

INFO FLASH 30/08

Over the past month, the European Commission has published the results of an assessment on Roma integration at national level, while many agencies issued press release on migration – namely FRA, EASO and FRONTEX.

POLICO.eu has covered extensively the talks on migration before and during the ministerial meeting that was held in Paris. Themes ranges from return to bilateral cooperation.

EU INSTITUTIONS

European Commission

(30/08) Roma inclusion: More effort needed to improve access to schooling and employment. Today the Commission [has published](#) the results of an assessment that looks at how Member States are implementing their national Roma integration strategies. The assessment highlights how the situation of Roma has changed since 2011. Overall, the picture is slowly improving, for instance there is now greater participation of Roma in early childhood education and a declining rate of early school-leavers. On the other hand, the assessment also shows that as many as 80% of Roma are still at risk of poverty; although this figure is lower than in 2011. First Vice-President Frans Timmermans said: "The EU is built on the values of tolerance and equality. These values are not yet enjoyed by every EU citizen, and that is not acceptable. Member States have to accelerate their efforts to improve Roma integration if we are to put an end to the prejudices, segregation and discrimination still felt by Roma today."

European Parliament

European Council / Council of the EU

Others

(22/08) FRA - Member States still struggling with migration situation. The migrant situation continues to challenge a number of EU Member States, according to the latest issue of FRA's monthly report on migration-related issues. Some reception facilities are in a poor state, and the lack of resources is testing Member States responses, putting migrant children particularly at risk. Read the [August 2017 monthly data collection highlights](#). Full press release [here](#).

(22/08) European Central Bank - Inequality and macroeconomic policies. Intervention by Vitor Costancio, Vice-President of the ECB. "It is indeed a pleasure to participate in this timely discussion on the distributional impact of macroeconomic policies. For too long, the distribution of income and wealth was almost ignored by macroeconomics. As recently recalled by Krusell, this is perhaps due to the "presumption in the literature that the

distribution does not matter in the determination of aggregates”.[1] In the 1990s, some studies underlined the end of the Kuznets’ phase of declining inequality and demonstrated that the trade-off between equality and growth no longer seemed to hold empirically.[2] The analysis of distribution in macro theory was however not pursued. A possible second reason for the neglect, could have been that income distribution was not a macroeconomic concern, as it was mostly explained by micro factor price theory with the consequence that at the macro level, “trickle-down economics” would be the right approach to economic policy.” Full speech [here](#).

(14/08) Frontex - Migratory flows in July: Numbers fall in Italy, remain high in Spain. In July, there were 15 400 detections of illegal border crossings on the four main migratory routes into the EU as the number of migrants arriving in Italy fell by more than half from the previous month. Spain continued to see the heaviest migratory pressure since 2009. The total number of detections in the first seven months of 2017 fell by two-thirds from the same period of last year to 127 100. Full press release [here](#).

(11/08) FRA - Help mobilise youth to ensure their voices count. Across many parts of Europe the face of democracy as we have known it is changing. We need to ensure today’s youth engage and are heard in political processes, says the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights ahead of International Youth Day on 12 August. This is especially vital at a time when the fundamental rights that affect us all are under threat. Full press release [here](#).

(10/08) EASO - EASO and the Italian Ombudsperson for Children and Adolescents are working together to strengthen the protection system for unaccompanied minors. At the end of July 2017, the European Asylum Support Office and the Italian authorities signed the Amendment to the EASO Operating Plan to Italy. EASO has started cooperating with the Italian Ombudsperson for Children and Adolescents (Autorità garante per l’infanzia e l’adolescenza) implementing further support measures related to the guardianship system in Italy. Italy is one of the main receiving countries for unaccompanied children in Europe. More than 12 500 children have arrived to Italy via the Central Mediterranean route in the first seven months of 2017, following a total of almost 26 000 arrivals of unaccompanied minors registered in 2016. Full article [here](#).

(8/08) EASO - EASO’s Hotline in Italy for the EU Relocation Programme. EASO’S Hotline in Italy creates communication opportunities and explains the benefits of the EU Relocation Programme for the persons in need of international protection currently residing on the Italian territory. The European Asylum Support Office (EASO), as part of the Communication Campaign for the EU Relocation Programme, has launched an Info Hotline, in an effort to inform persons in need of international protection, coming from eligible countries of origin, about the possibilities of applying for the EU Relocation Programme, as well as emphasizing the main message that Relocation is the safe and legal way to move from Italy to another European country! The purpose of the Hotline is to provide accurate and prompt information to questions addressed by persons in need of international protection regarding the procedure to access the EU Relocation Programme. Also, the Hotline experts may offer information on the status of their application, and with regard to the family reunification procedure for potential asylum seekers. Full press release [here](#).

(3/08) Eurofund - Labour mobility in Europe during the Great Recession. The Great Recession had lasting effects on European labour markets, both in terms of employment levels and structure. Not only did employment rates drop significantly – taking years to return to

pre-crisis levels, with some countries not fully recovered yet – but the crisis also accelerated structural change and generalised a pattern of job polarisation across Europe. In other words, we witnessed a relative decline in mid-paid jobs compared to those at the top and bottom of the occupational structure. But what happened to workers who lost their jobs during the recession, beyond the headline unemployment statistics? Did they remain unemployed or were they able to find other jobs? And what kind of jobs? Were the opportunities for upward occupational mobility affected by the crisis? Full article [here](#).

(1/08) EMA - EMA encourages tailored development of medicines for older people. The European Medicines Agency (EMA) is inviting comments from the public on a [reflection paper on how medicine developers can better address the needs of older people](#) who take medicines. In general, older people are the highest users of medicines. According to [Eurostat](#), they are expected to make up almost a third of all Europeans by 2050, and they take more medicines than the rest of the population. Yet, medicines are rarely developed or packaged to take into account their specific needs. For example, some older people can face challenges such as difficulty opening boxes or bottles, reading instructions, swallowing or breaking tablets and capsules, which can result in medicines not being taken as intended, medication errors and ultimately a reduced quality of life. Full press release [here](#).

[COUNCIL OF EUROPE](#)

[CIVIL SOCIETY](#)

(29/08) POLITICO.eu - Macron: Fighting ‘Islamist terrorism’ core foreign policy goal. French President Emmanuel Macron [said](#) on Tuesday that fighting terrorism is his administration’s top priority. In the president’s annual speech to France’s ambassadors, Macron said: “The fight against Islamist terrorism is the priority of France’s foreign policy. France’s security is the main purpose of our diplomacy.” In the speech, Macron outlined a greater role for France to play in battling terror networks. “I want France to propose solutions and initiatives when there are new crises,” he said. France’s other top foreign policy initiatives include increasing foreign aid, fighting climate change and curbing or addressing migration, Macron said. Full article [here](#).

(28/08) POLITICO.eu - EU, African states map (blurry) approach to migration crisis. At a summit in the French capital on Monday, frontline EU and African countries signed off Monday on a broadly defined roadmap for managing migrant flows across the Mediterranean, with calls to boost European support for border control in Africa. But leaders of the four EU states and three African ones stopped short of saying Europe would start to process asylum seekers on African soil, or pledging new financial aid for countries on migrant routes. Italian Prime Minister Paolo Gentiloni, whose country has become the main arrival point for migrants crossing the Mediterranean, struck the most skeptical note after the talks at the Elysée presidential palace in Paris. Warning against “miracle solutions” to what he called the “structural problem” of migration, he urged other EU nations to do much more to help his government tackle a problem that affects Italy disproportionately. “I am suspicious of those who promise you a miracle solution to these issues,” Gentiloni said. Full article [here](#).

(28/08) POLITICO.eu - Antonio Tajani: EU should reach ‘Turkey-like’ migrant deal with Libya. European Parliament President Antonio Tajani has called on EU leaders to set aside €6 billion in financial aid for Libya to stop migrants from entering Europe via the central

Mediterranean. “Europe gave Turkey €6 billion to close the Balkan route. Now it’s the moment to do the same with Libya,” he told [La Repubblica on Monday](#). The interview came ahead of a meeting in Paris between four leading EU countries (France, Germany, Italy and Spain) and key African countries in the migration crisis (Libya, Chad and Niger). The money would be used “to promote an agreement between Tripoli and Benghazi [the two rival Libyan governments]” and to neighboring Niger and Chad to help them close the Libyan corridor and to set up registration centers, run by the U.N., where migrants could be fed and sheltered while their claims for asylum are screened. Full article [here](#).

(27/08) POLITICO.eu - Angela Merkel defends open border migration policy. German Chancellor Angela Merkel defended her [controversial decision to admit over a million refugees in 2015](#), and insisted she had no regrets, saying she would take the big decisions “the same way again.” In an interview [published in the Welt am Sonntag newspaper](#) four weeks before Germany’s September 24 federal election, Merkel said she had decided to open borders to migrants fleeing war and turmoil in Syria, Iraq and Afghanistan because the situation was “extraordinary.” At the time, Germany [took in more than 1 million refugees](#). Full article [here](#).

(24/08) Bertelsmann Stiftung - Clear Progress for Integration of Muslims in Western Europe. The integration of Muslim immigrants in Western Europe is making clear progress. By the second generation at the latest, the majority have entered mainstream society. This is evident in the findings of the Bertelsmann Stiftung's Religion Monitor 2017, which investigated the language competence, education, working life and interreligious contacts of Muslims in France, the UK, Austria, Germany and Switzerland. The successful integration is all the more notable because none of these five countries offer consistently good opportunities for participation, and Muslims encounter open rejection from about one fifth of the population. Full press release [here](#).

(13/08) POLITICO.eu - De Maizière: Europe needs stricter visa policy to aid migrant deportations. German Interior Minister Thomas de Maizière called on Europe to toughen its visa policy toward countries that do not take back their own nationals should their asylum applications fail in the EU. Speaking to German paper [Welt am Sonntag](#), de Maizière said Germany should be forthright in making clear distinctions between people who qualify for international protection and those who should be deported. “It would be fatal if a constitutional, clean distinction between people who need protection in our country and those for whom that is not the case did not carry any consequences,” the minister said. “A country that doesn’t take back its citizens can’t expect us to go out of our way to handle visa applications from their ruling class in a particularly friendly way,” he added. De Maizière’s remarks come as [Italy renews its push](#) to allocate Libya and other parts of Africa with additional resources to stem migration flows across the Mediterranean. Full press release [here](#).

(5/08) POLITICO.eu - Refugees held in Libya face inhumane conditions. EU diplomats. Sanitary conditions in refugee detention centers in Libya are severely lacking, according to a report drafted by European Union officials and [seen by German magazine Der Spiegel](#). The conditions are in line with expectations — poor sanitary conditions, insufficient space and hygiene to hold more than 1,000 refugees in detention,” according to the report EU diplomats sent to Brussels following their visit to Tarek al-Sika detention center in Tripoli earlier this year. The small area dedicated to distributing medication was a sad sight,” it added. According to the report, many refugees who EU diplomats spoke to said they had been held captive at the center for several months, some for more than a year. Many reported

having lost essential possessions — money, cell phones, identification papers — by the time they reached Libya. Full article [here](#).

PUBLICATIONS

LSE - [Evidence from Denmark: How EU immigration can benefit the welfare state](#)

LSE - [Why are younger voters less likely to back populist politics?](#)

The Guardian - [If the German left wants to succeed, it must offer more than Merkel's status quo](#)