INFORMATION ON INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION IN THE REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA
Information for persons seeking international protection in the Republic of Slovenia
HOW TO GET INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION

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To learn more about the content presented in the brochure, you can do so by referring to:

• International Protection Act;
• Rules on the Form, Content and Method of Receiving an Application for International Protection;
• Rules on the Rights of Applicants for International Protection.
You heard of asylum that may be granted in Slovenia. However, you are not familiar with the procedure and your rights although they are written down. Everything is even more difficult because the new environment does not understand you.

In order to make it easier for you and to make your first period of staying in Slovenia bearable, maybe even enjoyable, we have prepared the brochure you are reading. The brochure consists of four parts. It is written in simple language and illustrations should help to make it easier for you to understand everything.

WHAT IS INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION?

In Slovenia, the International Protection Act regulates this area. The body responsible for granting international protection is International Protection Procedures Division within the Ministry of the Interior of the Republic of Slovenia.

The procedure for recognition of international protection shall determine whether the applicant fulfils the conditions for recognition of international protection in Slovenia. The conditions for granting international protection shall be decided in a uniform procedure. The competent authority first assesses the conditions for granting the refugee status and, only if these are not fulfilled, the conditions for granting subsidiary protection status.

FOR WHICH REASONS CAN I GET THE REFUGEE STATUS?

You can get the refugee status if you have a well-founded fear of persecution for the following grounds:

- Race or ethnic affiliation,
- Religion,
- Nationality,
- Political opinion or belief, or
- Membership of a particular social group in the country of origin.

This is assessed in the procedure for the recognition of international protection, which will be conducted in your own language or in a language that you understand.

FOR WHICH REASONS CAN I GET THE SUBSIDIARY PROTECTION STATUS?

You may be granted subsidiary protection if you do not meet the refugee status requirements yet the return to your country of origin could cause you serious harm including:

- Death penalty or execution;
- Torture, inhuman or degrading treatment in your country of origin;
- Serious and individual threat to a civilian's life or person by reason of indiscriminate violence in situations of international or internal armed conflict.

WHEN SHOULD I APPLY FOR INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION?

On the same day or as soon as possible after arriving in Slovenia.

WHERE CAN I APPLY FOR INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION?

You can state your intention to apply for international protection to any government body or a local authority, that will notify the police.
1.) POLICE

When you express your intention to apply for international protection to an official, you will be referred or brought to the police. The police will fill out a registration form. They will record all the circumstances of your arrival in Slovenia and information about your identity. However, you will have to write your own statement on why you are applying for international protection.

2.) ASYLUM CENTRE

The police will then take you to the asylum centre in Ljubljana. You will be accommodated in the reception area where you will be able to clean yourself up and rest.

In a language you understand, upon arrival at the asylum centre, you will be provided with information on the further course of the procedure, namely:
- the consequences of leaving the reception area arbitrarily,
- the procedures under the International Protection Act,
- the rights and duties of applicants,
- the potential consequences of failure to comply with obligations and failure to cooperate with the competent authority,
- the deadlines for seeking legal remedies, and
- the refugee counsellors and non-governmental organizations active in the field of international protection.

You will receive an accommodation package with food and essential hygiene supplies and the brochure you are currently reading. It is advised that you do not leave the reception area before the medical examination and applying for international protection.

Before you accommodation in reception facilities you will receive a statement in the language you understand that you will sign. By signing this statement, you confirm that you are aware that leaving these premises means that you no longer want protection in Slovenia.

In practice, this means that you will be treated as a person illegally staying in Slovenia if the police stop you.

However, if you still want to leave the area, you press the speakerphone button next to the door. A security officer will open the door for you.

Before you accommodation in reception area until you submit your application for international protection, which will be organized as soon as possible. The speed of receipt of your application for international protection depends on the number of applicants and the arrival of the interpreter.
Before applying for international protection, you will be subject to a sanitary-disinfection examination, which includes showering and changing into clean underwear and clothes, as well as providing fresh personal clothes and linen, if needed also new outerwear and towels and personal hygiene accessories.

A doctor will also examine you before applying for international protection to prevent the spread of diseases and determine your medical condition. Inform the doctor especially about those health problems that result from persecution.

You will be photographed before applying for international protection.

You will also be fingerprinted to determine if you have already applied for international protection in any other EU country.

Prior to submitting your application for international protection, an official of the Ministry of the Interior of the Republic of Slovenia or a representative of a non-governmental organization will inform you on the procedures under the law governing international protection, on the rules of the Dublin procedure, your rights and obligations, the possible consequences of non-compliance with obligations and non-cooperation with the competent authority and on the deadlines for using legal remedies.

Information will be given with the help of an interpreter in a language you understand. This brochure should also help you.

We encourage you to pay attention to the content!

If there is something you do not understand, ask.

If you are an unaccompanied minor, you and your legal representative will be again acquainted with the possibility of ordering an age determining examination.
When deciding on your application for international protection, the official will primarily consider:

- the information from the application for international protection;
- the information obtained during the personal interview;
- the evidence you have provided;
- the documentation you have submitted, in particular as regards your age, gender, origin, including your relatives’ origin, identity, nationality, places you have been residing in before and places of usual residence, previous applications, travels, travel documents and reasons for filing the application;
- the evidence obtained by the Ministry of the Interior of the Republic of Slovenia;
- the official data available to the Ministry of the Interior of the Republic of Slovenia;
- the documentation obtained before the application is submitted;
- the general and specific information about your country of origin;
- whether, since leaving the country of origin, your activities have had the sole or primary purpose of creating the necessary conditions for an application for international protection, to assess whether you would be subject to persecution or serious harm upon your return to that country;
- whether you may reasonably be expected to benefit from the protection of another country where you can exercise your nationality.

The Ministry of the Interior of the Republic of Slovenia has access to a wealth of information on the situation in your country of origin in making the decision.

DO I NEED EVIDENCE?

We advise you to produce evidence on persecution and/or well-founded fear from persecution in your country already on submitting the application for international protection if you have it.

An official may, during your personal interview, set you a deadline within which you should provide evidence. If you obtain evidence during the process, you must provide it as soon as possible to the officer conducting your proceedings. Evidence has a significant impact on the decision itself and the time it takes to decide on your application for international protection.

USEFUL TIPS FOR APPLYING FOR INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION AND THE PERSONAL INTERVIEW:

Specify in full all the facts and circumstances that led you to leave your country of origin and that justify your fear of persecution or serious harm.

Tell the truth! Do not rely on the premise that you do not have to disclose certain information unless the official asks you to.

They ask you additional questions to make it easier for you. It is the facts that apply to you personally that are important, so do not talk about the general situation in your country of origin.

The official knows this. You must also provide all the documentation and all available evidence to substantiate your application for international protection.

You do not need to bring documentation relating to the general situation.

Provide documentation for events directly related to your reasons for leaving the country of origin.

If you do not understand any of the questions, ask for further clarification.
IV

APPLICATION PROCEDURE

PROCEDURE OF ACCEPTING YOUR APPLICATION FOR INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION

An official of the Ministry of the Interior of the Republic of Slovenia, who is duly qualified for this, will accept your application for international protection. An interpreter for a language you understand will also participate in the process.

When applying for international protection, you will be asked about:

- Your personal information,
- Your routes from the country of origin and entry into Slovenia,
- Personal documents,
- Information about your family members,
- Information on applications already submitted in Slovenia or other countries,
- The reasons why you are applying for international protection.

It is very important that you actively participate and accurately and truthfully state your reasons for protection. You must state all the facts and circumstances that substantiate your application for international protection. When describing specific events, indicate when and where they occurred.

It is especially important to explain why you would be at risk if returning to your country of origin. When accepting your application for international protection, the official will ask you to provide evidence for your statements.

If you do not have the evidence and can obtain it, you will be given a deadline. Be aware of it and warn if you think you will not be able to submit the evidence within the set deadline. Your application for international protection may otherwise be rejected in an accelerated procedure (p: 00).

Everything you write will be read in a language you understand. Pay attention, as you will confirm the veracity of the record by signing it.

HOW IS THE RECEIVED APPLICATION RECORDED?

In the form of minutes. It can also be taped, but you need to be warned about it beforehand.

WHO CAN BE PRESENT WHEN APPLYING?

In addition to the official, the reporter and the interpreter, your proxy, if you have one, may be present when submitting your application. At your request, a person of your own choosing may also be present.

With your consent, a representative of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), another official, scientific workers and students may also be present.

WHAT ABOUT DATA SECURITY?

All your data and statements are confidential and carefully guarded. Only officials have access to them. In no case will the information you provide be transferred to your country of origin.

If you are an unaccompanied minor, a legal representative will also accompany you when you apply for international protection.

THE GENDER OF THE OFFICIAL CONDUCTING THE PROCEEDINGS AND OF THE INTERPRETER

If you wish, the Ministry of the Interior of the Republic of Slovenia will endeavour to have the application procedure conducted by an official of the same gender. The same goes for interpretation.
You will be considered a minor if you are under 18 years of age.

A legal representative will be appointed to you before the procedure begins. They will take care of your interests throughout the proceedings and be present in all actions in proceedings under the law governing international protection.

It is important that you trust the officials and legal representative as it is their duty to take care of your own good.

They will provide you with safe accommodation, protection and additional assistance if you need it. They will help you get in touch with your family and enable reunification, so it is important that you provide them with as much information as possible (your personal document, family information).

You will be given access to learning Slovenian to help you be more comfortable in the new country. You will also have access to education, a doctor and leisure activities. If for any reason, you are feeling unwell, say so. Your opinion counts so do not be afraid to express your wishes.

The people you will be in contact with are trained to work with minors and will help you deal with your distress.

WHAT HAPPENS AFTER APPLYING FOR INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION?

After submitting your application, you will be accommodated in the accommodation unit of the asylum centre or in other premises belonging to the asylum centre.

If you are an unaccompanied minor, you will be placed in a suitable accommodation.

CONSIDERATION OF APPLICATION

1.) DUBLIN PROCEDURE

Fingerprints will first be checked to determine if you have already applied for international protection in any other EU country.

If you have, the Ministry of the Interior of the Republic of Slovenia will consider your application in the so-called Dublin procedure.

This is the process of determining which country is responsible for examining your application. If it is not Slovenia, you will be handed over to the country responsible (e.g., you have already applied for asylum in Austria, so the country is responsible for resolving your application and you will be returned to Austria).

There are other reasons why your application may not be considered in Slovenia.

You will receive a decision informing you that your application for international protection will not be considered in Slovenia. An action may be brought before the Administrative Court of the Republic of Slovenia, but it will not prevent returning you to the country responsible for examining your application.

2.) ACCELERATED PROCESS

If Slovenia is responsible for considering your application for international protection, it will first be checked if it can be dealt with in an accelerated procedure.

The accelerated procedure is a shortened procedure in which the Ministry of the Interior of the Republic of Slovenia rejects the application with a decision as manifestly unfounded because the applicant clearly does not fulfil the conditions for the recognition of international protection. Also in case of accelerated procedure, you will have an opportunity to indicate your reasons for filing the application in the personal interview.
WHEN CAN MY APPLICATION FOR INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION BE REJECTED IN THE ACCELERATED PROCEDURE?

Your request may be considered manifestly unfounded if:

- in the proceedings, you have provided only facts that are irrelevant to the consideration of eligibility for international protection,

- you come from a safe country of origin,

- you have misled the authorities by providing false information or documents or by withholding important information or documents about your identity or nationality, which could influence the decision,

- you are likely to have maliciously destroyed or misappropriated a personal document or passport to assist in identifying your identity or nationality,

- your allegations are clearly inconsistent, contradictory, false, unlikely and contrary to sufficiently verified information on the country of origin, which makes your application clearly unconvincing, especially the statement that you qualify for international protection,

- you have applied solely to delay or prevent the enforcement of the decision based on which you would be returned,

- you entered illegally in Slovenia or unlawfully extended your stay and without any valid reason you failed to report to authorities, or you did not express the intention to file the application for international protection as soon as possible considering the circumstances of your entry,

- you refuse to comply with fingerprinting obligations,

- there are reasonable grounds for suspecting that you may present a threat to public order, public security or national security, or if you are deported for compelling reasons of public security or public order under national law.

3.) REGULAR PROCEDURE

If there is no reason to consider the application for international protection in an accelerated procedure, your application for international protection will be dealt with in the ordinary course of proceedings.

You will be invited to one or more personal interviews. You will be invited to your personal interview with an invitation. The personal interview is subject to the same rules as when accepting the application. Be aware that an official may ask you questions that you have already answered.

During the personal interview, it is also especially important that you answer the questions accurately and truthfully and state all the facts and circumstances connected with your case.

If you do not respond to the invitation to your personal interview and do not apologize for your absence, your proceeding will be terminated.
DECISION ON THE APPLICATION

You will receive the decision on your application for international protection as soon as possible, in the ordinary course of proceedings, no later than six months, and in the accelerated procedure, no later than two months after the submission of the application.

If you receive a negative decision, you have the right to judicial protection. The deadline and court where you can file an appeal are always indicated in the legal instruction of the decision. That is quoted at the end of the decision. The Administrative Court of the Republic of Slovenia deals with the appeal.

If the decision is positive, you will receive international protection or asylum with refugee or subsidiary protection status. This will allow you to enter the Republic of Slovenia.

In the event of a delay, the Ministry of the Interior of the Republic of Slovenia will inform you in writing of the reasons for the delay and announce when you can expect a decision.

Failure to comply with your obligations concerning the international protection procedure or complex legal and factual issues emerging in the proceedings, or if a large number of applications for international protection occur at the same time may extend the period for the ordinary proceedings to nine months. This period may be extended for another three months.

You will receive the decision in writing, in the Slovenian language. You will be acquainted with the contents of the written decision in a language you understand translated into that language will be the decision, essential reasons for the decision, and legal remedies.

You will receive the decision personally unless you have a proxy. In that case, the decision will be handed over to the proxy. The proxy shall inform you on the receipt of the decision.

If you receive a negative decision, you have the right to judicial protection. The deadline and court where you can file an appeal are always indicated in the legal instruction of the decision. That is quoted at the end of the decision.
1.) WITHDRAWAL OF THE APPLICATION FOR INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION

CAN I WITHDRAW THE APPLICATION FOR INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION?

You may withdraw your application for international protection at any time during the procedure until the notification of the decision.

Write a statement on your own or make an oral statement to the official.

In case another Member State assumes the responsibility to examine your application for international protection it is no longer possible to withdraw the application.

2.) SUSPENSION OF THE PROCEDURE

WHAT HAPPENS IF I LEAVE THE ASYLUM CENTRE DURING THE PROCEDURE?

If you leave the asylum centre during the procedure and do not return within three days, your application for international protection will be considered withdrawn and your proceeding will be terminated.

Your application for international protection will also be considered withdrawn if you do not respond to the personal interview invitation without prior apology.

If the process is suspended, it means that you are in Slovenia as an illegal foreigner.

3.) LEGAL REMEDY

WHO CAN HELP ME DURING COURT PROCEEDINGS?

You have the right to a refugee counsellor for assistance and support in proceedings before the Administrative Court of the Republic of Slovenia. The list of refugee counsellors is attached to this brochure.

The refugee counsellor is paid for their work from the Slovenian budget, so do not pay them for their help. If you are asked to pay, you should immediately inform your social worker who will contact the appropriate authority.

4.) LIMITATION OF MOVEMENT

WHAT HAPPENS IF I LEAVE THE ASYLUM CENTRE DURING THE PROCEDURE?

If you leave the asylum centre during the procedure and do not return within three days, your application for international protection will be considered withdrawn and your proceeding will be terminated.

Your application for international protection will also be considered withdrawn if you do not respond to the personal interview invitation without prior apology.

If the process is suspended, it means that you are in Slovenia as an illegal foreigner.

FOR WHAT REASONS CAN MY MOVEMENT BE LIMITED?

You may be ordered to stay in the area of the asylum centre for the following reasons:

- Identification – if you do not have a valid personal document or photo or there is suspicion that it is fake;

- Identifying certain facts on which the application for international protection is based and there is a risk of absconding;
CAN I RE-APPLY FOR INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION?

YES.

However, you need first to file a claim for a new proceeding and provide new evidence or state new facts about the material circumstances that changed after the preliminary decision was issued.

However, if the new evidence or facts existed at the time of the first proceeding, they will only be taken into account if you could not state them at the time through no fault of your own.

If your claim is positively resolved, you will be able to re-apply.

You can also file an appeal against the decision on your re-application for international protection to the Administrative Court of the Republic of Slovenia.
RIGHTS AND DUTIES OF APPLICANTS FOR INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION

Every person who is an applicant for international protection in Slovenia shall have the following rights:

1.) THE RIGHT TO PARTICIPATE IN THE PROCEDURE IN A LANGUAGE YOU UNDERSTAND (INTERPRETER)

Since you probably do not understand Slovenian, the application for international protection and further procedure will be conducted with the help of an interpreter. This person speaks a language you understand. Nevertheless, it does not have to be your mother tongue.

The assistance of an interpreter is provided in accepting the application for international protection and in personal interviews, and in other duly justified cases, following a decision of the Ministry of the Interior of the Republic of Slovenia.

Providing an interpreter is free of charge.

2.) RIGHT TO INFORMATION

BROCHURE

While you are staying in reception facilities, you will receive a leaflet in the language you understand. It is the one you are now reading.

Read it all! You will find useful information on the procedure, rights and obligations as well as other information. Read it before you file your application.

WHO WILL INFORM ME AND ABOUT WHAT?

Before you submit your application, you will receive information in the language you understand (through interpreter) on the procedure, your rights and obligations as an international protection seeker in Slovenia. Information session takes about 30 minutes.

Its purpose is to become well familiar with the procedure of granting international protection in Slovenia.

If there is anything during the information session you do not understand you should warn about it the person giving information or the officer of the Ministry.

On your request, you will receive any information on your procedure free of charge.

3.) RIGHT TO FREE LEGAL ASSISTANCE

REFUGEE COUNSELLOR

If you receive a negative decision or your application for international protection is rejected and you want to appeal, you can do so with the help of a refugee counsellor.

A refugee counsellor will draft and file your case and represent you in court.

The help is free of charge for you. The list of consultants is an annex to this brochure. For help contacting refugee counsellors, you can contact the asylum centre staff.

WHO CAN PROVIDE ME WITH LEGAL ASSISTANCE AT FIRST INSTANCE?

In the first instance procedure (when accepting an application for international protection, in a personal interview, in case you are restricted from moving - that is, until your first decision is made), the assistance of refugee counsellors is not free. You must bear the costs yourself.

Representatives of a non-governmental organization present in the asylum centre everyday can help provide legal assistance.
From the submission of the application to the enforceability of the decision on the application for international protection, you, as an applicant for international protection in Slovenia, have the following admission rights:

4.) RIGHT TO RESIDE IN SLOVENIA

You have the right to reside in Slovenia. You can travel around Slovenia. If you live in an asylum centre or its other premises, you must comply with its house rules.

WHO ISSUES ME THE ID CARD OF THE APPLICANT FOR INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION AND WHAT DOES THIS DOCUMENT MEAN?

No later than three days after the application, you will receive an applicant’s card confirming that you are an applicant for international protection and at the same time being allowed to remain in Slovenia until the decision on the international protection procedure is enforceable. If the police stop you, this is a proof that you are not in Slovenia illegally.

5.) THE RIGHT TO MATERIAL SUPPLY IN CASE OF ACCOMMODATION IN THE ASYLUM CENTRE OR ITS OTHER PREMISES

WHERE WILL I BE STAYING?

Upon application, you will be accommodated in the asylum centre or its other premises. A social worker who has an office in the department where you reside will assist you.

MEALS AT THE ASYLUM CENTRE

You are entitled to food, clothing and footwear at the asylum centre. You are entitled to three meals per day. Children up to the age of 14 are also entitled to morning and afternoon snacks. If you belong to a group of vulnerable people (children, unaccompanied minors, disabled persons, the elderly, pregnant women, single parents with children and victims of any violence), you may be eligible for additional meals.

In case you are granted private accommodation you are entitled to financial aid under the International Protection Act.

6.) ACCOMMODATION PACKAGE

Upon arrival at the asylum centre, you will receive an accommodation package containing essential hygiene supplies and bedding.

A social worker will approve clothing and footwear and other hygiene items required.

7.) RIGHT TO EDUCATION

In Slovenia, children from 6 to 15 years of age are enrolled in primary school.

Attending primary school is mandatory for all children. Parents of school-age children are therefore obliged to ensure that children attend school regularly. Education is provided also to adults.

8.) RIGHT TO HUMANITARIAN AID

As an applicant, you are entitled to humanitarian aid provided by non-governmental, intergovernmental and governmental organizations within their functions.

This includes, in particular, material, cultural, psychosocial assistance, the organization of childcare and education for children, as well as other interested applicants for international protection.
9.) THE RIGHT TO EMERGENCY MEDICAL TREATMENT

Under the right to healthcare, you are entitled to:

- Emergency medical assistance and emergency ambulance transport, following a doctor’s decision, and to emergency dental care;

- Women’s healthcare: contraceptives, termination of pregnancy, health care during pregnancy and childbirth;

- Emergency treatment at the discretion of the doctor, comprising:
  - maintaining vital functions, stopping major bleeding or Prevention of haemorrhage;
  - Prevention of any sudden deterioration in health that could result in permanent impairment of individual organs or vital functions;
  - Treatment of shock;
  - Services related to chronic illnesses and conditions, the termination of which would immediately and in a short period cause disability, other permanent health impairment or death;
  - Treatment of fever conditions and preventing the spread of infection that could lead to septic condition;
  - Treatment or prevention of poisoning;
  - Treatment of bone fractures or sprains and other injuries where the intervention of a doctor is necessary;
  - Medication presented in the positive drug list prescribed for the treatment of these diseases.

10.) RIGHT TO ACCESS THE LABOR

WHEN CAN I START WORKING?

You have the right to a free access to labour market nine months after submitting the application if in the meantime you did not receive the decision on your application and you meet all relevant requirements.

11.) RIGHT TO AN ALLOWANCE

You will receive your allowance once a month.

Reception rights are guaranteed by the Office of the Government of the Republic of Slovenia, which is responsible for the care and integration of migrants, manages the asylum centre and organizes the operation and stay there.

Office officials will keep you informed of the details of your rights.

12.) DUTIES

As an applicant for international protection, you must:

- respect the Slovenian legal order,
- respect the integrity of officials,
- always be accessible to the competent authority, respond to its invitations and submit to its actions,
- immediately notify the office responsible for the integration and care of migrants of a change of address,
- immediately submit to the official all documents relevant to the processing of your application for international protection,
- participate in identification,
- allow the official to inspect you and the items you have with you when entering or leaving the asylum centre or its other premises, with a person of the same gender performing the personal inspection, taking into account the personal dignity and physical and psychological integrity of the applicant,

- undergo a medical examination at the request of the Office responsible for the care and integration of migrants for public health reasons,

- allow the official to photograph you, take fingerprints and, after giving notice, record oral statements made during the procedure,

- substantiate your application for international protection as soon as possible and truthfully present the circumstances and facts necessary to justify the application for international protection,

- provide convincing and credible reasons for substantiating your application for international protection, especially in the absence of other available evidence,

- respect the rules governing the house and fire rules of the asylum centre,

- provide the office responsible for the care and integration of migrants with data and documentation that affect the exercise of reception rights,

- to forward the decisions or conclusions issued by the misdemeanour and inspection bodies to the competent authority for the support and integration of migrants.
The project is co-financed by the European Union from the funds of the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF)