



 **PICUM**

Annual Report 2021

Who We Are

PICUM, the Platform for International Cooperation on Undocumented Migrants, was founded in 2001 as an initiative of grassroots organisations, and today is a network of 164 member organisations working with undocumented migrants in 32 countries.

With over two decades of experience and expertise, PICUM promotes recognition of the human rights of undocumented people and people with insecure residence status, and provides an essential link between local realities and the debates taking place at within institutions of the United Nations, the Council of Europe, and the European Union.

Every effort has been made to verify the accuracy of the information contained in this report. All information was believed to be correct as of May 2022.

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Message from the Chair

By Edel McGinley

2021 saw many developments impacting the lives of undocumented people, including the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, newly proposed EU migration policies and calls for fair regularisation measures.

As the COVID-19 pandemic continued to impact the lives of many across the world, we put significant effort into mapping [access to vaccines for undocumented people in Europe](#). Close cooperation with various members and partners was instrumental to this work, which led to strong media interest and coverage.

EU migration policies hardened further in 2021. The EU Commission released new plans to [step up returns and border control](#) and to [fight against migrant smuggling](#). These policies, along with postponing plans to improve regular migration pathways have increased the risk of harm to undocumented people.

Harsher migration policies and political rhetoric has created the conditions for Belarus to use migrants as a political tool with the EU. The EU's appalling response has resulted in death and many people being stranded at the country's borders with Poland and Lithuania with no access to food, shelter, or medical care. PICUM [monitored](#) and denounced the [criminalisation of solidarity](#) with migrants in the region.

Broader criminalisation of migration and of migrants is one of the key barriers to accessing justice and safety for many undocumented people. In February, we published a report



that looks at promising practices across Europe to [access to justice for undocumented victims](#) of crime, and provides recommendations to address existing flaws.

As the construction of physical fences and walls at the EU's borders continued, we launched a resource examining [digital barriers to inclusion](#), including surveillance technologies and big data, that the EU is using to police migrants and step up deportations of those in an irregular situation.

We published our [first report analysing existing labour migration schemes](#) and permits across Europe, recommending ways to improve them; and worked to shape forthcoming EU proposals. In October, we brought together labour and migration experts from across the region in a widely attended webinar series to discuss the rights of undocumented workers and ways to enforce them.

At the national level, regularisation continued to receive significant political attention. Already in 2020, Portugal and [Italy](#) adopted regularisation measures, in part as a way to respond to challenges posed by the pandemic, while the Irish government announced the launch of a regularisation programme for 2022. Regularisation also featured prominently in the public and political debate in Belgium, as calls for clear and fair regularisation criteria intensified and prompted [hunger strikes](#) of hundreds of undocumented people. Protests for fair regularisation measures also erupted in [Malta](#), where previous

regularisation policies were discontinued. In Spain, long-standing advocacy from national civil society succeeded in bringing about reforms that make it easier for young people to access residence and work permits. The [reform](#) is expected to improve the lives of thousands of undocumented young people and unaccompanied children as they turn eighteen.

More good news for undocumented children came from the [Child Guarantee](#) adopted by the EU Council in June, which urges member states to design action plans to ensure that all children at risk of poverty or social exclusion have access to a suite of services. We will evaluate if and how they will address the negative impact of growing up undocumented, which we highlighted in a [report](#) published in March.

Last year, PICUM also worked with our members to develop a strategy defining our shared objectives for the next four years. In addition to policy goals, we will have a stronger focus on intersectional forms of discrimination against undocumented people and strengthened participation of people with lived experience in our work.

Finally, 2021 has marked 20 years of our network. While much remains to be done, we feel proud of our role as a network in contributing to a strong movement to advance the rights of undocumented migrants.

By Edel McGinley

Vision

PICUM seeks a world where all people are guaranteed their human rights regardless of migration or residence status, and where human mobility is recognised as a normal reality.

Mission

Grounded in principles and values of social justice, anti-racism and equality, PICUM is committed to ensuring that undocumented migrants have a dignified standard of living and rights.

Working Principles

Bringing together a broad range of experience and expertise, PICUM generates and coordinates evidence-gathering and advocacy for a humane and informed response to undocumented migrants' realities and provides a platform to engage policy makers and the general public in the full realisation of their rights.

What We Do

- Monitoring and Reporting
- Capacity Building
- Advocacy
- Awareness Raising
- Global Action on Migrants' Rights

Celebrating PICUM's 20 years



2021 marked the 20th anniversary of the PICUM network. To celebrate the occasion, ahead of International Migrants' Day (18 December), we brought our members together to reflect on the challenges and promising opportunities in upholding undocumented migrants' human rights, which has evolved into one of the most urgent human rights issues in Europe.

Migration and undocumented migrants continue to be criminalized and years of enforcement focused policy agendas have led to extreme situations of pushbacks, increased incarceration, police violence against migrants at borders and elsewhere. Civil society organisations face increasing

challenges in such contexts yet at the same time manage to achieve gains which impact the lives of undocumented migrants in various areas of their lives. For instance, a new regularisation scheme in Ireland is set to grant access to residence permits for thousands of undocumented people living in the island; winter shelters in Prague, Czech Republic, are now opening their doors to undocumented homeless people; joint efforts have been made between public authorities and civil society to vaccinate undocumented people against COVID-19 in Oslo, Norway; and a recent reform in Spain is making it easier for unaccompanied young migrants to access residence and work permits as they turn 18.





21

Key reports and publications
(+24 translated versions)



12

Consultations and statements,
with an average of
48 signatories each



+2,100

Participants attended
18 webinars organized /
co-organized by PICUM



423

Participants at our Legal
Seminar series



11

Meetings with board and
members to develop our
new multiannual strategic
plan



12

Meetings for PICUM
members

Covid-19 Vaccine for Undocumented Migrants

As COVID-19 vaccination campaigns were rolled out across Europe in 2021, we focused our attention on documenting and mapping access to the vaccines for undocumented people.

We focused our efforts on raising public attention to access to the vaccines, and more broadly to public health care, for undocumented people in Europe, partnering closely with members and partners at the national level to get insight on developments locally and nationally. We wrote and published several country-specific blogs, based on these interviews. In June 2021, we launched a [map chart](#) that shows access levels

in most European countries, based on information we could gather on administrative barriers (for instance, the need to provide a social security number to book one's vaccine) and on the risk of immigration checks (for instance, where a clear and formalised firewall is not in place).

We worked with public health institutions, partner civil society organisations and our own members, and academics. For instance, we co-authored, with the Health Division of the International Organisation for Migration, an op-ed that was published on the website of the [GAVI Alliance](#), the world's

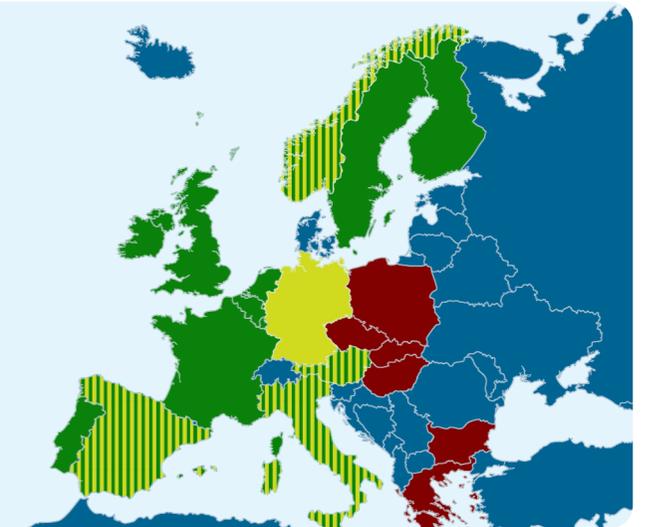
▼ [PICUM's map chart on access to the COVID-19 vaccines for undocumented people in Europe.](#)



Where are undocumented migrants able to get a COVID-19 vaccine, without immigration checks?*

- Good access
- Limited access
- Varies by region/locality
- No access

*This map takes into account official policies and approaches that increase the likelihood that undocumented people can access the vaccine. In no country is implementation perfect.



biggest public-private initiative to provide vaccines to poorer countries. We joined health partners, including the [Nobody Left Outside](#) initiative and the [European Public Health Alliance](#), in sending letters to the European Commission calling for action to improve vaccine equity.

Engaging media around access to COVID-19 vaccines

Our work to map access to the COVID-19 vaccines for undocumented people in Europe elicited significant media attention and coverage throughout 2021. In particular, it was covered by [Deutsche Welle](#) (Germany), [Financial Times](#) (UK), [InfoMigrants](#) (Europe), [La Vanguardia](#) (Spain), [Open Migration](#) (Italy), [PBS News Hour](#) (USA), [RTVE](#) (Spain), [Der Spiegel](#) (Germany), [Trouw](#) (Netherlands), [Washington Post](#) (USA), and international medical journal [The Lancet](#). We discussed access to the COVID-19 vaccines with reporters from Reuters, New York Times, and Yomiuri Shimbun (Japan's biggest newspaper), as well as from the UK-based Bureau of Investigative Journalism, whose reporting was published on various European outlets, including [EU Observer](#), [La Repubblica](#) (Italy), [Telegraph](#) (UK).

▼ *Interview of PICUM Senior Advocacy Officer Alyna Smith on PBS News.*



We also collaborated with [Lighthouse Reports](#), a non-profit newsroom that leads transnational investigations and has been researching the vaccination of undocumented people in Europe. Their aim was to give more visibility to equity issues and systemic barriers faced by this population. We worked with them to provide local contacts for their research and develop indicators to measure the transparency, accessibility and inclusivity of European vaccination strategies. This [work](#) was published at the end of 2021 and is being rolled out in various European regional and national outlets.



DER SPIEGEL



LA VANGUARDIA

The Washington Post

Migration Policies

Highlighting human rights failures in the EU Migration Pact

In 2020, the EU published a Pact on Migration and Asylum, setting out the EU's agenda on migration for the years to come. In 2021, while proposals included in the Pact were largely blocked in negotiations between the European Parliament and the Council, we continued to draw attention to threats posed by such proposals to the human rights of migrants. We discussed our proposals with members of the European Parliament from five different political groups (EPP, Renew, S&D, Greens/EFA and GUE/NGL) and with European Commission officials. Our analysis and targeted recommendations were

set out in a brief that we disseminated to our members and partners.



◀ Cover image of PICUM's FAQ on the EU Pact on Migration and Asylum.

Building a coalition against immigration detention

In 2021, we conducted advocacy on a host of EU legislative proposals that are likely to severely increase the detention of migrants - namely, the Recast Return Directive, the Screening Regulation, the Crisis Regulation, the Asylum Procedures Regulation, the Regulation on Asylum and Migration Management and, subsequently, the Regulation on instrumentalisation of migration and the amended Schengen Borders Code. We analysed these proposals and discussed them with our members, highlighting impact at the national level and opportunities for joint advocacy. We published [recommendations](#) on the different files, and proposed amendments that were taken onboard by members of the European Parliament. These included amendments to reduce the use of immigration detention, to promote community-based solutions and to increase pathways to residence permits.

In 2021, we continued to engage various actors in a joint campaign against immigration detention. In particular, we coordinated strategic advocacy with other leading European NGOs, and continued participating in the work of the [European ATD Network](#) on alternatives to detention.



◀ MEP Sophie in't Veld during our webinar 'Lockdowns and lockups: lessons (not) learnt on immigration detention in Europe'.

Raising awareness about residence permits beyond asylum

We also continued to work with a wide range of partners to draw attention to the harmful impact of immigration detention on the mental health of people with vulnerabilities and on the wellbeing and inclusion of undocumented children. In June 2021, we discussed this impact in a webinar we organised with JRS Europe that featured contributions from MEP Sophie in't Veld, medical professionals and members of civil society from Belgium and the Netherlands. Thanks to this webinar, we secured a meeting with Commission officials to discuss the impact of the EU Migration Pact on immigration detention.

EU migration policies have focused on deporting people who are denied asylum as the only available option, with the EU Migration Pact reinforcing this approach. Yet there are both human rights-related reasons and practical reasons that people who do not qualify for asylum cannot be deported, leaving people who can neither get asylum nor be returned to live in irregularity. We pushed back against this [link between asylum and returns](#) and highlighted existing national pathways to regular stay beyond asylum, which would be jeopardised by provisions in the EU Migration Pact.

We discussed with our members ways to ensure rights and protection for people who cannot return or be deported, because of either human rights or practical reasons, exchanging information on national practices (such as humanitarian permits, permits based on the principle of non-refoulement and the right to private and family life, and tolerated statuses).



◀ Public discussion with MEP Erik Marquardt, Natalie Gruber and Michele LeVoy following the screening of 'Libre'.

Criminalisation of migration and solidarity with migrants

Among the many concerning aspects of the EU Pact on Migration and Asylum is its failure to effectively counter the criminalisation of acts of solidarity with migrants. The Pact in fact contains several provisions that are likely to increase the risk of criminalisation for people and organisations defending migrants' rights. We [analysed and reported on](#) these shortcomings and proposed ways to prevent acts of solidarity with migrants from being criminalised.

In June, in cooperation with Front Line Defenders, we hosted an online screening of the documentary "Libre", which recounts the story of French farmer Cédric Herrou and his legal battle against the



criminalisation of his acts of solidarity with migrants coming to France through the Italian border. The screening was followed by a debate on the criminalisation of solidarity and recent legal developments at the EU level, which was introduced by MEP Erik Marquardt. In October, we organised and facilitated a panel discussion in the context of the 2021 Fundamental Rights Forum on the harmful impact of counter-smuggling policies on migrants and people defending their rights.

▲ Cover image of PICUM's analysis 'Help is no crime: are EU policies moving in the right direction?'.

Migration Governance: From Cities to the Global Level

We continued to invest in strengthening the capacity of city-level actors to respond to the needs and challenges faced by undocumented migrants. As a member of the Steering Group of the City initiative on Irregular Migrants, coordinated by Compas, University of Oxford, we participated in various planning meetings with cities to discuss promising practices concerning safe reporting of crime; enabling access to the Covid-19 vaccine for undocumented migrants; and municipal IDs. We worked with key networks at the European, global as well as national levels working on cities and migration to encourage and support them to incorporate a perspective on undocumented migrants within the broader remit of their work on migration.

On the global level, we worked closely with civil society partners as a member of the Global Coalition on Migration, Civil Society Action Committee, and the Women in Migration Network in the lead-up to the International Migration Review Forum (IMRF), set to review governments' commitments under the Global Compact on Migration. We worked closely with civil society partners to develop a global civil society position paper towards the IMRF, "12 Key Ways for States to Get Back on Track". This position specifically calls for an end to immigration detention (and for states to immediately end detention of children) and for specific criteria on regularization – two areas where PICUM specifically asserted its leadership. Together with other regional migrants' rights networks, we co-organized a series of global webinars to discuss key issues identified by

civil society partners as crucial in the implementation of the Global Compact on Migration, including an analysis of current governmental responses on irregular migration.



▲ Cover image of the global civil society position paper '12 key ways for States to get back on track'.

Regularisation



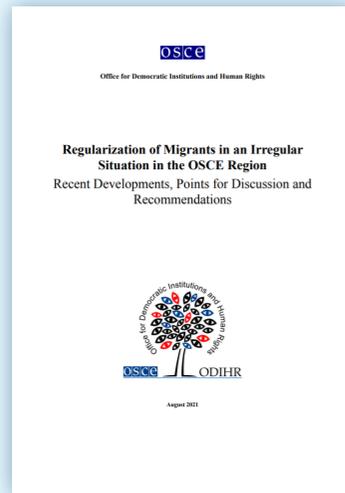
▲ Task Force meeting on Regularisation.

Regularisation is the process through which someone can obtain a residence permit to stay in the country they already live in. Once regularised, a person can work officially, study at university and go to the doctor when they're sick. They can stand up for themselves and others when someone tries to abuse or exploit them, without fearing it will lead to detention and deportation. Though not the only one, regularisation is a crucial tool to improve the lives of undocumented people.

Regularisation continues to be an important priority for our network. In 2021, we convened two member meetings to discuss regularisation measures for migrant children transitioning into adulthood, and for people in employment. We analysed recent regularisation schemes in [Italy](#) and [Spain](#), and reported on calls for fair regularisation measures in [Belgium](#) and [Malta](#).

We also discussed regularisation programmes and mechanisms with European civil society in a webinar we co-organised with Caritas Europa and the European Trade Union Confederation. We held an online conference with the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights that was attended by, among others, government officials from Portugal and Spain. Both events were key opportunities to reinforce the idea that regularisation works and has been used, in various forms, by most European and OSCE countries.

We contributed to the knowledge-base on this issue, developing a database of regularisation mechanisms and procedures in different countries, and a FAQ on regularisation mechanisms that lists key elements of successful policies, as well as a report highlighting the regularisation mechanisms available to children and/or young people in six countries (Belgium, Germany, Greece, Spain, Sweden and the UK).



▲ ODIHR worked closely with PICUM on its report on regularisation, which was the focus of the joint webinar.



▲ Cover image of PICUM's FAQ on Regularisation and access to a secure residence status.

Children and Families

Highlighting issues faced by undocumented children and young people

Undocumented children, young people and families face great challenges in accessing education, health care, decent housing, and financial support.

In March 2021, we published the report "[Navigating Irregularity. The impact of growing up undocumented](#)", where we address the impact of irregular status on children's housing situation, access to services, family life and socio-economic status, school life, and children's interaction with residence procedures and immigration enforcement. Crucially, we recommend ways to prevent and limit the harm caused by irregularity on children's lives.



We presented findings and recommendations in a [webinar](#) we organised with Save the Children Spain, where we discussed promising migration laws and residence procedures in Belgium, Italy and Spain that aim to safeguard children's rights and set independent procedures to determine their best interests. This webinar was a key opportunity to discuss issues faced by undocumented children with child rights experts from the European Commission and the Council of Europe.

We co-organised a webinar on transition into adulthood with Oxfam in September, and did extensive research into the support undocumented migrant children and young people need and receive from governments when transitioning into adulthood, and how governments treat them when they become of age.

◀ Carolina Lasen Diaz, Legal Adviser, Office of the Secretary General's Special Representative on Migration and Refugees, Council of Europe representative, during our webinar 'Growing up undocumented in Europe'.

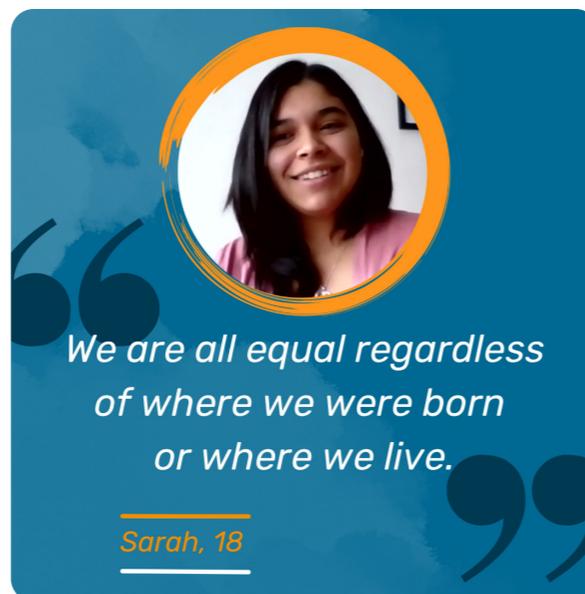
Shaping EU policies for undocumented children

In 2021, two major EU policies were published that affect the rights and welfare of undocumented children. The first is the EU Strategy on the Rights of the Child, which provides policy directions to member states to protect the rights of children. The second is the Child Guarantee, through which member states commit to giving children access to services and support against poverty, including free high quality early childhood education and care, and healthy school meals. It is thanks to direct advocacy and our participation in the EU Alliance on Investing in Children and the Child Rights Action Group, key coalitions in the EU child rights space, that both policies include undocumented children as particularly vulnerable children.

The Child Rights Guarantee needs to be implemented by member states through national action plans. We therefore supported our members in their advocacy on such measures, developing briefings, organising a dedicated meeting for PICUM and ECRE members and working with the national coordinators of the action plans.

► *Words of wisdom from a participant in PICUM's youth exchange.*

On migration policy, we advocated for the EU Migration and Asylum Pact to better safeguard the best interests of the child in migration procedures and decision-making, because several of its proposals are likely to affect migrant children's lives significantly. We targeted [child-specific recommendations](#) and amendments to the European Parliament: many were adopted by several political groups (left, socialists, greens and liberals). We also managed, in partnership with digital rights activists, to ensure adequate safeguards for (undocumented) migrant children are considered in the Eurodac regulation.



Labour



▲ *Greek Forum for Refugees' meeting with key stakeholders on racial discrimination and exploitation of migrant workers.*

Advocating for labour justice for undocumented workers

Undocumented workers too often have limited or no options to report labour exploitation, and to get justice and remedies.

In 2021, we made headway in building consensus among labour authorities, migration authorities and anti-trafficking actors at European level that the link between labour inspections and immigration enforcement poses major challenges for migrant workers' rights. We engaged the different actors to discuss their roles in ensuring safeguards are in place so that migrant workers do not risk deportation as a result of exercising their rights or because of labour inspections.

We brought evidence around challenges facing undocumented workers to access labour justice to the European Commission's evaluation of the law on sanctions for employers of undocumented workers. As a result, this evaluation recognised the

need for undocumented workers to be able to engage with law enforcement and exercise their rights, as well as the challenges for workers to access remedy when inspections can lead to immigration enforcement. It also calls on governments to support trade unions and NGOs to provide information and advice, legal assistance and other services to undocumented workers.

Together with our partner the European Trade Union Confederation (ETUC), we also provided expertise to the European Platform tackling Undeclared Work and European Labour Authority on these issues.

Finally, we supported our members to advance the debate at the national level. In particular, members in Cyprus and Greece developed analysis and stakeholder meetings on national and local level recommendations to improve access to remedy for undocumented workers.

Training civil society to defend the rights of undocumented workers

In October, we held a series of four online legal seminars on undocumented workers' rights to promote legal and political advocacy across the EU. The series was organised together with the International Labour Organisation (ILO) and ETUC, and it trained lawyers, trade unions, NGOs and other key actors on relevant provisions in international and EU law, and promising law and practice at the national level.

We co-designed and delivered a training course with the ETUC, European Trade Union Institute (ETUI) and the Trade Union Congress, as well as a report distilling key learnings to reach more people within the broader trade union movement. Both training events were key opportunities to continue building our network of potential advocates and allies for undocumented workers' rights.



▲ Adam Pokorny, Head of Unit, Labour Law, DG Employment, during our legal seminar series.

Promoting decent work permit schemes

Coming to Europe to work via regular routes is no easy task. Work permits are few and those that exist are often very limited in scope and make workers overly dependent on their employers.

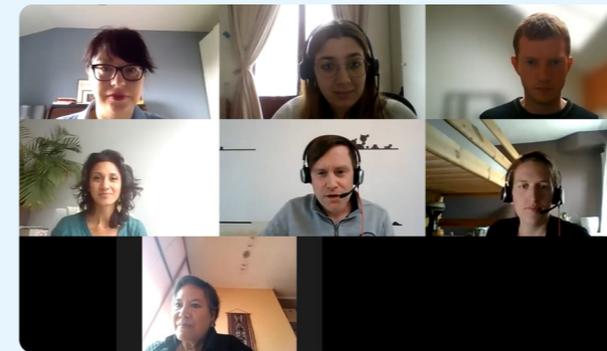
In 2021, we engaged with EU decision makers and stakeholders to put forward recommendations to improve work permit schemes, including close cooperation with MEPs working on labour migration.

We developed specific advocacy work in partnership with key allies focusing on agricultural workers and domestic and care workers. In particular, with the European Federation of Food, Agriculture, and Tourism Trade Unions and other partners, we influenced the reform of the Common Agricultural Policy so that payments will be made conditional on the respect of labour rights.



▲ Partnership on the organisation of the #C18g ILO event.

We also provided evidence on the living and working conditions of migrant seasonal workers to the evaluation of the Seasonal Workers' Directive. We participated in an informal alliance involving the European Commission's directorate on employment, ILO, trade unions, employers and NGOs to mark the [10th anniversary of the ILO Domestic Workers' Convention](#). The rights of migrant domestic workers and the need for decent labour migration pathways were integrated throughout related activities, including a report and major regional conference.



▲ Learning session on access to work permits in Portugal.

Advocating for fair labour migration policies and agreements

Labour migration agreements between individual countries can complicate labour migration policies, with different rights for different workers. The perspective of migrant workers is often absent. But if these agreements are grounded in human and labour rights, they can facilitate decent labour migration, as part of a comprehensive labour migration policy.

In 2021, we contributed to the Global Guidance on Bilateral Labour Migration Agreements that was developed by the UN Migration Network, which sets out principles to centre bilateral labour migration agreements around human and labour rights. These include protecting workers and their families in case of loss or change of employment, and adopting clear and transparent procedures for the extension or renewal of work permits, as well as pathways to settled status and citizenship. We supported our members' advocacy on fair and sustainable work permit policies on the national level through four mutual learning sessions, respectively focusing on Germany, Poland, Portugal, and Sweden.

Justice

Promoting safety, protection and justice

Having no, or precarious, residence status often increases a person's risk of experiencing abuse or exploitation. At the same time, it means having fewer options to get support and protection.

The 2020 EU Strategy on Victims' Rights recognises that undocumented people are particularly vulnerable to victimisation, recognising that if they engage with authorities they may risk detention, and commits to taking steps to address this at EU level.

In 2021, we built on this framework as members of the EU Platform on Victims' Rights, setting out our recommendations in a keynote address at a platform meeting to the European Commission and key stakeholders. We contributed to the EU's ongoing assessment of the adequacy of existing legislation on victims' rights and, and we advocated for the EU's new directive on violence against women to include undocumented women, underscoring the need for unconditional access to services and to invest in holistic support and protection rather than extending the use of criminal justice tools.

We deepened collaboration with allies on how race and migration status intersect with and impact safety and justice for undocumented people, in particular in the context of racial profiling and overpolicing. We provided input to the UN Human Rights Office on how the criminalisation of irregular migration makes people more likely to be victimised by authorities themselves.

SAFE REPORTING
JUSTICE, SAFETY AND PROTECTION FOR ALL

CRIMINALISING UNDOCUMENTED PEOPLE DECREASES THEIR SAFETY AND PROMOTES EXPLOITATION

- Going to the police can trigger deportation for a person without papers - so they often avoid seeking help at all.
- This increases their risk of abuse and exploitation.
- The people who mistreat them (their employer, landlord, spouse) do so without fear of consequences.
- Individuals, their families and communities are left feeling unsafe, unprotected.

WHAT IS SAFE REPORTING?

Safe reporting prioritises justice, safety and protection for victims with insecure status.

- UNCONDITIONAL ACCESS TO HOLISTIC SUPPORT SERVICES AND PROTECTION**
Ensuring that all undocumented victims of crime can access available support services and protection (including special permits for victims of crime) without limitation based on the type of crime committed or their willingness to cooperate with authorities in a criminal investigation.
- ACCOUNTABILITY AND RECOGNITION OF HARM**
Adopting an approach to access to justice that promotes accountability and recognition of harm through the criminal justice system or other processes, including restorative justice and community-based approaches centred on the interests of the person who has been victimised.
- PROTECTION FROM DEPORTATION**
Establishing measures ("firewalls") that remove the risk of undocumented victims facing deportation if they interact with law enforcement or other actors within the criminal justice system, through structural changes and by working with trusted, independent specialist organisations that can act as intermediaries and whose interest is solely in the welfare of the victim.

WHY DO WE NEED SAFE REPORTING?

Safe reporting is the foundation of a victim-centred response that promotes justice, protection and safety for people who have been victimised, regardless of residence status.

- Trust in public institutions.
- Safe communities.
- More accountability for harms committed.
- More efficient use of resources.
- Support and referrals for victims of crime.
- Public safety prioritised.

EU LAW PROTECTS ALL VICTIMS

Under the **Victims' Rights Directive**, every victim of crime has the right to:

- Report crime without fear.
- Free, confidential assistance.
- Receive information in a way they understand.
- Protection from further victimisation.
- Be treated respectfully.

Under the **General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)**, no victim or witness should fear that personal data revealed when seeking support and justice will be used against them for immigration enforcement purposes.

Health Care

Working together towards truly universal access to care

Undocumented people are often denied access to essential health care simply because they do not have the right paperwork to be in the country they live in.

In 2021, we continued to collaborate with key networks and partners - working on HIV, sex work, poverty and homelessness, drug use - to advocate collectively for the social rights of people experiencing marginalisation and criminalisation, elevating these issues among EU policy-makers and UN actors.

We explored more closely mental health aspects of having insecure residence status, convening a meeting with our members to discuss the systemic factors that affect the mental health of undocumented people, the critical work of NGOs in supporting undocumented people in holistic and empowering ways, and possible reforms within the health sector and beyond to promote resilience and wellbeing.



◀ PICUM Member meeting on insecure status and mental health.

Digital Rights

Showing the harms of technology for migration control

The growing use of digital technology and the processing on a massive scale of migrants' personal data for immigration control has meant increased surveillance of and discrimination against people of colour, religious and ethnic minorities.

In 2021, we extended our collaboration with digital rights advocates on migration, criminalisation and technology. We developed tools and analysis to distil these our concerns to wider audiences: in particular, we published stories on what the EU's interoperable migration databases mean in practice for undocumented people; and developed a briefing for members and partners on the intersection between digital technology and migrants' rights and inclusion.

Based on relationships built with digital rights organisations, we became a partner in joint advocacy efforts around the EU's new proposed law to regulate uses of artificial intelligence, so that the rights of migrants, undocumented or not, are upheld. We saw some of civil society's calls reflected in the draft - including recognition of uses for migration purposes as "high risk".

We were invited to participate in an initiative by EDRI and the Digital Freedom Fund to "[decolonise digital rights](#)" where we are contributing, with a diverse group of voices and

stakeholders, to a process that investigates, interrogates and proposes an alternative to structural causes of oppression embedded within the digital sphere and the application of technologies. The growing number of invitations for our input on these issues is evidence of an increasing recognition of PICUM as a valued voice on digital rights, technology and the rights and wellbeing of migrants.

▼ *Illustration from PICUM interactive webpage on interoperability.*



Racial Justice

In 2020, the EU adopted its first ever Anti-Racism Action Plan, which was largely prompted by the public outcry over the killing by police of George Floyd in the United States and by growing global movements against police violence and for racial justice. This Action Plan is meant to be a roadmap to tackle racism in the EU until 2025.

In 2021, we stepped up our collaboration with anti-racist groups to advocate for the implementation of the Anti-Racism Action Plan and on decriminalisation, and developed analysis on racial justice dimensions of different areas of our work. We published blogs on the relationship between racism and migration policy in the [EU](#), and in [Spain](#).

TARAJAL AND THE LEGACY OF RACISM IN SPAIN'S MIGRATION SYSTEM

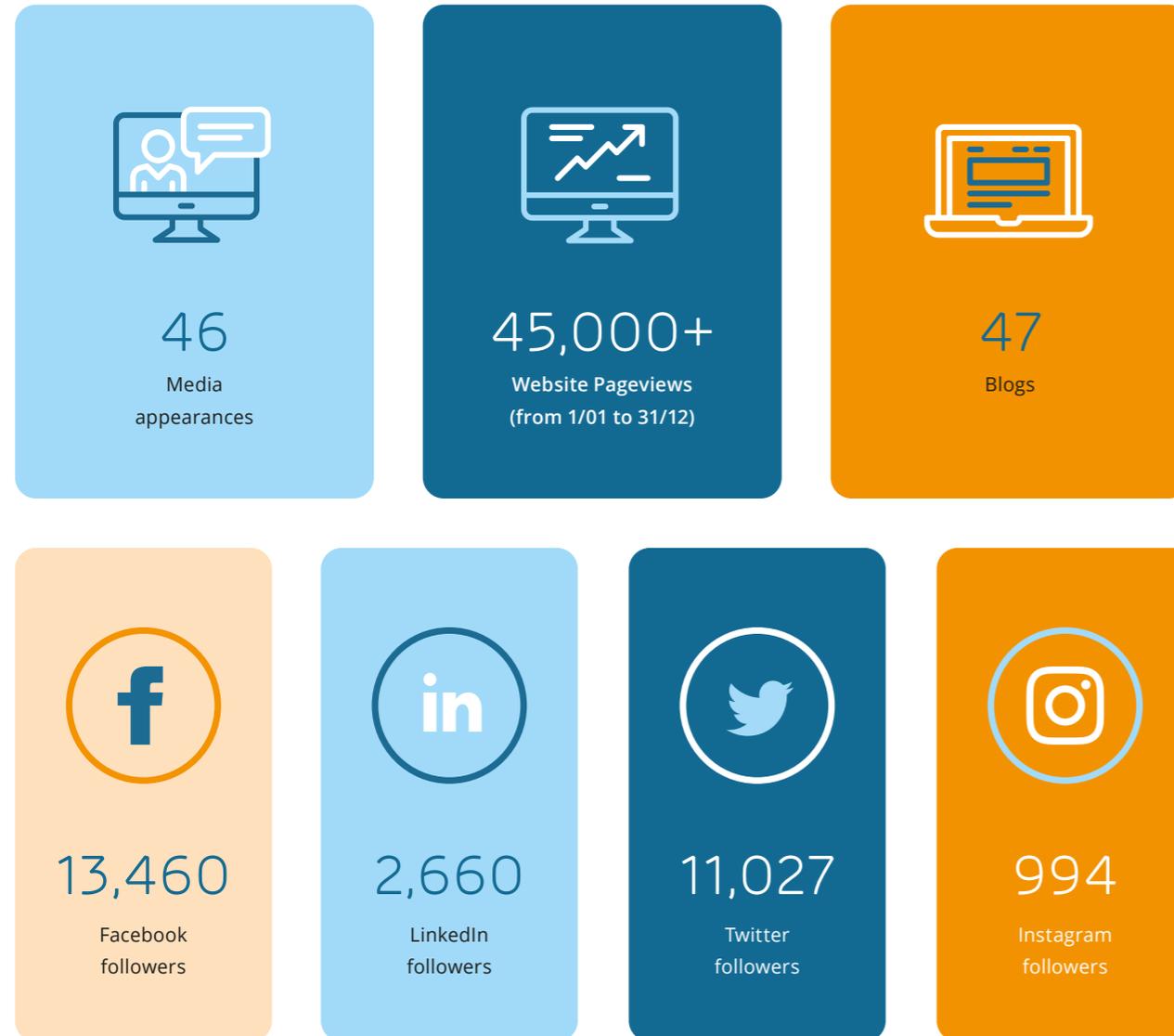


8 February 2021 Blog, Home

This blog is the first in a two-part series looking at the intersection between racism and migration policy, and has been written by PICUM's Advocacy Trainee Abigail Cárdenas Mena.

▲ *PICUM blog on 'Tarajal and the legacy of racism in Spain's migration system'*

Communications



Using human stories to foster empathy with undocumented people

Our long-standing Words Matter campaign stresses the importance of language in shaping public perceptions and – ultimately – policies, and calls for humane language when talking about undocumented people. While our previous efforts focussed on terminology, and on advocating for terms such as “undocumented” or “irregular” instead of “illegal”, we are now extending our campaign to values and human stories, in line with our work on hope-based narratives, to reach a broader audience.

In 2021, we interviewed and filmed a group of undocumented people living in Belgium, who shared with us how they feel when they are called “illegal”, and how they would like to be seen instead. We collated their powerful testimonies in the video “Living Undocumented in Europe”, that was widely shared on social media and that we will keep referring to as a helpful framing tool at meetings and conferences with relevant stakeholders.

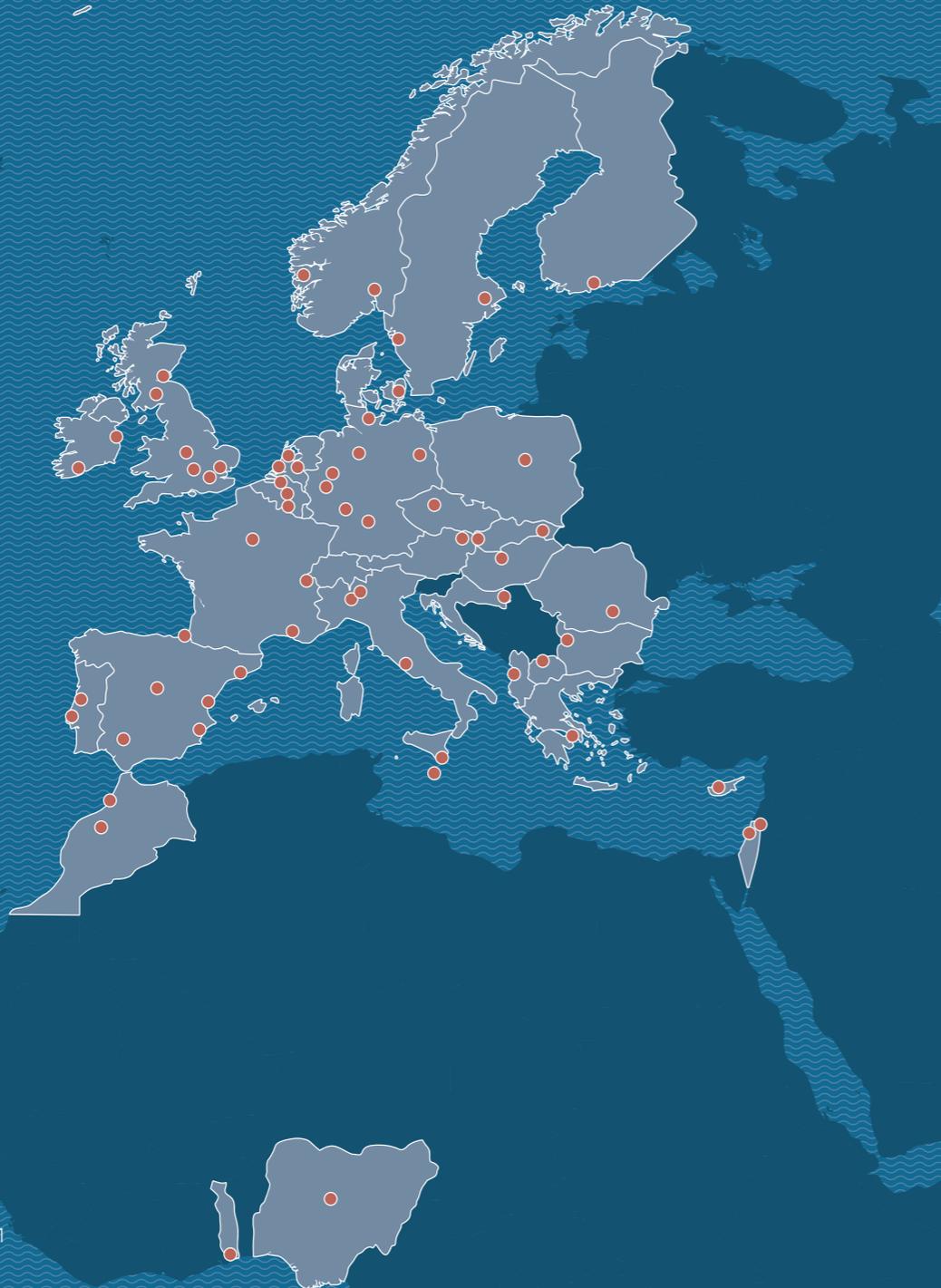


◀ PICUM video 'Living Undocumented in Europe'.

Membership

PICUM has 164 member organisations in 32 countries, primarily in Europe. Our members uphold the human rights of undocumented migrants by providing essential services, and leading campaigns, actions and advocacy.

Our membership includes grassroots, national level, migrant community organisations, service providers, trade unions and others engaged in a variety of activities from information and advice, mediation, legal aid, research, policy analysis, and advocacy.



New Members in 2021

In 2021, the following five organisations became PICUM members:

Belgium:

- JRS Belgium
- Vluchtelingenwerk Vlaanderen
- MDM - Médecins du Monde Belgique

Spain:

- Asociación Red de Mujeres Latinoamericanas y del Caribe

UK:

- Rerouting initiative CIC



▲ Some new members elected during PICUM General Assembly 2021.

ALBANIA

- Initiative ARSIS

AUSTRIA

- Austrian Red Cross
- Drop-in Center for Undocumented Migrants / UNDOK-
Anlaufstelle zur gewerkschaftlichen Unterstützung
undokumentiert Arbeitender
- Red Edition

BELGIUM

- ADC Memorial
- Atlas
- CIRE - Coordination et Initiatives pour Réfugiés et Etrangers
- CSC Brussels-Hal Vilvoorde - Confédération des Syndicats
Chrétiens
- De Meeting
- FAIRWORK Belgium
- FILIPINIANA-EUROPA vzw
- JRS Belgium
- Maison du Peuple d'Europe
- Maison du Peuple d'Europe
- MDM - Médecins du Monde Belgique
- Le Monde des Possibles asbl
- ORBIT -Thuis in de Wereld van diversiteit en migratie
- Plate-forme Mineurs en exil- Platform Kinderen op de
vlucht
- Point d'Appui Liege
- Protestant Sociaal Centrum
- Raiz Mirim asbl
- Samahan-Filipino Migrant Workers Union in Belgium
- Sante Mentale & Exclusion Sociale (SMES-Europa aisbl)
- SB OverSeas
- United Protestant Church in Belgium
- UTSOPI

- Vluchtelingen Onthaalgroep Sint-Niklaas (VLOS)
- Vluchtelingenwerk Vlaanderen

BULGARIA

- Center for Legal Aid – Voice in Bulgaria

CROATIA

- Coalition for Work with Psychotrauma and Peace

CYPRUS

- CyRC
- KISA - Action for Equality, Support, Antiracism

CZECHIA

- Association for Integration and Migration
- Consortium of Migrants Assisting Organisations in the
Czech Republic
- La Strada Czech Republic
- People in Need

DENMARK

- Babaylan Denmark - Philippine Women's Network
- Refugees Welcome

FINLAND

- Evangelical Lutheran Church of Finland
- Physicians for Social Responsibility
- Refugee Advice Centre
- TAMPEP

FRANCE

- Centre Enfants du Monde
- GISTI- Groupe d'Information et de Soutien des Immigrés
- Plateforme Enfants du Monde
- RESF - Réseau éducation sans frontières

- STRASS

GERMANY

- Agisra e.V. / Arbeitsgemeinschaft gegen internationale
sexuelle und rassistische Ausbeutung
- Arbeit und Leben
- BAG Asyl in der Kirche
- Ban Ying
- Flüchtlingsrat Niedersachsen e.V.
- Industriegewerkschaft Metall Vorstand
- Jugendliche ohne Grenzen
- KOK e.V. German NGO network against trafficking in
human beings
- Maisha e.V. African Women in Germany
- Medibüro Kiel e.V.
- MediNetz Bremen
- MediNetz-Koblenz e.V.
- Medinetz Mainz e.V.
- MedinetZ Ulm e.V.
- MediNetz Würzburg e.V.

GREECE

- ARSIS - Association for the Social Support of Youth
- Generation 2.0 RED (Generation 2.0 for Rights, Equality and
Diversity)
- Greek Forum of Refugees
- Human Rights 360
- Solidarity Now

HUNGARY

- Menedék - Hungarian Association for Migrants
- SZEXE

IRELAND

- Immigrant Council of Ireland
- Migrant Rights Center Ireland
- Nasc - Irish Immigrant Support Centre
- Sex Workers Alliance Ireland

ISRAEL

- HIAS Israel
- Hotline for Refugees and Migrants
- Humanity Crew
- Kav LaOved

ITALY

- ASGI - Associazone Studi Giuridici Immigrazione
- DIFFERENZA DONNA
- NAGA-Associazione Volontaria di Assistenza Socio-
Sanitaria
- SIMM - Società Italiana Medicina delle Migrazioni

LUXEMBOURG

- ASTI - Association de Soutien aux Travailleurs Immigres
asbl

MACEDONIA

- LEGIS

MALTA

- Aditus
- Jesuit Refugee Service Malta

MOROCCO

- Afrique Culture Maroc
- Organisation Démocratique des Travailleurs Immigres au
Maroc (ODT)

NETHERLANDS

- Dokters van de Wereld
- Huize Agnes
- Indonesian Migrant Workers Union
- La Strada International
- Pauluskerk Vluchtelingenwerk
- Stichting ASKV Amsterdams Solidariteits Komitee Vluchtelingen
- Stichting FairWork
- Stichting LOS
- Stichting PHAROS
- Stichting Ros
- Stichting STIL Utrecht

NIGERIA

- Centre for Youth Integrated Development

NORWAY

- Helsesenter for papirløse migranter / The Church City Mission in Oslo Health Centre for Undocumented Migrants
- Helsehjelp til papirløse/ Health care to irregular migrants
- Menesker i Limbo
- The Norwegian Centre against Racism

POLAND

- Association for Legal Intervention (Stowarzyszenie Interwencji Prawnej)

PORTUGAL

- Associacao de Promotores de Saude, Ambiente e Dese - PROSAUDESC
- JRS - Jesuit Refugee Service Portugal (Servico Jesuita aos Refugiados)
- APAV - Portuguese Association for Victim Support

ROMANIA

- SexWorkCall SWC

SLOVAKIA

- Centre Mokosha
- Human Rights League

SPAIN

- ACCEM - Asociacion Comision Catolica Española de Migraciones
- Asociación Red de Mujeres Latinoamericanas y del Caribe
- APAV- Asociacion en Prevencion y Asistencia de la Violencia
- Asociación POR TI MUJER
- Asociación Rumiñahui
- Asociacion Salud y Familia
- Caritas Diocesana de Barcelona
- Centro de Investigaciones en Derechos Humanos Pro Igual
- CEPAIM
- Federación Andalucía Acoge
- Federación Red Acoge
- Justicia y Paz, Comisión General de España
- Mujeres Supervivientes
- Red de Apoyo a la mujer inmigrante víctima de violencia de género (Red Aminvi)
- SJME - Servicio Jesuita a Migrantes España
- SOS RACISMO GIPUZKOA

SWEDEN

- Afghan Association
- Caritas Sverige
- Immigrant-institute
- Rosengrenska
- Trade Union Center for Undocumented Migrants

SWITZERLAND

- Association Promotion Droits Humains
- Berner Berantungsstelle für Sans-papiers
- CCSI - Centre de Contact Suisses-Immigres
- Collectif de soutien aux Sans-papiers de Geneve
- FIZ Fachstelle Frauenhandel und Frauenmigration
- Sans-Papiers Anlaufstelle Zürich
- SIT - Syndicat interprofessionnel des travailleurs et travailleuses
- Solidaritätsnetz Sans-Papiers Bern

TOGO

- MARS

UNITED KINGDOM

- Coram Children's Legal Centre
- Focus on Labour Exploitation
- Hackney Migrant Centre
- IAS - Immigration Advice Service
- JCWI - Joint Council for the Welfare of Immigrants
- Latin American Women's Rights Service
- Maternity Action
- Migrants Rights Network
- Migrant Voice
- OAID - Oxford Against Immigration Detention
- Praxis Community Projects
- Rerouting initiative CIC
- SCOT-PEP - Scottish Prostitutes Education Project
- The Detention Forum

EUROPEAN AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS

- European AIDS Treatment Group
- European Federation of the Community of Sant'Egidio
- ICRSE - International Committee on the Rights of Sex Workers in Europe
- Jesuit Refugee Service - Europe
- Mdm - Médecins du Monde International Network
- Pax Christi International
- Quaker Council for European Affairs
- Sante Mentale & Exclusion Sociale (SMES-Europa aisbl)

Governance

PICUM has a four-layer governance structure consisting of a General Assembly, Executive Committee, Management Committee and Secretariat.

The **General Assembly** (GA) consists of all PICUM members, who meet annually to vote on important issues concerning PICUM's operations and future planning.

Reporting to the GA, the **Board** supports the steering of PICUM's mission, goals, and objectives. The Board brings diverse thematic, geographical, and organisational expertise to PICUM's leadership, and ensures the network maintains a relevant, strategic, and effective approach.

PICUM's **Management Committee** consists of five members of the Board and meets in regular intervals to provide support and guidance to the PICUM Secretariat. The Management Committee reports to the Board.

PICUM's **Secretariat** develops and carries out activities in line with PICUM's work plan and the strategic objectives of the organisation. The Secretariat coordinates members in information exchange, dissemination of good practices and strategic networking.

Executive Committee (Board)



Edel McGinley
(Chair)
Migrant Rights Centre
Ireland (MRCI)
Ireland



Didier Vanderslycke
(Treasurer)
ORBIT vzw
Belgium



Adam Weiss
European Roma
Rights Centre (ERRC)
Hungary



András Kováts
Menedék Hungar-
ian Association for
Migrants
Hungary



Jan Knockaert
FAIRWORK Belgium
Belgium



Magda Faltová
Association for Inte-
gration and Migration
Czech Republic



Meri Korniloff
Physicians for Social
Responsibility Finland
and Global Clinic
Finland



Moussa Sangaré
Greek Forum of
Refugees
Greece



Teresa De Gasperis
ACCEM
Spain

Senior Advisers to the Board:



Franck Düvell
Senior Researcher,
Universität
Osnabrück
Germany



George Joseph
Caritas Sweden
Sweden

Alpha Abdikeeva and Nathalie Simonnot stepped down as board members in 2021. We wish to thank them for their investment in the Board and many contributions to PICUM over the years.



Alpha Abdikeeva
Pro Igual
Spain



Nathalie Simonnot
Médecins du monde
France

Staff



Michele LeVoy
Director



Alyna Smith
Deputy Director



Paul Geeraerts
Financial Director



Lilana Keith
Senior Advocacy Officer –
Labour Rights and Labour
Migration



Laetitia Van der Vennet
Advocacy Officer – Chil-
dren, Families
and Youth



Marta Gionco
Advocacy Officer –
Migration Policy



Dastan Salehi
Advocacy Officer - Health,
Justice and Legal Strategies



Gianluca Cesaro
Communications Officer



Chloë Bouvier
Multimedia Officer



Irene Subiri
Administration and
Events Manager

PICUM wishes to thank Kadri Soova (former Deputy Director) who stepped down in January 2022 for sharing her energy and commitment throughout many years dedicated to working at PICUM. We also wish to thank Giacomo Manca and Federica Lucrezia who were part of our team in 2021 for all of their work, respectively, in the areas of policy and administration.



Kadri Soova



Giacomo Manca



Federica Lucrezia

PICUM Trainees

Trainees and interns provide crucial support to PICUM's daily work while gaining hands-on experience with operating a transnational NGO network, supporting member organisations, and promoting policy change. We would like to thank Tamam Abusalama, Saskia Basa, Abigail Cárdenas Mena, Marta De Vescovi, Carmen Diaz-Bertrana, Alma Gallicchio, Federica Lucrezia, Jamie Slater, Robin Verrezen.



◀ *PICUM Advocacy trainees Jamie Slater and Federica Lucrezia and PICUM Communications trainee Marta De Vescovi on their last day of traineeship.*



◀ *PICUM team outing.*

PICUM Volunteers

PICUM is grateful to its many volunteers for their help with translating and proofreading publications and other documents as well as transcribing audio-visual content and compiling summaries on news developments to the situation of undocumented people during the COVID-19 pandemic:

Leslie Albracht, Andrea Ariet Gallego, Irene Beydals, Arturo Biglia, Ada Bonilla Duarte, Adrien Bourgeois, Anne Breuer, Ruben Bruynooghe, Renata Campielo, Alexis Manuela Cañari Moña, Mathilde Concetti, Pauline Dreidemy, Andrea Echeverria Fernandez, Lana Eekelschot, Lucie Fabiano, Beatriz Figlino, Rita Figueiras, Neneh Fitzmaurice, Agnieszka Florczak, Dayany Florentino, Alma Gallicchio, Chandreyi Guharay, Salomé Guibreteau, Hélisène Habart, Lucía Hernández Solano, Theodora Virginia Ispas, Johanna Sophia Kechout, Cristina Lopez-Perea, Sofia Matos, Lara Muradas, Joshua Ogie Olowu, Anna Ozalp, Guillermo Pascual Roibas, Juan Antonio Pavón Losada, Michele Pentorieri, Ana Pinho, Ryan Plano, Brita Pohl, Harshit Rai, Waldo Raineri, Eugenia Rodriguez Everaert, Irene Sanchez Cebrian, Cristina Serverius, Anna Helena Smolinska, Susanna Tuccio, Amanda Gaone Veldhuijsen, Pavlína Veleba Haufová, Markéta Marie Záhořiková.

Financial Report

January - December 2021

INCOME			EXPENDITURE	
EUROPEAN COMMISSION		579.103,00	STAFF	929.747,00
“Progress: Framework Partnership For Operating Grants”	579.103,00			
PRIVATE DONORS		586.113,00	ACTIVITIES (Including travel, organization of conferences and meetings, publications)	184.547,00
Foundation Open Society Institute (FOSI)	170.329,00			
Adessium	100.000,00		FACILITIES AND ADMINISTRATION	105.868,00
Oak Foundation	127.059,00			
European Programme for Integration and Migration (EPIM) - Network European Foundations	31.021,00			
European Artificial Intelligence Fund - Network European Foundations	50.207,00			
European Catalyst Fund	51.247,00			
Anonymous donor	56.250,00			
MEMBERSHIP FEES		34.625,00		
EXPERT FEES AND OTHER SOURCES		21.165,00		
TOTAL INCOME		1.221.006,00	TOTAL EXPENDITURE	1.220.162,00

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SIGRID RAUSING TRUST





PLATFORM FOR INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION ON
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