

# Interreg response to migration-related challenges Network

**News** March 2021

## A Call for Greater Unity over EU Migration Policy

During this week's European Council summit, leaders are expected to discuss EU-Turkey relations and revisit conclusions from the December summit in which they reaffirmed the development of a cooperative relationship on migration issues. As well as that, last Thursday marked the fifth anniversary of the EU-Turkey deal, which EU leaders may decide to relaunch.



On Saturday, in anticipation of the European Council, ministers from Greece, Cyprus, Spain, Malta and Italy met in Athens, calling on the EU to take a stronger stance towards Turkey and urging the other EU Member States to share the burden of migration. The management of the arrival of migrants was also the topic of debate during an informal meeting of the foreign and home affairs ministers earlier this month. The Council highlighted the need to pursue a balanced approach that takes into consideration all relevant aspects of migration policy to support comprehensive, balanced, and mutually beneficial partnerships, with a need for more coherent, strategic, flexible and focused EU funding.

The EU is also yet to reach a final deal on the new Pact on Migration and Asylum, which was announced in September to improve and speed up procedures and ensure greater sharing of responsibility and solidarity between Member States.

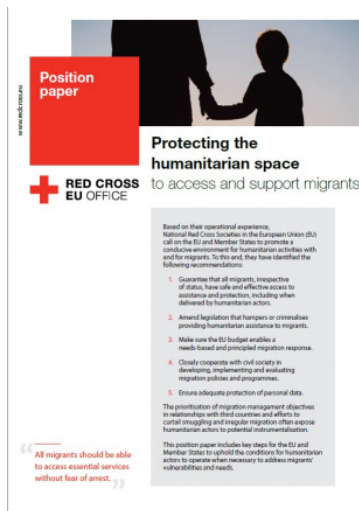
[Read more on europeanmovement.eu](https://europeanmovement.eu)

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## EU Strategy on the Rights of the Child and the European Child Guarantee

On March 24th, the European Commission presented the [EU Strategy on the Rights of the Child and the European Child Guarantee](#) - a new comprehensive EU policy framework to ensure the protection of rights of all children, and secure access to basic services for vulnerable children, also with a migrant background and provenance.

## The Red Cross EU Office recently released a new position paper of entitled **Protecting the humanitarian space to access and support migrants.**



The European Union (EU) and its Member States are increasingly relying on humanitarian actors to address the consequences of current policy choices on the vulnerability of migrants. However, the space for civil society actors to provide them with support in accordance with humanitarian principles has been significantly compromised in recent years. National Red Cross Societies in the EU would like to remind Member States of their commitments to ensure that staff and volunteers in different countries are able to provide humanitarian assistance to all migrants based solely on needs, and to support their access to services as well as their obligations in this regard. With the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration, Member States have reaffirmed their responsibility to uphold migrants' access to essential

services, regardless of their status. When they are unable to do so, Member States need to facilitate the work of humanitarian actors. Despite this, National Red Cross Societies increasingly experience challenges to act in accordance with their fundamental principles when delivering services and supporting all migrants in accessing the necessary support to ensure their safety, dignity, protection and well-being.

National Red Cross Societies in the EU thus make the following recommendations to the EU and Member States to secure a conducive environment for humanitarian actors to address migrants' vulnerabilities and needs, as well as mitigate the risks they face.

1. Guarantee that all migrants, irrespective of status, have safe and effective access to assistance and protection, including when delivered by humanitarian actors.
2. Amend legislation that hampers or criminalises providing humanitarian assistance to migrants.
3. Make sure the EU budget enables a needs-based and principled migration response.
4. Closely cooperate with civil society in developing, implementing and evaluating migration policies and programmes.
5. Ensure adequate protection of personal data.

These recommendations are elaborated in the position paper both enclosed and available for [download](#) on the website of the Red Cross EU Office.

[Read more on redcross.eu»](#)

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## Greece: "All children have the right to go to school. Do not take that away from them"

33 civil society organisations, including Destination Unknown members, call for children in migration's access to education...

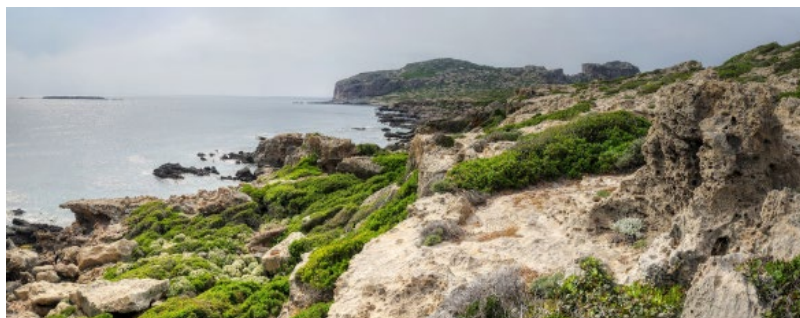
[Read more on destination-unknown.org»](#)



Source: destination-unknown.org

## The Union's external borders: a European debate revisited

The management of the European Union's external borders is the subject of passionate debate in the European Parliament hemicycle and in many different media in Europe. It



Source: robert-schuman.eu

also features in a decision made by the European Court of Justice (CJEU) on December 17th 2020 stating that Hungary had been violating European law by turning back migrants as of 2015.

Recently the issue of European cooperation in the protection of external borders has once again come to the fore. These debates are taking place just as Frontex is in full "metamorphosis", What are the next developments and challenges for the management of EU external borders?

[Read more on robert-schuman.eu»](http://robert-schuman.eu)

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## News from Interreg “Migration” Projects



**2 Seas Mers Zeeën**  
**SIREE**  
European Regional Development Fund

**Nobody said that changing the world through communication would be easy, but we are giving it a try!**

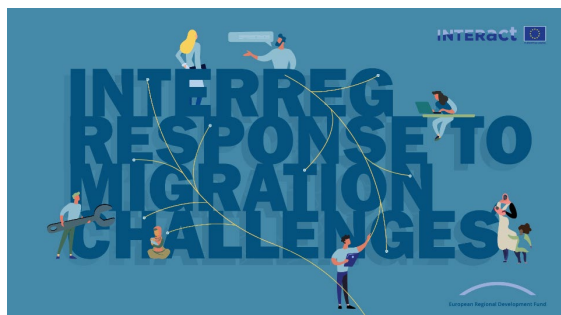
“We Webinar” is a FREE online [SIREE](#) event that offers practical advice on how to drive action in communities with a migration background through effective communication.

JOIN THE WEBINAR ON 8 April 2021.  
[Read more here»](#)



## Publication

### New publication on “Interreg response to migration challenges”



The publication ‘Interreg response to migration challenges’ offers an overview and evidence of Interreg’s contribution to migration-related challenges through 18 symbolic and outstanding project stories and serves as an inspiration for future actions.

[Read more here»](#)

## Recent Articles

- [Mental health support for children on the move](#)
- [New resource to help ensure the refugee compact works for children](#)
- [Greece: Transfer Refugees and Asylum seekers to Safety on Mainland](#)

## Key Texts

- [New Pact on Migration and Asylum - September 2020](#)
- [European Council Conclusions - December 2020](#)
- [EP report human rights protection and the EU external migration policy - November 2020](#)

