

Please cite as: EUAA, 'Section 7. Highlights at the national level' in *Asylum Report 2020*, janvier 2022.

Section 7. Highlights at the national level

This section provides an overview of developments in legislation, policy, practice and case law in EU+ countries throughout 2019. Concerns with aspects of national asylum systems are included from national authorities, civil society organisations, UNHCR and other international organisations.

The sub-sections are organised by theme, following the steps of the asylum procedure:

7.1 Access to procedure: presents developments surrounding access to territory and the first steps of the asylum procedure, including making, registering and lodging an application.
7.2 Access to information: details new initiatives in information provision throughout the different stages of the asylum process.
7.3 Legal assistance and representation: changes are outlined in the provision of free legal counselling and advice to applicants.
7.4 Interpretation services: amendments and concerns around the provision of interpretation are provided.
7.5 Special procedures: presents new practices around border procedures, the safe country of origin concept, accelerated procedures, admissibility procedures, subsequent applications and prioritised caseloads.
7.6 Procedures at first instance: new approaches, measures, working methods and policies are presented, along with legislative amendments, institutional changes, technological developments and projects on monitoring and quality assurance.
7.7 Reception of applicants for international protection: shows how Member States reacted to trends in international protection in terms of reception capacities and policies.
7.8 Detention: provides an overview of changes in detention capacity, conditions, duration and alternatives to detention.
7.9 Procedures at second instance: presents initiatives to make the procedures at second instance more efficient and details changes regarding the suspensive effect of appeals against first instance decisions, time limits for appeals, institutional changes for the authorities dealing with appeals, ways of tackling the backlog of cases pending on appeal and safeguards provided to applicants.
7.10 Country of origin information: briefly describes research and production of information on countries of origin information.
7.11 Statelessness: explores the relationship between statelessness and asylum, highlighting associated challenges.
7.12 Content of protection: presents initiatives taken for the integration of recognised beneficiaries of international protection based on the recast Qualification Directive.
7.13 Return of former applicants: overviews changes in procedures after a final negative decision on an application is taken.
7.14 Resettlement and humanitarian admission programmes: presents resettlement efforts taken by EU+ countries and developments in the framework of humanitarian admission programmes.

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