



UNHCR Study on the Dublin III Regulation

Job vacancy for national researcher

UNHCR is recruiting national researchers for the first phase (October – December 2015) of a study on the Dublin III Regulation.

The study will examine how the Dublin III Regulation is applied by the thirty-two countries (twenty-eight EU Member States and four Associated Countries) that participate in the Dublin system. Detailed research will be carried out by national researchers in ten selected countries, combined with more general desk research carried out by the Policy and Legal Support Unit (PLUS) of UNHCR's Bureau for Europe.

The summary outline of the study is available below.

The national researcher, under the direct supervision of the project manager, will contribute to gathering evidence-based information that will serve as a basis for drafting the final report of the study. In particular, the national researcher will collect and analyse information on the implementation, at the national level, of selected provisions of the Dublin III Regulation.

1. Required qualifications and experience

Education:

- University degree in law, or a related field
- Excellent knowledge of international refugee law and of the Common European Asylum System

Work experience:

- Three to five years' experience in a refugee-related field
- Specific experience of working in the field of asylum in the EU, in particular with the Dublin III Regulation and other instruments of the Common European Asylum System

Key competencies:

- Flexibility and strong interpersonal and cross-cultural communication skills
- Experience in conducting in-depth research, including interpretation and analysis of quantitative and qualitative data
- Experience in conducting face-to-face interviews an asset
- Excellent writing and communication skills in English and in French
- Knowledge of another UN or EU language desirable, Arabic an asset
- Computer literacy
- Ability to work independently and proactively under pressure and time constraints

Candidates must be entitled to work in the country concerned and hold a valid travel document.

2. Contractual arrangements

The national researcher will be issued an initial contract, subject to UNOPS terms and conditions, covering the first phase of the national research until 31 December 2015. The contract will not carry any expectation, legal or otherwise, of being renewed for the second phase of the national research in 2016.

3. Duty station

The national researcher for France will work from home, and is expected to travel on the national territory and to carry out a mission to Brussels for briefing purposes in mid-October 2015.

4. Application and recruitment procedure

To apply for this position submit a UN Personal History Form ([P 11](#)) and a motivation letter in English by **6 September 2015** to: frapa@unhcr.org, copying Silvia Cravesana at CRAVESAN@unhcr.org using the following subject line:
National Researcher_Dublin Study_France_CANDIDATE NAME

Please note: Incomplete or late applications will not be taken into account. Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted for an interview.



UNHCR Study on the Dublin III Regulation Summary outline

1. Scope and purpose of the study

The study will examine how the Dublin III Regulation is applied by the thirty-two countries (twenty-eight EU Member States and four Associated Countries) that participate in the Dublin system. Detailed research will be carried out by national researchers in ten selected countries, combined with more general desk research carried out by the Policy and Legal Support Unit (PLUS) of UNHCR's Bureau for Europe.

The purpose of the national research, which is limited in scope, is to assess:

- i) whether applicants for international protection are benefiting to the full extent possible from the following criteria for determining the Member State responsible for examining their applications for international protection, and, if not, why: the criteria in the Dublin III Regulation that relate to minors and family members (*Articles 8 to 11*), the dependency criteria (*Article 16*), and the discretionary clauses (*Article 17*);
- ii) how the procedural safeguards and guarantees for applicants that are provided for in the Dublin III Regulation are applied in practice, and whether they are adequate;
- iii) whether applicants who are subject to transfer – be it through supervised or escorted departure or through being granted a period for voluntary departure – continue to benefit from the provision of reception conditions up until the point of their departure to the Member State responsible;
- iv) how often and in what circumstances detention (or an alternative to detention) is used for purposes of securing Dublin transfers, and how often detained applicants end up being transferred from the determining/requesting Member State.

On the basis of the above assessment, and of the more general research carried out by PLUS, the study will make recommendations concerning:

- a) maximising the potential of the Dublin III Regulation as it currently stands, taking into account that the Dublin criteria are intended to be fair both to applicants and to the Member States (*Recital 5*), and taking into account the need for practical solidarity between Member States, in particular in support of those Member States facing particular pressures on their asylum systems;
- b) possible future amendments to the Dublin III Regulation.

More generally, the study may also feed into ongoing discussions as to whether alternatives or supplementary arrangements to the Dublin system should be considered in addition to the provisional relocation mechanism currently being planned for the benefit of Italy and Greece.

The report resulting from the study will be published and shared with all relevant stakeholders, including the Member States, relevant EU institutions and agencies, and NGOs. As appropriate, a launch conference/event will be organized at the European level.

2. Methodology

The study will be based on desk research carried out by PLUS, and on field and desk research carried out by national researchers in ten sample countries: Denmark, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Malta, Norway, Poland, Slovenia, and the United Kingdom.

Each national researcher will gather the information needed to carry out the assessment in points (i) to (v) above. Information will be gathered through a combination of some or all of the following methods:

- a) desk-based documentary research and analysis of legislation, administrative provisions and instructions, any available guidelines and training materials, significant case law, other existing data (including statistics), and relevant literature;
- b) observation of Dublin interviews of applicants;
- c) selection and audit of Dublin case files, including analysis of interview transcripts/summaries and measures taken to identify and/or trace family members, and analysis of take charge requests and of responses to take charge requests;
- d) interviews and consultation with national stakeholders, including personnel of national Dublin units and/or of other authorities having competence for the Dublin procedure, personnel of any quality assurance unit that might exist, personnel of reception centres and detention centres, legal representatives and advisers, and NGOs;
- e) interviews – using an interpreter where necessary – with applicants who are, or have been, subject to the Dublin procedure.

The national research will be coordinated, monitored and supervised by the Project Manager in PLUS, with the support of the relevant UNHCR regional and/or country office. The Project Manager will also be responsible for the desk research to be carried out by PLUS, and for drafting the final report of the study, which will include a comparative analysis of the findings of the national research.

3. Timeframe

The Project Manager has been recruited and has already started work on the study, including desk research.

The national research component of the study will be conducted in two phases:

- i) October-December 2015: a briefing meeting in mid-October with all national researchers in Brussels, followed by ten weeks of research in each country;
- ii) January-February 2016: as needed in the country concerned, and subject to the availability of funds, four to eight weeks of further research.¹

The final report of the study will be produced by 31 May 2016.

BE PLUS, 18 August 2015

¹ For various reasons (country size, number of applicants, etc.), the national research may require more time in some countries than in others.