

Input by civil society to the 2021 EASO Asylum Report

Fields marked with * are mandatory.

D e a r

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)

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)

In the field of interpretation services, we recommend improving the level of interpretation and translation in asylum and other proceedings with foreigners, esp.

- mapping the use of ad hoc interpreters by public authorities, it means those that are not registered with the Ministry of Justice of the Slovak Republic as official interpreters;
- introduction of a list of "deficient languages" for which we have no or insufficient interpreters and translators;
- the state should also take on the burden of bearing the costs of ensuring that a sufficient list of quality interpreters is available to public authorities;
- develop a list of rights and obligations and a code of ethics for ad hoc interpreters;
- the obligation of ad hoc interpreters to complete a professional minimum; - elaboration of guidelines for ad hoc interpreters on their role in the administrative procedures;
- specific sanctions for ad hoc interpreters in case of breach of the interpretation promise;
- the inclusion of community interpreters in the Act on Experts, Interpreters and Translators and to adjust their status and scope of rights and obligations at the level of the Act;

- to simplify instructions on rights and obligations used in proceedings with foreigners;
- use appropriate methods to verify understanding of the question asked, explanation or instruction in the proceedings with foreigners;

- make video or audio recordings for possible back-checking of interpretation in administrative procedures with foreigners.

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)

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)

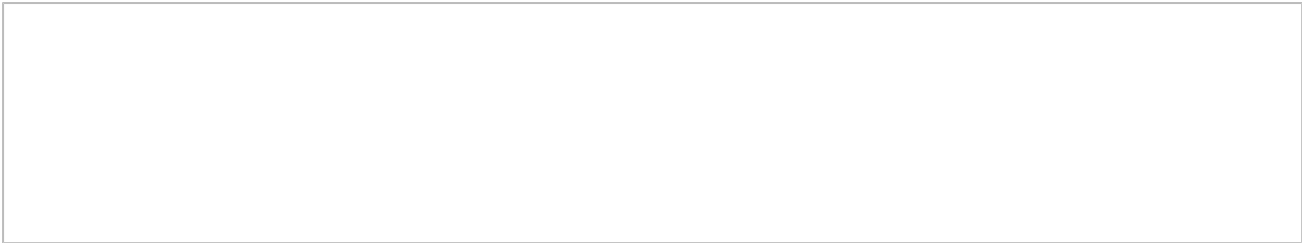
8. Procedures at first instance (including relevant changes in: the authority in charge, organisation of the process, interviews, evidence assessment, determination of international protection status, decisionmaking, timeframes, case management - including backlog management)

In the field of asylum and international protection, taking into consideration consistently low numbers of asylum seekers, we recommend that the Migration Office is transformed into Asylum Department as part of the new Immigration and Naturalisation Office. Despite the low number of asylum seekers in recent years, we have seen an increase in the severity of cases.

One of the problems identified at the first instance is the disproportionate length of the proceedings caused by disregard of the legal opinion of the court after the return of the case to the Migration Office. In these cases, in addition to delays in the proceedings, the rights of asylum seekers to an effective remedy are violated. In these cases, we have brought the Torubarov case to the attention of the court, but so far, the courts have not exercised the right to direct international protection in any case.

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)

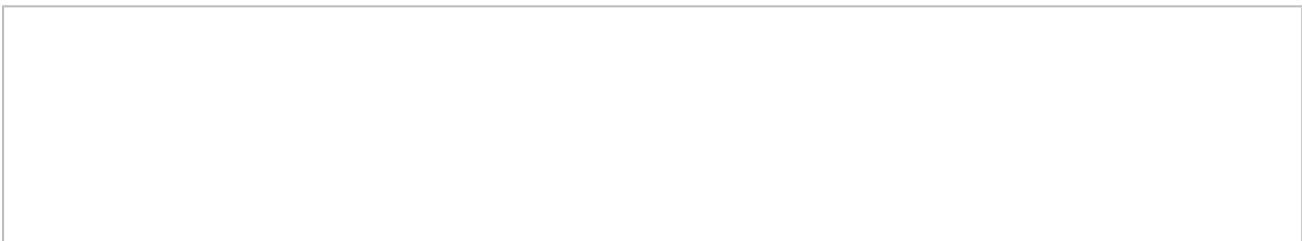
For the vulnerable asylum seekers with several special needs, especially for the victims of violence, traumatised persons, LGBTI, etc., we recommend the creation of separate protected housing. Given the persistently low occupancy of three asylum facilities in recent years and the related inefficiency of their year-round operation, we propose to use part of these unused capacities for housing of people on alternative to detention and those that cannot be deported, are in material need and for objective reasons are unable to leave the territory of Slovakia, whilst their detention is not effective (especially families and other vulnerable persons).

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)

We propose to create a State integration programme for persons with international protection. The creation of such programme was imposed by the Resolution of the Government of the Slovak Republic no. 568 of 21 October 2015, however, this has not yet been established, resp. has not yet been approved at government level.

In the field of integration at the national level, we negatively perceive the absence of comprehensive, clear and reliable information for foreigners about their rights and obligations, residence status, etc. in several language versions, provided by state institutions. This need is also regularly reported by representatives of various foreign communities in Slovakia. We propose the establishment of a national information platform for foreigners in various language versions, which will serve as a key and reliable source of information and orientation for foreigners.

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)

We consider it important to improve general public awareness of international protection issues, to seek effective opportunities to engage in European solidarity programmes in the field of relocation, and to set up a resettlement program for beneficiaries of international protection.

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

References and sources

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

To read the full Analysis of the Situation and Recommendations in relation to the setting up of the Asylum, Migration and Integration Policies of the Slovak Republic prepared by the Human Rights League, click here: <https://www.hrl.sk/assets/files/obsah/199-Summary%20and%20overview%20of%20recommendations%20of%20Analysis%20of%20asylum,%20immigration%20and%20integration%20policies%20of%20the%20Slovak%20Republic.pdf>

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

Please upload your file

The maximum file size is 1 MB

Contact details

* Name of organisation

Human Rights League

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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