

Input by civil society to the 2021 EASO Asylum Report

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C o l l e a g u e s ,

The production of the *EASO Asylum Report 2021* is currently underway. The annual [Asylum Report series](#) present a comprehensive overview of developments in the field of asylum at the regional and national levels.

The report includes information and perspectives from various stakeholders, including experts from EU+ countries, civil society organisations, UNHCR and researchers. To this end, we invite you, our partners from civil society, academia and research institutions, to share with us your reporting on developments in asylum law, policy or practice in 2020 (and early 2021) by topic as presented in the online survey.

Please note that the EASO 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. Your input can cover practices of a specific EU+ country or the EU as a whole. You can complete all or only some of the sections.

All submissions are publicly accessible. For transparency, 2021 contributions will be published on the EASO webpage. Contributions to the 2020 EASO Asylum Report by civil society organisations can be accessed [here](#), under 'Acknowledgements'. All contributions should be appropriately referenced. You may include links to supporting material, such as analytical studies, articles, reports, websites, press releases or position papers. If your organisation does not produce any publications, please make reference to other published materials, such as joint statements issued with other organisations. 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 EASO Asylum Report is subject to terms of reference and volume limitations. Contributions from civil society organisations feed into EASO's work in multiple ways and inform reports and analyses beyond the Asylum Report.

Your input matters to us and will be much appreciated!

Nina Gregori - *EASO Executive Director*

*Please complete the online survey and submit your contribution to the 2021 EASO Asylum Report by **Thursday, 25 February 2021**.*

Instructions

Before completing the survey, please review the list of topics and types of information that should be included in your submission.

For each response, only include the following type of information:

- New developments and improvements in 2020 and new or remaining challenges; and
- Changes in policies or practices, transposition of legislation or institutional changes during 2020.

Please ensure that your responses remain within the scope of each section.

Contributions by topic

1. Access to territory and access to asylum procedures (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)

Much less people arrive and have arrived since 2016 compared to 2015, which is a year politicians always go back to as if asylum history started this year and as if 2015 is a threat which we will come back to if we don't make Sweden unattractive for people who need to ask for international protection.

No problems if you have succeeded to enter Sweden to register, make application, get shelter, food, medical treatment. During the Covid 19 the border has for times been closed, but it has also to do with Denmark.

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

Information is given and you have the right to legal assistance on all 3 levels. The Migrations Agency distribute lawyers, which are of different quality. It has for example happened that lawyers have forgotten to appeal in time. More common is that the applicant and the lawyer have not enough contact before the asylum interview and might meet just shortly before the interview.

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)

Interpreters used by the Migration Agency are too often not certificated and there are many times examples of misunderstandings and wrong interpretations, which is not always corrected by the Migration Agency when checked and informed.

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

I have not detailed information but I know that Sweden follow the rules of Dublin deportations to first country, but more seldom to Grece. Sweden sometimes also make obstacles for family transfers from Grece. I have no figurs for exacts requests and accepts.
And I have no time to search for it.

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 reception conditions in Sweden are good when it comes to material conditions. You are free to move. You are also free to say private but you get not financial support then. The right to private staying has been discussed and there are, if I understand correct, geografical areas were you are not allowed to stay because the areas are considered to be overpopulated by people from third countries.

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)

Places in detention has become more, and are planned to expan. FARR made a study about securities connected to the Corona, by asking information from detained persons, and found that it differed and in some detensions the restrictions were not followed well and that detaineed were afraid of getting the Covid.

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. Availability and use of country of origin information (including organisation, methodology, products, databases, fact-finding missions, cooperation between stakeholders)

11. Vulnerable applicants (including definitions, 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. Relocation (ad hoc, emergency relocation; developments in activities organised under national schemes or on a bilateral basis)

16. National jurisprudence on international protection in 2020 (please include a link to the relevant case law and/or submit cases to the [EASO Case Law Database](#))

17. Other important developments in 2020

About the legal security of decisions on asylum there have been a lot of criticism and doubts the last years from the civil society. Because of this and on the initiative of FARR - The Swedish Network on Refugee Support Groups - the University of Linköping started a 3 year researchproject 2018 based on cooperation between scholars, lawyers, experts from the civil society and interviews with many asylum seekers. This is partky based on many changes which have taken part in the Swedish asyl law (with a temporaty law which was prolonged) since 2016 and a lot of changed praxises from the Migrations agency, part of which have been against law.

References and sources

18. Please provide links to references and sources and/or upload the related material in PDF format

19. Feedback or suggestions about the process or format for submissions to the EASO Asylum Report

FARR - The Swedish Network of Refugee Support Groups - is since more than 30 years work well respected have with many member groups around Sweden, and is still based on voluntary work. We have no employed staff which can answer all questions from EASO, and find proper answers to them. I tried to start, but it takes too much time from other issues a national NGO as FARR has to work with. I am in the board, and also voluntary working. The EASO-report from 2019 is interesting to read, but it is also very close to the MS:s and EUC:s version of the situation in the EU. So many NGO:s are critical to much about how refugees and migrants are met in the EU, just one example the EU actions and EU_negotioans with third country, as Libya and Turkey, to keep refugees and migrants out of the EU. So many are still drowned on the Mediteranian. During 2020 came observations about the Frontex pushbacks to Turkey, and before that the MS-state Greece have been doing pushbacks for at least some years, and the EU doesn't react, and EASO doesn't report. There are so many notes from for example ECRE and so many reports from not at least NGOs working in Greece, monitoring what is going on on the islands, or at the borders, and we see noothing, or very litle about this in the yearly report. It is interesting to read, but you have to read with a very critical eye and knowing this is just a part of what ought to be reported about 2019. EASO can give an answer to what I say like this: But we don't know, tell us in this kind of surveys. My answer would be that there are so many reports - in English - they are just to read. There are a little information from NGOs in this yearly report but it does not at all show the great diversity between the states/the EUcommission and the civil society NGO.s.

Please upload your file

The maximum file size is 1 MB

Contact details

* Name of organisation

FARR - The Swedish Network of Refugee Support Groups

Name and title of contact person

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

Useful links

[EASO Asylum Report 2020 \(https://easo.europa.eu/asylum-report-2020\)](https://easo.europa.eu/asylum-report-2020)

[Executive Summary -EASO Asylum Report 2020 \(https://easo.europa.eu/sites/default/files/EASO-Asylum-Report-2020-Executive-Summary.pdf\)](https://easo.europa.eu/sites/default/files/EASO-Asylum-Report-2020-Executive-Summary.pdf)

[Bibliography for the EASO Asylum Report 2020 \(https://easo.europa.eu/sites/default/files/easo-asylum-report-2020-bibliography.pdf\)](https://easo.europa.eu/sites/default/files/easo-asylum-report-2020-bibliography.pdf)

[Summary of legislative, institutional and policy developments in asylum in EU+ countries in 2019 \(https://easo.europa.eu/sites/default/files/easo-asylum-report-eu-developments.pdf\)](https://easo.europa.eu/sites/default/files/easo-asylum-report-eu-developments.pdf)

[Online database with data and latest asylum trends \(https://easo.europa.eu/asylum-trends-easo-asylum-report-2020\)](https://easo.europa.eu/asylum-trends-easo-asylum-report-2020)

[Online database for EU+ developments \(https://easo.europa.eu/eu-developments\)](https://easo.europa.eu/eu-developments)

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