

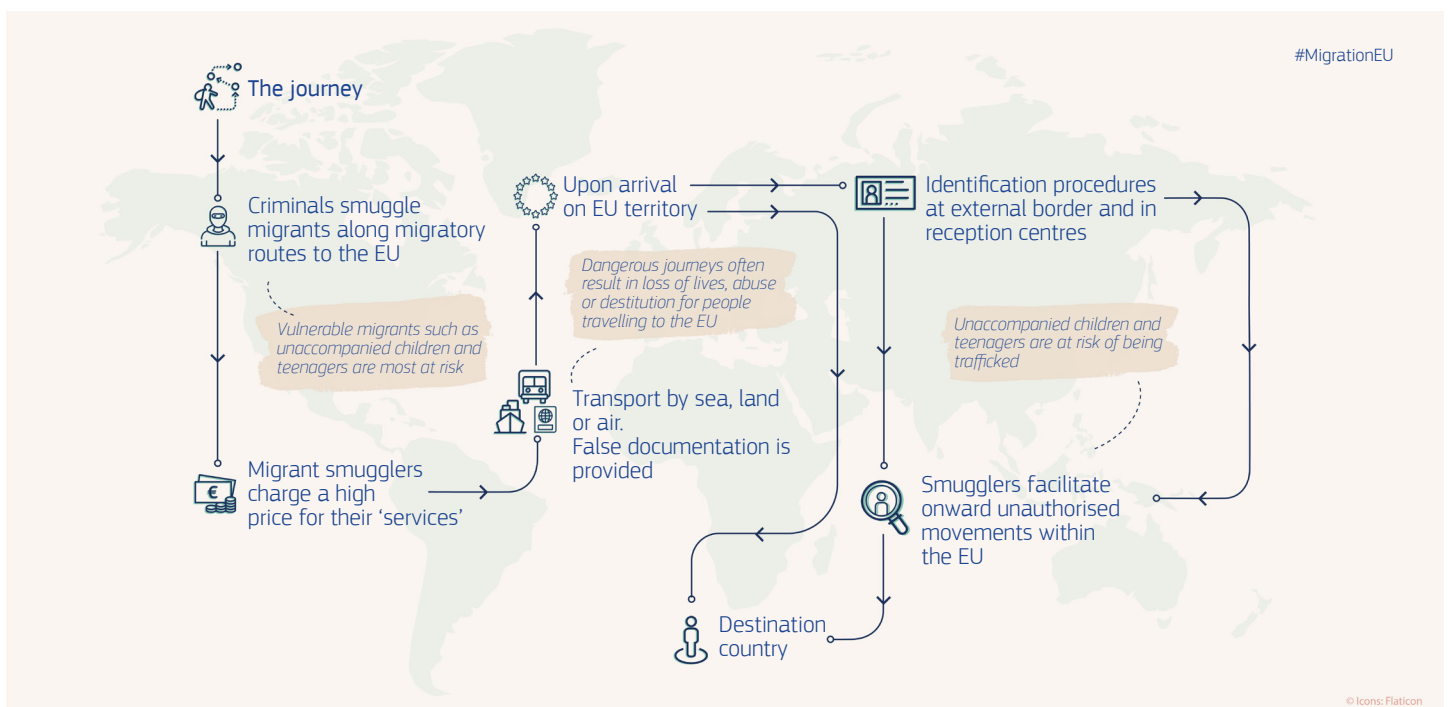
# EU FIGHT AGAINST MIGRANT SMUGGLING AND EXPLOITATION

#MigrationEU | 29 September 2021

A strong European response is needed to prevent organised exploitation of migrants and reduce irregular migration, in coherence with the New Pact on Migration and Asylum's aim to promote sustainable and orderly migration management.

## Renewed action plan against migrant smuggling (2021-2025)

According to Europol, more than 90% of people who arrive to the EU irregularly turn to smugglers to facilitate part or all of their journey.



## Main actions



Anti-Smuggling Operational Partnerships



Responding to digital smuggling



Responding to state-sponsored migrant smuggling



Research and data collection on trends and 'modus operandi' of criminal networks



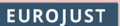
Sanctioning migrant smugglers



Coordination among EU Member States and agencies, including **EASO, Frontex, Europol** and **Eurojust**



Preventing exploitation and ensuring protection of vulnerable people



## Communication on the application of the Employers Sanctions Directive

The possibility of finding a job in the EU's informal economy is a major driver of irregular migration.

### Main focus areas of the Communication



Sanctions against employers who hire irregular migrant workers



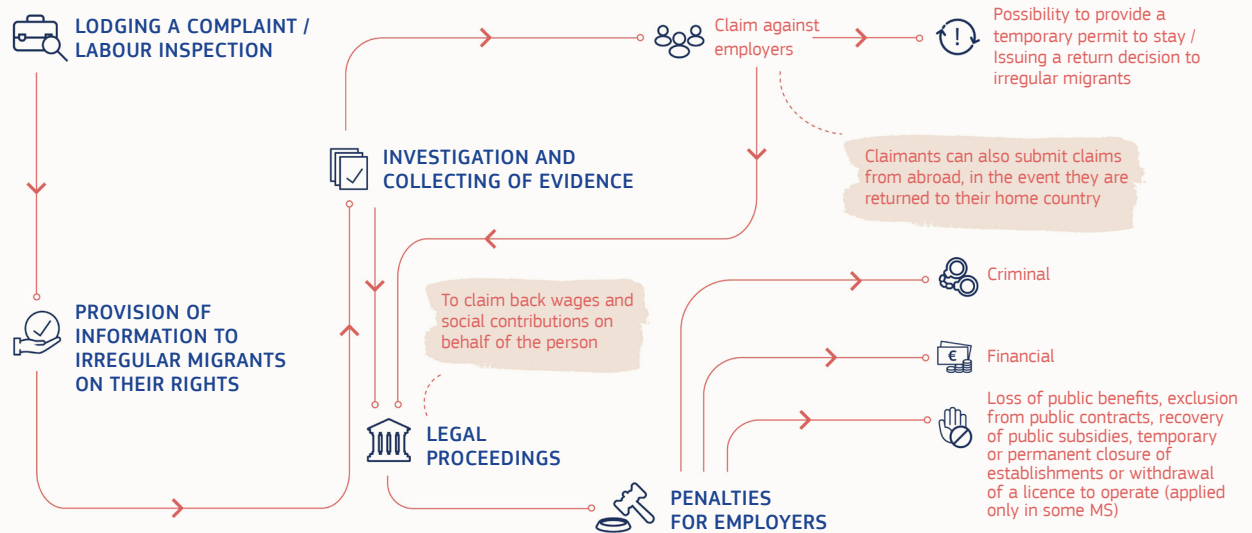
Protecting irregular migrant workers from exploitation and providing mechanisms to claim back wages and social contributions



Carrying out effective labour inspections in the economic sectors that often employ irregular migrants (e.g. construction, agriculture, hospitality, services)





## SANCTIONING EMPLOYERS AND PROTECTING IRREGULAR MIGRANT WORKERS






## Proposal for the partial suspension of the application of the Visa Facilitation Agreement between the EU and the Republic of Belarus

The Commission is proposing to suspend the Visa Facilitation Agreement with Belarus following the regime's attempts to destabilise the EU and its Member States by facilitating irregular migration to the EU and its decision to suspend the EU-Belarus Readmission Agreement.

The measures will affect the following specific categories of applicants:

-  Members of Belarus official delegations
-  Members of Belarus national and regional Governments and Parliaments, Belarus Constitutional Court and Belarus Supreme Court, in the exercise of their duties

The impact will be:

-  Suspending the issuance of multiple-entry visas
-  Higher fees for processing visa applications
-  Further documentary evidence required regarding the purpose of the journey or diplomatic passports and EU 'laissez-passer'

*These proposals will not affect the ordinary citizens of Belarus who will continue enjoying the same benefits under the Visa Facilitation Agreement (including low visa fees and no visa fees) as they do currently.*