



Please cite as: EUAA, '[Section 4.4. Processing asylum applications at first instance](#)' in *Asylum Report 2022*, May 2022.

Section 4.4. Processing asylum applications at first instance

icon for processing applications at first instance

Section 4.4. Processing asylum applications at first instance

CEAS is based on the principle of common standards to grant and withdraw international protection across EU+ countries in an effort to ensure fair and efficient procedures. Fairness and common standards in asylum procedures ensure that similar asylum cases are treated in a similar manner in all Member States, leading to uniform decision-making and convergence across the EU, while ensuring that an individualised assessment is provided in each case.

The procedures foreseen in the recast Asylum Procedures Directive aim to ensure that decisions on applications for international protection are taken on the basis of facts and by persons with appropriate knowledge and training, after an adequate and complete examination has been undertaken without undue delay and subject to remedies. Within this framework, Member States have established their asylum systems and procedures in various ways.

In the second year of the COVID-19 pandemic and related health measures, EU+ countries continued to organise remote interviews with applicants for international protection, delaying the initial interview for applicants who showed symptoms of COVID-19 infection. In general, remote procedures were no longer exceptional but rather the new normal. Developments in EU+ countries included long-term policy developments, efforts to improve the quality of first instance decisions, concerns over data protection and privacy considerations, and new guidelines for certain profiles of applicants from specific countries of origin in which the situation was continuously evolving in 2021.

The EUAA published a practical guide on the welfare of asylum and reception staff to build resilience in managers and staff faced with risk factors related to daily work in asylum. The guide includes standards and policies for developing staff welfare strategies,⁵²³ a staff welfare toolbox with good practices from EU+ countries, and monitoring and evaluation mechanisms to assess the impact of the measures.

icon for reorganization of first instance authorities

4.4.1. Reorganisation of first instance asylum authorities

[Read more...](#)

icon for legislative and policy developments at first instance

4.4.2. Legislative and policy developments

[Read more...](#)

icon for decisions at first instance

4.4.3. Decisions issued on first instance asylum applications

[Read more...](#)

icon for withdrawn applications at first instance

4.4.4. Withdrawn applications

[Read more...](#)

icon for quality improvement at first instance decisions

4.4.5. Analyses and measures to improve the quality of first instance decisions

[Read more...](#)

icon for the right to be heard during the personal interview

4.4.6. Right to be heard and the personal interview

[Read more...](#)

icon for digitalisation of first instance procedures

4.4.7. Efforts to further digitalise the asylum procedure

[Read more...](#)

icon for data privacy during first instance procedures

4.4.8. Privacy and data protection in first instance asylum procedures

[Read more...](#)

icon for prioritization policies

4.4.9. Prioritisation policies

[Read more...](#)

icon for guidelines on assessment of applications

4.4.10. Guidelines for assessing applications

[Read more...](#)

icon for the length of asylum processes

4.4.11. The length of asylum processes

[Read more...](#)

icon for processing of applications from specific nationalities

4.4.12. Processing of applications lodged by specific nationalities

[Read more...](#)

- [523](#)European Union Agency for Asylum. (September 2021). Practical guide on the welfare of staff: Part I: Standards and policy. EUAA Practical Guides Series.
<https://euaa.europa.eu/publications/practical-guide-welfare-staff-part-i>; European Union Agency for Asylum. (September 2021). Practical guide on the welfare of staff: Part II: Staff welfare toolbox. EUAA Practical Guides Series.
<https://euaa.europa.eu/publications/practical-guide-welfare-staff-part-ii>; European Union Agency for Asylum. (September 2021). Practical guide on the welfare of staff: Part III: Monitoring and evaluation. EUAA Practical Guides Series.
<https://euaa.europa.eu/publications/practical-guide-welfare-staff-part-iii>

© European Union Agency for Asylum 2026 | Email: info@euaa.europa.eu