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# Ensuring family unity in asylum



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Family reunification was scaled up in 2021 as a complementary pathway to Europe



Family members reuniting with a beneficiary of international protection underwent a separate path for registration in some countries.



Following the surge to power of the Taliban, family reunification was one of the procedures used to assist Afghans to settle in Europe.

Some Member States initiated changes to facilitate family reunification for beneficiaries of international protection and provided clarifications on the process through more detailed guidance.



Many EU+ countries turned to digitalisation to facilitate the procedure.

Practical barriers persisted in several countries, such as requesting relatives to submit documents at consulates or requiring documents which were difficult to obtain.



Countries worked on removing restrictions and lengthy time limits to facilitate the process.



Family reunification continued to be a challenge for many stateless applicants who were not recorded accurately during the registration of an asylum application.



In some countries, the sharp rise in family reunification for recognised beneficiaries of international protection resulted in additional strains on reception systems.

Cases related to family reunification were referred to the courts increasingly in 2021. For the full coverage of jurisprudence, consult the [EUAA Case Law Database on family reunification](#)



