



National Asylum Developments 2022



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Introduction















This summary presents legislative, institutional and policy developments in asylum and reception in EU+ countries in 2021, as presented in the [Asylum Report 2022](#). Details for each development and further analysis are provided in the report.

This information is also available in a searchable database, the EUAA National Asylum Developments Database: <https://euaa.europa.eu/national-asylum-developments-database>













































Legislative developments





















	Country		Thematic area	Development
	Austria		Content of protection	The length of the obligatory orientation course for beneficiaries of international protection was extended from 8 to 24 hours to include modules on gender equality, antisemitism and the importance of voluntary work.
	Belgium		Processing applications at second or higher instance	The Council of Ministers approved in June 2021 a draft law on the organisation of CALL. The proposal aimed to increase the number of judges of CALL and simplify and optimise the appraisal procedure for staff by introducing a comprehensive system of disciplinary and policy measures for officials.
	Belgium		Processing applications at second or higher instance	The Belgian CALL announced that from March 2022 procedural documents can be submitted online. Documents can be sent electronically via J-box, an alternative to traditional registered mail, and for an appeal in a special procedure, this option replaced the traditional submission by fax.
	Belgium		Content of protection	Changes to the integration path entered into force in the Flemish region of Belgium. The new programme includes four components (language learning, economic autonomy, social orientation and a 40-hour tandem programme with a Flemish 'buddy') and concludes with an exam. The compulsory programme is subject to a EUR 360 fee.
	Belgium		Content of protection	The French-speaking Brussels Community Commission – the francophone government of Brussels – announced that the city's integration programme became mandatory on 1 January 2022, and those who fail to comply receive a fine.
	Bulgaria		The Dublin procedure	An amendment was pending approval by the Council of Ministers to modify the "Regulation on responsibilities and coordination of public authorities implementing action on the application of the Dublin III and Eurodac Regulations".
	Bulgaria		Processing applications at second or higher instance	Amendments to the Law on Foreigners provide for a temporary automatic suspensive effect of an appeal against an expulsion order based on national-security grounds, containing "substantiated allegations" of important risk of death or ill treatment in the destination country.











































	Bulgaria		Detention during the asylum procedure	Amendments to the Law on Foreigners introduced provisions for a swift judicial review of detention.
	Bulgaria		Statelessness in the asylum context	Amendments to the Law on Foreigners introduced new grounds for refusing to grant stateless status.
	Croatia		Processing asylum applications at first instance	Amendments were drafted to the Act on International and Temporary Protection, with the aim of aligning national legislation with the recast Asylum Procedures Directive.
	Cyprus		Special procedures to assess protection needs	The list of safe countries of origin was updated, adding Armenia, Benin, Kenya, Kosovo, Moldova, Mongolia and Togo.
	Cyprus		Processing applications at second or higher instance	The Law on the Establishment and Operation of the Administrative Court was amended introducing an automatic suspensive effect for an appeal against a return decision, deportation order and removal order.
	Cyprus		Reception of applicants for international protection	New orders were issued by the Ministry of Labour, allowing applicants to start working before a formal decision is made on the work permit application.
	Cyprus		Detention during the asylum procedure	The law on the ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment was amended, formalising the practice that the Ombudsperson can visit freely, unhindered and unannounced any detention facility.
	Cyprus		Return of former applicants	Amendments entered into force allowing the Head of the Asylum Office to issue a deportation or removal order jointly with a negative decision when deciding on an application for international protection. Both decisions, which are no longer separate administrative acts, can be challenged before the International Protection Administrative Court and the suspensive effect may be automatic.
	Cyprus		Persons with special needs in the asylum procedure	The Deputy Minister for Social Welfare, the Minister for Justice and the police signed a memorandum in Cyprus to strengthen cooperation for the referral and support to survivors of human trafficking. The national reception strategy also established assessments and referral mechanisms as core objectives.
	Cyprus		Persons with special needs in the asylum procedure	The government took action toward increasing its reception capacity dedicated to unaccompanied children.






	Czechia		Statelessness in the asylum context	Amendments to the Asylum Act and the Act on Stay of Foreigners stipulated that some provisions of the asylum procedure do not apply to the procedure for recognising statelessness, for example the appointment of a legal representative, having an oral hearing, and an appeal of the decision is not possible. However, the ministry provides an interpreter free of charge and issues a decision within 6 months of submitting the application (which can be extended by another 6 months for complex cases).
	Denmark		Processing asylum applications at first instance	Amendments to the Aliens Act and the Return Act foresee the possibility to transfer suddenly-arrived asylum seekers to a partner country outside of the EU to process their asylum applications and subsequently provide protection to those in need.
	Denmark		Content of protection	A special legislative piece provides temporary residence permits to persons who have assisted the Danish authorities and have been evacuated from Afghanistan.
	Denmark		Return of former applicants	The Return Act (Hjemrejseloven), the first consolidated law in the field of return, came into force on 1 June 2021. The mandate and responsibilities of the Danish Return Agency are formalised in the act.
	Denmark		Return of former applicants	New legislation obliges applicants to undergo a medical examination for diseases and illnesses covered by the Danish Epidemic Act, e.g. COVID-19. If a returnee refuses to be tested, the Danish Return Agency can request the assistance of the police and the testing may, if necessary, be carried out with the use of force. The testing is always carried out by a health care professional.
	Finland		Special procedures to assess protection needs	The Smart Border package was submitted to the parliament, bringing new technological means of processing at the border, concerning specifically the Aliens Act and other relevant legislative provisions.
	Finland		Processing applications at second or higher instance	An amendment to the Aliens Act extended the time limit to 30 days to submit an appeal against a decision of the Finnish Immigration Service and before the Administrative Court and the Supreme Administrative Court.
	Finland		Reception of applicants for international protection	Legislative work continued to prepare for an eventual mass influx of migrants, and some amendments were introduced to the Reception Act. The Finnish Immigration Service must draw up a contingency plan for large-scale arrivals and has a central role in organising reception and giving instructions to other actors in this scenario. The amendments entered into force at the beginning of January 2022.



















	Finland		Legal assistance and representation	Free legal aid was made available to all applicants for international protection during an interview, not only to vulnerable groups.
	Finland		Legal assistance and representation	People with a legal training but who are not qualified as public legal counsellors can no longer be assigned as legal assistants to third-country nationals in international protection procedures. Pay differences for legal assistants working on international protection cases were eliminated.
	Finland		Content of protection	Finland opened consultations on proposed amendments to the Citizenship Act (359/2003) and the Government Decree on Citizenship (293/2013).
	Finland		Content of protection	A draft government proposal was sent out for comments to amend the Aliens Act provisions on the family reunification of beneficiaries of international protection.
	France		Content of protection	Legislative amendments introduced the possibility of refusing or withdrawing refugee status from third-country nationals convicted of public support of an act of terrorism.
	France		Return of former applicants	Penal sanctions apply to people who refuse to comply with health requirements which are required for an automatic enforcement of an expulsion measure.
	France		Persons with special needs in the asylum procedure	A draft law on child protection was adopted by the National Assembly and by the Senate. The draft includes several provisions relevant to unaccompanied children.
	Greece		Special procedures to assess protection needs	The implementation of Article 90(3) and (5) of Law No 4636/2019 on the exceptional border procedure that applies to third-country nationals in Reception and Identification Centres in Lesbos, Chios, Samos, Leros and Kos was extended until 31 December 2021.
	Greece		Special procedures to assess protection needs	Bangladesh and Pakistan were designated as safe countries of origin.
	Greece		Special procedures to assess protection needs	Turkey was designated a safe third country for applicants from Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Somalia and Syria.
	Greece		Reception of applicants for international protection	Law No 4825/2021 amended the provisions related to the Greek health care number (PAAYPA) to clarify some of the administrative issues related to the number's issuance.
	Greece		Content of protection	Law No 4825/2021 amended the grounds for revoking or refusing to renew refugee status and clarified the steps of this procedure. The amendments also underline the authority's responsibility to provide an individualised reasoning for the decision to revoke the status or to refuse to renew it.

















	Greece		Content of protection	Law No 4815/2021 made minor adjustments to the provisions on the residence permit of beneficiaries of international protection and their family members in Greece.
	Greece		Content of protection	Law No 4825/2021 adjusted some of the provisions related to the delivery of travel documents to beneficiaries of international protection.
	Greece		Return of former applicants	Amendments introduced that all decisions rejecting requests for international protection should include a return provision. If another return or deportation order is already in force, it must be incorporated in the decision rejecting the application and ordering the return. The period of voluntary departure was shortened to 25 days, which may be extended up to 120 days.
	Greece		Return of former applicants	Greece ratified the EU-Serbia Readmission Agreement and the EU-Montenegro Readmission Agreement.
	Hungary		Access to procedure	The special conditions to submit an asylum application which were introduced by the Hungarian government in May 2020 were extended until 31 December 2022.
	Ireland		Reception of applicants for international protection	The Minister for Transport intended to introduce an amendment to the Road Traffic and Roads Bill to put the government's policy on a statutory basis and allow asylum applicants to apply for a driving license.
	Ireland		Return of former applicants	An amendment to the International Protection Act 2015, Section 48(3) to extend the 5-day period for a voluntary return to 30 days has been finalised for inclusion in the General Scheme of the Courts and Civil Law (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill 2022, a government priority bill. This change was implemented in line with recommendations of the Advisory Group on the Provision of Support including Accommodation to Persons in the International Protection Process.
	Italy		Reception of applicants for international protection	Decree Law No 139 provided for the creation of 3,000 new places for families in the System for Reception and Integration (SAI).
	Latvia		Reception of applicants for international protection	Latvia reduced the waiting period for applicants to legally work from 6 months to 3 months.
	Latvia		Reception of applicants for international protection	The Asylum Law and several corresponding laws were amended related to documents certifying an applicant's status. These modifications aim to facilitate an applicant's access to health care, education and employment.







	Latvia		Return of former applicants	Latvia ratified the readmission agreement with Armenia in October 2021.
	Lithuania		Access to procedure	Authorities declared a state of emergency applicable to the entire border section with Belarus and 5 kilometres from it. Measures included the substantial closure of the border, limited access to emergency areas to permit holders, and limited access by foreigners.
	Lithuania		Access to procedure	The Law on the Legal Status of Aliens was amended, establishing at the end of a 6-month border procedure, the Migration Department and the State Border Guard Service will decide on the accommodation and restriction of freedom of movement based on the individual situation of each person and the possibility to refuse the lodging of an asylum application in exceptional situations.
	Lithuania		Processing applications at second or higher instance	Amendments to the Law on the Legal Status of Aliens changed second instance procedures for decisions pronounced in an accelerated procedure.
	Lithuania		Reception of applicants for international protection	Amendments to the Law on the Legal Status of Aliens stipulate that the right to work would be acquired 12 months after the date of registration in the Lithuanian Migration Information System (MIGRIS).
	Lithuania		Detention during the asylum procedure	Amendments to the Law on the Legal Status of Aliens prolong detention for an additional 6 months (up to 1 year in total) and limits the freedom of movement to specific geographical areas. An asylum seeker may be detained or movement restricted to the place of accommodation if entering the territory illegally in the event of a war, an emergency or an emergency due to a mass influx of foreigners.
	Lithuania		Legal assistance and representation	Amendments to the Law on the Legal Status of Aliens allow restrictions to be placed on contact between legal services providers and asylum applicants during a state of emergency.
	Lithuania		Legal assistance and representation	Amendments to the Law on the Legal Status of Aliens clarified the scope of free legal assistance as covering solely asylum procedures at the national level and thus excluding cases submitted before European courts.
	Lithuania		Interpretation services	Amendments to the Law on the Legal Status of Aliens stated that, in the event of a declaration of martial law, a state of emergency or an emergency due to a mass influx of foreigners, some rights provided to asylum applicants, including interpretation, may be temporarily and proportionally restricted. However, this article was repealed on 1 January 2022.

	Luxembourg		The Dublin procedure	A modification to the Asylum Law came into force in July 2021. An appeal against a Dublin transfer decision means an automatic suspension of the transfer until the administrative court takes a final decision within 1 month.
	Luxembourg		Content of protection	An amended law entered into force in June 2021 allowing beneficiaries of international protection to apply for family reunification with facilitated conditions for 6 months from being granted the status.
	Luxembourg		Return of former applicants	Amendments were introduced to the amended Immigration Law of 2008 to ensure a more effective management of the removal of third-country nationals who are illegally residing in Luxembourg.
	Malta		Special procedures to assess protection needs	A new legal provision notes that only the International Protection Agency can designate a country as a safe country of origin, and it must be included in the Schedule to the International Protection Act.
	Malta		Reception of applicants for international protection	Amendments to the Maltese Reception Regulations provided a more comprehensive transposition of the provisions in the recast Reception Directive on material reception conditions for vulnerable applicants.
	Malta		Persons with special needs in the asylum procedure	The Minor Protection (Alternative Care) Act was amended in 2021 to avoid the potential conflict of interest that was embedded in the previous practice, when social workers and guardians belonged to the same institution.
	Netherlands		Access to procedure	The initial interview was dropped (combined with the application interview). During the application interview, applicants are for a brief statement on the reasons for seeking asylum.
	Netherlands		Processing asylum applications at first instance	The length of the regular procedure was reduced to 6 days instead of 8 days, with the possibility to extend it by 3 days for complex cases. The possibilities to omit the rest and preparation period (RVT) were extended.
	Netherlands		Statelessness in the asylum context	The Statelessness Determination Procedure Act was discussed by the parliament
	Netherlands		Content of protection	The new Civic Integration Law entered into force on 1 January 2022.
	Norway		Content of protection	A new Integration Act entered into force in January 2021, putting more emphasis on training participants in the introduction programme (mostly refugees) on the skills required by Norwegian employers or needed to qualify for further education.

















	Norway		Content of protection	An amendment to the Norwegian Social Services Act came into force which requires third-country nationals older than 30 years with insufficient Norwegian knowledge to participate in language training as a condition to receive financial support.
	Poland		Access to procedure	A new procedure was introduced to issue a decision to leave the territory when a foreigner is intercepted immediately after illegal crossing the EU's external border.
	Romania		Processing applications at second or higher instance	Law No 114/2021 was adopted to digitalise the second instance procedure and allow for remote hearings due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
	Slovakia		Legal assistance and representation	A draft amendment to the Asylum Act and other related acts was adopted and put to public consultation, listing services available to asylum applicants. The amendments are expected to enter into force in June 2022.
	Slovakia		Content of protection	A draft amendment to the Asylum Act and other related acts was adopted and put to public consultation, defining and regulating the initial integration of beneficiaries of international protection. The amendments are expected to enter into force in June 2022.
	Slovenia		The Dublin procedure	Amendments to the International Protection Act (IPA) clarified that applicants awaiting a transfer to another country under the Dublin III Regulation have the same reception rights as other applicants until their transfer.
	Slovenia		Special procedures to assess protection needs	Amendments to the International Protection Act (IPA) now allow the competent authority to decide on the admissibility of an application at the border or in a transit area if a person expresses an intention to apply for international protection. The time limit for a decision in the border procedure was extended from 2 weeks to 3 weeks.
	Slovenia		Special procedures to assess protection needs	The time limit to lodge an appeal before the Administrative Court against a decision issued in the accelerated procedure was reduced from 8 days to 3 days.
	Slovenia		Processing asylum applications at first instance	Following amendments to the International Protection Act (IPA), rules were adopted on the procedure for foreigners who wish to apply for international protection and the procedure for accepting applications for international protection.
	Slovenia		Processing asylum applications at first instance	Amendments to the International Protection Act (IPA) introduced the possibility to have remote interviews where necessary.





	Slovenia		Processing applications at second or higher instance	Amendments to the International Protection Act (IPA) introduced the right to appeal a decision of the Administrative Court before the Supreme Court. The Supreme Court must decide on the appeal within 30 days.
	Slovenia		Reception of applicants for international protection	Following amendments to the International Protection Act (IPA), two new decrees were adopted on an applicant's reception rights and accommodations for unaccompanied children, as well as a decree on house rules of the asylum centre.
	Slovenia		Reception of applicants for international protection	The new sanction system for breaching house rules of the reception facility started to be applied.
	Slovenia		Information provision on the asylum procedure	Information on the consequences of arbitrarily leaving the asylum centre's admission facility is now provided by the police during preliminary proceedings.
	Slovenia		Legal assistance and representation	Legal counsellors must undergo a security check and be granted access to classified information in order to perform activities during the asylum procedure.
	Slovenia		Persons with special needs in the asylum procedure	Amendments to the International Protection Act (IPA) ensured that unaccompanied children have continued legal representation even after a decision is given on their asylum application.
	Slovenia		Persons with special needs in the asylum procedure	Amendments to the International Protection Act (IPA) included that vulnerable persons with special needs related to physical or mental health are prioritised in the border procedure, while they are provided with adequate assistance.
	Slovenia		Persons with special needs in the asylum procedure	Authorities can request an age assessment already when an asylum application is made, instead of when it is lodged.
	Slovenia		Persons with special needs in the asylum procedure	Amendments to the International Protection Act (IPA) clarified that unaccompanied children should be accommodated in child-friendly institutions instead of reception centres.
	Spain		Persons with special needs in the asylum procedure	A Royal Decree was introduced to facilitate the process of granting residence and work permits for unaccompanied children in Spain.
	Spain		Persons with special needs in the asylum procedure	Organic Law 8/2021 was introduced to clarify the principles of the age assessment procedure, including standards and consent for medical tests, procedures to follow in case the age cannot be established and respect for the child's dignity.

	Sweden		Special procedures to assess protection needs	Legislative changes to the Aliens Act were introduced allowing the Migration Agency to reject an application as manifestly unfounded when the applicant comes from a country included in the list of safe countries of origin. The decision becomes immediately enforceable with no automatic suspensive effect or the right to remain pending the outcome of an appeal procedure. The agency published a corresponding legal position.
	Sweden		Special procedures to assess protection needs	A list of safe countries of origin was adopted, including Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Chile, Georgia, Kosovo, Mongolia, Northern Macedonia and Serbia.
	Sweden		Reception of applicants for international protection	The Swedish government established an inquiry on an orderly initial reception of asylum seekers. The inquiry is tasked to propose measures to ensure that asylum seekers choose to live in the Swedish Migration Agency's accommodation throughout the asylum period, propose how a statutory obligation to participate in social introduction can be formulated, consider the scope of persons covered under the Law on Reception of Asylum Seekers and Others, and review the scope of benefits covered by this act.
	Sweden		Reception of applicants for international protection	Social orientation classes became obligatory in Sweden for all applicants as soon as possible after an application for asylum has been registered.
	Sweden		Statelessness in the asylum context	The Act on Swedish Citizenship was amended to grant a stateless person holding a temporary residence permit the right to obtain Swedish citizenship, following amendments in the Aliens Act.
	Sweden		Content of protection	All new residence permits became temporary, with the exception of resettled refugees. Permanent residence can be obtained after a minimum of 3 years in the country, and as a general rule, adults applying have to be able to support themselves and their dependant relatives and have decent housing.
	Sweden		Resettlement and humanitarian admissions	A number of amendments to the regulatory framework on resettlement were adopted to enable greater flexibility in acute situations, such as the Afghanistan situation. According to a government decision, the requirement that a person must be in a third country to be eligible for resettlement was temporarily removed.
	Switzerland		Processing asylum applications at first instance	A parliamentary initiative was adopted on the obligation to cooperate in the asylum procedure, which includes the possibility of checking an applicant's mobile phone.

	Switzerland		Legal assistance and representation	Amendments to LASi provide for access to free legal counselling or representation after an asylum applicant has been transferred to a canton if the services were received while accommodated in a federal centre. The legislative amendment is expected to enter into force in 2022.
	Switzerland		Content of protection	Amendments to the Swiss Federal Act on Foreigners and Integration were adopted, imposing a general travel ban on persons with temporary admission as of 2022.
	Switzerland		Return of former applicants	A number of legislative changes were adopted in the area of asylum and return, including compulsory COVID-19 tests for a person subject to a return, expulsion measure or a Dublin transfer, even against their will.

















Institutional developments

	Country		Thematic area	Development
	Austria		Legal assistance and representation	The new Federal Agency for Reception and Support Services (BBU, Bundesagentur für Betreuungs- und Unterstützungsleistungen GmbH) started its activities related to legal advice and representation, translation and interpretation services, advice and counselling on returns and human rights monitoring on 1 January 2021. All legal advisors received specialised training on quality assurance.
	Cyprus		Processing asylum applications at first instance	The reorganisation of the Asylum Service was ongoing, including the asylum administration and the ministry.
	Cyprus		Reception of applicants for international protection	The Asylum Service established new sectors which are responsible for the reception of applicants for international protection. The implementation and operationalisation of a reception allocation bureau was planned in the First Reception Centre Pournara to collect statistics, follow in- and outflow, and gather information on residences of applicants who are leaving the centre.
	Finland		The Dublin procedure	The entire staff of the Dublin unit changed and new colleagues received extensive training throughout the year.
	Finland		Interpretation services	The Finnish Immigration Service was restructured at the end of 2020, and the Legal Services Unit became responsible for assessing interpretation services.
	Finland		Persons with special needs in the asylum procedure	The Finnish Immigration Service became entirely responsible for providing guidance on, planning and monitoring the guardianship of unaccompanied children in 2020, and this new arrangement started to be implemented in 2021.
	Greece		Reception of applicants for international protection	The Greek Ministry of Migration and Asylum was reorganised and some services were centralised, and corresponding offices and staff from the Reception and Identification Service (RIS) were transferred to the ministry.
	Iceland		Processing asylum applications at first instance	According to a new decree, the Ministry of Social Affairs would be mandated to provide reception conditions to applicants and integration services to beneficiaries of international protection, while the Directorate of Immigration (operating under the Ministry of Justice) continues to be responsible for the examination of applications for international protection.



























	Netherlands		Country of origin information	The Office for Country Information and Language Analysis (Team Onderzoek en Expertise Land en Taal (TOELT)) was divided into two departments, one employing the Country Specialists and Linguists (TOELT 01) and the other employing the Employees of the Regional Information Centres and the Coordinators Interpreters (TOELT 02).
	Spain		Processing asylum applications at first instance	The Secretary of State for Migration and the International Protection and Humanitarian Assistance Programmes were reorganised under the same General Directorate, and a new General Sub-Directorate was created for Migratory Analysis. The Executive Commission of the Inter-ministerial Commission of Retributions reorganised tasks between different departments within the Spanish Office of Asylum (Ministry of Home Affairs). A new Sub-Directorate of International Protection and three new heads of department were established.























Policy developments























	Country		Thematic area	Development
	Austria		Persons with special needs in the asylum procedure	In cooperation with UNHCR and the IOM, the Austrian Federal Office for Immigration and Asylum (BFA) organised regularly training sessions for its staff on identifying special needs and vulnerabilities, interviewing applicants with special needs, and tailoring approaches to specific groups, such as women, children, LGBTIQ applicants and survivors of trafficking in the asylum procedure.
	Austria		Persons with special needs in the asylum procedure	The Austrian Federal Ministry of Justice established a Commission on the Best Interests of the Child in February 2021, tasked to review the legal framework and practices related to children in the asylum procedure. The Federal Ministry of the Interior conducted an internal review as well, concluding that many of the recommendations were already being applied or were on the way to implementation, and suggesting new measures.
	Belgium		The Dublin procedure	The Netherlands and Belgium concluded an agreement to replace PCR tests by a quarantine before departure.
	Belgium		The Dublin procedure	The State Secretary for Asylum and Migration extended the transfer period from 6 months to 18 months for applicants in the Dublin procedure who refused to undergo PCR testing.
	Belgium		The Dublin procedure	The State Secretary for Asylum and Migration announced that children, applicants with vulnerabilities and first-time applicants have priority to receive reception over applicants who have already sought asylum in another EU Member State.
	Belgium		Processing asylum applications at first instance	The CGRS published updates on the processing of applications filed by Palestinians. For Palestinians for whom a particular individual well-founded fear of persecution is not established and who depend on assistance from the UNRWA, it must be checked if the individual can still count on assistance from the UNRWA.
	Belgium		Processing asylum applications at first instance	The State Secretary for Asylum and Migration announced the recruitment of 700 new staff for the CGRS, the Immigration Office and Fedasil and published a vacancy notice in June 2021.
	Belgium		Processing asylum applications at first instance	The State Secretary for Asylum and Migration planned to undertake an audit of the asylum services (CGRS, Immigration Office, Fedasil and CALL) with results expected in summer 2022.

















































	Belgium		Processing asylum applications at first instance	The notification of negative decisions was temporarily suspended for applicants from Afghanistan in August 2021 and the suspension was fully lifted on 2 March 2022.
	Belgium		Reception of applicants for international protection	A new feature of the online web application, Match-IT, was rolled out to document social aspects of an applicant.
	Belgium		Reception of applicants for international protection	A new IT system was launched in the arrival centre in Brussels to document residents in accommodation.
	Belgium		Reception of applicants for international protection	Fedasil launched a seven-module training programme for managers and training in breathing techniques for staff working in reception centres to support their emotional resilience. The content of the training on dealing with aggression was expanded.
	Belgium		Reception of applicants for international protection	Reception capacity was significantly increased throughout 2021, reaching 30,000 places in February 2022.
	Belgium		Detention during the asylum procedure	The Immigration Office set up a new department for alternatives to detention.
	Belgium		Information provision on the asylum procedure	The CGRS launched a new website to inform applicants on the asylum procedure and their rights and obligations within the procedure.
	Belgium		Statelessness in the asylum context	Belgium formally pledged to introduce a residence permit for stateless persons during the UN High Level Officials Meeting event taking place under the Global Refugee Forum.
	Belgium		Return of former applicants	By 2022, 80 new staff members are expected to be recruited as return counsellors to organise interviews and information sessions with migrants and rejected asylum seekers living in private housing, who have recently received a return decision.
	Bulgaria		Interpretation services	Remote interpretation was used during registration and eligibility interviews in reception centres located outside of the capital, where interpreters are harder to find and employ.
	Bulgaria		Content of protection	The National Strategy on Migration was adopted for the period 2021-2025.
	Bulgaria		Content of protection	The Bulgarian Ministry of Labour and Social Policy extended its refugee employment and training programme for 2021-2022.
	Bulgaria		Persons with special needs in the asylum procedure	The State Agency for Refugees updated its standard operating procedures for preventing and responding to sexual- or gender-based violence within the asylum procedure and the new procedures were implemented in cooperation with UNHCR and the State Agency for Child Protection


















	Bulgaria		Persons with special needs in the asylum procedure	The State Agency for Refugees established a pilot programme of self-care and well-being classes for women in the reception and registration centre Vrazhdebna in Sofia.
	Bulgaria		Persons with special needs in the asylum procedure	The Bulgarian State Agency for Refugees monitored throughout 2021 the implementation of amendments from 2020 related to the representation of unaccompanied minors in the asylum procedure.
	Bulgaria		Persons with special needs in the asylum procedure	Safe zones for unaccompanied children needed to be restructured.
	Croatia		Reception of applicants for international protection	Croatia introduced specific policies for the vaccination of asylum applicants, specifying that vaccines are free of charge, on a voluntary basis and by registration to receive an appointment.
	Croatia		Return of former applicants	AMIF funds have been allocated for the implementation of the project "Informatisation of work and work processes in the Detention Centre for Foreigners", which aims to establish an electronic database of accommodated foreigners and enable video calls and conversations to take place between foreigners and their diplomatic and consular missions in and outside of Croatia.
	Croatia		Persons with special needs in the asylum procedure	The Ministry of the Interior developed standard operating procedures to prevent and address sexual- and gender-based violence in reception centres, in cooperation with UNHCR, Médecins du Monde, the Red Cross and the Croatian Law Centre.
	Cyprus		Access to procedure	The Cypriot Council of Ministers approved the establishment of an inter-ministerial committee mandated to suggest specific responses and management measures to address the emergency resulting from increased migration flows; a management unit with operational facilities; and a contingency plan for the irregular arrival of third-country nationals by sea or through the Green Line.
	Cyprus		Processing asylum applications at first instance	The asylum services prioritised applications submitted in detention and at police stations. Due to an increase of the number of applicants from the Democratic Republic of the Congo and from other African countries, Cyprus examined these applications with priority.
	Cyprus		Processing applications at second or higher instance	Courts were added to the Computerized Asylum Service System (CASS) database and case files were incorporated in the system.
	Cyprus		Reception of applicants for international protection	Authorities started working on the development of an overall integrated national reception strategy.

	Cyprus		Reception of applicants for international protection	Applicants from a safe country of origin may be assigned to the Collective Reception and Accommodation Centre through an individual administrative act for an accelerated processing of their application. If they leave the centre, their material reception conditions may be reduced or, in exceptional and duly justified cases, withdrawn.
	Cyprus		Reception of applicants for international protection	The registration of job seekers among asylum applicants and the renewal of their unemployment period moved online.
	Czechia		Content of protection	Third-country nationals, including beneficiaries of international protection who would like to obtain a long-term permanent residence after 5 years of continuous residence in Czechia, must take a Czech language exam at A2 level instead of A1. Persons issued a long-term residence permit must complete within a year a 4-hour integration course on their rights and obligations, fundamental values, everyday life, culture and traditions.
	Denmark		Processing applications at second or higher instance	The Refugee Board suspended appeals when the situation in Afghanistan was critical but continued to address other aspects, such as age assessments and Dublin transfers. The processing of cases was resumed in December 2021.
	Denmark		Processing applications at second or higher instance	In October 2021, the Danish Refugee Board decided to review cases for citizens of the Democratic Republic of the Congo who were about to be deported, in light of a report by the Swedish Migration Agency of 24 June 2021.
	Denmark		Processing applications at second or higher instance	The Refugee Board decided in December 2021 to suspend the processing of cases for Ethiopian nationals.
	Denmark		Content of protection	A new digital application was launched to allow family members other than spouses and children to apply online for family reunification.
	Finland		Processing asylum applications at first instance	The Immigration Service suspended the pronouncement of negative decisions on removals to Afghanistan on 9 July 2021.
	Finland		Processing asylum applications at first instance	The Finnish Ministry of the Interior launched a project to bring together the expertise of various stakeholders in the asylum system to develop uniform, long-term objectives and more comprehensive immigration and asylum policies.
	Finland		Reception of applicants for international protection	The Psyyke project was implemented with AMIF funding between 1 March 2019 and 30 June 2021, offering training and guidance to reception staff on mental health support in reception facilities.



















	Finland		Interpretation services	New quality assurance modalities for interpretation services were put in place in 2021 after the launch of the project Tulppani in 2020.
	Finland		Content of protection	The Integration Partnership Programme was launched in November 2020 to establish a nationwide network of integration and social inclusion actors.
	Finland		Return of former applicants	Various projects were implemented on processing data and digitalising information systems relevant to return, while the relevant legal framework was adapted accordingly.
	Finland		Resettlement and humanitarian admissions	The refugee quota was increased by about 500 refugees, with a total of 1,500 persons to be transferred in 2022, due to the deterioration of the security situation in Afghanistan.
	Finland		Persons with special needs in the asylum procedure	The national Action Plan against Trafficking in Human Beings was adopted.
	Finland		Persons with special needs in the asylum procedure	The Finnish Immigration Service initiated a new practice which allows applicant children younger than 12 years old to be heard more frequently, ensuring that the best interests of the child are taken into account effectively and systematically in the asylum procedure.
	France		Reception of applicants for international protection	OFII signed a convention with Marseille for the municipality to provide medical services and vaccines against measles, mumps, rubella and hepatitis B for migrants in general, including asylum applicants.
	France		Reception of applicants for international protection	The implementation of the “National plan for the reception of asylum applicants and the integration of refugees” started in 2021, with the creation of 4,900 places for applicants and 408 places for recognised beneficiaries of international protection with vulnerabilities.
	France		Interpretation services	The OFII medical service launched a 6-month pilot project in three major cities, and medical screening is done in the presence of an interpreter for all new asylum applicants.
	France		Content of protection	The minister responsible for citizenship issued a circular to define priorities for the integration of newly-arrived migrants and beneficiaries of international protection for 2021. The circular confirmed that the focus remains on integration through employment.
	France		Content of protection	The launching of the AGIR programme was announced, proposing individualised, 20-month integration pathways to all beneficiaries of international protection, with a focus on housing and employment.

















	France		Resettlement and humanitarian admissions	An instruction with guidelines on reception policies for resettled refugees was approved, establishing the division of responsibilities for the reception of resettled refugees between central administrations and funded organisations, the regional distribution and the monthly calendar for 2021 arrivals.
	France		Persons with special needs in the asylum procedure	Discussions were underway to revise the methods for an age assessment, in particular related to bone X-rays.
	France		Persons with special needs in the asylum procedure	The Ministry of the Interior published an action plan to strengthen support for applicants and beneficiaries of international protection with vulnerabilities. The plan lists 10 action points for improved identification and support for special needs.
	Germany		Processing asylum applications at first instance	BAMF carried out a feasibility study for digital certification processes and digital identity management, publishing a white paper as a first step towards analysing whether certification processes and identities of asylum seekers can be fully digitalised.
	Germany		Reception of applicants for international protection	The AnKER concept is planned not to be used any longer, even though similar facilities for initial reception remain.
	Germany		Interpretation services	The coalition agreement set out to closely monitor the use of interpreters for LGBTIQ applicants for international protection.
	Germany		Country of origin information	The COI unit employed more country analysts and formed new regional teams, resulting in a larger production of new country reports. The production line of COI reports was streamlined and an internal peer review was introduced amongst the regional analyst teams.
	Germany		Statelessness in the asylum context	The coalition agreement foresees to expand both the access to and the scope of residence permits for all undocumented people living in the country, including stateless individuals.
	Germany		Resettlement and humanitarian admissions	The German Academic Exchange Service launched new scholarship programmes for refugees from Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire and Senegal, with funding from the German Foreign Office.
	Greece		Reception of applicants for international protection	The Ministry of Migration and Asylum took over the cash assistance component of the ESTIA programme from UNHCR. The transition entailed policy changes in the entitlements.
	Greece		Reception of applicants for international protection	Reception and Identification Centres (RICs/K.Y.T.) and Closed Controlled Access Centres (CCAC/KEA) were established and operated on the islands. The Reception and Identification Service took several measures to strengthen safeguards and improve conditions within these facilities.





















	Greece		Reception of applicants for international protection	A ministerial decision underlined that material reception conditions can be withdrawn, keeping the right to education and medical support, when an applicant breaches the accommodation rules of any type of facility, especially in the case of violent behaviour.
	Greece		Reception of applicants for international protection	The payment of financial assistance requires a certification of the applicant's physical presence in a reception facility since 1 July 2021.
	Greece		Detention during the asylum procedure	Closed Controlled Access Centres (CCACs) were established at the borders with special detention facilities.
	Greece		Persons with special needs in the asylum procedure	The Ministry for Migration and Asylum established a National Mechanism for the Detection and Protection of Unaccompanied Children, in cooperation with the IOM, Aris, METAdrasi and the Network for Children's Rights.
	Iceland		Special procedures to assess protection needs	Ukraine was removed from the list of safe countries (decision published in February 2022).
	Iceland		Processing asylum applications at first instance	Venezuelan applicants are no longer automatically granted subsidiary protection due to the general circumstances in the home country.
	Iceland		Information provision on the asylum procedure	A new information hub was launched, newiniceland.is, which provides information in eight languages through online counsellors and telephone interpretation in additional languages.
	Iceland		Statelessness in the asylum context	The country acceded to the 1954 Convention Relating to the Status of Stateless Persons and the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness, and the Directorate of Immigration adopted a Standard Operation Procedure, developed in cooperation with UNHCR.
	Iceland		Content of protection	Family reunification requests from Afghan residents were treated with priority in 2021.
	Iceland		Persons with special needs in the asylum procedure	The Directorate of Immigration was developing new standard operating procedures for applicants with disabilities and mental health issues.
	Ireland		Processing asylum applications at first instance	The Immigration Service launched a new website in July 2021 and published a new Digitisation Strategy to transition from paper-based processes to more efficient immigration services.
	Ireland		Processing asylum applications at first instance	A review of all international protection processes was undertaken and the results were shared in October 2021.



















	Ireland		Processing applications at second or higher instance	The Chairperson of the International Protection Appeals Tribunal issued a new Guideline on Taking Evidence from Appellants and Other Witnesses.
	Ireland		Reception of applicants for international protection	The waiting period to apply for a work permit for applicants for international protection was reduced from 9 months to 6 months, with an extended validity from 6 months to 12 months.
	Ireland		Reception of applicants for international protection	Specific policies were introduced for the vaccination of asylum applicants, specifying that vaccines are free of charge, on a voluntary basis and by registration to receive an appointment
	Ireland		Reception of applicants for international protection	The Ministry of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth published a white paper on ending "Direct Provision", and replacing it with a new system, called International Protection Support Service, planned to enter into force in December 2024.
	Ireland		Content of protection	A regularisation scheme was launched with a strand for undocumented migrants and another for applicants for international protection.
	Ireland		Resettlement and humanitarian admissions	The Irish government established an Afghan Admission Programme with 500 places available under this programme.
	Ireland		Persons with special needs in the asylum procedure	The International Protection Accommodation Service (IPAS) piloted a vulnerability assessment process throughout 2021.
	Ireland		Persons with special needs in the asylum procedure	The prioritisation procedure was updated, which re-confirmed that asylum interviews for unaccompanied minor applicants can be scheduled with priority.
	Ireland		Persons with special needs in the asylum procedure	As part of the reform of the reception system, the IPAS announced the development of a new LGBTIQ resident policy, including accommodation for transgender applicants.
	Italy		Access to procedure	The Italian authorities issued a tender for the rental of five private vessels to accommodate migrants rescued at sea during the period of quarantine.
	Italy		Access to procedure	Government authorities entered into an agreement with the Italian Red Cross to provide support to the persons onboard the vessels and initiate the identification of vulnerable persons.
	Italy		Processing asylum applications at first instance	Specific implementation guidelines to improve the quality of first instance decisions were sent to police headquarters (<i>questure</i>) and Territorial Commissions by the National Commission for the Right to Asylum.































	Italy		Processing asylum applications at first instance	Three digital platforms were created through an AMIF EMAS project, including a website for asylum seekers and beneficiaries of international protection, a platform for exchanges between the NAC and Territorial Commissions to harmonise procedures and facilitate communication, and a portal for open data on asylum.
	Italy		Reception of applicants for international protection	The Ministry of the Interior signed a memorandum of understanding with civil society organisations (Rete per la Parità, Le Contemporanee, the National Council of Italian Women and the Italian division of Soroptimist International) to support the reception and integration of Afghan evacuees.
	Italy		Reception of applicants for international protection	The Ministry of the Interior issued a decree modifying previous tender specifications by increasing the per capita amount awarded to managing organisations of reception facilities in order to cover psychological support, social and local guidance, and language courses.
	Italy		Content of protection	The Ministry of the Interior published a circular informing prefectures about the possibility of regularisation on the basis of transforming undeclared work to regular employment.
	Italy		Content of protection	The Ministry of the Interior published a circular clarifying that the special permit based on the principle of <i>non-refoulement</i> can be requested directly from the police (<i>questura</i>).
	Italy		Content of protection	The Italian government shared clarifications on the process of and the requirements for converting the permit of an unaccompanied minor to a work permit.
	Italy		Resettlement and humanitarian admissions	A new protocol for the protection of 500 individuals from Libya was signed between the Department of the Civil Liberties and Immigration under the Italian Ministry of the Interior, the Sant' Egidio community and the Federazione Chiese Evangeliche Italiane (FCEI).
	Italy		Persons with special needs in the asylum procedure	A working group was established to better coordinate mechanisms for the identification of and support to applicants with special needs and vulnerabilities.
	Italy		Persons with special needs in the asylum procedure	The Ministry of the Interior's Department of Civil Liberties and Migration issued a circular to disseminate an operational guide on the specific needs of women and girls in reception to first-contact reception staff.
	Italy		Persons with special needs in the asylum procedure	A new national coordination board dedicated to unaccompanied children was established, with its first meeting foreseen for spring 2022.























	Italy		Persons with special needs in the asylum procedure	The Ministry of the Interior signed agreements with UNICEF to monitor reception conditions for unaccompanied children, with Terre des Hommes for psychological and psychosocial assistance from disembarkation to first reception, and with Save the Children for the provision of targeted support to unaccompanied children.
	Italy		Persons with special needs in the asylum procedure	The Department of Civil Liberties and Migration published an operational handbook on the identification and reception of unaccompanied children.
	Italy		Persons with special needs in the asylum procedure	UNHCR and the Italian National Commission for Asylum published new guidelines for the identification of victims of trafficking in an effort to standardise the procedure across territorial commissions.
	Latvia		Access to procedure	A state of emergency was declared in August 2021. The Cabinet of Ministers authorised the State Border Guard, the National Armed Forces and the State Police to order any person illegally crossing the border from Belarus to return to the country from which they have crossed and to take the necessary measures to enforce the order. During the emergency phase, asylum applications were accepted only outside the areas under the state of emergency.
	Latvia		Access to procedure	The Office of Citizenship and Migration Affairs in Latvia committed to introduce improvements to the registration system by December 2021.
	Latvia		Processing asylum applications at first instance	Asylum authorities considered that there was no need to provide the personal interview if the Office of Citizenship and Migration Affairs had proof to grant refugee status.
	Latvia		Reception of applicants for international protection	To increase reception capacity, a second temporary reception facility was opened with a capacity of 400 persons and two AMIF-funded projects were ongoing to temporarily increase reception places.
	Latvia		Reception of applicants for international protection	The Ministry of Education and Science prepared a report on applicant children's education, informing the Cabinet of Ministers of the challenges and potential solutions in light of the increased number of applicant children in the country.
	Latvia		Content of protection	The government adopted in February 2021 a general policy planning document entitled "Guidelines for the Development of a Cohesive and Civically Active Society for 2021-2027", followed by an action plan, outlining activities also for the integration of foreigners.





















	Latvia		Return of former applicants	The Ombudsperson concluded aiming to improve the mechanism for monitoring the forced removal of third-country nationals to ensure compliance with Directive 2008/115/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 December 2008.
	Lithuania		Reception of applicants for international protection	After the declaration of the state of emergency all centres were transformed to provide accommodation for applicants under the accelerated procedure, with strict limitations on freedom of movement. Filming, photographing and sound recordings were prohibited in accommodation centres, access to the facilities was restricted, and gatherings in centres were limited.
	Lithuania		Interpretation services	The Ministry of the Interior signed a memorandum of understanding with the Red Cross to organise translation services in various dialects, share their expertise with social workers working with migrants, and act as intermediaries between municipal communities and government representatives to ensure effective communication with illegal migrants.
	Lithuania		Resettlement and humanitarian admissions	To facilitate resettlement in Lithuania, as of April 2021 travel documents issued to refugees by the International Committee of the Red Cross were recognised as valid.
	Luxembourg		Processing asylum applications at first instance	Cases lodged by Afghan nationals were processed where the need for protection was evident, so only positive decisions were issued, as well as inadmissible and Dublin decisions, while negative decisions were suspended. From the end of January 2022, the examination of these cases resumed, and the Ministry of Immigration and Asylum scheduled applicants for a complementary interview to discuss changes in their situation if the initial interview was done before 15 August 2021.
	Luxembourg		Reception of applicants for international protection	The new first-reception centre started its operations at the beginning 2021, and staff optimised processes and information flows. Particular focus was given to promote voluntary returns for applicants with little chances of being recognised to avoid forced returns.
	Luxembourg		Reception of applicants for international protection	Reception structures by type of procedure were established in the initial reception system.
	Luxembourg		Reception of applicants for international protection	A complete IT overhaul was implemented in the reception system.

	Luxembourg		Interpretation services	The budget was increased for the Directorate of Immigration for translation and interpretation by 2.8%, while in practice it spent 32% more for these purposes in 2021 compared to 2020. The costs allocated to the National Reception Office (ONA) for experts, studies and translations decreased by 38%.
	Luxembourg		Resettlement and humanitarian admissions	The government pledged to receive 90 Afghan nationals at risk, including girls, women, former judges and human rights activists during 2021 and 2022.
	Malta		Access to procedure	Several changes were made to practices to improve access to the asylum procedure, which included improvements to office premises, streamlining registration and lodging procedures, issuing updated registration guidelines, and providing information on specialised services to applicants with a sexual orientation or gender identity claim. Improvements to the electronic database were also made in order to further streamline registration and lodging procedures.
	Malta		Special procedures to assess protection needs	A standard form was optimised to submit a subsequent application to further streamline the process.
	Malta		Processing asylum applications at first instance	The International Protection Agency introduced regular and routine reflective meetings on the quality of asylum procedure, and set up the Quality Control Unit with EUAA support.
	Malta		Processing asylum applications at first instance	The International Protection Agency introduced a policy to optimise case management in an effort to address the considerable backlog of pending cases, including a minimum quota for case officers to conduct interviews and submit assessments, a rule to hold one interview where all information is collected, and electronic ways of communicating notifications for interviews.
	Malta		Processing asylum applications at first instance	The International Protection Agency initiated a process to digitise all physical case files and transition towards an electronic filing system.
	Malta		Processing asylum applications at first instance	The International Protection Agency adopted guidelines on the application of the recast Qualification Directive Articles 15(b) and 15(c) for applicants from Libya.
	Malta		Processing asylum applications at first instance	The International Protection Agency adopted guidelines on the applications of the recast Qualification Directive Article 15(c) focusing on the regions of the Darfur, Blue Nile and South Kordofan.
	Malta		Processing asylum applications at first instance	The International Protection Agency drafted guidelines on the involvement and conduct of legal representatives (NGOs or private lawyers) during an asylum interview, allowing lawyers to

























				intervene at certain parts of the interview and limiting their presence in cases of disruptive behaviour. A lawyer can submit supplementary statements within 5 days after the interview.
	Malta		Processing asylum applications at first instance	The International Protection Agency's interpreters are bound by a code of conduct to increase professionalism and performance since 2021.
	Malta		Processing asylum applications at first instance	The International Protection Agency (IPA) issued instructions that children between 2 and 10 years could not accompany their parents to the personal interview at the IPA's premises.
	Malta		Processing asylum applications at first instance	The International Protection Agency issued internal guidelines, which were formally adopted in 2020 and implemented in 2021, on interviewing and assessing applications based on sexual orientation and gender identity.
	Malta		Processing applications at second or higher instance	The National Asylum Seekers Management System (NASMS) was improved to better communicate information on individual cases between the International Protection Agency and the International Protection Appeals Tribunal.
	Malta		Reception of applicants for international protection	The authorities continued to focus on enforcing contracts signed with applicants for their accommodation to ensure that reception spaces are swiftly available (contract templates revised and translated in 2019). When appointments are not respected or when there are clear indications that the applicant abandoned the asylum procedure, the International Protection Agency considers the application implicitly withdrawn and informs AWAS, which terminates the reception contract.
	Malta		Reception of applicants for international protection	The employment policy was amended so applicants from a safe country of origin or in the Dublin procedure can access the labour market after 9 months from the lodging of their application for international protection, while other applicants are able to work legally as soon as their asylum application is confirmed.
	Malta		Persons with special needs in the asylum procedure	The International Protection Agency and AWAS signed a memorandum of understanding on the medical referral of applicants claiming to be survivors of FGM/C.
	Netherlands		Access to procedure	The registration process was reorganised and separate streams were set up in specific locations for Afghan evacuees and for persons arriving through family reunification.
	Netherlands		Access to procedure	The control boards (<i>regietafel</i>) moved to the next implementation phase and continued to ensure that all information is available on the specific individual cases, before they entered the phase of the regular procedure.

	Netherlands		Special procedures to assess protection needs	The list of safe countries of origin was entirely revised following a decision of the Council of State.
	Netherlands		Special procedures to assess protection needs	The simplified procedure (Track 2), equivalent to the accelerated procedure, was extended to other categories of applicants.
	Netherlands		The Dublin procedure	New work instructions were published on when and how a case officer should request advice from the Medical Advisory Office to assess an applicant's aptitude to travel.
	Netherlands		Processing asylum applications at first instance	A decision and departure moratorium was issued for Afghan nationals and ethnic Tigrayans from Ethiopia.
	Netherlands		Processing asylum applications at first instance	The policy was adjusted on the assessment of the cases of persons from Turkey, who are active in politics, journalism or human rights.
	Netherlands		Processing asylum applications at first instance	The task force managing the asylum backlog was integrated into the IND.
	Netherlands		Reception of applicants for international protection	The COA significantly increased the number of reception places. It expressed several times the urgent need for more places.
	Netherlands		Reception of applicants for international protection	The coalition agreement foresees changes in the financing of the reception system, to make it more efficient.
	Netherlands		Reception of applicants for international protection	Specific projects continued to address and manage more effectively disruptive behaviour in the reception system.
	Netherlands		Reception of applicants for international protection	An AMIF-funded project aimed to develop and implement a methodology allowing for applicants' active participation in civic and social life within and outside of reception centres.
	Netherlands		Reception of applicants for international protection	An AMIF-funded project promoted sports, exercise and healthy lifestyle among residents.
	Netherlands		Reception of applicants for international protection	The Hotel and Accommodation Regulation (HAR) was adopted to support beneficiaries of international protection moving out of reception.
	Netherlands		Country of origin information	Country of origin reports were made publicly available.
	Netherlands		Statelessness in the asylum context	The requirements were changed for the documents to be presented by Lebanese Palestinians for the registration of statelessness.
	Netherlands		Content of protection	A new policy was launched to naturalise approximately 8,000-10,000 persons who were regularised earlier, the so-called RANOV permit holders.













	Netherlands		Content of protection	New work instructions were published on the examination of identity and family relations in family reunification procedures, including the use of DNA tests.
	Netherlands		Resettlement and humanitarian admissions	Humanitarian admission was pledged for 3,159 Afghans in 2021 and 2022.
	Netherlands		Persons with special needs in the asylum procedure	New, simplified information material was prepared for illiterate persons and persons who cannot read and write in the Latin alphabet.
	Netherlands		Persons with special needs in the asylum procedure	As of 1 November 2021, the care of unaccompanied minors aged over 17.5 years was taken over by the COA and the minors were accommodated in regular reception places.
	Netherlands		Persons with special needs in the asylum procedure	The return of unaccompanied minors was suspended until an examination determines if they would receive adequate reception and care in the country of origin.
	Norway		Processing asylum applications at first instance	The UDI commissioned an assessment of the quality of 150 asylum interviews and decisions in order to use the findings to draft guidelines and policy instructions to case officers who decide on asylum claims.
	Norway		Processing asylum applications at first instance	The notification of negative decisions for Afghan applicants was suspended between July 2021 and January 2022.
	Norway		Reception of applicants for international protection	The UDI announced a tender for a new supplier to train reception staff who lead dialogue groups on violence in reception centres. The dialogue groups are offered for men and boys over the age of 15, and the UDI was considering developing a similar scheme for women.
	Norway		Information provision on the asylum procedure	The UDI launched a new website to inform applicants about the current situation in Afghanistan, some also providing a section on frequently asked questions.
	Poland		Reception of applicants for international protection	Two centres from the Office for Foreigners were lent to the Border Guard due to the need for more capacity in detention. Thus, the capacity in reception facilities temporarily decreased. One of these centres was returned to the Office for Foreigners in mid-June 2022.
	Poland		Detention during the asylum procedure	The training centre of the Ministry of National Defence in Wędrzyn was lent to the Border Guard for the purpose of detention, and two Border Guard stations in proximity of the Belarusian border (Dubicze Cerkiewne and Połowce) became centres for the registration of foreigners in which the foreigners were held after being issued a decision on detention, before being transported to a detention centre.

	Poland		Detention during the asylum procedure	To accommodate a larger number of detainees, as an emergency solution the minimum space per person was reduced from 4 sqm to 2 sqm on the basis of the Ordinance of the Minister of the Interior and Administration. All detention centres for families and single women returned to 4 sqm on 25 April 2022, and the centre in Wedrzyn returned to 4 sqm on 6 June 2022.
	Poland		Content of protection	Two pilot integration centres were launched in the voivodeships of Opolskie and Wielkopolskie, as the second phase of the AMIF-funded project "Building Structures for the Integration of Foreigners in Poland." Their tasks include information provision, Polish language courses, orientation, and intercultural, legal and psychological counselling.
	Poland		Persons with special needs in the asylum procedure	A special centre for single women and single mothers, operated by a contractor, was closed. The authorities were planning to construct a new, state-owned centre for women with AMIF funding.
	Portugal		Reception of applicants for international protection	Initiatives to increase reception capacity and open new centres continued.
	Portugal		Reception of applicants for international protection	The High Commission for Migration and the Institute for Housing and Urban Rehabilitation signed a cooperation protocol to provide adequate access to housing to migrant populations, including to beneficiaries of international protection.
	Portugal		Resettlement and humanitarian admissions	Around 200 refugees, who were evacuated from Afghanistan, were received as the government pledged to receive Afghan nationals on humanitarian admission grounds.
	Romania		Access to procedure	A card document for asylum seekers was introduced, intended to prevent the circulation of forged documents.
	Romania		Processing asylum applications at first instance	The new National Strategy on Immigration 2021-2024 was approved, together with the Action Plan to implement the national strategy, with objectives related to making the national asylum system more efficient.
	Romania		Reception of applicants for international protection	Romania introduced specific policies for the vaccination of asylum applicants, specifying that vaccines are free of charge, on a voluntary basis and by registration to receive an appointment.
	Romania		Content of protection	The new National Strategy on Immigration for 2021-2024 was launched in Romania, including special objectives on integration.

	Romania		Persons with special needs in the asylum procedure	New standard operating procedures were developed in Romania on the identification, needs assessment, assistance and referral of vulnerable persons.
	Slovakia		Content of protection	A new strategic document on migration policy was adopted, underlining the strengthened need for local level integration of beneficiaries of international protection, including high-quality education for children and the continued offer of Slovak language classes.
	Slovakia		Return of former applicants	A new strategic document on migration policy was adopted, with an emphasis on voluntary returns rather than forced returns.
	Slovakia		Persons with special needs in the asylum procedure	The Migration Office updated its internal instrument used for the identification of special needs and vulnerabilities, by finetuning the procedures for completing an applicant's social file and by strengthening cooperation among the various actors involved.
	Slovakia		Persons with special needs in the asylum procedure	A resolution was adopted to outline the national action plans for combating trafficking in human beings, according to the 2020 recommendations from GRETA.
	Slovenia		Resettlement and humanitarian admissions	A pre-departure orientation programme was introduced which replaced the 3-month introductory activities post-arrival.
	Slovenia		Persons with special needs in the asylum procedure	New national action plans were adopted for combating trafficking in human beings.
	Spain		Processing asylum applications at first instance	The Ministry of Home Affairs Sub-Secretariat instructed the Asylum and Refugee Office to prioritise applications submitted in Ceuta and Melilla due to a high influx of arrivals, as well as the applications for Afghan nationals who were evacuated.
	Spain		Reception of applicants for international protection	Following new instructions, only recognised beneficiaries of international protection can be referred to the second phase of the national reception system.
	Spain		Reception of applicants for international protection	An increase in the national budget was announced to upgrade the reception system, in line with the Recovery, Transformation and Resilience Plan.
	Spain		Reception of applicants for international protection	The Ministry of Inclusion, Social Security and Migration signed a memorandum with the Spanish Olympic Committee to promote sports in the reception system.
	Spain		Content of protection	The sponsor in Spain must now begin the family reunification procedure, not the family member in the country of origin.

	Spain		Content of protection	The Ministry of Universities issued a new decree on the recognition procedure for foreign degrees and shortened the procedure to 6 months
	Spain		Resettlement and humanitarian admissions	The National Resettlement Programme was approved foreseeing the resettlement of 1,200 refugees in 2022.
	Spain		Persons with special needs in the asylum procedure	A protocol was approved to establish common criteria for professionals who work with applicants and beneficiaries of international protection to detect and prevent gender-based violence in reception.
	Spain		Persons with special needs in the asylum procedure	The National Strategic Plan against Human Trafficking for 2021-2023 was adopted.
	Sweden		Special procedures to assess protection needs	The Swedish Migration Agency published three legal positions related to the handling of subsequent applications.
	Sweden		Processing asylum applications at first instance	The Swedish Migration Agency published a new legal position on the application of the ECHR, Article 3 in the assessment of an asylum application when an illness is invoked.
	Sweden		Processing asylum applications at first instance	The Swedish Migration Agency published a new legal position on derived protection status.
	Sweden		Processing asylum applications at first instance	The Swedish Migration Agency updated its legal positions on Afghanistan and on person with Tigrayan ethnicity from Ethiopia.
	Sweden		Detention during the asylum procedure	The Swedish Migration Agency adopted legal positions on several issues providing guidance on the calculation of detention times, the validity period of a detention decision and which authority is competent to address detention if there is an enforceable expulsion or expulsion decision and the detainee applies for protection.
	Sweden		Interpretation services	The Swedish Migration Agency published a legal position on the requirements for interpreters and translators to work in the asylum context.
	Sweden		Content of protection	To facilitate migrant women's employment, the Swedish government proposed to grant 90 days of parental leave to parents from low-income families.
	Sweden		Return of former applicants	The Swedish Migration Agency updated the list of countries whose citizens are eligible for reintegration assistance in cash when returning to these countries from Sweden.

	Sweden		Return of former applicants	Sweden amended and issued legal positions on returns which addressed practical obstacles (RS/048/2021) and the immediate enforcement of a return to the home country including safe countries of origin (RS/071/2021).
	Sweden		Persons with special needs in the asylum procedure	The Swedish Migration Agency updated its legal position on assessing the asylum applications of persons claiming to belong to a particularly vulnerable group in their country of origin.
	Sweden		Persons with special needs in the asylum procedure	The Swedish Migration Agency updated its legal position on the medical examination of applicants invoking physical or psychological harm to support their asylum claim.
	Sweden		Persons with special needs in the asylum procedure	The Swedish Migration Agency updated its legal position from 2015 on the investigation and assessment of a future risk of persecution for applicants claiming asylum due to sexual orientation or gender identity.
	Sweden		Persons with special needs in the asylum procedure	The Swedish Migration Agency issued a new legal position on statements by children in which it clarified the circumstances when and the ways in which children should be heard during the asylum procedure.
	Sweden		Persons with special needs in the asylum procedure	The Swedish Migration Agency issued a new legal position to clarify that municipalities and regions are entitled to be reimbursed for the care of unaccompanied children from the moment they express their wish to apply for asylum.
	Sweden		Persons with special needs in the asylum procedure	The Swedish Migration Agency updated its legal position on assessing the best interests of the child.
	Switzerland		Processing asylum applications at first instance	The Federal Council sought to renew the Central Information System on Migration (SYMIC) and develop new functionalities.
	Switzerland		Processing applications at second or higher instance	Negative decisions on Afghan nationals were suspended.
	Switzerland		Reception of applicants for international protection	Switzerland introduced specific policies for the vaccination of asylum applicants, specifying that vaccines are free of charge, on a voluntary basis and by registration to receive an appointment.
	Switzerland		Country of origin information	Training on methodologies, quality standards and visualisations related to COI production was boosted.
	Switzerland		Content of protection	Afghan evacuees were provided with a special temporary residence permit, allowing the newcomers to apply for international protection later once in the country.

	Switzerland		Content of protection	Switzerland launched a pilot programme for the employment integration of refugees and persons with temporary admission and concluded subsidy contracts with 14 cantons.
	Switzerland		Content of protection	The Swiss Federal Council opened consultations on adjusting the financing of cantonal integration measures under the new Swiss Integration Agenda.
	Switzerland		Resettlement and humanitarian admissions	The 2022-2023 resettlement programme was approved for the resettlement of 1,600 refugees focusing on three or five primary host countries.
	Switzerland		Resettlement and humanitarian admissions	Resettled refugees were temporarily hosted in cantonal reception facilities due to a lack of accommodation in Swiss federal reception centres.
	Switzerland		Persons with special needs in the asylum procedure	The SEM underlined that addressing the issue of violence against women would remain a priority in 2021 and the authority planned to hold information and training sessions for asylum and reception staff to raise awareness of all forms of violence against women.
	Switzerland		Persons with special needs in the asylum procedure	The SEM have started the implementation of the recommendations from the Working Group on Asylum and Human Trafficking.

