



Overview of query systems on migration and asylum

What is a query system?

A query system is a tool used to collect information on a specific topic in a short timeframe. Registered experts in national authorities can launch a query on national policies, practices, legislation and statistical trends and receive replies quickly to address immediate information needs. The comparative overview of the situation in other countries can serve as a point of reference and the information can be used to revise policies, practices and legislation.

There are four different query systems on migration and asylum which are managed by the European Union Agency for Asylum (EUAA), European Migration Network (EMN), General Directors' Immigration Services Conference (GDISC) and Intergovernmental Consultations on Migration, Asylum and Refugees (IGC).



Key stakeholders


- The **European Union Agency for Asylum (EUAA)** is an EU agency, established in 2011, to assist Member States in the implementation of the Common European Asylum System. As a centre of expertise on asylum, the EUAA provides technical and operational support and training to countries with the aim of establishing a harmonised system in line with EU obligations.
- The **European Migration Network (EMN)** is an European network of migration and asylum experts, composed by all EUMS with the exception of Denmark and seven observer countries: Armenia, Georgia, Moldova, Montenegro, Norway, Serbia and Ukraine. It was established in 2008 and its experts work together to gather objective, policy-relevant, comparable and up-to-date information and knowledge on emerging issues in asylum and migration in Europe. EMN produces reports, studies and policy briefs analysing the development and implementation of policies and legislation. The EMN is coordinated by the European Commission, with the assistance of a service provider.
- The **General Directors' Immigration Services Conference (GDISC)** is an informal network established in 2004 to facilitate practical cooperation in the field of asylum and migration between the immigration services of 34 members. The various forms of cooperation include exchanging experiences, developing best practices and informal meetings between the General Directors. External stakeholders, such as the EUAA, FRONTEX, ICMPD or IGC, are regularly invited to participate (depending on thematic focus).
- The **Intergovernmental Consultations on Migration, Asylum and Refugees (IGC)** is an informal, non-decision-making forum for intergovernmental information exchange and policy debate on issues of relevance to the management of international migratory flows. Created in 1985, the IGC currently brings together 19 Participating States and Participating Organisations such as the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the International Organization for Migration and the EU.



The scope of the query systems

The four different query systems have a clearly-defined scope, as seen in the table. Experts in national administrations can choose the forum which addresses the topic of the query. To avoid a duplication of efforts and responder burden, the EUAA, EMN, GDISC and IGC first verify if the information already exists in one of the databases.



				
Thematic scope	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> International protection (including asylum, reception and country of origin information) Temporary protection Citizenship and statelessness Integration (with a focus on the content of protection) Resettlement, humanitarian admission programmes and complementary pathways Irregular migration (including asylum-related aspects of detention) Trafficking in human beings Return and readmission (only asylum-related aspects) International cooperation on migration Identity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Legal migration International protection (including asylum) Temporary protection Citizenship and statelessness Integration (with a focus on the content of protection) Resettlement and humanitarian admission programmes Borders and visas Irregular migration and people smuggling Trafficking in human beings Return and readmission International cooperation on migration Identity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Legal migration International protection (including asylum and country of origin information) Citizenship and statelessness Integration Resettlement and humanitarian admission programmes Borders and visas Irregular migration Trafficking in human beings Return International cooperation on migration Identity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Legal migration International protection (including asylum, refugees and country of origin information) Citizenship and statelessness Integration Resettlement and humanitarian admission programmes Borders and visas Irregular migration and people smuggling Trafficking in human beings Detention and alternatives to detention (ATDs) Return and readmission International cooperation on migration Identity Technology Children and youth
Contributing countries	27 EU Member States + 4 EFTA Member States (CH, IS, LI, NO) = 31 countries	27 EU Member States + 2 EFTA Member States (CH, NO); CH only for queries launched within the EMN Return Expert Group (REG) = 29 countries	27 EU Member States + 3 EFTA Member States (CH, IS, NO) + 2 Western Balkans States (BiH, MK) + UK + TK = 34 countries	12 EU Member States (AT, BE, DE, DK, EL, ES, FI, IE, NL, PL, PT, SE) + 2 EFTA Member States (CH, NO) + UK + 4 non-European States (AU, CA, NZ, USA) = 19 countries
Standard response time <small>(Deadline applied when launching a query. All systems also operate urgent queries.)</small>	2-4 weeks	2-4 weeks	10 working days	2-4 weeks
Dissemination policy	Queries on country of origin information are public, while queries on other topics are usually restricted to national asylum and reception administrations. Restricted queries may be shared with external stakeholders with explicit approval of the respondents.	Public ¹ or restricted in limited cases (EMN REG queries) to EMN NCPs, EC, EU agencies (Frontex and the EUAA) and national asylum and migration administrations.	Restricted to national asylum and migration administrations within the network.	Restricted to national asylum and migration administrations.
Format of query reports	Depending on the type of query: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Compilation of replies;² Report with the main findings from the query; or Summary report with the main findings from the query and additional contextual information (e.g. data and the situation in the country of origin). 	Depending on the thematic scope: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Compilation of replies² (both public and limited); Compilation of replies with a brief summary; or EMN informs with the results of information gathered and analysed from several queries. 	Compilation of replies ² ; On request: VC (hosted by the GDISC Secretariat) for a direct exchange on the results between the experts involved.	Depending on the thematic scope: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Compilation of replies;² or Compilation of replies with a summary of the main findings and additional relevant information when applicable.
Repository of queries + reports	EUAA Query Portal (restricted)	Public EMN website and restricted area on EMN website (depending on the type of query).	Restricted area on GDISC website.	Restricted area on IGC website (general and thematic areas).
Specific features to consider when launching a query	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Specific focus and expertise in asylum/international protection and reception field. According to needs, summary reports with main highlights and trends, statistical information and country of origin background Generally, query results are restricted, unless consent is provided 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Publicly available results of a query, unless respondents indicate otherwise. In the latter case, two compilations are created, one restricted and one public. Wide thematic scope. Automated compilations of replies available at any time. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A query can be directed to specific expert groups on the topics of IT, legal, prognosis, communication, security or general enquiries. Wide thematic scope. Informal exchange in terms of queries on national practices in certain areas. Query results are restricted. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Perspectives of non-European countries (Australia, Canada, New Zealand, USA) on national legal frameworks and practices. Query reports are restricted. Wide thematic scope. Official information validated by IGC States only.
Contact details	queries@euaa.europa.eu (policy queries, general issues + access) reception@euaa.europa.eu (queries on reception), exclusion@euaa.europa.eu (queries on exclusion) Dublin@euaa.europa.eu (queries on the Dublin procedure) coiportal@euaa.europa.eu (queries on COI) vulnerablegroups@euaa.europa.eu (queries on vulnerabilities) resettlement.humanitarianadmission@euaa.europa.eu (queries on resettlement and humanitarian admission)	EMN National Contact Point in a respective country (for queries) or adolfo.sommarribas@uni.lu , emn@icf.com (for general issues)	GDISC National Contact Point in a respective country (for queries) or gdisc-secretariat@bamf.bund.de (GDISC Secretariat for queries and general issues)	admin@igc.ch (for queries and general issues)

¹ Member States may opt to have their response restricted to EMN NCPs only and not made available for wider dissemination.

² Compilation of replies by questions and by responding country.