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How to read the guidance

Example: assessing the location of the housing		Explanation
STANDARD	Ensure effective geographic access to relevant services, such as public services, school, health care, social and legal assistance, a shop for daily needs, laundry and leisure activities.	The standard represents commonly agreed practice and compliance should be ‘ensured’ throughout national reception systems.
INDICATOR	The facility is located at a reasonable walking distance from relevant services and available infrastructure is safe for walking.	The indicator represents a tool to measure compliance with the standard, i.e. by assessing whether the distance between the housing and relevant public services can be considered ‘reasonable’ as a walking distance and whether the necessary infrastructure exists. Indicators listed under each standard should be understood as cumulative without an order of hierarchy among them.

Example: assessing the location of the housing		Explanation
ALTERNATIVE INDICATORS	**Indicator 1.2(a):** The relevant services are provided within the housing. **OR** **Indicator 1.2(b):** The facility is located at a reasonable walking distance from relevant services and the available infrastructure is safe for walking. **OR** **Indicator 1.2(c):** Relevant services are accessible by public transport and the duration of the journey is reasonable. **OR** **Indicator 1.2(d):** Relevant services are accessible through organised transport provided by the Member State.	Alternative indicators are used in situations where different options can be applied to measure compliance with the standard.
Additional remarks	This indicator should be developed in relation to a maximum specific distance, taking into account the national context and the environment such as whether there is a footpath available, whether the area is very hilly, etc. For example, a maximum 3 km to public services in general and 2 km to health care facilities and school.	The additional remark represents an indication as to what could constitute a 'reasonable walking distance'. In light of the different national contexts, the applicability of the 'additional remarks' might vary across EU Member States.
Good practice	Good practice on defining the location of housing: • It is considered good practice to limit the duration of the journey by public transport to a maximum of 1.5 hours or 1 hour for health care or shop for daily needs.	Lastly, the document refers to existin 'good practice' with regards to the specific sections. The term good practice' does not result from a formal evaluation but is based on current practice of some Member States. While not representing a commonly agreed standard at this stage, Member States are nonetheless encouraged to consider adopting these good practices into their national systems.

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