



Please cite as: EUAA, '[4.8.4. Conditions in detention facilities](#)' in *Asylum Report 2022*, Mayo 2022.

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The conditions to be met in detention are defined in the recast Reception Conditions Directive, while international and European legal frameworks on human rights provide additional standards and guarantees to protect against inhuman and degrading treatment.

Growing concerns about conditions in detention centres and the use of de facto detention were raised for example for Greece,[839](#) Italy,[840](#) Lithuania,[841](#) Malta[842](#) and Poland. To accommodate a larger number of detainees, as an emergency solution, the minimum space per person was temporarily reduced from 4 sqm to 2 sqm in Poland on the basis of the Ordinance of the Minister of the Interior and Administration.[843](#) All detention centres for families and single women were returned to 4 sqm on 25 April 2022, and the centre in Wędrzyn returned to 4 sqm on 6 June 2022. In Malta, the Council of Europe's Commissioner for Human Rights was also struck by the deplorable situation in Block A in the Safi Detention Centre, despite the efforts made by the authorities to improve the living conditions.[844](#) Thus, the Commissioner strongly urged the authorities to take immediate action to ensure dignified conditions.

Other deficiencies were noted especially concerning the provision of health care to people in detention,[845](#) the use of cameras and a lack of a complaint system (in Cyprus [846](#) and Finland), lack of access to exercise and the provision of recreational activities (in Finland [847](#) and Croatia [848](#)), absence of legal representation (in Switzerland) [849](#) (see [Section 4.10](#)) and [restrictions](#) on the use of mobile phones. In Greece, Refugee Support Aegean noted that the number of medical staff and interpreters in pre-removal centres remained worryingly low.[850](#)

In Finland, the CPT had no critical remarks to make on material conditions, but a few minor deficiencies were identified.[851](#) The Finnish government presented answers to the CPT following its visit in September 2020.[852](#) The government provided information on access to medical treatment, psychological support and psychiatric treatment in the detention facilities for foreigners in Metsälä and Joutseno. The Metsälä facility (Helsinki detention facility) will be moved to a new building in 2024. The Ombudsperson noted privacy issues in the Joutseno detention unit with the use of cameras in specific areas. It also lacked a complaint system that is accessible, confidential and functional, where complaints and action taken must be recorded.[853](#)

The impact of COVID-19 measures continued to impede access to detention facilities,⁸⁵⁴ and consequently, access to legal assistance, social and health support, and communication.⁸⁵⁵ For example, JRS Europe observed the continuation of some of these specific challenges in 2021 as well.⁸⁵⁶ Social distancing and quarantine obligations led to capacity adjustments in Sweden and transfers to other locations to address shortages in Netherlands.

- ⁸³⁹HumanRights360. (2022). Input to the Asylum Report 2022. https://euaa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/2022-03/helsinki_foundation_for_human_rights.docx
- ⁸⁴⁰Global Detention Project. (2021, August 30). Italy Immigration Detention Profile: COVID-19 Updates. <https://www.globaldetentionproject.org/countries/europe/italy# covid-19-updates>
- ⁸⁴¹Office of the Seimas Ombudsmen | Lietuvos Seimo Kontrolieriai. (2022, January 24). Ataskaita dėl užsieniečių žmogaus teisių ir laisvių užtikrinimo Valstybės sienos apsaugos tarnybos prie Lietuvos Respublikos vidaus reikalų ministerijos Kybartų užsieniečių registracijos centre [Report on ensuring the human rights and freedoms of foreigners at the Kybartai Foreigners Registration Centre of the State Border Guard Service under the Ministry of the Interior of the Republic of Lithuania]. https://www.lrski.lt/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/Final_Ataskaita_Kybartai_2021.pdf; Global Detention Project, & Human Rights Monitoring Institute. (2021, October 18). Lithuania: Submission to the UN Committee Against Torture 72nd Session, November-December 2021: Issues Related to Migrants, Refugees, People Seeking Asylum, and Immigration Detention. <https://www.globaldetentionproject.org/joint-submission-to-the-committee-against-torture-lithuania>
- ⁸⁴²Council of Europe, European Committee for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment. (2021, March 10). Council of Europe’s anti-torture Committee calls on Malta to improve the treatment of detained migrants. <https://www.coe.int/en/web/cpt/-/council-of-europe-s-anti-torture-committee-calls-on-malta-to-improve-the-treatment-of-detained-migrants>; See also: Netherlands, Council of State [Afdeling Bestuursrechtspraak van de Raad van State], State Secretary v Applicant, 202003913/1/V3, ECLI:NL:RVS:2021:199, 02 February 2021. Link redirects to the English summary in the EUAA Case Law Database. Netherlands, Court of The Hague [Rechtbank Den Haag], Applicant v State Secretary for Justice and Security, No NL21.5187, ECLI:NL:RBDHA:2021:9533, 16 August 2021. Link redirects to the English summary in the EUAA Case Law Database. Netherlands, Court of The Hague [Rechtbank Den Haag], Applicant (Sudan) v State Secretary for Security and Justice (Staatssecretaris van Justitie en Veiligheid), NL21.136, NL:RBDHA:2021:3858, 19 April 2021. Link redirects to the English summary in the EUAA Case Law Database.
- ⁸⁴³Rozporządzenie Ministra Spraw Wewnętrznych i Administracji z dnia 13 sierpnia 2021 r. zmieniające rozporządzenie w sprawie strzeżonych ośrodków i aresztów dla cudzoziemców [Regulation of the Minister of the Interior and Administration 13 August 2021 amending the regulation on guarded centres and arrests for foreigners]. <https://dziennikustaw.gov.pl/DU/2021/1482>
- ⁸⁴⁴Council of Europe, Commissioner for Human Rights. (2021, October 18). Reforms needed to better protect journalists’ safety and the rights of migrants and women in Malta.

<https://www.coe.int/en/web/commissioner/-/reforms-needed-to-better-protect-journalists-safety-and-the-rights-of-migrants-and-women-in-malta>

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<https://euaa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/2022-03/asylex.pdf>
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<http://www.ombudsman.gov.cy/ombudsman/ombudsman.nsf/All/FB1778C45E7E5870C22587D400>
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