

Vietnam

EU engagement to date

The EU-Vietnam Framework Agreement on Comprehensive Partnership and Cooperation signed in 2012 deals with cooperation on migration, including obligation of readmission of own nationals (Article 27). No major issues have been raised so far by the Member States, and the country has not been prioritised for specific EU level engagement on readmission, due to the relatively stable return rate. A EURLO was deployed to Vietnam in November 2018 to support operational cooperation.

Cooperation on readmission

In 2019, 3 710 Vietnamese nationals staying illegally in the Member States were issued return decisions and 905 effectively returned to Vietnam resulting in a **return rate** of 24%. Member States submitted 336 readmission requests to Vietnamese authorities, who issued 113 travel documents resulting in an **issuance rate** of 34%.

A total of 20 Member States reported having approached the authorities of Vietnam for readmission matters related to its nationals in 2019 and 10 have **bilateral agreements/arrangements** with Vietnam, whose provisions are often to always respected.

More than two-thirds of responding Member States, also standing for more than two-thirds of return decisions issued, consider cooperation with Vietnam in **identification procedure** as good or very good, while five Member States, accounting for 20% of return decisions, rate it as average and one, standing for 1%, as poor.

In all responding Member States, valid or expired passport is used as evidence. The same applies for their photocopies, except for two Member States where they are not accepted. Three Member States used information extracted from VIS, and five used biometrics.

For nine responding Member States consular interviews are often to always performed upon their request as necessary, with some other responding Member States indicating that there is rarely a need to organise one. One Member State rated the outcomes of consular interviews as unsatisfactory, but others were generally satisfied. Two Member States indicated that interviews via phone/videoconference were available.

Identification missions were organised by six Member States, and their results were assessed positively. Other Member States did not request for this possibility.

For 12 Member States representing more than three-quarters of return decisions issued, the **issuance of travel documents** often to always takes place in a timely manner, while for six Member States, forming a minor part of those issuing return decisions, this is rarely to never the case.

Three Member States indicated that establishing nationality may be not sufficient to issue a travel document, since Vietnam does not accept unaccompanied minors, persons who arrived before entry into force of the bilateral agreement, or due to family situation.

Return operations by **charter flights** were accepted from four Member States. Other Member States have not attempted it.

In principle, no restrictions are imposed on **scheduled flights**. However, two Member States indicated that visas for escorts were necessary.

In general, all responding Member States assessed the **overall cooperation on return and readmission** as positive or stable, and only one considered that it could be improved.

With a total of 3 710 Vietnamese nationals ordered to leave in 2019, Vietnam ranks 26th amongst visa-bound third countries whose nationals have been issued return decisions in the Member States. Overall, two-thirds of Member States interact with Vietnam on readmission. No jointly agreed procedures are in place at EU level, but 10 Member States have bilateral agreements/arrangements whose provisions are respected. For more than two-thirds of Member States, representing more than two-thirds of return decisions issued, identification processes, including through interviews and evidences of nationality accepted, are conducted successfully, and issuance of travel documents is timely. The better cooperation practices could be extended to all Member States, and the EURLO could support the process. This, potentially facilitated by capacity building support, should result in a better rate of issuance of travel documents, encourage a higher number of readmission requests from Member States and, subsequently, trigger a higher return rate.