

Input by civil society organisations to the Asylum Report 2024

Fields marked with * are mandatory.

Dear Colleagues,

The production of the Asylum Report 2024 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, researchers and UNHCR. 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 2023 by topic as presented in the online survey (**'Part A' of the form**).

We also invite you to share with us any publications your organisation has produced throughout 2023 on issues related to asylum in EU+ countries. These may be reports, articles, recommendations to national authorities or EU institutions, open letters and analytical outputs (**'Part B' of the form**).

Your input can cover information for a specific EU+ country or the EU as a whole. You can complete all or only some of the sections.

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.

All submissions are publicly accessible. For transparency, contributions will be published on the EUAA webpage. For reference, contributions to the 2023 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 2024 by Thursday, 30 November 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:

Part A:

- New developments and improvements in 2023 and new or remaining challenges;
- Changes in policies or practices, transposition of legislation or institutional changes during 2023;
- Across the different thematic sections feel free to make reference to issues related to the implementation of the Temporary Protection Directive at national level.

Part B:

- New publications your organisation produced in 2023

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.

PART A: 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)

Kindly see below, relevant publications in Part B.

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

Kindly see relevant publication in Part B.

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. Issues of statelessness in the context of asylum (including identification and registration)

12. 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)

Vulnerable applicants who are subject to the Safe Third Country Concept, based on their country of origin, are generally at high risk of being excluded from the asylum procedure and the consequent procedural safeguards and being left in legal limbo, with no proper nor full access to the asylum process and the substantial examination of their case.

With regard to unaccompanied children in particular, based on the cases handled in the framework of IRC Hellas' Semi-Independent Living Apartments project, it has been observed that children -primarily from Afghanistan, Somalia, Syria- usually undergo merged interviews (admissibility and eligibility examination)

and most of them had a positive outcome on their case. In some cases concerning other nationals (e.g. from Bangladesh or Pakistan), although they did not undergo merged interviews, it was also documented that their claim was usually deemed admissible and the examination advanced on the merits. However, the children and their legal representatives were not informed beforehand whether they would have a merged interview or not, causing uncertainty and further stress to them.

There have also been cases of children who turned 18 before the examination of their case and therefore the Asylum Service proceeded with separate interviews on admissibility and eligibility.

Regarding the age assessment process, there are occasionally shortcomings and deficiencies in institutions accredited to conduct the age assessment (doctors in public hospitals not always aware of the law and the specific steps they need to follow, inadequate trained medical staff, no proper facilities for the examinations). Furthermore, delays in initiating the age assessment process have also been observed, especially for children outside official shelters or RICs. It is worth noting that in all the above processes, the assistance and follow-up by a legal assistant/representative has been proven essential for the successful progress of the cases.

13. 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)

Kindly see relevant publications in Part B.

14. Return of former applicants for international protection

15. 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)

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

17. National jurisprudence on international protection in 2023 (please include a link to the relevant case law and/or submit cases to the [EUAA Case Law Database](#))

18. Other important developments in 2023

PART B: Publications

1. If available online, please provide links to relevant publications produced by your organisation in 2023

- Briefing: Contribution to the Ombudsman's Strategic Inquiry relating to respect for fundamental rights in EU-funded migration management facilities in Greece. <https://www.rescue.org/eu/submission/ombudsmans-inquiry-fundamental-rights-ccacs> (related to topic 2- Access to information and legal assistance)
- Briefing: Greece Protection and Integration Update. <https://rescue.app.box.com/s/94iba0h3b236qe788qcls4u8pky84o3o> (related to topic 1- Access to territory and topic 13- Content of Protection)
- Statement: Children in Greece without documents, children still at risk. <https://www.rescue.org/eu/statement/children-greece-without-documents-children-still-risk> (related to topic 12- Vulnerable applicant and 13- Content of Protection)
- Press Release: Needs of Ukrainian and other refugee groups in Greece are strikingly similar. <https://www.rescue.org/eu/press-release/irc-analysis-needs-ukrainian-and-other-refugee-groups-greece-are-strikingly-similar> (related to topic 6- Reception of applicants of international protection and 13- Content of Protection).
- Press Release: No monitoring of fundamental rights violations in Greece without independent and effective mechanisms. <https://www.rescue.org/eu/press-release/no-monitoring-fundamental-rights-violations-greece-without-independent-and-effective> (related to topic 1- Access to territory and 5- Special Procedures)
- Joint Statement: The EU must not be complicit in the loss of lives at sea and in rights violations at Europe's borders. <https://www.rescue.org/eu/statement/eu-must-not-be-complicit-loss-lives-sea-and-rights-violations-europes-borders> (related to topic 1- Access to territory)
- Human Story: After years of being moved around Greece, Karima's family has finally found a place to call home in Athens and a chance to build a brighter future. <https://www.rescue.org/eu/article/after-years->

being-moved-around-greece-karimas-family-has-finally-found-place-call-home (related to topic 6- Reception of applicants of international protection, 12- Vulnerable applicants, 13- Content of Protection)

- Press Release: One month since Greek shipwreck the EU must urgently ensure a full investigation. <https://www.rescue.org/eu/press-release/irc-one-month-greek-shipwreck-eu-must-urgently-ensure-full-investigation> (related to topic 1- Access to territory)

2. If not available online, please share your publications with us at: Asylum.Report@euaa.europa.eu or upload your file using the functionality below (max. file size 1MB).

Please upload your file

The maximum file size is 1 MB

3. For publications that due to copyright issues cannot be easily shared, please provide references using the table below.

	Title of publication	Name of author	Publisher/Organisation	Date
1				
2				
3				
4				
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Contact details

* Name of Organisation

International Rescue Committee (IRC) Hellas

Name and title of contact person

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

Useful links

[EUAA Asylum Report 2023 \(https://euaa.europa.eu/asylum-report-2023\)](https://euaa.europa.eu/asylum-report-2023)

[Executive Summary -Asylum Report 2023 \(https://euaa.europa.eu/asylum-report-2023/executive-summary\)](https://euaa.europa.eu/asylum-report-2023/executive-summary)

[Sources on Asylum 2023 \(https://euaa.europa.eu/publications/sources-asylum-2023\)](https://euaa.europa.eu/publications/sources-asylum-2023)

[National asylum developments database \(https://euaa.europa.eu/national-asylum-developments-database\)](https://euaa.europa.eu/national-asylum-developments-database)

[Asylum in Europe in 2022: A Year in Review \(https://euaa.europa.eu/asylum-europe-2022-year-review\)](https://euaa.europa.eu/asylum-europe-2022-year-review)

Background Documents

[Word template to submit input](#)

Contact

[Contact Form](#)

