

Input by civil society to the 2022 Asylum Report

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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)

MPI and MPI Europe are working on this theme under the initiative “Beyond Territorial Asylum: Making Protection Work in a Bordered World” with the Robert Bosch Stiftung. With asylum systems under immense pressure and public trust eroded by the increasing numbers of spontaneous arrivals in Europe, North America, and beyond, territorial asylum is under threat around the globe. Many of those forced to flee remain in extremely vulnerable situations worldwide, facing scant prospects for resettlement or other durable solutions. These realities have only been exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic, which brought humanitarian operations to a standstill, limited already strained asylum and resettlement infrastructure, and further eroded the decades-old norms underpinning a protection system forged in the aftermath of World War II. MPI and the Robert Bosch Stiftung have launched this three-year initiative, begun in April 2021, to address these challenges and to seize the opportunity to explore new ways to facilitate access to protection that better support equity and result in more flexible, sustainable infrastructure. Through research, consultations, and convenings, the initiative will advance creative, effective alternative approaches to providing access to protection that can be adapted to particular contexts around the globe. In the process, the initiative aims to preserve protection norms by shoring up public trust and political confidence in the asylum and refugee resettlement systems.

Beyond Territorial Asylum: Making Protection Work in a Bordered World <https://www.migrationpolicy.org/programs/international-program/beyond-territorial-asylum>

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)

Under the initiative “Beyond Territorial Asylum: Making Protection Work in a Bordered World”, MPI and MPI Europe are examining a set of case studies to ask what lessons have been learned in border protection over the last ten years, and set out a framework on how protection-sensitive borders can be constructed for the future. Remaining challenges in 2021 that are addressed under this project are: What practices work for addressing immediate humanitarian needs in border zones? How can registration, screening, and access to temporary stay or status be provided quickly and effectively? What needs to happen after the border? How does border management intersect with public perceptions of forced migration and willingness to provide protection.

Beyond Territorial Asylum: Making Protection Work in a Bordered World <https://www.migrationpolicy.org/programs/international-program/beyond-territorial-asylum>

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)

Under the initiative “Beyond Territorial Asylum: Making Protection Work in a Bordered World”, MPI Europe has researched how technological innovation, catalysed by COVID-19 (such as remote interviewing) has reshaped asylum, examining the advantages and drawbacks that these innovations pose. The report will be published in 2022.

Beyond Territorial Asylum: Making Protection Work in a Bordered World <https://www.migrationpolicy.org/programs/international-program/beyond-territorial-asylum>

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)

In September 2021, MPI Europe published a report on migrant health and integration. The report highlights that migrants and refugees have had a disproportionately high risk of infection and severe disease during the COVID-19 pandemic. The pandemic has acted as a magnifying glass, exposing the cracks and gaps in migrant health policies and approaches. The report identifies the following trends and issues in healthcare for migrants and refugees:

- o There is increased awareness of the migrant integration–migrant health nexus and of root causes of health disparities.
- o Mainstreaming migrant health care could help European societies meet diverse needs.
- o There is a need to transition from emergency response to structural policy priorities.
- o The digital shift promises to improve access to care but risks leaving the less digitally savvy behind.
- o Civil-society organisations are filling gaps in public health systems, but limited resources often constrain their service quality.

Healing the Gap: Building inclusive public-health and migrant integration systems in Europe https://www.migrationpolicy.org/sites/default/files/publications/mpie-integration-futures-health_final.pdf

In August 2021, MPI Europe published a report on inclusive post-pandemic labour markets. The report outlines that the pandemic has exacerbated the labour market vulnerability of immigrants and refugees. Migrant workers tend to be concentrated in many of the sectors that suffered most, such as hospitality and construction. In addition, the public-health crisis has interrupted the provision of many integration-related services, and migrants and refugees with little digital literacy may find it hard to access adaptations such as online language or integration courses. After having undergone multi-year integration and skill-building measures, many recently arrived refugees now face a dismal job market, which may hamper their economic integration.

Taking the Long View: Options for inclusive post-pandemic labour markets https://www.migrationpolicy.org/sites/default/files/publications/mpie_integration-futures_immigrants-econ-recovery_final.pdf

A further report from March 2021 presents examples of promising practices for supporting the resilience and self-reliance of refugees and host communities from different displacements contexts around the world. It examines questions of protection, social protection, education, livelihoods, and healthcare, presenting key recommendations for national governments, implementing partners and civil-society actors, as well as donors.

A Bridge to Firmer Ground: Learning from International Experiences to Support Pathways to Solutions in the Syrian Refugee Context <https://www.migrationpolicy.org/research/learning-international-experiences-syrian-refugee-context>

13. Return of former applicants for international protection

In January 2022, MPI Europe published a report on the importance of monitoring and evaluation for AVRR programmes, suggesting the following guiding principles:

- o when assessing AVRR approaches, activities, the role of service partners, and outcomes, examine all dimensions of reintegration, especially the social and psychosocial dimensions that have traditionally been less studied;

- o build on the (growing) evidence base of what constitutes successful reintegration;
- o take into account priorities identified not only by donors (usually the European Commission and European governments concerned with voluntary returns from Europe) but also by governments in migrants' origin countries, service partners, and origin-country communities and returnees themselves; and
- o acknowledge that developing and implementing a comprehensive M&E framework is a gradual and reiterative process; M&E frameworks require regular updates in light of emerging research, adjustments to AVRR programmes, and changing priorities and circumstances.

Putting Migrant Reintegration Programmes to the Test: A road map to a monitoring system https://www.migrationpolicy.org/sites/default/files/publications/mpie-reintegration-monitoring-report-2022_final.pdf

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)

In September 2021, MPI Europe, together with the Ottawa Refugee Hub, published a report on refugee resettlement and complementary pathways, commissioned by UNHCR.

- o The report draws on more than 120 interviews with staff of UNHCR offices, government officials, members of civil society, representatives of higher education institutions and employers.
- o The report identifies several opportunities to support the objectives of the Three-Year Strategy (2019-2021) on Resettlement and Complementary Pathways launched following the adoption of the Global Compact for Refugees in 2018:
 - Cities and regions have been at the forefront of advancing resettlement in many countries. Empowering local communities to advocate for and directly contribute to resettlement efforts can catalyse growth in many geographies.
 - Efforts to grow public support for and political commitment to growing resettlement have benefited from widening the network of stakeholders engaged in directly supporting and implementing resettlement beyond the traditional actors to include employers, civic associations, local government, faith-based groups, and others.
 - Growing resettlement programmes requires not just building public and political support, but also ensuring that programmes have the operational capacity to make—and follow through on—ambitious commitments. Well-targeted peer support between actors engaged in resettlement operations will remain crucial for establishing new programmes. Existing resettlement countries also benefit from opportunities to learn about one another's operations and exchange ideas and lessons learnt.
- o Based on these findings, the report suggests the following actions for UNHCR, states, and civil-society partners:
 - Deepen understanding of public opinion on resettlement in specific target geographies and develop tailored, evidence-based strategies on how to shape it.
 - Build flexibility into resettlement programmes through multiannual quotas and budgets, and adaptable operational models.
 - Continue to invest in targeted peer support for new resettlement countries alongside opportunities for continuous learning among states.
 - Create venues for states to exchange practical information on resettlement operations and identify opportunities for coordination and collaboration.
- o Regarding complementary pathways, the report found that creating opportunities for refugees to move to third countries for education and employment also generated substantial interest. While several pilot employment or education pathways have been launched in each region, they have been small in scale and relatively resource intensive.
- o The report outlines the following actions for building complementary pathways:
 - Identify and apply context-specific solutions to legal and regulatory barriers to enable refugees to access

third-country employment and education opportunities.

- Continue to invest in raising awareness of complementary pathways with relevant stakeholders outside of the humanitarian and resettlement space.
- Build the capacity to map refugees' skills and experience in host countries, and support training to fill gaps.
- Create venues for coordination and peer learning among implementing actors within each country
- Pilot, evaluate, and share sustainable funding models.

Refugee Resettlement and Complementary Pathways: Opportunities for Growth https://www.migrationpolicy.org/sites/default/files/publications/mpie-unhcr_global-mapping-refugee-pathways-final.pdf

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

On the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly, and Regular Migration (GCM):

In January 2022, MPI and MPI Europe published a report on International Cooperation on Migration three years after the adoption of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly, and Regular Migration (GCM).

o The GCM laid the groundwork for meaningful international cooperation in three ways:

- Creating a common language.
- Creating common infrastructure.
- Creating a more level playing field.

o Based on the findings, the Transatlantic Council on Migration recommends three principles:

- Put national priorities front and center when making the case for new policies or investments.
- Prioritize efforts to rebuild public trust rather than pursue quick fixes.
- Acknowledge that there is no perfect or quick solution.

Coming Together or Coming Apart? A New Phase of International Cooperation on Migration <https://www.migrationpolicy.org/research/new-phase-international-cooperation-migration>

In a further report published in January 2022 on the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM), MPI Europe analysed negotiations in Europe surrounding the GCM, finding four main ways in which fundamental issues derailed the GCM process in Europe:

- o Internal divisions over migration and asylum policies pervading external migration governance in the European Union.
- o Lingering mistrust over a migration agreement at the juncture of different policy areas.
- o Lack of clarity over accountability mechanism in the process of adopting nonbinding agreements.
- o Ongoing struggles to develop strategic communication around the GCM.

The Winding Road to Marrakech: Lessons from the European Negotiations of the Global Compact for Migration <https://www.migrationpolicy.org/research/european-negotiations-global-compact>

On mobility in times of COVID:

In April 2021, MPI together with IOM published a report on the state of global mobility during the pandemic.

An important finding was that border closures curtailed the ability of displaced people to seek refuge.

Closures also reduced the options those living in overcrowded camps with high infection rates in Bangladesh and Greece had of moving on to safety.

o The report identifies three particularly visible shifts in cross-border mobility:

- A widening gulf between movers and non-movers. The COVID-19 pandemic has deeply curtailed the mobility prospects of some groups, while making little difference to those whose nationality, resources and status enable them to continue crossing borders for work, family or tourism. Business travellers have continued to move fairly freely, including through agreed “green lanes”, such as the one between Singapore and Malaysia. By contrast, those who move out of necessity (such as migrant workers and refugees) have had to absorb expensive quarantine and self-isolation costs. Looking ahead, the gap could widen between “movers” and “non-movers” – that is, between those with the resources and opportunities to move freely, and those whose movement is severely restricted by COVID-19-related or pre-existing travel and visa restrictions and limited resources. This is especially likely to be the case if travel begins to favour those who have been vaccinated or tested, or if reliance on digital health records makes a person’s ability to travel dependent on their digital access and literacy.

- Greater socioeconomic vulnerabilities. The pandemic has also amplified the socioeconomic vulnerability of those who depend on mobility for survival. Job losses have hit migrant workers hard, especially since in many countries they often work in sectors negatively affected by national lockdowns and internal containment measures, and where social safety nets are minimal. Travel restrictions have also thwarted many people’s ability to pursue migration as a tool to escape conflict, economic collapse, environmental disaster and other crises.

- Amplified relationships of dependence and exploitation. Restrictions on movement have also increased the dependence of many migrants on intermediaries and facilitators, from employment agencies to smugglers, in part because it has been difficult to access reliable information about fast-changing migration routes. For instance, travel restrictions have, on the one hand, increased the demand for smuggling services among people desperate to flee violence, natural disasters and economic deprivation, as well as people attempting to return home. On the other hand, border closures and restrictions have pushed smugglers to use more dangerous routes and raise their prices – exposing migrants and refugees to an increased risk of exploitation and trafficking.

COVID-19 and the State of Global Mobility in 2020 <https://www.migrationpolicy.org/research/covid-19-state-global-mobility-2020>

References and sources

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

Healing the Gap: Building inclusive public-health and migrant integration systems in Europe https://www.migrationpolicy.org/sites/default/files/publications/mpie-integration-futures-health_final.pdf

Taking the Long View: Options for inclusive post-pandemic labour markets https://www.migrationpolicy.org/sites/default/files/publications/mpie_integration-futures_immigrants-econ-recovery_final.pdf

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COVID-19 and the State of Global Mobility in 2020 <https://www.migrationpolicy.org/research/covid-19-state-global-mobility-2020>

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

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

Useful links

[EASO Asylum Report 2021 \(https://euaa.europa.eu/easo-asylum-report-2021\)](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_Asylum_Report_2021-Bibliography.pdf)

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