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Ad-Hoc Query on 2023.22 COM AHQ on Existing bilateral agreements and programmes/projects on legal migration between member states and third countries

Requested by the Commission on 21 June 2023

Compilation produced on 3 August 2023

Responses from Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden (24 in Total)

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1. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

On behalf of the Commission

Due to the increased need for foreign labour force, Member States are multiplying their negotiations of bilateral agreements and programmes with third countries on labour mobility. The lack of coordination on this topic at EU level prevents EU and its Member States from fully exploiting the labour mobility dynamics in the dialogue on migration management with partner countries. At the same time, without EU coordination, Member States cannot fully benefit from economies of scale as regards e.g. training and skills development of third-country nationals and there is also a risk of competition between Member States in attracting labour force. To provide for a sustainable cooperation framework on legal migration that contributes to the strategic migration management, the Commission has been developing Talent Partnerships with key partner countries. These Partnerships will also encompass existing bilateral agreements and initiatives on labour migration.

The EMN has already dealt with existing bilateral cooperation on labour migration in the past through two Informs (Exploring Legal Pathways to fulfil labour needs, 2021 and Skills Mobility Partnerships: exploring innovative approaches to Labour Migration, 2022).

In order to have an updated state of play on this subject, the Commission would like to ask the following questions:

1. Do Member States have any bilateral agreements on labour migration or any other formal cooperation (eg. Memorandum of Understanding, Protocol, exchange of letters, etc.) including a component on labour migration with third countries?
If yes,

2. With which third countries and in which specific sectors? In 2022 how many third country nationals arrived on the basis of such an agreement/agreements?

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3. Are Member States currently managing/funding any bilateral programmes/projects supporting mobility from third countries (beyond the ones supported by EU funding)?

If yes,

4. With which third countries and in which specific sectors? In 2022 how many third country nationals arrived on the basis of such programmes/projects?

We would like to ask the following questions:

1. Do Member States have any bilateral agreements on labour migration or any other formal cooperation (eg. Memorandum of Understanding, Protocol, exchange of letters, etc.) including a component on labour migration with third countries?

2. If yes to Q1, with which third countries and in which specific sectors? In 2022 how many third country nationals arrived on the basis of such an agreement/agreements?

3. Are Member States currently managing/funding any bilateral programmes/projects supporting mobility from third countries (beyond the ones supported by EU funding)?

4. If yes to Q3, with which third countries and in which specific sectors? In 2022 how many third country nationals arrived on the basis of such programmes/projects?



We would very much appreciate your responses by **11 July 2023**.

2. RESPONSES

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		Wider Dissemination ²	
	EMN NCP Austria	No	
	EMN NCP Belgium	Yes	1. <u>Yes</u> , on the federal level some bilateral agreements were concluded in the '60s, with Morocco, Turkey, Algeria, Tunisia and Yugoslavia, as well as Spain and Italy. Under the previous Belgian Constitutional reform, the competence for economic migration was attributed to the Regions and German-speaking Community. Apart from Spanish and Italian nationals, who have full access to the internal market, the bilateral agreements have a different effect in the different regions. In the context of the PALIM-project a non-formal agreements was concluded between different authorities (ministries of employment for example). In the context of the THAMM-project, an MoU with the Ministry of Employment for both Tunisia and Morocco was drafted.

¹ If possible at time of making the request, the Requesting EMN NCP should add their response(s) to the query. Otherwise, this should be done at the time of making the compilation.

² A default "Yes" is given for your response to be circulated further (e.g. to other EMN NCPs and their national network members). A "No" should be added here if you do not wish your response to be disseminated beyond other EMN NCPs. In case of "No" and wider dissemination beyond other EMN NCPs, then for the Compilation for Wider Dissemination the response should be removed and the following statement should be added in the relevant response box: "This EMN NCP has provided a response to the requesting EMN NCP. However, they have requested that it is not disseminated further."



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		<p><u>Flanders:</u> the Government of Flanders is not in favour of concluding partnerships with third countries because the Flemish economic migration policy is open to any talent and, in that sense, does not want to give preferential treatment to specific third countries.</p> <p><u>Brussels Region:</u> No specific rules regarding the implementation of the abovementioned bilateral agreements.</p> <p><u>Walloon Region:</u> Article 3, paragraph 1, 1° of the Decision of the Walloon Government of 16 May 2019, regarding the employment of foreign workers, prescribes that, for an unlimited period of time, access to the labour market is granted to third-country nationals who have legally and continuously resided for a period of three years in Belgium and when these persons are nationals of a country with which Belgium is bound by international treaties or agreements regarding the employment of foreign workers.</p> <p><u>German-speaking Community:</u> This Community rejects, at first instance, a work permit / single permit if it is submitted by a third-country national who does not have the nationality of one of the countries with which Belgium has concluded an Agreement.</p> <p>2. On the federal level, no bilateral projects are being implemented (all federal projects are being funded by the EU). In the context of the PALIM and THAMM-projects, the focus is on Morocco and Tunisia. Sectors: ICT, Construction, Industry.</p> <p><u>Walloon Region:</u> Some 60-70 single permits of unlimited duration are issued on a yearly basis, and about half of them are for nationals from the countries mentioned in Q1.</p> <p>3. No. A healthcare project exists on the regional level (Arbeidsmigratie als antwoord op personeelstekort Zorgnet-Icuro (zorgnet-icuro.be)), but this is neither state-funded nor managed by a state entity.</p> <p>4. N/A.</p>
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	EMN NCP Bulgaria	Yes	<p>1. Yes</p> <p>2. Currently, bilateral agreements on the regulation of labor migration have been signed between Bulgaria and the Republic of Moldova, the Republic of Armenia and Georgia. But the only one that is in implementation now is this with Republic of Moldova. The implementation of the two others was not started because of administrative issues in the relevant third countries.</p> <p>It is important to note that the processes of identifying new potential partners and preparing and launching negotiations for the conclusion of bilateral agreements on the regulation of labor migration with third countries is still undergo. A mandate was taken for negotiations with Albania, Azerbaijan, Belarus Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine and Uzbekistan. A refusal was received only from Kazakhstan.</p> <p>These agreements are implemented as a suitable instrument for dealing with the problems of the shortage of labor force, as these agreements provide for easier access to the Bulgarian labor market for citizens of these countries without a specific work permit, but only with registration at the Employment Agency.</p> <p>According to the Employment Agency statistical data in 2020 20 Moldavian citizens have arrived on the basis of the existing bilateral agreement. In 2021 their number was 22 and in 2022 – 48.</p> <p>3. No</p> <p>4. N/A</p>
	EMN NCP Croatia	Yes	<p>1. No</p>

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			<p>2. n/a</p> <p>3. No</p> <p>4. n/a</p>
	EMN NCP Cyprus	Yes	<p>1. No.</p> <p>2. N/A</p> <p>3. No</p> <p>4. N/A</p>
	EMN NCP Czech Republic	Yes	<p>1. No.</p> <p>2. N/A</p> <p>3. No.</p> <p>4. N/A</p>
	EMN NCP Estonia	Yes	<p>1. No.</p>


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			<p>2. N/A</p> <p>3. No.</p> <p>4. N/A</p>
+	EMN NCP Finland	Yes	<p>1. Yes.</p> <p>2. Intensified cooperation with India since 2018, including signing a Declaration of Intent on labour migration in December 2022, potentially to be followed by more formal engagements during 2023. In June 2022, further key countries were identified for closer cooperation besides India: Vietnam, Brazil and Turkey. In all three countries, Talent Managers were assigned during spring 2023 to run local operations. So far, no agreements have been signed with these three countries. In the government programme issued in June 2023, four countries were mentioned as key target countries: India, Vietnam, Brazil and the Philippines. The new government's strategy vis-à-vis these countries will be prepared during autumn 2023, including identifying potential sectors of interest in each country. There have been no new labour migration pathways created that would enable directly counting the people arrived "on the basis" of this cooperation.</p> <p>3. See Q2 for action in the target countries. There is no specific funding assigned to promoting labour mobility in these countries, apart from covering the costs associated with the Talent Managers.</p>

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			4. See Q2.
	EMN NCP France	Yes	<p>1. YES. France has signed agreements with countries of emigration in order to manage migratory flows in a coherent manner, within the framework of a partnership, adapted to the needs, particularly in terms of work, of the two signatory countries. Some sixty bilateral agreements signed by France in the field of residence and work, including provisions on labour migration, are currently in force.</p> <p>2. France has signed 3 agreements related solely to labour migration (unlike the concerted flow management agreements, they do not contain provisions relating to both the fight against illegal immigration and solidarity-based development).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Agreement with Mauritius on 23 September 2008 (entered into force on 1 September 2010); ○ Agreement with Russia on 27 November 2009 (entered into force on 1 March 2011); ○ Agreement with Georgia on 12 November 2013 (entered into force on 1 February 2019). <p>11 agreements on the mobility of young people and professionals: The aim of the "young professionals" scheme is to enable young graduates or those already in working life to broaden their professional, linguistic and cultural knowledge through international mobility and to acquire skills through work experience in a company based in France, which will improve their career prospects when they return to their country</p>

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			<p>of origin. These agreements provide for the possibility of issuing work permits to young professionals wishing to acquire salaried work experience abroad.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">•<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Agreement with New Zealand on 10 August 1983 (entered into force on 20 August 1983)○ Agreement with Argentina on 26 September 1995 (entered into force on 8 October 1996);○ Agreement with Morocco on 24 May 2001 (entered into force on 24 May 2001) ;○ Agreement with Senegal on 20 June 2001 (entered into force on 20 June 2001) ;○ Agreement with Tunisia on 4 December 2003 (entered into force on 10 May 2004) ;○ Agreement with Montenegro on 1 December 2009 (entered into force on 1 June 2013) ;○ Agreement with Serbia on 2 December 2009 (entered into force on 1 June 2013) ;○ Agreement with Gabon on 24 February 2010 (entered into force on 24 February 2010) ;○ Agreement with Canada on 14 March 2013 (entered into force on 1 January 2015) ;○ Agreement with Bosnia-Herzegovina on 3 July 2014 (entered into force on 1 February 2019);○ Agreement with the United States (entered into force on 17 March 2017).○ Agreement with Kenya(entered into force on 17 December 2021).
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			<p>In addition to these 11 agreements dedicated to young professionals, 6 more general international agreements also include provisions related to this audience:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">•<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Agreement with the Republic of Congo (Brazzaville) signed on 25 October 2007 (entered into force on 1 August 2007);○ Agreement with Benin signed on 28 November 2007 (entered into force on 1 March 2010);○ Agreement with Mauritius signed on 23 September 2008 on the stay and circular migration of professionals (entered into force on 1 September 2010);○ Agreement with Cape Verde signed on 24 November 2008 (entered into force on 1 April 2011);○ Agreement with Russia signed on 27 November 2009 (entered into force on 1 March 2011) ;○ Agreement with Georgia signed on 12 November 2013 (entered into force on 1 February 2019).○ Agreement with the Republic of Angola (entered into force on 20 May 2019) <p>14 agreements on working holiday programmes: These agreements allow young nationals of a signatory State to travel to the other State for a period of up to 12 months (4 months for Russia, 24 months for Canada) in order to spend a holiday there while having the opportunity to carry out a paid professional activity to supplement the financial means at their disposal.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">•<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Agreement with Japan on 8 January 1999 (entered into force on 15 January 2000);
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		<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Agreement with New Zealand on 2 June 1999 (entered into force on 6 April 2000);○ Agreement with Canada on 14 March 2013 (entered into force on 1 January 2014);○ Agreement with Australia on 24 November 2003 (entered into force on 23 March 2004, updated on 9 August 2019);○ Agreement with South Korea on 20 October 2008 (entered into force on 1 January 2009) ;○ Agreement with Russia on 27 November 2009 (entered into force on 1 March 2011) ;○ Agreement with Argentina on 18 February 2011 (entered into force on 1 June 2011) ;○ Agreement with Hong Kong on 6 May 2013 (entered into force on 1 July 2013) ;○ Agreement with Chile on 8 June 2015 (entered into force on 1 November 2015) ;○ Agreement with Colombia on 25 June 2015 (entered into force on 1 December 2015) ;○ Agreement with Uruguay on 25 February 2016 (entered into force on 1 August 2016);○ Agreement with Mexico on 15 April 2016 (entered into force on 1 September 2016);○ Joint Declaration with Taiwan on 4 August 2016 (entered into force on 8 August 2016) ;○ Agreement with Brazil on 12 December 2013 (entered into force on 11 April 2018).○ Agreement with Peru (entered into force on 1 February 2021)
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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Agreement with Ecuador (entered into force on 22 February 2023) <p>7 agreements for the concerted management of migratory flows: The aim of the agreements on the concerted management of migratory flows (AGC) is to ensure effective management of migratory flows and to promote mutually supportive development. Generally speaking, they are based on 3 components: the organisation of legal migration (including economic and professional migration), the fight against illegal immigration and mutually supportive development.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Agreement with Senegal signed on 23 September 2006 and supplemented by an amendment on 25 February 2008 (entered into force on 1 July 2009); ○ Agreement with Gabon signed on 5 July 2007 (entered into force on 1 September 2009); ○ Agreement with the Republic of Congo signed on 25 October 2007 (entered into force on 1 August 2007); ○ Agreement with Benin signed on 28 November 2007 (entered into force on 1 March 2010); ○ Agreement with Tunisia signed on 28 April 2008 (entered into force on 1 July 2009) ; ○ Agreement with Cape Verde signed on 24 November 2008 (entered into force on 1 April 2011); ○ Agreement with Burkina Faso signed on 10 January 2009 (entered into force on 1 June 2011). <p>14 agreements (or conventions) on movement and residence (these agreements also contain provisions on professional/economic migration, with "immigration for professional reasons" sections) with African countries.</p>
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		<ul style="list-style-type: none">•<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Agreement with Morocco on 9 October 1987 (entered into force on 1 January 1994);○ Agreement with Tunisia on 17 March 1988 (entered into force on 1 February 1989);○ Agreement with Burkina Faso on 14 September 1992 (entered into force on 1 January 1995);○ Convention with Côte d'Ivoire on 21 September 1992 (entered into force on 1 April 1995) ;○ Convention with Mauritania on 1 October 1992 (entry into force on 1 September 1995) ;○ Convention with Gabon on 2 December 1992 (entry into force on 2 December 1992);○ Convention with Benin on 21 December 1992 (entry into force on 1 October 1994) ;○ Convention with the Republic of Congo (Brazzaville) on 31 July 1993 (entry into force on 1 October 1996);○ Convention with Cameroon on 24 January 1994 (entry into force on 1 July 1996);○ Convention with Niger on 24 June 1994 (entry into force on 1 October 1997);○ Convention with Mali on 26 September 1994 (entry into force on 1 April 1996);○ Convention with the Central African Republic on 26 September 1994 (entry into force on 1 May 1996);○ Convention with Senegal on 1 August 1995 (entry into force on 1 April 2002) ;○ Convention with Togo on 13 June 1996 (entry into force on 1 December 2001).○ Partnership agreement with India (entered into force on 1 October 2021).
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		<p>The lists of professions and/or fields covered by the agreements are in some cases specified in an annex to the agreement. This is the case for the agreements signed with: Benin (16 professions listed in the agreement), Burkina Faso (64 professions listed in the annex to the agreement), the Republic of Congo (Brazzaville) (15 professions listed in the agreement), Gabon (9 professions listed in the annex to the agreement), Georgia (50 professions listed in the annex to the agreement: Building and public works, hotels, catering and food, metal mechanics, electricity and electronics, maintenance, transport logistics and tourism, process industries, flexible materials, wood, graphic industries, business management and administration, IT, banking and insurance, commerce), and Mauritius (61 trades listed in the appendix to the agreement).</p> <p>A "young professionals" scheme (https://www.ofii.fr/procedure/recruter-un-travailleur-etranger/) is managed by the French Office for Immigration and Integration (OFII). It enables young people who are already working to gain work experience in France for a maximum of 18 months. This programme is implemented within the framework of bilateral agreements signed by France with 17 signatory countries, 11 specific agreements dedicated to the mobility of young people and professionals and 6 more general international agreements containing provisions related to this group.</p> <p>To implement the "young professionals" scheme, France has signed agreements with 18 countries: Algeria, Argentina, Benin, Canada, Cape Verde, Congo Brazzaville, Gabon, Georgia, India, Mauritius, Montenegro, Morocco, New Zealand (agriculture only), Russia, Senegal, Serbia, Tunisia and the United States (through the Franco-American Chamber of Commerce - FACC).</p> <p>Statistical tools do not provide information on the number of people benefiting from these agreements or programmes.</p>
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			<p>3. Such funding programmes are not currently being implemented.</p> <p>4. N/A</p>
	EMN NCP Germany	Yes	<p>1. Yes.</p> <p>2. In 2020, an act on the immigration of skilled workers (Fachkräfteeinwanderungsgesetz) made amendments to legislation on residence (Aufenthaltsgesetz) by introducing placement agreements as a possibility for the targeted, bundled recruitment of skilled workers with vocational qualifications. The Federal Employment Agency (Bundesagentur für Arbeit, or BA) adapts these agreements to the needs of Germany's economy and the partner countries: In the health sector, for example, Germany follows the WHO Global Code of Practice on the International Recruitment of Health Personnel. Recruitment and job placement from countries with a critical shortage of health sector workers is only possible if the health system of the country of origin is not damaged. It was possible to conclude a placement agreement with Indonesia for urgently needed nursing staff in the summer of 2021. Placement agreements with Colombia, India and Mexico followed in December 2021 and with Brazil and Jordan in 2022.</p> <p>The BA also has conclude placement agreements with its partner administrations in the countries Georgia and Moldova for seasonal work in the agricultural sector. These arrangements ensure a fair and transparent placement process.</p> <p>Under the Triple Win program, agreements in the health and care sector were already concluded in 2014 with Bosnia and Herzegovina, Tunisia and the Philippines. The</p>

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		<p>arrangement with Serbia was discontinued at the request of the partners at the end of 2020 and is no longer valid.</p> <p>As a result, around 2,000 skilled workers have already been recruited. Since most of the placement agreements were only concluded or extended between mid-2021 and mid-2022 and at least 9-12 months elapse between recruitment and departure [e.g. for language courses], the integrations achieved to date are not very meaningful for assessing the impact to date.</p> <p>3. Yes.</p> <p>4. The programme Towards a Holistic Approach to Labour Migration Governance and Labour Mobility in North Africa (THAMM) is co-financed by the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and development (Bundesministerium für wirtschaftliche Zusammenarbeit und Entwicklung - BMZ) and the EU. It aims at enabling partner institutions in Egypt, Morocco and Tunisia to organize safe and development-oriented labour migration and mobility to Germany. The main activity is to strengthen the competencies of partner institutions in the field of training and qualification for regular labour migration. Additionally, THAMM pilots safe labour market and development-oriented migration and mobility for the purpose of dual vocational training and/ or employment between the three countries and Germany.</p> <p>In every partner country the sectors for labour and vocational training mobility are selected in close cooperation with relevant actors in Germany and the country of origin. In 2022 these sectors were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hotel industry and gastronomy, • electricity and electronics,
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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • metalworking, • plumbing, • heating and air conditioning, • logistics, • bakery trade, • construction, • information technology (IT). <p>In 2022, a total of 161 candidates (of whom 31 are women) were placed with German employers. 128 of the placed candidates are apprentices (of whom 28 are women) and 33 are skilled workers (of whom three are women).</p> <p>The project Partnership Approaches for Development-oriented Vocational Training and Labour Migration (PAM) pilots cooperative approaches to development-oriented training and labour migration with Ecuador, Nigeria and Vietnam. A cooperation with Jordan is also currently being considered. The project tests migration and mobility models in practice through qualification and matching of trainees and professionals in construction, electronics, metal works and IT in Germany. At the same time, PAM aims to improve the Technical Vocational Education and Training (TVET) programmes in the partner countries to benefit the local labour markets. Establishing networks between key actors in the partner countries and Germany, especially in the private sector, is another objective of this project. 8 persons from Ecuador arrived in 2022 to work in the industrial mechanics and in electronics for industrial engineering. More will follow in 2023. The migration phase for the IT sector will start in 2023. In Nigeria the migration phase for the IT sector will start in 2023 and in Vietnam the migration phase for metal cutting technicians will begin as well. Germany is currently establishing Migration Hubs that follow a “360 degree-approach” on</p>
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			<p>migration. These Hubs will be established in nine partner countries, namely Morocco, Tunisia, Egypt, Nigeria, Ghana, Pakistan, Iraq, Jordan and Indonesia. They will offer i.a. advisory services on regular migration in cooperation with the German Federal Employment Agency. The objective is to identify skilled workers interested in migration that match the needs of the German labour market. The Migration Hubs will be open to cooperation with other interested EU partners and could extend advisory services to migration and mobility pathways within the region and to other EU Member States. Furthermore, they could offer advice on avenues for regular migration, support in acquisition of skills for employment, risks of irregular migration, as well as support for sustainable reintegration of returnees.</p>
	EMN NCP Greece	Yes	<p>1. Yes</p> <p>2. Greece has a long-term cooperation with Albania, within the framework of the bilateral agreement it applies in the field of seasonal employment of the workforce (law 2482/1997, GG A' 73), as well as with the Egypt on the basis of an agreement for the promotion of bilateral cooperation between the two countries (law 1453/1984), which constitutes a beneficial tool for meeting the needs of the Greek labor market in labor, especially in the fishing sector.</p> <p>Moreover, on February 9, 2022, it was signed in Dhaka (Bangladesh) between the Greek Government Republic and the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh a "Memorandum Understanding between the Hellenic Republic and Bangladesh on migration and mobility", which was ratified by law 4959_2022 (GG A' 144). The Objectives of the Memorandum of Understanding are, on the one hand, to meet the needs of the Greek labor market work in a temporary workforce on the basis of the relevant regulations of the Greek</p>


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			<p>legislation on seasonal work and the improvement of cooperation between the two countries on the issues of return. The relevant provisions of the memorandum for the process of admitting new seasonal workers (4,000 positions per year), have started being implemented on the 1st July 2023, given the non existence of a Greek Consular Authority in Dhaka.</p> <p>Also, a Greece-Egypt Bilateral Agreement was ratified by the Parliament and entered into force on the 17 January 2023 (law 5009/2023, GG A'7). The goal of the Bilateral Agreement is the formulation of a sustainable legal migration policy and to cover seasonal needs of the Greek labor market, in the sector of the agricultural economy, in the context of the wider policy of making use of legal migration in the field of economic development of the country. Currently, for the implementation of the agreement, a mechanism is being formed, according to which, employers concerned, in Greece, will be able to participate, through their representatives, in the process of forming a pool of candidates for inviting/admitting seasonal workers.</p> <p>Finally, the Ministry of Migration and Asylum has signed a declaration of intent with Pakistan, in order to start relevant explorative discussions, regarding cooperation in the sector of migration and in order to explore the possibility of signing an agreement on the migration and mobility.</p> <p>3. -</p> <p>4. -</p>
	EMN NCP Hungary	Yes	<p>1. Hungary does not have bilateral agreements on labour migration with third countries.</p> <p>2. -</p>

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			<p>3. Certain registered recruiting companies can employ third-country nationals in a faster and simpler procedure if the employee:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - is a citizen of a country which is on the list of countries whose citizens enjoy a simplified procedure for labour migration (country list), and - seeks employment in certain occupations (occupation list). <p>4. The list of countries includes: The Republic of Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, The Republic of North Macedonia, Philippines, Republic of Indonesia, Republic of Kazakhstan, Mongolia, Republic of Montenegro, Socialist Republic of Vietnam, Russian Federation, Federal Republic of Brazil, Georgia, Kyrgyz Republic, Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Republic of Colombia.</p> <p>The list includes 138 occupations.</p> <p>In 2022 4836 third country nationals arrived in Hungary via registered recruiting companies from the abovementioned 15 countries</p>
	<p>EMN NCP Ireland</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>1. <u>Background Information on economic migration policy regarding third country nationals in Ireland</u></p> <p>Role of Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment</p> <p>Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment leads on economic migration policy in the State. The Economic Migration Policy Unit contributes to the Department's work in formulating and implementing labour market policies by leading the development and review of policy on economic migration and access to employment in Ireland. Access to the Irish labour market for third country nationals is primarily governed by the employment permit system. Two Occupation Lists set out the occupations for which employment permits may be granted - the Critical Skills Occupations List (CSOL), and the Ineligible Occupations</p>

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			<p>List (IOL) which lists the occupations where an employment permit may not be granted. Certain occupations on the Ineligible Occupations List have also been granted limited quotas.</p> <p>The Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment Employment Permits Section administers the employment permits system. The Employment Permits Section implements a skills-oriented employment permits system in order to fill labour and skills gaps that cannot be filled through European Economic Area (EEA) labour supply. The Employment Permits Section processes applications for employment permits; issues guidelines, information and procedures; and produces online statistics on applications and permits issued.</p> <p><i>Role of Department of Justice</i></p> <p>Department of Justice Migration Policy Unit and Immigration Service Delivery support economic and labour market policies through the management of suitable immigration permissions.</p> <p>Department of Justice plays an important role in supporting economic and labour market policies to attract third country workers to Ireland in key areas identified by Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment through the provision of immigration permissions, providing an appropriate permit or stamp. Department of Justice also have Visa Offices abroad, coordinated through the Visa Unit in Immigration Service Delivery.</p> <p>Department of Justice also administers the Atypical Working Scheme (AWS) which provides for access to the labour market for short-term contracts (15-90 days) or in other circumstances not covered by the employment permits regime. The AWS facilitates permissions primarily in the medical sector and ICT.</p> <p>Department of Justice also has a role in facilitating the transition of international students to the labour market to the Third Level Graduate Programme, which supports third country nationals with an immigration permission to allow them seek suitable employment fulfilling the criteria for an employment permit, following completion of third level studies in Ireland.</p>
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		<p><u>Specific Answer to Q1:</u> Bilateral agreements on labour migration with third countries do not form a part of Ireland's national strategy on labour migration and addressing skills shortages. However, there are some relevant initiatives involving agreements with third countries. These initiatives were also discussed in the <i>EMN-OECD Inform Skills Mobility Partnerships: Exploring Innovative Approaches to Labour Migration</i> Please see question 2 for updated information.</p> <p>2. <u>Exchange Agreement Employment Permit</u> The employment permits system supports mobility under certain international agreements via the Exchange Agreement Employment Permit. Exchange Agreement Employment Permits are based on formal agreements with third countries and are designed to facilitate the employment of third country nationals in Ireland pursuant to exchange agreements to which Ireland is a party. Such permits may be issued for differing periods up to a maximum of 12 months, depending on the type of exchange agreement. Exchange Agreement Employment Permits may be granted for participation in the following international programmes:</p> <p>AIESEC Employment Permits under this agreement may only be considered for a maximum period of 12 months and are non-renewable. AIESEC runs an exchange programme that offers 3,500 members the opportunity to live and work in a foreign country on either development, education, management or technical traineeships. They are engaged with over 3,000 organisations and have a presence in over 800 universities in 89 countries.</p> <p>International Association for the Exchange of Students for Technical Experience (IAESTE)</p>
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		<p>Employment Permits under this agreement can only be considered for a maximum period of 12 months and are non-renewable. Ireland has been a member of the IAESTE network since 1962. The IAESTE Programme works on a reciprocal basis, so that for every foreign trainee placed in a company in Ireland, an Irish student has the opportunity to take up a traineeship abroad. Students participating on the programme come from all over the world. They must be studying in the areas of Architecture, Engineering, Information Technology or the Sciences. Trainees are expected to be in their penultimate or final year.</p> <p>The Fulbright Programme</p> <p>Employment permits under this agreement can only be considered for a maximum period of 12 months and are non-renewable.</p> <p>The Programme was originally established in 1957 and was administered by the Scholarship Exchange Board. A bilateral agreement between Ireland and the United States was signed in 1988 and a statutory body - The Ireland-United States Commission for Educational Exchange - known as the Fulbright Commission - was established in 1992. The Commission derives its income through contributions from the Irish and US Governments and donations from the corporate sector.</p> <p>The Irish Fulbright Commission finances study, research, teaching and other educational activities between Ireland and the United States.</p> <p>Exchange Agreement between St. Joseph's University, Philadelphia and University College Cork in conjunction with Bord Bia [national Food Board]</p> <p>Employment permits under this agreement can only be considered for a maximum period of 12 months and are non-renewable. This involves the exchange of international food marketing students in order to gain work experience in major food companies both here and abroad.</p> <p>Vulcanus in Europe Programme (Ireland)</p> <p>The Vulcanus in Europe Programme has been running since 1996 by the EU-Japan Centre for Industrial Cooperation. The purpose of the scheme is to invite Japanese participant</p>
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			<p>students of engineering, science and technology to Europe for a year to undertake language training and work as interns in a host company working on research projects. The Vulcanus in Europe Programme (Ireland) was added in 2020 as a programme for which an Exchange Agreement Employment Permit may be granted, via the Employment Permits (Amendment) (No.2) Regulations 2020. A total of 20 Exchange Agreement Employment Permits were granted in 2022, mostly to further education teaching professionals.</p> <p>3. No bilateral programmes other than those mentioned under question 2. Note applicants for the Exchange Agreement Employment Permit (employer or employee) pay an application fee. Exchange Agreement Employment Permits require an employer-employee relationship and that the employee is paid national minimum wage or higher.</p> <p>4. N/A</p>
	EMN NCP Italy	Yes	<p>1. NA</p> <p>2. NA</p> <p>3. NA</p> <p>4. NA</p>
	EMN NCP Latvia	Yes	<p>1. No.</p>

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			<p>2. N/a</p> <p>3. No</p> <p>4. N/a</p>
 <p>EMN NCP Lithuania</p>	Yes	<p>1. Yes.</p> <p>2. There are currently two international bilateral agreements with third countries in the area of labor migration:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Lithuania and the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine on Employment and Cooperation in the Field of Labor Migration was signed in Kyiv on 7 December 2019 and came into effect on 17 March 2020. It superseded the previous agreement, which was in force from 28 March 1995. The agreement is general and not sector specific. The text of the agreement in the Lithuanian language is available here: <https://e-seimas.lrs.lt/rs/lasupplement/TAD/39f66940604911e99684a7f33a98...> . It is not possible to estimate the number of third-country nationals who arrived on the basis of this agreement in 2022, partly due to the war in Ukraine. 2. Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Lithuania and the Government of the Russian Federation on the Temporary Employment of Citizens was signed in Moscow on 29 June 1999 and came into effect on 5 January 2000. The agreement is not specific to any sector. The text of the agreement is available in the Lithuanian language at <https://e-seimas.lrs.lt/portal/legalAct/lt/TAD/TAIS.94286>. It is not possible to estimate the 	


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			<p>number of third-country nationals who arrive specifically on the basis of this agreement, partly due to the war in Ukraine and related restrictions on the movement of Russian nationals.</p> <p>In addition to the above-mentioned agreements in the area of labor movement, there are also two agreements on working holidays with Canada and New Zealand:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Agreement on a Working Holiday Scheme between the Government of the Republic of Lithuania and the Government of New Zealand was signed on 1 October 2015 and came into effect on 1 January 2017. The text is available here: <https://socmin.lrv.lt/uploads/socmin/documents/files/pdf/11884_It-naujoj....>. The agreement allows young people (aged between 18 to 30 years) to holiday on the territory of each state while gaining work experience. It is not possible to estimate the number of third-country nationals who arrived on the basis of this agreement; however, the total number of New Zealand's nationals who took residence in the country in 2022 was 5. 2. Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Lithuania and the Government of Canada concerning Youth Exchange was signed on 19 November 2009 in Vilnius and came into effect on 1 October 2010. The Agreement creates opportunities for young people (aged 18 to 35 years inclusively) to deepen their professional and language skills by studying and working during holidays in another contracting state. The text of the agreement is available in the Lithuanian language at <https://www.e-tar.lt/portal/lt/legalAct/TAR.5F939F87B984> . It is not possible to estimate the number of third-country nationals who arrived on the basis of this agreement; however, the total number of Canadian nationals who took residence in the country in 2022 was 13. <p>3. No</p>
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			4. N/A
	EMN NCP Luxembourg	Yes	<p>1. Yes.</p> <p>2. Luxembourg signed a bilateral agreement with Cape Verde on 13 October 2015 (Agreement between the State of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg and the Republic of Cabo Verde on the concerted management of migration flows and development in solidarity, hereafter Agreement). This is a bilateral treaty and it is part of the overall labour migration and development assistance policy. The Agreement aims to: a) promote the movement of persons between the two countries; b) organize the admission and issuance of residence permits; c) clarify readmission procedures; d) jointly fight illegal immigration; e) strengthen the integration of nationals of one party legally established on the territory of the other party; f) mobilize the skills and resources of migrants in support of mutually supportive development (parliamentary document n°7107/00 of 17 January 2017, p. 2 and Article 1 of the Agreement).</p> <p>The agreement focuses principally in three issues related to a qualified migration:</p> <p>a) Maintaining the right of residence of a student for the acquisition of a first professional experience without having to leave the country.</p> <p>b) Exchange of young professionals: This agreement provides a first professional experience to young professionals from Cape Verde who want to come to work to Luxembourg to improve their career perspectives in a company that carries out an activity of health, social, agricultural, craft, industrial, commercial or liberal nature. The scheme targets individuals between 18 and 35 years of age. They must hold a diploma corresponding to the qualification required for the job offered or have professional experience in the field of activity</p>


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		<p>concerned. The related posts must not have been declared vacant. In the case of regulated professions, the conditions of exercise are defined by Luxembourg. The duration of the exchange can be from three months to eighteen months. The number of young Cape Verdean admitted may not exceed 10 per year.</p> <p>c) An authorization of stay for an employed person in Luxembourg shall be issued under a simplified procedure to a Cape Verdean national to exercise one of the occupations listed in Annex II to this agreement, which are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Directors, executives and managers 12 Administrative and commercial service managers 121 Administrative service managers 122 Sales, marketing and development managers 13 Production and specialised services managers 133 Information and communications technology managers 2 Professional and scientific occupations 21 Technical scientists 211 Physicists, chemists and related professionals 212 Mathematicians, actuaries and statisticians 213 Life scientists 214 Specialists in technical sciences (except electrical engineering) 215 Electrical engineers 216 Architects, planners, surveyors and designers 22 Health specialists 221 Medical doctors 222 Nurses and midwives 223 Traditional and complementary medicine specialists 224 Paramedical practitioners 226 Other specialists in health professions
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			<p>24 Business administration specialists 241 Finance specialists 242 Specialists in administrative functions 43 Sales, marketing and public relations specialists 25 Information and communications technology specialists 251 Software and multimedia designers and analysts 252 Database and computer network specialists 26 Justice, social science and cultural specialists 261 Lawyers 263 Social scientists and clergy</p> <p>This list of occupations may be amended by an exchange of letters between the two Parties. To facilitate the vocational training, reception and integration of salaried workers, the number of residence permits shall be limited to 50.</p> <p>The agreement is therefore in line with the SMP definition as it formalizes State cooperation, involves several stakeholders (governments, universities and employers) and contains the components: training, skills recognition and migration/mobility.</p> <p>There is no information available on the number of Cape Verdeans who arrived under the agreement in 2022.</p> <p>3. No. 4. N/A.</p>
	EMN NCP Netherlands	Yes	<p>1. No 2. N/A</p>


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			<p>3. No</p> <p>4. N/A</p>
	EMN NCP Poland	Yes	<p>1. No</p> <p>2. N/a</p> <p>3. No</p> <p>4. N/a</p>
	EMN NCP Portugal	Yes	<p>1. Yes</p> <p>2. Portugal has Protocols/MoUs with Brazil (reciprocal hiring), Cape Verde and the Ukraine (temporary work arrangements), India and Morocco (workers' recruitment). The information on how many arrived on the bases of those agreements was unavailable within the deadline of this AHQ.</p> <p>3. Non available information within the deadline of this AHQ</p> <p>4. Non available information within the deadline of this AHQ</p>


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	<p>EMN NCP Slovakia</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>1. Currently, in bilateral cooperation in the field of mutual employment of citizens and labour migration, the Slovak Republic focuses mainly on supporting youth working holiday programmes, where it uses both formal instruments of bilateral treaties and less formal instruments of memorandums of understanding. The Slovak Republic concluded a Youth Mobility Agreement with Canada No. 171/2011 of 24 March 2011 (entry into force on 21 July 2011), a Working Holiday Programme Agreement with New Zealand No. 159/2012 (entry into force on 17 April 2012), a Working Holiday Programme for participants from Taiwan (Government Resolution No. 186 of 18 May 2016), Japan (Government Resolution No. 186 of 18 May 2016, entry into force on 1 June 2016), Australia (Government Resolution No. 424 of 27 August 2014), Agreement with the Government of the Argentine Republic on the Working Holiday Programme (22 January 2020 by Government Resolution No. 19). Interest in participating in working holiday programmes is mainly from the citizens of the Slovak Republic. The participation of citizens of the other party is minimal.</p> <p>In 2019, both the Republic of Peru and the Government of the Republic of Chile expressed interest in concluding bilateral agreements with the Slovak Republic on the working holiday programme. In 2023, the Government of Israel submitted an initial draft agreement on a working holiday program to the Slovak Republic. The contract process has not yet taken place.</p> <p>A treaty with the Russian Federation on mutual employment of citizens is also in force, but this is not being implemented.</p> <p>2. See response to question 1. Working holiday programmes are not sector-specific.</p>
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			<p>In 2022, two Taiwanese nationals participated in the working holiday programme. As part of the programme, they performed short-term work as a system analyst and auxiliary worker in food production.</p> <p>One Canadian citizen was admitted to an employment relationship on the basis of an international treaty by which the Slovak Republic is bound and which stipulates that an employment permit in the position of a customer (contact) center worker is not required to accept a third-country national into employment.</p> <p>3.</p> <p>The Slovak Republic is implementing few programmes/projects supporting mobility from third countries, which are financed from SlovakAid and private sector (such as e.g. Eset), those are however only one time projects not a long term state policy.</p> <p>These projects are e.g.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Talent Incubator: Digital Education for Women and IT Professionals in Moldova</u> • Skilled workforce for the Moldovan IT sector: Digital education for young women and creation of a Cyber Security Academy (finished) • Mobility scheme for Ukrainian IT students to enable transfer of soft and hard skills from Slovakia to Ukraine in cooperation with Universities and private sector (finished) <p><u>More information available here.</u></p> <p>4. See question 3.</p>
	<p>EMN NCP Slovenia</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>1. Yes</p>

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			<p>2. Republic of Serbia - Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Slovenia and the Government of the Republic of Serbia on the Employment of Citizens of the Republic of Serbia in the Republic of Slovenia; Bosnia and Herzegovina - Agreement amending the Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Slovenia and the Council of Ministers of Bosnia and Herzegovina on the Employment of Citizens of Bosnia and Herzegovina in the Republic of Slovenia. According to data provided by the Ministry of Labour, Family, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities there were 2690 work permits issued on the basis of the bilateral agreement with Serbia in 2022 and 18.543 work permits issued on the basis of the Bilateral agreement with Bosnia and Herzegovina.</p> <p>3. Yes</p> <p>4. Canada – Agreement between the Republic of Slovenia and Canada concerning youth mobility; Australia - Arrangement between the Government of the Republic of Slovenia and the Government of Australia on a Work and Holiday Visa Arrangement; New Zealand - Arrangement on a Working Holiday Scheme between the Government of the Republic of Slovenia and the Government of New Zealand. 7 third-country nationals have arrived on the basis of these three arrangements in 2022.</p>
	<p>EMN NCP Spain</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>1. Yes</p> <p>2. - <u>Agreements to regulate migratory flows:</u></p>


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		<p>The agreements on the regulation and management of migratory flows signed by Spain have the status of an international treaty, since, although their effective application depends in any case on the adequacy between the job offers and the profiles of the candidates for emigration, and on the decision of the employers, the country of origin receives preferential treatment in the field of generic job offers in the quota (article 39.3 of the Organic Law 4/2000).</p> <p>These bilateral agreements between States establish the bilateral framework for the management of labour migration flows and regulate in a global way aspects such as the communication of job offers, assessment of professional requirements, rights and working and social conditions, specific provisions for seasonal workers, the processing of the corresponding visas, and the voluntary return of migrant workers. It also provides for meetings of a Joint or Bilateral Committee to facilitate the implementation of the Agreement. In short, the possibility of labour migration from these countries to Spain is articulated through agile procedures, so it is also an effective instrument for development aid and prevention of illegal immigration.</p> <p>Spain has signed, so far, 7 agreements of this type with Colombia, Ecuador, Morocco, Mauritania, the Dominican Republic and Ukraine and Honduras (the latter was signed on May 28, 2021 and entered into force on February 23, 2023). The agreement with Guatemala was signed on January 18, 2023, and its entry into force is pending.</p> <p><u>- Framework agreements on cooperation in the field of immigration:</u></p> <p>Unlike the traditional bilateral readmission agreements, whose purpose is limited to facilitating the procedure for the identification and readmission of persons in an irregular situation, these agreements include other aspects from a broader perspective, and among them is the promotion of the admission of workers, always in accordance with the labour procedures in force in the host Contracting Party.</p> <p>Spain has signed agreements of this type with Cape Verde, Gambia, Guinea-Bissau, Guinea-Conakry, Mali and Niger.</p>
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			<p>- <u>Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs):</u> With Morocco and Senegal. The agreements or memoranda referred to above are not aimed at any specific sector of activity and encourage collaboration in different areas, without establishing binding conditions. These migration agreements do not establish quotas or amounts of migrant workers, they simply establish bases for collaboration on migration matters. Of course, circular migration programs through collective management of contracting at origin are preferably carried out with countries with which Spain has signed these Agreements.</p> <p>3. Yes</p> <p>4. In 2022, circular migration projects were authorized with Morocco (12,000 people), Honduras (500 people), Colombia (about 500 people), Ecuador (120 people) and Senegal (18 people). All of them agricultural laborers for tasks related to agricultural campaigns.</p>
	EMN NCP Sweden	Yes	<p>1. No, no formal bilateral cooperation as of yet.</p> <p>2. N/A</p> <p>3. No</p> <p>4. N/A</p>

Ad-Hoc Query on 2023.22 COM AHQ on Existing bilateral agreements and programmes/projects on legal migration between member states and third countries

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