

ReadMe

Given my strong interest in human rights, with specific focus on refugee law, I did some research on what kind of services refugees might need while applying for asylum.

I learned that, in many countries, the asylum process is all but intuitive and most refugees don't know neither where to begin nor what the whole process is all about.

Since around 50% of refugees nowadays own a smartphone, I thought it would be a good idea to provide them an information service through a dedicated app.

The Asylum Tracker app is therefore thought as an information tool, for refugees to have a clear overview on the asylum process in all its steps: registration, immigration meeting, asylum interview, response and possible appeal.

The app is also meant to gather data relevant to each of the above mentioned steps.

For the initial prototype, I thought it would be a good idea to store digitally a copy of the various documents refugees gather in each step. The idea was for the app to access the camera (and/or gallery), to take a picture of a document and possibly validate the document through an API call to Google Vision API's text analysis.

The app is in progress.

Here are a few examples of further additions and new features the app should have:

Urgent:

- Possibility of deleting document objects from the list (work in progress)
- Showing documents details in dedicated screen (work in progress)
- Fix data flow for picture data
- Style navigation header
- Add SQLite or other lightweight database to store data.

Good to have in the near future:

- Picture validation through Google Vision API text detection (to verify if the document is an actual Registration document and so on).
- Navigation also possible from adding navigation tab in footer
- Add ProgressStatus object in the Redux store, in order to keep track of the progress in the Asylum process. Show the status in the home page (example: "Awaiting Immigration meeting").

Good to have in the long term future:

- Possibility to add not only Documents, but also "Events" to each step. Events could be: "meeting with NGO", "meeting with immigration lawyer" and so on. Events can also be general public interest events, such as "riot in refugee camp", "unlawful raid by local police".
- Verify refugee identity (by analysing ID picture)
- News Feed with useful news regarding refugees in the same region/country.
- Notifications/suggestions on "what's next" in the asylum process. For example: notification linking to info pages on how to prepare for the asylum interview.