Please cite as: EUAA, '4.7.2.3. Employment' in *Asylum Report 2022*, May 2022.

4.7.2.3. Employment

4.7.2.3. Employment

icon for employment

To facilitate employment opportunities for applicants, Ireland and Latvia reduced the waiting period to legally work. In Ireland, the waiting period to apply for a work permit was reduced from 9 months to 6 months, with an extended validity from 6 months to 12 months.749 In Latvia, the waiting period was shortened from 6 months to 3 months.750

Malta amended its employment policy so applicants from a safe country of origin or in the Dublin procedure can access the labour market after 9 months from the lodging of their application for international protection, while other applicants are able to work legally as soon as their asylum application is confirmed. The Malta Refugee Council published a statement, endorsed by 28 civil society organisations, expressing their concern with this policy and noting its potential negative impact on an applicant's livelihood, mental health and their general labour conditions.751

The changes came after a judgment from the CJEU, where the court held that applicants in the Dublin procedure should have access to the labour market under the same conditions as any other applicant under the recast Reception Conditions Directive *(see Section 2.4).*

Legislative amendments on the provision of the Greek health care number (PAAYPA) aimed to facilitate access to the labour market, but civil society organisations observed many remaining administrative barriers in the process which prevented several applicants from legally engaging in employment *(see Section 4.7.2.5).*

The registration of job seekers in Cyprus and the renewal of their unemployment period moved online, including for asylum applicants.752 The Cyprus Refugee Council observed that applicants with poor English or Greek language knowledge had difficulties in accessing and using the online system.753 The Ministry of Labour aimed to further facilitate the employment process with new orders issued in October 2021, allowing applicants to start working before a formal decision is made on the work permit application.754

The Dutch Advisory Council on Migration published a document "From asylum seeker to carer", putting forward recommendations to facilitate an applicant's access to the care sector.755 The outgoing State Secretary for Justice and Security welcomed these recommendations but noted that the new government should follow up.756

749-756

- 749Department of Justice | An Roinn Dlí agus Cirt. (2021, January 28). Minister McEntee announces reduced 6 month waiting period for international protection applicants to access work. https://www.justice.ie/en/JELR/Pages/PR21000016
- 750Ministry of the Interior | Lekšlietu Ministrija. (2021, February 18). Turpmāk patvēruma meklētāji varēs ātrāk sākt strādāt algotu darbu [In the future, asylum seekers will be able to take up paid employment more quickly]. https://www.iem.gov.lv/lv/jaunums/turpmak-patveruma-mekletaji-vares-atrak-sakt-stradat-algotu-darbu?utm_source=https%3A%2F%2Feuc-word-edit.officeapps.live.com%2F
- 751Malta Refugee Council. (2021, June 11). A new policy to drive people into poverty and marginalisation: Malta Refugee Council reacts to revisions to policy on access to employment for asylum-seekers. https://maltarefugeecouncil.org.mt/A-new-policy-to-drive-people-into-poverty-and-marginalisation; Migrant Offshore Aid Station. (2022). Input to the Asylum Report 2022. https://euaa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/2022-03/migrant_offshore_aid_station_moas.pdf
- 752Public Employment Service | Δημόσιας Υπηρεσίας Απασχόλησης. (2022, May 31). Διαδικτυακή Πλατφόρμα [Online Platform]. https://www.pescps.dl.mlsi.gov.cy/CPSWeb/f001w.jsp
- 753AIDA Cyprus. (2022). Country Report: Cyprus - 2021 Update. Edited by ECRE. Written by Cyprus Refugee Council. https://asylumineurope.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/04/AIDA_CY_2021update.pdf
- 754AIDA Cyprus. (2022). Country Report: Cyprus - 2021 Update. Edited by ECRE. Written by Cyprus Refugee Council. https://asylumineurope.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/04/AIDA_CY_2021update.pdf
- 755Advisory Council on Migration | Adviescommissie voor Vreemdelingenzaken. (2021, May 11). Van asielzoeker naar zorgverlener: Arbeidsdeelname van asielmigranten in de zorgsector [From asylum seeker to care provider: Employment of asylum migrants in the care sector]. https://www.adviescommissievoorvreemdelingenzaken.nl/publicaties/publicaties/2021/05/11/van-asielzoeker-naar-zorgverlener
- 756Ministry of Justice and Security | Ministerie van Justitie en Veiligheid. (2021, November 22). Kamerbrief met beleidsreactie op ACVZ-Rapport over van asielzoeker tot zorgverlener [Letter to parliament with policy response to ACVZ Report on asylum seekers as healthcare provider]. https://www.rijksoverheid.nl/documenten/kamerstukken/2021/11/22/tk-beleidsreactie-acvz-rapport-van-asielzoeker-tot-zorgverlener

© European Union Agency for Asylum 2026 | Email: info@euaa.europa.eu