



Europe on the move

An opportunity and a challenge

Migration in the European Union



European Union



You can find this booklet and other short, clear explanations about the EU online at:
ec.europa.eu/publications

European Commission
Directorate-General for Communication
Publications
1049 Brussels
BELGIUM

Manuscript completed in May 2009

Cover illustration: © Van Parys Media

Luxembourg: Publications Office of the European Union, 2009

16 pp. — 21 x 29.7 cm

ISBN 978-92-79-12652-9
doi:10.2775/28799

© European Communities, 2009
Reproduction is authorised. For any use or reproduction of individual photos, permission must be sought directly from the copyright holders.

Printed in Germany

PRINTED ON WHITE CHLORINE-FREE PAPER



Europe on the move

An opportunity and a challenge

Migration in the European Union

'Within the European Union, each Member State sets its own national immigration policy. However, EU leaders have recognised that dealing with immigration is a common priority and that their countries face similar challenges. They have therefore decided to coordinate important aspects of immigration policy.'



Contents

A tradition of openness	03
A magnet for immigrants	05
Legal immigration is in all our interests	06
No immigration without integration	08
Reducing illegal immigration	10
Asylum: a duty to protect	12
Sharing responsibilities	13
Further reading	15



A tradition of openness

The EU lacks highly-qualified specialists.



Making sense of the numbers

Views on immigration can differ radically. While business leaders in many EU countries call for more immigrant workers to fill vacant jobs, other voices claim the EU is being flooded by irregular immigrants. Reliable figures are sometimes hard to find — and quite often misinterpreted. Here we put the figures for the main types of immigrants into context.

As of 2007, there were 18.5 million immigrants from outside the EU (so-called 'third-country nationals') legally established in the 27 EU countries, representing about 4 % of the total population.

About 9 million EU citizens lived in an EU country other than their own.

Irregular immigrants form only a small minority by comparison. Although by definition there can be no formal figures, estimates from the European Commission suggest there are at least 4.5 million people residing illegally in EU member states. About 500 000 are apprehended each year across the EU.

Asylum-seekers are even fewer. Their numbers are at their lowest level for more than a decade, averaging just over 200 000 a year.

Immigration in the EU is, and will remain, a fact of life. Immigrants form part of the economic and cultural fabric of the European Union. They are present at all levels of the labour force, filling gaps that natives cannot fill. These include highly-skilled IT specialists, nurses and other healthcare professionals, as well as workers carrying out tasks that EU citizens no longer want to do. The challenge is therefore to make sure that immigration benefits us all — EU citizens and society, immigrants and their families and, as far as possible, their countries of origin.

Each EU state is free to identify the number and type of immigrant workers it needs and to issue their work and residence permits. The host countries are then responsible for integrating the immigrants and their families into their new country. However, immigration is a sensitive issue. The EU and its members agree that it requires both careful management and more cooperation.



Free movement for EU citizens meant that this couple could swap Denmark for Spain.



Immigrants sometimes do the jobs EU citizens no longer want.

Dealing with illegal immigration

Illegal immigration into the EU must be reduced because of its many negative consequences, not least its links to criminal groups and people smugglers. It also makes it difficult to identify genuine refugees. Very often, people on the move come in mixed groups. They include immigrants whose main motivation is seeking a better life in Europe and others who come to escape persecution and serious human rights violations.

Illegal immigration, and the publicity it receives, increases the concerns of some EU countries and regions about security and humanitarian issues. The EU member states therefore work together to discourage people from illegally entering the EU and to reach agreements on how to return those who come nevertheless.

Protecting asylum-seekers

EU countries have a long tradition of providing a safe haven for legitimate asylum-seekers. They are also bound by international law to protect them. The right to asylum is guaranteed by the EU's Charter of Fundamental Rights adopted in 2000. National governments have already taken a number of steps to ensure that all those seeking protection in the EU are treated fairly and efficiently. EU rules harmonise national procedures on how to process asylum applications. They set minimum standards on how asylum-seekers should be received as well as fix criteria for those who qualify for international protection. This means distinguishing between people in genuine need of protection and those who have chosen to move to improve their standard of living.

In fact, EU countries have moved closer to defining a common policy on asylum than they have on the more complex and wider issue of immigration. ■



© Van Parys Media

A magnet for immigrants

For over 400 years emigrants from Europe flocked to North and South America, Australasia and (to a lesser extent) Africa. They left to seek a better life for themselves and their families or to escape religious and political persecution at home. Today, the countries of the European Union are in turn a magnet for immigrants, attracting people from other countries with their prosperity and political stability.

As western European countries recovered from the Second World War, they invited immigrants from neighbouring regions and former colonies to boost the local workforce as their economies expanded in the 1950s and 1960s. The immigrants who came then, and those who followed, have helped create the prosperous EU that we know today.

There has also been some internal movement of people within the EU's frontiers, as its citizens

benefited from the right to move and reside freely within the EU.

Bigger inflows

The number of people arriving from beyond the EU's frontiers has increased in recent years as the gap between rich and poor countries has widened and as the number of local and regional conflicts on Europe's doorstep and beyond has risen. Easier travel is another factor.

At the turn of the century, net migration into the EU was running at well under 1 million a year. But the average annual number is now close to 1.75 million.

Statistics on net migration only provide an indication however. They capture the difference between new arrivals in the EU and residents who leave. They do not differentiate between economic immigrants and other new residents such as

students or those who come for non-economic reasons.

In recent years, the biggest share of new residence permits has gone to family members of already-resident immigrants (about 35 %), followed by new immigrant workers (28 %) and students (15 %).

Of the 18.5 million third-country nationals who reside legally in the EU, the biggest groups are from Turkey (2.3 million), Morocco (1.7 million), Albania (0.8 million) and Algeria (0.6 million). The number of foreign-born residents is higher than this. Many immigrants go on to acquire the citizenship of their host country and no longer appear in the figures. ■

Freedom of movement for EU citizens

Every EU citizen has the right to live and work in any other EU country. This is one of the most tangible benefits of EU membership that its citizens enjoy. For some, this has involved moving from poorer countries to wealthier ones, generally in north-west Europe, to benefit from higher wages and better living conditions. But this is not a one-way street. Many migrants have chosen to move in the other direction, particularly when they retire. They swap the harsher climate of the North Sea or the Baltic for the milder shores of the Mediterranean.

Until recently, relatively few EU citizens moved abroad. But economic migration from east to west increased after the 2004 and 2007 enlargements because of the wealth gap between the poorest newcomers and the rest of the Union. The wealthiest regions of the 27-nation EU were nine times richer than the poorest ones and had job vacancies to fill. Migrants from Poland and the Baltic states headed for Germany, Ireland, Sweden and the United Kingdom, while Romanians, for cultural and linguistic reasons, sought work in Italy and Spain.

But the trend has slowed. With the economic crisis in 2009 there are fewer vacant jobs in the target countries. But it is also because the rich-poor gap between old and new EU countries is decreasing, encouraging some migrants to return home. A number of EU countries initially limited the inflow of workers from new members but these temporary restrictions are gradually being removed.



Legal immigration is in all our interests

The EU needs additional workers from outside. They are vital for ensuring economic growth and prosperity. They will become even more so in coming years, as the EU's population grows older and the workforce shrinks. This ageing is a long-term trend that must be addressed even if unemployment goes up during the economic crisis in 2009.

Immigrants, particularly skilled immigrants, will play a significant role in maintaining high employment levels, doing essential jobs and helping to fund pensions for the rising number of senior citizens.

Immigration can only provide part of the answer. Other ways of responding to an ageing population and decreasing workforce must be considered. These include raising birth rates and getting more

people, particularly women, into work by making it easier to combine work and family life. We can also encourage people to work longer and by providing lifelong education and training.

Taking action: the first steps

Within the European Union, each member state sets its own national immigration policy. It is free to decide entry procedures, types of work available for immigrants, their countries of origin and how many people will be allowed in. However, EU leaders have recognised that dealing with immigration is a common priority and that their countries face similar challenges. They have therefore decided to coordinate important aspects of immigration policy.

These include legal immigration and the integration of immigrants and their families into local economic and social structures. They have also agreed on a common approach for dealing with the major problem of illegal immigrants: how to intercept and return them, as well as closer cooperation with transit countries and countries of origin.

On legal immigration, the EU has introduced a set of common rules for family reunification. These allow direct family members — the spouse and the non-adult children of the couple — to join an immigrant who has been legally established in an EU country for at least a year. Individual countries can extend the scope of the law if they so wish to cover an immigrant's parents and older children who are still unmarried.

The EU population is growing older — and we need to think about where the future workforce will come from.





© Corbis

‘Circular migration’ is a concept that tries to ensure that immigrants bring skills to their home country.

A second EU law specifies that after five years’ residence in one country, a legal immigrant can apply for long-term resident status, which allows him or her, inter alia, to take a job or follow professional training in another EU country. Further pieces of legislation set common conditions for admitting students and researchers into the EU.

A skills shortage

Some EU countries have introduced national systems to attract skilled and highly skilled immigrants into certain sectors. These include information technology and engineering where there are not enough qualified EU citizens to fill vacant posts. The EU is working to establish such a system for the whole Union. This would mean offering highly qualified immigrants fast-track entry, an EU-wide recognised residence title (EU Blue Card), favourable residence conditions and the possibility of moving from

one EU country to another after two years’ initial residence.

Two-way benefits

The flow of migrants to the EU also benefits the countries from which they come. Workers sending money home can make a considerable contribution to family incomes, and indirectly to state revenues; they are highly relevant, for instance, in some west African countries like Ghana, Senegal and Mali. Emigration to Europe can also act as a safety valve by reducing local unemployment and easing potential social tensions, especially amongst jobless young people. Returning immigrants bring back with them skills and knowledge which become available for the home country.

The EU is considering different ways of avoiding a ‘brain drain’ of qualified workers from poor countries. One idea is through ‘circular migration’.

This will allow immigrants to come to the EU to work and develop their skills — on condition that they return to their home countries after a specific period of time to make their skills available there. The person concerned could then, if he or she wished, spend another period of time in the EU.

On the other hand, immigrants tend to have a higher educational level than the society they come to. A 2007 OECD study showed that 20% of native people from developed countries have a university degree, compared to the almost 25 % of immigrant workers. If European countries do not have a responsible and established policy of recruitment, migrants run the risk of working in less-skilled functions than their education and losing their skills. ■



No immigration without integration

Discovering hidden talents

A Portuguese non-governmental organisation, the Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS), discovered that immigrant workers attending its language courses often had jobs which did not match their academic qualifications. In particular, it found that a number of workers, mainly with jobs in the construction sector, had medical qualifications. The immigrants, mostly from Russia, Ukraine and Moldova, included general practitioners, paediatricians, surgeons and other specialists.

In association with another voluntary organisation, the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation, the JRS launched a programme for the doctors to get their qualifications recognised. This involved courses at medical school, hospital internships, passing an exam and enrolment in the Portuguese Medical Council. As a result, more than 100 of these doctors are now officially practising medicine throughout Portugal.

A successful immigration policy requires effective integration strategies. EU leaders have agreed a set of common principles for integrating immigrants from outside the Union. These recognise that integration is a two-way process, involving immigrants and local residents in a constructive relationship to build mutual respect and tolerance.

But integration has a practical side. At regional or local levels, EU countries offer immigrants language courses, help in finding a job and a place to live, education for their children and access to healthcare. Other initiatives include the retraining of adult workers, action to prevent discrimination and the promotion of employment for immigrant women.



Immigrant entrepreneurs create jobs and provide new product ideas.

Women from immigrant communities are being integrated into the workforce.



© Corbis

Focus on children and young people

Education and training are essential tools to help immigrants make full use of their professional potential and become active participants in society. This is recognised by EU education and training programmes. Immigrant children and young people often tend to do less well at school than other pupils. Additional efforts are therefore being made to address this. There are also initiatives aimed at helping disadvantaged young people from immigrant communities to integrate more easily into society and a working environment. This is done through educational, sporting and cultural activities.

cohesive society within the clear boundaries set by the law and the common values of the European Union.

One way to do this is to raise awareness among local communities of just how much immigrants contribute to the EU's economic and social development and its cultural diversity. Immigrant entrepreneurs, for instance, create jobs and often contribute new product ideas, flexibility and a real knowledge of customer groups in an increasingly diverse market. Many EU countries have programmes to support entrepreneurs from immigrant and ethnic minority communities. ■

EU countries also provide civic orientation courses, often in the immigrants' own language, to familiarise them with the legal, administrative and cultural practices of their new host country.

Mutual respect and tolerance

The very purpose of integration is to build mutual respect and tolerance, so as to help create a

A little can go a long way

A programme in the Italian city of Turin, with an annual budget of only € 120 000, helped launch nearly 500 new companies run by immigrants between 2000 and 2007. Most were in the construction and services sectors. The survival rate two years on was more than 85 %.

Run by the local office of the National Confederation for Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (CNA), the programme offered a series of services. They included improving immigrants' business and management skills, enhancing their access to finance, and helping them deal with local legal, administrative and fiscal requirements. It also provided advice on insurance and contracts, and offered courses in business Italian.

The success of the programme has led to it being replicated nationwide, with 25 provincial CNA offices across Italy offering similar programmes.



A Spanish coastguard vessel intercepts a fishing boat with migrants near the Canary Islands.

Reducing irregular immigration into the European Union is a priority task. Due to the nature of the phenomenon, precise figures are not available. The European Commission estimates that there are at least 4.5 million illegal immigrants spread across the EU. Other sources suggest higher figures.

Construction, agriculture, domestic work, cleaning and catering are the economic sectors where most illegally residing immigrants find work. EU countries have agreed rules to counter the effect that the availability of illegal work plays in attracting illegal immigrants to them. These include preventive measures, sanctions against employers and an obligation for national authorities to improve their labour inspections.

Each year, the authorities in EU countries apprehend about 500 000 illegal immigrants on their territory. About 40 % of them are sent back to their home country or to the country from which they travelled to the EU.

Reducing illegal immigration

requires a major joint effort by the coastguard and naval services of EU countries to halt the flow and, in a number of cases, to save lives in danger. The European Commission is funding reception centres for immigrants arriving illegally in Greece, Malta, Italy and Spain.

More effective frontier controls

Most illegally-residing immigrants are persons from non-EU countries who enter the EU legally on short-stay visas, but who remain in the Union for economic reasons once their visas have expired ('overstayers'). The best place to stop illegal immigration, therefore, is at the EU's external borders. These have become doubly important since the abolition of internal frontiers — and frontier controls — within the EU. Once inside the EU, illegal

Images of clandestine immigrants crammed into unseaworthy boats making perilous voyages from Africa to Europe grab the headlines and have come to symbolise the phenomenon. Although these journeys represent a small minority of those entering the EU illegally, it

Joint efforts bring results

Frontex is the agency that promotes practical cooperation between the EU countries when it comes to controlling its external frontiers. In 2008 it coordinated more than 25 joint operations on land and sea frontiers, and at EU airports. Frontex has created a common pool of equipment available for EU member states, including more than 100 vessels, 20 aircraft, 25 helicopters and hundreds of items of border control equipment. Over 600 border guards are ready to react at short notice, if an extraordinary crisis crops up at one particular border.

In the joint operations of 2006–07 in the Mediterranean and the Atlantic, between the west African coast and Spain's Canary Islands, about 14 000 immigrants were apprehended and diverted back to their points of departure. Frontex joint patrols between Africa and the Canary Islands involved boats and aeroplanes from Spain and several other EU countries. Senegal and Mauritania also took part in these patrols.

European-wide network of people traffickers dismantled

On a single day in June 2008, police in nine EU countries arrested 75 people suspected of belonging to a ring of people traffickers. The operation was one of the biggest of its kind and involved more than 1 300 police officers. It was coordinated by the European law enforcement agency, Europol.

The target was a network of people smugglers mainly of Iraqi origin (hence the codename 'Operation Baghdad') that had transported to Europe irregular immigrants from Afghanistan, China, Turkey, Bangladesh and Iraq. Europol suspected that each person paid the traffickers about € 10 000.

In parallel, Eurojust, the EU's body for judicial cooperation, helped to issue European arrest warrants. These make it easier for law enforcers in one country to have a suspected criminal arrested in another country.

immigrants can move unchecked to other EU countries.

The obvious solution is tighter checks at official entry points. This is easier said than done, however. About 300 000 people from non-EU countries are already refused entry at the Union's external borders each year on suspicion that they are would-be illegal immigrants. EU funding is available to those EU countries in southern and eastern Europe who have the main responsibility for the Union's land and sea frontiers to ensure that border controls are as efficient and effective as possible.

The EU's aim is to develop an integrated border management strategy which makes it easier for legitimate tourists and other short-stay visitors to enter. Action is also under way to make it more difficult for immigrants to enter the EU illegally by using information technology and biometric features (e.g. fingerprints) for identification. But these are longer-term projects.

Effective but humane repatriation

The return of illegally-residing immigrants to their home countries is a great concern. The Union has been negotiating transfer agreements with a number of source countries or countries of transit. A firm but fair policy on returns is the essential cornerstone of the EU

strategy for dealing with illegal immigration. It provides for voluntary departures rather than forced returns whenever possible.

When sending people back to their home countries, EU member states must ensure that legal procedures are respected, and that the human rights of those being repatriated are not violated. This includes the right to appeal. The EU also wants to cooperate with some source countries to create a more orderly and stable basis for legal migration to the European Union.

Serious consequences

Immigrants entering the EU via clandestine land and sea routes, or those who have acquired false travel documents, often put themselves in the hands of criminal organisations. These include people smugglers, extortion gangs, middlemen with links to the black economy and human traffickers. In some cases, they continue to depend on such criminals after they have arrived in the EU.

EU countries are increasing their police cooperation in order to fight these criminals. They are also trying by different means to make illegal immigration less attractive.

One way of doing this is by introducing legislation against employers who employ illegally-residing

immigrants without health insurance or social protection and often at wages below minimum levels. This kind of 'employment' gives rise to criticism, otherwise largely unfounded, that immigrants are taking jobs away from EU citizens.

Another serious consequence of illegal immigration is the negative impact it has on genuine refugees and asylum-seekers arriving in the EU. Sometimes illegally-residing immigrants submit bogus claims for asylum or refugee status, thus slowing down the processing of real claims for protection. Abusing the asylum system in this way also reinforces the popular perception that many genuine asylum-seekers may be economic migrants seeking to slip into the EU under false pretences. ■



Asylum: a duty to protect

If immigration is a sensitive issue, this is not generally the case for asylum-seekers, who are fleeing persecution, war and conflict. For one thing, the EU and its member countries have a duty to protect them, as set out in its own Charter of Fundamental Rights and other international texts, including the Geneva Convention on the status of refugees. In addition, the number of asylum-seekers in the European Union is small when compared with the number of legal or irregular immigrants. Numbers rose in the period from 1999 to 2003 mainly because of events in Kosovo, Afghanistan and Iraq, but have since fallen back.

However, the number of asylum-seekers arriving in the 27 EU countries is not evenly spread. Because of their geographic location and their small size, Cyprus and Malta take a disproportionate amount. So does Sweden, whose more open policy has made it the preferred asylum destination of refugees from Iraq. In recent years, most asylum applicants have come from Iraq, Russia, Pakistan, Serbia, Somalia, Afghanistan, Turkey, Iran and China.

A first set of rules

The EU adopted a series of regulations and laws related to asylum between 1999 and 2006. They are aimed at ensuring that EU countries

apply similar conditions and equivalent levels of protection for refugees whose applications are being processed. They also cover the fair and efficient dealing with those whose applications are rejected.

EU legislation furthermore includes rules for deciding which EU country is responsible for handling an asylum application. This could be an asylum-seeker's country of entry, the country which issued his or her visa, the country where the asylum-seeker actually is or one where he/she may have a relative. The authorities take the fingerprints of asylum-seekers and use them to prevent people from applying to several EU countries at the same time, or applying in a second EU member state after being refused asylum in a first one ('asylum shopping').

Other EU rules lay down common procedural standards for handling asylum cases and common criteria for deciding who should be granted asylum. They also set conditions for refugees and their families during the application process (can they work? What access to social welfare and healthcare do they have? Do they receive assistance in cash? Or in kind?). A separate law sets out how EU member countries should handle situations where large numbers of people in need of temporary protection arrive at the same time.

The EU also created the European Refugee Fund in 2000 to support and improve member states' efforts to handle asylum applications in a fair, efficient and transparent way.

A more integrated approach to protection

In practice, however, these laws leave each EU country with considerable flexibility in the way they are applied, creating differences in the way asylum-seekers are treated. The aim now is to create a truly common European asylum system, which guarantees asylum-seekers the same treatment and level of protection throughout the EU. This will be achieved by raising common protection standards, enhancing practical cooperation among national asylum administrations and supporting solidarity between EU countries and between the EU and third countries. Priority treatment will also be given to vulnerable refugees such as women and children. ■

New asylum applications, 1999–2008 (EU-27)

1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
380 000	407 000	424 000	421 000	345 000	277 000	235 000	197 000	223 000	238 000

Source: Eurostat.



Sharing responsibilities

Although immigration is a national responsibility for each EU country, the need for more coordinated and common action has increased in recent years.

The existence of the EU's single market makes it necessary for the EU member states to act together in a number of cases. This includes making sure that foreign residents in one country can enjoy the same social security rights as EU citizens if they move to another.

The removal of frontiers within the single market also means that the EU and its members have to assist those countries with heavy responsibilities for controlling arrivals and departures at its external frontiers. Go-it-alone decisions by one EU country, for example, to grant amnesties and to legalise the

stay of irregular immigrants, could undermine the efforts of neighbouring countries to curb illegal immigration.

Cooperation with the countries of origin and transit

Partnership with the countries where immigrants come from or pass through is one of the priorities of the European Union. Closer cooperation can allow the authorities to monitor, assess, steer and manage migration flows in the interest of both the Europeans and the partner countries outside the EU.

In 2005, the EU launched the global approach to migration as an overall framework for this. It is a broad strategy that incorporates various

policy areas into one coherent policy framework, covering subjects related to foreign policy, development and migration. The three main themes are legal migration, migration and development, and the fight against illegal migration. In the initial stage, actions undertaken within the framework of the global approach were focused on Africa and the Mediterranean; they then extended to the neighbours of the EU to the east and south-east.

Looking forward

Immigration is and will remain one of the top 10 preoccupations of European citizens. It is therefore in the interests of the EU and its member countries to show that they are developing an overall strategy to manage immigration for



The EU funds equipment to control the external borders — such as vehicles for the Polish Border Guard.

Financial solidarity

The governments in some EU countries sometimes have to carry out tasks that benefit all the other members. For example, because of their geography, the countries in the south and east also need to protect the borders on behalf of the more northern and western EU countries. As a sign of solidarity, EU leaders have decided to share some of the costs for this by setting up four EU funds with a combined budget of over € 4 billion for the period 2007–13.

- The largest of these is the **External Borders Fund** with a budget of € 1.8 billion. This is distributed among EU countries on the basis of the relative burden each bears for external border control and visa policy. The EU money helps to pay for border-crossing infrastructure, transport equipment for border guards, as well as training and investment in technology.
- The **European Fund for the Integration of Third-country Nationals** helps member states facilitate the integration of immigrants into European societies. The fund promotes intercultural dialogue between immigrants and locals. It also provides language training and teaches immigrants how to adapt to living and working in their new environment.
- With a budget of € 676 million, the **Return Fund** supports the efforts of EU countries to improve the management of the return and resettlement of irregular immigrants. It provides specific assistance for vulnerable groups, and covers return costs, including those of escorts, medical staff and interpreters.
- The **European Refugee Fund**, with a budget of € 628 million for 2007–13, seeks to expand the capacity of asylum systems in EU countries. It also supports efforts to settle refugees and asylum-seekers on a long-term basis and to share the burden of accepting refugees and asylum-seekers more evenly among the member states.

the benefit of all concerned — the EU, its citizens, migrants and source countries — while dealing firmly with its negative aspects, principally illegal inflows.

EU leaders are responding to these concerns. At a summit meeting in October 2008, they adopted a new European Pact on Immigration and Asylum. It gives the basis for a common strategy, enabling EU countries to work together for the positive and proactive management of migratory flows and maintain an overall line in the increasing number of common

rules and strategies. In the pact, EU leaders signed up to five political commitments.

- Legal immigration will be handled in a way that takes account of the priorities, needs and reception capacities of each EU member state. Integration will be encouraged.
- Irregular immigrants will be repatriated to their home country or sent to a country of transit.
- Border controls at the EU's external frontiers will be made more effective.

- An EU-wide framework will be created for handling asylum-seekers.
- The Union will seek partnerships with countries of origin and transit to promote the two-way benefits of immigration (avoiding 'brain drain', arranging controlled circular migration and expanding economic development assistance to these countries). ■



FURTHER READING

The European Commission website offers more detailed information on immigration and asylum at:

ec.europa.eu/justice_home/index_en.htm and

europa.eu/pol/justice/index_en.htm

The Commission has published a *Handbook on integration for policy-makers and practitioners* which is available at:

ec.europa.eu/justice_home/doc_centre/immigration/integration/doc/2007/handbook_2007_en.pdf

Frontex has its own website at:

frontex.europa.eu

Getting in touch with the EU

ONLINE



Information in all the official languages of the European Union is available on the Europa website:
europa.eu

IN PERSON



All over Europe there are hundreds of local EU information centres. You can find the address of the centre nearest you on this website:
europedirect.europa.eu

ON THE PHONE OR BY MAIL



Europe Direct is a service which answers your questions about the European Union. You can contact this service by freephone: **00 800 6 7 8 9 10 11**, or by payphone from outside the EU: +32 22999696, or by electronic mail via **europedirect.europa.eu**

READ ABOUT EUROPE



Publications about the EU are only a click away on the EU Bookshop website:
bookshop.europa.eu

YOU CAN ALSO OBTAIN INFORMATION AND BOOKLETS IN ENGLISH ABOUT THE EUROPEAN UNION FROM

EUROPEAN COMMISSION REPRESENTATIONS

Representation in Ireland

18 Dawson Street
Dublin 2
IRELAND
Tel. +353 16341111
Internet: ec.europa.eu/ireland/
E-mail: eu-ie-info-request@ec.europa.eu

Representation in the United Kingdom

8 Storey's Gate
London SW1P 3AT
UNITED KINGDOM
Tel. +44 2079731992
Internet: ec.europa.eu/uk

Representation in Scotland

9 Alva Street
Edinburgh EH2 4PH
UNITED KINGDOM
Tel. +44 1312252058
Internet: ec.europa.eu/uk

Representation in Wales

2 Caspian Point
Caspian Way
Cardiff CF10 4QQ
UNITED KINGDOM
Tel. +44 2920895020
Internet: ec.europa.eu/uk

Representation in Northern Ireland

74 - 76 Dublin Road, Belfast BT2 7HP
UNITED KINGDOM
Tel. +44 2890240708
Internet: ec.europa.eu/uk

Representation in the United States

2300 M Street, NW – 3rd floor
Washington DC 20037
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
Tel. +202 8629500
Internet: eurunion.org
222 East 41st Street, 20th floor
New York, NY 10017
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
Tel. +212 3713804
Internet: eurunion.org

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT OFFICES

Office in Ireland

European Union House
43 Molesworth Street
Dublin 2
IRELAND
Tel. +353 16057900
Internet: europarl.ie
E-mail: epdublin@europarl.europa.eu

United Kingdom Office

2 Queen Anne's Gate
London SW1H 9AA
UNITED KINGDOM
Tel. +44 2072274300
Internet: www.europarl.org.uk
E-mail: eplondon@europarl.europa.eu

Office in Scotland

The Tun
4 Jackson's Entry
Holyrood Road
Edinburgh EH8 8PJ
UNITED KINGDOM
Tel. +44 1315577866
Internet: www.europarl.org.uk
E-mail: epedinburgh@europarl.europa.eu

There are European Commission and Parliament representations and offices in all the countries of the European Union. The European Commission also has delegations in other parts of the world



An opportunity and a challenge

Migration in the European Union

The European Union has historically attracted millions of immigrants. Most of them come legally, but there are some who do not. Immigration is both an opportunity and a challenge for Europe. Legal immigrants are needed to fill gaps in the EU labour force, as the EU's own population grows older and its birth rate declines. However, the EU needs to curb illegal immigration and cooperate with other countries to arrange the return of irregular immigrants on a voluntary basis. The EU also has a duty to protect genuine asylum-seekers fleeing persecution or serious harm. The aim of European leaders is to devise a common strategy, to help each country to cope with the challenges and to benefit from the opportunities. This is why they have agreed on a European Pact on Migration and Asylum.

