



**AD HOC QUERY ON 2021.3 Syrian identity documents and naturalization**

**Requested by EMN NCP Finland on 15 January 2021**

**Compilation produced on 9 April 2021**

**Responses from Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden (22 in Total)**

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**1. Background information**

Section 6 of the Finnish Nationality Act states that the identity of the applicant must be reliably established before the person can be naturalized.

The applicant can confirm and establish their identity with valid identity documents, such as a passport, ID card or equivalent, but also by other means of credible information. The Government Bill on the Nationality Act specifically states that establishing the person's identity cannot only depend on documents presented by the applicant, as there are persons, e.g. refugees, from whom it is not reasonable to expect that they have documents that would prove their identity.

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If the applicant has used more than one identity earlier, identity will be considered to be established only after ten years of solely using the personal data entered in the Finnish Population System in both Finland and abroad.

No other criteria for naturalization will be considered until the applicant's citizenship is reliably established. If a person has obtained Finnish nationality by deception or fraud concerning identity, they can lose their citizenship.

Syrian applicants for Finnish citizenship usually have a background as a refugee in accordance with the Geneva Convention or as a person in need of subsidiary protection. The number of Syrian applicants for naturalization has increased considerably in Finland.

The Finnish Immigration Service Nationality Unit wishes to enquire from other Member States, what is their policy regarding Syrian identity documents and discrepancies in Syrian applicants' personal data vis-a-vis naturalization.

## **2. Questions**

**1. Does your country have similar requirement or criteria for established identity when applying for citizenship?**

*Available choices: Yes, No*

**2. How does your country value Syrian identity documents and certificates as a proof of identity?**

**3. When there is a difference between Syrian identity documents and what the applicant states as their real birth date, which date is registered as personal data for national registry in your country?**

**4. Age difference between Syrian identity documents and what the applicants tell as their real birth dates sometimes vary considerably. How do you deal with these cases when concerning naturalization?**

Many citizenship applicants from Syria have told in Finland that they have a different date of birth in comparison to the official Syrian identity documents they already have. It has been described as a common practice with Syrian authorities to register a different birth date for a child according to parents' wishes, who for example have wanted their child to be able to attend school at earlier age.

**5. Does your country have a specific criteria for an acceptable age difference between real birth date as told by applicant and the official birth date in the Syrian identity document (especially when considering naturalization)?**



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We would very much appreciate your responses by **15 February 2021**.

**3. Responses**

1

		Wider Dissemination <sup>2</sup>	
	EMN NCP Austria	No	This EMN NCP has provided a response to the requesting EMN NCP. However, they have requested that it is not disseminated further.
	EMN NCP Belgium	Yes	<p>1. Yes</p> <p>2. The only document needed for an application for Belgian nationality, is a legalized birth certificate. If the Syrian national is a refugee, a replacement birth certificate can be issued by the Belgian Office of the Commissioner General on Refugees and Stateless Persons.</p> <p>However, if the Syrian national is not a refugee, and has not produced a Syrian passport to obtain a residency in Belgium, he usually is known in our registers with the notion 'not identified' entered before his name. When this is mentioned, one usually cannot apply for Belgian citizenship, or it is refused.</p>

<sup>1</sup> If possible at time of making the request, the Requesting EMN NCP should add their response(s) to the query. Otherwise, this should be done at the time of making the compilation.

<sup>2</sup> A default "Yes" is given for your response to be circulated further (e.g. to other EMN NCPs and their national network members). A "No" should be added here if you do not wish your response to be disseminated beyond other EMN NCPs. In case of "No" and wider dissemination beyond other EMN NCPs, then for the Compilation for Wider Dissemination the response should be removed and the following statement should be added in the relevant response box: "This EMN NCP has provided a response to the requesting EMN NCP. However, they have requested that it is not disseminated further."



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			<p>To erase this notion, a Syrian passport is wanted. If impossible to obtain or if the passport has errors in it and cannot be accepted, the whole of identity documents is taken into consideration to establish if the person is sufficiently identified. This procedure in itself however has nothing to do with obtaining Belgian nationality and can be done on any moment, as it is stipulated in Belgian law that the identity in the national register has to be correct.</p> <p>3. Belgian law indicates that changes in identity of a person in our national register can only be executed with proof of identity documents of which the primary one is the birth certificate. As the verification of the authenticity of a birth certificate is rather difficult to examine (it can be authentic but then there is still no proof it belongs to the person who uses it) we also demand a passport. If the Syrian birth certificate and Syrian passport are in accordance, these documents are followed, even if the person claims differently. We cannot change identities on medical records (e.g. dental records), as it is not foreseen by law. However if both documents are Syrian and contradictory, the identity is considered as not established and the person is asked to get his papers in order.</p> <p>If there exists a non-Syrian birth certificate that has a different date of birth, this birth certificate can be followed. For example a child born out of wedlock by Syrian parents in Turkey will have a date of birth dated after the marriage of the parents in Syrian documents, but the right one on the Turkish birth certificate. If this correction is asked not to obtain Belgian nationality but simply to be correctly registered, this might complicate the person's life as passport and permit to stay will not be in accordance and travel therefore made impossible. Not only the date of birth can be a problem, the same happens sometimes with the sex.</p> <p>4. When it comes to naturalization only the birth certificate is asked. The procedure to obtain Belgian nationality does not imply an elaborate study of different identity documents, as this is considered to be done the moment a person is inscribed in the national register. The identity on the birth certificate has to be the same as the one in the national register.</p> <p>5. Please see above.</p>
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	<p>EMN NCP Bulgaria</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Yes</li> <li>2. The Law on Bulgarian Citizenship regulates the conditions for change of citizenship (acquisition, restoration and release from Bulgarian citizenship). In this regard, the applicants are required to enclose the relevant documents to the application in order to certify the statutory requirements in the procedure for change of citizenship. Personal data (date of birth) must be accurately stated and must correspond with the data in all submitted documents.</li> <li>3. If date of birth is different in any of the submitted documents, the applicant is given a period in which he/she has to eliminate the discrepancies.</li> <li>4. If the discrepancies are not eliminated within the given period, the procedure for change of citizenship is terminated with an order of the Minister of Justice, i.e. in this case there is no procedure for changing the citizenship.</li> <li>5. In view of what has been stated in the naturalization proceedings of foreigners, in particular Syrian citizens, it is not allowed to make oral declarations of personal data, including on the date of birth. They are certified only with official documents issued by the competent state authorities abroad or in the Republic of Bulgaria, such as the identity document.</li> </ol>
	<p>EMN NCP Croatia</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. No There haven't been reported cases involving the establishment of the identity of Syrian nationals when applying for citizenship.</li> <li>2. /</li> <li>3. /</li> <li>4. /</li> </ol>


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			5. /
	EMN NCP Cyprus	Yes	<p>1. No</p> <p>2. All original identity documents (passports, family books, ids) are accepted and the data mentioned on them are considered valid. Personal interviews (in case of asylum seekers) are conducted and the data are validated.</p> <p>3. The data on the original identity document prevails over the data submitted by the person concerned. If during a personal interview (in case of asylum seekers), it comes up that the data on the original documents are not valid, then the person concerned makes an affidavit at the court about his true date of birth.</p> <p>4. Since in all cases, the Syrian national is in Cyprus under international protection status, when he/she applies for nationality, the data/date of birth already verified during the asylum procedure is used.</p> <p>5. No.</p>
	EMN NCP Czech Republic	Yes	<p>1. Yes</p> <p>The Czech Act on Citizenship does not include any specification on verification of the identity of applicants. However, during the administrative proceeding has to be the identity proved without any doubts. If there are any doubts about the identity the application for citizenship is not approved. In general according to the Act on National Citizenship any applicant has to submit with his/her application also breeder documents. In case we acquire documents from other state the document has to be validated if any international agreement does not states different conditions. However, every foreign national before applying for citizenship has to have permanent residence in the Czech</p>


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			<p>Republic or status of beneficiary of international protection. Therefore he/she already underwent the procedure of identification as a part of applying for the asylum or permanent residence.</p> <p>2. The Czech Republic values Syrian documents the same as documents of other states. In case there are any doubts on the documents the Ministry of the Interior ask the applicant to submit new identity document which verify the identity (this procedure is not valid for beneficiaries of international protection).</p> <p>3. In such a case we take in consideration the date which is registered by the Ministry of the Interior for applicant 's previous applications (as mentioned before the applicant has to be beneficiary of international protection or has to have permanent residence in the Czech Republic) and the applicant is asked for clarification of the reason of such a difference. The Czech Republic can ask for a clarification also the Syrian authorities (not in case of beneficiary of international protection).</p> <p>4. We did not experienced such a case yet. In such a case we would respect the procedure explained before.</p> <p>5. The Czech Republic does not have such a criteria.</p>
	<p>EMN NCP Estonia</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>1. Yes</p> <p>2. A person, acquiring an Estonian citizenship by naturalisation process, must provide an identity document. The Police and Border Guard Board shall identify the person who submitted the application or verify person identity on the basis of a valid identity document and on the basis of the identification data entered in the database of identity documents. Person acquiring citizenship through naturalization must hold a long-term residence permit or the right of permanent residence prior an application. Hence, person identification and verification of his identity will be performed upon performance of proceedings within initial proceedings, upon arrival in Estonia. If person does not hold an identity document an administrative authority may identify a person or verify his or her</p>

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			<p>identity on the basis of the data known to an administrative authority, including the data collected in the proceedings with regard to the person performed before or processed in databases. If necessary, the authority may identify the person or verify his or her identity on the basis of other evidences.</p> <p>3. Our experiences with Syrian applicants are very limited.</p> <p>4. Our experiences with Syrian applicants are very limited.</p> <p>5. No.</p>
	EMN NCP Finland	Yes	<p>1. Yes</p> <p>2. Syrian identity documents have generally been found as technically genuine and authentic. However, when considering the identity of the applicant during the naturalization process, the method used in obtaining identity documents affects the reliability of them. Finnish Immigration Service considers reported methods of issuing Syrian identity documents as a cause of concern and seriously affecting credibility of these documents. The outcome of the consideration in an individual case may be that the applicant`s identity is not established in a way it is required in the Nationality Act of Finland.</p> <p>3. In Finland we register personal information including the birth date based on the genuine Syrian identity documents even if the applicant tells Finnish authorities that they are not accurate.</p> <p>4. Finnish authorities assess the reliability of Syrian identity documents and the established identity requirement for Syrian applicants based on individual evaluation. Ten years of solely using the personal data entered in the Finnish Population System in both Finland and abroad is required as a main rule for naturalization if the requirement for the established identity is not met due to previous discrepancies in personal data or lack of any kind of identity documents.</p>



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			5. Currently Finnish authorities assess acceptable age differences on a case-by-case basis.
	EMN NCP France	No	This EMN NCP has provided a response to the requesting EMN NCP. However, they have requested that it is not disseminated further.
	EMN NCP Germany	Yes	<p>1. Yes</p> <p>2. As a general principle, the validity of Syrian identity documents is recognised - and in particular the validity of passports, which are to be accorded priority for the purposes of establishing identity - provided that there are no circumstances pertaining to the specific individual case concerned which give cause for doubt.</p> <p>A person's identity requires to be proven in the asylum procedure by presenting appropriate authentic documents (e.g. passport, passport substitutes (e.g. refugees' identification papers), identity card/ID card). Where none of the above-stated documents are available, reference is to be made to certificates confirming an individual's civil status (e.g. birth certificate, extracts from civil status registers, marriage certificates).</p> <p>The suitability of such documents as proof of identity is established on the basis of a general consideration of all presented documents, the results of examination of the documents and an assessment of government structures and documentation systems, according due consideration to the issuing state's corruption index.</p> <p>3. In its ruling of 23 September 2020 BverwG 1 C 36.19 – (ECLI:DE:BVerwG:2020:230920U1C36.19.0 – available in German only), the Federal Administrative Court devised a graduated procedure for clarifying the identity of a person applying for naturalisation. According to this procedure, an individual's identity is to be proven first and foremost and as a general rule by presentation of a</p>


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			<p>passport. The information contained in the passport thus constitutes the personal details which are to be kept on record.</p> <p>The Federal Office for Asylum and Refugees(BAMF)enters the date of birth as stated in the presented suitable document (see above) in the Central Register of Foreigners (unless this task has already been performed by another authority) and informs the foreigners authority accordingly.</p> <p>4.</p> <p>The items of evidence to be considered at the various levels of the process to clarify an individual's identity must each be consistent on their own account and also tally with a general consideration of all the personal information and other submissions provided by the individual applying for naturalisation. In the event of a substantial discrepancy between the individual's age as stated in presented documents and the information provided by the individual applying for naturalisation, the naturalisation authority must therefore satisfy itself as to the individual's identity by way of the other examination levels. Official documents, particularly such containing biometric characteristics, are generally accorded greater evidential value than non-official certificates or documents or any testimonies submitted by witnesses.</p> <p>The BAMF procedure under asylum law: In case of a discrepancy between presented documentation and the age claimed by a person in the asylum procedure, this matter is to be followed up in the course of hearing the asylum applicant. The age stated by the individual concerned is to receive due consideration in the context of an overall appraisal of the case (see reply to question 2). The result of this overall appraisal is dependent on the specifics of the individual case concerned.</p> <p>5. No.</p> <p>In the asylum procedure, the individual case is examined by reference to the available information (overall appraisal).</p>
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	<p>EMN NCP Hungary</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>1. Yes</p> <p>In connection with the Hungarian naturalization procedure it is an essential requirement that the applicant should undoubtedly prove his or her identity during the procedure, i.e. the identity must be certified by a valid photographic document both when submitting the application for naturalization and at the end of the procedure, when taking an oath or pledge. In view of this, according to the Act LV of 1993 on citizenship (hereinafter referred to as the Act), and Government Decree 125/1993 on its implementation the identity of the applicant must be verified when submitting the application, and the details of the application must be reconciled/cross-checked with the attached documents. Verification of the identity of the applicant is the responsibility of the receiving body, before which a valid official identity card (passport issued by the country of origin, identity card) should be presented in original and a copy of the same should be attached to the application for citizenship. Furthermore in accordance with Section 16 (4) of the Act an identity card is issued ex officio for the naturalized persons, therefore upon receiving the application for naturalization it is necessary to take a facial image, signature and fingerprint of each applicant, regardless of age and place of residence, as defined by law. A naturalized person may take an oath or pledge only if it can be established on the basis of the permanent identity card issued to him or her ex officio that the naturalized person and the person appearing for the purpose of taking the oath or pledge are the same. During the procedure of identity verification the mayor competent according to the place of the oath of citizenship or, in case of a foreign mission, the head of the Hungarian mission or the consular officer appointed by him or her shall identify the naturalized person on the basis of the permanent identity card issued for him or her ex officio and his or her valid identity card. Based on the steps mentioned above, a more increased identity verification takes place from the submission of the application for naturalization until the date of the oath. Syrian citizens applying for Hungarian citizenship are persons with a refugee background or in need of subsidiary protection, on the one hand, and persons with the right to reside on other grounds (immigrant, settled, etc.), on the other hand. As regards the former group, it is not reasonable to expect that they have documents proving their identity. We have to take into consideration that they are not in a position to contact their country of origin, as it would result in serious harm to the applicants. Therefore in the absence of identification documents either the decision of the asylum authority on granting international protection (containing the applicant's personal data) or the identity card issued by the Hungarian authorities will serve as a document to identify the applicant. In this context, it should be noted that the body acting in the field of citizenship</p>
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			has a close working relationship with the National Directorate-General For Aliens Policing, which acts as an asylum authority, the condition of which is provided by law. On this basis, the body dealing with citizenship matters may request data and inspect the personal data and address register, the immigration register, the asylum register and the data on the applicant contained in the documents of the immigration and asylum procedures conducted in respect of the applicant to verify the relevant conditions. However, for the latter group with residence status, the presentation of valid Syrian documents and the submission of original certificates/extracts (with authentication of the consular officer) are still essential.
	EMN NCP Italy	Yes	<p>1. No The third country national (TCN) who applies for citizenship by naturalization must meet the requirements provided for by current legislation. The TCN's application must have a series of documents attached, including the one that proves his/her legal residence and identity. At this stage the identity, already verified previously, is ascertained by the competent police bodies in relation to the request for citizenship.</p> <p>2. See the comment at q1</p> <p>3. See the comment at q1</p> <p>4. See the comment at q1</p> <p>5. See the comment at q1</p>
	EMN NCP Latvia	Yes	<p>1. No For acquiring Latvian citizenship through naturalisation, person must have permanent place of residence in Latvia for not less than the last five years (for a citizen of another country or stateless</p>


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			<p>person the five-year period shall be counted from the day of receipt of the permanent residence permit). All persons that have permanent residence permit are registered in the Population Register. The person must be identified prior to registration in the Population Register.</p> <p>2. Those documents are valid for identification.</p> <p>3. The date that is in identity documents.</p> <p>4. See answer 3.</p> <p>5. No.</p>
	<p>EMN NCP Lithuania</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>1. Yes</p> <p>2. A person must provide an identity document for an application for citizenship of the Republic of Lithuania. An application shall not be accepted if the identity document is invalid or unusable. Lithuania's experience with Syrian identity documents is limited and the decision on identification shall be taken on a case-by-case basis with due regard to all the circumstances of the individual case. As a rule, a person's identity is established on the basis of identity documents provided by the person, if there is no doubt as to the authenticity of such documents.</p> <p>3. The data is recorded on the basis of the person's identity documents (if there is no doubt as to the authenticity of such documents).</p> <p>4. Please see Q2 and Q3.</p> <p>5. No.</p>


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	<p>EMN NCP Luxembourg</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. No In Luxembourg, the identification of the international protection applicant is done at the beginning of the international procedure in accordance with article 6 (3) paragraph 2 of the law of 18 December 2015 on international protection and temporary protection (Asylum Law). When the person presents identity/travel documents, the documents are sent to the Airport Police Unit to verify the authenticity of the documents presented. If the documents are authentic and the person presents a coherent narrative it is considered that the nationality is certified. However, there is not any guarantee in this regard. If the person does not present any documents, it is necessary to check if the information provided, the language, and if so the nationality is considered to be verified. In the case of a Syrian migrating for purposes other than international protection, the person concerned has to apply for a visa. Before applying for a visa, he/she has to have a valid passport which is valid for at least another 3 months after the expiration date of the visa applied for. Furthermore she/he must present proof of his or her identity in order to obtain an authorisation to stay. He/she must indicate his or her identity (surname and forenames) in the application and present a copy of the full valid passport, certified as being a true copy of the original, and a birth certificate.</li> <li>2. In principle, the Syrian identity documents and certificates are considered a valid proof of identity. However, due to the large number of real false documents in circulation if the person's story does not correspond respectively or if the authorities have doubts they can make a language test.</li> <li>3. Normally, the date of birth that is going to be entered into the National Register of natural persons (RNPP) is the date that appears in the official documents provided by the applicant. If there are no documents, the date of birth that will be registered is the one that was provided by the applicant to the Refugee department of the Directorate of Immigration and that will appear in the decision of the Minister in charge of immigration and asylum granting the status.</li> <li>4. In Luxembourg, article 31 of the amended law of 8 March 2017 on Luxembourgish nationality (Nationality law) states that adults who have stateless person status, refugee status or subsidiary protection status can apply for Luxembourgish nationality, provided that:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- they have legally resided in Luxembourg for at least 5 years. The final year of residence</li> </ul> </li> </ol>
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			<p>immediately preceding the option declaration must have been uninterrupted;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- they have knowledge of the Luxembourgish language, as evidenced by a Luxembourgish language test pass certificate;</li> <li>- they have taken the "Vivre ensemble au Grand-Duché de Luxembourg" course or passed the test covering the topics taught in this course.</li> </ul> <p>The period between submission of the application for international protection or the application for recognition as a stateless person and the granting of refugee status, subsidiary protection status or stateless person status is deemed a period of usual and lawful residence within the meaning of the Law on Luxembourgish nationality.</p> <p>In principle, the date of birth that will be considered is the date of birth that was registered in the RNPP. However, when a person has indicated a date of birth - that he or she did not have a document and then wishes to have it changed - this is possible on the basis of the Law on the RNPP if he or she submits a supporting document.</p> <p>5. No.</p>
	<p>EMN NCP Netherlands</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>1. No</p> <p>In the Netherlands, it is also necessary to establish identity with a passport and birth certificate when applying for citizenship. There is an exemption from the requirement to hand over a birth certificate and passport when applying for naturalization for all holders of an asylum residence permit and for Syrians with a non-asylum permit, in case the person was born in Syria. In case of a Syrian national, holder of a non-asylum permit and born outside of Syria, he or she is expected to present a birth certificate. The described criteria for established identity when another identity was used earlier, does not apply in the Netherlands. However, in case a migrant applies with a different identity for naturalization than earlier established by municipalities in the national registry (BRP), the applicant would have to apply for a change within the BRP first. In case the BRP is changed, the minimum period of time (5 years) that the applicant needs to have stayed within the Netherlands prior to</p>

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			<p>naturalisation, will start counting again from the very beginning. The applicant would have to await another 5 years before applying for citizenship.</p> <p>2. For Syrians there is exemption from the requirement to hand over a birth certificate and passport when applying for naturalization. Nevertheless, if the person hands over these identity documents and certificates then each Syrian document is assessed on its own merits.</p> <p>3. Registering in the national registry (BRP) is done by means breeder documents. In case the applicant can provide for those breeder documents, then the Law BRP demands the use of these documents for the date of birth. It is only possible to deviate from the information as provided for in the breeder document, in case there are other documents that are considered to 'overpower' the breeder document. Statements of the applicant do not affect this.</p> <p>4. If this situation would occur, the process would be as followed: the IND assesses the application for naturalisation and takes the BRP into account. In case the birth date in the naturalisation application differs and the person wishes to change his date of birth in the BRP, he or she would have to apply for a change within the national registry first (see question 3). In case the BRP is changed, the minimum period of time (5 years) that the applicant needs to have stayed within the Netherlands prior to naturalisation, will start counting again from the very beginning.</p> <p>5. No, with regard to naturalization there are no specific criteria for an acceptable age difference. There should be no difference at all between the identity documents and the BRP.</p>
	<p>EMN NCP Poland</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>1. Yes Pursuant to the provisions of the Act of April 2, 2009 on Polish citizenship (Journal of Laws of 2020, item 347, as amended), a foreigner applying for Polish citizenship with the application is required to submit documents confirming his personal data, i.e. : 1) first name (names) and surname; 2) family name; 3) date and place of birth; 4) father's name and surname; 5) mother's name and maiden name; 6) gender; 7) citizenship; 8) marital status; The act does not indicate specific documents to be</p>




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			<p>presented by the foreigner. He may show his data both with a passport and with another document, e.g. civil status records. However, the authorities require that these data be uniform, i.e. the same information must appear in different documents, e.g. the date of birth should be identical in each document attached to the application. In case of any discrepancies, the foreigner is obliged to standardize the data in all documents and provide relevant explanations in this regard.</p> <p>2. Bearing in mind that Polish citizenship is generally granted to people who have integrated with Polish society for a long period of legal residence, the issue of discrepancies in the data in documents or their lack is explained at the stage of legalizing their stay in the territory of the Republic of Poland. Persons who, for various reasons, do not have documents issued by the country of origin, have Polish identity documents of the foreigner. The Polish travel document for a foreigner is issued to a foreigner who has lost his travel document or whose travel document has been damaged or has expired, and it is not possible for the foreigner to obtain a new travel document when the foreigner has been granted a permanent residence permit, a long-term resident's EU residence permit, subsidiary protection, residence permit for humanitarian reasons.</p> <p>3. We do not have information about problems with submitting the required documents by Syrian citizens, the more so as this is not a large group of foreigners applying for Polish citizenship. In 2020, only 19 Syrian citizens applied for the acquisition of Polish citizenship. Incidentally, it is worth noting that the applications of foreigners who do not have any identity documents for the acquisition of Polish citizenship are left without examination as they do not meet the formal requirements referred to in the Act on Polish citizenship. However, if a foreigner claims that he has a different date of birth than the one indicated in the submitted document, he or she is obliged to replace the document and submit a new one with a new date of birth.</p> <p>4. The Border Guard conducts identification activities aimed at confirming the identity of the foreigner and obtaining a replacement travel document for return to the country of origin. Due to the fact that the identification activities carried out against foreigners declaring Syrian citizenship via a diplomatic mission are lengthy and returns to Syria are suspended, the Border Guard has been carrying out identification activities for this category of people in cooperation with an external expert since December 2015 - it is called initial identification. The pre-identification</p>
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			<p>mechanism covers all foreigners declaring an Syria (regardless of the fact of having a document), who are staying illegally on the territory of Poland.</p> <p>Initial identification covers the period of 48 hours from the moment of detention of the foreigner and is aimed at confirming the Syrian origin of the foreigner by an external expert by analyzing the preliminary identification questionnaire and conducting a language test. In the event of a positive result, the Border Guard does not carry out any further identification activities aimed at confirming the identity of the foreigner and in terms of verifying personal data and the date of birth of the person.</p> <p>5. See point 4.</p>
	<p>EMN NCP Portugal</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>1. No The Government grants Portuguese citizenship, by naturalization, to foreigners when they meet several requirements such as legally residing in Portuguese territory for at least six years; to know the Portuguese language sufficiently, not having been convicted for a crime punishable by a maximum prison sentence of three years or more. The application must be accompanied by documents such as a Birth registration certificate; a document issued by the Immigration and Borders Service, proving that the person have been legally resident in Portuguese territory for at least six years, a document proving the person knows the language and a Criminal record issued by the competent Portuguese services, of the country of birth and nationality, as well as of the countries where you have resided.</p> <p>2. NA</p> <p>3. NA</p> <p>4. NA</p> <p>5. NA</p>

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	<p>EMN NCP Slovakia</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>1. Yes Among other documents required for the application, the applicant for citizenship must present an identity document such as an ID card, a birth certificate, etc. The Citizenship Department, which decides on an application for Slovak citizenship, does not establish the identity of the applicant. In Slovakia, the identification of an asylum seeker falls entirely within the competence of the Slovak Migration Office, which is responsible for receiving asylum applications. Establishing the identity of other foreigners is the responsibility of the competent police department (the Bureau of Border and Foreign Police). In case of an application for citizenship, the identity of the person must be duly verified and the data in individual documents must be identical. If there are any discrepancies, the applicant is asked to correct it. In the case of an application for citizenship, the applicant is also required to have a long-term residence in Slovakia for 8 years, it may be shorter for persons granted asylum – they must have been granted asylum in the Slovak Republic during the 4 years preceding the submission of their application for citizenship. Slovak Republic has no experience with cases described by Finland above.</p> <p>2. See the comment in 1.</p> <p>3. See the comment in 1.</p> <p>4. See the comment in 1.</p> <p>5. See the comment in 1.</p>
	<p>EMN NCP Slovenia</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>1. Yes</p> <p>2. Syrian identity documents shall be used as proof of identity.</p> <p>3. Passport data is registered.</p>

AD HOC QUERY ON 2021.3 Syrian identity documents and naturalization

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			<p>4. We have not yet encountered such a case in the naturalization process. In 2020, only one Syrian citizen acquired the citizenship of the Republic of Slovenia.</p> <p>5. No.</p>
	EMN NCP Spain	Yes	<p>1. No</p> <p>2. The Syrian citizens who apply for Spanish citizenship must use their valid Syrian passport or, in case of refugees recognized by the Spanish Ministry of the Interior, the travel document issued by the Spanish authorities.</p> <p>3.</p> <p>4. Concerning the specific cases of this ad hoc query, in which the official birth age in the passport would not be the same than the real age declared by the applicant, we have not had any case so far.</p> <p>5. See previous answer</p>
	EMN NCP Sweden	Yes	<p>1. Yes</p> <p>2. However, we do not have a special system for the situation when an applicant has used more than one identity earlier. In the light of available reporting, there is no reason to generally question whether Syrian passports meet the requirements in Swedish legislation. Syrian passports therefore generally prove the holder's identity. In some individual cases, there may be reason to question an individual Syrian passport.</p>

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			<p>Syrian Q-passports (documents mainly designed as Syrian national passports, although certain details, including the letter Q in "REPUBLIQUE", have a different design compared to Syrian other Syrian national passports) are not issued by the competent Syrian authorities. They are therefore not acceptable as passports. Nor are they valid travel documents. Nor can they prove the identity of the holder, nor make it probable.</p> <p>3. The starting point is that a passport that meets the requirements in the Swedish legislation is accepted to prove an applicant's identity in an according to the Swedish legislation</p> <p>The Swedish Migration Agency has to assume that passports from other countries are issued after a - taking into account highly variable national conditions - reasonably careful control of the identity and that the passports are issued by the country's competent authorities (including its foreign representations).</p> <p>An individual assessment is always made, and in certain individual cases, the Swedish Migration Agency may consider that the applicant have proven his/her identity even though thr identity documents do not meet all the requirements.</p> <p>If an applicant have many documents that not individually meet the requirements, the Swedish Migration Board can make an overall assessment of whether the separate documents together can prove the identity.</p> <p>4. Some areas / cities in Syria have come to be perceived as politically oppositional during the course of the conflict in Syria, which makes it more difficult for many from these areas to pass through the regime's roadblocks, as it is clear from the information from the ID cards where the applicant come from. This creates an incentive to obtain fake or manipulated ID-cards.</p> <p>The decentralization of the processing of applications and the issuance of ID cards entails a risk that applicable procedures will be circumvented against payment. However, there are clear counteracting factors in the and the application and issuance procedure can in general be considered to be rather rigorous.</p> <p>Generally we do not deviate from the information in the Syrian passports even if the applicant claims that he/she have a different ID.</p>
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			<p>According to Swedish law an applicant who cannot prove his or her identity may be naturalized, if he or she has been domiciled in Sweden for at least eight years and makes it probable that the stated identity is correct.</p> <p>5. No</p>
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