



EMN Ad-Hoc Query on Best Practices and Methods of Establishing the Identity of Applicants for International Protection

Requested by Suvi TIAINEN on 15th March 2016

Protection

Responses from Austria, Belgium, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Portugal, Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Sweden, United Kingdom, Norway (20 in total)

Disclaimer:

The following responses have been provided primarily for the purpose of information exchange among EMN NCPs in the framework of the EMN. The contributing EMN NCPs have provided, to the best of their knowledge, information that is up-to-date, objective and reliable. Note, however, that the information provided does not necessarily represent the official policy of an EMN NCPs' Member State.

Background information:

The Finnish Immigration Service has received funding from the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF) for its project „Flow - Improving the initial part of the asylum procedure through developing stakeholder cooperation, tools and professional competences”. The project contributes to objective 1.1 of AMIF’s national program: strengthening and developing the common European asylum system. The key objective is to improve the efficiency and quality of the initial part of the asylum procedure by developing stakeholder cooperation, data exchange and professional competences as well as databases and other tools used in the asylum process.

We need information from the other Member States for identifying best practices and developing methods for establishing the identity, nationality and country of residence for applicants of international protection. Where relevant, you may refer to, or update, information from the national contribution to the EMN Focussed Study 2012: Establishing Identity for International Protection: Challenges and Practices.

Summary

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The Finnish Immigration Service is working on improving the initial part of its asylum procedure and made an ad hoc query to identify best practices for establishing the identity, nationality and country of residence of applicants for international protection, since it is a crucial part of the initial part of the asylum procedure. A total of 20 Member States sent in their replies.

In most Member States the operational responsibility for establishing the identity, nationality and country of residence of applicants for international protection is divided between the authority/authorities responsible for receiving and registering the applications for international protection (most commonly the police and/or the border guard) and the immigration authority responsible for establishing the motives for applying for international protection. The registering authority usually gathers the initial information concerning the applicant’s identity and works in cooperation with the immigration authority which can gather further information about the applicant’s identity in a personal interview for instance by asking questions concerning country of origin information.

Finland is currently in the process of transferring more of the responsibility for establishing identity from the police and border guard to the Finnish Immigration Service. After the transfer, the police and border guard will still be responsible for gathering the basic information of applicants and other initial functions relevant for establishing identity.

In Germany both the Federal Office for Migration and Refugees and the local alien authorities have the responsibility for establishing the identity of applicants, but they have different responsibilities in the asylum procedure. The Federal Office for Migration and Refugees is responsible for all questions regarding the asylum process while the local alien authorities are responsible for all questions concerning an alien's stay in the country (accommodation, benefits, health care etc.).

In Italy and Lithuania the responsibility for establishing identity lies with the police and/or border guard, but these authorities exchange information and cooperate with the national immigration authorities. In Italy the police may be supported by representatives from EASO, Frontex, Europol and EUROJUST. In Estonia, Latvia, Portugal, Slovenia, Sweden and the United Kingdom the responsibility for establishing identity lies clearly with only one authority.

In Member States where the responsibility is shared between authorities or where different authorities otherwise cooperate in establishing the identity, information between stakeholders is often exchanged through a central database system used by all authorities involved in the process. In some Member States, including Belgium and Hungary, information is simply exchanged by transferring the applicant's case file from one authority to the other.

The methods for establishing identity, nationality and country of residence of applicants for international protection are quite similar in all of the Member States. This information is gathered at an early stage of the procedure. In addition to checking the applicant's documents, taking their photograph and fingerprints and doing the relevant registry checks, most Member States also conduct a short initial hearing/ interview. The applicants can also be asked questions about their identity and country of origin with the help of country of origin information in the personal interview for establishing the motives for international protection. Authenticity checks are used when there is suspicion about the applicant's documents and sometimes methods like language analyses are used, if there is doubt about the

applicant's home region. Several Member States, including Austria, Finland and Latvia have a central competence center or special authority responsible for authentication of documents and COI experts for gathering country of origin information.

Questions



1. Which national authorities have the operational responsibility for establishing the identity, nationality and country of origin for applicants of international protection?
2. If several national authorities have the operational responsibility for establishing the identity, nationality and country of origin of applicants for international protection, how have you arranged data exchange between different national authorities concerning these matters?
3. At which point or points of the initial process are the identity, nationality and country of origin of applicants for international protection examined and by which methods, i.e. is there a special interview arranged where the applicant for international protection is asked questions about their identity, nationality and country of origin or is it done by some other methods?
4. Do you have special tools or other means to facilitate in establishing the identity, nationality and country of origin of applicants for international protection, for instance data bases or a central competence center? Yes / No. If Yes, please describe them and their function.
5. **We are planning to visit some Member States based on the conclusions made from the answers to this questionnaire. In order to enable follow up on specific issues and to plan possible visits**, please provide contact details for an official in your administration to whom any supplementary queries in relation to this questionnaire can be addressed.


Name of contact person.....


Telephone number.....


Email address.....



Responses

	Country	Wider Dissemination	Response
	Austria	Yes	<p>1. These facts are established in cooperation between specialized police authorities and the Federal Office for Immigration and Asylum (BFA). However for the asylum procedure the establishment of the identity is not essential due to the focus on the protection grounds. Source: Federal Ministry of the Interior.</p> <p>2. The data exchange is based on legal provisions, especially in the Asylum Act and the Federal Office for Immigration and Asylum Procedures Act. Source: Federal Ministry of the Interior.</p> <p>3. These facts are examined at an early stage of the asylum application procedure, mainly in a special interview directed by specially trained police officials and by interpreters that evaluate whether the spoken vernacular or dialect is in accordance with the indicated country of origin. In addition, ID documents are checked by specialized criminal authorities in case of doubts. Source: Federal Ministry of the Interior.</p> <p>4. Yes, partly. A central competence center within the Federal Office for Immigration and Asylum is gathering up-to-date data on each relevant country of origin and its political, social, medical, economic and military situation - if necessary, down to the local level. Source: Federal Ministry of the Interior.</p> <p>5. Official Email address of Federal Office for Immigration and Asylum (BFA): BFA-Einlaufstelle@bmi.gv.at Source: Federal Ministry of the Interior.</p>
	Belgium	Yes	<p>1. In Belgium, it is the Immigration Office (Asylum Directorate) that registers asylum applications and takes fingerprints. At the Immigration Office, a short interview takes place to establish the identity, nationality and travel route of the applicant. However, it is the Office of the Commissioner for Refugees and Stateless Persons (CGRS) which assesses the asylum applications and examines all the elements, among which an applicant's identity in a broad sense (region and country origin, etc.). Identification within the framework of the return of rejected asylum applicants falls within the competence of the Immigration Office, more specifically, of the</p>

			<p>identification cells, if need be, in consultation with the recently founded SEFOR Bureau. The authentication of identity documents is in principle performed by specialist units of the Federal Police.</p> <p>2. At the Immigration Office the asylum applicant is asked to fill out a questionnaire for the CGRS with information on identity aspects and the asylum motives. If Belgium is the responsible State under the Dublin Regulation, the complete file is transferred to the CGRS.</p> <p>3. As mentioned above, the Immigration Office registers the asylum application, the identity details and travel route. At this stage, the applicants have to provide all the documents regarding their identity, nationality, travel route, any stay in another country and the reasons for leaving the country of origin. However it is during the interview at the CGRS by means of specific interview techniques and Country of Origin Information (COI) that the CGRS tries to evaluate the statements the asylum seekers regarding his country and region of origin and other identity aspects. Other identification techniques such as language analysis or photograph comparison are only useful in a number of situations, do not provide any conclusive information as regards a person's identity and are rarely decisive. As a result, these techniques are not often used. As regards the return of rejected asylum applicants, the identification techniques most commonly used are the taking and checking of fingerprints, the analysis of the elements in the administrative file (among which the asylum application file) and the interview (by the IO and/or embassy personnel from the country of origin).</p> <p>4. Belgium does not have a separate body, competence center or central database that specifically deals with all aspects regarding the identification of asylum seekers or rejected asylum applicants. However, as explained above, there are specific cells within the Immigration Office tasked with establishing or checking identities in the framework of preparing and enforcing return.</p> <p>5. To be determined.</p>
	Croatia	Yes	<p>1. According to the International and Temporary Protection Act (Official Gazette 70/15), police officers or officers from the Reception Centre have a responsibility for establishing the identity, nationality and the country of origin for the applicants of an international protection immediately</p>

			<p>after the expression of an intention to apply for an international protection. Case officers are also entitled to establish the identity and the country of origin of the applicant during the later stage of the procedure.</p> <p>2. There is a central database system for the registration that is used by all authorities involved in the international protection process (police officers/officers from the Reception Centre/officers from Asylum Department) and there is a standard operating procedure for sharing information about changes regarding identity data for all the involved authorities. Also, case officers have an access to the National information system for a border control.</p> <p>3. The process of determining the identity, nationality and the country of origin begins from the moment when third country nationals is found on the territory of the Republic of Croatia, or when he/she appears alone at the police station. Apart from checking trough the official database, the identity is established mostly in the interview where the applicant for international protection is asked questions about his/hers identity, nationality and the country of origin.</p> <p>4. No, we don't have a special tools or the other means to facilitate the establishment of the identity, nationality and the country of origin of an applicant for an international protection.</p> <p>5. N/A</p>
	Cyprus	Yes	<p>1. The Immigration Service of the Police, where the application for asylum is initially submitted, and which performs the initial questions aiming at establishing applicant's identity and the Asylum Service, Ministry of Interior, in cooperation with the relevant department of the Police, Ministry of Justice, concerning possible submission of forged travel/personal documents.</p> <p>2. In case the competent officer of the Asylum Service questions the nationality of the applicant, the applicant's personal/travel documents are shared with the aforementioned department of the Police in order to establish the validity of the documents.</p>


			<p>3. There is no special interview taking place. This is established via the interview taking place in the framework of the Refugee Status Determination (RSD) procedure during which the officer asks the applicant questions concerning Country of Origin Information (COI).</p> <p>4. As above</p> <p>5. Name of contact person: Ms Natasa ANDREOU (Asylum Service - Ministry of Interior) Telephone number: +357 22 445263 Email address: nandreou@asylum.moi.gov.cy</p>
	Czech Republic	Yes	<p>1. The Ministry of the Interior and the Police of the Czech Republic are responsible for the establishment of the identity, nationality and country of origin for applicants of international protection. According to the Act No. 325/1999, on Asylum, as amended, a foreigner is required to submit an application for international protection either at the Ministry of the Interior or at the Police of the Czech Republic premises.</p> <p>2. The data exchange is arranged via information systems. Both the Ministry of the Interior and the Police of the Czech Republic are provided with the information included in the system.</p> <p>3. Identity, nationality and country of origin of applicants for international protection are examined in the form of proving identity by travel document or by other identity document. In case a foreigner is not in the possession of such a document, then the concerned foreigner is required to submit an affidavit on his/her identity. It is also possible to conduct an interview with the applicant for international protection as a part of the application and collect required information from the interview. Security clearance – during which fingerprints are taken – is another option. This data is sent to the AFIS national fingerprint database and to the Eurodac database.</p> <p>4. In order to facilitate the establishment of the identity, nationality and country of origin the Czech Republic does use the systems of national database AFIS and Eurodac.</p> <p>5. Will be sent via email.</p>


	Estonia	Yes	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Police and Border Guard Board has the operational responsibility for establishing the identity, nationality and country of origin for applicants of international protection. 2. Not applicable. 3. The process of establishing the identity, nationality and country of origin of the asylum seeker starts when the person makes first contact with the Police and Border Guard Board and has to fill in the asylum application. The photo and fingerprints are taken and relevant databases are checked. The process continues during the asylum interview where questions about the identity, nationality and country of origin are asked. If necessary a language analysis may be done and in case of doubt the travel documents may be sent to expertise. 4. No, we do not have special tools or other means to facilitate the establishment of the identity, nationality and the country of origin of applicants for international protection. 5. Will be specified in an e-mail.
	Finland	Yes	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The responsibility for establishing the identity of applicants for international protection pursuant to the current Finnish Aliens Act, has been explained in the EMN Second Focused Study 2012: Establishing Identity for International Protection: Challenges and Practices. However, it should be added that even though the Police and the Finnish Border Guard have been responsible for establishing the identity of the applicant, the Finnish Immigration Service has still made more detailed questions about the applicant's identity and country of origin in the asylum interview, if this has been relevant for the case in hand. According to the Finnish Government's proposal draft for a legislative amendment to the Aliens Act, the responsibility for establishing the identity, the travel route and the applicant's entry into the country will be assigned to the Finnish Immigration Service from the Police and the Finnish Border Guard. The amendment will be coming into force earliest on the 1st of July 2016 and at latest on the 1st of January 2017, but since the 1st of March the responsibility has been already shifted from the Police to the Finnish Immigration Service in practice. The Finnish Border Guard will still be responsible for establishing the identity, travel route and entry into the country of an alien applying for international protection until the amendment comes into force. According to the proposal draft for the amendment, the Police and


the Finnish Border Guard still maintain the following responsibilities: - Recording the basic information of an applicant and the application into relevant databases. The basic information concerning the applicant includes full name of the applicant, date and place of birth, nationality, domicile, maternal language and the language used for interpretation. The basic information concerning the application includes short account of the applicant's reason for applying for international protection, information about possible family relations in other Member States, information about possible resident permits, visas or refugee status and information about the possible vulnerable situation of the applicant and if there is reason to doubt the age of an applicant who has stated that he/she is an unaccompanied minor. - Investigating the relevant documents presented by the applicant and issuing a statement on their authenticity to the Finnish Immigration Service. - Photographing the applicants and collecting their fingerprint records for registers and doing the necessary register checks (Eurodac, AFIS, VIS, SIS).

2. See the previous question for the information the Police and the Border Guard gather in the registration phase. All of the information is recorded into our national electronic case management system for immigration (UMA), which is used by all the authorities involved in the asylum process. In case that the Police or the Finnish Border Guard has also interviewed the applicant concerning his/her identity, travel route and entry into the country, the information gathered in the interview is also recorded into UMA. In addition the officers in the asylum unit of the Finnish Immigration Service have access to VIS and SIS as well as the national database for police affairs (Patja). For ensuring effective cooperation with different authorities, the Asylum Unit and the Reception Unit of the Finnish Immigration Service together with the Police, the Finnish Border Guard and reception centres, have set up an operational task force that holds weekly meetings. The function of the task force is to arrange practical cooperation and procedures concerning the asylum process. For ensuring timely exchange of information between different authorities in the current situation, an office with representatives from all authorities involved in the asylum process will be established in connection with the intelligence department of the National Bureau of Investigation. The office will gather, analyze and communicate information and observations concerning applicants for international protection and asylum processes.

3. Yes. As pointed out in the answer to question 1, the Police or the Finnish Border Guard gather and record the basic information about the applicant and investigate the relevant documents

			<p>presented by the applicant when the application for international protection is submitted. Until the first of March, in most cases the Police or the Finnish Border Guard conducted a separate interview where the applicant was asked questions concerning his/her identity, travel route and entry into the country. More detailed questions about the identity and country of origin of the applicant were sometimes asked in the asylum interview held by the Finnish Immigration Service, as pointed out in the answer to question 1. Since the 1st of March, in the cases where the Police hasn't held this interview, the same hearing is conducted by the Finnish Immigration Service as a part of the asylum interview. If there is reason to doubt the nationality or the country of origin of the applicant, a language test can be done at this point too.</p> <p>4. The National Bureau of Investigation of the Police of Finland has a competence center which uses different kinds of databases. The Finnish Border Guard has also access to some of these databases. You can find more information concerning the databases and a specification of the databases used also by the Finnish border Guard in the EMN Second Focused Study 2012: Establishing Identity for International Protection: Challenges and Practices. The Finnish Immigration Service has a COI Unit which maintains a national database for country of origin information.</p> <p>5. Laura Cupic +358 50 509 5663 laura.cupic@migri.fi</p>
	Germany	Yes	<p>1. The Federal Office for Migration and Refugees as well as the local alien authorities have such responsibility. Both authorities have different responsibilities in the asylum procedure. The Federal Office for Migration and Refugees is only responsible for processing the asylum procedure while the local alien authorities are responsible for all questions regarding the stay of an alien (including accommodation and other benefits such as health services and livelihood benefits).</p> <p>2. Generally, data protection rules have to be considered – data exchange is limited to the necessary extent to enforce respective laws. Data exchange between different stakeholders in the asylum procedure is governed by several legal provisions. Regarding information on identity, nationality and country of origin the Residence Act as well as the Asylum Law permit such data exchange between the Federal Office for Migration and Refugees and local alien authorities due to their responsibilities within the asylum procedure. Moreover, on 5 February the Data Sharing</p>


			<p>Improvement Law entered into force. The law sets the legal foundation for the introduction of a standardised refugee identity card, the so-called "arrival ID". The law also aims to facilitate the swift registration and identification of applicants for protection.</p> <p>3. The identity, nationality and country of origin of an applicant can be examined by the Federal Office at different stages of the asylum procedure, for example when an application is registered and during the asylum interview. Checklists for applicants who claim to be of Syrian, Iraqi and Eritrean origin can be used to confirm the asserted nationality and other aspects that might be relevant for the decision on an application (for example the religion of an applicant). The country specific policy guidelines of the Federal Office as well as other COI might also help to establish an applicant's identity, nationality and country of origin.</p> <p>4. The instruments of language analysis and physical-technical checks of submitted documents are used by the Federal Office for Migration and Refugees. The Information Centre Asylum and Migration (ICAM) at the Federal Office provides objective, unbiased, comprehensive and up-to-date-information on countries of origin to support the employees. The ICAM uses MILO, a complex knowledge management system, to produce its databases and make them available to its users.</p> <p>5. EMN NCP DE</p>
	Hungary	Yes	<p>1. The identity, nationality and country of origin for applicants of international protection may be checked within the alien's police procedure by the alien's police authority as well as within the asylum procedure by the asylum authority.</p> <p>2. If a person applies for international protection while there is an alien's police procedure, the aliens police authority hands over the documentation of the case to the asylum authority containing also the personal information provided by the applicant.</p> <p>3. If the alien's police authority initiates a procedure, it examines the identity of the foreigner as well as the circumstances of the illegal entry to the territory of Hungary. Hereby the authority arranges an interview where the foreigner is requested to provide his/her personal data and</p>


			<p>identification documents if possible. The asylum authority within its procedure also checks the identity of the applicant by way of personal interviews, where the applicant is requested to state his/her personal data and to hand over identification documentation if possible. To establish the country of origin of the applicant in the absence of any document, country-specific questions are asked from the applicant. If any identification documentation is provided, the documents may be examined by a document expert.</p> <p>4. See Question 3.</p> <p>5. EMN HU NCP</p>
	Italy	Yes	<p>1. In Italy, the national authority that has the responsibility for establishing the identity of applicants is the Ministry of the Interior, which is operational through its offices located across the country. However, when performing these identification activities, the Italian police may be supported by representatives from EASO, Frontex, Europol and EUROJUST.</p> <p>2. In 2015, in order to improve communication between the police authorities, the Dublin Unit and the Territorial Commissions for the Recognition of International Protection involved in asylum procedures, an electronic data exchange system called Vestanet was put in place, for the automated circulation of asylum applications between the parties specified above. In particular, data is entered in the system as soon as an applicant is identified, with a unique identifier (CUI), which makes the use of the Migrant Database (BAI) more effective.</p> <p>3. Under Legislative Decree 18 August 2015 No. 142, implementing Directive 2013/33/EU and Directive 2013/32/EU, the migrants who arrive by boat are sent to six seaports (Lampedusa, Trapani, Augusta, Porto Empedocle, Pozzallo or Taranto), where health screening, pre-identification and registration activities are carried out and fingerprints and photographs taken. At this stage, with the support of EASO officials, a first distinction is made among 1) asylum seekers in general, who will be transferred to regional facilities; 2) asylum seekers who may be subject to relocation, who will be transferred to other specific facilities; and 3) other migrants, who will be transferred to the Centres for Identification and Deportation (CIEs). Asylum seekers who cannot benefit from a relocation procedure will be hosted in governmental reception centres for asylum</p>


seekers. There, the authorities will do the following: 1) identify the applicants (if that was not possible in the first- reception centres; 2) register their claims for international protection; 3) initiate the procedures for the examination of such claims; and 4) check the applicants' health conditions to establish if there are vulnerabilities requiring special reception services. In general terms, for the purposes of identification, the Circular of the Ministry of the Interior, Department of Public Security, No. 28197/2014 of 25 September 2014 applies. Under this Circular, "even though a foreign national may have been promptly identified on the basis of a travel document or there may be no apparent doubts on the stated identity, a foreigner national shall always have his or her fingerprints and photographs taken". This is applicable particularly if a foreign national applies for asylum (fingerprints and photographs taken of applicants for asylum – Regulation EC No 2725/2000) or is apprehended in connection with the irregular crossing of the border having come from a third country, or is rescued on the high seas and taken to the territory of the state (fingerprinting and photographs taken in connection with illegal entry – Regulations EC No 2725/2000). In order to inform migrants of the consequences of not cooperating with Italian authorities concerning their identification, the same Circular established that each immigrant should be given a leaflet in Italian, English, French, Arabic, Farsi and Tigrinya saying that "Migrants who enter Italian territory illegally, even if rescued at sea, must be identified by their personal particulars, photographs and fingerprints. The migrants' personal particulars - name; surname; day, month and year of birth - are acquired during a short interview, which will be carried out with the assistance of a language-cultural mediator. Fingerprints and face photographs are taken by the Police. Refusing to give one's personal particulars or to have one's fingerprints and photographs taken is a crime, which would be reported to the judicial authority. At any rate, the Police take fingerprints and photographs using force, if necessary.



4. Yes, as stated in answer No 2, an electronic system, Vestanet, was developed in 2015 for exchanging information between the parties involved in asylum procedures.

5. Name of contact person – Prefetto Dr. Angelo Trovato Email address - commissionenazionaleasilo@pecdci.interno.it

	Latvia	Yes	<p>1. The State Border Guard is the responsible authority for establishing the identity, nationality and country of origin for applicants of international protection.</p> <p>2. To identify the applicants for international protection the State Border Guard cooperates with expertise authorities that perform technical document expertise – Expertise Service of the Central Board of the State Border Guard, as well as with the Document Sample Register, which is considered to be the national information system in Latvia. If it is necessary to perform document expertise, State Border Guard sends a letter (with document) to the Expertise Service. If the expertise of age is necessary, the expertise is performed by the State Forensic Science Bureau. The received answer is sent to the Court to assess the expertise. If the expert opinion is not clear enough or is incomplete, a court may order supplementary expert-examination, assigning performance thereof to the same expert. If the expert opinion is not substantiated or reasoned, or if the opinions of several experts contradict one another, the court may order repeated expert-examination, assigning performance thereof to another expert or several experts.</p> <p>3. During the initial interview as much as possible information is gathered regarding asylum seeker’s identity, the route, relatives etc. This information is supplemented by information gathered from all available data bases (EURODAC, data bases on visas, residence permits, etc.), conclusions from expertise on ID documents, the analysis of content of the document, age assessment and in some cases language analysis is used to establish the actual country of origin.</p> <p>4. Yes, the State Border Guard has special initial questionnaire in order to collect the main asylum seeker’s information, the route, relatives, education etc. The State Border Guard has specially collected information of main countries asylum seekers come from (i.e., flag, currency, capital city, main languages, president). This information is used to confirm asylum seeker’s country of origin. There is the possibility to ask interpreters during their work, if the person actually comes from the country that he/she claims to be from.</p> <p>5. Provided to the FI NCP by e-mail.</p>
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	Lithuania	Yes	<p>1. A structural division of the State Border Guard Service (e.g., state border crossing points, the Foreigners' Registration Centre) or a territorial police agency.</p> <p>2. Data on an asylum applicant are entered in the Register of Aliens, the asylum applicant's file is formed, which is kept at the Migration Department and contains all the documents relating to the asylum applicant. In this way, upon establishing a person's identity a relevant notice is immediately given to the Migration Department.</p> <p>3. In accepting an application for asylum, an institution accepting the application: - carries out an inspection of the asylum applicant and his personal belongings according to the procedure laid down in laws; - collects all the personal documents and travel tickets held by the asylum applicant, makes their copies and visually assesses whether the documents contain signs of counterfeiting; - establishes the identity of the asylum applicant and determines his route in compliance with the Methodology for Determination of a Person's Identity and Travel Route approved by Minister of the Interior of the Republic of Lithuania Order No 4nt of 3 February 2000 "On the Methodology for Determination of a Person's Identity and Travel Route"; - takes a photograph of the asylum applicant (a digital photograph of the person's face is made) and electronically scans his signature's specimen; - takes fingerprints of the asylum applicant aged 14 and older (they are verified both in the national and Eurodac databases). If an asylum applicant does not hold any documents confirming his identity, his identity and route are established at the Foreigners' Registration Centre. During the process of identification of a person in Lithuania, the entire collected information and documents are analysed in detail as a whole and all are considered to be material (e.g., birth and marriage certificates, secondary school and university graduation diplomas, certificates of completion of in-service training or courses, etc.). An age assessment test and/or a deoxyribonucleic acid (DNA) test is/are performed as required on the instruction of the Migration Department.</p> <p>4. Yes. The Lithuanian Police Forensic Science Centre registers aliens' fingerprints, which are taken in the cases when an alien: 1) lodges an application for asylum in Lithuania; 2) has been detained for unlawful entry into the Republic of Lithuania, illegal stay and residence in it, transit through or departure from Lithuania; 3) is expelled from Lithuania.</p>
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	Luxembourg	Yes	<p>1. In Luxembourg, the procedure for identity verification/establishment in the context of international protection is separated from the decision-making procedure as such. While the authority for granting international protection status lies with the Ministry in charge of Immigration and Asylum (Directorate of Immigration), the Judicial Police is in charge of identity verification/establishment according to article 6 (3) paragraph 2 of amended Law of 18 December 2015 on international protection and temporary protection. The police will take the fingerprints and a picture of applicant. The applicant will be interviewed with regard to his/her travel itinerary, including questions on border crossing and used means of transports to arrive in Luxembourg.</p> <p>2. N/A. Once the Judicial Police has made the verification on the databases of EURODAC, Europol and any other relevant database (i.e. Edison) they will render a report to the Directorate of Immigration.</p> <p>3. The interviews will be conducted after having registered the application in the shortest timeframe (there is no deadline enshrined in law). During this interview, the judicial police proceeds with the necessary verification procedures to establish the identity and itinerary of the applicant(s), including to take the fingerprints of the applicant(s). In case the judicial police needs to identify the applicant, it can take pictures of the applicant and submit him/her to a language test.</p> <p>4. No. Current national legislation (Article 6 (3) paragraph 2) only foresees taking photographs and fingerprints of the applicants which are then run against EU or regional databases (e.g. EURODAC, VIS, SIS II, CCPD). This allows the Judicial Police to inquire whether the applicant had entered the European Union using a valid passport and a visa, had been subject to a re-entry ban and/ or had already applied for international protection in another Member State prior to applying in Luxembourg (in this case the Dublin Convention applies). The Judicial Police uses the information gained from these databases not only to verify the identity of the applicant but also to verify the veracity of his/her statements.</p>

			<p>5. Name of contact person: Serge Thill, Head of the Refugee Service Telephone number: + 352 24784055 Email address: serge.thill@mae.etat.lu</p>
	Netherlands	Yes	<p>1. The National Police, the Royal Marechaussee, the Immigration Service and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs all have operational responsibility for parts of the processes around establishing the identity, nationality and country of origin for applicants of international protection.</p> <p>2. Each authority registers data in their own registration system, after which data are exchanged through a central registration system for applicants.</p> <p>3. Identity, nationality and country of origin are examined during the first interview held by the Immigration Service at the beginning of the asylum procedure. This interview takes place within a few days after lodging the application. Other tools are age assessments, language analyses and document research.</p> <p>4. Yes. Eurodac is used for checking fingerprints. The immigration service has a central competence center which specializes in analyzing in source documents, native tongue and country of origin. The Royal Marechaussee has a central competence center which specializes in analyzing travel documents.</p> <p>5. Please contact via EMN Netherlands. emn@ind.minvenj.nl</p>
	Portugal	Yes	<p>1. The Immigration and Borders Service (SEF). The assessment of applications for international protection and the respective processing (including identifying the applicants) are centralised in the SEF's Asylum and Refugees Office.</p> <p>2. N/A</p> <p>3. The methods used to identify the third country nationals in question do not follow pre-defined criteria but are instead adopted in a flexible manner, in conformance with the circumstances of the specific case. In the absence of identification documents, preferred tools include interviews, questionnaires about the claimed country of origin, fingerprints and consultations of relevant</p>

			<p>databases, complemented by other measures and methodologies, depending on the specific case, without formal criteria for use. These procedures are done in the beginning of the instruction.</p> <p>4. No.</p> <p>5. Maria Emília Lisboa: emilia.lisboa@sef.pt</p>
	Slovak Republic	Yes	<p>1. Migration Office of the Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic (Migration Office) and the Bureau of Border and Alien Police of the Presidium of the Police Force Presidium of the Slovak Republic (BBAP PP FP).</p> <p>2. Data exchange between the BBAP PP FP and Migration Office is primarily conducted in cases when a foreigner is at the same time an asylum seeker in Slovakia. In accordance with the national legislation (Act on Asylum), a respective police department confiscates the travel or identity documents of a foreigner/TCN and issues a confirmation of this after he/she has given his/her statement by which he/she requests international protection at the territory of Slovak Republic or during his/her entry/return back to the territory of Slovak Republic, as the one being competent to issue a decision in asylum procedure in accordance with the Dublin procedure. A copy of the retained documents together with the documentation necessary for the assessment of the asylum application is immediately sent to the Migration Office. In case the asylum seeker is a third country national who has been granted a permanent or temporary residence in the Slovak Republic, his/her documents are not confiscated - only a copy is sent to the Migration Office. The Police Department also ensures the fingerprints of the applicant are taken. After the asylum procedure is concluded, the police department shall return the confiscated documents to the third country national on his/her request. In case of a risk that the asylum seeker might be hiding the documents necessary to ascertain the matters of fact or the facts that can jeopardize lives or health of persons, a police officer of a respective police department where the third country national has applied for asylum at, is entitled to conduct an inspection of the asylum seeker and his/her personal belongings. This means the whole communication is conducted in written, whereas the statement of the asylum seeker, record of the explanation written by the respective police department during giving the statement containing all the identification information of the foreigner as well as the copy of the documents (travel documents, identity documents) are sent to the Migration Office</p>



where they are a part of the asylum file. Besides this, a common Migration Office and Foreign Police Department information system called “MIGRA” is used for registering all the identification information on each foreigner or asylum seeker. It contains scanned IDs or passports as well as the identity history (recordings of all the changes in identity information). Identity changes can be performed on the basis of the submission of additional documents proving the identity of the concerned person or on the basis of his statement within the asylum procedure during interviews conducted by the Migration Office for the purpose of justification of why he/she applies for the international protection at the territory of Slovak Republic.



3. As mentioned before, Migration Office of the Ministry of Interior of Slovak Republic bases its findings at the beginning of the asylum procedure on the identity information given by the asylum seeker to the police authorities at his/her entry to the territory of Slovak Republic or during giving his/her statement. Procedural department of the Migration Office is responsible for the asylum procedures of the foreigners on the territory of Slovak Republic. An interview is always conducted with the applicant during the asylum procedure; if circumstances of the case so require supplementary interview/s can be conducted for the purpose of justification of his/her application for international protection. As a part of the entry interview, a questionnaire (an annex to the Act on Asylum) is filled up. Questions in the questionnaire are related to personal information of the asylum seeker, nationality, country of origin, personal information of his/her family members, information on his/her personal documents, residency documents, visa etc. The aim of this entry interview as well as of the supplementary interview/s is, among other things, also the verification of the identity of the foreigner. During the identification of the person and authenticity verification of his/her documents, the offices cooperate with the Institute of Criminalistics and Forensic Expertise of the Police Forces of Slovak Republic as well as Travel Documents Verification Department of the BBAP PP FP. Also, in case the age of the minor is unclear, medical checks are conducted for age determination (X-ray of the hand). However, the primary source of information about the identity of foreigners on the territory of Slovak Republic during the asylum procedures remains the method of interviews. Migration Office bases its decision during the assessment of the application for international protection on the information provided by the applicant during the asylum procedure. As a part of the interview method and through information on the country of origin, additional information is identified which can be in favour or not in favour of his/her identity and credibility. Consistency between his/her provided documents and his/her statement

and the information about the country of origin is examined. The most relevant or the most credible documents proving the identity are a passport and an ID. For proving the identity also additional documents are used (various types of documents or their copies). However, these have lower credibility, especially if it is not an authenticated copy. Even though Slovak Republic does not have the statistical data as to how many asylum seekers have provided authentic identity documents, it can be estimated based on the experience and practice that around 95% of all applicants do not have any identity documents. The reasons provided are usually that these were taken by smugglers; that they left the country without them; they have lost them or destroyed them being afraid they will be returned back to the country of origin. Within this context it can be concluded that Slovak Republic is considered by the vast majority as a transit country, their destination remaining one of the Western Europe countries.

4. No. Only the Institute of Criminalistics and Forensic Expertise of the Police Forces of Slovak Republic as well as the Travel Documents Verification Department of the BBAP PP FP have their own document databases (on authentic and false documents) and access to various European databases. Additionally, some employees of the Migration Office have an authorised access to a number of EU databases or cooperate with bodies which have such access. Within the Migration Office also an internal “MIGDOC” database is created for the needs of employees of the Migration Office, where they can among other information, save “queries & answers”, which can be used supportively for identification of the asylum seekers (credibility check). At the moment, however, there is no specific database focusing exclusively on the information for the purpose of identity verification at the national level. The Department of Documentation and Foreign Cooperation of the Migration Office is involved in a pilot project (released in February 2016) under the auspices of EASO (Origin verification tool for Syria) aim of which is to create such a database on the transnational level (currently utilizing the Aero FS platform). This database is focused on the information that help to verify the identity (credibility check) of the asylum seekers from Syria. The Department of Documentation and Foreign Cooperation of the Migration Office is participating in the phase of entering the relevant information as well as in the position of the drafter of so called factsheets.

5. See the document attached - not for wider dissemination

	Slovenia	Yes	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The operational responsibility has Ministry of Interior. 2. NTR 3. There is no special interview to establish identity, nationality and country of origin, but this process starts with the process of accepting the application, which is personal interview. 4. No. 5. Ministry of the Interior Republic of Slovenia Internal Administrative Affairs, Migration and Naturalisation Directorate Tel.: + 386 1 428 44 65 email: dunzmn.mnz@gov.si
	Sweden	Yes	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Swedish Migration Agency has the responsibility regarding establishing identity, nationality and country of origin for individuals applying for international protection. 2. Not applicable 3. Our (the Swedish Migration Agency) point of departure regarding the identity in relation to applicants seeking international protection, is that the main responsibility lies on the applicant himself/herself. However, the efforts of the Swedish Migration Agency in establishing the identity starts at the time of application, and are followed up throughout the asylum process. This work includes presenting a questionnaire to be answered by the applicant on day one. This is followed up by at least two interviews within the asylum process. Furthermore, the applicant, if the identity is not established directly at the time of application, is provided with an “identity assignment” and this is followed up continuously through the process. 4. Yes, within the Swedish Migration Agency, the Unit for Biometrics and Document Verification is the central competence center in regard to verifying documents in relation to the identity of an individual. 5. NA

	United Kingdom	No	
	Norway	Yes	<p>1. The National Police Immigration Service (PU) is responsible for the initial registration of the identity of those seeking international protection in Norway. If additional identity related information emerges, then the Norwegian Immigration Directorate (UDI) will correct or modify the initial registrations in the immigration control registration system (DUF) common to all operational immigration control agencies in Norway.</p> <p>2. The National Police Immigration Service (PU) is responsible for the initial registration of the identity of those seeking international protection in Norway. If additional identity related information emerges, then the Norwegian Immigration Directorate (UDI) will correct or modify the initial registrations in the immigration control registration system (DUF) common to all operational immigration control agencies in Norway.</p> <p>3. The Norwegian ID Centre is sometimes requested to provide a second opinion on whether an identity document is genuine or false. Depending on the nature and source of the request the communication may be by registered mail, courier, and encrypted e-mail or by phone. Research comparative study in English funded by UDI 2013: https://www.udi.no/statistikk-og-analyse/forsknings-og-utviklingsrapporter/comparative-study-of-id-management-in-immigration-regulation.-norway-sweden-the-netherlands-and-united-kingdom-2013 reports in Norwegian: http://www.nidsenter.no/Global/Publikasjoner/EvalueringSluttrapport.pdf http://www.nidsenter.no/Global/Publikasjoner/Evaluering,%20del2.pdf</p> <p>4. The Norwegian ID Centre is sometimes requested to provide a second opinion on whether an identity document is genuine or false. Depending on the nature and source of the request the communication may be by registered mail, courier, encrypted e-mail or by phone.</p> <p>5. Establishing and registering the identity of an applicant for international protection in Norway is a priority task at the initial interview conducted by the National Police Immigration Service (PU). However, the initial registration of identity information may be supplemented or modified on the basis of new information emerging while the application is being considered, e.g. on the basis of</p>

searches at the applicant's place of residence or his/her mobile phone, as well as on the basis of language tests and age assessments (for those claiming to be an unaccompanied minor).

6. Establishing and registering the identity of an applicant for international protection in Norway is a priority task at the initial interview conducted by the National Police Immigration Service (PU). However, the initial registration of identity information may be supplemented or modified on the basis of new information emerging while the application is being considered, e.g. on the basis of searches at the applicant's place of residence or his/her mobile phone, as well as on the basis of language tests and age assessments (for those claiming to be an unaccompanied minor).

7. Search in Eurodac is an important part of the procedure before the initial identity registration.

8. Search in Eurodac is an important part of the procedure before the initial identity registration.

9. Norwegian ID Center: Ms Zybelin Beck, Head of Section, Zybelin.Beck@nidsenter.no ; +47 942 07 177 Norwegian Directorate of Immigration: Mr. Kjetil Klunderud, Senior Advisor, kjkl@udi.no ; +47 40706583 Norwegian National Police Immigration Service: Mr. Ole Johan Heir Head of Unit, ole.johan.heir@politiet.no ; +47 22 34 25 45

10. Norwegian ID Center: Ms Zybelin Beck, Head of Section, Zybelin.Beck@nidsenter.no ; +47 942 07 177 Norwegian Directorate of Immigration: Mr. Kjetil Klunderud, Senior Advisor, kjkl@udi.no ; +47 40706583 Norwegian National Police Immigration Service: Mr. Ole Johan Heir Head of Unit, ole.johan.heir@politiet.no ; +47 22 34 25 45