

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

* Name of Organisation

Center for legal aid - Voice in Bulgaria

Name and title of contact person

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* Email

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

General observations

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?

1. Final voting of the EU Asylum and Migration Pact, which will reshape asylum practices and policies in all EU countries and has already started doing so.
2. Legalization of push back practices under stricter security and return policies.
4. Further externalization of asylum procedure.
3. Criminalization of migration and humanitarian support of migrants and refugees.

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

1. Harmonization of protection standards and quality of asylum assessment;
2. Integration, focused mainly toward Ukrainian temporary protection holders and less towards traditional refugee groups from Middle East, North Africa and Asia;
3. Increased Dublin returns towards border countries;

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?

In regard to Bulgaria to Bulgaria, through a pilot project and a framework agreement with the Commission the Pact was tested even in 2023 and early 2024 before its voting. In spite of willingness on part of civil society to be actively engaged in creation of the Bulgarian national plan for the implementation of the Pact during second half of the year, all governmental discussions happened behind closed doors with no public information, discussion or engagement of civil society experts or field workers.

PART A: Contributions by topic

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)

Access to territory and access to procedure was highly restricted in Bulgaria, accompanied by increased human rights violations, push-back practices, death and disappearance of migrants and asylum seekers, including children.

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

Funding for direct field work, including legal aid, was highly restricted in the share of EU and national funds. Regular legal aid and information support in detention centers and return procedures is missing.

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)

Increased use of AI
Lack of translators from rare languages.

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

Increased application of Dublin returns to Bulgaria with increase threat of detention after return.

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)

The unprecedented case of the continued detention of a Saudi asylum seeker Abdulrahman al-Khalidi in Bulgaria for over 3 years, widely reported in the international media (<https://balkaninsight.com/2024/07/05/bulgarians-call-for-release-of-saudi-dissident-on-hunger-strike/> ; <https://foreignpolicy.com/2024/09/04/al-khalidi-bulgaria-detention-deportation-order-hunger-strike/> and others) is indicative of the direction of European policy on the expanding use of detention of asylum seekers.

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

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)

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)

13. Return of former applicants for international protection

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)

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](#))

16. Other important developments in 2024

PART B: Publications

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

1. The Anatomy of the EU Pact on Migration and Asylum: Disconnecting from the Realities on the Ground and the Fundamental Human Rights-the first analysis of the Regulation, available at: <https://centerforlegalaid.com/en/the-anatomy-of-the-eu-pact-on-migration-and-asylum-disconnecting-from-the-realities-on-the-ground-and-the-fundamental-human-rights-the-first-analysis-of-the-regulation/>
2. STRENGTHENING THE LABOUR RIGHTS OF MIGRANT WORKERS IN BULGARIA – LEGAL AND ECONOMIC ANALYSIS, available at: <https://centerforlegalaid.com/en/strengthening-the-labour-rights-of-migrant-workers-in-bulgaria-legal-and-economic-analysis/>

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				
5				

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](#)