

Input by civil society to the 2022 Asylum Report

Fields marked with * are mandatory.

D e a r

C o l l e a g u e s ,

The production of the *Asylum Report 2022* is currently underway. The annual [Asylum Report series](#) present a comprehensive overview of developments in the field of asylum at the regional and national levels.

The report includes information and perspectives from various stakeholders, including experts from EU+ countries, civil society organisations, UNHCR and researchers. To this end, we invite you, our partners from civil society, academia and research institutions, to share with us your reporting on developments in asylum law, policy or practice in 2021 (and early 2022) by topic as presented in the online survey.

Please note that the Asylum Report does not seek to describe national systems in detail but rather to present key developments of the past year, including improvements and challenges which remain. Your input can cover practices of a specific EU+ country or the EU as a whole. You can complete all or only some of the sections.

All submissions are publicly accessible. For transparency, 2022 contributions will be published on the EUAA webpage. For reference, contributions to the 2021 Asylum Report by civil society organisations can be accessed [here](#), under 'Acknowledgements'. All contributions should be appropriately referenced. You may include links to supporting material, such as analytical studies, articles, reports, websites, press releases or position papers. If your organisation does not produce any publications, please make reference to other published materials, such as joint statements issued with other organisations. Some sources of information may be in a language other than English. In this case, please cite the original language and, if possible, provide one to two sentences describing the key messages in English.

The content of the Asylum Report is subject to terms of reference and volume limitations. Contributions from civil society organisations feed into EUAA's work in multiple ways and inform reports and analyses beyond the Asylum Report.

Your input matters to us and will be much appreciated!

*Please complete the online survey and submit your contribution to the 2022 Asylum Report by **Monday, 21 February 2022**.*

[Instructions](#)

Before completing the survey, please review the list of topics and types of information that should be included in your submission.

For each response, only include the following type of information:

- New developments and improvements in 2021 and new or remaining challenges; and
- Changes in policies or practices, transposition of legislation or institutional changes during 2021.

Please ensure that your responses remain within the scope of each section.

Contributions by topic

1. Access to territory and access to asylum procedures (including first arrival to territory and registration, arrival at the border, application of the non-refoulement principle, the right to first response (shelter, food, medical treatment) and issues regarding border guards)

2. Access to information and legal assistance (including counselling and representation)

3. Provision of interpretation services (e.g. introduction of innovative methods for interpretation, increase/decrease in the number of languages available, change in qualifications required for interpreters)

4. Dublin procedures (including the organisational framework, practical developments, suspension of transfers to selected countries, detention in the framework of Dublin procedures)

5. Special procedures (including border procedures, procedures in transit zones, accelerated procedures, admissibility procedures, prioritised procedures or any special procedure for selected caseloads)

6. Reception of applicants for international protection (including information on reception capacities – increase/decrease/stable, material reception conditions - housing, food, clothing and financial support, contingency planning in reception, access to the labour market and vocational training, medical care, schooling and education, residence and freedom of movement)

7. Detention of applicants for international protection (including detention capacity – increase /decrease/stable, practices regarding detention, grounds for detention, alternatives to detention, time limit for detention)

8. Procedures at first instance (including relevant changes in: the authority in charge, organisation of the process, interviews, evidence assessment, determination of international protection status, decisionmaking, timeframes, case management - including backlog management)

9. Procedures at second instance (including organisation of the process, hearings, written procedures, timeframes, case management - including backlog management)

10. Availability and use of country of origin information (including organisation, methodology, products, databases, fact-finding missions, cooperation between stakeholders)

11. Vulnerable applicants (including definitions, special reception facilities, identification mechanisms/referrals, procedural standards, provision of information, age assessment, legal guardianship and foster care for unaccompanied and separated children)

12. Content of protection (including access to social security, social assistance, healthcare, housing and other basic services; integration into the labour market; measures to enhance language skills; measures to improve attainment in schooling and/or the education system and/or vocational training)

13. Return of former applicants for international protection

14. Resettlement and humanitarian admission programmes (including EU Joint Resettlement Programme, national resettlement programme (UNHCR), National Humanitarian Admission Programme, private sponsorship programmes/schemes and ad hoc special programmes)

With the UNHCR estimating a need of around 1.47 million resettlement places globally for 2022, the recent and unprecedented drop to only 22,800 resettled persons in 2020 poses a problem, not only for the affected people themselves but also for the stability of the international system of refugee protection. The number of admissions in 2020, the lowest number in almost two decades was due to restrictions imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic but also due to drastic cuts in resettlement places under the Trump administration. Under President Biden, the USA has, however, increased its resettlement commitments again, pledging 125,000 places for 2022. Now, the ball is in Europe's court. In Germany, the independent Commission on the Root Causes of Displacement recommended to form an "Alliance for Resettlement" in order to significantly increase resettlement and humanitarian admission numbers. There are concrete policy proposals for how such a global Resettlement alliance could look like and how the global resettlement need could be covered until 2024, inter alia by stepping up admissions to Europe.

Expanding resettlement and humanitarian admission programmes to Europe - via joint EU or national programmes - requires to carefully consider the promises and pitfalls of this protection instrument. First, resettlement can only offer a solution for a very small fraction of refugees in addition to regular asylum as, thus far, resettlement places are scarce: currently, available places cannot even accommodate all the particularly vulnerable refugees in need. For example, in 2019, around 1.43 million refugees were considered in need of resettlement, but only 63.726 were resettled. Therefore, admission countries should increase the availability of resettlement and complementary pathways. Places need to be additional and complementary to individual asylum.

Second, resettlement aims to have a 'strategic use', meaning that it expands protection capacities in the region states resettle from. However, in recent admissions to Europe, the EU Commission and several admission countries have used the term "strategic" rather in reference to migration control interests. The admission of refugees from Turkey in exchange for cooperation on migration and border control under the EU-Turkey statement of March 2016 is a prime example of this. In such contexts, refugee admission risks becoming a humanitarian fig leaf in an otherwise more restrictive border regime. This undermines the humanitarian character and the original use of resettlement as an instrument of solidarity with third countries and contradicts its initial aim to stabilise the refugee protection system worldwide.

Third, there is a growing tendency among resettlement countries to explicitly or implicitly prioritise refugees based on 'integration capacities' or 'integration potential' which creates tensions with resettlement's declared aim to focus 'on the most vulnerable' refugees. In addition, little is known about how integration related criteria are implemented in practice. The discretionary selection entails the risk of cherry-picking and prioritising cultural desirability over need. The discretionary character of resettlement and other pathways as well as the intransparent selection process limits refugees' agency and constraints accountability.

15. Relocation (ad hoc, emergency relocation; developments in activities organised under national schemes or on a bilateral basis)

16. National jurisprudence on international protection in 2020 (please include a link to the relevant case law and/or submit cases to the [EUAA Case Law Database](#))

17. Other important developments in 2021

References and sources

18. Please provide links to references and sources and/or upload the related material in PDF format

Welfens et al. 2021. Towards a Global Resettlement Alliance. Friedrich Ebert Foundation. Available: file:///C:/Users/n.welfens/OneDrive%20-%20Hertie%20School/Desktop/FES%202021%20Global%20Resettlement%20Alliance%20.pdf, (accessed 21.02.2022).

19. Feedback or suggestions about the process or format for submissions to the Asylum Report

Please upload your file

The maximum file size is 1 MB

8884ccd0-38d1-4ba8-9a68-eca6352ec02c/FES_2021_Global_Resettlement_Alliance_.pdf

Contact details

* Name of organisation

Friedrich Ebert Foundation / Global Public Policy Institute

Name and title of contact person

Natalie Welfens

* Email

welfens@hertie-school.org

I accept the provisions of the EUAA [Legal and Privacy Statements](#)

Useful links

[EASO Asylum Report 2021 \(https://euaa.europa.eu/easo-asylum-report-2021\)](https://euaa.europa.eu/easo-asylum-report-2021)

[Executive Summary -EASO Asylum Report 2021 \(https://euaa.europa.eu/executive-summary-asylum-report-2021\)](https://euaa.europa.eu/executive-summary-asylum-report-2021)

[Bibliography for the EASO Asylum Report 2021 \(https://euaa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/EASO Asylum Report 2021-Bibliography.pdf\)](https://euaa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/EASO%20Asylum%20Report%202021-Bibliography.pdf)

[Summary of legislative, institutional and policy developments in asylum in EU+ countries in 2019 \(https://euaa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/easo-asylum-report-eu-developments.pdf\)](https://euaa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/easo-asylum-report-eu-developments.pdf)

[National asylum developments database \(https://euaa.europa.eu/national-asylum-developments-database\)](https://euaa.europa.eu/national-asylum-developments-database)

[EASO Asylum Report 2021 Key Findings \(https://euaa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/key_findings.pdf\)](https://euaa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/key_findings.pdf)

[EU+ and Country Data \(https://euaa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/europe-country-data-2020.pdf\)](https://euaa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/europe-country-data-2020.pdf)

Background Documents

[Input by civil society to the 2022 Asylum Report.docx](#)

Contact

[Contact Form](#)