

Input by civil society to the EASO Annual Report 2019

Fields marked with * are mandatory.

The production of EASO's *2019 Annual Report on the Situation of Asylum in the European Union* is currently underway. The yearly [annual report](#) series present a comprehensive overview of developments in the field of asylum at the regional and national levels.

The report includes information and perspectives from various stakeholders, including experts from EU+ countries, civil society organizations, the UNHCR and researchers. To this end, we invite you to submit information on developments in asylum law, policy or practice in 2019 (and early 2020) by topic as presented in the online survey.

Please note that the EASO Annual Report does not seek to describe national systems in detail but rather to present key developments of the past year, including improvements and challenges which remain. Your input can cover practices of a specific EU+ country or the EU as a whole. You can complete all or only some of the sections. It is preferred to provide your submission in bullet points to facilitate drafting.

All submissions are publicly accessible. For transparency, 2019 contributions will be published on the EASO webpage. Contributions to the 2018 annual report by civil society organisations can be accessed [here](#). All contributions should be appropriately referenced. You may include links to supporting material, such as analytical studies, articles, reports, websites, press releases or position papers. If your organisation does not produce any publications, please make reference to other published materials, such as joint statements issued with other organisations. Some sources of information may be in a language other than English. In this case, please cite the original language and, if possible, provide one to two sentences describing the key messages in English.

The content of the EASO annual report is subject to terms of reference and volume limitations. Submissions may be edited for length and clarity or may not be included in the final report. Contributions from civil society organisations feed into EASO's work in multiple ways and inform reports and analyses beyond the annual report.

Please complete the online survey and submit your contribution to the 2019 annual report by **Thursday, 12 March 2020**.

[Instructions](#)

Before completing the survey, please review the list of topics and types of information that should be included in your submission.

For each response, please only include the following type of information:

- New developments and improvements in 2019 and new or remaining challenges;
- Changes in policies or practices, transposition of legislation or institutional changes during 2019.

Please ensure that your responses remain within the scope of each section. Do not include information that goes beyond the thematic focus of each section or is not related to recent developments.

Contributions by topic

1. Access to territory and access to asylum procedures (including first arrival to territory and registration, arrival at the border, application of the non-refoulement principle, the right to first response (shelter, food, medical treatment) and issues regarding border guards)

2. Access to information and legal assistance (including counselling and representation)

Access to information and legal assistance in Italy for asylum seekers is severely limited by the new reception system determined by Law Decree n. 113/2018. (c.d. Decreto sicurezza)
The legal operators employed in the Reception Centers do not have specific training and are often conditioned by the practice used by the police offices in requesting documents.

3. Provision of interpretation services (e.g. introduction of innovative methods for interpretation, increase/decrease in the number of languages available, change in qualifications required for interpreters)

4. Dublin procedures (including the organisational framework, practical developments, suspension of transfers to selected countries, detention in the framework of Dublin procedures)

5. Special procedures (including border procedures, procedures in transit zones, accelerated procedures, admissibility procedures, prioritised procedures or any special procedure for selected caseloads)

6. Reception of applicants for international protection (including information on reception capacities – increase/decrease/stable, material reception conditions - housing, food, clothing and financial support, contingency planning in reception, access to the labour market and vocational training, medical care, schooling and education, residence and freedom of movement)

The new reception system introduced with D. L. n. 113/2018 has weakened the services provided for asylum seekers. The new procurement scheme has in fact reduced all the integration services previously envisaged, limiting itself to guaranteeing only material reception and linguistic literacy. Full assistance in the reception of SIPROIMI is guaranteed only for refugees or holders of subsidiary protection.

7. Detention of applicants for international protection (including detention capacity – increase /decrease/stable, practices regarding detention, grounds for detention, alternatives to detention, time limit for detention)

8. Procedures at first instance (including relevant changes in: the authority in charge, organisation of the process, interviews, evidence assessment, determination of international protection status, decisionmaking, timeframes, case management - including backlog management)

9. Procedures at second instance (including organisation of the process, hearings, written procedures, timeframes, case management - including backlog management)

Courts are still struggling to manage appeal procedures.
With reference to the Court of Catania where the lawyers of the My Lawyer Association operate, during 2019

the committed judges managed to dispose of all the backlog relating to the years 2015 and 2016. The hearings of the applicants are granted if relevant for the purposes of the presentation of the case and at the request of the same judge.

10. Availability and use of country of origin information (including organisation, methodology, products, databases, fact-finding missions, cooperation between stakeholders)

With reference to the Court of Catania where the lawyers of the My Lawyer Association operate, a lot of attention from the judges should be reported with regard to the current situation of the countries of origin of the asylum seekers. The majority of the judges take into account the ability of socio-economic integration of the applicants in Italy, recognizing the humanitarian protection of those who managed to integrate.

11. Vulnerable applicants (including definitions, special reception facilities, identification mechanisms/referrals, procedural standards, provision of information, age assessment, legal guardianship and foster care for unaccompanied and separated children)

12. Content of protection (including access to social security, social assistance, healthcare, housing and other basic services; integration into the labour market; measures to enhance language skills; measures to improve attainment in schooling and/or the education system and/or vocational training)

13. Return of former applicants for international protection

14. Resettlement and humanitarian admission programmes (including EU Joint Resettlement Programme, national resettlement programme (UNHCR), National Humanitarian Admission Programme, private sponsorship programmes/schemes and ad hoc special programmes)

15. Relocation (ad hoc, emergency relocation; developments in activities organised under national schemes or on a bilateral basis)

16. National jurisprudence on international protection in 2019 (please include a link to the relevant case law and/or submit cases to the [EASO Case Law Database](#))

17. Other important developments in 2019

During 2019 many humanitarian protection holders saw their application for renewal of the residence permit rejected. The territorial commissions for the recognition of international protection have declared themselves not competent to evaluate the request and therefore the police headquarters have rejected the renewal and the residence permit, in many cases granted for the owner's vulnerability (ex minor, woman with children, sick)

The Court of Catania, where the My Lawyer Association operates, has suspended these rejection measures in advance, but has yet to rule on the merits.

References and sources

18. Please provide links to references and sources and/or upload the related material in PDF format

19. Feedback or suggestions about the process or format for submissions to the EASO Annual Report

Please upload your file

The maximum file size is 1 MB

Contact details

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I accept the provisions of the EASO [Legal and Privacy Statements](#)

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