

Highlights of International Protection in Europe

Vol. 2, April-June 2026

Dear readers,

This edition of **HIPE** contains highlights of international protection recorded between April–June 2026, as reported in the [Recent Developments](#) page of the Database on International Protection in Europe ([DIP](#)).

We are also excited to announce that the EUAA has launched the second edition of the **EUAA Case Law Grant** for higher education institutions with asylum or human rights expertise (in possible partnership with legal clinics or research organisations). The deadline for the submission of proposals is 30 September 2026, 17:00 Brussels time. For details, please consult the EUAA [Grants page](#) and [the EU Funding and Tenders Portal](#). The online info session on the call for proposals for EUAA's Case Law Grant can be found [here](#).

We want to hear from you! Please take a moment to share your thoughts on HIPE email updates by completing this [short survey](#).

Operationalisation of the EU Pact

The EU Pact on Migration and Asylum entered into application on 12 June 2026, marking a significant milestone in the reform of the Common European Asylum System. Ahead of the entry into application, the European Commission [reported](#) substantial progress by Member States in operationalising the Pact yet underlined remaining gaps.

During the reference period, legislative amendments to support the operationalisation of the Pact were adopted in [Austria](#), [Belgium](#), [Croatia](#), [Cyprus](#), [Czechia](#), [Estonia](#), [Finland](#), [Greece](#), [Ireland](#), [Italy](#), [Luxembourg](#), [Netherlands](#) and [Slovakia](#). The legislative process advanced

towards adoption in [France](#), [Latvia](#), [Lithuania](#) and [Portugal](#). Legislation for the operationalisation of Eurodac was adopted in [Poland](#) and [Slovenia](#). While not EU Member States, [Iceland](#), [Norway](#) and [Switzerland](#) also adapted their national legislation to align with the instruments of the Pact which are relevant to them.

Alongside legislative changes, countries implemented practical measures:

- In **Latvia**, the Office of the Ombudsman launched a [project](#) to establish an independent monitoring mechanism to safeguard fundamental rights during screening procedures, while the Office of Citizenship and Migration Affairs initiated a project to modernise reception infrastructure and improve support to asylum seekers to align national standards with the Pact.
- **Cyprus** and **Lithuania** signed a [memorandum of cooperation](#) on the relocation of applicants for international protection as part of the solidarity mechanism provided for by the Pact.
- **Belgium's** reception agency Fedasil launched a [pilot project](#) to establish an adapted reception path for applicants from low recognition rate countries which provides access to legal assistance and intensive support for voluntary returns.
- **France's** asylum authority [consolidated](#) asylum application forms into a single application form and published an [updated list of safe countries of origin](#).
- The **Dutch** Minister for Migration and Asylum announced [plans](#) to reorganise asylum case processing to reduce waiting times by prioritising applications submitted after 12 June 2026.

Initiatives for integration in host society

In the second quarter of 2026, several EU+ countries introduced initiatives targeting beneficiaries and applicants for international protection. **Denmark** [amended](#) its Integration Act to strengthen municipal responsibilities for accommodation, health, employment support and integration governance of refugees and certain family-reunified third-country nationals. **Norway** adopted a new [integration declaration](#) for newly-arrived refugees and their family members, clarifying their rights, responsibilities and mutual expectations, and announced [plans](#) to explore measures to limit refugees from leaving their originally assigned municipality. **Spain** launched a new labour market [integration initiative](#) for beneficiaries and applicants for international protection linked to the red fruit agricultural campaign in Huelva,

Switzerland reported positive integration outcomes for refugees from [private accommodations](#), and **Italy** launched a new call for applications for [300 scholarships](#) for students with international protection status.

EU+ countries also introduced broader measures targeting migrants, which are also relevant for beneficiaries of international protection. For instance, **Iceland** adopted a [legislative proposal](#) on residence and work permits for foreign nationals, **Switzerland** launched a [consultation](#) to strengthen the labour market integration of individuals arriving through family reunification, and **Greece** introduced interpretation and intercultural mediation services in the [health sector](#) in the South Aegean Region. **Norway** appointed a [committee](#) to review Norwegian language training to improve migrants and refugees' labour market participation and introduced a new [open application](#) process to allocate funds to organisations working in the field of integration.

For the integration of former applicants and migrants staying without legal residence, **Spain's** State Secretariat for Migration and local authorities strengthened cooperation and information-sharing on the migrant [regularisation process](#), also introducing [face-to-face assistance](#) for applicants and publishing [Q&As](#) on the regularisation procedure.

Temporary protection

Several EU+ countries amended or proposed changes to their temporary protection frameworks. **Denmark** and **Iceland** proposed legislative amendments, with Denmark seeking to [restrict access](#) to residence permits for temporary protection for certain Ukrainian nationals subject to military mobilisation, while Iceland is advancing a [legislative proposal](#) to introduce additional options for permanent residence permits after 1 year under the temporary protection scheme. **Ireland** approved [new measures](#) to phase out state-contracted accommodation for beneficiaries of temporary protection and, introduced a monthly allowance to support greater independence and incentivise employment, while helping beneficiaries prepare for the expiry of temporary protection.

In **Norway**, decisions refusing the extension of residence permits under the collective protection scheme – the national form of protection equivalent to temporary protection – are no longer subject to an [appeal](#), while **Finland** introduced rules preventing holders of [residence permits](#) based on temporary protection to simultaneously hold other types of residence permits. **Slovakia** approved [amendments](#) aligning national legislation with EU law and addressing the status of beneficiaries following the end of temporary protection.

Several countries adopted measures to support the transition from temporary protection. **Czechia** began processing applications for the special [long-term residence permit](#) which are available to holders of temporary protection, offering a more stable residence status. **Poland** updated rules on access to [healthcare](#) for Ukrainian citizens and announced that applicants for the CUKR [residence card](#), previously beneficiaries of temporary protection, will be required to apply for residence through the new MOS Portal. **Switzerland** adopted amendments to improve [labour market access](#) for beneficiaries of protection status S and launched a consultation on the [future](#) of the status. In terms of practical support, **Germany** set up a [Unity Hub](#) to provide counselling for beneficiaries on options to return to Ukraine or integrate in Germany, and to support Ukrainian community building.

Returns

Among developments having an impact on national asylum systems, the European Parliament [approved](#) the new Return Regulation on 17 June 2026. Ministers from **Austria, Denmark, Germany, Greece** and **the Netherlands** met at the Justice and Home Affairs Council to discuss [common initiatives](#) toward the creation of return hubs.

There were several legislative reforms at the national level:

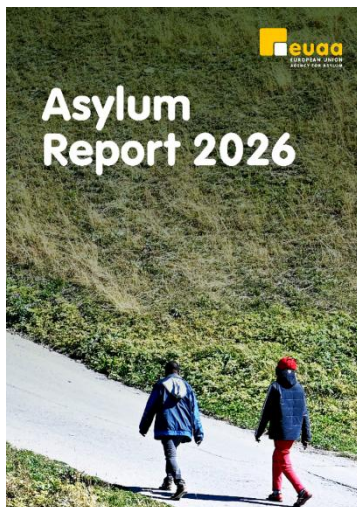
- A [bill](#) in **Denmark** proposed measures to make deportation the general rule for certain serious offenders sentenced to 1 year imprisonment, introduced electronic ankle monitoring for non-compliant irregular migrants, strengthened voluntary repatriation and return support schemes.
- **Finland's** Aliens Act [amendments](#) expanded the grounds for deportation, limited the automatic suspensive effect of appeals and ended the right to work 30 days after a deportation decision is served unless a court suspends the deportation pending an appeal.
- [New rules](#) in **Sweden** allow for the temporary suspension of deportations instead of granting residence permits to certain individuals for whom a removal would be contrary to international conventions, including those who pose security threats - ensuring that they do not have the same rights as applicants for international

protection while they await deportation.

- **Norway** circulated a [consultation proposal](#) on new regulations for returns and reintegration which would allow for a greater cooperation with Frontex, particularly on travel logistics and reintegration programmes.

Voluntary returns to Syria continued to be supported by various EU Member States, such as [Austria](#), [Cyprus](#) and [Greece](#).

Latest publications analysing developments in asylum



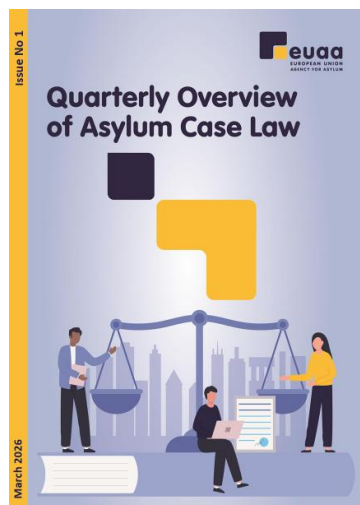
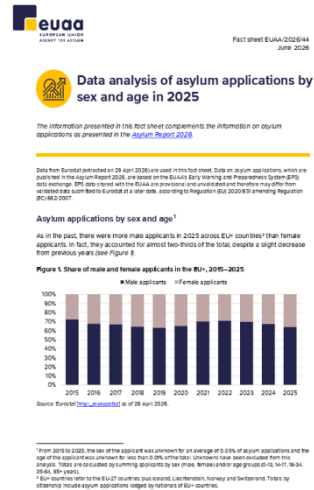
Asylum Report

The Agency's flagship [report](#) presents an overview of key developments in asylum in 2025. It summarises changes to policies, practice and laws. An [executive summary](#) of the report is available in 31 languages.

The [National Asylum Developments 2026](#) has also been published and includes a categorised list of legislative, policy and institutional developments in asylum in 2025. The report is accompanied by a searchable [database](#).

Data analysis of asylum applications by sex and age in 2025

This [fact sheet](#) (June 2026) presents an analysis of asylum applications by sex and age. The information complements the data presented in the Asylum Report 2026.



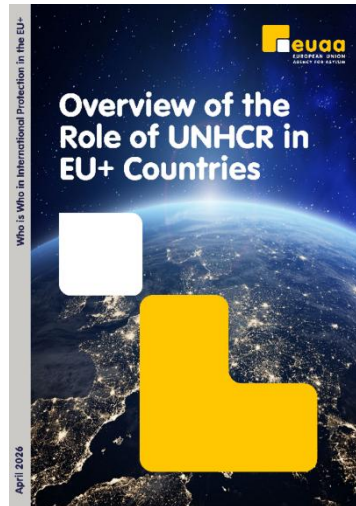
Quarterly Overview of Asylum Case Law

The latest edition is now out which covers a [summary of cases](#) which were pronounced from March to May 2026.



Overview of the Role of UNHCR in EU+ Countries:

This [report](#) presents UNHCR's activities and priorities across EU+ countries by mapping the agency's specific role in asylum procedures.



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