



## Input by civil society organisations to the Asylum Report 2025

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

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

## General Observations

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

1. **What areas would you highlight where important developments took place in the country/countries you cover?**
2. **What are the areas, where only few or no developments took place?**
3. **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

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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)**

There was a significant decrease in asylum applications, from 416 in 2023 to 165 in 2024. Overall, 41 people were granted asylum, the highest number granted in 8 years. The number of subsidiary protections granted also decreased by almost half, from 43 to 22. There were 59 negative decisions on granting subsidiary protection<sup>1</sup>.

The largest group benefiting from international protection is temporary protection holders from Ukraine. Slovakia currently has over 132,000 valid temporary protection stays. However, no re-registration process for these status holders has been conducted, leaving the actual current numbers unclear<sup>2</sup>. The lack of data on temporary protection holders poses a challenge for policy-making that would address their needs.

An ongoing issue also persists with the foreign police department, which is overwhelmed with applications. As a result, there is a shortage of available appointment slots. For example, the online reservation system is many times overwhelmed and people are waiting outside of the buildings in long lines to get to the departments<sup>3</sup>.

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

According to the Asylum Act<sup>4</sup> before completing the questionnaire, but no later than 15 days after the beginning of the proceedings, an authorised employee of the Ministry of the Interior of the Slovak Republic shall instruct the applicant on the asylum procedure, on their rights and obligations, including the possibility of representation in the proceedings and the access to legal aid. The designated employee shall also inform the applicant on the non-government organizations providing legal aid to foreigners. The information provided should be in a language understood by the applicant and in a child-friendly manner in cases of minors.

The foreign police and non-governmental organizations also provide information on the borders with Ukraine. After the Russian full-scale invasion of Ukraine, several assistance centers were established, where people from Ukraine could find different services, including provision of information, legal counselling, and psycho-social support. Until the summer of 2024, there was also a presence of a foreigner police department and

<sup>1</sup> The Ministry of Interior. 2024. "Statistics." Available in Slovak at: <https://www.minv.sk/?statistiky-20>.

<sup>2</sup> The Ministry of Interior. 2025. "Temporary Protection." Available in Slovak at: <https://www.minv.sk/?docasne-utocisko>.

<sup>3</sup> Hrachovsky, Anton. 2025. "They waited for the papers in a pen on the estate, people didn't like their presence. The foreign police were moved." SME. Available in Slovak at: <https://mynovezamky.sme.sk/c/23435911/na-papiere-cakali-v-ohrade-na-sidlisku-ludom-sa-ich-pritomnost-nepacila.html>.

<sup>4</sup> Act No. 480/2002 Coll. on asylum and on amending and supplementing certain laws. Available in Slovak at: [https://www.slov-lex.sk/ezbierky/pravne-predpisy/SK/ZZ/2002/480/vyhlasene\\_znenie.html](https://www.slov-lex.sk/ezbierky/pravne-predpisy/SK/ZZ/2002/480/vyhlasene_znenie.html).





migration office at the center in Bratislava, hence persons from Ukraine could also apply for temporary protection status there. Some of the assistance centres have also expanded the provision of their services to all foreigners, and others have indicated the intention to do so in the future. The response to the inflow of Ukrainian refugees has established a broader structure for municipalities and self-governing regions to assist foreigners in general.

Moreover, several non-governmental organizations have created a website called [WelcomeToSlovakia.sk](https://www.welcometoslovakia.sk)<sup>5</sup>, where people can find information on legal status, work, healthcare, et cetera. It also maps the services available to foreigners in Slovakia, mostly to persons with temporary protection status. However, the need for information is still urgent among the temporary protection holders. According to the UNHCR, lack of information has been surveyed as one of the most urgent needs, with 13 % of respondents highlighting it<sup>6</sup>.

Additionally, the Ministry of Justice of the Slovak Republic has proposed an amendment to enhance the provision of legal aid for individuals in material need. The proposal seeks to grant unaccompanied minors the right to legal assistance throughout the asylum procedure. It also aims to expand eligibility for legal counselling to include temporary protection holders and applicants for temporary protection in material need<sup>7</sup>. This amendment has successfully passed its first reading in Parliament and is scheduled for review by the relevant Committees in 2025.

### **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)

There have been no updates regarding interpretation services provided by the Ministry of Justice, which currently lists 997 court translators and 267 court interpreters<sup>8</sup>. However, the influx of Ukrainian refugees has underscored the broader need for interpretation services.

Several municipalities have introduced integration plans for foreigners residing in their constituencies, which include provisions for interpretation services. For example, in the Nitra region, these services are offered through a contact centre for foreigners established in the city. The region's integration plan highlights the importance of

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<sup>5</sup> Mareena and Human Rights League. 2023. "Welcome to Slovakia." Available at: <https://www.welcometoslovakia.sk/en/>.

<sup>6</sup> UNHCR. 2024. "Slovakia Protection Profiling & Monitoring - Protection Risks and Needs of Refugees from Ukraine." UNHCR. Available at: <https://reliefweb.int/report/slovakia/slovakia-protection-profiling-monitoring-protection-risks-and-needs-refugees-ukraine-data-18-dec-2024>.

<sup>7</sup> Government Bill amending Act No 327/2005 Coll. on the provision of legal aid to persons in material need. Available in Slovak at: <https://www.nrsr.sk/web/Default.aspx?sid=zakony/cpt&ZakZborID=13&CisObdobia=9&ID=582>.

<sup>8</sup> The Ministry of Justice of the Slovak Republic. 2024. „Interpreters.“ Available in Slovak at: [https://www.justice.gov.sk/registre/tlmocnici/?stav\\_string=zapis&rozhodnyDatum=17.01.2025&pageNum=1&size=10&sortProperty=meno\\_sort&sortDirection=ASC](https://www.justice.gov.sk/registre/tlmocnici/?stav_string=zapis&rozhodnyDatum=17.01.2025&pageNum=1&size=10&sortProperty=meno_sort&sortDirection=ASC).





institutionalizing interpretation services as a recognized social service to enhance its accessibility<sup>9</sup>.

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)

Slovakia does not have a border procedure and will have to establish one according to the Pact on Migration and Asylum.

The amendment to the Asylum Act has established that persons with temporary protection can get an ID card in the common European format as evidence of their status. Until December 15, these people only got paper evidence, which was not recognized by other EU member states disabling their movement around the Schengen Area. Since December, the persons with temporary protection can decide whether they will keep only the paper evidence for their stay or will also apply for the ID card<sup>10</sup>.

The procedure for granting temporary protection is simplified when initiated due to the birth of a child in the Slovak Republic to a temporary protection holder or applicant. A child born in the Slovak Republic to an asylum applicant or a foreigner with subsidiary protection who acquires the nationality of another European Union Member State at birth will no longer automatically qualify as an applicant, and the asylum procedure will not be initiated<sup>11</sup>.

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)

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<sup>9</sup> Nitra City. 2024. "Strategy for the integration of foreigners (including refugees and returnees) in the city of Nitra with a view to the year 2035." Available in Slovak at: <https://nitra.sk/wp-content/uploads/2024/07/Strategia-integracie-cudzincov-vratane-utecencov-a-odidencov-v-meste-Nitra-s-vyhľadom-do-roku-2035.pdf>.

<sup>10</sup> Act No. 342/2024 amending and supplementing the Act No. 480/2002 Coll. on asylum and on amending and supplementing certain laws. Available in Slovak at: [https://www.slov-lex.sk/ezbierky/pravne-predpisy/SK/ZZ/2002/480/vyhlasene\\_znenie.html](https://www.slov-lex.sk/ezbierky/pravne-predpisy/SK/ZZ/2002/480/vyhlasene_znenie.html).

<sup>11</sup> Act No. 144/2024 amending and supplementing the Act No. 480/2002 Coll. on asylum and on amending and supplementing certain laws. Available in Slovak at: [https://www.slov-lex.sk/ezbierky/pravne-predpisy/SK/ZZ/2002/480/vyhlasene\\_znenie.html](https://www.slov-lex.sk/ezbierky/pravne-predpisy/SK/ZZ/2002/480/vyhlasene_znenie.html).





**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)

During the first half of 2024 a total of 154 individuals were detained across two detention centers in Slovakia, representing a significant decrease from the 595 individuals detained during the same period in 2023. In a report published at the end of 2023, the Office of Public Defenders of Rights highlighted several challenges and human rights violations in the detention. The issues included failure to provide the mandated two daily walks, a lack of social workers, restricted ability to contact family and friends, and the use of physical force by police officers. Additionally, the centre lacked adequate material conditions, such as proper hygiene supplies and appropriately sized footwear<sup>12</sup>.

**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, decision-making, 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)

Slovakia does not have a specific procedure for determining statelessness and it is usually dealt with throughout the asylum procedure. The Ministry of the Interior may grant permission for five years on the basis of statelessness, but there is no clear procedure for this, and the burden of proof is on the applicant<sup>13</sup>.

**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)

There has been an increase in the number of minors, particularly those aged 16 to 18 from Ukraine, enrolling in universities in Slovakia. This trend presents several protection challenges. These students typically do not obtain temporary protection status but acquire a stay for study purpose. As a result, they do not receive the same benefits as those under temporary protection, such as free healthcare, housing allowances, and

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<sup>12</sup> Public Defender of Rights. 2023. „Police Detention Unit for Foreigners Sečovce.” Available in Slovak at: [https://vop.gov.sk/wp-content/uploads/2024/01/mimoriadna\\_sprava\\_NPM\\_Secovce.pdf](https://vop.gov.sk/wp-content/uploads/2024/01/mimoriadna_sprava_NPM_Secovce.pdf).

<sup>13</sup> European Network on Statelessness. “Slovakia: Information for stateless persons and those at risk after fleeing Ukraine of losing their nationality.” Available in Slovak at: [https://www.statelessness.eu/sites/default/files/2024-04/ENS\\_Slovakia\\_Ukraine\\_Country\\_briefing\\_Update\\_February\\_2024\\_Slovak.pdf](https://www.statelessness.eu/sites/default/files/2024-04/ENS_Slovakia_Ukraine_Country_briefing_Update_February_2024_Slovak.pdf).





other support services. Various international organizations, non-governmental organizations, universities, and public bodies have been monitoring the situation closely. In response, the Ministry of Education has proposed a guidance to universities on how to address the needs of these young students.

**12. Content of protection** (including access to social security, social assistance, health care, 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)

Since February 2022, the government in Slovakia has provided housing allowances to property owners accommodating Ukrainian refugees. It included both individuals and legal entities, for example, hotels and other leisure facilities. In 2024, several changes were made to the housing allowance scheme. Under the current rules, property owners get housing allowance for accommodating all persons with temporary protection until 120 days after they acquire the protection. This will change to 60 days in March 2025. After these 60 days, only vulnerable individuals are eligible for the allowance. This includes households in material need, persons with disabilities, older persons, persons with children under the age of 5 and children under the age of 5. People with temporary protection status have to inform on their accommodation status twice per month at their local authority. This creates challenges for persons with disabilities, as such a journey may present numerous barriers<sup>14</sup>.

The changes were also made for accommodation in the asylum facilities of the migration office, where only new holders of temporary protection (until 120 days from acquiring the status) and vulnerable persons can stay. Moreover, these changes were made on a very last notice, which created protection challenges, especially for vulnerable individuals, who needed to look for another accommodation in a very short time.

Cases for persons with temporary protection status, who are obliged to leave the asylum facility, were also expanded to situations where the temporary protection has ceased to be granted, where the Ministry of Interior notifies the refugee of their transfer to another asylum facility, or where the refugee has seriously violated the internal rules of the asylum facility<sup>15</sup>.

The compulsory education for children with temporary protection status from Ukraine was also passed last year. Their parents are obliged to enrol them into education for the school year starting September 2025<sup>16</sup>. This is a very positive development;

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<sup>14</sup> Act No. 144/2024 amending and supplementing the Act No. 480/2002 Coll. on asylum and on amending and supplementing certain laws. Available in Slovak at: [https://www.slov-lex.sk/ezbierky/pravne-predpisy/SK/ZZ/2002/480/vyhlasene\\_znenie.html](https://www.slov-lex.sk/ezbierky/pravne-predpisy/SK/ZZ/2002/480/vyhlasene_znenie.html).

<sup>15</sup> Act No. 144/2024 amending and supplementing the Act No. 480/2002 Coll. on asylum and on amending and supplementing certain laws. Available in Slovak at: [https://www.slov-lex.sk/ezbierky/pravne-predpisy/SK/ZZ/2002/480/vyhlasene\\_znenie.html](https://www.slov-lex.sk/ezbierky/pravne-predpisy/SK/ZZ/2002/480/vyhlasene_znenie.html).

<sup>16</sup> Act No. 290/2024 Coll. amending and supplementing the Act No. 245/2008 Coll. on education and training (Education Act) and on amendments and additions to certain acts. Available in Slovak at: [https://www.slov-lex.sk/ezbierky/pravne-predpisy/SK/ZZ/2008/245/vyhlasene\\_znenie.html](https://www.slov-lex.sk/ezbierky/pravne-predpisy/SK/ZZ/2008/245/vyhlasene_znenie.html).







however, this comes after more than two and half years of non-compulsory education for these children. There are no available data on how many children have been outside of Slovak education system currently or learning online. Moreover, there is a shortage of places in high school and kindergarten in some region, which creates a barrier for these children to get to school based on their preferences.

### **13. Return of former applicants for international protection**

In the first half of 2024, there were 17 voluntary returns, marking a decrease from 64 in the same period of 2023. During this time, no voluntary returns were organized through the International Organization for Migration under its agreement with the Ministry of Interior to assist failed asylum seekers and irregular migrants in returning to their countries of origin. All voluntary returns in this period were conducted through a project in collaboration with Frontex<sup>17</sup>.

### **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**

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

Slovak National Centre for Human Rights. 2024. "Report on the observance of human rights for the year 2023." Available at: <https://www.snslp.sk/en/activities-of-the-centre/monitoring-a-reporting/report-on-the-observance-of-human-rights/>.

2. If not available online, please share your publications with us at: [Asylum.Report@euaa.europa.eu](mailto:Asylum.Report@euaa.europa.eu)

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

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<sup>17</sup> The Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic. 2024. „Statistical overview of legal and illegal migration in the Slovak Republic - 1st half of 2024.“ Available in Slovak at: <https://www.minv.sk/?rok-2024-2>.





	Title of publication	Name of author	Publisher	Date
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