

## EMN IRELAND MIGRATION MEMO #5: How do EMN countries manage contributions to international protection accommodation?

*This EMN Ireland Migration Memo summarises findings from two EMN Ad-Hoc Queries ([2024.14](#) and [2024.15](#)). Ad-Hoc Queries are used by EMN for collecting comparative information on a given topic. This Migration Memo was prepared by Cíara Dalton and Keire Murphy. [EMN Ireland](#) is the Irish National Contact Point of the [European Migration Network](#) and is located in the [Economic and Social Research Institute](#) (ESRI) and the Department of Justice.*

### THE ISSUE

The Reception Conditions Directive ([2013](#) and [2024](#)) allows Member States to reduce allowances for international protection applicants or ask for a financial contribution in certain circumstances. While this Directive does not apply to beneficiaries of international protection, challenges moving out mean that some countries allow beneficiaries to stay in centres for a period after receiving status. Some countries also request contributions in this case. In Ireland, beneficiaries sometimes end up staying in centres for [long periods of time](#), due to the policy not to evict beneficiaries into homelessness. Ireland [introduced](#) an income assessment for applicants in June 2024 and a new policy that the Daily Expense Allowance will no longer be paid where an individual has an income of more than €125 per week. This Migration Memo gives an overview of the policy on this in other EMN countries, summarising two EMN Ad Hoc Queries from 2024.<sup>1</sup>

### CONTRIBUTIONS

#### *Do EMN countries require contributions?*

- 12 responding countries<sup>2</sup> require a financial contribution from **international protection applicants** living in the reception system in certain circumstances.
- 11 responding countries<sup>3</sup> require a financial contribution from **beneficiaries of international protection** living in the reception system in certain circumstances.
- In five EMN Member countries (Croatia, Greece, Italy, Latvia and Portugal), contributions are not required because the reception system is only for those applicants who do not have an adequate standard of living, while in others, there are no conditions to receiving reception.<sup>4</sup>

#### *What criteria are used for contributions?*

In the twelve countries that do require a financial contribution from applicants, **the majority use income as the determining criteria. Others determine the contribution based on cost of reception** (Czechia and Hungary). The general rule regarding income criteria is if an applicant earns above a certain amount, they are required to contribute to the cost of their reception.<sup>5</sup> Spain has set amounts of deductions from financial aid depending on the number of cohabitants and their income. In general, if a contribution is required from both applicants and beneficiaries, the same criteria are applied to both, although the conditions may vary.<sup>6</sup>

#### *How is income determined?*

The **main method of determining income is self-declaration**, which is used by ten countries.<sup>7</sup> In France and Spain, income is determined based on documentation received from the person. In Portugal, although reception conditions are only guaranteed to applicants who do not have sufficient means to support themselves, and therefore financial contributions are not required from applicants or beneficiaries, a person's income is determined through both self-determination and the tax system. In Latvia, applicants must submit an application stating that they do not have sufficient resources to ensure living arrangements during the asylum procedure and they want to be accommodated in the accommodation centre.

<sup>1</sup> 24 Member States responded to both Ad Hoc Queries.

<sup>2</sup> BE, CZ, FI, FR, DE, HU, HR, NL, SK, SI, ES and SE.

<sup>3</sup> CZ, FI, FR, DE, HU, LU, NL, SE, SK, SI, and ES. Belgium is the only country that requires a contribution from applicants but not beneficiaries, whereas Luxembourg requires a contribution from beneficiaries, but not applicants.

<sup>4</sup> BG, CY, EE, IE, LT, LU, MT, and PL.

<sup>5</sup> BE, CZ, DE, HR, HU, FI, FR, EL, SE, SI, SE.

<sup>6</sup> In Belgium, beneficiaries are excluded.

<sup>7</sup> BE, CZ, DE, EL, FI, HU, NL, SK, SI, and SE.

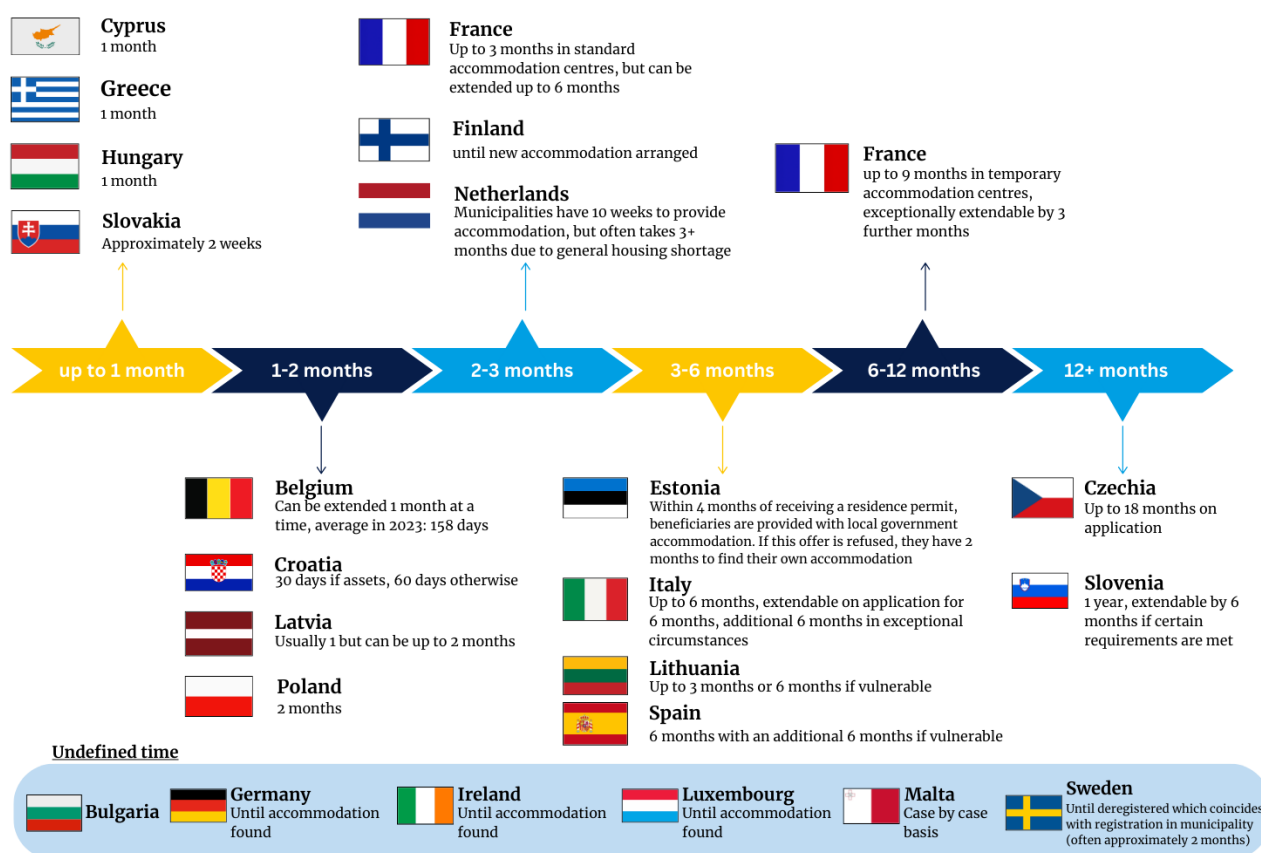
## How is the rate calculated?

**How the rate of contribution is calculated varies significantly.** In four responding countries, the contribution is set at a fixed amount – although the amount varies between EMN Countries.<sup>8</sup> In Belgium, France, the Netherlands and Slovakia, the contribution is calculated as a percentage of income. In Hungary and Slovenia, the contribution is based on a cost calculation of the reception conditions; in Germany, the calculation varies depending on the laws of each federal state, and in Spain, financial aid is reduced depending on income level.

## ACCESS TO RECEPTION CENTRES

In all responding countries, except Portugal, there is some capacity for beneficiaries to remain in reception centres immediately after being granted status. However, the eligibility and length of the time given varies significantly between countries. These are presented in figure 1 below.

**FIGURE 1: LENGTH OF TIME BENEFICIARIES CAN STAY IN RECEPTION CENTRES AFTER RECEIVING STATUS**



## KEY TAKEAWAYS

- Around half of responding EMN countries require financial contributions from applicants or beneficiaries in some circumstances.
- Self-declared income is the main determining criteria used where financial contributions are requested.
- The rate of contribution is calculated in different ways (e.g. fixed amount, percentage of income or cost calculation of reception).
- Eligibility and length of time for beneficiaries to remain in reception centres after being granted status varies significantly.

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<sup>8</sup> CZ (approximately 600 CZK (€24) per day), FI (maximum €9 per day, plus an additional €3 for lunch and dinner if the centre also offers meals), SK (a symbolic €1 per day if the income is from €100 up to the minimum subsistence amount. If the applicant's income is above the subsistence minimum up to 1.5 times the amount of the subsistence minimum, the applicant is obliged also to adequately pay for the whole day meal. If the income is above 1.5 times the subsistence minimum, in this case the applicant pays for accommodation, food and hygiene supplies.) and SE (SEK 2,100 (€182) per month for adults and SEK 1,050 (€91) per month per child (up to a maximum of two children)).