

INFO FLASH 25/04

The European Commission published the [11th Report on Relocation and Resettlement](#) and the latest figures on [2016 Official Development Assistance](#), while proposing [actions to protect all children in migration](#) (a theme echoed by [FRA](#)). It also stepped [up humanitarian assistance](#) for Great Lakes Region, Southern Africa and the Indian Ocean region and, under the African Trust Fund, for [enhanced migration management in Libya](#). The European Parliament held discussions on [sexual abuse and exploitation of children](#) and child [marriage](#).

FRA focused on [Fundamental rights of migrants in an irregular situation who are not removed](#) and [provided support to Italian and Greek authorities in migration hotspots](#).

Key upcoming events include two webinars organised by Cities of Migration on [integration of refugee families](#) and [employment of refugees](#). Recent publications include a briefing note on [consensus around development](#) by EPRS and an infographic on [European attitudes on free movement](#).

EU INSTITUTIONS

European Commission

(12/04) Relocation and Resettlement: Steady progress made but more efforts needed to meet targets. The Commission [adopted its eleventh progress report](#) on the EU's emergency relocation and resettlement schemes, assessing actions taken since 2 March 2017. Member States have made steady progress on relocation, setting a new monthly record with an additional 2,465 persons relocated. The total number of relocations now stands at 16,340. However, more efforts are needed from all Member States to ensure that all people eligible are relocated over the coming months. On resettlement, Member States have continued to make significant progress, with safe and legal pathways being provided to 15,492 persons so far. To help improve the relocation and the resettlement process, today's report includes targeted recommendations for Member States.

(12/04) Protecting all children in migration: Commission outlines priority actions. Over the past two years, a growing number of children in migration have arrived in the EU, many of them without their families. While EU and Member States' legislation provide a solid framework for protection, the recent surge in arrivals has put national systems under pressure and exposed gaps and shortcomings. This is [why the Commission is setting out actions to reinforce the protection of all migrant children](#) at all stages of the process. It is necessary to ensure that migrant children are swiftly identified when they arrive in the EU and that they receive child-adequate treatment. Trained personnel need to be available to assist children during their status determination and children should be provided with sustainable long-term perspectives through better access to education and health care. Child protection is a central priority in the European Agenda on Migration and the Commission will continue to support Member States' efforts through training, guidance, operational support and funding.

(12/04) EU Trust Fund for Africa adopts €90 million programme on protection of migrants and improved migration management in Libya. Following up on the Joint Communication on the Central Mediterranean Route and the Malta Declaration, the EU Trust Fund for Africa upon proposal from the European Commission, [adopted a €90 million programme](#) to step up the protection of migrants and reinforce migration management in Libya. The €90 million programme will reinforce protection and resilience of migrants, refugees and host communities in Libya. The programme will also support improved migration management in the country.

(11/04) Publication of figures on 2016 Official Development Assistance. New figures [confirm](#) the EU and its Member States have consolidated their place as the world's leading aid donor in 2016. This data is based on results reported last year by members of the Development Assistance Committee of the Organisation for Economic Co-Operation and Development (OECD-DAC). Preliminary OECD figures show that Official Development Assistance (ODA) provided by the EU and its Member States has reached €75.5 billion in 2016. This constitutes an 11% increase compared to 2015 levels. The EU's assistance has increased for the fourth year in a row and reached its highest level to date. In 2016, EU collective ODA represented 0.51% of EU Gross National Income (GNI) in 2016, having increased from 0.47% in 2015. This is significantly above the 0.21% average of non-EU countries that are members of the Development Assistance Committee (DAC).

(11/04) EU releases humanitarian assistance to Africa as needs grow. The EU aid of €47 million will help respond to the needs of the most vulnerable in the Great Lakes as well as in Southern Africa and Indian Ocean region. The European Commission [has announced humanitarian assistance](#) to help people in need in the Great Lakes and Southern Africa and Indian Ocean regions, who continue to face the consequences of years of conflict and displacement, as well as widespread food insecurity and natural disasters. Of the €47 million announced, €32 will go to populations in the Great Lakes region – including the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Rwanda, Burundi, and Tanzania, while €15 million will go to the Southern Africa and Indian Ocean region, including Madagascar, Malawi, Zimbabwe, Mozambique, Swaziland, and Lesotho.

European Parliament

(25/04) Sexual abuse and exploitation of children: committee hearing. MEPs [will look at how EU rules to prevent sexual abuse and exploitation of children](#) have been implemented by EU countries in a committee hearing on Tuesday afternoon. The Civil Liberties Committee hearing will look at how the current EU rules on combatting sexual abuse and sexual exploitation of children online and offline, adopted in 2011, have been implemented by EU member states and MEPs will debate potential gaps and best practices. Experts from Europol, Eurojust, the judicial field and organisations supporting victims will give presentations on police and judicial cooperation, prevention and protection of victims of child sexual abuse and exploitation and paedophilia and child sexual abuse and child pornography online.

(12/04) Child marriages: MEPs discuss how to put an end to this scourge. One in every three girls in developing countries is married before turning 18, and one in nine before 15. Child marriages limit future prospects as children are usually forced to drop out of school. Girls also face dangerous complications from pregnancy and childbirth, the leading causes of death among adolescent girls in developing countries. They are also at great risk from

suffering abuse. On 11 April Parliament's women's rights and human rights subcommittee [discussed the issue](#) with experts.

European Council / Council of the EU

(11/04) Iran: Council extends by one year sanctions responding to serious human rights violation. On 11 April 2017, the Council [extended](#) until 13 April 2018 its restrictive measures responding to serious human rights violations in Iran. These measures consist of: a travel ban and an asset freeze against 82 people and one entity; a ban on exports to Iran of equipment which might be used for internal repression and of equipment for monitoring telecommunications. These measures were first put in place in 2011. The legal acts are published in the Official Journal of 12 April 2017. They were adopted by written procedure.

Others

(21/04) FRA - Migrant child protection still a grave concern. The treatment of asylum-seeking and migrant children continues to be worrying in many parts of Europe. This is one of the main concerns from the latest summary report of the EU Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA) on migration-related fundamental rights in selected EU Member States which points to inadequate living conditions and support leading to ill-health. Access the April [monthly data collection highlights](#). Full press release [here](#).

(17/04) Frontex rescues more than 1400 migrants over Easter weekend. During the Easter weekend, Frontex, the European Border and Coast Guard Agency, [rescued](#) more than 1400 migrants in the Central Mediterranean in 13 search and rescue operations. All vessels currently deployed in operation Triton participated in search and rescue operations in the Central Mediterranean over the holiday weekend. On Saturday, six vessels deployed by Frontex rescued more than 600 migrants.

(12/04) FRA - Informal dialogue among EU Member States focuses on culture and religion. The Agency took part in an informal dialogue meeting among representatives of all EU Member States to discuss the growing importance of debates on culture and religion across the EU. The European Commission, the OSCE and the [intergovernmental organisation KAICIID](#) also attended. The meeting in Vienna on 5 April was organised by the Austrian Ministry of Foreign Affairs in preparation of its upcoming presidency. It was opportunity for the Agency to explain its work and its planned activities in the area of religion and human rights. Full press release [here](#).

(12/04) FRA - Fundamental rights support to Greek and Italian authorities in migration hotspots. The Agency [visited the Italian migration hotspot](#) in Taranto to prepare a fundamental rights workshop on 11 May. It met with the local authorities, the managing authority and all those operating in the hotspot. The aim of the workshop is to share expertise and best practices among staff working in the hotspots concerning fundamental rights issues connected to the reception and identification of newly arriving migrants and asylum seekers. It will particularly cover: initial reception upon arrival; identification and registration procedures; identification and referral of people with specific protection needs such as unaccompanied children; suspected victims of trafficking and vulnerable people; reception conditions; and child protection safeguards. The workshop in Taranto is being organised in

cooperation with the Italian Ministry of Interior, the European Commission and in partnership with the UNHCR and International Organization for Migration.

(12/04) Frontex - Arrival of migrants in March: Italy remains under pressure, Greece up from previous month. There were almost 13 000 detections of illegal border crossings on the three main migratory routes into the EU in March. This is 10% more than in the previous month. However, the total number of detections on these routes for the first quarter of 2017 fell 70% from the same period of last year to 32 650. Full press release [here](#).

(11/04) FRA - Fundamental rights of non-removed irregular migrants. The Agency took part in a conference on undocumented lives organised in the European Parliament in Brussels on 29 March. It sought to explore whether the current EU migration policy and suggested reform of the Common European Asylum System (CEAS) pushing people into irregularity. The Agency reminded participants that everyone has fundamental rights, regardless of their status. As a follow up to the event, the Agency compiled a [note on the fundamental rights of non-removed people](#) as a reminder of the evidence-based advice FRA has produced in the past. Other speakers included representatives from the European Commission, the Council of Europe, the UN's Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and civil society organisations. Full press release [here](#).

[COUNCIL OF EUROPE](#)

[CIVIL SOCIETY](#)

(24/04) Social Platform - Learn about our case studies on investing in children and young people. On 24/04 the European Commission is organising the second Annual Convention on Inclusive Growth, which brings together civil society organisations and policy-makers from 35 countries, as well as representatives from the European Union institutions and from other international organisations. This year, the Convention puts the issue of the social inclusion of young people under the spotlight. Indeed, while the employment and social situation of the European Union has been gradually improving since the end of the crisis, many young Europeans still struggle with social exclusion and poverty. Full article [here](#).

(21/04) Social Platform - Freedom of movement – free choice or last resort? [Freedom of movement](#) within the European Union is for some an opportunity while for others a last resort. Seeking a better life in the EU can become a poverty trap, and despite difficult situations some rather stay than return to the Member State they are from. This can further lead to destitution, discrimination and violations of rights (read our fact-sheet on [intra-EU mobility for EU citizens](#)). There are many factors that impact on whether people choose to move or stay, such as the living conditions in Member States which covers demographic changes, working conditions, pay, and socioeconomic realities. This situation was illustrated to me at an event recently by former European Commissioner Laszlo Andor, now with the Hans Böckler Stiftung; citizens from Romania and Lithuania tend to move due to poverty, unemployment and low pay, while citizens from the Czech Republic tend not to emigrate as the country has reduced its poverty levels and strengthened its social rights. Full article [here](#).

(19/04) EAPN - European Anti-Poverty Network: EAPN takes part in the Annual Convention for Inclusive Growth 2017. The European Anti-Poverty Network (EAPN), represented by delegates from eleven European Union countries, plus Norway and Serbia, will

attend the [Annual Convention for Inclusive Growth 2017](#) (#ACIG2017) on 24 April, and puts forward four key messages. The Convention this year will be dedicated to the social inclusion of young people. EAPN welcomes the decision to focus this year's Convention on youth inclusion, rather than just youth employment. However, not all youth face the same risks. It is vital to empower and support youth facing multiple risks, through personalized, integrated solutions to adequate income support, quality services and quality jobs. With over 118.7 million people (2015) at risk of poverty and social exclusion and increasing inequality, the EU cannot afford to be complacent. Full press release [here](#).

(14/04) Social Platform - Intersectionality - a way to better reflect the reality of equality & discrimination. On 30 April we gathered our members to discuss how to promote equality and tackle intersecting inequalities and socioeconomic discrimination. Feeding into the discussion and introducing their recent work on the topic were Tamás Kádár and Katrine Steinfeld from [Equinet](#), the European Network of Equality Bodies. The aim was to encourage our members to think beyond their respective field of expertise and to show how realities lived by victims of discrimination can often not be put in one protected ground only. Full article [here](#).

(14/04) ECRE - New report documents wide-spread abuse of migrants along the West Balkan route. A newly released Oxfam [report](#) A Dangerous 'Game' based on 140 interviews with migrants and asylum seekers reveals wide-spread abuse and human rights violations committed by law enforcement officials along the West Balkan route. The abuse includes beatings, humiliation, confiscation of personal belongings, destruction of legal documents and violent push backs. Testimonies from people passing through Serbia, Hungary, Croatia, Bulgaria and the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia confirm a pattern of brutality and abuse by law enforcement officials against migrants, including children. Ruth Tanner, Advocacy Advisor for Oxfam South East Europe, said: "People who are often fleeing unimaginable violence in their home countries are shockingly and unjustly thrown back into a reality of brutality here in Europe. The testimonies we have collected expose the horrendous treatment governments, including by European Union member states, are letting happen in order to stop people entering their territory." Full press release [here](#).

(14/04) Social Platform - A missed opportunity to listen to citizens and promote solidarity with migrants. Months later than originally foreseen, at the end of March the European Commission finally published its [evaluation of the Facilitators' Package](#). The package includes an important piece of legislation that gives Member States the option to sanction individuals or organisations that offer humanitarian assistance to undocumented migrants. This could include the provision of emergency shelter, food and medical attention, even if these services are delivered free of charge. Full article [here](#).

(12/04) ECRE - Child rights organisations welcome European Commission's policy to protect child migrants and refugees. The European Commission's [new policy guidelines](#) launched today, which provide concrete actions to protect all migrant and refugee children arriving in Europe, have been broadly welcomed by child rights organisations. The measures – which address the gaps that have let many children to fall through the cracks, or left them at risk of abuse and exploitation – focus on all children, whether they are migrants or refugees, arriving with their families or on their own. These include providing access to safe reception facilities, services like education and health care, and finding long-term solutions that are in the best interest of the child. This framework had been largely missing from EU policy decisions since the migrant and refugee crisis escalated in 2015. Agencies are

now calling on the EU to transform their words into action to ensure that children – who made up 30 per cent of all asylum applications in Europe in 2015 and 2016 – do not fall prey to abuse or exploitation upon their arrival in Europe. Full press release [here](#).

PUBLICATIONS

Eurochild - [Annual Report 2016](#)

EuVisions – [European attitudes on free movement](#) (Infographic)

University of Fribourg - [Summer School](#) (Event)

Council of the EU General Secretariat - [EU politics, extremist parties and populism](#) (Think tank review)

Cities of Migration - [Family Matters: Local Strategies for Integrating Immigrant and Refugee Families](#) (Webinar)

Cities of Migration - [Refugees Jobs Agenda: Kick-Starting Employer Action](#)

MPI - [The Economic Integration of Refugees in Canada: A Mixed Record?](#)

EPRS - [The New European Consensus On Development](#) (Briefing)

EPRS - [The future of work in the EU](#) (Briefing)