



## Global Compact for Migration Objective 12

Strengthen certainty and predictability in migration procedures for appropriate screening, assessment and referral<sup>1</sup>

“ Clear rules and procedures are equally crucial for re-establishing predictable pathways for admission, stay and work, for return and readmission and for safeguarding rights, including at borders.<sup>2</sup> ”

### Objective 12 takeaways

- Even though almost all of the countries have a formal system allowing applications for specific visa types prior to arrival, only around half of them have a clear and transparent set of rules and regulations pertaining to migration.
- Countries that have a dedicated government entity responsible for designing and coordinating the implementation of an overall migration policy are more likely to have a set of clear and transparent rules and regulations on migration.
- Most countries have a mixed online and paper-based system allowing applications for specific visa types prior to arrival.

Figure 1. Does the country have a formal system allowing applications for specific visa types prior to arrival?

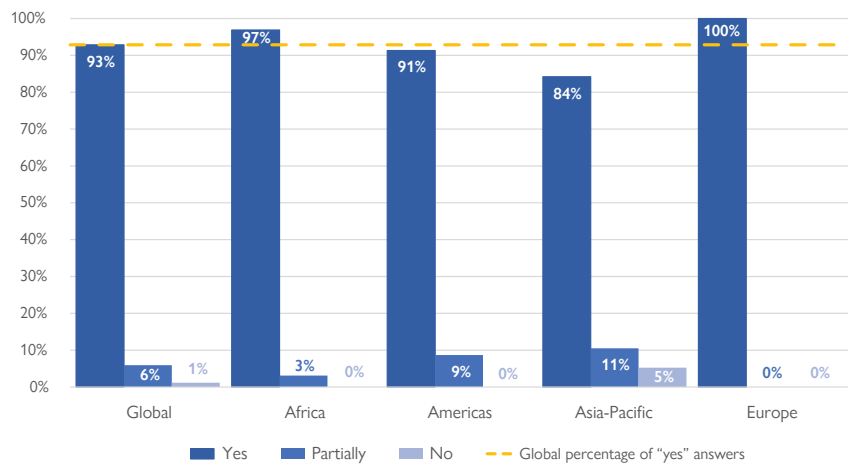
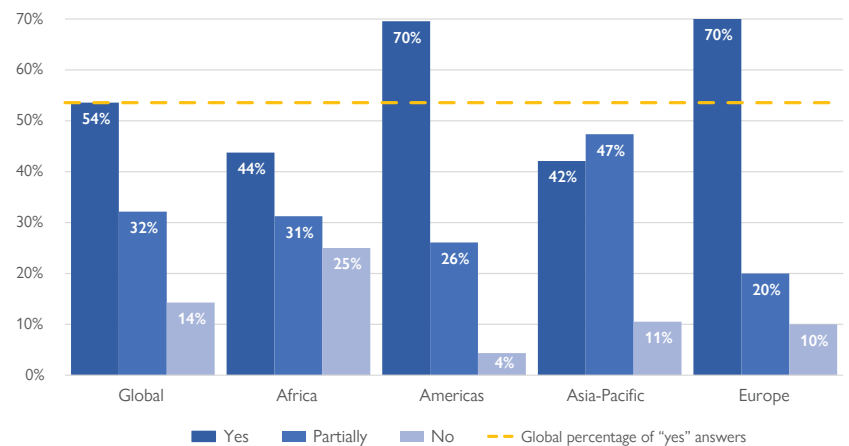


Figure 2. Does the country have a clear and transparent set of rules and regulations pertaining to migration?



Almost all (93%) MGI countries have a formal system allowing applications for specific visa types prior to arrival, with minor regional variations. All European countries allow for visa applications prior to arrival. Asia-Pacific is the region with the highest percentage of countries where visas can be obtained only on arrival (Figure 1).

More than half (54%) of MGI countries have a clear and transparent set of rules and regulations pertaining to migration, meaning that these are made available to the public in a manner that is easy to consult and understand (Figure 2).

<sup>1</sup> This bulletin is part of the publication *MGI Data Bulletins on the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration*, which offers insights from MGI data for each of the 23 Global Compact for Migration objectives. Unless otherwise specified, data is based on 84 MGI countries.

<sup>2</sup> United Nations General Assembly, *Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration*. Report of the Secretary-General (A/76/642). Available at <https://reliefweb.int/report/world/global-compact-safe-orderly-and-regular-migration-report-secretary-general-a76642>.

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**12** SCREENING AND REFERRAL

Figure 3 shows that a set of clear and transparent rules and regulations on migration is more likely to be found in countries that have a dedicated government entity responsible for designing and coordinating the implementation of an overall migration policy.

While most MGI countries have a formal system allowing applications for specific visa types prior to arrival, different types of processes are in place. A paper-based visa application process is found in 29 per cent of the countries, while 18 per cent have implemented a fully online process. Moreover, more than half (53%) of MGI countries have a mixed online and paper-based process in place (Figure 4).

Figure 3. Percentage of countries with clear and transparent migration rules, by type of entity responsible for the implementation of an overall migration policy

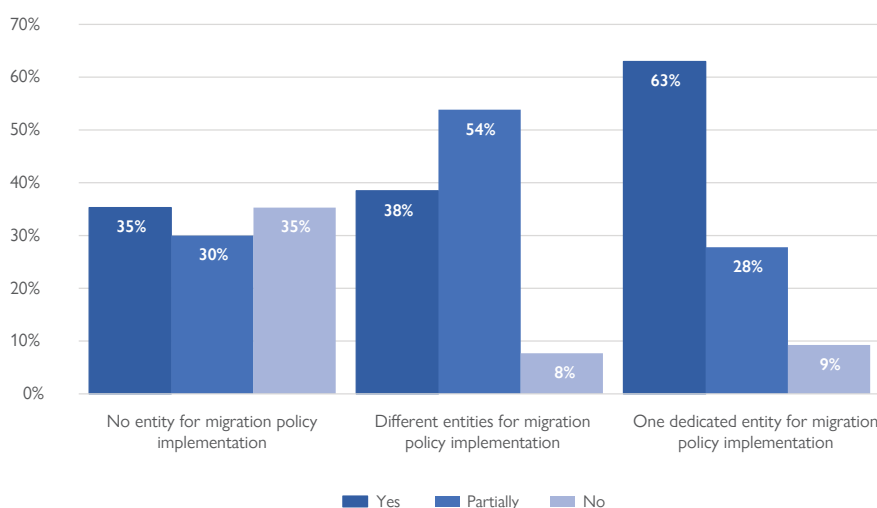
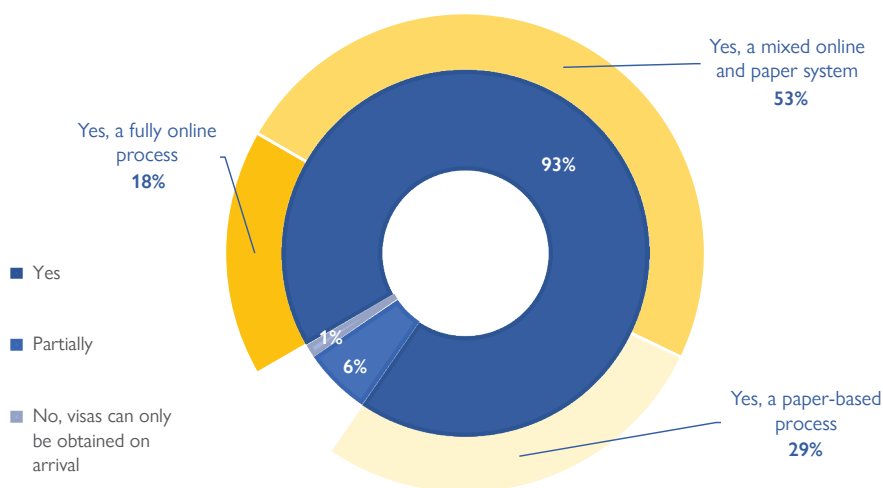


Figure 4. Percentage of countries that allow applications for specific visa types prior to arrival, by type of “yes” answer



## MGI data insight

More than half of the MGI countries (58%) that do not have clear and transparent rules and regulations pertaining migration also lack a national migration strategy defined in a programmatic document or manifesto.

Source: Own calculations based MGI data.

## Selected example from MGI data: Uruguay

Uruguay’s regulations on migration are made available to the public in a manner that is easy to consult and understand through the informational website\* on migration run by the Government. The website contains step-by-step guides on the migration process; a handbook for returning nationals; information on how to access public health, education and legal services; as well as additional resources like job offers and Spanish courses for migrants and refugees.

\* More information is available at [www.gub.uy/migracion](http://www.gub.uy/migracion).