



# WHICH COUNTRY WILL PROCESS YOUR ASYLUM APPLICATION?

INFORMATION ON THE DUBLIN REGULATION

# IN THIS BROCHURE YOU WILL FIND ANSWERS TO THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS:

- What is the Dublin Regulation?
- Which country will process your asylum application?
- What happens if your asylum application is covered by the Dublin Regulation?
- What is the intention of the Dublin Regulation?

#### 1. THE DUBLIN REGULATION

- The Dublin Regulation is an agreement signed by a number of European countries in the Irish capital, Dublin.
- Not everyone is entitled to have their asylum application processed in Norway.
   When you apply for asylum, the Norwegian authorities first assess whether you fulfil the conditions for your case to be processed in Norway. This can have two outcomes: your asylum application will be processed in Norway, or you will be transferred to another European country, which will be responsible for your application.
- Whether your application is processed in Norway or whether you are transferred to another country depends on several factors.
- If your asylum application is to be processed in another European country the Norwegian authorities will not assess your reasons for seeking asylum, only which other European country should process your asylum application.

# 2. WHICH COUNTRY WILL PROCESS YOUR ASYLUM APPLICATION?

#### Your application will be processed in another country if you have either:

- Applied for asylum in another country covered by the Dublin Regulation before you arrived in Norway.
- Been granted a visa or residence permit by another country covered by the Dublin Regulation.

- Close family members in another country covered by the Dublin Regulation.
- Travelled illegally to a country covered by the Dublin Regulation other than Norway (you have had your fingerprints taken).
- Stayed illegally in one or more countries covered by the Dublin Regulation for at least five months.

If you are under 18 and have no parents or other legal guardians in Norway, your asylum application will only be processed in another country if you have applied for asylum in the other country in guestion or if you have parents or other legal guardians there.

# How do the Norwegian authorities decide whether your application will be processed in another country?

The most common way is to search for fingerprints in Eurodac. Eurodac is a database containing fingerprints of all people over 14 who have applied for asylum or who have illegally entered one of the countries covered by the Dublin Regulation.

#### Your application could nonetheless be processed in Norway if:

- You have a Visa issued by another country covered by the Dublin Regulation that expired more than six months ago.
- You have a residence permit issued by another country covered by the Dublin Regulation that expired more than two years ago.
- You had been outside the countries covered by the Dublin Regulation for more than
  three months before you applied for asylum in Norway. You must prove this yourself
  and the requirements are stringent. Travel tickets and a stamp in your passport
  proving that you have crossed the relevant border are often the only evidence
  accepted. The Norwegian Immigration Directorate (UDI) will nonetheless consider
  other types of documents.
- You have been sent back to your homeland by the authorities in another country covered by the Dublin Regulation.
- You have a strong affiliation with Norway:
  - You have close family in Norway (spouse, children under 18 or your parents if you are a minor). It is important that you tell the Norwegian Police about any family you have in Norway.
  - You have previously held a work or residence permit for more than a year in Norway.
- The Norwegian authorities believe that your case should be processed in Norway on humanitarian grounds. This could be the case if you are being treated for an acute and/or life-threatening illness and it would be dangerous to discontinue treatment. In such cases your application could be processed in Norway or your transfer could be postponed until your health improves.

# 3. WHAT HAPPENS IF YOUR ASYLUM APPLICATION IS COVERED BY THE DUBLIN REGULATION?

Here you can read about what happens from when you apply for asylum until the UDI decides whether your application will be processed in Norway, or whether you will be transferred to another country covered by the Dublin Regulation:

- When you apply for asylum the Police will investigate matters including your passport and visa, and search for records of your fingerprints in Eurodac.
- If the Norwegian authorities believe that another European country is responsible for your application then you will not be interviewed by the UDI.
- The UDI will contact the other country and ask the authorities there to assume responsibility for your case.
- You will be informed in writing if the UDI asks another country covered by the Dublin Regulation to assume responsibility for your application.
- You can contact the UDI in writing if you have information on why your application should be processed in Norway.
- If the other country accepts responsibility you will be transferred there.

#### You have the right to appeal

A lawyer will inform you if the UDI decides that you have to be transferred to another country covered by the Dublin Regulation. You have the right to free legal aid if you wish to appeal the decision. The lawyer must send the appeal to the UDI within three weeks.

As a rule you will not be allowed to remain in Norway while your appeal is being processed. Remember that only the issue of whether your asylum application should be processed in Norway will be assessed during the appeal review – not your reasons for applying for asylum. Since the Norwegian authorities will not send you back to your homeland, they will also not assess whether it would be dangerous to do so. This is the duty of the responsible country covered by the Dublin Regulation, if it has not already done so.

#### Case processing time

It normally takes the UDI from two to six months to decide whether your case will be processed in Norway or whether you will be transferred to another country covered by the Dublin Regulation.

#### 4. WHAT IS THE INTENTION OF THE DUBLIN REGULATION?

- To prevent the same person seeking asylum in several countries either consecutively or simultaneously.
- To secure the asylum seeker's right to have his/her asylum application processed in a European country. This avoids asylum seekers being sent from one country to another without any of these countries assuming responsibility for the asylum seeker.
- To keep families together so that the closest family members (parents, children under 18, spouses, in some cases cohabitants/partners) have their case processed by the same country.

#### EUROPEAN COUNTRIES COVERED BY THE DUBLIN REGULATION:



1	Belgium	7 Greece	13 Lithuania	19 Portugal	25 Switzerland
2	Bulgaria	8 Ireland	14 Luxembourg	20 Romania	26 Sweden
3	Denmark	9 Iceland	15 Malta	21 Slovakia	27 The Czech Republic
4	Estonia	10 Italy	16 The Netherlands	22 Slovenia	28 Germany
5	France	11 Cyprus	17 Norway	23 Spain	29 Hungary
6	Finland	12 Latvia	18 Poland	24 The United Kingdom	30 Austria

This brochure has been prepared by the Norwegian Organisation for Asylum Seekers (NOAS). NOAS is a non-governmental human rights organisation that provides information and legal assistance for asylum seekers.

#### **ADDRESSES**

### THE POLICE IMMIGRATION UNIT (POLITIETS UTLENDINGSENHET)

The police register newly arrived asylum seekers.

The police also repatriate asylum seekers who do not leave

Norway voluntarily once they have had their asylum applications rejected.

**Postal address:** Postboks 8102 Dep., NO-0032 Oslo, Norway **Visiting address:** Christian Krohgs gate 32, 0186 Oslo Tel.: +47 22 34 24 00. Fax: +47 22 34 24 80

E-mail: pu@politiet.no

#### THE NORWEGIAN IMMIGRATION DIRECTORATE (UDI)

is a government institution whose duties include processing asylum applications, visas and national citizenship matters, and reuniting families. The UDI is also responsible for reception centres.

**Postal address:** Postboks 8108 Dep., NO-0032 Oslo, Norway **Visiting address:** Hausmannsgt. 21, 0182 Oslo

Tel.: +47 23 35 15 00, Fax: +47 23 35 15 01 Website: www.udi.no, E-mail: ots@udi.no

#### INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR MIGRATION (IOM)

Information on assisted voluntary return

Postal address: Postboks 8927 Youngstorget, NO-0028 Oslo, Norway

Visiting address: Storgata 10a, 2. etg, 0155 Oslo

Tel.: +47 23 10 53 20, Fax: +47 23 10 53 21

E-mail: osloreturn@iom.int

Opening hours: Weekdays: 10:00 – 15:00, Weekends: Closed

## THE NORWEGIAN IMMIGRATION APPEALS BOARD (UTLENDINGSNEMNDA – UNE)

is a quasi-judicial administration body that processes appeals relating to rejections made by the UDI.

**Postal address:** Postboks 8165 Dep., NO-0034 Oslo, Norway **Visiting address:** Stenersgt. 1B/C, 0050 Oslo Tel.: +47 21 08 50 00, Fax: +47 21 08 50 01

Website: www.une.no, E-mail: postmottak@une.no

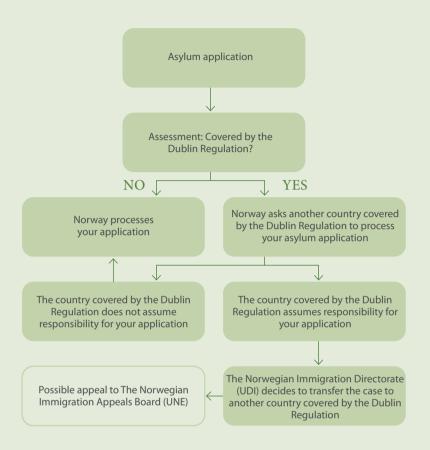
#### THE NORWEGIAN RED CROSS (NORGES RØDE KORS)

tracing services, assist in re-establishing contact between family members who have been separated due to war, conflict or catastrophes. The Red Cross does not provide information on you to the UDI or others. The service is free.

**Postal address:** Postboks 1 Grønland, NO-0133 Oslo, Norway **Visiting address:** Hausmannsgt. 7, 0186 Oslo

Tel.: +47 22 05 40 00

Website: www.rodekors.no, E-mail: tracing@redcross.no





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