Input by civil society organisations to the Asylum Report 2023

Dear Colleagues,

The production of the Asylum Report 2023 is currently underway. The annual Asylum Report series presents 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, policies or practices in 2022 (and early 2023) 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 2022 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 submit your contribution to the Asylum Report 2023 by Friday, 3 February 2023.*
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 2022 and new or remaining challenges; and
- ✓ Changes in policies or practices, transposition of legislation or institutional changes during 2022.

Please ensure that your responses remain within the scope of each section. Do not include information that goes beyond the thematic focus of each section or is not related to recent developments.

Contributions by topic

1. Access to territory and access to the asylum procedure (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)

   *In January 2023 the Italian government passed “Law Decree N.1 of 2 January 2023” requiring all NGOs involved in migrants’ rescue at sea to abide by a very strict code of conduct in order to continue their rescue activities. The violation of the code of this set of rules (ex. obligation to inform the Italian authorities about each rescue immediately after the operation, restrictions on multiple rescue operations, immediate transfer of rescued migrants to the nearest port) is punished with an administrative sanction and, in some specific cases, the impounding of the ship.*

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

   *No changes*

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)

   *No changes*
4. Dublin procedures (including the organisational framework, practical developments, suspension of transfers to selected countries, detention in the framework of Dublin procedures)

No changes

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

No changes

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)

No changes

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 changes

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, decision-making, timeframes, case management – including backlog management)

No changes
9. Procedures at second instance (including organisation of the process, hearings, written procedures, timeframes, case management – including backlog management)

*No changes*

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

*No changes*

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)

*No changes*

12. Content of protection (including access to social security, social assistance, health care, 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)

*No changes*

13. Return of former applicants for international protection

*No changes*
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)

No changes

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

No changes

16. National jurisprudence on international protection in 2022 (please include a link to the relevant case law and/or submit cases to the EUAA Case Law Database)

No changes

17. Other important developments in 2022

On 3 March 2022 the European Council activated the Directive N.55 of 2001 to guarantee immediate and temporary protection to all Ukrainian citizens and third country citizens in Ukraine with permanent residency fleeing the war. All EU member countries have implemented the Temporary Protection Directive offering residence, accommodation, health assistance and work status. Italy has activated the 55/2001 Directive with Decree of the President of the Council of Ministers of 28 March 2022.

References and sources

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

- Law decree n.1/2023 (Code of conduct for NGOS involved in migrants’ rescue at sea)
- Decree of the President of the Council of Ministers of 28 March 2022 (Ukraine emergency)
19. Feedback or suggestions about the process or format for submissions to the Asylum Report

Contact details

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