

3.3.1. Integrity

This section focuses on the key policy changes that EU+ countries undertook in 2018 to enhance the integrity of the national asylum systems. The table hereunder outlines policies and practices that aim to swiftly identify unfounded asylum applications and make sure that the necessary financial, human and time resources are not dissipated on such claims. These measures involve efforts to rapidly establish the applicants' identity, including their age, country or origin and travel route and the eventual security concerns their presence might mean, to better assess the credibility of the applicants' statements and to determine whether beneficiaries of international protection are still in need of protection.

Prevention of unintentional misuse of the asylum procedure and its integrity is also supported by provision of information to asylum applicants and beneficiaries of international protection on the respective rights and obligations and related procedural arrangements.

Please note that many relevant changes concerning these areas touch upon major legislative changes, presented in [Section 3.1](#).

The policy and practice changes listed here are further analysed under the relevant thematic sections in [Chapter 4](#).

Country	Area concerned	Policy & practice
Austria	Content of protection - Withdrawal of international protection	The BFA identified withdrawal procedures as one of the major policy priorities for 2018: 6000 withdrawal procedures initiated in 2018 (fourfold increase from 2017) and international protection status withdrawn in 1600 cases (threefold increase from 2017). The focus is on persons with criminal record. The authority continues with this focus in 2019 as well.
	Return	The BFA identified the return of rejected applicants as one of the major policy priorities for 2018 and aimed to increase significantly the overall rate of returns.
Belgium	Special procedures - Subsequent applications, Content of protection - Withdrawal of international protection	The policy note from the former State Secretary for Asylum and Migration identified two major areas relevant to maintaining the integrity of the asylum system: deterring unfounded subsequent applications, enhanced international cooperation on status withdrawal when beneficiaries of international protection travel back to their country of origin.
Cyprus	Vulnerable applicants - UAM	Improving age assessment (dental examination) procedures through AMIF funding both for carrying out the procedures and for staff training on undertaking these procedures.
Denmark	Return	A new transit centre was established in Avnstrup for applicants who have exhausted all possibilities for appeal.
Finland	Access to procedure	The Finnish Immigration Service and the National Police Guard started the joint implementation of the MISEC project. The project objectives include: strengthening co-operation and information exchange between the immigration and security authorities; improving methods for establishing the identity and background of persons applying for asylum, residence permit and citizenship; developing methods for identifying applicants who may pose a security risk; exploring technological tools available to support these functions.

Germany	Access to information and legal assistance	The BAMF has been implementing a pilot project on procedural counselling during the first instance procedure in eleven BAMF field offices. The evaluation is planned for 2019/2020.
	Access to procedure	The BAMF started using four comprehensive tools to assist decision-makers to establish the identity of applicants: information from electronic information carriers (extraction from mobile devices), biometric language analysis, a technical system for the transcription of names and a system for facial recognition.
Greece	Access to information and legal assistance	A series of informative videos and a mobile application were launched to assist in access to information and the rights of applicants for international protection; which were translated in 18 languages. A new informative booklet was developed for UAM.
Ireland	Special procedures - Safe countries of origin	The International Protection Office published an Addendum to the Information Booklet for Applicants, providing information about the effects of the International Protection Act 2015 (Safe Countries of Origin) Order 2018.
Italy	Reception of applicants for international protection	Ministerial Directive No 4568 of 4 April 2018 requires now reception facilities to report daily about the number of persons receiving material reception conditions.
Latvia	Reception of applicants for international protection	Introduction of a video surveillance and access control system in the accommodation centre.
	Access to information and legal assistance	The Office of Citizenship and Migration Affairs prepared a document 'Guidelines for asylum seekers in Latvia' available in ten languages.
	Access to procedure, Procedures at first instance, Procedures at second instance	Further improvement and digitalisation of the national asylum information registers and systems, including the facilitation of the information flow for the purposes of appeal.
Luxembourg	Access to procedure, Vulnerable applicants - UAM	The Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs provided information and clarification on the use of medical examinations to determine the age of unaccompanied minors
Netherlands	Special procedures - subsequent applications, Reception of applicants for international protection	Based on the Council of State judgement, the formal registration of a subsequent application is the moment when the applicant fills out the necessary form and not the signature of another form at a later stage, confirming the lodging of the subsequent application. This is also going to entitle the applicant to corresponding rights, such as material reception conditions.
	Procedures at first instance	The State Secretary for Justice and Security announced that credibility assessment of LGBTI and of converts was going to be revised.
	Reception of applicants for international protection	The State Secretary for Justice and Security announced that measures were going to be intensified against applicants who disturb the everyday life in the reception facility and whose behaviour is repeatedly offensive towards other inhabitants and the reception staff.
	Return	The State Secretary for Justice and Security initiated the establishment of an Inquiry Committee on Overstaying Third-Country Nationals without the permanent right to stay, to analyse the factors that contribute to the fact that rejected applicants often

Netherlands	Content of protection - Withdrawal of international protection		remain in the Netherlands and to make recommendations on the relevant aspects.
			The IND adjusted its practices on withdrawing the international protection status when beneficiaries apply for the extension of the temporary asylum residence permit or for a permanent residence permit after the expiry of the previous permit. The IND assesses in an individual manner whether the criteria for protection still exist and the fact that the permit has expired cannot lead to an automatic cessation of the status.
Slovenia	Vulnerable applicants-UAM		The Ministry of the Interior came to an agreement with the medical institutions who will be tasked to carry out the age assessment examinations.
Spain	Access to procedure		A Protocol was created for disembarkation coordinating the actions among the various ministries involved.
	Reception of applicants for international protection, Dublin system		An instruction of the Ministry of Labour, Migration and Social Security in Spain clarified that Dublin returnees are also entitled to reception.
Sweden	Access to information and legal assistance		The Swedish Migration Agency revised and extended significantly the scope of the information provided for applicants.
	Vulnerable applicants-UAM		The Swedish National Board of Forensic Medicine published new guidelines on age assessment, changing the probability scale used for girls.
Switzerland	Reception of applicants for international protection		The first federal reception centre was established in Les Verrières (Canton of Neuchâtel) specifically for adult men applicants, whose behaviour perturbs the daily usual functioning of other reception centres or is of concern for public order or public security.