

Overview of the Role of UNHCR in EU+ Countries



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**Who is Who in International Protection in the EU+,
Issue No 11**

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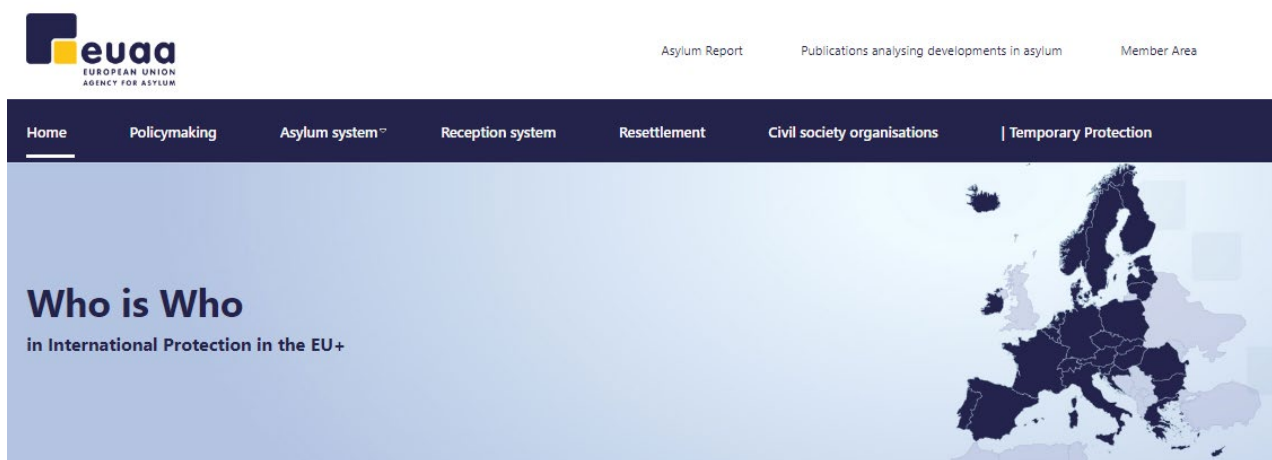


The Who is Who in International Protection in the EU+ project

Who is Who is a mapping project of various stakeholders and their roles in asylum and reception systems at the European, national and local levels. The key actors and their roles are presented as defined in national policies and legislation and implemented in practice. The different competences and interlinks between actors are also outlined.

The information is available online on the Who is Who platform:

<https://whoiswho.euaa.europa.eu/>



Methodology

The Who is Who project follows the same methodology that is used for the EUAA Asylum Report. Accordingly, the Information and Analysis Sector undertakes desk research based on publicly-available sources and EUAA reports. The information is validated by Member States and other stakeholders, if applicable.

The information presented in the first edition of this report (January 2024) has been reviewed and validated by the UNHCR Liaison Office to the EUAA and EU Member States. Subsequent updates were carried out by the EUAA on the basis of information published by UNHCR on a periodic basis.





The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), established in 1950, is a multilateral intergovernmental institution which operates as a subsidiary organ under the United Nations General Assembly.

Embedded in international law, UNHCR's [mandate](#) stems from the [1951 Refugee Convention](#) and the [1967 Protocol relating to the Status of Refugees](#). Its core responsibilities include providing international protection and humanitarian assistance, and seeking durable solutions for refugees, returnees and stateless persons. UNHCR is also legally entitled to directly intercede on behalf of refugees and stateless persons who would otherwise lack legal representation.

As part of its core mandate, UNHCR has a [supervisory role](#) in ensuring compliance with treaty obligations, including through monitoring and reporting. In line with Article 35 of the 1951 Refugee Convention, state parties to the Convention have a duty to cooperate with UNHCR and to facilitate its supervisory responsibilities, including through the provision of relevant information.

The role of UNHCR is also reflected in the legal instruments conforming the Common European Asylum System (CEAS). The recast Qualification Directive, for example, highlights the usefulness of consultations with UNHCR for first instance determination. Most notably, Article 29 of the recast Asylum Procedures Directive specifies that UNHCR should have access to applicants; to information on individual applications and decisions; and to present its views at any stage of the procedure. Applicants' right to communicate with UNHCR at any stage of the asylum procedure is also spelled out in Article 12 of the recast Asylum Procedures Directive.

UNHCR cooperates with national governments, and its specific functions vary from country to country in accordance with the collaboration agreements in place. The agency is currently present in 135 countries, where it conducts activities in partnership with national authorities, civil society organisations, the private sector and refugee communities.

UNHCR in EU+ countries

The work of UNHCR in Europe is coordinated by the Regional Bureau for Europe based in Geneva. UNHCR is operational in all EU+ countries, maintaining a significant presence in the region with 22 country offices and 4 regional representations or multi-country offices.

Additionally, through its Representations to European Institutions in Brussels and Strasbourg, and its Liaison Offices to the EUAA and Frontex, UNHCR works closely with the [European Union](#) on issues related to international protection.

This overview presents UNHCR's activities and priorities across EU+ countries, mapping the agency's specific role in asylum procedures.





Key findings

- ✓ UNHCR is actively involved in first instance determination procedures in Italy and Spain and provides cross-cutting support to asylum procedures in 15 countries. In Spain, UNHCR's involvement ranges from having an advisory role to national authorities, assisting in preparatory works for legislation and policies, disseminating guidelines and country of origin information (COI) and providing legal assistance to applicants for international protection.
- ✓ The agency provides information to applicants and beneficiaries of international protection in all EU+ countries.
- ✓ UNHCR is also involved in second instance procedures in 7 EU+ countries. This includes working with the judiciary in support of selection procedures, training judges or directly intervening in judicial proceedings at national and European levels.
- ✓ UNHCR supports monitoring and quality assurance activities in 27 EU+ countries, with the aim of strengthening asylum systems. Additionally, the agency supports capacity-building of national authorities in 23 EU+ countries, including through the delivery of training and the provision of technical assistance.
- ✓ As the main stakeholder in charge of identifying and referring refugees for resettlement consideration, UNHCR supports the implementation of resettlement programmes in 17 EU+ countries.
- ✓ UNHCR has an active advocacy role across all EU+ countries.



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National legal framework

Cooperation with UNHCR is covered by the [Asylum Act](#), Articles 32, 33, 35 and 63.

Fact sheets

[Austria Bi-Annual fact sheet, February 2026](#)

UNHCR Austria

The UNHCR office in Austria was established in 1951.

The country office focuses on monitoring, legal protection and advocacy.

ROLE IN ASYLUM PROCEDURES

UNHCR is not directly involved in processing asylum applications in Austria. The country office monitors the implementation of national, European and international asylum legislation and is involved in quality assurance activities related to the asylum system.

MAIN ACTIVITIES

UNHCR Austria monitors the asylum practice and promotes its assessments with national and regional authorities and stakeholders.

UNHCR focuses on the implementation of the EU Pact on Migration and Asylum, and advocates for national legislation to be aligned with international human rights and refugee law.

The country office has focused on capacity-building and training of asylum practitioners and reception teams, for example through [Project Bridge](#).

UNHCR organised workshops for teachers, youth and volunteers in Austria, also carrying out a project on information-sharing on asylum and inclusion.

[Statelessness](#) has been a priority and the country office has contributed to fill data gaps through a [study](#) on statelessness in Austria.

UNHCR Austria advocates for enhanced protection capacities and socio-economic inclusion.

KEY PRIORITIES

- Access to the territory
- Advocacy
- Child Protection
- Communication with refugee communities
- Education
- Family reunification
- Integration
- Protection
- Reception monitoring
- Statelessness



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National legal framework

The role of UNHCR is covered by the [Asylum Refugee Law](#), Article 3.

Fact sheets

[Bulgaria, Bi-Annual fact sheet, February 2026](#)

UNHCR BULGARIA

The UNHCR office in Bulgaria was established in 1993.

The country office focuses on advocacy and monitoring activities.

ROLE IN ASYLUM PROCEDURES

UNHCR is not directly involved in processing asylum applications in Bulgaria but cooperates with national authorities by providing translated guidance materials, as well as summaries of European and national asylum case law for administrative and judicial authorities.

MAIN ACTIVITIES

The country office [monitors](#) borders and living conditions in reception and detention centres, where it also provides information and legal assistance to applicants for international protection. UNHCR keeps delivering assistance through MHPPS, counselling and community outreach activities. The country office provided technical recommendations to the government on the national implementation of the EU Pact on Migration and Asylum.

UNHCR Bulgaria cooperates with national authorities and civil society organisations in areas related to education, financial inclusion and access to the labour market.

Capacity-building activities include training and orientation in areas related to child protection, guardianship, reception services, and alternative care arrangements for unaccompanied children, in cooperation with national child protection authorities and the EUAA. UNHCR Bulgaria provided with its partners anti-trafficking training for refugees and co-organized national-level capacity-building for state officials to enhance the identification, referral, and assistance of trafficking survivors.








KEY PRIORITIES

- Access to the territory and procedure
- Asylum procedures
- Child protection
- Gender-based violence (GBV)
- Integration
- Mental health and psychosocial support
- Reception and detention monitoring
- Statelessness



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National legal framework

The role of UNHCR in the asylum procedure is covered by the [Code of Entry and Residence of Foreigners and the Right to Asylum \(CESEDA\)](#), Articles R223-2 to R223-7.

Fact sheets

[France Bi-Annual fact sheet, February 2026](#)

UNHCR FRANCE

The UNHCR office in France was established in 1952.

The country office focuses on advocacy and monitoring of asylum procedures and reception conditions.

ROLE IN ASYLUM PROCEDURES

The country office has an advisory role to the French Office for the Protection of Refugees and Stateless Persons (OFPRA) and the National Court of Asylum (CNDA). UNHCR supports the selection and training of judges and intervenes in judicial proceedings.

MAIN ACTIVITIES

The country office supports preparatory work for legislation and provides recommendations to draft laws and policies.

UNHCR France monitors reception and detention conditions at the borders and in Overseas Countries and Territories and provides training on procedures for unaccompanied minors to government officials and civil society organisations. UNHCR assists the authorities in the implementation of the UK-France [pilot project](#) for the Channel to improve access to protection.

UNHCR supports the implementation of France's [resettlement](#) programmes through the identification, referral and selection of refugees for resettlement consideration. The country office manages the [UNIV'R](#) project, aimed to create education pathways to France, and the INTER'ACT project, to raise awareness in schools. UNHCR advocates for flexible family reunification procedures, supports the resolution of individual cases and shares good practices.

[Integration](#) has been a priority. UNHCR France cooperates with partners from the private sector to support access to the labour market of beneficiaries of international protection. The country office has also contributed to the creation of an Academy for refugee participation.

AREAS OF ACTION

- Advocacy
- Asylum procedures
- Complementary pathways
- Family reunification
- Integration
- Reception monitoring
- Statelessness
- Support to refugee-led organisations



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National legal framework

The role of UNHCR in the asylum procedure is covered by the [Asylum Act](#), Section 9.

Fact sheets

[Germany Bi-Annual fact sheet, February 2026](#)

UNHCR GERMANY

The country office is located in Berlin.

The country office focuses on advocacy and monitoring of asylum procedures, resettlement and family reunification.

ROLE IN ASYLUM PROCEDURES

UNHCR is not directly involved in processing asylum applications in Germany but cooperates and exchanges with the Federal Office for Migration and Refugees (BAMF) in quality assurance of the asylum system. The office also works with the judiciary on matters related to eligibility and fosters independent legal assistance to ensure fairness in the asylum procedure.

MAIN ACTIVITIES

UNHCR cooperates with German authorities at the national and state levels, including the Ministry of the Interior, BAMF, Members of Parliament and administrative courts. The country office also liaises with the Federal Foreign Office and the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) in areas related to the provision of humanitarian assistance in UNHCR's global operations.

The country office advocates for strengthening legal framework and fair procedures on family reunification and shares considerations on the practical implementation of the CEAS reforms to foster a protection-friendly system.

UNHCR supports the implementation of Germany's [resettlement](#) programmes through the identification, referral and selection of refugees for resettlement consideration. The country office also supports refugees globally through the [DAFI scholarship programme](#).

The country office also works with civil society organisations to provide counselling for family reunification.








KEY PRIORITIES

- Advocacy
- Asylum procedures
- Family reunification
- Global Compact for Refugees
- Resettlement



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National legal framework

The role of UNHCR in the asylum procedure is established in Article 71 of the [Asylum Code](#), while cooperation with UNHCR is covered by Articles 7, 79, 119 and 140.

Fact sheets

[Greece Bi-Annual fact sheet, February 2026](#)

UNHCR GREECE

The UNHCR Office in Greece was established in 1952. The country office is located in Athens, and there are two field offices in Evros and Lesvos, and field presence in Samos, Kos, Thessaloniki, Chios, Leros.

The country office focuses on advocacy, legal assistance and capacity-building.

ROLE IN ASYLUM PROCEDURES

UNHCR is not directly involved in processing asylum applications in Greece but offers its recommendations to national authorities on procedural safeguards, on protection-centred and rights-based border management systems. UNHCR is also present at arrival points providing support to asylum-seekers.

MAIN ACTIVITIES

UNHCR Greece provides information to applicants and beneficiaries of international protection through a dedicated helpline and its field offices. The office also provides legal assistance in cooperation with civil society organisations. UNHCR also offers its expertise to the Ministry of Migration and Asylum on the implementation of the EU Pact on Migration and Asylum.

UNHCR Greece provides psychosocial support, accommodation and foster care to persons with vulnerabilities and promotes their access to the labour market and to social protection services. UNHCR Greece also focuses on child protection and persons with disabilities, preventing gender-based violence and trafficking of human beings.

UNHCR Greece conducts trainings with the police and coast guard on the effective management of mixed movements and protection principles.

[Integration](#) and awareness-raising have been a priority. The country office cooperates with refugee communities, national authorities and partners from the private sector to create livelihood opportunities.

KEY PRIORITIES

- Advocacy
- Integration
- Institutional strengthening
- Legal assistance
- Persons with specific needs
- Protection
- Statelessness
- Voluntary relocation



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National legal framework

The role of UNHCR in the asylum procedure is covered by the [Asylum Act](#), Articles 17(1d), 17(2), 77(2), 87, 88(1d) and 103(2c) and (6).

Fact sheets

[Romania Bi-Annual fact sheet, February 2026](#)

UNHCR ROMANIA

The UNHCR office in Romania was established in 1991. There is a country office in Bucharest, and one field Unit in Timisoara. The country office focuses on monitoring the quality of the asylum system, advocacy, and information provision.

ROLE IN ASYLUM PROCEDURES

UNHCR is not directly involved in processing asylum applications in Romania but has an advisory role on areas related to asylum.

MAIN ACTIVITIES

UNHCR monitors asylum procedures, particularly regarding the identification and referral of persons with vulnerabilities. The country office also delivers training to national authorities and partners on topics related to vulnerability assessment and tailored interventions for vulnerable persons.

The country office provides information and legal counselling for asylum seekers and refugees through UNHCR hotlines, Telegram channel, and protection counselling desks and complaint mechanisms.

The country office cooperates with the National Employment Agency and civil society organisations towards the socioeconomic inclusion and capacity-building of refugees, including through language courses, employment coaching and organising job fairs.

UNHCR supports the implementation of Romania's [resettlement](#) programmes through the identification and referral of refugees for resettlement consideration.

In cooperation with national authorities, UNHCR designed a cash assistance programme to support the most vulnerable refugees until their inclusion in the labour market or in the national social protection system. UNHCR Romania assists vulnerable refugees, through the distribution of specific items to cover basic needs.

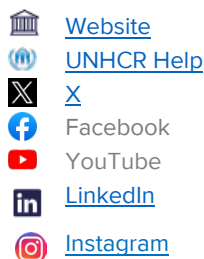
KEY PRIORITIES

- Cash assistance
- Communication with refugee communities
- Humanitarian assistance
- Integration
- Protection
- Statelessness



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National legal framework

The role of UNHCR in the asylum procedure is covered by the [Asylum Act](#), Chapter IV.

Fact sheets

[Spain Bi-Annual fact sheet, February 2026](#)

UNHCR SPAIN

The UNHCR office in Spain was established in 1979. There is a country office in Madrid, and four field offices in Algeciras, Malaga, Las Palmas de Gran Canaria, and Tenerife. The UNHCR country office focuses on access and quality monitoring of asylum procedures, advocacy and improvement of resettlement and complementary pathways.

ROLE IN ASYLUM PROCEDURES

UNHCR is [involved](#) in first instance determination procedures. Applications for international protection are communicated to UNHCR, which can participate in hearings and submit reports for individual case files. UNHCR can submit recommendations to the Inter-Ministerial Commission of Asylum and Refuge but does not have a vote in the individual assessment of applications. UNHCR also supports preparatory work for legislation and policies and has an advisory role in the interpretation and application of international refugee law.

MAIN ACTIVITIES

UNHCR Spain [monitors](#) access to the territory and living conditions in reception and detention facilities. It also provides new arrivals with information and counselling on the asylum procedure and supports the identification and referral of persons with vulnerabilities.

The country office monitors the applications at the Madrid airport and supports the authorities through trend analysis and technical visits. The office also organises training sessions and workshops for national authorities and publishes guidelines and studies related to international protection, [child protection](#), [gender-based violence](#), and family reunification.

UNHCR organises information sessions on international protection and asylum procedures in detention and reception centres, including centres for minors.

UNHCR supports the implementation of Spain's [resettlement](#) programmes through the identification and referral of refugees for resettlement consideration.

The country office advocates to address gaps in the processing of asylum claims from unaccompanied minors in the Canaries and calls for greater flexibility in the criteria for family reunification.

KEY PRIORITIES








- Access to procedures
- Child protection
- Community-based protection
- Complementary pathways
- Gender-based violence (GBV)
- Integration
- Resettlement



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National legal framework

The role of UNHCR in the asylum procedure is covered by the [Asylum Act](#), Articles 66 and 113.

Fact sheets

[Switzerland Bi-Annual fact sheet, February 2026](#)

UNHCR SWITZERLAND

The UNHCR office in Bern was established in 2019. The office also covers Liechtenstein.

UNHCR Switzerland focuses on advocacy, monitoring, resettlement and complementary pathways.

ROLE IN ASYLUM PROCEDURES

UNHCR is not directly involved in processing asylum applications in Switzerland but has an [advisory role](#) on asylum matters and issues recommendations to national authorities.

MAIN ACTIVITIES

The country office provides information on asylum procedures by operating UNHCR hotlines, protection counselling desks and the UNHCR Help Page. UNHCR supports the implementation of the parts of the EU Pact on Migration and Asylum applicable to Switzerland.

UNHCR supports the implementation of Switzerland's [resettlement](#) programmes through the identification and referral of refugees for resettlement consideration and coordination of travel arrangements. UNHCR also cooperates with authorities to enhance the implementation of complementary pathways.

In the context of the Ukraine emergency response, UNHCR monitors registration facilities and cooperates with national authorities and civil society organisations on areas related to child protection.

KEY PRIORITIES

- Access to education
- Advocacy
- Capacity-building
- Complementary pathways
- External relations
- Protection monitoring
- Statelessness



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REPRESENTATION FOR EU AFFAIRS, BELGIUM, IRELAND, LUXEMBOURG, NETHERLANDS AND PORTUGAL

The Regional Representation for EU Affairs (RREUA) collaborates with EU institutions in Brussels, promoting respect for international protection norms in EU law and policy. The office provides opinions and recommendations on a wide range of issues related to access to the territory, asylum, protection, resettlement and integration in EU Member States.

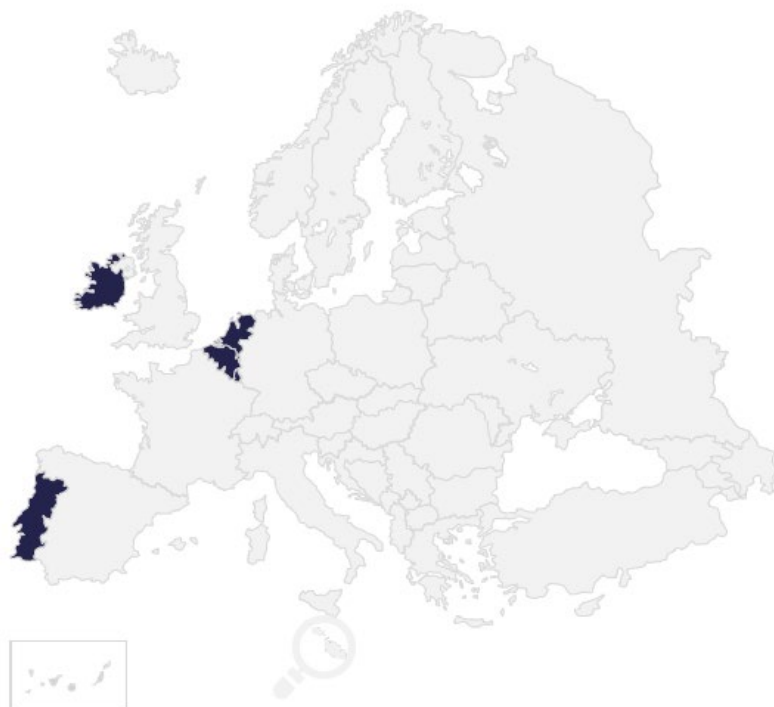
The Regional Representation in Brussels also supports UNHCR's activities and regional offices in litigation before national and regional courts on legal questions of concern to UNHCR. It offers support on thematic issues, such as trafficking of human beings, gender-based violence, child protection and statelessness.

The UNHCR Regional Representation for EU Affairs coordinates the work of two Liaison Offices to EU Agencies (the [EUAA](#) and [Frontex](#)).

COUNTRY OFFICES

The Representation covers:

- Belgium
- Ireland
- Luxembourg
- Netherlands
- Portugal





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National legal framework

Cooperation and information-exchange with UNHCR is covered by the [Aliens Act](#), Articles 57/6/1, 57/6/6, 57/7, and in Section IIIBIS.

Fact sheets

[Belgium Bi-Annual fact sheet, February 2026](#)

UNHCR BELGIUM

The UNHCR office in Brussels was established in 1952.

The country office focuses on advocacy, monitoring and resettlement.

ROLE IN ASYLUM PROCEDURES

UNHCR is not directly involved in the processing asylum applications in Belgium but has an [advisory role](#) to the government on draft legislation and policies.

MAIN ACTIVITIES

The country office focuses on advocacy in areas related to reception and detention conditions, family reunification, integration and increasing reception capacity.

UNHCR Belgium provides information to applicants and beneficiaries of international protection on their rights and obligations. The office also cooperates with civil society organisations to provide legal support to both applicants for international protection and lawyers involved in asylum cases.

While the resettlement programme has been temporarily suspended, UNHCR supports Belgium's [educational pathways](#) programmes.

In July 2025, UNHCR issued comments on the draft law on family reunification and reception. The office is also engaged with authorities in the implementation of the EU Pact on Migration and Asylum.

In the context of the Ukraine emergency response, UNHCR supports authorities in monitoring child protection and provides information to persons fleeing Ukraine.

KEY PRIORITIES

- Advocacy
- Asylum procedures
- Detention monitoring
- Family reunification
- Integration
- Reception monitoring
- Resettlement and complementary pathways
- Statelessness



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National legal framework

Cooperation and information exchange with UNHCR is covered by the [1996 Refugee Act](#), Article 35 (and subsequent amendments).

Fact sheets

[Ireland Bi-Annual fact sheet, February 2026](#)

UNHCR IRELAND

UNHCR has been present in Ireland since 1998.

The country office focuses on advocacy, capacity-building activities and resettlement.

ROLE IN ASYLUM PROCEDURES

UNHCR is not directly involved in processing asylum applications in Ireland but has an advisory role to national authorities, monitors aspects of the interview process, and cooperates with the International Protection Appeals Tribunal and the International protection Office on quality assurance activities.

The country office supports capacity-building by providing training to staff from the Department of Justice, the border management unit and the International Protection Office.

MAIN ACTIVITIES

In the context of advocacy, UNHCR advocates on increasing capacity of reception facilities and on integration and inclusion. The country office supports the Government's implementation of the EU Pact on Migration and Asylum and submitted observations on the International Protection Bill 2026.

The country office created the [Irish Refugee Advisory Board \(IRAB\)](#), a refugee-led organisation which aims to facilitate participation of beneficiaries on international protection in policy development.

UNHCR supports the implementation of Ireland's [resettlement](#) programmes through the identification and referral of refugees for resettlement consideration and through the provision of pre-departure assistance. The country office works with academic institutions in the development of complementary pathways projects.

In the context of the Ukraine emergency response, UNHCR monitors living conditions in reception facilities, provides information on access to essential services and has set up a [helpline](#) for legal advice.

KEY PRIORITIES

- Advocacy
- Asylum procedures
- Resettlement and complementary pathways
- Integration
- Reception monitoring
- Statelessness



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National legal framework

Cooperation and information-exchange with UNHCR is covered by the modified [Law on International Protection and Temporary Protection](#), Articles 10, 24, 30 and 33.

Fact sheets

[Luxembourg Bi-Annual fact sheet, February 2026](#)

UNHCR LUXEMBOURG

UNHCR has been active in Luxembourg since 2014.

The agency focuses on advocacy and awareness-raising activities.

ROLE IN ASYLUM PROCEDURES

UNHCR is not directly involved in processing asylum applications in Luxembourg but occasionally engages in quality assurance and monitoring of the asylum system.

MAIN ACTIVITIES

UNHCR cooperates with national authorities on the quality of asylum procedures and monitors the reception situation. The country office organises training and information sessions for the national authority's staff.

UNHCR liaised with the national authorities and civil society organisations to foster the implementation of the EU Pact on Migration and Asylum.

UNHCR supports the implementation of Luxembourg's [resettlement](#) programmes through the identification and referral of refugees for resettlement consideration and through the provision of pre-departure assistance. The office also advocates for the establishment of educational pathways in Luxembourg, promotes socio-economic inclusion, upholds the best interests of the child and supports family reunification.

KEY PRIORITIES

- Advocacy
- Asylum procedures
- Family reunification
- Integration
- Reception monitoring
- Resettlement
- Statelessness



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Applicants' right to communicate with UNHCR is specified in Article 9(b) of the [Regulations on benefits in kind for asylum seekers and other categories of foreign nationals 2005](#)

Fact sheets

[The Netherlands Bi-Annual fact sheet, February 2026](#)

UNHCR NETHERLANDS

The UNHCR office in the Netherlands was established in 2008.

The country office focuses on advocacy and awareness-raising activities.

ROLE IN ASYLUM PROCEDURES

UNHCR is not directly involved in processing asylum applications in the Netherlands but has an advisory role to the national authorities and provides observations to instructions and guidelines.

MAIN ACTIVITIES

UNHCR monitors living conditions in reception facilities in the Netherlands, including those for unaccompanied minors and emergency reception sites.

UNHCR provided input to the 'Implementation Law Asylum and Migration Pact 2026' and continues to engage with the Ministry on the Pact implementation.

The country office cooperates with the IND in [family reunification](#) processes, for example by facilitating and conducting interviews in countries where UNHCR operates.

Integration has been a priority, and UNHCR has worked with national authorities and civil society organisations towards the strengthening of the [Refugee Advisory Group](#). The country office has also created a [network of refugee-led organisations](#).

In the context of the Ukraine emergency response, UNHCR has conducted research on access to housing, integration, and long-term protection of persons fleeing Ukraine. In 2025, the office also supported municipalities in the transition to flexible housing for Ukrainian beneficiaries.

KEY PRIORITIES

- Asylum procedures
- Child protection
- Family reunification
- Reception monitoring
- Resettlement and complementary pathways
- Statelessness



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National legal framework

Cooperation and information-exchange with UNHCR is covered by the [Asylum Act](#), Articles 13, 17, 18, 20, 24, 28, 29, 33, 33-A, 34, 37, 43, 49 and 82. Applicants' right to communicate with UNHCR is specified in Articles 35-B and 59.

Fact sheets

[Portugal Bi-Annual fact sheet, February 2026](#)

UNHCR PORTUGAL

The UNHCR Office in Portugal was established in 2018, following a previous office's closure in 1998.

The country office focuses on capacity-building, advocacy and legal assistance.

ROLE IN ASYLUM PROCEDURES

UNHCR is not directly involved in processing asylum applications in Portugal. Through its partner, the Portuguese Refugee Council, UNHCR supports applicants' access to free legal assistance and facilitates access to legal aid at the judicial appeal stage.

MAIN ACTIVITIES

UNHCR Portugal provides technical advice to national authorities in areas related to reception conditions, identification and referral of vulnerabilities and child protection. The country office provides training on international protection, border control and child protection to national authorities.

The country office advocates for the participation of refugees, asylum seekers and stateless persons and encourages a community-based approach to policymaking. UNHCR supports flexible family reunification procedures and fosters education and labour mobility pathways. UNHCR engages with the authorities for the implementation of the EU Pact on Migration and Asylum.

UNHCR organised an age assessment procedures workshop to highlight the impact of current procedures and reflect on the requirements of the EU Pact.

KEY PRIORITIES








- Asylum procedures
- Capacity building
- Integration
- Protection
- Resettlement and complementary pathways
- Statelessness





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REGIONAL REPRESENTATION FOR CENTRAL AND SOUTH-EAST EUROPE

The UNHCR Regional Representation for Central Europe (RCE) was created in 2005. In 2026 it became the Regional Representation for Central and South-East Europe (RCSEE).

The regional office has an advisory and advocacy role in areas related to access to territory, reception, asylum procedures, integration and resettlement. It also monitors the situation of statelessness within the region.

The office oversees operations and programmes in country offices. It also conducts administrative and financial oversight of the country offices under its coverage.

COUNTRY OFFICES

The Representation covers the following countries:

EU+ countries

- Croatia
- Hungary
- Slovenia

Non-EU+ countries

- Albania
- Bosnia and Herzegovina
- Kosovo¹
- Montenegro
- North Macedonia
- Serbia










¹ This designation is without prejudice to positions on status and is in line with UNSCR 1244/1999 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence.





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National legal framework

Cooperation with UNHCR in the asylum procedure is covered by the [Act on International and Temporary Protection](#), Articles 11, 28, 42, 44, 56 and 82. Applicants' right to communicate with UNHCR is specified in Article 59.

Fact sheets

[Croatia Bi-Annual fact sheet, February 2026](#)

UNHCR CROATIA

The UNHCR office in Croatia was established in 1991.

The country office focuses on advocacy and monitoring activities.

ROLE IN ASYLUM PROCEDURES

UNHCR is not directly involved in processing asylum applications in Croatia but monitors the asylum system and supports the government in ensuring fair and effective procedures, including through capacity-building activities, commenting on asylum legislation, and sharing country of origin information and guidelines.

MAIN ACTIVITIES

UNHCR Croatia participates in the Advisory Board of an Independent National Monitoring Mechanism to monitor access to the territory and the human rights situation at the borders.

The country office provides information to applicants and beneficiaries of international protection through its websites, social media and dedicated toll-free hotlines.

UNHCR Croatia advocates through its participation in the government's Unaccompanied and Separated Children Protection Commission and promotion of safe disclosure and referral pathways for GBV survivors, prevention of sexual exploitation, abuse, and trafficking. The country office cooperates with national and local authorities through the [Integration Working Group](#) for the development of national action plans. It also cooperates with civil society organisations and stakeholders from the private sector to facilitate access to work and sustainable livelihoods.

UNHCR Croatia worked with six national partners in 2025 to respond to refugee needs in legal assistance, access to territory and asylum, employment support, GBV, child protection, and statelessness.

Capacity-building activities include training national authorities in areas related to GBV prevention and response, trafficking in human beings, safeguarding, and communication with communities.

KEY PRIORITIES

- Access to the territory
- Asylum procedures
- Child protection
- Communication with refugee communities
- Gender-based violence (GBV)
- Integration
- Statelessness



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National legal framework

Applicants' right to communicate with UNHCR is specified in the [Act on Asylum](#), Section 5(1d).

Fact sheets

[Hungary Bi-Annual fact sheet, February 2026](#)

UNHCR HUNGARY

The UNHCR office in Budapest was established in 1989.

The country office focuses on monitoring, technical support and supports coordination of the refugee response in close cooperation with national authorities and local NGOs.

ROLE IN ASYLUM PROCEDURES

UNHCR is not directly involved in processing asylum applications in Hungary. The office monitors the compliance of the national legal framework with international law. In 2025 it resumed capacity building activities with asylum authorities and works with the judiciary in appeal proceedings.

MAIN ACTIVITIES

UNHCR Hungary's advocates for [access to the territory](#) and fair asylum procedures. Activities to promote integration also include counselling, education support, capacity-building, language courses, socioeconomic integration activities, and access to psycho-therapeutic and medical support.

The office supports vulnerability assessments and referrals to the relevant specialised services.

UNHCR and its partners engage with media to promote positive perceptions of refugees to society.

In collaboration with national authorities, UNHCR works on ensuring access to protection for stateless people and supports the authority's in-house quality assurance mechanism for the statelessness determination procedure, along with capacity-building.

The office supports the Ukraine emergency response and coordinates the [Refugee Coordination Forum](#) in Hungary. It also provides employment counselling, language classes, psychological support and durable solutions.

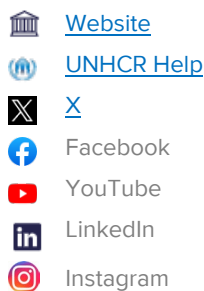
KEY PRIORITIES

- Asylum procedures
- Integration
- Persons with vulnerabilities
- Protection
- Statelessness



Contact information

Slovenia is covered by the following office: Felvinci út 27, 1022 Budapest, Hungary
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National legal framework

The UNHCR role in the Slovenian asylum procedure and the right of the applicant to communicate with UNHCR is specified in Article 7 of the [International Protection Act](#) and Article 9 of the [Temporary Protection of Displaced Persons Act](#).

Fact sheets

[Slovenia Bi-Annual fact sheet, February 2026](#)

UNHCR SLOVENIA

UNHCR's activities in Slovenia began in 1992.

The office focuses on advocacy, capacity-building, legal counselling and psychosocial support to international protection applicants and beneficiaries.

ROLE IN ASYLUM PROCEDURES

UNHCR is not directly involved in processing asylum applications in Slovenia. The office has contributed to the development of Slovenia's asylum system and focuses on the establishment of quality control mechanisms. It provides advice to the government on draft legislation and policies.

MAIN ACTIVITIES

UNHCR Slovenia cooperates with national authorities in monitoring access to the territory and asylum procedures. UNHCR is also monitoring reception and accommodation centres and supports referral mechanisms for unaccompanied minors.

The office participates in the inter-ministerial working group on the EU Pact on Migration and Asylum, provides input to legislation and carries out trainings for its implementation.

UNHCR works with the Legal Centre for the Protection of Human Rights and Environment (PIC) to provide legal assistance, information and counselling to applicants and stateless persons. It cooperates with local partners on the provision of mental health and psychosocial support.

The office engages with national authorities to promote the establishment of a statelessness determination procedure.

UNHCR supports capacity development through training to interpreters, case officers, and reception staff on LGBTIQ rights and child protection.

The country office has supported the establishment of a [resettlement](#) programme, through the identification and referral of refugees for resettlement consideration.

AREAS OF ACTION

- Access to the territory
- Advocacy
- Asylum procedures
- Capacity-building
- Detention monitoring
- Integration
- Statelessness





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REGIONAL REPRESENTATION FOR POLAND, SLOVAKIA AND CZECHIA

The Regional Representation for Poland, Slovakia and Czechia was established in 2026.

The Regional Office focuses on monitoring access to procedures, assessing reception conditions, ensuring legal protection by advocating for the development of appropriate national legal frameworks, and promoting solutions to the problem of statelessness.

COUNTRY OFFICES

The Representation covers:








- Czechia
- Poland
- Slovakia





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National legal framework

The role of UNHCR in the Czech asylum procedure is established in Articles 36-39 of the [Asylum Act](#) (and subsequent [amendments](#)).

Fact sheets

[Czech Republic Bi-Annual fact sheet, February 2026](#)

UNHCR CZECHIA

The UNHCR office in Prague was established in 1992, following the accession of Czechoslovakia to the 1951 Refugee Convention.

The country office focuses on monitoring and support in the areas of access to the territory, asylum procedures, community-based protection, and integration.

ROLE IN ASYLUM PROCEDURES

UNHCR is not directly involved in processing asylum applications in Czechia. It ensures access to territory to asylum seekers, supports information provision and provides legal protection and assistance to asylum and temporary protection applicants.

The office can access and participate in asylum proceedings, including first instance determination interviews. UNHCR supports capacity development on Refugee Law and Refugee Status Determination for case officers, judges and border police.

MAIN ACTIVITIES

The country office is involved in monitoring legislative and policy amendments, specifically on the EU Pact on Migration and Asylum and Lex Ukraine. The office co-funded projects in several municipalities to foster inclusion and social cohesion. UNHCR also provides free access to training on the Coursera platform to beneficiaries, asylum seekers and stateless individuals.

The country office cooperates with civil society organisations in the implementation of a [Volunteer Programme for Refugees](#). It also provides legal services and information through NGO legal partners, including legal representation. UNHCR set up a [HELP webpage](#) providing updated information for refugees, asylum seekers and stateless people

The protection of [stateless persons](#) has been a priority, by building capacity of State authorities and the judiciary, monitoring procedures, and providing legal assistance.

In the context of the Ukraine emergency response, UNHCR provides information, legal aid, and integration support to displaced Ukrainians.

AREAS OF ACTION

- Access to the territory
- Advocacy
- Asylum procedures
- Capacity building
- Detention and reception monitoring
- Education
- Integration
- Monitoring
- Statelessness





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National legal framework

Applicants' right to UNHCR is covered by the [Act on Protection](#), Articles 54f and 89a.

Fact sheets

[Poland Bi-Annual fact sheet, February 2026](#)

UNHCR POLAND

The UNHCR Office in Warsaw was established in 1992.

The country office focuses on monitoring and protection activities.

ROLE IN ASYLUM PROCEDURES

UNHCR is not directly involved in processing asylum applications in Poland. The country office cooperates with national authorities and NGOs in monitoring access to the procedure, supports training, and provides recommendations to draft laws and policies. The agency also provides legal counselling to applicants for international protection.

MAIN ACTIVITIES

UNHCR Poland cooperates with national authorities in border monitoring activities at border-crossing points and in crossing areas. The country office is also involved in overseeing that [detention and reception conditions](#) are in line with international standards. This includes monitoring the average time spent in detention, reception and accommodation facilities, the qualifications of reception staff and access to information, legal advice and medical care.

The country office supports refugees' socio-economic inclusion and access to affordable housing, aiming at reducing their dependency on aid. UNHCR Poland is involved in capacity-building activities for staff from national authorities, civil society organisations and other humanitarian workers, including on topics related to alternatives to detention, and prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse, besides affordable housing, and economic inclusion.

In the framework of the Ukraine emergency response, the country office leads humanitarian assistance activities in cooperation with civil society organisations and national authorities. Through the [Blue Dot Hubs](#), community centres and mobile outreach teams, UNHCR provides direct assistance and contributes to vulnerability identification and referral. Services provided include legal counselling, mental health and psychosocial support, language classes and child protection activities.

KEY PRIORITIES

- Access to procedures
- Anti-trafficking
- Integration
- Protection
- Protection from sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA)
- Statelessness





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National legal framework

Applicants' right to receive UNHCR's assistance is specified in the [Act on Asylum](#), Sections 17, 42 and 43.

Fact sheets

[Slovakia Bi-Annual fact sheet September 2025](#)

UNHCR SLOVAKIA

UNHCR was established in Slovakia in 1993 and became operational in 1994. Following the closure of the Office in 2012, UNHCR re-established its presence in the country in 2022 at the request of the government, in response to the war in Ukraine. There is a national office in Bratislava.

The country office focuses on assistance and monitoring in the areas of access to the territory, asylum procedures and integration.

ROLE IN ASYLUM PROCEDURES

UNHCR is not directly involved in processing asylum applications in Slovakia. The office is engaged in advocacy activities for fair and efficient asylum procedures. The country office supports preparatory work for legislation and provides [observations](#) to draft laws and policies.

The office has implemented projects to improve the quality of the asylum system, including creating quality assessment tools for the Migration Office of the Ministry of the Interior and providing training to case officers involved in asylum proceedings.

MAIN ACTIVITIES

UNHCR Slovakia monitors border procedures and advocates for access to asylum at the border with Ukraine.

The office works for the implementation of activities for integration, including access to the labour market, educational support and social services, while advocating to mainstream integration activities across all levels of government.

UNHCR maintains communication with refugees through Help Site, Telegram, and call centres and supports refugee-led organizations (RLOs) at a reduced level.

The office currently cooperates in the coordination of the Ukraine emergency response through the Refugee Coordination Forum for the Slovak Republic (RCF). It implements protection-related activities and provided support in the transition of Blue Dots into the municipal-led Points of safety network to foster local ownership.

KEY PRIORITIES







- Advocacy
- Access to the territory and access to procedures
- Capacity-building
- Integration
- Provision of information
- Statelessness





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MULTI-COUNTRY OFFICE FOR ITALY, MALTA, CYPRUS, THE HOLY SEE AND SAN MARINO

The UNHCR Multi Country Office in Italy was established in 2020 covering Italy, the Holy See and San Marino. Since 2026 the Multi Country Office included Cyprus and Malta.

The office focuses on strengthening protection systems including identifying and assisting vulnerable people, fostering opportunities for integration and safe pathways, and promoting participation of refugees, asylum seekers and stateless individuals in decision-making.

COUNTRY OFFICES

The Multi Country Office covers:

- Cyprus
- Italy
- Malta
- San Marino
- The Holy See





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National legal framework

The role of UNHCR in the asylum procedure is covered by the

[Refugees Law](#),

Article 31A.

Cooperation with UNHCR is specified in Articles 12C and 18.

Applicants' right to communicate with UNHCR is established in Article 31C.

Fact sheets

[Cyprus Bi-Annual fact sheet, February 2026](#)

UNHCR CYPRUS

The UNHCR Office in Cyprus was established in 1974.

The country office focuses on advocacy and monitoring activities.

ROLE IN ASYLUM PROCEDURES

UNHCR is not directly involved in processing asylum applications in Cyprus but cooperates with the Asylum Service and the courts to provide observations on matters related to international protection and disseminates guidelines and Country of Origin Information. UNHCR has a right to be present during the examination of asylum applications at any stage of the procedure.

MAIN ACTIVITIES

The country office supports preparatory work for [legislation](#), provides observations to draft laws and policies and legal recommendations aimed at strengthening first instance determination procedures.

UNHCR Cyprus monitors access to asylum procedures and living conditions in reception and detention facilities. The office also oversees unaccompanied minors' access to the child protection system and to family reunification procedures.

The country office supports capacity development through training activities for staff from national authorities and civil society organisations on areas related to international protection, reception conditions and child protection.

[Integration](#) has been a priority, and UNHCR Cyprus has established an Integration Task Force to contribute to the development of a national integration strategy. UNHCR has also partnered with the Cyprus Refugee Council to assist refugees' and asylum-seekers' access to rights and integration services.

KEY PRIORITIES








- Capacity-building
- Communication with refugee communities
- Child protection
- Integration
- Promoting legislative amendments
- Protection monitoring
- Raising public awareness
- Reinforcing first-instance procedures
- Statelessness



Contact information

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National legal framework

The role of UNHCR in is covered by the [Legislative Decree No 25/2008](#), Articles 4, 5, 8, 10, 20, 21 and 24.

Fact sheets

[Italy Bi-Annual fact sheet, February 2026](#)

UNHCR ITALY

The UNHCR office in Italy was established in 1954. In 2020, the country office became the UNHCR Representation for Italy, the Holy See and San Marino, and since 2026 covers Malta and Cyprus with on-site personnel. The country office is located in Rome. In Italy, UNHCR focuses on protection-related activities.

ROLE IN ASYLUM PROCEDURES

UNHCR appoints experts in international protection in Territorial Commissions and has the right to vote during first instance determination procedures.

UNHCR has a consultancy role with the National Commission for the Right to Asylum in procedures related to the cessation and revocation of international protection. The country office also contributes to quality monitoring of first instance procedures, training asylum practitioners and supports preparatory work for legislation and policies.

MAIN ACTIVITIES

UNHCR cooperates with national authorities to provide information and assistance to both [sea and land arrivals](#). The country office also offers technical expertise and legal guidance through parliamentary hearings and dialogues with institutions. UNHCR is committed to assisting Italy strengthen its asylum system, also supporting the implementation of the EU Pact on Migration and Asylum.

UNHCR monitors living conditions in reception facilities and supports vulnerability identification and assessment. Children have been a priority, and the country office supports both the training of legal guardians and family reunification procedures.

UNHCR Italy provides training to reception staff and cultural mediators on access to the labour market and gender-based violence. The country office also provides [training](#) activities for beneficiaries of international protection.

UNHCR supports the implementation of Italy's [resettlement](#) programmes through the provision of information, the identification and referral of refugees for resettlement consideration.

UNHCR Italy promotes refugee integration through its programme 'Welcome. Working for Refugee Integration', supporting access to employment.








KEY PRIORITIES

- Access to the territory
- Asylum procedures
- Capacity building
- Gender-based violence (GBV)
- Integration
- Resettlement and complementary pathways
- Statelessness



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National legal framework

Cooperation with UNHCR is covered by the [International Protection Act](#), Articles 16 and 19. Applicants' right to communicate with UNHCR is established in Article 23.

Fact sheets

[Malta Bi-Annual fact sheet, February 2026](#)

UNHCR MALTA

The UNHCR office in Malta was established in 2005.

The country office focuses on advocacy, legal counselling and information provision.

ROLE IN ASYLUM PROCEDURES

UNHCR is not directly involved in processing asylum applications in Malta, but supports the government in strengthening fair and efficient, asylum procedures and monitors mixed movements in the Maltese SAR Region.

MAIN ACTIVITIES

UNHCR Malta is present as an observer during disembarkations and developed together with the national authorities an information leaflet distributed at the arrivals. The country office is also involved in information provision and vulnerability identification and referral.

The country office supports the government in the implementation of the Pact on Migration and Asylum, also working with the Parliamentary Ombudsman.

The country office maintains the [Help page](#), providing information to asylum seekers and refugees on the aspects of asylum procedures and their rights and obligations.

In terms of [integration](#), UNHCR Malta cooperates with national authorities and civil society organisations in areas related to education and access to the labour market. The country office has also an agreement with JRS Malta and the University of Malta's Law Clinic in providing legal aid.

UNHCR's capacity-building activities include the training of legal assistance providers and interpreters. In cooperation with civil society organisations, the country office provides legal assistance to applicants in detention and victims of gender-based violence.

KEY PRIORITIES

- Access to the territory
- Advocacy
- Asylum procedures
- Capacity-building for legal aid
- Detention and reception monitoring
- Integration
- Statelessness





Contact information

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REGIONAL REPRESENTATION FOR THE NORDIC AND BALTIC COUNTRIES

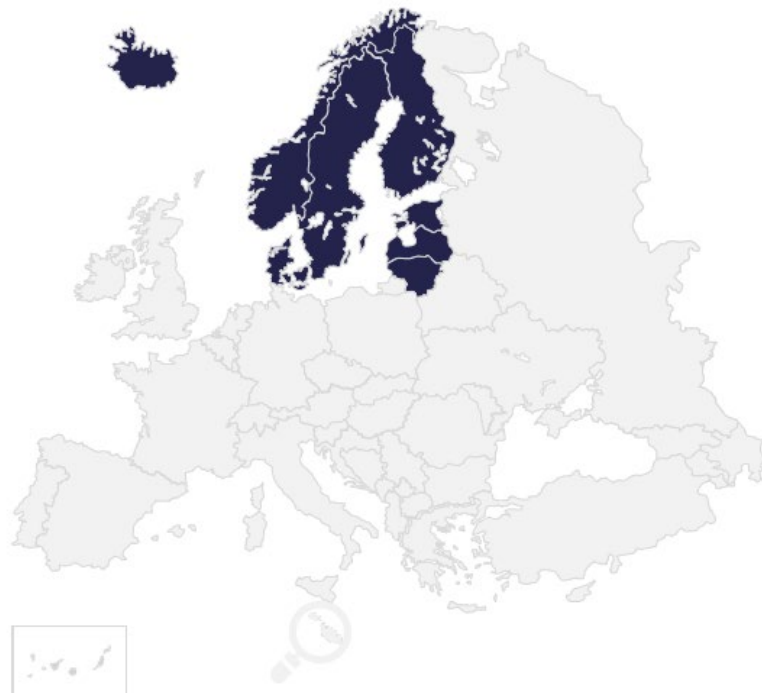
UNHCR has a presence in Nordic and Baltic countries since 1985.

The Regional Office has an advisory and advocacy role and works closely with governments, civil society organisations and the media. UNHCR does not have an operational role in this region in terms of providing direct assistance to applicants and beneficiaries of international protection.

COUNTRY OFFICES

The Representation covers:








- Denmark
- Estonia
- Finland
- Iceland
- Latvia
- Lithuania
- Norway
- Sweden





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National legal framework

Applicants' right to communicate with UNHCR is specified in the [Aliens' Act](#), Sections 37d and 37e.

Fact sheets

[Denmark Bi-annual fact sheet, February 2026](#)

UNHCR DENMARK

UNHCR has been present in the UN City in Copenhagen via a liaison office since 2017. The office in Copenhagen focuses on communications and legal issues regarding Denmark.

ROLE IN ASYLUM PROCEDURES

UNHCR is not directly involved in processing asylum applications in Denmark. The office focuses on the improvement of the Danish asylum system through quality assurance initiatives, and it is involved in the transfer of asylum seekers to third countries.

MAIN ACTIVITIES

The office works with national authorities to support legal and policy development in compliance with international and European standards on international protection. UNHCR is involved in the implementation of the parts of the EU Pact on Migration and Asylum relevant to Denmark.

UNHCR cooperates with civil society organisations to promote the [integration](#) of beneficiaries of international protection into Danish society, also working to remove practical, legal, and financial obstacles to family reunification.

The issue of [statelessness](#) has been a priority. UNHCR has contributed to fill data gaps through mapping stateless persons in Denmark, and developed the current statelessness registration procedure into a dedicated statelessness determination procedure.

UNHCR supports the implementation of Denmark's [resettlement](#) programme through the identification and referral of refugees for resettlement consideration.

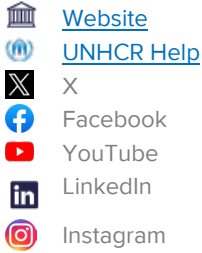
KEY PRIORITIES

- Asylum procedures
- Family reunification
- Integration
- Law and policy
- Reception monitoring
- Resettlement and complementary pathways
- Statelessness



Contact information

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National legal framework

Cooperation with UNHCR is covered by the [Act on Granting International Protection to Aliens](#), Sections 9(7), 66(2) and 76(1) and (2). Applicants' right to communicate with UNHCR is specified in Section 10(7).

Fact sheets

[Estonia Bi-Annual fact sheet, February 2026](#)

UNHCR ESTONIA

UNHCR's focuses on cooperation with both national authorities and civil society organisations in the promotion of human rights of applicants and beneficiaries of international protection.

ROLE IN ASYLUM PROCEDURES

UNHCR is not directly involved in processing asylum applications in Estonia but focuses on quality assurance in areas related to refugee status determination, legal assistance and vulnerability assessments.

MAIN ACTIVITIES

UNHCR monitors access to territory and to asylum procedures, promoting capacity-building of border guards on refugee law. UNHCR supports the Government to strengthen protection measures while also aligning with the goals of the new EU Pact on Migration and Asylum.

The country office is involved in monitoring reception and detention centres and provides feedback to national authorities on how to improve living conditions in these facilities.

UNHCR cooperates with civil society organisations and local authorities to promote the [integration](#) and labour market inclusion of beneficiaries of international protection.

Statelessness has been a priority and UNHCR has contributed to fill data gaps through [mapping statelessness](#) in Estonia.

The country office currently leads the [Regional Response Plan](#) for the Ukraine emergency in Estonia through monitoring the implementation of the temporary protection framework, supporting the provision of essential items and services and complementing government efforts in the protection of persons with vulnerabilities.








KEY PRIORITIES

- Access to the territory
- Asylum procedures
- Capacity-building
- Integration
- Reception monitoring
- Resettlement and complementary pathways
- Statelessness



Contact information

Finland is covered by the following office:
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National legal framework

Cooperation with UNHCR for resettlement activities is covered by the [Aliens Act](#), Section 90.

Fact sheets

[Finland Bi-Annual fact sheet, February 2026](#)

UNHCR FINLAND

The country office focuses on supporting national authorities in the implementation of legal instruments related to international protection and on awareness-raising activities.

ROLE IN ASYLUM PROCEDURES

UNHCR is not directly involved in processing asylum applications in Finland but cooperates with national authorities in quality assurance activities related to the asylum system.

MAIN ACTIVITIES

UNHCR works with Finnish authorities to strengthen national laws and policies related to international protection and to advance public attitudes towards refugees. UNHCR seeks to support the Government in the implementation of the EU Pact on Migration and Asylum.

UNHCR supports the implementation of Finland's [resettlement](#) programmes through the identification and referral of refugees for resettlement consideration. The introduction of labour pathways is also a priority and also supports community sponsorship.

UNHCR fosters dialogues to remove obstacles to family reunification and facilitates inclusion supporting education, employment opportunities, and refugee participation.

Statelessness has been a priority and UNHCR to develop a dedicated statelessness determination procedure.

The office cooperates with national authorities and civil society organisations in the assessment of the implementation of the Temporary Protection Directive and to exchange information on the situation of persons fleeing Ukraine.

KEY PRIORITIES

- Access to the territory
- Asylum procedures
- Integration
- Family reunification
- Law and policy
- Reception monitoring
- Resettlement and complementary pathways
- Statelessness





Contact information

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National legal framework

Cooperation with UNHCR is covered by the [Act on Foreign Nationals](#), Articles 9, 23 and 43. Applicants' right to communicate with UNHCR is specified in Article 11.

Fact sheets

[Iceland Bi-Annual fact sheet, February 2026](#)

UNHCR ICELAND

The country office focuses on supporting national authorities in the implementation of legal instruments related to international protection and on awareness-raising activities.

ROLE IN ASYLUM PROCEDURES

UNHCR is not directly involved in processing asylum applications in Iceland but cooperates with national authorities and civil society organisations to strengthen the Icelandic asylum system. The agency also provides advice to lawyers involved in legal assistance and representation activities.

MAIN ACTIVITIES

The agency is involved in capacity-building activities which target staff from national authorities, lawyers and civil society organisations, including through training in areas related to asylum procedures, statelessness and integration.

UNHCR has currently suspended the [resettlement](#) programmes and is advocating for its resumption.

UNHCR supports Iceland's inclusion policies to ensure that all refugees have the same access to employment.

The country office also facilitates family reunification and access to legal assistance.

AREAS OF ACTION

- Asylum procedures
- Capacity-building
- Family Reunification
- Integration
- Law and policy
- Statelessness

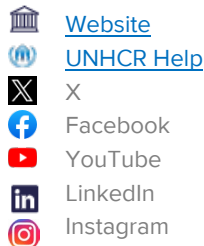




Contact information

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Pils iela 21
LV-1050 Riga, Latvia

swest@unhcr.org



National legal framework

Cooperation with UNHCR is covered by the [Asylum Law](#), Articles 4, 11, 32, 61 and 70. Applicants' right to communicate with UNHCR is specified in Article 11.

Fact sheets

[Latvia Bi-Annual fact sheet, February 2026](#)

UNHCR LATVIA

The country office focuses on supporting national authorities in the implementation of legal instruments related to international protection and on awareness-raising activities.

ROLE IN ASYLUM PROCEDURES

UNHCR is not directly involved in processing asylum applications in Latvia but cooperates with national authorities in quality assurance activities related to the asylum system.

MAIN ACTIVITIES

UNHCR is involved in monitoring access to the territory and to asylum procedures. The agency also organises capacity-building activities for border guards, focused on the proactive identification and referral of applicants for international protection, especially vulnerable groups. Additionally, several trainings have been arranged to improve the protection from sexual abuse and exploitation.

The country office advocates on alternatives to detention and cooperates with civil society organisations and local authorities to promote the [integration](#) of beneficiaries of international protection, by implementing awareness-raising campaigns, regional cooperation, and regular municipality visits.

[Statelessness](#) has been a priority and UNHCR has promoted campaigns to end statelessness in Latvia.

In the context of the Ukraine emergency response, UNHCR takes part to the Regional Refugee Response Plan (RRP) and fosters socio economic inclusion for displaced Ukrainians.

KEY PRIORITIES

- Access to the territory
- Advocacy
- Asylum procedures
- Detention
- Integration
- Law and policy
- Protection from sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA)
- Statelessness



Contact information

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[UNHCR Help](#)



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National legal framework

Cooperation with UNHCR is covered by the [Law on the Legal Status of Foreigners](#), Articles 87 and 91. Applicants' right to communicate with UNHCR is specified in Article 71(8).

Fact sheets

[Lithuania Bi-Annual fact sheet, February 2026](#)

UNHCR LITHUANIA

The agency focuses on supporting national authorities in the implementation of legal instruments related to international protection and on awareness-raising activities.

ROLE IN ASYLUM PROCEDURES

UNHCR is not directly involved in processing asylum applications in Lithuania but cooperates with national authorities to ensure access to the territory and to asylum procedures.

MAIN ACTIVITIES

UNHCR is involved in monitoring access to the territory and to asylum procedures at Lithuania's borders. The agency also monitors living conditions at reception and detention facilities. UNHCR provides technical advice on matters related to international protection and is involved in capacity-building activities for migration authorities, legal practitioners and staff involved in appeal procedures.

The country office advocates for better reception conditions and alternatives to detention. Also, it cooperates with civil society organisations to support reception activities and provide assistance to persons with vulnerabilities.

UNHCR is also involved in integration activities, including through participating in awareness-raising initiatives.

The country office supports the implementation of Lithuania's [resettlement](#) programmes through the identification and referral of refugees for resettlement consideration and through the provision of pre-departure assistance.

UNHCR supports the Ukraine emergency response and leads an [inter-agency coordination initiative](#).

KEY PRIORITIES

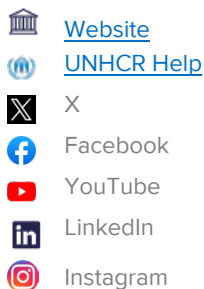
- Access to the territory
- Asylum procedures
- Detention
- Integration
- Reception monitoring
- Statelessness



Contact information

Norway is covered by the following office:
Ynglingagatan 16
1134 Stockholm,
Sweden

swest@unhcr.org



National legal framework

Cooperation and information-exchange with UNHCR is covered by the [Immigration Act](#), Section 98.

Cooperation with UNHCR for resettlement activities is covered by the [Immigration Act](#), Section 35.

Fact Sheets

[Norway Bi-Annual fact sheet, February 2026](#)

UNHCR NORWAY

The country office focuses on supporting national authorities in the implementation of legal instruments related to international protection and on awareness-raising activities.

ROLE IN ASYLUM PROCEDURES

UNHCR is not directly involved in processing asylum applications in Norway but cooperates with national authorities in quality assurance activities related to the asylum system.

MAIN ACTIVITIES

The country office works with national authorities to support legal and policy development in compliance with international and European standards on international protection in areas related to family reunification and integration. UNHCR supports the implementation of elements of the EU Pact on Migration and Asylum relevant to Norway.

UNHCR supports the implementation of Norway's [resettlement](#) programmes through the identification and referral of refugees for resettlement consideration.

UNHCR supports refugee inclusion into society and works to reduce obstacles to family reunification.

Statelessness has been a priority, and UNHCR has contributed to fill data gaps through [mapping statelessness](#) in Norway and a [factsheet](#) which includes recommendations.

UNHCR cooperates with national authorities and civil society organisations to exchange information on the situation of persons fleeing Ukraine.

AREAS OF ACTION

- Access to the territory
- Asylum procedures
- Family reunification
- Integration
- Law and policy
- Reception monitoring
- Resettlement and complementary pathways
- Statelessness





Contact information

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National legal framework

Fact sheets

[Sweden Bi-Annual fact sheet, February 2026](#)

UNHCR SWEDEN

The UNHCR office in Stockholm was established in 1985.

The country office focuses on supporting national authorities in the implementation of legal instruments related to international protection and awareness-raising activities.

ROLE IN ASYLUM PROCEDURES

UNHCR is not directly involved in processing asylum applications in Sweden but cooperates with national authorities in quality assurance activities related to the asylum system.

MAIN ACTIVITIES

UNHCR works with national authorities to support legal and policy development in compliance with international and European standards on international protection. UNHCR made observations to the legislative proposals to align with the EU Pact on Migration and Asylum.

The country office cooperates with civil society organisations and local authorities to promote the [integration](#) of beneficiaries of international protection. As part of its awareness-raising initiatives, UNHCR has developed [teaching materials](#) on refugees. UNHCR engages with civil society partners and the Government to reduce practical, legal, and financial obstacles to family reunification.

Statelessness has been a priority, and UNHCR has contributed to fill data gaps through [mapping statelessness](#) in Sweden and a [factsheet](#) with recommendations.

UNHCR supports the implementation of Sweden's [resettlement](#) programmes through the identification and referral of refugees for resettlement consideration.

The country office cooperates with national authorities and civil society organisations in the assessment of the implementation of the Temporary Protection Directive and to exchange information on the situation of persons fleeing Ukraine.

AREAS OF ACTION

- Asylum procedures
- Family reunification
- Integration
- Law and policy
- Resettlement and complementary pathways
- Statelessness

