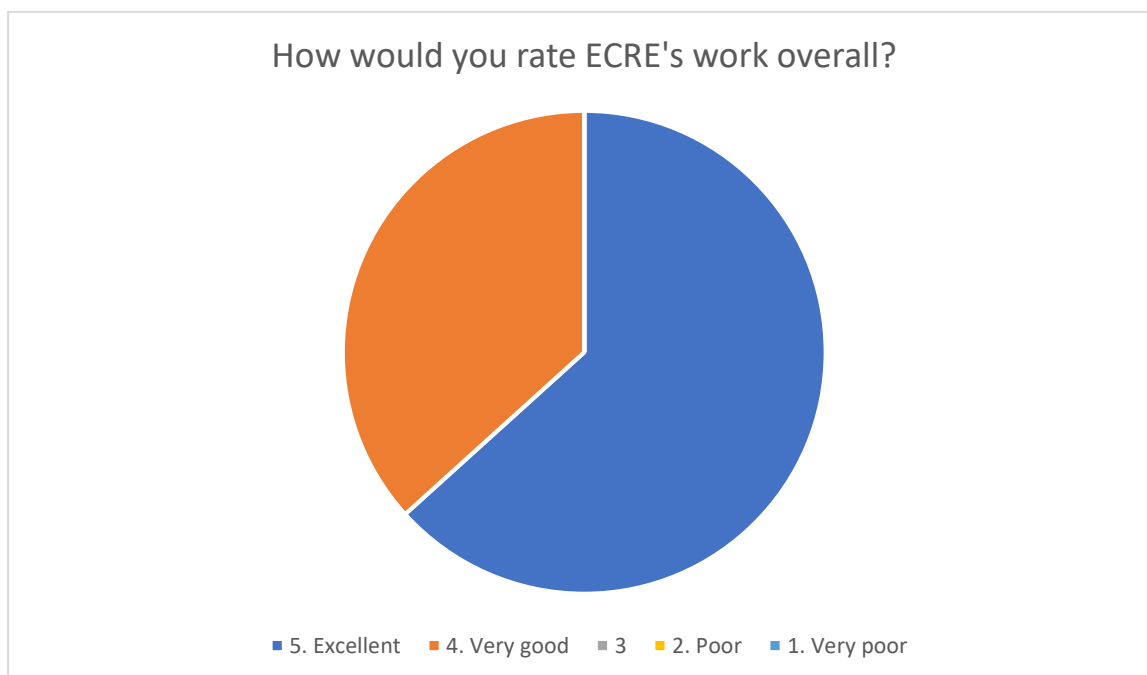


## Summary

### ECRE at a glance, end of 2024:

- Staff: 11.3, reduced from 16.2 at the start of the year.
- Members: 128, from 122 at the start of the year.
- Three areas of work: (1) Legal Support/ Litigation; (2) Advocacy; and (3) Communications.
- Annual expenditure: EUR 1.6 million
- Reserves : EUR 253,000
- Office : Mundo Madou, Brussels

### 2024 survey of ECRE's membership:



### *The political context and ECRE's response:*

In 2024, the reform of EU asylum law, “the Pact”, was adopted following the agreement reached at the end of 2023. At the same time, Member States continued to pressure the EU to find so-called “innovative solutions” based on externalising responsibility to other regions of the world, even though most refugees remain in low and mid-income countries. Some states even pushed for new reforms of EU asylum law that would allow them to deny access to asylum, although this had abated by the end of the year.

ECRE argued vocally that the focus should be implementation of the reformed asylum system in compliance with fundamental rights; new reforms, alternative and “solutions” are proposed by states seeking to avoid compliance with asylum law. While ECRE did not support the Pact, now it is law, and should therefore be respected. The new legislation contains hundreds of amendments proposed originally by ECRE which safeguard the right to asylum. The law can be implemented in better or worse ways – ECRE underlines the need for compliance with EU primary law, including the Charter of Fundamental Rights, and international law. The Pact also allows for a focus on longstanding implementation gaps, neglected during the many years of reform. ECRE's detailed analysis of the new legislation in the Pact enhanced its reputation for expertise on EU asylum law, reflected in multiple requests for training, analysis and comment.

At high political level, 2024 was a transition year for the EU institutions, with elections for the European Parliament in spring and a new Commission taking up office at the end of the year. At national level, elections in 10 Member States changed the composition of the European

Council. For all three institutions, changes meant a more hostile environment on the right to asylum. The EPP became the dominant force across the institutions, able form a majority with either the extreme right groups to one side or with the progressive groups to the other. The positioning of the EPP itself became more anti-asylum and migration, a process extending back 5 years, and an anti-civil society stance took hold in some parts of the group. As in previous years, many of ECRE's members faced pressure from governments and operated in difficult environments, in the worst cases facing arrest or threats to personal security.

#### *Developments in displacement crises:*

There were dramatic developments in two major displacement crises affecting Europe at the end of 2024. The unexpected ousting of the Syrian regime led to the start of a transition which may eventually allow for the return of Syrian refugees. The war raged on in Ukraine but the election of President Trump in the US makes it likely that an agreement will be imposed, possibly towards the end of 2025. The first actions of the US administration confirmed this but also raised significant alarm about the terms of a ceasefire.

#### *Positive signs:*

While there was no let-up in the harsh rhetoric on asylum among many policy-makers, asylum systems continued to function: nearly 700,000 decisions on asylum applications were taken during the year, with most of them awarding a protection status. While refugee protection remained at risk, a significant shift in the discourse on migration was noted, with increasing numbers of governments underlining the need for migration due to demographic change with particular reference to the acute labour market shortages facing all European countries. ECRE sought to underline the need for rapid refugee inclusion through access to protection and rights, including the right to work, in this context.

#### *ECRE's priorities:*

During the year, ECRE's priorities – delivered through a combination of litigation, advocacy and communications – were:

- Securing access to fair and efficient asylum procedures for all;
- Justice for those subject to human rights violations resulting from restrictive asylum policies, including at Europe's borders;
- Maintaining the positive support to refugees displaced from Ukraine and applying lessons from the EU's positive response more widely;
- Influencing European foreign policies so that they do not generate displacement in the first place rather than being used as an anti-migration tool.

ECRE implemented the second year of its Strategic Plan, 2023-2025, with the objectives agreed by its members guiding its work. A survey of the membership demonstrated very strong satisfaction with ECRE's work, deemed excellent by a large majority of members. The membership continued to grow with 7 new members joining during the year (and 1 leaving), taking its membership to 128 in 40 European countries.

Following a decision of ECRE's Board at the end of 2023, ECRE reduced its staffing during the 2024, due to the twin pressures of mandatory salary increases linked to the cost of living crisis and the changing donor landscape. This represents a return to a more sustainable level of staffing following some years where staffing grew in response to demand and because ECRE had available reserves.

ECRE engaged with its members through the organisation of seven policy events; its two-day Annual General Conference in Brussels, hosting 200 participants; four training events on law and advocacy; 22 meetings of groups for ECRE members; and 15 visits by ECRE staff to ECRE members' offices and events. ECRE had 120 meetings with policy-makers from across

the institutions; ECRE staff presented at 60 external events and gave 116 interviews to the media to promote its analysis and recommendations on the right to asylum in Europe.

## Legal Support and Litigation

In 2024, ECRE's Legal Support / Litigation team followed the objectives in the 2023-2025 Strategic Plan, prioritising cases on detention, access to asylum, Pact-related developments and needs, and following up on new issues arising for temporary protection beneficiaries. The team's litigation work used different legal avenues, with interventions in cases before the European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR), UN treaty bodies, and the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe. Targeted training and legal support were provided in response to the needs of the ELENA Network of asylum lawyers, managed by ECRE; the main legal training events, the 2024 ELENA Course and a training and visit to the Court of Justice of the EU attracted a high number of legal professionals, allowing ECRE to facilitate exchange between legal professionals, academia, and the judiciary.

Activities included the following:

- *Publications*: 1 Legal Note on the guarantees of the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights in respect of legal counselling, assistance and representation in asylum procedures; 1 internal research note on the situation of Russians targeted by their government.
- *Legal queries*: legal advice provided to 40+ legal requests from lawyers in the ELENA network, with another 30+ requests referred to the ELENA coordinators;
- *Direct intervention*: interventions in 6 cases before UN Treaty Bodies and the ECtHR; legal analysis to support implementation of judgments in 1 case related to detention (*MD v Greece group*) before the Council of Europe Committee of Ministers;
- *Litigation support*: provision of emergency litigation support in three high impact cases;
- *Legal training*: 400 legal professionals reached. Organisation of the Advanced ELENA Course in Portugal for 100 asylum lawyers and 1 training and study visit to the CJEU for lawyers from across Europe; co-organisation of online legal workshop on national security in asylum procedures together with HHC and HFHR Poland; training sessions at 10 external trainings and seminars on asylum in Europe.
- *Case summaries*: management of the European Database of Asylum Law (EDAL), with 53 case summaries drafted. 70,000 users of EDAL in 2024; publication of 34 issues of the ELENA Weekly Legal Update with the latest developments in asylum law, reaching over 7000 legal professionals.
- *Legal support*: management of the ELENA network, bringing together over 500 asylum lawyers from across Europe, including organisation of an annual consultation for ELENA coordinators and maintaining the online forum for ELENA lawyers.

## Advocacy

In 2024, the focus of ECRE's advocacy work was to:

- *Analyse EU asylum law post-reform and equip ECRE members with the knowledge to influence implementation*: ECRE published detailed Comments papers on four of the new pieces of legislation (each of between 60 and 120 pages) and internal guidance on implementation, and organised a seminar and two online training sessions on the Pact.
- *Advocate for timely and comprehensive plans to transition out of the TPD*: ECRE published a policy paper outlining options for displacement from Ukraine after the TPD, and followed up with comment pieces and policy briefs. It organised a high-level roundtable under the Chatham House rule with Member State, EU institutions and international organisation representatives to discuss post-TPD options.
- *Promote displaced persons' rights in EU external policies*: ECRE developed a new strand of work on displacement in the EU accession process, including a template for

standard contributions to the EU's reports on candidate countries. It facilitated contributions from five countries. ECRE prepared analysis and organised events bringing together EU policy-makers and civil society on EU external migration policy and EU-Mauretania relations; on Afghans seeking protection in Europe; and on safe pathways to protection.

- *Provide comprehensive and up-to-date information on asylum in Europe via the Asylum Information Database (AIDA):* The 24 AIDA country reports published in 2024 were widely cited in +6000 national court cases, at least 230 policy/academic reports, and 50 external media articles in 2024 and the AIDA website registered +824,200 views.
- *Support and involve refugee advocates in EU advocacy* by organising a two-day training seminar on EU advocacy in cooperation with UNHCR, which brought together 22 refugee advocates residing in 14 European countries, with 650 applications received.
- *Highlight and assess EU funding for border management:* ECRE published with PICUM a study on the Border Management and Visa Instrument (BMVI), the EU's largest funding programme for migration.
- *Maintain and expand access to EU policy makers:* ECRE conducted over 120 meetings with representatives of 11 Member States, European Commission (DG HOME, DG NEAR and DG EMPL), European Parliament (Members of the European Parliament and advisors), the EUAA, European Ombudsman and FRA. ECRE was invited to brief three political groups in the European Parliament following the election.
- *Ensure continuous involvement of member organisations in ECRE's work:* ECRE held 16 working group meetings, 4 Brussels based members meetings. In total, the meetings brought together 500 participants from ECRE member organisations.

## Communications

ECRE's outreach across all media grew throughout 2024. There were increases in followers on its social media platforms and in the number of subscribers to its newsletters. The ECRE website received nearly 700,000 visitors and ECRE received regular requests for interviews and briefings from leading European and international media organisations.

ECRE's campaign on the European Parliament elections concluded, having reached at least two million people, with 60 partners and social media influencers circulating the content. The campaign was considered an example of good practice by the team at the Parliament. The campaign objective was to encourage people to vote and turnout was again high, so ECRE concluded that at least some of those reached then decided to vote.

ECRE's outreach across news and campaigns clusters is summarised below:

### 1. News Cluster: What's Breaking?

- **Press Review:** 5100 subscribers (4600 in 2023) and 43% open rate (40% in 2023)
- **Weekly Bulletin:** 15,200 subscribers (14,700 in 2023). 32% open rate (35% in 2023)
- **X (formerly Twitter):** 41,200 followers (39,800 in 2023)
- **Press:** 116 media requests (130 in 2023)

### 2. Campaign Cluster: Running Work and Joint Initiatives

- **Facebook:** 29,400 followers (No change from 2023)
- **Instagram:** 3600 followers (2500 in 2023)
- **Campaigns:** 900,000 views of social media posts related to the #EUisU campaign on the 2024 European Parliament elections

### 3. Supporting both clusters

- **LinkedIn:** 56,900 followers (42,500 in 2023)
- **Website:** 681,000 page views (688,000 in 2023)

## Activity 1: Legal Support / Litigation

### Overall objectives

- To ensure effective access to rights of forcibly displaced people through proactive, coordinated and needs-based litigation in Europe.
- To strengthen the community of asylum lawyers across Europe through legal support and knowledge sharing.

#### *Independent evaluation of ECRE's legal support / litigation work:*

In 2024, ECRE commissioned an independent evaluation of its legal support and litigation work at the request of one of its donors. The evaluation concluded that ECRE's work is "strategic and constitutes very good value for money." It found that the work: "shows important success across all fronts sustained over time, which constitutes evidence of social change in the protection of refugees and migrants in a vulnerable position, with some key setting-standards cases, such as *Darboe and Camara v Italy*."

It found that ECRE's support "is of the highest quality and translates into successful litigation, and that litigation would not have been equally successful without ECRE" and "there is nobody else that could provide the support that ECRE's LSL does." The Executive Summary of the Report appears in Annex 4.

### **1. Litigation**

#### *Supporting ongoing litigation:*

In 2024 ECRE's Legal Support / Litigation team continued supporting asylum lawyers who were at the forefront of providing legal counselling and mounting legal challenges, particularly relating to unlawful detention, access to asylum and family unity.

The independent evaluation mentioned above, found that ECRE's support: "enhances the quality of litigation (in particular in the support that it provides to national actors), by means of better legal argumentation by lawyers and more authoritative, better argued, and better referenced judgments at national and international levels, therefore leading to better outcomes for clients and setting standards of protection across European countries." There was unanimous agreement among beneficiaries of "the positive change that ECRE's support has in lawyers' ability to represent clients."

The ELENA network of asylum lawyers from across Europe is coordinated by ECRE. In 2024, to support the network, ECRE provided detailed legal advice in response to 40 legal queries from ELENA asylum lawyers managing individual cases, covering unlawful detention, child rights, strategies on access to asylum and border procedures (including safe third country concepts), temporary protection, recognition of documents and family reunification. Separately, ELENA lawyers replied to 30+ legal queries, including on detention, temporary protection, country policies and practices, and Dublin returns. In these cases, ECRE also facilitated contacts between lawyers.

ECRE engaged with leading litigation actors across Europe to decide on the best legal strategies and on a sensible division of labour when challenging violence and lack of access to protection at the borders, unlawful detention, and temporary protection.

#### *Emergency litigation support:*

ECRE provided lawyers working on three cases in Latvia, Poland and Malta with emergency litigation support, a relatively new tool used by ECRE to enable rapid action by lawyers. Emergency litigation support covers legal and judicial fees to enable legal challenges before

the ECtHR, UN Treaty Bodies, the CJEU and domestic courts. The urgent cases supported related to access to asylum at the border and Search and Rescue (SAR) operations.

*ECRE's interventions in strategic cases:*

ECRE actively pursued interventions before ECtHR, the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe and UN mechanisms, submitting five interventions before the ECtHR together with the Litigation Task Force. These included:

- *C.O.C.G. and others v. Lithuania* concerning summary returns (pushbacks) of asylum seekers from Lithuania to Belarus and their subsequent deprivation of liberty.
- *Muhammad v. Greece* regarding the death of a Pakistani national at the border between Turkey and Greece in March 2020 and allegations of use of force by Greek law enforcement officers.
- *Dotani v. Greece* and *Suji v. Greece* concerning access to family reunification.
- *Hungarian Helsinki Committee v. Hungary* regarding restrictions to the freedom of expression and association of human rights defenders.

In a positive development demonstrating the impact of previous interventions, the ECtHR issued [a judgment](#) in the case *H.T. v Germany and Greece*, in which ECRE had intervened. The case, concerning return to Greece from Germany on the basis of the administrative arrangement between the two countries, was published in October 2024 with a strong outcome and reasoning regarding the obligation of individual assessment in returns within the EU and immigration detention.

ECRE also submitted an intervention in a case before the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child concerning procedural difficulties hampering access to family reunification for refugees., ECRE prepared a submission to the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe with the Greek Council for Refugees (GCR) on the supervision of execution of the judgments in the *MD v. Greece* group of cases concerning the accessibility and effectiveness of remedies against detention in Greece and attended a meeting with members of the Committee.

*Legal analysis:*

Finally, ECRE prepared the following publications:

- A [Legal Note on the guarantees of the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights in respect of legal counselling, assistance and representation in asylum procedures](#). The legal note analyses the applicable legal guarantees in respect of legal aid, suggests a definition for the new concept of legal counselling and identifies relevant guarantees for its effective implementation. The Legal Note was well-received and cited during events and in publications. For example, the European Bar Association invited ECRE to present the note during a seminar of its members.
- An internal research note on the situation of Russians targeted by their government that was circulated among the ELENA Network with the aim of supporting litigation and supporting colleagues.

## **2. The development of the ELENA network**

ECRE continued to manage and improve the ELENA Forum, an online tool for legal practitioners where they can exchange information and seek litigation advice. Since 2018, 235 legal practitioners, academics and UNHCR staff from across 41 European countries have had access to legal support through the ELENA Forum with 2100+ posts on 585 topics answered remaining available as a resource. Since the end of 2023, ECRE has been working on



improving security and ease of access and use for the ELENA Forum; in 2024, ECRE continued working with IT consultants to ensure a consistently secure online environment.

The ELENA network sees positive dynamics in national coordination. New coordinators joined in Ireland, Slovakia, Hungary, Portugal and Poland. In addition to responding to 30+ legal requests, the ELENA coordinators supported European litigation by helping with cases discussed within the network or by referring cases in the domestic context as needed. ECRE responded to numerous coordination requests supporting communication and collaboration among asylum lawyers in Europe.

In October 2024, the network held the annual coordinators meeting online, organised by ECRE and attended by 29 people. The meeting included updates and discussions on litigation against measures limiting/suspending access to asylum and border procedures, detention, the EU's externalisation plans (including updates on the Italy-Albanian deal), temporary protection and Afghanistan-related cases. Separate sessions focused on the state of implementation of the new Pact as well as on ELENA needs, priorities and activities in 2025.

Finally, through the ELENA Weekly Legal Update (EWLU), ECRE regularly provided information on legal developments across Europe. 34 issues were published in 2024 and the EWLU readership reached an audience of over 7,000 subscribers, with an increase of 451 subscribers compared to 2023.

### **3. Legal training**

In response to demand, in 2024, ECRE organised legal trainings for a total of 400 legal professionals. This included a training on the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights (CFREU) and a visit to the CJEU in Luxembourg in June 2024, with the aim of increasing litigation using the CFREU and/ or litigation before the CJEU. Together with the Hungarian Helsinki Committee and the Polish Helsinki Foundation for Human Rights (HFHR), ECRE organised a webinar on "Access to Classified Data in National Security Related Immigration Cases".

ECRE was requested to provide training sessions at 10 other training and strategy events, organised by external partners, including Council of Europe bodies and bar associations. ECRE organised a very positive evaluated [Advanced ELENA Course](#) for over 100 practitioners and decision-makers. The course covered legal aid in detention, national security, the Pact, AI in asylum and externalisation practices; moreover, three sessions focused on jurisprudence and litigation before the UN Treaty Bodies, the ECtHR and the CJEU. Senior judges, officials and academic experts delivered the sessions. ECRE's legal team worked jointly with advocacy staff on training on the Pact, see below.

### **4. EDAL database**

ECRE maintained the European Database of Asylum Law (EDAL), an online database containing +1,500 case law summaries from 22 European states and from the ECtHR and CJEU. EDAL is currently undergoing a transition period focusing on the development of a new website and the identification of new content.

- 70,000 users benefitted from EDAL in 2024;
- 53 summaries were drafted and edited with the legal clinics that support EDAL (Gent Law Clinic with 33 summaries and Cologne Law Clinic with 11 summaries);
- 20 volunteers were trained on EDAL summaries and/or jurisprudence research through ECRE's collaboration with legal clinics;
- Content from the EDAL website was referenced in 24 publications, which included civil society reports, research papers, academic articles in international journals, and dissertations.

## Activity 2: Advocacy

**Overall objective 1: To influence EU policy and practice on protecting asylum seekers, refugees and displaced people by developing targeted recommendations and tailored advocacy.**

ECRE sought to meet the following specific objectives:

### 1. A functioning asylum system in Europe

*Reform of the EU's Common European Asylum System (CEAS):*

After years of intense advocacy work on the proposals for reform of the CEAS, the New Pact on Migration and Asylum (the Pact), ECRE's work in 2024 focused on analysing the final legal texts and influencing implementation. While ECRE is critical of the Pact because it largely reduces protection standards in Europe, ECRE recognises that it is now law and it is important to influence implementation. The Pact is also an opportunity to tackle longstanding implementation gaps which have been neglected during the years of reform. Many 100s of recommendations proposed by ECRE were incorporated into the final texts and can now be used. ECRE's objectives are to influence implementation of the Pact in a way that respects EU primary law, including the Charter, international law and the jurisprudence of the courts. ECRE also vocally opposed discussions on "innovative solutions" and on new reforms, which should largely be understood as efforts by states to avoid making asylum function in Europe.

Throughout the year, ECRE published detailed legal Comments papers, which analyse the legislation article by article and include recommendations for implementation in line with the principles above. Comments were published on the following pieces of legislation:

- [Recast Reception Conditions Directive](#)
- [Asylum and Migration Management Regulation](#)
- [Crisis and Force Majeur Regulation](#)
- [Asylum Procedures Regulation](#)

In 2024, ECRE also convened policy discussions on the implementation of the Pact to support the work of its members, namely by organising a workshop during the AGC and a seminar focusing on evidence to guide Pact implementation. ECRE also published internal guidance on the implementation phase and organised two online training sessions on the recast Reception Conditions Directive and the Asylum and Migration Management Regulation which were both very well attended and evaluated, with 90 members registered for both sessions and 110 registered in total. 95% of the respondents to the survey circulated after the training indicated an interest in following more training sessions. At the ELENA course for asylum lawyers further training workshops on the Pact took place which were considered the best sessions of the training course. ECRE was invited to present its analysis on the Pact to three Council of Europe bodies and to staff at the EU Asylum Agency (EUAA).

*The AIDA database: assessing asylum systems:*

ECRE provided comprehensive and up-to-date information on asylum in Europe in the [Asylum Information Database](#) (AIDA), which it manages.

- The 23 AIDA [country reports](#) from 2024 have been widely cited in reports and publications, including by the EUAA, European Parliament, Council of Europe, UNHCR, academic researchers and think tanks. At the end of the year, the AIDA database expanded to include a 24th country report focusing on [Ukraine](#).
- In 2024, the AIDA website registered a total of 824,200 views.
- AIDA outputs maintained wide outreach, being cited in +2,220 national court cases (only counting cases in countries that publish decisions – actual total +6000), 230 policy/academic reports, and at least 50 external media articles throughout the year.



- AIDA reports are used to provide information to the EU Asylum Agency, with at least 15 different citations of materials provided through AIDA.

In addition to the country reports, ECRE published [key asylum trends](#) and the [Dublin statistical update](#) on 2023. In response to ECRE's ongoing advocacy on presentation of statistics, the EUAA has added clarifications on the statistics it publishes. One of ECRE's key points underlines how high the protection rate is in Europe, and illustrates the need to distinguish first and second instance decision-making and to give due attention to the latter.

Throughout 2024, ECRE monitored the implementation of the Temporary Protection Directive (TPD) and influenced plans for transitioning out of TPD and longer-term solutions for TPD beneficiaries. This was done by:

- A [Policy Paper](#) outlining options for transitioning out of the TPD
- An [Op Ed](#) on 2 years of TPD and post TPD options
- A high-level policy roundtable under the Chatham House rule bringing together select Member State and EU institution representatives, international organisations and civil society, including Ukrainian experts, to discuss longer term solutions
- An [Op Ed](#) in reaction to the extension of the TPD

The new TP chapter to AIDA country reports provided evidence of the implementation of the TPD across Europe. It was published in the reports and as a separate [compilation of the TP sections](#). Finally, a [comparative report](#) that analyses access to socio-economic rights under the TP in AIDA countries was published early 2025.

## ***2. European external policies advance the rights of displaced people and reduce forced displacement***

In 2024, ECRE analysed trends on EU cooperation with third countries on migration and focused on informing the policy debate and practice through input by civil society experts from the countries concerned. This included a new strand of work on the EU accession process: ECRE developed a template on displacement in the Accession process and coordinated the first [submission](#) from its members to the Commission's enlargement package. The submissions assessed questions related to asylum and forced displacement in the Accession process of Albania, Kosovo, Serbia, Turkey and Ukraine. Through influencing the EU's annual reports on the countries, ECRE hopes to support reforms that improve access to protection.

Adding to its body of work on the impact of EU migration policies in countries outside Europe, ECRE commissioned a [Working Paper](#) on the EU-Mauretania migration partnership from an expert from the country. ECRE organised a policy meeting to present the findings, with speakers from the EEAS and the European Commission along with the author. There was high participation from Member States and the European Parliament, as well as NGOs.

ECRE also contributed to civil society exchange and collaboration on this topic by co-organising and hosting a roundtable and a workshop at the AGC which brought together leading civil society experts and policy-makers.

The treatment of Afghan asylum seekers in Europe and the EU's role in Afghanistan continued to be a priority. ECRE published a [Policy Note](#) which analyses developments in policies and practices affecting Afghans seeking international protection and published an [Op-Ed](#) to mark the third anniversary of the Taliban takeover of Afghanistan which received a lot of attention from relevant stakeholders on social media. Given the rising demand from Afghan CSOs and organisations in Germany to take stock of the progress of the German humanitarian admission programme for Afghans, ECRE co-organised a roundtable with an Afghan diaspora organisation in Germany which was attended by senior-level speakers from relevant Federal ministries and took place in the German Parliament.

ECRE published a [study on safe pathways](#), which mapped visa schemes and other practices to enable people in need of protection to reach Europe via regular pathways, supported by Open Society Foundation. The study showed that there are many distinct pathways to countries across Europe, although the numbers benefiting remain small. The study was launched at a roundtable organised with and at the Canadian Mission to the EU. The event gathered policymakers from the Commission, Member States, CSOs and think tanks to discuss how we should scale up regular pathways for people in need of protection.

### **3. Countering the disproportionate focus on return and deportation**

ECRE followed the developments related to return as part of the Pact negotiations. It published two advocacy briefings for members to update on the state of play regarding EU return policy and to highlight the main changes in relation to return brought about by the Pact.

Following the announcement of forthcoming reform of the Return Directive, ECRE developed plans to influence the reform proposals and to organise collective advocacy in 2025.

### **4. Preventing measures to restrict asylum, use of non-entrée policies and human rights violations at EU borders**

The AIDA reports continue to highlight the persisting issue of violations at the EU's borders and serve as a reference point for civil society advocacy.

As part of its joint project with PICUM, ECRE published a [study](#) on the Border Management and Visa Instrument, the largest EU funding programme for migration, which provided a critical analysis of its use, building on ECRE's previous analyses of EU funding. The over-subscribed launch event brought together civil society and EU policy-makers, and the detailed assessment has been a resource for civil society work on funding for borders.

### **5. Inclusion through rights, respect and regularisation**

In 2024, ECRE promoted inclusion through rights, respect and regularisation with the publication of a [policy paper](#) on the right to work which examines the legal and policy developments affecting asylum seekers' access to the right to work. The paper is the latest in a series that seeks to analyse access to specific rights for asylum applicants and refugees.

ECRE provided an input to the assessment of the EU's Action Plan on Integration and Inclusion. To give prominence to the topic, one of the AGC panel discussions focused on inclusion, with contributions from DG Employment and Social Affairs and DG Home.

As part of its collaboration with PICUM, ECRE worked to increase EU funding available to support the inclusion of refugees and migrants in the EU and improve the effectiveness of the funding provided. This was done by participating in an expert group convened by the European Commission on EU funding. ECRE is one of the few organisations focusing on asylum in this group. Together with PICUM, ECRE provided a contribution to the mid-term evaluation of the European Social Fund (ESF)+. ECRE continued to keep members and others informed about developments related to the EU's budget through an [Op-Ed](#) on the MFF revision and dedicated meetings of ECRE and PICUM members.

### **6. Advancing rights of refugee women and girls<sup>1</sup>**

ECRE has further consolidated its new strand of work on rights of refugee women and girls in 2024. It published a [policy paper](#) with detailed legal analysis of the implications of the recently adopted Asylum Procedures Regulation (APR). An online webinar on women and girls' access to international protection organised by ECRE met with a lot of interest and was attended by 88 participants, including members, legal practitioners, NGOs, academics, refugee-led

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<sup>1</sup> This objective has been introduced in 2024 and covers ECRE's work under the AMAL project managed by France terre d'asile.

organisations and representatives of FRA, EUAA, UN agencies and the European Commission.

ECRE also contributed to a training seminar on the implications of the Pact on women's rights organised by the WAVE network. The training seminar, which gathered 32 participants from the WAVE Network and ECRE members, focused on examining the impact of the new Pact on Migration and Asylum on the rights of refugee women and girls.

In collaboration with other Brussels-based organisations, ECRE contributed to drafting and co-signed a [joint NGO statement](#) on the recast EU Anti-Trafficking Directive. The statement provides recommendations for the transposition period and beyond, emphasising the do-no-harm principle and a robust human rights approach.

***Overall objective 2: To strengthen ECRE's advocacy team and support influential and effective advocacy***

Throughout the year, ECRE continued to ensure refugee advocates and refugee-led organisations were included in its advocacy work. For the fourth consecutive year, ECRE organised a two-day training seminar on EU advocacy with UNHCR, which brought together 22 refugee advocates residing in 14 European countries. The feedback and evaluation were overwhelmingly positive. Over 600 applications were received for the 22 places.

Engagement with member organisations remained regular with four meetings per working group, totalling 16 working group meetings in 2024, one of which was an in-person meeting. Four meetings of the Brussels-based members took place. In total, the meetings brought together 500 participants from member organisations. The level of participation in the working groups continues to be stable and members regularly contribute with updates.

ECRE continues to have good access to EU policy makers. In 2024, it conducted over 120 meetings with representatives of 11 Member States, European Commission (DG HOME, DG NEAR and DG EMPL), Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) and advisors, EUAA, European Ombudsman and FRA.

In 2024, the advocacy team responded to 25 invitations to speak in events reaching an audience of over 1000 people and responded to over 30 requests of information on EU advocacy and policy developments.

The advocacy team contributed to the European Parliament campaign, led by the Communications team, including through two internal briefings on the elections for members. Following the European Parliament election, ECRE has made a particular effort to reach out to new MEPs to establish relations. For this purpose, ECRE produced briefings for different committees and introductory letters and had a number of bilateral meetings. ECRE was also invited to briefings with relevant MEPs following asylum and migration organised by three political groups. Given the changed composition of the European Parliament and the risks the growth of far-right political groups poses to the right to asylum, ECRE convened a discussion about risk analysis and strategy with its members.

## Activity 3: Communications

Summary of ECRE outreach:

### 1. News Cluster: What's Breaking?

- **Press Review:** 5100 subscribers (4600 in 2023) and 43% open rate (40% in 2023)
- **Weekly Bulletin:** 15,200 subscribers (14,700 in 2023) and 32% open rate (35% in 2023). Membership survey: 74.5 % of members considered the Weekly a “very useful” communications tool, ranked 5/5; with 24.5 % saying useful (4/5)
- **X (formerly Twitter):** 41,200 followers (39,800 in 2023)
- **Press:** 116 media requests (130 in 2023)

### 2. Campaign Cluster: Running Work and Joint Initiatives

- **Facebook:** 29,400 followers (No change from 2023)
- **Instagram:** 3600 followers (2500 in 2023)
- **Campaigns:** 900,000 views of social media posts related to the #EUisU campaign on the 2024 European Parliament elections. Reach of around 2 million including dissemination by the partners.

### 3. Supporting both clusters

- **LinkedIn:** 56,900 followers (42,500 in 2023)
- **Website:** 681,000 page views (688,000 in 2023)

The implementation of ECRE’s Communication Strategy 2023-2025 continued in 2024. The Strategy includes three objectives and five guiding principles for ECRE’s communications activities, and provides a framework against which the Communications Team reports on a quarterly basis.

- ***OBJECTIVE 1: Implement joint strategic workshops, campaign development, trainings and visits with relevant ECRE members and Refugee Led-Organisations and refugee advocates and the funding needed to do so.***

The EU-funded #EUisU campaign on the 2024 European Parliament elections was implemented between February and June. It reached at least 2 million people, with the clear messages on the importance of voting. The campaign involved various activities, including presentations to refugee-led organisations and refugee advocates, members of the ECRE Media Officers Network and participants in the 2024 ECRE Annual General Conference; a workshop with a group of social media influencers and the continual promotion of campaign content via ECRE’s social media platforms.

In addition to the #EUisU campaign, the Communications Team also contributed to the training seminar on EU advocacy that took place in October 2024 and hosted a discussion for members of the ECRE Media Officers Network about the benefits and risks of using different social media platforms. In this context, ECRE is transitioning off X/Twitter.

- ***OBJECTIVE 2: Ensure that ECRE continues to be a key reference for its current audience and increases its outreach in new target audiences defined as ‘Future Experts’ and ‘Potential Counter Voices’.***

ECRE maintained its status as a key reference point in the ongoing debates over EU, EU member states’ and other countries’ policies in the areas of asylum and migration in 2024. ECRE’s published content continued to be shared with and quoted by a wide range of actors from both the existing and new target audiences. Recipients and sharers of ECRE’s published content in 2024 included refugee advocates and other activists, grassroots, local, national and

international non-governmental organisations; academics, human rights and legal experts, and politicians and officials from governments, the EU institutions and other international organisations.

- **OBJECTIVE 3: Ensure that the content flow across ECRE's portfolio of platforms and outlets reflects the aim of providing breaking news and inspiring campaign material.**

ECRE's 'News Cluster' (i.e. Press Review, Weekly Bulletin, Newsfeed and X) continued to feature breaking news on a wide range of topics at both the EU and national levels in 2024.

Regarding ECRE's 'Campaign Cluster' (i.e. Facebook page, Instagram feed and campaign websites), ECRE and ECRE's partners' social media posts featuring content relating to the #EUisU campaign received 900,000 views during the implementation period. In addition, a number of smaller ad hoc campaigns were launched on the occasions of international days or important milestones in 2024 (e.g. Human Rights Day and European Gender Equality Week).

- **GUIDING PRINCIPLE 1: While ECRE adapts its communication according to key external developments, the organisation should not lose track of the fundamental and lasting challenges.**

ECRE continued to maintain a strong focus on long-term areas of concern (e.g. EU Pact on Migration and Asylum) in 2024. In addition it also highlighted other relevant issues at specific moments during the year (e.g. EU member states' and other countries' responses to the end of the Assad regime in Syria in December).

- **GUIDING PRINCIPLE 2: ECRE should be an authoritative source of legal and policy analysis and at the same time an efficient messenger towards segments of the public.**

ECRE continued to publish high-quality legal and policy analysis throughout 2024. It also used its various social media platforms to highlight its long-form publications and to bring them to the attention of non-expert audiences.

- **GUIDING PRINCIPLE 3: ECRE should base its strategic communication on a clear analysis of potential and challenges in the changing discourse on asylum and displacement.**

ECRE's published content continued to be received by a wide range of actors in 2024, including some with different or even fundamentally opposing views. ECRE also continued to highlight problematic policies and/or rhetoric, and to acknowledge positive developments insofar as they could be identified.

- **GUIDING PRINCIPLE 4: ECRE's key messages should define the communication across platforms and outlets under its portfolio.**

ECRE's key messages continued to provide the basis for its communication activities in 2024. The Communications Team was able to ensure consistency in ECRE's external communications due to its continued close co-operation with both the other teams in the Secretariat and the wider membership.

- **GUIDING PRINCIPLE 5: ECRE's tone of voice and vocabulary should reflect the criteria of being balanced, based on realities, respectful of the people we aim to protect and relevant to an external audience!**

ECRE continued to pay special attention to the importance of appropriate language in its communications in 2024 and to remind the targets of its advocacy about their responsibilities in this area. It also continued to try to focus on substance and to provide positive recommendations for improvements rather than overtly criticising individual policy-makers or the institutions that they represent, and to highlight both the agency and value of people with refugee or migrant backgrounds in the ongoing debates on asylum and migration.

### **Outreach**

ECRE's outreach grew throughout 2024. There were increases in the number of followers on its various social media platforms and in the number of subscribers to its newsletters. In addition, the ECRE website continued to receive numerous visitors and the ECRE Secretariat continued to receive regular requests for interviews and briefings from leading European and international media organisations.

One of the features of the Communication Strategy was the introduction of two separate clusters: 'News' and 'Campaigns'. This was intended to enable the Communications Team to improve its engagement of different target audiences. As shown above, there have been increases in ECRE's outreach under both clusters.



## Organisational Objectives

Organisational support aims at ensuring that ECRE is able to function effectively across the three substantive areas of its work, and that it meets the appropriate and legally stipulated standards of governance and accountability. The underlying objective is to ensure that ECRE:

1. performs effectively, meeting objectives in each of the three areas of its work
2. is efficient and provides value for money, including compared to other organisations
3. applies its strategic priorities in all areas of its work.

In 2024, ECRE carried out a survey of its membership to hear members' views on ECRE's work overall, on three specific areas of work, and on particular activities. As well as multiple choice questions, the survey included open questions that allowed members to provide more detailed input and suggestions for improvement. The full survey results are included as Annex 3. Some of the highlights include:

When asked to rank ECRE's work overall on a scale of 1 to 5:

- 63 % say it is excellent, giving the highest ranking of 5/5;
- 37 % consider it very good, with 4/5 points.

For ECRE's legal support and litigation work,

- 80.4 % say it is very important and 76.7 % say it is very effective or effective.

For ECRE's advocacy work,

- 87.5 % say it is very important and 77.1 % say is very effective or effective.

The most common responses to the open questions are to thank ECRE for its work and to praise ECRE, with "excellent" being the most common adjective used.

### *Strategic priorities:*

ECRE has made some progress towards its strategic priorities

**Strategic Priority 1 To promote visions of an inclusive Europe where people seeking protection are welcome and their rights protected, including proposing legal and policy alternatives.**

ECRE presented alternative policies, legal frameworks and practices in all its publications and presentations, rather than simply criticising the situation or proposals.

**Strategic Priority 2 To mobilise ECRE as an alliance to advocate collectively for change.**

ECRE maintains a high level of member involvement in its work. In 2024, it organised 22 meetings of ECRE working groups/networks for members, in order to gather input and discuss joint work; 5 board meetings and the ECRE General Assembly took place to get member input and decisions; and members were frequently contacted for communications purposes.

The ELENA network, which includes members as well as independent asylum lawyers, had training events and coordination meetings on line and in-person. The highest ever number of ELENA coordinators participated in the annual coordination meeting (29) and the annual ELENA advanced legal training in Porto was over-subscribed (with additional seats added).

**Strategic Priority 3 To empower refugees, channel their views into the policy and practice that affects them, and promote their inclusion in ECRE's work and across the sector.**

- ECRE's board includes two people with a refugee background.
- Within ECRE's membership, there are 15 refugee-led organisations.

- ECRE includes people with a refugee background as experts in all its events, including in high-profile roles and as keynote speakers during the Annual Conference.
- ECRE provides an annual EU advocacy training, ongoing advocacy support and small grants to refugee-led organisations. In 2024, the advocacy training organised with UNHCR, received over 600 applications for the 22 places at the advocacy training. The training was again very positively evaluated.
- ECRE has maintained the level of at least 25% of its staff being people with a refugee background or from situation of displacement since 2017. Currently, 35% of staff have a refugee background or are otherwise from forced displacement situations.

The organisational objectives are divided into general objectives and financial objectives:

Area	General objectives
Strategic Partnerships	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>1. Renew UNHCR Strategic Partnership every year for 2023 – 2025.</b></li> <li><b>2. Maintain partnership in the form of framework contract with the EUAA</b></li> <li><b>3. Develop strategic partnerships with other EU agencies and institutions.</b></li> </ol>
	<p>Unfortunately, UNHCR ended the Strategic Partnership with ECRE in 2022 after 6 years due to a lack of funding and the cuts taking place across the agency. ECRE continued to work with UNHCR on specific events and activities. In 2024, ECRE cooperated with UNHCR on the EU advocacy training event.</p> <p>The contract with the EUAA continued in 2024, with extensive cooperation taking place. In May 2024, ECRE applied for renewal of the contract which was agreed. ECRE met with representatives from FRA and Frontex.</p>
Organisational structure	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>1. Maintain a clear organisational structure capable of being expressed in an organigram with teams and line management.</b></li> </ol>
	See annex.
Membership	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>1. Reach and retain at least 110 members.</b></li> <li><b>2. Confirm that a majority of members....0 demonstrate a high level of satisfaction with ECRE’s work as per membership surveys or other consultation.</b></li> </ol>
	<p>ECRE ended 2024 with 128 members in 40 European countries, with 7 members joining and 1 leaving during the year.</p> <p>The survey of ECRE’s membership, showed a high level of satisfaction with ECRE’s work, with 63% saying that ECRE’s work is excellent (5/5 points) and 37% deeming it very good (4/5 points), on a scale of 1 to 5.</p>
Partnership	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>1. Work in cooperation other networks working on asylum and migration issues, including PICUM and refugee-led networks.</b></li> <li><b>2. Cooperate with European think-tanks working on asylum and migration with at least 4 invitations to present at think-tank events per year.</b></li> <li><b>3. Cooperate with academic networks, including participation in 1 research project per year and invitations to at least 2 academic conference per year.</b></li> </ol>
	<p>ECRE continued to cooperate closely with PICUM and with refugee-led networks. ECRE received eight invitations to present its work at think-tank events.</p> <p>ECRE participated in the INNOVATE research project funded under the EU’s H2020 programme, led by the European University Institute. ECRE staff received 10 invitations to academic conferences.</p>

Board	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>Maintain diversity of the Board to reflect ECRE’s membership, taking into account geographic diversity, sex, ethnicity, refugee background, sexuality, and any other factor that may be relevant.</b></li> <li>2. <b>At least 3 Board members should be female.</b></li> <li>3. <b>Ensure the Board plays a consistently active role in ECRE’s governance as per ECRE’s statutes, and effectively represents the interests of membership in its decision-making.</b></li> </ol>
	<p>ECRE’s Board operated with 5 members, 4 women and 1 man, including 2 representatives with a refugee background and good levels of diversity in terms of racial, religious and geographic factors.</p> <p>The Board met 5 times and contributed effectively to ECRE’s governance. The Board members organised regional meetings and consulted ECRE members.</p> <p>Sonja Tošković served as Chair of the Board throughout 2024, supported by two vice-chairs, Eva Singer and Yagoub Kibeda. The Board prepared plans for transition in 2025 when Sonja will leave the Board.</p>

*Financial objectives:*

Since 2016, ECRE has had detailed financial objectives in place to ensure sound financial management, including exiting from insolvency and maintaining a positive financial asset position. In 2022, ECRE reviewed the objectives that had been in place since 2016 (with some small adjustment). The review was discussed with the Finance Committee of the Board and then with the full Board of Directors. It was the basis for developing new objectives which were agreed for the 2023 to 2025 period.

**1. Set an annual budget of at least EUR 1.3 million.**

ECRE’s expenditure increased in 2022 and again in 2023, which was part of ECRE’s response to displacement from Ukraine. New demands arose, combined with the principle that ECRE sought to apply of adding work on the Ukraine-related displacement rather than transferring resources from other work, which is also needed.

For 2024, ECRE’s budget was set at EUR 1.4 million in June 2023. Its expenditure for the year was EUR 1.6 million, covered by higher than predicted income. ECRE broke even in 2024, thus maintaining its reserves at EUR 253,000.

Implementing a decision taken by the Board in November 2023, ECRE reduced staffing during 2024, ending the year with 11.3 staff members. As well as changing donor policies, the cost of living crisis was a significant factor: In Belgium, employers have to apply obligatory cost of living increases to staff salaries, and these amounted to +20% over 2 years. Certain donors that have funded ECRE for many years have ceased, reduced or are withdrawing funding to the sector as a result of strategic reviews and changing priorities. This includes JRCT, EPIM and OSF.

**2. Maintain a positive asset position with reserves of at least EUR 250,000.**

ECRE used nearly half of its reserves, which stood at EUR 482,000 at the end of 2020, with reserves spent in 2021, 2022 and 2023 respectively. The 2024 accounts are closed, confirming that in 2024 ECRE broke even, meaning that it maintains its positive asset position and its reserves of EUR 253,000. ECRE reduced expenditure in 2024 given that other financial objectives are not being met and due to increased costs and changing donor policies.

**3. Ensure diversification of funding sources, with at least 40% of funding to be in the form of core grants.**

While ECRE would ideally prefer more unrestricted funding, the target of 40% is realistic. Its other sources of income are project funding, membership fees, and a small amount of income from events and provision of expertise. These are likely to remain the sources of ECRE income as other types of funding – such as from individual donors or the corporate sector – have been reviewed and are not feasible for ECRE.

In 2024, 43% of income was received in the form of core grants. Other unrestricted funding, including membership fees, made up 14% of ECRE's income.

**4. Ensure grants from at least four core donors.**

For security of income streams, ECRE tries to ensure that it has at least 4 core donors. In 2023, ECRE had funds from 5 core donors. However, some of these donors will cease funding work on asylum and migration after 2025.

**5. Ensure 60% of the following year's budget is covered by end of June when preliminary budget is approved in the General Assembly and 80% by the end of November.**

The targets are set based on the security that ECRE needs in order to plan for the following year and also based on previous experience as to what is realistic.

When the 2025 budget was approved in June 2024, 66% was covered. By the end of November, 90% was covered.

## Annex 1: ECRE Publications 2024

(For Annex 2: organisational structure, Annex 3: Membership Survey results, and Annex 4: Executive Summary, evaluation of Legal Support and Litigation work – see separate documents)

### ECRE Policy Notes

- ECRE, Policy Note 45, [Seeking protection: Afghan Asylum applicants in the EU](#), March 2024

### ECRE Policy Papers

- ECRE & AMAL, [Rights of Women and Girls in the Asylum Procedure](#), December 2024,
- ECRE, Policy Paper 13: [Transitioning Out of the Temporary Protection Directive](#), February 2024
- ECRE, Policy Paper 12: [The Right to Work for Asylum Applicants in the EU](#), January 2024

### ECRE Comments Papers

- [ECRE Comments on the Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council introducing the screening of third-country nationals at the external borders and amending Regulations \(EC\) No 767/2008, \(EU\) 2017/2226, \(EU\) 2018/1240 and \(EU\) 2019/817](#), February 2024
- [ECRE Comments on the Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing a Common Procedure for International Protection in the Union](#), October 2024
- [ECRE Comments on the Directive \(EU\) 2024/1346 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 14 May 2024 Laying Down Standards for the Reception of Applicants for International Protection \(recast\)](#), September 2024
- [ECRE Comments on the Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council Addressing Situations of Crisis and Force Majeure in the Field of Migration and Asylum](#), May 2024
- [ECRE Comments on the Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on Asylum and Migration Management](#), May 2024

### ECRE Legal Notes and interventions

- ECRE Legal Note 16: [The Guarantees of the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights in Respect of Legal Counselling, Assistance and Representation in Asylum Procedures](#), June 2024
- ECRE Legal Note 15: [The Rights of Refugees and Asylum Applicants with Disabilities – Article 26 of the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights and Beyond](#), March 2024

### ECRE intervened in following cases:

- Supervision of the execution of judgments, Committee of Ministers, [MD v. Greece](#), Application No. 60622/11, November 2024
- ECtHR, [Muhammad v. Greece](#), Application No. 34331/22, October 2024
- ECtHR, [C.O.C.G. v. Lithuania](#), Application No. 17764/22, September 2024
- ECtHR, [H.H.C. v. Hungary](#), Application No. 44253/19, August 2024
- UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, [S.R.H.P. A.O.C.H. v. Lithuania](#), 235/2023, July 2024
- ECtHR, [Suji v. Greece](#), Application No. 13250/23, February 2024
- ECtHR, [Dotani v. Greece](#), Application No. 31077/23, February 2024

## ECRE Working Papers

- Dr Hassan Ould Moctar, published by ECRE, [The EU-Mauritania Partnership: Whose Priorities?](#), October 2024

## Other publications

- ECRE contribution to the 2024 Enlargement Package, [Asylum and Forced Displacement in the EU Enlargement Process](#), August 2024
- PICUM/ECRE, [Beyond walls and fences: EU funding used for a complex and digitalised border surveillance system](#), June 2024
- ECRE study, [Pathways to Protection: Mapping visa schemes and other practices enabling people in need of international protection to reach Europe safely](#), March 2024

## AIDA Country reports

- Bulgaria: [2023 Update](#) and [Annex](#), April 2024
- Croatia: [2023 Update](#) and [Annex](#), July 2024
- Cyprus: [2023 Update](#) and [Annex](#), May 2024
- France: [2023 Update](#) and [Annex](#), May 2024
- Germany: [2023 Update](#) and [Annex](#), June 2024
- Greece: [2023 Update](#) and [Annex](#), June 2024
- Hungary: [2023 Update](#) and [Annex](#), July 2024
- Ireland: [2023 Update](#) and [Annex](#), June 2024
- Italy: [2023 Update](#) and [Annex](#), July 2024
- Malta: [2023 Update](#) and [Annex](#), September 2024
- Netherlands: [2023 Update](#) and [Annex](#), April 2024
- Poland: [2023 Update](#) and [Annex](#), June 2024
- Portugal: [2023 Update](#) and [Annex](#), July 2024
- Romania: [2023 Update](#) and [Annex](#), July 2024
- Serbia: [2023 Update](#) and [Annex](#), August 2024
- Slovenia: [2023 Update](#) and [Annex](#), June 2024
- Spain: [2023 Update](#) and [Annex](#), May 2024
- Sweden: [2023 Update](#) and [Annex](#), April 2024
- Switzerland: [2023 Update](#) and [Annex](#), July 2024
- Türkiye: [2023 Update](#), August 2024
- Ukraine: [2023 Report](#), November 2024
- United Kingdom: [2023 Update](#) and [Annex](#), April 2024

## AIDA reports

- AIDA Statistical Report, [The Implementation of the Dublin III Regulation in 2023](#), January 2025 (prepared in 2024)
- AIDA Comparative Report, [Access to Socio-Economic Rights for Beneficiaries of Temporary Protection: 2023 Update](#), January 2025 (prepared in 2024)
- [Temporary Protection Compilation on 2023](#), November 2024
- [Asylum in Europe: The situation of applicants for international protection in 2023](#), August 2024