



National Asylum Developments 2026



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Introduction

This summary presents legislative, institutional and policy developments in asylum and reception in EU+ countries in 2025, as presented in the [Asylum Report 2026](#). 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 legal basis was created to allow the national council to halt family reunification for beneficiaries of international protection, which it did in July 2025 for an initial period of 6 months, subsequently extended until September 2026.
	Belgium	Processing asylum applications at first instances	The period within which an applicant may provide a reason for being absent from a personal interview was reduced from 15 to 8 days.
	Belgium	Special procedures to assess protection needs	An application for international protection submitted by a foreigner who has already received a final decision on a previous application in another EU Member State is now registered and considered as a subsequent application. In February 2026, the Constitutional Court suspended the application of this provision and referred several preliminary questions to the CJEU to clarify their compatibility with EU law.
	Belgium	Special procedures to assess protection needs	The list of safe countries was amended: Morocco was added to the list, while India and Moldova were removed.
	Belgium	Reception of applicants for international protection	Amendments to the Reception Act enabled Fedasil to limit material reception conditions for applicants with a final decision on a previous application in another Member State, after their application is rejected as inadmissible. In February 2026, the Constitutional Court suspended the application of this provision and referred several preliminary questions to the CJEU to clarify their compatibility with EU law.
	Belgium	Reception of applicants for international protection	Amendments to the Reception Act allow Fedasil to limit material reception conditions when a minor applies for international protection after the parents have already applied for international protection in the child's name. In February 2026, the Constitutional Court suspended the application of this provision and referred several preliminary questions to the CJEU to clarify their compatibility with EU law.
	Belgium	Reception of applicants for international protection	Legislative amendments ensured that reception conditions are limited to the provision of material support in reception centres.
	Belgium	Content of protection	New family reunification rules entered into force in August 2025, reducing the period of exemption from material conditions for refugees



			to 6 months, removing the exemption for beneficiaries of subsidiary protection and establishing a 2-year waiting period for this group, and raising the minimum age to apply for family reunification with a partner to 21 years.
	Cyprus	Content of protection	The Refugee Law was amended to allow for the revocation of subsidiary protection after a 10-day objection deadline, when the beneficiary is involved in serious crimes or pose a threat to public order and security.
	Czechia	Processing asylum applications at first instance	An amendment to the Act on Asylum (Act No 314/2025 Coll) was approved to align with the requirements of the Pact and to address needs which were identified at the national level. In parallel, 13 other legal instruments were updated.
	Czechia	Content of protection	Amendments to the Education Act facilitated access to secondary and higher vocational schools for migrant students and ensured more funding for schools with a higher share of foreign students. The minimum level of proficiency in the Czech language was reduced for certain profiles of teachers, allowing them to start teaching earlier.
	Denmark	Processing asylum applications at second or higher instance	The Aliens Act was aligned with CJEU judgment C-19/21, extending the right to appeal before the Refugee Appeals Board for unaccompanied minors in the Dublin procedure.
	Denmark	Interpretation services	A legislative amendment prohibited people under 18 years to act as interpreters in official communication with national authorities in all types of administrative procedures.
	Denmark	Content of protection	The Special Law providing temporary residence permits to evacuees from Afghanistan was repealed.
	Denmark	Content of protection	Amendments to the Aliens Act broadened the scope when a foreigners' residence rights may be ended.
	Denmark	Return of former applicants	The Repatriation Act was amended to extend the grounds for mandatory expulsion when a foreigner is sentenced for a criminal act.
	Finland	Access to procedure	The Act on Temporary Measures to Combat Instrumentalised Migration was extended until December 2026.
	Finland	Processing asylum applications at first instance	The Aliens Act was amended to allow applicants and their representatives to review the interview record over 2 weeks unless the complete report is reviewed on the spot.
	Finland	Special procedures to assess protection needs	The Aliens Act was amended to clarify that those who submit a subsequent application may not be allowed to continue residing in the country, pending the outcome of the application.



	Finland	Special procedures to assess protection needs	Applicants who have submitted a subsequent application on grounds they themselves have caused may be granted subsidiary protection but not refugee status.
	Finland	Detention	Amendments to the Aliens Act extended the maximum duration of detention for persons in the return procedure, for example when the person refuses to cooperate or to ensure public security.
	Finland	Content of protection	Amendments to the Aliens Act introduced a new ground to withdraw international protection. Depending on its duration and purpose, travel to the country of origin or to the country of previous permanent residence can result in a cessation of international protection.
	Finland	Content of protection	Amendments to the Aliens Act introduced stricter conditions for family reunification, such as a minimum age of 21 for both spouses when they are third-country nationals, a requirement of sufficient financial resources for parents reuniting with their unaccompanied child and a minimum 2-year residence for sponsors who have been granted international protection.
	Finland	Content of protection	Amendments to the Aliens Act expanded the grounds to withdraw a residence permit due to a serious crime or security risk.
	Finland	Content of protection	The government proposed amendments to the Aliens Act to tighten permanent residence permit conditions by extending the required continuous residence from 4 to 6 years and adding language and work experience requirements. It allows earlier eligibility for those with higher education, high income or strong language skills combined with work experience.
	Finland	Return of former applicants	Amendments to the Aliens Act introduced an obligation for persons subject to a return decision to cooperate with the authorities and depart voluntarily within a prescribed period. The time limit for a voluntary return may be extended on special grounds, subject to a EUR 100 administrative fee. The reform clarified that entry bans may be imposed through a separate and independent decision for individuals residing either in Finland or abroad, for a fixed duration or until further notice.
	France	Access to information	Amendments to CESEDA allow authorities to electronically send the asylum seekers' guide to applicants. A paper copy is only provided in exceptional circumstances.
	France	Legal assistance and representation	The French Senate adopted a draft law transferring the responsibility to OFII for providing legal information, legal assistance and



			interpretation in detention centres and waiting areas at the border.
	France	Detention during the asylum procedure	The Law Aimed at Facilitating the Continued Detention of Persons Convicted of Particularly Serious Offense and Presenting a High Risk of Recidivism was adopted. Decree No 2025-1345 implements the law, considering the annulments by the Council of State and making the necessary regulatory amendments to CESEDA.
	France	Content of protection	The annual circular on integration defined priorities for the year: language learning, social orientation, employment, implementation of the AGIR programme and the expansion of territorial reception and integration contracts (CTAIs).
	France	Content of protection	A new circular was published on strengthening the professional integration of legally-residing foreign nationals, in particular into occupations with shortages.
	Germany	Access to procedure	The federal government adopted two laws to transpose the ten regulations and a directive under the Pact into German law, reforming the airport procedure into an asylum border procedure, establishing a return border procedure, and establishing screening of individuals entering the EU irregularly.
	Germany	Special procedures to assess protection needs	The federal government adopted two laws to transpose the ten regulations and a directive under the Pact into German law, creating the possibility for the federal government to designate by ordinance safe countries of origin and safe third countries.
	Germany	The Dublin procedure	The federal government adopted two laws to transpose the ten regulations and a directive under the Pact into German law, introducing the solidarity mechanism for EU Member States under pressure.
	Germany	Reception of applicants for international protection	The federal government adopted two laws to transpose the ten regulations and a directive under the Pact into German law, introducing earlier access to the labour market for applicants, in some cases after 3 months, expanding the circumstances when the obligation to reside at a certain place and regularly report can be imposed, and allowing material reception conditions to be limited or withdrawn in additional cases. Applicants may also receive material reception conditions only if they reside in the reception centre that was allocated to them.



	Germany	Reception of applicants for international protection	The federal government adopted two laws to transpose the ten regulations and a directive under the Pact into German law, foreseeing the establishment of specific centres for applicants who already have international protection in another Member State.
	Greece	Access to procedure	<p>On 14 July 2025, a legal provision entered into force stipulating the suspension of submitting applications for international protection for 3 months for persons arriving irregularly in Greece by sea from northern Africa. The provision stipulated that the persons would be returned to their country of origin or country of departure, without registration of their asylum applications.</p> <p>On 18 July, the Ministry of Migration and Asylum issued a circular, according to which certain categories of persons presenting specific vulnerabilities were exempted from the suspension of submitting applications for international protection.</p>
	Greece	Special procedures to assess protection needs	After the Greek Council of State annulled the designation of Türkiye as a safe third country, a new Joint Ministerial Decision (JMD) was published, with Türkiye and other countries included in the National List of Safe Third Countries for specific categories of applicants for international protection. Despite the issuance of a new JMD, all cases are examined in merit because readmissions to Türkiye have not taken place for a prolonged period.
	Greece	Persons with special needs in the asylum procedure	A Joint Ministerial Decision was signed in August 2025 for the implementation of a new framework to determine the age of third-country nationals or stateless persons where there is doubt about their minority.
	Greece	Content of protection	A Joint Ministerial Decision on an internship programme for refugees, issued in August 2025, aimed to strengthen social cohesion and employment through the organised integration of refugees and immigrants into the labour market.
	Greece	Return of former applicants	In September 2025, the plenary session of the Greek Parliament approved the bill "Reform of the framework and procedures for the return of third-country nationals - Other regulations of the Ministry of Immigration and Asylum". Key amendments included faster and monitored voluntary departures, tougher entry bans and penalties, expanded detention, and new legal barriers for long-term undocumented migrants.











	Hungary	Access to procedure	The legal basis of the embassy procedure was changed from a government decree to a law, and persons under a measure restricting their personal liberty were added to the categories which are exempt from this procedure as of 1 January 2025.
	Iceland	Access to procedure	A draft law proposed to extend background checks and health and vulnerability assessments (already established for applicants for international protection) to persons entering or staying irregularly in the country.
	Iceland	Content of protection	A draft law introduced new grounds to withdraw international protection when the person is considered a threat to state security or convicted of a serious crime. In addition, it proposes to repeal humanitarian residence permits and replace them with a new permit based on tolerated stay.
	Iceland	Return of former applicants	A draft law established the legal basis for administrative detention centres for rejected applicants waiting to be returned.
	Ireland	Special procedures to assess protection needs	The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, including Channel Islands and the Isle of Man, was designated as a safe third country.
	Italy	Content of protection	Decree Law No 146/2025 introduced measures to align the duration of residence permits issued to victims of labour exploitation, allowing foreigners to work while waiting for the conversion or renewal of their residence permit, and extended the authority's time limit to issue an authorisation for family reunification from 90 to 150 days.
	Italy	Return of former applicants	Law No 75/2025 expanded the categories of people who can be transferred to detention facilities in Albania to include irregular migrants subject to an expulsion order.
	Luxembourg	Processing asylum applications at first instance	The Council of Government approved a draft bill to incorporate the provisions of the instruments of the Pact in law.
	Malta	Processing asylum applications at second or higher instance	Amendments were introduced to the Immigration Appeals Board (IAB) Regulations on the number of divisions of the appeals board which may be adjusted to the number of cases to be adjudicated and the distribution of cases across divisions.
	Malta	Processing asylum applications at second or higher instance	An amendment to the Immigration Appeals Board (IAB) Regulations specified the timeframes and procedures to appeal an age assessment.



	Malta	Detention during the asylum procedure	Prevention of Disease Ordinance, Article 13 was deleted, which was previously used by the public health authorities and the Immigration Police to order the detention of migrants who arrived on the territory in an irregular manner, including asylum seekers, pending a medical clearance.
	Malta	Persons with special needs in the asylum procedure	An amendment defined the categories of people for whom the Agency for the Welfare of Asylum Seekers (AWAS) must conduct an age assessment as soon as possible.
	Netherlands	Processing asylum applications at first instance	The Asylum Emergency Measures Act was adopted by the House of Representatives.
	Netherlands	Reception of applicants for international protection	Residents in COA facilities who work or have their own financial resources must now pay a small contribution towards their healthcare costs.
	Netherlands	Content of protection	The minister proposed a ban on priority municipal housing for beneficiaries of international protection. The Parliament has not yet approved the draft law on the priority ban.
	Netherlands	Content of protection	The Act introducing Two Status Systems was adopted by the House of Representatives.
	Norway	Processing asylum applications at first instance	The digitalisation of the entire migration sector continued in 2025 and legislative amendments were adopted to allow for the implementation of digital processes.
	Norway	Content of protection	Family reunification rules were changed to prevent bigamy and avoid situations when a child was sent alone to the country and requested family reunification with the father and his multiple partners.
	Norway	Return of former applicants	New regulations strengthened the best interests of the child in expulsion cases.
	Poland	Access to procedure	Effective from March 2025, amendments to the Act on Granting Protection to Foreigners introduced the possibility to temporarily suspend access to the asylum procedure at the border in cases of instrumentalisation of third-country nationals, with exceptions for vulnerable applicants such as unaccompanied minors, pregnant women and those with medical needs.
	Poland	Processing asylum applications at first instance	Deadlines for processing various residence permits and international protection procedures were suspended until March 2026 due to the migratory situation, precluding the possibility of lodging complaints for undue delays.








	Poland	Reception of applicants for international protection	A provision that allowed for the full withdrawal of reception conditions for serious breaches of house rules was repealed. Clarifications were brought to the criteria to grant and suspend social assistance and medical care for applicants, as well as rules and safeguards for applicants residing outside of reception centres.
	Poland	Persons with special needs in the asylum procedure	Jurisdiction over decisions concerning the placement of foreign unaccompanied minors older than 15 years in foster care or in detention lies with the court of the child's place of residence, not the court of the place where the child was apprehended. The role of the guardian was expanded to include representing the unaccompanied minor before administrative courts.
	Poland	Content of protection	Article 14(4) of the recast QD was transposed, incorporating the possibility to revoke refugee status for individuals deemed to be a threat to national security or convicted of a serious crime.
	Poland	Content of protection	Amendments to the Act on Foreigners allowed applications for temporary and permanent residence permits (including for beneficiaries of international protection) to be submitted electronically.
	Poland	Return of former applicants	Amendments to the Act on Foreigners introduced changes to speed up return procedures. Foreigners are informed faster by email about the obligation to leave the territory. In addition, for the return, Polish authorities do not need to issue their own return decision when a return decision has been issued by another EU Member State. According to the new law, a return decision is issued to every foreigner listed in SIS, regardless of the residence status.
	Portugal	Special procedures to assess protection needs	The procedure to submit a subsequent application for international protection was amended, introducing clearer rules on the responsibilities of different actors involved and timelines.
	Portugal	Reception of applicants for international protection	A Common Reception System was developed as an integrated case management mechanism to ensure greater efficiency, predictability and control by authorities over the actual number of available reception places.
	Portugal	Interpretation services	AIMA was expanding its pool of interpreters to ensure effective communication throughout the asylum procedure, while it has proceeded to develop a translation software in collaboration with a private entity.



	Portugal	Access to information	AIMA published on its website a comprehensive set of Frequently Asked Questions on the international protection procedure in Portuguese, English, Ukrainian, Arabic, Mandarin and Hindi.
	Portugal	Return of former applicants	A legislative reform was proposed to reshape return procedures by extending and restructuring detention and alternatives to detention. It aims to centralise return responsibilities and reinforce a faster and more coherent system.
	Romania	Access to procedure	Law No 84/2025 stipulates impunity for illegal entry or stay by third-country nationals requesting to apply for or being granted a form of protection. The prosecutor and the court will have the power to suspend the criminal prosecution and the judgment and have the right to review such decisions.
	Slovenia	Persons with special needs in the asylum procedure	New rules were adopted on the remuneration and the reimbursement of costs for statutory representatives of unaccompanied children.
	Slovenia	Statelessness in the context of asylum	The parliament ratified the Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness, which will be followed by amendments to the Citizenship Act.
	Spain	Content of protection	New immigration rules came into force in May 2025 establishing several types of authorisations to stay, each of them on condition that the person applying is not an applicant for international protection.
	Spain	Content of protection	The government proposed a new Royal Decree to grant a 1-year-long permit to third-country nationals who have lived in Spain without authorisation for at least 5 months before 31 December 2025. Applicants for international protection who have not yet received a decision or had their application rejected can apply for this new permit.
	Spain	Persons with special needs in the asylum procedure	The government approved Royal Decree-Law 2/2025, which establishes the possibility of urgent measures to guarantee the best interests of children and adolescents in extraordinary migration contingencies in Ceuta and the Canary Islands.
	Sweden	Reception of applicants for international protection	As of 1 March 2025, all new applicants are allocated a place in an SMA facility where they are required to reside to be entitled to daily and special allowances.
	Sweden	Detention of former applicants	Legislative amendments to detention conditions introduced the possibility of using a wider range of security measures, when necessary, such as the possibility to body search visitors in detention centres and room searches of



			detainees' living areas. The additional security measures aim to make it possible to create a safer environment in the centres and to create possibilities to have a more open environment for detainees.
	Sweden	Return of former applicants	A legislative amendment was made to the Aliens Act to abolish the possibility of 'track change', which allowed rejected applicants who worked during the asylum procedure to apply – under certain conditions – for a residence permit without having to leave the country. The amendments also introduced new rules for the statute of limitations and re-entry bans, which are now valid for 5 years from the date the person can show that they did actually leave Sweden.
	Sweden	Return of former applicants	A new government ordinance, in force as of January 2026, increased the financial incentive for voluntary repatriation.
	Switzerland	The Dublin procedure	The Swiss Federal Council adopted the negotiating mandate for Switzerland's selective participation in the EU Solidarity Mechanism.
	Switzerland	Content of protection	The Swiss Federal Council proposed a bill banning asylum seekers, temporarily admitted persons and individuals under protection from travelling abroad.
	Switzerland	Content of protection	Amendments were adopted on the duration of social assistance payments when a person's status changes from provisional admission to recognised refugee. The new rules account for the previous assistance, limiting the total federal reimbursement to 5 years.







Policy developments

	Country	Thematic area	Development
	Austria	Processing asylum applications at first instance	As part of the national budget consolidation efforts, the budget framework for the asylum sector for 2025–2029 was realigned with overall fiscal priorities.
	Austria	Return of former applicants	Focus continued on returns, and the first removal since 2011 was carried out to Syria and to Afghanistan since 2021.
	Belgium	Processing asylum applications at first instance	The CGRS continued with the implementation of the fast-track procedure, which allows the organisation to take a quicker final decision for applicants with a first application with a low chance of being granted international protection.
	Belgium	Processing asylum applications at second or higher instance	CALL launched a project in the framework of the Technical Support Instrument (TSI) to pilot the use of an AI-powered search system to retrieve information faster.
	Belgium	Processing asylum applications at second or higher instance	CALL implemented several initiatives to make the appeal process more child-friendly.
	Belgium	Reception of applicants for international protection	Fedasil converted places for unaccompanied minors to family places.
	Belgium	Reception of applicants for international protection	The project Being a Child in a Reception Centre concluded in 2025. As part of this project, a tool was launched to support authorities in gathering applicant children’s experiences on their stay in reception.
	Belgium	Reception of applicants for international protection	The PATH project was implemented to assist beneficiaries of international protection to transition from reception to sustainable housing.
	Belgium	Reception of applicants for international protection	Fedasil designed a series of ‘Digital Skills’ modules to strengthen the digital autonomy of applicants and facilitate their integration, in collaboration with Ghent University and with the support of AMIF.
	Belgium	Access to information	The Immigration Office launched new information campaigns on YouTube, with dissuasive messages about Belgium’s asylum and migration policy, targeting applicants with small chances of protection, both in countries of origin and transit.
	Bulgaria	Processing asylum applications at first instance	SAR received EU funds through the Technical Support Instrument (TSI) for the development of a modular case management system.
















	Bulgaria	Processing asylum applications at first instance	Bulgaria received funding from Switzerland to strengthen migration management, including the digitalisation of the asylum procedure, the creation of an initial reception unit, improvement of the safe zones for unaccompanied children and enhanced protection for applicants, especially children.
	Bulgaria	Country of origin information	An ongoing project aimed to create an internal electronic COI platform for SAR, allowing case officers to send COI queries and store internal COI documents.
	Bulgaria	Reception of applicants for international protection	Work on a reception strategy continued with support from the EUAA.
	Bulgaria	Persons with special needs in the asylum procedure	A new pilot project was launched with EU funding to create alternative social services for unaccompanied children, in partnership with the IOM, UNICEF and four municipalities.
	Bulgaria	Resettlement and humanitarian admissions	SAR continued its resettlement project which was launched in September 2024 with AMIF funding and completed a selection mission in Istanbul for the resettlement of up to 25 refugees.
	Croatia	Processing asylum applications at first instance	The AMIF-funded project “Strengthening capacities for international protection” was launched to purchase equipment for better communication with applicants and enable remote hearings and their transcripts.
	Croatia	Detention during the asylum procedure	Two AMIF-funded projects were approved to enhance infrastructure, living conditions and staff working environments in detention centres for third-country nationals.
	Croatia	Return of former applicants	The AMIF-funded project “Translation and Free Legal Aid in the Return Procedure” was expanded to contract more translators.
	Croatia	Return of former applicants	Co-financed by AMIF, an agreement was signed to train border police officers in applying return procedures for third-country nationals, in line with EU and national laws.
	Cyprus	Reception of applicants for international protection	The Pournara First Reception Centre was upgraded to serve as a screening centre for the processes foreseen in the Screening Regulation. Authorities also proceeded with the construction of a new reception facility and predeparture centre at Limnes.
	Cyprus	Content of protection	A National Strategy and an Action Plan for the integration of migrants were developed for 2026-2029.
	Czechia	Processing asylum applications at first instance	Czechia received EU funds through the Technical Support Instrument (TSI) to update the IT system for registering and managing asylum applications (Azyl III).



	Czechia	Processing asylum applications at second or higher instance	Czechia received EU funds through the Technical Support Instrument (TSI) to harmonise judicial procedures across courts through cooperation in the area of COI.
	Czechia	Content of protection	Following the adoption of a new Housing Support Act, the Ministry of Regional Development, in cooperation with the IOM, launched the project “Improving Access to Housing for Migrants: Analysis of Available Services, Support and Capacity Building of Local Authorities, and Strengthening Cooperation among Key Stakeholders”.
	Denmark	Processing asylum applications at second or higher instance	The Danish Immigration Office prepared guidance on the appeal time limit, right to appeal and legal aid in the Dublin procedure, in cooperation with the Danish Refugee Council and the Refugee Appeals Board.
	Estonia	Processing asylum applications at first instance	A project funded through the Technical Support Instrument (TSI) was implemented to align to the Pact workflows related to responsibility-sharing and vulnerability assessments.
	Estonia	Reception of applicants for international protection	A digital case management tool was developed by the Social Insurance Board and launched within the Social Services and Benefits Data Register (STAR) system to support social workers in linking needs assessments with personalised action plans.
	Finland	Return of former applicants	The Finnish Immigration Service launched a pilot return centre in Vantaa.
	France	Access to procedure	The operationalisation of the France Asile territorial hubs begun with a pilot site opening in the Val-d’Oise department in May 2025.
	France	Processing asylum applications at first instance	AMIF projects continued to pilot the use of AI tools, for example for document searches and to modernise OFPRA’s digital tools.
	France	Reception of applicants for international protection	As part of the cost-saving plan resulting in a reduction of the national reception system, approximately 6,920 reception places were closed throughout 2025.
	France	Reception of applicants for international protection	France undertook preparatory work, including stakeholder consultations, ahead of the planned conversion of emergency accommodation places into regular places within reception centres between January-April 2025. This transformation is scheduled to take place between 2026 and 2028.
	France	Persons with special needs in the asylum procedure	France launched a call for expressions of interest to allocate 50 accommodation places within the national asylum reception system to applicants for international protection recognised as victim of trafficking in human beings or as women victims of violence.



	France	Content of protection	Family reference forms for beneficiaries of international protection were gradually phased out.
	France	Content of protection	The AGIR programme was fully deployed in mainland France to offer individualised support to beneficiaries of international protection for their integration.
	France	Content of protection	The Opening Schools to Parents for Children's Success (OEPRE) programme was revised.
	France	Resettlement and humanitarian admissions	France committed to resettle 3,000 refugees from eight countries (Lebanon, Türkiye, Jordan, Egypt, Ethiopia, Chad, Cameroon and Rwanda) in 2025.
	France	Resettlement and humanitarian admissions	New protocols were signed on the implementation of humanitarian corridors for Syrians and Iraqis from Lebanon.
	Germany	Processing asylum applications at first instance	BAMF prioritised reducing the backlog of cases which had been pending for a longer time.
	Germany	The Dublin procedure	Pilot projects were launched in Hamburg-Rahlstedt and Eisenhüttenstadt to establish specific centres for applicants in the Dublin procedure who are to be transferred to Poland.
	Germany	Content of protection	Family reunifications for beneficiaries of subsidiary protection were suspended on 24 July 2025 for a period of 2 years.
	Greece	Processing asylum applications at first instance	The Project of Prima Facie, i.e. the issuance of decisions from the file for certain nationalities, in 2025 applied only to applicants from Palestine and Afghanistan. For all other nationalities previously included in the project (Syria, Eritrea, Yemen and Sudan), interviews on the merits were conducted.
	Greece	Processing asylum applications at second instance	Lawyers of the Registry of the Ministry of Migration and Asylum, providing legal aid and support to applicants at second instance, resumed their duties in January 2025.
	Greece	Reception of applicants for international protection	In October 2025, the Minister of Immigration and Asylum and the Deputy CEO of the Superfund signed an agreement for tenders concerning the provision of food and the operation and management of accommodation structures. The new agreement focused on the reduction of expenses and drastic limitations of benefits in reception.
	Greece	Reception of applicants for international protection	The "HERMES-2025" preparedness exercise was implemented to enhance operational preparedness and coordination of all involved bodies in addressing emergency situations.
	Greece	Persons with special needs in the asylum procedure	In accordance with the amended circular (2964/07.01.2025), as of January 2025, the Reception and Identification Service can



			proceed with the full registration of unaccompanied minors in Malakasa and Diavata, without the need to refer them to the competent Asylum Offices.
	Greece	Persons with special needs in the asylum procedure	As of September 2025, vulnerability is also assessed by the Hippocrates programme in mainland facilities of the Reception and Identification Service (RIS), increasing vulnerability identification throughout the duration of applicants' stay in RIS facilities.
	Greece	Persons with special needs in the asylum procedure	In July 2025, a memorandum of cooperation was signed between the Ministry of Immigration and Asylum and the Ministry of Social Cohesion and Family to strengthen institutional cooperation in the prevention and response to gender-based and domestic violence among refugees and migrants.
	Hungary	Processing asylum applications at first instance	The government reiterated its stance to not implement the Pact on Migration and Asylum.
	Ireland	Processing asylum applications at first instance	The International Protection Office (IPO) launched the International Protection Applicant Portal, which allows registered applicants to check the status of their application and download their application form.
	Ireland	Special procedures to assess protection needs	Pakistan was added to the accelerated processing scheme for international protection applications.
	Ireland	Processing asylum applications at second or higher instance	The Chairperson of the International Protection Appeals Tribunal (IPAT) issued a new Guideline on Medico-Legal Reports, replacing the 2017 version.
	Ireland	Reception of applicants for international protection	The government approved the purchase of the Citywest Hotel and Convention Centre to provide stable, state-owned accommodation for people seeking international protection, maintaining existing services and capacity for around 2,300 residents.
	Ireland	Persons with special needs in the asylum procedure	The Department of Justice, Home Affairs and Migration allocated EUR 1.75 million to Children and Young People's Services Committees to expand support for children, young people and families in international protection accommodation.
	Italy	Processing asylum applications at first instance	108 case officers were deployed nationwide to support faster processing of asylum applications.
	Italy	Reception of applicants for international protection	A memorandum of understanding was signed to promote local cooperation between prefectures and church entities on reception and integration measures.













	Italy	Detention during the asylum procedure	Access and inspection powers of parliamentarians and experts in CPRs were restricted.
	Italy	Persons with special needs in the asylum procedure	The Ministry of the Interior and the EUAA published a new handbook for stakeholders involved in the care and reception of unaccompanied minors.
	Italy	Persons with special needs in the asylum procedure	The Swiss State Secretariat for Migration supported a new project to strengthen the reception and protection of minors.
	Italy	Persons with special needs in the asylum procedure	The procedure to convert the residence permit of a minor upon reaching adulthood was digitalised.
	Italy	Resettlement and humanitarian admissions	A memorandum of understanding was signed with UNHCR establishing a new legal pathway to employ qualified refugees from Colombia, Egypt, Uganda and Jordan
	Latvia	Access to procedure	The enhanced border protection regime was extended in five administrative regions. Consequently, people seeking international protection could only apply at official border-crossing points.
	Lithuania	Access to procedure	A state of emergency was maintained along the border with Belarus, and several temporary restrictions were introduced at various border checkpoints due to the risk of instrumentalisation of migrants. The Migration Department noted that asylum applications continued to be registered within the territory and safeguards for vulnerable persons remained in place.
	Lithuania	Legal assistance and representation	Since 1 January 2025, foreigners may also receive state-guaranteed secondary legal aid, upon request, for proceedings before the Supreme Administrative Court, in accordance with the applicable legal framework.
	Lithuania	Reception of applicants for international protection	The Reception and Integration Agency is implementing the AMIF-funded project “Reception Infrastructure Improvement and Expansion”. The project includes infrastructure upgrades at reception centres, logistical enhancements and acquiring essential material to ensure adequate living conditions, efficient reception processes and preparedness for future arrivals.
	Lithuania	Reception of applicants for international protection	The Reception and Integration Agency launched two new national programmes on socio-cultural orientation and psychological resilience. The programmes were part of a broader strategy to enhance reception quality and integration outcomes.



	Luxembourg	Reception of applicants for international protection	Two AMIF-funded projects supported applicants and people with temporary protection for their employment integration.
	Luxembourg	Reception of applicants for international protection	The National Reception Office became responsible for the provision of information on reception conditions to all applicants.
	Malta	Access to information	The IPA launched a new website, which includes more information on the agency and the asylum procedure.
	Malta	Processing asylum applications at second or higher instance	The Ministry of Home Affairs, Security and Employment issued a call for warranted lawyers to provide legal aid services at the appeals stage before the International Protection Appeals Tribunal and the Immigration Appeals Board.
	Netherlands	Processing asylum applications at first instance	New country policies were adopted for applicants from Lebanon, Syria, Libya, Somalia, Türkiye, Mali, Colombia and Yemen.
	Netherlands	Special procedures to assess protection needs	The application of the national list of safe countries of origin was temporarily suspended on 23 September 2025 until the entry into application of the Pact, meaning that the accelerated procedure could no longer be applied, although applications from these countries continued to be processed with priority.
	Netherlands	Processing asylum applications at first instance	The extension of the statutory decision period for asylum applications was lifted, following a CJEU judgment.
	Netherlands	Reception of applicants for international protection	The implementation of the Distribution Act continued and contributed to an increase in capacity.
	Netherlands	Reception of applicants for international protection	COA continued to work on developing longer-term reception models in cooperation with municipalities.
	Netherlands	Reception of applicants for international protection	COA and COC Netherlands renewed their partnership to further improve the safety, inclusion and well-being of LGBTIQ residents.
	Netherlands	Reception of applicants for international protection	The process availability location (pbl) reopened in June 2025 in Ter Apel as part of a pilot project under the Process Availability Approach (pba). This approach consists of multiple escalation steps which could lead to the applicant being placed in a designated restricted location, the pbl. The target groups are applicants with a low chance of protection who cause multiple incidents with a medium impact or one incident with a major impact. Throughout the approach, the procedure of the applicants is prioritised, and they receive intensive support through daily programmes or educational sessions. If placed in the pbl, they could face detention when leaving the



			designated restricted area (which is not limited to the pbl location). The maximum stay in a pbl is 4 weeks.
	Netherlands	Reception of applicants for international protection	The policy on the use of reimbursed taxis for applicants was revised and only permitted for acute medical situations.
	Netherlands	Content of protection	A new application procedure was put in place for family reunification requests. The Dutch Refugee Council no longer provides guidance, but the IND developed more multi-lingual material, established a phone line and an IND info desk can support applicants with their application.
	Norway	Processing asylum applications at first instance	The Immigration Appeals Board (UNE) established a dedicated team to handle asylum applications by Ukrainian nationals and renewals of collective protection.
	Norway	Reception of applicants for international protection	The guidance on applicants' right to work was revised, clarifying that asylum seekers whose cases are on hold or suspended due to uncertain country conditions are no longer deemed highly likely to receive protection and thus lose eligibility for employment.
	Norway	Persons with special needs in the asylum procedure	The UDI provided grants for child-focused activities in reception centres and delivered multiple training sessions for staff at the national arrival centre, including specialised modules on identifying and assisting victims of torture.
	Norway	Content of protection	The government recommended that municipalities take account of their capacity to rapidly set up services after a settlement agreement is signed, evaluate the share of foreign residents in certain parts of the municipality, and assess labour and educational opportunities when allocating a beneficiary of international protection into a municipality.
	Norway	Content of protection	The Ministry of Justice and Public Security issued instructions for cases when a recognised refugee has travelled to their home country in violation of the conditions of their residence permit in Norway.
	Norway	Content of protection	The integration programme was revised to place more emphasis on employment orientation early on.
	Norway	Return of former applicants	The government introduced the new 2025–2030 return strategy.
	Portugal	Access to procedure	The government rolled out a measure under its 2025 migration agenda to improve access to the asylum procedure. The measure included a new border-triage model and upgraded temporary facilities at external EU borders,



			aiming to ensure faster and more compliant first-line reception, registration and screening.
	Portugal	Processing asylum applications at first instance	The government aligned first instance decision-making in the regular asylum procedure with the ministerial chain of competence foreseen in law, discontinuing the sub-delegation to AIMA's Board and retaining delegation only to the Secretary of State.
	Portugal	Processing asylum applications at first instance	AIMA applied a prioritised case management approach to high-recognition nationalities and applicants arriving through EU relocation, advancing these profiles in the workflow to accelerate protection decisions, support backlog reduction and stabilise processing capacity.
	Portugal	Processing asylum applications at first instance	AIMA applied a prioritised case management approach to Afghan applicants – with a particular focus on women and girls – introducing front-loaded assessments, earlier scheduling and, in the case of women and girls, omitting interviews when possible according to the conditions allowed by law. The objective was to align national practice with recent CJEU jurisprudence and UNHCR guidelines.
	Romania	Resettlement and humanitarian admissions	The government adopted a decision to resettle 300 Eritrean, Sudanese and South Sudanese refugees from Kenya and Egypt during 2026-2027.
	Slovakia	Reception of applicants for international protection	The Mobile Outreach Team of the Migration Office started to provide support and services to applicants living outside of reception facilities, including psychological counselling and support, social counselling, cultural mediation and information provision.
	Slovakia	Persons with special needs in the asylum procedure	Applicant files in the MIGRA information system were supplemented with two new sub-files on vulnerabilities and social documentation.
	Slovenia	Resettlement and humanitarian admissions	The Education Pathway to Slovenia was launched by national authorities and the Euro-Mediterranean University (EMUNI), in cooperation with UNHCR, allowing refugees who have completed their Bachelor's degree to follow a Master's degree in the country.
	Spain	Access to information	During 2025, reception authorities worked on having more accessible and understandable language in their communications with people in the reception system. Staff also received training to ensure that the guidelines were applied.
	Spain	The Dublin procedure	The Dublin unit received additional staff and the processing of outgoing requests was resumed.
	Spain	The Dublin procedure	IT platforms are being upgraded to automatically send data on transfers to relevant



			national authorities (e.g. reception staff, police). The aim is to improve the practical aspects of transfers and to react swiftly to last-minute changes.
	Spain	Processing asylum applications at first instance	A new case management system (LARES) is being developed to facilitate the processing of applications for international protection, implement an electronic, paperless solution and interlink different databases used in the asylum procedure.
	Spain	Interpretation services	A working group was created with the participation of different stakeholders to exchange expertise on matters related to the provision of interpretation and to produce resources and tools to be used by applicants and beneficiaries of international protection.
	Spain	Reception of applicants for international protection	A new shift system was put in place for a number of staff in reception to be on call during weekends to ensure availability in case of an emergency.
	Spain	Reception of applicants for international protection	Following the continued increase in migrant arrivals and the significant change in their profiles, a response plan was implemented in the Balearic Islands to strengthen humanitarian assistance and improve inter-institutional coordination on the islands, through a combination of immediate response actions and medium-term structural measures.
	Spain	Persons with special needs in the asylum procedure	The making and the lodging of an application by unaccompanied minors on the Canary Islands were merged into a single step. Applications by unaccompanied minors throughout the country were prioritised both in terms of lodging and decision-making.
	Spain	Content of protection	The Ministry of Inclusion, Social Security and Migration and La Caixa Foundation renewed their collaboration for the “Tend a hand. Welcome” programme, an initiative designed to facilitate the social integration of beneficiaries of international and temporary protection who are part of the International and Temporary Reception and Protection System (SAPI). The programme aims to place beneficiaries in a home with a Spanish family for at least 6 months.
	Spain	Resettlement and humanitarian admissions	The government approved measures for the evacuation of children with health conditions from Gaza and their families (200 people), as part of humanitarian admission.
	Sweden	Processing asylum applications at first instance	The SMA launched a project (K.R.A.F.T.) to strengthen opportunities for skills developments for its staff, and thus, the agency’s overall adaptability and resilience.



	Sweden	Processing asylum applications at first instance	A new digital platform was developed for SMA case officers, which contains a monitoring tool to produce statistics on the progress of cases.
	Sweden	Special procedures to assess protection needs	Georgia was removed from the safe countries of origin list.
	Sweden	Access to information	The Swedish Migration Agency launched a new website.
	Switzerland	Processing asylum applications at first instance	The comprehensive national Asylum Strategy 2027 was presented jointly by the Swiss Confederation, cantons, cities and municipalities.
	Switzerland	Processing asylum applications at first instance	SEM implemented a pilot project on analysing applicants' electronic data, when a person's identity, nationality or travel route cannot be otherwise verified.
	Switzerland	Reception of applicants for international protection	SEM announced a pilot project starting in summer 2026, whereby asylum seekers whose behaviour disrupts the functioning of a centre will be housed in a designated area within the same facility, with adapted security arrangements but equal access to activities and outings.
	Switzerland	Content of protection	SEM launched a joint initiative with the association of Swiss higher education institutions to facilitate refugees' access to higher education and address the country's shortage in skilled labour.
	Switzerland	Return of former applicants	SEM announced an adjustment to its asylum and deportation policy on Afghanistan. Starting in mid-April 2025, in certain exceptional cases, single Afghan men whose asylum applications were rejected could again be returned to Afghanistan under specific conditions.



Institutional developments

	Country	Thematic area	Development
	Austria	Processing asylum applications at first instance	Responsibilities within the BFA were reallocated, and the organisation's structure was adjusted to these changes. Separate thematic units were brought together under new departments.
	Croatia	Processing asylum applications at first instance	The Ministry of the Interior restructured its Sector for International Protection into three services, by elevating its former Dublin Procedure Department into a separate service and creating the Department for Information and Documentation and the Department of Border Procedures.
	Cyprus	Access to procedure	Responsibilities for registration were divided between the Aliens and Immigration Units (AIU) of the police for asylum applications and CAS for temporary protection.
	Cyprus	Persons with special needs in the asylum procedure	The Deputy Ministry for Migration and International Protection was reorganised by transferring the management of centres for unaccompanied minors to the Cyprus Asylum Service (CAS).
	Cyprus	Processing asylum applications at second or higher instance	The Law on the Establishment and Operation of the International Protection Administrative Court (IPAC) was amended. IPAC was transferred under the administrative auspices of the Supreme Constitutional Court. Issues related to the appointment of IPAC judges now fall under the remit of the Supreme Constitutional Judicial Council. Appeals to decisions issued by IPAC are examined by the Administrative Court of Appeal.
	France	Procedures at second and higher instances	Two new territorial chambers of the National Court of Asylum opened in Nantes and Marseilles.
	Ireland	Access to procedure	A bill provided for the establishment of the Chief Inspector of Asylum Border Procedures, which is an independent monitoring mechanism to ensure that there is full compliance with EU and international laws during screening and the application of the border procedure, and to investigate any allegations of breaches.
	Ireland	Procedures at second and higher instances	A bill established a new Second Instance Body, which can make decisions to grant or refuse refugee status or subsidiary protection and to affirm, overturn or vary return decisions.
	Lithuania	Reception of applicants for international protection	The Reception and Integration Agency started its operations in January 2025. This change was made to transform from a centre-based reception model to a consolidated, national-level institutional framework responsible for reception



			and also for the coordination of integration measures and quality standards. The reform is considered to be an important structural development in the country's migration governance, aiming to strengthen operational capacity, centralise key functions and enhance strategic planning within the asylum and reception system.
	Luxembourg	Procedures at second and higher instances	The Council of Government approved a draft bill to establish a dedicated asylum and immigration court and reinforce the staffing of administrative courts.
	Malta	Processing asylum applications at first instance	The International Protection Agency (IPA) recruited additional staff and created two new units: a Flow Operations Unit to optimise case processing and a Support and Corporate Unit to decentralise finance-related processes.
	Netherlands	Access to procedure	The Identification and Screening Service for Asylum Seekers (DISA) became operational on 1 January 2025.
	Portugal	Processing asylum applications at first instance	The position of a Secretary of State for the Presidency and Immigration was established, being the first time that migration policies fall under a role explicitly dedicated to this area.
	Portugal	The Dublin procedure	A Dublin unit was created within the Agency for Integration, Migration and Asylum (AIMA) to specifically handle Dublin cases and the transition to the AMMR system.
	Portugal	Detention during the asylum procedure	A decision was taken to establish a courtroom at Lisbon Airport, intended to facilitate judicial proceedings in proximity to the border area, including hearings without requiring transfers outside the international zone.
	Portugal	Return of former applicants	The National Unit for Foreigners and Borders was created within the Public Security Police, with consolidated responsibilities for immigration control, border management, and enforcement of removal and expulsion orders.
	Spain	Reception of applicants for international protection	The Sub-Directorate General of Infrastructure for Migration, which is responsible for the infrastructure of reception centres and monitors construction work in the centres, was moved under the General Directorate of Humanitarian Assistance and the International Protection Reception System from the General Directorate of International Protection.
	Sweden	Processing asylum applications at first instance	A number of SMA service centres closed, as the services are, instead, available at National Government Service centres, thus expanding SMA presence from 11 to 35 locations.



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