

# Section 3. Functioning of the Common European Asylum System

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This section provides an overview of developments in legislation, policy, practice and case law in EU+ countries throughout 2023. Concerns about aspects of national asylum and reception systems are included from authorities, civil society organisations, UNHCR and other international organisations.

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

**[3.1. Access to procedures](#)** presents developments surrounding access to territory and the first steps of the asylum procedure, including making, registering and lodging an application.

**[3.2. The Dublin procedure](#)** takes an in-depth look into the system which sets out the criteria and mechanisms to determine the Member State responsible for examining an application for international protection.

**[3.3. Special procedures to assess protection needs](#)** presents new practices around border procedures, the safe country of origin concept, accelerated procedures, admissibility procedures and subsequent applications.

**[3.4. Processing asylum applications at first instance](#)** addresses new approaches, measures, working methods and policies, such as prioritisation policies. It presents legislative amendments, technological developments and improvements to the quality of the procedure.

**[3.5. Processing asylum applications at second or higher instances](#)** presents initiatives to make the procedures at second instance more efficient and details changes on the right to an effective remedy and the processing of cases lodged by specific nationalities.

**[3.6. Reception of applicants for international protection](#)** shows how Member States reacted to trends in international protection in terms of reception capacities and policies.

**3.7. Aspects of detention involving asylum applicants and former applicants** provides an overview of changes in detention capacity, conditions, duration and alternatives to detention.

**3.8. Access to information** details new initiatives in information provision throughout the different stages of the asylum process, including information on the procedure and information on everyday life and rights.

**3.9. Legal assistance and representation** outlines changes in the provision of free legal counselling and advice to applicants.

**3.10. Interpretation services** presents amendments and concerns around the provision of interpretation, including institutional changes and policy updates.

**3.11. Country of origin information** briefly describes developments in country of origin (COI) research and production.

**3.12. Statelessness in the context of asylum** explores the relationship between statelessness and asylum, highlighting associated challenges.

**3.13. Content of protection** presents initiatives taken for the integration of recognised beneficiaries of international protection based on the recast QD.

**3.14. 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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