Input by civil society to the 2022 Asylum Report

Fields marked with * are mandatory.

Dear   Colleagues,

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, <u>only</u> 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)

Through a child-centered and rights-based approach, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) continues to support States in identifying solutions in the field of alternative care arrangements for unaccompanied migrant children (UMC).

In 2021, IOM began the implementation of the Unaccompanied Children in Alternative Residence "U-CARE" project, which aims to strengthen alternative (foster) care systems in Belgium, Germany and Greece. The activities are implemented by IOM together with implementing partners at the national level in the mentioned countries and are made possible through the financial support of the European Union.

The project has 4 different components:

1. Recruitment of foster care providers with a special focus on candidates with a migration background. This component includes the development of a flyer which could be adapted by partners, when conducting recruitment campaigns.

2. Development of alternative living arrangement prototypes for older UMC to support their transition to adulthood, following consultations with UMC, experts and practitioners. This component includes a research report on recruiting foster care providers in migrant communities.

3. Training and capacity building of foster care providers and frontline professionals on what (foster) care for UMC entails, by adapting and expanding training manuals. This component includes the adaptation of training materials into different languages, including Dutch, French, Greek, German and English.

4. Awareness raising and (trans)national exchange on alternative care systems for UMC, through national stakeholder dialogues, thematic workshops and awareness raising initiatives (e.g. podcast series on foster care).

For more information on the tools and resources described above, please access the following link.

https://belgium.iom.int/unaccompanied-children-alternative-residence-u-care

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)

- Throughout, 2021 IOM contributed to the resettlement / humanitarian admission of 21,828 persons to the European Union and associated countries, including the United Kingdom, through the provision of pre-departure support, including pre-migration health activities, pre-departure orientation, facilitation visa and travel documentation as well as movement management.

- In terms of challenges: Resettlement Operations continued to face challenges as a result of COVID-19. These were largely addressed by IOM teams by systematic streamlining of safeguards, such as physical distancing, use of personal protective equipment as well as strict timelines for and separation of caseloads throughout the various phases of the resettlement process.

- At a more structural level, IOM's resettlement operations in 2021 continued to suffer from a lack of overall predictability, resulting from the absence of a full pledging exercise in 2021 and late confirmation of pledges for 2022. Alongside other actors, IOM has long been calling for the swift adoption of the proposed Union Resettlement and Humanitarian Admission Framework Regulation as a means to enhance overall predictability through the creation of multi-year resettlement plans.

- In terms of improvement of existing practices, several MS maintained the good practice of reverting to remote or virtual means for the selection of individuals for resettlement, which allowed for the continued processing of caseloads, even in situations where the COVID-19 situation did not (yet) allow resettlement countries' authorities to return to the countries of asylum to carry out the selection process sur place. Similarly, when it comes to pre-departure orientation, IOM teams continued to rely on alternative modalities such as virtual (online) or phone conversations with beneficiaries in situations where class-room trainings were impossible as a result of COVID-19 restrictions. While this required shortening the content of the sessions, it allowed refugees to access key information about the resettlement ahead of their departure and raise any questions or concerns they might have. Finally, IOM's Migration Health professionals continued to adjust existing processes and procedures for pre-migration health activities in line with requirements established by countries of resettlement, airlines or countries of asylum in view of COVID-19.

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

Despite the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, relocation in 2021 represented an important expression of solidarity. IOM contributed to the relocation of 2,853 beneficiaries from Greece, Italy and Malta to 16 countries in the EEA.

IOM coordinated regional relocation projects, namely, RELITA (Italy), REMA (Malta) and Voluntary Relocation from Greece, supported by the European Commission emergency funding (EMAS), allowing for more harmonized procedures in the EEA. Other relocation projects were funded by EU Member States. Throughout the programmes, IOM worked closely with involved governments and other partners such as UNHCR, UNICEF, and EUAA, to facilitate the relocation of beneficiaries.

IOM provided support through the implementation of pre-migration health activities, pre-departure orientation sessions, movement management and accommodation (in Greece), adopting a range of measures to minimize the risk of transmission of COVID-19 during movements and pre-departure activities.

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

- IOM Resettlement booklet: IOM Resettlement | IOM Publications Platform
- Two pager on IOM's support to EEA relocation/resettlement in 2021: https://eea.iom.int/sites/g/files /tmzbdl666/files/documents/iom-resettlement-support-eea-2021.pdf
- IOM Resettlement, Complementary Pathways & Relocation webpage: Resettlement, Complementary Pathways and Relocation | Regional Office for the European Economic Area, the European Union and NATO (iom.int)

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

Contact details

* Name of organisation

IOM

Name and title of contact person

* Email

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☑ 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)

Executive Summary -EASO Asylum Report 2021 (https://euaa.europa.eu/executive-summary-asylum-report-202

Bibliography for the EASO Asylum Report 2021 (https://euaa.europa.eu/sites/default/files
/EASO_Asylum_Report_2021-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)

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)

EU+ and Country Data (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