

Input by civil society to the 2021 EASO Asylum Report

Fields marked with * are mandatory.

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C o l l e a g u e s ,

The production of the *EASO Asylum Report 2021* is currently underway. The annual [Asylum 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 organisations, UNHCR and researchers. To this end, we invite you, our partners from civil society, academia and research institutions, to share with us your reporting on developments in asylum law, policy or practice in 2020 (and early 2021) by topic as presented in the online survey.

Please note that the EASO Asylum 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.

All submissions are publicly accessible. For transparency, 2021 contributions will be published on the EASO webpage. Contributions to the 2020 EASO Asylum Report by civil society organisations can be accessed [here](#), under 'Acknowledgements'. 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 Asylum Report is subject to terms of reference and volume limitations. Contributions from civil society organisations feed into EASO's work in multiple ways and inform reports and analyses beyond the Asylum Report.

Your input matters to us and will be much appreciated!

Nina Gregori - *EASO Executive Director*

*Please complete the online survey and submit your contribution to the 2021 EASO Asylum Report by **Thursday, 25 February 2021**.*

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, only include the following type of information:

- New developments and improvements in 2020 and new or remaining challenges; and
- Changes in policies or practices, transposition of legislation or institutional changes during 2020.

Please ensure that your responses remain within the scope of each section.

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)

In Italy we had two main new developments:

- 1) Change of Government led to stopping of close borders previously imposed by Salvini
- 2) The relaxation of restrictive measures was nevertheless frustrated by Pandemic. Borders were closed again during lockdown, including quarantine on board ships.

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

Due to pandemic, of course everything has been more difficult, including the access to ngos. Anyway, some ngos never closed, others invented and widespread new forms of contacts (on line, mobiles), so that information and legal assistance was guaranteed.

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)

Some further delay in the procedure is due to pandemic. It is added to delay in the Courts, in the International Protection Procedure at the Police Station. Since the starting point was already very long, all the events of pandemic have not helped.

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

See question n 1, regarding the quarantine ships.

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)

Law changed again, passing from the impossibility to accept asylum seekers in the SIPROIMI, reserved only to protected people, to the reception of them also into the SAI (Special reception and integration, former Siproimi). It is very important, because there is a great difference between small SAI, which aim is integration, and very huge CAS (the only receptions where asylum seekers were accepted) not following the minimum standards, deprived of services as they are.

The access is anyway still difficult, since the Police is the main point for asking. The Municipality department in charge moved, but they are still reachable only on line or by phone.

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)

Due to pandemic, access is more difficult. In the CPR of Rome, for instance, some ngos were not allowed, others decided to suspend visits. We know that at least one ngo went on regularly with job into the Structure. Anyway asylum seekers inside had less access to information

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)

Organization does not seem changed: personnel is still understaffed. Times of the procedure are getting worse.

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

Hearings seem to be closed. The procedure is quite always written. The worst thing is that they notify the judges only the last few days before the hearing, so that those concerned know about how the process will take place only close by.

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

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)

Vulnerable people have been stricken very hard during lockdown. Reception was the area in which it was harder. As written in p. Camillo's book "The Trap", while all Italy was writing #iorestoacasa (#Istayhome), it was very difficult for whom was in the street and did not have a shelter to go. Vulnerable applicants had the priority, but not everybody was able to reach the Police if in bad conditions. For people out of reception, maybe in rented flats, it was difficult to have access at information, and even understanding what was going on.

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)

See answer 11, during lockdown people alone at home had difficulties of access to information. There is a new law fighting against corporal, a first step against labor exploitation, especially in the fields. It is very important because one of the most difficult parts of integration in Italy is the problem of black labor market, and the exploitation in the fields is a shame very hard to defeat.

13. Return of former applicants for international protection

It is a very difficult programme. Usually is not very appreciate even from people who have really nothing to do more here, because they feel it as a great defeat. During pandemic was even harder to apply because of borders limits.

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 2020 (please include a link to the relevant case law and/or submit cases to the [EASO Case Law Database](#))

<https://temi.camera.it/leg18/provvedimento/d-l-130-2020-disposizioni-urgenti-in-materia-di-immigrazione-e-sicurezza.html>

17. Other important developments in 2020

References and sources

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

<https://www.edizioniterrasantait/shop/la-trappola-del-virus/>

19. Feedback or suggestions about the process or format for submissions to the EASO Asylum 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](#)

Useful links

[EASO Asylum Report 2020 \(https://easo.europa.eu/asylum-report-2020\)](https://easo.europa.eu/asylum-report-2020)

[Executive Summary -EASO Asylum Report 2020 \(https://easo.europa.eu/sites/default/files/EASO-Asylum-Report-2020-Executive-Summary.pdf\)](https://easo.europa.eu/sites/default/files/EASO-Asylum-Report-2020-Executive-Summary.pdf)

[Bibliography for the EASO Asylum Report 2020 \(https://easo.europa.eu/sites/default/files/easo-asylum-report-2020-bibliography.pdf\)](https://easo.europa.eu/sites/default/files/easo-asylum-report-2020-bibliography.pdf)

[Summary of legislative, institutional and policy developments in asylum in EU+ countries in 2019 \(https://easo.europa.eu/sites/default/files/easo-asylum-report-eu-developments.pdf\)](https://easo.europa.eu/sites/default/files/easo-asylum-report-eu-developments.pdf)

[Online database with data and latest asylum trends \(https://easo.europa.eu/asylum-trends-easo-asylum-report-2020\)](https://easo.europa.eu/asylum-trends-easo-asylum-report-2020)

[Online database for EU+ developments \(https://easo.europa.eu/eu-developments\)](https://easo.europa.eu/eu-developments)

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