



Iceland

National developments in 2025



Two legislative proposals were discussed in the Icelandic parliament to align national legislation with elements of the Pact on Migration and Asylum. One proposal aims to align with the Qualification Regulation and introduces new grounds for the withdrawal of international protection when the person is considered a threat to state security or convicted a serious crime. In addition, the bill proposes to repeal humanitarian residence permits and replace them with a new permit based on tolerated stay.¹ The other proposal transposes elements from the Screening Regulation. While background checks, health and vulnerability assessments were already established for applicants for international protection, they are proposed to be extended to persons entering or staying irregularly in the country. The bill also establishes the legal basis for administrative detention centres for rejected applicants waiting to be returned.²

Internal discussions continued within the Directorate of Immigration to assess other areas that could be better aligned with the application of the Pact.

Contrary to the majority of EU+ countries, Iceland did not face a significant backlog in its asylum system. In terms of policy, the processing of applications by Syrian nationals was suspended until November 2025.

While Ukrainians remained the largest group among applicants, the profile of residents in reception shifted from families to single men and displaced persons from Ukraine. Applicants stayed for a shorter period in reception, on average around 4 weeks instead of 8 weeks, as applicants from Ukraine tend to obtain protection faster. The reception service was downscaling its operations and closed several places.

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Key indicators for 2025



Iceland and Liechtenstein do not currently take part in the EUAA's (EPS) data exchange, and thus these indicators are not available for the report.

For more developments, please consult the [Asylum Report 2026](#) and the [National Asylum Developments Database](#).





Sources

¹ [Frumvarp til laga um breytingu á lögum um útlendinga, nr. 80/2016 \(afturköllun alþjóðlegrar verndar\)](#) [Draft Law on amendments to the Aliens Act, No 80/2016 (revocation of international protection)], 18 September 2025.

² [Drög að frumvarpi til laga um brottfararstöð, S-193/2025](#) [Draft law on removal, S-193/2025], 2 October 2025.