

Information on the **Dublin Regulation** for applicants seeking international protection

What is the Dublin Regulation?

In Europe, countries have developed common rules for dealing with asylum requests. One part of this system is the Dublin Regulation. The Dublin Regulation is a law which determines which country among 32 countries in Europe or 'Dublin countries' is responsible for deciding your asylum application based on a number of criteria (see below).

'Dublin countries'

Austria	Finland	Latvia	Portugal
Belgium	France	Liechtenstein	Romania
Bulgaria	Germany	Lithuania	Slovakia
Croatia	Greece	Luxembourg	Slovenia
Cyprus	Hungary	Malta	Spain
Czech Republic	Iceland	Netherlands	Sweden
Denmark	Ireland	Norway	Switzerland
Estonia	Italy	Poland	United Kingdom

This means that in some specific circumstances you may be allowed stay in the country where you are, for example if you have family here, or move to another country in a safe, free and regular manner, for example if you have family there.

If there are reasons to be transferred to another country, and if this request is accepted by that country, then your asylum application will be examined there. If you are an adult, family reunion under the Dublin Regulation can only occur if the family member in another country has given written consent to welcome you.

You may be able to legally go to another 'Dublin country' if

- You are a child (less than 18 years old). You are not with your mother or your father or another adult responsible for you. You have, or think you may have:
 - ▶ a father, mother, other adult responsible for you, brother, sister, who is legally present in another 'Dublin country'; or
 - ▶ an aunt, uncle or grandparent who is legally present in another 'Dublin country' and can take care of you;

and

- ▶ you would like to join him/her in that country.
- You are an adult and you have a spouse, partner, child (of less than 18 years old) in another 'Dublin country'. You would like to join him/her. He/she is applying for asylum in that country or has received a positive decision on his/her asylum application.
- You have a valid residence document/visa issued by a 'Dublin country' or a residence document that expired less than two years ago or a visa that expired less than six months ago and you did not leave the territory of the 'Dublin countries' since.
- You are pregnant, have a new born child, are severely disabled, seriously ill or elderly AND you have a parent, sibling or child who is legally resident in another 'Dublin country'. You would like to join him/her. That person is able to assist you.
- You have an adult child, sibling or parent who is pregnant, a new born child, severely disabled, severely ill or elderly who is legally resident in another 'Dublin country'. You would like to join that person. You are able to assist that person.
- You would like to join a member of your family in another 'Dublin country' for humanitarian reasons, in particular for cultural and family considerations. That country agrees to accept you.

If you think you are in one of these situations, it is important that you

- Apply for asylum with the authorities of the country where you are now.
- Explain your situation and share all the relevant information / documents you have regarding yourself and your family members (names, addresses, phone numbers, evidence of the family link, residence permits, etc.) to support your request with the authorities as soon as possible.

If you have applied for asylum, transited or lived in another ‘Dublin country’

You may be transferred back to that country if:

- you have applied for asylum in another ‘Dublin country’ prior to your entry in the country where you now are; or
- there is evidence (such as your fingerprints) that you have entered Europe from another ‘Dublin country’ or that you have been living for at least 5 months in another ‘Dublin country’;

and

- you have no valid reason (see the criteria above) for requesting transfer to another ‘Dublin country’,

Dublin Procedure

- If you are a child (less than 18 years old), the authorities will find someone to help you (representative/guardian/lawyer).
- You will be asked to give your fingerprints (if you are over 14 years).
- You can receive help from an interpreter and have the right to ask for one if you need one.
- You have the right to contact UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency, which can help you with your request (please see contact details on the back).
- You will be interviewed in the country where you are by the authorities and you will be asked to provide relevant information and/or documentation.
- If you are in one of the situations described above, the authorities of the country where you are may send a request to the authorities of the other country if you have reasons to be transferred or decide to examine your application if you have reasons to stay.
- You will be informed of the decision of the country where your request was sent.
- The duration of the process from application to transfer, if agreed by the country, varies. It should normally take between 1 to 11 months but there have been cases for which it took longer.

During this period, you have the right to

- Stay in the country where you are
- Receive accommodation, food, basic medical care, emergency medical care, etc.
- If you are below 18 years old, you can continue to attend school.

Contact details

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