



## **EMN Ad-Hoc Query on NO EMN AHQ on Arrival Transit Reception Centers**

Requested by Kathleen CHAPMAN on 5th April 2017

### **Miscellaneous**

Responses from Belgium, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Sweden, United Kingdom, Norway (22 in total)

#### Disclaimer:

*The following responses have been provided primarily for the purpose of information exchange among EMN NCPs in the framework of the EMN. The contributing EMN NCPs have provided, to the best of their knowledge, information that is up-to-date, objective and reliable. Note, however, that the information provided does not necessarily represent the official policy of an EMN NCPs' Member State.*

## **Background information:**

Due to the exceptionally large number of asylum arrivals in the autumn of 2015, Norway established two arrival transit reception centers for asylum seekers that had dual functions: these centers carried out some administrative tasks as well as the usual reception center services. These centers in Norway were established in order to efficiently process arrivals and better facilitate the initial application process. One center was established in the southern part of the country to handle large numbers of arrivals from Sweden and one was established in the northern part of the country to address large numbers of refugees using the “Arctic Route” via Russia. At present, only the one in the southern part of the country is in operation with a capacity for 1000 applicants. This center is located one hour south of Oslo towards the Swedish border.

The Norwegian Ministry of Justice and Public Security has requested a socio-economic analysis of the functions of this type of arrival transit center. Norway will also be considering the possibility of establishing a common administrative center in Oslo, where government agencies involved in handling the asylum process can have representatives who work together in facilities tailored to these needs, but where the applicants are not necessarily housed, but rather travel there as needed.



For this reason we are asking about others’ experience with the kind of model that aims at efficient facilitation of the initial asylum process. Learning how other countries in Europe have established arrival transit reception centers that carry out on-site administrative tasks will be useful. Access to the results of others’ cost / benefit analysis of such dual-task reception facilities would also be useful.


## **Questions**


1. 1. Does your country have arrival transit reception centers which address the needs of the initial stage of the application process for asylum seekers, where government agencies can have on-site facilities too (where some administrative tasks are handled as well as reception center services)? YES/ NO If yes, are these arrival transit reception centers organized in such a way that it is possible for representatives from different government agencies associated with the initial stage of the asylum application process to also have some on-site offices/facilities? YES/ NO? OR, if your MS does not have arrival transit reception centers organized in this manner, are there facilities where the applicant lives in one place and staff from several government authorities work in another nearby location? YES/ NO? If you answered YES to the question above, please answer questions 3, 4 and 5. If you answered NO to the question above, please respond to question 2.
2. 2. Your MS answered NO to Q 1 that your MS does not have arrival transit reception centers for the initial stage of the asylum process. We would like to know if your MS is even considering establishing an arrival transit reception center that combines administrative and reception center functions? YES/NO If YES, please briefly comment. Are there any concrete plans for establishing the first center? If yes, please also reply to relevant topics in question 4 and 5.
3. 3. Your MS answered YES to Q 1 that your MS does have arrival transit reception centers for the initial stage of the asylum process that combines some administrative tasks with reception center services. A. Briefly describe the nature of the work/tasks handled at the center; such as finger printing, registration, health checks, interviewing, ID verification, etc. B. How long has your MS had such centers? C. How many

- centers does your MS have altogether? D. Please comment on where the centers are located; such as urban, rural, near airports, or in isolated areas. E. Is there a maximum time limit an applicant can/is supposed to reside at these kinds of reception centers? What is the average amount of time a resident spends at these centers? Please comment. F. These special centers in Norway were established in order to efficiently process arrivals and better facilitate the initial application process; if the applicant is not sent out of the country again, where is the next stop? Please comment briefly. G. When an applicant moves on to another type of reception center, which factors determine where and when they move?
4. 4. Has your MS provided the national immigration authorities with some form of cost/benefit analysis regarding these dual-functional reception centers? YES/NO? If YES, is there any possibility of sharing this analysis with us even if not in English or a Nordic language? YES/ NO? If NO could you provide contact information for someone in management who is familiar with this issue and this kind of analysis?
  5. 5. Please provide contact information for possible follow-up questions.

### Responses



	Country	Wider Dissemination	Response
	Belgium	Yes	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. No</li> <li>2. Yes, Belgium is considering establishing an arrival transit reception center that combines administrative and reception center functions where the Immigration Office and the Federal Agency for the Reception of Asylum Seekers (Fedasil) work together. However, no political agreement is signed yet.</li> <li>3. /</li> <li>4. No. No contact information for someone in management who is familiar with this issue and this kind of analysis can be provided yet.</li> <li>5. No contact information for possible follow-up questions can be provided yet.</li> </ol>
	Croatia	Yes	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. 1. a) No. b) N/a. c) No.</li> </ol>


			<p><b>2.</b> 2. Not at this stage.</p> <p><b>3.</b> 3. N/a.</p> <p><b>4.</b> 4. N/a.</p> <p><b>5.</b> 5. N/a.</p>
	Cyprus	Yes	<p><b>1.</b> YES – we have an Emergency Reception Center, which only becomes operational in cases of persons arriving in groups (or being rescued) by sea. In all other cases of applications for international protection, this initial reception center is not used. The Center is situated in the district of Nicosia (center of the country). Persons are being transferred there soon after their arrival (or the next morning). The Center has a medical unit where in most of the cases, blood tests are being conducted there by the Ministry of Health (sometimes blood tests are being conducted immediately upon arrival near the site of the arrival). The Asylum Service also has an office at the Emergency Center and applications for international protection are being made there. Also, the Social Welfare Services are conducting a screening for unaccompanied minors at the Center. Any unaccompanied minors are immediately transferred to special houses for minors. Fingerprinting for EURODAC purposes is currently not taking place there because there is no such equipment in place (there are plans for movable EURODAC units to be purchased in order to be used there).</p> <p><b>2.</b> YES please see above</p> <p><b>3.</b> a) The Center is managed by the staff of the Civil Defence Service. Persons are being transferred there soon after their arrival (or the next morning). The Center has a medical unit where in most of the cases, blood tests are being conducted there by the Ministry of Health (sometimes blood tests are being conducted immediately upon arrival near the site of the arrival). The Asylum Service also has an office at the Emergency Center and applications for international protection are being made there. Dublin interviews may also take place there if deemed necessary. Also, the Social Welfare Services are conducting a screening for unaccompanied minors at the Center. Any unaccompanied minors are immediately transferred to special houses for minors. Fingerprinting for EURODAC purposes is currently not taking place there because there is no such equipment in place (there are</p>

			<p>plans for movable EURODAC units to be purchased in order to be used there). Police may also conduct initial interviews there. b) The Emergency Center has been established in 2014 and has been used several times since September 2014 when Cyprus started receiving boats either from Lebanon or from Turkey. c) There is one center d) As mentioned above, the Center is situated in a rural area, 15 minutes outside the city of Nicosia. This makes it easier for all related services who have their headquarters in Nicosia to have access to the Center. e) There is no maximum time, but usually persons only reside there for 3-5 days and leave the Center once their medical screening tests are clear (the tuberculosis test). Their residence there may be prolonged in case an alternative place of residence (e.g. normal reception center or private house) cannot be found. f) As already described above, the next stop for persons who have applied for international protection is the normal Reception and Accommodation Center in Kofinou, or a private house (they initially reside with friends or relatives and later, when they find their own place, they receive subsidy from the government). g) As mentioned above, persons (excluding unaccompanied minors) are allowed to leave the center, only after their tuberculosis test results are ready and clear. In case persons express the wish to reside with friends or relatives and receive government subsidy, this is encouraged, since normal reception facilities are usually full.</p> <p>4. No, there has not been any such analysis carried out so far</p> <p>5. Asylum Service, Ministry of Interior email: <a href="mailto:kdemetriou@asylum.moi.gov.cy">kdemetriou@asylum.moi.gov.cy</a></p>
	Czech Republic	Yes	<p>1. 1. Does your country have arrival transit reception centers which address the needs of the initial stage of the application process for asylum seekers, where government agencies can have on-site facilities too (where some administrative tasks are handled as well as reception center services)? YES/ NO YES If yes, are these arrival transit reception centers organized in such a way that it is possible for representatives from different government agencies associated with the initial stage of the asylum application process to also have some on-site offices/facilities? YES/ NO YES OR, if your MS does not have arrival transit reception centers organized in this manner, are there facilities where the applicant lives in one place and staff from several government authorities work in another nearby location? YES/ NO? N/A</p>


2. N/A


3. a) All applicants for international protection are obliged to stay in the reception centre for the period necessary for establishment of their identity, initial proceedings for granting international protection, entrance interview, issuance of refugee ID cards, social inquiry and prescribed initial medical examination. Asylum seekers are obliged to undergo a medical examination immediately after their arrival. The medical examination is also carried out in the reception centre where medical staff is available. b) The CZ has been operating such centres since 1990. c) 2 d) Such centres are located in the transit area at the international airport (Prague-Ruzyně, Václav Havel International Airport) and in the urban area in the city under 10,000 inhabitants (Zastávka in South Moravian Region). e) YES, there is a time limit which was set by health officer (14 days). f) First, applicants for international protection stay in the arrival centre for the initial period of the asylum procedure, approximately 2 weeks. This centre is a closed one – that means that persons are not allowed to leave. Applicants for international protection are obliged to stay during the initial period in this asylum centre. After the initial procedure in the arrival centre, applicants for international procedure can move to the residential centre (it is one of the three asylum centres run by the Refugee Facilities Administration which is a subordinated organ of the Ministry of the Interior). The residential centres offer accommodation for applicants for international protection while the asylum procedure is in progress. Applicants for international procedure can leave the premises. Alternatively, they can live on their own according to their choice. The stay in the residential centre is thus voluntary. The services offered in residential centres are similar to those of reception centres. Special attention is paid to vulnerable groups. Those who have been granted international protection can subsequently move to the integration asylum centres – such centres are open to participants of the State Integration Programme. The maximum duration of the stay is up to 18 months. The centres are primarily used for the purposes of learning the Czech language, acquiring individual accommodation and employment. g) Basically, the applicant for international protection may choose to live either in the residential residence or on her/his own after leaving the reception centre. There are two residential centres altogether – the choice usually depends on actual capacities of the residential centres. That is once the initial procedures in the asylum centre are completed. For more information see the answer above.


			<p><b>4.</b> NO, there is no such analysis. We are not aware of anyone who is familiar with this issue.</p> <p><b>5.</b> In case you want more information on the issue, please contact CZ EMN and we will provide you with a further contact.</p>
	Estonia	Yes	<p><b>1.</b> No, currently Estonia does not have this type of arrival transit center.</p> <p><b>2.</b> No, it is not being considered as currently there is no need for a separate arrival transit reception center.</p> <p><b>3.</b> N/A</p> <p><b>4.</b> N/A</p> <p><b>5.</b> <a href="mailto:emn@tlu.ee">emn@tlu.ee</a></p>
	Finland	Yes	<p><b>1.</b> NO. Finland does not have this type of arrival transit centres at the moment. However, in Finland the reception of asylum seekers is guided by the so-called transit approach. At the early stages of the asylum procedure, the aim is to assign asylum seekers mainly to the so-called transit reception centres determined for each area (south, east, west, north) and located near or within easy reach of one of the offices of the Asylum Unit of the Finnish Immigration Service. Asylum seekers are accommodated in transit reception centres for the duration of the Finnish Immigration Service's active investigation, after which they are transferred to waiting reception centres to wait for the decision. In September 2015, Finland established a registration centre (hotspot), or a first-stage reception unit, as a response to the sharp increase in the number of asylum seekers. The centre was situated in the northern town of Tornio, close to the Swedish border, where the majority of the asylum seekers arrived at the time. The registration centre was mainly operated by the personnel of the Police, the Border Guard and the Finnish Immigration Service. Asylum seekers were registered at the centre and some initial interviews establishing the applicants' identity and travel route were conducted. The center had accommodation for around 300 applicants, and additional facilities for emergency accommodation. The applicants were sent to reception centres as soon as they were</p>

			<p>registered or interviewed, so they were usually accommodated at the registration centre for one night only. The centre operated until 1.3.2016. Also, during the peak period of asylum seeker flows, the Asylum Unit of the Finnish Immigration Service performed asylum interviews at some reception centres.</p> <p><b>2. YES and NO.</b> If a situation of large-scale entry into the country repeats, Section 133 of the Aliens Act allows for directing asylum seekers to a registration centre on a short-term basis. Accommodation at registration centres is intended to be of short duration.</p> <p><b>3. N/A</b></p> <p><b>4. NO.</b> There has been no cost-benefit analysis regarding the operation of the registration centre in Tornio. However, the benefits of its establishment were substantial, as the applicants were registered promptly after arriving in Finland and were sent to reception centres around Finland in a controlled manner.</p> <p><b>5. See attachment.</b></p>
	France	Yes	<p><b>1.</b> France has created two transit centers in the Paris region: one for single persons and one for family. These centers aim at providing sheltering and temporary accommodation (up to 15 days) before the geographical breakdown of asylum seekers in the 34 one-stop-shops set up all over the territory. In these one-stop shops, asylum seekers can file their asylum applications. Prefectures and the French office for immigration and integration (OFII) are competent for assisting in the process and reducing the processing times. The Prefectures register the application and the OFII is in charge of material reception conditions. Once the one-stop shop has registered the application, the asylum seeker can benefit from an accommodation in a dedicated reception center for asylum seekers (CADA).</p> <p><b>2. n/a</b></p> <p><b>3. a -</b> In one-stop shops, the following tasks are handled: finger printing, registration, vulnerability assessment, interviewing and ID verification. The vulnerability assessment aims at providing</p>







			<p>material reception conditions adapted to the applicant's needs. b -The 11 first one-stop shops were created in September 2015, and the others by the end of 2015. c-France has 34 one-stop shops d- They are located all over the territory in towns, based on the principle of regionalisation. e- There is no maximum time limit, they can reside in the reception centers during the duration of the process. The average duration in these reception centers is 491 days (as of 31 december 2016). f- The OFII is in charge of determining the accommodation for the asylum seekers. If the asylum seeker refuses this proposal, he loses his asylum allowance and the accommodation proposal. In such case, the asylum seeker has to provide an address of residence (domiciliation), which is compulsory to be registered in the OFII app dedicated to asylum applications. Through this app, the asylum seeker can benefit from an administrative and social follow up.</p> <p><b>4.</b> NO, since in France there is no one dedicated site competent for both registration and accommodation. The one-stop shop is the compulsory process for registration and then for benefiting from an accommodation. No analysis available.</p> <p><b>5.</b> Please contact <a href="mailto:Jeremy.wyatt@interieur.gouv.fr">Jeremy.wyatt@interieur.gouv.fr</a> in charge of the section for initial reception conditions Or <a href="mailto:virginie.ait-abdelkader@interieur.gouv.fr">virginie.ait-abdelkader@interieur.gouv.fr</a> in charge of the section of reception center for asylum seekers (CADA).</p>
	Germany	Yes	<p><b>1.</b> The questions of this query should be treated within the scope of the study „Changing influx of asylum seekers". Please see the link on Arrival Centers in Germany:  <a href="http://www.bamf.de/EN/Fluechtlingsschutz/Ankunftscentren/ankunftscentren-node.html">http://www.bamf.de/EN/Fluechtlingsschutz/Ankunftscentren/ankunftscentren-node.html</a></p> <p><b>2.</b> see question 1</p> <p><b>3.</b> see question 1</p> <p><b>4.</b> see question 1</p> <p><b>5.</b> see question 1</p>

	Hungary	Yes	<p><b>1. YES.</b></p> <p><b>2. N/A.</b></p> <p><b>3. A.</b> In the transit zones fingerprinting, photograph taking, registration, health check, preliminary interviews (so as to determine whether a Dublin transfer can be applied and if not whether the application is admissible) and ID verification of the asylum seekers take place. In the case of an emergency situation resulting from mass immigration the applicants are obliged to stay in the transit zones for the period of the asylum procedure. In this case reception services are provided for the whole period, including health care, education and food. <b>B.</b> Since 15 September 2015. <b>C.</b> At the moment Hungary has two centers, one in Röszke and another one in Tompa. <b>D.</b> The reception centers are situated near the southern border of Hungary. <b>E.</b> During the border procedure the applicants are authorized to enter the territory of Hungary if the application is found admissible. The decision of admissibility is made by the authority within 8 days from the submission of the application and is communicated immediately. It can be challenged at court, in this case, the court shall make the decision in 8 days from the submission of the appeal. The applicant will be authorized to enter the territory of Hungary after 4 weeks from the submission of the application for international protection if no final decision is made during the 4 weeks. In the case of an emergency situation resulting from mass immigration the asylum seeker shall stay in the transit zones until the decision which is not contestable before the court is communicated. <b>F.</b> During the border procedure if the application is found inadmissible the applicant will be expelled to Serbia and the expulsion will be carried out by the alien policing authorities. If the applicant is authorized to enter the territory of Hungary the asylum procedure will be carried out according to the general rules. In the case of an emergency situation resulting from mass immigration the asylum seeker shall stay in the transit zones. <b>G.</b> A place of residence is appointed (private accommodation, reception center, asylum detention) if the applicant is authorized to enter the territory of Hungary. In the case of an emergency situation resulting from mass immigration only children under the age of 14 are placed in a child protection institution.</p> <p><b>4. No such analysis has been carried out.</b></p>
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	Italy	Yes	<p><b>1.</b> Yes. The system in place is mainly provided for by legislative decree 142 of 18 August 2015 that has consistently increased the number of reception structures and their remits. Reception is organized as follows: Hotspots (or crisis points) consist of four reception centres (in Lampedusa, Trapani, Pozzallo, and Taranto) where foreigners crossing the borders without authorization will receive first assistance. In these hotspots, migrants are swiftly identified, registered and their fingerprints are taken. Migrants are then transferred to proper reception centres; the Hubs. Regional centres of first reception; so-called “Hubs”, are located in different Italian regions. Foreigners may lodge their asylum claim there and start the procedure before being transferred in centres of second reception (so-called “SPRAR” system). In the event regional centres of first reception (or second reception centres for that matter) are overcrowded, adequate reception conditions are guaranteed within Extraordinary reception centres (Centri di Accoglienza Straordinaria; or CAS). Such centres are temporary and supplement ordinary facilities. Yes. Reception in Hotspots is aimed at guaranteeing all procedures with respect to third country nationals be carried out. Italian authorities, with the support of EASO, Frontex and Europol, proceed to: health checks, first identification, information on migrants’ rights, notably with regard to asylum and relocation. More specifically, reception in Hotspots includes a first round of interviews by civil servants from immigration offices (supported by EASO staff) in order to sound out whether migrants wish to claim international protection. Further interviews by civil servants from police services (supported by staff from Frontex and Europol) may be conducted in order to gather intelligence.</p> <p><b>2.</b> N/A</p> <p><b>3.</b> A. See Q1. B. The first centers ever dealing with reception in Italy were created in 1995. Since then the situation has changed dramatically. The reforms has consistently changed the system. As they stand, the Hotspots were foresaw in the Italian Roadmap of 28 September 2015 and implemented via the Circular of 6 October 2015. They are, however, based on pre-existing structures that fulfilled similar purposes: the Centers for First Assistance and Reception (Centri di</p>

		<p>Primo Soccorso e Accoglienza; CPSA) created from 2006 onwards. Regional Hubs were created with Legislative Decree 142 in 2015 (see Q1). However, they substituted government centers already in place since 2008: the Centers for asylum seekers reception (Centri di Accoglienza per Richiedenti Asilo; CARA). Yet before that, there existed Identification centers (Centri Di Identificazione; CDI) created in 2002. Extraordinary reception centers, already in place due to the great influx of people disembarked on our shores, were formalized with Legislative Decree 142 in 2015 (see Q1). As of April 2017, four Hotspots are operational. They are in Lampedusa, Taranto, Trapani, and Pozzallo. Additional facilities will be opened in the near future. As of now, a number of Regional Hubs are already operational whilst some are not. The national plan foresees a minimum of one Hub per Italian Region (so a minimum of 20). However, some regional authorities have decided to avoid the concentration of asylum seekers in one place and have therefore planned the opening of several centers spread across their territory. The number of Extraordinary reception centers varies with the breadth of influxes. There were 3.090 structures considered as such as of 10 October 2015. C. Given the importance of sea arrivals, Hotspots are located on the Italian coasts. Three are in Sicily (one on Lampedusa island) and the last one in Puglia. Regional hubs are centers spread across the Italian territory. The choice of their location therefore varies from one region to another. The Region of Tuscany for instance has chosen not to concentrate too high a number of asylum seekers in one place but rather to spread their reception across the regional territory. Accordingly, some are located in urban areas (such as Bologna in Emilia Romagna or Bari in Puglia) and some in various sort of areas (Tuscany or Sardinia for instance have chosen to spread the centers on their territory). D. In order to ease the treatment of asylum applications, migrant's stay in the different categories of centers shall not exceed a given length of time. The activities to be carried out in the Hotspots (described above) shall be completed within 48 hours after arrival so that migrants can then be swiftly sent to other centers. Their stay in the regional Hubs shall be comprised between 7 and 30 days. The length of stay in Extraordinary reception centres is not explicitly defined but shall be strictly limited to the time necessary to the transfer of the claim to either a regional Hub or a center of second reception (the aforementioned SPRAR system). E. Migrants that do not wish to lodge an asylum claim or that do not qualify for asylum are taken to an Identification and Expulsion Centre (Centro di Identificazione e Espulsione; CIE, yet to become Centro di Permanenza per il Rimpatrio; CPR). The time they spend there shall be the minimum necessary to proceed to the identification of the foreigner and shall not exceed 90 days.</p>
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			<p>Once identified, the foreigner is then deported, either according to a voluntary return scheme or forced return. However, a fair share of those to whom an order to leave the territory is issued remain on the territory without proper legal status. F. Until February 2017, there existed four Centres of Identification and Expulsion. There will be soon many more of them, henceforth called CPR (see above), smaller structures to receive 80-100 people, but better distributed on the national territory. At least one such centre per region is to open in the course of the year.</p> <p>4. At the end of 2015 the Ministry of Interior issued a Report considering some costs and benefits. The Report will be uploaded with this response.</p> <p>5. <a href="mailto:stefania.nasso@interno.it">stefania.nasso@interno.it</a></p>
	Latvia	Yes	<p>1. No</p> <p>2. Taking into account the number of asylum seekers in recent years and the total capacity of the reception center (situated nearby the capital), particularly, when the renovation have been carried out, there is no need for establishing special transit reception center. At the same time it should be mentioned that according to principles how the asylum procedure and asylum seekers reception is organized in Latvia finger printing and interviewing of asylum seekers can be carried out in the premises of the center.</p> <p>3. -</p> <p>4. -</p> <p>5. <a href="mailto:emn@pmlp.gov.lv">emn@pmlp.gov.lv</a></p>
	Lithuania	Yes	<p>1. No, Lithuania does not have this type of arrival transit centers at the moment.</p> <p>2. No, there are no plans to the best of our knowledge. However, The Government of the Republic of Lithuania recently confirmed the Description of Accommodation of Asylum Seekers Procedure (on May 8th, 2017). It regulates the accommodation if asylum seekers could not be accommodated</p>

			<p>in the Foreigners registration center, they can be accommodated in other premises or a temporary housing.</p> <p><b>3.</b> N/A</p> <p><b>4.</b> N/A</p> <p><b>5.</b> N/A</p>
	Luxembourg	Yes	<p><b>1.</b> 1. No. Nevertheless it exists a first reception facility where the international protection applicants stay several weeks in order to fulfil certain formalities and in order to be able to detect possible vulnerability situations a. N/A b. No. As Luxembourg City is a small city, the reception centres are close to (walking distance) the main institutions who deal with the international protection applicants (i.e. Directorate of Immigration and the Luxembourg Reception and Integration Agency – OLAI). As article 6 (3) paragraph 2 of the Law of 18 December 2015 on international protection and temporary protection requires that the Grand Ducal Police carry out interviews in order to establish identity and the itinerary of the applicant, they have an office at the Directorate of Immigration but in general there is not a one-stop shop where all the authorities related to the international protection procedure are found.</p> <p><b>2.</b> 2. No. At the moment there are no plans to establish this type of centre.</p> <p><b>3.</b> N/A</p> <p><b>4.</b> N/A</p> <p><b>5.</b> N/A</p>
	Malta	Yes	<p><b>1.</b> Malta's initial reception and detention policy is being reviewed in line with: • The provisions of recent European Court of Human Rights judgements relating to Malta; • The re-cast Reception Conditions Directive, the provisions of which have been transposed into Maltese legislation in 2015; and • The provisions of the Return Directive, which have been transposed in the Common</p>

			<p>Standards and Procedures for Returning Illegally Staying Third Country Nationals Regulations, SL 217.12. The review is guided by the safeguarding of national security and public health, as well by human rights and humanitarian considerations. Newly arrived irregular migrants/relocated/airlifted/drop ins who arrives at AWAS Main Office for accommodation after they had applied for asylum in Malta, shall be accommodated at an Initial Reception Facility, a contained environment, in order for them to be medically screened and processed by the pertinent authorities, including AWAS and Police officials. The stay of an irregular migrant at an Initial Reception Centre shall be of limited duration and in no case shall such duration extend beyond the granting of medical clearance by the Health Authorities. UNHCR, JRS, IOM and Red Cross usually visit the Initial Reception Centre regularly to provide information sessions with the migrants.</p> <p><b>2.</b> Malta's initial reception and detention policy is being reviewed in line with: • The provisions of recent European Court of Human Rights judgements relating to Malta; • The re-cast Reception Conditions Directive, the provisions of which have been transposed into Maltese legislation in 2015; and • The provisions of the Return Directive, which have been transposed in the Common Standards and Procedures for Returning Illegally Staying Third Country Nationals Regulations, SL 217.12. The review is guided by the safeguarding of national security and public health, as well by human rights and humanitarian considerations. Newly arrived irregular migrants/relocated/airlifted/drop ins who arrives at AWAS Main Office for accommodation after they had applied for asylum in Malta, shall be accommodated at an Initial Reception Facility, a contained environment, in order for them to be medically screened and processed by the pertinent authorities, including AWAS and Police officials. The stay of an irregular migrant at an Initial Reception Centre shall be of limited duration and in no case shall such duration extend beyond the granting of medical clearance by the Health Authorities. UNHCR, JRS, IOM and Red Cross usually visit the Initial Reception Centre regularly to provide information sessions with the migrants.</p> <p><b>3.</b> N/A</p> <p><b>4.</b> N/A</p>
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			<p><b>5.</b> Admission at the Initial Reception Centre: Upon arrival at the IRC, residents are directed towards the conference room, where registration will take place. During registration, residents' names, surnames, police number, nationality, date of birth, languages spoken and other basic bio-data is recorded. A photo of each resident is taken at this point. During registration the resident is allocated a bed and given a welcome pack which will at least include bedding, towel, toiletries, cutlery, plate, mug, toilet roll and a bottle of water. During registration, residents will be informed about the time and location of the introductory meeting. Residents are then shown to their rooms.</p> <p><b>6.</b> Admission at the Initial Reception Centre: Upon arrival at the IRC, residents are directed towards the conference room, where registration will take place. During registration, residents' names, surnames, police number, nationality, date of birth, languages spoken and other basic bio-data is recorded. A photo of each resident is taken at this point. During registration the resident is allocated a bed and given a welcome pack which will at least include bedding, towel, toiletries, cutlery, plate, mug, toilet roll and a bottle of water. During registration, residents will be informed about the time and location of the introductory meeting. Residents are then shown to their rooms.</p> <p><b>7.</b> N/A</p> <p><b>8.</b> N/A</p> <p><b>9.</b> Anne Marie Pisani-Units Leader-Care and Policy, AWAS</p> <p><b>10.</b> Anne Marie Pisani-Units Leader-Care and Policy, AWAS</p>
	Netherlands	Yes	<p><b>1.</b> YES YES, these arrival transit reception centers are organized in such a way that it is possible for representatives from different government agencies associated with the initial stage of the asylum application process to also have some on-site offices/facilities.</p> <p><b>2.</b> *</p> <p><b>3.</b> A. Once an asylum seeker states his or her intent to apply for asylum, the applicant is referred to the central reception location in Ter Apel, where he or she stays for a short period. At the same</p>



			<p>location in Ter Apel (though a different building) there is an application center where the initial stage of the asylum process takes place. In this initial stage the following work takes place: - Application form filled in by the applicant - Registration (including interview by the Aliens Police)) - Fingerprints/biometrics - Lodging the application - Document examination - Eurodac registration - Interview by the Immigration and Naturalisation Service (on identity, nationality and travel routes, not on asylum reasons) - Preparations for Dublin claims - Health checks (A person who does not fulfil the conditions to enter the Netherlands will be refused entry into the territory. If this person states that he or she wants to apply for asylum, he or she will be brought to the (closed) application center at Schiphol Airport. The initial stage of the asylum procedure (identification and registration) will take place at the airport and after that, in the closed application center) B. Since the 90's. C. There is only one central reception location at the moment, which is in Ter Apel. However, the tasks mentioned above, can also be carried out in one other location where the initial stage of the asylum procedure takes place (identification and registration). Applicants are transferred from the central reception service to this place (Budel). D. Ter Apel en Budel are rather rural areas. E. Normally, the identification and registration process takes approximately 4 days. Soon after this initial stage of the asylum process, the applicant will be transferred to a process reception location, where he or she will stay for the remaining time of the so called rest and preparation period, as well as during the general asylum procedures that will take place in an application center. The process reception centers are situated in the proximity of the application center. There are three 'open' application centers (Ter Apel, Zevenaar and Den Bosch). F/G. The next stop always is the process reception location, where the applicant stays during the general asylum procedure (of 8 working days). When the application is not rejected during this procedure (but granted or referred to the extended procedure for further investigation), the applicant will be transferred to a regular asylum center.</p> <p>4. NO</p> <p>5. <a href="mailto:emn@ind.minvenj.nl">emn@ind.minvenj.nl</a></p>
	Poland	Yes	<p>1. YES. Poland has two reception centres that can be treated as arrival transit centres. Next to the reception centre in Biała Podlaska, which is located near the eastern border with Belarus, there is</p>


an outpost of Department for Refugee Procedures of the Office for Foreigners that is responsible for examining applications for international protection. Next to the centre, there is located a border guard outpost and a guarded centre run by Polish Border Guard. The centre in Biała Podlaska is responsible for registering those asylum seekers who are crossing Eastern Polish border. It concerns mostly those who come to Poland for the first time. The second reception centre in Podkowa Leśna-Dębak is located near Warsaw where governmental agencies are situated. This centre is responsible for registering those foreigners who are transferred to Poland under Dublin regulations and those who submit the subsequent application for international protection.



**2.** N/A


**3. A.** In the reception centre in Biała Podlaska registration (1) health check and interviewing take place. At the border crossing points at the border, which are situated near the center, Border Guard takes fingerprints and verifies ID. In the reception centre in Podkowa Leśna-Dębak registration and health check take place. Others activities take place in Warsaw. (1) - Registration in both reception centers concerns only those asylum seekers who report to the center in Biała Podlaska for social assistance. The application for the international protection is taken by the Border Guard at the border crossing point, mostly in Terespol. Therefore the registration of foreigners who submit this kind of application is held there. **B.** First arrival transit reception centres in Podkowa Leśna - Dębak was established in 1992, after signing by President of Republic of Poland on September 2, 1991 the United Nations Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees with Protocol Relating to the Status of Refugees. Second arrival transit reception centres in Biała Podlaska was established in 2009. **C.** Poland has eleven arrival reception centres, including two arrival transit reception centres. Four institutions owned by the Office for Foreigners are located in Czerwony Bór near Łomża, Linin near Góra Kalwaria, Podkowa Leśna-Dębak and in Biała Podlaska, whereas the last two serve as arrival transit reception centres. Other centres for foreigners applying for international protection, are managed by third parties are located in Grotniki, Grupa near Grudziądz, Białystok, Lublin, Łuków, Kolonia-Horbów and in Warsaw. The capacity of the centres is 120 – 390. On average 150 people is accommodated in each centre. **D.** These arrival transit reception centres (Podkowa Leśna-Dębak and in Biała Podlaska) are located in different types of zone in Poland. The first one is situated in a wood but close to Warsaw (around 20 km from the capital), in the middle of the country. The second one is located in the city zone of Biała Podlaska with ease

access of public and private transport, close to Eastern border. E. In the accommodation centres foreigners may stay till the end of the asylum procedure and it very much depends on the capacity of this and other reception centres, as well as the will to rent own accommodation in a different location using the allowances provided by the office for Foreigners. Thus also the average amount of time a resident spends at these centres depends on the abovementioned elements and varies each month. Average time that an asylum seeker spends in a reception centre is different - 21 days. The aim of the reception centres is a registration and as quick as possible transfer to an accommodation centre. F. As it was mentioned in point A: the foreigners who have applied for international protection in Poland could decide if they were moved from arrival transit reception centres (Podkowa Leśna-Dębak, Biała Podlaska), to one of the accommodation centres for foreigners or to apply for a social benefit to cover one's own costs of stay on the Republic of Poland and rent a private flat or a houses on their own. The practice shows that usually foreigners are transferred from reception centres to accommodation centres and in there alternatively apply for social benefit. G. Factors which determine the place of transfer of an asylum seeker from a reception to an accommodation centre are: sex (single women and single mothers are sent to a centre specially dedicated to them, not having any male residents), having a family in another centre, disability (there are just few centres with facilities for the disabled), occupancy rate in the centre where an applicant requests to be moved. On its own initiative, the Office for Foreigners provides particularly vulnerable groups of foreigners with means of transport from the border crossing to the reception centres (for example, from the border crossing point in Terespol to the centre in Biała Podlaska). In this case, following the notice sent by the Border Guard in Terespol, specifying the number and the situation of foreigners applying for international protection, transportation to the centre in Biała Podlaska is organized for those foreigners whose situation is exceptionally difficult, i.e. people with disabilities.


**4.** NO, Poland has not provided any form of cost/benefit analysis regarding these reception centres. They form part of national system which consist of open centres for migrants [2 transit centres plus 2 regular centres owned by Office for Foreigners and 7 private reception centres paid by state budget [first part] and additionally private flats that foreigner may rent using cash allowances provided by the office for Foreigners [second option].

			<p>5. Ms. Ewa Poławska, the Head of the Unit I, Department for Social Assistance, The Office for Foreigners, Poland, <a href="mailto:ewa.polawska@udsc.gov.pl">ewa.polawska@udsc.gov.pl</a></p>
	Portugal	Yes	<p>1. Portugal does not have Arrival Transit Reception Centers nor foresees their implementation as there is no such need in view of the current situation.</p> <p>2. However additional information about how this centers work in other Member States would be welcome as it can be a reference for future implementation, in case Portugal will have such a need.</p> <p>3. N/A</p> <p>4. N/A</p> <p>5. N/A</p>
	Slovak Republic	Yes	<p>1. YES YES N/A</p> <p>2. N/A</p> <p>3. A) In our reception centre, fingerprinting and registration of the asylum applicant is done, health checks and security checks are carried out, as well as the first interviews are held there. B) SR has had such centre since the establishment of the Slovak Republic in 1993. C) There is only one reception centre. D) The reception centre is located in the Eastern part of the country. It is not located in an isolated area, but in the city of Humenne, which has population of around 44 000 inhabitants. E) The asylum applicants are accommodated in the reception centre until the results from health checks are issued. This period, during which the asylum applicant cannot leave the premises of the centre, lasts around 21 days. Therefore, the approximate length of stay in the centre is around 3-4 weeks. F) The next stop is an accommodation centre where the applicant is accommodated throughout the rest of asylum procedure. G) The applicant is moved to another centre after relevant procedures are done such as administrative acts and health checks. SR has two</p>

			<p>accommodation centres – one serves for vulnerable groups and families, and another one for men only.</p> <p><b>4.</b> NO N/A</p> <p><b>5.</b> <a href="mailto:martina.cebecauerova@minv.sk">martina.cebecauerova@minv.sk</a></p>
	Slovenia	Yes	<p><b>1.</b> Yes</p> <p><b>2.</b> n.a.</p> <p><b>3.</b> Such centers are envisaged by contingency planning. We would apply such centers in case of large volume of arriving migrants. Such centers would provide for registration, including fingerprinting, taking photographs, establishing identity and checks against databases, healthcare, hygienic provisions, food and drink provision, social care and special care for vulnerable categories of migrants, security provisions, short term accommodation and other relevant needs. Envisaged locations are set close to main traffic connection and close to the border at the same time. Accommodation time depends on the status of migrant, legal grounds, needs and phase of procedure. If longer accommodation is required, the migrant would be transported to relevant institution inland. Provisions for management of asylum application at such centers are envisaged as well.</p> <p><b>4.</b> No services of such kind are available.</p> <p><b>5.</b> Additional information is restricted.</p>
	Sweden	Yes	<p><b>1.</b> No No</p> <p><b>2.</b> No, not to the best of our knowledge</p> <p><b>3.</b> NA</p>

			<p>4. NA</p> <p>5. NA</p>
	<p>United Kingdom</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>1. NO</p> <p>2. YES</p> <p>3. The UK does not have a specific reception centre model for handling asylum applications however the manner in which applications are registered and destitute asylum seekers supported could be considered to have an impact on the movement and location of individuals. The Home Office considers that anyone who intends to claim asylum should do so at the first available opportunity—this usually means on arrival, at a port of entry. Those who have failed to claim asylum at a port, who believe that they have become refugee sur place (in other words, that they may qualify for refugee status because of a change of situation in their country of origin), or who have otherwise entered the country illegally, are required to register their application in person at UKVI’s Asylum Screening Unit (ASU) in Croydon, either on a walk-in basis or by appointment. UK Visas and Immigration (UKVI) is part of the Home Office - it is responsible for considering asylum applications as well as applications from visitors to come to, or remain in the United Kingdom. In exceptional circumstances, for instance in the case of unaccompanied asylum seeking children or those who are unfit to travel, individuals may approach a regional immigration office to make their application. Those who claim asylum only after being encountered through enforcement activity or police call-outs will usually be screened locally at the time of that encounter, or shortly afterwards if detained. The asylum screening process is divided into several parts: • Gathering biometric information (taking your fingerprints &amp; photographs to maintain a record of asylum claims, to confirm identity, and to check against other databases). • Carrying out identity and security checks. • Completing a screening interview to establish; Basic questions about identity and details of family; route and method of travel to the United Kingdom; confirmation of any medical conditions; Questions relating to any criminal offences and national security; Basic brief reasons for claiming asylum. • Confirming whether or not the applicant requires accommodation and gathering information to assist with making a decision on where in the UK they will be accommodated. • Issuing an Application Registration Card Asylum seekers are generally free to</p>

			<p>live where they wish but if they are destitute or insufficient funds to provide for your own accommodation, UKVI can offer accommodation on a 'no choice of location' basis. The United Kingdom has a statutory obligation to provide destitute asylum seekers with accommodation, transportation and subsistence support during the period that their application for asylum is being considered. This support package usually consists of free, furnished accommodation (with utility bills and council tax paid) and a weekly cash allowance to meet other essential living needs. But those who find accommodation through friends or relatives may be provided with the allowance alone ("subsistence only support"). Destitute asylum seekers are usually first accommodated in one of eight Initial Accommodation (IA) facilities, which are typically delivered as hostel style, full board accommodation and is provided for a short period whilst a claimant applies for and awaits a decision in their support claim. All Initial Accommodation sites include access to information, advice and health services. The length of time someone will stay in an Initial Accommodation centre will vary from person to person according to their particular circumstances. However, the Home Office aims to process their application for financial support and move straightforward cases to longer term dispersal accommodation in participating dispersal towns and cities within two to three weeks. The UK's asylum dispersal policy aims to disperse destitute asylum seekers away from the main ports of entry to urban centres across the UK ensuring a reasonable spread amongst UK local authorities that are subscribed to the scheme. Asylum seekers should remain at their nominated residential address whilst their asylum application is considered. A decision will usually be made on the application within 6 months. During this time the applicant will be invited to participate in a longer substantive asylum interview at one of UKVI's decision making hubs before receiving a written decision.</p> <p>B. How long has your MS had such centers? The current model of asylum accommodation has been in operation for over years.</p> <p>C. How many centers does your MS have altogether? There is a single national Asylum Screening Unit and there are 6 main decision making hubs across the UK. There are currently 8 Initial Accommodation Centres for accommodating destitute asylum seekers and over 130 local authorities across the UK participating in the dispersal scheme for destitute asylum seekers.</p> <p>D. Please comment on where the centers are located; such as urban, rural, near airports, or in isolated areas. All asylum administration buildings and destitute asylum seeker accommodation are located in urban centres.</p> <p>E. Is there a maximum time limit an applicant can/is supposed to reside at these kinds of reception centers? What is the average amount of time a resident spends at these centers? Please comment. The Asylum Screening</p>
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			<p>Unit aims to complete screening within 4 hours, however there are occasions where it will take longer. The length of time someone will stay in an Initial Accommodation centre will vary from person to person according to their particular circumstances. However, the Home Office aims to process their application for financial support and move straightforward cases to longer term dispersal accommodation in participating dispersal towns and cities within two or three weeks. Destitute asylum seekers will remain in dispersed accommodation until final determination of their asylum claim. F. These special centers in Norway were established in order to efficiently process arrivals and better facilitate the initial application process; if the applicant is not sent out of the country again, where is the next stop? Please comment briefly. As above, the Home Office aims to consider and process application for financial support and move straightforward cases from initial accommodation to longer term dispersal accommodation in participating dispersal towns and cities within two to three weeks. G. When an applicant moves on to another type of reception center, which factors determine where and when they move? At screening stage, if it is decided that the UK is not obliged to decide an asylum application because another country has responsibility for considering the asylum claim, and applicant may be detained in an Immigration Removal Centre pending removal to that country. In addition the Home Office may detain an applicant if it is decided that individual is are suitable for detention and their application can be considered whilst in detention.</p> <p><b>4. NO</b></p> <p><b>5. N/A</b></p>
	Norway	Yes	<p><b>1. YES.</b></p> <p><b>2. N/A</b></p> <p><b>3. A.</b> The National Police Immigration Service (NPIS) and The Norwegian Directorate of Immigration (UDI) work in Norway in cooperation with HERO (the reception center operator, a private actor), and NOKAS (a private security firm) and the necessary healthcare professionals from the municipal and local hospital. The police are responsible for the first steps of the asylum application process and carry out registration/fingerprinting and ID verification, while the</p>



healthcare professionals carry out health checks. Most of the asylum interviews are still conducted by the Norwegian Directorate of Immigration (UDI) in Oslo. If the centre is to be continued into 2018 we hope to carry out even more tasks related to the initial in-take phase of the asylum process on-site. Since February 2017 the UDI has been working on a small pilot project with 8 persons from the Asylum department. In this pilot project, the staff from the UDI work closely with the Police during the initial phase of an asylum application. Together they are analysing how the asylum department can best determine the probable direction of the case very early on, in order to more efficiently and fairly process applications. B. Norway opened 2 such centers in October/November 2015, one of the centers is still open. C. The one we opened in the North of Norway is now closed, but the one in the southern part of the country (“Ankomstsenter Østfold” in the municipality of Råde) is still open. The police have only limited capacity with 10 staff members on-site while there are approx. 900 employees in the the Norwegian National Police Immigration Service in Oslo. D. The center is in industrial area 2 kilometres from the small town Råde in Norway, 50 minutes by car south of Oslo. But there is a small supermarket, and a McDonald’s close by. It is close to the main road from Oslo to Sweden E6. Google map: <https://goo.gl/maps/TxS6m4vmy4R2> E. Under normal conditions we are able to process applicants quickly enough so that the maximum stay is only 48 hours. But when there is an arrival of group of 150 persons from the relocation program from Italy/Greece some applicants have had to stay for up to two weeks. Otherwise, most applicants leave on day 3. F. Today the asylum seekers are sent to a transit reception center or an ordinary reception center. Today there is no strategic decision on further placement, but we are considering different options. G. When the applicants are moved: • All applicants are moved from the Arrival Transit Reception Center as quickly as possible because it is only a short-term facility. Where the applicants are moved to depends on: • Applicant’s needs: for special needs, especially vulnerable applicants and special health need requirements • Manifestly unfounded applications • Likelihood of return • Likelihood of future integration in Norway

**4.** NO, but we are in the process of doing so and plan on having this analysis completed by early summer.

			<b>5.</b> Christian Wisløff, <a href="mailto:cwi@udi.no">cwi@udi.no</a> , +47 93 04 13 84 Christine Natvig, <a href="mailto:chfo@udi.no">chfo@udi.no</a> , + 47 40 70 60 32
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