Reception - Cyprus

Reception system

Overview

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Relevant EU legislation

Cyprus is bound by the recast Reception Conditions Directive and has transposed its provisions through the Refugees (Amendment) Law of 2016 N. 105(I)/2016 on 14 October 2015.

National legislation

14/10/2016: Cyprus transposed the recast Reception Conditions Directive by the Refugees (Amendment) Law of 2016 N. 105(I)/2016 | Ο περί Προσφύγων (Τροποποιητικός) Νόμος Αριθμός 105(I) του 2016.

Competent authority and stakeholders

Authority responsible for reception	Reception for asylum seekers is managed at a centralised level. The Cyprus Asylum Service is responsible for the overall management of the reception system. The Asylum Service has a coordinating role in the operations of the reception and accommodation centres. Day-to-day operations of the centres is usually delegated to the private sector and in some cases Asylum Service staff who are 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.

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Other actors involved	**National competent actors:** **Social Welfare Services** is responsible for the provision of material reception conditions and the accommodation of applicants who have no means for accommodation or when places are not available at the collective accommodation centres. Upon application, the Asylum Service refers applicants to the Reception and Accommodation Centre or the Social Welfare Services to provide financial support for private housing and other material reception conditions. The Social Welfare Services is also responsible for the reception and accommodation of unaccompanied minors and the appointment of guardians, as well as for vulnerable persons. **Ministry of Labour, Welfare and Social Insurance** is responsible to support access to the labour market for applicants for international protection by handing applications through the different district labour offices and assisting applicants in finding employment in different sectors, as stipulated in national legislation. **Migration Department of the Deputy Ministry of Migration and International Protection** is responsible for supporting pre-integration activities, such as civic orientation, vocational training, language courses and skills assessment. **Commissioner for Administration and the Protection of Human Rights (Ombudsman) of Cyprus:** Performs regular visits in reception and accommodation centres and publishes reports, opinions and inquiries to competent authorities with recommendations. The Ombudsman works closely with human rights defenders and civil society organisations and handles complains. As of 2020, the Ombudsman is the main AMIF beneficiary for monitoring the implementation of the Forced Return Mechanism in Cyprus. **Commissioner for the Protection of the Rights of the Child (Ombudsman for Children):** Informs and sensitises children about their rights, verifies that legislation is in line with the UN Convention on the

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Organisational aspects

The reception for asylum seekers is managed at a centralised level. The Asylum Service is responsible for the overall management of the reception system and has a coordinating role in the operations of the reception and accommodation centres. Day-to-day operations of the centres is usually delegated to the private sector and in some cases Asylum Service staff who are 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.

Overall management of reception structures: Asylum Service, Deputy Ministry of Migration and International Protection.

Daily operation of the reception facilities:

Public actors include: the Asylum Service (including camp coordinators), maintenance (Electromechanical Services, Nicosia District Administration, public works, Sewage Council of Nicosia), public transport, police, immigration police, Migration Department, health services (doctors, nursing services), Deputy Ministry of Welfare and Labor Office.

Private actors include: operations and management team (including maintenance), interpretation services, security, transportation with private buses, transportation with taxi, nursing services, doctors, catering service and meal distribution, cleaning service, ICT equipment supplies and maintenance, COVID supplies, hygiene supplies, consumables (electricity, water authority, telecommunication services, cleaning supplies, stationery), laundry services for bedsheets and blankets, pests control services, sterilisation services, rental of chemical bathrooms for quarantine areas at FRC Pournara.

Allocation of applicants to geographical areas within the territory

National legislation does not regulate the distribution of applicants to different areas of the territory. The distribution of applicants to reception centres varies, depending on flows, capacity and national policy.

Staff and training

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Reception centres are managed by a manager and an assistant manager. Every reception centre has asylum officers with mainly administrative duties assisted by secretarial staff. Staff is also acquired through procurement procedures for positions such as reception officers, coordinators, assistant coordinators, administrative officers, social workers, IT, secretarial staff, caregivers, food distributors, maintenance staff, security, messengers, storage staff and cleaners. All procurement staff take directions from Asylum Service officers. There are health professionals who provide services in all reception centres by the Ministry of Health and OKYPY.

It is not required to completed specific training before working at a reception centre. Reception centre staff can take the following training provided by the EUAA: introduction to the legal framework of fundamental rights and international protection in the EU, introduction to ethical and professional standards, introduction to communication for asylum and reception practitioners, working with an interpreter, introduction to vulnerability, and introduction to reception. The goal is for new staff to complete some of these training courses before starting to work at a reception centre. More specialised trainings by the EUAA are provided to Asylum Service staff working at reception centres.

Reception phases

Applicants are entitled to material reception conditions from the moment they lodge an application for international protection. Applicants then receive a document entitled “Confirmation of submission of an application for international protection”. This document secures the rights and benefits stipulated in the Refugee Law and particularly:

- the right to remain in areas controlled by the Republic of Cyprus;
- access to medical treatment;
- access to material reception conditions;
- access to public education.

When making an application for international protection, applicants receive a document stating their intention to apply for international protection, which is an official document of the Asylum Service issued by the Aliens and Immigration Police which serves as a proof of the legal status of a person “as an applicant for international protection before any authority of the Republic of Cyprus" until the applicant lodges an application for international protection within 6 days.

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Applicants are entitled to material reception conditions until a final decision is issued.

Coverage of material conditions by the Social Welfare Services may be terminated when an asylum seeker or spouse is deemed “willfully unemployed”.

The reception phases in principle are related to the type of reception facility to which applicants may be assigned.

During a mass influx, irregularly arrived persons or potential applicants are initially referred to the First Reception Center Pournara where they can stay up to 3 days to register their application, receive emergency reception support and an initial medical screening. As of 2020, all new irregular arrivals subject to an asylum claim are transferred to the First Reception Center Pournara.

Upon lodging an application, applicants are referred to the Kofinou reception and accommodation centre or to the accommodation centre Limnes. If places are not available at the reception center, the applicant is referred by the Asylum Service to the Social Welfare Services to apply for support for an individual accommodation.

If an applicant is found to have vulnerabilities during an assessment, they are referred to the relevant authorities for special accommodation.

Contingency planning

The Asylum Service (Deputy Ministry of Migration and International Protection) is responsible for deciding to activate the contingency plan ‘Nafkratis’.

The Civil Defense (Ministry of the Interior) participates in the contingency plan and has the responsibility to set up tents upon activation of the contingency plan (which are kept in warehouses of the Ministry of the Interior).

The Nafkratis Plan is activated for persons entering the country irregularly, upon claiming their intention to apply for asylum. They are taken to Pournara First Reception Centre where they must stay for 3 days in order to undergo medical examinations, fingerprinting, document checks and registration. Tents were used as an emergency solution due to mass arrivals of applicants (in the area of the First Reception Centre operating in Nicosia). The tent capacity was beyond the total capacity of the First Reception Centre and the average stay of migrants was approximately 1 week.

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To align with the Pact on Migration and Asylum, the DMMIP must draft an overall contingency plan related to mass irregular arrivals and asylum applications. The Asylum Service submitted the first draft in June 2025, with a final version of it expected before the end of 2025. This plan has input from relevant agencies and ministries, such as the SWS, the Civil Defense, AIU, Coast Guard, MoH, police and IPAC.

Facilities

Overview of different types of reception facilities according to national classification

Reception structures are:

- Initial/first reception centre (under refurbishment), under the Asylum Service (CAS);
- Accommodation centre (under upgrade procedures), under the Asylum Service (CAS) in Kofinou;
- Accommodation centre (under reconstruction), under the Asylum Service (CAS) in Limnes.
- Individual accommodation. National legislation provides for individual accommodation (Article 9ΙΔ Refugee Law) according to which applicants for international protection may reside in private residences, apartments, hotels or other reception units which are adjusted to meet the needs for reception of applicants including special provisions for the reception of unaccompanied minor applicants and vulnerable groups. The applicant has the right to apply for housing assistance in the following cases: there are no places available at the reception and accommodation centre; an applicant provides justification of the reason/s that they cannot reside in the centre; or the applicant has no means to ensure private accommodation.

The request is handled by the Asylum Service in cooperation with the Social Welfare Services.

Premises at the border

Name of the reception facility	n/a
Access description	n/a

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Management	n/a
Type of applicants accommodated	n/a
Number of centres	n/a
Capacity	n/a
Location of the centres within the country	n/a

Initial reception centres

Name of the reception facility	Pournara First Reception Centre (FRC) | Κέντρο Πρώτης Υποδοχής (ΚεΠΥ) ΠΟΥΡΝΑΡΑ στην Κοκκινοτριμιθιά
Regime	Open (closed until completion of screening procedures)
Management	Asylum Service, Deputy Ministry of Migration and International Protection. Daily management is delegated to private services
Type of applicants accommodated	New irregularly-arrived third-country nationals who claim asylum
Number of centres	1
Capacity	450 places in the main camp, 550 places in the quarantine area, 550 places in the emergency structure. Following an expansion, the FRC will have 1,240 places and 984 for emergency use.
Location of the centres within the country	Nicosia district, Kokkinotrimithia (rural area)

Collective accommodation centres

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Name of the reception facility	Kofinou Reception Centre for Applicants of International Protection | Κέντρο Υποδοχής και Φιλοξενίας Αιτητών Διεθνούς Προστασίας (Κ.Υ.Φ.Α.Δ.Π.) Κοφίνου
Regime	Open
Management	Asylum Service, Deputy Ministry of Migration and International Protection. Daily management is outsourced to private actors
Type of applicants accommodated	Applicants for international protection with a pending case in first or second instance.
Number of centres	1
Capacity	400 beds and 50 beds for emergency and isolation. As of 2021, upgrade and expansion projects have begun at the centre for a capacity from 400 to 750 beds.
Location of the centres within the country	Larnaca district, Kofinou (rural area)
Name of the reception facility	Limnes Accommodation Centre Κέντρο Φιλοξενίας «Λίμνες»
Regime	Open
Management	Asylum Service, Deputy Ministry of Migration and International Protection. Daily management is outsourced to private actors
Type of applicants accommodated	Applicants for international protection with a pending case in first or second instance.
Number of centres	1
Capacity	1,000 (expected to be operational in Q3 2026)
Location of the centres within the country	Larnaca district, Mennoya (rural area)

Individual accommodation centres (such as private houses, flats, hotels)

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Name of the reception facility	Leased units by the Social Welfare Services
Regime	Leased units: open
Management	Social Welfare Services
Type of applicants accommodated	Vulnerable applicants and families
Number of centres	Information currently not available
Capacity	Information currently not available
Location of the centres within the country	Information currently not available

Temporary solutions when housing capacities are temporarily exhausted

Name of the reception facility	Information currently not available
Regime	Information currently not available
Management	Information currently not available
Type of applicants accommodated	Information currently not available
Number of centres	Information currently not available
Capacity	Information currently not available
Location of the centres within the country	Information currently not available

Reception facilities for applicants with special needs

Adapted premises for people with special accommodation needs, such as unaccompanied minors and other vulnerable groups, are under the responsibility of the Social Welfare Services (SWS). They include:

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- Safe zone at Pournara First Reception Centre for both unaccompanied children and vulnerable persons and in Limnes Accommodation Centre only for vulnerable applicants;
- State homes for unaccompanied minors operated by the Social Welfare Services;
- Shelters for children managed by the Social Welfares Services in cooperation with civil society organisations;
- Foster care programme;
- Semi-independent housing programme operated by the IOM in cooperation with Social Welfare Services to facilitate transition to adulthood for unaccompanied children over 16 years old;
- Shelters for abused women (including applicants for international protection);
- Shelter for victims of trafficking managed by the police .

Reception structures for unaccompanied children are:

- Lakatamia: SWS Office in Nicosia (material reception conditions);
- Safe Zone Pournara: New area A and B that is supported by the EUAA, operated since 11 August 2022 for unaccompanied minor girls and existent safe zone area C for unaccompanied boys;
- Types of applicants accommodated in the safe zone A and B: Vulnerable single ladies, single mothers with children under 12 years old and unaccompanied girls;
- Capacity for new safe zone A and B: 80 persons
- Capacity for safe zone C (unaccompanied minor boys): 80
- Capacity for safe zone D (families): 100 persons.

Unaccompanied minors are accommodated temporarily in a safe zone at the First Reception Centre for a short stay to proceed to registration, identification, medical examinations, registration and lodging of the application. After this short period in the safe zone, unaccompanied minors are referred to the Social Welfare Services and transferred to an adapted shelter where they are provided with the necessary services, including the appointment of a guardian.

In legislation, there are special provisions for unaccompanied minors (Article 9ΚΕ) and victims of torture and violence (Article ΚΣΤ).

Current housing arrangements for applicants with special needs (operated by Social Welfare Services):

- 5 state homes for unaccompanied minors (3 for boys and 2 for girls)

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- 1 foster care programme (hosts 35 children approximately)
- 1 semi-independent living program (hosts 35 children approximately).

Material reception conditions provided in kind and cash

Definition of material reception conditions

Article 2 of the Refugee Law defines material reception conditions, such as accommodation, food, clothing and a daily allowance. Article 9IB stipulates that material assistance can be provided in kind or in vouchers; if this is not possible, through financial aid.

Material reception conditions provided in kind

Type and purpose	Humanitarian aid at the first reception centre and at the reception and accommodation centre in Kofinou, including clothing and footwear on a needs-assessment basis.
Duration and recurrence	For the duration of their stay in a reception centre.

Financial allowances and vouchers

Type and purpose	• Aid for food, clothing and footwear in vouchers • Electricity water supply and pocket money benefit • Rent is paid directly to the owner • Rent allowance • Single family allowance
Duration and recurrence	Monthly, until there is a final decision on the asylum application, unless there are fully justified circumstances reducing or withdrawing material reception conditions

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Calculation and amount

In March 2019, the Council of Ministers approved the revision of material reception conditions

Number of household members	Food and clothing in coupons	Electricity water supply and pocket money benefit
1	€186	€75
2	€279	€100
3	€372	€140
4	€465	€170
5 +	€558	€200

In addition, the rent benefit provided to asylum seekers was increased as follows:

Number of household members	Rent benefit				
	Nicosia	Limassol	Famagusta	Larnaca	Paphos
1	€100	€100	€100	€100	€100
2	€200	€218	€146	€174	€146
3 to 4	€290	€317	€211	€252	€211
5 +	€364	€397	€265	€315	€265

Applicants granted allowance

Beneficiaries whose application has been approved by the Social Welfare Service

Modalities of provision

Information currently not available

Material reception conditions for vulnerable persons

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Article 9KF of the Refugee Law stipulates the following profiles of applicants considered to be vulnerable within the reception system or offered special reception arrangements:

- Minors
- Unaccompanied minors
- Persons with disabilities
- Elderly persons
- Pregnant women
- Single-parent families with minors
- Victims of trafficking
- Persons with serious illness
- Persons with mental disorders and
- Persons who have been subjected to torture, rape or other serious forms of psychological, physical, or sexual violence, such as women victims of genital mutilation.

Article 9KΔ of the Refugee Law provides that an assessment if an applicant is in need of special reception conditions is done on case-by-case. An applicant submits a special form indicating special reception needs if applicable. The applicant undergoes a medical and psychological examination. If during an interview the applicant provides additional information that relates to special reception needs, a special report is made to the Asylum Service.

If the applicant appears at the Social Welfare Services and special reception needs or procedural needs are identified, the Social Welfare Services notifies the Asylum Service.

The Asylum Service decides within reasonable time on special reception needs or procedural needs and may refer the applicant to the competent authority. If necessary, the Asylum Service may conduct a personal interview with the applicant. If according to the decision the applicant has special reception needs, they are provided for the duration of the asylum procedure and the Asylum Service regularly monitors the condition of the applicant.

Rights and obligations during reception

Provision of information and counselling

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Modalities of information provision on benefits and obligations related to reception conditions	Refugee Law (Article 9IH) provides for information provision and support to find suitable housing and work where necessary, psychosocial support and support for the organisation on an applicant's social life counselling and guidance of their future actions. The provision of information is supported by the EUAA, UNCHR and civil society organisations present in reception facilities. Some templates have been developed in Kofinou reception and accommodation centre and MiHub is an initiative for the provision and access to information for applicants for international protection. MiHub is complemented by an online platform the content of which is translated into different languages.
Provision of legal assistance on the reception conditions available	Information on legal assistance is provided by international organisations and civil society organisations operating in reception facilities.
House rules	In reception centers, there are different accommodation units for women and men. There are adapted units for vulnerable groups. In Kofinou and Limnes accommodation centres, beneficiaries are handed out the house rules and asked to sign them. The rules include hours that they must be present in the centre, use of communal areas, cleaning private rooms, etc. For serious breaches of the rules, beneficiaries may be fined or expelled from the centre.

Freedom of movement within the territory

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Assignment of a particular area of residence to applicants	The Refugee Law provides that asylum seekers have the right to free movement and choice of residence in the areas controlled by Cyprus. Crossing the Green Line is not possible. Pursuant to Article 9E(1), the Minister of the Interior may restrict the freedom of movement within some the controlled areas and decide on the area of residence of an asylum seeker for reasons of public interest or order.
Reporting obligations	Asylum seekers are obliged to report any changes to the residential address to the authorities within 5 working days after changing address. If they fail to do so, they may be considered to have withdrawn their asylum application. Asylum Seekers living in accommodation centres are obliged to be present in the centre during night hours, i.e. from 22.00 and onwards.

Employment and vocational training

Time limit to access the labour market	The time limit to access the labour market is 1 month after submitting an application for international protection. The right to work ends if the asylum application is rejected and the applicant does not submit an appeal with a suspensive effect within the time limits, as specified in Article 146 of the Constitution of the Republic of Cyprus for a negative administrative decision issued by the Asylum Service or a negative decision on an appeal issued by the International Protection Administrative Court.

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Criteria to access the labour market	Employers are responsible to have all social insurance obligations settled, employer's liability insurance, medical insurance and a contract approved by the Labour Office in the name of the asylum applicant. There are no costs for the asylum applicant. The employer must keep the contract that was approved by the Labour Office. As of October 2021, with a decree of the Minister of Labour, Welfare and Social Insurance, asylum applicants are allowed to work in the following sectors and jobs: **Agriculture, animal husbandry, fishery, animal shelters and pet hotels:** Agricultural workers, animal husbandry workers/poultry farm labourers, fishery workers, fish farm workers, animal caretakers. **Processing:** Animal feed production workers, bakery and dairy production workers in nightshift for loading and unloading, poultry slaughterhouse workers in nightshift. **Waste management:** Sewage, waste and wastewater treatment workers, collection and processing of waste and garbage workers, recycling workers, animal waste and slaughterhouse waste processing workers. **Trade, repairs:** Petrol station and carwash workers, loading and unloading workers, fish market workers, automobile panel-beaters and spray-painters. **Service provision:** Building and outdoor cleaners in cleaning crews, distributors of advertising/ information material, food delivery distributors, garden cleaning workers, loading and unloading porters residences and offices. **Catering/hotel sector:** Kitchen assistants and kitchen cleaners, food delivery distributors. **Other:** Laundromat workers.

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Employment support for applicants	Since June 2021, the Ministry of Labour operates an online system for new registrations and renewals for unemployed persons, including applicants for international protection. The platform offers services to employers who can post job openings and receive interview requests from candidates.
Adults' access to vocational training	The applicant has access to vocational training related to an employment contract, provided that the applicant has access to the labour market. Upon decision of the Minister of Labour, Welfare and Social Insurance, access to vocational training may be granted to applicants regardless of whether they have access to the labour market.
Access to tertiary education	National legislation does not specify.

Healthcare

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Medical screening	When an applicant receives the certificate for submission of an application of international protection, they are referred by the officer to a hospital for a medical examination. The applicant should undertake the medical examination within 3 days from the date of the issuance of the certificate [Βεβαίωση υποβολής αίτησης] along with the actual certificate and any other identity document. Medical examinations are free of charge. Once the applicant receives the results, they must return to the hospital for a final assessment of health and the examining doctor prepares a report. The results of medical examinations and the doctor's report are delivered to the applicant. The applicant shall submit the medical examinations results and the doctor's report to the competent officer (without prejudice to the Personal Data Protection Processing). When the officer obtains the explicit consent of the applicant, they notify the results of the blood tests in a sealed envelope to the Asylum Service.

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Level of healthcare	Pursuant to Article 9ΙΓ of the Refugee Law, it is presumed that an applicant who resides in a reception centre or receives material reception conditions from the Social Welfare Services does not have sufficient resources. The law provides for: • Free medical care in all public and medical institutions including at least first aid and necessary treatment for illness and serious mental disorders; • Free provision of necessary medical or other assistance including psychiatric care (where necessary) for an applicant with special reception needs. The Ministry of Health decides on a case-by-case basis the full or partial rejection of a request for the provision of care or assistance or termination of assistance when an applicant proves to have worked for a reasonable period of time and has sufficient resources which allow to have an adequate standard of living in terms of health.
Access to healthcare	In practice, access to healthcare is limited. Asylum seekers are not beneficiaries of the National Health System (GESY) per se. There is a specific medical scheme for asylum seekers which offers the same health benefits as the beneficiaries of the National Health System. (Article 16(d) of the General Health System Law of 2001 (89(I)/2001))

Education for minors

The Ministry of Education, Sport and Youth is responsible for access to the education system. The national legal framework specifies that access to public education is granted immediately and, in any case, within 3 months from the date of submission of the application by the minor or the guardian of the minor. The right of underage applicants or minor children of applicants to attend

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secondary education is not affected by a transition to adulthood.

Organisation of classes: Relevant information on the organisation of classes can be found consulting the DRASE programme under the Ministry of Education. According to the national legislation, if necessary, preparatory classes for minors are provided, including language courses, to facilitate their access to and participation in the public education system.

If access to the public education system is impossible due to the special situation of a minor, the competent services of the Ministry of Education and Culture may implement other regulatory acts related to education, according to the Education Act, Education of Children with Special Needs Law, and the Regulations on the Education and Training of Children with Special Needs of 2001 and 2013.

Socio-cultural orientation and language learning

Access to socio-cultural orientation	In Kofinou, UNHCR and a number of NGOs (e.g. CODECA, CSI, CARITAS and Emphasys Centre) give ad hoc socio-cultural orientation sessions.
Language classes	In Kofinou, UNHCR and a number of NGOs (e.g. CODECA, CSI, CARITAS and Emphasys Centre) give ad hoc socio-cultural orientation sessions. The only criteria to be fulfilled is to be an asylum seeker.

Sufficient means

Arrangement of private accommodation

Asylum seekers are allowed to find private accommodation. Most applicants who opt for private accommodation have ties with their own community in Cyprus or relatives residing in Cyprus. When CAS has given them the right to reside in an accommodation centre but they deny it, they may opt for private accommodation but with limited financial allowances from SWS.

Contribution to reception and healthcare costs

Applicants are not required to contribute to the costs of material reception conditions.

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Sufficient means test

A means test is not applied. If a person has sufficient means to have an adequate standard for living, material receptions conditions from SWS are not provided (Article 9IA Refugees Law).

Sanction regimes, reduction or withdrawal of material reception conditions

Circumstances for reducing or withdrawing material reception conditions

According to Articles 9KB(1), 9KB(1)(a) and 9KB(1)(b) of the Refugee Law, material reception conditions may be reduced or withdrawn by a decision of the Asylum Service. Any decision on the reduction or withdrawal of reception conditions for vulnerable persons shall be based on the situation of the person and consider the principle of proportionality.

Reduction or withdrawal of material reception conditions may be decided by the Head of the Asylum Service in exceptional and duly justified cases, namely:

- The applicant does not comply with the obligation to inform the competent authority timely about a change of residence;
- the applicant does not appear for the personal interview within 2 weeks from the date of the specified interview, does not respond to a requirement of the Asylum Service to provide any additional information in the context of the examination of the asylum application and fails to give a satisfactory explanation for these actions;
- the applicant has submitted a subsequent application;
- the applicant has ensured adequate financial resources and therefore has benefited unfairly from material reception conditions;
- the applicant, without legitimate cause, has not filed an application as soon as reasonably practicable after arrival in the government-controlled areas of the Republic of Cyprus.

In the above cases, if the applicant voluntarily reports to the Asylum Service, the Head of the Asylum Service may issue a duly motivated decision, based on the

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reasons that led to the disappearance of the applicant, on the renewal or granting some or all of the material reception conditions that were restricted or revoked.

Accommodation at the reception centre may be terminated upon decision by the Director in the following cases:

- voluntary departure of the applicant if they have secured housing with their own resources;
- expiry of at least 6 months from the referral of the applicant at the centre, where the accommodation centre is overcrowded and it is necessary to reference the new applicants;
- the applicant has repeatedly infringed operating rules of the reception centre and not complied with the recommendations provided by staff;
- the applicant has shown violent behaviour to staff or other applicants.

For applicants residing in the community, the Social Welfare Service can reject fully or partially an application for reception conditions, or can cease in full or in part the provision of reception conditions if the applicant has sufficient resources for their own subsistence and provide an adequate standard of living from a health perspective.

Possible sanctions and procedure

Article 9KB of the Refugee Law regulates the procedure to reduce or withdraw material reception conditions. Article 9KZ of the Refugee Law provides that sanctions may apply if a decision is fully justified.

Article 16B (2)(β) of the Refugee Law is relevant for an implicit withdrawal.

Review of the sanction decision

Review of the sanction decision is not used very often in practice. When a decision on reception conditions is issued and it negatively impacts the applicant, they can appeal the decision at IPAC.

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