

Input by civil society organisations to the Asylum Report 2025

Fields marked with * are mandatory.

Dear Colleagues,

The production of the Asylum Report 2025 is currently underway. The annual [Asylum Report](#) presents an overview of developments in the field of international protection in Europe.

The report includes information and perspectives from various stakeholders, including experts from EU+ countries, civil society organisations, researchers and UNHCR. To this end, we invite you, our partners from civil society, academia and research institutions, to share your reporting on developments in asylum law, policies or practices in 2024 by topic as presented in the online survey (**‘Part A’ of the form**).

We also invite you to share with us any publications your organisation has produced throughout 2024 on issues related to asylum in EU+ countries (**‘Part B’ of the form**).

These may be reports, articles, recommendations to national authorities or EU institutions, open letters and analytical outputs.

Your input can cover information for a specific EU+ country or the EU as a whole. You can complete all or only some of the sections.

Please note that the 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.

All submissions are publicly accessible. For transparency, contributions will be published on the EUAA webpage and contributing organisations will be listed under the Acknowledgements of the report.

All contributions should be appropriately referenced. You may include links to supporting material, such as analytical studies, articles, reports, websites, press releases, position papers.

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 Asylum Report is subject to terms of reference and volume limitations. Contributions from civil society organisations feed into EUAA’s work in multiple ways and inform reports and analyses beyond the Asylum Report.

NB: This year’s edition of the Asylum Report will be significantly revamped to achieve a leaner, more analytical report with streamlined thematic sections. The focus will be on key trends in the field of asylum rather than on individual developments. For this reason, information shared by

respondents to this call may be incorporated in the Asylum Report in a format different than in the past years.

Your input matters to us and will be much appreciated!

Please submit your contribution to the Asylum Report 2025 by Friday, 10 January 2025.

Contact details

*** Name of Organisation**

Save the Children Romania (Salvați Copiii)

Name and title of contact person

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

General observations

Before sharing information by thematic area, please provide your general observations on asylum developments as indicated in the following three fields:

What areas would you highlight where important developments took place in the country/countries you cover?

Romania has seen a significant increase in asylum applications, particularly from Ukrainian refugees due to the ongoing conflict. This has led to a higher demand for services and support for asylum seekers.

Save the Children Romania collaborated with local actors including local authorities to expand services and provide complementary assistance to refugees for longer periods of time such as educational and social services, for asylum-seeking children and their families. This includes psychological counseling, legal assistance, and material support.

There have been notable efforts to integrate refugees into Romanian society through various programs aimed at social and economic inclusion. These programs focus on providing information about rights, facilitating access to education and healthcare, and supporting employment opportunities.

What are the areas, where only few or no developments took place?

While there are frameworks in place for integrating refugee children into the education system, challenges remain in practice. Language barriers and social integration issues continue to hinder the smooth transition of these children into local schools, indicating that efforts to enhance educational access have not fully addressed existing obstacles. In this regard, Save the Children organized a child participation event, where 270 refugee children from Ukraine shared their needs for a better integration. The summary of the consultation can be found in section B, with the recommendations of children.

Would you have any observations to share specifically about the implementation of the Pact on Migration and Asylum in the national context of the country/ countries you cover?

PART A: Contributions by topic

Please share your reporting on developments in asylum law, policies or practices in 2024 by topic. Kindly make sure that you provide information on:

- New developments and improvements in 2024 and new or remaining challenges;
- Changes in legislation, policies or practices, or institutional changes during 2024.

1. Access to territory and access to the asylum procedure (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)

As of March 31, 2024, Romania began a partial entry into the Schengen Area, lifting border checks at air and sea points. This change is expected to facilitate easier movement for asylum seekers and migrants. And as from January 2025, while border checks will cease, the freedom of movement will allow people to move more freely. With Romania's integration into the Schengen framework, there will be tighter deadlines for processing asylum claims and new regulations regarding visas for foreign nationals. These changes may streamline procedures but also require significant adjustments in how authorities handle incoming applications. Romania's entry into the Schengen Area is likely to influence its asylum procedures by increasing accessibility for migrants while also necessitating improvements in processing capabilities and support systems to handle anticipated increases in asylum applications.

In 2024, Romania continued to provide social benefits to refugees, particularly those from Ukraine, ensuring access to essential services similar to Romanian citizens. Furthermore, Save the Children Romania was present at border crossings to support Ukrainian refugees with immediate support such as hygienic products, baby care products, child friendly spaces and information and orientation upon crossing and services available in Romania. Save the Children has a strong collaboration with border police and the immigration's office to assist the asylum and temporary protection seekers.

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

In 2024, various organizations, including Save the Children Romania and other local NGOs and agencies, have actively provided critical information to refugees and asylum seekers. This includes guidance on the asylum process, rights, and available services. 39.173 refugees received direct information and counselling. Save the Children focuses on assisting refugees with counseling and information services rather than specialized legal assistance. However, the complementary support has facilitated refugees' integration in Romanian society with projects for children and their families to better integrate.

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)

Save the Children Romania employs cultural mediators who not only provide interpretation services but also offer essential cultural context to refugees. This dual role enhances communication and understanding between asylum seekers and authorities, ensuring that individuals can effectively convey their experiences and needs during the asylum process.

Despite ongoing efforts, there remains a significant shortage of interpreters for various languages, particularly for Tamil, Sinhala, and Somali.

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)

Asylum seekers arriving at border crossing points can apply for asylum directly to the Border Police. If their application is deemed valid, they may enter Romanian territory and proceed with the regular asylum procedure. However, if their application is rejected, they may be subjected to an accelerated procedure while remaining at the border for a duration ranging from 3 to 20 days, depending on individual circumstances.

Admissibility procedures are in place to determine whether an asylum application is valid and should be processed further. Asylum seekers have the right to appeal negative decisions within seven days of notification. However, challenges remain in ensuring that all applicants receive adequate legal representation during these processes, particularly for vulnerable groups such as unaccompanied minors.

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)

Asylum seekers in Romania are primarily accommodated in Regional Centers that offer essential services, including food, clothing, and financial support. The overall material reception conditions have been reported as stable; however, there are ongoing concerns regarding the adequacy of resources to meet the diverse needs of all residents. Save the Children operates within these asylum centers, providing complementary services such as counseling, information assistance, social support, and educational resources, including homework help and Romanian language classes.

Through dedicated social assistance teams and cultural mediators, Save the Children facilitates refugees' access to essential state services, ensuring that healthcare is culturally appropriate and available in their native languages. Social workers conduct assessments of family situations and provide additional support, including food and clothing assistance, employment guidance, enrollment in educational institutions for children, and registration within healthcare systems.

In response to the significant influx of Ukrainian refugees, Save the Children has established integration centers that offer tailored services such as counseling, psychological support, social assistance, and financial aid to address their specific needs and circumstances.

In 2024, 5,892 refugees benefited from the complementary financial aid provided by Save the Children, which plays a crucial role in helping families meet their basic needs.

Asylum seekers are entitled to medical care and education for their children. Save the Children underscores the importance of ensuring that all children—regardless of their immigration status—can access educational and health services without barriers. However, challenges persist in integrating refugee children into local schools due to language barriers and social integration issues.

Access to the labor market remains a significant concern for many refugees in Romania. In 2024, initiatives were implemented to facilitate job matching for Ukrainian refugees, while Save the Children provided support through daycare services for their children. Within this project, 312 families received assistance.

Save the Children collaborates with various stakeholders—including governmental bodies and other NGOs—to enhance reception conditions and ensure that vulnerable groups receive adequate support during their stay in reception centers.

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)

10. Issues of statelessness in the context of asylum (including identification and registration)

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

Efforts have been undertaken to ensure that children and families are provided with clear and accessible information about their rights within the asylum process. This includes orientation sessions and materials available in multiple languages to facilitate their navigation of the system.

Save the Children offers complementary support to children by assisting them in accessing quality education through enrollment in the schooling system. To promote their swift integration, Romanian and English language classes are also provided. Each family within Save the Children's beneficiary group is assigned a social worker who helps them access various complementary services at counseling centers, ranging from psychological support to financial aid and other necessary assistance.

Save the Children collaborates closely with child protection agencies, such as the General Directorate of Child Protection and Social Care. In 2024, Save the Children trained 389 state actors involved in child protection on topics related to safeguarding and international protection standards.

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)

Refugees in Romania have access to social services, healthcare, and other essential services on par with Romanian citizens. However, many refugees supported by Save the Children encounter significant challenges in their integration process due to language barriers, cultural differences, and difficulties in recognition of qualifications. These obstacles hinder their ability to secure adequate employment aligned with their skills and education, as well as to establish relationships with healthcare providers.

In terms of education, while refugee children can enroll in Romanian schools, they face difficulties in acquiring the language necessary for academic success. The limited availability of language classes exacerbates this issue.

While there are frameworks in place for integrating refugee children into the education system, challenges remain in practice. Language barriers and social integration issues continue to hinder the smooth transition of these children into local schools, indicating that efforts to enhance educational access have not fully addressed existing obstacles. To address these challenges, Save the Children provides tailored support for both refugee children and their families. This includes assistance in navigating state services through dedicated social workers, offering Romanian language classes, and helping children catch up with their homework. Additionally, Save the Children organized in 2024 a child participation event, where 270 refugee children from Ukraine shared their needs for a better integration. Moreover, Save the Children extends additional support for inclusion by providing essential school supplies and financial aid for basic needs to families.

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. National jurisprudence on international protection in 2024 (please include a link to the relevant case law and/or submit cases to the [EUAA Case Law Database](#))

16. Other important developments in 2024

PART B: Publications

1. If available online, please provide links to relevant publications produced by your organisation in 2024

2. If not available online, please share your publications with us at: Asylum.Report@euaa.europa.eu or upload your file using the functionality below (max. file size 1MB).

Please upload your file

The maximum file size is 1 MB

6588d83c-3735-49fe-864d-61ff57fc43fe/Recommendation_Young_Voices_of_Ukraine_-_Children_s_Participation_Forum_EN.pdf

3. For publications that due to copyright issues cannot be easily shared, please provide references using the table below.

	Title of publication	Name of author	Publisher/Organisation	Date
1				
2				
3				
4				
5				

Useful links

[EUAA Asylum Report 2024 \(https://euaa.europa.eu/asylum-report-2024\)](https://euaa.europa.eu/asylum-report-2024)

[Executive Summary -Asylum Report 2024 \(https://euaa.europa.eu/asylum-report-2024/executive-summary\)](https://euaa.europa.eu/asylum-report-2024/executive-summary)

[Sources on Asylum 2024 \(https://euaa.europa.eu/publications/sources-asylum-2024\)](https://euaa.europa.eu/publications/sources-asylum-2024)

[National asylum developments database \(https://euaa.europa.eu/national-asylum-developments-database\)](https://euaa.europa.eu/national-asylum-developments-database)

[International Protection in Europe: 2023 in Review \(https://euaa.europa.eu/international-protection-europe-2023-review\)](https://euaa.europa.eu/international-protection-europe-2023-review)

Background Documents

[Word template to submit input](#)

Contact

[Contact Form](#)