

HOW ARE SOCIAL BENEFITS AND RIGHTS GRANTED TO BENEFICIARIES OF INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION IN EUROPE?

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EMN Inform on Social Benefits and Rights for Beneficiaries of International Protection

The influx of asylum seekers between 2014 and 2016 has increased awareness about the differences in social benefits standards and the arrangements for rights enjoyed by beneficiaries of international protection across the EU Member States and Norway. The recast Qualification Directive (2011/95/EC), the Family Reunification Directive (2003/86/EC) and other developments have paved the way for a comprehensive overview of different social benefits and rights granted to beneficiaries of international protection.

What is the legal framework that guides access to social benefits and rights in the different Member States and in Norway? What are

the differences in social benefits and rights across these countries? Do refugees, beneficiaries of subsidiary protection and nationals of the host Member State enjoy the same social benefits and rights within Member States? How are the social benefits and rights organised and arranged, and which organisations are involved?

The wide reaching EMN Inform *Social Benefits and Rights for Beneficiaries of International Protection*, drawing on information from 26 Member States and Norway, set out to answer these pressing questions, with respect to five key benefits: education, health care, housing, family reunification and financial allowances. At a glance, the main research findings are introduced below.

Key findings



Differences remain across the Member States with respect to the levels of social benefits and rights granted to beneficiaries of international protection; however, it is clear that Member States uphold certain minimum levels of the respective social benefits and rights, with minor exceptions.



All Member States treat access to education and access to healthcare as a fundamental right.



Arrangements for granting respective social benefits and rights vary among Member States, across all five social benefit categories (education, health care, housing, family reunification and financial allowances).



Most Member States appear to provide the same access to and/or conditions for education, health care, financial allowances housing, family reunification for refugees and for those who are granted subsidiary protection. However, this is not always the same for nationals of the host Member State.



In the majority of Member States, governmental authorities and NGOs cooperate in providing different social benefits for beneficiaries of international protection.



Level of social benefits and rights



In all Member States and Norway, education is compulsory for all minors. Special **educational** programmes for adults are available in the majority of Member States and Norway.



In all Member States and Norway, beneficiaries of international protection have access to immediate and emergency **healthcare**, as well as long-term care.



In the majority of Member States and Norway, **financial allowances** are provided to beneficiaries of international protection, both in the sense of income (replacement) allowance/ remuneration and social assistance allowance.



Almost all Member States and Norway provide, or assist with, **housing** to beneficiaries of international protection.



Most Member States and Norway apply favourable conditions for **family reunification** of beneficiaries of international protection.



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