AIDA Country Report on the Romania – update on 2023
Terms of Reference – National expert

Terms of Reference – National Expert (RO)

Tasks of the National Expert

The tasks of the national expert include:
1. Conducting one update of the respective country report (Romania) in accordance with the tasks and timetable set out below;
2. Attending and participating in AIDA National Experts' coordination meetings as required (all expenses covered by ECRE);
3. Providing input and feedback to ECRE when required for the activities carried out under AIDA, including comparative reports, briefings, statistical updates;
4. Sharing any relevant documents and updates on the situation in their country with ECRE in order to keep the database up-to-date.

Required qualifications and skills

- Excellent writing skills in English;
- Excellent knowledge of the asylum legislation and practices in Romania;
- Good knowledge of European asylum legislation and its relevance to Romania;
- Good knowledge of the national and European legal systems;
- Demonstrable ability to request and obtain information from relevant national authorities on the asylum system in their country;
- Ability to complete legal analysis.

Timetable of tasks

- **November 2023 - January 2024:** Conducting desk research on the following aspects of the national asylum system: asylum procedure; reception conditions; detention of asylum seekers; content of international protection. For the purpose of the research, the expert should review a variety of sources: publicly available information from national authorities; statistical information; relevant case law from national courts and supranational judicial bodies; reports from international and civil society organisations; media outputs.
- **November 2023 – January 2024:** collection of information from national asylum authorities, based on ECRE's information request template;
- **January 2024:** Submission of the first draft of the AIDA country report – 2023 update;
- **February – April 2024:** Incorporating feedback and comments from ECRE staff in the draft country report;
- **30 April 2024**: Completion and publication of the 2023 update of the country report;
- **Ongoing**: input and feedback in AIDA-related activities (comparative reports, briefings, statistical updates, information requests).

Annual expert fee

For consideration of the Tasks to be performed by the National Expert, ECRE shall pay the amount of three thousand euros (3,000 €).

ECRE

The European Council on Refugees and Exiles (ECRE) is a pan-European alliance representing 117 non-governmental organisations protecting and advancing the rights of refugees, asylum seekers and displaced persons. Our activities in the area of asylum and refugee protection include research, policy and advocacy, as well as training, legal support and litigation.

AIDA

The Asylum Information Database (AIDA) is a database managed by the European Council on Refugees and Exiles (ECRE), containing information on asylum procedures, reception conditions, detention and content of international protection across 23 countries. This includes 19 European Union (EU) Member States (Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Germany, Spain, France, Greece, Croatia, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Malta, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Sweden, Slovenia) and 4 non-EU countries (Switzerland, Serbia, Turkey, United Kingdom).

The overall goal of the database is to contribute to the improvement of asylum policies and practices in Europe and the situation of asylum seekers by providing all relevant actors with appropriate tools and information to support their advocacy and litigation efforts, both at the national and European level. These objectives are carried out by AIDA through the following activities:

- **Country reports**

AIDA contains national reports documenting asylum procedures, reception conditions, detention and content of international protection in 23 countries.

- **Comparative reports**

AIDA comparative reports provide a thorough comparative analysis of practice relating to the implementation of asylum standards across the countries covered by the database, in addition to an overview of statistical asylum trends and a discussion of key developments in asylum and migration policies in Europe. Annual reports were published in 2013, 2014 and 2015. From 2016 onwards, AIDA comparative reports are published in the form of thematic updates, focusing on the individual themes covered by the database. Thematic reports have been published on reception (March 2016), asylum procedures (September 2016), content of protection (March 2017), vulnerability (September 2017), detention (March 2018), access to the territory and registration (October 2018), reception (May 2019), asylum authorities (October 2019) and digitalisation of asylum procedures (January 2022) and family reunification (February 2023).

- **Fact-finding visits**

AIDA includes the development of fact-finding visits to further investigate important protection gaps established through the country reports, and a methodological framework for such missions. Fact-finding visits have been conducted in Greece, Hungary, Austria, Croatia, France, Belgium, Germany and Poland.

- **Legal briefings**

Legal briefings aim to bridge AIDA research with evidence-based legal reasoning and advocacy. With the assistance of information gathered from country reports, these short papers identify and analyse key issues in EU asylum law and policy and identify potential protection gaps in the asylum *acquis*. Legal briefings so far cover: (1) Dublin detention; (2) asylum statistics; (3) safe countries of origin; (4) procedural rights in detention; (5) age assessment of unaccompanied children; (6) residence permits for beneficiaries of international protection; (7) the length of asylum procedures; (8) travel documents for beneficiaries of international protection; (9) accelerated procedures; (10) the expansion of detention; (11) relocation; and (12) withdrawal of reception conditions.

- **Statistical updates**

AIDA releases short publications with key figures and analysis on the operation of the Dublin system across selected European countries. Updates have been published for 2016, the first half of 2017, 2017, the first half of 2018, 2018, the first half of 2019, 2019 and the first half of 2020, 2020 and 2021.

The Asylum Information Database is funded by the European Union's Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF).