

# INFO FLASH 31/06/2022

## EU INSTITUTIONS

### European Commission

**(30/06) Pathways to School Success: Commission presents concrete measures to improve educational outcomes.** Today, the Commission published a proposal for a Council Recommendation on Pathways to School Success, outlining a set of concrete policy measures to address early school leaving and the low achievement in basic skills (reading, mathematics, and science) of 15-year-olds, and in particular of those stemming from a disadvantaged background. These measures address the needs of learners, teachers and trainers, of schools, and education systems. They include monitoring, prevention, intervention, and compensation, but with a strong focus on prevention and early intervention. The proposal also calls for increased attention to wellbeing at school, which has a strong impact on educational outcomes and is a key component of school success. Full press release [here](#).

**(20/06) Eurobarometer 2022: EU citizens strongly support international cooperation to reduce poverty and build partnerships with partner countries.** The latest Eurobarometer survey on development cooperation shows widespread support for working with countries around the world. Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine has not diminished citizens' support for the EU's work in international development. The results confirm a solid trend over recent years, meaning that cooperation with partner countries remains one of the most positively perceived EU policies. Full press release [here](#).

**(17/06) Commission sets out first analysis of the proposals stemming from the Conference on the Future of Europe.** The European Commission has today adopted a Communication setting out how it can follow up on the outcome of the Conference on the Future of Europe. After a year of deliberations, the Conference came to an end on 9 May 2022. In the closing ceremony in Strasbourg, the Presidents of the European Parliament, Commission and Council received a final report from the Conference participants containing 49 wide-ranging, ambitious and forward-looking proposals and 326 individual measures. These proposals, covering nine broad themes, were based on recommendations made by citizens during the European Citizens' Panels and the National Citizens' Panels, and who contributed their ideas through the Multilingual Digital Platform. Full press release [here](#).

**(15/06) Eurobarometer: Europeans set defence and energy autonomy as key priorities for 2022.** A Eurobarometer released today shows that European citizens support massively a common security and defence policy and expect the EU to phase out its dependency on Russian sources of energy. The survey also confirms the large support for the EU's response to the Russian aggression against Ukraine. Full press release [here](#).

**(14/06) Turkey: EU provides additional €50 million humanitarian aid to support vulnerable refugees.** Today, the European Commission announces €50 million to support vulnerable refugees and their host communities in Turkey. This humanitarian aid will go to specialised healthcare services and help address protection issues including legal counselling, psychosocial support, as well as access to civil documentation. This funding is provided in addition to the EU Emergency Social Safety Net (ESSN), which currently supports over 1.5

million people in Turkey through cash assistance. The ESSN helps them pay for the things they need most, such as rent, transportation, food, or medicine. Full press release [here](#).

## European Parliament

### European Council / Council of the EU

**(22/06) Asylum and migration: the Council approves negotiating mandates on the Eurodac and screening regulations and 21 states adopt a declaration on solidarity.** The Permanent Representatives Committee (Coreper) today adopted several important first-stage texts on asylum and migration, based on the proposals presented by the Commission in the framework of the Pact on Migration and Asylum. Coreper adopted Council negotiating mandates on the Eurodac and screening regulations. In addition, 21 member states or associated states confirmed the adoption of a declaration on solidarity, providing for a voluntary solidarity contribution mechanism, in the form of relocations or other types of contributions, particularly financial contributions. These decisions reflect the political approval at ministerial level at the Justice and Home Affairs Council meeting on 10 June 2022. This major step forward is part of the gradual approach proposed by the presidency to reform the European Union's migration and asylum policy, preserving at each stage an equivalent level of commitments on solidarity, responsibility and protection of the external border. Full press release [here](#).

**(10/06) Schengen borders code: Council adopts its general approach.** As part of the work carried out under the French presidency to reform and strengthen the Schengen area in the face of new challenges, the Council today adopted its general approach on the reform of the Schengen borders code. This reform: (i) provides new tools to combat the instrumentalisation of migrant flows; (ii) establishes a new legal framework for external border measures in the event of a health crisis, drawing on the lessons learned from the experience with COVID-19; (iii) updates the legal framework for reintroducing internal border controls in order to safeguard the principle of free movement while responding to persistent threats; (iv) introduces alternative measures to these controls. The general approach now enables the Council to start negotiations with the European Parliament, once the Parliament has adopted its own position. Full press release [here](#).

**(9/06) Council adopts conclusions on the rights of the child.** The Council today adopted conclusions on the EU strategy on the rights of the child, with a particular focus on the protection of children's rights in crisis or emergency situations. Against the background of Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine, the Council notes the need to protect children facing armed conflicts and their consequences, in particular to protect them from recruitment by armed forces, trafficking in human beings, illegal adoption, sexual exploitation and separation from their families. Full press release [here](#).

## Others

**(17/06) CoR - Rural Pact: European and local leaders join forces to make local communities stronger.** On 15-16 June, over 450 participants representing EU, national, and regional policy makers along with local authorities, social and economic stakeholders gathered for the first Rural Pact conference. They agreed on the governance of the Rural Pact and committed to achieving the long-term vision for the EU's rural areas. Over these two days, the European Committee of the Regions (CoR) together with other participants and

members of the Rural Pact community started making commitments to make the EU's rural areas stronger, more connected, resilient and prosperous by 2040. As the institution that represents the million or more local and regional politicians across the EU, the CoR is a key player in ensuring that the long-term vision becomes a reality, demonstrating that cohesion is a fundamental value of the European Union. Full press release [here](#).

**(1/06) EIGE - Austria-EIGE meetings underline importance of comparable data to measure and fight femicides.** To fight crimes of femicide - when a woman is killed because of her gender – it is key to identify and count cases accurately. Recent meetings between EIGE, the EU knowledge centre on gender equality, and the Austrian government provide insights on approaches taken in Austria and underline the importance of implementing legislation and improving data collection practices on femicide across the EU. Full press release [here](#).

## **COUNCIL OF EUROPE**

**(16/06) Consultation on Entrepreneurship by Migrant Women takes place in Patras.** Undoubtedly, the 241FE consultation event in Patras (Greece), entitled "Balancing Professional and Private Live as well as Entrepreneurship for Gender Equality" was a very successful initiative! It was organized onsite on 16th June 2022 by [DAFNI KEK](#), the Greek partner of the "[241FE: 241 Female Entrepreneurship](#)", EU project. The project targets refugee, asylum seeker and migrant women and aims at providing them with the capacity (material, tools, training and consulting) so that to develop their entrepreneurial skills, promote their creativity and empower themselves by using the 241FE business model and start/continue their own employment path. Full press release [here](#).

**(1/06) The cycle of webinars "Gender and Interculturalism" has started!** On 30 May 2022, the webinar "Health, Gender and Interculturalism" took place. This event is part of the project "Gender and Interculturalism", developed by the Cooperative Portuguese Network of Intercultural Cities in partnership with the cities of Lisbon, Oeiras and Vila Verde and funded by the Council of Europe. The objective of the meeting was to broaden and deepen the debate regarding the construction of public policies for health that take into consideration gender issues and intersectionality under an intercultural perspective. The event started with the presentation of the RPCI and the "Gender and Interculturality" Project, after which a round table was held. Full press release [here](#).

**(1/06) Webinar "Identifying and preventing systemic discrimination: the importance of data and evidence" – Recap and next steps.** On 23 May, the ICC programme held a webinar on "[Identifying and preventing systemic discrimination: the importance of data and evidence](#)". The event gathered around 50 participants from various countries to discuss practices and challenges faced when using and generating data and evidence to identify and prevent systemic discrimination. Knowledge sharing among peers was organised in two sessions: one focussing on data strategies in Belgium and Ireland with presentations respectively by the Interfederal Centre for Equal Opportunities (UNIA) and the Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission (IHREC); another one on good data practices in Montreal (Canada), Kirklees (UK), Barcelona (Spain), and Neuchâtel (Switzerland). Full press release [here](#).

## CIVIL SOCIETY

**(29/06) PICUM - Resilience and resistance: the criminalisation of solidarity across Europe.** The European Union is founded on the values of respect for human dignity, freedom, democracy, equality, the rule of law and respect for human rights. Yet, in recent years, these values have been under threat within the EU, as many Member States' policies and actions have led to a "shrinking space" for civil society. Perhaps this trend is nowhere more evident than in the treatment of migrants in Europe and the human rights defenders working to assist them. The "criminalisation of solidarity" strikes at the heart of European values and contributes to the erosion of rule of law and democracy, while seriously impacting the rights and welfare of the most vulnerable in our societies and those who seek to protect and assist them. Full article [here](#).

**(24/06) ECRE - ECRE Editorial: End Game of French Presidency – Passing on a Partial Reform.** The dying days of the French Presidency have seen some hyperactive diplomacy in an effort to get the 10 June provisional agreements on asylum and migration reform over the line. Following further decisions of the Member States meeting at ambassadorial level in COREPER this week, two of the approaches [outlined by ECRE](#) in its assessment of the prospects for the next two years – the "gradual approach" and the "Schengen approach" – are moving forward in parallel – at least on the Council side and at least for now. That the Czech Presidency looks unlikely to do very much on the Pact gave an added incentive to finalise agreements such that operational and practical initiatives could run without requiring too much Presidency support. The proposal to re-open the Reception Conditions and Resettlement agreements look rather like a delaying or distraction technique. Full press release [here](#).

**(22/06) PICUM - Solidarity and justice for undocumented migrants: joining forces with social justice movements.** A lot has happened in the last few years, with important consequences for individuals and for our movement. The COVID-19 pandemic, to start with, has exposed and exacerbated inequalities that run deep in our societies, especially around who is able to access health care, work in safe and decent jobs, and be protected from financial shocks. On the flipside, the pandemic has also shown some [promising openings](#), with national and local efforts across Europe to give access to the vaccines to undocumented people too. The challenge now is to turn such promising measures into a steppingstone to open up access to health care and public services permanently and to everyone, regardless of their residence status. Full press release [here](#).

**(17/06) ECRE - Pushback Practices: A De Facto but Covered-up Policy for Many States Says UN Special Rapporteur Amid Recent Examples of Doubtful Tactics in the EU.** UN Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights of Migrants calls pushbacks "de facto general policy in many States" and warns against state "attempts to dismiss or cover up" wrongdoing. Meanwhile, EU member states continue to apply doubtful tactics. On 10 June, UN Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights of Migrants, Felipe González Morales [announced](#) the release of the [report](#) 'Human rights violations at international borders: trends, prevention and accountability'. While recognizing "some progress" in the prevention of systematic violations at borders, Morales conclude: "pushbacks remain de facto general policy in many States and continue to seriously impede the enjoyment of the human rights of migrants who cross international borders. The full spectrum of such violations often remains hidden, due to State-led attempts to dismiss or cover up allegations of wrongdoing". The report points out that

“Steps taken to legalize pushbacks in some States are squarely incompatible with the prohibition of collective expulsions and the principle of non-refoulement”. While the geographical scope of the report is global, European and EU member states account for a significant part of the documented examples outlined in relation to pushback practices. Among them Latvia, Lithuania and Poland, introducing emergency measures suspending non-refoulement obligations at the borders with Belarus and de-facto ‘legalising’ pushbacks. Full press release [here](#).

**(17/06) ICMC - ICMC Calls for Access To Decent Work for Refugees and Migrants at the International Labour Conference.** In a statement delivered at the 110th session of the International Labour Conference in Geneva, ICMC called for more sustainable and equitable work, humanitarian assistance for victims of conflict, and renewed multilateralism. Full press release [here](#).

**(17/06) ICMC - “We Must Ensure Governments Remain True to Their Commitments Under the Global Compact for Migration”.** ICMC Director of Policy Stéphane Jaquemet reflects on the first International Migration Review Forum, held in New York on 17-20 May 2022, and looks ahead to the next four years of implementation of the Global Compact for Migration. Full press release [here](#).

**(14/06) Eurocities - Valuing young people as city advisors.** “Let’s listen to our young people, their hopes, dreams and fears. And let’s all pledge not to fail them. They are our future. Let’s listen to them,” said Espoo’s Mayor, Jukka Mäkelä, at the [Eurocities Annual Conference](#), the culmination of months of work within the [Future Mentors programme](#). “This spring, I had the privilege of being mentored by four young people. Having a dialogue with them has been different from my daily work. It has been an interesting and meaningful journey. I would recommend this mentoring to all my colleagues,” he added. Full press release [here](#).

**(14/06) Eurocities - Cities need help and solidarity.** “We are facing something we never imagined – a war close to the European border. Peace is threatened. Millions of Ukrainians experienced aggression and were forced to leave their homes and are being welcomed in European cities,” said Thomas Fabian, Deputy Mayor of Leipzig, at the Eurocities [Social Affairs Forum](#) hosted by Barcelona. While many Ukrainians that were living in Europe before the war broke out are accommodating their relatives or friends, local governments also take on the responsibility of welcoming and integrating the newcomers. Full press release [here](#).

**(13/06) Eurocities - How to secure funds to welcome all refugees? An interview with MEP Damian Boeselager.** As the Ukrainian refugee crisis continues to put pressure on the budgets and services of cities and states across Europe, the European Parliament is looking for ways to extend direct funding to enable them to receive and integrate as many refugees as possible. MEPs are also keen to adapt the EU funding system for future crises and, above all, want to be prepared to welcome all refugees, whether they are Ukrainian or coming from other parts of the world in search of refuge and safety. It is not a simple process, in fact, it is a tortuous, long road, but it needs to be travelled as soon as possible. Eurocities spoke to MEP Damian Boeselager, Volt/Greens/EFA Germany, who has played a leading role in trying to push the EU and Parliament to move quickly in helping all refugees. Full article [here](#).

**(13/06) Caritas Europa - The EU must expand refugee resettlement.** With a record 100 million people displaced globally, Caritas Europa, together with six NGOs, calls on the EU and its Member States to revive and scale up their refugee resettlement efforts. Resettlement is one of the few safe and regular pathways for vulnerable refugees to reach the EU. It can be a lifeline for people seeking protection and is an important expression of solidarity that can alleviate pressure on major refugee-hosting countries such as Lebanon, Libya and Uganda. The gap between global needs and the EU's resettlement efforts is growing fast. Globally, more than 1.5 people are in need of resettlement, but as of the end of April 2022, just 4,075 resettled refugees had arrived in EU countries since the start of this year. Full press release [here](#).

**(8/06) PICUM - Labour rights of undocumented migrant workers: what does the EU say?** Many key sectors of Europe's economy rely on undocumented migrant workers. More often than not, workers' precarious or irregular status is leveraged by employers to reduce their labour costs, by imposing particularly poor working conditions, such as extremely long hours without rest periods, and withholding or stealing workers' wages. Full article [here](#).

**(3/06) ECRE - ECRE Editorial: Better, Bad, Worse, Worst Approaches? The Asylum Reforms after "Ukraine".** ECRE views the EU's approach to the Ukraine displacement crisis, including the decision to activate the TPD, as very positive, notwithstanding the serious implementation challenges and differing responses in the Member States. While it may seem too early to extract lessons to inform the wider management of asylum system systems in Europe, that has to be done, and not least because the TPD is part of the Common European Asylum System (CEAS). It is there to relieve pressure in order that the system can function effectively – not to generate a two-tier system. In addition, while the Ukraine crisis continues there appears to be movement on the reform proposals which all in any case remain on the table. Indeed, the table is groaning under the weight of the mountain of proposals launched in recent years. Full article [here](#).

## **PUBLICATIONS**

EPRS - [Demographic Outlook for the European Union 2022](#)

EPRS - [Combating hate speech and hate crime in the EU](#)

Council of the EU General Secretariat – [Think Tank Review \(June\)](#)

MPI Europe - [The COVID-19 Catalyst: Learning from Pandemic-Driven Innovations in Immigrant Integration Policy](#)

MPI Europe - [Embedding Reintegration Assistance for Returning Migrants in the Local Context: The Role of Referrals](#)