



**EMN Ad-Hoc Query on Evidence on the impact that policy changes on the right to refugee family reunion may have on asylum intake and the number of family reunion applications received**

Requested by Simon WOOLLACOTT on 27th February 2018

**Family Reunification**

Responses from Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Poland, Slovak Republic, Sweden, United Kingdom, Norway (22 in total)

Disclaimer:

*The following responses have been provided primarily for the purpose of information exchange among EMN NCPs in the framework of the EMN. The contributing EMN NCPs have provided, to the best of their knowledge, information that is up-to-date, objective and reliable. Note, however, that the information provided does not necessarily represent the official policy of an EMN NCPs' Member State.*

### **Background information:**

The UK are currently reviewing the policy on refugee Family Reunion and listening to the concerns from Non-Government Organisation's that the current policy and the Immigration Rules on family reunion are too narrow. This work is part of our wider asylum and resettlement strategy. We are gathering evidence on whether changes to policy creates a 'pull factor' that may lead to more people risking dangerous journeys to Europe, and on the number of refugee family reunion applications that could be expected with associated analysis of the impact of the cost on public services.

Our published policy can be found at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/family-reunion-instruction>



Data on how many family reunion visas are issued by the UK can be found at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/immigration-statistics-october-to-december-2017/how-many-people-do-we-grant-asylum-or-protection-to#family-reunion-visas>


### **Questions**

1. For people granted international protection in your MS, are there any restrictions placed on their right to family reunion. For example. do they have to apply within a certain timeframe?
2. Which family members are eligible under your national law to join a refugee or person with subsidiary protection?
3. How many applications for family reunion have you received in the last five years? We are interested in the all categories, but pre flight family members are of most interest.
4. How many people have been granted family reunion in the last five years? We are interested in the all categories, but pre flight family members are of most interest.
5. Do you allow children recognised as refugees or granted subsidiary protection to sponsor relatives for purposes of family reunion? If yes;When did you start allowing child sponsors and what impact did this have? If yes;How many family reunion visas have you granted, in the last five years, where the sponsor was a child?
6. Have you analysed the cost and /or impact on public services of those granted family reunion?

### **Responses**

	Country	Wider Dissemination	Response
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 	Austria	Yes	<p><b>1.</b> The right of family reunification for beneficiaries of asylum and subsidiary protection status is laid down in § 35 Austrian Asylum Act. The access to and procedures of family reunification depend on the protection status the alien is granted. Family members of convention refugees (beneficiaries of asylum) have immediate access to family reunification, while family members of persons granted subsidiary protection have access to family reunification only three years after the status has been granted (§ 35 (2) Austrian Asylum Act). This distinction is in accordance with EU law as the Family Reunification Directive (2003/86/EC) does not apply for beneficiaries of subsidiary protection (Art. 3/2/c). Special requirements (stated below) must be proven by family members of an alien granted asylum status if the application for family reunification is lodged later than three months after the family member in Austria has been granted asylum status unless family reunification must be granted in accordance with Art. 8 ECHR (regardless of these requirements). Family members of an alien granted subsidiary protection status have to fulfill the requirements irrespective of the time of application. In order to have access to family reunification the following conditions have to be fulfilled: 1. the third-country national provides evidence of a legal entitlement to accommodation which is deemed in conformity with local accommodation for a family of comparable size; 2. the third-country national has sickness insurance in respect of all risks and the policy also pays out in Austria; 3. the third-country national's residence does not result in a financial burden for a regional authority. However, this provision does not apply for the reunification of parents with an unaccompanied minor having been granted international protection. The above mentioned requirements refer to the criteria of Art. 7 Family Reunification Directive. According to Art. 12 (1) last paragraph of directive 2003/86/EC (Family Reunification Directive), Member States can request the compliance with these requirements if the application for family reunification is lodged later than three months after the family member in Austria has been granted asylum status. --- Source: Ministry of the Interior</p> <p><b>2.</b> According to § 35 (5) Austrian Asylum Act, only the following family members (“core family”) have the right to reunite with the beneficiary of international protection status: the parent of an under-age child, the spouse or anyone who, at the time of filing the application, was an unmarried under-age child of an alien to whom subsidiary protection status or asylum status has been granted, insofar as, in the case of spouses, the marriage already existed before entering Austria; the foregoing shall also apply to registered civil partners insofar as the registered civil partnership already existed before entering Austria. --- Source: Ministry of the Interior</p>
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	Belgium	Yes	<p>1. For what concerns family reunification, there are more favourable rules for family members of beneficiaries of international protection compared to family members of other third country nationals. Family members of beneficiaries of international protection applying for family reunification do not need to pay the retribution (fee) and are excluded from the integration requirements (before and after admission). Moreover, if the application for family reunification is introduced in the year following the decision granting international protection and if the family ties precede the entry of the foreigner, family members of a TCN who were granted refugee or subsidiary protection do not have to prove the requirements concerning the accommodation, the healthcare insurance and the resources). In case the application for family reunification is not done within this one year timeframe, or if the family ties or relationship did not exist in the country of origin the general conditions for family reunification need to be respected: - The applicant needs to pay a fee to apply for a residence permit, in principle 200 euro per adult; - The TCN sponsor must have an accommodation suitable for the size of the family; - The TCN sponsor must have healthcare insurance, covering the sponsor and his/her family members; - The TCN sponsor must have sufficient, stable and regular means of subsistence, to cover the needs of the sponsor as well as those of the family members to avoid them becoming a burden on the public authorities. The level of income is set at 120% of the social assistance level (or living wage): this amounts to 1415,58 EUR. - Since January 2017, there are also integration requirements: Before admission, the applicant will in the future (legally foreseen, but not yet into force) need to sign a declaration indicating that he or she understands the fundamental values and norms of society and will act accordingly; after admission (already in force): the family member needs to provide evidence of his/her willingness to integrate into society. The Immigration Office will do the verifications and if the person does not make a ‘reasonable effort’ to integrate, the Immigration Office can put an end to his/her permit to stay. - Moreover, an application for family reunification can be rejected on grounds of public order or national security. Every adult applicant needs to include in the application an extract from</p>


the judicial records of his/her file. Moreover, every applicant needs to prove not to suffer from any of the diseases that may endanger public health.


**2.** In general, four categories of family members are eligible to join a TCN sponsor in Belgium (with a right to family reunification) if all conditions are being fulfilled: - a spouse or registered partner, including same-sex partners, - a minor child (below age 18) of the sponsor and/or of his/her spouse, - a dependent, unmarried child aged 18 or older with a disability, - the parents of an unaccompanied minor benefiting from a protection status (refugee status or subsidiary protection status). For beneficiaries of international protection, there is thus an additional category who can be beneficiary (the parents of an unaccompanied minor) compared to other third country nationals.


**3.** In 2016 21,172 persons applied for a visa for family reunification, including 14,238 applications for family reunification with a TCN sponsor. Below the data for visa on family reunification with TCN sponsors are presented for 2012 till 2016, disaggregated by the ground of residence of the sponsor. The data clearly confirm that the number of applications of family members of beneficiaries of international protection (with refugee status or subsidiary protection) increased significantly in 2016 compared to 2015. (see table in attachment).

**4.** See table in attachment


**5.** Yes, unaccompanied minors with an international protection status can be joined by their parents. In this case, the proof of sufficient, stable and regular means of subsistence, adequate housing and health insurance are not required. There are no recent and details statistics on family reunification visa disaggregated by sponsor available. However, an analysis of the first residence permits for 2016 and previous years illustrate that the number of family reunification where the sponsor is a child (and the beneficiary is an ascendant) is much lower compared to other categories. Data on residence permits granted in the framework of family reunification for third country nationals for the year 2016 show that descendants, or children are by far the most important beneficiaries: 6,652 descendants (or 12,763 when including children born in Belgium), versus 3,671 spouses and that rarely the beneficiary is an ascendant (40 persons). However there is an increasing trend (40 TCN ascendants as beneficiary in 2016 compared to 15 persons in 2015).


			<b>6. No</b>
	Bulgaria	Yes	<p><b>1.</b> A foreigner who has been granted refugee or subsidiary protection has the right to reunite with his family in the territory of Bulgaria. It should be noted that the family reunification system of refugees is extended also to the beneficiaries of subsidiary protection. According to Article 39a of the Law on Asylum and Refugees (LAR), a foreigner provided with temporary protection also has the right to reunite with his/her spouse, with their children under the age of 18 and their unmarried children, if they express the will to do so. There is no certain timeframe.</p> <p><b>2.</b> A foreigner who has been granted refugee or subsidiary protection has the right to reunite with his family in the territory of Bulgaria. It should be noted that the family reunification system of refugees is extended also to the beneficiaries of subsidiary protection. According to Article 39a of the Law on Asylum and Refugees (LAR), a foreigner provided with temporary protection also has the right to reunite with his/her spouse, with their children under the age of 18 and their unmarried children, if they express the will to do so. There is no certain timeframe.</p> <p><b>3.</b> Family members eligible to join a refugee or person with subsidiary protection are: a) the husband, the wife or the individual with whom the alien has an evidenced stable long-term relationship and their unmarried underage children; b) adult unmarried children who are unable to provide for themselves due to serious health conditions; c) the parents of either of the spouses who are unable to take care of themselves due to old age or a serious health condition, and who have to share the household of their children. (d) the parents or another adult member of the family who is responsible, by law or custom, for the underage unmarried alien who has been granted international protection.</p> <p><b>4.</b> Family members eligible to join a refugee or person with subsidiary protection are: a) the husband, the wife or the individual with whom the alien has an evidenced stable long-term relationship and their unmarried underage children; b) adult unmarried children who are unable to provide for themselves due to serious health conditions; c) the parents of either of the spouses who are unable to take care of themselves due to old age or a serious health condition, and who have to share the household of their children. (d) the parents or another adult member of the family who is responsible, by law or custom, for the underage unmarried alien who has been granted international protection.</p>


			<p><b>5.</b> In the last five years 279 permissions for family reunification were granted; 47 refusals for family reunification and 23 procedures for family reunification were discontinued.</p> <p><b>6.</b> In the last five years 279 permissions for family reunification were granted; 47 refusals for family reunification and 23 procedures for family reunification were discontinued.</p> <p><b>7.</b> There is data on the number of permissions and refusals for family reunification and for the discontinued procedures for family reunification.</p> <p><b>8.</b> There is data on the number of permissions and refusals for family reunification and for the discontinued procedures for family reunification.</p> <p><b>9.</b> According to art. 34 LAR permission is granted for the unification of an unaccompanied minor or under the legal age alien who has been granted international protection with his/her parents or with another adult member of his/her family or with a person responsible for him/her by law or custom, where his/her parents are deceased or missing. It is in force since 2007.</p> <p><b>10.</b> According to art. 34 LAR permission is granted for the unification of an unaccompanied minor or under the legal age alien who has been granted international protection with his/her parents or with another adult member of his/her family or with a person responsible for him/her by law or custom, where his/her parents are deceased or missing. It is in force since 2007.</p> <p><b>11.</b> N/A</p> <p><b>12.</b> N/A</p>
	Croatia	Yes	<p><b>1.</b> The most favorable provisions apply to family reunification rules for sponsor- TCNs granted asylum status and subsidiary protection in comparison to family reunification of “orderly” TCN (no need to provide evidence of health insurance or proof of sufficient funds. Requirement of accommodation is not generally applicable when it comes to applications for temporary residence for the purpose of family reunification). These favorable rules are not restricted by the fact that relationship was established prior or after sponsor</p>

			<p>was granted status and the three-month rule (grace period) is also not applicable (there is no time limit for applying favorable provisions).</p> <p><b>2.</b> In the scope of family reunification is extended beyond nuclear/core members of the family of asylees. Exceptionally, any other relative may also be regarded as a member of the nuclear family of a foreigner granted asylee status, if there are special personal reasons or serious humanitarian grounds for the family reunification in the Republic of Croatia. This is not possible if sponsor is TCN granted subsidiary protection. That means any other relative (other than spouse, common law partner, minor children of married couples and common law partners, their minor adopted children and minor children of each of them, who have not formed families of their own, parents or adopted parents of minor children) is not prescribed as a family member eligible for family reunification with this category of TCNs.</p> <p><b>3.</b> We have data only on the total number of applications filed for family reunification, however, we do not keep statistics on how many applications are filed and accepted by the total number refer to the family reunification with beneficiaries of the international protection.</p> <p><b>4.</b> In the last five years, we have granted all together including beneficiaries of international protection 20708 family reunions.</p> <p><b>5.</b> Yes. The child beneficiary of international protection sponsors has been prescribed as the possibility in the Law on International and Temporary Protection (2015) and the Aliens Act (2011), as well as earlier national legislation. No data available.</p> <p><b>6.</b> Not until now.</p>
	Cyprus	Yes	<p><b>1.</b> There is no certain timeframe</p> <p><b>2.</b> According to the Cyprus Refugee Law, only persons granted refugee status are allowed to apply for family reunification. Family members eligible: In cases where the families already existed in the country of origin and were separated due to circumstances surrounding the mass influx, the following persons are considered to be part of a family: (a) the spouse of the sponsor, the minor children of the sponsor or of his spouse, without distinction as to whether they were born in or out of wedlock or adopted; (b) other close</p>





			<p>relatives who lived together as part of the family unit at the time of the events leading to the mass influx, and who were wholly or mainly dependent on the sponsor at the time.</p> <p><b>3.</b> No data available at this time.</p> <p><b>4.</b> No data available at this time.</p> <p><b>5.</b> Children recognized as refugees are allowed to apply for family reunification (there has never been a restriction on this right).</p> <p><b>6.</b> No impact to mention.</p>
	<p>Czech Republic</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p><b>1.</b> Family members of refugees can use the possibility to reunify via the Family Reunification Directive - it means they can apply for long-term residence permit. If they ask within 3 months from the moment refugee status is granted, they may use the simplified procedure. There is no obligation to apply within certain time frame - if family members of refugees apply later than after 3 months, standard procedure applies. Family members of person enjoying subsidiary protection cannot use the Family Reunification Directive. They have to ask for family reunification under purely national institute - long-term visa for family purposes. There is no simplified procedure. There is also no specific time frame. So generally there are no restrictions.</p> <p><b>2.</b> The law does not regulate the scope specifically. It can be derived that is the core family but there can be further close members if they are dependent.</p> <p><b>3.</b> The Czech Republic received 20 469 applications for family reunion in last five years. Please note that in these numbers are counted applications where the sponsor is granted international protection, subsidiary protection as well as other type of residents permit. As of July 2017 the Czech Republic started monitoring applications for family reunion where the sponsor is person granted international protection. The Czech Republic received 32 applications where the sponsor is person granted international protection (not persons who are granted subsidiary protection) from July 2017 to December 2017.</p>


			<p><b>4.</b> The Czech Republic granted family reunion in 16 581 cases (in last five years). Please note that in these numbers are counted applications where the sponsor is granted international protection, subsidiary protection as well as other type of residents permit.</p> <p><b>5.</b> If we understand correctly, the question is whether parents can ask for family reunification if their child was granted protection. The answer is yes. In case of refugee children, the act expressly counts with this situation and allow for family reunification via long-term residence. In case of children enjoying subsidiary protection the law does not expressly regulate this (similarly as in case of adults) but it can be possible to apply for long-term visa as in case of adults. The Czech Republic does not monitor statistics on granted family reunion visas where the sponsor is a child.</p> <p><b>6.</b> No, the number of reunified persons with refugees/subs.protection persons is low.</p>
	Estonia	Yes	<p><b>1.</b> As a general condition family members are considered a family if the family existed in the country of origin, including if the marriage that was contracted before entry into Estonia. According to the national legislation, a family reunification application can be submitted by an applicant or by a beneficiary of the international protection. PBGB will grant the permission to the beneficiary within 30 days. A family member, who has entered the territory of Estonia, should submit an application for a residence permit and international protection at the earliest opportunity, but not later than six months as of the date of issuing a residence permit to the TCN. If a family member submits an application for a residence permit later than six months as of the date of issuing a residence permit to the TCN, the Police and Border Guard Board may demand compliance with the following requirements of the sponsor: permanent legal income, which shall ensure that the family be maintained in Estonia, actual dwelling in Estonia and a valid health insurance policy. In the event of a failure to comply with the requirements, the Police and Border Guard Board may refuse to issue a residence permit to a family member. In practice it is up to the Police and Border Guard Board to decide whether in cases stipulated in previous articles, the requirements are imposed. In practice generally the requirements are not imposed. The beneficiaries of international protection may express the wish for family reunification already while his or her own application for international protection is being processed, but the family member can submit the actual application for residence permit and international protection when in Estonia. As the travelling time to Estonia takes often more than 6 months, it is not possible to refuse a residence permit on these grounds.</p>

			<p><b>2.</b> According to the legislation family members of a refugee and of a person eligible for subsidiary protection are: 1) his or her spouse; 2) his or her and his or her spouse's unmarried minor child, including an adopted child; 3) an unmarried and minor child under his or her or his or her spouse's custody, including an adopted child. In the case of shared custody, the agreement of the other party sharing custody is required; 4) an unmarried adult child of him or her or his or her spouse if the child is unable to cope independently due to his or her state of health or disability; 5) a parent or grandparent maintained by him or her or his or her spouse if the country of origin does not provide support resulting from other family ties. Family members of a person eligible for subsidiary protection are: 1) his or her spouse; 2) his or her or his or her spouse's unmarried minor child, including an adopted child; 3) a close relative not mentioned in clauses (1) and (2) of this section who lived with him or her in the country of origin and was dependent on him or her.</p> <p><b>3.</b> 2016 – 14 2015 – 17 2014 - 5 2013 – 0 2012 – 10</p> <p><b>4.</b> 2016 - 14 2015 - 19 2014 - 3 2013 - 1 2012 - 9</p> <p><b>5.</b> In practice there have been no cases of family reunification of children recognized as refugees or children who have been granted subsidiary protection. Unaccompanied minors are allowed family reunification, but they do not have the obligations of the sponsor until 18 years of age. According to the legislation the family members of an unaccompanied minor refugee and an unaccompanied minor person eligible for subsidiary protection are: 1) his or her parent; 2) his or her guardian or other family member if he or she has no parents or if the parents cannot be traced unless this is contrary to the rights and interests of the minor. In Estonia there are no family reunion visas as such and there is no practice for cases of family reunion where children recognized as refugees or granted subsidiary protection have been sponsors.</p> <p><b>6.</b> No.</p>
	Finland	Yes	<p><b>1.</b> According to Section 114 of Finnish Aliens Act, a residence permit is issued on the basis of family ties to a family member of a refugee or a person who has been issued with a residence permit on the basis of the need for subsidiary protection or temporary protection if: 1) the sponsor lives in Finland or has been issued with a residence permit for the purpose of moving to Finland; and 2) the applicant is not considered a danger to public order, security or health. In the Aliens Act there is no time limit for applying for family reunification. However, the family members of a sponsor who has been granted a refugee status are exempt</p>

			<p>from the requirement for means of support, provided that they apply for a residence permit within three months of the date when the sponsor was served the decision on his or her residence permit.</p> <p><b>2.</b> According to the Finnish Aliens Act, a person who has a continuous or permanent residence permit for Finland may act as a sponsor. According to the Aliens Act, the spouse of a sponsor residing in Finland and unmarried children under 18 years of age over whom the person residing in Finland or his or her spouse has guardianship are considered family members. A foster child can also, under certain conditions, be issued with a residence permit as a family member. A person of the same sex in a nationally registered partnership is also considered a family member. If the person residing in Finland is a minor, his or her guardian is considered a family member. Persons living in a marriage-like relationship regardless of their sex are comparable, under certain conditions, to a married couple. A residence permit can, on certain grounds, be issued to a relative other than a family member of a refugee or a beneficiary of subsidiary or temporary protection. Relatives other than family members can be issued with a residence permit if refusing a residence permit would be unreasonable because the persons concerned intend to resume their close family life in Finland or because the relative is fully dependent on the sponsor living in Finland.</p> <p><b>3.</b> In total 49 810 applications for family reunion between 2013 and 2017. Please see the enclosed table for more detailed information.</p> <p><b>4.</b> In total 34 707 residence permits have been granted between 2013 and 2017. Please see the enclosed table for more detailed information.</p> <p><b>5.</b> Yes. The general reform of Finnish Aliens Act came into force in 2004. Section 37 of the act stipulates who are considered family members of a person residing in Finland. If the person residing in Finland is a minor, his or her guardian is considered a family member. There are no exact statistics on the number of minor beneficiaries of international protection acting as sponsors of family reunification before the year 2011. However, towards the end of the first decade of the 2000s the number of applications filed by family members of beneficiaries of international protection had generally increased sharply, including applications by family members of unaccompanied minors. In 2010 there were legislative changes that affected the conditions for family reunification, particularly with regard to the family members of unaccompanied minors. In 2013, more than 150 guardians were issued a negative decision and only one guardian was granted a residence permit. Since then, applications by the family members of unaccompanied minors have</p>
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			<p>reduced. In total 58 residence permits have been granted between 2013 and 2017 where the sponsor was a child. Please see the enclosed table, "guardian of a person granted international protection".</p> <p><b>6.</b> There have been no specific analyses regarding cost or impact on public services concerning this group.</p>
	<p>France</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p><b>1.</b> Contrary to family reunification that concerns the entry and stay of family members of third-country nationals who are legally resident in France, no conditions of time, resources, accommodation or healthcare cover are required within the framework of family reunification of refugees. There are restrictions to relationships established before entry of the sponsor into France. In accordance with articles L.752-1 I, 1° and 2° and L.812-5 of the Code on Entry and Residence of Foreign Nationals and Right of Asylum (CESEDA), the refugee, beneficiary of subsidiary protection or stateless person may apply to be joined by his/her spouse or partner, as long as the marriage or civil union took place prior to the date upon which they requested protection. If the family reunification application concerns the sponsor's unmarried partner, he/she must prove that a "sufficiently stable and continuous cohabiting relationship" existed prior to the date of the asylum application. Furthermore, article L.752-1 of the CESEDA stipulates that "family reunification of refugees may only be refused if the sponsor does not comply with the essential principles that govern family life in the host country, France" and that a family member may be excluded from family reunification of refugees if his/her presence in France represents a threat to public policy.</p> <p><b>2.</b> Within the framework of family reunification of refugees, the refugee, beneficiary of subsidiary protection or stateless person may apply to be joined beyond the nuclear family by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• his/her first-degree relatives in the ascending line (parents) if he/she is an unmarried minor refugee, beneficiary of subsidiary protection or stateless person;</li> <li>• the couple's unmarried children aged 19 or under. The age limit is 18 if they are children from a previous relationship;</li> <li>• his/her partner with whom the sponsor is linked by a civil union, if they are over the age of 18 and the civil union took place prior to the date upon which they requested international protection (same sex or different sexes);</li> <li>• his/her unmarried partner, if he/she is over 18 and if a sufficiently stable and continuous cohabiting relationship has already existed before the application for international protection.</li> </ul> <p><b>3.</b> 2013: 4 773 2014: 6 193 2015: 5 761 2016: 6 697 2017: 6 851</p>



			<p>4. 2013: 4 107 2014: 4 329 2015: 4 150 2016: 3 788 2017: 3 783</p> <p>5. In application of articles L.752-1 and L.812-5 of the CESEDA, an unmarried minor refugee, beneficiary of subsidiary protection or stateless person may request the right to be joined by his/her first-degree relatives in the ascending line. No conditions of a waiting period, resources, accommodation or healthcare coverage are required. France does not require that the minor be unaccompanied. Thus, a minor living in France with his/her brother or sister (over 18) may request to be joined by his/her parents. No information available regarding the last question.</p> <p>6. No.</p>
	Germany	Yes	<p>1. There are no restrictive conditions for family members wishing to immigrate to Germany to join persons qualifying for international protection. Certain exemptions applying to family reunions are tied to time conditions, however. Where the application for a family reunion is filed within three months of the final, incontestable granting of international protection, the requirement to provide evidence of adequate means of subsistence and adequate accommodation is to be waived (this requirement may also be waived on a discretionary basis after the three-month period has elapsed). Where the marriage already existed prior to the person entitled to protection relocating their main place of residence to Germany, their spouse wishing to immigrate to Germany to join them is to be exempted from the requirement to prove that they possess a basic knowledge of German as a prerequisite for admission into the country.</p> <p>2. The spouse and the minor, unmarried children of a recognised refugee and a person qualifying for subsidiary protection are eligible to immigrate to Germany for the purposes of family reunion. Where the person qualifying for protection is a minor, their parents are eligible to immigrate to Germany for the purposes of family reunion, except where one parent entitled to custody of the minor is already resident in the federal territory. Other family members are eligible to immigrate to Germany for the purposes of family reunion in highly exceptional cases only, in order to avoid particular hardship. New provisions on family members joining persons qualifying for subsidiary protection for the purposes of family reunion are to be introduced by 31.07.2018. Until such new provisions are introduced, immigration to join persons qualifying for subsidiary protection whose residence titles were issued after 17.03.2016 will be suspended. In justified cases, family members may be admitted on humanitarian grounds, however.</p>

			<p><b>3.</b> see attached document</p> <p><b>4.</b> see attached document</p> <p><b>5.</b> Family reunification to unaccompanied children is governed in Section 36 of the Residence Act. By way of derogation from the children's subsistence and sufficient living space, a temporary residence permit shall be issued to the parents of a minor foreigner who possesses a temporary residence permit pursuant to special humanitarian reasons or pursuant to a granted refugee status. Other dependents of a child may be granted a temporary residence permit for the purpose of subsequent immigration to join the foreigner, if necessary in order to avoid particular hardship. Parents have an entitlement to immigrate to Germany to join a child enjoying international protection up to the child's coming of age, except where a parent entitled to custody of the child is already resident in Germany. For children recognised as refugees, this provision entered into force on 28.08.2007, thereby implementing Article 10 (3) lit. a of Directive 2003/84/EC (Family Reunification Directive). This provision has been in force since 01.08.2015 for children enjoying subsidiary protection. For the purposes of family reunion, this places them on an equal footing with children recognised as refugees. See also the answer to question 2., figures you will find in the attached document.</p> <p><b>6.</b> No.</p>
	Hungary	Yes	<p><b>1.</b> According to Subsection (6) of Section 57 of the Government Decree 114/2007 (V. 24.) on the Implementation of the Act II of 2007 on the Admission and Right of Residence of Third-Country Nationals (hereinafter RRTN) the family members of third-country nationals with refugee status shall verify their compliance with the requirements set out in Paragraphs e)-g) of Subsection (1) of Section 13 of the RRTN if more than three months have passed between the time when refugee status was granted and the time when the request for family reunification was lodged. According to Subsection (7) of Section 57 of the Government Decree 114/2007 (V. 24.) on the Implementation of the RRTN the concessions referred to in Subsection (6) shall not be available in connection with applications for residence permit submitted by the family members of third-country nationals who has been granted subsidiary protection status. The above-mentioned timeframe means that in case the family members of third-country nationals with refugee status request for family reunification in this timeframe, they will not have to verify that they have accommodation in the territory of Hungary, they have sufficient means of subsistence and financial resources to cover their accommodation costs for the duration of the intended stay and for the return to their country of origin or</p>


			<p>transit to a third country and they have full healthcare insurance or sufficient financial resources for healthcare services. However, they still have the opportunity to apply for residence permit for family reunification if they miss this deadline but then they have to verify all the requirements.</p> <p><b>2.</b> According to Paragraph (d) of Section 2 of the RRTN 'family member' shall mean: da) the spouse of a third-country national; db) the minor child (including adopted children) of a third-country national and his/her spouse; dc) the minor child, including adopted and foster children, of a third-country national where this third-country national has parental custody and the children are dependent on him/her; dd) the minor child, including adopted and foster children, of the spouse of a third-country national where the spouse has parental custody and the children are dependent on him/her; According to Subsection (2) of Section 19 of the RRTN the following persons may be granted a residence permit on the grounds of family reunification: a) family members of persons with refugee status, and b) the parents of unaccompanied minors with refugee status, or their legally appointed guardian. According to Subsection (4) of Section 19 of the RRTN the following relatives of sponsors, the spouses of sponsors or persons with refugee status may be granted a residence permit on the grounds of family reunification: a) their parents who are dependants; b) their brothers and sisters, if they are unable to provide for themselves due to health reasons. According to Subsection (5) of Section 19 of the RRTN the spouse of a person with refugee status may be issued a residence permit for the purpose of family reunification if their marriage was contracted before the entry of the person with refugee status into the territory of Hungary. The family members of persons with refugee status shall mean as well as the family members of third-country nationals who has been granted subsidiary protection status in the usage of the RRTN.</p> <p><b>3.</b> We have only available data for 2015, 2016 and 2017 regarding the applications of family members of third-country nationals under international protection. 2015: 67 applications 2016: 127 applications 2017: 31 applications</p> <p><b>4.</b> We have only available data for 2015, 2016 and 2017 regarding the family members of third-country nationals under international protection whose applications were accepted. 2015: 38 people 2016: 79 people 2017: 33 people</p> <p><b>5.</b> According to Paragraph b) of Subsection (2) of Section 19 of the RRTN the following persons may be granted a residence permit on the grounds of family reunification: the parents of unaccompanied minors</p>
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			<p>with refugee status, or their legally appointed guardian. We do not have any information about the impact of this measure or statistics.</p> <p><b>6.</b> N / A.</p>
	Italy	Yes	<p><b>1.</b> According to Art. 28 of the Legislative Decree n. 286 of the 25 July 1998, the right to maintain or reacquire family reunion is recognized to third country nationals holding residence permits, of not less than one year, issued for paid employment, self-employment, asylum, study or religious reasons. No restrictions are placed in this context. Once, verified the family relationship, the related visa is issued within 90 days. The related visa must be used within 6 months from the issuing date.</p> <p><b>2.</b> According to Art. 29 of the Legislative Decree n. 286 of the 25 July 1998, the foreigner can request reunification for the following family members: • not legally separated spouse; • dependent minor children, including those of the spouse, regardless of whether they were born in or out of wedlock, provided that spouse has given the consent; • adult dependent children, if for objective reasons they can not provide their indispensable life needs because of their state of health that leads to total invalidity; • dependent relatives, if they do not have other children in their country of origin or provenance, or parents over sixty-five, if other children are unable to support them for documented, serious health reasons; • relatives within the third degree, dependent, unable to work according to Italian legislation.</p> <p><b>3.</b> see file attached</p> <p><b>4.</b> see file attached</p> <p><b>5.</b> According to Art. 29 bis, subparagraph 3 of the Legislative Decree n. 286 of the 25 July 1998, if the refugee is an unaccompanied minor, entry and residence for the purposes of family reunification is allowed for first degree direct relatives in the ascending lines, thus favoring the restoration of the family unit, with requests that may be advanced at any time. In the last five years, a total number of 82 family reunion visas have been granted, according to the sponsor of a child. For data broken per year see file attached</p> <p><b>6.</b> Yes. According to the technical report attached to the scheme of legislative decree n. 18 regarding the implementation of Directive 2003/86 / EC on the right of family reunification, the provisions do not have</p>

			any financial effects on public services, involving only some organisational burdens of little importance for the public administrations concerned, which could be faced with the already available resources.
	Latvia	Yes	<p><b>1.</b> 1. A refugee or a person having acquired subsidiary protection has the right to reunite with family members who are in foreign countries. The person having acquired subsidiary protection has such right, if he or she has resided in the Republic of Latvia for at least two years after acquisition of such status. Other restrictions regarding timeframes has not been foreseen under national law. An unaccompanied minor who has been granted refugee or subsidiary protection status and who is not married has the right to reunite with mother and father who have arrived from a foreign country. A family member of the refugee shall be issued a permanent residence permit (registration each 5 years). A temporary residence permit shall be issued to the family member of a person having acquired subsidiary protection for the same time period as the temporary residence permit has been issued to the person having acquired subsidiary protection.</p> <p><b>2.</b> The spouse of refugee or a person who has been granted subsidiary protection and also the minor child of refugee or a person who has been granted subsidiary protection; the spouse of such person, who is not married and is dependent on both or one of the spouses or is adopted; as well as father and mother of the minor refugee or subsidiary protection granted person who is not married, provided that such family has already existed in the country of origin.</p> <p><b>3.</b> Year 2013 – 0, Year 2014 – 1 person, Year 2015 – 0, Year 2016 – 14 persons, Year 2017 – 1 person.</p> <p><b>4.</b> Year 2013 – 0, Year 2014 – 1 person, Year 2015 – 0, Year 2016 – 14 persons, Year 2017 – 1 person.</p> <p><b>5.</b> Yes. In the last five years Latvia has not had any family reunification case where the sponsor would have been a child granted international protection.</p> <p><b>6.</b> Not analysed so far.</p>
	Lithuania	Yes	<p><b>1.</b> If family members of a foreigner who was granted asylum (international protection) in the Republic of Lithuania apply for a residence card on the basis of family reunion and do so within 3 months since the foreigner was granted asylum, then such family members are not required to have valid health insurance,</p>


			<p>sufficient funds and (or) regular income that are adequate to live in Lithuania. They are also not required to have an accommodation in Lithuania. Family members of the foreigners who were granted asylum (international protection) in the Republic of Lithuania may be restricted from international protection in the Republic of Lithuania, if there are serious grounds for believing that: - he/she has committed a serious non-political crime before entering the Republic of Lithuania, or has been found guilty of acts contrary to the purposes and principles of the United Nations or has incited or otherwise participated in the commission of such crimes or such acts; - he/she has committed a crime against peace, a crime against humanity or a war crime or has incited or otherwise participated in the commission of such crimes; - his/her stay in the Republic of Lithuania represents a threat to national security or he/she has been convicted by a final judgment of a particularly serious crime and represents a threat to the community; - he/she has committed a serious or a particularly serious crime or has instigated or otherwise participated in committing such crime; - he/she has left his/her country of origin solely in order to avoid sanctions resulting from the committed crime and imprisonment is provided for by laws of the Republic of Lithuania for committing such crime.</p> <p><b>2.</b> These family members are eligible to join a person who was recognised refugee status or subsidiary protection on the basis of family reunion: - the person's spouse or the person with whom a registered partnership has been contracted; - minor children and (or) minor children fostered by the person's spouse; - first-degree relative in the direct ascending line who for at least 1 year has been supported by a foreigner, who was granted international protection in Lithuania, and cannot benefit from the support of other family members residing abroad. - parents of a foreign minor who was granted international protection in Lithuania. Additionally, on the basis of family reunion, foreigner who was recognized refugee status can be joined by his/her minor children if such foreigner is not employable due to old pension age or disability.</p> <p><b>3.</b> N/A (there is no possibility to provide such statistical data)</p> <p><b>4.</b> N/A (there is no possibility to provide such statistical data)</p> <p><b>5.</b> Minor child who was granted asylum (international protection) in Lithuania can sponsor his/her parents for the purpose of family reunion. From 16/12/2006 to 28/02/2015 parents could reunite with their minor child who was granted refugee status. From 01/03/2015 parents can reunite with their minor child who was granted refugee status or subsidiary protection. There is no possibility to provide such statistical data.</p>
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			<b>6. No.</b>
	Luxembourg	Yes	<p><b>1.</b> If the beneficiary of international protection (refugee status and subsidiary protection status) lodges the application for family reunification within the three months following the granting of the status, the sponsor does not have to fulfil any of the requirements relating to stable, regular and sufficient resources, appropriate accommodation and health insurance established in article 69 (1) of the amended law of 29 August 2008 on free movement of persons and immigration (Immigration Law). If the application is made after the three-month period, the applicant must fulfil these conditions, as any other third-country national: a provide proof that s/he has stable, regular and sufficient resources[i] (salary, wages, income from assets) to support him/herself and the family members under his or her care, without having to resort to social welfare ; b have appropriate accommodation to host the family member(s)[ii]; c have health insurance cover for him/herself and the family member(s) (health insurance certificate covering their stay in Luxembourg issued by a Luxembourg or foreign social security authority and/or by a private insurance company).</p> <p><b>2.</b> The Immigration Law allows the family reunification of his/her spouse or legal partner and his/her minor unmarried children. The Immigration Law[iii] also establishes that the Minister in charge of Immigration authorises the entry and stay, for the purposes of family reunification, of first-degree relatives in the direct ascending line of an unaccompanied minor enjoying international protection. In this case the conditions of dependency are not applied.[iv] Furthermore, the Immigration Law[v] foresees that the minister may allow family reunification of the legal guardian or any other member of the family of an unaccompanied minor enjoying international protection, if the minor has no relatives in a direct ascending line or no such relatives can be traced. Beside these cases, the law grants the Minister a discretionary power to authorise a family reunification of: " first-degree relatives in the direct ascending line of the sponsor or of his/her spouse or legal partner, if they are dependent on them and do not enjoy proper family support in their country of origin ; " unmarried adult children of the sponsor and/or of his/her spouse or legal partner, provided that they are objectively incapable to provide for themselves due to their health condition.</p> <p><b>3.</b> 2011 2012 2013 2014 2015 2016 2017 12 15 18 18 77 144 282</p> <p><b>4.</b> 2011 2012 2013 2014 2015 2016 2017 9 12 16 10 59 94 174</p>

			<p><b>5.</b> See answer question 2. Family reunification of unaccompanied minors is authorized in Luxembourg since the entry into force of the abrogated law of 5 May 2006 (abrogated Asylum Law). There has not been a significant number of applications. Luxembourg does not grant family reunification visas. It grants a family reunification authorization of stay. However, there is no information available.</p> <p><b>6.</b> No.</p>
	Malta	Yes	<p><b>1.</b> Only persons granted refugee status are eligible for family reunification. The requirements for such requests are processed in accordance with the provisions of Part VII of the Subsidiary Legislation 217.06 [<a href="http://justiceservices.gov.mt/DownloadDocument.aspx?app=lom&amp;itemid=9561&amp;l=1">http://justiceservices.gov.mt/DownloadDocument.aspx?app=lom&amp;itemid=9561&amp;l=1</a>].</p> <p><b>2.</b> Persons enjoying subsidiary protection are, in accordance with the provisions of Directive 2003/86, excluded from the scope of the relative provisions.</p> <p><b>3.</b> The following table represents individual requests by third-country nationals to admit their family members to Malta received by Identity Malta. The sponsors were not necessarily beneficiaries of international protection. Please refer to attached table.</p> <p><b>4.</b> Please refer to attached table.</p> <p><b>5.</b> Please refer to the provisions of Part VII of the legislation referred to in question1 If yes; When did you start allowing child sponsors and what impact did this have? In principle, Malta has always applied the provisions of Part VII of S.L.217.06 regarding the admission of family members by their child sponsors. Such provisions were applied even before their enactment in 2017. If yes;How many family reunion visas have you granted, in the last five years, where the sponsor was a child? Malta has had no requests for family reunification by children residing in Malta.</p> <p><b>6.</b> No.</p>
	Netherlands	Yes	<p><b>1.</b> General remark: It should be noted that the Netherlands does not differentiate in their asylum policy and family reunification policy between refugees and beneficiaries of subsidiary protection. Both groups receive the same type of residence permit, with the same conditions and rights. Unlike in other countries, in the</p>

		<p>Netherlands, the Family Reunification Directive is applied for both refugees and beneficiaries of subsidiary protection. Beneficiaries of international protection have to apply for family reunification within three months after they receive a positive decision on their asylum application. If they apply for family reunification within these three months, the family members who will come to the Netherlands will be granted an asylum residence permit. This type of family reunification is called ‘asylum family reunification’ ( in Dutch ‘nareis’). Moreover, there are additional requirements, such as that the family ties between the sponsor and the family member can be shown or that the family member does not constitute a danger to public order or national security. If beneficiaries of international protection fail to apply for family reunification within three months, they can still apply for reunification, but their family will receive a ‘regular’ residence permit . This means that there are stricter requirements for the reunification (e.g. income requirement, age limit, exclusion of children over 18 years, language test abroad etc.) These stricter requirements always apply in case of family formation. This type of family reunification is called ‘regular family reunification’. There are thus two different kinds of family reunification in the Netherlands: 1) asylum family reunification and 2) regular family reunification. Moreover, all third-country nationals that have a residence permit in the Netherlands may apply for a residence permit based on article 8 of the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR) for their family members. This possibility can for example be used if they do not fulfill the requirements for asylum family reunification or regular family reunification. For more information on these different types of family reunification and the requirements for each category, please see the Dutch national report for the EMN family reunification study: <a href="http://www.emnnetherlands.nl/EMN_GHDL_engels3833.pdf?type=pdf&amp;objectid=emn:4654&amp;versionid=&amp;subobjectname=">http://www.emnnetherlands.nl/EMN_GHDL_engels3833.pdf?type=pdf&amp;objectid=emn:4654&amp;versionid=&amp;subobjectname=</a></p>
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**2.** To answer this question, we have to take in mind the difference that was clarified in the previous question between on the one hand asylum family reunification and on the other hand regular family reunification. For both categories the following family members are eligible for family reunification: partners/spouses and minor children. Whereas adult children and parents of minor children are eligible for asylum family reunification, they are not eligible for regular family reunification. Other family members, such as parents of adult children, grand parents, brothers and sisters, uncles and aunts, are not eligible for family reunification under Dutch policy. However, they can still apply for a residence permit based on article 8 ECHR (see answer to previous question).


			<p><b>3.</b> 2014: 26.137 2015: 39.696 2016: 54.148 Please note that the numbers for the Netherlands cover three ‘types’ of family reunification: 1) Regular family reunification, 2) asylum family reunification and 3) family life under article 8 of the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR). Please note that for family reunification of beneficiaries of international protection the numbers refer to the entry visas for family reunification (machtiging tot voorlopig verblijf, MVV). Source: Synthesis report of the EMN study on family reunification (2017), Table A1.1 ‘Statistics on the total number of family reunification applications disaggregated by gender of the sponsor (2011-2016)’: <a href="https://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/sites/homeaffairs/files/00_family_reunification_synthesis_report_final_en_print_ready_0.pdf">https://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/sites/homeaffairs/files/00_family_reunification_synthesis_report_final_en_print_ready_0.pdf</a></p> <p><b>4.</b> 2014: 15.722 2015: 25.368 2016: 28.728 Please note that only applications that have been granted in the first-instance decision are included here. Applications granted after appeal are not included. Please also note that the numbers for the Netherlands cover three ‘types’ of family reunification: 1) Regular family reunification, 2) asylum family reunification and 3) family life under article 8 of the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR). Please note that for family reunification of beneficiaries of international protection the numbers refer to the entry visas for family reunification (machtiging tot voorlopig verblijf, MVV). Source: Synthesis report of the EMN study on family reunification (2017), Table A1.2 ‘Statistics on the total number of successful family reunification applications disaggregated by gender of the sponsor (2011-2016)’: <a href="https://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/sites/homeaffairs/files/00_family_reunification_synthesis_report_final_en_print_ready_0.pdf">https://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/sites/homeaffairs/files/00_family_reunification_synthesis_report_final_en_print_ready_0.pdf</a></p> <p><b>5.</b> Yes, unaccompanied minors with a valid asylum permit can act as a sponsor for their family members. Their parents are eligible for asylum family reunification, provided that the 3-month deadline as described in question 1 is respected. Moreover, unaccompanied minors can also act as a sponsor for their brothers and sisters; they are eligible for a residence permit based on article 8 ECHR. Specific figures on visas or residence permits for family reunification where the sponsor was a minor are not publicly available.</p> <p><b>6.</b> No, the Dutch authorities have not analyzed the cost and/or impact on public services of those granted family reunion.</p>
	Poland	Yes	<p><b>1.</b> In Poland people who have acquired international protection can easier obtain short time permit (family reunification reason). Foreigners who submit a proper application within 6 months of the date of obtaining</p>


			<p>the refugee status or subsidiary protection, are exempted from the obligation to prove they have a stable and constant source of income, health insurance and guaranteed place of registered residence.</p> <p><b>2.</b> • a person who is married to the foreigner and the marriage is recognized under the law of the Republic of Poland; • a minor who is a child, including an adopted child, of the foreigner and a person whom the foreigner married and the marriage is recognised under the Polish law; • the foreigner's (sponsor's) child, also a foster child, who is a minor being the foreigner's dependant over whom the foreigner exercises actual parental authority; • a child, also a foster child, of the spouse joining the foreigner residing in Poland (stepson/stepdaughter), who is a minor being the foreigner's dependant over whom the foreigner exercises actual parental authority.</p> <p><b>3.</b> 2013 - 9619 2014 - 9836 2015 - 8801 2016 - 12021 2017 - 14591</p> <p><b>4.</b> 2013 - 8460 2014 - 9199 2015 - 9838 2016 - 7882 2017 - 9342</p> <p><b>5.</b> Yes. There was only few cases of children-sponsors in the last few years.</p> <p><b>6.</b> No. Statistics on residence permits issued on the grounds of family reunification are interesting. In some countries, such as Croatia, Greece, Luxembourg, Spain, Belgium, Italy, Portugal and Germany, these permits constitute as much as half of all permits issued. However, there are countries where the percentage of residence permits issued on the grounds of family reunification is very insignificant. Such situation exists in Lithuania, Cyprus, the Great Britain, Malta, Ireland and Poland. In Poland, the ratio barely reaches 1%, which is the lowest percentage of family reunification permits issued in the total number of permits issued in all of the European Union. That is why this impact hasn't been analysed.</p>
	Slovak Republic	Yes	<p><b>1.</b> In the SR, after conditions set by the law are met, TCNs as well as persons granted international protection are granted temporary residence for the purpose of family reunification. Persons granted international protection do not have any restrictions placed by the law in comparison with the TCNs – on the contrary, if a TCN files an application for granting temporary residence for the purpose of family reunification with a person granted asylum within three months from the day of granting asylum to this person, s/he only submits a valid travel document and document proving his/her family relationship or other proof of existence of such relationship. These persons are also, in cases set by the Act on Residence of</p>



			<p>Aliens, exempted from administrative fees for certain items listed in the Annex of this Act (such as issuance of the Alien's passport).</p> <p><b>2.</b> Temporary residence for the purpose of family unification shall be granted by a police department, if there are no reasons for the refusal of the application in accordance with Art. 33 par. 4, to a third country national who is a family member of a third country national with temporary residence or with permanent residence (this includes also person with subsidiary protection), (...). A relative of a TCN is considered to be: a spouse, if the marrieds are at least 18 years; a single child younger than 18 years of age of a TCN and his/her spouse; his/her single child younger than 18 years of age; a single child of his/her spouse younger than 18 years of age; his/her unattended single child older than 18 years of age or dependent single child older than 18 years of age of his/her spouse who cannot take care of him/herself due to long term unfavourable health condition; his/her parent or a parent of his/her spouse who is dependent on his/her care and lacks appropriate family support in the country of origin.</p> <p><b>3.</b> N/A</p> <p><b>4.</b> Data provided to the EMN Annual Report on Migration and Asylum related to first residence permits to TCNs in line with the EUROSTAT definition (European residence statistics in line with regulation EC 862/2007), more specifically the table RP 1 – first residence permits granted due to family reasons, i.e. for the purpose of creating or reuniting the family. Statistics of first residence permits that SR granted to TCNs for the purpose of family reunification (sent to Eurostat as a table RP 1) Year RP1 Family 2013 1 411 2014 1 735 2015 2 541 2016 2 582 2017 2 620 Definition: First residence permit is a permit granted to a specific person for the first time with minimum validity of 3 months. First residence permit can also be considered such permit of which the time period between expiration of previous one and beginning of the new permit is at least 6 months.</p> <p><b>5.</b> This is only possible if a child has a status of refugee (was granted asylum) in the territory of the SR and wishes to be reunited with his/her relative. This is not possible in case of a child who was granted subsidiary protection. Legislation that governs this rule was adopted already in the previous legal provision - Act on Residence of Aliens n.48/2002 Coll. and is derived from the Act on Asylum n. 480/2002 Coll. SR does not collect the statistics regarding the residence granted in relations to the personality of a sponsor.</p>
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			<b>6. No.</b>
	Sweden	Yes	<p><b>1.</b> A temporary act on restrictions of the possibility of being granted a residence permit in Sweden (Lag om tillfälliga begränsningar av möjligheten att få uppehållstillstånd i Sverige, the Temporary act) was adopted by Parliament and entered into force on 20 July 2016. This act will be in force until 19 July 2019. A major difference in the Temporary act compared to the Aliens Act is that beneficiaries of international protection (BIPs) are awarded temporary residence permits (not permanent) upon their first application (3 years for refugees and 13 months for those eligible for subsidiary protection). The temporary act also limits the right to family reunification. Under the Temporary act, asylum seekers granted subsidiary protection (status) do not generally have the right to family reunification. Only if a decision not to grant this right would contravene a Swedish commitment under an international convention, a relative may be granted a residence permit. Asylum seekers who are awarded refugee status and who are granted temporary permits under the temporary act continue to have the right to family reunification with nuclear family members, as do persons who are resettled to Sweden, irrespective of their protection status. Children with refugee status have the right to be reunited with their parents. Sponsors need to prove they have sufficient financial resources to provide for themselves (and their family members). There are particular provisions on how the financial resources of the sponsor should be assessed. The only maintenance requirement in the Aliens Act stipulates that sponsors can support themselves. For applications considered under the Temporary act, the requirement is broadened so that the sponsor must be able to support also his/her family members who come to Sweden. According to the provisions in the Temporary act there is a grace period for beneficiaries of international protection (BIPs) of three months before the accommodation and maintenance requirements are applied. In practice this means that, to be exempted from the maintenance requirement, an application for family reunification needs to be made within three months from the date at which the sponsor received a residence permit. This grace period cannot be extended. For more information please see the SE national report to the EMN study "Family Reunification of Third-Country Nationals in the EU plus Norway: National Practices"</p> <p><b>2.</b> For the person granted refugee status family reunification is possible for the “nuclear family”. This includes the sponsor’s spouse and minor (including adopted) children of the sponsor and/or his/her spouse. The possibility in Sweden of family reunification of extended family members rests primarily on the concept of “joint household” (hushållsgemenskap). The circle of relatives (dependent persons) which may be awarded a residence permit on these grounds is not specified in the Aliens Act or national case law.</p>

			<p>However, the premise which needs to be at hand to start with is that the sponsor and the applicant have lived in a joint household in their country of origin (abroad). An additional condition is that the sponsor and the close relative have a particular dependency upon one another (särskilt beroendeförhållande), which existed already in the country of origin. As stated in question 1, persons granted subsidiary protection are not entitled to family reunification according to the current, temporary, legislation.</p> <p><b>3.</b> Total (not only family reunification for persons granted international protection): 2017: 54 524 2016: 65 035 2015: 60 463 2014: 62 694 2013: 52 719</p> <p><b>4.</b> Total family reunification 2017: 48 046 (includes 19 124 family members of beneficiaries of international protection) Total family reunification 2016: 39 007 (includes 15 149 family members of beneficiaries of international protection) Total family reunification 2015: 37 262 (includes 16 251 family members of beneficiaries of international protection) Total family reunification 2014: 35 960 (includes 13 100 family members of beneficiaries of international protection) Total family reunification 2013: 34 019 (includes 10 673 family members of beneficiaries of international protection)</p> <p><b>5.</b> Unaccompanied minors (UAMs) who are beneficiaries of international protection can, according to the Aliens Act, be sponsors to reunite with their parents. The Temporary act of 2016 in principle restricts this right to UAMs who are refugees. In 2017, 3 683 individuals were granted a residence permit for family reunification in Sweden, where the sponsor was a child. (Unfortunately, comparable data for earlier years are not available from the same source.)</p> <p><b>6.</b> No</p>
	United Kingdom	Yes	<p><b>1.</b> Those granted under family reunion provisions are granted leave in line with their sponsor and are entitled to the same rights and benefits. They do not have to apply within a certain timeframe.</p> <p><b>2.</b> Our family reunion policy allows a partner and children under the age of 18 of those granted protection in the UK to join them here, if they formed part of the family unit before the sponsor fled their country. Where an application fails under the Immigration Rules, we consider whether there are exceptional or compassionate reasons for granting a visa outside the Rules. This caters for extended family members in exceptional circumstances. There are other provisions within the Immigration Rules for those with refugee</p>

			<p>status or humanitarian protection can sponsor adult dependent relatives living overseas to join them where, because of age, illness or disability, that person requires long-term personal care that can only be provided by their relative in the UK. They must be able to support the individual without recourse to public funds.</p> <p><b>3.</b> Family reunion entry clearance applications are included in the ‘Family: Other’ category in published statistics. Whilst this includes a small number of other cases, the vast majority relate to family reunion. Published data for out of country entry clearance visas granted in the Family: Other’ category from year ending September 2013 to September 2017 is below: Year ending Sept 2013 Sept 2014 Sept 2015 Sept 2016 Sept 2017 Total Total 4,192 4,643 4,504 6,179 5,197 24,715 Family members from Syria, Eritrea, Sudan, Iran and Somalia accounted for 73% of the family reunion visas issued in the year ending September 2017.</p> <p><b>4.</b> We have granted over 24,000 family reunion visas over the last five years.</p> <p><b>5.</b> No. We support the principle of family unity and have several routes for families to be reunited safely</p> <p><b>6.</b> This is currently being considered.</p>
	Norway	Yes	<p><b>1.</b> Yes, there are restrictions that directly impact the right to family reunion for those who are granted international protection in Norway. If the applicant is married to, cohabitant with or the child of a person who has been granted protection in Norway, the applicant can get family immigration to Norway without any requirements/stipulations as to this person’s income. However, there are deadlines. This (income waiver) only applies if the applicant applies within the deadlines (unless the applicant has been prevented from submitting an application at an earlier time because of factors beyond the applicant’s control). In order to be exempted from the income requirement, it is a condition that: · the application is registered electronically in the (Norwegian government) Application Portal and the fee is paid (10 500 NOK = 1 100 Euro) within six months after the sponsor was granted a residence permit · the applicant meets at a Norwegian foreign service mission or an application centre and hands in all the documents there within one year after the sponsor was granted a residence permit Also, a residence permit under provisions for family immigration may be refused if family life can be exercised in a safe country which the family is generally more closely connected to, and the reference person has a residence permit as a refugee in that safe country. If the person who has been granted protection in Norway establishes new family relations after settling in</p>

			<p>Norway, it is a condition for a residence permit that the sponsor has worked or studied in Norway for four years and that the parties, if they are spouses or cohabitants, are at least 24 years old.</p> <p><b>2.</b> Spouses, cohabitants and children are eligible to join a refugee. Also, parents and siblings are eligible to join a minor refugee.</p> <p><b>3.</b> see attached table. Norway: 20,313</p> <p><b>4.</b> see attached table Norway: 16,452</p> <p><b>5.</b> Yes, children recognized as refugees can sponsor relatives (parents and siblings) for purposes of family reunion (The Norwegian Immigration Act section 43). Children who are granted subsidiary protection with one parent cannot sponsor the other parent because the Immigration Act section 43 is intended for parents of lone/unaccompanied children who come to Norway without parents. Yes, children recognized as refugees and children granted subsidiary protection can sponsor relatives (parents and siblings) for purposes of family reunion, see the Immigration Act section 43. b) Norway started allowing child sponsors when the former Immigration Act was implemented 1.1.1991. Norway has not conducted a study to determine the impact this has had on immigration patterns - so any comment would only be speculation. However, it is an interesting issue and we will suggest it for future research. c) see attached response/ table - there has been a steady increase in family reunions for this group since 2013.</p> <p><b>6.</b> Norway has not analyzed the cost and/or impact on public services of those granted family reunion.</p>
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