



## COUNTRY SNAPSHOT

# Legal and Policy Infrastructures of Returns in France

D2.1

# Neva Övünç ÖZTÜRK, Hakan ÜNAY

Swedish Research Institute in Istanbul

# 1. The Political Context / Framework

France is a popular destination for immigrants, and immigration has been a significant issue in its political discourse for a long time. Following the 'European migration crisis' of 2015, Eduard Philippe (Prime Minister at the time) has made a 'credible removal policy' a condition of 'migratory deterrence'. Thus, it is asserted that expulsions gained a symbolic dimension, which is reassuring the public of the government's ability to deal with the immigration 'problem'.<sup>1</sup> In France, the possibility of expelling foreigners was included in the penal Code back in 1832, but it was only in 1849 that prefects (administrative authorities) were given the power to deport them to their country of origin forcibly. Since then, the reasons for

expelling foreigners haven't changed much. The main reasons for expulsion are still related to being a threat to public order, the job market, and the social system. Hence, forced removal is initiated with the necessity to maintain social protection, which is suspected of being benefitted by illegal foreigners without contributing to it. Therefore, the expulsion of foreigners meets both a security imperative and a need to maintain social protection in the general French policies.<sup>2</sup>

As the number of Syrian asylum seekers in Europe rose in 2015, France was governed by President François Hollande of the Socialist Party. The National Assembly had a left-wing majority. While Hollande intended to restore a more "empathetic and

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Le Courant, Stefan. "Expulser et menacer d'expulsion, les deux facettes d'un même gouvernement? Les politiques de gestion de la migration irrégulière en France", L'Année sociologique, vol. 68, no. 1, 2018, pp. 211-232

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Ibid., p. 212.

serene" image of immigration than his right-wing predecessor, Nicolas Sarkozy, his guiding principle remained no less firm. On the one hand, hundreds of texts such as decrees, orders, and circulars have been published relating to immigration, asylum, reception. and support for foreign nationals, some with more impact than others on the future of migrants in France.<sup>3</sup> In addition, two new laws directly affecting the Code on the Entry and Residence of Foreigners and the Right of Asylum (CESEDA) were issued in the wake of the events of 2015. Obviously, not all of these texts had a direct impact on the people who had to deal with the situation in 2015. In addition, several were aimed solely at managing, improving, and making the services offered to forced migrants more effective. For example, two decrees were issued on October 20 2015, one designating the prefects competent to register asylum applications and the other setting the model form for the declaration of domiciliation for asylum seekers. However, many of these texts aimed to improve control of forced migrants, particularly on entry to France and in temporary accommodation, or attempt to facilitate their return to their countries of origin.

Furthermore, in 2016, the Ministry of the Interior issued a circular that ordered prefects to strictly enforce the Dublin Regulation. This meant that people who were seeking asylum were expelled more quickly to the countries responsible. The circular also instructed the prefects to use various methods of coercion to achieve this goal. As a result, a large number of people were subjected to the "Dublin" process, with over 45,000 individuals affected in 2018 alone. This number accounted for more than one-third of all asylum applications that were registered in France during that year.<sup>4</sup>

Under President Emmanuel Macron's administration. there has been an emphasis on maintaining a balance between "humanity and firmness," occasionally adopting restrictive measures, possibly in response to challenges from the far right.<sup>5</sup> French immigration legislation has become much more complex over the years, reflecting a gradual tightening of immigration law against the backdrop of the rise of the far right, although the immediate and structured mobilisation in relation to Ukrainian asylum seekers in 2022 seems to be the exception to this.<sup>6</sup> For instance, the 2018 immigration law, known as the Collomb Law, increased the detention maximum period for unauthorised migrants to 90 days, shortened the asylum application deadline, and enhanced the potential for deporting rejected asylum seekers. However, the law also facilitated the entry and stay of international students and highly qualified workers, expanded family reunification options, and introduced a four-year residence permit for stateless individuals and beneficiaries of subsidiary protection.7 It is stated that this approach reflects the precarious search for a balance between those in favour of more humane measures and the pressure exerted by the far-right, with a candidate such as Zemmour even going so far as to propose holding a referendum to achieve "zero

<u>immigration-rising-far-right</u> (Accessed 22.04.2024). <sup>6</sup> Martel, A., Ibid., pp. 36-37.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Martel, Ariane, "Instrumentalisation du concept d'identité nationale et politiques migratoires en Europe Une analyse comparée entre l'exil syrien (2015) et l'exil ukrainien (2022) en Allemagne, en France et au Danemark", (Essai de maîtrise) Université Laval, École supérieure d'études internationals, 2023.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> Boubtane, Ekrame, "France Reckons with Immigration Amid Reality of Rising Far Right, Migration Policy Institute", May 5, 2022, <u>https://www.migrationpolicy.org/article/france-</u> immigration\_rising far right (Accessed 22 04 2024)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> Boubtane, E., Ibid.; Martel, A., p. 37.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> Martel, Ariane, Ibid., p. 35.

immigration".8 In 2019, the government implemented regulations to limit healthcare access for asylum seekers and unauthorised immigrants in an effort to control immigration. On the other hand, the government also expressed а willingness to assist migrants rescued in the Mediterranean and adopted a more employment-based immigration open policy to address labour market needs.9

This somewhat 'precarious search for a balance' trend is also reflected in the most recent law of 2024 regarding immigration, as it aims to 'control immigration and improve integration'.<sup>10</sup> On February 1, 2023, the draft law entitled "Controlling Immigration and Improving Integration" was submitted to the French Council of Ministers and finally approved by the Mixed Commission on December 19, 2023, with 'additions and trimming'. France's new immigration law became effective on January 27, 2024, less than a week after at least 75,000 people participated in protests against it across the country.<sup>11</sup> These protests were sparked by the opinion that the new law goes against French values and that it is closely associated with the farright approach of the Marine Le Pen party, considering that it aims to make it easier for France to deport foreigners who are considered undesirable and also makes it harder for foreigners to access social welfare<sup>12</sup>. The final version of the law was significantly shorter than the one approved

in December, as almost half of the 86 struck articles were out bv the Constitutional Council following a ruling on January 25. Following the deliberations, the nine-member Council ruled that 35 measures, many of which had been added to the draft law by right-wing parties, could not be included on the grounds that they were either too far removed from the law's initial intent or unconstitutional. Despite the fact that a significant part of the draft law had been struck out bv the Constitutional Council, Interior Minister Darmanin gave Gérald an upbeat assessment of it, saying, "Never has a law provided so many means for expelling delinguents and so many requirements for the integration of foreigners".<sup>13</sup> In fact, the new law asserted that it represented a hardening of the immigration rules. Foreigners legally in France could now be deported with criminal convictions. Even those who came to France before they were 13 or those who have lived in France for more than 20 years could be expelled if they are given substantial jail terms and deemed to be a "grave threat to public order"<sup>14</sup>. On the other hand, an article on the regularisation of undocumented workers in industries facing shortages was also kept in the text<sup>15</sup>.

As for the scope and the procedure of return<sup>16</sup>, the decision on removal or the obligation to leave French territory (QQTF) is taken by the prefect (by the prefect of

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup> Boubtane, E. , Ibid.

<sup>9</sup> Ibid.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>10</sup> Martel, A., pp. 38-39.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>11</sup> ECRE, "France: New Immigration Law Adopted Despite Constitutional Council Rejecting Almost Half of Its Articles", 2 February 2024; <u>https://ecre.org/16309-2/</u> (Accessed 22.04.2024).
<sup>12</sup> Arbërie Shabani, "Nationwide Protest in France Call on Macron Not to Sign New Immigration Law, Schengen Visa News", 23 January 2024, <u>https://www.schengenvisainfo.com/news/nationwide-protest-in-france-call-on-macron-not-to-signnew-immigration-law/</u> (Accessed 22.04.2024).
<sup>13</sup> ECRE, Ibid.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>14</sup> Kirby, Paul, "France set to tighten immigration law after court scraps some measures", BBC News, 26.01.2024, <u>https://www.bbc.com/news/world-</u> europe-68103950 (Accssed 22.04.2024).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>15</sup> Le Monde, French immigration bill signed into law by Macron, 27 January 2024, <u>https://www.lemonde.fr/en/immigration/article/2</u> 024/01/27/french-immigration-law-promulgatedby-macron 6470074 144.html.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>16</sup> The information regarding return and expulsion procedures provided here is mostly based on the context published on the French administration's official website, <u>https://www.service-public.fr</u>. Information might not be up to date.

police in Paris). As a rule, it obliges the Third Country National (TCN) to leave France by her/his own means within 30 days. This is the voluntary departure term applied in the French system. The voluntary departure term may be extended if the TCN's situation justifies it (e.g. length of stay in France, schooling of children). During this period, the prefect may require the TCN to appear up to 3 times a week in the prefecture or at the police station or gendarmerie. If the TCN does not leave after this period, s/he can be placed in a detention centre or under house arrest, and an entry ban will be issued. In limited situations, OOTF can also require the TCN to leave the territory without delay, i.e. within 48 hours from the notification of the decision. QQTF is issued if:

- the TCN entered France irregularly (or in the Schengen area) and had no residence permit,
- s/he entered France regularly but stayed there beyond the validity of her/his visa (or if visa exemption applies, stayed more than three months after entering France),
- her/his residence permit has not been renewed or has been withdrawn if the residence permit application is refused,
- s/he has not applied for renewal of their residence permit and have remained in France after its expiry,
- the TCN was an asylum seeker and her/his application for protection has been permanently rejected,
- s/he has been found to be a threat to public order and have been residing in France for less than three months,
- s/he worked without a work permit and have resided in France for less than three months.

If the TCN has been found to be a threat to public order or refused a residence permit for fraud or because her/his application was manifestly unfounded, or if there is a risk of absconding, voluntary departure term is not issued, and the decision obliges the TCN to leave without delay. The QQTF can be challenged by lodging an appeal with the administrative court that has territorial jurisdiction over the prefecture that made the decision. If the TCN is detained, the appeal is filed with the administrative court on which the place of detention or house arrest depends. If the TCN has limited financial resources, s/he can be subjected to legal aid. If a TCN can provide a valid reason that they cannot leave the country, they may be put under house arrest. This can be done as long as there is a reasonable chance that they will be removed from the country. The house arrest can last for up to six months and can be renewed once. There is no specific law attached to this legal regime. The competent authority will issue the house arrest order, depending on the nature of the removal order, whether it is issued by the Prefect or the Minister.<sup>17</sup> (EMN France 2020, 10).

Assisted voluntary return is available and encouraged. The French Office for Immigration and Integration (OFII) organises the return assistance. TCNs who are in an irregular situation in France, who have applied for asylum and do not wish to pursue it, or who have received an OQTF are eligible for voluntary return assistance. Nationals of 28 countries (Armenia, Benin. Burkina Cameroon, Faso. Congo Brazzaville, Congo DRC, Ivory Coast, Georgia, Guinea Conakry, Gabon, Haiti, Mali, Morocco. Mauritius, Tunisia, Senegal, Togo, Kosovo, Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Ethiopia, India, Iraq, Nepal, Nigeria, Pakistan,

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>17</sup> EMN France, "Responses to long-term irregularly staying migrants: practices and challenges in France", November 2020, <u>https://home-affairs.ec.europa.eu/system/files/2022-</u>

<sup>&</sup>lt;u>04/emn france lt irregular migrant en final.pd</u> <u>f</u> (Accessed 22.04.2024).

Russia, Somalia) are also eligible for reintegration assistance<sup>18</sup>

## 2. Statistical Overview<sup>19</sup> Regarding Returns and Readmissions at the National Level

Year	Stock of irregular migrants and/or # TCNs found to be illegally present (data in Eurostat)	# Asylum applications	# TCNs/foreign nationals refused entry at the border	# TCNs/foreign nationals ordered to leave Total #	# TCNs/foreign nationals* returned following an order to leave (annual data)
2015	109.720	80.075	10.860	79.950	12.195
2016	91.985	85.726	8.580	81.000	10.930
2017	115.085	100.755	10.215	84.675	12.720
2018	105.880	123.625	9.515	105.560	15.445
2019	120.455	132.826	9.880	123.845	15.615
2020	103.915	96.424	4.240	108.395	6.930
2021	117.255	103.164	8.210	125.450	6.290
2022	115.120	154.597	9.180	135.645	8.640

This table provides a statistical overview of returns and readmissions at the national level from 2015 to 2022. It includes data on the stock of irregular migrants or thirdcountry nationals (TCNs) found to be illegally present, the number of asylum applications, TCNs/foreign nationals refused entry at the border, TCNs/foreign nationals ordered to leave, and TCNs/foreign nationals returned following

mark/table?lang=en&bookmarkId=aa6a64c1-96bf-45e6-af40-2caf02dfcdb1 (Accessed 22.04.2024); Eurostat, "Third country nationals refused entry at external borders - annual data the (rounded)".https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/databrow ser/view/MIGR\_EIRFS/default/table?lang=en (Accessed 22.04.2024); Eurostat, "Third country nationals ordered to leave - annual data (rounded)". https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/databrowser/view/ MIGR EIORD/default/table?lang=en (Accessed 22.04.2024); Eurostat. "Third country nationals returned following an order to leave - annual data (rounded)".<u>https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/databrow</u> ser/view/MIGR EIRTN/default/table?lang=en&ca tegory=migr.migr man.migr eil (Accessed 22.04.2024).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>18</sup> Information regarding voluntary return assistance provided here is based on the context published on OFII's official website: <u>https://www.ofii.fr/procedure/retourner-dans-son-pays/#partie1</u> (Accessed 22.04.2024).

 <sup>&</sup>lt;sup>19</sup> For the statistics used in the table, see: Eurostat,
 "Asylum applicants by type, citizenship, age and sex
 monthly

data",<u>https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/databrowser/v</u> iew/migr\_asyappctzm\_custom\_11401687/default /table?lang=en (Accessed 14.05.2024); Eurostat, "Third country nationals found to be illegally present - annual data (rounded)",<u>https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/databrow</u> ser/view/MIGR\_EIPRE\_custom\_5273350/book

an order to leave. The data show fluctuations in the number of irregular migrants and asylum applications over the years. For example, asylum applications peaked in 2019 with 132,826 applications and reached a low in 2020 with 96,424. Similarly, the number of TCNs ordered to leave and those returned following an order also varied, with the highest number of returns (15,615) in 2019 and a significant drop to 6,290 in 2021.

5. Ocheral Legal Francework	3.	General	Legal	Framework
-----------------------------	----	---------	-------	-----------

The Title of the Policy/Legislation in English	The Title in the Original Language	Policy Type/Area	Date/Announced Year	Active Period	Description of Policy or Short Overview
The Code of Entry and Stay of Foreigners and Rights of Refugees	Code de l'entrée et du séjour des étrangers et du droit d'asile (CESEDA)	forced return, general/asylum , irregularity, pre-removal detention, assisted return, border management	2004	The last modification was made by Law No. 2024-42 of January 26, 2024	Integrates the main legislative and regulatory provisions relating to foreigners in France, namely: entry into the territory (entry requirements and holding area); residence (residence permit, residence conditions and voluntary return assistance); family reunification; expulsion measures (administrative detention, deportation and expulsion); and right to asylum.
Civil Code	Code Civil	other	1804	Many amendments were made to this Code. The last modification was made by LAW No. 2024-233 on March 18, 2024. This amendment is irrelevant to return and related matters	Integrates texts relating to the status of persons, property and relations between private parties. The Civil Code integrates particular rules that govern nationality matters.

Code of Administrative Justice	Code de justice administrative	other	2000	The last modification was made by Decree No. 2024-167 of March 1, 2024. This modification is not directly related to return and connected matters.	This Code applies to the Council of State, administrative courts of appeal, and administrative courts, and it provides the rules regarding the judgements.
Code of Social Action and Families	Code de l'action sociale et des familles	other	2000	The last modification was made by Decree No. 2024-166 of February 29, 2024. This modification is not related to return or connected matters.	The Code includes rules that govern children, the elderly, and people with disabilities, as well as social institutions, including but not limited to migrants.
2024 Law No. 2024-42 of January 26, 2024 to control immigration, improve integration	LOI nº 2024-42 du 26 janvier 2024 pour contrôler l'immigration, améliorer l'intégration	forced return, irregularity, general/asylum , pre-removal detention	26.01.24	Active	The law provides provisions for the exceptional regularisation of undocumented workers in professions in tension, "talent" residence cards for foreign doctors, measures on integration and asylum, facilitated removal in the event of severe offences, and increases in the duration of house arrest used for migration control.
2018 Law for a controlled immigration, an effective right of asylum and a successful integration	LOI n° 2018-778 du 10 septembre 2018 pour une immigration maîtrisée, un droit d'asile effectif et une intégration réussie	forced return, general/asylum , irregularity, pre-removal detention	10.09.2018	Active	The law provides provisions aiming the reduction of deadlines for examining asylum applications, fight against irregular immigration and better integration of foreigners:
2018 Law enabling the effective implementation of the European asylum system	LOI nº 2018-187 du 20 mars 2018 permettant une bonne application du régime d'asile européen	pre-removal detention	20.03.2018	Active	The law aims to facilitate the detention of migrants seeking asylum under the "Dublin" procedure.

	016 Law on the right of reigners in France	LOI nº 2016-274 du 7 mars 2016 relative au droit des étrangers en France	irregularity, general/asylum	7.03.2016	Active	The law had three objectives: better welcome and integration, making France more attractive to foreign talent, and better fighting against irregular immigration.
on to ar	he circular of 17/11/2022 a the execution of orders leave French territory ad the strengthening of tention capacities	Instruction du 17 novembre 2022 "exécution des obligations de quitter le territoire français (OQTF) et renforcement de nos capacités de rétention"	forced return, irregularity, pre-removal detention	17.12.2022	Active	The instruction aims to strictly apply the obligations to leave French territory (QQTF) and have some detention-related provisions.

This table outlines the general legal framework concerning policies and legislation related to returns and readmissions in France. It includes several significant laws and codes such as the Code of Entry and Stay of Foreigners and Rights of Refugees (CESEDA), the Civil Code, the Code of Administrative Justice, and the Code of Social Action and Families. For example, CESEDA integrates the main legislative and regulatory provisions regarding foreigners in France, covering aspects like entry requirements, residence permits. family reunification. and expulsion measures, along with the right to asylum.

Additionally, the table features recent and specific laws such as the 2024 Law No. 2024-42, aimed at controlling immigration and improving integration. This law provides provisions for the regularization of undocumented workers in certain professions, issuing "talent" residence cards for foreign doctors, and enhancing measures on integration and asylum. It also facilitates the removal of individuals in the event of severe offenses and increases the duration of house arrest for migration control. Other notable entries include the 2018 laws aimed at effective asylum processing and integration, and the 2022 circular on executing orders to leave French territory, which emphasizes strict enforcement of expulsion orders and includes detention-related provisions.

Authority (English and original name)	Tier of government (national, regional, local)	Type of organisation	Area of competence in the fields of return (Briefly explain the role)	Link
Ministry of Interior	National	Government	Coordinates, monitors, and participates in the planning of the management of readmission, return, deportation or relocation procedures.	<u>https://www.interieur.</u> gouv.fr
The French Office of Immigrati on and Integratio n (OFII)	National/ Regional	Government	OFII's missions include family immigration, the reception and integration of immigrants, assistance for return and reintegration, accompaniment of asylum seekers, the implementation of the "sick foreigners" reform since 2016 and professional immigration	<u>https://www.ofii.fr/no</u> <u>s-missions/</u>
French Office for the Protectio n of Refugees and Stateless Persons (OFPRA)	National/ Regional	Government	OFPRA's missions include mission to investigate applications for international protection on the basis of the Geneva Conventions of July 28, 1951, and New York of September 28 1954 and Ceseda; mission of legal and administrative protection for statutory refugees, statutory stateless persons and beneficiaries of subsidiary protection; advisory mission as part of the border asylum procedure; and a mission to give an opinion to the Minister of the Interior on whether or not an application for authorisation to enter	<u>https://www.ofpra.gou</u> <u>v.fr</u>

			French territory for asylum is manifestly unfounded.	
Police	National/ Regional	Government	Issues return, and administrative expulsion decisions implement removal operations.	<u>https://www.interieur.</u> gouv.fr
Courts	Regional	Regional/State	Decides about removal.	<u>https://www.service-</u> public.fr/particuliers/v <u>osdroits/F2025?lang=</u> <u>en</u>
National Court of Asylum Law (CNDA)	National	National	The National Court of Asylum, competent to hear decisions relating to asylum applications, is a specialised administrative court ruling on first and last- resort appeals against decisions of the French Office for the Protection of Refugees and Stateless Persons (OFPRA).	<u>http://www.cnda.fr/E</u> <u>nglish</u>

This table provides a comprehensive overview of the legal framework governing returns and readmissions in France. It includes major laws and regulations such as the Code of Entry and Stay of Foreigners and Rights of Refugees (CESEDA), the Civil Code, and the Code of Administrative Justice. Each law is described in terms of its scope and application, covering aspects like immigration control, asylum, family reunification, and expulsion measures. Notable entries include recent legislation like the 2024 Law No. 2024-42, which aims control immigration, to enhance

integration, and facilitate the removal of undocumented workers. Additionally, the table highlights the roles of various authorities, including the Ministry of Interior, the French Office of Immigration and Integration (OFII), and the French Office for the Protection of Refugees and Stateless Persons (OFPRA), in managing immigration and asylum processes. These laws and institutions collectively form the backbone of France's approach to handling migration, ensuring both regulatory compliance humanitarian and considerations.

# 5. International Cooperation<sup>20</sup>

AFRICA

- **France-Gabon Agreement of February 24, 2010,** relating to exchanges of young professionals NOR: MAE/J/10/10868/D\_
- **France Cameroon Agreement of May 21, 2009,** relating to the concerted management of migratory flows and inclusive development (together six annexes), signed in Yaoundé on May 21, 2009 \_\_
- **France Burkina-Faso Agreement** relating to the concerted management of migratory flows and inclusive development (6 annexes) signed in Ouagadougou on January 10, 2009\_
- **France Cape Verde Agreement** relating to the concerted management of migratory flows and inclusive development (three annexes together) signed in Paris, November 24, 2008\_
- **France Mauritius: Decree No. 2008-17 of January 3, 2008,** publishing the Agreement between the Government of the French Republic and the Government of the Republic of Mauritius aimed at facilitating the movement of Mauritian nationals in Reunion, signed in Port-Louis on April 2, 2007, NOR: MAE/J/0773795/D\_
- **France-Mauritius: Decree No. 2008-16 of January 3, 2008,** publishing the Agreement between the Government of the French Republic and the Government of the Republic of Mauritius relating to the readmission and transit of persons in an irregular situation, signed in Port-Louis on April 2, 2007, NOR: MAE/J/0773783/D\_
- France-Benin Agreement relating to the concerted management of migratory flows and co-development, signed in Cotonou on November 28, 2007, entered into force on March 1 2010 \_\_\_\_
- France-Congo Agreement relating to the concerted management of migratory flows and co-development, signed in Brazzaville on October 25, 2007, and entered into force on August 1, <sup>2009.</sup> NOR : MAE/J/09/16108/D\_
- France-Gabon Agreement relating to the concerted management of migratory flows and co-development, signed in Libreville on July 5, 2007, and entered into force on September 1, 2008 \_\_\_\_\_
- **France-Senegal Agreement** relating to the concerted management of migratory flows, signed in Dakar on September 23, 2006, and <u>Amendment of February 25, 2008</u>, entered into force on August 1, 2009. \_\_\_
- **Franco-Togolese establishment agreement** signed in Lomé on June 13, 1996, published by decree no. 2001-1325 of December 21, 2001, and entered into force on December 1, 2001. NOR: MAE/J/01/30086/D\_
- <u>Circular of April 7, 2010</u>, relating to the implementation of the provisions relating to admission to stay and work of the Franco-Beninese Agreement relating to the concerted management of migratory flows and co-development of November 28, 2007, NOR: IMI/M /10/00107/C\_
- **<u>Circular of January 15, 2010</u>** Implementation of the provisions of the Franco-Senegalese Agreement relating to stay and work NOR: IMI/M/09/00083/C\_
- **Franco-Algerian Agreement of December 27, 1968**, relating to the movement, employment and stay of Algerian nationals and their families (JO of March 22, 1969)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>20</sup> The list of the international cooperation is taken from the following link: <u>https://www.gisti.org/spip.php?rubrique135#contenu</u>

- **Memorandum of understanding between Algeria and France** issuance of consular passes (unpublished)
- **Circular of September 6, 2002** Entry into force of the 2nd amendment to the modified Franco-Tunisian Agreement of March 17, 1988, and 3rd amendment to the modified Franco-Algerian Agreement of December 27, 1968, NOR: INT/D/02/00169/C
- **Circular of July 18, 1994** movement, stay and readmission of Algerians NOR: INT/D/94/00207/C (BO Int. n° 3, 1994) Ministry of the Interior.
- **Circular of March 14, 1986,** relating to the conditions of movement, employment and stay in France for Algerian nationals and their families
- Information note of February 24, 1997, relating to the issuance of provisional work authorisations to Algerians, followed by the information note relating to the consequences of the Mert ruling (CE) on the issuance of work authorisations DPM/DM2-3/ 97/140 (BO MTAS-MATVI n° 97/10 of April 16, 1997)
- France-Tunisia framework agreement of April 28, 2008, relating to the concerted management of migration and inclusive development between the Government of the French Republic and the Government of the Tunisian Republic, signed in Tunis on April 28, 2008, entered into force with its protocols on <sup>July</sup> 12009 Text of the NOR agreement and protocols: MAE/J/09/16069/D
- Franco-Tunisian Agreement of March 17, 1988 amended on matters of residence and work. (JO of February 11, 89)
- **Amendment to the Franco-Tunisian Agreement of March 17, 1988** made in Tunis on September 8, 2000, published by decree No. 2003-976 of October 8, 2003, and entered into force on November 1, 2003. It modifies the amendment of December 19 1991, to the Franco-Tunisian Agreement on residence and work. NOR: MAE/J/03/30092/D
- Circular of April 6 2011 Residence authorisations issued to third-country nationals by Schengen Member States NOR: IOC/K/11/00748/C
- Circular of July 31, 2009, relating to the Franco-Tunisian framework agreement relating to the concerted management of migration and inclusive development as well as the Franco-Tunisian protocol relating to the concerted management of migration and the Franco-Tunisian protocol on development solidarity, of April 28, 2008. Implementation of the provisions relating to admission to stay and work NOR: IMI/M/09/00076/C
- **Circular of September 6, 2002** Entry into force of the 2nd amendment to the modified Franco-Tunisian Agreement of March 17, 1988, and 3rd amendment to the modified Franco-Algerian Agreement of December 27, 1968, NOR: INT/D/02/00169/C
- **Circular of April 19, 1996**, relating to the movement, stay and readmission of Tunisians NOR: INT/D/96/00062/C Ministry of the Interior.
- **Circular of March 9, 1994,** relating to the movement, stay and readmission of Tunisians NOR: INT/94/00090/C (unpublished) Ministry of the Interior.

#### AMERICA

- **France-Brazil: Decree No. 2014-1052 of September 15, 2014,** publishing the Agreement in the form of an exchange of letters between the Government of the French Republic and the Government of the Federative Republic of Brazil concerning the establishment of a cross-border movement regime for the benefit of residents of the border area between the State of Amapa and the Guyana region (together an annexe), signed in Brasilia on March 26, 2014 and in Paris on April 28, 2014 NOR: MAEJ/1420305/D\_
- **France-Brazil: Decree No. 2008-71 of January 22, 2008,** publishing the partnership and cooperation agreement between the Government of the French Republic and the Government of the Federative Republic of Brazil in matters of public security, signed in Brasilia March 12, 1997, NOR: MAE/J/0765447/D\_
- **France-Brazil: Decree No. 2007-1518 of October 22, 2007,** publishing the Agreement between the Government of the French Republic and the Government of the Federative Republic of Brazil relating to the construction of a road bridge over the Oyapock River connecting French Guiana and the State of Amapá, signed in Paris on July 15, 2005, NOR: MAE/J/0767958/D\_

- **France-Dominique: Decree No. 2007-413 of March 23, 2007,** publishing the Agreement between the Government of the French Republic and the Government of the Commonwealth of Dominica aimed at facilitating the movement of Dominican nationals in the French departments of America, done in Basse-Terre (Guadeloupe) on March 9, 2006, NOR: MAE/J/0730032/D\_
- **France-Dominique: Decree No. 2007-412 of March 23, 2007** publishing the Agreement between the Government of the French Republic and the Government of the Commonwealth of Dominica relating to the readmission and transit of persons in an irregular situation, made in Basse -Terre (Guadeloupe) March 9, 2006 NOR: MAE/J/0730031/D\_
- **France Saint Lucia: Decree No. 2006-431 of April 12, 2006,** publishing the Agreement between the Government of the French Republic and the Government of Saint Lucia relating to the readmission of persons in an irregular situation, signed in Castries on April 23, 2005 (1) NOR: MAE/J/0630041/D\_
- **France Saint Lucia: Decree No. 2006-432 of April 12, 2006.** publishing the Agreement between the Government of the French Republic and the Government of Saint Lucia aimed at facilitating the movement of Saint Lucian nationals in the French departments of America, signed in Castries on April 23, 2005, NOR: MAE/J/0630042/D\_
- **France-Brazil: Decree No. 2001-760 of August 28, 2001,** publishing the Agreement between the Government of the French Republic and the Government of the Federative Republic of Brazil relating to the readmission of persons in an irregular situation, signed in Paris on May 28, 1996, NOR: MAE/J/0130052\_
- **France-Panama: Decree No. 2000-313 of March 31, 2000**, publishing the Agreement between the Government of the French Republic and the Government of the Republic of Panama relating to the readmission of persons in an irregular situation, signed in Panama on April 30 1999 NOR: MAE/J/0030028/D (OJ of April 8, 2000)\_
- **France-Venezuela: Decree No. 99-1235 of December 29, 1999,** publishing the Agreement between the Government of the French Republic and the Government of the Republic of Venezuela relating to the readmission of persons in an irregular situation, signed in Caracas on January 25 1999 NOR: MAE/J/99/30074/D (JO of January 5, 2000)\_\_\_\_\_\_
- **France-Uruguay: Decree No. 98-953 of October 21, 1998.** publishing the Agreement between the Government of the French Republic and the Government of the Eastern Republic of Uruguay relating to the readmission of persons in an irregular situation, signed in Paris on November 5, 1996, NOR: MAE/J/98/30086/D (JO of October 28, 1998)\_
- **France-Mexico: Decree No. 98-827 of September 9, 1998,** publishing the cooperation agreement between the Government of the French Republic and the Government of the United Mexican States relating to the readmission of persons (together an annexe), signed in Paris on October 6, 1997, NOR: MAE/J/98/30073/D (JO of September 16, 1998)\_\_\_\_\_\_
- France-Chile: Decree No. 98-353 of May 4, 1998, publishing the Agreement between the Government of the French Republic and the Government of the Republic of Chile relating to the readmission of persons in an irregular situation, signed in Santiago on June 23 1995 NOR: MAE/J/98/30038/D (JO of May 12, 1998)\_

#### EUROPE

• Treaty between France and the United Kingdom on strengthening cooperation for the coordinated management of their common border signed at Sandhurst on January 18, 2018, entered into force on February 1, 2018, published by decree no. 2018-263 of April 11 2018 NOR: EAE/J/18/03750/D\_

- **France-Kosovo Readmission Agreement of December 9, 2009,** relating to the readmission of persons residing illegally (together two annexes), signed in Pristina on December 2, 2009, and its implementation protocol (together two annexes), signed in Pristina on September 19 2011 \_\_\_\_\_
- Franco-Serbian Implementation Protocol of November 18, 2009, Protocol between the Government of the French Republic and the Government of the Republic of Serbia on the application of the Agreement between the European Community and the Republic of Serbia concerning the readmission of persons staying illegally signed on September 18, 2007, in Brussels (two annexes together) \_\_\_\_
- Neighborhood convention between France and the Principality of Monaco of May 18, 1963
- <u>Convention of establishment between France and the Republic of San Marino</u> of January 15, 1954
- Law No. 99-982 of December 1, 1999, authorising the approval of an agreement between the Government of the French Republic and the Swiss Federal Council relating to the readmission of persons in an irregular situation. The text of the Agreement will be published subsequently in the OJ NOR: MAE/X/99/00022/L (OJ of December 2, 1999)\_
- **Law No. 99-472 of June 8, 1999,** authorising the ratification of an agreement between the French Republic and the Italian Republic relating to the readmission of persons in an irregular situation (together an annexe) NOR: MAE/X/98/00009/L (JO of June 9, 1999)\_
- Decree No. 2011-450 of April 22, 2011, publishing the Agreement between the Government of the French Republic and the Government of the Russian Federation on professional migration (together six annexes), signed in Rambouillet on November 27, 2009, NOR: MAE/J/11/02770/D\_
- Convention between the French Republic, the Kingdom of Spain and the Principality of Andorra of December 4, 2000, relating to the entry, movement, stay and establishment of their nationals [published by Decree No. 2003- 739 of July 30, 2003, NOR: MAE/J/0330054/D]\_
- Decree No. 2000-287 of March 28, 2000, publishing the Agreement between the Government of the French Republic and the Swiss Federal Council relating to the readmission of persons in an irregular situation, signed in Berne on October 28, 1998, NOR: MAE/J /00/30022/D (OJ of April 4, 2000)\_
- **Decree No. 2000-62 of January 24, 2000,** publishing the Agreement between the Government of the French Republic and the Government of the Republic of Lithuania relating to the readmission of persons in an irregular situation, signed in Vilnius on December 4, 1998, NOR: MAE/J/00/30006/D (OJ of January 27, 2000)\_
- **Decree No. 99-454 of May 28, 1999,** publishing the Agreement between the Government of the French Republic and the Government of the Republic of Estonia relating to the readmission of persons in an irregular situation, signed in Tallinn on December 15, 1998, NOR: MAE/J/99/30044/D (JO of June 4, 1999)\_\_
- **Decree No. 99-63 of January 25, 1999,** publishing the Agreement between the Government of the French Republic and the Government of the Republic of Hungary relating to the care of people at the border, signed in Paris on December 16, 1996, NOR: MAE/J/99/30007/D (JO of January 30, 1999)\_
- **Decree No. 98-628 of July 17, 1998** publishing the Agreement between the Government of the French Republic and the Government of the Republic of Latvia relating to the readmission of persons in an irregular situation (together an annex), signed in Riga on December 5, 1997 NOR: MAE/J/98/30062/D (JO of July 24, 1998)\_

### **6.** References and Sources

- Boubtane, Ekrame. (May 5 2022). "France Reckons with Immigration Amid Reality of Rising Far Right, Migration Policy Institute". <u>https://www.migrationpolicy.org/article/france-immigration-rising-far-right</u> (Accessed 22.04.2024).
- ECRE. (February 2 2024). "France: New Immigration Law Adopted Despite Constitutional Council Rejecting Almost Half of Its Articles". <u>https://ecre.org/16309-2/</u> (Accessed 22.04.2024).
- EMN France. (2020). "Responses to long-term irregularly staying migrants: practices and challenges in France". November 2020, <u>https://home-affairs.ec.europa.eu/system/files/2022-04/emn france lt irregular migrant en final.pdf</u> (Accessed 22.04.2024).
- Eurostat. "Asylum applicants by type, citizenship, age and sex monthly data". <u>https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/databrowser/view/migr\_asyappctzm\_custom\_11401</u> <u>687/default/table?lang=en</u> (Accessed 14.05.2024).
- Eurostat. "Third country nationals found to be illegally present annual data (rounded)". <u>https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/databrowser/view/MIGR\_EIPRE\_custom\_5273350</u> <u>/bookmark/table?lang=en&bookmarkId=aa6a64c1-96bf-45e6-af40-2caf02dfcdb1</u> (Accessed 22.04.2024).
- Eurostat. "Third country nationals refused entry at the external borders annual data (rounded)".<u>https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/databrowser/view/MIGR\_EIRFS/default/table?lang=en</u> (Accessed 22.04.2024).
- Eurostat. "Third country nationals ordered to leave annual data (rounded)". <u>https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/databrowser/view/MIGR\_EIORD/default/table?lang</u> <u>=en</u> (Accessed 22.04.2024).
- Eurostat. "Third country nationals returned following an order to leave annual data (rounded)".<u>https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/databrowser/view/MIGR\_EIRTN/default\_/table?lang=en&category=migr.migr\_man.migr\_eil</u> (Accessed 22.04.2024).
- Kirby, Paul. (January 26 2024). "France set to tighten immigration law after court scraps some measures". *BBC News*. <u>https://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-68103950</u>
- Le Courant, Stefan. (2018). "Expulser et menacer d'expulsion, les deux facettes d'un même gouvernement? Les politiques de gestion de la migration irrégulière en France". *L'Année sociologique*, Vol. 68, no. 1, pp. 211-232.
- Le Monde. (January 27 2024). "French immigration bill signed into law by Macron".<u>https://www.lemonde.fr/en/immigration/article/2024/01/27/french-immigration-law-promulgated-by-macron 6470074 144.html</u> (Accessed 22.04.2024).
- Martel, Ariane. (2023). "Instrumentalisation du concept d'identité nationale et politiques migratoires en Europe Une analyse comparée entre l'exil syrien (2015) et l'exil ukrainien (2022) en Allemagne, en France et au Danemark". Essai de maîtrise. Université Laval, École supérieure d'études international.

- Shabani, Arbërie. (January 23 2024). "Nationwide Protest in France Call on Macron Not to Sign New Immigration Law, Schengen Visa News". <u>https://www.schengenvisainfo.com/news/nationwide-protest-in-france-call-on-</u> <u>macron-not-to-sign-new-immigration-law/</u> (Accessed 22.04.2024).
- The Immigrant Information and Support Group (Gisti). "Accords bilatéraux". <u>https://www.gisti.org/spip.php?rubrique135#contenu</u> (Accessed 06.05.2024).

#### About the Authors

**Dr Neva Övünç ÖZTÜRK** is a senior researcher of the GAPs Project at the Swedish Research Institute in Istanbul (SRII), Sweden/Türkiye and a Law Faculty Member of Ankara University, Türkiye. **Hakan ÜNAY** is a researcher for the GAPs Project at the Swedish Research Institute in Istanbul (SRII), Sweden/Türkiye. He is also a PhD student at Kırıkkale University at International Relations Programme.

#### © [SRII]

This research was conducted under the Horizon Europe project 'GAPS: Decentring the Study of Migrant Returns and Readmission Policies in Europe and Beyond' (101094341). The sole responsibility of this publication lies with the author. The European Union is not responsible for any use that may be made of the information contained therein. Any enquiries regarding this publication should be sent to the author(s) at <a href="mailto:neva.ozturk@sri.org.tr">neva.ozturk@sri.org.tr</a>; hakan.unay@sri.org.tr

#### **Copyright Clause**



This work is licensed by the GAPs Consortium under a Creative Commons Attribution-ShareAlike 4.0 International License, 2020. For details, see <u>http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/4.0/</u>

#### The GAPs Consortium

University Uppsala (Sweden, Co-Coordinator) Bonn International Centre for Conflict Studies (Germany, Co-Coordinator) Stichting Radboud University (Netherlands) Ozyegin University (Türkiye) Hammurabi Human Rights Organization (Irag) Swedish Research Institute in Istanbul (Sweden/Türkiye) Hashemite University (Jordan) Kentro Koinonikon Erevnon Ethniko (Greece)

Association Migration Internationale (Morocco) Toronto Metropolitan University (Canada) University of Nigeria (Nigeria) Bilim Organization for Research and Social Studies (Afghanistan) University of Warsaw (Poland) Migration Matters EV (Germany) University of Sousse (Tunisia) SPIA UG (Germany) University of Glasgow (UK, Associated Partner)

#### Cite as:

Öztürk, N. Ö. and Ünay, H. (2024). "Legal and Policy Infrastructures of Returns in France". WP2 Country Dossier in *GAPs: Decentring the Study of Migrant Returns and Readmission Policies in Europe and Beyond*. DOI: 10.5281/zenodo.11222162.