

The Organisation of Reception Facilities for Asylum Seekers in Different Member States

THE NETHERLANDS

List of abbreviations

AA	General Asylum Procedure
AMV	Unaccompanied Minor
AC	Application Centre
ACVZ	Advisory Committee on Migration Affairs
ACZ	Asylum Seekers' Centre
COA	Central Agency for the Reception of Asylum Seekers
COL	Central Reception Location
DT&V	Repatriation and Departure Service
EMN	European Migration Network
GGD	Municipal Health Service
GL	Family Centre
IBO	Intensive Assisted Reception
IHP	Integral Accommodation Plan
IND	Immigration and Naturalisation Service
POL	Process Reception Location
PIVA	Implementation of Improved Asylum Procedure Programme
PvE	Schedule of Requirements
PVV	Party for Freedom
Rva	Regulation for Provisions for Asylum Seekers and Other Categories of Foreign Nationals
Rvb	Regulations on Provisions for Certain Categories of Aliens
RVK	Aliens Chain Report
TVcN	Interpreter and Translation Centre the Netherlands
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
VA	Extended Asylum Procedure
VBL	Centre with Restricted Movement
Vw 2000	Aliens Act 2000
VBP	Stock Management Plan
WET COA	Central Agency for the Reception of Asylum Seekers Act
ZBO	Autonomous Administrative Authority

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Top-line “Factsheet”
(National Contribution)

Executive Summary
(Synthesis Report)

National contribution (one page only)

Overview of the National Contribution – introducing the study and drawing out key facts and figures from across all sections of the Focused Study, with a particular emphasis on elements that will be of relevance to (national) policymakers.

This report for the European Migration Network gives an overview of the policy regarding the organisation of reception facilities in the Netherlands. This report monitors the manner in which the Netherlands receives asylum seekers, the associated facilities, the efficiency of the system and the manner in which humanitarian issues and the expiry of entitlement to reception are dealt with. Despite the introduction of harmonised reception standards at an EU level, it has become clear that ensuring the availability of (equivalent) reception facilities in the Member States is difficult. The Netherlands has shown a prominent decrease in the occupancy rates of its reception centres in recent years. This decrease was caused by the reduced influx of asylum seekers and shortened duration of stay of asylum seekers due to the implementation of a new asylum procedure.¹ In contrast, other EU Member States, such as Sweden, have faced increased numbers of asylum seekers from various parts of the world. The collection and analysis of information regarding the organisation of reception in the various (Member) States supports European and national policy-making.

Prior to the research, a consultative group was set up, consisting of (independent) experts, in the area of reception.

In the Netherlands, the Central Agency for the Reception of Asylum Seekers (COA) is responsible for the reception, assistance and outflow from the reception facilities in the Netherlands of asylum seekers. The COA guarantees that the reception system in the Netherlands offers equal facilities and services to all asylum seekers. Additionally, its capacity in 2012 was sufficient to offer all asylum seekers a place in one of the reception centres.

Chapter 1 deals with the various types of reception in the Netherlands and the associated actors. The Central Reception Location (COL) in Ter Apel receives all asylum seekers after their arrival in the Netherlands. In the Process Reception Location (POL), asylum seekers are received in the first phase of the asylum procedure. The majority of the COA reception centres are regular asylum seekers' centres which are distributed across the country. Furthermore, there are special locations for unaccompanied minors and vulnerable groups. Attention is also paid to family centres (GL) and to the Centres with Restricted Movement (VBL). Asylum seeker families with minors who have exhausted all legal means, aliens who cannot leave the country within 28 days and who are officially no longer entitled to reception are received at these locations. Chapter 2 describes the right to reception of asylum seekers as well as the various reception procedures, standard and otherwise. Extra attention is paid to the vulnerable groups and to the unaccompanied minors. Chapter 3 deals with the quality of the material reception facilities. In the Netherlands, the Central Agency for the Reception of Asylum Seekers Act² describes the types of material reception facilities to which the asylum seekers are entitled. Chapter 4 describes the flexibility of the reception system in the Netherlands. In the event of lower influx, the Netherlands cuts off reception capacity and in the event of unexpectedly high influx, the COA deploys its buffer capacity. Chapter 5 gives an overview of the disposable national budget for the reception facilities. The conclusions are described in Chapter 6.

Synthesis Report (up three pages)

Executive Summary of Synthesis Report: this will form the basis of an EMN Inform, which will have EU and National policymakers as its main target audience.

Section 1
Different types of Reception Facilities and different Actors
(Maximum 4 pages)

This section of the Synthesis Report will address the organisation of reception facilities in different (Member) States. An overview will be provided of the different types of accommodation facilities, and different actors involved in the provision of reception facilities.

The Reception Conditions Directive (Directive 2003/9/EC, Article 13) and the Commission's proposal for the recast Reception Conditions Directive (Article 17) stipulate that Member States shall ensure availability of material reception conditions to applicants for international protection. Housing constitutes an essential, if not the primary, element of reception conditions. Provision of accommodation can be provided in a variety of possible manners. Directive 2003/9/EC (Article 14) makes broad reference to: a) accommodation premises for applicants who lodged their application at the border; b) accommodation centres which guarantee an adequate standard of living; c) private houses, flats, hotels or other premises adapted for housing applicants for international protection. Consequently, (Member) States have established different types of reception facilities, such as, collective/communal reception facilities, individual housing (private houses, flats or hotels arranged and paid for by the State), or, some also offer the applicant financial compensation which covers housing expenses.

This Section aims to provide an overview of the different types of reception facilities (Member) States have in place. It will also provide an overview on the number of facilities as well as their capacity. With regard to the organisation, this Section will furthermore address the different actors involved in the provision of reception facilities to applicants for international protection, specifying which authorities carry financial and executive responsibility and whether third parties are involved, such as for example, NGOs or other actors of civil society.

Q1. Please indicate in Table 1 below what type of reception facilities exist in your (Member) State.

In case your (Member) State offers a different type of facility which is not listed in the table below, please include and describe this by adding additional rows to the table below. Please also indicate how many of these facilities exist and indicate what their capacity is and how many applicants were accommodated in these facilities per year starting from 1 January 2008 to 31 December 2012.

Should your (Member) State not be able to provide the maximum capacity, please provide a brief explanation for this and specify the actual number of applicants accommodated in a certain type of facility on an annual basis for the period 2008-2012.

Table 1 Different types of Reception Facilities

Type of accommodation	Does this type of facility exist in your Member State?	If so, how many of these facilities existed at the end of 2012?	Specify the maximum number of applicants the facilities could accommodate	Number of applicants accommodated in such facilities per year during 2008-2012
Collective initial/transit	Yes	The Netherlands has 3 application centres.	Around five hundred beds	Due to the transition to a

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reception centres		The adoption of the new asylum procedure in 2010 introduced two new types of COA locations: the Central reception location and the Process reception location. ³ The COA first receives people entering the Netherlands and who apply for asylum in the new Central reception location in Ter Apel. After a few days, they are moved to one of the process reception locations. The POLs have all facilities for aliens to prepare for the asylum procedure.	are available at the application centres. ⁴	new registration system, detailed overviews can no longer be supplied. ⁵
Collective open reception centres⁶	Yes	Most COA reception centres are regular asylum seekers' centres. Distributed over the Netherlands, there are 28 Asylum seekers' centres (AZCs).	Around fourteen thousand beds are available at the AZCs.	Idem.
Special reception centres or facilities for vulnerable groups (e.g. victims of torture or specific vulnerable female applicants)	Yes	A special form of youth shelter is protected reception. COA receives vulnerable minors who are victims of (or run the risk of becoming victims of) human trafficking in a highly protected environment, namely in 4 unaccompanied minors campuses.	There are 250 beds available at the unaccompanied minors' campuses.	Idem.
Special separate reception centres for unaccompanied minors	Yes	See above	See above	Idem.
Private houses or flats: arranged and paid for by competent	No	N/a	N/a	N/a

authorities				
Private hotels: arranged and paid for by competent authorities	No	N/a	N/a	N/a
Individually arranged accommodation such as houses, flats, hotels and/or possibilities of staying with friends and/or family⁷	No	N/a	N/a	N/a
Other premises for the purpose of accommodating applicants for international protection which are arranged and paid for by the competent authorities	Yes	Family centres and centres with restricted movement. ⁸	About 800 asylum seekers can be received at the family centres. The centres with restricted movement offer room for about 500 asylum seekers.	Idem.

Source: COA

Q2. Which authority(ies) carry financial responsibility over the reception facilities?

(a) State authorities

The central government, as named in Section 16 of the Central Agency for the Reception of Asylum Seekers Act, is financially responsible for the reception facilities.

Q3. Which authorities carry executive responsibility⁹ over the facilities:

(a) State authorities

The central government, as named in Section 3 of the Central Agency for the Reception of Asylum Seekers Act, is administratively responsible for the reception facilities.

Q4. In case reception facilities are run by local authorities/regional governments or with the involvement of an external service provider (e.g. NGOs or actors from civil society), please indicate whether the reception facilities are centrally coordinated (i.e. does one single authority still carry overall responsibility for the reception of applicants for international protection?)

N/a.

Q5. In case reception facilities are run by local authorities/regional governments or with involvement of an external service provider (e.g. NGOs or actors from civil society), how is their involvement regulated?

Have any formal coordination mechanisms between the different actors been signed (for example cooperation agreements stipulating the division of competences)?

N/a.

Section 2

Take up of Reception Facilities: Factors determining access to the different types of facilities

(Maximum 4 pages)

This Section of the Synthesis Report aims to investigate which categories of applicants for international protection are entitled to reception facilities (standard or specific) and whether, on specific occasions/for specific reasons, authorities exclude such entitled applicants from reception facilities. It will map the competent authorities who decide on the allocation of applicants to (different) reception facilities, and will more specifically, provide an overview on what factors influence the allocation to accommodation. Such factors may, for example, relate to the capacity of centres, existence of a dispersal mechanism (for purposes of burden-sharing as to evenly distribute the costs throughout the country), the stage/type of procedure, profile of the applicant, duration of proceedings or any other factors. It will also be investigated whether Member States take into account the specific needs of vulnerable groups of applicants when deciding on allocation.

Q6. Please provide a short overview of which applicants for international protection are entitled to reception facilities provided by the State. Please complete Table 2 below:

Table 2 Categories of applicants entitled to reception facilities

Different categories of applicants depending on <i>type/stage of procedure</i>	Entitled to reception facilities (Yes/No)	Are these applicants entitled to standard or specific reception facilities ¹⁰ ?
Applicants under Dublin II¹¹	Yes	Standard reception
Applicants in admissibility procedures¹²	Yes	Standard reception
Applicants subject to accelerated procedures	N/a	N/a
Vulnerable groups of applicants¹³ (with specific psychological/medical assistance needs)	Yes	Standard reception
Unaccompanied minors awaiting decision for international protection	Yes	After arrival in the Netherlands, unaccompanied minors between the ages of 13 and 18 are received in a special POL. Like the adult asylum seekers, the minors go through the rest and preparation period as well as the general asylum procedure. They stay here for a maximum of three months. During that time, it is decided what the most suitable reception form is for the minor concerned, depending on the level of self-reliance. In most

		<p>cases, this is a campus, a children's residential group, or a small-scale living unit.</p> <p>Minors under the age of 13 are directly placed in a shelter family by guardianship agency the Nidos foundation, so they do not stay with the COA. In principle, the minors live there until they come of age.</p>
<p>Unaccompanied minors who have exhausted the procedure for international protection and are awaiting return</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>Regardless of the result of the asylum procedure, an unaccompanied minor in any case is entitled to reception until they come of age. After that, the same procedure as for adult asylum seekers applies.</p> <p>Regarding minors living in families who have exhausted all legal means, the Supreme Court's ruling of 21 September 2012, referring to an earlier decision of the The Hague Court of Appeal of 11 January 2011, means that the accommodation offered to families with minors at the family centres must be continued.¹⁴</p> <p>Families with minors who have exhausted all legal means and who are staying at the regular COA reception centres will be transferred to a family centre, if their departure has not been realized within the statutory departure term of 28 days.</p> <p>Continuity of medical care and education is facilitated by COA. The submission of a repeated application for entry (asylum or regular) does not preclude the placement in a family</p>

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		centre. ¹⁵
Applicants who have lodged an appeal procedure	Yes	Standard reception
Applicants who have lodged a subsequent application	Yes	The right to reception and basic facilities applies to all asylum seekers in the (first) asylum procedure. In the rest period leading up to the submission of a repeated application for asylum, they are not entitled to reception. Asylum seekers who submit a repeated application for asylum are only entitled to reception if they start the Extended Asylum Procedure (VA). ¹⁶
Applicants who have received a positive decision on their international protection application¹⁷	Yes	Standard. As soon as an asylum seeker has received a residence permit, the COA links him or her to a municipality in the region of the AZC. The municipality offers him or her suitable accommodation. The asylum seeker lives at the AZC until he or she can move into the independent housing (maximum fourteen weeks).
Applicants who have exhausted the procedure for international protection and who are awaiting return	Yes	Aliens who do not receive a residence permit are entitled to 28 days of reception at COA. Within that period they have to leave the Netherlands. If this is unsuccessful, they are transferred to a centre of restricted movement. ¹⁸
Other (e.g. applicants from other EU Member States, families with children with an irregular migrant status, applicants from safe third countries of origin etc. Please specify)	Yes.	If a family with minors is rejected, a freedom-restricting measure may be imposed on them at the family centre. At these locations, the

		departure, under the authority of the Repatriation and Departure Service, is intensified further for a period of maximum 12 weeks in principle. Families with minors are also offered accommodation after this period, during which the assistance is focused on return.
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Q7. From the aforementioned categories of applicants who are entitled to reception, can any be excluded from reception facilities for particular reasons (e.g. because the applicant has sufficient financial means, or because the applicant has misbehaved in a reception facility, or any other reasons)?

Regulation for Provisions for Asylum Seekers and Other Categories of Foreign Nationals (Rva)

Asylum seekers are entitled to reception when they have insufficient means of support. The Regulation for Provisions for Asylum Seekers and Other Categories of Foreign Nationals (Rva) only applies to asylum seekers and equivalent categories of aliens, who do not have sufficient means of support towards the cost of living (Section 2 of the Rva). In order to be eligible for reception, asylum seekers must sign the declaration "not able to support oneself". Asylum seekers who do have sufficient means to support themselves are considered able to take care of accommodation themselves.

Regulations on Provisions for Certain Categories of Aliens (Rvb)

The Regulations on Provisions for Certain Categories of Aliens (Rvb) is a monthly benefit for certain categories of aliens. The Rvb facilities are the responsibility of the COA. Rvb facilities must be applied for with the COA within two weeks after entitlement to these facilities has arisen. Here too, the applicant may not have sufficient means to support himself or herself, and the applicant may not have own assets.

Regulations on Withholding Provisions

The safety and liveability policy is safeguarded in internal rules, visitor rules, code of conduct and in the Regulations on Withholding Provisions. Furthermore, several processes have been set up to adequately handle complaints and notifications. (Incitement to) discrimination, intimidation and using violence against fellow occupants, staff and neighbours of the reception centres, or anyone else, are not permitted. Expressions of discrimination, intimidation and violence will usually lead to a measure (penalty) based on the Regulations on Withholding Provisions.

Intensive Assisted Reception (IBO)

Occupants who behave in a certain way and cause problems to staff and/or fellow-occupants at a regular reception centre are received in intensive assisted reception. The occupant causing nuisance is temporarily moved to a special reception location where he or she will receive intensive assistance. This includes teaching skills and behaviour aimed at increasing self-reliance and a better functioning in reception. If an asylum seeker is placed in IBO, this is always intended to lead to have the occupant return to regular reception.

Q8. a) Does your (Member) State carry out an assessment of vulnerability which could result in assignment to special reception facilities for vulnerable groups of applicants?

No, no assessments are carried out in the Netherlands which could result in assignment to special reception facilities for vulnerable groups of asylum seekers.

During the alien's stay at a reception centre, the COA does regularly conduct interviews with the occupants.

The assistance is attuned to the phase in the asylum procedure applicable to the occupant concerned. Furthermore, information is provided about practical matters, such as the course of events at the asylum seekers' centre and health care. A part of the information provision to asylum seekers is organised by the COA in cooperation with partners, such as the Municipal Health Service, Youth Healthcare and the Dutch Refugee Council.

According to the COA, there is plenty of attention to social misconduct including domestic violence, discrimination and violence. Employees are trained in detecting and uncovering these problems. In doing so, they cooperate closely with various local and regional support agencies.

Q8. b) If yes, please indicate whether the assessment of vulnerability is:

- a) **Obligatory and laid down in law** No
- b) **Standard practice** Yes
- c) **Optional** No

Q9. Which authority/(ies) carry responsibility for deciding on the allocation of applicants for international protection to different reception facilities?

The COA is responsible for allocating asylum seekers to the correct reception facilities. The COA is an autonomous administrative body (ZBO). The day-to-day management is in the hands of the Board. The Supervisory Board monitors the work of the Board and gives the Board recommendations. Political responsibility lies with the State Secretary for Security and Justice.

Q10. How do these authorities allocate applicants to different types of reception facilities?

Please state whether one of the scenarios below, or a combination thereof, are applicable to your (Member) State and briefly describe:

i) Capacity;

There are various sorts of reception. To what type of reception centre an asylum seeker is allocated depends on the phase of the asylum procedure in which an asylum seeker finds himself. As soon as it has become clear to what type of reception centre an alien is allocated, the Allocation Department of the COA investigates where in the Netherlands there is room for the alien.

ii) Stage of asylum procedure;

Arrival in the Netherlands

An alien applying for asylum in the Netherlands applies to an application centre of the Immigration and Naturalisation Department. The COA subsequently receives the asylum seeker in the COL in Ter Apel, Groningen. At the COL, the Aliens Police conducts an identity research and registers the alien.¹⁹ The Municipal Health Service conducts the compulsory TBC check. After this, the rest and preparation period for the asylum application commences, which lasts at least six days. The asylum seeker is assisted in this process by the Dutch Refugee Council and by the Legal Aid Board. Asylum seekers stay at the COL for no more than four days. After these four days, they are transferred to a POL, where they prepare themselves for the asylum application.

Asylum procedure

After the completion of the TBC screening, the asylum seeker is transferred to one of the POLs where he or she can prepare for the asylum procedure. The POLs are always located in the vicinity of the application centre of the Immigration and Naturalisation Service where the application is processed. Asylum seekers stay at a POL for no more than twelve days.

The first part of the asylum procedure is the General Asylum Procedure. After this phase is concluded, the asylum seeker hears from the Immigration and Naturalisation Service if his or her application for asylum has been granted, denied, or if more investigation is needed. The asylum seeker moves from the POL to an AZC.

There, the next phase of the asylum procedure commences:

- Asylum application granted

The asylum seeker has received a residence permit. The COA links him or her to a municipality in the region of the AZC. The municipality offers him or her suitable accommodation. The asylum seeker lives at the AZC until he or she can move into the independent housing (max. fourteen weeks).

- Extended Asylum Procedure

The Immigration and Naturalisation Service needs more time to make a decision regarding the asylum application. The occupant proceeds to the Extended Asylum Procedure. During this procedure, he or she remains at the AZC.

- Asylum application denied

The asylum seeker has not received a residence permit. He or she is entitled to no more than four weeks of reception at the AZC. During this period, he or she can prepare for departure from the Netherlands.

- The Repatriation and Departure Service assists the asylum seeker in this process. After four weeks, the asylum seeker must leave the country.

If departure from the Netherlands is not possible

Sometimes, departure from the Netherlands within four weeks is not possible. The asylum seeker who has exhausted all legal means is then entitled to no more than fourteen weeks of reception at a VBL. At the VBL, the assistance for asylum seekers is geared towards return.

Q11. Is the process for assignment of applicants to different reception facilities:

b) Outlined in soft law/guidelines Yes

The COA determines to what reception facility an asylum seeker is assigned and is authorised to transfer the asylum seeker to another facility. (Section 11, paragraph 1 of the Regulation for Provisions for Asylum Seekers and Other Categories of Foreign Nationals, 2005).

Q12. Provided there is sufficient capacity, does your (Member) State offer the applicant a choice for reception facility/location?

In the Netherlands, aliens who have entered the country in principle are not entitled to make a choice for reception facility location. At a later stage, this is possible under certain conditions such as education, closer to family, etc.). Applications may be granted if there is sufficient room.

Q13. a) Does your (Member) State provide for a possibility to relocate applicants for international protection to different reception facilities after initial assignment to a reception centre?

Yes, in special, individual cases, there is the option of relocating asylum seekers to another reception facility. There may be several reasons for relocating asylum seekers, including a change in the family structure, medical reasons, incidents at the reception centres, bed capacity and time limits. The education and the interests of children may also play a part in relocating an asylum seeker to another reception facility.

Q13. b) If yes, which of the below criteria are applied, or a combination thereof, for relocation to a different reception centre:

An asylum seeker may be relocated to another reception facility on account of:

- i) Capacity/bed management issues
- ii) Change in family profile (e.g. birth of a child)
- iii) Medical or special need reasons
- iv) Incidents at centres which may require transfer to alternative accommodation
- v) Time limits (procedural-driven)
- vi) The education and the interests of children may also play a part in relocating an asylum seeker to another reception facility.

**Section 3 Quality:
National Legislation on Material Reception Conditions**

(Maximum 3 pages)

The *Synthesis Report* will review Member States' national legislation on basic material reception conditions (i.e. the provision of food, clothing, and financial allowance) that relate to the nature of the experience of being accommodated in a reception facility. Additionally, the Synthesis Report aims to provide an overview on some other quality criteria that relate to the nature of the experience of being accommodated in a reception facility, such as the available surface per applicant, the supervision rate (number of staff per applicant), and the possibility of leisure activities. Furthermore, to provide a more comprehensive overview of non-material reception conditions, a table is included in the Annex which will map additional rights granted to applicants for international protection in the (Member) State's reception system as laid down in national legislation. Member States are kindly requested to fill out table 1A in Annex 1 for this purpose.

Q14. According to national legislation in your (Member) State, what are applicants for international protection who are accommodated in reception facilities entitled to in terms of the following reception conditions:

- a) Food;
- b) Clothing;
- c) Financial allowance.²⁰

Asylum seekers in the Netherlands are entitled to a weekly financial allowance for food, clothing and other personal expenses. The material reception conditions in the Netherlands are laid down in Section 9 paragraph 1 of the Central Agency for the Reception of Asylum Seekers Act (Regulation for Provisions for Asylum Seekers and Other Categories of Foreign Nationals).

Q15. Please indicate in Table 3 below for each type of reception facility in place in your (Member) State: the available surface per applicant (in square meters); the supervision rate (number of staff per applicant); and specify whether applicants have the possibility to take part in organised leisure activities.

Table 3 Other quality criteria for reception facilities that relate to the applicant's experience of being accommodated in a reception facility

<i>Type of accommodation</i>	<i>Available surface per applicant in square meters</i>	<i>Supervision rate (number of staff per applicant)</i>	<i>Possibility of leisure activities? Yes/No. If yes, briefly describe</i>
<i>Collective initial/transit reception centres</i>	5m2 (minimum)	Not available	At all locations, there are leisure activities available such as sports, playgrounds, computer rooms.
<i>Collective open reception centres</i>	5m2 (minimum)	Not available	At all locations, there are leisure activities available such as sports, playgrounds, computer rooms.
<i>Special reception centres or</i>	5m2	Not available	At all locations,

<i>facilities for vulnerable groups (e.g. victims of torture or specific vulnerable female applicants)</i>	(minimum)		there are leisure activities available such as sports, playgrounds, computer rooms.
<i>Special separate reception centres for unaccompanied minors</i>	5m2 (minimum)	Not available	At all locations, there are leisure activities available such as sports, playgrounds, computer rooms.
<i>Private houses or flats: arranged and paid for by competent authorities</i>	N/a	N/a	N/a
<i>Private hotels: arranged and paid for by competent authorities</i>	N/a	N/a	N/a
<i>Individually arranged accommodation such as houses, flats, hotels and/or possibilities of staying with friends and/or family</i>	N/a	N/a	N/a
<i>Other premises for the purpose of accommodating applicants for international protection which are arranged and paid for by the competent authorities</i>	N/a	N/a	N/a
<i>Centres with Restricted Movement</i>	The surface of the living room is 13 m2. The surface of the sleeping quarters varies from 9 to 13 m2 in a house for 8 persons. In a caravan, the living room is 16 m2, including the kitchen. The bedrooms have a surface area of about 5m2.	Not available	At the VBLs, there are various playgrounds for children. Children's activities are regularly organised. Within the framework of the project 'Children in Reception', the recommendations from the report 'Children in AZCs' of the working group Children in AZCs are followed. ²¹
<i>Family centres</i>	5m2 (minimum)	Not available	Playgrounds similar to those at regular asylum seekers' centres are available at the family centres. "De Vrolijkheid foundation" organises activities

			for children and teenagers at all locations. In principle, the COA does not allow activities specifically geared towards adults being organised.
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Q16. Has your (Member) State developed guidelines or a handbook in relation to the reception offered to applicants for international protection?

The COA has developed several documents and plans that give shape to the accommodation policy. The most important ones are the Schedule of Requirements for new reception locations, the Stock Management Plan (VBP) and the Integral Accommodation Plan (IHP). Furthermore, the COA has started an investigation into occupant satisfaction. In all asylum seekers' centres, occupants are asked about the liveability, safety and living conditions, the way they are treated by staff and the written and oral provision of information. Each asylum seekers over the age of 18 receives an invitation for this survey. The pilot has shown that about half of the occupants have responded. According to the COA, occupants are satisfied with safety and living conditions, but no so much with the provision of information.

Q17. What control mechanisms are in place to ensure that reception conditions are provided according to the standards specified in national legislation or other protocols/regulations?

There is a great number of control mechanisms in place, both internally and externally. The most important control mechanism is the Supervisory Board. The Supervisory Board monitors the work of the COA Board and gives the Board recommendations. In fulfilling its duties, the Supervisory Board focuses on the interests of COA, as stated in Section 11, paragraph 1 of the Central Reception Organization for Asylum Seekers Act. To this end, the Supervisory Board weighs the applicable interests of COA and the public interest.

Furthermore, as has been stated above, the COA has initiated an annual occupant satisfaction survey. Occupants are asked about four themes: the liveability, safety and living conditions, the way they are treated by staff and the written and oral provision of information. For instance, they are asked if they have received the information folder, or if they know how to act in the event of fire, and if they are satisfied with the way in which they are treated by security officials. The questions and statements are available in eight languages.

COA staff have to check the private quarters at least four times per year. The Schedule of Requirements also sets separate requirements for the toilet areas, shower areas and kitchens, rec rooms and so on. In the area of fire safety, the Accommodation Department of COA is responsible for the central control. Each AZC has to have a business plan in place approved by the fire brigade. A part of this business plan is an updated occupancy permit that has to be applied for with the municipality.²² The fire brigade checks the location to see which requirements the building must meet. The occupancy permit is then issued for a number of years. Each AZC building has to meet the guidelines of the 2003 Buildings Decree.²³ As a reception organisation, the COA has duty of care based on Section 3 of the Working Conditions Act.²⁴ Other, external institutes that monitor are the Inspectorate for Youth Care and the Medical Public Health Inspectorate.

Q18. Has there been a public debate about the quality of reception facilities in your Member State in the period from 2008 onwards - to date?

Yes, there is always a public debate about the reception of asylum seekers. However, the quality of reception facilities has not been the subject of debate in recent years. Since 2006, few things have changed in the material reception. In general, no major issues have taken place in the period between 2008 and 2012. The circumstances in the reception centres are sober but humane. The system guarantees equal facilities and services for all applicants. Additionally, the capacity is currently sufficient to offer all asylum seekers a place in one of the reception centres.

Furthermore, the report 'Children in AZCs' of Unicef from 2009 led to a number of adjustments in the AZCs regarding liveability. This investigation mainly focused on the situation of children growing up in an AZC. The situation in which these children grew up (2009), did not meet the requirements of the Convention on the Rights of the Child. This observation applied to the whole and to all individual issues children faced: family and upbringing, living, recreation, games and free time, education, health care, safety, procedure, finance and participation. The research indicated three major bottlenecks. 1) the long term of reception; 2) the many relocations; 3) the lack of information.

In 2009, the House of Representatives also severely criticized the reception of asylum seekers in pavilions (camps). The reception capacity in 2009 had to be expanded due to the high influx of asylum seekers.

Recently, Parliamentary questions were asked about the access to medical care and the policy regarding relocations between AZCs. A recommendation of the Advisory Committee on Migration Affairs was issued in 2013 regarding the time asylum seekers should stay in reception. This is indirectly related to the quality of reception. This recommendation led to Parliamentary questions from the PVV, because this political party did not agree with the substantial cutbacks to the daytime activities of the elderly, disabled and other people needing assistance, while asylum seekers should have access to daytime activities.

Q19. Does primary research exist in your Member State, evaluating the quality of reception facilities?

The Advisory Committee on Migration Affairs wrote a recommendation to the State Secretary for Security and Justice in March 2013. In the report 'Lost Time/Verloren Tijd', the committee answers the question how the options for aliens in reception to initiate activities are related to the objectives of the reception policy. The committee spoke with the organisations involved and with aliens who were staying or have stayed in reception locations. According to the authors of the report, the occupation rate in reception in the Netherlands has decreased in recent years, but a not to be dismissed small number of aliens spends a long time in reception. For most of them, doing nothing is the daily practice because they are not allowed to work. This leads to most of these aliens to view their situations as hopeless. The longer they stay in reception, the more their passivity increases, which results in aliens being harder to motivate. This does not contribute to the objectives of the reception policy, namely that aliens are able to effectively contribute to their asylum procedure or departure. According to the committee, the research has also shown that the insecurity regarding the stay, in addition to the passivity, affect the health and activity of the aliens.²⁵ The State Secretary for Security and Justice has not made an official statement regarding the committee's report.

NB: In this report, 'reception' refers to asylum seekers' centres with restricted movement and the family centres.

Section 4
Flexibility
(Maximum 3 pages)

The *Synthesis Report* will analyse the flexibility of reception facilities in (Member) States vis-à-vis the fluctuating and/or sudden influxes of applicants for international protection. (Member) States are asked to provide figures or estimations on the total number of applicants entitled to reception²⁶, the total number of applicants accommodated in reception facilities, as well as figures or estimations on the maximum capacity and average occupation rate of reception facilities. (Member) States are asked to describe whether they have experienced any (disproportionate) pressure on their reception systems during 2008-2012 and are asked to provide an overview of the different flexibility mechanisms that they have in place and/or have applied. The *Synthesis Report* will aim to identify good practices of (Member) States in handling (disproportionate) pressure on their reception system, and where relevant, reference will be made to the use (and effectiveness) of flexibility mechanisms.

Q20 Please fill out the national statistics in Table 4 below:

Table 4 National statistics on flexibility

	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Total number of applicants entitled to reception²⁷	15,280	16,170	15,150	14,630	13,630
Total number of applicants accommodated in reception facilities²⁸	14,623	15,343	15,624	13,697	13,095
Maximum number of applicants that could be accommodated in reception facilities	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Average occupation rate in reception facilities²⁹	95%	95%	95%	95%	95%

Source: COA

Q 21. Please describe any pressure that your (Member) State may have experienced in relation to the reception of applicants for international protection during the period 2008-2012 and briefly explain possible reasons for such pressure. (Note that annual statistics from Eurostat on the number of applications for international protection, first decisions, etc. over the years 2008-2012 will be incorporated in the relevant section of the *Synthesis Report*. Hence, if relevant, you may refer to a period of pressure by comparing the number of applications with the capacity of your (Member) State's reception system).

In 2009, the COA faced an increase of the asylum influx. According to the COA, this did not result in a situation in which they were unable to accommodate the increased influx of asylum seekers. However, the COA had to make extra efforts in this period to accommodate all asylum seekers. On balance, the scope of the required capacity increased slightly, and a substantial amount of reception places had to be replaced. It had been anticipated that more than 2,500 reception places had to be cut in the year 2009, because the occupancy permits for the locations concerned had expired. This combination of factors (influx, outflow and forced reduction of capacity) resulted in COA searching for all possible options to keep sufficient capacity available. At existing locations, the capacity was expanded with the help of temporary accommodation (pavilions, camps). In 2009, the sudden influx of a large group of Chinese asylum seekers led to political and social debate. The Chinese asylum seekers had to be housed in temporary accommodation, because the capacity of the COA was insufficient at that time. Due to the pressure on the reception system, it was decided that it was to be preferred to conclude agreements about the housing reception locations for the longer term.³⁰

The number of reception locations that COA needs eventually depends on the number of asylum seekers that is received. The opening and closing of reception locations is unavoidable and a recurring issue for COA. In recent years, the Netherlands has faced a decrease in the number of asylum seekers staying at a reception centre. This is due to the reduced influx and shorter duration of stay in reception.

Q 22. Which flexibility mechanisms are foreseen and/or have been used in case there are shortages or surpluses in reception facilities? Please answer this question by indicating in Table 5 below whether any of the below mechanisms exist in your Member State and whether they have been actually used:

Table 5 Flexibility Mechanisms

Type of mechanism	Does this exist in your (Member) State? (Yes/No)	If yes, please describe	Has this mechanism been used? (Yes/No) If yes, please describe
Early warning mechanism ³¹ (including any software programmes monitoring capacity and occupancy in reception facilities)	Yes	Rolling forecast system: Based on a prognosis of the development of influx and outflow of asylum seekers, the COA draws up an annual planning: do we need to open, close or expand centres? Furthermore, the COA monthly checks the available capacity in relation to the need for reception places. This enables the COA to respond quickly.	Yes. The current reduction in the number of asylum seekers to be received means that the COA is forced to close down reception locations. Which locations are to be closed depends on a number of things, such as the state of maintenance and the duration of contracts. In 2012, 3,000 reception places were cut in the Netherlands due to the decreased influx of asylum seekers and shorter asylum

			procedures.
Additional reception centres acting as buffer capacity	Yes	Buffer capacity: The demand for asylum reception may vary greatly. An immediate demand for more beds may arise. Therefore, the COA always has a buffer capacity in the form of more reception places than are required. It is also possible that temporary locations are used, including holiday parks and hotels.	This capacity is usually inactive and is only used in times of crises.
Emergency plans	Yes	Buffer capacity and deploying emergency facilities.	Yes. Between March and April 2008, there was a sudden influx of Chinese asylum seekers. In that period, 770 Chinese asylum seekers arrived at the reporting centres. Since the existing capacity was not designed to deal with this influx, the COA had to deploy emergency facilities in the very short term.
Budget flexibility (to increase or decrease the budget when necessary)	Yes	If the influx of asylum seekers is higher, the State Secretary for Security and Justice may provide extra funding.	Yes. In 2009, we used this tool. The then State Secretary was able to increase the budget with the prognosis tool (due to the

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			increased influx of asylum seekers).
Employing more case-workers to speed up decision-making	Yes	This is taken into account in the Immigration and Naturalisation Service. ³² Flexible workers may be deployed if the demand is high.	In 2009, the Asylum Department recruited new staff, because there were many applications at that time.
Fast-tracking procedures	No	N/a	N/a
Application of different standards/modalities of reception conditions in emergency situations³³	Yes	An immediate demand for more beds may arise. Therefore, the COA always has a buffer capacity in the form of more reception places than are required. It is also possible that temporary locations are used, including holiday parks and hotels.	In 2009, the COA was unable to process the high influx of asylum seekers. The buffer capacity was also used to the maximum. Therefore, the asylum seekers were housed in temporary emergency accommodation. In a holiday park in Limburg, 150 asylum seekers were housed. ³⁴
Provision of financial vouchers/allowance to cover costs of private accommodation	No	N/a	N/a
Review for specific categories of applicants who obtain priority access to reception	No	N/a	N/a
The use of excess space for other purposes	No	N/a	N/a
Other?	Yes, use of recreation rooms, etc.	Temporary expansion of capacity.	Yes, the erection of pavilions in 2009, for example.

Q 23. Please indicate best practices in handling (disproportionate) pressure as well as ability to adjust to fluctuating numbers of applications over time. Where possible, please refer to the use (and effectiveness) of any of the aforementioned flexibility mechanisms.

In the Netherlands we are using a tool with a prediction of two years ahead. This prognoses-tool uses historical, recent and future input to decide on the needed capacity. Meaning to decide to open or to close reception and accommodation capacity. The prognoses is discussed at least every three months and monitored on monthly bases. The strength is that it is a combination of three different sources of information. The weakness might be that it is based on a 95% occupancy rate (as agreed on with the minister) which makes it very sharp in capacity and financial consequences. Although the challenge is how to deal with a sudden high influx, there is an agreement to use so-called buffer-capacity. This capacity is normally inactive and only used in crisis-time.

Section 5
Efficiency

(Maximum 2 pages)

The Synthesis Report will provide an overview of the costs of the current reception facilities provided in the (Member) States, as well as the median and interquartile ranges of the duration of an applicant's stay and average occupancy rate in reception facilities. In Table 6 below, Member States are requested to fill out information on the total costs of reception, split up in direct and indirect costs, and Dublin and non-Dublin cases. (Member) States are kindly asked to also explain what is covered by such costs.

The aim is to start collection of such statistics to gain an insight into what is covered under the total costs of reception in different Member States. The Synthesis Report will not aim to compare reception costs between Member States due to the complexity involved (e.g. Member States include different services under costs³⁵).

Q24. Please fill in the national statistics Table 6 below (please provide figures or, if not possible, estimates thereof):

Table 6 National Statistics on Efficiency

	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
National budget allocated to the reception of applicants for international protection	458,311,000	494,772,000	463,780,000	457,029,000	383,330,000
Total costs of reception	-	-	-	-	-
Total direct costs³⁶	-	-	-	-	-
Total indirect costs³⁷	-	-	-	-	-
Total costs of reception including Dublin cases	458,311,000	494,772,000	463,780,000	457,029,000	383,330,000
Total costs of reception excluding Dublin cases	450,011,000	486,472,000	455,480,000	448,729,000	375,030,000

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Inflow of new applicants to reception facilities	14,623	15,343	15,624	13,697	13,095
Inflow/return of applicants who have temporarily left a reception facility	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Outflow of applicants from reception facilities, who do not return later	16,148	13,726	16,640	18,657	14,632
Share of applicants in reception facilities who have received a final decision on their application	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Tolerance time for extended stay of applicants in reception facilities who have already received a final decision on their application	28 days				
Median range of an applicant's stay³⁸	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Interquartile³⁹ ranges of an applicant's stay	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a

Source: Aliens Chain Report 2012

*This concerns the total asylum influx (first application with births, second and subsequent applications)

*This concerns the total demonstrable returns (independent and forced).

*The figures are round to tens.

*n/a: not available.

Q25. Are cost (estimations) available for the flexibility mechanisms used in your Member State (see Question 22)?

No

Q26. What is the tolerance time for extended stay of applicants in reception facilities who have already received a final decision on their application?

After the final denial of the application for asylum, an asylum seeker has 28 days to leave the country, the so-called return period. If a rejected asylum seeker does not leave the Netherlands within that period, he/she is no longer entitled to reception in one of the asylum seekers' centres. This does not necessarily mean that he/she ends up on the streets. He/she may be imposed a freedom-restricting measure at a centre with restricted movement or at a family centre if it concerns a family with minors. At these locations, the departure, under the authority of the Repatriation and Departure Service, is intensified further for a period of maximum 12 weeks in principle. Families with minors are also offered accommodation after this period, during which the assistance is focused on return. In order to be able to place a rejected asylum seeker in a centre with restricted movement or family centre, the reception in the AZC must first be terminated.

The centres with restricted movement and the family centres are not a part of the reception centres. After a final denial of the application for asylum, the Repatriation and Departure Service is responsible for the preparation for departure of the asylum seeker.

Section 6
Conclusions
(Maximum 2 pages)

This Section will outline the main findings of the Study and present conclusions as to what extent the organisation of the reception system impacts on the flexibility, efficiency, and quality of reception facilities.

Q27. Please summarise the organisation of reception facilities in your (Member) State, indicating main strengths and weaknesses (please specify any evidence for these findings)

In the Netherlands, the Central Agency for the Reception of Asylum Seekers is responsible for the reception, assistance and outflow from the reception facilities in the Netherlands of asylum seekers. The Central Reception Location in Ter Apel receives all asylum seekers after their arrival in the Netherlands. In the Process Reception Location, asylum seekers are received in the first phase of the asylum procedure. Most reception locations are regular asylum seekers' centres that are distributed all over the country. The COA has set up special locations for unaccompanied minors and vulnerable groups. Occupants who cause nuisance are relocated to an IBO. The occupant causing nuisance is temporarily moved to a special reception location where he or she will receive intensive assistance. The family centres and centres with restricted movement do not fall under reception, but are staffed by COA which is also responsible for renting and maintaining the reception complexes.

During their stay at a reception centre, the COA regularly conducts interviews with the occupants. The assistance is attuned to the phase in the asylum procedure applicable to the occupant concerned. Furthermore, information is provided about practical matters, such as the course of events at the asylum seekers' centre and health care. A part of the information provision to asylum seekers is organised by the COA in cooperation with partners, such as the Municipal Health Service, Youth Healthcare and the Dutch Refugee Council. The COA prognosis tool enables the organisation to make prognoses to two years ahead. This tool supports the COA in detecting the required capacity. In practice, this means that the COA may decide to close or open reception locations with the prognosis tool. Furthermore, the COA closely cooperates with chain partners, such as the Immigration and Naturalisation Service and the Repatriation and Departure Service.

The Netherlands mainly faces a fluctuating influx and outflow of aliens. In 2008 and 2009, there were higher numbers of incoming asylum seekers, which meant that COA had to make extra efforts to accommodate these people. The high influx of Chinese asylum seekers, for instance, resulted in political and social debate. People were housed in tents, which led to social unrest. The capacity of the COA was insufficient at that time due to several factors, including the expiry of contracts, which means that temporary emergency facilities had to be used. The implementation of the Improved Asylum Procedure (see below), ensured that the COA did not face similar challenges until the end of the 2012.

Q28. Please summarise whether your (Member) State has experienced pressure on its reception facilities (in terms of both in-and outflow, and duration of the processing time of applications) and indicate what measures have been most successful in handling such pressure

The reception system in the Netherlands experienced pressure in 2008 and 2009. In 2008, the number of refugees increased compared to previous years. The influx in 2008 rose to nearly double the number of 2007. At that time, the COA did not have the buffer capacity anymore to accommodate people directly. Therefore, the refugees were housed in tents. The influx continued to increase in 2009, which means that the COA had to make use of the emergency facilities in order to house all asylum seekers.

The implementation of the Improved Asylum Procedure in 2010 signalled the end of asylum applications in the Netherlands. The COA can also draw up a planning based on a prognosis of the development of the influx and outflow. Should centres be opened, closed or expanded? Furthermore, the COA monthly checks the available capacity in relation to the need for reception places. This enables the COA to respond quickly if this is required. The influx of asylum seekers has now stabilised and the number of applications for asylum is no longer decreasing.⁴⁰

Q29. Please describe best practices in controlling costs of reception facilities whilst ensuring quality (maximum half a page)

As of 1 July 2010, the Improved Asylum Procedure came into effect in the Netherlands. The old asylum procedure, which aimed to make a decision regarding an application for asylum within 48 process hours, was extended to an eight-day general asylum procedure. Before the procedure begins, asylum seekers have a rest and preparation. The aim is to complete all applications for asylum that do not require additional

investigation in the general asylum procedure. When a decision cannot be made within eight days for substantive reasons, the case is referred to the extended asylum procedure.

Since more process steps can be completed at the reception centres this results in a considerable time savings of eight weeks. This means that more asylum seekers receive more clarity regarding their application for asylum. After a first application is denied at the reception centre, the asylum seeker receives a 4-week return period. In order to prevent the rejected asylum seeker from ending up on the streets, he or she is provided reception at a family centre or centre with restricted movement during that period.

The most important result of the new asylum procedure is that more cases can be dealt with in a quick procedure. Another result is the new asylum procedure has successfully achieved continuity of legal aid in all cases in principle.⁴¹

The COA also endeavours to manage costs and ensure quality by making use of a prognosis tool. In the Netherlands we are using a tool with a prediction of two years ahead. This prognoses-tool uses historical, recent and future input to decide on the needed capacity. Meaning to decide to open or to close reception and accommodation capacity. The prognoses is discussed at least every three months and monitored on monthly bases. The strength is that it is a combination of three different sources of information. The weakness might be that it is based on a 95% occupancy rate (as agreed on with the minister) which makes it very sharp in capacity and financial consequences. Although the challenge is how to deal with a sudden high influx, there is an agreement to use so-called buffer-capacity. This capacity is normally inactive and only used in crisis-time.

Annex 1 Reception Conditions in different Reception facilities

Please fill out the table below concerning the rights granted to applicants for international protection as laid down in national legislation in different reception facilities.

Table A1.1 Reception conditions in different reception facilities

	Collective initial/transit reception centres	Collective open reception centres	Special reception centres/facilities for vulnerable groups	Special separate reception centres for UAMs	Private houses or flats ⁴²	Private hotels ⁴³	Individually arranged accommodation ⁴⁴	Other premises Please note: unaccompanied minors at a family centre are entitled to the same facilities as minors in an AZC.	Comments
Food	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	N/a	N/a	N/a	A central kitchen may be available in a family centre. Otherwise, the family in a family centre receives an allowance for food. VBL: This differs per	Asylum seekers receive a financial allowance for food.

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								location.	
Clothing	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	N/a	N/a	N/a	GL: No VBL: No	Asylum seekers in reception receive a financial allowance for clothing.
Financial allowance⁴⁵	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	N/a	N/a	N/a	GL: There is no legal obligation for giving an allowance, because the target group does not fall under the Regulation for Provisions for Asylum Seekers and Other Categories of Foreign Nationals (Rva 2005). In practice, the families in a family centre receive a financial allowance for food that is related to the size of the family and to the conditions, and to the fact whether or not a central	The level of the financial allowance is €44.52 for an adult and €37.52 for children. (source: COA) No financial allowance is possible for asylum seekers whose applications for asylum are handled at the reception centre or for aliens with legal residence unless it is an unaccompanied minor. ⁴⁶

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								<p>kitchen is present. Furthermore, the families receive a financial allowance for their children.</p> <p>At centres with restricted movement, there is no legal obligation to give asylum seekers financial allowances.</p>	
Emergency health care	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	N/a	N/a	N/a	<p>GL: Yes VBL: Yes Section 10 of the Aliens Act provides for the medically necessary care.⁴⁷</p>	Asylum seekers in reception are always entitled to emergency medical care.
Medical care	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	N/a	N/a	N/a	<p>For children, the medical care is the same in family centres and in regular asylum seekers'</p>	Asylum seekers staying in central reception have access to health care like anyone else: they can see a general practitioner, obstetrician, or go to hospital.

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								centres. Adults in family centres are entitled to necessary medical care under principle linking Section 10 of the Aliens Act 2000. This is care that medical professionals deem necessary and this does not necessarily include or exclude any type of care. It covers virtually all forms of care included in the statutory insurance package in the Netherlands, provided that the (request for) care must be administered	
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								immediately, to be judged by the treating physician.	
Psychological care	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	N/a	N/a	N/a	GL: Yes VBL: Yes	Asylum seekers are entitled to psychological care under the RZA scheme.
Free legal assistance	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	N/a	N/a	N/a	GL: Yes VBL: Yes	Legal advisers or counsel for asylum seekers, representatives of UNHCR, or persons authorised by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees as well as NGOs approved by our Minister have access to the reception facilities so that they can give asylum seekers legal aid.
Interpretation services	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	N/a	N/a	N/a	GL: Yes VBL: Yes	TVcN, Interpreter and Translation Centre the Netherlands, provides interpretation and translation services in more than 130 languages. The services of TVcN are 'free' for all care

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									institutions. (RZA)
Access to education	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	N/a	N/a	N/a	Children at family centres can go to schools in the vicinity of the reception location. VBL: Minors are entitled to education.	Asylum seekers' children are of school age from the age of 5. Some AZCs have a primary school on site. ⁴⁸
Access to vocational training	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	N/a	N/a	N/a	GL: No VBL: No	Regardless of whether the asylum seeker has access to the labour market, Member States can grant him to have access to vocational training. (Article 12 Council Directive 2009//3/EC)
Access to employment (after which period of time?)	No	Yes (see comments)	Yes (see comments)	Yes (see comments)	N/a	N/a	N/a	GL: No VBL: No	In the Netherlands, asylum seekers are allowed to be in gainful employment for 24 weeks per year. Furthermore, they are allowed to do volunteer work. If a person has received a residence permit, he or she is allowed to work more. In order to be able to work, the COA must first issue a work permit for non-EU nationals.

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									<p>This permit is only issued when the asylum procedure has been underway for at least six months. This means that asylum seekers may not work in the first half year.</p> <p>Another condition for work is that an asylum seeker is able to submit a statement by COA to an employer stating that he is not going to be deported.</p> <p>Working asylum seekers owe COA a personal contribution for the costs of the reception and the monthly allowance they receive. They are allowed to keep the first 25% of their income, with a maximum of € 185 per month. If they earn more than the amount they owe COA, they are allowed to keep the rest.</p>
Other? Please add	N/a								

Endnotes:

1. As of 1 July 2010, the Improved Asylum Procedure came into effect in the Netherlands, see *EMN Policy Overview 2011* http://emnetherlands.nl/EMN_rapporten/2012/Beleidsverzicht_2011.
2. Section 3 Central Agency for the Reception of Asylum Seekers Act.
3. Immediately after arrival in the Netherlands, the COA receives asylum seekers in the Central Reception Location (COL). In the Process Reception Location (POL), asylum seekers are received in the first phase of the general asylum procedure. For more information, see Q10.
4. For more information: www.coa.nl.
5. See Q20, table 4 for the total number of asylum seekers accommodated at reception centres.
6. Open centres means that applicants are free to enter and leave the centre whenever they want.
7. Please specify whether applicants receive (or have the possibility of receiving) a financial allowance in case they have individually arranged their accommodation.
8. The family centres and the Centres with Restricted Movement do not fall within the scope of reception, but are staffed by COA employees.
9. Executive responsibility refers to the day-to-day running of the reception facilities and would also for example include including quality control of the services provided in the facility.
10. Specific reception facilities refer to facilities which divert from mainstream reception facilities, e.g. depending on the type of applicant, or stage/procedure.
11. Applicants under Dublin II means those applicants for which a Dublin procedure has been initiated and who are awaiting a Dublin decision determining the responsible country for examining the asylum claim.

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12. Admissibility procedures refer to the stage of the application in which (Member) States determine whether an application will or will not be considered in substance based on the criteria laid down in Article 25 of Directive 2005/85/EC (the Asylum Procedures Directive) which stipulates circumstances in which Member States are allowed to declare application as inadmissible and are subsequently not required to examine the application.

13. The Reception Conditions Directive makes reference to the following categories of applicants under vulnerable groups: unaccompanied minors, disabled people, elderly people, pregnant women, single parents with minor children, persons who have been subjected to torture, rape, or other serious forms of psychological, physical, or sexual violence.

14. *Parliamentary Papers II* Letter to the House of Representatives regarding the decision of the The Hague Court of Appeal regarding the reception of families with minors who have exhausted all legal means 2011.

15. *Parliamentary Papers II* 2012–2013, 19 637, no. 158.

16. If one of the steps in the general asylum procedure is not completed in a day, or if more research is needed than can be conducted in eight days, the application for asylum is handled in the extended asylum procedure (max, 6 months).

17. If possible please specify for what duration they are still entitled to reception facilities.

18. This information is from www.dienstterugkeerenvertrek.nl.

19. For more information: EMN report *Establishing identity for international protection 2012*
http://emnetherlands.nl/EMN_rapporten/2012/Het_vaststellen_van_de_identiteit_van_asielzoekers.

20. Please explain what costs the financial allowance is intended to cover (e.g. does it cover accommodation costs, does it include pocket money etc) and specify whether the financial allowance is provided de facto and/or whether it can be used to remunerate applicants who carry out work (small tasks) within the reception facility.

21. *Unicef (2009) 'Children in the centre: Children's rights in asylum seekers' centres'* 2009. The report is available on the website of the work group 'Children in AZCs': <http://www.kind-in-azc.nl/Resultaten.aspx>.

22. www.inspectiesanctietoepassing.nl/images/Definitief%20rapport%20brandveiligheid_tcm56-110767.pdf p. 85.

23. Decision of 7 August 2001, pertaining to the adoption of provisions related to the construction of buildings from the viewpoints of safety, health, usability, energy-efficiency and the environment.

24. Act of 18 March 1999, pertaining to provisions for the improvement of working conditions.

25. For more information: <http://www.acvz.org/>.

26. These statistics are requested to provide an overview on the number of applicants in reception as a whole, differentiating between those accommodated in reception facilities and those applicants who are entitled to reception, but who do not require accommodation (but do receive other services e.g. a financial allowance).

27. For more information, see the COA annual report of 2012 <http://www.coa.nl/nl/publicaties>.

28. Ditto.

29. The occupation rate is a general agreement between the Ministry of Security and Justice and the COA.

30. *Parliamentary Papers II* 20092010, 56 036, no. 1.

31. An early warning mechanism refers to a monitoring system, e.g. a mechanism that monitors the inflow of applicants for international protection, evaluating in particular whether the (Member) State possesses the necessary capacity to deal with increased (or decreased) pressure. Such a monitoring system would enable identification of possible shortcomings (or excess capacity) at an early stage. An early warning mechanism could for example include a.o. any software programmes monitoring capacity and occupancy rate in reception facilities.

32. The Immigration and Naturalisation Service is responsible for the handling of applications for asylum.

33. Article 14 paragraph 8 of the Reception Conditions Directive 2003/9/EC stipulates that: "Member States can exceptionally set modalities for material reception conditions different from those provided for in Article 14 for a reasonable period which shall be as short as possible, when: an initial assessment of the specific needs of

the applicant is required; material reception conditions, as provided for in article 14, are not available in a certain geographical area; housing capacities normally available are temporarily exhausted; the asylum seeker is in detention or confined to border posts. The different conditions must cover in any case basic needs”.

34. R. de Wit (2008) *Opvangcentra vol door toestroom asielzoekers (Reception centres full due to influx of asylum seekers)*, *Elsevier*.

35. The European Platform for Reception Agencies (EPRA) has scheduled activities for the 4th quarter of 2013 to start dialogue on development of methods to improve comparability of reception costs between Member States.

36. Direct costs refer to explicitly defined costs and budgets for the reception of applicants for international protection in each (Member) State.

37. Indirect costs refer to costs that are not directly measurable (as costs are borne by a wide range of stakeholders and further relate to the applicant’s access to general public services).

38. The median is the numerical value separating the higher half of the distribution of the lower half (middle value).

39. The interquartile ranges refer to the value of the first quartile (25 percentile) and the third quartile (75 percentile) in a distribution.

40. See also asylum trends 2013, IND.

41. For more information, see EMN policy overview 2011 http://www.emnnetherlands.nl/EMN_rapporten/2012/Beleidsverzicht_2011.

42. Arranged and paid for by competent authorities.

43. Arranged and paid for by competent authorities.

44. E.g. houses/flats/hotels and/or staying with friends and family.

45. Please explain what this consists of.

46. Regulation for Provisions for Asylum Seekers and Other Categories of Foreign Nationals 2005, Article 3 under o.

47. The Dutch Refugee Council *Compact (4)* 21 February 2012.

48. For more information: <http://www.kind-in-azc.nl/>.

49. Article 9, paragraph 1 of the Rva.