



National Asylum Developments 2023





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Introduction

This summary presents legislative, institutional and policy developments in asylum and reception in EU+ countries in 2022, as presented in the [Asylum Report 2023](#). 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		Special procedures to assess protection needs	Ukraine was removed from the list of safe countries of origin.
	Austria		Reception of applicants for international protection	Financing for people in reception was increased, after the Austrian Federal Parliament approved an amendment to the agreement between the federal state and the provinces.
	Austria		Content of protection	New rules on orientation courses entered into force, including the extension of the obligatory orientation course from 1 to 3 days and the inclusion of modules on gender equality, antisemitism and the importance of voluntary work.
	Belgium		Processing asylum applications at first instance	The Belgian Council of Ministers approved the structure of the new Migration Code.
	Belgium		Processing asylum applications at first instance	A legal amendment explicitly allowed the CGRS to organise interviews through videoconference for applicants for international protection.
	Belgium		Processing applications at second or higher instances	CALL launched a digital tool on 1 March 2022, entitled J-BOX, to exchange procedural documents electronically instead of using registered mail. The use of the tool became mandatory in appeals for accelerated and urgent measures.
	Belgium		Statelessness in the context of asylum	The government pledged to introduce a new legal status for stateless persons which would give them the right to legally reside in Belgium if they cannot return to their country of habitual residence.
	Belgium		Statelessness in the context of asylum	Amendments to the Nationality Code clarified that recognition as a stateless person was not required to grant Belgian nationality to a child born in Belgium without a nationality.
	Belgium		Content of protection	The government announced its intention to create a separate right of residence through family reunification for parents of children who are recognised beneficiaries of international protection.
	Belgium		Content of protection	Integration programmes for newcomers became mandatory in Brussels, including for beneficiaries of international protection.



















	Bulgaria		Access to procedure	The government adopted amendments to the ordinance regulating coordination between the asylum and police (border and immigration) administrations when implementing the Dublin III Regulation.
	Bulgaria		The Dublin procedure	The government adopted amendments to the ordinance regulating the coordination between the asylum and police (border and immigration) administrations when implementing the Dublin III Regulation.
	Cyprus		Special procedures to assess protection needs	The list of safe countries of origin was revised and Ukraine was removed from the list.
	Czechia		Special procedures to assess protection needs	The list of safe countries of origin was amended. Ukraine was removed, while Armenia and the UK were included.
	Czechia		Processing asylum applications at first instance	The reasons for excluding from or ending international protection were expanded following a legislative amendment.
	Denmark		Special procedures to assess protection needs	The list of safe countries of origin was updated, and Russia was removed from the list.
	Denmark		Content of protection	Legislative amendments proposed to deport foreigners who are sentenced to an unconditional prison sentence, regardless of the duration of their stay in the country.
	Denmark		Content of protection	Legislative amendments were adopted on modifying the criteria to obtain permanent residence or family reunification. The person applying for family reunification with a child, a spouse or cohabitant should, as a rule, not have been convicted of 'negative social control' in the last 10 years. The person applying for permanent residence must not have been convicted of an unsuspended sentence of at least 60 days for 'negative social control'.
	Estonia		Access to procedure	Amendments were made to the Act on Granting International Protection to Aliens. In a state of emergency, border guards are allowed to return persons entering in an unauthorised manner without an individual decision. Applications for international protection can be submitted only at designated locations.
	Estonia		Special procedures to assess protection needs	Ukraine was removed from the list of safe countries of origin.



















	Estonia		Detention during the asylum procedure	Amendments to the Obligation to Leave and Prohibition on Entry Act (OLPEA) came into force, providing for the possibility for the PBGB or the Estonian Internal Security Service to detain third-country nationals for up to 48 hours, without the permission of an administrative court, to carry out identification procedures and to determine whether they are subjected to an obligation to leave the country.
	Estonia		Persons with special needs in the asylum procedure	The new Victim Support Act entered into force, which aims to further improve the availability and quality of victim support services, for example for victims of human trafficking.
	Finland		Access to procedure	The Border Guard Act was amended to allow the authorities to centralise the reception of applicants at the border during an exceptionally high number of arrivals.
	Finland		Access to procedure	Government legislative proposal 132/2022 was submitted to parliament in order to enable applicants for international protection to be registered in the Civil Registry at an earlier stage and to ease the prerequisites for registration.
	Finland		Special procedures to assess protection needs	The government submitted a legislative proposal to the parliament to introduce a border procedure that could be triggered by a government decision if an exceptionally large number of migrants arrive in a short period of time or if hybrid activities aiming to exploit migration were directed against Finland. However, the parliament did not manage to consider the proposal by the end of the electoral term (29 March 2023) and it was allowed to lapse. The next government will decide if the changes are proposed again.
	Finland		Statelessness in the context of asylum	The Ministry of the Interior proposed amendments to the Nationality Act to update the definitions of a stateless person, in line with international treaties, eliminating the distinction between voluntarily stateless and involuntarily stateless person. However, the parliament did not manage to consider the proposal by the end of the electoral term (29 March 2023) and it was allowed to lapse. The next government will decide if the changes are proposed again.
	Finland		Content of protection	Minors who have received international protection became exempted from the requirement of having sufficient financial resources for family reunification.
	Finland		Content of protection	Several legislative amendments were introduced to prepare for the transfer of responsibility for organising health and social services, including integration services, from municipalities to wellbeing services counties.

	Finland		Content of protection	The government put a legislative proposal to consultation on the comprehensive reform of integration. The new system would increase the responsibility of municipalities in the integration process. The programme would include an exam in the Finnish or Swedish language.
	Finland		Persons with special needs in the asylum procedure	Law No 1294/2022 was adopted to improve the identification and referral of victims of trafficking and their right to services and assistance, irrespective of the progress of criminal proceedings.
	France		Persons with special needs in the asylum procedure	A new law was adopted on child protection, including the requirement for child welfare services to inform unaccompanied minors about the possibility to apply for international protection and the support which is available for them.
	Germany		Processing asylum applications at first instance	The German parliament adopted a bill providing for the possibility to have the personal interview through videoconferencing and without the presence of the legal representative.
	Germany		Processing applications at second or higher instance	The German parliament adopted a bill allowing for the Federal Administrative Court to decide also on the general asylum situation as it pertains to the situation in the country of origin or destination.
	Germany		Legal assistance and representation	The German parliament adopted a bill replacing state-run counselling with a new system, combining the first stage of counselling by BAMF and independent counselling, financed by the federal government but carried out by welfare associations or other civil society organisations.
	Germany		Content of protection	The draft of the Second Law for the Introduction of a Right of Opportunity to Stay proposed to make language and integration courses available for all applicants, regardless of their prospects of staying in the country
	Germany		Content of protection	The Act on the Acceleration of Asylum Court Proceedings and the Asylum Procedure abandoned the routine revision of the international protection status 3 years after the first final decision.
	Germany		Content of protection	The draft of the Second Law for the Introduction of a Right of Opportunity to Stay proposed to end the accumulation of tolerated stay periods (<i>Kettenduldung</i>), which would no longer be counted towards residence rights.
	Germany		Content of protection	The legal framework on social benefits was revised for German nationals and beneficiaries of international protection.

	Greece		Access to procedure	A new registration procedure was introduced for first-time applicants through Circular 5049/2022.
	Greece		Special procedures to assess protection needs	The application of the joint ministerial decision that provided for the application of the exceptional border procedure was not renewed. Border procedures apply only to applicants for international protection who arrive on the islands of Lesbos, Chios, Samos, Kos and Leros and live in a Reception and Identification Centre (RIC) or a Closed Controlled Access Centre (CCAC).
	Greece		Special procedures to assess protection needs	Türkiye was retained as a safe third country.
	Greece		Special procedures to assess protection needs	The list of safe countries of origin was updated and Ukraine was removed from the list.
	Greece		Processing asylum applications at first instance	A bill proposed establishing a Fundamental Rights Officer in charge of assessing complaints of fundamental rights violations related to international protection procedures. The officer would refer the complainant to the relevant authorities where applicable.
	Greece		Processing asylum applications at first instance	A new classification of laws on international protection, reception and temporary protection was set in a new code through Law No 4939/2022.
	Greece		Processing asylum applications at first instance	A bill proposed to oblige the Asylum Service to obtain a health care professional's advice for an applicant's ability to be interviewed.
	Greece		Processing applications at second or higher instance	The Asylum Code codified the time limits for decisions on steps of the international protection procedure.
	Greece		Detention during the asylum procedure	Presidential Decree No 77/17.11.2022 established Closed Controlled Access Centres (CCACs) on Samos, Kos, Leros, Lesbos and Chios as regional services of the Reception and Identification Service.
	Greece		Persons with special needs in the asylum procedure	Law No 4960/2022 aims to establish a uniform national guardianship system for unaccompanied migrant children.
	Greece		Persons with special needs in the asylum procedure	A National Registry for the Protection of Unaccompanied Minors was created to track the situation and adapt policies, decision-making, reception and other services accordingly.
	Hungary		Access to procedure	The special conditions to submit an asylum application were extended until 31 December 2023.

	Iceland		Special procedures to assess protection needs.	Iceland revised its list of safe countries of origin and Ukraine was removed from the list.
	Iceland		Interpretation services	A reform of administrative procedures, including asylum procedures, provides for professional interpretation to persons who do not speak Icelandic.
	Ireland		Processing applications at second or higher instance	The International Protection Act was amended to provide for the prioritisation of applications from safe countries of origin and the acceleration of appeal proceedings before the International Protection Appeals Tribunal.
	Ireland		Persons with special needs in the asylum procedure	A bill was adopted to modify the National Referral Mechanism for human trafficking.
	Italy		Access to procedure	A new code of conduct for NGOs carrying out rescues at sea entered into force.
	Italy		The Dublin procedure	A new circular clarifying the connection between an application for a special protection permit (a national form of protection) and the Dublin procedure was published. It states that an application for special protection should be deemed inadmissible if the applicant has also applied for international protection and is involved in a pending Dublin procedure.
	Italy		Special procedures to assess protection needs	Italy revised its list of safe countries of origin, <i>de facto</i> suspending Ukraine.
	Italy		Detention during the asylum procedure	The new regulation for pre-removal detention centres (CPR) was published, followed by a circular from the Department of Civil Liberties and Immigration on its implementation. The circular regulates access to the centres, the services provided, communication, visits as well as monitoring and controls.
	Italy		Detention during the asylum procedure	The use of quarantine vessels was extended until the end of May 2022.
	Italy		Content of protection	A circular simplified the procedure for a refugee to marry in Italy: documentation from the country of origin is no longer needed.
	Italy		Persons with special needs in the asylum procedure	A presidential decree was adopted clarifying that the authorities need to examine the conversion of unaccompanied children's residence permits on a case-by-case basis when they reach adulthood. Residence permits based on integration can be issued until the age of 21.
	Italy		Persons with special needs in the asylum procedure	A new regulation was adopted to consolidate in one legislative piece the tasks of the Ministry of Labour and Social Policies related to unaccompanied minors.



















	Latvia		Access to procedure	The state of emergency was extended at the Latvian-Belarusian border. Applicants can only submit applications for international protection at official border crossing points or detention facilities.
	Latvia		Detention during the asylum procedure	Internal Regulation No 23.1-8.2/12 of the State Border Guard entered into force, defining the actions to take if minor children arrive with a detained adult asylum seeker.
	Lithuania		Access to procedure	Amendments to the Law on the Legal Status of Foreigners came into effect, noting that during a state of emergency or an extreme situation due to a mass influx, foreigners may lodge an application for international protection from abroad within consular posts designated by the Minister of Foreign Affairs. Additional amendments were passed when an application is considered to be lodged under this procedure, when the Border Guard should still accept applications for international protection from persons who have crossed the border in an irregular manner, and circumstances when the application is not accepted.
	Lithuania		Processing applications at second or higher instance	The right to appeal directly to the Vilnius Regional Administrative Court and thereafter to the Supreme Administrative Court was reinstated in Lithuania. The preliminary stage of disputing a Migration Department decision before the Migration Department Commission was abolished.
	Lithuania		Reception of applicants for international protection	The concept for a new reception and accommodation model (the idea of creating a new model) was approved in Lithuania, and the Ministry of the Interior started the preparations for the necessary legislation.
	Lithuania		Detention during the asylum procedure	Amendments to the Law on the Legal Status of Foreigners came into effect, noting additional grounds for the detention of asylum applicants during a state of emergency or an extreme situation due to a mass influx.
	Lithuania		Persons with special needs in the asylum procedure	Amendments to the Law on the Legal Status of Foreigners aimed to speed up the appointment of a legal guardian for an unaccompanied minor, due to the influx of unaccompanied minors from Ukraine.
	Luxembourg		Special procedures to assess protection needs	The list of safe countries of origin was amended through the Grand-Ducal Regulation of 23 January 2023. Ukraine and Croatia were removed from the list and the name of the Republic of North Macedonia was adapted.

















	Luxembourg		Detention during the asylum procedure	A bill was introduced to the parliament proposing to extend the possibility of administrative detention to any illegally-staying foreigner who needs to be forcibly removed, including EU citizens and their family members who were issued a removal order.
	Luxembourg		Detention during the asylum procedure	A bill proposed the introduction of non-negligible risk of absconding as a reason for detention, specifying in what cases this risk is presumed.
	Malta		Processing asylum applications at first instance	The International Protection Act was amended to clarify the criteria for exclusion from subsidiary protection, the criteria for considering an application manifestly unfounded, the subsequent application procedure, the application procedure for children in need of care and the procedure for temporary humanitarian protection (a national form of protection).
	Malta		Processing applications at second or higher instance	Amendments to the International Protection Act enables an appeal against a decision by the International Protection Agency which terminates refugee or subsidiary protection, except in cases where the beneficiary has renounced protection or become a Maltese national. The competence of the International Protection Appeals Tribunal now covers an <i>ex nunc</i> examination of the appeal.
	Malta		Persons with special needs in the asylum procedure	The Immigration Act was amended on the rules for appointing interim guardians for prohibited migrants who claim to be minors. The CEO of AWAS may again appoint a guardian.
	Netherlands		The Dublin procedure	The Minister for Migration announced that the Track 1 procedure, which was established for applicants in the Dublin procedure, would be standardised and made more efficient. In addition, applicants in the Dublin procedure are planned to be offered more moderate material reception conditions, in line with shorter processing times which are foreseen.
	Netherlands		The Dublin procedure	The government proposed a bill creating the legal basis for enforced COVID-19 testing in the beginning of 2022.
	Netherlands		Statelessness in the context of asylum	A bill was passed for a new stateless determination procedure and another bill amended the Dutch Nationality Act to allow stateless children to apply for naturalisation after 5 years of habitual residence. The bills still need to be adopted by the Senate.
	Netherlands		Content of protection	The New Civic Integration Law entered into force, where newcomers under an integration obligation are guided through the process by municipalities.



























	Norway		The Dublin procedure	Guidelines clarified that the Dublin III Regulation did not apply to persons who were granted collective protection (a status similar to temporary protection in the EU framework).
	Norway		Special procedures to assess protection needs	Norway revised its list of safe countries of origin.
	Norway		Reception of applicants for international protection	New regulations entered into force on determining the benefits for residents in asylum reception centres.
	Norway		Interpretation services	The Interpretation Act entered into force, obliging public bodies to use a qualified interpreter. It stipulates the requirement of professional conduct, including the duty of confidentiality, by interpreters.
	Norway		Content of protection	Amendments to the Immigration Act would allow authorities to expulse refugees, without first making a decision on the cessation of the status, when the person has been convicted and sentenced of a crime that is punishable by 2 or more years of prison.
	Poland		Reception of applicants for international protection	Asylum seekers living outside of reception centres may be granted a financial allowance without prior registration in one of the first reception centres.
	Poland		Reception of applicants for international protection	The special rules on the duration of material reception conditions connected with the COVID-19 pandemic were repealed.
	Poland		Persons with special needs in the asylum procedure	The Special Act was adopted to increase the penalty for trafficking in human beings to imprisonment from 10 to 15 years or 25 years.
	Portugal		Reception of applicants for international protection	The Asylum Act was amended to allow applicants for international protection to work from the day they submit their application and receive related support.
	Portugal		Statelessness in the context of asylum	The revised Nationality Regulation entered into force, which facilitates acquiring citizenship for children born in Portugal to applicants or beneficiaries of international protection.
	Romania		Reception of applicants for international protection	A government decision established the legal basis for paying benefits by card to asylum applicants.
	Romania		Persons with special needs in the asylum procedure	The government approved a decision on a new national mechanism to identify and refer victims of human trafficking.
	Slovakia		The Dublin procedure	A new legal provision was adopted to provide for the suspension of a transfer decision when a third-country national under the Dublin procedure absconds.




	Slovakia		Processing asylum applications at first instance	The Asylum Act was amended to regulate the hierarchy of national and international protection statuses. If the conditions for granting international protection are not met, then the possibility of granting a national status will be considered.
	Slovakia		Reception of applicants for international protection	The Asylum Act was amended and codified the practice that applicants can stay outside of the reception facility for 3 months, with the possibility of extending this period without losing the right to material reception conditions. The act also regulates the initial integration of beneficiaries of international protection.
	Slovakia		Reception of applicants for international protection	The waiting period for applicants to access the labour market was shortened from 9 to 6 months.
	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.
	Slovakia		Persons with special needs in the asylum procedure	A new government regulation was adopted allowing the adult accompanying a child to be appointed as a legal guardian even if they do not have legal custody.
	Slovenia		Access to procedure	The rules were amended on the procedure for foreigners who wish to apply for international protection and on the procedure for accepting applications for international protection in order to streamline them. Foreigners must be informed about the possibility of applying for international protection when there is an indication of such a need. The written statement presenting the reasons for the application for international protection is no longer required in the preliminary procedure.
	Slovenia		Special procedures to assess protection needs	The list of safe countries of origin was revised.
	Slovenia		Reception of applicants for international protection	Legal provisions on the entitlement to material reception conditions were amended, and the situation of applicants going through a Dublin procedure was clarified.
	Spain		Reception of applicants for international protection	Royal Decree 220/2022 of 29 March 2022 was adopted, approving the regulation governing the reception system.

	Spain		Statelessness in the context of asylum	A Royal Decree was adopted which guarantees stateless persons access to the national reception system for the duration of the Stateless Determination Procedure. This will ensure that children in the Stateless Determination Procedure have access to education and other integration programmes.
	Spain		Resettlement and humanitarian admissions	The government approved the National Resettlement Programme for 2023 which includes the resettlement of 1,200 refugees.
	Spain		Persons with special needs in the asylum procedure	Spain's Council of Ministers adopted a draft bill on trafficking and exploitation which focuses on prevention, assistance and the protection of victims by guaranteeing a series of rights and support measures. A national referral mechanism for potential trafficking victims will also be created.
	Spain		Persons with special needs in the asylum procedure	The Spanish Ministry of Justice approved a preliminary draft of a new law on age assessments.
	Sweden		Return of former applicants	The Swedish Migration Agency published a legal comment (RK/002/2022) on the interpretation of CJEU C-441/19 by which the court ruled that, before issuing a return decision for an unaccompanied minor, Member States must confirm that there are adequate reception facilities for minors in the state of return.
	Switzerland		Reception of applicants for international protection	The Federal Council submitted a proposal for amendments on the operation of reception centres to ensure the safety and security of asylum applicants and reception staff.
	Switzerland		Detention during the asylum procedure	Legislation was amended to allow for detention at the border for up to 3 days without a judicial review and without a written order.
	Switzerland		Detention during the asylum procedure	The Federal Council announced that it will not create a legal basis in the Law for Foreigners and Integration for the introduction of electronic bracelets as an alternative to administrative detention.



















Policy developments





























	Country		Thematic area	Development
	Austria		Access to procedure	The police in Austria changed the registration system by internal decree for applicants arriving at the border with Hungary. Unaccompanied minors, families and other vulnerable persons continued to be handled in the regular scheme, while other applicants were registered and finger-printed right at the border.
	Belgium		Access to procedure	The registration process was reorganised, and applicants were required to report again directly to the Immigration Office in the Pacheco building instead of the arrival centre.
	Belgium		The Dublin procedure	The accelerated procedure for specific, predefined potential Dublin cases was revised.
	Belgium		The Dublin procedure	A new reception facility opened to accommodate a group of applicants in the Dublin procedure, managed by the Immigration Office in collaboration with Fedasil.
	Belgium		Special procedures to assess protection needs	The list of safe countries of origin was reviewed, but no changes were introduced.
	Belgium		Processing asylum applications at first instance	Certain categories of applicants were prioritised, including those in the reception system or from countries with high recognition rates, where a decision could be taken based on evidence in the file.
	Belgium		Processing asylum applications at first instance	The CGRS fully resumed the assessment of asylum claims lodged by Afghan applicants.
	Belgium		Reception of applicants for international protection	Fedasil issued a new instruction on the forced and voluntary withdrawal of reception conditions for working applicants.
	Belgium		Reception of applicants for international protection	4,000 places were created in the reception system throughout 2022.
	Belgium		Reception of applicants for international protection	The winter plan was signed, for example reserving a certain number of places in the accommodation structure for the homeless, in particular for applicants for international protection.
	Belgium		Reception of applicants for international protection	Fedasil presented its new management plan for the period 2021-2026. It defines the organisation's strategic and operational objectives.
	Belgium		Reception of applicants for international protection	Fedasil concluded a cooperation agreement with the construction sector to orient asylum applicants towards employment in construction.

























	Belgium		Country of origin information	CEDOCA created a working group on statistics to better understand methodologies and data visualisations in reports.
	Belgium		Resettlement and humanitarian admissions	The government pledged to resettle 500 refugees and to admit 125 people under humanitarian admission programmes.
	Belgium		Persons with special needs in the asylum procedure	The CGRS allocated 32 new staff members to work on applications launched by unaccompanied minors.
	Bulgaria		Processing asylum applications at first instance	The State Agency for Refugees reviewed internal guidelines and rules and prepared an analysis of national jurisprudence for internal use.
	Bulgaria		Processing asylum applications at first instance	The State Agency for Refugees adapted the EUAA quality assessment tool to review first instance decisions and personal interviews.
	Bulgaria		Processing asylum applications at first instance	Staff training objectives for 2022 were postponed due to the influx of displaced persons from Ukraine.
	Bulgaria		Persons with special needs in the asylum procedure	A coordination mechanism was approved to facilitate communication among the authorities and organisations working with unaccompanied and separated children.
	Croatia		Access to procedure	In continuation of a previous monitoring mechanism, a new agreement was signed to develop an independent framework to monitor the conduct of police personnel in the Ministry of the Interior who work in the area of irregular migration and international protection.
	Croatia		Legal assistance and representation	The Ministry of the Interior signed a contract with the Croatian Law Centre to carry out an AMIF-funded project, entitled "Legal guidance in the process of awarding international protection".
	Croatia		Persons with special needs in the asylum procedure	The government adopted a decision to develop the National Plan for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings 2022-2027.
	Cyprus		Special procedures to assess protection needs	The time limit for the International Protection Administrative Court to issue a decision on an appeal is 7 days from the registration of the appeal with the court. An appeal against such decisions must be lodged within 10 days from the notification. If the challenged decision is a detention order, the IPAC must issue its decision within 2 days.
	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	The rules of procedures of the Administrative Court for International Protection (IPAC) were amended making the applicant's presence before the court mandatory, whether in person or represented by a lawyer, without which the appeal could be rejected, except in situations of <i>force majeure</i> . Applicants or their lawyer now have a maximum of 10 minutes to present their supporting arguments, unless extended by the court when deemed necessary.
	Cyprus		Persons with special needs in the asylum procedure	A Memorandum of Cooperation was signed between the police and the Social Welfare Service on the referral, handling, protection and briefing of potential and recognised victims of trafficking.
	Czechia		Persons with special needs in the asylum procedure	The Ministry of the Interior launched a mapping project on the situation of child trafficking and created "Human Trafficking Indicators Cards" to help professionals better identify possible victims of human trafficking.
	Denmark		Processing asylum applications at first instance	Evidentiary requirements were lightened from women and girl applicants from Afghanistan. International protection was granted in all relevant cases and rejected cases were reopened.
	Denmark		Processing asylum applications at first instance	The suspension of the processing of cases by Ethiopian nationals was lifted by the Coordination Committee of the Refugee Appeals Board, which found that the nature of the situation in the capital city did not amount to a risk for any person of Tigrayan ethnicity to be arrested, mistreated or assaulted.
	Denmark		Processing asylum applications at first instance	The Danish Immigration Services extended processing deadlines and shifted personnel to allow for the prioritisation of applications lodged under the Special Act on Residence Permits for Displaced Persons from Ukraine.
	Denmark		Persons with special needs in the asylum procedure	The Danish Immigration Services launched a tender and opened a reception centre for applicants with special needs, including those suffering from mental and physical disabilities, mental illnesses, trauma or substance abuse.
	Estonia		Processing asylum applications at first instance	An updated version of the register of granting international protection (RAKS2) was launched, including new features that allow the inclusion of data on court procedures and an automated process for receiving country of origin information.
	Finland		Processing asylum applications at first instance	The Immigration Service announced in February 2023 that gender alone would constitute a sufficient reason to grant international protection to Afghan women and girls.

	Finland		Processing asylum applications at first instance	The Finnish Immigration Service announced in March 2023 that it had gathered sufficient, updated country information from Afghanistan on the security situation of different provinces and had been able to start making decisions for all Afghan applicants.
	France		Processing asylum applications at first instance	The CNDA updated its assessment of indiscriminate violence resulting from a situation of armed conflict which prevailed in 12 regions of Somalia.
	France		Processing asylum applications at first instance	The electronic communication between OFPRA and asylum applicants was extended to the entire territory of France.
	France		Reception of applicants for international protection	The Inter-Ministerial Information Note of 18 November 2022 includes good practices on the first assessment of health needs of people claiming to be minors during the temporary emergency reception period.
	France		Information provision in the context of asylum	OFPRA launched a new website to improve access to information.
	France		Interpretation services	OFPRA updated the charter for interpreters and translators.
	France		Content of protection	A ministerial instruction defined the priorities of the integration policy for 2022, including integration through employment.
	France		Persons with special needs in the asylum procedure	The Ministry of the Interior published an instruction in April 2022 requesting the prefects to harmonise practices related to victims who were trafficked for sexual exploitation.
	Germany		Processing asylum applications at first instance	Germany announced adapting its policy on women and girls from Afghanistan.
	Germany		Processing asylum applications at first instance	BAMF introduced the "Assistance System for Hearings", a digital tool to support case officers in their work.
	Germany		Interpretation services	BAMF published a brochure for interpreters with information and recommendations for successful interpretation, a new webpage on interpretation in the asylum procedure, a bilingual terminology list on sexual orientation and gender identity, and an updated version of the booklet for interpreters.
	Germany		Resettlement and humanitarian admissions	After a 3-year pilot, the Neustart im Team (NesT) programme for community sponsorship was consolidated.
	Germany		Resettlement and humanitarian admissions	Germany launched a new programme at the federal level to admit 1,000 vulnerable Afghan nationals per month.
	Germany		Persons with special needs in the asylum procedure	BAMF published a methodology for the identification of vulnerable applicants.

	Germany		Persons with special needs in the asylum procedure	BAMF reviewed and clarified its internal instructions regarding procedures involving LGBTIQ applicants.
	Greece		Reception of applicants for international protection	Reception capacity decreased and the ESTIA programme was completed and discontinued.
	Greece		Content of protection	A new integration strategy for applicants and beneficiaries of international protection was launched for consultation.
	Greece		Content of protection	A Ministerial Decision provided that the prescription of medicines, therapeutic operations and diagnostic examinations for patients without health insurance (many of them beneficiaries of international protection) is possible only by doctors of public hospitals and primary health care structures, not private doctors.
	Greece		Persons with special needs in the asylum procedure	The Reception and Identification Service (RIS) created and deployed a team of case management assistants for reception facilities under its responsibility throughout Greece to ensure the identification of needs, referral and follow-up for all persons residing in reception facilities. A standard operating procedure was drafted to create a harmonised system for case management in first- and second-line reception.
	Iceland		Reception of applicants for international protection	A new arrival centre was opened in Reykjavík, offering all services from registration by the police to reception interviews, first health inspection and a needs assessment for permanent housing.
	Iceland		Content of protection	The parliament adopted a resolution for the implementation of an action plan for immigration issues for 2022-2025. Based on the resolution, a steering group was established to formulate a comprehensive integration strategy, with a focus on labour market integration.
	Iceland		Content of protection	Young Afghan refugees who received protection shortly after turning 18 years are now also allowed to apply for family reunification.
	Ireland		Processing asylum applications at first instance	The International Protection Office implemented a new case load management system.
	Ireland		Processing asylum applications at first instance	The International Protection Office implemented a revised asylum application procedure.
	Ireland		Processing asylum applications at first instance	Interpreters were permitted to use videoconferencing during the first instance procedures rather than provide interpretation by telephone.



















	Ireland		Processing asylum applications at first instance	The Department of Justice omitted interviews for certain profiles (such as applicants from Afghanistan, Eritrea and Somalia) in order to speed up the asylum procedure.
	Ireland		Detention during the asylum procedure	Immigration detention facilities became operational at Dublin airport.
	Ireland		Content of protection	A regularisation scheme was launched, under which applicants who had been waiting for a decision for more than 2 years may access the labour market and acquire a residence permit.
	Ireland		Content of protection	The International Protection Student Scheme 2022-2023 provided grants to eligible school leavers in the international protection system.
	Ireland		Resettlement and humanitarian admissions	The Department of Justice extended the Afghan Admission Programme.
	Ireland		Persons with special needs in the asylum procedure	The Third National Strategy on Domestic, Sexual and Gender-Based Violence identified migrants, undocumented migrants, refugees and international protection applicants as requiring additional inclusion measures to address domestic sexual and gender-based violence.
	Italy		The Dublin procedure	Italy requested the temporary suspension of incoming Dublin transfers due to a lack of reception places.
	Italy		Processing applications at second or higher instance	Clerks were deployed to support judges assigned to the specialised section on migration, with the objective of reducing the backlog at second instance.
	Italy		Interpretation services	The Department for Civil Liberties and Immigration announced a national project to define the training curriculum of the transcultural mediator in the health sector.
	Italy		Content of protection	Italy launched a new digital platform to facilitate the family reunification procedure.
	Italy		Content of protection	The new National Plan for the Integration of Beneficiaries of International Protection 2022-2024 was adopted.
	Italy		Content of protection	The National Association of Employment Agencies and four trade unions signed an agreement to facilitate the labour market integration of beneficiaries of international protection and of national forms of protection.
	Italy		Persons with special needs in the asylum procedure	The National Action Plan 2022-2025 was adopted with long-term strategies and actions aimed at raising awareness, better prevention and the social integration of victims of trafficking.

	Italy		Persons with special needs in the asylum procedure	A Plan for Unaccompanied Minors was adopted, following the arrival of Ukrainian children. It was regularly updated throughout the year to address arising concerns.
	Lithuania		Processing asylum applications at first instance	The Migration Department introduced measures to address the high-level of staff turnover.
	Luxembourg		Reception of applicants for international protection	Luxembourg increased its reception capacity to 5,126 beds at the end of 2022.
	Malta		Processing asylum applications at first instance	The International Protection Agency sampled cases for quality assurance.
	Netherlands		Access to procedure	Several measures were introduced to speed up the registration process of certain profiles (Afghan evacuees, family members arriving through family reunification and applicants with appointments) and alleviate pressure on the central reception facility in Ter Apel.
	Netherlands		Special procedures to assess protection needs	The United States, Armenia and Trinidad and Tobago were re-assessed as safe countries of origin.
	Netherlands		Special procedures to assess protection needs	Following the decision of the Council of State, all groups that were paid special attention in Track 2 were excluded from the safe country of origin designation.
	Netherlands		Processing asylum applications at first instance	The time limit for deciding on an application for international protection was extended by 9 months.
	Netherlands		Processing asylum applications at first instance	The recruitment of staff for the authorities in the migration chain continued throughout 2022.
	Netherlands		Processing asylum applications at first instance	The moratorium on decisions and departures for Afghan applicants ended, and the Immigration and Naturalisation Service (IND) resumed the decision process on a case-by-case basis.
	Netherlands		Processing asylum applications at first instance	A moratorium on decisions and returns was in place for political opponents from Sudan between 24 February and 24 August 2022.
	Netherlands		Processing asylum applications at first instance	A moratorium on decisions and returns was introduced for Russian conscripts (men aged 18 to 27), who deserted or refused to perform military service.
	Netherlands		Processing asylum applications at first instance	The Immigration and Naturalisation Service (IND) published revised work instructions for the assessment of applications from apostates and atheists.

























	Netherlands		Processing asylum applications at first instance	After the conclusion of the pilot project “Written Interviews” (<i>schriftelijk horen</i>), the Immigration and Naturalisation Service (IND) initiated another pilot offering written interviews to Syrian, Turkish and Yemeni nationals (“Paper and Ink procedure”).
	Netherlands		Processing asylum applications at first instance	A portal was launched for asylum lawyers, allowing them to rapidly check the status of a case, easily upload documents and safely exchange data
	Netherlands		Reception of applicants for international protection	The Central Agency for the Reception of Asylum Seekers (COA) updated its Multiannual Strategy 2020-2025, extending it with an additional year and re-prioritising the goals.
	Netherlands		Reception of applicants for international protection	Security regions stepped in to open and manage crisis reception facilities.
	Netherlands		Reception of applicants for international protection	Managing applicants with disruptive behaviour remained a priority, and a National Coordinator for Managing Disruption was established to coordinate among different stakeholders and ensure consistency across various measures.
	Netherlands		Reception of applicants for international protection	A new Education Budget Scheme for Asylum Seekers was introduced, allowing municipalities with emergency facilities to claim reimbursement for schooling costs.
	Netherlands		Detention during the asylum procedure	The Aliens Circular was amended to specify that a foreigner can be detained for a short period to investigate the person’s identity and their lawful status in the country.
	Netherlands		Content of protection	Temporary measures aimed to restrict family reunification until 31 December 2023. A visa was only issued to a family member when the assigned municipality notified that suitable accommodation had been found for the recognised beneficiary and the family members planning to join. Following Council of State rulings, the measure was abolished in February 2023.
	Netherlands		Content of protection	The Central Agency for the Reception of Asylum Seekers (COA) and United Work implemented a pilot project on employment for recognised beneficiaries of international protection in the Eindhoven region.
	Netherlands		Resettlement and humanitarian admissions	The government decided to temporarily pause resettlement selections out of Turkey.
	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	The Netherlands Forensic Institute changed its practice based on a recent literature review, and since October 2022, applicants with a mature collarbone are considered to be at least 18 years old, instead of 20 years.
	Netherlands		Persons with special needs in the asylum procedure	As a one-time action, the care for unaccompanied children who were at least 17.5 years on 1 July 2022 was taken over by the Central Agency for the Reception of Asylum Seekers (COA) from Nidos, and the minors were accommodated in regular reception places instead of ones dedicated to minors.
	Netherlands		Persons with special needs in the asylum procedure	As a temporary measure, prolonged until September 2023, unaccompanied minors aged 17 years and 9 months and older were placed in regular asylum reception centres (azc), without special support since November 2022.
	Norway		Processing asylum applications at first instance	The Ministry of Justice and Public Security issued a new instruction "Assessment of the conditions for asylum in the Immigration Act, Section 28(1) when the applicant already has a residence permit in Norway".
	Norway		Reception of applicants for international protection	The Norwegian government and the Directorate of Immigration (UDI) increased capacity in the national arrival centre, in emergency accommodation, including accommodation for displaced persons from Ukraine, and in ordinary reception centres. A scheme for alternative temporary reception space was also launched.
	Norway		Legal assistance and representation	The Ministry of Justice and Public Security clarified that when a third-country national who already holds a residence permit on other grounds in the country applies for international protection, free legal aid is not automatically granted but it is conditioned by a needs test.
	Norway		Persons with special needs in the asylum procedure	The national budget was revised to employ more experts working with children in reception facilities, following the increasing number of arrivals from Ukraine.
	Poland		Detention during the asylum procedure	A special strategy was developed to provide additional places in detention centres in an emergency situation.
	Poland		Content of protection	Changes were made to the issuance of humanitarian visas and humanitarian stays for citizens of Belarus. The requirements were eased for those with a visa which was about to expire or those who have fled the regime to Ukraine and then entered Poland through a special procedure.






	Poland		Content of protection	Integration centres for foreigners were opened in two provinces in March 2022 as a part of the project “Building structures for the integration of foreigners in Poland - Stage II – piloting Foreigners Integration Centres”.
	Portugal		Persons with special needs in the asylum procedure	The government launched a 2-year project to improve prevention, protection and support to victims of human trafficking.
	Slovakia		Processing asylum applications at first instance	Slovakia established a new quality assurance mechanism for the asylum procedure, to be carried out every 6 months or on an <i>ad hoc</i> basis.
	Slovakia		Reception of applicants for international protection	The asylum and reception contingency plan was revised to address the arrival of persons in need of temporary protection.
	Slovenia		Reception of applicants for international protection	A new contingency plan was adopted to ensure accommodation and care in the event of a sudden or gradual increase in the number of applicants for international protection. The plan also addresses the implementation of international protection procedures and provides for personnel and financial adjustments in the event of opening new accommodation facilities.
	Spain		07_Reception of applicants for international protection	The government decided to increase the migration budgeted for 2022 by 29% with the allocation of additional funds aiming to improve reception conditions of applicants for international and temporary protection and migrants.
	Spain		07_Reception of applicants for international protection	The Spanish Ministry of Inclusion, Social Security and Migration announced that applicants for international protection who had not yet been given a final decision on their case would not be withdrawn from the national social security system.
	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.
	Sweden		The Dublin procedure	The Swedish Migration Agency approved a new legal position (RS/010/2022) related to Dublin transfers by which it continues to suspend transfers too Hungary as long as the situation persists.
	Sweden		Processing asylum applications at first instance	A new legal position (RS/089/2021) was published on the examination of protection needs for citizens from Afghanistan, in particular on the situation of women and girls.
	Sweden		Processing asylum applications at first instance	The Swedish Migration Agency updated its legal position on Iraq on 1 July 2022, following closely the latest EUAA Country Guidance on Iraq.





	Sweden		Processing asylum applications at first instance	Asylum Seeker (LMA)-cards were digitalised to include a QR code for the validity period, and a case-handling system was further developed for increased usability.
	Sweden		Processing asylum applications at first instance	The Swedish Migration Agency published a new legal position on the examination of protection needs of Somali nationals.
	Sweden		Processing asylum applications at first instance	The Swedish Migration Agency published a new legal position on the assessment of applications for international protection lodged by Syrian nationals. The SMA considered that Syrians summoned for military service or who deserted ran a general risk of persecution.
	Sweden		Processing applications at second or higher instance	The Swedish Migration Court of Appeal introduced an e-service to facilitate the submission of documents to the court by state administrative authorities.
	Sweden		Reception of applicants for international protection	A new government bill was presented on the distribution of housing across the country to host displaced persons from Ukraine.
	Sweden		Detention during the asylum procedure	As part of the Swedish Migration Agency policy to increase detention capacity, a new detention centre with 114 places was opened in Mölndal.
	Sweden		Detention during the asylum procedure	The Swedish Migration Agency published a legal comment on detainees who are or will be subject to another form of deprivation of liberty (RK/001/2022).
	Sweden		Information provision in the context of asylum	The Swedish Migration Agency expanded its services in 11 new locations, where employees informed applicants about procedures and regulations, and supported them in navigating the agency's website.
	Sweden		Content of protection	The government appointed an inquiry commission to assess making language knowledge and knowledge of the Swedish society requirements for acquiring permanent residence in Sweden.
	Sweden		Content of protection	The Swedish Migration Agency issued a legal position on the relevant time for determining the age of an applicant or a sponsor, in particular in cases of family reunification.
	Sweden		Resettlement and humanitarian admissions	Following a decision of the new Swedish parliament, the annual refugee quota was reduced from 5,000 to 900 resettled refugees for 2023.
	Sweden		Persons with special needs in the asylum procedure	The description of the age assessment method followed by the Swedish National Board of Forensic Medicine was updated to make the process more detailed and transparent, minimise risks and interpret the margin of errors and factors affecting the statistical model.

	Sweden		Persons with special needs in the asylum procedure	The legal position was updated on a child's age assessment for family reunification with recent CJEU case law.
	Switzerland		Special procedures to assess protection needs	The fast-track procedure was re-introduced for nationals of certain countries of origin: countries on the list of safe countries of origin, visa-exempt countries and – because of the high number of weakly-justified claims – Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia.
	Switzerland		Reception of applicants for international protection	Switzerland significantly increased the number of accommodation places for asylum applicants and persons in need of temporary protection.
	Switzerland		Reception of applicants for international protection	The State Secretariat for Migration (SEM) started to assign some applicants for international protection to cantons at an earlier stage to alleviate overcrowding in federal reception centres.
	Switzerland		Reception of applicants for international protection	The military offered temporary support in the establishment and operation of federal reception centres, pending the arrival of newly-recruited, qualified State Secretariat for Migration (SEM) staff.
	Switzerland		Reception of applicants for international protection	Muslim chaplaincy service is provided on a permanent basis in federal asylum centres.
	Switzerland		Legal assistance and representation	The State Secretariat for Migration (SEM) decided that the granting of free legal advice should also apply to persons who file an asylum application from detention.
	Switzerland		Content of protection	A new financing system in the asylum sector entered into force to coordinate optimally the tasks of care, social assistance and integration support for refugees, provisionally admitted persons and persons in need of protection.
	Switzerland		Resettlement and humanitarian admissions	Resettlement was temporarily suspended due to the influx of displaced persons from Ukraine..
	Switzerland		Return of former applicants	The Federal Council modified the assessment for fitness to travel of persons who are returned or expelled.

Institutional developments

	Country		Thematic area	Development
	Belgium		Processing asylum applications at first instance	Efforts to recruit staff for the Immigration Office, CGRS and Fedasil continued throughout 2022.
	Belgium		Processing asylum applications at first instance	The State Secretary for Asylum and Migration announced that it considered plans to merge the Immigration Office, the CGRS and Fedasil.
	France		Processing applications at first instance	A new OFPRA branch office was established in Mayotte for the lodging of applications for international protection in the territory.
	Germany		Reception of applicants for international protection	The German Federal Ministry of the Interior increased its financial support to municipalities which accommodate applicants for international protection and beneficiaries of temporary protection. The federal government also provided federal buildings to municipalities to be used as reception facilities.
	Iceland		Processing asylum applications at first instance	A temporary Council of Ministers for Immigrants and Refugees was appointed by proposal of the Prime Minister and approval of the government.
	Iceland		Content of protection	The Minister of Education and Children established a steering group on refugee children's issues, which is tasked to monitor the situation of refugee children, provide advice, assess government measures and ensure that measures are aligned with international standards.
	Latvia		Information provision in the context of asylum	The Office of Citizenship and Migration Affairs developed new leaflets and piloted a hotline to provide information on the asylum procedure.
	Poland		Processing asylum applications at first instance	The Department for Refugee Proceedings at the Office for Foreigners was reorganised with more specialised teams to work with specific categories of applicants, such as detained applicants or applicants from specific countries of origin.
	Poland		Persons with special needs in the asylum procedure	The Team for Coordination of Anti-Trafficking in Human Beings was established as a separate organisational unit reporting to the Deputy Director of the Department for International Affairs and Migration at the Ministry of the Interior and Administration.
	Portugal		Processing asylum applications at first instance	The Ministry of Home Affairs announced the creation of a new asylum and migration agency. In addition, the Immigration and Border Service (SEF) will be restructured.



	Switzerland		Content of protection	The Federal Council approved financial support for integration measures, including contributions to cantonal programmes which promote employment.
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