

# Overview of the organisation of reception systems in EU+ countries

## Introduction

This Situational Update provides an overview of the organisation of reception systems in EU+ countries. It provides insights on the main trends related to:

- the designation of authorities responsible for reception;
- the management of the reception systems in terms of policy-making, capacity management and the daily operation of facilities;
- the division of the reception path into different reception phases according to the national classification;
- the establishment of dispersal quotas and the allocation of reception places; and
- the creation of different types of facilities.

The overview does not cover facilities used for the detention of applicants for international protection or special facilities for unaccompanied children and applicants with vulnerabilities, as the management of these facilities often falls entirely or partially outside of the mandate of reception authorities.

## Highlights

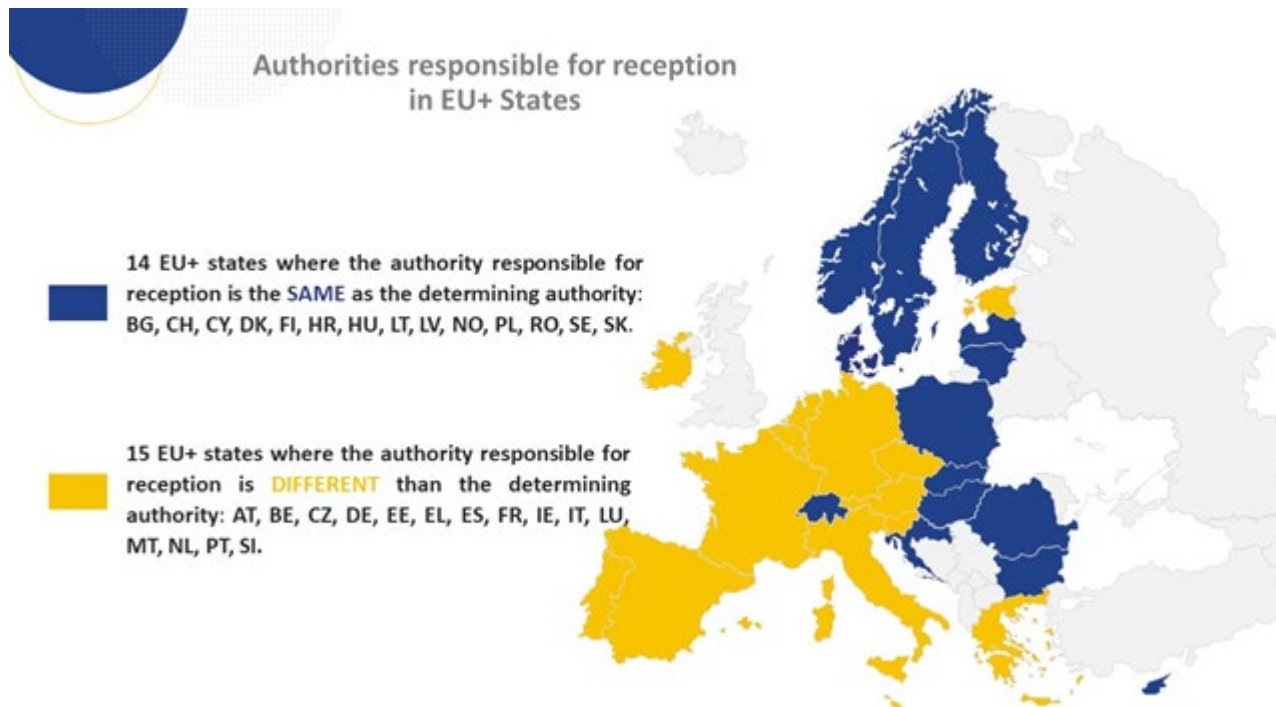
- The majority of EU+ countries opted to designate one responsible authority for the reception of applicants for international protection. Several countries have embarked on significant reforms within the reception systems in recent years, including institutional re-organisation with the creation of new responsible authorities or the restructuring of existing ones.
- While policy-making and capacity management are typically centralised, the organisation of the daily operations of facilities is more divergent, with centralised, mixed and decentralised approaches present almost equally.
- The reception path is divided into different stages in most EU+ countries – typically involving two, initial and subsequent reception stages – but the logic behind this division is often different and based on national classifications. The division of these stages is not always clear-cut, and not all applicants go through all the steps in a chronological manner in each country.
- The majority of EU+ countries allocate reception places (i.e. assign an applicant to a specific reception facility, for example based on the availability of places) rather than using dispersal

quotas, which aim to balance the distribution of applicants among the different regions of a country.

- All EU+ countries rely to some extent on collective accommodation to provide material reception conditions. When available, small-scale or individual accommodation is typically reserved for applicants with special needs and vulnerabilities or for later stages of the reception path. Specific types of reception facilities were set up in some countries to address particular challenges in the national context, such as a rise in the number of applicants with disruptive behaviour or the high number of applicants in the Dublin or accelerated procedures.

## 1. Reception authorities

The majority of EU+ countries opted to designate one responsible authority for the reception of applicants for international protection (BE, BG, CZ, DK, EL, ES, FI, FR, HR, HU, IRE, LV, LU, MT, NL, NO, PL, RO, SE, SK, SI). Another model requires the involvement of several authorities at the national level (CY, EE, LT, PT). In Austria, Italy and Switzerland, reception authorities include entities both from the national and regional levels. Only Germany operates a model where the reception authorities are from the regional level only, as the federal states (*Länder*) are designated with this task.



Several countries have embarked on significant reforms within their reception systems in recent years, including institutional re-organisation with the creation of new responsible authorities or the restructuring of existing ones. Some examples include:

- Austria: The new Austrian Federal Agency for Reception and Support Services (BBU, Bundesagentur für Betreuungs- und Unterstützungsleistungen GmbH) started its activities

related to the provision of material reception conditions on 1 December 2020, while legal advice and representation, translation and interpretation services, advice and counselling on return and human rights monitoring were implemented as of 1 January 2021.<sup>1</sup>

- Ireland: In 2019, the tasks for reception and accommodation were divided into two new sections within the Immigration Service Delivery Function: the International Protection Accommodation Services (IPAS) and the International Protection Procurement Services (IPPS).<sup>2</sup> In 2020, IPAS and IPPS became part of the Justice, International and Equality Division in the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth, after previously being under the Department of Justice and Equality.<sup>3</sup>
- Luxembourg: The National Reception Office (ONA, Office national de l'accueil) started its operations on 1 January 2020, taking over tasks from the National Reception and Integration Office (OLAI, Office national de l'accueil et de l'intégration).<sup>4</sup>

Reception authorities remained stable in other countries, for example, in the Netherlands, where the Central Agency for the Reception of Asylum Seekers (COA, Centraal Orgaan opvang asielzoekers) has been responsible for reception since 1994,<sup>5</sup> or in Belgium, where the Federal Agency for the Reception of Asylum Seekers (Fedasil, Federaal agentschap voor de opvang van asielzoekers / L'Agence fédérale pour l'accueil des demandeurs d'asile) has been operational since 2002.<sup>6</sup>



## 2. Management of the reception system

Policy-making on the reception of applicants for international protection is centralised in EU+ countries, with the exception of Austria, Germany and Switzerland. This responsibility is shared between the federal state and federal provinces in Austria and between the federal and cantonal levels in Switzerland. Policy-making is decentralised in Germany with various systems operating at the level of the *Länder* – policy-making related to initial reception is centralised and it is often decentralised for subsequent reception.

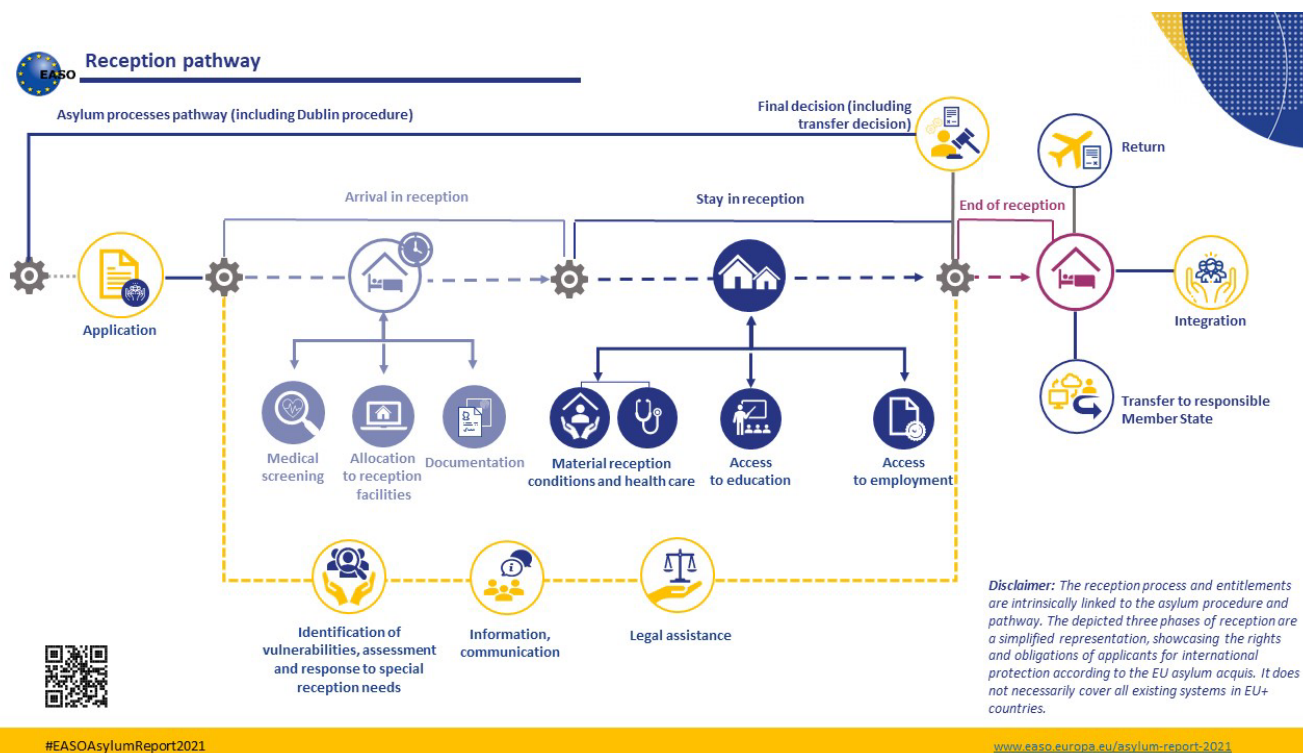
Similarly, capacity management – the decision on the number of places and opening or closing of reception facilities – is centralised in the majority of EU+ countries. Exceptions include Austria, Italy and Switzerland, where capacity management is shared between the central and regional or local levels. Various capacity management approaches exist in Germany at the level of the *Länder*, and – similarly to policy-making – decisions on the capacity of initial reception facilities are taken by *Länder* in a centralised manner, while it is often decentralised for subsequent reception.

Organising daily operation of facilities is more divergent. Ten Member States operate centralised systems, where the facilities are managed directly by state authorities and they are typically state-owned (BG, HR, CZ, HU, LV, MT, NL, RO, SK, SI). In some of these countries, for example in Czechia, the legal possibility exists to outsource facility management to municipalities or private entities based on a contract or agreement, even though this is currently not implemented. In Malta, one open, small-scale facility is owned and managed by the Malta Emigrants Commission (Catholic Church branch), but this is an exception and the rest of the capacity is owned and managed by the Agency for the Welfare of Asylum Seekers (AWAS).

Another 11 countries have established a mixed system for the daily operation of facilities (AT, BE, CY, FI, FR, EL, LT, LU, PL, ES, SE), and these are partially managed by the state authorities, while others are managed by local authorities, civil society organisations or private operators based on tenders, agreements or contracts with variable length. In addition, in Poland, applicants are encouraged to live outside of centres and the majority of them do so. Approximately one-half of applicants live outside of reception centres in Finland as well.

In seven countries (DK, EE, IRE, IT, NO, PT, CH) the daily operation of centres is decentralised and the management is outsourced, contracted or delegated to the regional or local level, civil society organisations or private operators. Ireland's reception model is currently undergoing some significant changes, shifting from contracting commercial/private operators to a not-for-profit approach.<sup>7</sup> In Germany, initial reception is operated by the *Länder*, and for subsequent reception, the *Länder* can decide whether daily management is carried out by local authorities or transferred to civil society organisations or private operators.

### 3. Reception phases



Reception is divided into different phases in the majority of EU+ countries according to national classifications, and only eight do not split the reception path into different stages (BG, HR, EE, EL, HU, LV, RO, SI). However, this division is often based on different logic.

Arrival centres were set up, for instance, in Belgium, Luxembourg, the Netherlands and Norway. These facilities bring together various stakeholders involved in asylum and/or reception processes in one place, facilitating communication among the different actors and fostering more streamlined

procedures. This concept aims to gather as much information as quickly as possible on applicants, and determine at the beginning of the process both the type of asylum procedure and the type of reception facility and support that are most suitable for each individual applicant. Applicants are quickly allocated a place in another reception facility, as in principle they should only stay for a short period of time (ranging from a few days to about 4 weeks) in an arrival centre.

In some countries, applicants stay in initial reception for the period of identification and registration procedures (often including screening and medical checks), for example in Croatia, Cyprus, France, Ireland, Italy, Malta, Norway, Poland, Slovakia and Sweden. In practice, the length of the stay can vary from a few days to several weeks, depending on the length foreseen for these procedures but also on the availability of places in the following reception phase.

In Spain, the reception system includes an initial phase of assessment and referral lasting a maximum of 30 days.

In a group of countries (AT, DK, LT, NO, PT), initial reception for applicants lasts until a decision is taken on the admissibility of the application. In Austria, the federal state is responsible for this phase – when basic material reception conditions are typically provided in-kind and only organised, collective accommodation is available for applicants. In Portugal, the Portuguese Refugee Council operates these types of centres. As a main rule, applicants in Lithuania under the admissibility or accelerated procedure can be accommodated up to 28 days in border guard posts until a decision on entry is issued. However, currently there is a state of emergency in place, which allows authorities to extend the stay in this initial phase for up to 6 months.

In Finland, applicants are accommodated in initial reception facilities in one of the transit centres until the personal interview is conducted.

Applicants stay in initial reception until a decision is taken on their application in Germany and in Switzerland. However, in Germany, applicants should not stay longer than 18 months at the reception centre, which can be exceptionally prolonged in special cases regulated by the federal Asylum Act and the *Länder* can impose an obligation to stay up to 24 months. Minors, their parents/legal guardians and their adult, unmarried siblings should not stay longer than 6 months. In Switzerland, an exception applies and the cantons take over the responsibility when applicants are channelled through the extended procedure and have been waiting for more than 140 days for a decision.

Most EU+ countries divide the reception path into two phases, which typically includes initial reception and follow-up accommodation (AT, CY, CZ, DK, FI, FR, DE, IE, LT, LU, MT, PL, PT, SK, ES, SE, CH). The third step is often reserved for recognised beneficiaries of international protection, for example in France and Slovakia. This was the case until recently in Lithuania as well, but since July 2021 the extension of the Refugee Reception Centre also operates as a closed, second-line facility for applicant families. Reception is split into three phases in Belgium, Italy, the Netherlands and Norway.

The division of these phases is not always clear-cut in practice, and not all applicants go through all the steps in chronological order in each country. Applicants who have had their application rejected often remain in the first phase of reception until a final decision is taken on their appeal. For instance, Spain recently changed its reception policy, and following the initial and the first phase of reception,



the second phase is now reserved for beneficiaries of international protection and is no longer linked to the length of the stay in the country.<sup>8</sup>

In addition, applicants with special needs or vulnerabilities may be placed immediately in a more advanced phase, skipping steps of the reception path. For example, in Belgium, applicants with special needs in principle should be directly placed in small-scale facilities called local reception initiatives.

The availability of reception places and the needs of the reception system may also alter the reception path. Within one phase, applicants may still be transferred from one centre to another, so movements within facilities do not only happen during a transition to another phase. Frequent transfers within facilities happen for example in the Netherlands.



#### **4. Dispersal on the territory and allocation of reception places**

Dispersal systems aim to balance the distribution of applicants among different regions of a country, while the allocation of reception places involves the assignment to a specific reception facility.

Dispersal systems are in place for applicants for international protection in five countries (AT, FR, DE, IT, CH). In Denmark, Estonia and the Netherlands, dispersal systems are set up after reception for recognised beneficiaries of international protection. While applicants in Ireland are currently allocated to facilities based on the availability of places, the new reception system will have a dispersal mechanism for applicants arriving in Phase 2 of the reception path. Dispersal quotas may be based on different factors, for example, on the population of each province (Austria), canton (Switzerland) or municipalities and regions (Italy), on the population combined with the tax revenues of the states (Germany), or on the population combined with the GDP per inhabitant, unemployment rate and the regional reception capacity (France). Another type of regional dispersal or allocation may be in place in each of the provinces, cantons, states or regions.

The majority of EU+ countries resort to allocation rather than dispersal quotas (BE, BG, HR, CY, CZ, EE, FI, EL, HU, IRE, LT, LU, MT, NO, PL, PT, RO, SE, SK, SI, ES), and the assignment of a specific place is typically based on the availability of places combined with the profile of the applicant (specific needs and vulnerabilities, family status or composition, health and medical needs) or the type of asylum procedure channelled into (for example, specific facilities exist for applicants in the Dublin procedure in Luxembourg). In case of heightened pressure on the reception system, the availability of places dominates over other factors in all countries.



#### **5. Types of facilities**

All countries rely on collective accommodation to provide material reception conditions for applicants. Only Poland has introduced a policy to encourage applicants to live outside of collective accommodation and find housing for themselves with an

increased amount of financial allowance. When available, small-scale or individual accommodation is reserved for applicants with special needs and vulnerabilities or for later stages of the reception path.

Some countries have created specific types of collective centres. For example, in the Netherlands, Norway and Switzerland, special facilities have been established for applicants with disruptive behaviour. These centres accommodate applicants only temporarily, for a determined period, and apply stricter rules. In the Netherlands, these centres provide material reception conditions in-kind, and shops and services are available as applicants are not allowed to leave the facility. Residents follow a comprehensive programme to learn about the Dutch norms, values and rules of behaviour and they must evaluate their own conduct within this framework. In Finland, a small, specialised unit in one of the reception centres provides support for applicants with heightened mental health issues.

For collective accommodation in Greece, the Closed Controlled Access Centres and the Controlled Structures for the Temporary Accommodation of Asylum Seekers implement vigilant entry-exit procedures and require strict reporting obligations from applicants, while they are free to leave the centre within these frames.

The differentiation of facilities can also be linked to the type of asylum procedure an applicant is channelled into. For example, in France, the reception and accommodation programme for asylum seekers (PRAHDA) mainly accommodate applicants in the Dublin procedure, the emergency accommodation for asylum seekers (HUDA) prioritises applicants under fast-track, accelerated and Dublin procedures, while the reception centres for asylum seekers (CADA) is foreseen for the standard reception of applicants.

In Sweden, Step 2 accommodation is reserved for applicants in the Dublin procedure and in the accelerated procedure (for example for applicants coming from a safe country of origin), while other applicants are allocated to Step 3 accommodation. In general, the scope and type of support is often adapted in these cases, and for example applicants in the accelerated or Dublin procedure receive basic material reception conditions in-kind, while applicants with higher chances of being recognised can often benefit from a larger scope of support services to build their independence and integration, such as language learning. Information about the host society is mandatory for all applicants, including applicants in the Dublin procedure and in the accelerated procedure (applicants from a safe country of origin).

In Ireland, the emergency reception and orientation centres are specifically designed for applicants arriving through relocation and resettlement.

Next to collective reception facilities, some countries – for instance, Cyprus, Greece, Italy and Spain – rely heavily on leased units, such as hotels, private houses or flats, for their reception capacity.

Emergency or temporary places are typically used in case of pressure on the reception system for a short period of time with altered support services. However, in Luxembourg, the term “temporary reception facilities” is used for Phase 2 facilities, emphasising the concept that accommodation is provided for applicants provisionally for the period of the asylum procedure until a final decision is made. In some other countries, facilities originally designed as temporary or emergency accommodation have been altered and have become part of the standard reception structure on the

long term, for example the *hébergement d'urgence* in France or the temporary reception centres (CAS) in Italy.

## EU legal framework

The purpose of the recast Reception Conditions Directive is to lay down standards for the reception of applicants for international protection, but these standards can be transcribed differently into national laws and, thus, variations exist in reception systems across countries.

For example, Member States may designate an authority or authorities as competent for the provision of material reception conditions. The preamble of the directive notes merely that appropriate coordination should be encouraged between these competent authorities and Member States are obliged to notify the European Commission of the authorities responsible for fulfilling the obligations arising from the recast Reception Conditions Directive (Article 27). These authorities must have also received the necessary basic training on the needs of both male and female applicants and must be allocated the necessary resources to implement the provisions of the directive (Article 29).

Member States are obliged to ensure an adequate standard of living for applicants, including applicants with special reception needs (Article 17(2)), but it is up to the Member States' discretion how to organise the management of reception systems to fulfil this requirement. Thus, there is great divergence in policy-making, capacity management and the daily operation of facilities, ranging from fully centralised to fully decentralised approaches.

Applicants and their families are entitled to material reception conditions which provide an adequate standard of living from the moment an application for international protection is made until a final decision is made on the case (Articles 3(1) and 17(1)). However, this provision does not mean that the scope and level of reception conditions must be the same throughout the whole reception path for each applicant, and the majority of Member States have established different phases in reception.

According to the recast Reception Conditions Directive, Article 7, Member States can decide on an applicant's place of residence for reasons of public interest or public order or the swift processing of the asylum application. Member States may also link the provision of material reception conditions to an assigned place of residence. These provisions have been underpinning the various forms of territorial dispersal quotas and systems, as well as the different principles guiding the allocation of specific reception places to each individual applicant.

The directive provides more detailed guidance on the modalities of material reception conditions and states that housing provided in-kind can include premises housing applicants during the examination of their application at the border or in transit zones, accommodation centres guaranteeing an adequate standard of living, or private houses, flats, hotels or other adapted premises. These facilities should ensure that applicants are guaranteed protection of their family life and they can communicate with relatives and persons of trust and support – such as legal advisors or counsellors, UNHCR representatives and representatives of other national, international and non-governmental organisations. The reception system should cater to gender- and age-specific needs, as well as to special needs of vulnerable persons. Facilities should be safe spaces for applicants, with appropriate



measures implemented to prevent assault and gender-based violence. Transfers between facilities should only take place when necessary.

Member States may exceptionally set different modalities of material reception conditions covering basic needs, for a reasonable period which is as short as possible, to assess the specific needs of an applicant or when the normally available housing capacity is temporarily exhausted. Based on these requirements for housing and accommodation, Member States have introduced various types of reception facilities which provide different types of support services to different profiles of applicants at different stages of the asylum procedure.

#### **Methodological note**

The information in this situational update was collected through an exchange with the EASO Network of Reception Authorities and the EASO IDS Advisory Group.

EASO expresses its gratitude to asylum and reception authorities in EU+ countries for the continued cooperation and information exchange. The contributions of national asylum experts are invaluable in helping EASO to maintain an accurate and up-to-date overview of asylum-related developments in Europe and beyond.

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Country	Reception authority	Management of the reception system	Reception phases	Dispersal on the territory/allocation of reception places	Types of facilities
<b>Austria</b>	<p>Federal state level: Federal Agency for Reception and Support Services   Bundesagentur für Betreuungs- und Unterstützungsleistungen (BBU GmbH).</p> <p>Federal provincial level: The relevant offices in the governments of the nine federal provinces.</p>	<p>Policy-making: Mixed system, shared responsibility between federal state and federal provinces. During the admission procedure,<sup>1</sup> the federal state is responsible for the reception of applicants of international protection. After the admission procedure, the federal provinces are responsible.</p> <p>Capacity management: Mixed. Shared responsibility between the federal state and federal provinces.</p> <p>Daily operation of facilities:</p> <p>Mixed. Federal state level: The BBU GmbH is responsible for the operational tasks of the provision of material reception conditions at the federal level.</p> <p>Federal provincial level: Provincial governments are in charge of the provision of reception, the facilities themselves are often run by NGOs or private operators.</p>	<p>During the admission procedure: The federal state is responsible, basic material reception conditions are typically provided in-kind. Only organised, collective accommodation is available.</p> <p>After the admission procedure: Federal provinces take over the responsibility. The form and scope of material reception conditions differ from province to province. The Basic Welfare Support Agreement (<i>Grundversorgungsvereinbarung</i>) regulates the general level of provisions that must be ensured in each province.</p>	<p>Dispersal following the admission procedure.</p> <p>Dispersal quota based on the population of each province.</p>	<p>At federal state level:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Initial reception centres (Erstaufnahmestellen, EAST): For applicants of international protection during the admission procedure; main focus on applicants with a possible negative prognosis for their admission procedure, unaccompanied minors, identity checks, validation of country of origin.</li> <li>Distribution centres (Verteilerquartiere, VQ): For applicants during the admission procedure; main focus on applicants with a possible positive prognosis for their admission procedure.</li> <li>Federal reception centres (Betreuungsstellen, BS): For applicants during and after the admission procedure and before their stay in provincial reception centres as well as for those applicants whose admission was declined.</li> <li>Specialised reception centres (Sonderbetreuungsstellen): For applicants in need of special medical care and for unaccompanied minors.</li> <li>Return processing centre (Rückkehrverfahrenszentren, RPC): For former applicants with a final return decision until their departure.</li> </ul> <p>At federal provincial level:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Federal provincial reception centres (Landesgrundversorgung): For applicants whose applications were admitted; includes both collective and individual housing.</li> </ul>
<b>Belgium</b>	<p>Federal agency for the reception of asylum seekers   Agence fédérale pour l'accueil des demandeurs d'asile   Federaal agentschap voor de opvang van asielzoekers (Fedasil)</p>	<p>Policy-making: Centralised.</p> <p>Capacity management: Centralised.</p> <p>Daily operation of facilities: Mixed. Collective reception centres are managed partially by Fedasil and partially by partner organisations contracted by Fedasil. Individual or small-scale facilities are distributed at the local level and are managed either by the Public Centres of Social Welfare (PCSW)   Centre public d'action sociale (CPAS)   Openbaar centrum voor maatschappelijk welzijn (OCMW) of the municipalities, or by NGOs, under the overall supervision of Fedasil.</p>	<p>Stay in the arrival centre: Applicants typically stay here for a week, before they are dispatched to their assigned reception facility.</p> <p>Reception in a collective reception centre: Applicants are typically assigned first to a collective reception centre.</p> <p>Reception in local reception initiatives, LRI (initiatives locales d'accueil – ILA, lokaal opvanginitiatief – LOI): Applicants with special reception needs are in principle directly assigned to an LRI, while other applicants may be transferred to an LRI if they belong to a nationality with a high recognition rate (80%) or if they have obtained a residence status.</p>	<p>Allocation of reception places following the stay in the arrival centre.</p> <p>Reception Act, Article 11 (3) notes that Fedasil needs to assign a reception centre which is adapted to the profile of the applicant, within the limit of the available places: family status and composition, health, knowledge of one of the official languages of the country. It pays particular attention to the situation of vulnerable applicants. Fedasil takes into account the occupancy rate of reception centres and the balanced distribution among municipalities for assigning applicants to LRIs.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Emergency structures: The Reception Act, Article 18 clarifies that applicants may be accommodated in emergency structures 'only for a reasonable period for as short as possible' when there is a mass influx and the usual reception capacity is full. Applicants receive limited social support services in this case, but their basic needs must be met, the level of which is defined based on an individual evaluation of the applicant's profile. This includes all necessary support: meals, accommodation, access to sanitary facilities and medical support. Emergency structures are only available in exceptional cases when there is a mass influx and the usual reception capacity is full.</li> <li>Arrival centre: The reception centre Petit-Château/Klein Kasteeltje has become a single registration centre since December 2018. Applicants follow the same harmonised procedure: registration of the application for international protection, identification, security screening, medical examination, social intake and allocation of a reception place.</li> <li>Collective reception centres: Collective accommodation for beneficiaries of reception. Approximately 80 reception centres operate in Belgium, representing two-thirds of the total reception capacity. Fedasil manages around one-third of the federal reception centres, while the remainder are managed by partner organisations.</li> </ul>

<sup>1</sup> Admissibility procedure in EU terminology. In Austria, the admission procedure is a different step within the overall asylum procedure, when the BFA makes a prognosis decision based on the first (screening) interview conducted by the police. They can either reject the application as inadmissible or approve the procedure.

			In exceptional cases, applicants are first accommodated in emergency structures 'only for a reasonable period for as short as possible' when there is a mass influx and the usual reception capacity is full.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Local reception initiatives: Individual or small-scale facilities distributed at the local level.</li> </ul>
<b>Bulgaria</b>	State Agency for Refugees with the Council of Ministries   Държавна агенция за бежанците при Министерския Съвет	<p>Policy-making: Centralised.</p> <p>Capacity management: Centralised.</p> <p>Daily operation of facilities: Centralised. Four state-owned and managed reception centres.</p>	Reception not divided in phases.	Allocation based on the availability of places, vulnerability and special needs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Transit centre: Transit centres are territorial divisions of the "Agency for Registration, Accommodation, Medical Examination, Social and Medical Assistance and the conduct of proceedings to determine the state responsible for examining an application for international protection and the procedure for granting international protection". In November 2021, one centre was in place. Originally, it was meant to be a centre where only the accelerated procedure would take place near the border, but after structural reforms, it is operating as a typical reception and registration centre with the name "transit" for documentation purposes.</li> <li>Reception and registration centres: Collective accommodation for applicants. The registration and reception centres are territorial divisions of the "Agency for Registration, Accommodation, Medical examination, Social and Medical assistance and Conducting proceedings for determining the state competent for examining the application for international protection and for proceedings for granting international protection to asylum seekers; for the accommodation of asylum seekers". There are three such centres in place. In two of them, there is a 'security zone' where only unaccompanied minors are accommodated and where all unaccompanied minor applicants are allocated.</li> </ul>
<b>Croatia</b>	Ministry of the Interior, Directorate for Immigration, Citizenship and Administrative Affairs, Service for reception and accommodation of applicants for international protection   Ministarstvo unutarnjih poslova, Uprava za imigraciju, državljanstvo i upravne poslove, Služba za prihvati smještaj tražitelja međunarodne zaštite	<p>Policy-making: Centralised.</p> <p>Capacity management: Centralised.</p> <p>Daily operation of facilities: Mixed. Two state-owned reception centres in Zagreb and Kutina. The Service for the Reception and Accommodation of Applicants for International Protection has a coordinating role in the operation of the reception and accommodation centres. NGOs, such as the Croatian Red Cross and Médecins du Monde, are present in the centres through AMIF co-financed projects, organise social activities, psychosocial support, and access to and assistance in health care for applicants.</p>	Reception not divided in phases.	Allocation based on the availability of places.	Reception Centre for Applicants of International Protection: Collective accommodation facilities for applicants in Zagreb.
<b>Cyprus</b>	<p>Ministry of the Interior, Asylum Service   Υπουργείο Εσωτερικών, Υπηρεσία Ασύλου;</p> <p>Ministry of Social Welfare   Υφυπουργείο Κοινωνικής Πρόνοιας;</p>	<p>Policy-making: Centralised.</p> <p>Capacity management: Centralised.</p> <p>Daily operation of facilities: Mixed. The Asylum Service has a coordinating role in the operation of the reception and accommodation centres. The day-</p>	<p>Not yet fully operational in practice.</p> <p>Arrival and first reception: Applicants are first accommodated in the First Reception Centre Pournara to register their application, medical screening and immediate reception.</p> <p>Afterwards, applicants can:</p>	Allocation following stay in the First Reception Centre, based on the availability of places.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>First Reception Centre Pournara: Initial collective facility in Kokkinotrimithia.</li> <li>Private accommodation.</li> <li>Collective Reception and Accommodation Centre: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In Kofinou for applicants for international protection;</li> <li>In Limnes for applicants from safe countries of origin.</li> </ul> </li> <li>Shelters and leased units (hotels, private houses, flats): Additional places for vulnerable applicants and families, leased by the Social Welfare Services.</li> </ul>

	Social Welfare Service   Υπηρεσίες Κοινωνικής Ευμερίας	<p>to-day operation of the centres is usually sub-contracted to the private sector and in some cases the Asylum Service staff who are also present in the Centres. The Asylum Service may outsource services to other public entities or private providers to perform daily activities related to logistical aspects and maintenance of reception premises.</p> <p>Social Welfare Services is responsible for the provision of material reception conditions for applicants in private accommodation and the accommodation of applicants who have no means for accommodation or there are no places available at the collective accommodation centres. Social Welfare Services is also responsible for the reception and accommodation of unaccompanied minors and the appointment of guardians, as well as for the reception of vulnerable persons.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Choose to find on their own and live in private accommodation; or</li> <li>- Be referred to the Kofinou Reception and Accommodation Centre or to the Limnes Accommodation Centre; or</li> <li>- Be referred to special accommodation for vulnerable applicants with special needs (including unaccompanied minors).</li> </ul>		
Czechia	Refugee Facilities Administration of the Ministry of the Interior (RFA MOI)   Správa uprchlických zařízení Ministerstva vnitra (SUZ MV)	<p>Policy-making: Centralised.</p> <p>Capacity management: Centralised.</p> <p>Daily operation of facilities: Centralised.</p> <p>Two (initial) Reception Centres and three Residential Centres.</p> <p>It is legally possible to have facilities managed by municipalities or private entities based on a contract with RFA MOI.</p>	<p>Arrival centres (initial reception centres) serve for the accommodation of newly-arrived applicants for international protection as long as the entry procedures (identification, submitting the application, medical checks, Dublin screening) are being completed. RFA operates an arrival centre in the transit area of Václav Havel Airport Prague (external Schengen border) and one centre on the territory in Zastávka.</p> <p>After the completion of the procedures at the Reception Centre, applicants (those who cannot afford their own accommodation) can choose to stay at one of the Residential Centres. RFA operates Residential Centres in: a) Kostelec nad Orlicí (Hradec Králové Region); b) Havířov (Moravian Silesian Region); and c) Zastávka (South Moravian Region).</p>	Allocation following stay in the arrival reception centre, based on the availability of places.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Arrival centres: Closed collective accommodation centres (obligation to stay until the entry procedures are completed) in the transit area of the international airport in Prague and in Zastávka (South Moravian region).</li> <li>• Residential centres: Open collective accommodation centres in Kostelec nad Orlicí (Hradec Králové Region), Havířov (Moravian Silesian Region) and Zastávka (South Moravian Region).</li> </ul>

<b>Denmark<sup>2</sup></b>	Danish Immigration Service   Udlændingestyrelsen	<p>Policy-making: Centralised.</p> <p>Capacity management: Centralised.</p> <p>Daily operation of facilities: Decentralised. Outsourced to different actors: the Red Cross, Tønder municipality and Vesthimmerland municipality.</p>	<p>Reception centres are for newly-arrived asylum seekers who stay initially at the centre until a decision is taken whether Denmark is responsible for processing the application for asylum.</p> <p>Accommodation centres are for asylum seekers whose applications are being processed by the asylum authorities.</p> <p>Persons who exhausted all legal remedies and who are no longer entitled to stay in an accommodation centre move to a return centre.</p>	<p>Allocation to accommodation centres is based on the availability of places.</p> <p>Dispersal system is in place following reception: Recognised beneficiaries of international protection are allocated to specific municipalities.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reception centre: Centre Sandholm and Centre Sandholm Children, both operated by the Red Cross.</li> <li>• Accommodation centre: Centres operated by the Red Cross, Tønder municipality and Vesthimmerland municipality through contracts with the Danish Immigration Service for applicants whose application is being processed in Denmark.</li> <li>• Return centres: Return Centre Avnstrup (for families), which is operated by the Red Cross, as well as Return Centre Kærshovedgård and Centre Sjælsmark, which are both operated by the Danish Prison and Probation Service.</li> </ul>
<b>Estonia</b>	<p>Accommodation Centre for Applicants of International Protection   Varjupaigataotlejate Majutuskeskus</p> <p>Social Insurance Board   Sotsiaalkindlustusamet</p>	<p>Policy-making: Centralised.</p> <p>Capacity management: Centralised.</p> <p>Daily operation of facilities: Decentralised. Daily operation of reception centres is transferred to service providers. For example, AS Hoolekandeteenused provides the accommodation centre service on the basis of a contract entered into with the Ministry of Social Affairs.</p>	Reception not divided in phases.	<p>Allocation based on the availability of places.</p> <p>Dispersal system is in place following reception: Recognised beneficiaries of international protection are allocated to specific local governments units, where placement and transfer is organised by the Social Insurance Board.</p>	Accommodation Centre for Applicants of International Protection: Collective open accommodation centres in Vao and Vägeva.
<b>Finland</b>	Finnish Immigration Service   Maahanmuuttovirasto	<p>Policy-making: Centralised. The Finnish Immigration Service has the overall executive and financial responsibility.</p> <p>Capacity management: Centralised. The Finnish Immigration Service manages the opening and closing of facilities.</p> <p>Daily operation of facilities: Mixed system, the provision of material reception conditions and daily operation are typically tasks of contractors hired by the Finnish Immigration Service (municipalities, NGOs and private companies). The Finnish Immigration Service also operates reception centres (state-owned).</p>	<p>Stay in one of the five transit reception centres until the personal interview.</p> <p>Following the personal interview, applicants are transferred to a reception centre to wait for the decision on their application.</p> <p>The division between transit reception centre and reception centre is not extremely clear-cut in all situations and it is possible that some applicants are not transferred.</p> <p>Applicants are allowed to organise their own accommodation outside of a reception centre. These applicants are registered to a transit reception centre or a reception centre based on the location, and the centre organises other reception-related services and activities beside accommodation to the applicant.</p>	<p>Allocation based typically on the availability of places and the general state of the reception system.</p> <p>Attention is paid to the individual situation of applicants, and it is taken into consideration when needed and/or possible (e.g. need of certain health care services, studying, other individual needs, asylum process).</p> <p>It is also possible that an applicant is transferred to another reception centre after the initial transfer based on individual reasons, reasons related to the asylum process or reasons related to the centre.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Transit reception centres: Open collective accommodation centres operating currently in Helsinki, Turku, Vantaa, Joutseno and Oulu.</li> <li>• Reception centres: Open collective accommodation centres at various locations in the country (large facility or apartment-based model).</li> </ul>

<sup>2</sup> Denmark is not bound by the recast Reception Conditions Directive.



France	French Office for the Immigration and the Integration   Office Français de l'Immigration et de l'Intégration (OFII)	<p>Policy-making: Centralised.</p> <p>Capacity management: Centralised, the national reception scheme is managed by the OFII.</p> <p>Daily operation of facilities: Mixed. The management of facilities is typically sub-contracted to Adoma, a semi-public company, or to civil society organisations.</p>	<p>Stay in an initial reception centre (CAES) until registration and the allocation of a final accommodation place.</p> <p>Stay in second-level accommodation either in the same region or, when maximum capacity is reached in that region, reorientation to a reception place in another region.</p> <p>Stay in third-level accommodation following recognition while transitioning to mainstream housing.</p>	Dispersal system is in place for all applicants: Places available per region are determined yearly based on the national reception scheme. Once maximum capacity is reached in a region, applicants are re-oriented to another region.	<p>First level: Migrants evacuated from camps are accommodated in a specific reception centre (CAES, centres d'accueil et d'examen des situations) to have their situation assessed.</p> <p>The pathway is determined in the CAES (pre-asylum, asylum applicant, rejected asylum applicant, refugee, Dublin) before the applicant is orientated to the single desk (GUDA) and further distributed to another reception facility within 1 month (10 days in Ile de France). However, in some regions where camps are not a problem, CAES have operated as classic reception facilities. In the future, when the new national distribution for applicants will be fully functioning, the use of CAES is planned to be intensified.</p> <p>Second level: accommodation for asylum seekers (HU, hébergement d'urgence), which includes different types of facilities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reception and accommodation programme for asylum seekers (PRAHDA, programme d'accueil et d'hébergement des demandeurs d'asile): This type of facility mainly accommodates applicants in the Dublin procedure.</li> <li>• Emergency accommodation for asylum seekers (HUDA, hébergement d'urgence des demandeurs d'asile): This includes different types of facilities but has been structured since 2018. It prioritises the reception of asylum applicants under fast-track and Dublin procedures.</li> <li>• Reception centres for asylum seekers (CADA, centres d'accueil de demandeurs d'asile): Collective or individual facilities foreseen for the standard reception of applicants, except for applicants in the Dublin procedure.</li> </ul> <p>Third level:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Temporary accommodation centres (CPH, <i>centres provisoires d'hébergement</i>): For some vulnerable recognised beneficiaries of international protection (not applicants), in transition from reception to finding their own housing solution.</li> <li>• Reception and integration centres for refugees (for example CAIR, centre d'accueil et d'insertion des réfugiés): facility type in Île-de-France, accommodating up to 200 single men for six months, renewable once.</li> </ul>
Germany	Federal states   Länder	<p>Policy-making and capacity management: Various systems at the level of the <i>Länder</i>. Initial reception centralised at the level of the <i>Länder</i>, subsequent reception often decentralised.</p> <p>Daily operation of facilities: Initial reception operated by the <i>Länder</i>. For subsequent reception, the <i>Länder</i> can decide whether daily management is carried out by local authorities or whether it is transferred to civil society organisations or private operators.</p>	<p>Initial reception: Registration and identification of arriving applicants, initial medical examination and medical care in acute emergencies, accommodation and care, lodging and processing of applications.</p> <p>According to the federal Asylum Act, applicants are obliged to live in the reception centre responsible for their reception until the decision of the Federal Office for Migration and Refugees   Bundesamt für Migration und Flüchtlinge (BAMF) on the application and - in case of rejection of the application - until their departure or until the execution of the deportation order.</p> <p>However, in general, they should not stay longer than 18 months at the respective reception centre. In special cases (regulated by the federal Asylum Act), they are obliged to stay longer within initial reception.</p>	Dispersal system is in place: EASY quota system, based on the Koenigstein key ( <i>Königsteiner Schlüssel</i> ), which determines on an annual basis what share of asylum seekers are received by each federal state. The Koenigstein key is calculated for each year according to tax revenues and the population of the states.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Initial reception centres, including arrival centres or AnkER centres (<i>Zentrum für Ankunft, Entscheidung, Rückführung</i> - arrival, decision and return facilities): Collective accommodation (shared facilities), special needs facilities, depending on the federal state.</li> </ul> <p>Subsequent reception is provided either in collective accommodation centres or decentralised accommodation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Collective accommodation centres: shared facilities;</li> <li>• Decentralised accommodation: accommodation in private houses, flats, hotel etc.</li> </ul>

			<p>The <i>Länder</i> are allowed to impose an obligation to stay up to 24 months.</p> <p>Minors, their parents/legal guardians and their adult, unmarried siblings should not stay longer than 6 months.</p> <p>Subsequent reception:</p> <p>The responsibility of reception and accommodation formally stays with the <i>Länder</i> but, when initial reception ends, they can – and usually do – delegate the task to the municipalities.</p> <p>The dispersal and local allocation of applicants and beneficiaries then follows the rules of each federal state. Often reception, accommodation and care is assigned to the municipalities and districts.</p>		
Greece	<p>Ministry of Migration and Asylum   Υπουργείο Μετανάστευσης και Ασύλου: Policy making</p> <p>Reception and Identification Service   Υπηρεσία Υποδοχής και Ταυτοποίησης (RIS): Operating at the level of the General Secretariat, focusing on planning, design of tools and procedures and implementation.</p> <p>Other actors involved: UNHCR; EASO; UNICEF (for education and unaccompanied minors based on a Memorandum of Understanding); IOM (implementing projects by DG Home); EODY - Medical Examination and Psychosocial Support Unit; EKKA (National Centre for Social Solidarity); Directorate-General for Social Solidarity of the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs</p>	<p>Policy-making: Centralised.</p> <p>Capacity management: Centralised.</p> <p>Daily operation of facilities: Mixed.</p>	<p>According to the law, reception is not separated into different phases, applicants are entitled to reception from application until the end of the asylum procedure. All applicants undergo a four-stage procedure upon arrival, including arrival at the centre, registration and medical examination, referral to international protection procedures or further referral to competent authorities.</p> <p>In practice, in an effort to decongest the islands, applicants were transferred from the islands to mainland facilities.</p>	<p>Allocation based on the availability of places, impacted by the place of arrival (islands or mainland).</p> <p>Potential special reception needs are also taken into consideration, especially with regards to accommodation under the ESTIA reception program.</p>	<p>Law No 4825/2021 – published on 4 September 2021 - foresees that the Reception and Identification Service (RIS) can create three reception types in 5 islands and Fylakio (at the border):</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reception and Identification Centres (RICs/K.Y.T.)</li> <li>Controlled Structures for the Temporary Accommodation of Asylum Seekers</li> <li>Closed Controlled Access Centres (CCAC/ΚΕΔ).</li> </ol> <p>RICs and CCACs are currently established and operate on the islands.</p> <p>Controlled Structures for the Temporary Accommodation of Asylum Seekers are on the mainland in different locations, and it is planned that from November 2021, facility management (maintenance, technical works, repairs, cleaning, security) is managed by private companies.</p> <p><b>ESTIA 2021 programme</b> (Emergency Support to Integration and Accommodation) funded by the European Commission (DG HOME) is implemented by the Reception and Identification Service of the Ministry of Migration and Asylum in collaboration with partners (11 Greek and international NGOs and 14 municipalities): The programme comprises of a package of basic support services provided through the aforementioned accommodation partners, including housing (fully furnished, with rent and utilities covered) in the urban setting, psychosocial support, case management, and referral to specialised services where available – according to the individual needs of the beneficiaries, interpretation assistance, and transportation to attend official appointments with the authorities (e.g. asylum interviews) if needed. It focuses mainly on vulnerable categories of asylum applicants.</p>

<b>Hungary</b>	National Directorate-General for Aliens Policing (NDGAP), Reception Facilities Supervisory Unit   Országos Idegenrendészeti Főigazgatóság, Befogadó Intézmények Szakmai Irányító Osztály	<p>Policy-making: Centralised.</p> <p>Capacity management: Centralised.</p> <p>Daily operation of facilities: Centralised. State-owned and managed reception centre and community shelter.</p>	Reception is not separated into different phases.	<p>As a general rule, recognised persons and applicants are accommodated in the reception centre, and those under aliens' proceedings are placed in the community shelter.</p> <p>If necessary, this allocation can be changed, and the profile of the applicant is also taken into account.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reception centre (befogadó állomás): Open collective accommodation in Városszabadi;</li> <li>• Community shelter (közösségi szállás): Open collective accommodation in Balassagyarmat.</li> </ul>
<b>Ireland</b>	International Protection Accommodation Service (IPAS)	<p>Policy-making: Centralised.</p> <p>Capacity management: Centralised.</p> <p>Daily operation of facilities: Outsourced. The IPAS contracts commercial/private contractors to manage and operate reception facilities. This model will be gradually changed to a not-for-profit approach in the coming years.</p>	<p>Stay in the NRC, Baleskin for approximately 4-8 weeks for orientation, after which applicants are accommodated in suitable IPAS accommodation across the country.</p> <p>In the upcoming new reception system ending Direct Provision, two phases of reception are foreseen: Phase 1 - accommodation in a Reception and Integration Centre for 4 months and Phase 2 – individual accommodation fostering an independent life within the community.</p>	<p>Allocation based on the availability of places.</p> <p>This might change under the new reception system, where a dispersal system is planned to be developed for Phase 2 of the reception path.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Baleskin reception centre: Collective centre in the Dublin area where people can stay waiting for their relocation within the country.</li> <li>• Direct Provision Accommodation Centres: Collective facilities located in different areas across Ireland.</li> <li>• Temporary Emergency Accommodation Centres: Outsourced collective accommodation when there is lack of capacity within the permanent portfolio of accommodation, made up of hotels and guesthouses.</li> <li>• Self-catering Accommodation Centre: Collective accommodation where applicants can purchase food in food halls located in centres using a virtual currency of points. Points are allocated according to the family profile.</li> <li>• Private accommodation – if an asylum seeker wishes to live in privately sourced and self-funded accommodation, they are free to do so, but will not receive certain ancillary services available while living in accommodation centres.</li> <li>• Emergency Reception and Orientation Centres (ERO): They are specifically designed for the accommodation of persons arriving in Ireland through relocation and resettlement.</li> </ul>
<b>Italy</b>	Ministry of the Interior, Department of Civil Liberties and Immigration   Ministero dell'Interno, Dipartimento per le Libertà civili e l'Immigrazione;  Prefectures   prefetture	<p>Policy-making: Centralised.</p> <p>Capacity management: Mixed. Reception is managed both at central and local levels.</p> <p>Daily operation of facilities: Decentralised. The daily operation of facilities is outsourced to managing bodies (cooperatives, private sector, NGOs). CPA and CAS are under the responsibility of prefectures, while SAI are under the responsibility of municipalities and operated by private operators or non-profit organisations based on tenders (CPA, CAS) or on projects submitted to and approved by the Ministry of the Interior (SAI).</p>	<p>Stay in hotspot for the period of the identification procedure.</p> <p>Transfer to first reception centres (CPA), temporary reception centres (CAS) or second-line reception facilities (SAI), depending on availability of places to complete the identification and registration, a vulnerability assessment and lodging the asylum application.</p> <p>Beneficiaries of international protection and other national forms of protection as well as unaccompanied children are in principle entitled to stay in the SAI facilities and can benefit from integration activities.</p>	<p>Dispersal system in place, where the Department of Civil Liberties and Immigration of the Ministry of the Interior plays a central role in the decision on distributing applicants at the national level based on the quota established by the Ministry of the Interior on a region-by-region basis.</p> <p>For second-line reception, there is a set limit on the number of persons accommodated depending on the population of each municipality: the sustainability of local services requires limits to the number of places that can be activated in municipalities with a population below 20,000 inhabitants.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hotspot: Third-country nationals arriving irregularly by sea are accommodated in one of the four hotspots placed at the southern borders of Italy. After disembarkation, migrants have the obligation to remain in the centres pending medical clearance, identification and fingerprinting and then are transferred: in principle, to territorial facilities placed around the country, but currently to quarantine facilities. Legislative Decree No 286/1998, Article 10ter introduced by the Legislative Decree No 13 of 17 February 2017, Article 17, converted with modification into Law No 46 of 13 April 2017, provides that in principle identification procedures should be conducted in hotspots.</li> <li>• Temporary surveillance and assistance site: Currently all arrivals should be quarantined. The quarantine period could take place on board offshore vessels (adults and not vulnerable persons) or in dedicated quarantine facilities inland (vulnerable persons and unaccompanied children). Quarantine measures last at least 10 days in line with the Italian national health authority's requirements. The boats are mainly operating near Sicilian coasts.</li> <li>• First or initial reception centres (CPA, Centri Prima accoglienza): Collective accommodation, located mainly at the borders, where asylum seekers are provided with first assistance. Applicants can remain for the necessary time to complete all procedures for identification (in case not completed in the hotspot), medical examination, vulnerability assessment and the registration and lodging of the asylum claim.</li> <li>• Temporary Reception Centres (CAS, Centri di Accoglienza Straordinaria): In case of unavailability of places due to a large influx of arrivals, first reception of applicants may be implemented in temporary reception centres which are located throughout the national territory. CAS facilities can be both private apartments, collective centres (such as hotels) or other facilities provided by authorities, and for these</li> </ul>

					<p>reasons their capacity can be very different from one to another. Applicants have the right to be accommodated there until the final result of their application (including during appeals).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• System for Reception and Integration (SAI, Sistema Accoglienza e Integrazione), former SIPROIMI: Small-scale, regional second-line reception centres. Asylum seekers, unaccompanied children and beneficiaries of protection (both international and national forms of protection) can be accommodated in this second-line reception facility depending on the availability of places. Persons with special needs have priority in being accommodated in SAI upon arrival.</li> </ul>
<b>Latvia</b>	<p>Accommodation Centre for Asylum Seekers   Patvēruma meklētāju izmitināšanas centrs within the Office of Citizenship and Migration Affairs   Pilsonības un migrācijas lietu pārvalde (OCMA   PMLP)</p>	<p>Policy-making: Centralised.</p> <p>Capacity management: Centralised.</p> <p>Daily operation of facilities: Centralised, one state-owned and managed facility consisting of two units. Non-governmental organisations and municipalities implementing social projects operate in the Accommodation Centre for Asylum Seekers based on the agreement with the Office of Citizenship and Migration Affairs, providing asylum seekers health care services, the acquisition of the state language and other rights, as well as integration measures.</p>	<p>Reception is not separated into different phases.</p>	No.	<p>Accommodation Centre for Asylum Seekers: Collective facility for all applicants in Mucenikei, Ropaži, Region, consisting of two units.</p>
<b>Lithuania</b>	<p>Ministry of the Interior, Migration Department   Lietuvos Respublikos vidaus reikalų ministerija, Migracijos departamentas</p> <p>Ministry of the Interior, State Border Guard Service   Lietuvos Respublikos vidaus reikalų ministerija, Valstybės sienos apsaugos tarnyba</p> <p>Ministry of Labour and Social Security   Socialinės apsaugos ir darbo ministerija</p>	<p>Policy-making: Centralised.</p> <p>Capacity management: Centralised.</p> <p>Daily operation of facilities: Mixed. Facilities are operated either by the State Border Guard Service (SBGS), the Ministry of Labour and Social Security or alternative accommodation facilities may be managed by service providers, based on an agreement with the Migration Department.</p>	<p>Applicants under the admissibility or accelerated procedure can be accommodated up to 28 days in border guard posts until a decision on entry is issued. In a state of emergency – which is currently in place – this can be extended up to 6 months. In principle, when a decision on admission to territory is taken, applicants should be transferred to the Foreigners Registration Centre or, depending on availability, asylum applicants may be accommodated also in Alternative or Temporary Accommodation facilities for the duration of the asylum procedure. Beneficiaries of international protection – and since summer 2021, also applicant families - are accommodated in the Refugee Reception Centre managed by the Ministry of Labour and Social Security.</p> <p>In an emergency situation, applicants remain in the same closed facility even after a decision on entry is issued, typically for the entire period of the procedure.</p>	<p>Allocation based on the type of procedure, profile of the applicant and availability of places.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Border guard posts: Closed facility for all new arrivals before transfer to a reception centre, managed by the SBGS.</li> <li>• Foreigners Registration Centres: Closed collective facilities managed by the SBGS, for example in Pabradė, Medininkai and Kybartai.</li> <li>• Alternative and Temporary Accommodation: Managed by service providers, used for families and other asylum seekers when no places are available at the Foreigners Registration Centres.</li> <li>• Refugees Reception Centre: Facilities managed by the Ministry of Labour and Social Security, for example in Rukla (open facility for recognised beneficiaries of international protection and since July 2021, the extension of the facility also operates as a closed facility for applicant families) and since October 2021 a new centre for applicants in Vilnius, formally part of the centre in Rukla.</li> <li>• In July 2021, all centres were transformed to provide accommodation for applicants under the accelerated procedure.</li> </ul>



<b>Luxembourg</b>	National Reception Office   Office national de l'accueil (ONA)	<p>Policy-making: Centralised.</p> <p>Capacity management: Centralised.</p> <p>Daily operation of facilities: Mixed, ONA directly manages some reception centres, while for others the management is outsourced to facility management companies, third-party private companies or social partners.</p>	<p>1) Initial reception phase (<i>primo-accueil</i>) where the application is lodged and specific needs/vulnerabilities are identified (medical, psychological, schooling, etc.) in order to determine an accommodation structure and orientate to support services.</p> <p>2) Temporary accommodation in reception facilities until a final decision concerning the application for international protection is taken.</p>	<p>Allocation based on the availability of places, degree of autonomy and special needs of the applicant for international protection.</p> <p>Dedicated housing facilities for unaccompanied minors.</p> <p>Dedicated housing facilities for applicants with a procedure in accordance with Regulation EU No 604/2013 (Dublin III).</p>	<p>Initial reception facilities house in the first instance any person wishing to submit an application for international protection in Luxembourg. They are intended for short-term accommodation (in principle a few weeks) before transfer to a temporary accommodation structure for applicants for international protection (SHTDPI). They include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Initial reception facility (DPA, <i>dispositif premier accueil</i>) in Mondercange. All newly-arrived persons wanting to apply for asylum have to present themselves in the DPA to get tested for COVID-19 with a PCR test on the first and sixth day. If tested negative twice, the applicants in the normal asylum procedure are then housed in the new first-reception facility (CPA).</li> <li>First-reception centre (CPA, <i>centre de primo-accueil</i>): Open collective facility in Luxembourg city. The CPA is intended for short-term accommodation (in principle a few weeks) in which social and medical staff try to identify specific needs (medical, psychological, schooling, etc.) and vulnerabilities of applicants. This assessment determines the specific accommodation structure (SHTDPI) that will host the applicant and family until the final decision on their application.</li> <li>Provisional reception facility (CAP, <i>centre d'accueil provisoire</i>) in Mersch. The CAP is intended for short-term accommodation before being transferred to the temporary reception facilities.</li> </ul> <p>Temporary reception facilities (SHTDPI, <i>structures d'hébergement temporaires pour demandeurs de protection internationale</i>) have different capacities throughout the country, typically small-scale, modular structures.</p>
<b>Malta</b>	Agency for the Welfare of Asylum Seekers (AWAS)	<p>Policy-making: Centralised.</p> <p>Capacity management: Centralised.</p> <p>Daily operation of facilities: Centralised, centres are owned and managed by AWAS. An open centre in Balzan is owned and managed by the Malta Emigrants Commission (Catholic Church branch).</p>	<p>Typically, applicants would stay in the Initial Reception Centre for 2-3 weeks for medical clearance (Phase 1), then they would be transferred to an open accommodation centre (Phase 2).</p> <p>Currently, the most common profile of applicants comprises third-country nationals who have been rescued at sea and disembarked in Malta. Only women, families, the most vulnerable and those selected for relocation are transferred to the Initial Reception Centre. Single male applicants are transferred to closed centres. When space becomes available in open centres, then applicants are transferred from closed to open centres. The current duration for residents in reception structures is 6 months for single male applicants (unless vulnerable) and 12 months for women and families.</p>	Allocation based on the availability of places.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Initial Reception Centre in Marsa: Currently operating as a closed facility within the Marsa Open Centre for all new arrivals, with a focus on women, families and vulnerable applicants.</li> <li>Open accommodation centres: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Marsa Open Centre</li> <li>Hal Far Tent Village: Single male applicants and a dedicated space for unaccompanied minors aged 16-18 years old</li> <li>Hal Far Family Centre: For families</li> <li>Hangar Open Centre: Single male applicants and a designated space for families, single parents and single women</li> <li>Balzan Open Centre: Profile changes depending on needs</li> <li>Malta Emigrants Commission apartments: Approximately 10 apartments on the island, most commonly for applicants with vulnerabilities and families</li> <li>PeaceLab in Hal Far: A house managed by a Franciscan priest, most commonly for applicants with vulnerabilities.</li> <li>Dar il- Liedna: Unaccompanied minors 14-16 years old</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>Netherlands</b>	Central Agency for the Reception of Asylum Seekers   Centraal Orgaan opvang asielzoekers (COA)	<p>Policy-making: Centralised.</p> <p>Capacity management: Mixed.</p> <p>Daily operation of facilities: Centralised.</p>	<p>Applicants are first accommodated in a central reception centre (COL, <i>centrale ontvangstlocatie</i>) during the registration and lodging phase.</p> <p>They are then moved to a process reception centre (POL, <i>process opvanglocatie</i>) for the rest and preparation period and for the period of the regular asylum procedure.</p>	<p>Allocation is based on the applicant's stage in the procedure, the applicant's profile and the availability of places.</p> <p>The dispersal system is in place following reception: recognised beneficiaries of international protection are</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Central reception centre (COL, <i>centrale ontvangstlocatie</i>): Applicants are first accommodated here during the registration and lodging phase.</li> <li>Pre-process reception centre (pre-POL, <i>pre-process opvanglocatie</i>): This type of facility is only temporary in case of a high influx. Applicants spend their rest and preparation period here.</li> <li>Process reception centre (POL, <i>process opvanglocatie</i>): Applicants spend the rest and preparation period here and stay during the regular asylum procedure. POLs are typically near an IND office and they provide the first medical check and medical advice, information and support from the staff of COA and VWN and meetings with the appointed lawyer.</li> </ul>



			<p>Applicants going through the extended asylum procedure are transferred to an asylum-seekers' centre (AZC, <i>asielzoekerscentrum</i>).</p> <p>Persons who exhausted all legal remedies and who are not entitled to reception in an AZC anymore move to a freedom restricting centre (VBL, <i>vrijheidsbeperkende locatie</i>). Families having exhausted their legal remedies are transferred to family centres (<i>gezinslocatie</i>).</p>	allocated to specific municipalities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Asylum seekers' centre (AZC, <i>asielzoekerscentrum</i>): Applicants with high chances of being recognised and applicants going through the extended asylum procedure are transferred to an AZC. They receive a living allowance and they have to take care of their own shopping and meals. Habitants are under the duty to report to the authorities once a week and their freedom of movement is not restricted.</li> <li>Reception centre with intensive guidance (IBO, <i>intensief begeleidende opvang</i>): Asylum seekers with behavioural or psychiatric issues whose conduct causes problems for the employees of a reception centre or for fellow residents can voluntarily move to an IBO. They remain here for a temporary period in order to learn skills to function independently and increase their self-reliance, with the objective to move back as soon as possible to an AZC. IBOs are open facilities and habitants are under the duty to report once a week.</li> <li>Enforcement and supervision centre (HTL, <i>handhaving en toezichtslocatie</i>): This type of facility started operating in February 2020, building on the experience and transforming the previous reception centres with additional guidance and supervision (EBTL, <i>extra begeleiding en toezicht locatie</i>). All applicants with serious disruptive behaviour can be placed in the HTL. Strict rules apply to residents and they are enforced by community service officers (BOAs, <i>buitengewone opsporingsambtenaren</i>). The centre provides material reception conditions in-kind, and shops and services are available as applicants are not allowed to leave the facility. Residents follow a comprehensive programme to learn about Dutch norms, values and rules of behaviour and they must evaluate their own conduct in this framework.</li> </ul>
Norway	Norwegian Directorate of Immigration   Utlendingsdirektoratet (UDI)	<p>Policy-making: Centralised.</p> <p>Capacity management: Centralised.</p> <p>Daily operation of facilities: Decentralised. The daily operation of centres is outsourced through long-term contracts (for basic reception capacity) and short-term contracts (to address fluctuations in capacity needs).</p>	<p>Stay in the in the National Arrival Centre for approximately 21 days for police registration, tuberculosis screening, sanitisation of clothes and luggage, distribution of clothing and bedding, and information provision on rights and obligations by an independent organisation (currently, the Norwegian Organisation for Asylum seekers (NOAS)). UDI also aims to process 70% of asylum applications during this period.</p> <p>After the interview with the UDI, applicants are transferred to transit centres or directly to ordinary reception centres while awaiting the processing of their application, settlement or return.</p>	Allocation is based on the availability of places. One of the regional units (Regional Office responsible for Central Norway, Regionkontor Midt-Norge, RKM) has been given an overall responsibility for transferring residents from the transit centres to the ordinary centres, a task they conduct in close collaboration with the Arrival and Transit Unit (ATE), which is responsible for managing the transit centres. ATE provides RKM weekly information about residents who are ready for transfer to the ordinary centres. RKM is continuously updated on vacant beds in all ordinary centres and sends the applicants to an appropriate, available place. In doing so, any known special needs are taken into consideration.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>National Arrival Centre: Open collective facility for all applicants.</li> <li>Transit centres: One for adults and families (Kasper Transit Reception Centre) and one for unaccompanied minors between 15 and 18 years old (Mysebu State Transit Reception Centre for Unaccompanied Minors).</li> <li>Ordinary reception centres: Centres operated by private operators, municipalities or NGOs.</li> <li>Integration centres: For recognised beneficiaries.</li> <li>Accommodation Centres for applicants with special needs.</li> <li>Accommodation Centres for applicants with disruptive behaviour.</li> </ul>
Poland	Office for Foreigners   Urząd do Spraw Cudzoziemców (UdSC)	<p>Policy-making: Centralised.</p> <p>Capacity management: Centralised.</p>	Stay at a reception centre for the period of registration and medical checks, after which applicants are transferred to an accommodation centre.	Allocation to an accommodation centre follows the stay in a reception centre, based on the availability of places and upon	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reception centres: Collective facilities for initial reception in Biała Podlaska (first-time applicants) and Podkowa Leśna-Dębak (applicants returned from another country under the Dublin III Regulation and subsequent applicants)</li> <li>Accommodation centres: Two state-owned facilities managed by the Office of Foreigners in Czerwony Bór and Linin and five facilities outsourced to contractors through tenders in Bezwola, Białystok, Grupa, Horbów and Łuków.</li> </ul>

		Daily operation of facilities: Mixed. Partially state-owned and managed centres, partially outsourced centres. Applicants are encouraged to live outside of centres.		the decision of the Office of Foreigners.	
<b>Portugal</b>	<p>Ministry of Home Affairs   Ministério da Administração Interna;</p> <p>Ministry of Employment, Solidarity and Social Security   Ministério do Trabalho, Solidariedade e Segurança Social</p> <p>Institute of Social Security   Instituto de Segurança Social (ISS)</p> <p>Immigration and Borders Service   Serviço de Estrangeiros e Fronteiras (SEF)</p> <p>Portuguese Institute for Employment and Professional Training   Instituto do Emprego e Formação Profissional (IEFP)</p> <p>Santa Casa da Misericórdia de Lisboa (SCML)</p> <p>High Commission for Migration   Alto Comissariado para as Migrações (ACM)</p> <p>Portuguese Refugee Council   Conselho Português para os refugiados (CPR)</p>	<p>Policy-making: Centralised.</p> <p>Capacity management: Centralised.</p> <p>Daily operation of facilities: Decentralised based on bilateral and multilateral memoranda of understanding between the Ministry of Employment, Solidarity and Social Security and other public entities and non-profit organisations.</p>	<p>Stay in a reception centre (CAR) operated by CPR during the admissibility procedure.</p> <p>Dispersal throughout the country and tailored reception based on the decision of a steering committee led by ISS.</p>	Allocation after admission to the regular procedure by decision of a steering committee (GTO), led by ISS and including SEF, IEFP, SCML, ACM and CPR, based on the availability of places and the individual profile of the applicant.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Refugee reception centre (CAR): Open collective accommodation during the admissibility phase operated by CPR</li> <li>Temporary reception centre for refugees (CATR): Open collective accommodation for relocated or resettled refugees</li> <li>Alternative accommodation: Apartments, hostels rented by CPR or by local actors</li> </ul>
<b>Romania</b>	General Inspectorate of Immigration – Directorate for Asylum and Integration   Inspectoratul General pentru Imigrări, Direcția Azil și Integrare (IGI-DAI)	<p>Policy-making: Centralised.</p> <p>Capacity management: Centralised.</p> <p>Daily operation of facilities: Centralised, state-owned and managed facilities, where IGI-DAI coordinates and supports the activities of six Regional Centres.</p>	Reception is not separated into different phases.	Allocation based on available capacity in the regional centres, the profile of the applicants and the specificities of each regional centre.	<p>Regional Centres for Accommodation and Procedures for Asylum Seekers: Six collective facilities in Bucharest, Timișoara, Galați, Giurgiu, Rădăuți and Maramureș.</p> <p>Apart from the national reception facility, the Emergency Transit Centre functions as a unique type of collective facility in Timișoara for short-term stay of evacuated refugees waiting for resettlement to other countries.</p>

<b>Slovakia</b>	Ministry of the Interior, Migration Office   Ministerstvo vnútra, Migračný úrad	<p>Policy-making: Centralised.</p> <p>Capacity management: Centralised.</p> <p>Daily operation of facilities: Centralised, state-owned and managed facilities.</p>	<p>Stay in an initial reception centre for 3-4 weeks, where fingerprinting and registration of the application takes place, health and security checks are carried out, and the first interview is held.</p> <p>Later on, applicants are transferred to one of the two accommodation centres for the rest of the asylum procedure.</p> <p>Recognised beneficiaries of international protection may request an accommodation in the integration centre.</p>	Allocation following the stay in the initial reception centre, based on the availability of places.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Initial reception centre: Closed collective facility in Humenné, near the border with Ukraine.</li> <li>Accommodation centres: Open collective facilities in Opatovska Nova Ves and in Rohovce.</li> <li>Integration centre: Temporary collective accommodation for recognised beneficiaries of international protection in Zvolen.</li> </ul>
<b>Slovenia</b>	Government Office for the Support and Integration of Migrants   Urad Vlade Republike Slovenije za oskrbo in integracijo migrantov	<p>Policy-making: Centralised.</p> <p>Capacity management: Centralised.</p> <p>Daily operation of facilities: Centralised, state-owned and managed facilities.</p>	Reception not divided in phases.	Allocation based on the availability of places.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Collective accommodation centre: One main facility in Ljubljana (Vič) and two branches - one in Ljubljana (Kotnikova) and one in Logatec</li> <li>Reception-registration Centres (RRC): Emergency accommodation foreseen by contingency planning in case of a large influx, not operational currently.</li> </ul>
<b>Spain</b>	Ministry of Inclusion, Social Security and Migration, Secretary of State for Migration   Ministerio de Inclusión, Seguridad Social y Migraciones, Secretaría de Estado de Migraciones (MISSM, SEM)	<p>Policy-making: Centralised with the central government.</p> <p>Capacity management: Centralised with the central government.</p> <p>Daily operation of facilities: Mixed system consisting of a public network of reception centres managed by the SEM and other reception facilities and resources managed by NGOs funded by the Ministry.</p>	<p>The reception system for applicants for international protection includes an initial phase of assessment and referral (30 days maximum) and two reception phases:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Reception phase or first phase (according to the law 6 months)</li> <li>2) Preparation for the autonomy phase (12 months or maximum 15 months in case of vulnerable people). As of 1 June 2021, only applicants that have received international protection can be referred to the second reception phase.</li> </ol> <p>The first and second phases can be extended to 18 months, or to 24 months for vulnerable persons.</p>	Allocation based on the availability of places.	<p>There are two types of collective centres:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Public reception centres for applicants for International protection (CAR, <i>Centro de Acogida de Refugiados</i>) managed directly by the SEM. There are four centres (2 in Madrid, 1 in Valencia and 1 in Sevilla)</li> <li>Centres managed by NGOs: Management is outsourced to partner organisations through partnership agreements which are based on public grants; number of facilities and resources may vary from one year to other (around 1,000 facilities).</li> </ul> <p>Additionally, applicants may temporarily stay in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Temporary Reception Centres (CETI, <i>Centro de Estancia Temporal de Inmigrantes</i>): Centres to temporarily accommodate undocumented migrants entering into Spain from the borders with Morocco until they are transferred to centres located in the peninsula. There are two centres: Ceuta and Melilla.</li> <li>Centres of Emergency Reception and Referral (CAED, <i>Centros de Emergencia y Derivación</i>): There are 11 centres.</li> <li>There are also temporary surveillance and assistance centres for recently arrived persons who tested positive for COVID-19 and for their close contacts, and permanent reception facilities on the peninsula and the Balearic islands.</li> <li>Ad hoc emergency reception facilities in the Canary Islands to cope with the high number of arrivals to the islands and the COVID-19 situation: These facilities were slowly dismantled or they become more permanent reception facilities.</li> </ul>
<b>Sweden</b>	Swedish Migration Agency   Migrationsverket (SMA)	<p>Policy-making: Centralised.</p> <p>Capacity management: Centralised.</p> <p>Daily operation of facilities: Mixed. The daily management of centres</p>	<p>Stay in 'Step 1 accommodation' (first reception centres) during the process of screening.</p> <p>Then stay in 'Step 2 accommodation' for those who fall under the Dublin III</p>	The allocation of reception places is guided by the SMA's strategy to be at the right place. The SMA has decreased capacity from a 100,000 places to 10,000 in a 5-year span. One guiding principle	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Step 1 accommodation or first reception centres: Three collective facilities owned and managed by the SMA, located close to Stockholm, Gothenburg and Malmö</li> <li>Step 2 accommodation: Collective facilities owned and managed by the SMA, located near the point of departure near an international airport</li> <li>Step 3 accommodation: Various locations throughout the country, typically flats rented by the SMA</li> </ul>

		is divided between centres rented and managed by the SMA, and flats which the SMA visits regularly to ensure a healthy living environment. The SMA can also outsource housing to contractors through tenders.	Regulation or an accelerated procedure (safe countries of origin).  Other applicants are allocated to 'Step 3 accommodation'.	for being in the right place is to stay in the relative vicinity to international airports and the three major cities. The allocation to step 3 accommodation is mainly based on the availability of places.  Housing in private accommodation is allowed and applicants can stay with family or friends all over the country, and they are still registered in the reception system and can get the same financial benefits as the ones living in SMA accommodation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Private accommodation</li> </ul>
<b>Switzerland</b>	<p>Federal asylum centres: State Secretariat for Migration   Staatssekretariat für Migration   Secrétariat d'État aux migrations   Segreteria di Stato della migrazione (SEM)</p> <p>Cantonal level: Cantonal authorities</p>	<p>Policy-making: Mixed. Responsibility shared between federal and cantonal levels.</p> <p>Capacity management: Mixed. Managed at the regional and cantonal levels.</p> <p>Daily operation of facilities: Daily operation of the reception centres is delegated to private companies.</p>	Cantons take over the responsibility when applicants are channelled through the extended procedure or when they are recognised within the so-called accelerated procedure (equivalent to the regular procedure in EU terminology).	A dispersal system is in place based on Ordinance 1 on asylum, Article 21(1), according to each canton's population.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Federal asylum centres with processing facilities: Semi-closed collective facilities for lodging and processing applications with accommodation for asylum seekers, offices for interviewers, interpreters, document examiners and lawyers. Transfers to cantonal centres is exceptional only if additional information has to be obtained and an extended procedure is required.</li> <li>Federal Asylum Centres without processing facilities: Semi-closed collective facilities for applicants awaiting a Dublin transfer or rejected applicants to be removed shortly. They may be transferred to cantonal asylum centres if they cannot be removed from Switzerland within the set period of 140 days.</li> <li>Special centres: For uncooperative asylum applicants who significantly endanger public safety and order or their conduct massively disrupts the operation of normal federal asylum centres. Currently one functioning in Les Verrières (Neuchâtel canton).</li> <li>Cantonal centres: For applicants awaiting a decision for more than 140 days and for recognised beneficiaries of international protection.</li> </ul>

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