



European Migration Network

Ad-Hoc Query on Travel costs of persons with international protection status and their family members

Requested by Finnish EMN NCP on 11th of November 2009

Compilation produced on December 18th 2009

Responses from [AT](#), [BE](#), [CZ](#), [EE](#), [FI](#), [FR](#), [GE](#), [HU](#), [IE](#), [LV](#), [LT](#), [MT](#), [NL](#), [PT](#), [SK](#), [SE](#), [UK](#) (17 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.

1. Background Information






The Finnish Ministry of Interior's Migration Department is currently conducting an overview of all the costs involved in the reception of quota refugees and asylum seekers who have been granted international protection status. The responsibility for these matters have been transferred to this entity in connection with the recent reorganisation of the migration administration. The Migration Department would like to utilise this EMN Ad hoc question to assess how the present Finnish practice of the state covering the travel costs of international protection status holders and their family members compares with other EU Member States.

2. Responses¹

	Query	Wider Dissemination? ²	
			1. If your Member State is involved in the annual resettlement programme of refugees through the quota refugee arrangement with UNHCR, does your government pay, either totally or in part, for the accepted








EMN Ad-Hoc Query: FI Travel costs of persons with international protection status and their family members

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.

			<p>quota refugees' travel expenses to your Member State as the country of resettlement? In subsequent family reunification cases, does your government also cover the travel costs of the family members of the quota refugees resettled in your Member State?</p> <p>2. Does your government cover the travel costs from the country of origin to your Member State in the family reunification cases of those asylum seekers, who have been granted residence permit in your Member State based on international protection need outside the quota refugee system, i.e. they have been granted either the Geneva convention refugee status or some other subsidiary protection status? Please specify which protection categories qualify for family reunification travel costs being covered by the state and which ones do not.</p>
	Austria	No	This EMN NCP has provided a response to the requesting EMN NCP. However, they have requested that their response is not disseminated further.
	Belgium	Yes	<p>1. Covering of travel costs by the Belgian authorities in the case of resettlement/quota refugees: yes</p> <p>2. In other cases (normal procedure): no</p>
	Czech Republic	Yes	<p>1. In case of quota refugees, we pay travel costs totally.</p> <p>2. No protection category qualifies for coverage of travel costs. We just assist in the process of getting visa and arrival in the Czech Republic. In few cases of children of poor families we asked UNHCR to reimburse air tickets provided by IOM.</p>
	Estonia	Yes	<p>1. Estonia is not involved in the annual resettlement programme of refugees through the quota refugee arrangement with UNHCR.</p> <p>2. No, Estonia does not cover the travel costs of family members of persons granted international protection status.</p>
	Finland	Yes	<p>1. The Finnish government covers the travel costs of quota refugees as well as the travel costs of their family members in consequent Family reunification cases.</p> <p>2. The Finnish government also covers the travel costs in family reunification cases for the family members of asylum seekers, who have been granted a residence permit in Finland based on the need for international protection, (the Geneva convention grounds or on other, subsidiary protection grounds). IOM and the Finnish Red Cross make the necessary travel arrangements and reimburse the government for the costs incurred. The Finnish government also covers the costs of issuing the necessary travel</p>






EMN Ad-Hoc Query: FI Travel costs of persons with international protection status and their family members

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.

			documents (Laissez Passer) for these categories of persons.
	France	Yes	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. France is involved in an annual resettlement programme of refugees through the quota refugee arrangement with UNHCR. It is a framework agreement signed on February 4th 2008 for an approximate quota of a hundred applications a year. The responsible entity for resettlement programmes is the OFII (French Office for Immigration and Integration). That organization covers the total travel expenses for the accepted quota refugees. On the contrary, the OFII does not cover the travel costs of the family members of the quota refugees resettled in France. 2. The OFII covered the travel costs from the countries of origin to France in family reunification cases of asylum seekers who had been granted either the Geneva Convention refugee status or some other subsidiary protection status until June 2009. The OFII used to cover part of these costs in the framework of a European project supported by the European Refugee Fund (FER) that has not been renewed in 2009.
	Germany	Yes	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Germany is not involved in the annual resettlement programme of refugees through the quota refugee arrangement with UNHCR 2. No.
	Hungary	Yes	<p><u>No</u>, Hungary is not involved in the annual resettlement programme of refugees through quota refugee arrangement with UNHCR.</p> <p><u>No</u>, the Hungarian government does not cover these travel costs concerning any family reunification procedure.</p>
	Ireland	No	This EMN NCP has provided a response to the requesting EMN NCP. However, they have requested that their response is not disseminated further.
	Latvia	Yes	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Till now the Republic of Latvia has not been involved in the annual resettlement programmes. 2. According to the Asylum Law the refugees as well as the persons who have been granted the subsidiary form of protection have the right of family reunification. The person who has been granted the subsidiary form of protection has the right to submit a request for family reunification when he/she has resided in the Republic of Latvia for at least two years after the granting such status. The government doesn't cover costs related to the travel arrangement of family members in case of the family reunification.
	Lithuania	Yes	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Lithuania does not participate in the resettlement programmes. 2. N/A
	Malta	Yes	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Malta does not have an agreement with UNHCR in connection with the annual resettlement programme of refugees from

EMN Ad-Hoc Query: FI Travel costs of persons with international protection status and their family members

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.

			<p>Countries of Origin. In this connection, the Maltese government does not annually accept refugees under the UNHCR quota system.</p> <p>2. With regards to family re-unification cases based on international protection <u>outside the quota refugee system</u> the government does not as yet have a system for covering the travel costs of the family members of Convention refugees granted a residence permit in Malta. Only Convention Refugees qualify for family re-unification possibilities in Malta.</p>
	Netherlands	Yes	<p>1. The Dutch government covers the travel costs of quota refugees as well as the travel costs of their family members in consequent Family reunification cases. All of the family members have to be mentioned at first instance (by the person who was first accepted). If not, the family itself is responsible for the costs of travelling.</p> <p>2. The Dutch government does not cover the travel costs in case of general family reunification (outside the resettlement programme). International Organization for Migration as well as diaconal organizations help asylumseekers to reunite with their family members.</p>
	Portugal	Yes	<p>1. Portugal has a resettlement program that establishes a quota of at least 30 resettled refugees per year. The travel costs of refugees accepted by PT are covered by the PT government. In subsequent cases of family reunion of people who are not part of the quota of resettlement, the travel costs are not borne by the Government, but by themselves.</p> <p>2. Portugal does not pay travel costs or travel documents of persons who, being in the country of origin will travel to Portugal under a scheme of family reunification.</p>
	Slovak Republic	Yes	<p>1. The Slovak Republic is not participating in the annual resettlement programme yet.</p> <p>2. This issue is not covered by any legal act in the Slovak Republic and no funds are allocated in this regard in the state budget. The costs are generally covered by the persons granted international protection or their family members. The whole process from the administrative point of view can be facilitated by UNHCR and/or respective NGOs.</p>
	Sweden	Yes	<p>1. The Swedish Migration Board covers the total cost of quota refugees travel expenses for coming to Sweden. When it comes to travel costs for family reunification the rules are the same regardless of whether the person granted asylum has been a quota refugee or not.</p> <p>2. The Swedish Migration Board can, after an application, pay for the travel of family members to persons granted asylum as refugees according to the Geneva convention but not to persons that has been granted residence permit on subsidiary protection grounds.</p>
	United Kingdom	Yes	<p>1. The UK has a quota refugee arrangement with UNHCR known as the Gateway Protection Programme. Refugees resettled to</p>

EMN Ad-Hoc Query: FI Travel costs of persons with international protection status and their family members

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.

			<p>the UK through this programme are afforded full refugee status and protection. This programme pays for the total travel expenditure of refugees and their dependents family members from their country of refuge to their point of resettlement in the UK. In all cases, travel is arranged through the International Organisation for Migration (IOM).</p> <p>Concerning subsequent family reunification cases, the UK does not pay for any travel arrangements. If families can show that they cannot afford the costs of travel they can apply to the UNHCR for emergency funding for travel assistance. This scheme is administered through the British Red Cross and used to be funded by the British government.</p> <p>The UK also operates a programme called Mandate in which applicants who have been accepted as refugees by UNHCR in a third country and who have a close family sponsor settled in the UK, can apply for Indefinite Leave to Enter the UK as a refugee. The UK is planning in the near future, to fund the total travel expenditure of these refugees in line with its Gateway programme.</p> <p>2. The UK does not currently fund wider family reunion although this is something that we have been asked to consider by the UNHCR. This is currently under consideration however we are unlikely to fund this.</p>
--	--	--	--
