Information provision - Germany

Overview

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Relevant EU legislation

Germany is bound by EU legislation and has transposed relevant provisions through the Asylum Act | Asylgesetz (AsylG), (2 September 2008) and the Administrative Procedure Act | Verwaltungsverfahrensgesetz (VwVfG) (May 25th 1976) and further amendments.

National legislation

Asylum Act | Asylgesetz (AsylG), (2 September 2008)

Administrative Procedure Act | Verwaltungsverfahrensgesetz (VwVfG) (May 25th 1976)

Competent authority and other stakeholders

Area/stage of the asylum procedure	Competent authority
Reception	Federal states | Bundesländer
Registration of application	Federal Police | Bundespolizei Police of federal state | Landespolizei Federal states (at reception facilities, foreigners authorities and arrival centres) Federal states (at reception facilities, foreigners authorities and arrival centres)
Lodging of application	Federal Office for Migration and Refugees | Bundesamt für Migration und Flüchtlinge (BAMF)

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Area/stage of the asylum procedure	Competent authority
Dublin procedure	Dublin Unit of Federal Office for Migration and Refugees | Bundesamt für Migration und Flüchtlinge (BAMF)
Assessment of application	Federal Office for Migration and Refugees | Bundesamt für Migration und Flüchtlinge (BAMF)
Communication of first instance decision	Federal Office for Migration and Refugees | Bundesamt für Migration und Flüchtlinge (BAMF)
Content of protection	Federal Office for Migration and Refugees | Bundesamt für Migration und Flüchtlinge (BAMF)
Appeal procedure	First appeal instance: Administrative Court (Verwaltungsgerichte)
Communication of second instance decision	Second appeal instance: Higher Administrative Court (Oberverwaltungsgerichte or alternatively called Verwaltungsgerichtshöfe in the federal states Baden-Wuerttemberg, Bavaria and Hesse) Cassation or other instance: Federal Administrative Court (*Bundesverwaltungsgericht*)
Resettlement	Federal Office for Migration and Refugees | Bundesamt für Migration und Flüchtlinge (BAMF) Federal Ministry of the Interior and Community | Bundesministerium des Innern und für Heimat (BMI) Federal Foreign Office | Auswärtiges Amt (AA) UNHCR and implementing partners

Provision of information in the asylum procedure

Access to procedure

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The screening procedure is conducted by the (federal) police, foreign offices, reception facilities and the Federal Office for Migration and Refugees (BAMF). During this process, asylum-related information is provided to third-country nationals as stipulated under Articles 14, 20, 22, and 23 of Asylum Law. This information is delivered in written format.

Applicants are informed about the asylum procedure primarily through group sessions which are organised by the Federal Office. These sessions take place before the formal lodging of an application and participation is voluntary. Additionally, the Federal Office provides information through its official website and the "Ankommen" app, both of which present the procedural stages and related rights and obligations.

The information covers all stages of the asylum procedure, from lodging and registering an application to subsequent steps and applicable timelines. It also addresses the rights and obligations of applicants, ensuring transparency and informed participation in the process. Special emphasis is placed on applicants with vulnerabilities, such as unaccompanied minors and survivors of human trafficking. The "Ankommen" app highlights the availability of specialised case officers for such individuals, while the BAMF website includes resources on specific issues like female genital mutilation/cutting (FGM/C).

The materials provided are developed and produced by the Federal Office and are made available in multiple languages, including German, French, English, Arabic and Farsi.

For third-country nationals in detention who express a desire to seek international protection, the detention facility provides information on their right to lodge an application. This is done in writing, as specified under Article 14(2) of Asylum Law.

For more information:

- Ankommen App
- Federal Office for Migration and Refugees

Dublin procedure

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During their first contact with the authorities, such as the federal police, state police or Foreigners' Authorities, asylum applicants .receive information on the application of the Dublin III Regulation. If, at a later stage, the asylum authority realizes that information was not initially distributed or if an applicant requires additional information, it will be provided at subsequent stages of the asylum procedure. These interactions typically occur at local branches of the Federal Office for Migration and Refugees (BAMF) or other responsible entities where applicants express their initial wish to seek asylum.

All necessary information on the Dublin procedure is shared in accordance with the Implementing Regulation No 118/2014. This includes details about applicants' right to information, consent declarations, and the purpose and procedures of personal interviews. The information is provided as a written document, typically printed on paper and made available in the primary language of the applicant, with translations offered in 45 languages, including Arabic, Turkish, Dari and Farsi.

The common information leaflet on the Dublin procedure is complemented by specific national information. Additional resources are available to support applicants with special needs, such as unaccompanied minors.

Relocation is not applicable in Germany, so no information is provided on this matter.

When applicants are notified of a transfer decision under the Dublin procedure, they simultaneously receive information on available legal remedies.

For more information:

Stages of the German Asylum Procedure: An overview of procedural steps and their legal basis.

- Resource Link
- Overview of Asylum Procedure

Information on the Asylum Procedure: Your Rights and Obligations:

- Information Brochure
- Asylum Procedure Video

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First instance determination

An admissibility interview is conducted at the time of lodging the application. Information on this interview is provided both orally and in writing during the admissibility interview itself.

Applicants are informed about the personal interview at the time of lodging their application and during group sessions. These group sessions, organised by the Federal Office for Migration and Refugees, are designed to provide an overview of the asylum procedure, including details about the personal interview. The information shared during these sessions and at the lodging of the application includes the aim, purpose and importance of the interview, as well as procedural specifics, rights and obligations during the interview. This includes the role of actors present, confidentiality issues and the availability of interpretation services.

The information provided at the time of lodging the application and during the interview is delivered both orally and in writing. Additionally, applicants receive a written invitation specifying the date and place of the personal interview.

Regarding the submission of further evidence after the interview, no specific information is provided. However, the information shared at the time of lodging the application includes an outline of the next steps in the procedure. Applicants are also briefed on these next steps during group sessions, ensuring they are informed about the progress of their case.

When an applicant is granted protection status, they are provided with detailed information on their rights and obligations. This includes information on integration measures, residence permits, the possibility of family reunification, access to benefits, and permissions related to work and education. This information is shared together with the decision.

Information on the possibility of lodging an appeal is provided with the decision. Additional details about available legal assistance to facilitate the appeal are also shared. These details are reiterated during group sessions.

For applicants whose applications are rejected, information on the possibility of lodging an appeal is included with the decision. Furthermore, information about assisted voluntary returns and reintegration is provided in writing as part of the decision.

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Legal assistance and representation

Applicants receive information on their right to consult, at their own cost, a legal adviser or other counsellor on matters relating to their application at all stages of the procedure during group sessions organised by the Federal Office for Migration and Refugees. Similarly, information on their right to free legal assistance and representation in the appeal procedure is also provided during the group sessions.

Resettlement and humanitarian admissions

Information not currently available.

Content of protection

Information not currently available.

Provision of information in reception

Reception conditions

Information not currently available.

In detention

Information not currently available.

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