

3.2. Streamlining access to the procedure

3.2. Streamlining access to the procedure



Continuing a trend from past years, some EU+ countries introduced practices to distinguish at the earliest possible time between those in need and those not in need of protection, with the latter being directed to return procedures. For example, to relieve the workload in asylum proceedings and pressure in reception, the so-called 24-hour procedure in Switzerland, which had been tested on a small scale since 2023, was generally introduced in 2024 for applicants from the Maghreb states. The aim of the procedure is to very quickly process asylum applications that have low chances of success.[99](#)

Other initiatives brought together competent authorities in one location to facilitate coordination among authorities and decrease processing times. The 'France Asile' territorial hubs, introduced by the 2024 law on controlling immigration and improving integration, will bring together the authority responsible for registration (prefectures), the authority responsible for the lodging of applications (Office for the Protection of Refugees and Stateless Persons, OFPRA) and the authority responsible for granting material reception conditions (OFII) in order to complete these steps on the same day. Pilot sites will be implemented as of 2025.[100](#)

In Spain, building on the experience of a one-stop model for people coming from Ukraine, the model is being tested for applicants for international protection.[101](#) EU+ countries also introduced additional obligations for applicants to collaborate with authorities in sharing as much information and as early as possible about their age, identity, nationality and countries of residence or transit.[102](#) In recent years, the introduction of digital innovations in registering and lodging applications also aimed to address this dual goal of gathering more information from applicants and decreasing processing times,[103](#) and for example, in 2024, the Irish International Protection Office (IPO) introduced a new digital application procedure for all applicants.[104](#)

Despite efforts by national authorities, throughout 2024 delays were reported in a number of countries in accessing the asylum procedure, with applicants on certain occasions waiting for months to obtain an appointment to formalise their application.¹⁰⁵ This occurred, for example, in Spain in the Canary Islands;¹⁰⁶ in Greece due to interruptions in the provision of interpretation services;¹⁰⁷ and in Italy at police headquarters, particularly in large cities like Rome, Milan and Florence.¹⁰⁸ In addition, the Barajas airport in Spain experienced some saturation periods in 2024 due to a high number of applicants.¹⁰⁹

With stricter border control regimes at the EU's external borders, the automatic detention of migrants who crossed the border irregularly became a more frequent occurrence. Civil society organisations voiced concerns that these practices inhibited or delayed effective access to the asylum procedure.¹¹⁰ Within their role to guide the correct implementation of asylum law, courts often stepped in to review these practices and deemed the detention unlawful.¹¹¹

- [99](#)

Federal Council | Der Bundesrat | Conseil fédéral | Consiglio federale. (2024, February 20). [Beat Jans annonce au Tessin des mesures pour soulager le système de l'asile \[Beat Jans announces measures in Ticino to ease the burden on the asylum system\]](#).

- [100](#)

[Décret n° 2024-828 du 16 juillet 2024 relatif aux pôles territoriaux « France asile » et modifiant la procédure de demande d'asile \[Decree No. 2024-828 of 16 July 2024 relating to the "France Asile" territorial hubs and modifying the asylum application procedure\]](#), July 16, 2024.

- [101](#)

Ministry of Inclusion, Social Security and Migration | Ministerio de Inclusión, Seguridad Social y Migraciones. (2024, June 18). [La ministra Elma Saiz anuncia la ampliación del exitoso piloto para agilizar la tramitación de solicitudes de asilo del CREADE de Pozuelo a otros centros \[Minister Elma Saiz announces the extension of the successful pilot to speed up the processing of asylum applications from CREADE in Pozuelo to other centres\]](#).

- [102](#)

[Legge 9 dicembre 2024, n. 187 conversione in legge, con modificazioni, del decreto-legge 11 ottobre 2024, n. 145, recante disposizioni urgenti in materia di ingresso in Italia di lavoratori stranieri, di tutela e assistenza alle vittime di caporalato, di gestione dei flussi migratori e di protezione internazionale, nonché dei relativi procedimenti giurisdizionali \[Law of 9 December 2024, n. 187 converting into law, with amendments, Decree-Law No. 145 of 11 October 2024, laying down urgent provisions on the entry into Italy of foreign workers, the protection and assistance of victims recruited for illegal agricultural work, the management of migratory flows and international protection, as well as the related judicial proceedings\]](#), December 9, 2024.

- [103](#)

European Union Agency for Asylum. (June 2024). [Asylum Report 2024](#).

- [104](#)

International Protection Office | An Oifig Um Chosaint Idirnáisiúnta. (2024, November 26). [What's New - International Protection Office](#).

- [105](#)

European Council on Refugees and Exiles. (2025). [Input to the Asylum Report 2025](#).

- [106](#)

Spanish Commission for Refugee Aid | Comisión Española de Ayuda al Refugiado. (2024). [Input to the Asylum Report 2025](#). General Council of Spanish Lawyers | Consejo General de la Abogacía Española. (2024, March 26). [La Abogacía denuncia la vulneración del derecho de asilo ante la imposibilidad de obtener una cita por internet \[The Bar Association denounces the violation of the right to asylum due to the impossibility of obtaining an appointment online\]](#). Spanish Ombudsperson | Defensor Del Pueblo. (2024, July 30). [Menores extranjeros no acompañados en Canarias \[Situation of unaccompanied foreign minors in the Canary Islands\]](#). Spanish Ombudsperson | Defensor Del Pueblo. (2024, March 27). [Tramitación de los procedimientos de protección internacional \[Processing of international protection procedures\]](#).

- [107](#)

Equal Legal Aid. (2024). [Input to the Asylum Report 2025](#). Mobile Info Team et al. (2024, November 1). [Open Letter: Put an end to the disruption of interpretation services still undermining asylum seekers' rights in Greece](#).

- [108](#)

Association for Juridical Studies on Immigration | Associazione per gli Studi Giuridici sull'Immigrazione. (2024, September 30). [Ritardi nell'accesso alla procedura di asilo: ASGI invia una denuncia alla Commissione UE \[Delays in accessing the asylum procedure: ASGI sends a complaint to the EU Commission\]](#).

- [109](#)

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. (2024, January 26). [UNHCR recalls the urgency to solve the situation of asylum seekers at the Madrid-Barajas airport](#).

- [110](#)

Helsinki Foundation for Human Rights | Helsińska Fundacja Praw Człowieka. (2024). [Input to the Asylum Report 2025](#). Lithuanian Red Cross Society | Lietuvos Raudonojo Kryžiaus. (2024). [Input to the Asylum Report 2025](#). Equal Legal Aid. (2024). [Input to the Asylum Report 2025](#). Spanish Commission for Refugee Aid | Comisión Española de Ayuda al Refugiado. (2024). [Input to the Asylum Report 2025](#). European Council on Refugees and

Exiles. (2025). [Input to the Asylum Report 2025](#).

- [111](#)

Council of Europe, European Court of Human Rights [ECtHR], [Z.L. v Hungary](#), 13899/19, ECLI:CE:ECHR:2024:0912JUD001389919, 12 September 2024. Link redirects to the English summary in the EUAA Case Law Database. Council of Europe, European Court of Human Rights [ECtHR], [S.H. v Hungary](#), 47321/19, ECLI:CE:ECHR:2024:0620JUD004732119, 20 June 2024. Link redirects to the English summary in the EUAA Case Law Database. Council of Europe, European Court of Human Rights [ECtHR], [K.A. v Cyprus](#), No 63076/19, 2 July 2024. Link redirects to the English summary in the EUAA Case Law Database. Netherlands, Council of State [Afdeling Bestuursrechtspraak van de Raad van State], [Applicants v The Minister for Asylum and Migration \(de Minister van Asiel en Migratie\)](#), BRS.24.000105, ECLI:NL:RVS:2024:4292, 30 October 2024. Link redirects to the English summary in the EUAA Case Law Database.