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General Secretariat

Brussels, 13 February 2026

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WORKING PAPER

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MEETING DOCUMENT

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Strategic Committee on Immigration, Frontiers and Asylum
N° prev. doc.:	CM 1400/26
Subject:	Meeting of the Strategic Committee on Immigration, Frontiers and Asylum - presentations

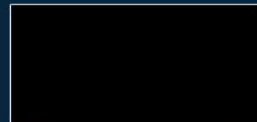
Delegations will find enclosed presentations given by the European Border and Coast Guard Agency (FRONTEX) and the European Union Agency for Asylum (EUAA) during the meeting of the Strategic Committee on Immigration, Frontiers and Asylum (SCIFA) held on 12 February 2026 (items 2 and 4 on the agenda).



EUROPEAN BORDER AND COAST GUARD AGENCY

The Strategic Committee on Immigration, Frontiers and Asylum

12 February 2026

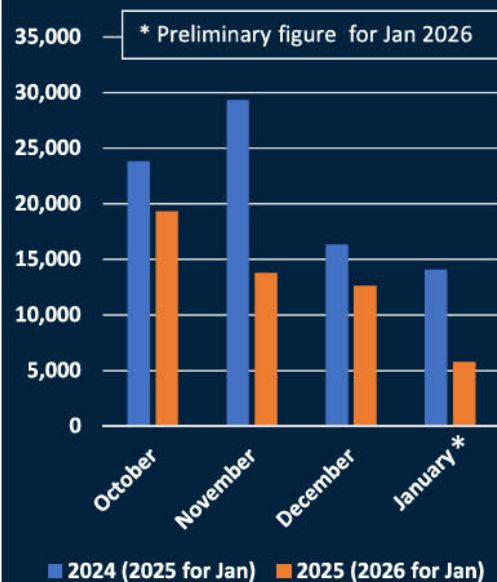


Director of Strategy, Governance and External Relations Division

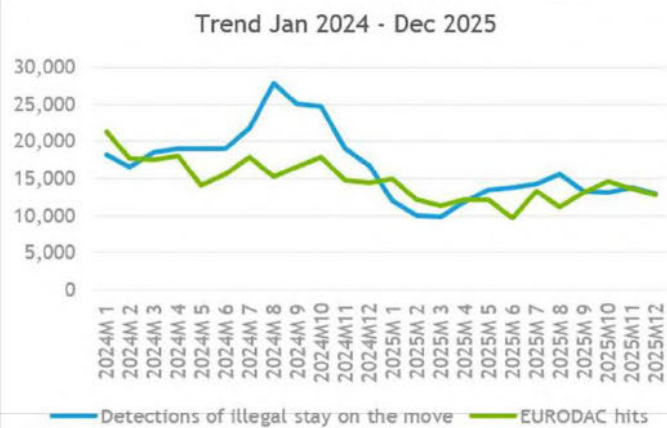


Downward trend (with the exception of departures from ALG and LBY) in 2025 so far continues into the new year

IBC on entry in comparison to same
month one year prior



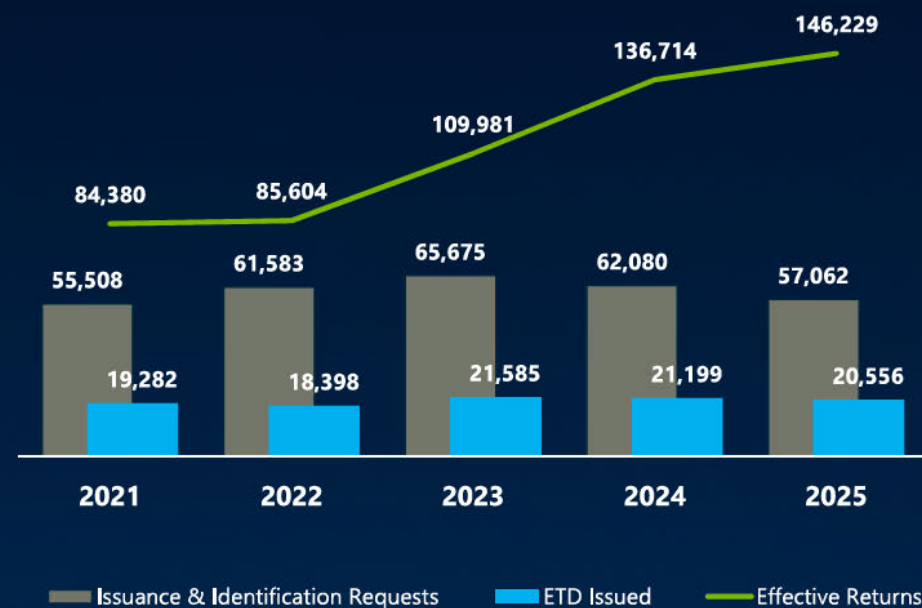
Secondary movements



Secondary movements

Situational Overview on Returns

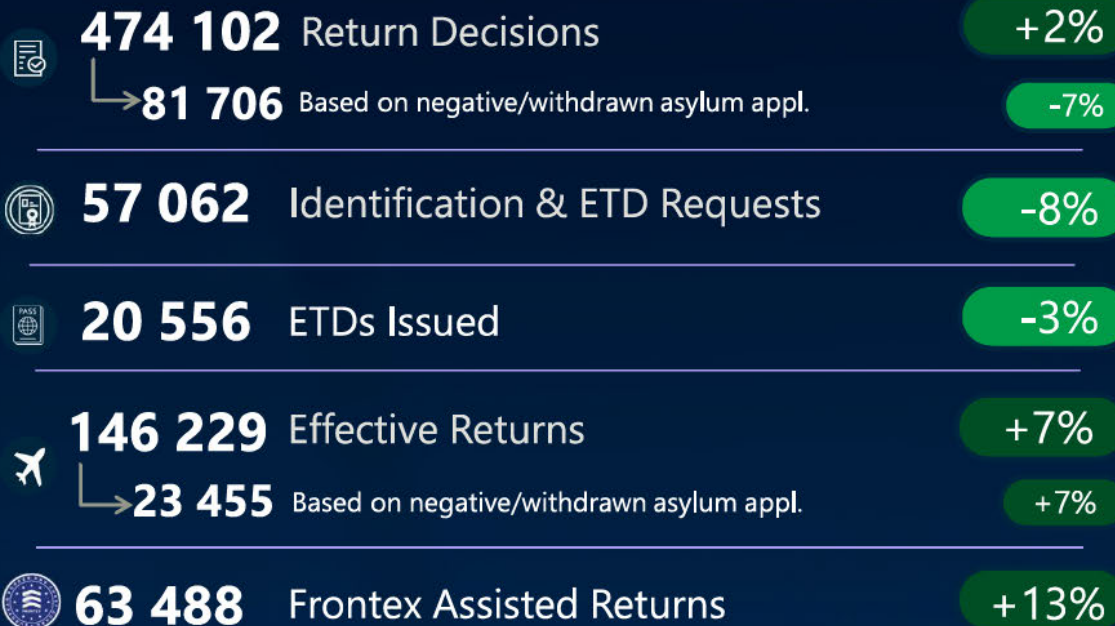
Long-term trends 2021 - 2025



Situational Overview on Returns

Key indicators

Jan-Dec 2025



Related indicators dynamic 2025 vs 2024*

-14%
Illegal Stayers

-28%
Illegal Border Crossings

-20%
1st Asylum applications**



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Situation of Asylum in the EU+ »

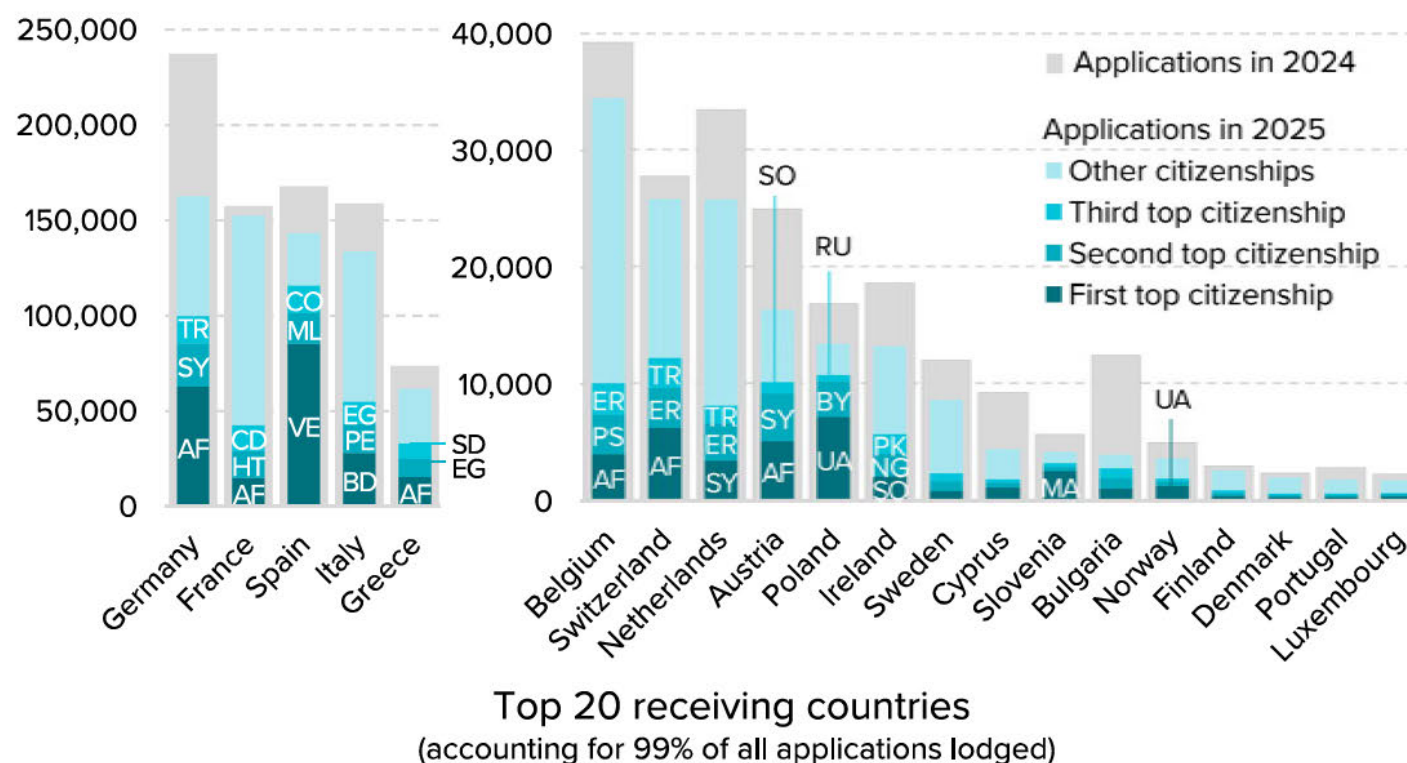
SCIFA
12 February 2026

This presentation is based on data exchanged under the EUAA Early warning and Preparedness System (EPS), which consist of statistical data provided to the EUAA by European Union Member States plus Norway and Switzerland (EU+) via a standard template. These data are provisional, unvalidated and therefore might differ from validated data submitted at a later date to Eurostat (according to Regulation (EU) 2020/851 amending Regulation (EC) No 862/2007).



Asylum applications in the EU+: overall trends

- Some **822,000 asylum applications** lodged in the EU+ in 2025, the least since 2021
- Applications **down in 23 EU+ countries**
- **DE, FR, ES, IT** and **EL** still the **top receiving countries**



Source: EUAA EPS

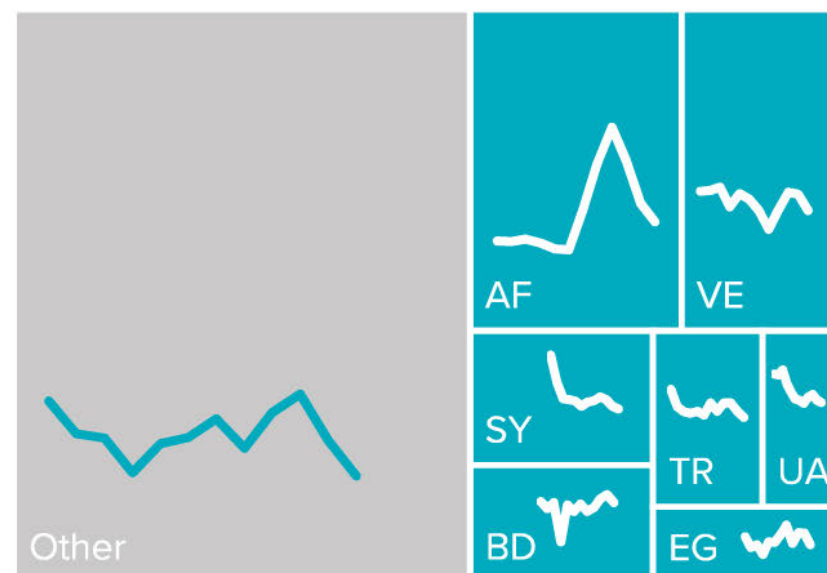


Asylum applications in the EU+: nationalities

Top nationalities in 2025: **Afghans, Venezuelans, Syrians, Bangladeshis** and **Turks**

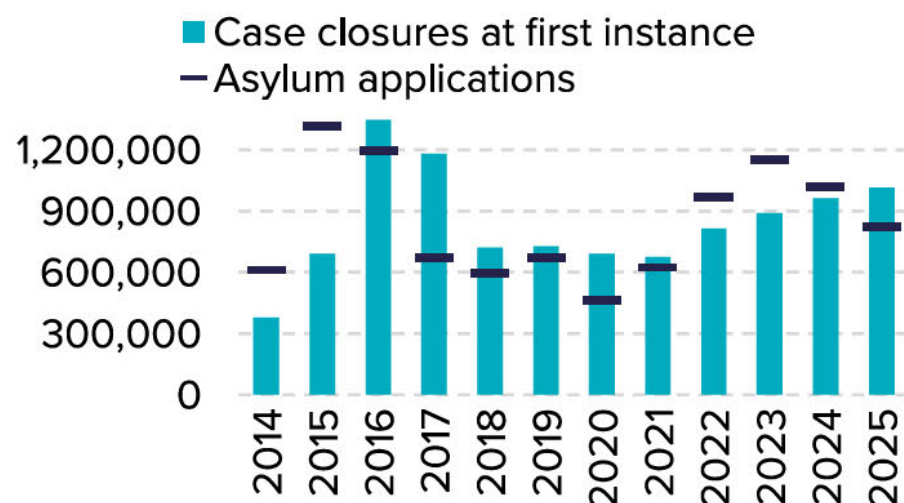
Afghan applied **less**, most notably after June, while **Syrians** the **least since 2012**

Record high applications by **Venezuelans** but also **Sudanese, Congolese (DR), Chinese** and **Haitians**





Case processing at first instance



Case closures surpassed applications lodged for the first time in four years

- **874,000 decisions, the most since 2017**
- **Pending cases at first instance decreased to 863,000** breaking a years-long upward trend, although a rise in appeals seems to have compensated this
- **The caseload age has been rising** to an all-time high at the end of 2025
- **EU+ recognition rate 29%** in 2025, the lowest on record

Source: EUAA EPS



EUAA Analytical Products available at the restricted Analytical Area:
<https://euaa.europa.eu/member-area/analytical-area/>

Border procedure and alternatives to detention



SCIFA
12 February 2026



[REDACTED]



Guidelines on Alternatives to Detention (AtD)

Sections

1. DEFINING

GUIDELINE 1
AtDs must be applied only if a legitimate ground for detention exists

GUIDELINE 2
AtDs must not amount to deprivation of liberty

2. ESTABLISHING

GUIDELINE 3
AtDs must be established by laws that specify criteria for application, available options and responsible authority

GUIDELINE 4
AtDs must uphold fundamental rights standards and principles

3. DECIDING

GUIDELINE 5
AtDs must be duly ruled out before resorting to detention

GUIDELINE 6
AtDs must be based on an assessment of individual circumstances and specific needs

GUIDELINE 7
AtDs must be applied as a rule for children, in line with the principle of best interests of child

4. IMPLEMENTING

GUIDELINE 8
AtDs must be effectively implemented, with safeguards and processes to increase rate of compliance.

5. REVIEWING

GUIDELINE 9
AtDs must be subject to a judicial review that considers changes in the individual circumstances.

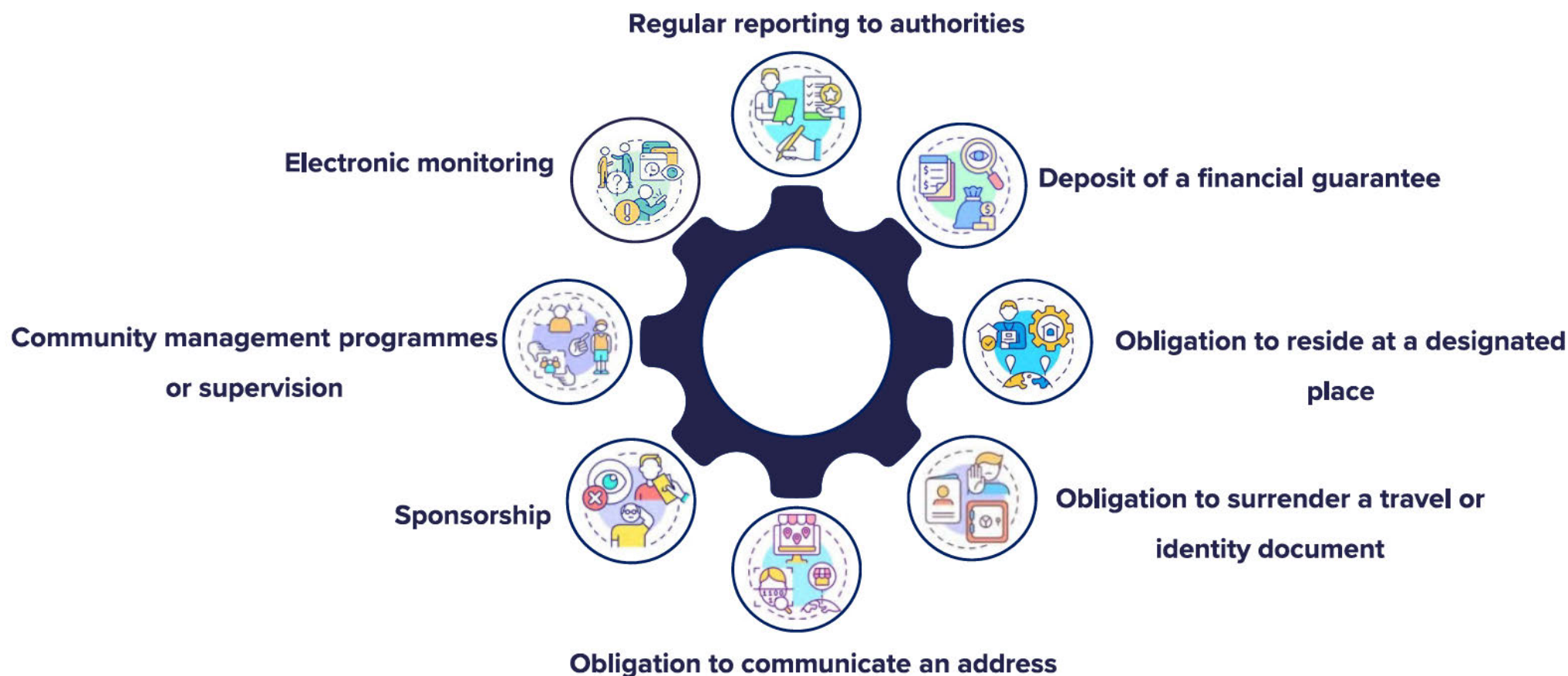
6. ENDING

GUIDELINE 10
AtDs must be temporary in nature

**10 guidelines
applicable in
all procedures**



Types of Alternatives to Detention





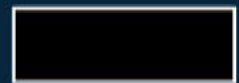
EUROPEAN BORDER AND COAST GUARD AGENCY

The Strategic Committee on Immigration, Frontiers and Asylum (SCIFA)

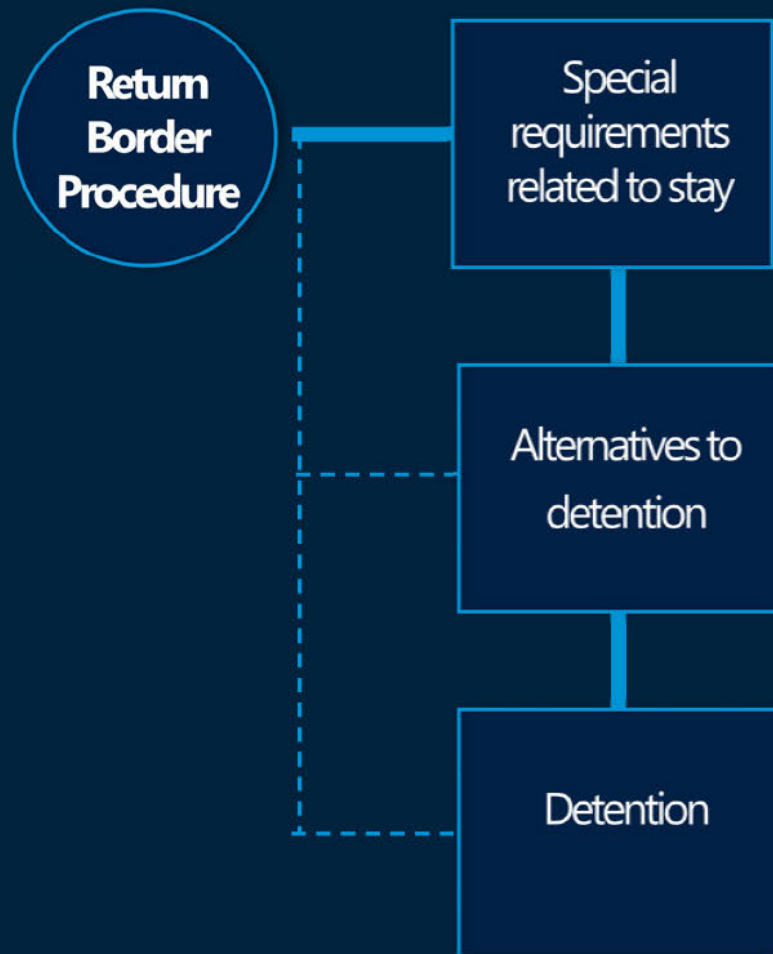
AGENDA point 4 - Border procedure, restrictions of the freedom of movement, detention and alternatives to detention – Schengen relevant issues

[Redacted]
Head of Return Knowledge Office in Return Division

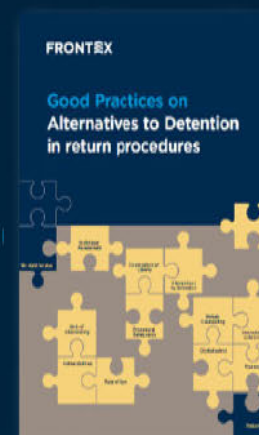
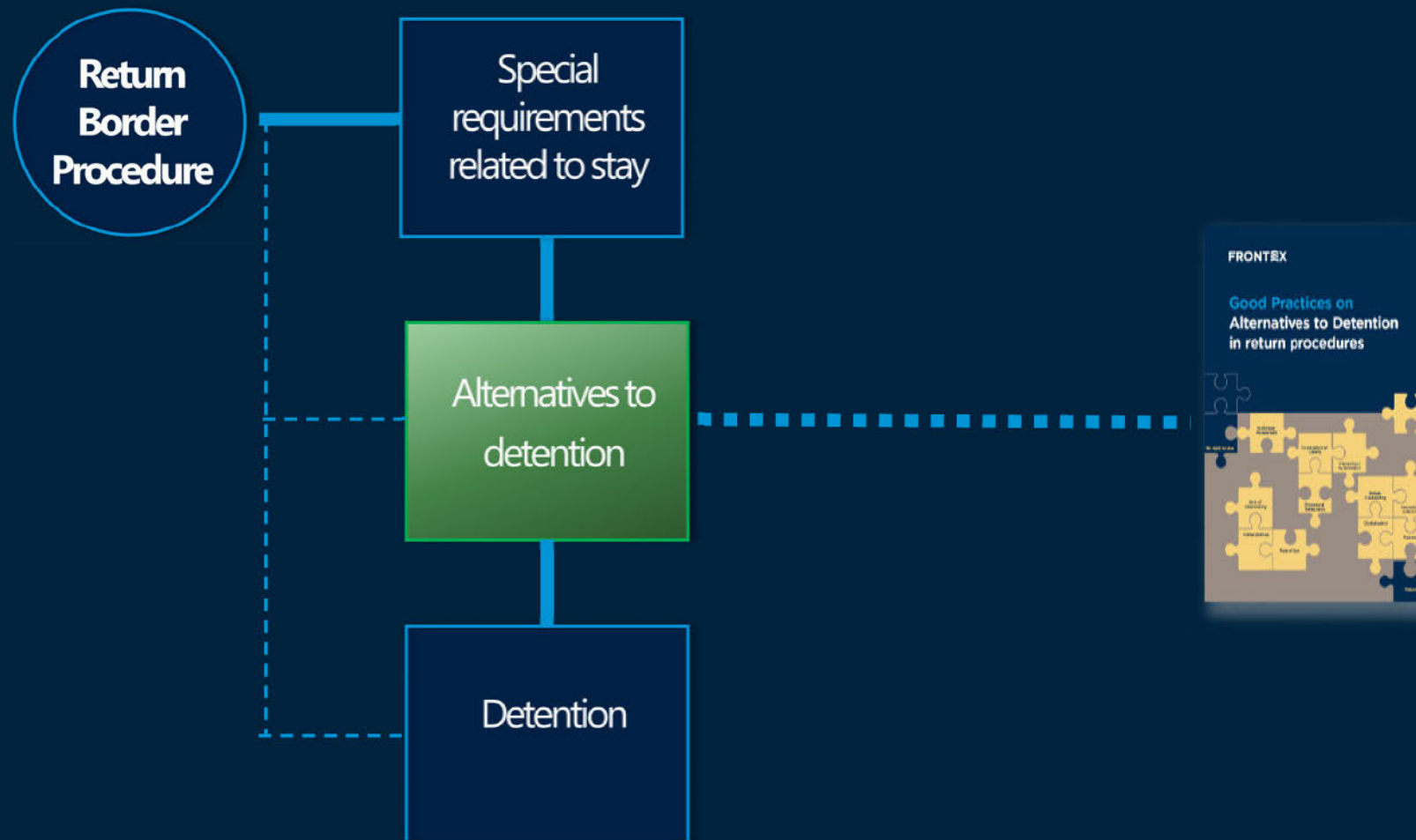
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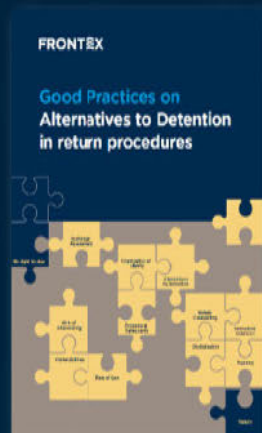
Border procedure, special requirements, detention and alternatives to detention



Border procedure, special requirements, detention and alternatives to detention



Border procedure, special requirements, detention and alternatives to detention



Return counselling;



Electronic reporting/monitoring.



Requirement to reside at a designated place; or within a geographical area;



Reporting to authorities at regular interval;



Obligation to surrender a passport, travel, or identity document;



Obligation to communicate an address;

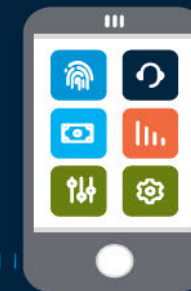


Deposit or financial guarantee; sponsorship;



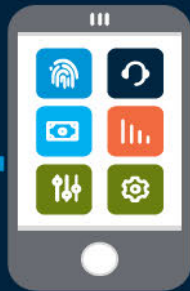
Case management programmes;

Border procedure, special requirements, detention and alternatives to detention



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Border procedure, special requirements, detention and alternatives to detention



RECAP

