



EMN Ad-Hoc Query on COM AHQ on migration information and awareness raising campaigns in countries of origin and transit

Requested by Salvatore SOFIA on 23rd September 2016

Irregular Migration

Responses from Austria, Belgium, Blocked / Unknown, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, United Kingdom, Norway (24 in total)

Disclaimer:

The following responses have been provided primarily for the purpose of information exchange among EMN NCPs in the framework of the EMN. The contributing EMN NCPs have provided, to the best of their knowledge, information that is up-to-date, objective and reliable. Note, however, that the information provided does not necessarily represent the official policy of an EMN NCPs' Member State.

Background information:

The Council conclusions on migrant smuggling adopted on 10 of March 2016 call on Member States to "increase awareness of the risks of irregular migration and migrant smuggling among the general public, vulnerable groups and professionals that could come into contact with smuggled migrants, by for instance developing a counter-narrative in the media and to share best practices. These campaigns should be targeted at specific groups and contain a balanced message, possibly involving diaspora community". At the same time, the Council requested the Commission to continue developing and ensuring the implementation of a Migrant Information Strategy, as well as to review the results of the EU pilot information campaigns in Ethiopia and Niger together with EU Member States and Agencies with the aim of rolling out such information and awareness raising activities in other countries of origin and transit. By doing so, the Commission is implementing the EU Action Plan against migrant smuggling (2015-2020) adopted on 27th May 2015, which foresaw developing a counter-narrative in the media, including social media, and launching prevention campaigns in key third countries of irregular migration.

A number of information and awareness raising campaigns have been implemented over the years by EU Member States and Associated States, non-EU countries and International Organisations, including the EU. Many of these campaigns depict the risks and potential abuses connected to irregular migration and smuggling with the aim of preventing irregular departures, while others provide information to help migrants in making well-informed decisions, as well as providing a counter narrative to that presented by smugglers and traffickers to the migrants. In view of the above, the present ad-hoc query aims to:

1. Gather an overview of the information and awareness raising campaigns developed and implemented by EU Member States / Associated States in third countries targeting aspiring migrants and asylum seekers and in Europe targeting irregular migrants already in the territory in view of identifying gaps and opportunities for further communication activities
2. Gain insight into how media, and in particular social and on-line media, are used in information and awareness raising campaigns
3. Contribute to inform the assessment of the effectiveness and impact of information and awareness raising campaigns in Europe and third countries. In this context, the Commission intends to map past, current and planned information and awareness campaigns implemented by the Member States / Associated States in Europe and in countries of origin and transit of migrants and asylum seekers. It also aims at understanding the assumptions underlining the campaigns and their expected and actual outcomes as well as to reflect on the effectiveness of such communication and information activities. In view of the scope of this AHQ, it is of utmost importance to liaise with relevant authorities, in particular ministries of foreign affairs and development agencies in order to receive a complete overview at national level of the communication activities carried out in third countries.





The Commission intends to bring together national authorities and relevant stakeholders, including EU Agencies, International Organisations, media companies and communication experts, in a workshop in the 4th quarter of 2016. The workshop will take stock of the findings of the AHQ and provide an opportunity to compare experiences and discuss good practices at European level, with a view to support better prevention of irregular











migration, enhance return and fight migrant smuggling. For the purpose of this query, migrant smuggling includes facilitation of unauthorised entry and transit as well as residence, in line with EU legislation.






Questions




1. Due to the presence of questions with several tables, please reply directly in the attached word document and upload your reply as 'supporting document'.

Responses

	Country	Wider Dissemination	Response
	Austria	No	
	Belgium	Yes	1. See document attached
	Blocked / Unknown	No	
	Croatia	Yes	1. Until now Croatia has not implemented any migration information and awareness raising campaigns in countries of origin and transit of migrants and asylum seekers. Media channels including on-line media have been used by the government to inform public about the migration crisis and in particular about the situation in Croatia. Social have not been used by the government in information and awareness raising campaigns although have been used by civil society and individuals to raise awareness about the migration issues.
	Cyprus	Yes	1. See attached

	Czech Republic	Yes	<p>1. No. The Czech Republic has not implemented such campaigns yet. The answer is also uploaded in the file attached.</p> <p>2. No. The Czech Republic has not implemented such campaigns yet. The answer is also uploaded in the file attached.</p>
	Estonia	Yes	1. Please see the attached document.
	Finland	Yes	1. Please see attached document.
	France	Yes	1. see document attached
	Germany	Yes	1. Please see attached document
	Ireland	No	
	Italy	Yes	1. See the attached word document
	Latvia	Yes	1. See the attached document.
	Lithuania	Yes	1. Lithuania has not implemented any migration information and awareness raising campaigns in countries of origin and transit of migrants and asylum seekers.
	Luxembourg	Yes	1. See attached document.

	Netherlands	Yes	<p>1. See attachment 11-11 New version updated. Please use this version instead of the older one.</p> <p>2. Please see attached the adjusted version of the NL input. You are requested to disregard the previous version which was submitted to you.</p>
	Poland	Yes	<p>1. No. None of the public entities in Poland were involved in conducting informative campaigns for foreigners in countries of origin or transit. However it must be stated that in 2012 the International Organisation for Migration [IOM] prepared a raising awareness information campaign on providing support to third country nationals in assisted voluntary return from Poland. This campaign was in 75% co-financed by the European funds [No 1/12/EFPI/2010]. The already mentioned nationwide information campaign was directed toward foreigners staying illegally in Poland to enable them to return and their respective countries of origin. The campaign used mass media (ATL), such as press, Radio and Television. In addition, on September 22, 2016 Polish Border Guard Headquarter placed on the public website of the Border Guard information material entitled 'Conditions of stay of foreigners in the Republic of Poland'. This material has been placed on the following website: https://www.strazgraniczna.pl/pl/cudzoziemcy/warunki-pobytu-cudzozie/3914,Warunki_pobytu-cudzoziemcow-w-RP.html. However, the fact of posting this material on the website should not be interpreted as an element of formal campaign understood as an action to be implemented within a specific timeframe as well as with a dedicated budget, subject to subsequent evaluation.</p>
	Portugal	Yes	<p>1. Supporting document.</p>
	Slovak Republic	Yes	<p>1. Please, see the attached document.</p>
	Slovenia	Yes	<p>1. See supporting document SI NCP reply.</p>
	Spain	Yes	<p>1. In Spain the dissemination of information is done through the following channels: - In the case of labour and family migration is done through the Ministry of Employment and Social Security</p>

			<p>website and information sheets: http://extranjeros.empleo.gob.es/es/index.html http://extranjeros.empleo.gob.es/es/InformacionInteres/index.html - In the case of qualified migration, the information is done through the Commercial Departments of Spain abroad or other bodies abroad. - It also done through “Invest in Spain”: http://www.investinspain.org/invest/en/index.html</p>
	Sweden	Yes	1. Please see the attached file.
	United Kingdom	No	
	Norway	Yes	<p>1. Norway has financed several awareness campaigns targeting irregular migrants. In 2013-2014 we financed a country-wide awareness raising campaign in Somalia on the risks of migration, targeting potential migrants, and since 2014 we have financed a migration response center in Sudan where awareness is an essential part (including outreach in refugee camps). We have further financed awareness campaigns reaching out to unaccompanied minors in Turkey (2013-2014) and in Afghanistan (2012-2014). In 2017 we are renewing our engagement regarding unaccompanied minors by financing a comprehensive awareness campaign as part of a broader project to prevent children from migrating alone. A relevant study: Kjersti Thorbjørnsrud, Espen Gran, Mohammed A. Salih, Sareng Aziz. (2012): Viewed From the Other Side: Media Coverage and Personal Tales of Migration in Iraqi Kurdistan. Oslo: University of Oslo, Norway. https://www.udi.no/globalassets/global/forskning-fou_i/beskyttelse/viewed-from-the-other-side.pdf This study gives voice to the untold stories – to the experiences and perspectives appearing in neither the Norwegian and Western media debate on immigration nor in the Iraqi Kurdish media. Shedding light on these questions, the report has improved the knowledge of the type of factors that motivate or inhibit emigration on the one hand and the conditions propelling or restraining the return of people to their original home country on the other. News media analysed in Iraqi Kurdistan includes news reports, op-eds and commentaries related to migration in six newspapers and four TV channels from May to September 2011. A total of 48 informants participated in this study. 36 interviews with Iraqi Kurds in Norway and Iraq with migration experiences of their own or within their family were conducted. Vital informants in this group are</p>

			<p>people who have been deported from Europe and are now back in Iraqi Kurdistan. Another 12 key informant interviews were conducted with government officials, NGOs and media professionals. There is a thorough summary with suggestions included in the study.</p>
--	--	--	---