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4.11.1. Institutional and legislative changes

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icon for institutional and legislative services in interpretation
In 2021, some EU+ countries underwent internal reorganisation which impacted the provision of interpretation services. For example, the Federal Agency for Reception and Support Services in Austria, which began operations in December 2020, started to provide translation and interpretation services related to its own work.962 In parallel, the Ministry of the Interior and the Federal Administrative Court kept their own respective databases and tools. The Finnish Immigration Service was restructured at the end of 2020, so the Legal Services Unit became responsible for assessing interpretation services.

In Germany, a new coalition agreement between the Social Democrat Party SPD, the Green Party and the Liberal Party FDP sets out to closely monitor the use of interpreters for LGBTIQ applicants for international protection in order to eradicate discrimination.963

Due to the situation at the border with Belarus, Lithuania introduced several amendments to the Law on the Legal Status of Aliens in August 2021. In the event of a declaration of martial law, a state of emergency or an emergency due to a mass influx of foreigners, Article 71 states that some rights provided to asylum applicants, including interpretation, may be temporarily and proportionally restricted.964 International and civil society organisations expressed concerns over these rules *(see Section 4.10)*. This article was repealed on 1 January 2022.

In June 2021, Norway introduced the Interpretation Act965 which came into force on 1 January 2022. The act requires that public agencies use certified interpreters to improve quality and ensure trust in the process.

962-965

- 962Federal Ministry of the Interior | Bundesministerium für Inneres. (2020, December 1). Nehammer: Bundesagentur für Betreuungs- und Unterstützungsleistungen startet am 1. Dezember 2020 [Nehammer: The Federal Agency for Reception and Support Services starts on 1 December 2020]. https://bmi.gv.at/news.aspx?id=4B39496B4D4E57542F36383D

- 963Federal Government | Bundesregierung. (2021, October 12). Mehr Fortschritt wagen: Koalitionsvertrag 2021-2025 zwischen der Sozialdemokratischen Partei Deutschlands (SPD), BÜNDNIS 90 / DIE GRÜNEN und den Freien Demokraten (FDP) [Dare more progress: Coalition Agreement 2021-2025 among the Social Democratic Party (SPD), Alliance 90/The Greens and the Free Democrats (FDP)]. https://www.bundesregierung.de/resource/blob/974430/1990812/a4ceb7591c8d9058b402f0a655f 12-10-koav2021-data.pdf?download=1
- 964Lietuvos Respublikos įstatymo „Dėl užsieniečių teisinės padėties“ Nr. IX-2206 5, 71, 76, 77, 79, 113, 131, 136, 138, 139, 140 straipsnių pakeitimo ir Įstatymo papildymo IX-1 skyriumi įstatymas [Law amending Articles 5, 71, 76, 77, 79, 113, 131, 136, 138, 139 and 140 of Law No IX-2206 of the Republic of Lithuania on the Legal Status of Aliens and adding Chapter IX-1 to the Law], July 13, 2021. https://www.e-tar.lt/portal/legalAct.html?documentId=a4780990eac111eb9f09e7df20500045
- 965Lov om offentlige organers ansvar for bruk av tolk mv. (tolkeloven), LOV-2021-06-11-79 [Act relating to the responsibility of public bodies for the use of interpreters, etc. (the Interpretation Act), LOV-2021-06-11-79], June 11, 2021. https://lovdata.no/dokument/NL/lov/2021-06-11-79

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