



EMN Ad-Hoc Query on Average cost and average length of reception for asylum seekers

Requested by calmels TOMMY on 4th August 2017

Protection

Responses from Austria, Belgium, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Poland, Slovak Republic, Sweden, United Kingdom, Norway (21 in total)

Disclaimer:

The following responses have been provided primarily for the purpose of information exchange among EMN NCPs in the framework of the EMN. The contributing EMN NCPs have provided, to the best of their knowledge, information that is up-to-date, objective and reliable. Note, however, that the information provided does not necessarily represent the official policy of an EMN NCPs' Member State.

Background information:

The migration situation experienced by the European Union and France leads to a sharp increase in the flow of asylum seekers between 2014 and 2017. In response to this increase France has been trying to adapt its national system for reception of asylum seekers in order to reach 100% of asylum seekers hosted in accommodation facilities by 2020.

In order to rationalise expenditures and improve the national system for reception of asylum seekers, enabling an increase in the number of people benefiting from adapted accommodation and support, the new members of parliament would like to know the different periods of stay and costs in Europe. This aims to assess the room for improvements and to situate France in relation to its partners.

Questions

1. What is the average cost of reception per asylum seeker (social assistance, financial allowance for the applicant, accommodation)?
2. What is the average length of stay of asylum seekers in the specific structures?

Responses

	Country	Wider Dissemination	Response
	Austria	Yes	<p>1. Foreigners requiring assistance and protection who are accommodated in a reception facility are for the duration of the asylum procedure generally entitled to the basic welfare support benefits enumerated in Art. 6 of the Basic Welfare Support Agreement (pursuant to Art. 1a Federal Constitutional Act). The main benefits included here are temporary accommodation, food, care and ensured health insurance coverage. The benefits provided to foreigners requiring assistance and protection who are accommodated in a reception facility are generally administered as benefits in kind. Reimbursement for the costs of individual benefits is generally limited to the maximum amounts stipulated in Art. 9 of the Basic Welfare Support Agreement. Here the cost of accommodation is variably defined depending on the type of accommodation, with a distinction needing to be made between organized and individual accommodation. With organized accommodation, the party providing accommodation receives a daily rate of €21 per person for food and accommodation. Within organized accommodation a further distinction has to be made based on the various ways that</p>

meals are taken (all meals are provided, or individuals provide all or some of their own meals). Individuals in organized accommodation additionally receive a monthly allowance of €40. Asylum seekers in individual accommodation independently sign leases for housing and receive in lieu of benefits in kind a monthly rent subsidy, amounting to €150 for individuals and €300 for multi-person households, in addition to a food subsidy to allow individuals to provide their own meals, amounting to €215 per adult, €100 per child and €215 per unaccompanied minor foreigner. It should also be noted that, on initial admittance to basic welfare support, foreigners requiring assistance and protection are also provided with any necessary clothing and hygiene articles. As part of structuring daily activities, individuals at federal accommodation facilities are offered daily instruction in German as well as values and orientation courses and other education opportunities. The cost of (public) transportation is covered by the Federal State and the provinces where transportation is for the purpose of transfers, responding to official summons, medical appointments or attending school. Health insurance is mainly provided through payment of health insurance contributions as specified in the General Social Insurance Act, thereby ensuring health insurance coverage at a level equal to Austrian citizens. Additional medical benefits can be provided where needed. From the above it can be seen that basic welfare support consists of various individual benefits as specified in Art. 6 of the Basic Welfare Support Agreement, while the scope of benefits provided under basic welfare support depends on the specific needs in the individual case, so that it is not possible to specify an average cost. Source: Federal Ministry of the Interior.

2. The Basic Welfare Support Agreement pursuant to Art. 15a of the Federal Constitutional Act also defines the responsibilities of the Federal State and the provinces in providing basic welfare support to foreigners requiring assistance and protection. According to the agreement, the Federal State mainly provides basic welfare support to asylum seekers during the first stage of the admission procedure, referred to as the admission procedure. During this – relatively short – period of time, asylum seekers usually receive accommodation and care at federal reception facilities. Once asylum seekers are admitted to the asylum procedure, the responsibility for accommodating and caring for them passes to the provinces. After the foreigners requiring assistance and protection are transferred to the provinces' basic welfare support system, these individuals receive basic welfare support at the reception facilities of the provinces for the duration of the asylum procedure. The total length of stay depends on the length of the individual's asylum procedure, and in particular on the complexity of that case. The length of stay can also be further extended, either after protection status is granted or, in the event of a

			negative asylum decision, to remove the individual from the country. No average length of stay can be specified. Source: Federal Ministry of the Interior.
	Belgium	Yes	<p>1. The actual average cost per asylum seeker in 2016, covering the expenses associated with asylum seekers (daily living or material aid), medical cost and the expenses relating to accommodation in federal reception centres, is EUR 25.84 (EUR 9,458 per year per asylum seekers). Note, if you take into account the staff costs and investments, the actual average cost per asylum seeker in 2016 is EUR 51.14 (EUR 18,826 par year per asylum seekers).</p> <p>2. In 2016, 26,560 residents left (outflow) the reception network after spending an average 9 months in one of the reception facilities of the Belgian reception network. - 19,382 persons left a collective reception centre after an average stay of 7.3 months (counting from the date of entrance into the network); - 7,178 persons left an individual reception facility after an average stay of 14.5 months (counting from the date of entrance into the network).</p>
	Croatia	Yes	<p>1. During 2016, the average cost of seeking international protection in the Reception Center for Asylum Seekers is approximately 55.00 EUR per month. It's the amount without health care. The amount per applicant may be considerably higher if a person needs specific medical care or is a member of some vulnerable groups.</p> <p>2. On average, the applicant for international protection at the Reception Centre for Asylum Seekers resides for about 90 days. It is important to note that the time spent at the Reception Center is individual, and depends on many factors, such as the complexity of the case and time that asylum seekers wants to spend in the Republic of Croatia. There has been a recent trend of a shorter residence in the Reception for Asylum Seekers.</p>
	Cyprus	Yes	<p>1. According to the estimation of costs relating to the operation of the Kofinou Reception and Accommodation Centre in Cyprus, for the year 2016, the average cost is estimated to 14,19 per person per day. Subsistence allowance for applicants for international protection (in case they are not accommodated at the Reception Centre): please see attached doc.</p>

			2. In August 2017, the average length of stay for the specific centre was 372 days
	Czech Republic	Yes	<p>1. The average cost of reception per asylum seeker is 500 CZK (around 20 Eur) per day (this amount does not include salaries of the employees and investments).</p> <p>2. We do not monitor the average length of stay of asylum seeker in the asylum facilities – they have the right to stay in the facility during the whole time of international protection proceeding, however, they do not have a duty to stay in the asylum facility with the exception of reception centre, where they are obliged to remain for the time necessary for the initial medical examination and the necessary initial procedures. The duration of this stay at the reception centre generally does not exceed 2 weeks.</p>
	Estonia	Yes	<p>1. In Estonia there is only one reception center. The average cost per asylum seeker in one month has been calculated to be 355 €(this includes social assistance, financial allowance, health care, medicines, translation, clothes, hygiene products). Please note that the accomodation is not calculated per asylum seeker, it is estimated that 141 000 €per year covers the cost for the house, insurance and also staff costs.</p> <p>2. The average length of stay of asylum seekers in reception centre is 6 months.</p>
	Finland	Yes	<p>1. Finland calculates the reception cost per day per asylum seeker (amount includes social assistance, financial allowance and accommodation). Adult in a reception centre: 49,-/day, adult in private accommodation: 18,-/day, unaccompanied minor in a dedicated facility: 208,-/day, unaccompanied minor in an assisted accommodation unit: 136,-/day.</p> <p>2. The average lenght of stay in the accommodation system is very difficult to calculate as it depends on many different factors in the individual cases. At present in 2017 it is 276 days. At the end of 2016 it was 116 days.</p>
	France	Yes	1. in 2016, in reception centres for asylum seekers, the average cost of reception, accommodation and welfare per person per day was 24.09 € In emergency facilities, the average cost per day per person

			<p>was 15.97 €</p> <p>2. In 2016, in reception centres for asylum seekers, the average length of stay for asylum seekers was 494 days.</p>
	Germany	No	
	Hungary	Yes	<p>1. Average cost of reception per asylum seeker in open reception centers and community shelters (current year): At Vámosszabadi the average cost of reception per asylum seeker is 15035 HUF/person/day. Besides of the asylum seekers, approved refugees and beneficiaries of subsidiary protection status reside at Vámosszabadi. The average length of stay of the above mentioned clients is 57 days. At Kiskunhalas the average cost of reception per asylum seeker is 19350 HUF/person/day. The average length of stay of asylum seekers is 57 days. Average cost of reception per asylum seeker in detention centers (current year): At Nyírbátor the average cost of reception per asylum seeker is 3369 HUF/person/day. The Site provides social assistance, and provides clothing for people held in detention. It also provides materials needed for the site's maintenance. The hygienic materials, catering, and the costs of running the center are financed by the Police's own budget. The average length of stay of asylum seekers is 56 days. At Kiskunhalas (closed temporarily in April 2017) the average cost of reception per asylum seeker was 16.503 HUF/person/day. The average length of stay of asylum seekers was 24 days in the Site. At Békéscsaba the average cost of reception per asylum seeker was 9836 HUF/person/day. Since the 7th of August 2017 there are no asylum seekers at the site who receive provision. The average length of stay of asylum seekers was 49 days. Transit zones operating in Tompa and Röszke (on the Serbian-Hungarian border): In the Tompa Transit Zone the average cost of reception per asylum seeker is 1606 HUF/person/day. The catering is financed by the Immigration and Asylum Office (herein after: the Office), while the repair and maintenance costs, the medical assistance of adults and the custody of asylum seekers are financed by the Police. The average length of stay of asylum seekers, including persons falling within the scope of Dublin Regulation is 25 days in the Tompa Transit Zone. In the Röszke Transit Zone the average cost of reception per asylum seeker is 3688 HUF/person/day. The site provides asylum seekers with social assistance, provides clothing for people held in asylum detention and hygienic materials. For children paediatrician services, medicaments, baby food and infant nutrition are provided. The catering and the laundry</p>

			<p>service are financed by the Office, while the costs of running the site are covered by the Police. The average length of stay of asylum seekers, including persons falling within the scope of Dublin Regulation is 87 days in the Röszke Transit Zone.</p> <p>2. See the answer above.</p>
	Ireland	Yes	<p>1. Costs for accommodation and related costs only are available in the annual reports of the Reception and Integration Agency on www.ria.gov.ie Since August 2017, the financial allowance payable to asylum seekers in the direct provision system is €21.60 per adult and €21.60 per child.</p> <p>2. Please see document attached.</p>
	Italy	Yes	<p>1. The reception of asylum seekers has an average cost of 35 euros per day per person, including migrants' daily pocket money (2,5 euros).</p> <p>2. As foreseen by Art. 14 of Legislative Decree 18 August 2015, n. 142, Asylum seekers may remain within the specific reception structures for a period of six months, which may be extended, under certain circumstances and with a case-by-case assessment, for a further consistent period. Due to the high and continuous influx of migrants, to the high numbers of asylum applications and to the time for appeal in front of the judicial authorities in case of reject of the application (during the appeal procedure migrants have the right to remain in the reception center), the above mentioned length of stay can be longer. For a better understanding of Italian reception system and related cost analysis, please find attached the 2015 report on the reception of migrants and refugees in Italy. However, the Italian reception system has been further improved since 2015, due to the continuous evolution of the phenomenon.</p>
	Latvia	Yes	<p>1. In 2016, direct costs for reception and accommodation of asylum seekers were EUR 646 145 which included costs for medical services, Latvian language courses, daily allowance (average cost per asylum seeker per month was EUR 98,92), residence allowance. Administrative costs and costs for development of infrastructure are excluded.</p>

			2. In 2016, in the Accommodation Centre for Asylum Seekers, the average length of stay of asylum seekers was 92 days.
	Lithuania	No	
	Luxembourg	No	
	Netherlands	Yes	<p>1. The costs for COA (Centraal Opvang Asielzoekers) on average is approximately 23.000 euro per asylum seeker per year. This includes health care, accommodation in reception centers and other costs for the livelihood of the asylum seeker. Source (in Dutch): https://www.rijksoverheid.nl/onderwerpen/asielbeleid/vraag-en-antwoord/uitgaven-rijk-provincies-gemeenten-voor-opvang-asielzoekers</p> <p>2. The average length of stay depends on the status of the individual asylum seeker. In addition to the asylum seekers that reside in a reception center (an AZC). AZCs also host (for example) permit holders who have to wait until they get housing in a Dutch municipality. Additionally people who have to leave the Netherlands may also stay in a reception center. The length of stay is quite different for the different groups. In general, it takes approximately 6 months for an asylum seeker to leave a reception center. Source (in Dutch): https://www.coa.nl/nl/actueel/veelgestelde-vragen/asielzoekers-en-hun-procedure#opvanglocatie</p>
	Poland	Yes	<p>1. The average daily cost in the rented reception center (per asylum seeker) – 19,00 euro The average monthly cost in the rented reception center (per asylum seeker) – 560,00 euro The average annual cost in the rented reception center (per asylum seeker) – 6690,00 euro The average daily cost in the state reception center (per asylum seeker) – 13,50 euro The average monthly cost in the state reception center (per asylum seeker) – 410,00 euro The average annual cost in the state reception center (per asylum seeker) – 4910,00 euro</p> <p>2. The average time of social assistance for foreigners who applied for international protection, were 43 days in 2016. However, it should be emphasized this information may be misleading because many</p>

			foreigners immediately leave the reception center and illegally travel to other EU countries. Such cases underestimate the average time of use of the social assistance. Foreigners who stay in Poland until their application for international protection is examined, usually benefit from social assistance for more than 6 months.
	Slovak Republic	Yes	<p>1. During the years 2008 – 2012, direct costs for one asylum seekers for one day amounted in average to EUR 40,20. Recently, this information is not recorded. However, the food related cost per one food unit is around EUR 7,01 for one day for one asylum seeker not including the related work and the transport of the food. The average cost for social assistance for one day for one asylum seeker is around EUR 30,47 (currently, there is low number of asylum seekers present in the centre). However, the more asylum seekers present in the reception centre, the less the average expenses per one asylum seeker are. The asylum seekers receive pocket money once a month which amounts to EUR 0,40 per day for adults and EUR 0,27 per day for children. The information about the other related costs is not available. It is also important to note that this amount is only approximate since expenses on particular items constantly change and differ from one centre to another.</p> <p>2. Slovak reception system is divided into one reception centre and two accommodation centres. The stay in the reception centre is obligatory lasting around 30 days – this centre serves for specific health examination and administrative procedures. Subsequently, the asylum seeker spends another two months in an accommodation centre. The average time the asylum seeker spends in the reception structures is 3 months (it is also the time frame for asylum procedure stipulated in the Act on Asylum).</p>
	Sweden	Yes	<p>1. According to the annual report from the Swedish Migration Agency in 2016 the average cost (including reception, detention, settlement and return) per person in the reception system/per night was 746 sek which is approximately 74 euro. The average cost per person and per night for those accommodated by the Swedish Migration Agency was 406 sek - approximately 40 euro and the average cost for those asylum seekers who arranged their own accommodation was 203 sek - approximately 20 euro per person and per night. The high over all average is explained by the fact that we had many UAM in the reception system and that their reception is expensive with an average cost of 2918 sek - almost 300 euro per UAM per night. Also detention is included in the overall average</p>

			<p>which costs on average 3644 sek - approximately 360 euro per person per night.</p> <p>2. According to the monthly statistics from the Swedish Migration Agency the average length of stay for those leaving the reception system (for different reasons – to be settled in a municipality or returned) were during 2016 423 days.</p>
	United Kingdom	Yes	<p>1. Adult asylum seekers who would otherwise be destitute can obtain support under section 95 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999 from the time they arrive in the UK, until their claim is fully determined and they have exhausted their appeal rights. The support package usually consists of free, furnished accommodation (with utility bills and council tax paid) and a weekly cash allowance to meet other essential living needs. Not all asylum seekers require accommodation and those who find accommodation through friends or relatives may be provided with the allowance alone (“subsistence only support”). Since 2012 UKVI has discharged their statutory duty to provide destitute asylum seekers with accommodation and transportation via a suite of contracts known as COMPASS Contracts with three providers: Serco, G4S and Clearsprings Ready Homes. Accommodation costs therefore form only one element of the COMPASS contracts and the rates paid to individual providers are a matter of commercial confidentiality. For Unaccompanied asylum seeking children the Home Office provides funding to local authorities to assist with their costs in supporting unaccompanied children who have claimed asylum, including the proportion who have been trafficked. The funding is used to cover the costs of providing foster parents or other accommodation arrangements, as well as the costs of the social workers who provide appropriate care. The Home Office annual accounts publishes the financial cost for total expenditure on Asylum support but this does not include a breakdown of that expenditure into the various elements of support and different forms of accommodation.</p> <p>2. The Home Office does not hold centralised data on the average length of stay in accommodation by supported asylum seekers.</p>
	Norway	Yes	<p>1. Norway has provided some figures in tables. However we need to note that it is not really possible to provide a completely realistic picture of total average expenses for the costs of room and board, as well as in-kind provisions and mainstream government services. The figures we have provided must</p>

therefor be taken with a grain of salt since these figures only include rough room and board average costs. The cost to a certain extent depends on the type of reception center. We have provided some of the most common examples and hope you find this useful. We apologize for the delayed response. See attached tables.

2. Norway has provided a rough estimate for both the median stay and the average stay for a selection of types of reception centers - this too is somewhat complicated since an asylum seeker usually stays in more than one type of reception center over time. See attached tables.