

EMN European Migration Network

Improving the availability of and access to information concerning migration and asylum at European and Member State level is essential to supporting policy- and decision-making within the EU.



The European Migration Network will provide the Community, its Member States and in the longer term the general public, with objective, reliable and comparable information on the migration and asylum situation. Under the general direction of the European Commission (DG Justice, Freedom and Security) and in close co-operation with the Berlin Institute for Comparative Social Research, fourteen National Contact Points (NCPs), designated by the Member States will carry out the task of gathering, co-ordinating, regularly updating, exchanging and analysing information and data on migration and asylum. The goal is to include all Member States of the European Union in the Network until 2006.



A Union-wide network of National Contact Points

will contribute to setting up a systematic basis for monitoring the multidimensional phenomenon of migration and asylum by covering its legal, demographic, economic, social, and political dimensions and identifying its underlying causes.

The information made available and processed by the contact points will help provide the Community and its Member States with an overall view of the migration and asylum situation.

Types of information to be collected

- **legislation, case-law and policy** on migration and asylum
- **implementation of EU legislation** at national level
- **statistics** on migration and asylum
- **trends and patterns** in migration flows and settlement
- recent and current **research** and its results
- **contact details** of researchers and research institutes, specialised institutions, etc.

Adding value

A tool for data and information monitoring, analysis and research

Through its co-ordinating and centralising role, the network will contribute to developing more data and information comparability. It will also contribute to rationalising and strengthening the research efforts at national and European level and will carry out analyses and pilot research.

A tool for responding to new information needs

The European Migration Network will also add value as a tool for responding to or anticipating new information needs related to European priorities of current interest or relevance in the field of migration and asylum.

The Scientific and Administrative Co-ordination

The European Migration Network project will be implemented with the assistance of the Berlin Institute for Comparative Social Research (BIVS).

BIVS was selected in November 2003 following an open invitation to tender as a service provider to assist in the preparatory phase of the network's development. BIVS will provide expertise and know-how in further developing and managing the network as well as by contributing to the network's analysis and research activities.

The Berlin Institute for Comparative Social Research is a research centre that has been specialising in migration, refugee protection and ethnic relations for more than 25 years. It has been systematically documenting information on migration issues with the help of electronic data processing since 1986. With more than 220,000 titles it is among the largest centres of documentation on migration and ethnicity in the European Union. To meet the challenge of developing the European Migration Network, BIVS' research co-ordinators and administrative staff will monitor the scientific work of EMN. BIVS will ensure a continuous exchange of ideas and experience among National Contact Points, and assist the IT Service Provider in establishing a data processing system capable of facilitating the network's analysis and research activities. BIVS will also manage and evaluate the pilot research projects of the network.

Computation and Information Structures (CIS) Group

The concept, design and development of the distributed information system is the responsibility of CIS, which belongs to the [Technical University Berlin \(TU\)](#).

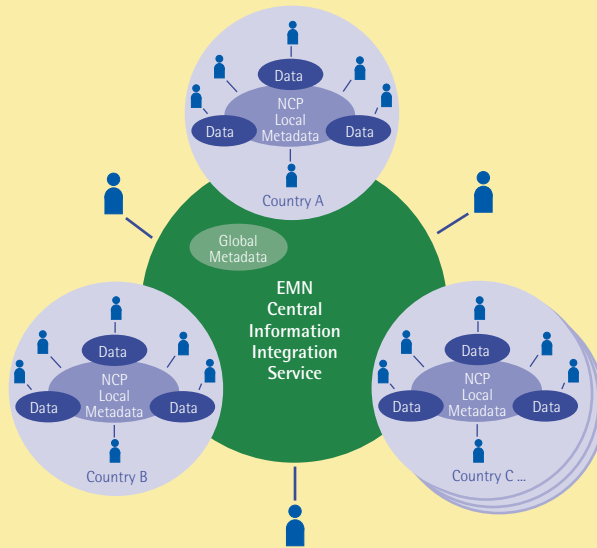
CIS research was founded in 1992 in conjunction with the [Fraunhofer Institute for Software and Systems Engineering \(ISST\)](#). CIS primarily deals with concepts for the integration of heterogeneous, data-intensive software systems into cross-platform infrastructures. CIS places particular emphasis on its vision of 'Continuous Software Engineering', i.e. evolutionary software development and long-lived information infrastructures. Research focuses on metadata-based approaches towards large-scale information infrastructures. CIS' research focuses on approaches towards large-scale information infrastructures, yielding improved federation architectures for local and global access to distributed information, particularly reflecting the issue of local autonomy, and coping with the problem of semantic heterogeneity.

Structure of the Distributed Information System

The EMN aims towards the integration of information sources, data and documents, distributed over the participating Member States represented by their respective NCPs. This requires a federated architecture of an information infrastructure in which data and documents remain at their origins, i.e. at the NCPs and the national authorities.

Metadata Integration with Local Data Management

The intended architecture of the EMN Central Information Service (CIIS) is that of a Federated Information System (FIS) with global metadata management and local data management. Integration is done at the level of metadata, such as catalogues, thesauri, or correspondence specifications holding a great amount of relevant information about the data sources, the data and documents themselves, and the [environment](#). Thus, a EMN-wide definition and harmonisation of the required metadata forms the basis for the EMN, as well as the definition of the processes of the data collection and meta-data annotation, updates and maintenance.



A standardised metadata-based infrastructure for facilitating distributed collection and search processes in the field of migration and asylum

The EMN Research Study Projects

Mainly through desk analysis, the network members have started carrying out comparative research related to European priorities of current interest in the fields of migration and asylum.

In 2004 the NCPs carried out a pilot research study project on "The Impact of Immigrants' on Europe's Societies". This first research activity of the members of the network was designed, among others, to test the research and analysis capacity of the network at its present stage of development. The lessons learned from this first research exercise will influence the research design of the studies that will be carried out by the NCPs in the future.

The Participating National Contact Points

- **AUSTRIA:** [IOM Vienna](#) assists the Austrian government in meeting the growing challenges of migration management. IOM's goal is to provide an advanced understanding of migration issues, encourage social and economic development through migration, and uphold the human dignity and well-being of migrants. Three key issues are defined as IOM's strategy for migration management: migration information, migration related services, research and policy.
- **BELGIUM:** The Belgian contact point forms part of the Alien's Office Directorate General (Direction Générale Office des Etrangers) of the Federal Public Service (Ministry) of the Interior. This unit refers directly to the top management of the FPS. The FPS Interior is in charge of migration matters including proper application of the Aliens' Law regarding the access to the territory, residence, establishment and removal of aliens. In the asylum field, FPS Interior, through the Aliens' Office, is also in charge of the first step of the admissibility stage of the procedure for the recognition of the refugee status.
- **Czech Republic:** [Ministry of Interior](#): The National Contact of the EMN has been designated within the Department for Asylum and Migration Policies of the Ministry of the Interior. The Department is the main body responsible for the issue of immigration and asylum. The Department is in charge of immigration, asylum and border protection policy and legislation, co-ordination of Schengen negotiations, asylum determination process in the first instance and integration of foreigners in general.
- **FINLAND:** The contact point is integrated into [Statistics Finland](#), which combines collected data with its own expertise to produce statistics and information services for the needs of society. Statistics Finland works in partnership with the Ministry of Interior Affairs, the Ministry of Labour and the Directorate of

Immigration for the European Migration Network projekt. In the beginning the contact point will concentrate on developing the migration and asylum statistics.

FRANCE: The [Observatoire Statistique de l'immigration et de l'integration \(OSII\)](#) is the French contact point. OSII analyse statistic categories and integration indicators. The observatory explores new statistic grounds and works together with the INSEE (Institut National de la Statistique et des Etudes Economique), eight ministries, two public bodies (Office des Migrations Internationales, Office Francais de Protection des Réfugiés et Apatrides), and INED (Institut National des Etudes Démographique).

GERMANY: The [Federal Office for Migration and Refugees \(BAMF\)](#) processes applications for asylum and subsidiary protection. As the Central Migration Agency, the Federal Office is responsible for the integration of immigrants and is at the head of a national integration programme. BAMF undertakes tasks in receiving Jewish immigrants from the former Soviet Union; it also acts as the Central Office for the distribution of information for the promotion of voluntary return, and as a contact point for the temporary protection in the case of a mass influx.

GREECE: The [Centre of Planning and Economic Research \(KEPE\)](#) is involved in economic research in a broad field of applied economics, of both Greek and international interest, and also in areas that are of interest to the Greek Government. It is an entity of private law supervised by the Ministry of Economy and Finance.

IRELAND: The [Economic and Social Research Institute \(ESRI\)](#), is the principal institution engaged in economic and social research in Ireland. It is an independent research body with a mission to produce high quality research, which informs policy-making and societal understanding. The Institute's goals are academic excellence, objectivity, relevance to policy, and widespread dissemination of results. ESRI's research has been

a vital constituent of the Irish national debate on economic and social issues over the past 40 years.

ITALY: The [Dossier Statistico Immigrazione \(IDOS\)](#) is a national initiative that involves Caritas, the Migrants Foundation, various international organisations, and several ministries and public bodies. IDOS has published the annual statistical report since 1991. The experience of IDOS can be summarised as follows: information retrieval, objective data presentation and maintaining an overall view on the immigration phenomenon.

THE NETHERLANDS: The [Immigration and Naturalisation Service Information and Analysis Centre \(INDIAC\)](#) is part of the Dutch Immigration and Naturalisation Service (INS) of the Ministry of Justice. It was founded in April 1995 to provide insights on changes in asylum influx and migration flows. The main goals of the department are research in the field of migration, supporting the staff of the INS and informing the directors of the INS, the minister, parliament and external organisations.

PORTUGAL: The contact point is integrated in the [Serviço de Estrangeiros e Fronteiras \(Aliens and Border Control Service\)](#), a central government authority, belonging to the Internal Affairs Ministry, which deals with immigration issues. It is responsible for the entry, sojourn, exit and removal of foreigners as well as for the technical assistance concerning immigration and asylum policies. The contact point works in close partnership with the National Statistics Institute and the High Commissioner for Immigration and Ethnic Minorities, both governmental institutions.

SPAIN: The [Observatorio permanente de la Inmigración \(OPI\)](#) is a collegial body that has the following assigned functions: data collection, analysis, study and publication of information with migratory movements in Spain. The Observatory is part of the Ministry for Employment and Social Affairs through the Secretary of State for Immigration and Emigration.

SWEDEN: The designated contact point is [Statistics Sweden](#), which is the central government authority for official statistics, including population, migration and asylum statistics. The mission of Statistics Sweden is to supply the public with good quality statistics to be used as a basis for decision-making, debate and research. The contact point works in partnership with the [Swedish Migration Board](#), which is the central authority for alien affairs, responsible for the asylum process, citizenship affairs, permits, etc. and the [Swedish Integration Board](#), which should actively stimulate the process of integration, prevent and counteract racism, xenophobia and discrimination.

UNITED KINGDOM: The contact point is situated within the [Immigration Research and Statistics Service \(IRSS\)](#), part of the Research Development and Statistics Directorate of the Home Office. It consists of a multi-disciplinary group of ca. 40 statisticians, researchers and administrators helping policy and management colleagues in the Immigration and Nationality Directorate (IND) to meet their objectives. IRSS has provided statistics and analyses for many years on all aspects of the immigration and asylum system.

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