

# Input by civil society organisations to the Asylum Report 2025

Fields marked with \* are mandatory.

Dear Colleagues,

The production of the Asylum Report 2025 is currently underway. The annual [Asylum Report](#) presents an overview of developments in the field of international protection in Europe.

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 your reporting on developments in asylum law, policies or practices in 2024 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 2024 on issues related to asylum in EU+ countries (**'Part B' of the form**).

These may be reports, articles, recommendations to national authorities or EU institutions, open letters and analytical outputs.

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 and contributing organisations will be listed under the Acknowledgements of the report.

All contributions should be appropriately referenced. You may include links to supporting material, such as analytical studies, articles, reports, websites, press releases, position papers.

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.

***NB: This year's edition of the Asylum Report will be significantly revamped to achieve a leaner, more analytical report with streamlined thematic sections. The focus will be on key trends in the field of asylum rather than on individual developments. For this reason, information shared by***

**respondents to this call may be incorporated in the Asylum Report in a format different than in the past years.**

Your input matters to us and will be much appreciated!

**\*Please submit your contribution to the Asylum Report 2025 by Friday, 10 January 2025.\***

## Contact details

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\* Name of Organisation

CSO "I want to help refugees" (Latvia)

Name and title of contact person

Anna E. Grike, border monitoring expert

\* Email

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

## General observations

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**Before sharing information by thematic area, please provide your general observations on asylum developments as indicated in the following three fields:**

What areas would you highlight where important developments took place in the country/countries you cover?

In 2024, State Borderguard publicly disclosed information about several pushbacks which have taken place as far as 150km away from border, including, one with a collective pushback of 43 people, presumably, from Somalia.

What are the areas, where only few or no developments took place?

There is still no access to asylum at the green border, the lengths of detention both of adults and children remain significant, and the overall discourse of hybrid war in public domain has not changed.

Would you have any observations to share specifically about the implementation of the Pact on Migration and Asylum in the national context of the country/ countries you cover?

Up to date, January 3, 2024, the national implementation plan which was due for December 2024, has not still been released for public participation in the development planning process. Moreover, there has not been almost any communication from state officials about the Pact in media or elsewhere. Meanwhile, in media, only negative responses to Pact by Denmark or Hungary have been emphasized. The main focus of the media and politicians on what the Pact will change has been on Latvia's obligations under the solidarity mechanism.

## **PART A: Contributions by topic**

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**Please share your reporting on developments in asylum law, policies or practices in 2024 by topic. Kindly make sure that you provide information on:**

- New developments and improvements in 2024 and new or remaining challenges;
- Changes in legislation, policies or practices, or institutional changes during 2024.

### **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)**

2 cases have been publicly disclosed by State Officials about the pushback of a group of people which have been already outside the border area (30 km from border). On July 23, 2024, group of 11 people was found in a basement and altogether with other 16 people were pushed back to Belarus after being at least 40km away from the border. On October 8, 2024, access to asylum was provided to 3 people of a group out of 46 due to health issues while other 43 have been taken back to Latvia-Belarus border after being already 150km away from the border.

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

No developments.

### **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 developments.

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

No developments.

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

No developments.

**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)**

Access to schooling and education is still almost absent for children in detention, however, there has been an increase in the effort to accompany non-accompanied minor asylum seekers to access education. Still, it is in a very initial phase, since only one school in Riga provides such an option and has not a stable and functional system to ensure quality education. For instance, the adaptation phase has no age division.

**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)**

Detention is still a recurrent practice, including, long term detention of unaccompanied and separated children - in 2 cases in 2024 even exceeding 6 months. There is still no social worker or any other personnel in both detention centers besides State Borderguard and 1 medical staff. There is still no discussion about any other alternatives to detention; moreover, 2 additional detention centers are in due planning process, which would increase detention capacity from around 200 to 500 people.

**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)**

No information.

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

No information.

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

No information.

**11. Children and applicants with special needs (special reception facilities, identification mechanisms/referrals, procedural standards, provision of information, age assessment, legal guardianship and foster care for unaccompanied and separated children)**

There has been a positive development in regards the necessity to improve the reception of unaccompanied and separated children. The matter has been discussed on several terms by the involved parties - orphan's court, social mentors, policy makers, NGOs. Meanwhile, there is still no special establishment to accommodate unaccompanied and separated children and a need for one has been emphasized by multiple involved parties. Age assessment is a recurrent practice and is based on solely physical assessment. There is almost no day-to-day care provided to unaccompanied and separated children who mainly have similar conditions as adults, including, 3 euros per day to provide food and other necessary items.

**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)**

No developments.

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

No developments.

**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 information.

**15. National jurisprudence on international protection in 2024 (please include a link to the relevant case law and/or submit cases to the [EUAA Case Law Database](#))**

No information.

**16. Other important developments in 2024**

Since autumn 2023, the number of unidentified people on move who have died and been buried in Latvia has increased from 0 to 9. The rapid burial (within 2 weeks after finding the body) and almost no effort done by any state institutions to facilitate the communication between relatives seeking their missing relatives, could lead to enforced disappearances.

## **PART B: Publications**

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**1. If available online, please provide links to relevant publications produced by your organisation in 2024**

Report "No Safe Passage. Migrants' deaths at the European Union-Belarusian border" presents the data on migrant deaths on the EU-Belarusian border since the traffic on this route intensified and the humanitarian crisis in the border area began in the summer of 2021. [https://gribupalidzetbegliem.lv/wp-content/uploads/2024/07/ENG\\_No-Safe-Passage.-Migrants-deaths-at-the-European-Union-Belarusian-border-2.pdf](https://gribupalidzetbegliem.lv/wp-content/uploads/2024/07/ENG_No-Safe-Passage.-Migrants-deaths-at-the-European-Union-Belarusian-border-2.pdf) Article in Latvian "Unaccompanied minor asylum seekers in Latvia: context, legal framework and everyday life": <https://juristavards.lv/doc/285786-nepilngadigi-patveruma-mekletaji-bez-pavadibas-latvija-konteksts-tiesiskais-regulejums-un-sadzive/>

**2. If not available online, please share your publications with us at: [Asylum.Report@euaa.europa.eu](mailto: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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## **Useful links**

[EUAA Asylum Report 2024 \(https://euaa.europa.eu/asylum-report-2024\)](https://euaa.europa.eu/asylum-report-2024)

[Executive Summary -Asylum Report 2024 \(https://euaa.europa.eu/asylum-report-2024/executive-summary\)](https://euaa.europa.eu/asylum-report-2024/executive-summary)

[Sources on Asylum 2024 \(https://euaa.europa.eu/publications/sources-asylum-2024\)](https://euaa.europa.eu/publications/sources-asylum-2024)

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

[International Protection in Europe: 2023 in Review \(https://euaa.europa.eu/international-protection-europe-2023-review\)](https://euaa.europa.eu/international-protection-europe-2023-review)

## **Background Documents**

[Word template to submit input](#)

## **Contact**

[Contact Form](#)