

CALL FOR EVIDENCE FOR AN EVALUATION / FITNESS CHECK

This document aims to inform the public and stakeholders about the Commission's work, so they can provide feedback and participate effectively in consultation activities.

TITLE OF THE EVALUATION	Evaluation of the European Migration Network
LEAD DG – RESPONSIBLE UNIT	HOME – C.5
INDICATIVE TIMETABLE (PLANNED START DATE AND COMPLETION DATE)	Planned start date Planned completion date Q4 2023
ADDITIONAL INFORMATION	Reference : PLAN/2022/406 European Migration Network (EMN) (europa.eu)

This document is for information purposes only. It does not prejudice the final decision of the Commission on whether this initiative will be pursued or on its final content. All elements of the initiative described by the document, including its timing, are subject to change.

A. Political context, purpose and scope of the evaluation

Political context

The European Migration Network (EMN) is a network created by the Council Decision of 14 May 2008 (2008/381/EC) and amended in 2014 by Regulation (EU) No. 516/2014¹ of the European Parliament and of the Council.

Article 13 of that Decision provides for regular evaluations of the European Migration Network and stipulates that the Commission no later than three years after the entry into force of the Decision, and every three years thereafter, presents to the European Parliament, the Council, the Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions, a report, based on an external and independent evaluation, on the development of the EMN. The report shall be accompanied, if necessary, by proposals for amendments.

The previous evaluation was completed in 2015. Normally, the following evaluation was planned to be launched in relation to the 2018-2019 Work Programme. Nevertheless, due to the new and rapidly evolving migration challenges, new mandates for EU Agencies, new migration coordination activities and requests for gathering new urgent migration information in the EU (including related to the COVID-19 pandemic), changes in the EMN's scope of activities had to be enacted² in agreement with EMN Member States³ and Commission. These developments made it difficult to launch a parallel evaluation process at the time.

Purpose and scope

The purpose of this evaluation is to assess the relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, coherence and EU added value of the European Migration Network focusing on the period 2018-2021. The results of the evaluation are expected to be used by the EMN, its Steering Board, the Commission and EU Member States.

As regards the material scope, the evaluation will assess the EMN's performance, focusing on the actions undertaken in implementing its Work Programmes in the timeframe (2018-2021), its contribution to migration policy-making at EU level and its Member States, as well as the extent to which it has achieved the objectives set out in Council Decision 2008/381/EC.

¹ OJ L 150, 20.5.2014

² The changes in the EMN's scope of activities included i.a.: additional reporting in the area of migration, migration-related awareness raising and capacity building in migration.

³ All EU Member States, with the exception of Denmark that decided to opt out, are members of the European Migration Network. However, Denmark participates in selected EMN activities.

The evaluation will assess whether the mandate of the Network is up-to-date and whether it matches the objectives for which the EMN was set up as well as the effectiveness of the changes to the scope of activities. It will also look at the efficiency, the relevance and the coherence of the actions undertaken as well as at the achieved EU added value. It will also review the working practices of the EMN and the EMN Service Provider, including information flow.

As regards the geographical scope, the evaluation will cover activities within the territory of the members of the EMN (all EU Member States except Denmark) as well as Norway, Georgia and Moldova that also signed agreements with the Commission to join the EMN.

The evaluation of the European Migration Network will be carried out to assess its operation and the results achieved, also taking into account the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic that led to a constrained and limited implementation of the certain aspects of EMN functioning.

Furthermore, in accordance with the European Commission's Better Regulation Guidelines, the evaluation will assess the following:

- Effectiveness: to measure the extent to which EMN activities contributed to achieving the objectives laid down in the basic act ⁽⁴⁾ and to identify which steps were taken to increase the visibility of the EMN.
- Efficiency: the proportionality of costs with the benefits that were brought by EMN, whether the resource allocation from AMIF was sufficient to allow for reaching the objectives, whether the EMN is sufficiently equipped to support its stakeholders and how efficient the EMN Service Provider is.
- Coherence: to what extent the objectives and activities determined by the basic act and the actions performed by the EMN were coherent with other relevant EU migration policies and with the objectives and activities of relevant EU agencies.
- Relevance: to what extent the basic act and EMN actions were relevant in view of the EU needs and challenges, especially those of EU Member States and the civil society; and whether they continue to be relevant in that context.
- EU Added Value: of the basic act and EMN activities, i.e. to assess whether the results and outputs could have been achieved without this EU intervention; whether the results of those actions can be considered sustainable.

The evaluation will focus on the functioning of the European Migration Network using different means such as qualitative analysis and quantitative assessment of actual costs and benefits. The evaluation will gather evidence regarding the functioning of the EMN in its totality, and it should take into account the results of the previous evaluation completed in 2015.

B. Better regulation

Consultation strategy

A call for evidence will be launched without public consultation. The Call for evidence will be published in the "Have your say" ⁽⁵⁾ portal in all 24 official EU languages during 8 weeks. The evaluation will draw on targeted consultations to collect the views and experiences of Member States authorities and relevant stakeholders: Commission services, EU agencies (FRONTEX, Europol, EUAA and FRA), international organisations, civil society, the private sector and the EMN Service Provider. It will aim to identify shortcomings, gaps and possible improvements to the EMN.

The European Migration Network caters for a specialist audience of technical experts, and some aspects of its work are confidential, therefore stakeholder views are better sought in a more targeted manner than through a broad public consultation.

Data collection and methodology

Information required for the evaluation will be collected from national, European and international sources, through a mix of desk research, surveys and interviews. In addition, relevant national and regional strategies of the Member States will also be considered for the data collection and analysis. The evaluation should be primarily based on desk research, including analyses of EMN Status reports, documents and decisions of Steering Board

⁽⁴⁾ The objective of the EMN is to meet the information needs of EU institutions and of Member States' authorities and institutions on migration and asylum, by providing up-to-date, objective, reliable and comparable information on migration and asylum, with a view to supporting policymaking in the European Union in these areas.

⁽⁵⁾ https://ec.europa.eu/info/law/better-regulation/have-your-say_en

meetings and other available surveys as well as on academic work. The data collection should also rely on interviews and questionnaires with identified relevant stakeholders: national representatives and EMN National Contact Points Coordinators. In addition, the relevant EU agencies (EUAA, Europol, FRONTEX and FRA) will also be asked to provide any complementary input they may have at their disposal. An analysis of the relevant information from the previous evaluation completed in 2015 will also be conducted. It is to be noted that a contractor will support the work of the Commission on this evaluation.