



Raphaelswerk e.V.

DENMARK: Information for refugees who are returned to Denmark

Under the Dublin Regulation, refugees may be transferred to the EU country responsible (in most cases, the country of first entry), so that the asylum procedure is carried out there. Refugees who have already been recognised in another EU country will be returned to that country on the basis of the safe third country clause because their asylum application is not admissible in Germany.

For many refugees, their imminent return to another EU country creates great uncertainty.

Our guide is intended for advisers, voluntary support groups and people who are affected. It is supposed to show existing services and contacts. Refugees will be given information about their situation after being returned as well as addresses of organisations they may contact locally for support.

However, no assessment of these organisations and services is made. We do not claim that the list is exhaustive.

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Please do not hesitate to send your comments and feedback to infostelle@raphaelswerk.de.

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Procedure after re-entry into Denmark

Persons who are returned to Denmark under the Dublin Regulation are received by the police upon arrival at the border or at the airport. Then they are taken to the reception centre, Center Sandholm.

What needs to be done first?

That depends on whether the person concerned left Denmark while the asylum procedure was in progress or whether he/she had not yet initiated an asylum procedure in Denmark before his/her departure. Depending on the situation, different steps must be taken.

The person concerned has not lodged an application for asylum in Denmark yet:

He/she is taken to the reception centre Sandholm and registered there. Then he/she lodges an asylum application and is assigned to an accommodation centre for asylum seekers.

The person concerned has already lodged an application for asylum in Denmark and left Denmark during the asylum procedure:

A decision in favour of granting the asylum application has been taken:

Protection has been granted. The person concerned has resident status in Denmark.

No decision has yet been taken on the asylum application:

Asylum procedures are suspended if the person concerned leaves the reception centre. In such a case, the authorities note down that the person has left Denmark. When he/she returns to Denmark, the asylum procedure is resumed where it was suspended.

The asylum application was rejected:

Rejected asylum seekers are taken to the transit centre Avnstrup if they cooperate with the authorities. If they do not cooperate, they will be taken to a departure centre (Center Sjælsmark for families or Center Kærshovedgård for single persons).

Residence status in Denmark

- **Refugee status** (*konventionsstatus*) according to Section 7 (1) of the Danish Aliens Act: residence permit for two years, which may be extended by two years each time. There is a right to family reunification, i.e. spouses and under-age children may join the recognised refugee in Denmark.
- **Protection status** (*beskyttelsesstatus*) according to Section 7 (2) of the Danish Aliens Act: residence permit for one year, which may be extended by up to two years each time. There is a right to family reunification, i.e. spouses and under-age children may join the recognised refugee in Denmark.
- **Temporary protection status** (*midlertidig beskyttelsesstatus*) according to Section 7 (3) of the Danish Aliens Act: residence permit for up to one year, which may be extended by one year each time. Family reunification is possible only after three years.

Procedures under the law of residence/asylum procedures

The application for asylum may be lodged with any police station in Denmark or the reception centre in Sandholm. Asylum seekers are registered there.

After registration, asylum seekers receive a document that can be used for identification (*asylansøgerkort*). This card contains the 7-digit personal ID number.

Then asylum seekers are requested to complete the asylum application. The application is handled by the Immigration Service (*Udlændingestyrelsen*). Subsequently, the Immigration Service invites the person concerned to an initial interview, where the reasons for fleeing his/her country, the escape route and further details are discussed. Afterwards, a decision is taken on whether Denmark is responsible for carrying out the asylum procedure.

If so, the Immigration Service examines whether a normal asylum procedure, the procedure for applications that are manifestly unfounded or an accelerated asylum procedure will be carried out. To this end, the application is submitted to the Danish Refugee Council (*Dansk Flygtningehjælp*)¹. If the Danish Refugee Council objects to the decision of the Immigration Service, the application is handled under the normal procedure.

Asylum seekers are then assigned to an accommodation centre for asylum seekers. These centres are run by the Danish Red Cross or the local authorities.

In some cases, a second interview takes place a few months later. Subsequently, a decision on the application for asylum is taken.

If a decision in favour of granting the application is taken, asylum seekers will be given a residence permit. The Immigration Service will assign them to a municipality as a place of residence. They may only move to another place after three years.

If the Immigration Service rejects the application for asylum, an appeal is automatically lodged with the Danish Refugee Appeals Board (*Flygtningenævnet*)². Lawyers provide free support to asylum seekers in this connection. If the appeal is dismissed, the asylum seeker must leave Denmark.

If asylum seekers come from safe countries of origin, an accelerated procedure is carried out. Their application for asylum is also considered to be manifestly unfounded. No application form must be completed; an interview takes place at short notice.

The decision is taken within a few days. The Danish Refugee Council is asked for an assessment. No appeal may be lodged.

Subject to certain conditions, rejected asylum seekers may apply to the Refugee Appeals Board (*Flygtningenævnet*) for reopening of their case if there are new grounds for asylum or if the situation in their country of origin has deteriorated. The reopening procedure may take up to one year; during this time, however, the person concerned has no right to reside in Denmark. As a rule, though, the application for reopening is examined before the person concerned is deported.

In addition to the asylum application, asylum seekers may apply for a residence permit on humanitarian grounds. Such a permit is only granted in exceptional cases, e.g. in the case of a

¹ The Danish Refugee Council is an independent, non-governmental human rights organisation (NGO). Above all, it works in the field of international emergency aid for refugees. In Denmark, it carries out tasks in connection with asylum on behalf of the Ministry of Immigration and the Immigration Service.

² The Refugee Appeals Board is a court-like institution consisting of three members: one judge, one member appointed by the Ministry of Immigration and Integration as well as one member appointed by the Law Society.

very serious illness that cannot be treated in the home country. The application is filed with the Danish Ministry of Immigration and Integration (*Udlændinge- og Integrationsministeriet*). The Immigration Service should be informed thereof during the interview and will then help with the application. NGOs such as the Danish Refugee Council also provide support in this regard.

Competent authorities

Stage of the procedure	Competent authority	English name of the authority
Application	<i>Politiet</i>	Police
Refugee status determination	<i>Udlændingestyrelsen</i>	Immigration Service
Appeal	<i>Flygtningenævnet</i>	Refugee Appeals Board
Subsequent application	<i>Flygtningenævnet</i>	Refugee Appeals Board

Contact with the Immigration Service:

Udlændingestyrelsen/Danish Immigration Service

Ryesgade 53

DK-2100 København Ø

Address for visitors:

Borgerservice/Citizen Service

Ryesgade 53

2100 København Ø

Tel.: +45 35 36 66 00

E-mail: us@us.dk

Contact form for individual inquiries: [https://www.nyidanmark.dk/en-GB/Contact-us/Contact-the-Danish-Immigration-Service/Write-to-us-\(email\)](https://www.nyidanmark.dk/en-GB/Contact-us/Contact-the-Danish-Immigration-Service/Write-to-us-(email))

Contact with the Refugee Appeals Board:

Flygtningenævnet/Refugee Appeals Board

Adelgade 11-13

DK-1304 København K

Tel.: +45 6198 3700

E-mail: fln@fln.dk

<http://www.fln.dk/>

What duties do asylum seekers have in Denmark?

Asylum seekers are obliged:

- to remain in Denmark until a decision on the asylum application is taken;
- to stay in the assigned asylum centre; it is only possible to move with the consent of the Danish Immigration Service;
- to attend the interviews at the Immigration Service.

What rights do asylum seekers have in Denmark?

As soon as an asylum application is lodged, asylum seekers have the right:

- to remain in Denmark until a decision on the application is taken;
- to remain in Denmark until the Refugee Appeals Board takes a decision if the asylum application is rejected;
- to an interpreter during the interviews;
- to free legal advice from the Danish Refugee Council and to an interpreter if an appeal against a rejected asylum application is lodged.

If asylum seekers are discriminated against or if their rights are infringed, they should contact an advisory centre of an NGO (see addresses in the annex).

Return to the country of origin

Refugees who want to return to their country of origin may receive financial support on certain conditions.

The Danish Refugee Council offers independent return counselling:

Dansk Flygtningehjælp DFH (Danish Refugee Council):

- personal advice in the asylum centres in Avnstrup, Sjælsmark and Kærshovedgård
- personal advice in the office in Copenhagen: Borgergade 6, appointments by e-mail return.advice@drc.ngo or telephone 3373 5000, <https://flygtning.dk/danmark/raadgivningstjenesten/rejected-asylum-seeker>
- information about support in connection with returns: <https://flygtning.dk/danmark/om-at-vende-hjem/for-flygtninge/for-refugees-engelsk>

CPR number (personal ID number)

The CPR number is a personal identification number that is assigned upon entry in the Central Register of Persons.

Asylum seekers are not given any CPR number.

Recognised refugees receive a CPR number from the Danish Immigration Service when they are granted their residence permit. Thereupon, they must register with the residents' registration office at their place of residence. When registering, they must inform the official that they already have a CPR number.

Together with the CPR number and upon registration with the residents' registration office, they are granted the associated rights, such as health insurance through the national health care system.

For example, the CPR number is required for opening a bank account, issuing a tax card or entering into contracts for telephone services.

Accommodation after re-entry

Returned persons are always placed in accommodation. First of all, they are registered at the reception centre Sandholm. It depends on their situation in which institution they are accommodated afterwards:

- Returned persons who have not yet applied for asylum in Denmark are assigned to an asylum centre. Most of these centres are in Jutland.
- In the case of asylum procedures that are already in progress, returned persons are also placed in an asylum centre.
- Rejected asylum seekers are taken to the transit centre Avnstrup if they cooperate with the authorities. If they do not cooperate, they will be taken to a departure centre (Center Sjælsmark for families or Center Kærshovedgård for single persons).
- Returned persons who already have residence status in Denmark may ask the municipality which accommodated them before their departure to support them in connection with accommodation.

The asylum centres are run by the Danish Red Cross (*Røde Kors*) or the local authorities.

Many of the asylum centres are in remote areas. This makes access to independent advice outside the centres and contact with the local people difficult. In the centres, asylum seekers may seek independent advice from the Danish Refugee Council.

On certain conditions, asylum seekers may stay in private accommodation during the procedure. To this end, they must apply to the Danish Immigration Service. The rent and other expenses must be borne by the asylum seekers themselves. They do not receive any cash payments. They are entitled to health care at the accommodation centre for asylum seekers to which they are assigned.

Cash payments to asylum seekers

Asylum seekers receive cash payments. The amount depends on the kind of accommodation and the composition of the family.

Single adults staying in accommodation where no meals are provided are given 52.35 DKK per day, couples receive 41.44 DKK per day and person. There are additional payments for children.

Asylum seekers over the age of 18 conclude a contract with the accommodation centre whereby they undertake to take part in certain activities and courses and to carry out work in the centre. In return, they initially receive an additional payment of 8.73 DKK per day and later up to 30.55 DKK once it is certain that their application for asylum is processed in Denmark.

The money is paid in cash in the accommodation centres every two weeks.

Some centres have a canteen where meals are provided for the asylum seekers; they are not allowed to prepare meals themselves. Asylum seekers whose application is considered to be manifestly unfounded are placed in such centres. If asylum seekers are placed in accommodation with a canteen, they do not receive any cash payments.

Access to health care

Asylum seekers do not have access to the national health care system. The provisional CPR number they receive does not entitle them to be issued with a health insurance card. Cost of treatment is borne by the Danish Immigration Service if urgent or pain relief treatment is concerned. Necessary medication is provided free of charge.

There are infirmaries in the asylum centres where general practitioners, midwives or ear, nose and throat specialists can examine patients.

Under-age asylum seekers are entitled to health care just like children residing in Denmark.

In the first few weeks after their arrival, asylum seekers are examined by a doctor in the asylum centre. During the examination, they should state whether they have any health problems or diseases.

Persons who are not ordinarily resident in Denmark may receive medical treatment at clinics in Copenhagen and Aarhus that are operated by the Danish Red Cross, the Danish Refugee Council and the Danish Medical Association.

Addresses may be requested by sending an e-mail to vilen@rodekors.dk or calling +45 3171 6164. Information about the clinics (in Danish):

<https://www.rodekors.dk/vores-arbejde/sundhedsklinik/fakta>

Recognised refugees have access to the national health service as soon as they have received their CPR number and have been registered with the residents' registration office.

Access to educational institutions and language courses

There are kindergartens in larger accommodation centres for asylum seekers. Children between the age of three and five may go there.

Compulsory school attendance for Danish children between the age of 6 and 16 also applies to asylum seekers. After their arrival, the children are mostly taught at the accommodation centre for asylum seekers at first. Later they attend either a special school for asylum seekers or a local state school.

For asylum seekers over the age of 18, introductory courses on the Danish language, culture and society are offered to asylum seekers at the centres. These courses also provide information on the Danish labour market and the education system.

Asylum seekers over the age of 18 conclude a contract with the accommodation centre whereby they undertake to attend courses such as general vocational training courses. Moreover, they undertake to perform certain activities such as cleaning work in the centre or support in the office and in connection with repairs. It is also possible to apply for a period of work experience.

The centres offer intensive courses in Danish for recognised refugees. They can attend these courses until they are transferred to their new place of residence.

Access to the labour market

At first, asylum seekers do not have access to the labour market in Denmark. Six months after they applied for asylum, they may apply to the Danish Immigration Service for a work permit. Based on the usual provisions, an examination is made to find out whether the asylum seeker and the position meet all the requirements. Anyone who takes up a job without a permit may be subject to a fine or sentenced to imprisonment.

Labour market taxes and wage taxes must be paid on the salary; these taxes are withheld by the employer. Often the salary is paid in cash because it is difficult to open a bank account without a CPR number.

Asylum seekers may not be self-employed.

Recognised refugees have access to the labour market.

Integration programme for recognised refugees

Recognised refugees are assigned to a municipality where they will live. The selection is made on the basis of quotas, i.e. depending on the number of refugees who already live in a municipality. Chances of finding work and personal circumstances are also taken into account in the assignment process.

Refugees enter into an integration agreement with the municipality to which they are assigned. The integration programme runs for three years and is the responsibility of the municipality. The municipality finds accommodation for refugees and helps them with the initial furniture. Moreover, refugees are given language lessons and assisted in their job search.

Refugees who have not yet found work receive a financial integration aid (*integrationsydelse*). However, it only amounts to about fifty per cent of the Danish social assistance. The local authorities decide themselves whether they pay additional aids for public transport and other expenses.

Families with children may apply for Danish child benefit. The amount depends on the length of stay in Denmark, so that one does not receive the full amount in the first few years.

Vulnerable groups

Among the vulnerable persons are minors, unaccompanied minors, pregnant women, disabled persons, older persons, single parents with under-age children. Persons who were subject to torture, rape or other forms of severe psychological, physical or sexual violence as well as victims of human trafficking are also regarded as vulnerable.

Since the accommodation centres are often large centres, they do not always give enough protection for vulnerable groups. There is specialised accommodation for sick people or persons who require special care for other reasons. However, places are limited.

Information for women who seek asylum in Denmark:

<http://www.asyltilkvinder.dk/translate/english/>

Minors

In the case of unaccompanied minors, the Danish Immigration Service examines whether they have the mature personality required to go through the asylum procedure. If this is not the case, they may be granted a temporary residence permit on certain conditions. As soon as they are able to do so, they must go through the normal asylum procedure.

Unaccompanied minors will be supported by a representative who helps them with the asylum procedure and other matters. In most cases, the representative is proposed by the Danish Red Cross.

There is special accommodation for unaccompanied minors seeking asylum. Under-age asylum seekers are entitled to health care just like children residing in Denmark.

Annex: Where can I get advice and support?

Information material about Denmark for refugees in various languages

"Film about asylum": Video about the asylum procedure produced by the Danish Immigration Service (in 19 languages): www.nyidanmark.dk/en-GB > Words and concepts > Film about asylum

ASYLUMDK: App for asylum seekers in Denmark with a description of the asylum system in Denmark, by the Danish Refugee Council, in English, Arabic, Dari/Farsi, Somali, Pashto, Sorani, Tigrinya, Russian and French: <https://drc.ngo/asylumdk>

"General information and advice to asylum seekers": Information leaflet for asylum seekers in Denmark giving an overview of the asylum procedure, by Refugees Welcome, in Danish, English, Arabic, Farsi, Somali, Bosnian/Croatian/Serbian, French, Tigrinya and Russian: <http://refugeeswelcome.dk/advice/leaflets-and-guides/>

w2eu.info – welcome to europe: Independent information for migrants and refugees in Denmark, in English, French, Arabic and Farsi, compiled by a network of activists and organisations from Europe and North Africa: <http://w2eu.info/denmark.en/articles/denmark-asylum.en.html>

Contacts / local advisory services

Dansk Flygtningehjælp DFH (Danish Refugee Council)

Borgergade 10
1300 København K
Tel.: +45 3373 5000
E-mail: drc@drc.ngo
<https://drc.ngo/>

Legal advice, return counselling

Røde Kors (Danish Red Cross)

Blegdamsvej 27

2100 København Ø

Tel.: +45 35 25 92 00

E-mail: info@rodekors.dk

www.rodekors.dk

Operates asylum centres, offers educational opportunities and leisure facilities, health care

Trampoline House

Thoravej 7

2400 København NV

Tel. +45 71 79 49 09

www.trampolinehouse.dk

Psychological counselling and consultations with doctors, language courses, leisure activities

LGBT Asylum

Tel.: +45 71 52 33 97 (Mondays 3 – 6 pm)

E-mail: info@lgbtasylum.dk

www.lgbtasylum.dk/

Advisory services for LGBT asylum seekers and refugees, regular meetings, social network

Legal advice

Dansk Flygtningehjælp DFH (Danish Refugee Council)

Borgergade 10

1300 København K

Tel.: +45 3373 5000

E-mail: advice@drc.ngo

<https://drc.ngo/>

- advice given to newly arrived refugees at the reception centre Sandholm
- In the asylum centres, it is possible to make an appointment for consultation via videoconference.
- personal advice in the office of DRC in Copenhagen: Borgergade 10
- advice also by e-mail and over the telephone

Refugees Welcome

c/o Trampolinhuset

Thoravej 7

2400 København NV

Tel.: +45 5055 8011

E-mail: kontakt@refugeeswelcome.dk

<http://refugeeswelcome.dk>

- personal advice at the reception centre Sandholm and in the office in Copenhagen (Tuesdays 4 to 7 pm)
- advice also by e-mail, over the telephone or via Facebook chat:
<https://www.facebook.com/refugeeswelcomedenmark/>

Health care and advice

Clinic for persons not ordinarily resident in Denmark

(Danish Red Cross, Danish Refugee Council, Danish Medical Association)

The address may be requested by sending an e-mail to

vilen@rodekors.dk or calling +45 3171 6164.

Information on the clinics (in Danish):

<https://www.rodekors.dk/vores-arbejde/sundhedsklinik/fakta>

Trampoline House

Thoravej 7

2400 København NV

Tel.: +45 71 79 49 09

www.trampolinehouse.dk

Psychological counselling and consultations with doctors

Advice on return to the country of origin

Dansk Flygtningehjælp DFH (Danish Refugee Council)

Borgergade 6

1300 København K

- personal advice in the asylum centres in Avnstrup, Sjælsmark and Kærshovedgård
- personal advice in the office in Copenhagen: Borgergade 6, appointments by e-mail return.advice@drc.ngo or telephone 3373 5000, <https://flygtning.dk/danmark/raadgivningstjenesten/rejected-asylum-seeker>

In addition, we refer to the addresses compiled on the website "**w2eu.info – welcome to Europe**": <http://w2eu.info/denmark/en/articles/denmark-contacts-en.html>

Material and sources

- Udlændingestyrelsen (Danish Immigration Service), portal "New to Denmark" www.nyidanmark.dk
- Udlændinge- og Integrationsministeriet (Ministry of Immigration and Integration), <http://uim.dk/arbejdsomrader/Integration>
- Dansk Flygtningehjælp DFH (Danish Refugee Council), <https://drc.ngo/>
- Refugees Welcome, <http://refugeeswelcome.dk>, <http://refugees.dk>
- Røde Kors (Danish Red Cross), www.rodekors.dk
- w2eu.info – welcome to Europe, <http://w2eu.info/denmark/en.html>