



Input by civil society organisations to the Asylum Report 2026

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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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:

- 1. What areas would you highlight where important developments took place in the country/countries you cover?**
- 2. What are the areas, where only few or no developments took place?**
- 3. 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?**

PART A: Contributions by topic

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)

In 2025, CNRR collected information in the border area by providing information and counseling upon request, organizing monitoring visits, analyzing statistical data provided by the Border Police (BP) and the General Inspectorate for Immigration (GII), as well as by applying predefined questionnaires. Irregular entries from Ukraine followed an upward trend, with the consulted individuals not reporting violations of fundamental rights.

CNRR received eleven requests for assistance from individuals who stated that they were, or had been, in the border area and expressed a need for protection. Nine cases requested CNRR intervention, while in two situations, the individuals chose not to continue the assistance process. Four of the assisted individuals confirmed the registration of an asylum application.

In the cases where registration was not confirmed, the individuals stated that the Romanian authorities did not acknowledge their expression of intent, denying them access to Romanian territory and returning them to third countries previously transited. CNRR notified the Border Police regarding each case, and the institution provided responses for every reported case. In these cases, the Border Police did not confirm a request for international protection.

Usually, the Border Police are unable to provide any kind of food at the border, which can be problematic when individuals are required to remain there for extended periods due to security checks. In such cases, the Border Police rely on NGOs to meet this need.

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

No changes have been identified.

Asylum seekers have access to information and legal assistance through NGOs present in the reception centers, which usually implement AMIF-funded projects. Information on their rights and obligations is also provided by GII, both in writing and verbally.

Romanian National Council for Refugees provides specialized legal counseling and assistance in all six regional centers for procedure and accommodation for asylum seekers, upon request, during the entire asylum procedure, and for beneficiaries of international protection whose situation is being reanalyzed or whose requests for family reunification were rejected. The counseling includes information provision, translation services of the documents, drafting of all the needed documents in the administrative and judicial phase.

During the reporting period, CNRR assisted 750 asylum seekers in the country and carried out 7123 information and legal counselling sessions.

Asylum seekers also have the right to be accompanied during interviews with the GII by a lawyer or a representative of an organization.

With regard to legal assistance in court, CNRR may also support asylum seekers by assisting in the drafting of procedural documents. However, court representation is provided either by





CNRR lawyers (in vulnerable cases), drawn from CNRR's network of trained lawyers, or by state-appointed lawyers. Courts' practice is not uniform: some courts grant legal aid lawyers based on a presumption of vulnerability of asylum seekers, others apply financial eligibility criteria, while some reject such requests altogether.

The quality of state-provided legal aid remains poor. Asylum seekers assisted by CNRR report that legal aid lawyers often provide only superficial support, fail to properly discuss cases, or miss appeal deadlines. This is largely due to insufficient training and motivation. To address this, CNRR organizes annual information sessions for lawyers.

- 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 changes have been made. The presence of EUAA interpreters provides significant support, as Romania has a small number of interpreters—especially authorized ones—and even fewer for rare languages. Interpretation is usually conducted in person, with remote interpretation used only in exceptional cases.

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

No changes have been identified.

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

No changes have been identified regarding these procedures. In Romania, asylum applications may be processed either at the border, under an accelerated procedure, or within the territory, where they may follow either an accelerated or an ordinary procedure. Children are excluded from border and accelerated procedures and are given priority.

- 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)

Asylum seekers in Romania are generally accommodated in GII centers, though those with financial means may rent their own housing. Residents in the GII centers have freedom of





movement but must notify management for absences longer than one day. They may move to another county only on an exceptional basis. Also asylum seekers with limited financial means may receive monthly allowances and seasonal aid for clothing. In addition, they receive a voucher upon arrival to cover basic hygiene items, provided through an AMIF-funded NGO project.

Although the accommodation capacity at the Galați Reception Center has been increased by 300 places in 2024, asylum seekers are placed in the same building as before.

Also in Galați, to strengthen the national asylum and migration system and to respond effectively in both normal and crisis situations or in cases of force majeure, a facility has been set up to ensure the optimal operation of a mobile camp consisting of 19 tents.¹

Regarding the access to the labour market, asylum seekers have the right to work three months after submitting their asylum request, or earlier if their case enters the judicial phase. In practice, language barriers, missing documents, and lack of qualifications often limit job opportunities, pushing many into low-skilled work and restricting access to vocational training.

According to the law, asylum seekers have access to free primary and emergency medical care and can enroll in national health programs. Shortages of doctors and psychologists in some reception centers make them heavily reliant on NGOs. In 2025, asylum seekers benefited from integrated health services through the “Integrated Health Services for Asylum Seekers” (SERISSA) project in counties such as Bucharest, Ilfov, Galați, Giurgiu, Suceava, Maramureș, Timiș, and Arad. The project’s target group includes asylum seekers accommodated in reception centers, those living outside the centers, as well as individuals in closed facilities. Specifically, asylum seekers receive health screenings and tests upon arrival, medical consultations, investigations, analyses and treatments, transportation to medical facilities, and specialized psychological counseling and support.

Children have the same educational rights as Romanian children, but funding gaps, delayed enrollment, and limited trained teachers hinder their integration progress.

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)

No changes have been identified. Romania has two public custody centers where freedom of movement is restricted. Asylum seekers are usually not placed in these centers; most cases encountered by CNRR involved foreigners who were already in custody when requesting asylum. In exceptional cases, such as for national security reasons or to prevent abusive asylum claims, asylum seekers may be placed in specially designated enclosed spaces as a last-resort measure.

¹ <https://igi.mai.gov.ro/category/fami-2021-2027/>





- 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)

No changes have been identified.

It is worth noting the situation of asylum requests submitted by Syrian nationals, which were suspended nationwide from December 2024 until September 2025.

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

As a result of the judges' strike in the second half of 2025, delays occurred in scheduling hearings and issuing decisions.

It is also worth mentioning that the increased access to electronic case files in court has helped asylum seekers stay better informed and keep track of procedural deadlines. In addition, it improved communication with the assigned legal aid lawyer prior to the hearing, resulting in a clearer presentation of the asylum seeker's situation in court.

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

No changes have been made. Romania still does not have a dedicated statelessness determination procedure leading to protection status.

- 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)

No changes have been identified.

Most reception centers are not specifically designed to accommodate persons with special needs; however, management strives to provide appropriate support wherever possible.

The GII has a procedure in place for the early identification of vulnerable individuals, and the NGOs providing assistance are required to assess vulnerability within their activities.

Unaccompanied children are assigned a legal guardian by the child protection authorities. There is a significant need for child-friendly information and a less invasive age assessment procedure. Currently, age assessments are conducted through a forensic medical expertise.





In 2025, the National Authority for the Protection of Child Rights and Adoption drafted a curriculum to train legal guardians of unaccompanied children, addressing a critical need in this area.

The language barrier remains a challenge in communication between legal guardians and children. Child protection authorities largely rely on NGOs in this matter.

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)

Challenges in accessing rights for beneficiaries of international protection persisted in 2025.

In principle, persons with international protection enjoy the same rights as Romanian citizens, with the exception of political rights. However, in practice, accessing these rights often proves difficult due to various impediments. Some are systemic (e.g. the shortage of housing), while others are specific to their situation, such as language barriers, lack of documentation, insufficient knowledge or training among public servants regarding their status, lack of interpreters within public authorities, occasional discrimination, and difficulties in engaging with the host community.

Moreover, given their specific situation, there is a significant need to adapt certain legislation and public policies, even though they formally enjoy the same rights as Romanian citizens.²

Additionally, many administrative procedures still require documents from the country of origin or communication with authorities in that country, requirements that are impossible to fulfil for refugees.

Beneficiaries of international protection have access to free language classes during the integration program in the first year which is provided through the Ministry of Education. These classes are often supplemented by language courses provided by NGOs. A notable improvement in 2025 is that asylum seekers also gained access to language courses through an AMIF-funded project; until then, they were not eligible for such classes.

There remains a significant need for guidance, counselling, and information, and in some cases accompaniment to public authorities, especially during the first year of integration, until beneficiaries become familiar with the language, administrative system, and local culture. They typically rely on NGOs and members of the community for this support.

² For example, access to education has been a major challenge for those without study documents. Therefore, in 2022, the Ministry of Education issued special methodologies for beneficiaries of international protection who do not possess such documents, establishing specific methods to assess their level of knowledge and enabling the recognition of their studies.





13. Return of former applicants for international protection

No changes have been identified.

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)

In 2025, Romania carried out a series of emergency medical evacuation operations from the Gaza Strip under the European Union Civil Protection Mechanism, transporting children and their caregivers who require medical care in Romania or other European countries.

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

During 2025, the Ministry of Internal Affairs, through the GII and the Border Police, worked on assessing and amending the legislation as part of the National Implementation Plan of the EU Pact on Migration and Asylum. This process is still ongoing and is expected to be submitted for consultation with civil society in the near future.

CNRR, together with other NGOs with expertise in the field of migration, submitted a position paper to the authorities containing recommendations and requested consultation meetings. Meetings have taken place with the GII, the Border Police, the Ombudsman, and the National Authority for Child Protection.

In 2025, the provision concerning the ground for non-punishment of acts of irregular entry or stay on the territory of Romania, committed by persons who have been granted a form of protection, has been amended. The prosecutor or the court may order the suspension of the criminal investigation or of the trial until the asylum application is finally resolved, if the act was committed in connection with the reasons invoked in the asylum request. Thus, the amendment requires a preliminary assessment of the link between the act and the asylum reasons and provides for the possibility for the prosecutor or the judge to suspend the proceedings.

It is also worth noting a deeply concerning development: in 2025, far-right anti-migration rhetoric has intensified, accompanied by a noticeable increase in societal discrimination against refugees, as well as a significant rise in hate speech targeting the authorities





responsible for supporting migrants' integration. This, in turn, has discouraged those authorities from taking action in this area.³

Part B: Publications

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
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	Date
1				
2				
3				
4				
5				

³ In July, the Bucharest City Hall published a project for a local strategy for the inclusion of migrants. However, due to the high level of hate speech it received, the City Hall withdrew the strategy and announced that a new one will be published in due course. At present, no updated strategy has been released.

