

# Input by civil society organisations to the Asylum Report 2026

Fields marked with \* are mandatory.

Dear Colleagues,

The production of the Asylum Report 2026 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 2025 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 2025 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: Similarly to last year, this year's edition of the Asylum Report will be leaner and more analytical, 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. It will also feature prominently as info boxes in the [country overviews](#).***

Your input matters to us and will be much appreciated!

**\*Please submit your contribution to the Asylum Report 2026 by Friday, 9 January 2026.\***

## Contact details

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\* Name of organisation

Croatian Red Cross

Name and title of contact person

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\* Email

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## 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?

The Croatian Red Cross (CRC) is a partner of the Ministry of the Interior in the operation of two Reception Centers for International Protection applicants. Within these centers, the CRC provides psychosocial support to international protection applicants.

In recent years, several important changes have taken place. International protection applicants are now entitled to access the labor market after three months, compared to the previous waiting period of nine months. The City of Zagreb has established a One Stop Shop for all foreigners residing in the City of Zagreb, including applicants for international protection and refugees. In 2025, the CRC participated in the work of the One Stop Shop by providing support to City of Zagreb employees. The One Stop Shop serves as a central point where foreigners can receive comprehensive information on their rights and obligations, as well as access free legal aid.

At the local level, the City of Zagreb is implementing an Integration Action Plan. In cooperation with non-governmental organizations, it organizes numerous socio-cultural activities and Croatian language courses.

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

A national-level integration action plan has not been adopted since 2020.

For many years, persons granted international protection have faced difficulties in exercising their legally guaranteed right to attend a Croatian language course, and in practice they encounter numerous obstacles in accessing health care. The ministry responsible for education has not organized Croatian language courses for several years, for reasons unknown to us, which we assume are organizational and financial in nature.

With regard to health care, both employed applicants for international protection and persons granted international protection experience difficulties in effectively accessing health services. These challenges are assumed to stem primarily from language barriers and the administrative complexity of the health care system. Housing represents another major challenge for persons granted international protection. Rental prices are very high, and there is no comprehensive affordable housing policy in Croatia.

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?

CRC is aware that the Pact will enter into force in June 2026, and that the Ministry of the Interior has organized a meeting with relevant stakeholders, from whom it expects support, including the CRC.

It is anticipated that cooperation with the Ministry of the Interior in relation to the Pact will take place; however, no formal steps have been taken to date.

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

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**Please share your reporting on developments in asylum law, policies or practices in 2025 by topic.**

**Kindly make sure that you provide information on:**

- New developments and improvements in 2025 and new or remaining challenges;
- Changes in legislation, policies or practices, or institutional changes during 2025.

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

**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)**

Within the AMIF project implemented in the Reception Centres for International Protection Applicants, the CRC has allocated funds for translation services. Translators are engaged during more complex activities, particularly for the purpose of conducting initial interviews and follow-up support interviews.

**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)**

The Croatian Red Cross (CRC) provides support to international protection applicants from the first day of their arrival at the Reception Centre for international protection applicants. Once the Ministry of the Interior completes the registration process, CRC staff accommodate the beneficiary in a room and provide a basic hygiene kit and bedding. The beneficiary is then informed about all rules, services, and daily life in the Reception Centre.

CRC activities include the distribution of hygiene items and other basic supplies; IT workshops for children and adults; support with learning and homework for children enrolled in the education system; a children’s playroom; Croatian language workshops for adults; creative workshops; maintenance and cleaning of the reception’s indoor and outdoor areas; education on personal care and hygiene of living spaces; medical assistance in accordance with doctors’ instructions, including the procurement of medicines; access to a gym for men and women; technical workshops; and cultural and socio-orientation activities within the Reception Centre and the local community.

The psychosocial support team conducts individual and group sessions, assists beneficiaries with CV writing and job searching, and organises educational outings and similar activities. Particular attention is given to especially vulnerable groups.

**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. 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)**

When providing psychosocial support to beneficiaries, particular attention is given to vulnerable groups, such as unaccompanied children, pregnant women, persons with disabilities etc.

In addition, some CRC staff members participate in specialised working groups focused on supporting unaccompanied children and victims of gender-based violence.

Certain staff members are also appointed as special guardians for unaccompanied children accommodated in the Reception center for International protection applicants.

Children under the age of 16 are placed in social welfare institutions, while children aged 16 and over may be accommodated in the Reception center, provided that this is assessed to be in their best interest.

**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 2025 (please include a link to the relevant case law and/or submit cases to the [EUAA Case Law Database](#))**

**16. Other important developments in 2025**

## **PART B: Publications**

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**1. If available online, please provide links to relevant publications produced by your organisation in 2025.**

**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.**

	<b>Title of publication</b>	<b>Name of author</b>	<b>Publisher/Organisation</b>	<b>Date</b>
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## **Useful links**

[EUAA Asylum Report 2025 \(https://euaa.europa.eu/asylum-report-2025\)](https://euaa.europa.eu/asylum-report-2025)

[Executive Summary -Asylum Report 2025 \(https://euaa.europa.eu/asylum-report-2025-executive-summary\)](https://euaa.europa.eu/asylum-report-2025-executive-summary)

[Sources on Asylum 2025 \(https://euaa.europa.eu/publications/sources-asylum-2025\)](https://euaa.europa.eu/publications/sources-asylum-2025)

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

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

## **Background Documents**

[Word template to submit input to the 2026 Asylum Report.docx](#)

## **Contact**

[Contact Form](#)