Information provision - Estonia

Overview

Content updated on: 14/05/2025

Relevant EU legislation

Estonia is bound by EU legislation and has transposed relevant provisions through the Act on Granting International Protection to Aliens (AGIPA).

National legislation

Legal provisions regulating information provision throughout the asylum procedure:

- Section 10(2)(1), Act on Granting International Protection to Aliens | Välismaalasele rahvusvahelise kaitse andmise seadus
- Section 151(6), Act on Granting International Protection to Aliens | Välismaalasele rahvusvahelise kaitse andmise seadus
- Section 32(1)(5), Act on Granting International Protection to Aliens | Välismaalasele rahvusvahelise kaitse andmise seadus
- Section 366(11)(4), Act on Granting International Protection to Aliens | Välismaalasele rahvusvahelise kaitse andmise seadus
- Section 73(4)(4), Act on Granting International Protection to Aliens | Välismaalasele rahvusvahelise kaitse andmise seadus

Competent authority and other stakeholders

Area/stage of the asylum procedure	Competent authority
Reception	Protection counsellors
Registration of application	Police and Border Guard Board (PBGB) | Politsei- ja Piirivalveamet (PPA)

© European Union Agency for Asylum, 2026. Reproduction is authorised, provided the source is acknowledged.

Area/stage of the asylum procedure	Competent authority
Lodging of application	Police and Border Guard Board (PBGB) | Politsei- ja Piirivalveamet (PPA)
Dublin procedure	Police and Border Guard Board (PBGB) | Politsei- ja Piirivalveamet (PPA)
Assessment of application	Police and Border Guard Board (PBGB) | Politsei- ja Piirivalveamet (PPA)
Communication of first instance decision	Police and Border Guard Board (PBGB) | Politsei- ja Piirivalveamet (PPA)
Content of protection	
Appeal procedure	
Communication of second instance decision	
Resettlement	N/a

Provision of information in the asylum procedure

Access to procedure

The Police and Border Guard Board (PBGB) is responsible for providing information on access to asylum procedures. To this end, it distributes information materials in various languages, including Albanian, Arabic, Azeri, Belarusian, Estonian, Bengali, Dari, English, Farsi, Georgian, Sorani, Russian, French, Turkish, Hindi, Kurmanji (Northern Kurdish), Tamil and Tigrinya.

In practice, information is provided both in writing and orally, depending on individual circumstances. For unaccompanied minors, factors such as age, education and health are considered.

Information is always provided before lodging the application, and if necessary, it is repeated and explained.

© European Union Agency for Asylum, 2026. Reproduction is authorised, provided the source is acknowledged.

In reception and detention centres, counsellors have been appointed to provide information on all aspects of the asylum procedure, including access to social services. Currently, there are three counsellors offering procedural and legal support, as well as assistance related to settling in the host country. Their primary role is to explain the rights and obligations of applicants for international protection and to provide support tailored to their specific circumstances.

Dublin procedure

The Police and Border Guard Board is responsible for providing information on the Dublin procedure. The leaflet on the asylum procedure, which is distributed to all applicants, includes specific information on the Dublin procedure.

In practice, information is provided in writing and orally, depending on the individual circumstances of the applicant. The information is provided in a language the applicant understands. For unaccompanied minors, factors such as age, education, and health are also considered.

First instance determination

The applicant is informed about the personal interview in writing, sent by regular mail to the address provided during the procedure. Before the interview, the applicant is informed by the legal counsellor of the purpose of the personal interview, the procedure, and their rights and obligations during it.

In the closing phase of the personal interview, the applicant is informed about the possibility of submitting further evidence, timeframes and the next procedural steps.

The decision on the application is delivered writing, and it includes a summary of the facts, detailed reasoning, the date, and signatures. A precept to leave Estonia is issued to the applicant once the decision becomes final, unless the applicant has a legal basis for staying in Estonia. If the rejection is based on admissibility grounds, the decision will specify that the content of the application has not been reviewed.

Legal assistance and representation

© European Union Agency for Asylum, 2026. Reproduction is authorised, provided the source is acknowledged.

The Police and Border Guard Board (PBGB) is responsible for providing information on the right to seek legal counselling, assistance and representation.

According to Section 10(2) clauses 2, 6, and 7 of the Act on Granting International Protection to Aliens (AGIPA), applicants for international or temporary protection are entitled to:

- Receive, at the earliest opportunity and no later than within 15 days of submitting their application, both orally and in writing, information about their rights and obligations, including legal assistance, reception conditions, organisations providing information, timeframes for international protection proceedings, and the consequences of non-compliance with their obligations, in a language they understand;
- Perform procedural acts through a representative, except in the cases specified in Section 10 (3) and Section 17 (9) of the Act on Granting International Protection to Aliens;
- Communicate with family members, a legal adviser, relevant state authorities, representatives of international or non-governmental organisations, and UNHCR.

Resettlement and humanitarian admissions

Currently Estonia does not implement resettlement and humanitarian admission programmes.

Content of protection

Beneficiaries of international protection receive information about their rights and obligations together with the decision. They are also invited to enrol in a compulsory integration programme.

Provision of information in reception

Reception conditions

Under Section 31 of the AGIPA, the accommodation centre for applicants for international protection is responsible for providing a range of services to support

© European Union Agency for Asylum, 2026. Reproduction is authorised, provided the source is acknowledged.

applicants during their international protection or temporary protection proceedings. This also includes providing information about applicants' rights and duties.

Information is provided by protection counsellors and covers both the procedure and reception conditions. Interpretation is ensured in accordance with the general rules.

In detention

The applicant is informed orally of the grounds for detention by the Police and Border Guard Board (PBGB) in the presence of an interpreter. A detention protocol, setting out the grounds for detention, is signed by the applicant and translated into their language. The applicant may express disagreement with the detention in writing.

According to Section 363 of the Act on Granting International Protection to Aliens (AGIPA), the applicant for international protection is provided with essential translation necessary for the completion of the procedural steps outlined in the law.

© European Union Agency for Asylum, 2026. Reproduction is authorised, provided the source is acknowledged.