



## Input by civil society to the EASO Annual Report 2017

EASO has started the production of the 2017 Annual Report on the Situation of Asylum in the European Union, in line with Article 12 (1) of the EASO Regulation. The report aims to provide a comprehensive overview of important asylum-related developments at EU+ and national level, and the functioning of all key aspects of the Common European Asylum System (CEAS). While the final product comes out of an analytical and synthetic process that takes place in-house, a critical part of information is elicited through valuable contributions by a multiplicity of stakeholders from EU+ countries, civil society organizations, UNHCR, and other actors possessing in-depth knowledge on main developments in asylum policies and practices in EU+ countries. Previous reports are [available for review at EASO's website](#).

We would like to kindly invite you to take part in this process, by sharing your observations **on developments in asylum law, policy or practice in 2017 (and early 2018) in the areas listed on page 2**. The topics listed there reflect the structure of Chapter 4 of the EASO report, which focuses on the 'Functioning of the CEAS'. To this end, your observations may concern national practices of specific EU+ countries or the EU as a whole. Overall, the EASO Annual Report is not meant to describe the national asylum systems in detail, but present key developments in 2017, including **improvements and new/remaining concerns**. In terms of format, your contributions would be preferably offered in the form of bullet points, which would facilitate further processing of your input.

Please, bear in mind that the EASO Annual Report is a public document. Accordingly, it would be desirable that your contributions, whenever possible, be supported by references to relevant sources. Providing links to materials such as analytical studies, articles, reports, websites, press releases, position papers/statements, and press releases, would allow for maintaining transparency. For your reference, you may review the [contributions offered by civil society actors for the 2016 Annual Report](#). If you do not consent on EASO making your submission available, please inform us accordingly.

In our effort to provide an inclusive overview of all relevant developments, we strive to incorporate as many contributions as possible. At the same time, the final content of the EASO Annual Report is subject to its set terms of reference and volume limitations. To this end, your submissions, which are gratefully received and acknowledged, may be edited for length and clarity so that the final product concisely serves the objectives of the Annual Report: to improve the quality, consistency, and effectiveness of CEAS. From our side, we can assure you that the valuable insights you offer feed into EASO's work in multiple ways and inform reports and analyses beyond the production of the Annual Report.

Please, kindly provide your input by filling in this document (with attachments, if needed) and returning it to [ids@easo.europa.eu](mailto:ids@easo.europa.eu) **AND** [consultative-forum@easo.europa.eu](mailto:consultative-forum@easo.europa.eu) **by 16 February 2018**.

Within each area, please highlight the following **type of information**:

- NEW positive developments; improvements and NEW or remaining matters of concern;
- Changes in policies or practices; transposition of legislation; institutional changes; relevant national jurisprudence.

*You are kindly requested to make sure that your input falls within each section's scope. Please, refrain from including information that goes beyond the thematic focus of each section or is not related to recent developments. Feel free to use Section 16 to share information on developments you consider important that may have not been covered in previous sections.*

Name of the contributing stakeholder: Migrant Integration Center, Brasov, Romania  
[Contact details]

1) Access to territory and access to asylum procedure

2) Access to information and legal assistance

3) Providing interpretation services

4) Dublin procedure

5) Specific procedures (border, accelerated, admissibility)

6) Reception of applicants for international protection

7) Detention of applicants for international protection

8) Procedures at First instance

9) Procedures at Second Instance

10) Availability and use of Country of Origin Information

11) Vulnerable applicants

2017- changes in the Government Ordinance 44/2004 regarding the integration of people with a form of international protection or a right to reside in Romania as follows:

- Change of Chapter V from "Assistance of special cases" to "Assistance for vulnerable persons" – change made in line with the European Acquis on international protection;
- Emphasis on the unitary usage of the wording "vulnerable persons" in the integration law
- Major changes in the definition and categories of the vulnerable persons; extended and comprehensive definitions of the vulnerable categories of persons
- New Extensive methodology of the General Inspectorate for Immigration to identify the vulnerable refugees

12) Content of protection – situation of beneficiaries of protection

13) Return of former applicants for international protection

14) Resettlement and humanitarian admission programmes

## 15) Relocation

## 16) Other relevant developments

1. Re-launch of the National Coalition for the Integration of Refugees in August 2017.

This Coalition was born in October 2015 under the Ponta Government. And stopped to function in November 2015 after the resignation of prime minister Ponta.

In August 2017 it was put in motion again and has functioned until January 2018 when the Government was, again, changed.

2. NEW or CHANGED articles in the Emergency Ordinance 44 regarding the integration of persons with a form of protection or a right to reside in Romania:

- Romanian language courses have become by law "intensive" courses (at least 10 hours per week). The present 4 hours/ week of Romanian language for refugees was not very efficient (art 10)
- Possibility of refugees to enroll in the Romanian courses, by law, during the entire school year, not only on the 15 of September of every year, as the Ministry of Education Order (5924/2009) required (points 1 and 5 of Art. 14).
- The Individual integration plan was extended from 6 months to 12 months (point 1 art 20)
- Art 23, point 2 – provisions regarding the limitation or withdrawal of the rights of refugees if they do not confirm with the individual integration plan
- Art 14 – possibility of refugees to be evaluated for Romanian language skills even if they have not attended the Romanian language course provided by law
- Improvement of Art 14 by emphasizing the responsibility of local and central authorities regarding the assistance provided for refugees. A new thing is that permitting the prefect of the city to organize local specialized teams to help in the integration of refugees locally
- Change of a rule that was impeding refugees to enroll in the integration program. The old art 16 of the law required refugees to enroll in the integration program 1 month after they received their recognition. But this practice proved that came against refugees as they did not understand this rule and they were not properly informed by the immigration officers. Art 16 specifies now that refugees can enroll in the integration program in 3 months after they receive the decision.