

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)

The University of Nicosia in collaboration with the research organisation CARDET and the Cyprus University of Technology implements the Action entitled: Migrant Info-Centre (CY/2019/AMIF/SO2.NO2.1.3/4). The Action is co-funded by the European Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (90%) and the Republic of Cyprus (10%) - (<https://mihub.eu/>)

MIC attempts to fill a huge 'gap' on the integration services available and make a positive impact on the lives of

thousands of foreign people who live in Cyprus. MIC supports the access to services and resources that meet migrants' needs and gives emphasis on building new skills towards harmonically adjustment to the Cypriot cultural and social environment.

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

The services utilize advanced communication technologies and management information systems to promote collaboration with various governmental NGOs and voluntary services. Services for migrants include assistance to access the labour market, as well as to cover accommodation, educational and health needs. In addition this project incorporate an innovative element, a mobile unit that will offer psychosocial services in rural areas. Through this practice we are initiating an effort to diminish social isolation and exclusion of vulnerable individuals. Main areas/sectors of services provision:

SOCIAL SUPPORT

JOB FINDING ASSISTANCE

ADVOCACY

MOBILE PSYCHO-SOCIAL SUPPORT

PSYCHOLOGICAL SUPPORT

TEMPORARY ACCOMMODATION SHELTER (MIHUB – SHELTER)

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)

Yes. miHUB provides interpretation services.

It begins with its portal which provides all the necessary info in 10 languages. then, each regional office can offer their services in about 5-8 languages, as a number of different interpreters are employed on ad-hoc basis.

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

Those cases are handled exclusively by Asylum Service. In case an applicant may come to the office, a referral is made to Asylum Service.

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

Those cases are handled exclusively by Asylum Service

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)

Yes, miHUB provides information and additional supporting services as well as explanation about the current procedures and advocacy to the above mentioned population.

Quite often, in collaboration with external partners from the industry, CSOs and volunteers, food is provided to vulnerable people.

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)

NO

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)

For specific cases only, a psychosocial report may be prepared and sent to the Asylum Service as additional support evidence to be attached the case record

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

N/A

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

Yes, for specific cases. A report may also include details and additional evidence following a thorough research about COI. However, the most common procedure is to prepare a vulnerability report based on the International standards (i.e. UNHCR toolkits).

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)

Yes, it is part of daily practice. A detailed methodology has been developed to capture the necessary personal details, to proceed to screening assessment and construct an intervention plan, based on short, medium and long-term goals.

Among the services providing is also the ability to provide a short term accommodation - 7 days, until the public services will provided a more permanent solution.

Age assessment, legal guardianship and foster care for unaccompanied and separated children are not provided.

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)

the above range of services are provided on daily basis, you may refer to the portal for more details: www.mihub.eu

13. Return of former applicants for international protection

Information provision for each case is provided, there is a close collaboration with Asylum Service which will undertake and review the case to re-open the case.

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 the recent past, it was kindly requested by CRMD and Asylum Service to find appropriate houses for a number of resettled refugees and support them towards their integration to the local society.

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

Emergency relocation services are also provided in extreme conditions which are related to family violence in collaboration with other NGOs. The short-term accommodation may be used to protect victims of family violence.

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](#))

NO

17. Other important developments in 2021

Development of e-journal: <https://mihub-journal.eu/>

The overall aim is to highlight the voices of beneficiaries of international protection in Cyprus and Third Country Nationals in Cyprus, so they can be heard, reveal their culture, introduce to the local society their foods, and assist their integration into the local community

References and sources

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

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

c628ae05-38b8-4d5b-86e8-6cc0665ea959/MiHub_BestPractice_Sheet.pdf

Contact details

* Name of organisation

University of Nicosia - miHUB

Name and title of contact person

Dr. Stefanos Spaneas

* Email

spaneas.s@unic.ac.cy

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](#)