



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)
 - Refugees and migrants who arrive to Republic of Serbia over the Balkans' Route are usually coming over border with North Macedonia and with Bulgaria.
 - When enter Serbia they can express intention for asylum in Serbia at the Border Police, to UNHCR officer, or to officer of the Serbian Commissariat for refugees and Migrations. After that they are forwarded to registration at the Police to receive Certificate of expressed intention to apply for asylum in Serbia. After that potential asylum seeker should register in one of the refugee centres in Serbia within 72 h.
 - According to Serbian legislation their status of asylum seeker is valid throughout the duration of the asylum procedure.
 - Ukrainian refugees. From 2022 Serbian government has adopted Temporary Protection Act, which is enabling easier and faster registration, access to education, health services, and to other government services for Ukrainian refugees in Serbia.

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

Access to information for potential asylum seekers is good. Besides government stakeholders, information is available on web sites and social networks of the international organizations and CSO.





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)

There are not enough translators for the Asian languages, and subsequently translation services are expensive. However, our experience is that organizations in Serbia are well connected, and cooperate when translation is needed for beneficiaries. Especially in front of the authorities when this is the legal requirement, but also for access to health and other government services.

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

(Note: Serbia is not EU country.)

From 2022 Serbia has canceled visa free regime with countries whose citizens were misusing travel opportunity to Serbia to illegally leave Serbia, and to enter EU without visa.

Detention in Serbia exists only on the airport Belgrade, where illegal travelers were detained and send back to their countries.

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

Special procedures are used for the unaccompanied children refugees, when Social Welfare Centre is appointing Legal Guardian, and children are transferred into Refugee Center in Sid (city of Sid), or to one of the few government shelters, or to our shelter Integration house “Pedro Arrupe” established in 2017, which is only shelter for unaccompanied and separate children refugees in Serbia established and fully financed from many of our donors.

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)

Reception capacities are stable. Some of the refugee centers closed in 2020/2021, were reopened in 2022 due to the increased number of refugees and migrants on the Balkan’s route.

One refugee center in city of Vranje (south Serbia) was allocated exclusively for the refugee families from Ukraine. According to our knowledge capacity is sufficient.





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)

Like we wrote above. Only one detention for the short-term stay in cases of readmission is at the airport. No public data of the capacity.

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)

All remained the same as it was in 2021.

Border Police of Serbia, Ministry of Internal Affairs, Asylum Commission, and the Serbian Commissariat for Refugees and Migrations (body of the Serbian government) are the main government stakeholders in the process of asylum.

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

All remained the same as it was in 2021.

Civil society organizations are providing legal representatives for the asylum seekers.

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

Ministry of internal affairs is in charge for that communication. According to the information from the news, some countries simply do not respond to their inquiries. The same as in previous years.

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)

The same as previous years.

Refugee Centre for unaccompanied and separated children is form this year in city of Sid. During 2021/2022 was in Bogovadja in Central Serbia.





Our organization is running a shelter for unaccompanied and separated children refugees Integration House “Pedro Arrupe” in Belgrade. Boys in need of post hospital treatment are frequently sheltered in our house.

- 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)

Serbian Commissariat for Refugees and Migrations, UNHCR and local CSOs like ours, are cooperating in the assistance to the asylum seekers in Serbia.

- 13.** Return of former applicants for international protection

NA

- 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)

Family reunification is present in Serbia. UNHCR is leading process. One child from our shelter rejoined his family in the EU after 3 and half years in our Integration house. The procedure was long and demanding. However, the boy did not “lost” time. He was going to regular school, and had additional socialization and educational workshops in our house.

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

NA

- 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)

NA

- 17.** Other important developments in 2022

None





References and sources

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

NA

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

None.

Contact details

Name of organisation: Jesuit Refugee Service - Serbia

Name and title of contact person: Miodrag Zivkovic, Country Director

Email: miodrag.zivkovic@jrs.net

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

