



Refugees and Vocational Training
Context Analysis
Situation of refugees in the
Netherlands



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Context Analysis: Situation of refugees in the Netherlands

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Figures¹

Total population of the Netherlands (2017)	17.165.104 ²
Total Number of refugees ³ (2016)	101.744 (UNHCR) ⁴
Number of (non-EU) first time asylum applicants (2016) ⁵	19.300 (Eurostat) ⁶
Total Number of all Asylum seekers ⁷ (2016)	31.642 (IND) ⁸
Distribution of first instance decisions on (non-EU) asylum applications (2016)	Sum: 28.900 Refugee status: 33,7 % = 9739 Subsidiary protection: 37,1 % = 10.721 Humanitarian reasons: 1,3 % = 376 Rejected: 27,9 % = 8.063

¹ A critical remark on terminology and terminological distinctions: in this paper distinctions between different groups of people who seek refuge are made based on the legal status. When it comes to access to different support systems and entitlement to social welfare benefits, a sharp distinction is made regarding the legal status. It is necessary to question these legal and bureaucratic categories (refugee, asylum seeker, etc.), which classifies very heterogeneous groups of people into different target groups. These bureaucratic categories do not reflect the self-perception of the persons concerned, but the rationalities of the migration regime.

² National Office Statistics Netherlands (CBS, the Hague); www.cbs.nl [2017-11-02].

³ UNHCR Definition of „Refugees”: Persons recognized as refugees under the 1951 UN Convention/1967 Protocol, the 1969 OAU Convention, in accordance with the UNHCR Statute, persons granted a complementary form of protection and those granted temporary protection. In the absence of Government figures, UNHCR has estimated the refugee population in many industrialized countries based on 10 years of individual asylum-seeker recognition.

⁴ UNHCR, Global Trends, 2016

⁵ First time asylum applicants for international protection (as defined by Article 2(h) of [Qualification Directive 2011/95/EU](http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php/Glossary:First_time_asylum_applicant)) are persons who lodged an application for asylum for the first time in a given Member State during the reference period (http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php/Glossary:First_time_asylum_applicant, [2017-10-25]

⁶ Eurostat Asylum Statistics (online data code: migr_asyappctza), http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/images/b/b5/Asylum_statistics_YB2017_III.xlsx Figure 3

⁷ UNHCR Definition of „Asylum seekers”: Persons whose application for asylum or refugee status is pending at any stage in the asylum procedure.

⁸ UNHCR 2017, p. 6, Table 1

	(Eurostat) ⁹
Five main citizenships of (non-EU) asylum applicants	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Syria (2.865) 2. Eritrea (1.865) 3. Albania (1.665) 4. Morocco (1.270) 5. Afghanistan (1.025) 6. Other (10.595) (Eurostat) ¹⁰

Situation of Asylum seekers

Reception conditions	<p>Legal framework Refugees and asylum seekers is governed by the Aliens Act of 2000 (V2 2000). Under this act, the asylum seekers can be granted refugee status if they meet the criteria of the Geneva Convention on humanitarian grounds, or if they are dependent partner of minor child who fled together with or within three months of a principal applicant. To decrease the previously long processing times, the Vw 2000 introduced a “48- hour assessment”. Within 48 working hours from application, a first decision is made on whether or not a person can be considered for refugee status. The 48-hour assessment is also meant as a deterrent for bogus applicants. During the application process, asylum seekers are housed at special reception centers scattered throughout the country, where they can wait for the outcome of their application and appeals.</p> <p>Centralization and first registration Arrived in the Netherlands asylum seekers will be transported to the national centralization location Ter Apel (in the Northern part of the Netherlands, municipality of city of Groningen). After the procedure for initial registration, the asylum procedure will be continued and it takes normally 14 days. During this procedure the asylum seekers will be housed in different reception centers.</p>
Average or typical length of the asylum procedure	<p>Long asylum procedure and uncertain outcome All decisions for the asylum procedure, for this the Federal (Government) Agency for Immigration in the Netherlands (IND) is responsible. The decisions have to be taken within 6 months after the application has been submitted. People granted refugee status receive a renewable residence permit which is valid for one year. After five years, refugees are eligible for a permanent residence permit on the condition that they pass the <i>integration exam</i>. If they have not passed the exam, they receive another temporary permit. People who are granted a refugee status are housed throughout the country spread the costs of reception centers across municipalities and prevent geographic concentration. Every municipality has to reserve a share of its social housing for refugees.</p>

⁹ Eurostat Asylum Statistics (online data code: migr_asydcfina and migr_asydcfsta and migr_asydcfina), http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/images/b/b5/Asylum_statistics_YB2017_III.xlsx Figure 7 and 8, National Office Immigration Naturalize Netherlands, www.ind.nl

¹⁰ Source: Eurostat (online data code: migr_asyappctza), http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/images/b/b5/Asylum_statistics_YB2017_III.xlsx, Table 1



	<p>It is estimated that almost twothirds of the refugee population live outside the large urban centers. However, many try to move to the cities eventually, to join compatriots, or because they believe that they will have more opportunities there.</p> <p>Deportation (complex issues of politics and law)</p> <p>The Netherlands does not have a strict removal policy for asylum seekers whose applications were denied. Many people who were denied refugee status consequently stayed on without a legal residence permit and in 2007 after lengthy debates, the government passed an amnesty law for all asylum seekers who claimed asylum before 2001 unsuccessfully but had not left the Netherlands since</p> <p>The experience of support employees of NGO's : asylum seekers often wait for more than 6 months for a decision of the IND and had not committed any serious crimes.</p>
Education and training	<p>Limited access to the labour market</p> <p>Asylum seekers get a small weekly allowance and are not allowed to work for more than twelve weeks a year. After submitting the asylum application until the final decision on their asylum application asylum seekers are allowed to do voluntarywork.</p>
	<p>Restricted access to (further) education</p> <p>Asylum procedure is 6 months according to the decision 'stay or go'. Voluntary work will be allowed after permission. It depends on the juridical procedures (allowed to stay). After permission it is allowed to follow a Dutch language course (basic practical language kit.)</p>

Situation of recognized refugees

Legal Framework	<p>Residence permit for 5 years</p> <p>International protection permits (refugee status and subsidiary protection) are both granted for 5 years. Refugee matters as looking for housing, following courses (language) and an integration program will take three years, besides voluntarywork. The refugee has to sign a declaration form to be involved in a participation program.</p>
	<p>Mobility: at present no restrictions for refugees regarding their place of residence</p> <p>Actual policy national government</p> <p>Refugees with a state of residence will not have the rights for the first two year in the Netherlands according to support in allowance for care, housing and social income assistance. Refugees will receive support according to housing, care insurance and support according to a integration trajet in a so called 'natural model upon' by the municipalities. Next to it refugees only have the right on some hundred euro's, a so called 'living budget/money'. This policy of the new national government Rutte III will led to less choice of freedom for the refugees.</p> <p>The system of policy with private companies of naturalization will exist but the rules of quality will increase. A loan for courses of naturalization for refugees is max. € 10.00,00. For getting this loan the refugees are support by the private companies self. But the support is to problematic because of the complex administration</p>



	<p>system (bureaucratic). The loan will therefore become much expensive for the refugee. The loan will be remit when the refugee succeed. If not the refugee has to pay back the loan an will lost the state of residence of allowance.</p>
Entitlements	<p>Staying in reception centers is not regulated The Federal, National Government Office for Immigration and Naturalization is responsible for regulate the staying in reception centers.</p>
Labour market & education and training	<p>Free formal access to the labour market for residence permit holders but obstacles for equal access. Refugees and beneficiaries of subsidiary protection have free access tot the labour market. Municipalities in the Netherlands with refugees and beneficiaries of subsidiary protection are starting earlier business networks with companies or welfare companies (not for profi companies). The most important policy of the municipalities and education centers is to support intensively the refugees in participating in the labourmarket. Having jobs, being an employee of a company will have better results for the refugees to participate in the Dutch society, their health care and on long term a final integration in the Dutch society.</p> <p>The integrated pathway (Language and vocation lead to work) is a tailored Dutch language course thayt is integrated within one of the possible vocational training programs (dividedaccording to different professionals/skills). The course lasts one year and is open for those with a minimum of A1 Dutch language proficiency, who were older than 15 years of age when they moved to the Netherlands. Alongside vocational and tailorde language training participants receive tuition on soft skills: study skills in the Netherlands, communication, and conduct in Dutch workplaces, companies. This is an example of actual changing policy of education centres in collaboration with municipalities, municipal departments of labour and incomes.</p> <p>82% of Dutch municipalities with population of refugees has a strong policy to support refugees in participation in the labourmarket. One of the important instruments is “The Law of participation” to allow refugees in doing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • volantary work • experience and practical • following courses • training, support (applications). <p>The Dutch muniicipalities have strong collabarotaion networks with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NGO’s for support refugees (national and local) • Private Companies (naturlaizing courses) • Departments of municipalities according to health and care • Welfare foundations • Housing associations.
Legal entities involved	<p>National Federal, National Government Office for Immigration and Naturalization Decision on the application for asylum. The Federal (Government, National) Office for Immigration and Naturalization is the responsible authority for asylum matters, refugee matters.</p> <p>Dutch Organization for Refugees Advocating the refugees.</p>



<p>Ministry of Security and Justice Centers for housing Asylum seekers (COA): emergency and regular accommodation for asylum seekers Education programs: pre- naturalizing courses, Dutch language courses and orientation on the Dutch society (subsidized by the national government).</p> <p>Municipalities Housing and programs for integration (long term) refugees.</p> <p>Centers for Work and Income (UWV) Voluntary declaration (temporary work).</p> <p>Foundation Refugees Work Support in juridical procedures, family reunion, transport to municipality of residence, tuning in voluntary work.</p> <p>NIDOS Guardianship and intensive guiding of isolated under age asylum seekers (subsidized by the national government).</p> <p>New Dutch Connections Activities and future academy for young refugees and asylum seekers (financed by the national government, municipalities and funding organizations).</p> <p>Centers for voluntary works (financed by the municipality).</p> <p>Receptions, welcoming organizations Collaboration voluntary organizations for and with refugees and asylum seekers (financed by the municipality).</p> <p>For status holders Foundation Refugees Work Support juridical procedures, family reunion, support according to housing and naturalizing, specialized in social work, voluntary work. The coaching, support will take 18 months. Focus is support of refugees according to self support.</p> <p>Departments (municipalities) of Labour and Incomes. Supporting by specialized team/unit of consultants and participation coaches, collaboration with Refugees Work, education centers, organizations of voluntary work.</p>
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