

ATLAS OF MIGRATION PREFACE

2020 has been a turbulent year. As noted by President von der Leyen in her State of the Union address, a virus a thousand times smaller than a grain of sand has exposed how delicate life can be. Yet, it has also provided the impetus for Europe to come together with renewed vitality.

This new vitality is evident in the area of migration. In the last years, debates on migration have often been divisive and contentious, susceptible to misinformation and manipulation. During the pandemic, both the fundamental role that migrants play as essential workers and their higher vulnerability have come to the fore. In 2020, the New Pact on Migration and Asylum proposed by the European Commission has introduced a “fresh start” and stressed the need for a human and humane approach, based on facts and solid evidence.

The Atlas of Migration 2020 is a contribution to better informing this fresh start on migration. Since 2018, our Knowledge Centre on Migration and Demography has collated and presented harmonised and validated international data on migration, demography, asylum, integration and development. The 2019 edition covered all 28 Member States of the European Union and 171 countries and territories around the world. The new, 2020 edition comes with new factsheets for each continent, facilitating comparisons within and across them. The printed reference book is accompanied by an interactive online one, a ‘living tool’ which has improved accessibility and usability. The online Atlas of Migration is populated with the latest available data, gathered and processed in real-time by a data repository and presented in accessible country profiles, which can be adapted and edited to individual needs.

The Atlas of Migration is a shining example of the Joint Research Centre’s capacity to build innovative tools to

support the Commission’s culture of evidence-based policymaking, and I am delighted that it is so widely used in policy circles. It also provides an important reference source of verified migration data for the general public on a topic characterised by misinformation. We are working with the European Migration Network to make it available in all EU languages.

Partnerships have been instrumental to build and improve the Atlas. My gratitude goes to all Commission and EEAS colleagues dealing with migration whose expertise and collaboration have shaped the Atlas of Migration since 2018, and to all of the international organisations that have contributed to the Atlas with their data.

Finally, as the COVID-19 pandemic continues to reshape societies and economies around the world, the Atlas of Migration provides an essential resource to start understanding its implications for migration and mobility in the EU and worldwide. The third section of the 2020 edition focuses closely on the relationship between the pandemic and migration, providing some new insights and food for thought on what lies ahead.

Stephen Quest

Director-General
Joint Research Centre
European Commission

ATLAS OF MIGRATION EU MEMBER STATES

‘Migration has always been a fact for Europe – and it will always be. Throughout centuries, it has defined our societies, enriched our cultures and shaped many of our lives. And this will always be the case.’¹ With these words, in September 2020, President von der Leyen announced the arrival of the European Commission’s New Pact on Migration and Asylum.

And yet, in a way 2020 has been quite distinct from that which came before. Since the turn of the year, the COVID-19 pandemic has had dramatic and profound social, economic and political implications across Europe and around the world. In an effort to limit the virus’ spread, governments have placed limits on international and national mobility, established ‘lockdown’ measures, imposed limitations on in-place work and education and set out rules and guidelines on social distancing. The implications for migration and mobility in the EU have been significant. Some labour migration programmes have been suspended and asylum procedures delayed. Due to mobility restrictions or fear of the virus, many migrants will have been unable to reach their place of employment, missed opportunities to study or been far from family members. But many have also played a vital part in responding to the pandemic through their roles as key workers and by offering their support and solidarity to those in need.

In the shadow of the pandemic, 2020 was also the year of the New Pact on Migration and Asylum, announced with the aim of building a novel, comprehensive approach to migration. It responds to the complexities of migration, strikes a balance between responsibility and solidarity among Member States and faces the challenges of a globalised world.² At the same time, it recognises that Member States have different geographical situations and diverging experiences and perspectives to reconcile, whilst highlighting the important role of evidence in the management of migration and mobility.

At the beginning of 2019 there were 35 million migrants residing in the EU. 13 million of them were mobile EU citizens residing outside their country of citizenship, and 22 million were third country nationals residing from outside of the EU. In 2019 2.9 million people were granted residence permits for the EU-27, an increase from 2.8 million in 2018. Of those who came from third countries outside of the EU during 2019, 41% did so with

a permit for work, 27% for family purposes and 14% for education. In contrast, there were only 141 700 cases of people being detected irregularly crossing borders in 2019.

Regarding asylum, there were 631 570 first time applications for asylum made in 2019, which was far below the over one million first time applications made in both 2015 and 2016. Moreover, the rejection rate of first instance decisions has also risen from 38% in 2016 to 62% of applications in 2019.

These figures give a first insight into the context in the EU at the turn of 2020. Of course, the context in individual Member States can vary significantly.

With its profiles for every one of the 27 Member States, the Atlas of Migration supports the delivery of the EU’s response to COVID-19 and implementation of the New Pact on Migration and Asylum. It brings together the most up-to-date international data available on demographic structures, migration and asylum trends and integration patterns across the Union. This includes data on migrant populations, on asylum applications and outcomes, as well as residence permits and Schengen Visas. It also includes a range of indicators on integration, from naturalisation to social inclusion and participation in education and labour market. In addition, there is a pull-out sheet covering the EU as a whole and ‘How to Read’ and ‘Technical Notes’, respectively at the beginning and at the end of the section, which explain the single charts and provide notes and references to the original data sources.

¹ European Commission, Press statement by President von der Leyen on the New Pact on Migration and Asylum, 2020 (available online at https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/statement_20_1727)

² Ibid

ATLAS OF MIGRATION NON-EU COUNTRIES AND TERRITORIES

2020 has reinforced the need for a global perspective in policymaking on migration and mobility. COVID-19 is likely to disrupt many migration trends and dynamics around the world, but the pandemic is not the only challenge to address. Responding to irregular migration in the Mediterranean, addressing protection and relocation gaps for the world's displaced, ensuring remittances flow efficiently worldwide and building labour migration pathways all require international cooperation, supported by data and analysis.

Policy developments from the European Commission during 2020 have placed the importance of an international perspective centre-stage. The New Pact on Migration and Asylum emphasises the inextricable linkages between 'internal' and 'external' dimensions of migration to the EU, for example. Proposals for a Strategy with Africa also call for a 'balanced, coherent and comprehensive approach to migration and mobility.'¹ Similarly, the Sustainable Development Goals, Global Compact for Migration and Global Compact on Refugees reiterate the vital role of migration and international cooperation for international development.

A global perspective on migration requires an understanding not only of general trends but also of the specificities and similarities and differences between regions and countries. This section of the Atlas of Migration responds to the need for an international perspective by presenting data profiles for 171 countries and territories around the world. Doing so enables users to track trends over time and observe similarities and differences between places. Each profile includes data on the scale and type of migration to and from each country or territory, some of the drivers of migration including demographic change and development indicators, and an insight into some of the implications of migration for economies and societies, such as the scale of remittances and urbanisation.

Over the past decade, the number of international migrants worldwide has increased, from 221 million in 2010 to 272 million in 2019.² Despite the rising total figure, however, mobility remains the exception rather than the norm for the majority of the world's population. At the end of 2019 only 3.5% of the world's population was residing in a country other than that of their origin. International migrants represented 11% of the population in EU,³ 21% in Oceania and 7% in America⁴ but only 2% in Africa and 2% in Asia. The world's refugee population is even more unevenly distributed, with the majority residing in just a few countries. At the end of 2019, 12 million refugees (or 46%) were residing in Asia, 7 million (or 26%) in Africa and 4 million (or 15%) in Europe outside the EU. By contrast, there were 2.6 million refugees (or 10%) residing in the EU-27.

To go beyond this initial starting point, the following pages present the country and territory profiles organised by geographical continent (as defined in accordance with Eurostat guidelines). They provide a visual representation of the close migratory links between countries and territories within the same geographical area, as migration patterns are often local or regional in scope. Each continent is assigned an individual colour and the profiles contained within are placed in alphabetical order to allow the reader easy access. An additional profile shows aggregated data for the World and is included as a pull-out sheet. 'How to Read' and 'Technical Notes', respectively at the beginning and at the end of the section explain the single charts and provide notes and references to the original data sources.

¹ EC, Joint Communication to the European Parliament and The Council: Towards a comprehensive Strategy with Africa, JOIN/2020/4 final (see also https://ec.europa.eu/international-partnerships/topics/africa-eu-partnership_en)

² EC's KCMD elaboration of data from United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs. Population Division (2019). International Migrant Stock 2019 (United Nations database, POP/DB/MIG/Stock/Rev.2019).. EU 2020 composition (27 Member States) is considered

³ According to UN regional definitions, available online at <https://population.un.org/wpp/DefinitionOfRegions/>

⁴ North and South America and the Caribbean

KNOWLEDGE CENTRE ON MIGRATION AND DEMOGRAPHY (KCMD)

The European Commission's Knowledge Centre on Migration and Demography (KCMD) was established in June 2016 to provide scientific evidence for EU policymaking in migration and demography related fields. In addition to supporting the European Agenda on Migration, the focus is on migration and demographic developments at global scale and their societal impact on the EU in the medium to longer term.

https://knowledge4policy.ec.europa.eu/migration-demography_en
email: kcemd@ec.europa.eu



European Commission
Knowledge Centre on Migration
and Demography (KCMD)

<https://knowledge4policy.ec.europa.eu/migration-demography>

email: kcmd@ec.europa.eu



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