

Monthly data collection on the migration situation in the EU

November Highlights

1–31 October 2017

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In view of the increasing numbers of refugees, asylum seekers and migrants entering the EU, since November 2015 the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights has collected data about the fundamental rights situation of people arriving in those Member States that have been particularly affected by large migration movements. The countries covered are Austria, Bulgaria, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Italy, the Netherlands, Poland, Slovakia, Spain and Sweden.

Key fundamental rights concerns

Key emerging fundamental rights concerns

In **Greece**, the situation in the hotspots is deteriorating, caused by severe overcrowding, delays in preparation for winter and substandard conditions.

The **Hungarian** government plans to transfer all unaccompanied asylum-seeking children under the age of 14 from a children's home, which offers them adequate care and services, to a juvenile correctional facility (in Aszód), as of summer 2018. According to the Ministry of Human Capacities, a special wing of the correctional facility would serve as the new accommodation for these unaccompanied children, with a maximum capacity of 48 beds.

In several cases, the Turkish media published the exact whereabouts of Turkish asylum seekers in **Germany** shortly after hearings at the Federal office for Migration and Refugees (*Bundesamt für Migration und Flüchtlinge* – BAMF). Turkish asylum applicants [accused](#) employees of the BAMF of having passed on sensitive information to Turkish authorities. The BAMF announced investigations and [ended the engagement of 15 freelance interpreters](#) due to violations of the duty of neutrality. The investigations could not prove any of the allegations concerning the leak.

In **France**, the Court of Bobigny opened a new courtroom at the Roissy Charles de Gaulle International Airport for judicial reviews of return decisions against migrants entering by air. NGOs, such as GISTI and Human Rights League, considered this a breach of judicial independence and impartiality, due to the proximity of the courtroom to the pre-removal detention centre. The Public Defender of Rights was [concerned](#) about the situation of unaccompanied children, including the difficulties child welfare services encounter in accessing the new venue.

A [study](#) commissioned by the Ministry of Justice in **Finland** identified forced marriage as an emerging concern. Authorities lacked the capacity to address the phenomenon both socially and legally, hence the study recommends stronger efforts in training, co-operation between different authorities and awareness-raising.

Key persisting fundamental rights concerns

In **Greece**, people were stranded in the hotspots on the Aegean islands for very long periods, unable to reach the mainland or reunite with their families elsewhere in the EU, as [reported](#) by 70 solidary groups. The Greek Reception and Identification Centres (RIC) on the islands remained [overcrowded](#), in particular on the islands of Lesbos, Chios and Samos, and the living conditions in the [hotspots](#) remained problematic.

In **Italy**, attacks against migrants remained a key concern. The NGO *Lunaria* [reported](#) 1,483 episodes of discrimination and racist violence between 1 January 2015 and 31 May 2017, including 84 cases of physical violence (11 of which led to the victim's death).

Since the end of March 2017, the police in **Hungary** have been escorting all irregular migrants apprehended in the country to the Serbian side of the fence, without fingerprinting or registering them, to wait there until they can submit their asylum claims in one of the transit zones operating at Hungary's southern borders (Röszke and Tompa). Asylum applicants obliged to stay there for the whole procedure have practically been [deprived of liberty](#), as they may only [leave](#) the transit zones through the one-way exits towards Serbia. After banning civil society organisations and the media from transit zones, operations there have lacked transparency and oversight by external actors. Police violence against people attempting to cross or having crossed the border fence continued, the NGO *MigSzol* reported. Also in Hungary, the authorities [continued to assign](#) guardians only to unaccompanied children under the age of 14, who are placed in childcare institutions.

The **Austrian** Ombudsman Board (*Volksanwaltschaft*) received 139 complaints during the reporting period concerning the long duration of the asylum procedure at the Federal Office for Immigration and Asylum (*Bundesamt für Fremdenwesen und Asyl*, which is the first instance), and 25 complaints concerning the long duration of the asylum procedure at the Federal Administrative Court (*Bundesverwaltungsgericht*, which is the second instance).

Poland continued to refuse entry to asylum seekers at the Terespol and Medyka land border crossing points, according to UNHCR, the Ombudsperson and several NGOs. Furthermore, asylum seekers and other migrants who had been victims of violence continued to be placed in detention, in breach of [Polish law](#), because identification and referral procedures did not work properly.

In **Slovakia**, asylum applicants held in immigration detention facilities continued to lack access to legal aid, according to the Human Rights League. The persisting situation might have negative impacts, especially on vulnerable persons and persons subject to Dublin transfers.

Practical and legal barriers to family reunification as well as direct and indirect returns to Afghanistan have remained major concerns in **Germany**. In addition, access to independent legal counseling in the context of asylum procedures continued to be a problem, according to NGOs.

In **France**, NGOs continued to note delays in accessing the asylum procedure. For instance, *La Cimade* reported that in certain departments, asylum seekers still had to wait more than two months before obtaining an appointment at the prefecture (whereas the law provides for a three-day deadline). The Public Defender of Rights was particularly [concerned](#) about the situation in the Île-de-France region, where the majority of asylum claims are concentrated. Also in France, around 700 to 800 people – including some 100 children, mostly unaccompanied – continued to be waiting in Calais, where significant sanitation problems persisted, according to [United Nations experts](#). Furthermore, *France Terre d'Asile* reported growing tensions between the police and migrants (e.g. the police using [beatings, tear gas and confiscation](#) against people there).

In **Spain**, the irregular arrival of persons, in Ceuta and [by sea](#) more specifically, remained one of the most important and increasing concerns. This issue has persisted over the last few years, alongside the related issues of access to international protection, non-*refoulement* and reception conditions.

The **Danish** Red Cross pointed out that vulnerable asylum seekers transferred to the departure centre Kærshovedgård still had a duty to report to the authorities in person on a regular basis, even where health or social situations hindered their ability to comply with the duty.

According to the Finnish Refugee Advice Centre, key persisting fundamental rights concerns in **Finland** were hate speech on the internet, inadequate access to mental health care services, the increasing number of undocumented immigrants, restricted access to legal aid services and the allegedly poor quality of such services.

Situation at the border

A vessel operated by the NGO [SOS Méditerranée](#), with the highest number of migrant children ever witnessed on a vessel in **Italy**, reached the harbour of Palermo: among 606 migrants, 241 were children, of which around half were unaccompanied. The NGO [Borderline Sicilia](#) reported that they came from Syria, Egypt, Eritrea, Libya, Morocco and Tunisia.

The **Hungarian** Police prevented 682 people from crossing the border into Hungary, which was a slight decrease compared to September (820), the National Headquarters of the Police reported. This affected people who attempted to enter Hungary irregularly, most frequently through the border fence alongside the Hungarian-Serbian border, and who were apprehended either by the police or the army.

Germany prolonged internal [border controls](#) at the German-Austrian border and for flights from Greece until May 2018.

The situation at the French-Italian border remained difficult. Pushbacks by the **French** police continued, which resulted in many migrants being sent back to Italy without a formal decision, according to the National Association of Border Assistance for Foreigners, *La Cimade* and GISTI. The NGOs stated that this

practice, initially limited to Alpes-Maritimes, has now started to be applied all along the France-Italy border. In a joint press release, several civil society organisations [condemned](#) these removals, particularly those of unaccompanied children. According to these organisations, “people in search of protection are sent back daily from France to Italy, without respect of [...] the right to asylum”.

Asylum procedure

Trends

Since March 2017, the number of asylum applicants decreased in more than half of the 14 EU Member States (Austria, Bulgaria, Denmark, Germany, Hungary, Poland, Sweden, the Netherlands) compared to the same period last year, according to [Eurostat](#). Others (Finland, France, Greece, Italy and Spain) experienced an increase in the number of asylum applicants. Slovakia’s number of asylum applicants remained at a similar low level.

The number of arrivals to **Greece** has been constantly growing since the summer. The Greek Asylum Service recorded more asylum applications than in the previous months: close to 6,500, including approximately 4,300 men and 2,120 women. (The office recorded some 6,000 applications in September, and some 5,000 in August.) They mostly came from Syria, Iraq, Pakistan and Afghanistan. 841 asylum seekers were relocated from Greece in the reporting period – Germany, France and Switzerland received the majority of them.

Most applicants for international protection in **Italy** came from Africa, with 80,080 applications in 2017 (until 13 October 2017), followed by Asia (with 24,922 applications), according to the [President of the National Commission for the Right to Asylum](#) of the Ministry of the Interior. The overall number of applications filed in 2017 (as of 13 October 2017) amounts to 110,626 (21.65 % more than in the same period of 2016).

France continued to receive a rising number of asylum applications. The number of asylum applications submitted until October 2017 represented an increase of 15 % compared to the same period in 2016, *La Cimade* reported. To deal with the growing number of applicants, authorities increasingly resorted to accelerated asylum procedures; *La Cimade* estimates that 45 % of all applications are processed this way. This approach was [criticised](#) by the Public Defender of Rights on account of weakening the procedural guarantees for asylum seekers.

The number of [Colombians seeking asylum](#) in **Spain** has equalled the high figures registered in the early 2000s.

The [number of asylum applications](#) in **Austria** remained at a constant level of around 2,000 applications per month in 2017. Compared to 2016, the number of asylum applications in the period January to September declined by 45 %.

Some [16,520 persons](#) applied for asylum in **Germany** in September 2017, compared to some [76,400 applications](#) in September 2016. (In August 2017,

18,650 applied.) Fewer than [100,000 asylum applications](#) remained unprocessed in Germany – the [lowest number since January 2014](#) and compared to some [579,000 pending](#) applications a year ago.

The number of asylum applications slightly decreased in **Sweden** compared to previous months, not exceeding 2,400 applicants in the reporting period, according to the Swedish Migration Agency. The main countries of origin were Syria, Iraq and Eritrea.

In **the Netherlands**, the in [September 2017](#) decreased by 32 %, compared to the same period [last year](#). The majority of applicants originated from Syria (28 %) and Eritrea (14 %).

In **Denmark**, the Immigration Service and Ministry of Immigration and Integration observed a 50 % decrease in asylum applications compared to October 2016. Among the applications, the share of unaccompanied children's applications decreased from 16 % in October 2016 to 8 % by 22 October 2017. Most applicants were from Syria (22 %) and Eritrea (20 %).

Access to asylum procedures

In **Italy**, the territorial commissions assessed 19 % fewer newly submitted applications in 2017 than in 2016, due to a staff shortage and a large backlog of applications from the previous year, according to the [President of the National Commission for the Right to Asylum](#).

Authorities in **Hungary** claimed that they did not automatically apply the “safe third country” principle in the asylum procedure. For example, although Serbia was considered a safe third country under Hungarian law, asylum seekers were not automatically returned to Serbia, but each case was individually assessed, the Office of Immigration and Asylum indicated. However, UNHCR and NGOs (MigSzol, Hungarian Association for Migrants) stated that the very short deadline for making the first-instance admissibility decisions (15 days) raised questions as to whether proper individualised assessments of the applications, including the risk of *refoulement*, were genuinely carried out.

In **Germany**, the administrative courts' increasing workload with appeals against asylum decisions led to a lack of court rooms, judges and non-judicial staff. In the past months, the average [duration of asylum procedures](#) increased to almost one year. The BAMF's practice of examining data about languages, country codes and locations of asylum-seekers' mobile phones to determine their identity raised [constitutional concerns](#). Data were not only collected for verifying persons' identities, but also to determine whether the data provided grounds for refusing asylum applications.

The **Danish** Red Cross reported that the issue of accompanied children generally not being independently heard in the asylum procedure remained unsolved.

The Parliamentary Ombudsperson in **Finland** received several complaints about the length of time it takes the Finnish Immigration Service to process asylum applications and about difficulties in applying for family reunification.

Return procedure

The police in **Greece** carried out 981 forced returns (including 22 removals to Turkey). The majority of the returnees were Albanians, while three forced returns were conducted to Afghanistan. 402 people returned home under the framework of the IOM Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration Programme (325 men and 77 women), IOM Greece reported. The main countries of destination were Pakistan, Algeria and Georgia. In its annual report on returns, the [Greek Ombudsman noted](#) the lack of adequate and timely information provided to returnees subject to removal operations, as well as the inappropriate use of handcuffs as a standard procedure without individual assessment of their necessity.

The [Migration Branch of the Police Headquarters \(Questura\)](#) of Turin in **Italy** returned a 34-year-old Algerian citizen due to national security reasons, namely for incitement to terrorism on Facebook. Similarly, the [police in Napoli](#) returned a 27-year-old Pakistani citizen because he was believed to be a member of an informal group planning terrorist attacks.

Removals from **Austria** to Afghanistan continued to take place, according to the Ministry of the Interior. From January to the end of September, 386 Afghan nationals were removed. The budget for counselling on voluntary return has been increased significantly, stated Caritas Styria.

In **Bulgaria**, return rates increased (127 persons) compared to the previous month (57 persons). The majority (60 persons) returned under assisted voluntary return programmes. Almost 40 % of the returned foreign nationals were from Afghanistan and almost 30 % from Iraq, the Ministry of Interior reported.

Returns to Afghanistan from **Germany** continued. For example, 14 Afghan citizens were [deported](#) from Leipzig to Kabul. In total some 24,570 persons had returned voluntarily as of 30 September 2017, according to the [Ministry of the Interior](#). Several NGOs, such as [Pro Asyl](#), [Amnesty International](#) and the [Refugee Council Bavaria](#), demanded a moratorium of the deportations to Afghanistan. Numerous [demonstrations](#) against deportations to Afghanistan took place.

In **France**, *La Cimade* and Amnesty International called for a [moratorium on removals](#) to Afghanistan. Likewise, the Public Defender of Rights [requested](#) the government to immediately suspend the implementation of the EU-Afghanistan Joint Way Forward, given the inhumane or degrading treatment Afghan nationals risk suffering upon return. The Public Defender of Rights [voiced concerns](#) about the intensifying practice of returning seriously ill people in need of medical care (e.g. people with HIV were returned to Ivory Coast, Angola and Guinea).

Returns to Afghanistan continued from **Sweden**, the Swedish Red Cross reported. Overall, 546 voluntary returns (mainly to Iraq, Afghanistan and Albania) and 230 forced removals (primarily to Albania, Georgia and Iraq, including 8 deportations to Afghanistan) were carried out, according to the Swedish Migration Agency. Save the Children noted a risk that children and young people returning to Afghanistan do not receive an organised reception upon return, and thus might be recruited by armed groups or become involved in drug related activity. Local NGOs organised protests and demonstrations against the forced removal of 15 young persons to Afghanistan at the detention centre in Källered (near Gothenburg), also blocking the road to the airport from the detention centre. Two police officers were injured and three demonstrators were arrested by the police.

In **the Netherlands**, Amnesty International started a [petition](#) in which it called on the Dutch government to stop the deportation of rejected asylum seekers to Afghanistan. The petition was occasioned by the new [report of Amnesty International](#) on asylum seekers returned from Europe to Afghanistan, which mentioned four Dutch cases. In one of them, an 18 year old was forcibly returned to Afghanistan by the Dutch authorities after living in the Netherlands for three years. According to the [coalition agreement](#) of the new Dutch government, rejected asylum seekers will be able to stay in eight planned new shelters unconditionally for two weeks. Thereafter, they will be obliged to cooperate with their return, unless they become eligible for a residence permit.

In **Denmark**, the Danish Refugee Council issued a [report](#) on the conditions in Afghanistan for returned asylum seekers from Europe. The Danish Red Cross raised concerns over the accommodation of certain groups of foreigners at the departure centre Sjølsmark, and recommended an individual assessment of every placement. In the departure centre Kærshovedgård, 28 foreigners were on [hunger strike](#). The Minister of Immigration and Integration [stated](#) that the government did not intend to alter the conditions for persons residing at the centre.

The **Finnish** National Police Board confirmed ongoing returns to Afghanistan, which was heavily criticised by [Amnesty International](#). In less than one month, an [internet campaign](#) gathered over 11,000 signatures against returns to Afghanistan. A lack of effective remedies against removals in Finland in situations where return decision were pending before the Supreme Administrative Court was noted by the Refugee Advice Centre. In some cases, reception services stopped before removal decisions became enforceable.

Reception

Reception capacity

The **Greek** Reception and Identification Centres (RIC) in the Aegean islands remained overcrowded, leading to a dire humanitarian situation. For example, some 8,300 people were crowded in the hotspots facilities in Lesbos and Samos, which had an overall capacity of 3,000, as reported by [19 human rights and](#)

[humanitarian organisations](#). Similarly, the [RIC in Chios](#) accommodated twice as many people as its capacity.

In **Hungary**, according to the Office of Immigration and Asylum, asylum seekers coming from Iraq, Syria or other Arabic-speaking countries were placed in the Tompa transit zone, while those from Afghanistan, Pakistan and Iran were admitted in the Rösztke facility. Families with children were accommodated in both transit zones, where a separate section is available for them. Unaccompanied children between 14 and 18 years of age were accommodated only in the Rösztke transit zone, while single men were placed exclusively in the Tompa holding facility.

The overall capacity remained the same in **Bulgaria** (5,190 places) and the occupancy rate was around 18 %. The number of beneficiaries of international protection living in reception centres was gradually decreasing, according to the Ministry of Interior.

The total number of places in open accommodation centres was [2,331](#) in **Poland**, which was sufficient in light of the constantly decreasing number of asylum seekers.

Sufficient reception capacity was available in **Germany** and several reception centres were being closed due to the low numbers of new arrivals.

The reception capacity only changed slightly and remained inadequate in **France**. The overall reception capacity was at 70,000 to 80,000 places, according to *La Cimade*, whereas altogether close to 110,000 people were in need of accommodation. In response to the insufficient reception capacity, the government plans to set up “pre-orientation centres”; the first one was opened in [Cergy-Pontoise](#), with a capacity of 200 places.

Save the Children reported that the authorities in **Sweden** were closing down accommodation centres for asylum seekers, while retaining their stock of apartments.

The total number of asylum seekers in **Finland**, including those in private accommodation, was 14,147. Of these, 9,659 were accommodated in reception centers, meaning that 89 % of the total capacity was in use, according to the Finnish Immigration Service.

Reception conditions

The **Italian Minister of the Interior** declared his intention to close all reception facilities whose capacity exceeded a certain limit. This strategy aimed to replace big reception centres – such as CARA or Extraordinary Reception Centres (CAS), which can host hundreds of asylum seekers, often in inadequate reception conditions – with smaller centres, fostering the involvement of municipalities and facilitating integration. This was also a response to the [financial scandals](#) concerning the misuse of financial resources for the asylum-seeker reception system.

In **Hungary**, UNHCR found the state of cleanliness and hygiene conditions in the transit zones at the southern border to be good. There were, however, no cooking facilities for families and UNHCR registered several complaints from unaccompanied children, stating that the daily food portion was not enough. In the Rösztke transit zone, authorities began installing equipment to make video hearings possible in judicial proceedings against negative asylum decisions, the National Headquarters of the Police pointed out. However, NGOs (*MigSzol*, Hungarian Association for Migrants) believed that [judicial review was limited](#), given that courts could only consider those facts and legal issues of the case that existed at the time of the first instance asylum decision – hence, new facts and evidence could not be submitted.

Some federal states in **Germany** – such as Bavaria, North Rhine Westphalia and Brandenburg – started to oblige asylum seekers to stay in reception centres for up to 24 months, not being allowed to work, according to the German Red Cross, the Workers' Welfare Association and the Jesuit Refugee Service.

According to the [coalition agreement](#) of the new **Dutch** government, Dutch lessons will be given from day one to all asylum seekers who stand a good chance of receiving international protection, and asylum residence permit holders staying in accommodation provided by the Central Agency for the Reception of Asylum Seekers. The language proficiency requirement for the Civic Integration Exam will be upgraded from A2 to B1. The Dutch Refugee Council voiced [concerns](#) about this.

Vulnerable persons

According to [Doctors Without Borders](#), asylum seekers on the **Greek** islands – especially in Lesbos and Samos – were in the midst of a mental health emergency, since many have lived through extreme violence and traumatic events. The continued violence in the hotspots and the lack of appropriate support services significantly affect their mental health suffering.

In **Italy**, the '[Melting Pot Europa](#)' project pointed to the increasing number of trafficking of women in Ventimiglia (Liguria), a town close to the border with France. This was allegedly due to harsher border policies by both States, forcing migrants and asylum seekers to live irregularly in the area, waiting for their chance to cross the border. As they have no access to services or reception facilities, many of them were forced into trafficking to survive.

The **Swedish** government [announced](#) that the Swedish Red Cross would receive SEK 1.9 million (EUR 195,500) to develop and strengthen health-promoting activities for asylum applicants. The Public Health Agency of Sweden was also assigned to survey the mental health of asylum seekers, including children, within the scope of their ongoing [study](#) on the health status of school children.

In **Spain**, some asylum seekers who were [offered an employment contract were not allowed to work](#), due to the denial of their applications. Furthermore, the housing situation for refugees was often a challenge to their integration,

residential stability and decent living conditions, according to the Chair of Refugees and Forced Migrants of Comillas ICAI-ICADE.

Victims of torture and trauma

In **Sweden**, specialised care facilities and support services for victims of torture and trauma were offered by county councils and regions “in varying degrees in the different regions”, the Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Regions pointed out.

Child protection

Figures and trends

In **Greece**, some 1,800 unaccompanied children continued to wait for accommodation in specialised facilities, including 287 children in RIC and 116 children in protective custody. It shows a growing protection gap over the last few months. The total number of available places was 1,114, which represents a slight decrease compared to the previous months. In total, 2,950 unaccompanied children were estimated to be residing in the country, according to the [National Centre for Social Solidarity](#). Two-thirds of them do not receive proper shelter, care and protection, according to [UNICEF](#).

The number of newly arriving unaccompanied children in **Austria** further decreased. This number is expected to drop significantly by the turn of the year, as in all cases with unclear date of birth, the authorities defined 1 January of a certain year as the date of birth. According to Caritas Styria, the Federal Office for Immigration and Asylum in Austria (*Bundesamt für Fremdenwesen und Asyl, BFA*) prioritised the asylum applications of unaccompanied children, creating a high workload for the legal representatives of unaccompanied children.

44.7 % of [asylum applicants](#) in **Germany** were younger than 18 years and 23.1 % younger than 4 years. As of 25 August 2017, about 5 % of all applications in 2017 were submitted by unaccompanied children.

Centres for children in **Spain** registered a higher number of unaccompanied children compared to past periods. [Andalusia](#) received nearly 2,000 underage children during 2017 — 60 % more than in the same period in 2015 — and the [Basque Country](#) received 486. Children in the Basque Country were increasingly younger (as young as 10 or 11 years old). Mafia networks were paid between € 1,000 and € 3,000 to transfer these children.

The lengthy asylum procedures of unaccompanied children affected their legal status and life perspectives in **Sweden**, according to the Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Regions. When these children turn 18 years old, or when their age is re-registered as 18 years or older, they are considered adult asylum applicants, which changes their rights in terms of housing, economic aid, social support, etc. The Association also highlighted that a significantly smaller percentage of adult applicants are granted asylum compared to children. This entails the risk that these applicants choose to go into hiding to avoid removal

and remain in the country in an irregular situation, if their asylum claims are rejected.

Guardianship for unaccompanied children

In **Italy**, the first training for volunteer guardians took place in Florence, organised by the Children's Ombudsman with the support of the European Asylum Support Office (EASO). In May 2017, Law 47/2017 (referred to as *legge Zampa*) established the possibility to nominate volunteer guardians for unaccompanied migrant and asylum-seeking children.

There was again no progress with regard to the adoption of the new guardianship law in **Greece**.

In **Hungary**, unaccompanied children over 14 years old are placed in the Röszke transit zone until their asylum claims have been decided upon. They are considered to have full legal capacity; therefore, guardians are not assigned to them. Instead, social workers provide some support to them, UNHCR reported.

There was still no well-functioning system to appoint guardians for unaccompanied children in **Poland** (e.g. no list of guardians, lack of funding for NGOs to represent children), the Association for Legal Intervention reported.

Some 33,130 unaccompanied children were under the protection of the youth welfare offices in **Germany**, as were some 24,130 young adults, according to BAMF.

Appointing a guardian to unaccompanied children in **Sweden** often takes one or two months, depending on the municipality in question, according to Save the Children. The quality of the guardians' work is uneven across the country.

Safeguards and specific support measures

A 13-year-old Kurdish asylum seeker – suffering from muscular dystrophy – [died in the hospital of Bolzano](#) (Trentino-Alto Adige/Südtirol), **Italy**, after having been dismissed by a doctor who did not consider his life to be in danger. The boy's family was living in the streets because local authorities had denied them access to a reception facility. This had drastically worsened the child's health status. The police started investigations to determine whether anyone was responsible for the child's death.

[UNICEF assessed](#) the mental health and psychosocial support needs and services for unaccompanied children in **Greece**. It found that the prevalence of severe psychiatric disorders among unaccompanied children in the country was relatively low, compared to acute or psychosocial conditions. UNICEF's main recommendations include developing community-based alternative care, raising awareness on mental health issues, promoting early detection and diagnosis and strengthening trust relationships between unaccompanied children and their carers. The report also identified developing an integrated referral mechanism as a prerequisite to adequately addressing mental health issues.

In **France**, support provided to unaccompanied children was reported to often be unsuited to their situation. For example, accommodation and sanitary conditions were inadequate (accommodation in unhygienic hotels) and the level of support provided by social workers insufficient in light of the children's needs, the Public Defender of Rights pointed out. In addition, the National Consultative Commission on Human Rights [highlighted](#) that certain departments were unwilling to deal with them, despite clear legal obligations in this regard.

According to the Cordelia Foundation, age assessments in **Hungary** usually consist of medical examinations, including an X-ray examination of the wrist, collar bone or pelvis, but there is no individualised psychosocial and culturally-sensitive assessment. Unaccompanied children placed in the transit zones have had access to education since mid-September, according to the Office of Immigration and Asylum.

With the [UNICEF Response Austria initiative](#), UNICEF is in the process of developing minimum standards for the protection of accompanied and unaccompanied children and adolescents in reception and accommodation facilities. In parallel, UNICEF has conducted training workshops to increase awareness on the rights of migrant children and child protection for a total of 500 frontline service providers in refugee and migrant reception and accommodation facilities.

According to Caritas **Bulgaria** and Caritas Sofia, NGOs continued to provide educational and recreational activities to refugee children, including museum visits, excursions, intercultural events, art and craft workshops, Bulgarian language classes and help with homework.

In **Slovakia**, preparatory work for a new educational relaxation space for unaccompanied children started in the children's home in Medzilaborce, according to the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family.

Young refugees still faced [difficulties in getting work](#) permissions in **Germany**, even if they were accepted for an apprenticeship by an employer. Furthermore, the criteria to grant work permission were not transparent and differ between the 16 states.

In **Spain**, a [protocol for the eradication of forced marriages](#) is planned for adoption in Catalonia to prevent, detect and intervene in such cases which, to date, have affected Catalan people of Sub-Saharan origin – but which could also affect others, such as girls of Moroccan, Pakistani, and Indian origin.

The methods used for age assessments in **Sweden**, carried out by the National Board of Forensic Medicine (*Rättsmedicinalverket*), remained unchanged. These methods only include the X-ray of wisdom teeth and MRI of knee joints, which entail significant risks that a child is erroneously assessed to be an adult. Also in Sweden, access to leisure and recreational activities for children in the accommodation centres of the Swedish Migration Agency was poor, Save the Children reported. Children seeking asylum are not obliged to attend school, but have the possibility to do so with the guardian's consent, the Swedish Migration

Agency noted. Mental illnesses and a sense of hopelessness were on the rise among unaccompanied children and young asylum seekers, according to a [report](#) published by the Children's Ombudsman. The report noted that very lengthy asylum procedures and removals to Afghanistan have caused great concern and insecurity among children.

In **the Netherlands**, a five-year-old boy with Down's syndrome faced [deportation](#) to Iraq, together with his mother and brother. Friends of the family started an online petition to protest against it and the mayor of Amersfoort appealed to the Minister of Security and Justice to use his discretionary powers to not deport the boy. Furthermore, the Dutch Refugee Council expressed its disappointment about the new [coalition agreement](#), according to which children's amnesty should be maintained in its present form.

In **Denmark**, a series of articles on rejected asylum-seeking children awaiting their return was published in the newspaper Politiken. Concerns were raised over the poor living conditions for children accommodated in the departure centre [Sjælsmark](#).

In **Finland**, as soon as a child turns 18, his or her residence permit becomes invalid. Inconsistent practices regarding applications for the renewal of such permits for unaccompanied children were a cause for concern, according to the Finnish Refugee Advice Center.

Missing children

686 non-EU children were registered in the SIS II as missing in **Austria** (out of these, 208 children are between the age of 0 to 14, and 478 children are between the age of 14 and 18), according to the Ministry of the Interior.

Family reunification

In **Austria**, UNHCR proposed in its '[Recommendations on strengthening the protection of refugees to the future federal government](#)' to abolish the three-year waiting period for family reunification of people granted subsidiary protection; to create humanitarian visas for the legal entry of particularly vulnerable family members of international protection holders who are not entitled to family reunification; to abolish the three-month waiting period for family reunification of acknowledged refugees; and to allow for more flexibility in family reunification under the Dublin regime.

Practical and legal barriers to family reunification remained a major concern in **Germany**.

The Refugee Advice Centre in **Finland** noted an increasing number of decisions denying family reunification on grounds of insufficient income of sponsors.

Immigration detention

In **Italy**, identification and expulsion centres (*centri di identificazione ed espulsione*, CIE) will be replaced by repatriation centres (*centri di permanenza per il rimpatrio*, CPR) close to local airports, to facilitate return procedures. For example, the Region of Sardinia announced the conversion of a former prison in [Macomer](#) (Sardinia) into a CPR facility hosting 80-100 migrants pending return to their countries of origin. Similarly, the Region of Basilicata and [Friuli Venezia Giulia and the cities of Rome, Turin](#), Bari (Apulia) Brindisi (Apulia), Montichiari (Lombardy) announced that they would establish 'CPR facilities', according to the Ministry of the Interior.

The NGO "Greek Council for Refugees" reported that [detention conditions](#) were inadequate in the pre-removal detention facilities located in Western **Greece**, due to serious overcrowding, lack of natural light, substandard hygiene conditions and limits on time detainees can spend outdoors.

In **Hungary**, pre-removal detention was ordered against 37 persons (by 23 October), according to the Office of Immigration and Asylum and the National Headquarters of the Police. The Office of Immigration and Asylum ordered asylum-detention against 18 people (including two children and one woman) during the same time period.

In **Poland**, regional courts do not apply the principle of the best interests of the child when deciding on placing children into pre-removal or asylum detention and prolonging their deprivation of liberty, according to several NGOs.

The **Austrian** Parliament had to pass the [Alien Law Amendment Act](#) (*Fremdenrechtsänderungsgesetz 2017, FrÄG*) again because of a formal error the first time.

In **Bulgaria**, the Ministry of Interior reported that the authorities continued to improve the living conditions in the two pre-removal detention facilities, which accommodate 293 persons. For example, new bedding was purchased.

Additional states in **Germany** – [Hesse](#) and Saxony – opened new detention centres. The [German lawyers' association](#) criticised these centres for being similar to prisons. They also raised concerns about video surveillance of these accommodations and the ban on accessing the internet and on using mobile phones with cameras.

Pre-removal and asylum detention were increasingly used in **France**, according to *La Cimade*. In a joint statement, a number of NGOs raised [concerns](#) regarding the practice of prefects to detain Dublin transferees in an unlawful manner, even without providing effective judicial review before their transfer to another Member State. The Public Defender of Rights also [criticised](#) the greater use of administrative detention in cases of families with children in an irregular situation or seeking asylum.

In **Spain**, nearly 40 internees denounced [“racist treatment, pushing, insults and threats”](#) at the Aliens Detention Centre in Aluche, Madrid. Furthermore, SOS Racism reported about a young internee’s [complaint](#) about this centre, claiming that he suffered “a brutal beating”, was locked in “the isolation cell” without “blankets against the cold” and did not receive any help for serious physical injuries or psychological support. The UN Subcommittee for the Prevention of Torture visited different centres in Spain to examine detention conditions.

Authorities in **Sweden** put 434 people (all adults) in immigration detention for removal purposes or to secure the applicants’ presence during the asylum procedure, the Swedish Migration Agency reported. The Swedish Red Cross claimed that many detention orders lacked information about why alternatives to detention (e.g. supervision) were considered insufficient measures.

The **Danish** Refugee Council reported that the Danish police started to detain asylum seekers, especially of Iraqi origin, to motivate them to cooperate in their return and contact the Iraqi embassy in Denmark to obtain travel documents.

Legal, social and policy responses

Legal developments

Case law

In a preliminary ruling on an Iranian national’s appeal against the Federal Office for Immigration and Asylum of **Austria** (*Bundesamt für Fremdenwesen und Asyl, BFA*), the [Court of Justice of the European Union](#) ruled that the Dublin Regulation must be interpreted in such a way that where the transfer from one EU Member State to another EU Member State to process an application for international protection did not take place within the six-month time limit, responsibility would automatically be transferred to the EU Member State requesting such transfer.

The European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR) [ruled](#) that **Spain’s** immediate return of migrants — a practice repeatedly condemned by the Spanish Ombudsperson— who were trying to enter Spain irregularly at the Melilla border with Morocco violated the prohibition of collective expulsions of aliens and the right to an effective remedy. Spain is considering an [appeal against this ruling](#), alleging that the incident happened outside Spanish jurisdiction.

The ECtHR delivered an interim measure (under Rule 39) against **Poland**, ordering the authorities not to return a number of asylum applicants to Belarus and to provide them with effective access to a lawyer (*A.A. and others v. Poland*, No. 75167/17).

In **Italy**, the [Court of Cassation](#) confirmed that it is not allowed to expel an asylum seeker who has appealed against a negative decision of the tribunal. The [Criminal Court of Milan](#) deemed credible information about violence against asylum seekers in Libya and therefore held that applicants could not be sent

back to the country. The judgment also confirmed the existence of critical living conditions in Libyan detention and reception centres.

Legislation

In **Slovakia**, stakeholders raised concerns over a proposal for [an amendment to the Residence of Foreigners Act](#), including a new rule requiring foreigners who no longer have a residence permit and were placed in institutional care to leave the country within three days after their release. The Human Rights League [suggested](#) extending the departure period to 20 days.

In **Sweden**, [amendments](#) to the Aliens Act and to the Act concerning Special Control with respect to Aliens entered into force, extending the possibilities to place children in detention or in “preventive detention centres”. The Swedish government also [tabled a bill](#) to Parliament, which would oblige all foreigners to be photographed and fingerprinted when entering/exiting Sweden, so as to verify their identity and the authenticity of their travel documents.

The **Danish** Ministry of Immigration and Integration sent into public consultation a [draft bill](#) that proposed refusing to issue travel documents to foreigners in case misuse is suspected. Furthermore, it proposed re-installing sanctions if a foreigner refuses to assist authorities in providing information on another person’s immigration case. Different stakeholders, including the [Danish Red Cross](#), the [Danish Institute for Human Rights](#) and [UNHCR](#), raised concerns over the draft bill.

The Turku Administrative Court in **Finland**, in its Decision No. 17/0569/2, held that the National Social Insurance decision to not grant social assistance to an undocumented immigrant violated the Social Assistance Act and the Constitution. Meanwhile, the [government](#) proposed an increase of EUR 11.2 million to support asylum seekers.

Policy responses

The **Italian** Ministry of the Interior and the US Secretary of Homeland Security implemented a [bilateral agreement](#) signed in 2009. It aims to strengthen cooperation between the countries and enable the exchange of fingerprints of migrants, refugees, and asylum seekers for security and counterterrorism purposes.

The Ministers of Interior of the Visegrád Group (**Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland and Slovakia**) were critical about the EU migration quota system in a [meeting](#) in Budapest, where they signed a common declaration on the system.

The Prime Minister of **Hungary** [declared](#) that he would rather assist Romania in defending its Eastern borders against the ever-growing migration pressure than erect fences along the Hungarian-Romanian border, urging strictly closing the external borders of Romania to stop migration flows towards the EU. Also in Hungary, the government launched a so-called '[National consultation on the Soros Plan](#)'. Pursuant to this effort, a questionnaire was sent to all voting-age

adults, including questions relating to an alleged plan of Gyorgy Soros. The consultation claimed that, according to the Soros Plan, one million immigrants would come to Europe every year, irreversibly changing Hungary's culture and population.

The **Bulgarian** Deputy Minister of Interior announced that enhancing EU citizens' security and more effectively managing migration processes, with a focus on returns, will be prioritised during the Bulgarian Presidency of the EU Council in 2018, the [Bulgarian News Agency](#) reported.

The Prime Minister of **France** [announced](#) that the government will be responsible for all expenditures related to unaccompanied children, estimated at one billion Euros per year. However, 17 civil society organisations [opposed](#) this plan, arguing that taking care of unaccompanied children "comes under the responsibilities of social action and child welfare of departmental councils".

The **Danish** Institute for Human Rights published an [analysis](#) on the expulsion of convicted foreigners. It found that there was room for stricter national regulation allowing for more expulsions in certain cases. The Ministry of Immigration and Integration and the Ministry of Justice [announced](#) that their efforts to expel more convicted foreigners shall be intensified.

In **the Netherlands**, the new government stated in its [coalition agreement](#) that it would be open to new migration agreements with safe third countries at the EU and the bilateral level, which the Dutch Refugee Council [criticised](#). Furthermore, certain provisions of Dutch law would be amended to comply with minimum EU law requirements, often reducing the protection provided to asylum seekers and refugees. Moreover, the UNHCR resettlement programme quota would be increased from 500 to 750 refugees. The agreement also spelled out policy intentions concerning border management, namely (1) the expansion of the Netherlands' border control capacity, (2) stepping up cooperation with third countries and (3) using incentives to convince countries of origin to take back their nationals.

In application of the [Schengen Borders Code](#), **Sweden** intends to [further extend](#) the controls at its internal borders, including all air, sea and land borders. The temporary reintroduction of border controls at all internal border crossing points is [expected to last](#) until May 2018.

Responses by civil society, local and political actors

In **Italy**, the [Association for Legal Studies on Immigration](#) (*Associazione per gli studi giuridici sull'immigrazione*, ASGI) sent a proposal to the parliamentary commissions regarding a [reform of the Italian asylum system](#), urging the parliament to improve the way asylum applicants are informed about the reception system. Furthermore, they criticised the administrative burden for asylum applicants and suggested improving access to social services, as well as ensuring better detention and reception conditions. A [Tunisian NGO](#) publicly denounced forced return operations from Italy, reporting severe violations of

migrants' fundamental rights and calling for a revision of the bilateral readmission agreements between the Italian and Tunisian governments.

In **Greece**, the Greek Council for Refugees requested the Council of State to [annul](#) the decision of the Asylum Service forbidding asylum seekers to leave the Aegean islands during the asylum procedure. Similar [lawsuits](#) have been initiated by bar associations of Lesbos, Chios, Samos and Kos before the Council of State, arguing that such a restriction of movement of asylum applicants is not justified by the EU-Turkey Statement of March 2016. Locals and refugees gathered in Samos for a [demonstration](#) organised by the SAMOS SOS movement to call for the island's decongestion and better living conditions.

In **Austria**, the NGO [Offensive gegen Rechts](#) organised a demonstration against the possible participation of the right-wing Austrian Freedom Party (*FPÖ*) in the future government, with some 600 participants. The NGO *SOS Mitmensch* organised the '[Pass Egal Wahl 2017](#)' (Elections regardless of passport 2017), with polling stations all over the country inviting nearly 1,900 non-Austrian nationals to symbolically vote in the parliamentary elections. Right-wing activists tried to disturb the effort. In the district of Kufstein (Tyrol), a pig's head was found in front of an asylum accommodation and the Anti-discrimination Office Styria reported eight racist/islamophobic insults, one dangerous threat, and 92 online hate postings.

In **Slovakia**, the Institute of Ethnology of the Slovak Academy of Sciences, together with international experts, began [developing](#) an internet portal called "The Danube Compass", which will provide different migration-related information to governments and migrants.

In **the Netherlands**, researchers at the VU University Amsterdam published a [study](#) on the conditions of migrants and refugees who were re-admitted from Greece to Turkey after the EU-Turkey Statement. It highlighted several issues in Turkey, such as the risk of deportation to the country of origin without judicial review.

Hate speech and violent crime

In **Italy**, several local authorities and inhabitants demonstrated against the reception of asylum seekers. For example, the [Mayor of Cimolais](#) (Friuli Venezia Giulia), backed by the Municipal Council, refused to host six asylum seekers. A building that was supposed to host 12 asylum seekers was set on fire in [Guardamiglio](#) (Lombardy). The [Mayor of Morsano](#) (Friuli Venezia Giulia) declared his opposition to hosting any more asylum seekers than the ten already living in his municipal territory. Migrants and asylum seekers have been victims of several violent racist attacks. For example, [37 Carabinieri were formally charged](#) by the Public Prosecutor of Massa Carrara (Tuscany) for violence, sexual violence and abuses against migrants detained in the local headquarters.

In Ioannina, **Greece**, [racist slogans](#) were written on the wall of the building of the Refugee Information and Support Centre and on the premises of municipal

services. The municipality denounced these acts; the police have been investigating them. Also in Greece, the Ministry of Education started [investigations](#) after a primary school in the countryside refused to allow an 11-year-old Afghan refugee to carry the Greek flag during an annual parade.

In **Hungary**, a former intelligence officer [said in a TV show](#) aired on a radical right-wing channel that all civil society organisations that provide assistance to asylum seekers and refugees were traitors and NGOs should not enjoy any rights in “war times” and thus be “liquidated without a trial”.

In **Poland**, the Ombudsperson reported an increase in hate speech in general, having registered 90 cases in the reporting period. Likewise, the Open Republic Association against Anti-Semitism and Xenophobia referred two cases to authorities concerning hate speech against asylum seekers and/or Muslims (on public television and online).

In **Slovakia**, an [analysis](#) by the newspaper *Dennik N* found that, in the past year, information on migration was the most shared information on Facebook by Slovaks. Among the shared posts, information with negative content on migration, often coming from misinformed or dubious sources, prevailed. Also in Slovakia, a magazine for children published several xenophobic and anti-migrant jokes, according to [Slovak media](#). The action was [condemned](#) by the chief school inspector.

Spain registered a number of attacks and incidents during the reporting period. A Colombian doctor was [beaten up](#) by a patient during his shift in the Balearic Islands, in what was allegedly reported as a racist attack. In Catalonia, a man was convicted for [stabbing](#) a Moroccan person and intending to attack a second Maghrebi person on racist grounds. Lastly, a man was arrested in Murcia for a [hate crime](#) involving xenophobic and homophobic insults against three people at a cafeteria.

Users of social networks in **Germany** continued to spread rumours about asylum seekers. The website <http://www.hoaxmap.org> collects such rumours and their refutation by media reports. The [Amadeu Antonio Foundation](#) reported increasing hate speech against refugees on social networks. [Pro Asyl](#) and the [Amadeu Antonio Foundation](#) recorded five violent attacks against asylum seekers, with at least six injured refugees; and four attacks, including three arson attacks, against reception and accommodation centres. The [Federal Criminal Police Office](#) registered 313 offences against migrants, with 23 injured persons in August 2017 (July 2017: 232). Although 154 suspects (136 of them male) were investigated, only one suspect was provisionally arrested.

In **the Netherlands**, some 30 partisans of the extreme-right Dutch Peoples Union [demonstrated](#) in Enschede. More than 100 police officers were present to stop possible confrontations with antifascist activists; however, none of the latter were present.

In **Denmark**, a picture of an asylum seeker accused of committing a criminal offence was shared on social media, leading to threats and racist comments directed at the asylum seeker, according to the Danish Immigration Service.

A total of 1,079 suspected hate crimes were recorded in **Finland** in 2016 – a 14 % decrease in hate crimes compared to the previous year, according to the [annual report](#) of the Police University College. According to the Finnish Broadcasting Company News, some 200 people of the neo-Nazi Nordic Resistance Movement demonstrated in Tampere, against some 300-400 people of an anti-racist movement. The National Police Board applied for a ban of the Nordic Resistance Movement before the Pirkanmaa District Court in the city of Tampere, according to Helsingin Sanomat.

Stakeholders interviewed in October 2017

Country	Stakeholders interviewed
Austria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Federal Ministry of the Interior, Department III/5 (<i>Bundesministerium für Inneres, Abteilung III/5 Asyl und Fremdenwesen</i>); • Federal Ministry of the Interior, Criminal Intelligence Service, Competence Centre for Missing Children (<i>Bundesministerium für Inneres, Bundeskriminalamt, Kompetenzzentrum für Abgängige Personen</i>); • Federal Agency for State Protection and Counter Terrorism (<i>Bundesamt für Verfassungsschutz und Terrorismusbekämpfung, BVT</i>); • Caritas Vienna (<i>Caritas Wien</i>); • Caritas Styria (<i>Caritas Steiermark</i>); • Antidiscrimination Office Styria (<i>Antidiskriminierungsstelle Steiermark</i>); • Austrian Red Cross (<i>Österreichisches Rotes Kreuz</i>); • Federal Ministry of the Interior, Department III/9 (<i>Bundesministerium für Inneres, Abteilung III/9 Grundversorgung und Bundesbetreuung</i>); • Austrian Ombudsman Board (<i>Volksanwaltschaft</i>).
Bulgaria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ministry of the Interior, Directorate General Border Police (MoI – DGBP) (<i>Министерство на вътрешните работи, Главна дирекция „Гранична полиция“, МВР – ГДГП</i>); • State Agency for Refugees (SAR) (<i>Държавна агенция за бежанците, ДАБ</i>); • Ombudsman of the Republic of Bulgaria (<i>Омбудсман на Република България</i>); • State Agency for Child Protection (SACP) (<i>Държавна агенция за закрила на детето, ДАЗД</i>); • Ministry of the Interior, Directorate General Criminal Police (MoI – DGCP) (<i>Министерство на вътрешните работи, Главна дирекция „Криминална полиция“, МВР – ГДКП</i>); • UNHCR Bulgaria; • Caritas Bulgaria (<i>Каритас България</i>); • Council of Refugee Women in Bulgaria (CRWB) (<i>Съвет на жените бежанки в България, СЖББ</i>).
Denmark	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Danish Ministry of Justice (<i>Justitsministeriet</i>), including the Danish National Police (<i>Rigspolitiet</i>); • Danish Immigration Service (<i>Udlændingestyrelsen</i>); • UNHCR Regional Representation for Northern Europe; • Danish Refugee Council (<i>Dansk Flygtningehjælp</i>); • Danish Red Cross (<i>Røde Kors</i>); • SOS against Racism (<i>SOS mod Racisme</i>).
Finland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finnish Immigration Service (<i>Maahanmuuttovirasto/Migrationsverket</i>); • Helsinki Police Department (<i>Helsingin Poliisilaitos/Polisinrättningen i Helsinki</i>); • IOM Finland; • Ministry of Social Affairs and Health (<i>Sosiaali- ja terveystieteiden ministeriö, Social- och hälsovårdsministeriet</i>); • National Police Board (<i>Poliisihallitus/Polisstyrelsen</i>); • Non-discrimination Ombudsman (<i>Yhdenvertaisuusvaltuutettu/Diskrimineringsombudsmannen</i>); • Ombudsman for Children (<i>Lapsiasiavaltuutettu/Barnombudsmannen</i>);

Country	Stakeholders interviewed
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Office of the Parliamentary Ombudsman (<i>Eduskunnan oikeusasiamies/Justitieombudsmannen</i>); • Finnish Red Cross (<i>Suomen Punainen Risti/Röda Korset</i>); • Finnish Refugee Advice Centre (<i>Pakolaisneuvonta/Flyktingrådgivningen</i>); • Amnesty International Finnish Section (<i>AI Suomen osasto/AI Finländska sektionen</i>).
France	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ministry of the Interior (<i>Ministère de l'Intérieur</i>); • Public Defender of Rights (<i>Le Défenseur des droits - DDD</i>); • National Consultative Commission on Human Rights (<i>Commission nationale consultative des droits de l'homme – CNCDH</i>); • National Association of Border Assistance for Foreigners (<i>ANAFÉ (Association nationale d'assistance aux frontières pour les étrangers)</i>); • La Cimade (Inter-Movement Committee for Evacuees - <i>Comité inter mouvements auprès des évacués</i>); • Doctors of the world - France (<i>Médecins du Monde</i>); • France Land of Asylum (<i>France Terre d'Asile</i>); • The Immigrant Information and Support Group (<i>Groupe d'information et de soutien des immigrés - GISTI</i>).
Germany	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth (<i>Bundesministerium für Familie, Senioren, Frauen und Jugend</i>); • Federal Office for Migration and Refugees (<i>Bundesamt für Migration und Flüchtlinge, BAMF</i>); • Federal Ministry of the Interior (<i>Bundesministerium des Innern</i>); • Jesuit Refugee Service (<i>Jesuiten Flüchtlingsdienst, JRS</i>); • German Red Cross (<i>Deutsches Rotes Kreuz</i>); • Diakonie Hamburg; • Refugee Council Lower Saxony (<i>Flüchtlingsrat Niedersachsen</i>); • Federal Association for Unaccompanied Minor Refugees (<i>Bundesfachverband Unbegleitete Minderjährige Flüchtlinge</i>); • Workers' Welfare Association (<i>Arbeiterwohlfahrt AWO Flüchtlingshilfe</i>), Unna, Northrhine-Westfalia and Munich, Bavaria and Federal Association; • National working group psychosocial centres for refugees and victims of torture (<i>Bundesweite Arbeitsgemeinschaft Psychosozialer Zentren für Flüchtlinge und Folteropfer, BAFF</i>); • Senatsverwaltung für Inneres und Sport Berlin; • Ministry of the Interior, Construction and Sports Saarland; • Ministry of the Interior, Digitalisation and Migration Baden-Württemberg; • Hamburger Behörde für Inneres und Sport; • State Office for Refugee Issues Berlin (<i>Landesamt für Flüchtlingsangelegenheiten Berlin</i>); • Bayerisches Staatsministerium für Arbeit und Soziales.
Greece	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Greek Ombudsman (<i>Συνήγορος του Πολίτη</i>); • Hellenic Police Headquarters (<i>Αρχηγείο Ελληνικής Αστυνομίας</i>); • Greek Asylum Service (<i>Υπηρεσία Ασύλου</i>); • International Organisation for Migration Greece (<i>Διεθνής Οργανισμός Μετανάστευσης-Ελληνικό Τμήμα</i>);

Country	Stakeholders interviewed
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Racist Violence Recording Network (<i>Δίκτυο Καταγραφής Περιστατικών Ρατσιστικής Βίας</i>); • United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees Greece (<i>Υπατη Αρμοσθεία του ΟΗΕ για τους Πρόσφυγες - Ελληνικό Τμήμα</i>); • Doctors Without Borders Greece (<i>Γιατροί Χωρίς Σύνορα - Ελληνικό Τμήμα</i>); • Hellenic League for Human Rights (<i>Ελληνική Ένωση για τα Δικαιώματα του Ανθρώπου</i>); • National Centre for Social Solidarity (<i>Εθνικό Κέντρο Κοινωνικής Αλληλεγγύης</i>).
Hungary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ministry of the Interior (<i>Belügyminisztérium</i>); • Ministry of Human Capacities (<i>Emberi Erőforrások Minisztériuma</i>); • National Headquarters of the Police (<i>Országos Rendőr-főkapitányság</i>); • Office of Immigration and Asylum (<i>Bevándorlási és Menekültügyi Hivatal</i>); • UNHCR Hungary; • MigSzol; • Hungarian Association for Migrants (<i>Menedék Migránsokat Segítő Egyesület</i>); • Cordelia Foundation (<i>Cordelia Alapítvány</i>).
Italy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ministry of the Interior; • Authority for the Protection of People who are Detained or Deprived of their Personal Freedom (<i>Garantenazionale per idiritto delle persone detenute o private della libertà personale</i>); • Association for Legal Studies on Immigration (<i>Associazione per gli studi giuridici sull'immigrazione, ASGI</i>); • Italian Refugees Council (<i>Consiglio Italiano per i Rifugiati, CIR</i>); • NGO 'Doctors Without Borders Italy' (<i>Medici Senza Frontiere Italia, MSF Italia</i>); • Save the Children Italia Onlus; • United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR); • Italian Red Cross (IRC); • Jesuit Refugee Service 'Centro Astalli'; • Community of Sant'Egidio (<i>Comunità di Sant'Egidio</i>); • 'Melting Pot Europa' project; • NGO 'Borderline Sicilia'; • NGO 'Naga'.
Netherlands	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ministry for Security and Justice: central information point, providing information on behalf of: Immigration and Naturalisation Service, Aliens Police, Central Agency for the Reception of Asylum Seekers (all members of the so-called 'Alien Chain'); • Statistics Netherlands (<i>Centraal Bureau voor de Statistiek</i>); • Defence for Children the Netherlands; • Amnesty International the Netherlands; • Stichting LOS; • MiND-the Dutch Reporting Point for Discrimination; • Dutch Council for Refugees (<i>Vluchtelingenwerk Nederland</i>); • UNICEF the Netherlands; • NIDOS.

Country	Stakeholders interviewed
Poland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Association for Legal Intervention (<i>Stowarzyszenie Interwencji Prawnej, SIP</i>); • Helsinki Foundation for Human Rights (<i>Helsińska Fundacja Praw Człowieka, HFPC</i>); • UNHCR Poland; • Ombudsman (<i>Rzecznik Praw Obywatelskich, RPO</i>); • Polish Migration Forum (<i>Polskie Forum Migracyjne, PFM</i>); • Ombudsman for Children (<i>Rzecznik Praw Dziecka, RPD</i>); • Head of the Office for Foreigners (<i>Szef Urzędu do spraw Cudzoziemców, UDSC</i>).
Slovakia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Migration Office of the Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic; • Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic; • Office of Border and Alien Police of the Police Presidium; • Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family; • Public Defender of Rights; • Commissioner for Children; • Slovak National Centre for Human Rights; • IOM; • UNHCR – Regional Representation for Central Europe, Budapest, Hungary; • Slovak Committee for UNICEF; • Human Rights League; • Islamic Foundation in Slovakia; • Slovak Humanitarian Council; • Mareena Civic Association.
Spain	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sub- directorate for Immigrant Integration of the Ministry of Employment and Social Security (<i>Subdirección General de Integración de los Inmigrantes del Ministerio de Empleo y Seguridad Social</i>); • Spanish Ombudsman (<i>Defensor del Pueblo</i>); • Spanish Committee of UNHCR (<i>Comité español de la Agencia de la ONU para los Refugiados, ACNUR</i>); • Spanish Committee of UNICEF (<i>Comité español de UNICEF</i>); • Jesuit Migrant Service (<i>Servicio Jesuita Migrantes, SJM</i>); • Spanish Refugee Aid Commission (<i>Comisión Española de Ayuda al Refugiado, CEAR</i>); • NGO La Merced Migraciones; • Accem NGO; • Chair of Refugees and Forced Migrants of Comillas ICAI-ICADE, INDITEX (<i>Cátedra de Refugiados y Migrantes Forzados de Comillas ICAI-ICADE, INDITEX</i>).
Sweden	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Swedish Migration Agency (<i>Migrationsverket</i>); • Swedish Police Authority (<i>Polismyndigheten</i>); • National Board of Health and Welfare (<i>Socialstyrelsen</i>); • Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Regions (<i>Sveriges kommuner och landsting, SKL</i>); • Swedish National Council for Crime Prevention (<i>Brottsförebyggande rådet, BRÅ</i>); • Save the Children Sweden (<i>Rädda Barnen</i>); • Swedish Red Cross (<i>Röda Korset</i>);

Country	Stakeholders interviewed
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li data-bbox="475 248 730 280">• Amnesty Sweden.