

# EMN Luxembourg National Conference 2021 – Detecting and Protecting Vulnerable Migrants

The EMN Luxembourg National Conference 2021 focused on the detection and protection of vulnerable migrants in the international protection procedure. The conference was introduced by Prof. Dr. Birte Nienaber, coordinator of the EMN Luxembourg, Jean Asselborn, Luxembourgish Minister of Foreign and European Affairs, and Minister of Immigration and Asylum, and Prof. Dr. Catherine Léglu, Vice-Rector for academic affairs at the University of Luxembourg.

Following the welcoming speeches, the conference hosted two panels, one on the European level, and one on the Luxembourgish context:

The first panel presented the history of the concept of "vulnerability" from a scientific perspective and highlighted the conceptual ambiguities that arise when "vulnerability" is used as a tool to implement migration policies (Luc Leboeuf, H2020 project VULNER). Furthermore, Nicolas Van Puymbroeck (Federal agency for the reception of asylum seekers - Fedasil, Belgium) explained how the detection of vulnerable applicants for international protection is organised in Belgium, what difficulties arise, and what new ideas related to the concept of "well-being" have emerged from a recent research conducted by Fedasil in Belgium. Additionally, Ralph Petry from the EMN Luxembourg presented the results of the EMN Luxembourg Inform entitled "Vulnerabilities in the international protection procedure", giving an overview of the most common vulnerable groups, legal and procedural frameworks, as well as procedural safeguards EU Member States apply to vulnerable migrants in the international protection procedure. Anne Kayser from the Council of Europe concluded the first panel by presenting the "Council of Europe Action Plan on Protecting Vulnerable Persons in the Context of Migration and Asylum in Europe (2021-2025)".

The second panel took the shape of an expert discussion focusing specifically on the detection and protection of vulnerable migrants in the international protection procedure in Luxembourg. Representatives from the National Reception Office (Office National de l'Accueil – ONA), the Directorate of Immigration (Direction de l'Immigration), Caritas Luxembourg, as well as a lawyer specialised in migration and asylum in Luxembourg discussed the achievements and challenges of the Luxembourgish system. The discussion addressed issues such as the legal and procedural framework in Luxembourg, the transmission of information between the actors involved, or the procedural guarantees applicable to vulnerable applicants for international protection.

The conference took place on 30 September from 9am to 12pm CET on Zoom. The welcome speeches and panel 1 was recorded and can be watched in this video. A conference report will follow soon and sum up the discussion in panel 2.

For the PowerPoint presentations of panel and more information on the conference and the work of the EMN Luxembourg, do not hesitate to visit our website:  
<https://www.emnluxembourg.lu/?p=5486>

The EMN Luxembourg Team