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**NOTE**

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From:	Commission services
To:	Delegations
Subject:	Operationalization of the Pact – Action plans for strengthening comprehensive migration partnerships with priority countries of origin and transit Draft Action Plan: Egypt

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Delegations will find attached a draft action plan for Egypt prepared by the Commission Services.

The Commission would very much appreciate that the text of the draft action plan be handled with discretion.

## Draft Action Plan: Egypt

### Overall EU Objectives – Lines to Take

- Egypt and the EU are long-standing partners in the Southern Neighbourhood connected by history, geography, and a wide range of shared strategic objectives. The shared interests include trade and investments, action on climate, cooperation on energy, security and counter terrorism. Egypt is among the EU neighbours with the largest population (some 108 million; third largest in Africa) with a very young and growing demographic (one third under the age of 24) creating both challenges and opportunities for sustainable development.
- The EU-Egypt Association Agreement (in force since 2004) is the legal foundation of EU-Egypt relations. The EU-Egypt Partnership Priorities set the political framework of the partnership until 2027, underlining the importance of commitment to respect human rights, and organised around three main areas: ‘Sustainable Modern Economy and Social Development’, ‘Foreign Policy’, and ‘Enhancing Stability’; this last includes migration. High-level political dialogues and numerous bilateral visits, including at the highest political level, illustrate the political commitment to advance this partnership.
- On migration, the EU stands ready to continue supporting Egypt in its efforts to manage its land and sea borders with a view to preventing irregular departures, and to host large numbers of migrants and refugees. The establishment of a single, sustainable national asylum system is among the key priorities.
- This area of work with Egypt builds on years of policy dialogue and cooperation. The European Council Conclusions of October 2021 mentioned Egypt among the countries requiring support for their Syrian refugee population.
- Egypt is an important EU partner also in regional affairs, such as the Middle East Peace Process, and a key player in multilateral organisations such as the African Union and the League of Arab States.

### Goals for managing migration and addressing forced displacement – Lines to Take

#### Protection and Forced Displacement

- The EU recognises that Egypt is a country of destination as well as transit and acknowledges the challenges of hosting a large number of migrants and refugees in particular in urban areas. The EU counts on Egypt to reinforce its efforts in fostering social cohesion through social and economic integration of refugees and asylum seekers, the protection of vulnerable migrants, and developing the child protection system.
- Protection services, safe access to quality education and health services for all refugees and asylum seekers are among the most pressing needs, besides a lack of livelihood opportunities. The EU encourages Egypt to extend its national social safety programmes to refugees and asylum seekers and promote the inclusion of all refugee and asylum-seeking children, regardless of nationality or language, into the national education system.
- The socio-economic vulnerability of migrants, refugees and asylum seekers present in Egypt has been aggravated by the consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic. Under the IOM “Regional Response to Covid-19 in North African Countries” for the most vulnerable populations, the EU has allocated €2.85 million for activities supporting the protection and resilience of migrants and host communities in Egypt.
- The EU will continue to provide humanitarian assistance in order to address the needs of refugees and asylum seekers. In 2021 and 2022, the Commission provided humanitarian assistance of €5 million per year. In 2022, an additional €1 million was provided to strengthen the COVID-19 response (€6 million total in 2022). Since 2015, the Commission has provided €32.9 million of humanitarian funding to refugees and asylum seekers in Egypt.
- The EU supports Egypt’s efforts to develop a legal and technical framework of an effective national asylum system. To this end, the EU will continue providing financial support under the Regional Development and Protection Programme - RDPP (via both the protection and development pillars) and the regional UNHCR-led intervention “Durable solutions for

Refugee Unaccompanied and Separated Children (Libya and Egypt) and Family Reunification”.

- The EU Asylum Agency Roadmap for Egypt, focusing on asylum and protection capacity-building, was extended until 31 January 2024.

#### **Root causes of irregular migration and forced displacement**

- In line with the Economic and Investment Plan for the Southern Neighbourhood, the EU will continue implementing actions to support the post-pandemic socio-economic recovery and address the root causes of irregular migration and forced displacement, including through:
  - the creation of economic opportunities by way of inclusive economic growth programmes, job creation programme, strengthening innovation capacities among Egyptian SMEs and entrepreneurs, blending operation on access to finance, specific support to agriculture SMEs and rural development;
  - improving living conditions, including access to health and sustainable housing and community development programs, promoting integrated local development at community level, particularly for the disadvantaged groups residing in informal settlements in urban areas;
  - supporting the Technical and Vocational Education and Training Reform, improving the structure and performance of the TVET system to better respond to Egypt's socio-economic needs, boost employability of youth, and increasing the country's competitiveness.

#### **Migration governance and management**

- The EU stands ready to support Egypt in maintaining its capacity to prevent irregular departures by sea, as well as to strengthen the control of its border with Libya (irregular departures) and Sudan (irregular arrivals). This is of particular importance in light of a six-fold increase of irregular arrivals of Egyptian nationals to the EU in 2021 (9 219), of which over 90% to Italy, mostly via Libya. During the first five months of 2022, more than 3 500 Egyptians reached Italy, which is close to four times as many as in the same period in 2021 and at least thirty times more than in the same period in 2020. Egyptians are the first nationality of migrants irregularly arriving in Italy so far in 2022.
- The Commission is currently developing an action in support of border management (search and rescue and border surveillance at land and sea borders) in close coordination with Egyptian authorities. A total funding of €80 million is envisaged, to be implemented in a two-phased approach: €23 million in 2022 for maritime border surveillance equipment, €57 million in 2023 for further equipment to be identified.
- Further cooperation in the areas of border management, and the fight against migrant smuggling and trafficking in human beings, is addressed through UNODC-implemented capacity building action. This regional programme aims at stepping up efforts in the North Africa region to combat both migrant smuggling and human trafficking, focusing on the regional dimension of the fight against smugglers and traffickers, while strengthening national criminal justice capacities and upholding the rights of migrants, refugees, asylum seekers and vulnerable groups.

#### **Return, Readmission, Reintegration**

- The EU welcomes Egypt's commitment to taking back its own nationals who do not have the right to stay in the EU, even though return figures have been regularly decreasing since 2016.
- The EU stands ready to continue supporting voluntary returns from Egypt to the countries of origin, as the preferred option of return, as well as the capacity of Egyptian institutions to sustainably reintegrate its own citizens after they have returned. To this end, under the new action on “Supporting sustainable Protection, Return and Reintegration in North Africa”, technical assistance is envisaged to support relevant government structures.
- The EU looks forward to strengthening cooperation with Egypt to ensure that the rights of victims of trafficking are guaranteed in the context of returns and that the victims can benefit from specific and adapted assistance and protection, including specific guarantees

for children and other vulnerable groups.

### Legal migration

- The EU will step up efforts to implement mutually beneficial mobility activities which promote circular migration, notably for higher education students, but also for staff and researchers and for workers equipped with different levels of skills and qualifications. The Erasmus+ and Horizon Europe programmes are key tools that can be deployed by the EU.
- The EU is ready to work together with Member States to deepen cooperation with Egypt on legal migration. The recognition of qualifications and skills and increased job opportunities will be of particular importance in fostering legal migration.
- Egypt was identified as one of the three priority countries to conclude a Talent Partnership in Commission's Communication on "Attracting skills and talent to the EU".
- The work towards a Talent Partnership will build upon successful pilot projects developed with Egypt in recent years, through the NDICI-Global Europe and the Migration Partnership Facility. This partnership will ensure mutually beneficial results for Egypt, Member States, business communities on both sides, and all individuals involved.
- The EU and its Member States will continue to work with Egyptian authorities on the THAMM programme. Consultations for the operationalisation of the Talent Partnerships will take place during the second semester of 2022. A new multi-country legal migration programme is planned to be adopted by the end of 2022.

### Whole of route/regional cooperation

- As a destination of mixed migration movements, Egypt has a leading role in international, Arab and African affairs, including on migration issues. This has been demonstrated by the Joint Platform for Migrants and Refugees launched in September 2021 by the Egyptian Minister of Foreign Affairs in collaboration with the United Nations.
- Egypt is an important partner in the context of the Khartoum Process, which aims to establish continuous dialogue for enhanced cooperation on migration and mobility amongst the countries along the migration route between the Horn of Africa and Europe.
- Cooperation between Egypt and other countries along the Central Mediterranean migration route, in particular Libya, is of particular urgency in light of a dramatic increase of irregular arrivals of Egyptian nationals to the EU (Italy).

### Measures

- **Political engagement:** The implementation of the EU-Egypt partnership and Association Agreement is organized under thematic subcommittees. The dedicated subcommittee on migration remains the main institutional meeting, leading up to the Association Committee and Association Council. In line with the EU-Egypt Partnership Priorities, migration is among the priorities for engagement in high-level meetings, visits and political dialogues.
- **EU-Egypt Migration Dialogue** is the main policy engagement and cooperation framework in the area of migration. The dialogue is based on Terms of Reference agreed by EU and Egypt in 2017 and covers all migration-related issues in a holistic and balanced approach, to establish joint initiatives addressing migration challenges in the short and long term. The areas of engagement reflect EU priorities as identified under the New Pact on Migration and Asylum as well as Egypt's interests and needs. The Third Migration Dialogue took place in Cairo on 16 November 2021, after rounds in 2017 and 2019. A fourth meeting/round is expected in the second half of 2023.
- Migration Dialogues are followed by **Senior Official Missions** allowing for more detailed discussions on the different strands of the Terms of Reference.
- **Local coordination and cooperation:** The **EU-Member States Migration Roundtable** established in 2020 is a quarterly meeting to discuss developments/exchange information and steer a common approach on migration in Egypt from an EU and Member States perspective. One of the main outputs of the Migration Roundtable has been the submission to the EU Heads of Mission of a common position on the areas of cooperation with Egypt.

- **Cooperation with EU agencies:**
  - The **EUAA** is implementing the EUAA-Egypt “Roadmap for cooperation 2021-2023” which was official endorsed by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on 26 January 2021. Due to delays related to COVID-19 pandemic, the duration of the Roadmap has been extended until 31 December 2024. The aim is to support national authorities in the establishment of legislation, institutions and systems leading, in the long term, to effective asylum procedures in Egypt with capacity building activities.  
Egypt is also an active participant in the regional activities of the agency’s Regional Pilot Project for North Africa and Niger, developed under the Regional Development and Protection Programme (RDPP) North Africa and hosted in this context the first Regional Conference in Cairo (12-13 October 2021). The second regional activity will take place on 14-15 June 2022 in Italy; Egypt will participate.
  - **FRONTEX** considers Egypt a key strategic country for both migration management and security. A Management Board mandate to negotiate a working arrangement with Egypt is in place since 2007, but Egypt has not yet signalled a willingness to enter into structured cooperation. Joint return operations coordinated by Frontex are supported on the ground by a European Return Liaison Officer (EURLO). Deployment of a Frontex Liaison Officer (FLO) to Egypt is not envisaged in the short term.
  - **EUROPOL** considers Egypt among priority partners to conclude Working Arrangements. Egypt is also among the eight countries covered by the Council mandate issued in 2018, asking the Commission to start negotiations on an international Agreement enabling the exchange of personal data between Europol and Egypt. While Egypt has so far shown little interest in either process, Egypt has expressed an interest in cooperating with EUROPOL and is considering the deployment of a liaison officer.
- A **European Migration Liaison Officer (EMLO)** was selected for deployment to Egypt in 2019, but Egyptian authorities did not agree with the creation of the post in the Delegation and deployment was put on hold. Given the current positive momentum in the relationship with Egyptian authorities, the Commission is considering relaunching the selection process for an EMLO after consultation with the Egyptian authorities.
- The **EU Immigration Liaison Officers Network** is developing a project in Egypt along with other African countries to support safe, orderly and regular migration through the promotion of legal pathways to the EU.
- **Funding from the EU budget under Multiannual Financial Framework 2014-2020:**  
Egypt benefits from the EU Emergency Trust Fund for Africa – North Africa Window (EUTF-NoA), with a total of nearly €91 million in bilateral and regional actions, including the bilateral package of €60 million “Enhancing the response to Migration Challenges in Egypt” (ERMCE). The latter package comprises seven projects which aim to boost job opportunities in areas prone to migration, creating employment and building skills of young people, as well as supporting labour-intensive infrastructure development in cities hosting migrants, and other actions (SMEs, skills, health-care) for areas with a high concentration of migrants. All seven projects are currently under implementation.
- **Funding from the EU budget under Multiannual Financial Framework 2021-2027:**  
Migration is primarily addressed via the Multi-Country Migration Programme for the Southern Neighbourhood.  
**The draft bilateral Multi-Annual Indicative Programme** for the period 2021-2027 highlights the priorities for cooperation through financial assistance, which covers green and sustainable development, human development, economic resilience and prosperity building through green and digital transition, social cohesion and rule of law. Interventions on the root causes of irregular migration are often embedded in programmes mainly addressing other sectors, such as education, health, technical and vocational training, with a focus on areas prone to irregular migration and areas hosting refugees/migrants communities.
- **The draft Multi-Country Migration Programme for the Southern Neighbourhood** includes Egypt and provides a flexible source of funding to respond to changing needs

and routes.

It will include funding for protection to those in need; support to migration governance and management, including border management; fostering readmission, return and reintegration; and providing legal pathways and will focus on North Africa. Under this programme, Egypt will benefit from a package of €160 million, half of which will go to support in the area of border management, while the other half will go to support in the area of protection in particular, but also legal migration, returns and reintegration, and fight against smuggling and trafficking. For 2021 and 2022 the EU intends to dedicate to Egypt €23 million for the protection of migrants and refugees and €23 million for border management. Egypt will also benefit from multi-country actions worth €60 million in total for returns and reintegration (specific amount for Egypt to be determined), and €28 million in total for legal migration (specific amount for Egypt to be determined).

Other EU instruments, notably the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF), the Border Management and Visa Instrument (BMVI), and the Internal Security Fund (ISF) may under strict conditions provide complementary funding opportunities for the external dimension of migration.

- **Regional fora and process:** Since 2014 Egypt is a member of the Steering Committee of the Khartoum Process (EU-Horn of Africa Migration Route Initiative). The Process is focusing on (1) development and root causes of irregular migration, (2) legal migration and mobility, (3) asylum and international protection, (4) fight against irregular migration, smuggling, THB, (5) return and readmission (5 pillars of Valletta Framework).
- **Member States' bilateral engagement (set out in Annex II)**

#### Timelines for action

##### A. Next Steps by EU and by Member States

- Follow up to **Commissioner Varhelyi's** visit on 1-2 June and **President von der Leyen's** visit on 14/15 June 2022
- **9<sup>th</sup> EU-Egypt Association Council:** 19 June 2022
- Participation of Foreign Minister Shoukry at the **Foreign Affairs Council**, 20 June 2022
- Steps toward a **Talent Partnership:** a meeting with Egyptian stakeholders (national authorities, social partners, professional federations, etc.) by the end of the summer; a technical roundtable with delegates of Member States and Egypt and stakeholders on both sides (October 2022); an event to launch the Talent Partnership (December 2022); all dates TBC.
- **Fourth EU-Egypt Migration Dialogue** and **Senior Official Mission** (second half of 2023)
- **Local coordination/EU-EUMS Migration Roundtable:** quarterly meetings chaired by the EU Delegation to ensure coordination and synergies; ad hoc meetings could be organised to monitor progress on the different areas of the migration dialogue.
- **COP 27 in Sharm El Sheikh**, November 2022: climate change and migration should be addressed

##### B. Next steps for funding measures

###### — NDICI-Global Europe – country/regional MIPs

The NDICI-GE regulation envisages a flexible source of funding to support comprehensive, balanced and tailor-made partnerships with relevant countries of origin or transit and host countries, and respond to changing needs and routes. The Multi-Country Migration Programme (MCMP) for the Southern Neighbourhood will allow for country specific-actions that complement actions under the national MIP and offer to selected countries an incentive to go beyond what their country MIP offers, in line with a flexible incitative approach. Funds in the draft MIP for the MCMP are programmed only for 2021-2024. The initial planning will be complemented by its built-in flexibility, as the budget period progresses, in order to cater for changing circumstances and migration patterns. Programming of funds for 2025-27 will follow a mid-term review in 2024, taking into account the needs and performance of the partner countries, as well as developments in their relations with the Union and on the ground.

— **Actions adopted in 2021 under the new MFF**

Under the Special measure for the **Multi-Country Migration Programme for the Southern Neighbourhood**, the following action related to Egypt was adopted:

- “Supporting sustainable Protection, Return and Reintegration in North Africa”, which contributes to the safe return of vulnerable and stranded migrants from North Africa and to the sustainable reintegration of North African Returnees into countries of origin. The amount of the Egyptian component out of the total amount of €60 million is to be determined.

— **Actions to be adopted or proposed in 2022 under the new MFF**

Actions related to Egypt within the **Multi-Country Migration Programme for the Southern Neighbourhood** are to be presented to the NDICI-GE Committee on:

- Strengthening Protection and Resilience of Refugees, Asylum-Seekers and Migrants in Vulnerable Situation in Egypt (€23 million);
- Strengthening the operational capacity of the Egyptian Coast Guard and Egyptian Border Guards to manage migration flows through effective maritime surveillance and search and rescue at sea (€23 million);
- Legal Migration (multi-country action worth €18 million, including Egypt)

The Commission plans to continue supporting the protection pillar of the **Regional Development and Protection Programme (RDPP)** in North Africa, following the adoption of the AMIF Thematic Facility Work Programme 2021-22 on 25 November 2021; the programme will continue covering Egypt.

The Commission will continue to support **humanitarian needs** in Egypt through the annual Humanitarian Implementation Plans. Future programming will focus on the education sector, which will mainstream child protection into the funded education activities, and continue to support multi-purpose cash assistance for basic needs.

## ANNEX I

### Existing EU cooperation and areas of engagement under the New Pact

#### I. Protection

- Under MFF 2014-2020, the Commission provided support for the integration of migrants and protection via a Regional Development and Protection Programme (RDPP), with a total EU contribution for 2015-2020 of €57 million for the whole of North Africa. Implementation was led by the Italian Ministry of Interior. In Egypt, the implementing partners are StARS, IOM, Save the Children and UNHCR. These projects mainly deal with Refugee Status Determination (RSD), assistance to refugees and migrants, capacity building for the Egyptian government, strengthening protection for Egypt's most vulnerable refugees and migrants through legal assistance, educational training, psychosocial support, and medical care. Under the fifth cycle of the RDPP North Africa protection component (implementation period of 24 months starting in 2021), approximately €8 million are allocated to actions in Egypt.
- EUAA 'Roadmap for Cooperation 2021-2023 is ongoing.

#### II. Addressing root causes of irregular migration and forced displacement

- Integrated and Sustainable Housing and Community Development Programmes in Egypt - Pillar I and II in partnership with the EIB and AFD and with the "Egyptian Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Development Agency" (MSMEDA). The programmes focus on improving living conditions and promoting integrated local development at community level, particularly for the benefit of disadvantaged groups residing in informal settlements in urban areas. Projects focus on improvement of streets and construction of pedestrian areas, rehabilitation of health centres and schools, water and sewer networks development, and rehabilitation of public markets.
- Blending operation with KfW on access to finance (EU contribution of €15 million for Egypt and €30 million of loans from the German government) was approved in 2018 to facilitate micro and SMEs access to finance, notably financing of start-ups and small enterprises in disadvantaged areas as well as support to NGO-MFIs. The funds are channelled through MSMEDA.
- Inclusive economic growth programme includes a €5 million grant scheme, from the EU budget, launched in 2017 to support the provision of high quality business development services towards the establishment of new, high potential and innovative, start-up enterprises to generate employment opportunities and to support the growth, productivity and competitiveness of existing MSMEs in the manufacturing and traded services sectors and promoting a culture of innovation and entrepreneurship to improve the employment growth.
- EU facility for Inclusive Growth and Job Creation programme included a call for proposals of €5.5 million, from the EU budget, aimed at strengthening innovation capacities among Egyptian SMEs and entrepreneurs.
- The Joint EU Rural Development programme (EU-JRDP). EU-JRP started in 2015 for 58 months and has a total budget of €22 million. It targeted about 20 000 farming families evenly distributed among the governorates of Minya, Fayoum and Marsa Matrouh and aimed at increasing agricultural production and rural livelihood opportunities. Implemented by the Italian Cooperation. A follow-up programme has been signed at the end of 2021 to support three governorates Assyut, Sohag and Minya with a budget of €28 million.
- Support to Agriculture SMEs (SASME) - 2015-2021; €21 million from the EU budget, implemented by AFD which also provided a €30 million loan. It mainly aimed to improve access to credit to agricultural SMEs through support to a dedicated credit fund and the set-up of an agriculture credit guarantee fund.



- Support to TVET through the "Support to the Technical and Vocational Education and Training Reform Programme in Egypt" (TVET II), co-financed by the Government of Egypt (€67 million) and the EU (€50 million), and implemented by the Ministry of Trade and Industry. The programme aims at improving the structure and performance of the TVET system to better respond to Egypt's new socio-economic needs, and in particular at boosting the employability of youth and increasing the country's competitiveness.

### III. Migration governance and management

#### *Border Management*

- Frontex implemented the EU4BorderSecurity project, which included Egypt as one of the beneficiary countries (€4 million from EU budget; implementation period 2019-2023). Aiming to enhance border security in the Southern Neighbourhood, the project contributes to building trust, understanding, structured partnerships, and exchange of experiences/practices between Southern Neighbourhood countries and Frontex in the broader Integrated Border Management (IBM) domain. Egypt is one of the beneficiaries, but has only participated in regional activities, opting not to benefit from any bilateral ones. These activities include a Coast Guard boarding exercise, physical workshops and webinars incurring a total cost of approximately €70 000 since 2019.

#### *Awareness-raising Campaigns*

- Since 2016, 'Infomigrants', an online news portal which provides verified and objective information on migration for migrants in countries of origin, in transit and already in Europe has been supported from the EU budget with €14.4 million. The portal is available in six languages, including Arabic (Implemented by France Médias Monde, Deutsche Welle and ANSA).

### IV. Returns, readmission, reintegration

- The EU-IOM Joint Initiative enables migrants who decide to return to their countries of origin to do so in a safe and dignified way, in full respect of international human rights standards and the principle of non-refoulement. It also provides sustainable reintegration assistance to returning migrants to help them restart their lives in their countries of origin through an integrated approach to reintegration that supports both migrants and their communities. Under this programme, between the beginning of its implementation in December 2020 and March 2022, 672 persons have returned from Egypt to their country of origin, and 194 have received reintegration assistance.

### V. Legal migration and mobility

- THAMM multi-country programme (Towards a Holistic Approach to Labour Migration Governance and Labour Mobility in North Africa), fostering mutually beneficial legal migration and labour mobility, funded under the EUTF, implemented by ILO / IOM, GiZ and Enabel. The total amount for this regional action is €25 million funded by the EUTF, out of which €5 million is funded by the BMZ (approx. €3.5 million allocated for Egypt) 01/11/2019 – 31/10/2022.
- HOMERE multi-country programme (High Opportunity for Mediterranean Executive Recruitment; €697 779 (39.69% from EU budget); May 2019 - December 2020. The University of West Bretagne (UBO) has implemented this action in cooperation with HOMERe France Association. This pilot project aimed at facilitating cooperation between France and Morocco, Tunisia and Egypt to boost legal temporary migration of talented youth through an innovative internship programme. The project sought to build on the HOMERe network's past activities by strengthening institutional governance structures and expanding its 3-phase mobility schemes for interns.

**ANNEX II**

**Member States' bilateral engagement**  
**[For MS to provide information]**

## ANNEX III

Key figures and trends
<b>Irregular migration</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Illegal border crossing of Egyptian nationals to the EU: 9 219 in 2021 (1 516 in 2020, 996 in 2019), of which 8 423 in IT, 359 in HU, 279 in EL; 1 770 in the first quarter of 2022</li><li>• Illegal stay of Egyptian nationals in the EU: 7 315 in 2021 (5 790 in 2020, 6 520 in 2019), of which 3 550 in FR, 915 in IT, 735 in DE</li></ul>
<b>Return</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Egyptian nationals ordered to leave the EU: 5 785 in 2021 (5 725 in 2020, 6 000 in 2019), of which 1 985 in FR, 850 in CY and 665 in AT.</li><li>• Return rate: 9% in 2021<sup>1</sup> (11% in 2020, 17% in 2019)</li><li>• Highest return rate<sup>2</sup>: 2021- 64% in MT, 45% in SE, 20% in EL; 2020 - 69% in RO, 34% in NL, 32% in AT</li><li>• Lowest return rate<sup>3</sup>: 2021 - 0% in HR, CY, and NL; 2020 - 1% in HR, 2% in FR, 5% in ES</li></ul>
<b>Asylum</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• First time asylum applications by Egyptian nationals: 5 980 in 2021 (2 895 in 2020, 5 060 in 2019), of which 2 680 in IT, 775 in EL and 435 in FR; 1 980 in January-February 2022</li><li>• First instance asylum decisions: 4 125 in 2021 (3 165 in 2020, 3 975 in 2019)</li><li>• EU recognition rate: 11% in 2021 (10% in 2020, 12% in 2019)</li><li>• EU recognition rate including humanitarian protection: 13% in 2021 (12% in 2020, 13% in 2019)</li></ul>
<b>International Protection in Egypt</b>
Refugees hosted by Egypt: 277 665 in mid-2021 (UNHCR data); main nationalities: Syrian (133 568), Palestinian (70 022), Sudanese (26 036)
<b>Legal migration</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• First time residence permits: 16 442 in 2020 (21 686 in 2019) of which 4 667 in IT, 2 818 in DE, 1 718 in FR</li><li>• All valid residence permits at the end of the year: 226 762 in 2020 (229 829 in 2019) of which 138 702 in IT, 21 589 in DE, 17 691 in FR</li></ul>
<b>Visas</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Short stay visa applications to the EU: 59 307 in 2021 (43 254 in 2020, 203 377 in 2019)</li><li>• Share of Multiple Entry Visas (MEVs): 62.8% in 2021 (49.7% in 2020, 48.4% in 2019). Top three Member States of MEV issuance in 2021: DE (9 925), FR (8 754), IT (4 617)</li><li>• Visa refusal rate : 17 % in 2021 (21.6% 2020, 18.6%% in 2019)</li></ul>

1 There are some gaps in the 2021 data on returns to third countries so the actual return rate is likely to be slightly higher.

2 From Member States with at least 50 return orders.

3 From Member States with at least 50 return orders.