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4.11. Content of protection

One country reformed its **national forms of protection,** while some others introduced **measures to regularise** the situation of some specific groups who do not qualify for international protection, mainly targeting to settle the situation of rejected minor applicants. The new legislation in **Italy** abrogated one of the national forms of protection called humanitarian protection and introduced instead the special protection residence permit for persons who cannot be expelled based on non-refoulement obligations. It also created different types of new residence permits to be granted in very specific circumstances: victims of domestic violence, victims of labour exploitation, people suffering from exceptionally serious medical conditions and cannot be treated in their country of origin, people who cannot return to their country of origin due to exceptional natural disasters and people carrying out exceptional civil acts.[687] The Government in **Malta** established the Specific Residence Authorisation (SRA) policy, replacing the former Temporary Humanitarian Protection New (THPN) policy. SRA may be granted to rejected applicants who have been residing in Malta for at least five years and have been in employment for an extensive period and have been actively contributing to the Maltese society. SRA holders receive a residence permit for two years and have access to employment, core welfare benefits, state education and state medical care.[688] The amendment of the Temporary Act in **Sweden** allowed UAMs, whose asylum application was rejected, to apply under certain conditions for a residence permit for studies at upper secondary schools. The last day for applications was 30 September 2018.[689] Two new forms of leaves were created in the **UK** for children transferred to the country: one leave is linked to transfers under Section 67 of the Immigration Act[690], the other is granted to children who were transferred after the clearance of the Calais camp.[691] The final Regulation for long-term resident children came into force in the **Netherlands** – also known as children's pardon - which allowed a specific group of rejected minor applicants and their family members to request a residence permit before 25 February 2019.[692]

The international protection status may be **reviewed** and **withdrawn** in a wider range of circumstances, even though **UNHCR** underlined that it has been consistently advocating for a secure and stable status for beneficiaries of international protection that might should not be subject to regular and frequent reviews and for going beyond the withdrawal grounds of the 1951 Convention.[693]

The amended CESEDA in **France** requires the OFPRA to obligatorily withdraw international protection under certain criteria, after an individual assessment is carried out on whether these criteria are met.[694] The **Danish** Immigration Service changed its criteria for assessing the circumstances for cessation, making it possible to revoke the residence permit granted to

refugees and their family members in a wider range of cases. Refugees and their family members are entitled to reside abroad for a shorter period of time: their residence permits expire after six months of residence outside of Denmark. The Danish Immigration Service is now also responsible to initiate the process of automatically reviewing the residence permit, when the permit expires.[695] The amended Asylum Act in **Slovakia** clarified the cessation grounds and added that international protection can also be ceased when a beneficiary of international protection acquires the citizenship of another EU Member State or if another EU Member State had also granted protection (at least on the same level). The protection status of family members reunited with a beneficiary of international protection also ceases, when another state grants them a residence permit without any time limit.[696] The law amendments in **Italy** extended the list of crimes which may form the basis of revoking international protection.[697] The amended Asylum Act (AsylG) in **Germany** introduced the duty to cooperate for beneficiaries of international protection in the framework of the status review and eventual withdrawal procedure. The BFA in **Austria** is now allowed to initiate and carry out in an accelerated manner the procedure for withdrawing the international protection status when there are indications suggesting that the beneficiary has voluntarily re-availed themselves of protection of the country of origin, has voluntarily re-acquired their former nationality or voluntarily re-established themselves in the country of origin. These indications now explicitly include cases when a beneficiary enters the country of origin or apply for and is issued a passport of the country of origin or when the beneficiary takes up gainful employment or start a business in the country of origin.[698] The BFA has also identified withdrawal procedures as one of the major policy priorities for 2018: it initiated 6000 withdrawal procedures in 2018 (four times increase from 2017) and it withdrew the international protection status in 1600 cases (three times increase from 2017). The authority continues with this focus in 2019 as well. The policy note from the former State Secretary for Asylum and Migration in **Belgium** has re-confirmed the temporary character of the protection statuses and identified as a policy priority status reviews and the cessation of the status, especially when the security situation in the country of origin has improved in a durable manner. He also urged for enhanced international cooperation on status withdrawal when beneficiaries of international protection travel back to their country of origin.[699] The State Secretariat for Migration in **Switzerland** has started to re-examine the provisional admission of around 3400 Eritreans[700], based on the ruling of the Federal Administrative Court from 2017[701], which raised concerns by several civil society organisations.[702]

The rules for status review and for the withdrawal of status were further clarified in many other EU+ countries, often based on court decisions. The **Swedish** Migration Agency issued new guidelines on the cessation of refugee or subsidiary protection status and on the withdrawal of these statuses. Following the decision of the Administrative Jurisdiction Division of the Council of State, the Immigration and Naturalisation Service (IND) in the **Netherlands** adjusted its practices on withdrawing the international protection status when beneficiaries apply for the extension of the temporary asylum residence permit or for a permanent residence permit after the expiry of the previous permit. The IND assesses in an individual manner whether the criteria for protection still exist and the fact that the permit has expired cannot lead to an automatic cessation of the status. The Supreme Court of **Norway** came to the conclusion in one case that the temporary residence permit granted for refugees does not provide grounds for protection under Article 8 of ECHR and the revocation of this temporary residence permit in itself does not

violate the right to private and family life. [703] A civil society source reported that the CNDA in **France** delivered many relevant decisions clarifying the circumstances when cessation or withdrawal can be applied. [704] The High Court in **Ireland** concluded that the refugee status automatically ceases when the person concerned acquires Irish citizenship and no formal act is required to end the refugee status.[705]

Several countries reported changes in legislation, policy and practice concerning **family reunification** based on court rulings. International, regional and national jurisprudence was also one of the main sources of the **UNHCR** Research paper entitled The Right to Family Life and Family Unity of Refugees and Others in Need of International Protection and the Family Definition Applied.[706] The CJEU ruling C 550/16 clarified the inconsistent interpretation of the Family Reunification Directive at national level in the **Netherlands** and the judgement brought about a proposal for legislative amendment in **Finland** aiming to ensure that unaccompanied minors who are beneficiaries of international protection would be considered minors for the purposes of requesting family reunification, if they have submitted the application for international protection when still minors, but the decision on the residence permit application based on family ties is made after reaching adulthood. ECRE followed up this CJEU decision with a legal note on the issue of aging-out.[707] Similar legislative changes have to be undertaken in **Belgium** based on the decision and the Immigration Office had already adjusted its practices to the ruling. The Second Instance administrative Court in **Luxembourg** provided more clarification on the notion of dependency in the national context.[708]The **Swedish** Migration Court of Appeal noted that the Swedish Migration Agency have to be particularly cautious when it refers refugees' family members to the authorities of their country of origin to obtain identity documents and it alleviated the burden of proof for establishing family members' identity, affecting in particular Eritrean cases.[709]The Swedish Migration Court also clarified the limitations to the right to family reunification introduced under the Temporary Act: it provided further guidance on the assessment of the likelihood to be granted a permanent residence permit for beneficiaries of subsidiary protection[710] and ruled that denying the right to family reunification for an eight-year old UAM would be a violation of the best interest of the child and of Article 8 of the ECHR.[711] The Grand Board of the **Norwegian** Immigration Appeals Board ruled that the request for family reunification is considered to be submitted at the moment when the family member(s) appear in person at the foreign service mission and not when the request is submitted online and the necessary fee is paid: the judgement had a significant impact for considering whether refugees still fall under the relevant exemptions from family reunification criteria applied to TCNs in general.[712] The family reunification request of a naturalised refugee in **Ireland** contributed to the clarification of issues around the cessation of the international protection status.[713]

Many other countries reported major legislative and policy changes affecting the rules on family unity and family reunification. A joint Ministerial Decision in **Greece** was published to clarify the requirements for issuing visa for refugees' family members travelling to the country for family reunification. Civil society organisations welcomed this development, but noted that many administrative difficulties remain and only a small number of family reunification requests were granted.[714] A new law in **Germany** ends the temporary suspension of family reunification for beneficiaries of subsidiary protection that was in force since 2016 and allows now them again to reunite with their immediate family members. The number of family members allowed to join

their beneficiary sponsor is limited to 1000 a month. The amendment of the Aliens Act in **Denmark** enables the Ministry of Immigration and Integration to set a monthly ceiling on the number of residence permits delivered for family reunification with refugees, when the number of asylum applications increases considerably over a short period of time. The International Protection Act 2015 in **Ireland** was amended and it enables more family members to join when they qualify to be dependent on the beneficiary sponsor. The scope of family reunification was also extended in **France** for minor beneficiaries of international protection: together with the parents, their minor siblings may also join. A civil society source noted that refugee children can still not sponsor their parents or siblings for family reunification in the **UK**[715] and persons granted subsidiary protection in **Cyprus** still cannot apply for family reunification.[716] The Research Social Platform on Migration and Asylum (ReSOMA) also noted the narrow interpretation of family members as one of the key challenges for beneficiaries of international protection to be able to reunite with their family members.[717] Another civil society source from **Switzerland** underlined that persons with temporary protection may only initiate family reunification after three years when having enough financial sources to support the family members joining them and there were two pending cases in front of the European Court of Human Rights concerning this matter.[718] [719] The coalition agreement in **Luxembourg** expressed the intention to increase the time limit to six months from three months, when beneficiaries of international protection are exempted from certain criteria for family reunification. Family members reunited with TCNs (including with beneficiaries of international protection) in **Poland** receive a temporary residence permit with a validity of maximum three years after the amendment of the Law on Foreigners, while previously it was automatically granted for exactly three years.

Three countries reported changes regarding the **residence permits** delivered to beneficiaries of international protection and their family members. Refugees and their family members in **Denmark** are granted a temporary residence permit instead of a permanent one since 1 March 2019. Beneficiaries of subsidiary protection and their family members receive a multiannual residence permit of four years in **France**, a measure which was welcomed by several civil society organisations.[720] A ten-year residence permit is automatically issued after four years of legal residence as part of the four-year multi-annual residence permit. The amended CESEDA also prohibits the revocation of a residence permit based on family reunification, when the family unity breaks up due to domestic violence in general – previously this was limited to victims of conjugal violence. A legal provision was extended in **Norway**, which entitles TCNs who hold a residence permit for family immigration to a new residence permit if they are abused by their spouse or cohabitant. The provision now includes cases where the abuse is committed by a person in the household other than the beneficiary's partner or in-laws outside the household.

Few significant changes affected beneficiaries' eligibility for **naturalisation**. The amended Immigration Act in **Belgium** states that period between the application for international protection and the recognition as a refugee is now taken into account for the calculation of the duration of legal residence prior to applying for nationality. The residence requirement for naturalisation was reduced in **Portugal** from six to five years, but the same criteria was extended for refugees in **Austria** from six to ten years.[721] The **Netherlands** Nationality Act (RWN) was amended and the rehabilitation period for serious offences was increased to five

years from four.

Many EU+ countries revised their **national strategies for the integration of TCNs**. The legislative amendments in **Italy** re-shaped the guiding principles of the integration of beneficiaries of international protection: the support measures available within the former Protection System for Refugees and Asylum Seekers (SPRAR, *Sistema di protezione per richiedenti asilo e rifugiati*) are now offered only to recognised beneficiaries in the framework of Protection System for Persons with International Protection Status and Unaccompanied Foreign Minors *(*SIPROIMI*, Sistema di Protezione per titolari di protezione internazionale e minori stranieri non accompagnati)*.

The Inter-ministerial Integration Committee in **France** launched on 5 June 2018 a national strategy for the integration of refugees focusing on seven priority areas.[722] The strategy builds on a previous parliamentary report putting forward 72 recommendations for an ambitious integration policy. [723] This is a comprehensive document addressing every aspect of integration: French language courses, participation to the society, employment, housing. France also continues and broadens the scope of its programme for integration HOPE[724], which is now open to every employment sector. The Council of Ministers in **Luxembourg** adopted the multiannual national action plan on integration (PAN 2018, *Plan d'action national pluriannuel d'intégration 2018*), which identified the reception and social support of applicants for international protection as one of the two main domains for action.[725] The National Identity, Civil Society and Integration Policy Implementation Plan 2019-2020 was approved in **Latvia** and beneficiaries of international protection has become one of its main policy target groups.[726] The **Czech** Government updated its policy for the integration of foreigners both for 2018[727] and 2019[728] and adopted the relevant procedure to implement the policy: the focus areas remained the same with a slightly increased budget allocated for implementation. The government in **Lithuania** adopted the new Action Plan 2018–2020 on the Integration of Foreigners into Society and the government in **Norway** also launched a new integration strategy for 2019-2022. The Integration Unit within the Human Rights and Integration Directorate in **Malta** launched the I Belong programme in November 2018, following the adoption of the Maltese integration strategy and action plan entitled Integration = Belonging in 2017. The Inter-Ministerial Committee on Integration established 58 measures across different ministries to be implemented throughout 2019 and 2020. Feedback on the strategy and action plan is facilitated through the Forum on Integration Affairs, representing migrant communities residing in Malta. The Federal Ministry for Europe, Integration and Foreign Affairs in **Austria** identified the integration of migrant women as a policy priority.[729] The Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government in the **UK** published a Green Paper on the Integrated Communities Strategy, based on which the government has launched – among other measures - a new Integrated Communities Innovation Fund. The new Act on the responsibility for the integration and establishment of newly arrived migrants came into force in **Sweden**. The Ministry of Migration Policy in **Greece** prepared a new six-month strategy for the integration of beneficiaries of international protection, aiming to reach 10 000 refugees in one year.[730] The National Integration Evaluation Mechanism (NIEM) project – involving 15 EU Member States - published comprehensive reports on the implementation of the national integration strategies and analysed these trends in the European context. [731]

Other EU+ countries were in the process of reviewing existing strategies. The Federal Government Commissioner for Migration, Refugees and Integration in **Germany** announced the development of the new National Integration Action Plan at the 10th Integration Summit at the Federal Chancellery.[732] The negotiations have started in **Estonia** to elaborate the new National Integration Strategy for 2021-2031, with the current strategy ending in 2020.[733] The legislative proposal for the new Act on the Promotion of Immigrant Integration was submitted for discussion to the parliament in **Finland**. The Ministry of Social Affairs and Employment in the **Netherlands** announced major changes to the civic integration system and aims to enact the new Civil Integration Act in 2020.

The government in **Cyprus** launched a call for proposal to develop its very first National Action Plan on the migrants' integration 2020-2022. Contributing to this process, UNHCR reviewed the current legislative and policy framework of the country and drafted specific recommendations for the establishment a comprehensive national integration strategy for beneficiaries of international protection.[734]

UNHCR highlighted in its recommendations the need for sufficient funding to ensure implementation of these integration programmes both to the Austrian and the Romanian Presidency of the Council of the EU.[735] UNHCR and ECRE published two relevant documents analysing the use of AMIF funding at national level and making recommendations to its better implementation.[736] An NGO noted that the state in **Hungary** does not provide any specific integration support for beneficiaries of international protection since 2016 and the government withdrew the call for proposals for AMIF early 2018: integration services provided by NGOs stopped in June 2018.[737] Another civil society source underlined that the National Programme for the Integration of Refugees in **Bulgaria** has stopped at the end of 2013, the responsibility for integration has been decentralised and moved to local authorities in 2016, but no municipalities has volunteered yet to develop an integration strategy. [738]

Several countries reported about the increasing role of local authorities and municipalities within beneficiaries' integration process and UNHCR also focused its 2018 High Commissioner's Dialogue on the enhanced engagement of cities in protecting and finding solutions for refugees. [739] OECD published an extensive report [740] on local integration and think tanks published analyses about the role of cities within the integration process.[741] Municipalities are foreseen to be given the leading role in civic integration in the **Netherlands** under the planned new Civic Integration Act. The government in **Norway** announced its intention to further strengthen local integration processes and committed to provide the necessary resources for municipalities and civil society organisations. The Office for Human Rights and Rights of National Minorities of the Government of the Republic of **Croatia** developed a strategic document on the integration of beneficiaries of international protection at local level. The Ministry for European Affairs and Equality in **Malta** elaborated the Local Integration Charter building on its first national Migrant Integration Strategy and Action Plan, launched already in 2017[742]. 21 local councils have signed this charter. The Ministry of the Interior in the **Czechia** also allocated further funds encouraging municipalities to set up their own integration strategies and dedicated the 10th annual conference of local authorities to issue of integration.[743] The Controlling Migration Fund in the **UK** allocated additional funding to alleviate the pressure on local authorities in delivering their services to newly arrived TCNs and to pilot the establishment of Local Authority Asylum

support Officers facilitating the transition of recognised refugees. AMIF-funded projects implemented at local level fill in the gap in **Cyprus**, while the national integration plan is in elaboration. A FRA focus report assessed the developments and remaining challenges for local communities in the integration process of beneficiaries of international protection.[744]

Various civil society initiatives analysed public attitudes towards beneficiaries of international protection and towards foreigners in general, for example in **Bulgaria** [745], **Croatia** [746], **Cyprus** [747], the **Czechia** [748], **Latvia** [749], **Poland** [750] and **Portugal**.[751]

A few countries elaborated new comprehensive measures to increase the participation of TCNs on the **labour market** in general and the participation levels of beneficiaries of international protection in particular. The Ministry of Labour in **Greece** has launched for the first time a comprehensive programme to facilitate beneficiaries accessing the labour market in shortage occupations in Attica and Central Macedonia, aiming to reach out to at least 3 000.[752] An NGO pointed out that beneficiaries of international protection still face significant administrative barriers: they need to go through a lengthy process in order to obtain a social security and tax number, before they can get a job.[753] Professional insertion became an separate component of the Republican Integration Contract in **France** and participants can benefit from enhanced and individualised employment-related counselling. The new National Integration Plan in **Luxembourg** highlights beneficiaries' enhanced labour market access among its main objectives and the Employment Agency (ADEM) undertook various corresponding measures: it re-organised the procedure for beneficiaries' ADEM registration and a team of specifically trained, English-speaking counsellors are now present in the assigned three major locations, who work in close collaboration with the Beneficiaries of International Protection Cell of ADEM. This cell also organised awareness raising and information campaigns, job interview trainings and connected employers with beneficiaries of international protection through a series of dedicated meetings. The Ministry of Social Affairs in the **Netherlands** launched in March 2018 the programme Further Integration to the Labour Market (VIA, Verdere Integratie op de Arbeidsmarkt) to improve the position of TCNs on the labour market, which targets various groups of migrants, including beneficiaries of international protection and their family members. [754] New legislation in **Sweden** aims to harmonise to a greater extent the relevant regulations for newly arrived migrants with the regulations applicable to domestic job-seekers.[755] A think tank looked into the barriers of hiring beneficiaries of international protection and put forward recommendations for better supporting employers in this framework. [756]

Some initiatives focused specially on enhancing the labour market situation of women beneficiaries of international protection. The funding allocated in 2017 for seven specific projects was extended for 2019 to provide further support for the labour market integration of refugee women in **Ireland**. The study associations in **Sweden** received additional funding to offer guidance for applicant and beneficiary women about labour market integration.

Few specific developments were reported on **employment-related education and vocational training**. A think tank underlined the importance of these measures given the concentrated inflow of newly arrived beneficiaries of international protection.[757] An education and training obligation applies now to beneficiaries of international protection and their family members participating in the introduction programme of the Public Employment Service in

Sweden. Therefore, the government continued the cooperation with the Public Employment Service, the Swedish National Council for Adult Education and the folk high schools to offer vocational education in shortage occupations to unemployed participants of the PES Introduction Programme with training obligation. Universities in **Norway** set up cooperation projects to offer bridging classes for engineers, nurses and teachers, who are beneficiaries of international protection. The Minister of State at the Department of Justice and Equality in **Ireland** launched a bridging programme for migrant teachers who have been educated and trained outside of Ireland. The High Commission for Migration (ACM) and the School of Tourism in **Portugal** implemented a programme for young beneficiaries of international protection to obtain certified hospitality courses.

Most of the initiatives around **language classes** are not specifically targeted for beneficiaries of international protection, but the entitlement and the obligation for TCNs to learn the national language was substantially extended in several EU+ countries in 2018. Language programmes also increasingly tend to be linked with other integration components: courses are often adjusted to beneficiaries' labour market trajectory determined in their individual integration plan. Integration programmes, including language classes have become mandatory for certain groups of TCNs (including beneficiaries of international protection) in the German-speaking Community in **Belgium**, while the duration of French language courses was extended to 400 hours from 120 hours in Wallonia and Dutch as second language (NT2) classes received more funding in Flanders to cover for the increased number of newcomers. The Brussels Capital Region introduced already in 2017 mandatory integration programmes, including language courses, but the relevant Ordinance has not yet entered into force. The Inter-ministerial Integration Committee in **France** plans to double the number of language instruction, depending on the initial level of the person concerned. An input received from a French civil society organisation welcomed this development as it underlined that the current number of language instruction is typically not sufficient for beneficiaries of international protection to attain a language level adequate enough to find a job.[758] The government in the **Netherlands** plans to increase the required language level from A2 to B1 for the civic integration examination, presumably from 2020 on. Job-related language courses (obligatory to certain groups of TCNs, including specific categories of applicants and beneficiaries of international protection) in **Germany** has been extended from 300 hours to 400 hours, a new intermediate component of 100 hours was introduced to support participants completing the B2 level and courses have become free for low-income participants. The number of hours of language instruction for beneficiaries of international protection was increased in **Estonia** from 100 hours to 300 hours to provide them support to attain A2 level and TCNs can also use two new web-based applications to continue learning until B1 level. The amended Citizenship Act also provides now substantial support for persons potentially eligible for Estonian citizenship: by signing a citizen agreement, they become entitled to free language courses up to the required B1 level and to paid study leave days from work. The Ministry of Social Security and Labour in **Lithuania** elaborated measures (to be implemented in 2019) to ensure the continuity of language courses for beneficiaries of international protection and increase the hours of instructions. The I Belong programme in **Malta** provides since November 2018 free Maltese and English language courses and socio-cultural orientation courses for third-country nationals (including beneficiaries of international protection) at two stages, offered by the Malta College of

Arts, Science and Technology and the University of Malta. The promotion of language learning is one of the priorities of the new multiannual national integration plan in **Luxembourg** and the coalition agreement committed to provide the necessary funding for the Ministry of Family and Integration to ensure the sufficient availability of language courses. The Beneficiaries of International Protection Cell of the Luxembourgish Employment Agency (ADEM) organised intensive, professionally oriented French classes for pre-selected candidates with an already good knowledge of the language. The **Latvian** Language Agency developed online learning materials for language learning specifically for applicants and beneficiaries of international protection and provided a short adult-education course for volunteers and mentors on teaching Latvian to newcomers. The State Employment Agency provided a language mentor for seven beneficiaries focusing on job-related vocabulary. Full funding for the provision of English for Speakers of Other Languages in the **UK** is prioritised for the unemployed on benefits, whose poor command of English is identified as the main barrier to getting a job. **Swedish** municipalities received additional funding to offer language classes and introduction courses for newly arrived beneficiaries on parental leave, a measure specifically aiming to facilitate the social and labour market access of women. The **Austrian** Integration Fund launched a new call for tender to submit projects proposals assisting beneficiaries of international protection in attaining A1 proficiency in German and passing the corresponding integration exam.[759] Jobsplus in **Malta** was preparing a tender for the provision of job-related language training in Maltese and English for applicants, beneficiaries of international protection and persons with temporary humanitarian status, and continued to offer mainstream English and Maltese courses for all foreigners.

A set of policy initiatives focused on the **validation of skills and the recognition of qualifications** to enhance access to the labour market. The competence centres in **Austria** continued their skills recognition support, provided to all TCNs, targeted mainly towards newcomer beneficiaries of international protection. The mandatory integration programmes include an assessment of the skills and professional orientation of newcomers in the German-speaking Community and in the Brussels Capital Region (the relevant Order voted, but not yet in force) in **Belgium**. An AMIF-funded project is expected to be launched in **Cyprus**, providing skills assessment, individualised labour market counselling and professional training for applicants with the right to work and beneficiaries of international protection. The Ministry of Economy and Innovation in **Lithuania** prepared the draft amendment of the Law on Recognition of Regulated Professional Qualifications. The **Finnish** National Agency for Education published a guideline aiming to facilitate specifically teachers' recognition of foreign qualifications. [760]

A few, but significant developments arose around the inclusion of migrant children in **pre-school education**. The Flemish Community in **Belgium** implemented several measures to increase the participation of migrant children in pre-schools, including the transformation of the relevant allowance scheme and piloting AMIF-funded projects aiming to involve TCN parents more in pre-school and school life. The government in **Finland** launched a pilot project on free part-time early childhood education for 5-year old children, targeting the better inclusion of all foreign children and the government in **Norway** extended the grant to finance free core hours in kindergarten to children from the age of two.

Some other changes aimed at facilitating the **integration of pupils in compulsory school age** in the national education programmes. The **French** Community further strengthened the system of bridging classes for newly arrived pupils in compulsory education (DASPAS, *dispositive de scolarisation et d'accueil spécifique à destination des élèves primo-arrivants*). The Ministry of Education and Culture and the **Cyprus** Pedagogical Institute continued the implementation of an AMIF-funded project, which offered systematic training for school staff to be able to better manage classes with newly arrived pupils and created a network of TCN facilitators supporting children and their parents with school issues. The Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports in the Czechia set up a new pilot for a system of mentors who accompany newly arrived foreign pupils in the first weeks of school and it started systematic implementation in 2019. The responsible ministry in Lithuania launched a similar measure and appointed teaching assistants in each school with foreign pupils. Schools in the UK receive funding for pupils having English as an additional language under the new national funding formula.

A few significant changes were introduced to support migrants' **education beyond compulsory school age**. The Law of 18 June 2018 introduced a new Mediation Service for National Education in **Luxembourg** in charge of retaining migrant children in education. The revised civic integration system in the **Netherlands**, planned to be launched in 2020, foresees a new pathway for young participants transiting them the quickest possible to vocational programme or higher education. Study associations in **Sweden** also received funding to reach out and create motivational initiatives for migrant women to encourage their further education. Beneficiaries of subsidiary protection became entitled to university scholarships in **France**. The amendment of the Basic Education Act in **Finland** now includes basic education for adult TCNs over the compulsory school age – this was previously arranged as part of the integration training under the competence of the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment. The amendment of the Act on Liberal Adult Education makes it possible for these institutions to arrange free literacy training for TCNs during their integration period. The state also granted special subsidies to support TCNs' study paths both in formal training and non-formal education and it granted strategic funding for six education providers to create a network of centres of expertise providing support for TCNs and sharing good practices with other vocational institutions.

While two EU+ states extended the provision of certain types of social **welfare benefits** to beneficiaries of subsidiary protection, one country plans to drastically reform its benefit system, with a major impact on beneficiaries of international protection. The Law regarding the social revenue replaced the Law on guaranteed minimum wage in **Luxembourg**, clarified that beneficiaries of international protection do not have to fulfil the residence condition in order to benefit from social inclusion income (REVIS, *revenu d'inclusion social*) - the relevant legislation mentioned only refugees previously – and included in its scope the family members of beneficiaries as well. Beneficiaries of subsidiary protection in **Slovakia** are now included in the scope for receiving financial benefits compensating for serious physical disabilities. The Ministry of Social Affairs in **Austria** presented a draft law on social assistance [761], heavily criticised by civil society organisations, which would make part of the minimum benefit conditional on compulsory education or language knowledge, cut benefits for families with a lot of children and exclude beneficiaries of subsidiary protection of its scope.[762] The level of benefits in Austria and the interpretation of Article 29 of the recast QD was the issue of a CJEU preliminary ruling, based on the request of the Provincial Administrative Court of Upper Austria. The CJEU

underlined that not only refugees with permanent residence are entitled to the same level of social assistance as nationals, but also refugees with a temporary right of residence have to be treated equally with Austrian citizens and the limitations that can be applied to beneficiaries of subsidiary protection with regard to social assistance cannot be applied to them.[763] Some countries highlighted the significant role that the Provision of information has on directing beneficiaries of international protection towards the available social assistance and social support: Migrant Information Centres remained active in **Cyprus** and all 14 regions have now a Regional Integration Centre in the **Czechia**. The State Employment Agency in **Latvia** created a multilingual infographic on social insurance services for employees.

As a major development aiming to improve **healthcare** services for migrants, **Ireland** launched on 1 January 2019 its second National Intercultural Health Strategy. New funding possibilities opened up for municipalities and care providers in the **Netherlands** for improving the support services for beneficiaries of international protection in general and allowing for the early identification of mental and psycho-social issues in particular. The Association of Netherlands Municipalities Asylum Seekers and Permit Holders Support Team (VNG OTAV) started a specific process to support municipalities in developing a health care approach to Eritrean beneficiaries, who are considered to be relatively vulnerable as a group.

The transition of recognised beneficiaries from Reception to follow-up accommodation or to the mainstream housing market has been a major concern in many EU+ countries [764], still limited amount of legal and policy changes arose on this field. The relevant act was amended in **Croatia** and it moved the responsibility for providing accommodation for beneficiaries of international protection to the Central State Office for Reconstruction and Housing Care. The government agreement in **Luxembourg** committed to provide more adequate accommodation for beneficiaries of international protection, increase the housing capacity of OLAI and amend the criteria to facilitate beneficiaries' access to social housing. The Association of Local Authorities in **Lithuania** has put forward two initiatives to ease beneficiaries' transition after recognition: it suggested the introduction of lower business fees for persons renting out accommodation to beneficiaries and launched a mapping exercise of the accommodation infrastructure to identify the exact needs for renovation or reconstruction. Civil society organisations from **Greece** [765], **Ireland** [766], **Malta**[767] and the **UK**[768] highlighted that recognised beneficiaries are still at an increased risk of homelessness and inadequate living conditions and an Austrian study revealed the specific challenges of beneficiaries in accessing municipal housing.[769] An NGO in **France** underlined that temporary accommodation centres (CPH, *centres provisoires d'hébergement*) provide housing for recognised beneficiaries for maximum 12 months, but places remain limited. [770] Another civil society organisation in **Sweden** noted that UAM face significant challenges in finding housing after they turn 18, and they often have to move further away, cutting them from their initial ties supporting integration, such as school and local community. [771]

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687 IT LEG 01: Immigration and Security Decree.

688 Malta, Ministry for Home Affairs and National Security, Policy regarding Specific Residence Authorisation .

689 SE LEG 03: Law (2018:756) amending the Law on temporary limitations on the possibility of obtaining a

residence permit in Sweden.
690 UK Home Office, Section 67 of the Immigration Act 2016 leave, Version 1.0.
691 gov.uk, New form of leave for children transferred during Calais clearance to join family.
692 IND, Children's pardon: Everything about the Final Regulation for long-term resident children.
693 UNHCR, UNHCR Comments on the European Commission Proposal for a Qualification Regulation – COM (2016) 466.
694 FR LEG 01: Law of 10 September 2018.
695 DK LEG 01: Act No. 174 of 27/02/2019.
696 SK LEG 02: Act No. 198/2018 Coll.
697 IT LEG 01: Immigration and Security Decree.
698 AT LEG 01: FrÄG 2018, Aliens Law Amendment Act 2018.
699 Belgian House of Representatives, General Policy Note on Asylum and Migration, p. 25.
700 SEM, Fin du projet pilote d'examen des admissions provisoires de ressortissants érythréens.
701 CH Federal Administrative Court, D-2311/2016.
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