

# WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT RELOCATION

APPLICANTS FOR INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION



**Note.** This brochure contains information that is important for you.  
If there is anything you do not understand, you can ask an official to explain.

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## ➤ WHAT IS RELOCATION?

Countries in the European Union and 4 other countries agreed to a common law called the Asylum and Migration Management Regulation (AMMR). This law helps decide which of these countries is responsible for examining an application for international protection. These countries are called the EU+ countries.



If a country receives many applications for international protection at once and it cannot handle them, other countries can support them in different ways. Some of the applicants may be transferred to another country. This is called relocation.

If this situation occurs, your application for international protection may not be examined in this country. Only 26 EU+ countries currently may participate in relocations to other countries.

**⚠ IMPORTANT! You are now in Latvia, which is an EU+ country.**



The 26 EU+ countries that currently may participate in relocation are: Belgium, Bulgaria, Czechia, Germany, Estonia, Ireland, Greece, Spain, France, Croatia, Italy, Cyprus, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Hungary, Malta, Netherlands, Austria, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovenia, Slovakia, Finland and Sweden.



The 5 “associated” countries and other counties currently not participating in relocation are: Denmark, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland.

## ➤ IF YOU ARE SELECTED, TO WHICH COUNTRY WILL YOU BE RELOCATED?

The authorities will decide who can be relocated.

Firstly, they will check if you have **strong connections** to another country.

These connections can be based on:

- family considerations (close family members but also more extended family such as cousins)
- cultural considerations (for example if you speak the language of that country)

**! IMPORTANT!** You cannot choose which country you are relocated to.

If you have documents proving your connection to another country, you must provide them to the authorities immediately. Otherwise, the authorities will not be able to take your connection into account.

However, this does not guarantee that you will be relocated to that country.



If you do not have any strong connections to another country, you will be relocated to a country decided by the countries participating in relocation.

## ▶ WHAT IS EXPECTED OF YOU IF YOU ARE SELECTED FOR RELOCATION?



If you are selected for relocation, you must:

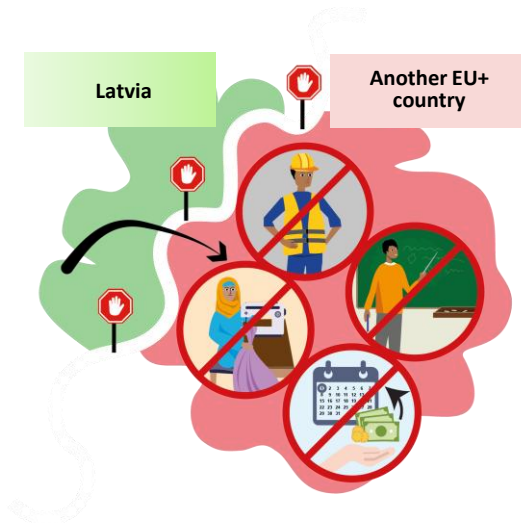
- cooperate with the authorities and follow their instructions
- remain in this country until the date of your travel and the authorities must be able to reach you
- stay in the country of relocation until your application is examined.

## ▶ WHAT HAPPENS IF YOU DO NOT COOPERATE WITH THE AUTHORITIES?

**!** **IMPORTANT!** If you refuse to cooperate with the authorities, this will have negative consequences for you.

If you travel to any another country without the permission of the authorities or move from the country of relocation, you will lose certain rights that you have as an applicant. For example:

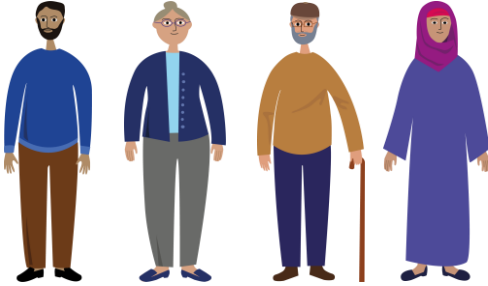
- you will **not receive many services and types of support**
- you will **not be allowed to work** or follow courses.



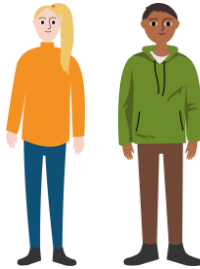
## ➤ WHAT IF YOU HAVE FAMILY MEMBERS WITH YOU?

If you are currently accompanied by members of your close family and you are selected for relocation, your family will be relocated together with you.

Close family members are considered to be:



- your husband or wife
- your unmarried partner with whom you share a stable relationship



- your child (under the age of 18 and unmarried).

## ➤ WILL AN INTERVIEW BE CARRIED OUT BEFORE RELOCATION?



If more information is needed from you, an interview will be arranged. It will focus on security matters. If you need to go to such an interview, the authorities will give you details beforehand.

## ▶ WHAT CAN YOU DO IF YOU DISAGREE WITH THE TRANSFER DECISION?



If you are accepted for relocation, you will be provided with a **transfer decision** stating which country you will be relocated to.

If you disagree with a transfer decision, you can provide your reasons to the court. This is called lodging an appeal. When you appeal a decision, a court or tribunal will make the final decision.

If needed, a legal adviser and an interpreter can help you with the appeal free of charge.



There are only three reasons for appealing a relocation decision:

- you claim it would be against your human rights to be transferred to that particular country
- there is new information that was not available at the time of the transfer decision which could have affected that decision
- you have family in another country who you should be reunited with instead

If you disagree with a transfer decision for you to relocate to another country, you will need to appeal this decision.

The time limit, where and how to lodge an appeal will be explained in the transfer decision provided to you.

You should give the reason or reasons why you disagree with the decision to relocate you to another country.

You should also give the reason or reasons why you should not be transferred to the country of relocation while your appeal is ongoing.

The court will first decide whether you may wait for the outcome of the appeal in this country whilst your appeal is ongoing within **1 month**. This is known as the appeal on suspensive effect.

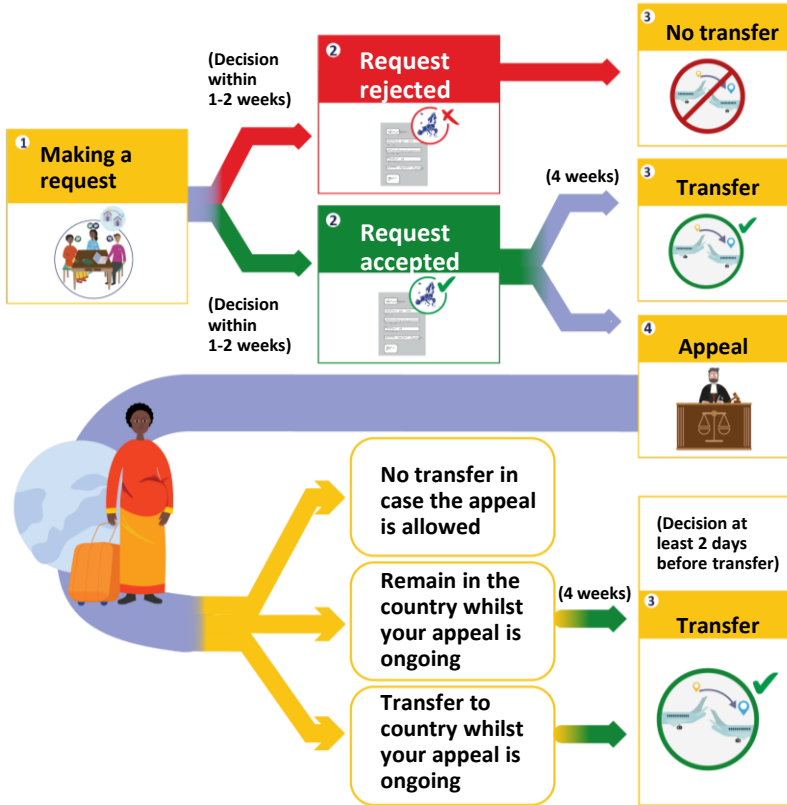
If the court decides that you cannot wait for the outcome of the appeal in this country, you will be transferred to the country of relocation whilst your appeal is ongoing.

If the court decides that you should be allowed to remain in this country whilst your appeal is ongoing, the court will try to provide a final decision on whether you should be transferred to the country of relocation within 1 month of the date of the decision on suspensive effect.

If your appeal is not accepted, you will be transferred to the EU+ country that is responsible for examining your application. The transfer should take place at the latest within 4 weeks of the date that the court made its final decision.

**IMPORTANT!** You must cooperate with the authorities and travel to the country of relocation.

## ▶ HOW LONG WILL THE RELOCATION PROCESS TAKE?



If you do not appeal the decision, the transfer should take place within 4 weeks after the EU+ country of relocation confirms the request.

If a court decides that there is no reason for you to remain in this country whilst your appeal is ongoing you will be transferred to the country of relocation whilst your appeal is ongoing

If you appeal the transfer decision and the court decides you should be allowed to remain in this country whilst your appeal is ongoing, the transfer should take place within 4 weeks of the decision on the appeal, if the appeal is rejected. You will be informed at least 2 days before the date of the relocation. If your appeal is accepted, you will not be relocated and you will remain in this country.

If a court decides that there is no reason for you to remain in this country whilst your appeal is ongoing you will be transferred to the country of relocation whilst your appeal is ongoing.

## **WHAT WILL HAPPEN AFTER THE RELOCATION?**

Normally, your application for international protection will be examined by the country of relocation. If, following your relocation it is found that you have a family member in another country you may be transferred to that country to examine your application.



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