



Summary of legislative, institutional and policy developments in asylum in EU+ countries in 2019

Legislative developments

Country	Thematic area	Development	Source 1
Austria	Unaccompanied minors and vulnerable groups	The federal government and the provinces concluded an agreement to harmonise the child and youth welfare system in general, defining the responsibilities of the provinces in providing care and support to unaccompanied minors.	AT LEG 01
Austria	Reception of applicants for international protection	The act establishes the Federal Agency for Care and Support Services.	AT LEG 02
Austria	Return of former applicants	The act grants a postponement of the time limit for voluntary departure to rejected applicants who are in an apprenticeship.	AT LEG 03
Austria	Content of protection	An amendment to the Integration Act requires the Federal Ministry for Europe, Integration and Foreign Affairs to provide German courses to a minimum B1 level to beneficiaries of international protection older than 15 years.	AT LEG 04
Austria	Country of origin information: Research, production and institutional developments	Namibia, the Republic of Korea and Uruguay were added to the list of countries considered to be safe countries of origin.	AT LEG 05
Austria	Country of origin information: Research, production and institutional developments	Sri Lanka was removed from the list of countries considered to be safe countries of origin due to the reintroduction of capital punishment.	AT LEG 06
Belgium	Content of protection	A law proposal was put forth to reduce the period of exemption for beneficiaries of international protection from the requirement to have sufficient economic resources from one year to three months.	BE LEG 01
Belgium	Reception of applicants for international protection	The Flemish family allowance system was reformed and transformed into a so-called Growth Package (<i>Groeipakket</i>), whereby every child in Flanders is entitled to the allowance as of 1 January 2019, including minor applicants in the second reception phase.	BE LEG 02
Belgium	Return of former applicants	An amendment to the Immigration Act further clarified decision-making competences in issuing an order to leave the territory.	BE LEG 03
Bulgaria	Statelessness	An amendment to the Law on Foreigners stated that stateless persons who do not meet the requirements for permanent or long-term residence may obtain permission for a one-year prolonged stay.	BG LEG 01

Bulgaria	Access to information	An amendment to the Law on Asylum and Refugees clarified the role of organisations which provide legal and social assistance.	BG LEG 01
Bulgaria	Reception of applicants for international protection	For the purposes of family reunification of beneficiaries of international protection, it is clearly stated now that family ties must precede the foreigner's entry into the country.	BG LEG 01
Croatia	Unaccompanied minors and vulnerable groups	The new Foster Care Act entered into force, whereby unaccompanied minors can stay with a foster family.	HR LEG 01
Croatia	Resettlement and humanitarian admission programmes	A new decision was issued on the resettlement of third country nationals and stateless persons.	HR LEG 02
Croatia	Reception of applicants for international protection	An amendment of an ordinance clarified the rules on the absence of an applicant from the reception facility.	HR LEG 03
Cyprus	Special procedures	By Ministerial Decision on Safe Countries, the accelerated procedure is applied to Georgian nationals.	CY LEG 01
Cyprus	Reception of applicants for international protection	Applicants for international protection may have access to the labour market in an extended number of occupations.	CY LEG 02
Czechia	Return of former applicants	The non-refoulement check within the return decision procedure was simplified. The check is no longer required for persons from safe countries of origin, unless the person states that in his/her specific case there are concerns about his/her safety in case of return.	CZ LEG 01
Czechia	Access to information	Free legal advice must be available in each asylum facility.	CZ LEG 01
Czechia	Special procedures	The time limit for the accelerated procedure for international protection was extended from 30 to 90 days.	CZ LEG 01
Czechia	Special procedures	The list of grounds for subsequent applications was extended in July 2019 if there is reason to believe that asylum or subsidiary protection for the purpose of family reunification will be granted.	CZ LEG 01
Czechia	Detention	A new alternative to detention was approved, involving stays at a designated residence with regular checks.	CZ LEG 01
Czechia	Special procedures	12 new countries were added to the national list of safe countries of origin: Algeria, Australia, Canada, Ghana, Georgia (excluding Abkhazia and South Ossetia), India, Moldova (excluding Transnistria), Morocco, New Zealand, Senegal, Tunisia and Ukraine (excluding Doneck and Luhansk Districts).	CZ LEG 02

Denmark	Content of protection	An amendment was made to the criteria for assessing derivative circumstances for cessation, and residence permits of refugees and their family members may be revoked in a wider range of circumstances.	DK LEG 01
Estonia	Special procedures	A proposition was presented to amend the Act on Granting International Protection to Aliens by updating the national list of safe countries of origin at least once a year. The duty to notify the European Commission lies with the Ministry of the Interior.	EE LEG 01
Finland	Special procedures	An amendment to the Aliens Act defined the criteria for subsequent applications.	FI LEG 01
Finland	Access to procedure	Authorities may take and retain the travel documents of an applicant throughout the asylum procedure.	FI LEG 01
Finland	Return of former applicants	A subsequent application no longer prevents the enforcement of a removal decision if the subsequent application is deemed to be inadmissible and was submitted only for the purpose of delaying or impeding a removal.	FI LEG 01
Finland	Reception of applicants for international protection	The start and end point of an applicant's right to work was clarified.	FI LEG 01
Finland	Content of protection	Based on CJEU Case C-550/16, the Aliens Act was amended and applicants reaching the age of 18 during the asylum procedure are considered to be minors for the purposes of family reunification.	FI LEG 01
France	Dublin procedure	A decree clarified the role and tasks of the <i>préfectures</i> concerning the Regional Dublin Procedural Hubs.	FR LEG 01
France	Dublin procedure	An order designated the <i>préfectures</i> responsible for the implementation of Dublin procedures.	FR LEG 02
France	Unaccompanied minors and vulnerable groups	A new database (AEM, <i>Appui à l'évaluation de minorité</i>) was created, providing support from central state authorities to the <i>départements</i> in carrying out age assessments.	FR LEG 04
France	Reception of applicants for international protection	The order defined the state's financial contribution to the <i>départements</i> for accommodating and assessing the health of applicants claiming to be unaccompanied minors.	FR LEG 05
France	Procedures at first instance	Several provisions of the Law of 10 September 2018 entered into force in 2019 on managed immigration, an effective right of asylum and successful integration.	FR LEG 06

France	Access to procedure	The decree specifying the conditions to orient applicants to the appropriate authority to lodge an application came into force, which allows as an exception for phone communication with the protection officer for the interview, if neither an in-person nor a video-conference interview is possible with the applicant.	FR LEG 07
France	Access to procedure	An Inter-Ministerial Instruction established a new protocol model to manage applications lodged from detention.	FR LEG 08
France	Reception of applicants for international protection	An order provided specifications for collective reception centres.	FR LEG 09
France	Reception of applicants for international protection	An order provided specifications for emergency reception centres.	FR LEG 10
France	Reception of applicants for international protection	An order defined the operating rules for collective reception centres.	FR LEG 11
France	Reception of applicants for international protection	An order defined the operating rules for emergency reception centres.	FR LEG 12
France	Procedures at second instance	The budget of CNDA continued to be increased to reduce the length of procedures at second instance.	FR LEG 13
France	Statelessness	A provision for a multi-year residence permit stating “beneficiary of stateless person status” or “family member of a beneficiary of stateless person status” was established and the rules were clarified for processing applications for this type of permit.	FR LEG 14
France	Content of protection	Instruction was provided to accelerate the re-housing of beneficiaries of international protection.	FR LEG 15
Germany	Access to procedure	Fingerprinting became obligatory for all applicants aged 6 years and older. The age range for fingerprints was 14 years and older.	DE LEG 01
Germany	Unaccompanied minors and vulnerable groups	The local Youth Welfare Office in charge of the initial screening of an unaccompanied minor is now obliged to ensure that the minor is identified and the data are transmitted to the Central Register of Foreigners, (<i>AZR, Ausländerzentralregister</i>).	DE LEG 01
Germany	Return of former applicants	Further improvement to the AZR is foreseen to better monitor voluntary departure.	DE LEG 01

Germany	Reception of applicants for international protection	The level of benefits for applicants is more aligned with the general level of social security, for example with the level of basic support for job seekers. Electricity and maintenance are now provided as in-kind benefits and therefore their costs are deducted from cash benefits.	DE LEG 02
Germany	Reception of applicants for international protection	A new type of beneficiary group was established, referring to applicants in reception centres who are presumed to form a community with synergies in benefits, hence these applicants are now entitled to a lower level of benefits.	DE LEG 02
Germany	Reception of applicants for international protection	The financial allowance rates were adjusted. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Single applicants receive EUR 354 (from EUR 344 previously); • A couple in the same accommodation receives EUR 310 (from EUR 318 previously); • An applicant accommodated in a reception centre receives EUR 310; and • Young people between 14 and 17 years and adults under 25 years living with their parents are entitled to EUR 275. 	DE LEG 02
Germany	Reception of applicants for international protection	Applicants and tolerated persons became entitled to student benefits, and exclusion from the relevant study support under the Twelfth Book of Social Code is no longer applicable to them.	DE LEG 02
Germany	Reception of applicants for international protection	Applicants undertaking voluntary work may keep EUR 200 of volunteer allowance, in addition to the benefits granted under the Asylum Seekers Benefits Act.	DE LEG 02
Germany	Detention	The possibility was extended to place a foreigner in custody to secure removal (<i>Sicherungshaft</i>), with the objective to prevent absconding.	DE LEG 03
Germany	Detention	Custody when preparing for a removal (<i>Vorbereitungshaft</i>) was extended for persons who are considered to be a threat to public security.	DE LEG 03
Germany	Detention	A “detention for non-cooperation” (<i>Mitwirkungshaft</i>) of 14 days was introduced, enforceable against foreigners who do not cooperate in the establishment of their identity in the framework of return.	DE LEG 03
Germany	Detention	In the framework of the custody to secure departure (<i>Ausreisegewahrsam</i>), it was clarified that the risk of absconding is not a determining criteria. A person can be placed in custody to secure departure when the deadline for leaving the country has expired by more than 30 days.	DE LEG 03

Germany	Detention	500 additional return detention places were created in regular prisons – in separated premises from inmates - temporarily until 2022, next to the existing 500 special return places.	DE LEG 03
Germany	Return of former applicants	Authorities will no longer announce the planned date for forced removal following the expiry of the date for voluntary return. Information about the circumstances of a particular removal is now considered to be secret and sharing such information or instigating or abetting the sharing of such information is punishable under criminal law.	DE LEG 03
Germany	Return of former applicants	A new category for tolerated stay (<i>Duldung</i>) was created for persons whose removal cannot be carried out due to ambiguities in their identity which they created, for example by not handing over the necessary travel documents or by misleading the authorities concerning their identity and nationality. These persons are subject to the residence obligation (<i>Wohnsitzauflage</i>) and do not have the right to undertake gainful employment.	DE LEG 03
Germany	Reception of applicants for international protection	Under the Asylum Seekers Benefits Act, material reception conditions can be restricted to a greater extent when the applicant does not cooperate. Applicants awaiting a transfer under the Dublin procedure are now entitled only to limited material reception conditions. Material reception conditions are limited to core benefits until leaving the country (<i>Überbrückungsleistungen</i>) for applicants who have already been granted international protection in another EU Member State and whose obligation to leave the territory is enforceable.	DE LEG 03
Germany	Reception of applicants for international protection	Adult applicants without children are required to live in an initial reception centre for a maximum period of 18 months (federal states may decide to extend this period to 24 months). The previous law defined a 6-month maximum period.	DE LEG 03
Germany	Access to information	The Asylum Act was complemented with Article 12a, which regulates the modalities of BAMF counselling on asylum procedures for applicants.	DE LEG 03
Germany	Reception of applicants for international protection	A new paragraph was added in the Asylum Act (Article 44(2a)), underlining that federal states are obliged to provide reception conditions ensuring the protection of women and other vulnerable applicants.	DE LEG 03

Germany	Reception of applicants for international protection	All applicants became entitled to participate in an integration course after nine months of stay and they will have access to employment-related language courses after having registered as job seeker at the federal employment agency. This opportunity was previously reserved for applicants with high chances of recognition. Tolerated persons may participate in employment-related German courses after six months of tolerated stay.	DE LEG 04
Germany	Reception of applicants for international protection	The law facilitates access to vocational training for all persons with a right to work in Germany, regardless of the initial residence circumstances of the person concerned.	DE LEG 04
Germany	Reception of applicants for international protection	The unemployment benefit may be paid during the period of the integration course or the employment-related language course, when the federal employment agency considers participation in such courses necessary for the sustainable labour market integration.	DE LEG 04
Germany	Content of protection	Beneficiaries of international protection are in principle obliged to take up residence and are entitled to integration services in the federal state where their asylum procedure was conducted. The foreigners' authorities of the federal states are obliged to bear the integration costs for three years.	DE LEG 05
Germany	Content of protection	The new act clarified that if the reason for an applicant to move to another federal state becomes obsolete three months from the move, then the first federal state must continue to bear integration costs for three years.	DE LEG 05
Germany	Content of protection	The act clarified that this rule also applies to unaccompanied minors who reach the age of majority.	DE LEG 05
Germany	Content of protection	The amended law underlined that authorities are obliged to ensure that minors have access to education and care services in a federal state.	DE LEG 05
Germany	Content of protection	The residence regulation applicable to a beneficiary can only be lifted when the relevant authority at the place of originally-assigned residence gives its explicit agreement.	DE LEG 05

Germany	Reception of applicants for international protection	Labour market tests are no longer applied for the employment of foreigners whose removal has been suspended or applicants who have a permission to stay pending the asylum decision.	DE LEG 05
Germany	Content of protection	The scope of tolerated status related to education was extended and includes education and training for care services (<i>Helfer- und Assistenzausbildungen</i>) in occupations with shortages of employees. Tolerated persons receive a two-year residence permit if they directly continue to work upon completing their education.	DE LEG 06
Germany	Content of protection	The act introduced the tolerated status related to employment (<i>Beschäftigungsduldung</i>) for persons who can cover their own living costs and are well integrated. The criteria include: at least of 12 months of tolerated status (<i>Vorduldung</i>), clear identity, in employment for at least 18 months working at least 35 hours a week, stable livelihood and sufficient language knowledge.	DE LEG 06
Greece	Procedures at first instance	Decision on the procedure for issuing travel documents to refugee beneficiaries.	EL LEG 01
Greece	Procedures at first instance	Decision on the restriction of movement of applicants of international protection and subsidiary protection recipients.	EL LEG 02
Greece	Procedures at first instance	Joint Decision on the implementation of exceptional border procedures.	EL LEG 03
Greece	Special procedures	Greece adopted a list of 12 safe countries of origin: Albania, Algeria, Armenia, Georgia, Ghana, India, Morocco, Senegal, Togo, Tunisia, The Gambia and Ukraine.	EL LEG 04
Greece	Procedures at first instance	Several new changes were brought with the new law: specific profiles will be prioritised; subsequent applications should be examined within five days (or two days for a removal procedure); the vulnerability assessment is only intended to trigger the provision of reception needs and prioritise the application but does not exempt the applicant from specific procedures; and the reception and identification procedures were organised into five stages.	EL LEG 05
Greece	Procedures at second instance	The new law provides new time limits to submit appeals, schedule hearings on appeal depending on the day of the submission of an appeal, and issue appeals decisions. It provides for the suspensive effect of appeals for deportation, readmission and return procedures.	EL LEG 05
Greece	Content of protection	The length of residence permits for beneficiaries of subsidiary protection was decreased to one year (from three years), renewable for two years.	EL LEG 05

Greece	Content of protection	The new law requires beneficiaries of international protection to leave the reception facility two months from recognition instead of the previously-applicable six months, at which point social welfare support would also cease.	EL LEG 05
Greece	Unaccompanied minors and vulnerable groups	The Ministry of Labour, Social Security and Social Solidarity in Greece issued several ministerial decisions throughout the year related to the registry of professional guardianship, guardian selection criteria, training and the procedures for the assessment and determination of the best interests of the child.	EL LEG 06; EL LEG 07; EL LEG 08; EL LEG 09
Hungary	Unaccompanied minors and vulnerable groups	Government Decree 277/2018 (XII. 21.) entered into force, modifying Government Decree 114/2007 (V. 24.), which clarified the types of administrative actions that the Aliens Police can carry out in the absence of a legal guardian when the applicant is an unaccompanied minor.	HU LEG 01
Hungary	Procedures at first instance	The Hungarian Government extended the time limit of Government Decree 41/2016 (III. 9.) stating that there was a continued state of crisis caused by mass migration.	HU LEG 02
Hungary	Detention	An amendment entered into force which added new criteria for compulsory confinement of third country nationals under the Aliens Policing Procedure.	HU LEG 03
Ireland	Return of former applicants	Section 3(1) of the Immigration Act 1999 was amended to confirm that the Minister's power to make a deportation order is subject to the prohibition of refoulement set out in the Immigration Act 1999, Section 3A. The Minister for Justice and Equality clarified that this legal amendment corrected a gap in the law.	IE LEG 01
Italy	Access to procedure	A new security decree adopted by the Council of Ministers stated that boats suspected of facilitating irregular migration may be refused entry into Italian ports and boats violating the ban could face substantial fines and be seized by the authorities.	IT LEG 01
Italy	Special procedures	The decree identified border or transit zones in several provinces and established two additional sections of the Territorial Commissions in Apulia and Sicily.	IT LEG 02
Italy	Special procedures	New Inter-ministerial Decree defined a list of safe countries of origin.	IT LEG 03

Italy	Unaccompanied minors and vulnerable groups	Within the Protection System for Beneficiaries of International Protection and Unaccompanied Foreign Minors (SIPROIMI), the Ministry of the Interior in Italy allocated funds to finance projects, organised by local authorities, related to unaccompanied minors.	IT LEG 04
Latvia	Statelessness	New legislation provides citizenship automatically to children born to non-citizens in the country, unless the parents have agreed to grant to the child citizenship of another country.	LV LEG 01
Lithuania	Procedures at first instance	The Migration Department may take joint decisions on asylum applicants of the same family (previously they were always taken jointly), provided that a joint decision does not disclose personal circumstances of an applicant which could pose a threat to best interests.	LT LEG 01
Lithuania	Access to procedure	The Migration Department took over some tasks from the police and, for example, applicants can now lodge an application directly with the institution rather than the police. The initial interview with the applicant is obligatorily recorded (video or audio) and attached to the personal file. The department can now also issue a Certificate of Acceptance of an Application for Asylum, confirming an applicant's status and serving as a Foreigners' Registration Certificate, pending the issuance of the latter.	LT LEG 01
Lithuania	Detention	Non-cooperation with authorities during the asylum application became a ground for detention.	LT LEG 01
Lithuania	Procedures at first instance	Information related to the lodging and examination of an application for asylum may be classified in accordance with the procedure established by the Law of the Republic of Lithuania on State Secrets and Official Secrets.	LT LEG 01
Lithuania	Dublin procedure	The transfer of asylum applicants to the responsible Dublin state became the task of the State Border Guard Service.	LT LEG 01
Lithuania	Procedures at first instance	No separate justification in the Migration Department's decision is required when extending the period for examination of an application (up to six months).	LT LEG 01
Lithuania	Procedures at first instance	A separate decision in writing on issuing or renewing a foreigner's registration certificate is no longer required.	LT LEG 01
Lithuania	Content of protection	A new ground was added to withdraw subsidiary protection: when there is a serious ground that the person's stay in the country would represent a threat to national security or the community.	LT LEG 01

Lithuania	Reception of applicants for international protection	An amendment to the Law on the Legal Status of Foreigners granted applicants the right to work if the Migration Department had not taken a decision on their application within six months of the lodging and the applicants were not responsible for the delay.	LT LEG 02
Luxembourg	Interpretation services	Luxembourg increased its translation and interpretation budget by about EUR 180 000.	LU LEG 01
Luxembourg	Reception of applicants for international protection	The National Reception Office (ONA, <i>Office nationale de l'accueil</i>) was established.	LU LEG 02
Luxembourg	Detention	An amendment allowed a systematic verification process for the prolongation of a third country national's administrative detention.	LU LEG 03
Luxembourg	Return of former applicants	An interdisciplinary commission was established to evaluate the best interests of unaccompanied minors in return decisions.	LU LEG 03
Luxembourg	Content of protection	The Law on Social Inclusion Income (REVIS) entered into force on 1 January 2019. All beneficiaries of international protection and their family members aged 25 or older can benefit from the social inclusion income.	LU LEG 04
Malta	Unaccompanied minors and vulnerable groups	The Head of the Agency for the Welfare of Asylum Seeker (AWAS) may be appointed as a legal guardian for unaccompanied minors with an interim care order, in order to prevent delays.	MT LEG 01
Netherlands	Dublin procedure	An amendment of the Dutch Aliens Act (<i>Vw, Vreemdelingenwet</i>), Article 50a, permitted applicants or Dublin claimants, who are legally residing after a decision on the asylum application and awaiting a Dublin transfer, to be stopped, transferred to a place to be questioned and kept in custody for a maximum of six hours if needed to assess whether detention is necessary in the framework of the Dublin procedure.	NL LEG 01
Netherlands	Return of former applicants	An amendment to the Aliens Circular (Vc) was enacted: while in principle after the rejection of the first asylum application a departure period is granted, exceptions to the rule were extended concerning (among other things) apparently unfounded applications and applications predominantly based on socio-economic grounds.	NL LEG 02

Netherlands	Special procedures	An amendment to the Aliens Circular (Vc) established a new procedure regarding lodging and assessing subsequent asylum applications.	NL LEG 03
Netherlands	Special procedures	An amendment to the Aliens Decree (Vb) established the possibility to omit the personal interview in subsequent applications.	NL LEG 06
Netherlands	Detention	The law proposal to amend the Aliens Act (Vw) established a legal basis for border detention after rejection of an asylum application.	NL LEG 04
Netherlands	Unaccompanied minors and vulnerable groups	Major changes were implemented for applicants in the Dublin procedure who claimed to be victims of human trafficking. This group of applicants will now only receive the special temporary residence permit for victims of human trafficking if their presence is considered to be essential for the investigation and prosecution of the case, and the Netherlands as a consequence only takes responsibility for their application if that is the case.	NL LEG 05
Netherlands	Unaccompanied minors and vulnerable groups	The Aliens Circular was amended to clarify that an age assessment takes place in two separate sessions, one with the AVIM and one with the IND. Employees of the same public authority assess the age independently, but they can attend the same assessment session.	NL LEG 05
Norway	Content of protection	A legislative proposal for a new Integration Act was introduced, re-shaping the integration programme for refugees.	NO LEG 01
Norway	Content of protection	The Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs introduced a proposal to amend the Social Services Act, which would make financial assistance for third country nationals conditional on being enrolled in language training.	NO LEG 02
Norway	Return of former applicants	A legislative proposal was introduced for a national legal basis for a forced return monitoring system, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Return Directive.	NO LEG 03
Slovakia	Statelessness	The <i>Act on Census of Population and Housing 2021</i> was adopted, which provides for information collection, not only on Slovak citizens, but also on other EU nationals, third country nationals and stateless persons.	SK LEG 01
Slovakia	Unaccompanied minors and vulnerable groups	Amendments entered into force to replace the former facility for minors with centres for children and family.	SK LEG 02
Slovenia	Special procedures	Georgia, Nepal and Senegal were added to the list of safe third countries, while Turkey was removed from the list.	SI LEG 01

Spain	Unaccompanied minors and vulnerable groups	The decree enabled the reception centres for unaccompanied minors in Ceuta and Melilla to receive funding directly.	ES LEG 01
Spain	Reception of applicants for international protection	The instruction granted the right to work for working-age unaccompanied minors.	ES LEG 02
Sweden	Content of protection	The application of the law was extended until 19 July 2021 and beneficiaries of international protection continued to receive temporary residence permits instead of a permanent one. The law lifted the ban on family reunification for beneficiaries of subsidiary protection.	SE LEG 01
Sweden	Statelessness	Persons born in Sweden and having been stateless since birth may receive under certain conditions a permanent residence permit.	SE LEG 01
Sweden	Reception of applicants for international protection	Applicants are not entitled to daily allowance anymore if they choose to reside in specific areas with high rates of immigrants and socio-economic challenges (32 municipalities listed), in order to avoid segregation.	SE LEG 02
Switzerland	Procedures at first instance	The provisions concerning the new accelerated asylum procedures entered into force on 1 March 2019, following the adoption of the new Asylum Law in September 2015, the national referendum in June 2016 and the pilot projects carried out in Zurich, Boudry and Giffers.	CH LEG 01

Institutional changes

Country	Thematic area	Development
Austria	Procedures at first instance	The new Section V (Immigration) was established within the Federal Ministry of the Interior after an organisational restructuring. The new section brings together resources and knowledge on affairs related to asylum and immigration, including border control, Aliens Police, reception, residency, citizenship and return.
Austria	Return of former applicants	A new Department for Return and Reintegration (V/10) was established as part of Section V in the Federal Ministry of the Interior.
Bulgaria	Reception of applicants for international protection	A separate Social Adaptation Department was established in the Registration and Reception Centre in Harmanli.
Croatia	Unaccompanied minors and vulnerable groups	A Governmental Inter-Agency Committee for the Protection of Unaccompanied Children was established.
Croatia	Procedures at first instance	The Croatian Ministry of the Interior formed the Directorate for Immigration, Citizenship and Administrative Affairs, including the Sector for Foreigners and International Protection, which is divided into a Service for Foreigners, a Service for International protection (responsible for the International Protection Section, Dublin Procedure Section and the Integration Section) and a Service for the Reception and Accommodation of Applicants for International Protection (responsible for reception centres in Zagreb and Kutina).
Germany	Dublin procedure	The German Dublin Unit within BAMF became responsible for deciding on the admissibility of applications when the applicant is already a beneficiary of international protection in another Dublin state.
Greece	Procedures at first instance	The Ministry of Citizen Protection and the Ministry of Migration Policy were merged into a new Ministry of Citizen Protection.
Greece	Procedures at first instance	The Ministry on Migration and Asylum was re-created, after merging with the Ministry of Citizen Protection in July 2019.
Hungary	Procedures at first instance	The Hungarian Immigration and Asylum Office (IAO) was transformed into the National Directorate-General for Aliens Policing (NDGAP) and is now under the management of the Police.
Hungary	Procedures at first instance	The regional asylum offices were closed and the central department took over their tasks.
Hungary	Reception of applicants for international protection	The Reception Facilities Supervisory Unit became responsible for operating and managing reception facilities.
Ireland	Reception of applicants for international protection	The tasks for reception and accommodation were divided into two new sections within the Immigration Service Delivery Function: International Protection Accommodation Services (IPAS) and International Protection Procurement Services (IPPS).
Lithuania	Dublin procedure	The transfer of asylum applicants to the responsible Dublin state became the task of the State Border Guard Service.
Lithuania	Access to procedure	The Migration Department became the main institution for migration-related activities. The functions related to asylum procedures, previously performed by police units, were

		transferred to the Migration Department and the State Border Guard Service (SBGS).
Luxembourg	Dublin procedure	The Dublin Unit of the Directorate of Immigration was moved from the Return Unit, Department for Returns to the Asylum Unit, Department for Refugees.
Luxembourg	Content of protection	The Department of Integration was created within the Ministry of Family Affairs, Integration and the Greater Region.
Malta	Procedures at second instance	A new chamber was created within the Refugee Appeals Board.
Sweden	Procedures at first instance	The Swedish Migration Agency decided to restructure its head office which would be effective in 2020, as well as restructuring and reducing the regions from five to three. The number of full-time equivalent employees was also decreased from 5 842 to 5 096.
Sweden	Country of origin information: Research, production and institutional developments	The COI Unit became part of the newly-established Section for Information Analysis of the Swedish Migration Agency.
Switzerland	Procedures at first instance	Since 1 March 2019, the asylum procedure has been organised into six asylum regions. Each of these regions has a federal asylum centre which conducts the asylum procedure. Supporting divisions remain at the headquarters.
United Kingdom	Dublin procedure	Three teams from the Home Office, UK Visas and Immigration, Third Country Unit in London were transferred to Glasgow under the newly-established Home Office Immigration Enforcement Third Country Unit, taking over responsibility for Dublin out cases. The fourth team remained in London and became the Dublin Cessation Team (DCT).

Key policy changes related to integrity

Country	Thematic area	Development
Austria	Content of protection	Withdrawal procedures remained a priority for the BFA.
Belgium	Reception of applicants for international protection	Persons already benefitting from international protection in another EU Member State no longer receive material reception conditions. Dublin applicants who absconded and re-applied for reception after six months were also no longer entitled to material reception conditions. Fedasil evaluates these rejections on a case-by-case basis, taking into account any specific vulnerabilities of the applicant.
Croatia	Legal assistance and representation	The AMIF project, "Providing legal advice in the process of granting international protection", was implemented as of 1 April 2019.
Cyprus	Unaccompanied minors and vulnerable groups	Development of a screening system for vulnerable applicants was developed in the First Reception Centre "Pournara", with the tool waiting to be implemented in practice.
Cyprus	Return of former applicants	The AMIF project established the national forced return monitoring system, conducted by the Commissioner for Administration and Protection of Human Rights Ombudsman.
Czechia	Unaccompanied minors and vulnerable groups	The Department for Asylum and Migration Policy of the Ministry of Interior launched a pilot project using non-medical methods for age assessment.
Czechia	Procedures at first instance	The Ministry of the Interior joined the Videoconferences for Identification (VCI) project.
Finland	Access to information	The website, Asylum in Finland, maintained by the Ministry for Foreign Affairs, was improved. New information leaflets and videos with simple terminology were developed for applicants in the framework of the AMIF-funded ONE project.
Finland	Procedures at first instance	Based on the ECHR judgement in <i>N.A. v. Finland</i> , the Finnish Immigration Service reviewed the cases of around 500 applicants.
Finland	Dublin procedure	The first transfer decision to Greece since 2011 was made.
France	Special procedures	The Management Board of OFPRA decided to maintain the current list of safe countries of origin but the situation in Benin will be reviewed within six months.
France	Reception of applicants for international protection	Amendments are planned to be introduced to health care coverage: applicants would no longer have access to the universal health care insurance (PUMA) until after three months of residence in the country.

France	Reception of applicants for international protection	The French government planned to cease the parallel payment of allocations for asylum seekers (ADA, <i>Allocation pour demandeur d'asile</i>) and the solidarity income support (RSA, <i>Revenu de solidarité active</i>). ADA has been paid monthly to a payment card instead of a withdrawal card since November 2019.
France	Content of protection	A new document, called a "provisional family certificate", was introduced on 1 January 2019, facilitating access to social security entitlements for families of refugees, because it attests to the family's composition in the interim, while the official civil status documentation is being reconstituted by OFPRA.
Germany	Reception of applicants for international protection	The AnKER concept was adopted in three more federal states: Brandenburg, Schleswig-Holstein and Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania.
Latvia	Procedures at first instance	Improvements were made to the efficiency of the Asylum Seekers Register, aiming to reduce paper files and process data on applicants more efficiently.
Luxembourg	Unaccompanied minors and vulnerable groups	The Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs announced that authorities discontinued the inspection of genitals as part of the age assessment process.
Luxembourg	Reception of applicants for international protection	The pilot project for using prepaid cards for allowances was expanded in 2019.
Malta	Unaccompanied minors and vulnerable groups	Funded through an AMIF project, a psycho-social team was set up to identify vulnerabilities related to mental health.
Malta	Unaccompanied minors and vulnerable groups	A multi-disciplinary board was established to carry out age assessments.
Netherlands	Dublin procedure	The Dutch Minister for Migration presented possible measures to handle disruptive applicants in reception facilities. The possibility to reduce material reception conditions for Dublin applicants was examined.
Netherlands	Dublin procedure	A pilot project was launched by the Repatriation and Departure Service (DT&V) providing the possibility to place disruptive applicants under the Dublin procedure in detention during the appeal stage.
Netherlands	Dublin procedure	A policy decision was made that applications from Moldovan nationals would no longer be processed under the Dublin regime and the IND would take responsibility for their applications, after which typically return to Moldova was initiated.
Netherlands	Special procedures	The Minister for Migration suspended Togo as a safe country of origin while further assessment of the security situation in the country was undergoing.

Netherlands	Procedures at first instance	Specific measures were implemented to manage the high number of applications submitted in November 2019 by nationals of Moldova. The cases were prioritised, handled by a special team, their processing time was reduced to a maximum of 3-4 weeks and their return to Moldova would be effectuated as soon as possible.
Netherlands	Reception of applicants for international protection	The Minister for Migration announced in December 2019 that reception centres which housed applicants who needed additional guidance and supervision (EBTL, <i>extra begeleiding en toezicht lokatie</i>) would be transformed into enforcement and supervision centres (HTL, <i>handhaving en toezichtslocatie</i>) as of February 2020.
Netherlands	Detention	It was announced that an amendment will be made to the policy relating to unaccompanied minors who come into contact with authorities for the first time and whose departure in principle must be effectuated within less than four weeks by allowing the possibility to detain them in the secure family facility.
Netherlands	Content of protection	A new temporary residence permit can be granted to a resident third country national who is terminally ill.
Netherlands	Content of protection	The temporary Regulation for Long-Term Resident Children (DRLVK) was terminated, with some additional changes. Termination of the DRLVK was accompanied by transitional measures. The Immigration and Naturalisation Service reassessed some of the applications under the DRLVK and assessed some new applications.
Netherlands	Return of former applicants	Limited financial assistance was offered to Moldovan applicants falling under the Dublin III Regulation to return to their country of origin.
Spain	Content of protection	A policy was established, granting a one-year, renewable residence permit on humanitarian grounds for Venezuelan nationals whose application for international protection was rejected.
Sweden	Reception of applicants for international protection	Based on the decision of the Administrative Court of Appeal from 18 June 2019, persons who have been granted a temporary residence permit and who are not covered by the Swedish Housing Act are no longer entitled to accommodation and daily allowance from the Swedish Migration Agency. The new legal position of the Agency was effective as of 11 November 2019 and enforceable since 31 January 2020.
Sweden	Content of protection	A Parliamentary Committee of Inquiry was set up to develop proposals on Sweden's migration policy, including the type and length of residence permits for beneficiaries of international protection.

United Kingdom	Access to information	Two new guides were published for asylum seekers staying in temporary accommodation while their claim for asylum is assessed, detailing the support offered, rights and expectations.
United Kingdom	Statelessness	Changes to the stateless leave policy were introduced to clarify that, to qualify for stateless leave, applicants must show that they cannot acquire a nationality or a right to permanent residence in another country to which they could reasonably expect to be entitled

Key policy changes related to efficiency

Country	Thematic area	Development
Austria	Content of protection	Austria continued to focus on the labour market integration of beneficiaries of international protection, organised targeted employment fairs and mentoring programmes specifically tailored to migrant women.
Belgium	Dublin procedure	The Immigration Office increased its staff working on Dublin cases.
Belgium	Access to procedure	The CGRS in Belgium continued to give refugee status to minor girls with a well-founded fear of persecution due to female genital mutilation, but parents were no longer granted derived refugee status automatically and needed to submit a separate request for regularisation.
Belgium	Access to procedure	Fedasil made improvements to the arrival path in the temporary arrival centre in Brussels, rendering registration and lodging procedures quicker and more efficient.
Belgium	Procedures at first instance	The Council of Ministers approved several measures on 14 November 2019 to speed up the procedures for international protection by hiring more staff in asylum authorities, increasing reception capacity to accelerate outflow and cooperating closer with all federal government departments.
Belgium	Procedures at first instance	The CGRS developed and implemented a system to prioritise specific cases or profiles.
Belgium	Reception of applicants for international protection	Fedasil and the Red Cross established an agreement with the Flemish Integration and Civic Integration Agency to notify the public of the opening of any new reception centre and the agency would appoint a liaison officer to support the local administration in addressing residents.
Belgium	Reception of applicants for international protection	Applicants do not need to obtain a separate work permit since 1 January 2019.
Bulgaria	Dublin procedure	A new software was piloted to store files of applicants who are subject to incoming Dublin requests from other states.
Croatia	Content of protection	Beneficiaries of international protection were granted 280 hours of state-provided language courses.
Croatia	Content of protection	Coordinators were appointed to social welfare centres and branch offices to provide support in accessing social welfare and, more broadly, in fostering inclusion in the local community.
Cyprus	Procedures at first instance	The Asylum Service was reinforced with additional staff in order to manage the increasing pressures on the asylum and reception systems.
Cyprus	Procedures at second instance	The new Administrative Court for International Protection (IPAC) began operating as of 18 June 2019.
Czechia	Access to information	Vulnerable persons are now notified about the right to a medical examination to detect signs of persecution or serious harm. This information is included in the document in which applicants provide data for an application.
Czechia	Content of protection	The method of issuing or extending residence permits for beneficiaries of international protection were simplified. The documents are no longer re-issued and a new expiration date is noted directly on the existing permit.

Estonia	Content of protection	The first Estonian Language Houses opened in Tallin and Narva in 2019, offering language courses and facilitating integration. The Welcome Centre in Tartu, Estonia opened to provide information and guidance for all newcomers.
Estonia	Return of former applicants	The Estonian Police and Border Guard Board started to issue “three in one” decisions combining a negative decision on an asylum application, a return decision and a decision to impose a prohibition to entry.
Finland	Reception of applicants for international protection	The implementation of the new payment card system continued.
Finland	Country of origin information: Research, production and institutional developments	The SOPU project was launched to develop a new reporting model on country of origin information. In addition, the FAKTA project continued to develop a more resource-efficient model for planning and implementing fact-finding missions. Development on the new COI database continued.
France	Procedures at first instance	Interviewing practices were adjusted so the presence of only one lawyer or representative of an accredited association is authorised, and trainee lawyers and interns are prohibited from accompanying their supervisor.
France	Procedures at first instance	A collaborative tool (“TNV Asile”) was developed for prefectural asylum services. It enables practical information sheets to be disseminated, information to be shared, asylum policies to be updated and fosters better interaction between the heads of the one-stop services and Regional Dublin Procedure Hubs and the Directorate for Asylum.
France	Procedures at first instance	The government presented a comprehensive action plan on migration, including measures to reduce the processing time of asylum applications to an average of six months.
France	Procedures at second instance	The possibility to lodge appeals electronically to the CNDA was introduced.
France	Content of protection	State-financed language support was increased to 400 hours.
France	Content of protection	The Prime Minister evaluated the results of amendments introduced in September 2018 and put forward several major guidelines shaping the French migration policy, including improving integration policies and the reception of applicants for international protection.
France	Resettlement and humanitarian admission programmes	The Humanitarian Corridors programme continued operating.
Germany	Interpretation services	BAMF launched a new software to administer interpretation services.
Germany	Procedures at first instance	BAMF implemented the XAVIA project to ensure that all information related to asylum cases is shared electronically among public authorities.
Ireland	Procedures at first instance	Regular interviews now take place through teleconference or videoconference in Cork and from video suites in courthouses.
Ireland	Procedures at first instance	Executive Officers in the International Protection Office (IPO) were granted the authority for single sign-off on certain cases. Some panel members and case workers are assigned to handle caseloads from specific countries to improve their knowledge for swift decision-making.
Ireland	Resettlement and humanitarian admission programmes	The Department of Justice and Equality launched a community sponsorship programme.

Ireland	Resettlement and humanitarian admission programmes	A new phase of the Irish Refugee Protection Programme (IRPP) was announced by the Department of Justice and Equality.
Italy	Content of protection	The Ministry of Labour and Social Policies launched a project, <i>Protezione Unita a Obiettivo Integrazione</i> , which provided effective pathways to the labour market for beneficiaries of international protection, persons with humanitarian status or persons who entered the country as unaccompanied minors.
Latvia	Content of protection	The Ministry of Culture in Latvia launched language clubs, co-funded by AMIF, in five cities. The Latvian Language Agency developed new e-learning material (e-Laipa) for A1 and A2 levels.
Lithuania	Access to information	The Refugee Reception Centre launched lectures for refugees and asylum applicants on the differences in status, rights and responsibilities, as well as general information on Lithuania (history, geography, education labour law, domestic violence, medical services, etc). With the use of new technologies, the Rukla Refugee Reception Centre also provided similar information through its new Facebook social network account.
Lithuania	Reception of applicants for international protection	The "Description of the Procedure for Accommodation of Asylum Applicants" clarified that costs exceeding the rates defined in the document might be covered by funds from international organisations, the European Union, non-governmental organisations or private entities.
Malta	Procedures at first instance	The Office of the Refugee Commissioner and the IT Unit of the Ministry for Home Affairs, National Security and Law Enforcement improved the national asylum database that records relevant data pertaining to applications for international protection, as well as for registering asylum seekers.
Malta	Reception of applicants for international protection	AWAS amended its policies and provided allowances to applicants who hold an asylum certificate and are registered with the Refugee Commissioner.
Netherlands	Unaccompanied minors and vulnerable groups	The IND launched a special project and hired additional staff to reduce the backlog in applications from unaccompanied minors and shorten the overall length of the asylum procedure.
Netherlands	Reception of applicants for international protection	The project, Participation and Language, was extended to all reception centres (AZC).
Netherlands	Content of protection	Changes in the procedure to grant a residence permit for persons in a distressing situation were implemented (among others) with the abolishment of the discretionary power of the Minister for Migration and by mandating the Managing Director of the IND to consider ex officio within the first assessment of the application whether a distressing situation exists.
Netherlands	Content of protection	Municipalities in the Netherlands received an additional EUR 40 million for 2019 and 2020 to become more involved in the counselling of beneficiaries of international protection in their civic integration and language learning. The additional resources also aim to help municipalities orient themselves towards their directing role in the new civic integration system in order to promote a smooth transition to the new system.
Norway	Unaccompanied minors and vulnerable groups	The authorities in Norway launched the website, Asylbarn, dedicated specifically for children in the asylum procedure.

Spain	Procedures at first instance	Applications lodged by Venezuelan and other Latin American nationals were prioritised.
Spain	Procedures at first instance	The number of staff working on asylum was increased.
Sweden	Dublin procedure	The Swedish Migration Agency revised its Dublin tracks by reflecting the estimated handling time of the case and improvements to its IT systems allowed more rapid information exchanges on Dublin cases.
Sweden	Procedures at first instance	The "Asylum360" pilot project of 2018 was extended to more regions, combining the accommodation of asylum seekers and the examination of their applications into one continuous process to handle as many cases as possible without interruptions.
Sweden	Procedures at second instance	The Swedish Migration Agency launched a portal allowing legal counsellors to submit appeals against first instance decisions electronically. Another pilot continued, in cooperation with the Swedish National Courts Administration, to digitally transfer appeals between the agency and the courts.
Sweden	Content of protection	The government tasked the Swedish Council for Higher Education to develop and pilot special measures for: a) skills validation and the recognition of qualifications when documentary evidence is missing; and b) when the educational level is documented but the level was not completed. The Council also worked on a permanent structure for the recognition and accreditation of prior learning.
United Kingdom	Resettlement and humanitarian admission programmes	A new global resettlement scheme was announced to consolidate the three largest national programmes.

Key policy changes related to quality

Country	Thematic area	Development
Austria	Unaccompanied minors and vulnerable groups	The Asyl-Train project implemented by IOM Austria continued in 2019 and provided training to relevant national authorities and service providers to help identify trafficked persons in the framework of the asylum procedure.
Belgium	Unaccompanied minors and vulnerable groups	The Guardianship Service continued with an AMIF-funded project to develop a methodology for monitoring guardians and the assessment of the best interests of minors and worked on improving communications with all stakeholders.
Belgium	Unaccompanied minors and vulnerable groups	The CGRS updated its guide for unaccompanied minors applying for international protection and published two new guides on accompanied children's right to be heard in the asylum procedure (one for children, one for parents or guardians).
Belgium	Unaccompanied minors and vulnerable groups	The CGRS implemented a quality control process for gender-related cases, starting with cases which invoked sexual orientation as a ground to monitor the application of its Sexual Orientation Guideline.
Belgium	Unaccompanied minors and vulnerable groups	The CGRS continued training protection officers and supervisors who were joining the minors team, and informative sessions were organised to all new protection officers.
Belgium	Unaccompanied minors and vulnerable groups	All new protection officers at the CGRS were trained on gender in the asylum procedure and a specialised training course was provided for more experienced protection officers and supervisors on cases involving gender-related grounds.
Belgium	Unaccompanied minors and vulnerable groups	The CGRS, in cooperation with the Guardianship Service, organised several training sessions for guardians on the asylum procedure for unaccompanied minors.
Belgium	Unaccompanied minors and vulnerable groups	The staff of two Fedasil reception centres underwent intensive training on restorative practices, developed by the Oranjehuis NGO, to prevent conflicts between unaccompanied minors and staff, provide sustainable measures for minors and reduce the need for disciplinary transfers.
Belgium	Access to information	Fedasil launched a multi-lingual information platform for applicants for international protection, www.fedasilinfo.be , accessible only from Belgium and available in 12 languages.
Belgium	Reception of applicants for international protection	5 411 new reception places were created.
Belgium	Return of former applicants	Fedasil in Belgium issued a new instruction on the implementation of the return process for failed applicants with serious medical issues.
Bulgaria	Unaccompanied minors and vulnerable groups	Weekly meetings were organised with unaccompanied minors who are subject to proceedings under the Dublin III Regulation. At these meetings, unaccompanied minors are regularly informed of the steps that have been taken regarding their Dublin procedure and of the expected outcome of this procedure.

Croatia	Access to procedure	The project "Monitoring the conduct of the Ministry of the Interior police officers in the area of irregular migration and asylum" was launched to monitor that the rights of irregular migrants and potential applicants for international protection were consistently protected.
Croatia	Access to information	The Office for Human Rights and Rights of National Minorities updated its "Guide for Integration – Basic Information for the Integration of Foreigners into Croatian Society".
Croatia	Reception of applicants for international protection	The AMIF-funded project "Psychosocial services and support for international protection applicants" was signed with the Croatian Red Cross.
Cyprus	Unaccompanied minors and vulnerable groups	A safe zone for vulnerable applicants was designed with EASO's support in the First Reception Centre "Pournara" in Cyprus (not yet operational).
Cyprus	Procedures at first instance	A Quality Control Unit was established within the Asylum Service, with participation of experts from the Asylum Service, EASO and UNHCR.
Czechia	Legal assistance and representation	The Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs expanded its projects providing individual counselling for applicants.
Czechia	Reception of applicants for international protection	A new reception centre in Bělá pod Bezdězem, with 186 places, was opened.
Estonia	Detention	A legal counsellor was assigned to the detention centre to ensure legal aid for detainees.
Finland	Unaccompanied minors and vulnerable groups	The AMIF-funded Competent Representative (<i>Osaava edustaja</i>) project was launched, developing online training for representatives of unaccompanied minors.
Finland	Unaccompanied minors and vulnerable groups	A guide was published for case workers on domestic violence in the context of asylum.
Finland	Unaccompanied minors and vulnerable groups	Internal instructions guidelines for case workers were updated to report female genital mutilation or the risk thereof to the police and child protection services.
Finland	Legal assistance and representation	The AMIF-funded asylum procedure information provision, ONE project, was concluded, which facilitated access to legal aid from reception centres and to information throughout the whole asylum procedure.
Finland	Procedures at first instance	A survey commissioned by the Ministry of the Interior in 2018 was finalised, examining the asylum procedure as a whole (including the practices of the administrative courts) and cooperation between the different authorities.
Finland	Reception of applicants for international protection	The implementation of the new, revisited monitoring programme of the national reception system was started.
Finland	Reception of applicants for international protection	The AMIF-funded OSAKA project was finalised, focusing on the assessment and recognition of previous education, work experiences and skills.
Finland	Reception of applicants for international protection	The AMIF-funded TERTTU project came to an end, after developing a health examination protocol for assessing applicants' health, well-being and health care needs in the arrival stage.
Finland	Reception of applicants for international protection	The position of crisis and family counsellor was introduced in reception centres.
Finland	Reception of applicants for international protection	The AMIF-funded PSYYKE project was launched to train reception staff on mental health work and draft a mental health work manual for the reception system.

Finland	Reception of applicants for international protection	The Finnish Immigration Service gave reception centres several operating guidelines, including on health care services, work and study activities.
Finland	Content of protection	The Finnish Immigration Service developed an online course and exam on Finnish society and values.
France	Unaccompanied minors and vulnerable groups	OFPRA published its new asylum guide for unaccompanied minors.
France	Unaccompanied minors and vulnerable groups	OFPRA offered extensive training for senior protection officers on sexual orientation and gender identity.
France	Access to procedure	42 full-time equivalent positions were created and 1 200 contractor work-months were allocated to the <i>préfectures</i> to decrease the waiting times for appointments at the one-stop services (GUDA, <i>Guichet unique pour demandeurs d'asile</i>).
France	Reception of applicants for international protection	The number of places was substantially increased in France, including the creation of a new type of reception facility in Île-de-France (CAIR).
France	Reception of applicants for international protection	Withdrawal cards have been replaced by payment cards, on which the asylum applicant receives at the beginning of each month the allowance entitlement.
France	Return of former applicants	Three new centres for DRAPs (<i>dispositifs de préparation de l'aide au retour</i>) were opened.
Germany	Interpretation services	A special team of interpreters was recruited for quality assurance to develop and implement further improvements and to train BAMF employees on communicating with applicants through an interpreter.
Germany	Procedures at first instance	BAMF amended its quality assurance system so that some quality assurance employees rotate among the different branch offices to bring more homogeneity in decisions.
Germany	Country of origin information: : Research, production and institutional developments	BAMF launched a two-year training campaign offering workshops on the Top 10 countries of origin.
Ireland	Reception of applicants for international protection	The "National Standards for Accommodation Offered to People in the Protection Process" and a report on direct provision from the Joint Oireachtas Committee on Justice and Equality were published.
Ireland	Content of protection	The government published the mid-term review of the Migrant Integration Strategy 2017-2020.
Latvia	Unaccompanied minors and vulnerable groups	80 State Border Guard officers participated in training on unaccompanied minors and other vulnerable persons applying or not applying for asylum (upgraded training programme), "Profiling, interviewing and identification".
Latvia	Reception of applicants for international protection	Two video tutorials were developed with information for applicants on everyday issues at the Asylum Accommodation Centre.
Latvia	Reception of applicants for international protection	The booklet "A Guide for Asylum Seekers in Latvia" was translated into two additional languages, Azerbaijani and Georgian.
Lithuania	Unaccompanied minors and vulnerable groups	A newly-built dormitory opened for a maximum of 15 vulnerable persons at the Foreigners' Registration Centre of the State Border Guard Service.
Lithuania	Unaccompanied minors and vulnerable groups	Training on working with unaccompanied minors was offered to reception centre staff.

Lithuania	Procedures at first instance	Internal guidelines on the conduct of interviews and information-gathering in the asylum procedure were implemented.
Lithuania	Country of origin information: Research, production and institutional developments	A three-year project to update the information portal of the Asylum Division of the Migration Department was completed.
Luxembourg	Content of protection	The government increased the threshold of subsidies for municipalities from 80 % to 100 % of the rental prices announced by the Housing Observatory to encourage rentals for beneficiaries of international protection. Beneficiaries may also continue to live in reception facilities for a small fee.
Malta	Unaccompanied minors and vulnerable groups	The AWAS established the Therapeutic Services Unit (TSU) for migrants suffering from psychological disorders due to trauma, with a special team dedicated to children and unaccompanied minors.
Malta	Procedures at first instance	The Office of the Refugee Commissioner started implementing changes to reporting on case allocation and backlog.
Malta	Procedures at first instance	Guidance was reviewed and updated, new internal standard operating procedures for radicalisation and extremism were launched, and an internal guide on the application of internal protection alternatives was developed. Following EASO guidance, the decision template was updated.
Netherlands	Unaccompanied minors and vulnerable groups	The COA developed a comic strip for minor applicants about everyday life in a reception centre, appointed a contact person and organised swimming lessons for children.
Netherlands	Reception of applicants for international protection	The number of reception places was substantially increased. The Minister for Migration announced the creation of 5 000 additional places.
Netherlands	Reception of applicants for international protection	Applicants become entitled to non-emergency health care treatments after two months from registration. The differentiation on access to health care is not based on the reception location of stay anymore but only on the length of the applicant's stay in the Netherlands.
Slovakia	Interpretation services	The Migration Office of the Ministry of the Interior issued the guideline, "Procedure of the Provision of Interpretation and Translation Services in the Domain of the Migration Office".
Slovakia	Reception of applicants for international protection	The Migration Office of the Ministry of the Interior continued to implement the AMIF-funded project Capacity Building in the Field of Asylum, which trains its staff members on reception of asylum seekers, including timely and thorough identification of vulnerable groups.
Slovakia	Reception of applicants for international protection	The Migration Office of the Ministry of the Interior prepared an internal methodology for social workers ("Social Workers' Competences to Avoid and Solve Critical Situations") identifying the most frequent types of extraordinary and critical situations that social workers may encounter in asylum facilities, their possible causes and solutions to avoid or manage such situations.
Spain	Procedures at first instance	Case-handling guidelines were issued, for example based on gender, credibility and assessment of medical reports.

Sweden	Unaccompanied minors and vulnerable groups	The Swedish Migration Agency published a new handbook on human trafficking, with a part focusing on improving the identification of victims and perpetrators within the asylum procedure. The template for interviewing unaccompanied minors was updated to better detect signs of human trafficking.
Sweden	Unaccompanied minors and vulnerable groups	In preparation for the entry into force of the UN CRC Act (2018:1197) on 1 January 2020, the Swedish Migration Agency developed guidelines on assessing the best interests of the child in accordance with Article 3 of the UN CRC, trained around 500 case officers and 40 head of units in children's rights, and developed a technical tool supporting the determination of the best interests of the child. It also developed new guidelines on the placement of unaccompanied minor applicants assigned to a municipality. Information on the asylum procedure was developed specially for children aged 7 to 12 years, available through a mobile application.
Sweden	Unaccompanied minors and vulnerable groups	Since 1 January 2019, Sweden does not recognise the validity of child marriages from abroad, so the agency updated its standards for handling cases related to married child applicants and developed relevant information material in collaboration with the National Board of Health and Welfare.
Sweden	Unaccompanied minors and vulnerable groups	A new electronic personal interview form with child-friendly language and structure was developed.
Sweden	Unaccompanied minors and vulnerable groups	The Swedish Migration Agency published new instructions on handling LGBTI cases and changed its system on assessing these cases.
Sweden	Unaccompanied minors and vulnerable groups	The Swedish Migration Agency created an online training for its staff on gender-based violence within the asylum procedure.
Sweden	Procedures at first instance	The Swedish Migration Agency updated its legal position on Afghanistan, Syria, Iraq and Somalia, published a legal comment on Nicaragua and on the increased violence in Afghanistan during summer 2019, and temporarily stopped decisions in cases involving applicants from the Hasskah province of Syria based on its new situational analysis.
Sweden	Content of protection	The government provided funding to increase the length of civic orientation from 60 to 100 hours.
Sweden	Content of protection	The government increased funding for fast tracks, which were established to support entry into the job market for beneficiaries of international protection who have education, work or training experience.
Sweden	Return of former applicants	The Swedish Migration Agency published a legal comment on Sudan leading to the temporary suspension of returns to the country.
United Kingdom	Unaccompanied minors and vulnerable groups	The guidance on age assessment was updated.
United Kingdom	Access to information	Two new information guides were published on rights, expectations and support offered to applicants staying in temporary accommodation.
United Kingdom	Procedures at first instance	The Home Office amended its guidance on assessing the ages of asylum claimants who have no valid documentary evidence of age and where their claims to be children are doubted. This included the specification that a person being assessed on their physical appearance and demeanour must appear to be at least 25 years or older to be treated as an adult. Prior to this amendment, a person needed to appear to be significantly older than 18 years to allow an assessment of age.

United Kingdom	Reception of applicants for international protection	Guidance was updated on assessing applicants who are destitute and eligible for support.
United Kingdom	Reception of applicants for international protection	New guidance provided instructions to caseworkers when an asylum seeker reports an incident of domestic abuse while the application is being assessed.
United Kingdom	Content of protection	The government published its Integrated Communities Action Plan, which confirms the actions the government will take to deliver stronger, integrated communities.
United Kingdom	Content of protection	The third edition of the Indicators of Integration framework was published.