

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

* Name of organisation

Santa Casa da Misericórdia de Lisboa

Name and title of contact person

Ana Sofia Branco

* Email

ana.branco@scml.pt

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?

In the context of the Santa Casa da Misericórdia de Lisboa (SCML), the most significant developments have occurred in the enhancement and specialisation of the team responsible for the subsequent reception of asylum seekers following the admissibility phase. This has resulted in a more tailored approach, better addressing the specific needs of individuals during this critical period.

SCML has also expanded its accommodation capacity for asylum seekers. In 2025, the number of hostels was increased, and there are now 150 beds across three hostels: one dedicated to men and two, with a total of 70 beds, for women and families.

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

The most pressing challenges continue to relate to accommodation, particularly in meeting the increasing number of referrals. Structural limitations persist across Portugal, including a shortage of adequate housing solutions and insufficient capacity to respond effectively to the growing demand.

Another concern relates to the prolonged duration for which international protection applications remain pending a final decision. At SCML, we support asylum applications at the appeals stage that, in some cases, have been awaiting a decision for up to two years. This delay impacts integration processes, particularly when decisions may ultimately be negative, and it also affects the continuity of service provision, especially accommodation. Low turnover results in saturation of the asylum reception system's capacity.

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 the context of the Migration and Asylum Pact, our observations focus on the expectation that Portugal may receive a higher number of asylum applicants. This makes it necessary to strengthen accommodation capacity and increase technical human resources to ensure that the requirements of the reception framework can be fully met.

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)

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)

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)

Santa Casa da Misericórdia de Lisboa (SCML) currently provides a total of 150 reception beds for applicants for international protection. Of these, 80 beds are allocated to men, while 70 beds are reserved for families, including single-parent households, families with children, and single women. In addition to its own facilities, SCML supports asylum seekers in accessing accommodation in the private rental market by covering the respective rental costs.

SCML operates with a specialised multidisciplinary team composed of four social workers, one psychologist, and a coordination office led by a senior social work professional. This team provides comprehensive support across all key dimensions of reception, including accommodation, material reception conditions, and social integration.

The organisation ensures financial assistance for medication and food and provides referrals to employment opportunities. SCML also works closely with educational institutions to facilitate school enrolment for children. Access to medical care and vocational training is supported through partnerships and targeted referral mechanisms. Asylum seekers supported by SCML enjoy full freedom of movement throughout Portuguese territory, in accordance with national legislation and in respect of their autonomy.

Under Portuguese law, asylum applicants awaiting a final decision at the appeals stage are permitted to engage in professional activity. To support labour market access and skills development, SCML offers several training opportunities through its training centre, including:

Portuguese as a Host Language (PLA) A2

Portuguese as a Host Language (PLA) A1+A2

Modular Inclusion Pathways, comprising 200 hours of technological modules, 150 hours of PLA A1+A2, and 120 hours of work placement, in the following fields:

Wood and Furniture Finishing Operator –

Cook – starting

Furthermore, the CEFC Training Centre will offer the following programmes during the first quarter of 2026:

For young people (starting 2 February):

CEF in Cookery (T2)

CEF in Pastry/Bakery (T2)

CEF in IT Operator (T4)

For adults:

Modular Training B2 (equivalent to 6th-grade level) – starting 12 January

Technological EFA in Cookery – starting 2 February

Technological EFA in Geriatric Care – starting 2 March

Technological Hairdressing (NS) – starting 2 February

RVCC Certification Process – starting 2 January

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)

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)

Santa Casa da Misericórdia de Lisboa (SCML) ensures that beneficiaries of international protection have access to a wide range of essential services and integration support. These include:

- **Social Security and Assistance:** SCML facilitates access to social security benefits and provides direct social assistance to meet immediate needs. This includes financial support for housing, medication, and other essentials.
- **Health Care:** Beneficiaries are supported in accessing the national healthcare system, with SCML covering costs for necessary medications and ensuring timely medical appointments.
- **Housing:** SCML provides accommodation in its facilities and also assists beneficiaries in securing private rental housing by covering rental costs, fostering greater autonomy and stability.
- **Labour Market Integration:** A dedicated team actively works on facilitating access to employment opportunities through vocational training, partnerships with employers, and job placement services.
- **Language Skills:** SCML supports the acquisition of Portuguese language skills, essential for integration, by facilitating access to language courses tailored to different proficiency levels.
- **Education and Vocational Training:** The organisation coordinates with schools to ensure that children have access to education and provides referrals for adults to vocational training programmes, enhancing skills and qualifications to improve employability.

Through these comprehensive measures, SCML aims to promote the successful integration of beneficiaries of international protection into Portuguese society while ensuring their fundamental needs are met.

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

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

<https://www.cogitatiopress.com/socialinclusion/article/view/8428>

Branco, A., & Xerez, R. (2024). Asylum Seekers' Trajectories of Exclusion: An Analysis Through the Lens of Intersectionality. *Social Inclusion*, 12, Article 8428. <https://doi.org/10.17645/si.8428>

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

d4f21f0d-6284-4e0e-b5e8-f1692be2dda7/Asylum_Report_2026_EARAR_SCML.docx

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 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](#)