



National Asylum Developments 2025



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Introduction

This summary presents legislative, institutional and policy developments in asylum and reception in EU+ countries in 2024, as presented in the [Asylum Report 2025](#). Details for each development and further analysis are provided in the report.

This information is also available in a searchable database, the EUAA National Asylum Developments Database: <https://euaa.europa.eu/national-asylum-developments-database>



Legislative developments

	Country	Thematic area	Development
	Austria	Legal assistance and representation	The law establishing the Federal Agency for Reception and Support Services (BBU) was amended to comply with the Constitutional Court's 2023 ruling on legal advice. It created a separate Legal Advice Service and introduced a Quality Advisory Board to provide advice to the service and make recommendations to BBU's management and the ministries responsible for the agency.
	Belgium	The Dublin procedure	The Proactive Return Policy Law was passed to increase the efficiency of Dublin transfers, among other objectives. It created special Dublin places in reception and legally embedded specific aspects related to the Dublin procedure, such as: the responsibility for taking a decision to extend the time limit to transfer an applicant, the duty to cooperate of the applicant in the transfer process, proactive coaching in individual case management in take back or take charge procedures, the concept of absconding and the list of preventive measures and less coercive measures for detention.
	Belgium	Special procedures to assess protection needs	Moldova was added to the list of safe countries of origin.
	Belgium	Reception of applicants for international protection	A new Royal Decree established mechanisms to ensure that occupants of a reception centre who have a professional income contribute to material aid and introduced sanctions for those who refuse to do so. It also seeks to establish a clear and equitable contribution framework that encourages residents to declare their income.
	Belgium	Reception of applicants for international protection	The Reception Act was amended so that the end of the right to material reception conditions is now linked to a final negative decision on an asylum application and not to the notification of an order to leave the territory.
	Belgium	Statelessness in the context of asylum	The law providing for a specific residence on the grounds of statelessness came into force. It establishes a procedure for applications for an admission to stay.
	Belgium	Content of protection	The Council of Ministers has legally implemented a digitalisation project to ease the administrative burden and improve access to healthcare for applicants. Legal amendments were made to allow for the personal data of applicants to be processed electronically.










	Belgium	Content of protection	The Law on Family Reunification was amended. Parents of an accompanied minor with international protection now have the right to reunite with their child, and stateless persons are entitled to the same rights as beneficiaries of international protection in family reunification.
	Belgium	Return of former applicants	The Proactive Return Policy Law was passed to increase the efficiency of returns. It introduced a duty to cooperate in the return process, created special return places in reception, and expanded the list of competent authorities.
	Belgium	Unaccompanied minors and vulnerable groups	The healthcare regulatory framework was amended so that it is no longer necessary to wait for the appointment of a guardian to activate the right to health insurance of unaccompanied minors.
	Belgium	Unaccompanied minors and vulnerable groups	The Proactive Return Policy Law legally anchored the ban on detaining children.
	Bulgaria	Special procedures to assess protection needs	For the first time since joining the EU a safe country of origin list and a safe third country list were adopted in 2024.
	Bulgaria	Reception of applicants for international protection	Through amendments to the Ministry of the Interior Act, the Ministry of the Interior became responsible for the protection and security of reception centres which are administered by the State Agency for Refugees.
	Cyprus	Legal assistance and representation	The Legal Aid Law 2002 was amended regarding legal aid in appeals before the International Protection Administrative Court. Beneficiaries of international protection and illegally staying third-country nationals will only be granted legal aid if the appeal is filed within the deadlines. Legal aid representatives will be appointed in serial order from the directory of the Cyprus Bar Association, which contain at least 20 names of lawyers interested in providing free legal aid.
	Czechia	Processing asylum applications at first instance	The government submitted a new bill to the Chamber of Deputies. It includes the digitalisation of the residence permit and it strengthens the role of the guarantor (a person or entity who guarantees the purpose of the foreigner's stay).
	Denmark	Content of protection	The Danish Immigration Service approved new rules for the family reunification of spouses. They include new conditions on Danish language knowledge and a provision by which a charge or indictment of certain crimes will hinder the issuance of a permanent residence permit.
	Denmark	Unaccompanied minors and vulnerable groups	The Parliament amended the Danish Aliens Act to better protect minors. It includes assigning a representative to a minor (both unaccompanied



			and accompanied) who is in a forced (religious or informal) marriage. The amendments also facilitate the allocation of a suitable reception place in specialised facilities for children requiring special support.
	Finland	Access to procedure	The Aliens Act was amended to introduce the border procedure. This will expedite the examination of applications that are likely to be unfounded and the return of applicants who receive a negative decision.
	Finland	Access to procedure	The President approved the Act on Temporary Measures to Combat Instrumentalised Migration. It provides the conditions under which the government can decide in a plenary session to restrict the reception of applications for international protection in a specific border area and to prevent third-country nationals from entering the country in an irregular manner.
	Finland	Detention during the asylum procedure	The government submitted a proposal to amend the Aliens Act to extend the maximum duration of detention and add a new ground for detention. The amendments will enter into force on 6 May 2025.
	Finland	Content of protection	The Aliens Act was amended to reduce the length of a residence permit for beneficiaries of international protection to the minimum allowed by EU law. A first residence permit for refugees is reduced to 3 years, and for beneficiaries of subsidiary protection, reduced to 1 year.
	Finland	Content of protection	Applicants and former applicants can no longer obtain a residence permit based on employment, self-employment or studies in an effort to prevent the use of the asylum procedure for work and study purposes.
	Finland	Content of protection	The Aliens Act was amended to implement stricter rules on the end of the right to work for rejected applicants. In accelerated procedures or for inadmissible applications, the right to work will end on the day that the decision is served.
	Finland	Content of protection	The government submitted a proposal to amend the Aliens Act to introduce stricter conditions for family reunification, such as a minimum age of 21 for both spouses when they are third-country nationals, a requirement of sufficient financial resources for parents reuniting with their unaccompanied child and a minimum period of residence for sponsors who have been granted international protection. The period of residence does not apply if the family was formed before the sponsor arrived in Finland, before being accepted as a quota refugee or before having received refugee



			status as a family member. The amendments have not yet come into force.
	Finland	Content of protection	The Integration Act was amended to transfer integration responsibilities from the state to municipalities.
	Finland	Content of protection	The Integration Act will be complemented by regulations which provide for multilingual social orientation on the values and norms of Finnish society, individual rights and obligations, and employment. In addition, they provide for remuneration for representatives of an unaccompanied child applicant.
	Finland	Content of protection	The Citizenship Act was amended to tighten the requirements for citizenship and encourage migrants to integrate into society. The required period of residence to apply for citizenship was extended from 5 to 8 years, except when applicants meet the language requirement, in which case the period is reduced to 5 years.
	Finland	Return of former applicants	The government submitted a proposal to amend the Aliens Act aiming to expand the effective use of entry bans and to make returns more efficient. The amendments will enter into force on 6 May 2025.
	France	Processing asylum applications at first instance	A new decree introduced an obligation for the prefect to inform the Office for the Protection of Refugees and Stateless Persons (OFPRA) and the Office for Immigration and Integration (OFII) when they have information that an applicant is a beneficiary of protection in another Member State. According to the new Law for Controlling Immigration and Improving Integration, if the applicant had indeed received protection equivalent to international protection in another Member State, OFPRA may now take an inadmissibility decision. Moreover, in these cases, it is now possible to use videoconferencing to conduct interviews.
	France	Processing asylum applications at first instance	The new Law for Controlling Immigration and Improving Integration provides for the creation of territorial hubs to reduce processing times. The hubs bring together the authority responsible for the registration (prefectures), the authority responsible for the lodging of applications (OFPRA), and the authority responsible for providing material reception conditions (OFII).
	France	Processing asylum applications at first instance	The Office for the Protection of Refugees and Stateless Persons (OFPRA) can dismiss an application when the applicant has abandoned the accommodation place without a legitimate reason.



	France	Processing asylum applications at second or higher instance	The new Law for Controlling Immigration and Improving Integration reformed the National Asylum Court. The procedure of the judge ruling alone has become the principle, with the same procedural guarantees granted to the appellant, but the collegiate procedure (panel of three judges) is used when the case raises a question that justifies it. In addition, the court has created five territorial chambers to bring the judge closer to the applicant.
	France	Reception of applicants for international protection	A new decree removed the mandatory informal appeal against a decision to refuse material reception conditions. It also made it obligatory for authorities to exclude from or withdraw material reception conditions for certain groups of applicants in conformity with EU law.
	France	Reception of applicants for international protection	A new order established a list of accredited humanitarian organisations that are authorised to propose representatives who can access the waiting zones.
	France	Detention during the asylum procedure	The 2023 programming law of the Ministry of Interior provides for the creation of 1,200 additional places in administrative detention centres.
	France	Detention during the asylum procedure	A new decree adapted the regulatory provisions on house arrest and the administrative detention of applicants. It expanded the length of the initial detention period without a judicial order and the maximum period for house arrest.
	France	Content of protection	The new Law for Controlling Immigration and Improving Integration will make the issuance of the first multi-annual residence permit conditional on the mastery of a minimum level of French.
	France	Content of protection	The Global Support and Integration (AGIR) programme, which focuses on access to employment and housing for beneficiaries of international protection, continues for the most vulnerable beneficiaries.
	France	Return of former applicants	A new decree readjusted the share of responsibilities between the minister and the prefectures for return orders. It also streamlined the organisation of return commissions, specified the procedures to summon, before these commissions, a third-country national seeking the abrogation of a return decision, and increased the maximum number of check-ins (at a police station) of those under house arrest prior to their return.
	France	Return of former applicants	A new decree stipulated that an obligation to leave the territory must be issued within 15 days of the prefecture being informed that the



			applicant's right to remain in France has expired, unless they consider a residence permit on other grounds.
	France	Unaccompanied minors and vulnerable groups	The new Law for Controlling Immigration and Improving Integration prohibits the detention of families with minors. Other means, such as house arrest, can be applied.
	France	Unaccompanied minors and vulnerable groups	A decree was adopted laying down the procedures for the medical examination of cases of female genital mutilation and cutting (FGM/C).
	Germany	The Dublin procedure	According to the new law to improve domestic security and the asylum system, applicants in the Dublin procedure no longer receive social benefits when the other country has accepted responsibility, and the transfer is possible.
	Germany	Processing asylum applications at first instance	According to the new law to improve domestic security and the asylum system, the Federal Office for Migration and Refugees may now use biometric data to establish the identity of applicants.
	Germany	Processing asylum applications at first instance	The Federal Cabinet adopted a draft law to further digitalise migration management, which will reduce the burden on authorities and speed up administrative processes.
	Germany	Processing asylum applications at first instance	The federal government adopted two draft laws to adapt national law to the new Common European Asylum System. They will impact administrative practices at the federal, state and local levels.
	Germany	Processing asylum applications at first instance	A new legislative proposal was made to amend the Code of Administrative Course Procedure. It aims to extend the use of individual judges to decisions of asylum proceedings.
	Germany	Content of protection	According to the new law to improve domestic security and the asylum system, beneficiaries of international protection lose their status when they travel to the country of origin, unless the travel is considered 'morally essential'.
	Germany	Content of protection	The Bundesrat approved amendments to the citizenship law. Special integration efforts are now rewarded with earlier qualification for naturalisation and allowing to retain the original citizenship upon naturalisation.
	Germany	Return of former applicants	According to the new law to improve domestic security and the asylum system, measures will be taken to simplify the removal of rejected asylum applicants who have committed a criminal offence. Similarly, the return procedure was amended, allowing search and custody options to be extended to identify the country of origin of a person who will be returned or locate people obliged to return.



	Greece	Special procedures to assess protection needs	The national list of safe countries of origin was updated to include Angola and Moldova.
	Greece	Processing asylum applications at second or higher instance	Different Joint Ministerial Decisions established 20 Independent Appeals Committees within the Appeals Authority, specified their composition, and regulated practical matters of their functioning, such as the process and the criteria for the selection of their members, the renewal of their term, the possibility for substitution of members, and the administrative support provided to them.
	Greece	Unaccompanied minors and vulnerable groups	The new National Guardianship System for Unaccompanied Minors entered into force in January 2024.
	Greece	Unaccompanied minors and vulnerable groups	The director of the Asylum Service issued a decision to clarify that the asylum applicant's card for unaccompanied minors is valid for a year (except for exemptions provided by law) and can be renewed by the guardian without the presence of the minor.
	Greece	Unaccompanied minors and vulnerable groups	A Joint Ministerial Decision amended the framework for operations and licensing of reception centres for unaccompanied minors.
	Greece	Unaccompanied minors and vulnerable groups	A Joint Ministerial Decision amended the framework for operations of semi-independent living apartments for unaccompanied minors.
	Hungary	Processing asylum applications at first instance	The embassy procedure remained in place and was codified in a Government Decree, which changed the legal basis of the measure from epidemiological reasons to a crisis situation due to the war in Ukraine. A minor amendment was made to the regulation on exceptions to the embassy procedure.
	Iceland	Processing asylum applications at first instance	An amendment to the Act on Foreigners revised the admissibility procedure ('material handling' in Iceland). It repealed the requirement for authorities to examine an applicant's relation to Iceland when: i) Iceland is not responsible for the asylum application under the rules of the Dublin III Regulation; ii) applicants have already received protection in another Member State; and iii) applicants are eligible to receive protection in a safe third country.
	Iceland	Processing asylum applications at first instance	An amendment to the Act on Foreigners repealed the provision which requires substantive processing of an application within the regular procedure if a final decision has not been issued at the administrative level within 12 months.
	Iceland	Processing asylum applications at first instance	An amendment to the Act on Foreigners introduced the possibility of dismissing a subsequent ('repeated' in Iceland) application if no new grounds or evidence exist to lead to an










			increased probability of a previous application to be accepted.
	Iceland	Processing asylum applications at second or higher instance	An amendment to the Act on Foreigners changed the prioritisation of cases so that cases nearing the time limit for processing are reviewed first and those which already passed the deadline are processed later.
	Iceland	Content of protection	An amendment to the Act on Foreigners shortened the validity period of residence permits connected to protection statuses. Residence permits for refugees, stateless persons and quota refugees are now valid for 3 years instead of 4. Permits for additional protection are valid for 2 years. Permits for family reunification with a refugee can be extended for 3 years but cannot exceed the duration of the principal permit. Humanitarian residence permits are renewed annually, rather than every 2 years.
	Iceland	Content of protection	According to amendments to the Act on Foreigners, a residence permit based on additional protection may only be renewed if the conditions for protection are still met. Consequently, a new assessment of the situation in the country of origin must be made before a decision on renewal is taken.
	Iceland	Content of protection	An amendment to the Act on Foreigners established that family reunification for holders of subsidiary protection can only be submitted after the status has been renewed once. Exceptions may be granted for urgent care considerations.
	Iceland	Content of protection	An amendment to the Act on Foreigners established that family reunification for holders of humanitarian permits can only be submitted after the status has been renewed twice. Exceptions may be granted for urgent care considerations.
	Iceland	Content of protection	An amendment to the Act on Foreigners added adopted children to the list of those entitled to protection on the basis of family reunification.
	Iceland	Return of former applicants	The government amended the regulation on financial assistance for voluntary returns. Those who request assistance before a decision is reached at the appeal stage can receive a higher additional grant than those who request assistance after a decision is reached at the appeal stage.
	Ireland	Processing asylum applications at first instance	Ireland opted in to seven of the legislative measures in the EU Asylum and Migration Pact.



	Ireland	Reception of applicants for international protection	The Reception Conditions Regulation was amended to provide for a quality inspection of reception centres. Following the amendment, the Health Information and Quality Authority was appointed to conduct the inspections.
	Ireland	Return of former applicants	An Emergency Legislation was drafted in 2024 and adopted in 2025 to allow the return of applicants who entered Ireland from the UK.
	Italy	Special procedures to assess protection needs	The Italy-Albania protocol was ratified, which set up a mechanism and the conditions under which Italy would carry out the processing of asylum applications under Italian jurisdiction in designated areas of Albanian territory for third-country nationals originating from the list of safe countries of origin and who are rescued or intercepted in international water by vessels of Italian authorities.
	Italy	Special procedures to assess protection needs	The list of safe countries of origin was first updated by a ministerial decree and then included in primary norm by Decree Law No 158/2024.
	Italy	Special procedures to assess protection needs	Law No 187/2024 converting Decree Law No 158/2024 allowed a deferred refusal of entry order to be issued to applicants who are traced during surveillance activities at the external borders, including as a result of search and rescue operations, and are taken to areas designated for carrying out a border procedure.
	Italy	Access to procedure	The state of emergency was extended for 2025, as a consequence of the exceptional increase in the flow of migrants entering the country through the Mediterranean migratory routes.
	Italy	Processing asylum applications at second or higher instance	Decree Law No 158/2024 introduced the possibility to challenge suspension decisions of first instance courts before the Court of Appeal.
	Italy	Processing asylum applications at second or higher instance	Law No 187/2024 converting Decree Law No 158/2024 reduced the timeframe to appeal a rejected asylum application to 7 days.
	Italy	Detention during the asylum procedure	Legislation was amended to adjust the rules requiring certain applicants to pay a bail of EUR 2,500-5,000 as an alternative to detention pending the outcome of their asylum application.
	Italy	Unaccompanied minors and vulnerable groups	Decree No 98/2024 established procedures for the initial interview of minors upon arrival at a reception centre.
	Latvia	Content of protection	A new regulation was adopted revising the fee for the renewal of residence permits for people with an alternative status and for the registration of permanent residence of refugees. It also applies to family members of refugees and people with an alternative status,



			if they arrived through family reunification. The fees are applicable as of 1 January 2025.
	Lithuania	Legal assistance and representation	Following a legislative amendment, state-guaranteed legal aid for foreigners is now organised by the Reception and Integration Agency which operates under the Ministry of Social Security and Labour rather than by the Migration Department.
	Lithuania	Return of former applicants	The Law on the Legal Status of Foreigners was amended to establish that asylum seekers who submit a subsequent application without new substantial information are not granted the right to remain in Lithuania after filing a court complaint, unless the Regional Administrative Court applies interim measures. This means expulsion can occur immediately after a decision on the subsequent application, unless the court applied interim measures.
	Luxembourg	Content of protection	The new law on intercultural living came into effect. It establishes a 'communal pact' between the minister and municipalities, providing them with financial support. Additionally, it creates municipal commissions which are tasked with promoting intercultural coexistence at the local level.
	Malta	Processing asylum applications at first instance	The government proposed amendments to the International Protection Act, including clarifying that applications deemed to be manifestly unfounded must meet specific criteria, distinguishing them from regular unfounded applications. Additionally, it includes provisions on revoking or refusing to renew subsidiary protection status if false or omitted information was pivotal in granting it. The amendments were passed in February 2025.
	Malta	Processing asylum applications at second instance	Following a legal amendment, the International Protection Appeals Tribunal can access information in the applicant's file relating to national security.
	Malta	Detention during the asylum procedure	Following a legal amendment, vulnerable groups may be detained, but the competent authorities must ensure regular monitoring and adequate support. Moreover, minors are detained only as a measure of last resort and after it has been established that other less coercive alternative measures cannot be applied effectively.
	Malta	Unaccompanied minors and vulnerable groups	Following a legal amendment, medical examinations to determine the age of unaccompanied minors may be carried out when there are doubts about the applicant's age after general statements or other indications. If there are uncertainties after the examination, the authorities must assume that



			the applicant is a minor unless there are documents that prove otherwise.
	Malta	Unaccompanied minors and vulnerable groups	The government amended the Gender Identity Act to allow refugees to legally identify as non-binary.
	Netherlands	Reception of applicants for international protection	The Distribution Act entered into force with the aim of distributing asylum seekers into reception places across provinces and municipalities in a balanced manner.
	Norway	Processing asylum applications at second or higher instance	An amendment to the Immigration Regulation lowered the threshold for conducting hearings by the Immigration Appeals Board in deportation cases involving children.
	Norway	Content of protection	A proposal for tighter family reunification rules was made to protect the best interests of the child, aiming to prevent child abduction and bigamy.
	Norway	Content of protection	A proposal for legal amendments was made to require foreign nationals to demonstrate proficiency in Norwegian and pass a social studies test in a language they understand to qualify for a permanent residence permit.
	Norway	Return of former applicants	A proposal for amendments to the Immigration Act was approved by the Council of State. It aims to facilitate the return of foreign nationals with illegal residence and possibly prevent their return.
	Poland	Access to procedure	The Ministry of the Interior passed a decree to create a buffer zone at the border with Belarus, aiming to prevent illegal entries. It included a temporary ban on staying in a specific area adjacent to the border zone.
	Poland	Access to procedure	The Council of Ministers adopted a package of 4 draft laws amending the Act on Granting Protection to Foreigners. They introduced the possibility of temporarily limiting the right to lodge an asylum application except for vulnerable applicants (i.e. pregnant women, unaccompanied minors and people who require special treatment) and included additional grounds to withdraw refugee status.
	Portugal	Processing asylum applications at first instance	The Ministry of the Presidency passed a decree approving the measures laid down in the migration action plan, which assigns new competencies to the Agency for Integration, Migration and Asylum (AIMA) and redefines the Migration Observatory. The decree came into force on 29 June 2024.
	Romania	Resettlement and humanitarian admissions	Following a legislative amendment, 200 refugees will be resettled to Romania during 2024-2025.













	Romania	Return of former applicants	The government approved an Emergency Ordinance which changed the time limit to appeal a return decision from 3 days to 10 days. It also established that the court would examine the appeal within 5 days from the date of its receipt and the decision is final.
	Slovakia	Processing asylum applications at first instance	The Act on Asylum was amended to transpose Article 40 of the recast Asylum Procedures Directive on the grounds for the inadmissibility of subsequent applications.
	Slovakia	Legal assistance and representation	The government approved a legal amendment aiming to extend the scope of legal aid in asylum matters and to make it more accessible to people with a low income by changing the calculation for sufficient means.
	Slovenia	Detention during the asylum procedure	The government adopted new rules on residing in the Centre for Foreigners. If the house rules of the Centre for Foreigners are breached, the provisions of the act regulating foreigners' entry into, departure from and stay in Slovenia, which provide for measures in the event of breaches of the house rules of the Centre for Foreigners, shall apply to the detained applicants for international protection.
	Slovenia	Unaccompanied minors and vulnerable groups	A new decree entered into force on the adequate accommodation, care and treatment of unaccompanied minors. It includes setting up an individualised plan for each case and assigning a social worker for each child.
	Spain	Content of protection	The Foreigners' Regulation was reformed in 2024. Applicants for international protection who have received a negative decision will be able to request regularisation of their situation by applying for <i>arraigo</i> if they have been in an irregular situation for at least 6 months before the application is submitted.
	Sweden	Reception of applicants for international protection	In March 2025, an amendment to the Reception Act on accommodation of applicants entered into force. The aim is to reduce private apartment housing in favour of accommodation provided by the Swedish Migration Agency (SMA). According to the amended law, applicants will need to move into and live in the allocated accommodation in order to be entitled to receive daily and special allowances.
	Sweden	Return of former applicants	In January 2025, the government adopted a bill to ensure that more people with a removal order are returned to their country of origin. A removal order will apply for 5 years from the date a third-country national leaves the country or longer if a re-entry ban is in force, which may be issued if a third-country national does not leave the country by the indicated deadline.



	Switzerland	Processing asylum applications at first instance	The Federal Council approved legal amendments to allow the State Secretariat for Migration to analyse data from devices (e.g. phones and computers) to verify the identity, nationality or travel route of applicants when other methods are insufficient. The changes entered into effect in April 2025.
	Switzerland	Reception of applicants for international protection	The Federal Council is proposing changes to the Asylum Ordinance 2, including the duty to consider the length of time people received social assistance subsidies during their provisional admission before obtaining refugee status.
	Switzerland	Content of protection	The Federal Council approved amendments to facilitate the integration of refugees and beneficiaries of temporary protection into the labour market. Measures included an increased awareness among employers and jobseekers, the recognition of diplomas and the assessment of skills, and simplifying the process for temporary residence permit holders to change cantons for work-related purposes. It also lifted certain work permit requirements for individuals in hardship cases and those in preparatory vocational training.



Policy developments

	Country	Thematic area	Development
	Austria	Processing asylum applications at first instance	The digitalisation of the asylum procedure continued by shifting completely to electronic files.
	Austria	Reception of applicants for international protection	A mandatory course and community service became obligatory for asylum applicants. Those who do not participate receive reduced pocket money.
	Austria	Content of protection	Family reunification was suspended. Additionally, new measures were adopted for future reunifications, such as increasing the number of DNA tests and conducting document checks by experts.
	Austria	Return of former applicants	The Federal Office for Immigration and Asylum announced the possibility of return assistance and return services for a voluntary departure by Syrian nationals.
	Austria	Unaccompanied minors and vulnerable groups	The Austrian Federal Administrative Court updated its guidance for judges on the best interests of the child in asylum and immigration procedures.
	Austria	Unaccompanied minors and vulnerable groups	The Austrian Integration Fund, the Federal Administrative Court and the BFA launched a new initiative to combat violence against female applicants, beneficiaries of international protection and displaced women from Ukraine.
	Belgium	Processing asylum applications at first instance	A fast-track procedure was implemented for applicants from Georgia, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Moldova, Western Balkan countries and those who have a protection status in another Member State. This prioritisation would reduce processing times.
	Belgium	Processing asylum applications at first instance	The Commissioner General for Refugees and Stateless Persons established a new policy on applicants from Somalia, underlining the importance of determining the actual origin and previous places of residence to assess a real fear of persecution and risk of serious harm.
	Belgium	Processing asylum applications at first instance	The Commissioner General for Refugees and Stateless Persons resumed the processing of all cases by Russian nationals, as well as certain cases by applicants from Sudan.
	Belgium	Processing asylum applications at first instance	The Commissioner General for Refugees and Stateless Persons suspended the notification of decisions granting or refusing subsidiary protection for applicants from Lebanon.



	Belgium	Processing asylum applications at first instance	The Commissioner General for Refugees and Stateless Persons suspended the processing of applications submitted by Syrian nationals.
	Belgium	Processing asylum applications at first instance	The Commissioner General for Refugees and Stateless Persons implemented an action plan for cases by Palestinian to ensure a decision is taken within 21 months of the submission.
	Belgium	Processing asylum applications at first instance	The Commissioner General for Refugees and Stateless Persons finalised and evaluated its project (Tabula Rasa) on increasing the efficiency and quality in its workflow. Based on the lessons learnt, a new project (Prisma) was launched.
	Belgium	Processing asylum applications at second or higher instance	The Council for Alien Law Litigation increased its capacity by assigning asylum appeals to judges and legal professionals who previously worked only on migration appeals. A training programme was developed for this purpose.
	Belgium	Resettlement and humanitarian admissions	After a 2-year suspension, Belgium resumed its resettlement programme, resettling 470 refugees. In July 2024, the program was put on hold again.
	Belgium	Unaccompanied minors and vulnerable groups	The Council for Alien Law Litigation introduced adjustments for handling cases by minors, including the creation of a specific courtroom and the introduction of a summons letter written in a child-friendly manner.
	Belgium	Unaccompanied minors and vulnerable groups	In the second phase of an AMIF-funded project (2023-2025), researchers developed a tool to screen the child-friendliness of reception centres. An intensive programme was also introduced to improve conditions and develop opportunities for children.
	Belgium	Unaccompanied minors and vulnerable groups	The Commissioner General for Refugees and Stateless Persons decided to change the frequency of the 'Female Genital Mutilation follow-up'. Parents will no longer receive a letter every year, but every 3 years, asking them to send a medical certificate proving that their daughter has not undergone FGM/C.
	Bulgaria	Processing asylum applications at first instance	The State Agency for Refugees completed a project funded by the Norwegian Financial Mechanism that focused on capacity-building through training, staff exchanges and the development of guidance material.
	Bulgaria	Processing asylum applications at first instance	The State Agency for Refugees developed and started implementing a digitalisation project approved for support by DG REFORM.
	Bulgaria	Processing asylum applications at first instance	Following a CJEU judgment, the State Agency for Refugees issued a series of guidelines for references to opinions of the State Agency for National Security for matters related to national security.















	Bulgaria	Processing asylum applications at first instance	A series of guidelines which better reflect the scope and use of the concept of 'risk of absconding' were developed and provided to the case officers.
	Bulgaria	Processing asylum applications at first instance	Under the terms and conditions of Article 18 of the Administrative Procedure Code (APC), a mechanism for message delivery was developed for asylum seekers who have absconded. This mechanism applies when special measures under the Law on Asylum and Refugees (LAR) are exhausted. The Internal Rules for the Conduct of the Procedure for International Protection were updated according to an order of the Chairperson of SAR.
	Bulgaria	Reception of applicants for international protection	The rules for reception facilities were amended with an order of the Chairperson of SAR which temporarily introduced new curfew hours and a monitoring protocol when a resident does not comply with the rules.
	Bulgaria	Reception of applicants for international protection	The State Agency for Refugees launched the process to develop a comprehensive reception strategy, with EUAA support. It focuses on enhanced cooperation with various stakeholders and aims to provide integration perspectives for beneficiaries of international protection.
	Bulgaria	Interpretation services	The internal rules of the State Agency for Refugees were updated. They now include templates for the invitations for interviews with translations into the most common languages of asylum seekers.
	Bulgaria	Unaccompanied minors and vulnerable groups	The State Agency for Refugees opened a third safe zone for unaccompanied children in the Harmanli registration and reception centre, with a capacity of 98 places that may be increased up to 200 places in case of a crisis.
	Croatia	Processing asylum applications at first instance	The Ministry of the Interior suspended decisions on applications by Syrian nationals.
	Croatia	Processing asylum applications at first instance	A new project on language recognition and computer equipment was launched. The aim is to digitalise processes and facilitate the assessment of the credibility of the statements made by asylum seekers about their country of origin.
	Croatia	Processing asylum applications at first instance	The Border Police established a new area at the border with Bosnia and Herzegovina to facilitate the screening, registration and identification of apprehended applicants.
	Croatia	Access to information	A phone application was developed to provide information to applicants for international protection and temporary protection.



	Croatia	Legal assistance and representation	A new project was launched to finance legal assistance and representation in the process of seeking international protection.
	Croatia	Interpretation services	Two new projects were launched to provide translation for asylum seekers and former applicants in the return procedure.
	Croatia	Return of former applicants	A new project was launched to finance legal assistance and representation of former applicants in return procedures.
	Croatia	Return of former applicants	A new AMIF funded project was launched to implement an effective and equitable system for the return of third-country nationals and irregular migrants.
	Croatia	Unaccompanied minors and vulnerable groups	The National Plan for the Suppression of Trafficking in Human Beings was presented. It aims to improve coordination among bodies, enhance policies and raise awareness.
	Croatia	Unaccompanied minors and vulnerable groups	The government started to revise the protocol for unaccompanied minors in light of the Pact on Migration and Asylum.
	Cyprus	Reception of applicants for international protection	Several migrants remained stranded for months in the buffer zone along the Green Line. They were eventually admitted to the Limnes reception centre.
	Cyprus	Access to information	The Ministry of the Interior launched an information campaign, 'Talk truth about Cyprus', to combat misinformation and raise awareness about the realities of migrating to the island.
	Cyprus	Access to information	The Asylum Service published an information note for Syrian citizens who wish to return to their country of origin on the procedures to follow at each stage of the asylum procedure.
	Cyprus	Access to information	With help from the EUAA, the Asylum Service will start digitalising previous case files from 2002-2023.
	Czechia	The Dublin Procedure	The Dublin Unit no longer implements Dublin transfers to Hungary, following recent case law indicating systemic flaws in the country's asylum system.
	Czechia	Processing asylum applications at first instance	A standard template was introduced for negative decisions with the aim of increasing the clarity of the justification.
	Czechia	Access to information	The Ministry of the Interior launched a new Facebook page which provides information on the conditions to obtain and extend a residence permit and on the rights and obligations of foreigners.
	Czechia	Legal assistance and representation	UNHCR and civil society organisations, such as the Organisation for Aid to Refugees (OPU), launched new or continued projects to offer free legal aid and social counselling, with special attention on vulnerable applicants.








	Czechia	Unaccompanied minors and vulnerable groups	UNICEF financed child-friendly spaces in the Centres for Support of Integration of Foreigners.
	Czechia	Unaccompanied minors and vulnerable groups	The Ministry of the Interior launched an information and prevention campaign on children who are victims of human trafficking. It aimed to improve identification and assistance to victims.
	Denmark	Processing asylum applications at first instance	The government presented a new strategy for external border management. It focuses on implementing new IT systems, reducing the number of crossing points and implementing the screening regulation.
	Denmark	Processing asylum applications at first instance	The government announced a support package to combat human smuggling and to prevent irregular migration.
	Denmark	Processing asylum applications at first instance	The Refugee Appeals Board and the Danish Immigration Service decided to suspend the processing of cases from Syrian nationals. In addition, the departure date for returns and the decisions on extensions of residence permits were suspended.
	Denmark	Processing asylum applications at first instance	The Refugee Appeals Board decided to postpone the departure deadline for Lebanese citizens for the time being when the board had upheld decisions on the refusal of residence permits.
	Denmark	Reception of applicants for international protection	The Danish Immigration Service updated the guidelines for operator contracts in reception. They include the core responsibilities and services of staff in accommodation centres.
	Denmark	Detention during the asylum procedure	The Danish Immigration Service signed an agreement with the Directorate of the Prison and Probation Service on the accommodation and maintenance of detained asylum seekers.
	Denmark	Unaccompanied minors and vulnerable groups	The Danish Immigration Service published a guidance document on the specific needs of LGBTIQ applicants in reception.
	Denmark	Unaccompanied minors and vulnerable groups	Following the European Court of Human Rights ruling C-666/21, the Immigration Service now grants victims of human trafficking a 30-day deliberation period before their transfer under the Dublin III Regulation. During this time, victims receive access to psychological, legal, socio-educational support and healthcare services.
	Estonia	Access to procedure	The Estonian Police and Border Guard closed the Narva border crossing point to all vehicles, allowing crossings only by pedestrians.
	Estonia	Content of protection	The number of classes taught in Ukrainian in schools were reduced, reflecting the increased integration of Ukrainian students into Estonian society.



	Estonia	Content of protection	The Estonian Refugee Council, in partnership with the Labour Inspectorate, launched a programme to assist job-seeking refugees by providing training in job search strategies and access to the labour market.
	Finland	Processing asylum applications at first instance	The Finnish Immigration Service announced the suspension of processing of applications from Syrian nationals.
	Finland	Processing asylum applications at first instance	The Finnish Immigration Services completed a tender to procure IT services for the agency. The aim is to improve the digital case management system.
	Finland	Reception of applicants for international protection	The Finnish Immigration Service decreased accommodation places by discontinuing contracts for additional reception centres and reducing the number of places in reception.
	Finland	Reception of applicants for international protection	The Finnish Immigration Service reduced reception and spending allowances for applicants and victims of human trafficking.
	Finland	Legal assistance and representation	The Finnish Immigration Service announced that legal counsels can only participate remotely in personal interviews if the method of participation meets security requirements and does not pose a risk to confidentiality. Exceptions from these rules were allowed temporarily due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
	Finland	Content of protection	The Finnish Immigration Service announced an increase of the income threshold for residential permits relating to family reunification.
	Finland	Resettlement and humanitarian admissions	The government approved a resettlement quota of 500 people for 2025.
	Finland	Unaccompanied minors and vulnerable groups	The Finnish Immigration Service set up a monitoring programme for the system of assistance to victims of human trafficking. The aim is to ensure that steering and monitoring are systematic and transparent.
	France	Processing asylum applications at first instance	OFPRA approved the rules on personal data transfers. They specify the purposes of the data processing, the data recorded, the people who have access to it, and the rights of the people concerned.
	France	Content of protection	The Ministry of the Interior set up two new language training projects. One aims to provide more language classes to meet the new language requirements defined by law, while the second aims to improve the employability of beneficiaries and facilitate their subsequent access to training to obtain qualifications.
	France	Content of protection	In principle, OFPRA no longer requires the family reference form, which was used to establish the civil status of the beneficiary and to confirm their family situation.



	France	Unaccompanied minors and vulnerable groups	OFPROA launched a new web section for healthcare professionals which aims to provide information on medical certificates for female genital mutilation and cutting (FGM/C).
	France	Unaccompanied minors and vulnerable groups	The Ministry of the Interior published new multilingual information tools for the prevention of human exploitation and trafficking, including useful information and contacts for applicants for and beneficiaries of international protection.
	France	Unaccompanied minors and vulnerable groups	The government launched the 2024-2027 National Plan to Combat the Exploitation and Trafficking of Human Beings with the aim of strengthening the protection of victims and the effectiveness of the criminal policy to dismantle and convict criminal networks.
	Germany	Processing asylum applications at first instance	The Federal Office for Migration and Refugees postponed decisions on applications by Syrian nationals.
	Germany	Reception of applicants for international protection	The Federal Office for Migration and Refugees provided EUR 100 million from the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund to support the creation of 20,836 accommodation places.
	Germany	Country of origin information	Various improvements aimed to improve access to COI. For example, a BAMFGPT was piloted to allow case officers to make inquiries through a chat.
	Germany	Return of former applicants	The government announced that for the first time since 2021 it will carry out removals of Afghan nationals to their country of origin.
	Germany	Return of former applicants	In January 2025, the Federal Office for Migration and Refugees started to organise voluntary departures to Syria, providing support in organising the journey and covering the cost of the travel ticket.
	Germany	Unaccompanied minors and vulnerable groups	The federal government adopted its first National Action Plan to Prevent and Combat Human Trafficking. It refers to the identification of vulnerable applicants and the implementation of referral mechanisms in counselling centres.
	Greece	The Dublin procedure	The Greek Asylum Service implemented a wide-scale pilot project on take back requests in the Dublin procedure.
	Greece	Reception of applicants for international protection	To ease the burden on local health services and hospitals, the IOM was mandated to provide primary health services and psychosocial care to applicants through the Hippocrates programme.
	Greece	Interpretation services	The Ministry of Migration and Asylum launched a new training programme for cultural mediators.



	Greece	Content of protection	A task force on integration was launched, following a proposal by the European Commission.
	Greece	Unaccompanied minors and vulnerable groups	New Asylum Units for Vulnerable Groups were created in Attica and Thessaloniki to receive and assess applications for international protection submitted by persons with vulnerabilities.
	Greece	Unaccompanied minors and vulnerable groups	In June 2024, a "Doctors of the World" centre was opened for particularly vulnerable female applicants and their children, offering protection and medical assistance.
	Greece	Unaccompanied minors and vulnerable groups	In May 2024, a new centre for applicants with vulnerabilities opened in Athens, with the assistance of funding from Norway and Switzerland.
	Greece	Unaccompanied minors and vulnerable groups	The Ministry of Immigration and Asylum launched a 24/7 hotline to assist unaccompanied children who are homeless or living in precarious conditions. They are then transferred to a safe accommodation and provided various services.
	Greece	Unaccompanied minors and vulnerable groups	A memorandum of cooperation was signed between the Ministry of Immigration and Asylum, UNHCR and the University of Western Attica (PADA) to coordinate efforts in the field of child protection.
	Greece	Unaccompanied minors and vulnerable groups	A trainer's manual was published on conducting assessments of the best interests of a child, as part of the "Harmonization, Establishment and Certification of Best Interests Procedures" programme which is implemented by the Ministry of Migration and Asylum, UNHCR and the EUAA.
	Greece	Unaccompanied minors and vulnerable groups	A new project FORTIFY was launched to strengthen the protection for and prevention of delinquency in unaccompanied minor applicants.
	Greece	Unaccompanied minors and vulnerable groups	Under the National Strategy for the Protection of Unaccompanied Minors, a new complementary support mechanism was launched (Pyxida–Compass). It aims to create five specialised service centres, focusing on mental health, legal assistance and support against school dropout.
	Greece	Unaccompanied minors and vulnerable groups	The Mentors Group, comprising former unaccompanied children who act as role models for their peers, launched a video series called 'Learning with Mentors' to provide information in a simple language on various aspects of integration.



	Iceland	Processing asylum applications at first instance	The Directorate of Immigration suspended the processing of applications from Syrian nationals.
	Iceland	Processing asylum applications at second or higher instance	The Immigration Appeals Board (IAB) provided clarifications on time limits on appeals, their extension, the aspects taken into account when deciding on the length of the deadlines, procedures for assessing the best interests of the child, interviewing procedures and criteria for the suspension of the legal effect of the IAB's decisions in cases of international protection.
	Iceland	Content of protection	The government introduced a fee for the renewal of residence permits granted on the basis of international protection.
	Ireland	Special procedures to assess protection needs	Algeria, Botswana, Brazil, Egypt, India, Malawi and Morocco were added to the list of safe countries of origin.
	Ireland	Special procedures to assess protection needs	The International Protection Office (IPO) introduced a new category of applicants who qualify for the accelerated procedure, namely those originating from the two countries with the highest number of applicants in the previous 3 months.
	Ireland	Processing asylum applications at first instance	The Department of Justice announced a EUR 25 million budget expenditure for immigration. It includes a EUR 5 million investment in digital innovations to modernise immigration systems, reduce processing times, increase returns and strengthen border security.
	Ireland	Processing asylum applications at first instance	The IPO introduced the possibility for individuals to file applications digitally, aiming to digitalise and increase the speed of the procedure. Moreover, a pilot project was introduced to allow remote interviews in a limited number of cases.
	Ireland	Processing asylum applications at second or higher instance	A project was launched to digitalise appeal files to increase their accessibility. Moreover, a project pilot was introduced to allow the exchange of appeal files between the databases of the Ministry of Justice and the legal representatives, aiming to avoid delays.
	Ireland	Processing asylum applications at second or higher instance	The International Protection Appeals Tribunal (IPAT) issued an updated Administrative Practice Note aiming to provide clarification on what can be submitted as an appeal.
	Ireland	Reception of applicants for international protection	The government presented a new Comprehensive Accommodation Strategy for applicants for international protection. It aims to address current gaps in accommodation and reform the system over the long term, for example by moving away from a full reliance on



			private service providers towards state-owned accommodation. This includes the provision of 14,000 state-owned beds using prefabricated and modular units, converting commercial buildings, targeted purchase of medium and larger turnkey properties, designing and building new centres and upgrading existing ones.
	Ireland	Reception of applicants for international protection	The IPO now carries out a vulnerability triage assessment to identify the health needs of applicants who have not been accommodated. The aim is to provide the International Protection Accommodation Services and the Health Service Executive with relevant information to recommend priority cases for accommodation allocation.
	Ireland	Reception of applicants for international protection	The Department of Social Protection started reducing or suspending some applicants' daily allowances when they met an income threshold.
	Ireland	Access to information	The IPAT published a new video in its website to inform applicants on second instance procedures.
	Ireland	Country of origin information	The IPAT updated its 'Guideline on Country Information', aiming to outline the standards and principles governing the assessment of country information in appeal cases.
	Ireland	Return of former applicants	An agreement was signed between the Irish authorities and Frontex. Garda will escort returnees to Frankfurt, from where Frontex will accompany them to their country of origin.
	Italy	Reception of applicants for international protection	New tender specifications for reception services were issued.
	Italy	Detention during the asylum procedure	New tender specifications for pre-removal detention centres (CPRs) were issued.
	Italy	Access to information	The National Commission for the Right to Asylum updated its practical guide for international protection applicants, with translations in 14 languages.
	Italy	Interpretation services	The National Commission for the Right to Asylum, in cooperation with UNHCR and the EUAA, produced a handbook for interpreters involved in the international protection procedure in territorial commissions.
	Italy	Resettlement and humanitarian admissions	Through humanitarian admission programmes, Italy transferred victims of torture and ill treatment from Libya, refugee students through university corridors, Afghans and Palestinians.
	Italy	Unaccompanied minors and vulnerable groups	A protocol was signed to prevent the disappearance of unaccompanied foreign minors.



	Italy	Unaccompanied minors and vulnerable groups	A new project was launched to promote family foster care placements.
	Italy	Unaccompanied minors and vulnerable groups	Following the publication in June 2023 of the vademecum on identification, referral and care of persons with vulnerabilities, specific activities were launched in 2024, for example seminars and refresher courses.
	Latvia	Access to procedure	Five administrative regions started to implement the enhanced border protection regime. Consequently, people seeking international protection can only apply at official border-crossing points.
	Latvia	Processing asylum applications at first instance	The Office of Citizenship and Migration Affairs suspended decisions on applications by Syrian nationals.
	Latvia	Access to information	The Office of Citizenship and Migration Affairs launched a new information and communication campaign to raise awareness about the asylum process and applicants' rights and obligations. It includes activities in reception centres aiming to bring together locals and residents.
	Lithuania	Reception of applicants for international protection	The Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF) granted EUR 10 million to improve the infrastructure of existing reception facilities and expand capacity with the involvement of municipalities.
	Lithuania	Interpretation services	The new Reception and Integration Agency is now responsible for interpretation during the stage of lodging an asylum application and in the reception facilities. The Migration Department remains responsible for interpretation during the substantive asylum interview.
	Lithuania	Content of protection	The Migration Information Centre's services were expanded and strengthened by allocating funding from the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF). The aim is to address the challenges foreigners face in Lithuania and promote their integration into the local community.
	Luxembourg	Processing asylum applications at first instance	The Ministry of Home Affairs announced the suspension of the examination of applications from Syrian nationals.
	Luxembourg	Processing asylum applications at first instance	Efforts in 2024 focused on increasing efficiency in processing applications for international protection by optimising workflows and aiming to reduce the backlog.
	Luxembourg	Reception of applicants for international protection	The National Reception Office launched a call for AMIF-funded projects to support vulnerable applicants, such as minors and victims of human trafficking.















	Luxembourg	Return of former applicants	In view of the transposition of the Pact on Migration and Asylum, a new centre was established for people of the following profiles: i) people in the Dublin procedure; ii) people awaiting a voluntary return after their applications for international protection have been definitively rejected and where all possible appeals have been exhausted; and iii) occasionally, irregular third-country nationals who did not apply for international protection.
	Malta	Processing asylum applications at first instance	The International Protection Agency suspended the assessment of applications from Syrian nationals.
	Malta	Return of former applicants	The government set up a new website and several information campaigns to encourage the return of people who have been found not to need international protection.
	Netherlands	The Dublin Procedure	An automated process was piloted to close Dublin cases in the IT system and automatically generate related correspondence.
	Netherlands	Special procedures to assess protection needs	The Immigration and Naturalisation Service announced that India and Georgia were no longer designated as safe countries of origin. Trinidad and Tobago was also officially removed as a safe country of origin.
	Netherlands	Processing asylum applications at first instance	The Immigration and Naturalisation Service issued a 6-month decision and departure moratorium for Syrian asylum applicants.
	Netherlands	Processing asylum applications at first instance	The Immigration and Naturalisation Service announced that applications from Yemen will be assessed individually for the risk of violence, instead of automatically qualifying for asylum.
	Netherlands	Processing asylum applications at first instance	The Immigration and Naturalisation Service announced it will resume decisions on asylum applications by applicants from Palestine and Sudan.
	Netherlands	Processing asylum applications at first instance	The Immigration and Naturalisation Service halted decisions on asylum applications by nationals from Lebanon.
	Netherlands	Processing asylum applications at first instance	The government sent a letter to the EU Commission manifesting their desire to opt out of the Common European Asylum System in case of a Treaty amendment.
	Netherlands	Processing asylum applications at first instance	The AMIF-funded CELIA project started to develop new language analysis methods using AI and optimising and standardising language analysis across EU+ countries.
	Netherlands	Processing asylum applications at first instance	The extension of the time limit to decide on asylum cases from 6 months to 15 months was prolonged until 1 January 2025.



	Netherlands	Processing asylum applications at first instance	The Immigration and Naturalisation Service implemented a project-based approach to increase efficiency in application processing. It allowed applicants to schedule their interviews, which were held at reception centres.
	Netherlands	Reception of applicants for international protection	The Central Agency for the Reception of Asylum Seekers initiated a nationwide project to accommodate permit holders in hotels.
	Netherlands	Reception of applicants for international protection	The State Secretary for Justice and Security announced additional support measures for reception, including 5,000 new places.
	Netherlands	Access to information	The Immigration and Naturalisation Service announced that it will simplify the language used in written communication with applicants to ensure that they fully understand the messages.
	Netherlands	Resettlement and humanitarian admissions	Resettlement from Türkiye resumed in 2024, with a pledge for 500 Syrian resettlement cases from Türkiye per year. The national quota for resettlement was limited to a maximum of 200 refugees a year.
	Netherlands	Unaccompanied minors and vulnerable groups	The government started a pilot project for unaccompanied minors who have exhausted all legal remedies to find adequate shelter in their country of origin.
	Norway	Special procedures to assess protection needs	The Directorate for Immigration expanded the Ukrainian “safe areas” from 6 to 14 counties.
	Norway	Processing asylum applications at first instance	The Directorate for Immigration decided to suspend applications from Syrian nationals.
	Norway	Processing asylum applications at first instance	The Directorate for Immigration started to process applications in the regular procedure by displaced persons from Ukraine who are not covered by temporary protection.
	Norway	Processing asylum applications at first instance	The Directorate for Immigration committed to digitalising the whole migration sector, including developing a new IT and case management system for the agency.
	Norway	Processing asylum applications at second or higher instance	The Immigration Appeals Board developed a new description of practices regarding cases by Afghan nationals.
	Norway	Reception of applicants for international protection	The Directorate for Immigration replaced temporary emergency accommodation with ordinary asylum reception centres. Around 3,000 emergency places were discontinued, and around 16 new centres were opened.
	Norway	Reception of applicants for international protection	The Ministry of Justice and Public Security issued a new guideline on medical evaluations and reception of patients from Gaza.
	Norway	Legal assistance and representation	The Directorate of Immigration announced new license contracts for lawyers in asylum



			processes. In general, additional funding was allocated for legal aid services.
	Norway	Resettlement and humanitarian admissions	The government approved a decrease in the number of resettled refugees from 1,000 to 500 refugees in 2025, with the aim to ensure that they receive adequate support in reception and are successfully integrated into the society.
	Norway	Return of former applicants	The Directorate for Immigration offered additional funding for initiatives that inform individuals without legal residence about assisted returns, specifically targeting those living outside asylum reception centres.
	Norway	Return of former applicants	The Immigration Appeals Board lifted the suspension on returns to Yemen.
	Norway	Return of former applicants	The Immigration Appeals Board lifted the suspension on returns to Ukraine.
	Norway	Return of former applicants	The Directorate for Immigration extended the suspension on returns to Gaza until March 2025.
	Norway	Return of former applicants	The Directorate for Immigration issued a suspension on returns to Lebanon.
	Norway	Unaccompanied minors and vulnerable groups	The Directorate for Immigration issued a new guideline on handling asylum cases of victims of torture.
	Norway	Unaccompanied minors and vulnerable groups	The Directorate for Immigration offered grants to support activities for children in asylum reception centres, aiming to enhance their development, life skills and integration.
	Poland	Access to procedure	The Prime Minister announced a government strategy to regain control over migration and limit the illegal crossing of Polish borders. It includes a proposal to allow for a temporary and territorial suspension of the right to request asylum in the event of a high influx of persons.
	Poland	Access to procedure	In March, the Border Guard established intervention teams in the border with Belarus to conduct migrant search and rescue operations.
	Poland	Access to information	The Office for Foreigners opened a hotline to provide information on the international protection procedure. It also launched a mobile application in 5 languages for the same purpose.
	Poland	Content of protection	At the request of the Ministry of Family, Labour and Social Policy and considering the success of a pilot project from 2021 to 2023, new Foreigners' Integration Centres (CIC) were opened with AMIF funding and will continue to multiply with the same model of one-stop-shop. They provide standardised services to newly arrived migrants, promote active participation and involvement of foreigners in the social and cultural life of Poland and serve as cooperation



			platforms between local authorities, the government, and NGOs.
	Poland	Unaccompanied minors and vulnerable groups	The Office for Foreigners updated the existing “Policy for the protection of children against abuse in centres for foreigners run by the Office for Foreigners”. It includes protection standards and guidelines for officers in reception centres. An e-learning platform intended for all employees was developed, which includes the course on the policy. All newly employed and permanent employees of the office are obliged to undergo training, which ends with a final test and the issuance of a certificate.
	Poland	Unaccompanied minors and vulnerable groups	The Office for Foreigners implemented a new questionnaire to obtain children’s opinion on the quality of their current care and educational situation. The aim is to assess the child’s best interests.
	Portugal	Processing asylum applications at first instance	The Council of Ministers approved an action plan on migration, which is divided into three main areas of action: regulating migration; integration and institutional reorganisation. The measures include institutional reorganisation, for example restructuring AIMA's competencies and internal organisation, strengthening AIMA's human and technological resources, transferring services for residence permit renewal applications from the Institute of Registries and Notary (IRN) to AIMA, creating an Aliens and Borders Unit in the Public Security Police and reinstating the Migration Observatory as a state body.
	Portugal	Processing asylum applications at first instance	The Agency for Integration, Migration and Asylum signed a cooperation agreement with the Portuguese Bar Association and the Order of Solicitors and Enforcement Agents to provide legal support in case processing and promote an exchange of knowledge and practices.
	Romania	Reception of applicants for international protection	Romania increased its reception capacity by installing modular buildings from 71 containers in the reception centres in Maramureş, Rădăuți and Galați.
	Slovakia	Reception of applicants for international protection	The Ministry of the Interior signed three agreements with the Slovak Humanitarian Council to provide supplementary care to applicants in reception and integration support to beneficiaries of protection.
	Slovakia	Reception of applicants for international protection	The Ministry of the Interior signed a memorandum of understanding with UNHCR for the provision of material aid to people in reception, including displaced persons from Ukraine. The memorandum also foresees expertise-sharing and enhanced technical cooperation, with the aim of expanding the












			capacity of the international protection systems in responding to evolving pressures.
	Slovakia	Reception of applicants for international protection	A new project on operational support was approved within the AMIF framework. It aims to improve the reception conditions of applicants.
	Slovakia	Access to information	The Ministry of the Interior prepared simplified versions of information material, such as leaflets and booklets, and translated them into the most common languages of applicants.
	Slovakia	Return of former applicants	A new project for the implementation of forced returns of illegally-staying third-country nationals was approved within the AMIF framework. It aims to identify and process travel documents, and provide services such as accommodation, food and interpretation.
	Slovakia	Unaccompanied minors and vulnerable groups	The Ministry of the Interior opened new interview rooms for victims of human trafficking. The rooms are adapted to interviews with particularly vulnerable victims, taking into consideration their special needs and aiming to ensure their protection.
	Slovakia	Unaccompanied minors and vulnerable groups	The Migration Office started to prepare a change in the management of social profiles, including an expansion of the information system to include tabs for identified vulnerabilities.
	Slovenia	Processing asylum applications at first instance	The government adopted the Strategy for Migration, which covers four goals: implementing an external action plan to ensure orderly and safe pathways, encouraging migration for employment, protecting migrants' rights and dignity, and combatting illegal migration.
	Slovenia	Processing asylum applications at first instance	The Migration Directorate started to upgrade its main database to increase efficiency and enhance the digitalisation of the asylum procedure.
	Slovenia	Processing asylum applications at first instance	The Migration Directorate prioritised cases by vulnerable applicants, unaccompanied minors, and applications from detention.
	Slovenia	Resettlement and humanitarian admissions	The government completed its resettlement pledge by accepting 50 refugees from Türkiye, of whom 23 were from Syria and 27 from Afghanistan.
	Slovenia	Unaccompanied minors and vulnerable groups	The Ministry of Labour, Family, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities published a call for applicants to attend training to become statutory representatives of unaccompanied minors.
	Slovenia	Unaccompanied minors and vulnerable groups	The government implemented a new project on the prevention of human trafficking and sexual violence. The project includes information











			workshops and a method of identification of vulnerable people.
	Slovenia	Unaccompanied minors and vulnerable groups	In 2024, the Office for the Support and Integration of Migrants launched the project "Providing Accommodation and Care for Unaccompanied Minors". The purpose of the project is to implement a systematic arrangement of accommodation and professional care for children. The project finances the accommodation of unaccompanied minors in appropriate premises and 24-hour care, which is provided by professionally trained staff. The operation is 90% co-financed by the European Union from the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF).
	Slovenia	Unaccompanied minors and vulnerable groups	In the Accommodation Facility for Unaccompanied Minors in Postojna, support is provided by Slovenian Philanthropy within the project "Psychosocial Support and Leisure Activities for Unaccompanied Minors" (partially financed from AMIF funds). Slovenian Philanthropy implements leisure and educational activities (tutorial assistance) during the week.
	Spain	Reception of applicants for international protection	Additional funds were allocated to the reception system due to a higher number of applicants and people with temporary protection.
	Spain	Reception of applicants for international protection	The Family Welcome programme, which consists of families who host beneficiaries of temporary protection, was extended to refugees.
	Spain	Access to information	With the support of the EUAA, the Ministry of Inclusion, Social Security and Migration launched a telephone line to provide information on international protection.
	Spain	Content of protection	The Ministry of Inclusion, Social Security and Migration launched a project, in collaboration with multinational companies, to support beneficiaries of international protection to find a job and become autonomous.
	Spain	Resettlement and humanitarian admissions	The Ministry of the Interior approved the National Refugee Resettlement Programme for 2024, pledging to resettle 1,200 people.
	Sweden	Processing asylum applications at first instance	In December 2024, the Migration Agency announced the suspension of the examination of applications made by Syrian nationals.
	Sweden	Processing asylum applications at first instance	The Migration Agency requested an increase to its budget for the coming years to maintain capacity in examining applications, managing the impacts of the war in Ukraine and investing in digitisation and IT security.









	Sweden	Processing asylum applications at first instance	The Migration Agency introduced new standard operating procedures and templates to support case officers with the identification of special needs and exclusion grounds and to aid them in drafting decisions.
	Sweden	Processing asylum applications at first instance	The Migration Agency introduced a simplified procedure for notifying asylum decisions, aiming to increase the number of decisions that gain legal force. The applicant is considered to be notified 2 weeks after the decision is mailed and can then appeal the decision within the following 3 weeks. If they do not appeal in that time, the decision becomes legally enforceable.
	Sweden	Processing asylum applications at first instance	Sweden updated its legal position on the assessment of cases by Afghan women. It established that case officers are only required to consider factors related to the applicant's sex and nationality, but not any other personal circumstances.
	Sweden	Processing asylum applications at first instance	Sweden updated its legal position on the assessment of Yemeni passports. It established that passports issued by offices in areas controlled by the Houthi militia are no longer considered valid travel or identity documents.
	Sweden	Reception of applicants for international protection	The Migration Agency launched a tender for a new framework agreement for at least 4,500 accommodation places in preparation for the reform of the reception system. The agreement aims to provide collective housing managed by private service providers.
	Sweden	Reception of applicants for international protection	A new legal position was published on financial support during the application process, namely the maintenance obligation. Financial support from the state is limited when a spouse can support the partner.
	Sweden	Detention during the asylum procedure	A legal position was published on the detention of applicants under police custody. The position outlined the duration of the arrest, the necessary measures to be taken and how the detainee's status should be considered in detention and placement decisions.
	Sweden	Return of former applicants	A new legal position was published which provides that a removal order with a re-entry ban is time-barred 4 years after the decision becomes final, while a ban longer than 4 years is time-barred until the ban period ends, starting from the person's departure date. If no departure occurs, the order remains in force and the time limit does not begin.
	Sweden	Return of former applicants	A new legal position was published on voluntary repatriation allowing individuals without a passport or proof of identity to apply. The grant is only given if the person cannot



			afford the trip, and the applicant can request to retain their permanent residence permit upon a return.
	Sweden	Unaccompanied minors and vulnerable groups	The National Board of Forensic Medicine introduced a new and more detailed model for medical age assessments, using an eight-stage classification of wisdom teeth instead of the simpler two-stage system. This new model will be applied for age assessments in migration and asylum procedures.
	Switzerland	Special procedures to assess protection needs	Benin was removed from the list of safe countries of origin.
	Switzerland	Processing asylum applications at first instance	The Federal Council took note of a package of measures to reduce costs in asylum and optimise available resources. The aim is to save around CHF 700 million by 2028 by reducing the number of pending cases, speeding up procedures and increasing the employment rate among beneficiaries of temporary protection.
	Switzerland	Processing asylum applications at first instance	The 24-hour fast procedure, which had been tested on a small scale, was extended to all federal states. The aim of the procedure is to quickly process asylum applications that have low chances of success and to relieve the workload for case officers and pressure on the reception system.
	Switzerland	Processing asylum applications at first instance	A collaborative process among the confederation, cantons and municipalities was launched to develop a new comprehensive asylum strategy. Key objectives are the continuous improvement of fast and fair asylum procedures, the dignified accommodation of people seeking protection, and the quick and systematic return of people not entitled to protection.
	Switzerland	Reception of applicants for international protection	The federal and cantonal authorities made efforts to improve security in reception facilities and address recidivism of repeat offenders among asylum applicants and beneficiaries.
	Switzerland	Reception of applicants for international protection	New measures were announced to improve security and support services in asylum centres. They included clarifying the legal framework for the operation of asylum centres, explicitly defining when force or police measures can be used and establishing rules for temporary detention to prevent imminent danger.
	Switzerland	Reception of applicants for international protection	The State Secretariat for Migration closed nine temporary federal asylum centres, reducing accommodation capacity by about 1,735 places due to a lower-than-expected number of asylum applications in autumn 2024.



	Switzerland	Legal assistance and representation	To improve data protection and facilitate the implementation of return processes, providers of legal advice are now given limited access to MIDES, an information system on accommodation at airports.
	Switzerland	Legal assistance and representation	The State Secretariat for Migration awarded contracts for legal advice and representation services for asylum seekers in federal asylum centres. Various organisations, including Caritas Switzerland, the Bern Legal Advice Centre and OSEO, will provide these services.
	Switzerland	Interpretation services	Interpretation services were expanded to include rare languages.
	Switzerland	Content of protection	The Federal Council launched the process to reduce the waiting period for family reunification for people with temporary admission, following a judgment from the ECtHR in 2021.
	Switzerland	Resettlement and humanitarian admissions	The national programme was approved to receive 1,600 refugees during 2024-2025, although all operations have been suspended since April 2023 due to the pressure on the reception system.
	Switzerland	Return of former applicants	From June 2024, the Federal Council is able to contribute to the operating costs of cantonal departure centres when there is a high volume of illegal entries.




Institutional developments

	Country	Thematic area	Development
	Bulgaria	Reception of applicants for international protection	The State Agency for Refugees implemented an operational support project financed by AMIF, which aimed to strengthen the administrative capacity of the organisation with additional staff and technical maintenance of reception facilities.
	Cyprus	Processing asylum applications at first instance	A Deputy Ministry for Migration and International Protection was established in June 2024 so that competences related to migration and asylum are under a single institution.
	Cyprus	Processing asylum applications at first instance	The Refugee Status Determination Sector was restructured with new staff appointments, new work programme and new tasks.
	Denmark	Reception of applicants for international protection	The division responsible for reception and accommodation was moved under the Department of Asylum within the Danish Immigration Office. The objective was to streamline processes, foster greater coordination and enhance communication between staff working on asylum and reception. The change resulted in a decrease of reception and accommodation costs.
	Finland	Processing asylum applications at first instance	The Finnish Immigration Service reformed its organisational structure with the objective of ensuring the seamless processing of applications for different types of permits, in addition to reinforcing contingency planning and preparedness in a changed operating environment.
	Iceland	Processing asylum applications at second or higher instance	Members of the Immigration Appeals Board are no longer appointed part-time. The board will consist of three full-time members, and the chairperson and vice-chairperson have the authority to rule on their own in certain cases.
	Iceland	Processing asylum applications at second or higher instance	The Appeals Board hired new lawyers, case officers and specialised staff to handle the increased case load more efficiently.
	Ireland	Processing asylum applications at first instance	The Department of Justice announced 400 new staff to be allocated at the International Protection Office (IPO), aiming to streamline the process and improve efficiency of the office. The IPO also established a new facility in West Dublin and a 12-week training process was introduced for new case officers.
	Ireland	Processing asylum applications at first instance	A new quality assurance team was established within the IPO to manage legal responses and standard operational procedures.



	Ireland	Processing asylum applications at second or higher instance	The Department of Justice made efforts to bring the number of tribunal administration staff and tribunal members to a proportional equivalent to the staff numbers and decision-makers in the IPO.
	Italy	Unaccompanied minors and vulnerable groups	The Ministry of Labour and Social Policies took on new duties related to unaccompanied minors in the asylum system.
	Lithuania	Processing asylum applications at first instance	The Migration Department allocated funds to increase staff salaries and carry out reforms. The aim is to improve customer service, attract new specialists and decrease the high staff turnover.
	Lithuania	Processing asylum applications at second or higher instance	Following a legislative reform, the Vilnius District Administrative Court was reorganised by merging with the Regional Administrative District Court to form a single Regional Administrative Court. Before the reform, only the Vilnius Court heard asylum appeals. Now, all five chambers of the new court review asylum cases.
	Lithuania	Reception of applicants for international protection	A new Reception and Integration Agency was established to oversee services such as accommodation, health checks, vulnerability assessments, and the coordination of legal and translation support. It started to operate in January 2025, after the reconstruction of the Refugee Reception Centre.
	Malta	Return of former applicants	The government appointed the first Thematic Ambassador for Immigration, a position created to strengthen immigration work abroad. The Ambassador will work on topics such as the return of former applicants and cooperation with third countries.
	Netherlands	Processing asylum applications at first instance	The Ministry of Asylum and Migration was set up in July 2024 and is now responsible for matters related to international protection, which previously fell under the Ministry for Justice and Security.
	Netherlands	Processing asylum applications at first instance	A new agency, the Asylum Seekers Identification and Screening Service, falling under the political responsibility of the Ministry for Migration and Asylum, has been established to take over the identification and registration of asylum seekers.
	Norway	Processing asylum applications at first instance	The Directorate for Immigration underwent a structural reorganisation of staff and asylum workflows. Instead of teams by specific field or country, teams formed on expertise and experience work together on assignments for about 6 months, following prioritisation through an analysis of pending asylum cases
	Slovakia	Content of protection	A new department of the Migration Office of the Ministry of the Interior, the Department of Services for Foreigners, was established in 2024. Its main task is to manage activities in the field of services for foreigners, with a focus on their



			employment and stay and to ensure the operation of the centres for services for foreigners in Bratislava, Žilina and Košice in cooperation with the Bureau of the Border and Foreign Police.
	Spain	Processing asylum applications at first instance	The Asylum Office was transformed into the Directorate General of International Protection, with a revised organisational structure and additional administrative staff and case officers. The aim is to streamline processes and reduce processing times at first and second instances.





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