. *Promoting integration through: socio-economic participation*

Please describe any *new or planned* policies/measures or practices to facilitate integration of migrants (including vulnerable migrants, refugees and beneficiaries of subsidiary protection) through socio-economic participation including:

A Measures to enhance migrants' language skills, to improve attainment in the education system;

Since 2006, the monitoring tool Goals for Social Inclusion of the Immigrant Population has been part of efforts of the Government to ensure efficient mainstreaming. Annually, a comprehensive report on integration is presented together with the proposal for the government budget proposal for the next year. The report presents the development of a series of integration indicators, based on contributions from several ministries. The importance of this tool has been recognised and the system has been revised and improved as National indicators for Integration.

Free core time in kindergarten Programs for free core time in kindergarten (20 free hours per week) have been implemented in six districts of Oslo, and in some areas of the cities of Bergen and Drammen. The assumption has been that by attending kindergarten children will achieve improved language and social skills in preparation for primary school. From August 2014, targeted pilot projects were implemented in Bergen, Drammen and in one district of Oslo. The target group was children in families with low income. In order to receive free core time for their children, parents have been obliged to participate in organized activity, such as labour market measures, studies or Norwegian language training

The free core time program has had five aims: (1) to reimburse city districts for low parental fee payment, (2) increase the recruitment of minority-language children to kindergarten, (3) systematic language stimulation, (4) increase the competence

among kindergarten staff, and (5) implement measures to increase skills in Norwegian among parents, particularly mothers.

Free core time has resulted in an increase in the number of children of immigrants participating in kindergarten. Immigrant parents have demonstrated a more positive attitude to sending their children to kindergarten. In addition, services for parents such as parental guidance programs and low-threshold programs for learning Norwegian through practical tasks have been offered. There are indications that taking part in such programs often results in participation in other relevant courses. An evaluation of the free core time scheme shows that attendance had increased 15 percent in the project districts for four and five year old children with an immigrant background. Furthermore, there were significantly better results in reading and calculus in grade 1 and 2 for children with an immigrant background who had attended kindergarten.

From August 1, 2015, as a result of the program and targeted pilot projects, all four and five-years old children, living in families with low income, have a right to receive free core time in kindergarten.

B: Migrants access to social security, healthcare and housing

The Government has implemented several measures with the aim to provide immigrants with equitable health services. Because of the high immigration to Norway over the last decade the Ministry of Health and Care Services has prepared a strategy of immigrant health for the period 2013 – 2017. The Directorate of Health is following up this strategy. Preventive health services have been improved through strengthening the maternal and child health centres and the school health service. Efforts to reduce the prevalence of diabetes have targeted specific groups of immigrants.

There are five resource centres (RVTS), one in each region. Their main purpose is to support the health services with expertise on trauma and traumatic Stress, including Psychosocial Preparedness, Violence and Abuse, including Domestic Violence, Prevention of Suicide and Self-Harm, Refugee Health and Forced Migration. The RVTS strive to be easily accessible to the employees in the municipal and the specialized health services as well as to volunteer organisations. The Government has increased the grant to the RVTS. Finally, The Norwegian Centre for Minority Health Research (NAKMI) is a national research, development and policy centre promoting research-based knowledge about health and care for immigrants and their descendants in Norway. NAKMI aims to promote and contribute to attaining equitable health services for immigrants and their descendants in Norway. The main target groups are health policy makers and managers, health professionals, researchers and students.

Good and stable housing is important in order to keep a steady job, for educational achievement, for maintaining a social network and for achieving good health. The level of home ownership in the Norwegian population is approximately 77 percent, which is higher than in most European countries. Among immigrants, the level is about 60 percent, also higher than for in most European countries. There are substantial differences between immigrant groups, however, depending on country of origin and the average length of residence in Norway. In 2014, a strategy on social housing for the period 2014-2020 was launched. The central government and the municipality of Oslo have cooperated on improving the living conditions in two areas in Oslo, which include five of the 15 municipal districts. The five districts are

characterised by a high incidence of low-income families with comparatively poor living conditions. There are similar initiatives to promote local development in areas with difficult living conditions in the cities of Bergen and Trondheim. The central government and the municipality of Oslo have recently agreed to continue the cooperation for ten more years (2017-2027).

C Migrant integration into the labour market.

In the Political Platform of the Government, some policy initiatives concerning basic qualification for immigrants are outlined. These include promoting employment among women with immigrant background. A proposition for amendments to the Introduction Act to improve the quality of Norwegian language training and the Introduction Program was passed by the Storting: - The municipalities will be responsible for initiating courses in language training and social studies. - Participants have to document skills in Norwegian civics to be exempted from the social studies course. - Participants in the Introduction Program will be granted a leave of absence for up to one year if they are offered a job. The two schemes in the Introduction Act, the Introduction Program and the Norwegian Language Training and Social Studies are in the process of being evaluated. The goal of this evaluation is to acquire a better understanding of what makes a qualification program functioning, in the sense that the participants improve their chances of finding a job and participate in society. The evaluation is expected to present recommendations for improving and developing the two schemes. The Ministry of Education and Research, the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs and the Ministry of Children, Equality and Social Inclusion are cooperating to develop a new, comprehensive policy for adults with weak basic skills, or with skills that they want to be recognized. The proposals will be presented to the Storting during the spring of 2016. The White Paper will include proposals to improve the programs for acquiring basic qualifications. From 2016, the Norwegian Government will strengthen the Job Opportunity program with NOK 10 million (More than 9 million EURO). This is a part of the strategy against child poverty. The target group is family members of low income Norwegian and Nordic citizens, and the increase is supposed to contribute to higher employment, especially for women in this group.

The action plan for making better use of the competence of immigrants in the labour market – *We need the competence of immigrants* – is being implemented (2013-2016). One of the measures is a grant scheme to initiate and support company-based mentor and trainee programs for persons with an immigrant background. The purpose of the scheme is to encourage more companies to initiate and systematise such programs. Another grant scheme initiated intends to strengthen and develop regional and local entrepreneurship counselling.

During spring 2016, the Government will propose a White paper on integration policy. The White paper will review today's integration policy and suggest policies that will ensure that people with a residence permit are able to utilise their skills and participate in working life. The government has appointed a commission of experts to consider possible long-term consequences for the Norwegian welfare society in light of continued high influx of refugees and immigrants.

2.1.2. Promoting integration through participation: rights and obligations, achieving equal treatment and belonging:

Please describe any *new or planned* policies/measures or practices to facilitate integration of migrants (including vulnerable migrants) through improving rights and obligations, achieving equal treatment and belonging. For instance, consider measures to increase the participation of migrant representatives (including women) in the design and implementation of integration policies; outreach programmes and work placements to build capacity within migrant organisations and encourage support at local level; and measures to enhance democratic participation, for example, training mentors etc.

The Ministry of Justice and Public Security provides grants to immigrant organisations and other NGOs, both local and nationwide organisations, to contribute to participation, dialogue and interaction. The aim of such grants is to strengthen the participation locally of immigrants and their children and to facilitate access to social networks. National resource centres focusing on integration issues receive such grants.

Furthermore, grants are available for NGOs that provide information and guidance to new immigrants, especially to labour immigrants and other immigrants not covered by the Introduction Act. Dialogue and contact between the Government and the civil society are important elements of the policy-making and policy-implementation processes. After discontinuing the Contact Committee for Immigrants and the Authorities (KIM) in 2013, the Government receives input from NGO`s representing immigrants and Norwegian-born to immigrant parents in an annual Dialogue Conference since 2014.

According to the Public Administration Act, all public agencies have a duty to provide guidance and information to the public. The Directorate of Integration and Diversity (IMDi) has a central role in coordinating efforts to ensure that people with an immigrant background obtain equitable public services. Where there are language barriers, adequate interpretation services are needed, but such services are not always available. Legal measures have been drafted to ensure that public agencies do not use children as interpreters.

In September 2014, the Interpreting Services Review Committee presented a Green Paper – NOU 2014:8 Interpreting in the public sector http://www.regjeringen.no/pages/38500565/Political_platform_ENGLISH.pdf .

The Government has decided to draft a new Interpreting Act. The act is supposed to clarify when the obligation of the public sector to use qualified interpreters comes into force, such as in situations where the right to due process of law and equal treatment are concerned. In addition, ID-cards that show that the interpreter is registered in the Norwegian National Register of Interpreters will be introduced. Furthermore, the Government will take action to make sure that there are enough qualified interpreters to meet the needs, and to contribute to good systems for the administration and booking of the interpreters used by public services. Measures to increase the recruitment of immigrants to jobs in the public sector – for example to work in kindergartens, schools, health- and child welfare services, and cultural services – and to incorporate the understanding of cultural diversity as a topic in relevant courses of study may also contribute to the provision of equitable public services.

2.1.3. Promoting integration of specific groups

Please describe any *new or planned* policies/measures or practices to facilitate integration of specific groups of migrants, such as beneficiaries of international protection, labour migrants (both highly-skilled and low-skilled if there are measures in place), UAM, family migrants etc.

Radicalization and violent extremism is a growing concern also in Norway. The Government launched a new *Action Plan against Radicalisation and Violent Extremism* in June 2014.³ The plan aims to improve the efforts to combat radicalisation and violent extremism. Several new measures have been developed since June 2014. The support of local initiatives for young people that aim at preventing recruitment to violent extremists is part of the Norwegian *Action plan against radicalisation and violent extremism*. This is done by funding municipalities and NGOs all over the country.

Bringing together youth and creating inclusive alternatives by the use of dialogue instead of violence, was further more expressed at the *European Youth Conference* in Oslo in June and where the Government launched the independent European youth Network *Youth Can*.

Preventing harassment and hate speech is of great concern for the Government. Even though the action plan includes measures which seek to prevent hate speech and hate crime, the Prime Minister have taken action to strengthen the work against hate speech. Prime Minister Solberg launched the government's declaration against hate speech in December 2015, and a strategy against hate speech which involves several ministries will be launched this year. An action plan against anti-Semitism will be developed.

As new forms of violent extremism unfold, new knowledge is needed. As part of the Norwegian *Action plan against radicalisation and violent extremism*, the government have taken action to establish a Norwegian Research Centre on right-wing extremism and related issues, such as how to prevent hate crime, http://www.forskningsradet.no/en/Newsarticle/New_research_centre_on_rightwing_extremism_for_University_of_Oslo/1254013697130/p1177315753918

2.1.4. Non-discrimination

Please describe any *new or planned* relevant activity, legal or policy development and related actors that concerned promotion, implementation and monitoring of non-discrimination policies, in particular on grounds of ethnicity, race or others that would be particularly relevant for third-country nationals. Specifically mention any measure beyond those introduced through the transposition and implementation of EU legislation.

Currently, Norway has four equality and anti-discrimination acts; the Gender Equality Act, the Ethnicity Anti-Discrimination Act, the Anti-Discrimination and Accessibility Act, and the Sexual Orientation Anti-Discrimination Act. The Government has proposed to replace these acts with one comprehensive Equality and Non-Discrimination Act, thus giving a less fragmented legal system.

³ <http://www.regjeringen.no/en/dep/jd/documents-and-publications/Reports/Plans/20141/Action-plan-against-Radicalisation-and-Violent-Extremism.html?id=>

The idea of a comprehensive Act is consistent with the approach in the general human rights conventions. The purpose is a more user-friendly, coherent and fair protection against discrimination by merging the existing acts into one.

The proposal has been on a public hearing with the reply deadline in January 2016. The Government will consider the input from the hearing thoroughly before submitting a Bill to Parliament.

2.1.5. Cooperation, consultation and coordination of stakeholders and promoting action at local level

Please describe *new or planned* relevant activities on the integration of migrants involving the active participation of local authorities and/or civil society. Measures might include activities addressing integration challenges in disadvantaged urban areas; improving multi-level cooperation between different levels of governance (e.g. national, regional, local government); granting voting rights in local elections.

Please describe any *new or planned* additional information on the processes for cooperation, consultation and coordination of national, regional and local authorities, including civil society, countries of origin and with EU level institutions and actors.

Nothing to report

2.1.6. Involvement of countries of origin

Countries of origin may play a role in the integration of migrants before departure, during stay in the EU, and on return.

Please describe any *new or planned* policies/measures or practices to support integration involving countries of origin at any / all of these stages. For example, pre-departure measures may include provision of information on visas and work permits, language training, vocational training, recognition of qualifications and skills; measures during stay may include support to diaspora communities, promotion of transnational entrepreneurship, increasing trade between countries of origin and stay; measures to support return may include developing a rights-based framework for re-integration and for temporary and circular migration.

Reintegration programmes for returnees to Afghanistan, Iraq and Ethiopia continued in 2015.

PROMOTION, INFORMATION AND AWARENESS RAISING

3.1. Routes to and conditions of legal migration

Please describe any *new or planned* policies/measures or practices to improve the provision of information on the routes to and conditions of legal migration for third-country nationals (information campaigns, websites, specific centres, etc.), referring to any approaches that combine information with pre-departure measures.

As a response to a mixed migratory influx over the external Schengen border with the Russian Federation in the autumn of 2015 an information campaign on the rules regulating legal entry to Norway was launched in Russian media and in social media. The campaign indicated that irregular migrants risked being returned either to the Russian Federation or to their countries of origin. By the end of November 2015 the influx came to an end for a variety of reasons.

3.2. Prevention of unsafe migration

Please describe any *new or planned* policies/measures or practices responding to the objective of prevention of unsafe migration from third countries of origin and transit (information campaigns, websites, projects with grass-roots NGOs or involving the diaspora, etc.).

Cf. 3.1.

3.3. Awareness raising in the host society

Please describe any *new or planned* policies/measures or practices aimed at raising awareness on the phenomenon of migration in the host societies / countries of destination (information campaigns, websites, etc.).

The immigration authorities cooperate with local authorities when reception centers for asylum seekers are established. Dialogue with the local community is a part of this. During the autumn of 2015 a large number of new centers were established in municipalities that had not had such centers before. In this process the Norwegian Directorate of Immigration (UDI) provided information to the public through both local and national media. Furthermore, the UDI has web pages with extensive information about immigration to Norway which are available to the public.

4. IRREGULAR MIGRATION AND RETURN

4.1. Enhanced border management at the external borders

In responding to each of the questions below, please wherever possible state what type of border the measure specifically affects.

4.1.1. *Border control measures: technology, equipment and infrastructure, including systems linked to EU instruments and actions to coordinate different types of border checks (e.g. such as the introduction of new IT systems, advanced passenger information systems, surveillance equipment, automated border controls and fast track lanes, etc.)*

There was no new technology implemented in 2016

4.1.2. Border control measures: other activities to improve the effectiveness of controls at external borders (e.g. training and policy)

Please describe any relevant (planned) developments to ensure more effective control of the external borders, such as reinforcing border control staff, providing training, increasing overall resources, introducing action plans or protocols, etc.

No new development at the external border. The Norwegian-Russian border was temporarily reinforced by adding more border control staff during the influx of late autumn 2015.

4.1.3. Preventing and combating irregular immigration by ensuring reinforced cooperation with third countries in the area of border management.

Please list any 2015 or planned agreements, and other forms of bilateral and multilateral cooperation with third countries with an objective to strengthen the operational capacity in combatting irregular migration and controlling of external borders.

Title of agreement (where relevant)	Third country (countries) with whom the cooperation exists	Description (e.g. provision of border equipment, training of border guards, etc.)
No new agreements with third countries		

4.2. Better tackling of misuse of legal migration channels

Please describe any measures introduced to prevent and tackle:

4.2.1. *Irregular migration caused by visa liberalisation*

- a) Please describe any measures introduced to monitor the effects of visa free regimes in your Member State.
- b) What have been the results of these monitoring activities? Describe here any key findings – especially in relation to impact on the **number unfounded asylum applications** registered in your Member State.
- c) Please describe measures taken to ensure the accelerated and swift return of persons from visa-free third countries found to be making unfounded asylum applications, to be overstaying permissions to stay or otherwise abusing legal migration channels.
- d) Please describe any evidence of the effectiveness of the measures to ensure return.

Norway has not introduced a monitoring system on the effects of visa liberalization for third countries. However, there is a fast track procedure (48 hours) for manifestly unfounded asylum applications, that applies also in case of submitted

asylum application by TCN from 16 visa free countries (all together 56 visa free third countries).

Statistics on 48 hours procedure can be indicative for national policy on visa liberalization in this respect. For example, in 2015 380 of 716 asylum applications, which were proceeded under the 48 hours procedure, were lodged by Albanian citizens (a visa free third country).

A final rejection of an asylum application should be followed by a deportation within 72 hours / as soon as possible. Deadline by 72 hours is not always possible in practice, since it tends to take 48 hours for notification of deportation, and in some cases there may be practical obstacles to the deportation (health /family issues). Potential returnees will seldom be detained in these cases, but detention might show necessary in some cases; in case of concrete evidences for risk to abscond

4.2.2. Irregular migration through misuse of family reunification

Please provide *new or planned measures* to reduce the number of cases of misuse of family reunification, as well as data and further information on the number of cases of misuse of family reunification identified in your country

i) Marriage of convenience

We have not implemented any new measures against the misuse of family reunification the latest year. When the income requirements in the national legislation were changed in 2010 we saw a significant decrease in the number of rejections on the basis of marriage of convenience.

The main reason for this is probably that we do not investigate whether a marriage is one of convenience if the income requirements are not satisfied. It may also be that some marriages that could have been suspected to be marriages of convenience are not contracted when the income requirement must be met. The number of marriages of residence permits rejected on the basis on a marriage of convenience dropped from around 150-200 cases a year in the years prior to 2011 to 116 in 2011. Further we rejected 102 cases in 2012, 62 in 2013, 89 in 2014 and 60 cases in 2015. We have most rejections on the basis of a marriage of convenience for applicants from Somalia, Morocco, Turkey and Pakistan. We have granted 5000 to 7000 residence permits a year in this period according to the national legislation to persons married to a sponsor living in Norway.

ii) Third country family members to EEA citizens

We have not implemented any new measures against the misuse for this group the latest year. We have rejected 20-30 cases on the basis of a marriage of convenience in 2015. In total Norway have about 800 applications from TCNs married to a EEA citizen.

In 2014 the Ministry of Labour issued an instruction that made it easier to reject applications from family members to Norwegian citizens who claimed to have used their rights to free movement in th EEA area but who in reality had been living in Norway. There are however few such cases, and the wording in the instruction has been criticized by ESA. The instruction it therefore under review.

iii) Identity and document control

The latest years the Norwegian Embassy in Amman has focused on identity and document control, and a document and identity expert have been engaged. The embassy in Amman does in particular handle applications from citizens of Iraq. In 2013 we granted about 60 % of the family immigration cases from Iraq. IN 2014 and 2015 we granted 53 % of the applications. Rejections based on false documents have increased, and we believe that this is an important reason for the drop in the number of granted application.

Identity experts have now been engaged also at the Embassies in New Delhi, Kampala and Abuja.

iv) Forced Marriage

We regard forced marriage also to be a form of misuse of family reunification, even though a forced marriage also have other aspects.

We have in about 10 cases a year concluded that a marriage has been forced without any of the parties admitting to it. Most of the applicants have been citizens of Pakistan.

v) See also 1.3

4.2.3. *Irregular migration through misuse of student migration*

Please provide *new or planned measures* to reduce, prevent and identify and/or investigate the misuse of student migration, as well as data and further information on the number of cases of misuse of student migration identified in your country.

Nothing to report

4.2.4. *Irregular migration caused by use of false travel documents*

Please provide *new or planned measures* to prevent and identify and/or investigate fraudulent acquisition and use of false travel documents, as well as **any available statistics** and further information on the number of cases of use of false travel document identified in your country.

No new measures, but the police service was reinforced and focus on false travel documents was increased

4.2.5. *Irregular migration caused by the abuse of free movement rights by third country nationals and preventing the fraudulent acquisition and use of free movement rights by third-country nationals*

Please describe any *new* activities implemented during 2015 to monitor and analyse information on the fraud and abuse of free movement. For example, measures to ensure

common validation standards at borders and domestic controls and improvement of the security of the application and issuance processes for identity/EU documentation.

No new activities in 2015. We plan to implement systems allowing for better information exchange between the police service and the directorate of immigration.

4.3. The fight against facilitation of irregular migration ('smuggling')

Please provide information on any *new developments* that have taken place in 2015 to combat the facilitation of irregular migration (for example, on cooperation measures to combat smuggling).

No new developments

4.3.1. Activities to monitor smuggling

Please describe any challenges faced by your (Member) State in monitoring / collecting statistics on smuggling? How does your (Member) State (plan to) address these issues?

No changes

4.3.2. Monitoring and identifying migration routes

Please describe any new or planned measures to identify, monitor and aggregate information on migration routes and please explain how is this information used to develop your (Member) State's response to migratory flows?

- Please describe the role of national immigration liaison officers (NLOs) in gathering this data

No change in the role of NLOs.

QUESTIONS ON RETURN

4.4. Strengthening cooperation with third countries of transit and origin on migration management

4.4.1. Ensure implementation of all EU readmission agreements to their full effect⁴

Please report on activities undertaken to support the implementation of EU readmission agreements (implementing protocols, cooperation (including diplomatic pressure) with

⁴ Norway is invited to report on any National agreements in place.

third countries to encourage implementation) by completing the Table and providing any additional relevant information in the box below:

EU Readmission agreement (country)	National development (i.e. implementing protocol, cooperation)	Date of agreement (if relevant)
Pakistan	Norway concluded negotiations on a Readmission Agreement with Pakistan in October 2015. The Agreement will probably be signed Spring 2016	
Turkey	Norway concluded negotiations on a Readmission Agreement with Turkey in June 2015. The Agreement will probably be signed Spring 2016	

4.4.2. Prevention of irregular migration from third countries: (a) the Southern Mediterranean countries; (b) the Eastern Partners; (c) the Western Balkans; and (d) the Western Mediterranean and the African Atlantic coast

Please describe any specific cooperation activities developed in 2015 in your Member State to prevent irregular migration in relation to the specific geographical regions outlined above.

(a) the Southern Mediterranean countries;

A funding contribution of 4.55 million NOK was made in 2015 to the Migration Response Centre operated by IOM in Khartoum, Sudan. The centre provides information on the risks of irregular migration, assistance to vulnerable migrants and offers of voluntary returns to countries of origin.

Programmes for assisted voluntary return for stranded migrants in Egypt and Libya operated by IOM were funded with 4.1 million NOK.

(b) the Eastern Partners;

A programme for assisted voluntary return from Turkey operated by IOM has been funded with 3 million NOK.

(c) the Western Balkans;

(d) the Western Mediterranean and the African Atlantic coast

4.5. Enhancing migration management including cooperation on return practices

PLEASE NOTE THAT THIS SECTION OF THE SYNTHESIS REPORT WILL CONSIST OF THE FOLLOWING

- 4.5.1. Summary of the EMN REG return and reintegration activities developed during 2015 (To be drafted by the EMN Service Provider)**
- 4.5.2. Summary of the Frontex Joint Return Operations (JTOs) (To be provided by Frontex)**
- 4.5.3. Maximising the potential of a common EU approach in the field of return, both voluntary and forced in compliance with existing EU acquis (To be drafted by COM)**
- 4.5.4. Please describe any new or planned measures to develop swift, sustainable and effective return using a common EU approach and in particular actions relevant to:**
- i. Recording entry bans in the SIS and facilitating exchange of information on entry bans;⁵
 - ii. Operation of national forced return monitoring system (established in accordance with Article 8 (6) of the Return Directive⁶
 - iii. Other actions.
 - iv. i. Norwegian authorities do enter entry bans in the SIS, but has not specifically assessed the effects.
 - v. ii. Norway is preparing for the introduction of a national monitoring system for forced return, but the system is yet to be in operation.
 - vi.

⁵ This category of measure relates to the commitments of the Stockholm Programme specifically.

⁶ Directive 2008/115/EC

5. INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION INCLUDING ASYLUM

This Section will also be used to provide information to inform EASO's Annual Report. Please note that questions about combating misuse of the national asylum system are tackled under Section 4.3.1(b).

5.1. Common European Asylum System

The implementation of the Common European Asylum System

a) Please provide information on changes in policies and practices relating to:

- | | |
|---|-------------------|
| i. Access to territory (including applications from outside the territory, where applicable, and humanitarian visas) | No changes |
| ii. Access to the asylum procedure (including applications made at the border and in detention) | No changes |
| iii. Registration of applications for international protection, including subsequent applications | No changes |
| iv. Access to information and legal counselling / representation (including at the border and during the asylum procedure) | No changes |
| v. Provision of interpretation | No changes |
| vi. Dublin procedure (incl. transfers) | No changes |
| ----- | |
| vii. Special procedures: border procedures, accelerated procedures, (including safe country policies), admissibility procedures, prioritised procedures. | |
| 25 November, 2015, the Norwegian Ministry of Justice and Public Security instructed the asylum adjudicating bodies, the Directorate of Immigration (UDI) and the Immigration Appeals Board (UNE), to reject applications from asylum seekers arriving in Norway after having resided in Russia, without assessments of the substance of the applications. | |
| The intention is that asylum seekers who do not get an assessment of the substance of their cases, may rapidly be returned to Russia. All cases are processed individually in order to identify any asylum seekers who, in exceptional circumstances, may have a real need for protection and thus qualify for full consideration of their case in Norway. | |
| ----- | |
| viii. Reception of applicants and vulnerable groups (accommodation, financial and social support, access to labour market, access to medical care), | No changes |
| ix. Detention during the asylum procedure (practices regarding detention, grounds for detention) | No changes |
| x. Procedures at first instance (organisation of the process, interviews, evidence assessment, international protection status determination, decision making, timeframes, case management, training) | No changes |

xi. Appeal/Judicial Review (organisation of the process, hearings, written procedures, timeframes, timeframes, case management, training) **No changes**

xii. Country of Origin Information (organisation, methodology, products, databases)

No changes

xiii. Vulnerable groups e.g. unaccompanied minors (UAMs), torture and trauma survivors, victims of human trafficking, gender, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex (LGBTI) within the asylum procedure **No changes**

xiv. Return of rejected asylum applicants (including forced return, voluntary return and assisted voluntary return). **No changes**

xv. Resettlement (practices in relation to resettlement and possible participation in the EU joint resettlement programme)

3 July 2015 the Ministry of Justice and Public Security issued a circular modifying the criteria for selecting refugees to be offered resettlement in Norway. Whereas the needs for international protection and a durable solution remain the basic criteria, women and child families are given priority. Refugees with relevant education and professional experience shall also be prioritised.

20 July Norway pledged to resettle 3 500 refugees over two years as part of the EU joint resettlement programme.

xvi. Cooperation with Third Countries and activities in the external dimension of the CEAS (including participation in capacity building activities in Third Countries, RDPPs).

November 2015 Norway made a contribution to the RDPP for North Africa and pledged the same for the RDPP for the Horn of Africa.

5.1.1. Institutional and legislative changes

- a) Please provide information on institutional changes in the asylum field at ministry/agency/section level (incl. changes in mandate),
- b) Please provide information on legislative changes pertaining to asylum implemented, adopted or pending in 2015.

a) In December 2015 it was decided to appoint a Minister of Immigration and Integration. The immigration field was previously placed under the Minister of Justice and Public Security, while the integration field belonged to the Minister of Children and Equality. The new minister of Immigration and Integration is a part of the Ministry of Justice and Public Security, which now has two ministers.

b) In order to ensure political control of the influx of asylum applicants, an amendment in the Immigration Act entered into force on 20 November 2015, authorizing the Ministry of Justice and Public Security to instruct the Immigration Appeals Board. However, the general right of instruction shall not confer the right to instruct in relation to decisions in individual cases. Under the previous legislation, the Ministry could not instruct the Immigration Appeals Board in matters concerning the interpretation of the law or the exercise of discretionary judgment.

- c) **On 20 November 2015 amendments were also made to the Norwegian Immigration Act, making it easier for the Norwegian authorities to dismiss asylum applications from foreigners who have stayed in a safe third country. The immigration authorities may now refuse to examine the substance of asylum applications lodged by asylum seekers who have come to Norway after having stayed in a third country where they were not persecuted, cf. the Immigration Act new section 32 first paragraph litra d. No time limit for departure shall be set in these cases, meaning that the foreign national has to leave Norway immediately, and no suspended effect shall be given, unless compelling reasons dictates that the decision is suspended. The substance of an application may still be examined in Norway in cases where the asylum seeker is in real risk of treatment contrary to The European Convention on Human rights upon return to the third country. The legislative amendments also allow for the police to use coercive measures, i.e. detention and orders to stay in a specific location, to a greater extent in cases where an asylum application is likely to be dismissed. The objective is to control the whereabouts of the applicants and facilitate speedy return.**
- d) **The abovementioned legislative amendments will initially be applicable until 31st December 2017.**

5.1.2. Jurisprudence

- a) Please provide information on important new national jurisprudence relating to asylum (with policy implications)
- b) Please provide information on the impact of CJEU judgments on national jurisprudence and policy

a) The Supreme Court gave a plenary judgment in December 2015 concerning an Afghan family with under age children, who were denied asylum in Norway on the grounds that they had an internal flight alternative in Afghanistan. The Supreme Court ruled in connection with assessment of the best interest of the child that the immigration authorities is only obliged to consider the conditions of the internal flight alternative, and not make a comparison to the child's situation in Norway. The court gave judgment in favour of the state, and the judgment has thus not had any policy implications.

b) Nothing to report.

5.1.3. Efficiency and Quality

Please provide information on measures undertaken to safeguard or improve:

- a) Quality of the national asylum system (combatting unfounded applications, credibility assessment, age assessment, establishing identity) including information on tools and mechanisms (stating how this is measured)
- b) Efficiency of the processing of (first) applications and appeals (increasing speed, reducing costs, use of new technology) of the national asylum system,

Please include information on effectiveness of above listed measures (where evidence exists and stating how this is measured).

a) **No specific measures undertaken in 2015, but the Ministry of Justice and Public Security has already implemented or planned several new measures in 2016.**

b) **Assessment of asylum claims as a process has been subject to the Lean method for some years, which means that improving and making the asylum procedure more effective has been an ongoing process. There are five concrete measures, which were initiated tested in 2015. Their enforcement was speeded up and proved particularly timely in the autumn of 2015 when the situation of drastic increase in the numbers of asylum applications occurred.**

i) **Asylum interviews via Skype/video conference: Norway is a vast country with a territory stretched at great length and many of the high numbers of asylum seekers that arrived in the autumn of 2015 had to be accommodated where facilities were available and therefore the asylum seekers were hugely dispersed over the whole country. A systematic use of Skype and videoconference for the purpose of taking asylum interviews where the caseworker and the interpreter sit in Oslo and the asylum seeker stays in a specially equipped for the purpose room in the reception center s/he is accommodated, had spared the system for both personal and economic resources, at the same time had facilitated for more timely procedure.**

ii) **Self- registration of asylum seekers (pilot project): In a situation of high numbers arriving daily in the autumn the police, who is assigned the task to initially register the application for protection, including to pose some initial questions, had rarely a possibility to register more than the name of the asylum seeker and to assign him/her a special ID number. Self – registration allows the asylum seekers to provide the immigration authorities with valuable initial information that on its side sets up the conditions for conducting a better and more effective asylum interview. The pilot project so far offers self- registration only for Arabic speaking asylum seekers and is available only in one center, but the ambition is to expand the project both in terms of available languages and in terms of number of reception centers, where this option will be available. It is expected that this measure will be hugely resource saving.**

iii) **From 2015 all asylum interviews are to be recorded as a safeguard for the asylum seeker in his/her procedure. This differentiates from earlier practice where the report from the interview was read to the asylum seeker by the interpreter after finished interview in order s/he to be assured in the correct reporting of the conversation. Again, this is a timesaver in the assessment process.**

iv) **Two big registration centers (designed for a stay in the initial registration procedure and for no longer than 48 hours) were established in the autumn of 2015: Rådet and Storskog. It proved effective to have representatives of all involved in this phase stake holders (immigration service, police, health authorities) at one place in these centers, so the necessary steps in the process were taken timely and without delay.**

v) **The police has introduced measures to improve the process of identity establishment and mapping of the asylum seekers' travel route which will spare time in the asylum interviews.**

Since all the listed measures were systematically tried out first in the second half of 2015 it is still too early to provide a cost effective evaluation of their enforcement.

5.1.4. Challenges in the asylum field

- a) Please indicate which aspects of the national asylum system have (i) proven to be particularly challenging or (ii) have been subject to criticism from third parties.

Please differentiate between the different aspects in your asylum and reception system.

- b) Provide information on actions undertaken to counter these challenges.

Please only provide information additional to that presented in 5.1.2

Asylum system:

a and b) The increased influx of asylum seekers arriving in Norway has put a pressure on our asylum system. In addition to the before mentioned measures, the Ministry of Justice and Public Security submitted multiple proposals on tightening the Immigration Act for public consultations in December 2015. The main goal is to reduce arrivals of persons without protection needs. The Ministry is currently considering the various responses received. Our aim is to submit a final proposal to the Parliament in April 2016. The proposed measures are among others: wider use of temporary protection, stricter requirements for permanent residence permits, temporary permits for unaccompanied minors, tightening the right to family reunion and new measures relating to the determination of identities.

Pursuant to the changes in the Immigration Act new section 32 first paragraph litra d (as described in 5.1.1 above), The Ministry issued instructions to the immigration authorities on November 2015 stating that asylum seekers who have been to Russia prior to coming to Norway shall, in general, be denied examination of the merits of their applications. No time limit for departure shall be set, meaning that the foreign national has to leave Norway immediately, and no suspended effect shall be given, unless compelling reasons dictates that the decision is suspended. The merits of an application may still be examined in Norway in cases where the asylum seeker is in real risk of treatment contrary to ECHR article 3 upon return, cf. the principle of non-refoulement.

Reception system

a) The major influx of asylum seekers in autumn 2015 increased the pressure on the Norwegian asylum system in general, and on the reception system in particular. It was challenging to find accommodation to all asylum seekers, and the Norwegian authorities had to use alternative forms of accommodation, such as hotels, as a temporary solution.

The arrivals quickly rose to a level much higher than normal, and the Norwegian authorities experienced a lack of capacity to register the several hundred asylum seekers arriving every day. At the time, accommodation was offered to asylum seekers only *after* they had been registered as asylum seekers by the police. The Norwegian authorities were subject to massive criticism when faced with allegations that asylum seekers on some occasions slept outside the registration facilities during the night.

Access to adequate health care for all asylum seekers was also a challenge at this time, and was subject to criticism from third parties.

Norway also experienced a significant increase from previous years in the number of unaccompanied minors seeking asylum. As a result, the Norwegian authorities had to resort to bigger reception facilities than normal for this group. Several organisations working for children's rights criticised i.a. the number of children in the reception centres compared to the number of employees, and claimed that the children did not receive adequate care and protection.

b) The Norwegian authorities have undertaken a number of actions to counter these various challenges.

The immigration authorities started to provide accommodation also for asylum seekers that had not yet been registered. More resources were allocated to registration. There was close cooperation between the immigration authorities and the health authorities to counter the challenges concerning adequate health care to arriving asylum seekers.

The Norwegian authorities decided to develop a new and comprehensive solution for the arrivals phase. Two arrivals centres were set up, where registration, information, access to health care and accommodation could be provided at the same location. This allowed for closer cooperation between the authorities, since i.a. the police, health authorities and the Norwegian Directorate of Immigration were present at the centre.

When it comes to the situation for unaccompanied minors, the Norwegian Directorate of Immigration has implemented measures along the way to improve the care and safety for this group, and is working on additional measures, including transferring minors to smaller reception centres.

5.2. Cooperation with the European Asylum Support Office (EASO)

5.2.1. *Participation in EASO activities*

Please provide information on your (Member) State's relevant participation in EASO activities, by type of activity.

a) Provision of staff for Asylum Support Teams

Norway has in 2015 participated with six experts in Asylum Support Teams, including experts to Hotspots in Italia and Greece. Norway has deployed one expert to the Italian Dublin Unit in Rome, one expert was deployed to advice Cyprus on issues related to statistics, one expert has been deployed for several missions to work with Greek authorities responsible for the EEA grants and one expert was deployed for a joint processing activity in UK. Norway has also had one expert working in the Hotspots in Italy from September 2015 until December 2015, and one expert was deployed for one month to the Hotspot in Lesvos in autumn 2015.

b) Deployment of experts to provide training related activities, including regional train-the-training session

One expert from Norway was deployed in 2015 to do a training session on the Dublin III Regulation.

Norway has deployed content experts for the EASO module on Fundamental Rights and International Protection in the EU, the module on Gender, Gender Identity and Sexual Orientation, and the module on Didactics.

c) Participation in the development of common practical tools

One expert from Norway participated in parts of the development of the practical tool on Vulnerable groups

d) Participation of staff in training activities organised by EASO

Norway participated in 2015 in the following training activities; CEAS and Reception.

5.2.2. *Provision of support by EASO to the Member States*

Please provide information on relevant support provided by EASO to your (Member) State. Please indicate: a) type of support provided (e.g. special support, and/or emergency support) b) type of activities implemented.

Nothing to report

5.3. Intra-EU solidarity including relocation

5.3.1. *Support to national asylum systems including relocation*⁷

- a) Please provide information on support provided to (Member) States experiencing specific and disproportionate pressures on their national asylum systems. This might include support in the processing of requests for international protection, seconding staff (for the Asylum Intervention Pool / Training Expert Pool), sending resources or equipment. Please specify if such support was provided: 1) on a bilateral basis; 2) or was organised at EU level.
- b) Please specify any action undertaken with regard to relocation activities. Please specify if relocation activities were provide provided: 1) on a bilateral basis; 2) or organised at EU level.
- c) Please describe any evidence of the results / outcomes of this support, if available

a. Norway has provided expert personell through the Asylum Intervention Pool – assignments of totally 12 months, e.g. for informing about and motivating elible third country nationals in need of international protection to sign up for the relocation programmes.

b. In December 2015 the Parliament endoresed a proposal submitted by the Government for Norway to voluntary participate in the EU provisional relocation mechanism and provided funding for the relocation of 750 asylum seekers in 2016. A similar offer is foreseen for 2017.

c. As stipulated in Council Decision (EU) 2015/1601 Norway’s participation in the provisional relocation mechanism will be based on bilateral arrangements with countries from where relocation will take place. Such arrangements may be concluded during the first quarter of 2016. Thus. no experience may so far be recorded.

⁷ Relocation: the transfer of persons having a status, defined by the Geneva Convention or subsidiary protection (2004/83/EC) from the Member State which granted them international protection to another Member States where they will be granted similar protection (see EMN Glossary V2).

5.4. Enhancing the external dimension including resettlement

5.4.1. *Cooperation with third countries including resettlement*⁸

Please describe 2015 resettlement activities to your (Member) State, differentiating between the types of programme:

- a) General resettlement programme (UNHCR)
- b) Ad-hoc special programmes (e.g. national initiatives, and/or international initiatives).

The Norwegian resettlement programme is implemented in co-operation with UNHCR. A total of 2 620 places were available in 2015. The largest refugee groups offered resettlement in 2015 were:

1 624 Syrian refugees

321 Afghan refugees, mostly women-at-risk and their children

153 Congolese (DRC) refugees

5.4.2. *Enhance the capacity of countries of origin and transit to manage mixed migration flows*

- a) Please describe any 2015 specific developments to equip third-countries of first asylum with the means to guarantee refugee protection and to better manage mixed migration flows including national asylum legislation and asylum policy frameworks (e.g. through Regional Protection Programmes).
- b) If evidence is available, please describe the outcomes of these developments (e.g. increased number of asylum applications processed in countries of first asylum)

a) By the end of 2015 Norway made a funding contribution to the RDPP for North Africa and pledged a similar contribution to the RDPP for the Horn of Africa. The latter contribution will be in the form of an earmarked contribution to the EU Trust Fund (for the implementation of the Valletta Plan of Action.

b) N/a

6. UNACCOMPANIED MINORS AND OTHER VULNERABLE GROUPS

6.1. Unaccompanied minors

Please describe any *new policy developments* in relation to unaccompanied minors (UAMs) at national and international levels.

⁸ Resettlement: the transfer on a request from the UNHCR and based on their need for international protection, of a third-country national or stateless person from a third country to a Member State where they are permitted to reside with one of the following statuses: i. refugee status ii. a status which offers the same rights and benefits under national and EU law as refugee status (see EMN Glossary Version 2).

The Government has decided to resume the work with establishing care centers for unaccompanied minors to their countries of origin". The aim is to facilitate return of unaccompanied minors without a need for protection, and through this, to reduce the number of unaccompanied minors who embark on a high-risk journey to Europe. The centres must be operated in accordance with appropriate standards for care.

6.2. Other vulnerable groups

Please describe any *new or planned* policies, measures or changes in relation to other vulnerable groups at national and international levels.

On 15 June 2015 amendments to the Norwegian Immigration Regulations entered into force. The scheme applies to children who were deported between 1 July 2014 and 18 March 2015, and at the time of deportation had stayed in Norway for four years or more. The families covered by the scheme was given the opportunity to request a reversal of previous decisions, and get their case assessed according to the new provision on residence permit on the basis of children's connection to Norway, which entered into force on 8 December 2014. The scheme applied to approximately 30 families, of which four were granted residence permit and could return to Norway.

7. ACTIONS ADDRESSING TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS (PIA)

This Section should be completed in the context of the "EU Strategy towards the Eradication of Trafficking in Human Beings (2012-2016)"⁹ and you should liaise with your National Rapporteur on Trafficking in Human Beings or Equivalent Mechanism (NREMs).

NREMs share information with the Commission (via the informal of EU Network of NREMs) on a biannual basis on developments relevant to their national legal and policy framework. This information can be used for this reporting exercise too. All information is uploaded accordingly to the EU Anti-Trafficking Website under the section of national pages.¹⁰

In section 7.1 below EMN NCPs are invited to add any corresponding information and additional to that available on the EU Anti-trafficking website if necessary/appropriate; the remainder of the questions correspond to the EU Strategy. Please note that the scope of this context refers only to third-country national victims.

7.1. Improving the identification of and provision of information to victims

Please describe any *new or planned* policies, measures or changes, including:

No new policies

⁹ <http://ec.europa.eu/anti-trafficking/>

¹⁰ <http://ec.europa.eu/anti-trafficking/section.action;jsessionid=FlnYRm0cwWGc3ZQv58Qy1LrdG8bRRTJhj2t6dzJS6fdVQm0xZ6G!909126266?sectionPath=National+Info+Pages>

8. MAXIMISING DEVELOPMENT IMPACT OF MIGRATION AND MOBILITY (UD)

8.1. Progress towards mainstreaming of migration in development policies

Please describe any *new or planned* relevant activity - e.g. studies, development of approaches to make migration an integral part in sectoral policies (e.g. agriculture, health, education etc.), solidarity development projects, etc. – to mainstream migration in development policies.

Norway emphasizes a restrictive but fair policy on migration. Issues related to displacement, human mobility and combatting irregular migration will feature higher on our developmental agenda. We will mainstream migration in our foreign and developmental policy. Cooperation with the EU is central e.g. the Valletta process. It is imperative to strengthen stabilization efforts in fragile states that are countries of origin for migration. We need a stronger attention to the links between humanitarian aid, economic growth and longer-term development efforts.

We will look into new initiatives as listed under 8.1.1., 8.1.2., 8.2. and 8.3. No changes in 2015.

8.1.1. *Cooperation with partner / third countries for economic migration*

Please complete the Table below on (planned) EU level or bilateral agreements linked to labour migration (e.g. Mobility Partnerships) planned or implemented:

Nothing to report:

Type of agreement (EU or bilateral)	Status of agreement (negotiated, signed, ratified, implemented) and the date of the action	Third countries involved including Southern Mediterranean ¹¹ and Eastern Partnership ¹² countries	Main purpose and rationale for the agreement (incl. relevant elements of content)	Does the agreement allow for circular migration? YES/NO

In the framework of Mobility partnerships (and Common Agendas) please advise whether Migration and Mobility Resource Centres (MMRCs) have been / will be set up in the partner countries.

Nothing to report

8.1.2. *Efforts to mitigate ‘brain drain’.*

Please describe any *new or planned* measures to mitigate brain drain. For example: awareness rising actions, development of data and indicators on this phenomena,

¹¹ Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Libya and Egypt.

¹² Ukraine, Belarus, Moldova, Georgia, Armenia and Azerbaijan.

prevention, list of countries and professions subject to brain drain. For reference also see the Section 3.6 "Brain Drain and Brain Circulation" in the "*EMN Synthesis report - Attracting Highly Qualified and Qualified Third-Country nationals*"¹³

Nothing to report

8.2. Migrants' Remittances

Please describe any *new or planned* relevant activities or developments with regard to remittances. For example measures to facilitate remittance flows or improve access to banking and financial services in developing countries.

Nothing to report

8.3. Working with Diasporas

Please provide information on *new or planned* national policies or actions for involving diaspora groups in development initiatives and supporting diaspora groups in their efforts to enhance development in their countries of origin.

Nothing to report

¹³ EMN Study available at the EMN [Website](#).