

Practical Guide on the Solidarity Mechanism

Operational implementation of relocation

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Part I: Operational implementation of relocation

March 2026

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About the guide

Why was this guide created? The mission of the European Union Agency for Asylum (EUAA) is to facilitate and support the activities of the EU Member States and Schengen associated countries ⁽¹⁾ in the implementation of the Common European Asylum System. In accordance with its overall aim of promoting the correct and effective implementation of the Common European Asylum System and of enabling convergence, the EUAA develops common operational standards and indicators, guidelines and practical tools.

How was this guide developed? This guide was created by experts from across the EU, with valuable input from the European Commission, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the International Organization for Migration ⁽²⁾. The development was facilitated and coordinated by the EUAA. Before its finalisation, a consultation on the guide was carried out with all EU Member States and Schengen associated countries through the EUAA Asylum and Migration Management Network (AMMN). The EUAA would like to extend its thanks to the members of the working group who prepared the drafting of this guide: Martine Behaeghel, Pauline Coulbeaux, Nadine Dick, Katerina Gkiouli, Clara González Puente, Helena Ibraj, Tania Marques and Deborah Di Pasquale.

Who should use this guide? This guide is primarily intended for asylum case officers, AMMR officers, relocation officers, interviewers and decision-makers, as well as policymakers in the national determining authorities. The guidance is particularly intended for persons involved in the practical implementation of relocation. Additionally, this tool is useful for quality officers and legal advisers, as well as any other person working or involved in the field of international protection in the EU context.

Scope. This guide is intended to support the practical implementation of the AMMR solidarity mechanism. As such, aspects related to how Member States choose to provide their solidarity contributions, the work of the high-level solidarity forum or the work of the technical-level solidarity forum are outside of the scope of the guide. Part I of the guide covers the operational implementation of relocation whilst a Part II will cover the operational implementation of responsibility offsets.

How to use this guide. This guide is structured into three main sections. The first part introduces the reader to the AMMR solidarity mechanism. Part two covers the practical implementation of relocation under AMMR. The third part covers responsibility determination after relocation. The guide also contains a number of annexes including checklists, templates and leaflets for practitioners.

⁽¹⁾ The 27 EU Member States and Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland.

⁽²⁾ Note that the finalised guide does not necessarily reflect the positions of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the International Organization for Migration .

How does this guide relate to national legislation and practice? This is a soft convergence tool. It is not legally binding and reflects commonly agreed standards as adopted by the EUAA Management Board in March 2026.

How does this guide relate to other EUAA tools? The *EUAA Practical Guide on the Solidarity Mechanism* should be used in conjunction with other available practical guides and tools. All EUAA practical tools are publicly available online on the EUAA website: <https://euaa.europa.eu/practical-tools-and-guides>.

Disclaimer

This guide was prepared without prejudice to the principle that only the Court of Justice of the European Union can give an authoritative interpretation of EU law.

Following an initial period of implementation of the Pact, this document may require updating, as needed.



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1 List of abbreviations

Abbreviation	Definition
AMMR	Asylum and Migration Management Regulation — Regulation (EU) 2024/1351 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 14 May 2024 on asylum and migration management, amending Regulations (EU) 2021/1147 and (EU) 2021/1060 and repealing Regulation (EU) No 604/2013
APR	Asylum Procedure Regulation — Regulation (EU) 2024/1348 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 14 May 2024 establishing a common procedure for international protection in the Union and repealing Directive 2013/32/EU.
EUAA	European Union Agency for Asylum
Eurodac Regulation	Regulation (EU) 2024/1358 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 14 May 2024 on the establishment of ‘Eurodac’ for the comparison of biometric data in order to effectively apply Regulations (EU) 2024/1351 and (EU) 2024/1350 of the European Parliament and of the Council and Council Directive 2001/55/EC and to identify illegally staying third-country nationals and stateless persons and on requests for the comparison with Eurodac data by Member States’ law enforcement authorities and Europol for law enforcement purposes, amending Regulations (EU) 2018/1240 and (EU) 2019/818 of the European Parliament and of the Council and repealing Regulation (EU) No 603/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council
EU+ countries	Member States of the European Union and Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland
Member States	Member States of the European Union
Screening Regulation	Regulation (EU) 2024/1356 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 14 May 2024 introducing the screening of third-country nationals at the external borders and amending Regulations (EC) No 767/2008, (EU) 2017/2226, (EU) 2018/1240 and (EU) 2019/817



2 Introduction

2.1 Structure and elements of the guidance

This practical guide is structured in three basic parts. The first part provides a brief introduction to the AMMR and the solidarity mechanism to give the reader useful background information that can help the understanding of the other parts of this guide.

The second part includes guidance on the practical implementation of relocation (Chapter 4). The third part focuses on the responsibility of Member States of Relocation after the relocation has taken place (Chapter 5). The guide also includes annexes containing checklists and other practical tools for practitioners to use in their day-to-day work implementing these measures.

2.2 Boxes used throughout the guide

The guide uses a number of visual aids to draw the attention of the reader to key content.



Remember

This box is included at the end of a chapter or section and draws the attention of the reader to summarised key points from that part of the guide.



Note

This box highlights a particularly important concept, practice or element.



Good practice

This box draws attention to a specific practice that can help Member State authorities to effectively implement a specific part of a procedure. Given differences in how Member States authorities are organised, or the specific conditions in different Member States, all good practices may not be applicable to all Member States. As such, the suitability of implementing good practices will depend on individual assessments in each Member State.

AMMR



Article x

AMMR Implementing Regulation

Article x



The type of legal reference box above gives the reader a reference to a legal provision which is important for that section of the guide but without including the text of that provision.



EUAA Practical Guide on ...

This type of light blue box introduces an existing publication, practical tool or training provided by the EUAA with particular relevance for that section of the guide.

2.3 Key terminology and concepts

The legal definitions of terms are provided in Article 2 AMMR (the asylum and migration management Regulation) ⁽³⁾. This section clarifies some concepts that may be of practical importance for practitioners to better understand this guide.

This guide refers to applicants for international protection, beneficiaries of international protection and persons. Unless something else is noted explicitly, the following is meant:

- **applicant for international protection** refers to a person that has made an application for international protection in the benefitting Member State.
- **beneficiary of international protection** refers to a person that has been granted international protection in the benefitting Member State, less than three years prior to the adoption of the council implementing act referred to in Article 57 AMMR.
- **person** refers to someone that can be either an applicant for international protection or a beneficiary of international protection as per above.

Regarding the roles of Member States in the relocation process, different terms are used to denote the stage of the procedure and the different roles, as follows.

- **Benefitting Member State** means a Member State benefitting from solidarity contributions as set out in Part IV of [the AMMR] ⁽⁴⁾.
- **Contributing Member State** means a Member State that provides or is obliged to provide solidarity contributions to a benefitting Member State as set out in Part IV of [the AMMR] ⁽⁵⁾.
- **Member State of relocation** is used synonymously with the contributing Member State in this guide when referring to any procedure to relocate individual applicants or beneficiaries of international protection to that Member State. This corresponds to the use of the term in the AMMR and AMMR Implementing Regulation ⁽⁶⁾.

⁽³⁾ Regulation (EU) 2024/1351 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 14 May 2024 on asylum and migration management, amending Regulations (EU) 2021/1147 and (EU) 2021/1060 and repealing Regulation (EU) No 604/2013 (OJ L, 2024/1351, 22.5.2024), <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2024/1351/oj>.

⁽⁴⁾ Article 2(19) AMMR.

⁽⁵⁾ Article 2(20) AMMR.

⁽⁶⁾ Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2025/2055 of 2 October 2025 laying down rules for the application of Regulation (EU) 2024/1351 of the European Parliament and of the Council, as regards asylum and migration management and repealing Commission Regulation (EC) No 1560/2003 (OJ L, 2025/2055, 12.11.2025), http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg_impl/2025/2055/oj.



The AMMR and the asylum procedures Regulation (APR) ⁽⁷⁾ requires that Member States organise several different interviews with applicants for international protection. Whilst these interviews serve different purposes, the legislative acts refer to all of them as ‘personal interviews’. To ensure that it is clear for the reader which interview is intended, the following terms are used in this guide.

- The **responsibility personal interview** refers to the interview laid down in Article 22 AMMR. The interview is a step in the process of determining the Member State responsible for examining an application for international protection in the context of Article 39 AMMR (submitting a take charge request). The interview also enables the applicant to understand the information that they have been provided.
- The **relocation personal security interview** refers to the interview laid down in Article 67(8) AMMR, which is intended for the Member State of relocation to verify that there are no reasonable grounds to consider that the person to be relocated poses a threat to internal security.
- The **registration and/or lodging of the application** for international protection (as set out in Articles 27 and 28 APR) is sometimes colloquially referred to as a registration/lodging interview even though this is not referred to as an interview in the APR. This guide refers to the registering or lodging of the application for international protection and avoids referring to these steps as ‘interviews’.
- The APR further sets out provisions regarding the **admissibility interview** (Article 11) and the **substantive interview** (Article 12). Neither of these interviews are referred to in this publication so any references to personal interviews in this publication do not refer to these types of interviews.

Regarding the terms of **children** and **minor** they are used interchangeably in this practical guide and denote persons under the age of 18 years old, unless it is explicit or clear from the context that ‘child’ refers to a family relation which can include both minor and adult children. The guide generally uses the term children or unaccompanied children, unless directly referring to legal provisions using the term minor or unaccompanied minor.

The term **relocation pool** refers to those applicants that have been identified by a Member State as potential candidates for relocation. Persons in the relocation pool are eligible for relocation. This is used synonymously to the list of eligible persons referred to in recital 26 AMMR.

⁽⁷⁾ Regulation (EU) 2024/1348 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 14 May 2024 establishing a common procedure for international protection in the Union and repealing Directive 2013/32/EU (OJ L, 2024/1348, 22.5.2024), <http://data.europa.eu/eli/req/2024/1348/oj>.



3 The asylum and migration management Regulation

The AMMR aims to create a comprehensive approach to asylum and migration management by setting out a common framework that is based on the principle of solidarity and fair sharing of responsibility. The Regulation establishes a procedure for determining the Member State responsible for the examination of an application for international protection ‘to guarantee swift and effective access to fair and efficient procedures for granting international protection and not to compromise the objective of the rapid processing of applications for international protection’ ⁽⁸⁾.

The Regulation also establishes a mandatory solidarity mechanism to provide ‘effective support to Member States under migratory pressure’ while ensuring that applicants have ‘swift access to fair and efficient procedures for granting international protection’ ⁽⁹⁾.

The solidarity mechanism allows Member States to contribute through different types of measures of equal value. This includes relocation of applicants or beneficiaries of international protection, financial contributions, alternative solidarity measures and/or responsibility offsets from which Member States under migratory pressure can benefit. Responsibility offsets cannot be pledged by Member States as a solidarity contribution but they can be triggered pursuant to the rules in the AMMR. They are a secondary level solidarity measure. This practical guide focuses on the operational and practical implementation of the relocation.

3.1 An introduction to the AMMR solidarity mechanism

This section provides the reader with basic background knowledge to better understand the underlying legal basis and functioning of the solidarity mechanism and its component parts.

3.1.1 Mandatory solidarity measures and Member State’s discretion on how to express the solidarity

The AMMR creates a system where Member States (except those specifically not obliged to implement their solidarity pledges) must provide effective solidarity contributions to support Member States that are under migratory pressure, upon decision of the Council, after evaluation by the Commission. More information on the pledging of solidarity measures can be found in [Section 3.1.3 The High-Level EU Solidarity Forum and solidarity pool](#). This applies unless the Commission identified in its decision systemic shortcomings in that benefitting Member State with regard to the rules set out in Part III of the AMMR that could result in serious negative consequences for the functioning of the AMMR. These solidarity

⁽⁸⁾ Recital 37 AMMR.

⁽⁹⁾ Recital 22 AMMR.



contributions by Member States are divided according to a fair share of the contribution based on the gross domestic product and population.

Each Member State retains the right to determine how it will contribute to the solidarity mechanism. It can do so for instance by pledging relocations and/or financial support or alternative solidarity measures to the Member States under migratory pressure. A Member State can thus never be forced to provide pledges for relocation but it must provide its fair share of the solidarity contribution through any of the means set out in the AMMR. Solidarity contributions are provided to the solidarity pool and not to specific Member States. In accordance with Article 57(2), the Council implementing act establishing the Pool may also earmark, where necessary, an indicative share for pressure linked to recurring SAR disembarkations and may specify alternative solidarity measures needed to address particular challenges as set out in Article 56(2)(c).

3.1.2 The annual migration management cycle

The practical operation of the AMMR solidarity mechanism is based on an annual cycle. The cycle starts with the adoption by the European Commission of the European Annual Asylum and Migration Report. This guide refers to this document as ‘the annual report’. The annual report assesses ‘the asylum, reception and migratory situation’ and provides ‘a strategic situational picture of the area of migration and asylum that also serves as an early warning and awareness tool’ ⁽¹⁰⁾.

The annual report is issued by the European Commission by 15 October. Together with the report, the Commission also adopts an implementing decision determining whether a particular Member State is ‘under migratory pressure, at risk of migratory pressure during the upcoming year or is facing a significant migratory situation’ ⁽¹¹⁾.

The European Commission also submits, at the same time, a proposal for a Council implementing act establishing the Annual Solidarity Pool necessary ‘to address the migratory situation in the upcoming year in a balanced and effective manner’, reflecting ‘the annual projected solidarity needs of the Member States identified in the Commission implementing decision as being under migratory pressure’ ⁽¹²⁾.

3.1.3 The High-Level EU Solidarity Forum and solidarity pool

The High-Level EU Solidarity Forum (the High-Level Forum) gathers together senior policy makers and is chaired by the Member State that holds the rotating Presidency of the Council. The High-Level Forum considers the annual report, the Commission implementing act determining whether a particular Member State is ‘under migratory pressure, at risk of migratory pressure during the upcoming year, or is facing a significant migratory situation’ ⁽¹³⁾ and the Commission proposal for a Council implementing act establishing the Annual Solidarity Pool and examines the overall situation.

⁽¹⁰⁾ Article 9(1) AMMR.

⁽¹¹⁾ Article 11(1) AMMR.

⁽¹²⁾ Article 12 AMMR.

⁽¹³⁾ Article 11(1) AMMR.



The High-Level forum is convened within 15 days of the adoption of the annual report. The High-Level Forum concludes ‘on the solidarity measures and the level of contribution needed ... and, where deemed necessary, on other migratory response measures in the areas of responsibility, preparedness and contingency, as well as on the external dimension of migration’ ⁽¹⁴⁾. ‘During [the] High-Level Forum meeting, Member States [also] shall pledge their solidarity contributions for the creation of the Annual Solidarity Pool’ ⁽¹⁵⁾.

Before the end of each calendar year, the Council adopts, on an annual basis, an implementing act establishing the Annual Solidarity Pool, including, a reference number of required relocations and financial contributions for the Annual Solidarity Pool at Union level and the specific pledges that each Member State has made for each type of solidarity contribution during the High-Level Forum meeting.

The High-Level Solidarity Forum can also be reconvened during the annual cycle ‘[w]here the Council, at the initiative of a Member State or upon invitation from the Commission, considers that the solidarity contributions to the Annual Solidarity Pool are insufficient in relation to the needs identified ... to request Member States to provide additional solidarity contributions’ ⁽¹⁶⁾.

3.1.4 The Technical-Level EU Solidarity Forum and the EU Solidarity Coordinator

The EU Solidarity Coordinator is appointed by the European Commission and is responsible for coordinating at the technical level the implementation of the solidarity mechanism. In this work, the EU Solidarity Coordinator is assisted by an office and coordinates closely with the EUAA.

The EU Solidarity Coordinator convenes a first meeting of the Technical-Level EU Solidarity Forum (the Technical-Level Forum) following the adoption by the Council of the implementing act establishing the Annual Solidarity Pool. Following that first meeting, the Technical-Level Forum meets on a regular basis and as frequently as necessary, to operationalise the solidarity mechanism between the Member States and address the solidarity needs with the contributions identified.

The Technical-Level Forum consists of representatives from the Member States and the EUAA. The European Border and Coast Guard Agency and the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights shall, where appropriate and when invited by the EU Solidarity Coordinator, participate in the Technical-Level Forum. United Nations agencies may, depending on their involvement, also be invited by the Solidarity Coordinator to participate in the forum.

⁽¹⁴⁾ Article 13(3) AMMR.

⁽¹⁵⁾ Article 13(3) AMMR.

⁽¹⁶⁾ Article 13(4) AMMR.



3.1.5 The principle of well-preparedness

The AMMR sets out that for a Member State to benefit from solidarity measures its asylum, reception and migration systems must be well-prepared and have sufficient capacity. This implies that Member States should have the necessary human, material and financial resources and infrastructure to effectively implement asylum and migration management policies and allocate the necessary staff to their competent authorities for the implementation of the AMMR. The Member States should also ensure appropriate coordination between the relevant national authorities as well as with the national authorities of the other Member States.

3.1.6 Migratory pressure, risk of migratory pressure and facing a significant migratory situation

When determining if a Member State is ‘under migratory pressure, at risk of migratory pressure or facing a significant migratory situation’ ⁽¹⁷⁾ the Commission consults the Member State concerned.

Member States under **migratory pressure** can rely on the use of the solidarity contributions included in the Annual Solidarity Pool. Once they have informed the Commission and Council of their intention to use the solidarity pool, these Member States are not obliged to implement their pledged contributions. A Member State that was not considered as being under migratory pressure in the Commission’s initial decision can request to be considered as such.

If a Member State has been designated as being at **risk of migratory pressure during the upcoming year**, this is taken into consideration if it considers itself to be under migratory pressure during the year. Member States at risk of migratory pressure can however only make use of the Annual Solidarity Pool if there is a subsequent decision by the Commission made to designate them as being under migratory pressure.

A Member State that is identified as **facing a significant migratory situation** in the Commission implementing decision or that considers itself to be facing a significant migratory situation may at any time request a partial or full deduction of its pledged contributions set out in the Council implementing act.

For the cases of migratory pressure and significant migratory situation, the Member State submits a request to the Commission, and for information purposes transmits the request to the Council. The Commission then informs the Council of its assessment of this request within four weeks (and informs the European Parliament), with the Council adopting an implementing act to determine whether the Member State is authorised to derogate from the Council implementing act establishing the annual solidarity pool.

⁽¹⁷⁾ Article 11(1) AMMR.



4 Relocation

4.1 General considerations for relocation

Relocation under the AMMR is a procedure designed to provide effective assistance to a Member State that finds itself under migratory pressure despite having a well-prepared asylum and reception system and that therefore benefits from the annual solidarity pool.

Relocation under the AMMR is not a right for individual applicants or beneficiaries of international protection. Regarding applicants for international protection, relocation is not a voluntary procedure requiring the consent of the applicant. Beneficiaries of international protection however have to provide their consent to be relocated in writing. This consent should be for relocation to a specific Member State.

To ensure that relocation can effectively contribute to the purpose of alleviating the pressure on the benefitting Member State asylum and reception system it is crucial that the administrative procedures related to relocation are in themselves not resource intensive and do not introduce excessive administrative burdens.



Good practice: digital case management systems adapted to relocation

It is considered good practice to ensure that the digital case management systems in the Member State are able to efficiently support all steps of the relocation procedure from identifying potential persons to be relocated, matching them with available Member States of relocation, the process of transmitting information between Member States and the organisation of the transfer.

4.1.1 Creating a relocation pool

Where relocation is to be carried out, the benefitting Member State must identify the persons who could be relocated. Upon request of the benefitting Member State, the EUAA must support the benefitting Member State in the identification of persons to be relocated (and then in their matching with Member States of relocation).

To facilitate the procedure for relocation, benefitting Member States should have a pool of persons that can be relocated to other Member States. It is the responsibility of the benefitting Member State to identify the persons for relocation and to include them in the relocation pool. When creating the relocation pool, benefitting Member States should ensure that all persons included meet the legal requirements laid down in the AMMR as set out in [Section 4.2 Identification of persons eligible for relocation](#). To have a relocation pool of suitable size, given the number of available slots for relocation, the benefitting Member States may consider other elements (covered in more detail below) than those strictly related to eligibility when creating the pool.



When implementing relocation, Member States must respect the principle of family unity and ensure that family members are relocated to the territory of the same Member State. Therefore, when including a person to be relocated in the relocation pool, benefitting Member States must verify that all family members are meeting the eligibility criteria and are included in the pool.



Note: inclusion in the relocation pool does not automatically result in relocation

The relocation pool will usually be larger than the number of slots available for relocation. As such, inclusion in the pool will not imply certain relocation but rather a possibility to be relocated.



Note: the type of asylum procedure does not limit the inclusion in the relocation pool

The type of asylum procedure that the applicant is in, such as the accelerated procedure, the admissibility procedure or the border procedure does not prevent the applicant from being placed in the relocation pool. Member States should however consider the applicable time limits of the different procedures when considering the inclusion of an applicant in the pool.



Good practice: consider family links

Take into account the links between family relations while considering the inclusion of a person in the relocation pool (e.g. parents in the case of adult persons to be relocated, adult children and siblings, cousins, nephews and nieces, etc). Keeping families and relatives together during the relocation process can contribute to reducing incentives for secondary movements.



Remember: general considerations for relocation

- Relocation under the AMMR is not a right for individual applicants or beneficiaries of international protection.
- Procedures should allow a fast and efficient relocation avoiding excessive administrative burdens.
- For applicants for international protection, relocation is not a voluntary procedure requiring their consent.
- Beneficiaries of international protection have to provide their consent in writing to be relocated to a specific Member State.
- Where relocation is to be carried out, the benefitting Member State identifies the persons who could be relocated. Inclusion in the relocation pool does not constitute a guarantee that a person will be relocated.



4.2 Identification of persons eligible for relocation

In line with article 56(2)(a) of the AMMR the persons eligible for relocation are applicants for international protection, or where agreed bilaterally between the benefitting and contributing Member States, beneficiaries of international protection who were granted international protection less than three years prior to the Council Implementing Decision on the establishment of the annual solidarity pool ⁽¹⁸⁾. However, there are two groups of persons who are excluded from the eligibility criteria as discussed in the two sections below.

4.2.1 Threats to internal security identified by the benefitting Member State

	AMMR
	Article 67(2)
	Screening Regulation
	Article 15

Before including an applicant in the pool of persons that may be relocated, the benefitting Member State must verify that the person concerned does not pose a threat to internal security. Regarding applicants, this verification is performed either during the screening for third-country nationals who have crossed the border without fulfilling the entry conditions or during checks performed for third-country nationals who have previously applied for authorisation to enter the territory of the Member States and were granted such authorisation ⁽¹⁹⁾. Benefitting Member States must take into consideration any information relating to security threat that is brought to their knowledge at any time in the process.

The Member States must also ensure that beneficiaries of international protection that are being considered for relocation do not pose a threat to internal security in accordance with national law. The benefitting Member State must consult the relevant national and EU databases when carrying out the security check.

If at any stage of the relocation procedure there are reasonable grounds to believe that the person concerned poses a threat to internal security, that person must be excluded from any future relocation or transfer to any Member State. The benefitting Member State must be responsible for examining the application for international protection. Such reasonable grounds may arise when, for example, the national police or another relevant actor shares information on security threats with the competent authority of the benefitting Member State or when the national asylum database and/or Eurodac is updated when a security alert is issued for a person.

⁽¹⁸⁾ Council Implementing Decision (EU) 2025/2642 of 22 December 2025 on the establishment of the Annual Solidarity Pool for 2026 (OJ L, 2025/2642, 23.12.2025), https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/dec_impl/2025/2642/oj/eng.

⁽¹⁹⁾ Regulation (EU) 2024/1356 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 14 May 2024 introducing the screening of third-country nationals at the external borders and amending Regulations (EC) No 767/2008, (EU) 2017/2226, (EU) 2018/1240 and (EU) 2019/817 (OJ L, 2024/1356, 22.5.2024), <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2024/1356/oj> (Screening Regulation).

**Note: security checks during screening**

For the purpose of conducting the security check, the benefitting Member State must consult ‘the relevant Union databases, in particular SIS [Schengen Information System], the Entry/Exit System ... (EES), the European Travel Information and Authorisation System ... (ETIAS), including the ETIAS watchlist ... the Visa Information System ... (VIS) and the centralised system for the identification of Member States holding conviction information on third-country nationals and stateless persons ... (ECRIS-TCN) ... [and] the Europol data ... and the Interpol databases’ ⁽²⁰⁾. Relevant national databases may also be consulted for that purpose.

4.2.2 Indications that the benefitting Member State is responsible for examining the application for international protection pursuant to the family criteria

**AMMR****Article 67(5)**

The benefitting Member State, after making sure that the person does not pose a threat to internal security, must check that it is not responsible for examining the application for international protection pursuant to the family criteria set out in Articles 25 to 28 AMMR and the dependency criteria set out in Article 34, with the exception of Article 25(5).

The benefitting Member State must at least verify its responsibility based on these articles. This is pursuant to Article 67(5) AMMR.

Consequently, the following categories must not be eligible for relocation:

Unaccompanied children

Unaccompanied children with a family member, sibling or relative legally present in the benefitting Member State, provided it is in the best interests of the child to remain in the benefitting Member State (Article 25(1) and (2)).



Unaccompanied children with a family member, sibling or relative legally present in the benefitting Member State who does not have legal custody of the child should not, per se, be excluded from the relocation pool. It is essential to first carefully assess whether the child can be included in the pool together with their family and whether it is in their best interests to be relocated. The best interest assessment should always consider whether it is in the best interest of the child to be relocated or to remain in the benefitting Member State.

Applicants whose family members legally reside in the benefitting Member State

Applicants who have a family member legally residing as a beneficiary of international protection or on the basis of a long-term residence permit in the benefitting Member State (Article 26(1)).

⁽²⁰⁾ Article 15(2) Screening Regulation.

Applicants who have a family member previously residing as a beneficiary of international protection and is now a citizen of the benefitting Member State (Article 26(2)).



Applicants who have a family member legally residing as a beneficiary of international protection in the benefitting Member State can be considered for relocation when they can be relocated to the same Member State, i.e. when both the benefitting and contributing Member States have agreed bilaterally to the relocation of both applicants and beneficiaries of international protection .

Applicants whose family members are also applicants for international protection in the benefitting Member State

Applicants who have a family member who has not received yet a first decision regarding the substance of their application for international protection in the benefitting Member State (Article 27).



Applicants who have family members who are also applicants in the benefitting Member State can be included in the relocation pool provided their family is also included and they are relocated to the same Member State.

Dependent persons

Applicants who on account of pregnancy, having a new-born child, serious mental or physical illness, severe disability, severe psychological trauma or old age, are dependent on the assistance of their child, sibling or parent legally resident in the benefitting Member State, or their child, sibling or parent legally resident in the benefitting Member States is dependent on the assistance of the applicant (Article 34(1)).



Applicants who depend on the care of a family member or on whom a family member depends, can be included together in the relocation pool as long as all the persons concerned are eligible and can be relocated to the same Member State. However, careful consideration should be given to the vulnerabilities and special needs of the dependent person to ensure that they can benefit from their rights throughout the procedure and that their medical condition is not worsened.



Remember: identification, persons not eligible for relocation

- Before including an applicant in the pool of persons that may be relocated, the benefitting Member State must verify that the person concerned does not pose a threat to internal security.
- If, at any stage of the relocation procedure, there are reasonable grounds to believe that the person concerned poses a threat to internal security, that person must be excluded from any future relocation or transfer to any Member State. The benefitting Member State must be responsible for examining the application for international protection.
- To ensure respect for the right to family life, the benefitting Member State must ensure that there are no indications that it is responsible for examining the application for international protection pursuant to the family criteria of the AMMR. Such applicants are not eligible for relocation unless the entire family unit can be relocated.



4.3 Identification: considerations beyond eligibility

4.3.1 Avoiding the inclusion of responsibility cases in the relocation pool until responsibility is determined



To ensure an effective system of solidarity and responsibility, it is recommended that benefitting Member States conduct, where possible, the responsibility determination also in cases of applicants who may be included in the relocation pool. Such indications may be found on the basis of the responsibility criteria set out in Articles 25-34, AMMR until the responsibility determination procedure is concluded.

Another Member State may be responsible for assessing the application for international protection in cases where the applicant:

- has family members, or in the case of unaccompanied children, also siblings or relatives, present in another Member State;
- holds a visa or residence permit issued by, or on behalf of another Member State;
- is in possession of a diploma or qualification issued by an education establishment established in another Member State;
- entered the territory of the Member States through a Member State in which the need for them to have a visa is waived;
- previously applied for international protection in another Member State;
- has irregularly crossed the border into a Member State by land, sea or air from a third country;
- is dependent on the assistance of their child, sibling or parent legally resident in one of the Member States, or their child, sibling or parent legally resident in one of the Member States is dependent on the assistance of the applicant.

If another Member State is responsible for examining the application for international protection of an applicant to be relocated, and this responsibility is not determined in the benefitting Member State, this could also lead to a need to transfer the person from the Member State of relocation to the Member State responsible at a later stage, creating additional administrative burdens and delays for the access to the asylum procedure for the person concerned.

If, following the completion of the responsibility determination procedure, no other Member State is determined as responsible for examining their application, these applicants can be included in the pool of persons to be relocated.



Note: avoiding secondary transfers

It is important that the benefitting Member State conducts, where possible, the responsibility determination also in the cases of applicants to be relocated. This minimises the need to conduct an additional transfer following the relocation of the applicant. This is



done so as not to take up a lot of additional resources for all involved Member States and delay the access to the procedure for the person concerned.

4.3.2 Giving primary consideration to the relocation of vulnerable persons



AMMR

Articles 23(4), 60(4)

It is important that benefitting Member States give particular consideration to cases involving children, including unaccompanied children, and persons in a vulnerable situation. This includes persons ⁽²¹⁾ with disabilities, elderly persons, pregnant women, lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans and intersex persons, single parents with minor children, victims of human trafficking, persons with serious illnesses, persons with mental disorders and persons who have been subjected to torture, rape or other serious forms of psychological, physical or sexual violence, such as victims of gender-based violence, of female genital mutilation, of child or forced marriage, or violence committed with a sexual, gender, racist or religious motive.

This does not necessarily imply their prioritisation for relocation, but that benefitting Member States should consider the individual situation of each applicant. Each case should be assessed individually, applying a person-centred approach with the aim of avoiding any worsening of the individual's personal condition (in line with the 'do no harm principle').



EUAA Special needs and vulnerability assessment tool (SNVA) ⁽²²⁾

The SNVA tool is designed to support Member State authorities in the assessment of the special needs of persons in a situation of vulnerability. It aims to support specialised staff in assessing special needs in a structured way and to identify appropriate future actions to be taken in the interests of the applicant. A timely response and a prompt access to services will also avoid vulnerable applicants becoming more vulnerable due to delayed service provision.



Note: consider if all steps of relocation can be carried out in a timely manner in cases of vulnerability

The relocation procedure under the AMMR has strict deadlines which require the participation of the person to be transferred, for instance for a relocation personal security interview. When a person will not be able to participate in all the steps of the relocation procedure due to their hospitalisation or the need to complete their medical treatment in the benefitting Member State, it is recommended not to include them or temporarily remove them from the relocation pool until they are able to participate in all steps of the procedure.

⁽²¹⁾ Article 24(k) RCD (2024).

⁽²²⁾ The EUAA Special needs and vulnerability assessment tool is available at <https://snva.euaa.europa.eu/>.



The identification of vulnerable persons is crucial, with appropriate procedural frameworks ensuring that individuals can access support, procedural safeguards, and reception support throughout the entire procedure. For cases of unaccompanied children, it is important that a guardian/representative is appointed as early as possible and that the best interests of the child are a primary consideration of Member States when applying the AMMR and that the best interests are continuously assessed.

Information on the child's views, family situation, specific vulnerabilities, safety and risks they are exposed to, protection needs education and socioeconomic conditions in the benefitting Member State should be collected and assessed to determine if it is in the best interests of the child to be relocated.

Any decision to relocate an unaccompanied child must follow an individual best-interests assessment and involve the child's guardian/representative. In assessing the best interests of the child, Member States should, in particular, take due account of the minor's well-being and social development in the short, medium and long term, safety and security considerations and the views of the minor in accordance with their age and maturity, including their background.



EUAA Practical guide on the best interests of the child in asylum procedures ⁽²³⁾

This practical guide supports Member State authorities in applying the principle of the best interests of the child and enhancing the guarantees within asylum procedures for children. The guide is structured in four sections: background elements of the best interests of the child; relevant guarantees; guidance on how to assess the best interests in practice; vulnerability and risk indicators. The guidance is complemented with an overview of the terminology, a comprehensive checklist as well as relevant policy, guidance and legal framework documents.



Note: special consideration for victims of trafficking in human beings

In the case of victims of trafficking in human beings, it is important to tailor the approach to the needs of the victim in the individual case. Depending on personal history, trauma and recovery needs, some victims may not be able to participate meaningfully in relocation procedures before a period of stabilisation. In other situations, referral may occur based on trafficking indicators before the situation is fully assessed, and victims may be reluctant to disclose or cooperate until a rest and recovery period is granted. At the same time, there are cases where immediate transfer could be in the person's best interests, such as when specialised accommodation is not available.

Conversely, there are also risks, for instance when relocation could be misused by traffickers or when victims themselves request relocation in order to rejoin the trafficker elsewhere. Each case is different and should also take into account the form of exploitation, as the protection needs of victims of sexual exploitation may differ significantly from those

⁽²³⁾ EUAA, *Practical guide on the best interests of the child in the framework of international protection*, March 2026, <https://www.euaa.europa.eu/publications/practical-guide-best-interests-child-international-protection>.



subjected to forced labour or in slavery-like situations. In addition, such decisions cannot be taken in isolation but must involve and be informed by anti-trafficking organisations, competent authorities and the National Referral Mechanism working with the person concerned.

This ensures that the decision reflects where the individual stands in the referral and recovery process and takes into account whether judicial proceedings are ongoing. Such proceedings are relevant not only because they may give the victim access to compensation but also because they can have a direct impact on the prosecution of traffickers. Considerations of whether to relocate such persons therefore require a balance between the best interests of the victim, the protection and assistance framework in place, and the needs of the authorities and justice system.

4.3.3 Other considerations when establishing the relocation pool

The benefitting Member State should consider how relocation can be used in a way that is as efficient as possible to support the overall strategy in the management of its asylum and reception system. When establishing the relocation pool, the benefitting Member State can consider additional elements, such as:

- prioritising applicants who are accommodated in reception facilities, and notably reception facilities in geographical areas under particular pressure, as their relocation would alleviate the pressure on key parts of the reception system;
- giving primary consideration to applicants for which there are particular challenges in providing access to adequate material reception conditions or healthcare;
- excluding from the relocation pool applicants who are in the border procedure due to the strict time limits of that procedure;
- including applicants who are in the border procedure, if the strict time limits of that procedure can be met, to contribute to ensuring an adequate capacity in the border procedure;
- prioritising applicants who, after being informed about the process of relocation, appear to be in favour of relocation in order to reduce the risk of absconding, minimise the number of appeals and facilitate timely transfers.

4.3.4 Including beneficiaries of international protection in the relocation pool



AMMR

Articles 56(2), 67(2), 67(4)

Beneficiaries of international protection must be relocated only when there is a bilateral agreement between the benefitting Member State and the Member State of relocation. Therefore, the benefitting Member States should only include beneficiaries of international protection in the relocation pool where Member States of relocation have agreed to the relocation of beneficiaries of international protection.

Before including a beneficiary of international protection in the pool of persons to be relocated, the benefitting Member State must verify that the person concerned was granted



international protection less than three years prior to the adoption of the Council implementing act establishing the Annual Solidarity Pool.

Beneficiaries of international protection who did not provide their consent to be relocated in writing must not be included in the pool of persons to be relocated, since they cannot be relocated against their will. The consent given by the beneficiary should be specific regarding the Member State of relocation to which the consent applies to ensure that the person is fully informed about what they are consenting to. For more information on how to collect the written consent, see Section [4.4 Establishing the relocation pool](#).

It is also recommended, particularly when some time has passed since their inclusion in the relocation pool and to avoid unnecessary administrative burdens and appeals, to verify orally that the beneficiary is still interested in being relocated.

Figure 1 provides a general schematic overview of the main procedural steps of the procedure of including an adult person in the pool for relocation. Member State practices may vary and these procedures will include additional/different steps if the person to be relocated is, for instance, an unaccompanied child or a vulnerable person. The highlighted area of the figure indicates the eligibility determination part of the process.



Remember: identification, considerations beyond eligibility

- The benefitting Member State should consider excluding from relocation applicants for which another Member State may be the Member State responsible for examining the application for international protection in accordance with the responsibility criteria of the AMMR.
- The benefitting Member State must consider giving primary consideration to the relocation of vulnerable persons.
- When considering additional elements for determining the relocation pool, the benefitting Member State should consider how relocation can be used in a way that is as efficient as possible to support the overall strategy in the management of its asylum and reception system.
- Beneficiaries of international protection should be relocated only when their relocation is bilaterally agreed between the benefitting Member State and the Member State of relocation.



Figure 1. The main procedural steps of inclusion of an adult person in the relocation pool





4.4. Establishing the relocation pool

It is recommended that benefitting Member States clearly mark in their national asylum database which applicants have been included in the relocation pool to ensure that it is possible to follow the state of play of their asylum procedure. Benefitting Member States need to keep in mind that the APR deadlines for examining the application and AMMR time limits for take-charge requests are not suspended just because an applicant is being considered for relocation. Keeping this in mind, benefitting Member States might consider carrying out the procedural steps prior to the issuance of a first-instance decision (pending the transfer once the transfer decision has been made).

Member States should regularly check and update the relocation pool based on the planning and progress of the available pledges to ensure that applicants do not remain uncertain for an unnecessarily long time about the status of their application and that the legal time limits of the APR and AMMR are respected.

Particular attention should be given to persons in a vulnerable situation, for whom inclusion in the relocation pool may no longer be relevant. Examples of such situations include where:

- an unaccompanied child may be reunited with a family member in the benefitting Member State (e.g. because another family member has subsequently arrived from the country of origin) and relocation may no longer be in their best interests.
- the person concerned was identified as a victim of trafficking and needs to stay where they are to continue receiving protection or support services according to the individual assessment in their case.

A re-assessment of the cases of persons in a vulnerable situation can be triggered when new information is submitted by the persons themselves, their guardian or legal representative or the relevant authorities and actors.



[Annex 1.](#) includes a checklist with the mandatory and optional criteria that benefitting Member States can use to identify applicants for the relocation pool.



[Annex 2.](#) includes a checklist with the criteria that benefitting Member States can use to identify beneficiaries for the relocation pool.



Remember: establishing the relocation pool

- It is recommended that benefitting Member States clearly mark in their national asylum database which applicants have been included in the relocation pool.
- Member States should regularly check and update the relocation pool based on the planning and progress of the available pledges to ensure that applicants do not remain uncertain for an unnecessarily long time about the status of their application and that the legal time limits of the APR and the AMMR are respected.



4.5 Rights and obligations of persons eligible for relocation

Persons who are eligible for relocation and are included in the relocation pool have the rights and obligations detailed in the table below.

Rights	Obligations
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Receive information about the procedure in a language they understand. • Have access to an interpreter. • If the person is relocated, they are relocated together with their family. • Present information and documentation to determine the meaningful links with a Member State of relocation. • Appeal the transfer decision, including legal representation for the appeal. • Confidentiality and data protection regarding personal and case-related information shared in the relocation procedure. • Access to material reception conditions medical care and psychosocial support before, during, and after the transfer, where needed. <p>Additional rights for unaccompanied children:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Timely appointment of a guardian/representative. • Have their best interests continuously assessed and taken into consideration. • The right to express their views, as a part of the best interest assessment, which should be given due weight based on their age and maturity. • The right to continuity in care and protection during the relocation process. • Receive information in a child-friendly manner and according to their age. <p>Additional rights for beneficiaries of international protection:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To be relocated only upon providing written consent. • If relocated, be granted automatically the same protection status in the Member State of relocation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remain available for the authorities of the benefitting Member State as well as the authorities of the Member State of relocation. • Cooperate with the authorities during the procedures. • Comply with the relocation decision in the case of applicants for international protection.



4.6 Matching persons to a Member State of relocation



Matching refers to the procedure through which persons in the relocation pool are allocated to a specific Member State of relocation that has an open relocation pledge in the solidarity pool. This must also take into account the arrangements decided within the Technical-Level Forum concerning the implementation of the solidarity contributions during the year. The matching process will depend on several things. This includes the number of transfers that will take place to different contributing Member States during the year and how many different contributing Member States will be available to the benefitting Member State.

When matching persons with Member States, benefitting Member States should consider the planning of the implementation of the pledges. They should also consider the fact that persons included in the relocation pool should not remain uncertain for an unnecessarily long time about the status of their procedure. For example, when a person included in the pool has meaningful links with a specific Member State but that Member State has fulfilled its pledges, the benefitting Member State must assess whether the person concerned could be matched to a Member State to which they do not have any meaningful links or otherwise be removed from the relocation pool.

4.6.1 Meaningful links



Where applicable, benefitting Member States must take into account the existence of meaningful links and where possible, match persons to be relocated with a Member State of relocation to which they have a meaningful link. The AMMR sets out that meaningful links can be based on family or cultural considerations.

Persons may have different types of meaningful links with one or more Member State of relocation. For example, some persons may have both family and cultural links whilst others may have multiple links of one type. For these cases, it is recommended that the benefitting Member State defines how such links should be assessed and weighted in order to match the person with a particular Member State of relocation. Benefitting Member States can consider prioritising persons to be relocated who substantiate the claimed meaningful links through evidence, including circumstantial evidence.



Note: meaningful links based on family considerations

Meaningful links based on **family considerations** refer to family members and relatives who are legally present in a Member State of relocation. Meaningful links go beyond the responsibility determination criteria of the Regulation.

For adults, such links could be, for example, the presense in a Member State of relocation of adult children, siblings, parents, cousins, nephews, nieces or grandparents.



Unaccompanied children can be reunited with a wider range of relatives than adults under the responsibility criteria of the AMMR (covering also siblings, adult aunts and uncles and grandparents). If such family members or relatives are not present in other Member States, or if it is not in the best interests of the child to be reunited with them, other family connections that are legally present in a Member State of relocation could be considered for meaningful links based on family considerations.



Note: meaningful links based on cultural considerations

Meaningful links based on **cultural considerations** refer to cultural elements that would facilitate the integration of the applicant in a Member State of relocation. Examples of cultural considerations are language skills, previous periods of stay or residence and links with a Member State of relocation through, for example, employment or study. Such links go beyond the responsibility determination criteria of the Regulation. Member States may also consider other aspects of cultural links raised by the applicant that may facilitate their integration. This can include the presence of support networks, close personal friends or previous employment in the country of origin for a company that is based in the Member State of relocation.

4.6.2 Capacity of the Member State of relocation to receive persons in situation of vulnerability



AMMR

Articles 4(g), 60(1), 60(2)

All Member States of relocation are expected to have adequate reception conditions, including for persons with special reception needs, and to have the appropriate reception safeguards in place to receive persons to be relocated. Benefitting Member States are recommended to carefully consider the individual vulnerability of persons to be relocated to determine the most appropriate Member State of relocation. This is of particular importance when relocating unaccompanied children and persons in situations of particular vulnerability, including those with serious medical conditions or requiring specialised services, which may not be available to the same degree in every Member State.

Member States of relocation may share information, through the Technical-Level Forum if they are temporarily experiencing high pressure on certain parts of their reception systems that may, for instance, temporarily limit their capacity to effectively provide appropriate reception conditions and/or specialised services to address certain vulnerabilities. Such information could be considered in the overall planning and be taken into consideration during the matching process to avoid negative impacts on the persons to be relocated.

The Technical-Level Forum can also play an important coordinating role. It can support the exchange of information between Member States on reception capacities and vulnerabilities and contribute to overall planning, including in the context of the evaluation of needs and pledges. This can help reduce the risk that relocation disproportionately allocates applicants with complex reception or medical needs to the same Member States of relocation.



In this context, the role of the EU Solidarity Coordinator may also be relevant in supporting coordination and oversight of the solidarity mechanism, including with reference to reception capacities and pressure indicators under Article 60 AMMR.

4.6.3 Reasonable preferences expressed by the Member States of relocation



Both benefitting Member States and the Member States of relocation may express reasonable preferences during the first meeting of the Technical-Level Solidarity Forum for the persons to be relocated. Such preferences should be reasonable in light of the needs identified and the profiles available in the benefitting Member State in order to ensure that the pledged relocations can be effectively implemented.



Remember: matching persons to a Member State of relocation

- Both benefitting Member States and the Member States of relocation may express reasonable preferences in the first meeting of the Technical-Level Solidarity Forum for the persons to be relocated.
- Matching should take into account the arrangements decided within the Technical-Level Forum concerning the implementation of the solidarity contributions during the year.
- When matching persons, benefitting Member States should take into consideration the planning of the implementation of the pledges as well as the fact that persons included in it should not remain uncertain for an unnecessarily long time about the status of their procedure. In all cases it is imperative that the deadline for the examination of the application in the APR is respected.
- In the matching, benefitting Member States must take into account the existence of meaningful links based on family and cultural considerations where applicable.
- Benefitting Member States are recommended to carefully consider the individual vulnerability of persons to be relocated.

4.7 The practical organisation of relocation in the benefitting Member State

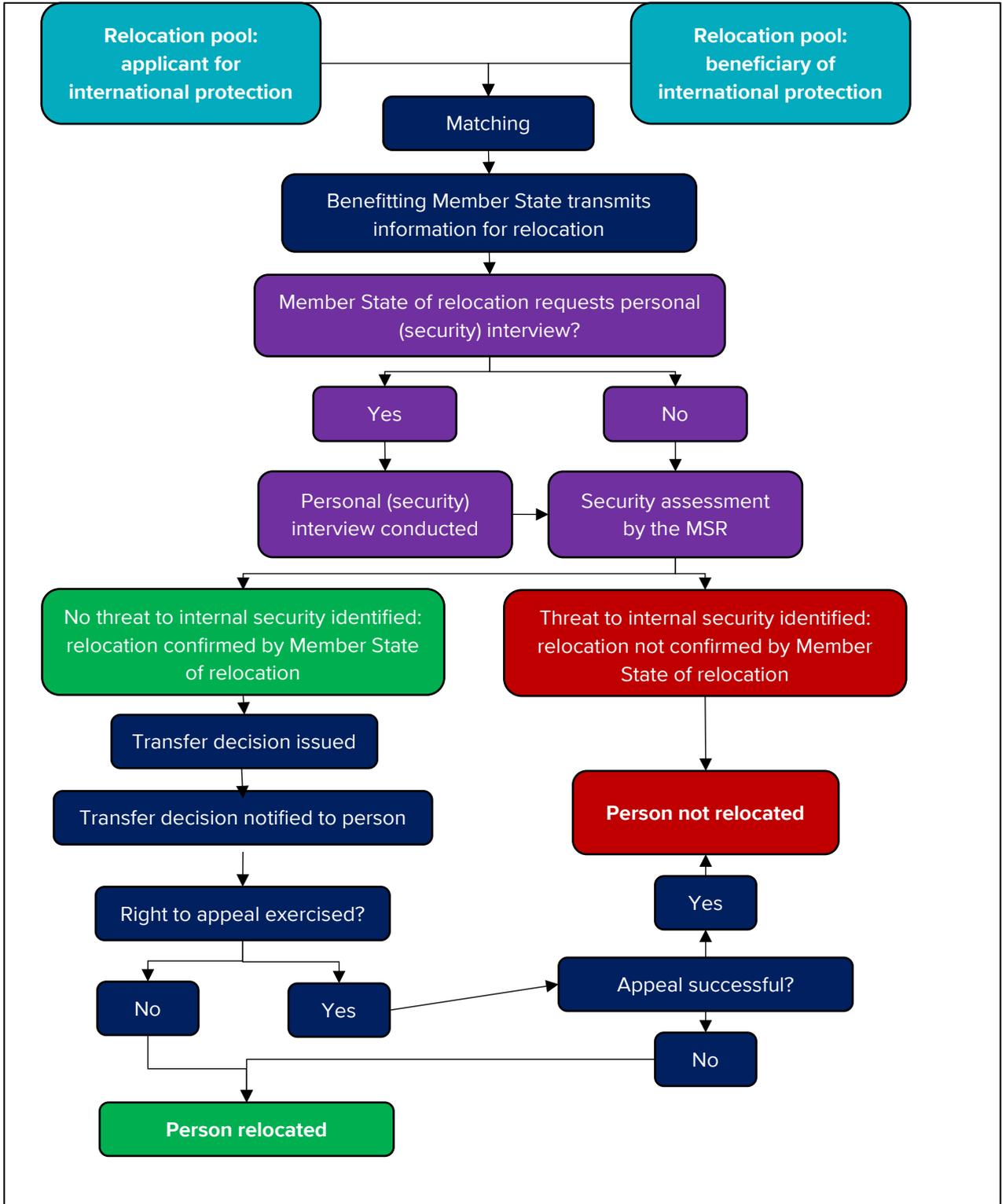
Figure 2 provides a schematic overview of the main procedural steps of relocation from the point of selection of a person in the relocation pool until their transfer ⁽²⁴⁾. Member State

⁽²⁴⁾ For instance, the contributing Member States must not confirm the transmission of information for the purpose of relocation if it concerns a beneficiary that has not consented to be relocated or where international protection was granted more than three years prior to the council implementing act referred to in Article 57 AMMR. The full list can be found in Annex IV, part II of the AMMR implementing Regulation. These situations are not covered in the flowchart in Figure 2.



practices may vary and these procedures will include additional/different steps if the person be relocated is, for instance, an unaccompanied child or vulnerable person to be relocated.

Figure 2. The main procedural steps of relocation from the point of selection of a person in the relocation pool until their transfer





4.7.1 Overall coordination and planning



AMMR

Articles 14, 15

The Technical-Level Forum and the EU Solidarity Coordinator play an important role in ensuring a smooth relocation process and coordination between Member States. It is important that Member States make full use of the cooperation within the forum and the tools provided through the EU Solidarity Coordinator. It is recommended that this work is complemented by bilateral coordination on relevant topics between benefitting Member States and Member States of relocation.



Good practice: preparatory bilateral missions

Where feasible, and agreed in the Technical-Level Forum, Member States of relocation may consider organising preparatory bilateral missions to the benefitting Member State in preparation for planned relocation exercises. These missions can allow authorities to assess, for instance, security aspects, facilities and the operational environment. It can also allow them to take into account logistics (e.g. accommodation, transport for the delegation), before the relocation personal security interviews take place. Such missions should be notified to the EU Solidarity Coordinator.

4.7.2 Information provision



AMMR

Articles 19(1)(t), 20(3), 67(5)

All applicants receive basic information about relocation through the common information provision materials that are provided to them by Member States, at the latest at registration. Benefitting Member States must inform applicants included in the relocation pool about the procedure as soon as possible, including information about their rights, obligations and the consequences of non-compliance. Such information must be provided in writing, using the common information material specific to relocation drawn up by the EUAA. Additional information can be provided orally in a language that they understand but also through digital platforms and other printed material.

Applicants should also have the opportunity to request information regarding the progress of the procedure. Member States should provide information on how they can make such a request. Contact details can be provided by the Member State authorities in the common information provision materials.





Common information provision materials

The AMMR lays down that the Member States must provide information to applicants for international protection using common information provision materials developed by the EUAA in close cooperation with the authorities of the Member States. The materials have been developed to provide applicants with the information that they need to understand the procedures that they find themselves in. The information provision materials are available in multiple languages.

Basic information on relocation is contained in the general information provision brochure on the AMMR which is provided to all applicants for international protection, at the latest when they register their applications.

A brochure specific to relocation has also been developed with more detailed information. It can be provided to applicants that are being actively considered for relocation.



Note: providing child-friendly information

Where the applicant is a child, the information must be provided in a child-friendly manner, in a language that they understand. It must be provided by appropriately trained staff and in the presence of the applicant's representative.

Applicants being considered for relocation must receive general information about the following aspects.

The procedure and timelines

It is important that they understand what relocation is about, what happens if they are included in the relocation pool and when and how they will be informed if they are included in the pool. They must receive information about the next steps of the procedure, including the potential relocation personal security interview with representatives from the Member State of relocation, as well as the relevant timelines. It should be explained to them that if their case is accepted for relocation, they will be transferred to the Member State of relocation and that their application for international protection will be examined in the Member State of relocation. In addition, they must be informed that inclusion in the relocation pool does not guarantee their relocation. They must be informed that the transmission of information for the purpose of relocation might not be confirmed by the other Member State and that, in such a case, their application for international protection will be examined in the benefitting Member State.

Ensuring family unity in relocation

Applicants must be informed that if they are relocated, they have the right to be relocated together with their family to the same Member State (provided that they are all eligible for relocation). They must be informed that they should indicate whether they have any family members who are legally present in the benefitting Member State. It is also important that they understand that any family members will be included in the relocation pool only after the authorities have verified that they are all eligible for relocation.



Right to submit information and documents on the existence of meaningful links

It must be explained to applicants that they have the right to present information and submit documents to help determine the existence of meaningful links with other Member States, and when and how they can present this information.

Obligation to remain available to the authorities

It is important that applicants receive information about their obligation to remain available to the authorities, including the obligation to present themselves when they are invited to an interview with the authorities of the benefitting Member State or the Member State of relocation.

Obligation to comply with the relocation decision

It is essential that applicants understand that they must comply with the relocation decision and that if they move on their own initiative to another Member State, there will be consequences, for example, loss of access to certain reception conditions.

Right to appeal the relocation decision

Information about their right to appeal if they do not agree with the relocation procedure must be provided. The Member State should also provide information about the right to free legal assistance and where necessary, to linguistic assistance.



Good practice: information portals for applicants and their representatives

Some Member States provide online portals that applicants or their legal representatives can access in order to receive updates and information on the progress of their case. These portals can be linked with the case management systems of Member States enabling automation of several otherwise resource-intensive processes. Providing access to such portals can help to reduce the workload on Member State administrations whilst at the same time creating better access for applicants to crucial information on the progress of their case. Providing improved access to such information for applicants can be one important factor in ensuring that applicants have access to correct and up-to-date information. It can contribute to improving trust between the applicants and the authorities.



Good practice: gradual delivery of information provision and informing children

Deliver information gradually over different moments of the procedure. During the access to the procedure phase, all applicants must receive general information about the relocation procedure. After an applicant is included in the pool, a second information provision moment can be organised to provide more detailed information about the procedure and about the fact that they are included in the pool.

Particular attention should be paid to persons with special needs and children. Information must be provided in accessible formats and adapted to the age, maturity, level of understanding and specific vulnerabilities. This may include child-friendly communication tools, the use of interpreters or support workers and the involvement of guardians or legal representatives where appropriate.



A tailored, step-by-step approach not only enhances understanding but also helps manage expectations and reduce anxiety, particularly for those with heightened protection needs. It is essential to manage expectations from the outset, particularly for vulnerable individuals and children, by communicating realistic timelines and potential outcomes, ensuring they are not left in prolonged uncertainty.

Special attention should be paid to providing continuous psychosocial support and regular updates, tailored to the specific needs of these groups, to mitigate anxiety and foster trust.

4.7.3 Information provision for beneficiaries of international protection

The information shared with beneficiaries of international protection should be the same as that given to applicants. The main difference is to inform beneficiaries of international protection that they will only be relocated if they provide their consent in writing. Beneficiaries of international protection should be provided information on relocation once the benefiting Member State has matched them as a possible candidate for relocation with a specific (potential) Member State of relocation.

To allow beneficiaries of international protection to make an informed decision about their willingness to be relocated, it is important that they receive accurate information about the living conditions in the Member State of relocation, including access to education and healthcare. It is also essential that beneficiaries of international protection understand that in the Member State of relocation they will be granted automatically the same international protection status as they have in the benefiting Member State but that there might be differences in the accrued rights, for example regarding the type and amount of social benefits.

4.7.4 Collection of the written consent from beneficiaries of international protection



Considering that beneficiaries of international protection can only be relocated after they provide their written consent and their relocation is bilaterally agreed between the benefiting Member State and the Member State of relocation, it is recommended to combine in one step the delivery of information on the procedure and the collection of the required consent.

A template form to collect written consent is annexed to this practical guide, see [Annex 3. Template form to collect the written consent of beneficiaries of international protection](#). The beneficiaries of international protection who have provided their written consent can be informed directly that they are included in the pool of persons to be relocated and receive detailed information about the next steps.

**Note: outreach to beneficiaries of international protection**

Civil society organisations and international organisations can support with outreach to beneficiaries of international protection, particularly to those not accommodated in reception centres. It is however always important to ensure that expectations are managed bearing in mind the available number of relocation contributions for beneficiaries of international protection.

4.7.5 Collection of meaningful links of applicants

APR	
	Articles 26-28
	Screening Regulation
	Articles 8, 17

The table below indicates per step of the access to the procedure which information is available to the authorities and is relevant for the identification of applicants to be relocated.

Screening	Making	Registration	Lodging
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Name Date of birth Gender Nationality/ statelessness Biometric data Outcome of security check Preliminary vulnerability check Languages spoken Presence of family members in any of the Member States If the person applied for international protection If the person is in possession of travel and identity documents 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Name Date of birth Nationality/ statelessness Language Wish to apply for international protection 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Name Date and place of birth Gender Nationality/ statelessness Presence of family members in other Member States Information on travel and identity documents Date of application for international protection Contact details <p><i>Depending on national set-up, the collection of meaningful links can be integrated in this step.</i></p>	Same as with registration

Information on the meaningful links can be collected at the registration/lodging of the application for international protection, after the applicants have been informed about the relocation procedure. Benefitting Member States can incorporate specific questions in their

registration form to ensure the collection of the required information. Alternatively, benefitting Member States can collect information on the meaningful links through a dedicated interview.

It is up to the benefitting Member State to assess the most timely and effective way to collect the required information. An overview of the advantages and disadvantages of each approach is provided below. The common information provision leaflets on relocation developed by the EUAA include an optional section where Member States can provide details on how information on meaningful links can be provided to the authorities by persons in the relocation procedure.

Collection of meaningful links	Advantages	Disadvantages
<p>Registration/ lodging</p>	<p>Applicant, interpreter, case officer and guardian/representative are already present.</p> <p>An interview room is available.</p> <p>It might be simpler to adjust the registration form and corresponding guidelines.</p> <p>It provides an opportunity to also provide the initial information provision material on relocation and allows applicants to ask questions about the information contained within.</p>	<p>All applicants regardless of their eligibility will be asked additional questions, which might raise false expectations.</p> <p>The total number of daily registrations will be lower due to the additional questions asked and the time required to explain the relocation procedure.</p> <p>Depending on how Member States structure the information provision, the applicant may receive the information at the same time as the registration interview, which could be confusing or overwhelming.</p>
<p>Responsibility personal interview</p>	<p>Applicant, interpreter, case officer and guardian/representative are already present.</p> <p>An interview room is available.</p> <p>Topics related to family links in other Member States are already covered in the interview facilitating the identification of genuine links based on family.</p> <p>Provides an opportunity to also provide the initial information provision material on relocation and allows applicants to ask questions about the information contained within.</p>	<p>Assumes that the benefitting Member State carries out the responsibility determination procedure.</p> <p>The total number of daily AMMR interviews will be lower due to the additional questions asked and the time required to explain the relocation procedure.</p> <p>Depending on how Member States structure the information provision, the applicant may receive the information at the same time as the AMMR interview, which could be confusing or overwhelming.</p>



Dedicated interview	<p>Only applicants who are eligible for relocation and will be included in the pool are invited to the interview.</p> <p>It will be clear for applicants that they are in the relocation pool.</p> <p>Easier for applicants to understand the nature and purpose of the interview.</p>	<p>Additional administrative burden due to scheduling of dedicated interview, which may prolong the overall procedure.</p> <p>Additional pressure on human resources (officer, interpreter, administrative personnel) and on infrastructure (interview rooms).</p> <p>Need for the development of dedicated interview template and corresponding guidelines/workflow.</p>
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The following topics can be explored to collect the information on the existence of any meaningful links:

- presence of family members in the benefitting Member State;
- presence of family members and relatives in other Member States;
- knowledge of one of the official languages of the Member States;
- previous stay or residence in other Member States due to employment, study, etc.;
- existence of support network in other Member States;
- other links with a Member State;
- submission of documentation to substantiate the links.

To safeguard the principle of family unity, benefitting Member States should collect information on the presence of any family members of the applicant on its territory. Where possible and appropriate, they should include all family members (whether applicants or beneficiaries of international protection) in the pool of persons to be relocated.

When designing registration forms and/or interviews to collect the information on the meaningful links, particular attention should be paid to persons with special needs, including unaccompanied children, victims of trafficking and persons with psychosocial vulnerabilities. In such cases, it is recommended to avoid subjecting applicants to multiple interviews or repetitive questioning to collect the meaningful links.

Applicants must be given the opportunity to present relevant information and documentation for the benefitting Member State to determine the existence of meaningful links. This does not entail an obligation on the applicant to submit such evidence in order to be relocated to the Member State in question. It is at the discretion of the benefitting Member State to assess all the information presented to them. They may prioritise fully or partially substantiated meaningful links above others. It is recommended that the submission of such documents is integrated into the step of collecting information on the meaningful links to ensure a more effective procedure.



**Note: examples of documentation on meaningful links**

- Documents showing the family relationship between the person concerned and the family member / relative present in the other Member State such as a family book or birth/marriage certificates.
- Documents indicating the presence of the family member / relative in the other Member State
- Diplomas certifying the knowledge of a language.
- Employment contract or proof of previous work in the other Member State.
- Housing contract.
- Student card or other evidence of enrolment in an education establishment.

**Remember: the practical organisation of relocation**

- The Technical-Level Forum and the EU Solidarity Coordinator play an important role in ensuring a smooth relocation process and coordination between Member States.
- It is recommended that this work is complemented by bilateral coordination on relevant topics between benefitting Member States and Member States of relocation.
- Benefitting Member States should ensure that persons considered for relocation receive information about the procedure.
- Benefitting Member States should consider at which steps of the procedure to collect information from applicants and the written consent from beneficiaries of international protection.

4.8 Considerations for the timelines for relocation

4.8.1 Timelines of the responsibility determination and relocation

**AMMR****Articles 38, 39(2), 68(2)**

The AMMR sets out that the Member State where an application for international protection is first registered must start the procedure for determining the responsible Member State. If this Member State considers another Member State to be responsible for examining the application, they should send a request to that Member State to take charge of the application within two months from the registration of the application. If the request is based on a Eurodac hit for a person apprehended in connection with the irregular crossing of an external border, or that has been disembarked following a search and rescue operation, or a VIS hit, the deadline is reduced to one month.

Failure to send such a request within the applicable deadline implies that the Member State where the application was first registered becomes the Member State responsible for examining the application for international protection.



In relation to relocation, the benefitting Member State can choose to relocate an applicant before the responsibility determination process has been finalised. It will then be up to the Member State of relocation to carry out a limited responsibility determination in accordance with Article 68(2) AMMR. This procedure is explained in detail in Section [5.2 Application of the responsibility determination procedure after relocation](#).

4.8.2 Considerations of timelines in the APR



The fact that an applicant is being considered for relocation in the benefitting Member State does not suspend any of the deadlines laid down in the APR. This implies that time limits for the duration of the examination procedure, including when accelerated procedures apply, remain unchanged. If an applicant cannot be relocated, it is therefore important to ensure that the examination can still be concluded in the benefitting Member State within the deadlines set out in the APR. Ensuring efficient identification and matching of applicants for relocation can ensure that applicants who are not relocated are channelled to the appropriate procedures, limiting unnecessary delays.

The length of the border procedure may be extended from 12 to 16 weeks in case the applicant is relocated to another Member State.

4.8.3 Timelines specifically for the relocation procedure



The timelines that apply specifically to the relocation procedure start when the benefitting Member State transmits the information for the purpose of relocation. The Member State of relocation must reply within one week of receiving the transmission of information for the purpose of relocation. Considering the very short deadlines, it is essential that the benefitting Member State verifies that it has included all the required information before transmitting it.

If there are no reasonable grounds to consider the person concerned a threat to internal security, the Member State confirms its acceptance of the relocation of the person. If there are grounds to consider the individual a threat, the Member State of relocation must notify the benefitting Member State within the same one-week period. It is important to note that any relocation personal security interview must be conducted within this deadline. If the Member State does not respond within the applicable deadline that is tantamount to confirming the relocation.

In accordance with Article 67(9) AMMR, the one-week deadline for confirmation or non-confirmation may be extended to two weeks under the following conditions.



- **Complex cases.** Where it can be demonstrated that the examination of the information is particularly complex, requiring additional time to assess security-related aspects or verify data relevant to the relocation.
- **Large number of cases.** Where a significant volume of transmissions of information for the purpose of relocation is received within a short period, such as within the same calendar week or operational cycle, and the available administrative, operational, or security resources of the Member State of relocation are insufficient to complete the necessary assessments within the one-week deadline. This may include situations where:
 - the number of transmissions of information for the purpose of relocation exceeds the Member State's established or expected weekly processing capacity;
 - key staff or systems are temporarily unavailable (e.g. due to emergencies or seasonal pressures);
 - multiple complex cases are submitted simultaneously, each requiring additional scrutiny or follow-up.

In such cases, the Member State of relocation must notify the benefitting Member State of the extension within the original one-week deadline, clearly indicating the reason and new deadline. The notification should be made using the standard relocation form. When extending the deadline for all relocation cases for a defined period when faced with a large number of cases, this is notified by a message transmitted through DubliNet as detailed in the box below.



Note: extension of deadlines due to unusually high workload

In situations where the Member State of relocation is experiencing a high number of cases, Article 19(2) AMMR Implementing Regulation allows for the extension of the deadline for all relocation cases received during a defined period of time.

If deadlines are extended this does not apply retroactively to the transmissions of information for the purpose of relocation for which the one-week deadline for replying has expired before the communication of the extension of the time limit but only to those falling within the specified timeframe.

The Member State of relocation must inform the benefitting Member State in writing via DubliNet and also notify the EU Solidarity Coordinator and the EUAA in writing through the regular communication channels. This notification may also be sent before the receipt of the first standard relocation form within the defined period. Doing so ensures that all parties are aware of the adjusted timeline before the start of the two-week deadline for individual cases.

Within one week of the confirmation by the Member State of relocation, the benefitting Member State must make a transfer decision. The benefitting Member State notifies the applicant in writing without delay and in any case at the latest two days before the transfer. In



the case of beneficiaries of international protection, they should be notified at least one week before the transfer.

The transfer must be carried out within four weeks of the confirmation by the Member State of relocation, or four weeks from the final decision on an appeal or review with suspensive effect. It is important to note that the responsibility to examine the application for international protection remains with the Member State of relocation even if the transfer cannot be carried out within the four weeks. The process of transferring the applicant to the Member State of relocation should thus continue even if it cannot be carried out within the four-week deadline.

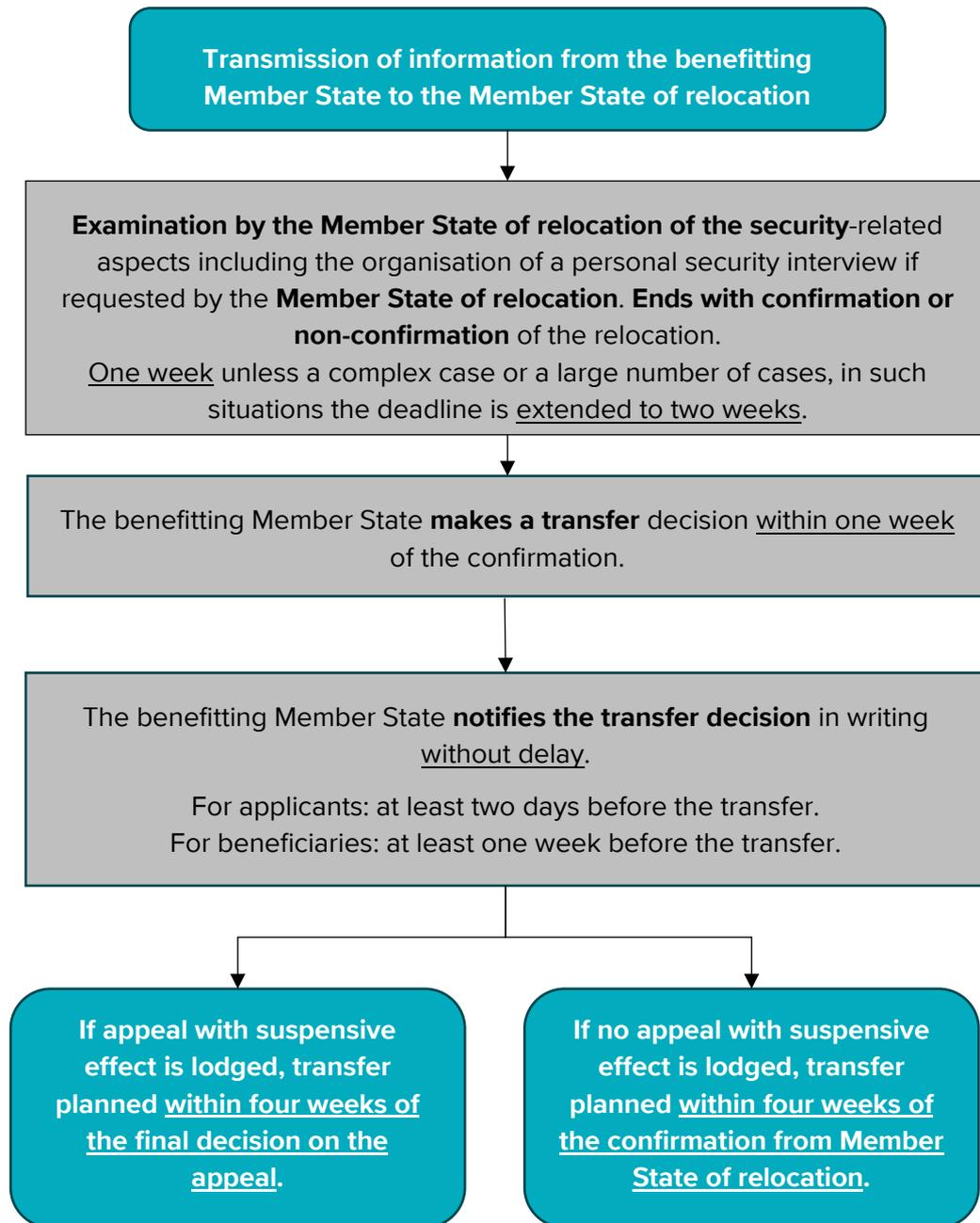
Member States must provide a period of at least one week and no more than three weeks from the notification of the transfer decision within which the person may submit an appeal of the transfer decision. The exact timeframe is determined by the national legislation of the benefitting Member State.

Member States always need to provide applicants with a reasonable time period to request suspensive effect of a transfer decision that they wish to appeal. This reasonable time period should not be longer than the time period of 1-3 weeks that Member States should provide for lodging an appeal. Member States may also require applicants to lodge a request for suspensive effect together with the appeal, in which case the effective deadline will be the same as for lodging the appeal.

If a Member States wishes to notify a transfer decision within the minimum deadline of two days before the transfer, as set out in Article 67(10) AMMR, they must ensure that the applicant may effectively request suspensive effect of that decision within these two days. If Member States consider that the reasonable time period for the request of suspensive effect is longer than two days, they must ensure that the notification of the transfer is done sufficiently in advance of the planned transfer to allow the applicant to make such a request before the date of the transfer.

It should further be noted that Article 43(3) AMMR sets out that Member States must ensure that an effective remedy is in place by suspending the transfer until the decision on the first suspension is taken.



Figure 3. The main timelines of the relocation procedure**Remember: considerations for the timelines for relocation**

- The deadline (of one or two months) for submitting a take charge request under the AMMR responsibility rules remains unchanged regardless of whether an applicant is being considered for relocation.
- The fact that an applicant is being considered for relocation in the benefitting Member State does not suspend any of the deadlines laid out in the APR.
- The length of the border procedure may be extended from 12 to 16 weeks in case the applicant is relocated to another Member State.



- The timelines that apply specifically to the relocation procedure start when the benefitting Member State transmits the information for the purpose of relocation.
- The one-week deadline for confirmation or non-confirmation of the transmission of information for relocation may be extended to two weeks if the case is complex or if the Member State of relocation faces a large number of cases. Any relocation personal security interview must be organised within this timeframe.
- Within one week of the confirmation by the Member State of relocation, the benefitting Member State must make a transfer decision.
- The benefitting Member State notifies the applicant in writing without delay and in any case at the latest two days before the transfer. In the case of beneficiaries of international protection, they should be notified at least one week before the transfer.
- The transfer must be carried out within 4 weeks of the confirmation by the Member State of relocation or 4 weeks from the final decision on an appeal or review with suspensive effect.

4.9 Security assessment by the benefitting Member State

	AMMR
	Article 67(2)
	Screening Regulation
	Articles 5, 7

The benefitting Member State must carry out an assessment to confirm that the person concerned does not pose a threat to internal security. This includes checks against relevant national and EU databases, such as the SIS and Europol data. The aim of this second security assessment is to ensure that the most up-to-date information is available to support the relocation case and not to replicate the first security check performed at an earlier step in accordance with Articles 5 and 7 Screening Regulation.

If a significant period of time has passed since the initial security assessment it is recommended to repeat the relevant security checks to ensure accuracy and reliability. Where possible, national systems may include mechanisms to flag such cases for reassessment. If new indicators or updates from competent authorities emerge these should also trigger a reassessment.

A clear description of these checks, including the date of the latest checks and the results, must be included in the standard relocation form. This supports the Member State of relocation in conducting its own internal security verification in a timely and efficient manner.

When completing the security-related fields in the standard relocation form, the benefitting Member State provides a concise factual summary. At a minimum, the information covers:



- whether the person's name, date of birth and place of birth were checked against relevant national and EU databases (e.g. SIS) and the outcome of those checks;
- whether the person is known to police authorities (e.g. through prior investigations or contacts);
- whether the person has committed any criminal offences or infractions of law;
- whether there are any indications or intelligence suggesting links to terrorist organisations or violent extremist groups.

Where no relevant findings exist, this is stated clearly (e.g. 'No alerts or entries identified as of [date]').



Remember: security assessment by the benefitting Member State

- The benefitting Member State must carry out an assessment to confirm that the person concerned does not pose a threat to internal security.
- The aim is not to duplicate the screening conducted at an earlier step in accordance with Articles 5 and 7 Screening Regulation but to ensure that the most up-to-date information is available to support the relocation case.
- If a significant period of time has passed since the initial screening, it is recommended to repeat the relevant security checks to ensure accuracy and reliability.

4.10 Transmission of the information for the purpose of relocation



AMMR

Article 67(7)

Before transmitting the information for the purpose of relocation, the benefitting Member State must ensure that all necessary preparatory steps have been completed in line with Article 67 AMMR and its implementing provisions.

Before transmitting information for the purpose of relocation the benefitting Member State ensures that:

- the Member State of relocation has not yet completed its relocation contributions;
- no security issues have been identified in relation to the person concerned;
- the person concerned is eligible to be relocated;
- the person has been matched with the correct Member State in accordance with the criteria applied by the benefitting Member State;
- the whereabouts of the person to be relocated are known and that any needs for internal transfers within the benefitting Member State have been taken into consideration;
- any anticipated relocation personal security interview has been planned in advance, taking into account the availability of interpreters and suitable infrastructure;
- that the person concerned is expected, if applicable, to be available to attend the relocation personal security interview (avoiding the inclusion, for example, of persons

who are in hospital or that for other reasons are temporarily unavailable to attend interview);

- support needs, particularly for vulnerable persons, have been anticipated;
- it is confirmed (orally) that beneficiaries of international protection still consent to being relocated.



Note: planning for the age of children and relocation personal security interview

The benefitting Member State should take into account the age of the child at the time of planning. Any anticipated change in the child's age between the transmission of information for the purpose of relocation and the planned interview may trigger different procedural requirements. This could for instance be the case if a Member State of relocation carries out interviews with applicants from a certain age and an applicant is about to reach this age. This should be factored into the planning to ensure compliance with the practice of the Member State of relocation and to avoid unnecessary delays.

4.10.1 Use of the standard form

	AMMR
	Articles 67(7), 67(14)
	AMMR Implementing Regulation
	Annex IV

The benefitting Member State must use the Commission standard relocation form (Annex IV to the AMMR Implementing Regulation) to transmit information for the purpose of relocation to the Member State of relocation. All mandatory fields must be completed. Where a family is proposed for relocation to a Member State, the details of all family members must be submitted in the same form. Note that when extended family members, beyond the definitions of the AMMR, are relocated to the same Member State, only those considered as family members in accordance with the AMMR definition should be included in the same standard form.



Note: the common form for transmitting information

Annex IV to the AMMR Implementing Regulation provides a common form that must be used by Member States when transmitting information on relocation through DubliNet. In case of families the same form can be used for all the of the family members. The benefitting Member State fills out the information on the person to be relocated in Part I of the form. The Member State of relocation fills out Part II of the form where they indicate whether they wish to conduct a relocation personal security interview or not and the format of the interview (in-person or remote). Once the Member State of relocation has assessed the security grounds it either confirms the relocation or communicates its non-confirmation. The common form also includes several optional parts that may be filled out by the Member States authorities.

The benefitting Member State should consider the following elements when preparing the transmission of information to the Member State of relocation.

- Photograph of the applicant
- Information on meaningful links (e.g. family members, language skills, past residence or community ties) should be clearly described, as such information might be relevant for the Member State of relocation to take into consideration when making the necessary reception arrangements.
- The benefitting Member State may include information on any aliases for which security checks were conducted in the free-text box with additional information about the security checks in the common form.
- For open-text fields (e.g. regarding security checks or the vulnerability assessment), concise and factual summaries should be provided, such as ‘The applicant was screened against SIS and national alert systems on [date]; no matches found’ or ‘Interview conducted on [date]; no concerns identified.’
- When the applicant is a person with special needs — such as a victim of trafficking, a person with a disability or someone requiring medical care — it is essential to include this information in the relocation form. This allows the Member State of relocation to plan for any specific support or services the person may need.
- In the case of unaccompanied children, to ensure that all necessary arrangements are made for the child’s protection and care during and after relocation, information should also be included confirming that the relocation has been assessed to be in the best interests of the child.
- If an applicant is under the Asylum Border Procedure in the benefitting Member State this information can be communicated to the contributing Member State in part IV of the common form.



Note: documents to attach, depending on the circumstances of the case

Signed consent form. Where the person is a beneficiary of international protection, a signed consent form must be attached.

Screening form (pursuant to Article 17 Screening Regulation). Where appropriate, the completed screening form should be attached. In cases involving families, the screening form should be included for each relevant family member.

Copy of documents. Where available, copies of passports, identity cards, birth certificates or other relevant identification documents of the person(s) concerned should be attached as they might facilitate the security check conducted by the Member State of relocation.

In cases involving families. When transmitting information for the purpose of relocation for a family, all required attachments are to be included for each individual family member.

The decision granting international protection. Where the person is a beneficiary of international protection the date that international protection was granted and the type of status is provided in the form. The benefitting Member State may also attach the decision to grant international protection with the standard form.



Listed below are the technical requirements for transmitting information for the purpose of relocation.

- The common forms are submitted in XML format.
- Submit via Dublinet by the designated asylum authority.
- Use the standard relocation form in Annex IV to the AMMR Implementing Regulation.
- Use standardised references and case identifiers to maintain traceability.
- Send the message with the correct code in the subject line in accordance with Article 5 AMMR Implementing Regulation.
- Clearly label all attached documents and shared in a format that ensures readability and data security. To avoid transmission issues file names should be limited to 50 characters where possible.
- Unnecessary documents and attachments should not be included.
- Consider the file size of attachments to avoid issues where messages cannot be delivered.



EUAA Recommendations on the Operational and Technical Use of Dublinet ⁽²⁵⁾

This set of recommendations provides guidance to Member State officials on the use of Dublinet for communication covering both the relocation and responsibility procedures and support officials in structuring, transmitting and managing messages effectively. They include technical and procedural advice on message formatting, use of codes, handling of attachments and ensuring clarity and consistency in exchanges. This guidance will be updated in the context of the AMMR but some of the more general recommendations in this document remain relevant.

4.10.2 Possibility to update information

The benefitting Member State may update the information transmitted via the standard relocation form in case any new, corrected or relevant information becomes available after the transmission of information for the purpose of relocation has been submitted. This is particularly important if new facts arise that are relevant to the relocation procedure, especially those related to potential internal security threats.

Such updates must be transmitted through Dublinet to the Member State of relocation without delay using the same standard form, in accordance with Article 17(2) AMMR Implementing Regulation.

4.10.3 Withdrawing the transmission of information for the purpose of relocation if the relocation personal security interview cannot be conducted

If a Member State of relocation is unable to verify whether there are reasonable grounds to consider the person concerned a threat to internal security, because it cannot conduct the relocation personal security interview for reasons beyond its control, the transmission of

⁽²⁵⁾ EASO, *Recommendations on the Operational and Technical Use of Dublinet*, November 2020, <https://euaa.europa.eu/publications/recommendations-operational-and-technical-use-dublinet>.



information can be withdrawn by the benefitting Member State. The person cannot then be proposed for relocation again.

If the Member State of relocation requires a relocation personal security interview but suitable facilities or staff unexpectedly are not available in the benefitting Member State, and the information for the purpose of relocation has already been transmitted, it should be withdrawn to avoid a formal non-confirmation by the Member State of relocation due to the inability to assess the security-related aspects.

Similarly, if the person becomes temporarily unavailable to attend the relocation personal security interview due to medical or other reasons after the transmission of information for the purpose of relocation has been transmitted, the benefitting Member State is expected to withdraw the transmission.

The withdrawal of the transmission of information must be made through DubliNet and should include sufficient information for the Member State of relocation to easily identify the person concerned.

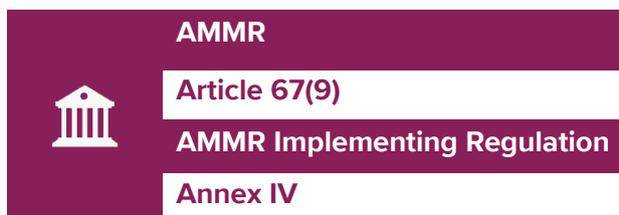
If a transmission of information is withdrawn, the benefitting Member State may later re-submit the person for relocation. Regardless of whether a withdrawn submission of information is re-submitted to the same Member State of relocation or to another Member State of relocation, the deadline to respond will be the full standard one or two-week deadline.

4.10.4 Processing the transmission of information for the purpose of relocation



Once the benefitting Member State transmits the information for the purpose of relocation using the standard form via DubliNet, the Member State of relocation is required to conduct a security assessment to determine whether there are 'reasonable grounds to consider that the person concerned poses a threat to internal security' ⁽²⁶⁾.

4.10.5 Confirmation or non-confirmation of the transmission of information for the purpose of relocation



⁽²⁶⁾ Article 67(8) AMMR.



Following the completion of the security assessment (and relocation personal security interview, if applicable), the Member State of relocation must reply with a confirmation or non-confirmation of the transmission of information for the purpose of relocation.

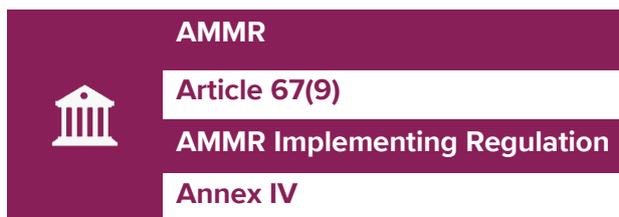
A **confirmation** is acceptance of the person. It entails the obligation to relocate the person. Failure to reply within the applicable timeframes is equal to confirmation, which imposes the obligation to relocate the person concerned, including making the necessary arrangements for the person's arrival.

A **non-confirmation** in substance must be based on an identified threat to internal security or the failure or refusal of the person to present themselves or to participate in the relocation personal security interview thereby not allowing for the conclusion of the security assessment.

The AMMR Implementing Regulation also provides the possibility for the Member State of relocation to respond with a non-confirmation in specific cases involving administrative errors where:

- The form was transmitted for a person outside of the scope of the relocation procedure;
- The form was manifestly transmitted to the wrong Member State;
- The form was sent despite systemic shortcomings having been identified by the Commission in the benefitting Member State leading to serious consequences for the functioning of the AMMR and the contributing Member State choosing not to implement its pledge towards that benefitting Member State.

4.10.6 Non-confirmation of a transmission of information for the purpose of relocation on security grounds



Information must be exchanged swiftly and securely with the relevant authorities. Where internal security concerns arise, the Member State of relocation must indicate the grounds for non-confirmation and, where applicable, identify the nature of any alerts from relevant security databases (e.g. SIS, national alert systems). The use of the standard form is mandatory and ensures consistency in communication. It helps both Member States maintain clear procedural records.

If, following the security assessment, the Member State of relocation identifies reasonable grounds to consider the individual a threat to internal security, it must send a non-confirmation reply within the applicable timeframe (one week or up to two weeks in exceptional cases).



Technical requirements for submitting the response:

- Submit the response via DubliNet by the designated asylum authority.
- Use the standard relocation form, including a reference to the relevant ground(s) for non-confirmation (e.g. internal security threat).
- Use standardised references and case identifiers across both DubliNet and channels used by law enforcement and other competent authorities to maintain traceability.
- Send the message with the correct code in the subject line in accordance with Article 5 AMMR Implementing Regulation.

Following the non-confirmation on security grounds, the person must be removed from the relocation pool and may not be relocated to any Member State. The benefitting Member State is responsible for examining the application for international protection and informing the person concerned about the next steps of the procedure.

4.10.7 Exchanging security-sensitive information

If the Member State of relocation identifies that a person being considered for relocation poses a threat to internal security, it must be assumed that the benefitting Member State is unaware of this information as they would otherwise not have proposed the person for relocation.

It is thus imperative that the Member State of relocation communicates all the relevant information without any delay to the benefitting Member State, where this person is present, so that they may take the necessary actions.

DubliNet is not intended for exchanging classified or law enforcement-sensitive information. Information on the nature of and underlying elements for an alert from any relevant database must be communicated through appropriate channels used by law enforcement and other competent authorities.

To ensure the speedy communication of security-related information through the appropriate channels, both the Member State of relocation and benefitting Member State should ensure efficient internal cooperation and communication between the relevant asylum and law enforcement authorities in their country. Member State authorities should also ensure that relevant security-related information is communicated from the law enforcement agencies to the competent asylum authorities using secure communication channels.



Enhancing coordination for security-related communication

Recommended actions.

- Designate clear contact points in each Member State for both asylum and law enforcement-related communication under the relocation procedure, ensuring efficient communication both within and between Member States.
- Establish internal protocols for cooperation between asylum authorities and law enforcement agencies at the national level to enable quick verification and transmission of information.



- Agree in advance on the competent authorities authorised to send and receive security-related updates between Member States.

By ensuring these channels are clear, known and functional before the relocation procedure begins, Member States can avoid delays and ensure compliance with obligations related to the exchange of security-sensitive information.

4.10.8 Eurodac obligations when the relocation is confirmed



Eurodac Regulation ⁽²⁷⁾

Article 25(1)

Where relocation is confirmed, the benefitting Member State must update their Eurodac record to include the Member State of relocation.



Remember: transmission of the information for the purpose of relocation

- Before transmitting the information for the purpose of relocation, the benefitting Member State must ensure that all necessary preparatory steps have been completed.
- The benefitting Member State must use the Commission standard relocation form (Annex IV to the AMMR Implementing Regulation) to transmit information for the purpose of relocation to the Member State of relocation.
- The benefitting Member State may update the information transmitted via the standard relocation form in case any new, corrected or relevant information becomes available after the transmission of information for the purpose of relocation has been submitted.
- A transmission of information may be withdrawn to avoid outright rejection if all steps needed to be undertaken cannot be completed within the set timeframes.
- Following the completion of the security assessment (and relocation personal security interview if applicable), the Member State of relocation must reply with a confirmation or non-confirmation of the transmission of information for the purpose of relocation.
- If the Member State of relocation identifies that a person being considered for relocation poses a threat to internal security, all the relevant information should be transmitted through appropriate channels without any delay to the benefitting Member State, where this person is present, so that they may take the necessary actions.

⁽²⁷⁾ Regulation (EU) 2024/1358 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 14 May 2024 on the establishment of 'Eurodac' for the comparison of biometric data in order to effectively apply Regulations (EU) 2024/1351 and (EU) 2024/1350 of the European Parliament and of the Council and Council Directive 2001/55/EC and to identify illegally staying third-country nationals and stateless persons and on requests for the comparison with Eurodac data by Member States' law enforcement authorities and Europol for law enforcement purposes, amending Regulations (EU) 2018/1240 and (EU) 2019/818 of the European Parliament and of the Council and repealing Regulation (EU) No 603/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council (OJ L, 2024/1358, 22.5.2024), <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2024/1358/oj>.



- Where relocation is confirmed the benefitting Member State must, pursuant to Article 25(1) Eurodac Regulation, update Eurodac by adding the Member State of relocation.

4.11 Organisation of the relocation personal security interview for security assessment under the relocation procedure

The relocation personal security interview is intended to gather or verify information relevant to internal security and may be carried out regardless of whether the person concerned is an applicant for international protection or a beneficiary of international protection.

If, for logistical reasons, the relocation personal security interview needs to be rescheduled, this can be done only insofar as the interview could be held within the applicable deadlines. If it is not possible to reschedule the interview within the deadlines it is recommended that the benefitting Member State withdraws the transmission of information. See Section [4.10.3 Withdrawing the transmission of information for the purpose of relocation if the relocation personal security interview cannot be conducted](#) above.

4.11.1 Responsibilities of the Member State of relocation



Assess whether a personal relocation personal security interview is necessary

The Member State of relocation decides whether a personal interview with the person concerned should be carried out as part of its security assessment.

Notify the benefitting Member State

If a relocation personal security interview will take place, the benefitting Member State must be informed in a timely manner. This allows the logistical arrangements to be made. The notification may either be made in an individual case using the standard relocation form or for all persons for whom the standard relocation form has been transmitted. Such a collective notification must be transmitted through DubliNet and must also be notified to the EU Solidarity Coordinator and the EUAA.

Communicate the preferred format

The Member State of relocation should indicate whether the relocation personal security interview will be conducted remotely or in person. It should coordinate accordingly with the benefitting Member State.

Respect applicable timelines

The relocation personal security interview is to be conducted within the initial one-week deadline for responding to the transmission of information for the purpose of relocation. Where an extension period is applicable, this must be done within two weeks.



Inform the person concerned

On the day of the relocation personal security interview, the person should receive information about the purpose and nature of the interview in a language they understand. The information may be provided orally.

Communication of security elements

While the method of documentation may vary depending on national practice, the Member State of relocation should ensure that sufficient records of the relocation personal security interview are maintained to enable proper follow-up. Where any relevant security-related elements emerge during the interview, the Member State of relocation must ensure that this information is promptly and appropriately shared with the relevant authorities of the benefitting Member State.

4.11.2 Responsibilities of the benefitting Member State

Coordinate relocation personal security interview scheduling

The benefitting Member State should coordinate closely with the Member State of relocation to agree on the timing of the interview. Planning should ensure sufficient lead time for logistical and operational arrangements, including interpretation and transport, where necessary.

Facilities and infrastructure

The benefitting Member State should provide appropriate and secure facilities for conducting relocation personal security interview, including offices where confidentiality can be ensured, waiting areas and access to basic amenities. Where possible, interviews should take place in the same facility to minimise the need for additional logistical planning or fact-finding missions from the Member State of relocation. If the interviews are carried out by videoconference, the facilities should be adequately equipped to allow for such interviews to take place in a secure way.

Ensure presence and availability

The benefitting Member State is responsible for ensuring that the person concerned is present and available for the relocation personal security interview at the agreed location and time. Internal transfers between facilities may need to be organised in advance, in cooperation with reception authorities.

Interpretation

Where necessary, interpretation must be arranged to ensure meaningful participation. To avoid prolonging the interview, efforts should as far as possible be made to prevent double interpretation, including when working with rare languages or dialects.

Information to the person concerned provided beforehand

The benefitting Member State must inform the person concerned about:

- the purpose of the relocation personal security interview, including that it forms part of the relocation procedure and is conducted by the Member State of relocation for security-related purposes;
- what the relocation personal security interview is not, namely, that it does not concern the examination of the application for international protection;
- which Member State will conduct the interview;



- the obligation to attend the relocation personal security interview and the duty to cooperate with the authorities during the procedure.

Cooperation with reception and support services

Close coordination is recommended between asylum and reception authorities, as well as other relevant actors.



Note: special considerations for the relocation personal security interview

Where the person subject to relocation is an unaccompanied child or has special needs, additional safeguards must be in place.

For unaccompanied children:

- the best interest of the child should be the primary consideration when considering the modalities of the interview;
- a guardian or legal representative must be appointed according to national law and they must be present during the interview;
- the guardian should be informed in advance about the interview and its purpose and be given the opportunity to support the child before, during and after the interview;
- the interview must be conducted in a child-friendly, age-appropriate manner by a professional with expertise in interviewing children and the necessary knowledge of the rights and special needs of children, taking into consideration the age and maturity of the child.

For persons with special needs (e.g. victims of trafficking, persons with disabilities, mental health concerns), ensure the following.

- Arrangements to ensure accessible interview facilities, provision of psychosocial or other support and the presence of a trusted support person, if needed.
- The ability of the persons to engage comfortably and safely should be considered. For example, a person with a cognitive disability may benefit from in-person support to understand and answer questions and a victim of trafficking might feel more secure in a physical setting, with support persons present.
- Communication must be tailored to the individual's needs and capacities, ensuring informed participation throughout the interview process.

4.11.3 Considerations for the format of the relocation personal security interview

The decision on the format of the relocation personal security interview lies with the Member State of relocation, in line with Article 67(8) AMMR and Article 18 AMMR

Implementing Regulation. Both remote and in-person interviews may be used. Both types of interviews have practical benefits and limitations. The chosen format should allow for effective communication, respectful treatment of the person concerned and timely completion of the relocation process.



Remote interviews can reduce logistical burdens and allow for the timely organisation of interviews. This is particularly the case where applicants are housed in remote areas or where the applicant would need to travel to attend an in-person interview. In-person interviews may be beneficial in cases where the person concerned has hearing or visual impairments or other needs that would be hard to provide for in a remote setting.

Benefitting Member States must ensure interpretation services, infrastructure and any necessary technical support are available regardless of the chosen interview format.



EUAA Guidance on Remote Interviews ⁽²⁸⁾

This guidance provides detailed advice on conducting remote interviews in the context of the APR and the AMMR. It covers technical requirements, procedural safeguards and practical considerations to ensure quality and fairness in remote formats. Whilst the personal security interview for relocation is beyond the scope of this guide, much of the technical and methodological guidance can be applied by analogy.

4.12 Transfer decision

4.12.1 Content of the transfer decision



AMMR

Article 67(10)

The benefitting Member State must adopt a transfer decision within one week of receiving confirmation from the Member State of relocation.

The following minimum information should be provided in the transfer decision:

- the name of the Member State of relocation;
- the applicable council implementing act;
- in cases concerning beneficiaries of international protection, a reference to the bilateral agreement between the two Member States allowing for the transfer of beneficiaries of international protection;
- the individual's obligation to comply with the transfer decision, including the consequences of non-compliance;
- the available legal remedies, including how and where to lodge an appeal or review, the right to request suspensive effect and the applicable time limits;
- information about the right to free legal, and where necessary linguistic assistance and how to request it;
- the applicable time limits for implementing the transfer, clarifying that under Article 67(12) of AMMR the relocation procedure may continue even after the four-week deadline;

⁽²⁸⁾ EUAA, *Guidance on Remote Interviews*, April 2025, <https://euaa.europa.eu/publications/guidance-remote-interviews>.



- for unaccompanied children, the conclusion of the best interests assessment to ensure that the decision reflects the best interests of the child.

4.12.2 Notification of the transfer decision



The person concerned must be notified of the transfer decision in writing. The notification must be addressed to the individual concerned and delivered on an individual basis. The notification may be addressed to the person's legal adviser or counsellor if one is formally representing the person under national law. In such cases, the notification must also be communicated to the person concerned, where applicable.



Good practice: timely notification of transfer decisions

It is recommended that the transfer decision is notified in a timely manner, allowing the person concerned adequate opportunity to exercise their rights, in particular the right to appeal. Member States should carefully balance the applicable deadlines, such as appeal periods, time limits for implementing transfers and practical arrangements for relocation to ensure effective access to legal remedies while minimising administrative burdens. Strategic planning of the notification timeline can also help reduce the risk of rebooking transfers, avoid last-minute obstacles and ensure coordinated implementation.

Where the person is not legally represented, the Member State must also provide a summary of the main elements of the decision and information on legal remedies. It must be provided in a language the person understands or is reasonably supposed to understand, using clear and comprehensible language to ensure the individual is fully informed and can exercise their rights effectively.

The following information should be provided at the time of notification.

- Procedure after relocation. A general explanation of what to expect upon arrival in the Member State of relocation, including the examination of application or the recognition of their protection status.
- Rights and obligations. Information including the right to appeal the transfer decision, the right to request suspensive effect of the transfer and the right to legal assistance, as well as the obligation to cooperate.
- Consequences of non-compliance. Explanation of what may happen if the person fails to cooperate with the transfer.
- Contact details. Entities or organisations providing legal assistance, unless this information has already been communicated earlier.
- Logistics for voluntary transfers (if applicable). Indication of the date, time and location the person must present themselves.



Note: delivering the transfer decision to unaccompanied children and persons without legal capacity

For unaccompanied children and adults without legal capacity, the transfer decision and its implications must be delivered in the presence of their appointed guardian or legal representative.

Information must be provided in a language and format adapted to the person's specific needs, taking into account factors such as age, maturity, level of understanding and any vulnerabilities. Where necessary, interpretation or additional support (e.g. visual aids or simplified explanations) should be made available to ensure full comprehension.



Good practices: providing information on the Member State of relocation

Providing information about the Member State of relocation at the same time the transfer decision is communicated to the applicant is a good way to build trust. It can help reduce possible anxiety on the part of the applicant regarding the situation they will face in the Member State of relocation.

To strengthen information provision and reduce uncertainty among persons to be relocated, Member States are encouraged to develop a list of frequently asked questions (FAQs) related to the relocation procedure.

The FAQs should be made publicly and widely available, including in reception centres, online platforms and printed leaflets. They should be provided in languages most commonly spoken by applicants and beneficiaries of international protection. They should be regularly updated based on evolving procedures and recurring questions raised by individuals during information sessions or interviews.



Remember: transfer decision

- The benefitting Member State should ensure all necessary information is included in the transfer decision.
- The person concerned must be notified of the transfer decision in writing. The notification must be addressed to the individual concerned and delivered on an individual basis.

4.13 Appeal



AMMR

Articles 43, 67(10)

The person subject to a transfer decision has the right to an effective remedy in the form of an appeal or review before a court or tribunal in line with Article 43 of the AMMR. The scope of the remedy is limited to assessing:

- whether the transfer would expose the person to a real risk of inhuman or degrading treatment (Article 4 of the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights ⁽²⁹⁾);
- whether any decisive new circumstances have emerged after the decision was issued;
- whether, in the case of persons taken charge of under Article 36(1)(a) AMMR, the criteria in Articles 25 to 28 or 34 AMMR were incorrectly applied.

4.13.1 Suspensive effect



The person may request that the appeal suspends the implementation of the transfer. Member States may provide in national law, that the request for suspension be submitted together with the appeal. Transfers are automatically suspended until a decision is made on the first request for suspensive effect. The competent court or tribunal must rule on this request within one month of receiving it.

If suspensive effect is granted, the court or tribunal should endeavour to deliver a decision on the substance of the appeal within one month thereafter.

If suspensive effect is not requested or is refused, the transfer may proceed. Any decision refusing suspension must be reasoned.

4.13.2 Access to legal and linguistic assistance



The person concerned must have access to legal assistance and, if necessary, to interpretation or translation support. Legal assistance and representation must be provided free of charge upon request if the person cannot afford it. National rules may apply to ensure legal assistance is provided under the same conditions as for nationals. It may exclude requests deemed to have no tangible prospect of success. Any refusal of legal aid by an administrative authority must be subject to judicial review.

Legal assistance must at least include support in preparing procedural documents. Legal representation must at least cover representation before the competent authority or court. National law must clearly define the procedures for accessing both forms of assistance.

⁽²⁹⁾ European Union, Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union, 26 October 2012, 2012/C 326/02, http://data.europa.eu/eli/treaty/char_2012/oj.

**Note: procedural safeguards for children**

For unaccompanied children:

- a guardian or legal representative must be appointed and actively involved throughout the appeal process;
- all procedures must be explained in a child-friendly and age-appropriate manner.

**Remember: appeal**

- The person subject to a transfer decision has the right to an effective remedy in the form of an appeal or review before a court or tribunal.
- The person may request that the appeal suspends the implementation of the transfer.
- The person concerned must have access to legal assistance and, if necessary, to interpretation or translation support. Legal assistance and representation must be provided free of charge upon request if the person cannot afford it.

4.14 Transfer implementation

AMMR**Articles 67(11), 67(12)****AMMR Implementing Regulation****Annex IX****EUAA Recommendations on AMMR transfers**

These recommendations provide guidance to Member State officials on the implementation of transfers under the AMMR. Transfers for the responsibility procedure and relocation in the AMMR work in very similar ways and are both covered in this publication.

The actual transfer should take place within four weeks of the confirmation by the Member State of relocation or following the final decision on an appeal if suspensive effect was granted. The relocation procedure may however continue even after this deadline and there is no shift of responsibility if the transfer was not executed within the deadline.

The benefitting Member State is responsible for ensuring all arrangements are completed within this timeframe.

A laissez-passer should be issued, using Annex IX to the AMMR Implementing Regulation, if necessary to facilitate the transfer.

4.14.1 Internal transfers within the benefitting Member State

To ensure effective implementation of the relocation procedure, the benefitting Member State may need to organise internal transfers of applicants from various locations within its territory to ensure their availability for the actual relocation transfer to the Member State of relocation.

This may involve transferring persons from one reception facility to another or to locations where necessary procedural steps, such as interviews, medical checks or departure formalities, can be completed. In some cases, these internal movements are essential to allow for joint operations or scheduled departures involving multiple candidates.



Note: considerations on internal transfers within the benefitting Member State

When planning internal transfers, the benefitting Member State should ensure:

- that persons to be transferred have access to information on the purpose of the internal transfer, along with practical information;
- adequate time is allocated for preparatory steps prior to the main transfer date;
- coordination with reception authorities or other relevant actors is established to avoid disruptions in services or support;
- the rights and specific needs of the persons concerned are respected, including access to information, interpretation and support throughout the process;
- vulnerable persons, including unaccompanied children or those with medical conditions, are given particular attention to ensure safe and appropriate transportation and care;
- that internal transfers do not create unnecessary delays or risks of absconding;
- where possible, movement should be as direct and streamlined as feasible.



Good practice for transfers: use of relocation hubs

Relocation hubs, where established, can help to streamline the transfer process. Italy has reported positive experiences with the establishment of dedicated hubs, which have proven to be an effective instrument in the reception and support of persons to be relocated. In particular, dedicated hubs have facilitated early identification of vulnerabilities, provided information and orientation services and ensured a rapid referral to specialised support, including anti-trafficking measures where relevant. On the basis of this experience, Italy considers that dedicated hubs represent a good practice that has contributed to improving coordination among national authorities, international organisations and civil society stakeholders, while ensuring more tailored responses to the needs of persons to be relocated.

4.14.2 Preventing absconding

Absconding is a challenge in the relocation procedure that can delay or complicate the process, potentially affecting the successful transfer of applicants. To minimise absconding

and ensure that transfers take place as smoothly as possible, Member States should adopt effective strategies and best practices at each stage of the procedure.

Absconding refers to the situation where an applicant or individual subject to relocation intentionally evades authorities, typically by disappearing before the transfer can take place. This can occur for a variety of reasons, including fears or misconceptions about the relocation destination, lack of information or distrust in the system.

Measures to prevent the risk of absconding may also include the application of Article 9 RCD (2024) and where a ground of detention applies alternative to detention.



Note: recommendations to minimise absconding

- Individuals who have been determined to be at risk of absconding should be prioritised for transfer.
- Clear and timely communication with applicants throughout the process — both verbally and in writing — helps manage expectations, dispel misinformation and build trust. Applicants should understand the reasons why they are being relocated and what they can expect.
- Group transfers can provide reassurance and reduce anxiety among applicants.
- Select motivated applicants and give priority to applicants with meaningful links in the receiving Member State (such as family or cultural ties).
- The use of relocation hubs can contribute to streamlining procedures, improve information provision measures thereby reducing the risk of absconding.



EUAA Guidelines on Alternatives to Detention ⁽³⁰⁾

These guidelines support EU+ country authorities in identifying and implementing appropriate alternatives to detention. They provide practical tools and considerations for assessing necessity and proportionality, ensuring respect for fundamental rights and applying non-custodial measures, particularly in the case of vulnerable applicants, including children and families.



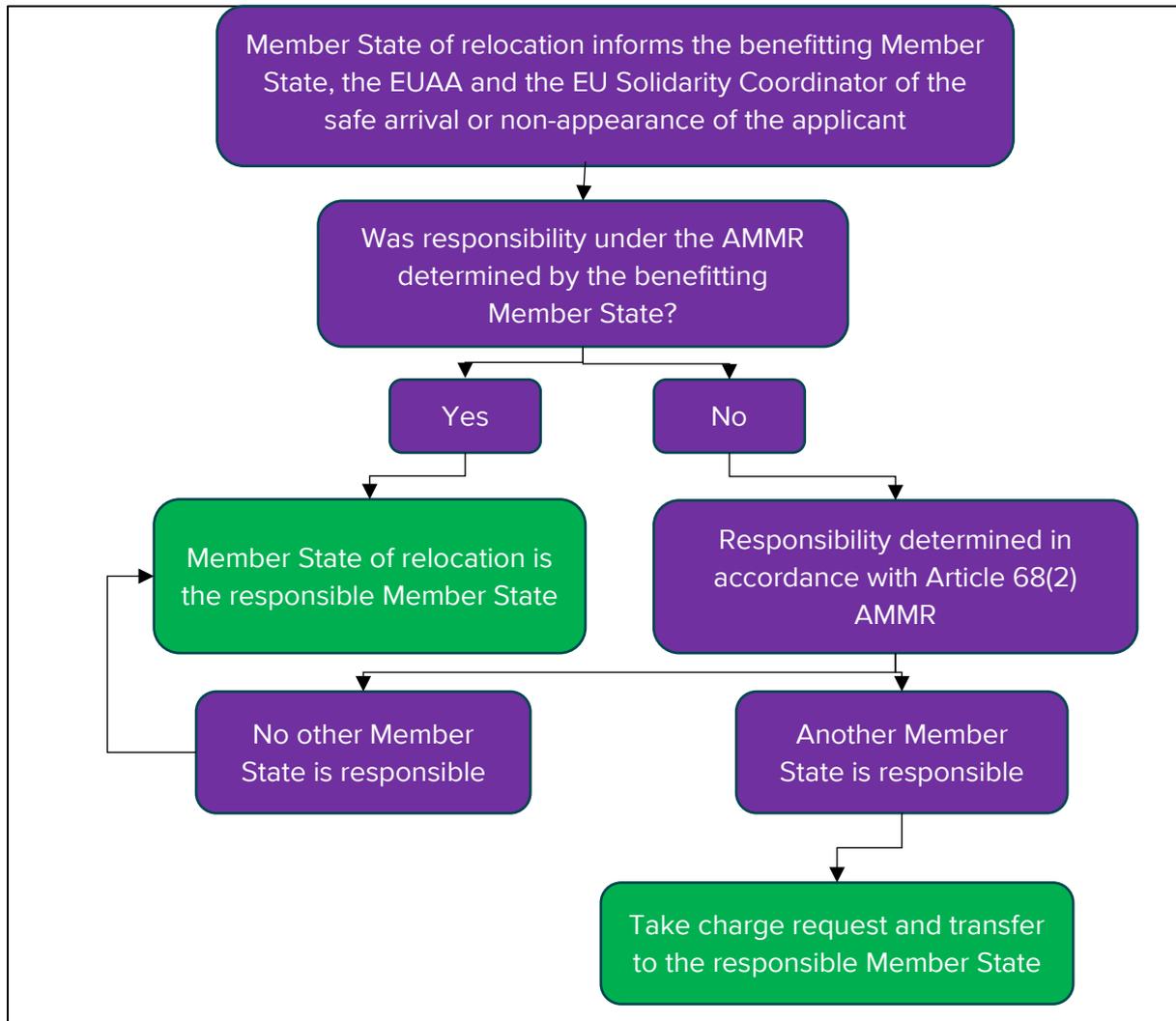
Remember: transfer implementation

- The benefitting Member State is responsible for ensuring all arrangements for the transfer are completed within the four-week timeframe
- To ensure effective implementation of the relocation procedure, the benefitting Member State may need to organise internal transfers of applicants from various locations within its territory to ensure their availability for the actual relocation transfer to the Member State of relocation.
- To minimise absconding and ensure that transfers take place as smoothly as possible, Member States should adopt effective strategies and best practices at each stage of the procedure.

⁽³⁰⁾ EUAA, *Guidelines on Alternatives to Detention*, December 2024, <https://euaa.europa.eu/publications/guidelines-alternatives-detention>.

5 Obligations on the Member State of relocation after relocation

Figure 4. A schematic overview of the procedure after the relocation of applicants



Duty to inform of the safe arrival or failure to appear within the set deadline



After relocation, the Member State of relocation must inform the benefitting Member State, the EUAA and the EU Solidarity Coordinator of the safe arrival of the person concerned or of the fact that they did not appear within the set time limit.



Type of transfer	Actor to be informed		
	Benefitting Member State	EUAA	EU Solidarity Coordinator
Escorted	x No need to inform since the benefitting Member State will be escorting	✓	✓
Supervised	Only if the person was not received at the point of disembarkation, did not appear or there were complications	✓	✓
Voluntary	✓	✓	✓

The communication between Member States of relocation and benefitting Member States must take place through DubliNet. It is recommended that the notification is sent as soon as possible after the arrival of the person concerned or after the set time limit has expired.

The Member State of relocation must inform the EUAA and the EU Solidarity Coordinator about the transfers carried out, including the number of persons who did not appear as scheduled.



Good practice: accommodate relocated persons in arrival centres

In previous relocation schemes, some Member States of relocation have used arrival centres to accommodate relocated persons for a few days for the first procedures and provision of immediate assistance before transferring them to the accommodation where they will be housed during the examination of their application for international protection.

An arrival centre close to the main national airport could allow for efficient and effective planning and reduce the cost of internal transfers, particularly in situations where the relocated persons can move to their long-term accommodation via buses or trains instead of internal flights. It can also help the Member State of relocation to finalise the assessment of vulnerability and special needs and confirm the choice of accommodation.



Good practice: having a system in place to support AMIF funding

It is good practice for Member States of relocation to ensure that they consider the need to efficiently gather proof of the successful completion of relocation transfers for the purpose of AMIF funding when setting up their procedures.



5.1 Border procedure after relocation

**APR****Articles 43(1)(d), 51(2)**

If the applicant transferred was in the asylum border procedure in the benefitting Member State, the Member State of relocation may decide to apply the border procedure to the person also after relocation, as far as the time limits for the asylum border procedure allow. If the applicant is relocated to another Member State, the 12-week period of the asylum border procedure may be extended to 16 weeks.

The time limit for the border procedure starts running from the registration of the application in the benefitting Member State. This means that the Member State of relocation will have to conclude the asylum border procedure within whatever time remains of the 12 or 16 weeks since the application was registered in the benefitting Member State.

5.2 Application of the responsibility determination procedure after relocation

**AMMR****Article 68(2)**

Where the person relocated is an applicant for whom the responsible Member State has not been determined yet, the Member State of relocation must apply a limited responsibility determination procedure. The Member State of relocation must check if the criteria related to family apply to ensure that the right to family unity is respected:

- Article 25, except 25(5) (unaccompanied minors);
- Article 26 (family members who legally reside in a Member State);
- Article 27 (family members who are applicants for international protection);
- Article 28 (family procedure);
- Article 34 (dependent persons).

The Member State of relocation must also check if the criteria related to visa-waived entry (Article 31 AMMR) and an application in an international transit area of an airport (Article 32 AMMR) apply.

The responsibility of the Member State of relocation to carry out this determination starts when the applicant registers their application with the Member State of relocation.

Where, following the application of the responsibility determination procedure, another Member State is determined as responsible for examining the application for international protection, the Member State of relocation is responsible for carrying out the transfer to the Member State responsible.



Where, following the application of the responsibility determination procedure no other Member State responsible can be determined, the Member State of relocation must be responsible for examining the application for international protection.



Note: determining the Member State responsible in cases of absconding

The responsibility of the Member State of relocation to determine the responsible Member State applies even if the applicant absconds from the Member State of relocation (Article 38(2) AMMR). This obligation applies if the applicant absconds after the transfer decision and also if the transfer cannot be carried out, assuming that the benefitting Member State had not already become the responsible Member State prior to the issuing of the transfer decision.

If the benefitting Member State had already become the responsible Member State prior to the decision to relocate the applicant, no responsibility determination takes place in the Member State of relocation. This applies even if the responsibility was established due to a take charge request not being sent within the timelimits laid down in Article 39(1) AMMR.

5.3 Send updated datasets to Eurodac

AMMR	
	Articles 38(3), 68(2), 68(3)
	Eurodac Regulation
	Articles 16(1), 16(3), 25(2)

The Member State of relocation must send an updated dataset to Eurodac, including the date of arrival, as soon as the person concerned arrives in the Member State of relocation ⁽³¹⁾.

Where, following relocation, the Member State of relocation applies the limited responsibility determination procedure and establishes the Member State responsible (itself or another Member State), it must indicate the responsible Member State in Eurodac ⁽³²⁾.

5.4 Automatically grant protection status to a beneficiary of international protection

AMMR	
	Article 68(4)

The Member State of relocation must automatically grant the same protection status to beneficiaries of international protection as the one granted by the benefitting Member State.

⁽³¹⁾ Article 38(3) AMMR and Article 25(2) Eurodac Regulation.

⁽³²⁾ Articles 38(3) and 68(2) AMMR and Article 16(1) and (3) Eurodac Regulation.



Therefore, it is recommended that Member States have the appropriate procedures in place to ensure that a relocated beneficiary receives the required documents timely after arrival.

A residence permit must be issued as soon as possible after refugee status or subsidiary protection status has been granted and at the latest 90 days from the notification of the decision to grant international protection. Where a residence permit is not issued to a beneficiary of international protection within 15 days of the granting of international protection, the Member State concerned must take provisional measures, such as registration or the issuance of a document, to ensure that the beneficiary has effective access to their rights ⁽³³⁾.

5.5 The responsibility of the Member State of relocation in case of absconding from the benefitting Member State

	AMMR
	Article 67
	Eurodac Regulation
	Article 25(1)

As soon as the benefitting Member State confirms the transmission of information, it must, pursuant to Article 25(1) Eurodac Regulation, update Eurodac by adding the Member State of relocation. If the applicant absconds from the benefitting Member State after the transfer decision is notified to them, but before the transfer can be carried out, and later appears in another Member State, a take back notification should be sent to the Member State of relocation rather than the benefitting Member State.

The Member State of relocation becomes responsible for applicants for whom the benefitting Member State was previously determined as responsible on grounds other than the family criteria and indicate this in Eurodac. The Member State of relocation remains responsible for examining the application for international protection even if the applicant absconds after the confirmation of the transmission of information and also if the transfer cannot be carried out.

⁽³³⁾ Articles 20(3) and 24(2) Regulation (EU) 2024/1347 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 14 May 2024 on standards for the qualification of third-country nationals or stateless persons as beneficiaries of international protection, for a uniform status for refugees or for persons eligible for subsidiary protection and for the content of the protection granted, amending Council Directive 2003/109/EC and repealing Directive 2011/95/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council (OJ L, 2024/1347, 22.5.2024), <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2024/1347/oj>.



Remember: obligations on the Member State of relocation after relocation

- After relocation, the Member State of relocation must inform the benefitting Member State, the EUAA and the EU Solidarity Coordinator of the safe arrival of the person concerned or of the fact that they did not appear within the set time limit.
- If the applicant transferred was in the asylum border procedure in the benefitting Member State, the Member State of relocation may decide to apply the border procedure to the person also after relocation, as far as the time limits for the asylum border procedure allow.
- Where the person relocated is an applicant for whom the responsible Member State has not been determined yet, the Member State of relocation must apply a limited responsibility determination procedure.
- The Member State of relocation must send an updated dataset to Eurodac, including the date of arrival, as soon as the person concerned arrives in the Member State of relocation.
- The Member State of relocation should consider how to integrate the efficient gathering of proof of successful relocation transfers for the purpose of AMIF funding into their procedures.
- The Member State of relocation must automatically grant beneficiaries of international protection the same protection status as the one granted by the benefitting Member State.
- If the applicant absconds from the benefitting Member State after the confirmation of the transmission of information, but before the transfer can be carried out, and later appear in another Member State, a take back notification should be sent to the Member State of relocation rather than the benefitting Member State.





Annex 1. Checklist to identify applicants for international protection for the relocation pool

Eligibility criteria

Is the person an applicant for international protection?

- Yes (can be included)
- No (**cannot** be included)

Is the applicant a threat to internal security?

- No (can be included)
- Yes (**cannot** be included)

Is the benefitting Member State responsible for examining the application for international protection based on the family criteria (Articles 25(1) and (2), 26(1) and (2), Articles 27 and 34 AMMR)?

- No (can be included)
- Yes (can be included only if the rest of the family is also included)

Other considerations

Are there indications that another Member State may be responsible for examining the application for international protection based on Articles 25(1) and (2), 26(1) and (2), Article 27, Articles 29 (1) and (2), Articles 30, 31, 33 and 34 AMMR?

- No (can be included)
- Yes (should be included only after the responsibility determination procedure has been concluded and it has been determined that the benefitting Member State is responsible)

Is the applicant in a vulnerable situation?

- No (can be included)
- Yes (can be included, due consideration to be given to their individual situation)





Annex 2. Checklist to identify beneficiaries of international protection for the relocation pool

Is the person a beneficiary of international protection?

- Yes (can be included)
- No (**cannot** be included)

Was the beneficiary granted protection less than three years prior to the Council implementing act establishing the Annual Solidarity Pool?

- Yes (can be included)
- No (**cannot** be included)

Did the beneficiary consent in writing to be relocated?

- Yes (can be included)
- No (**cannot** be included)

Is the beneficiary a threat to internal security?

- No (can be included)
- Yes (**cannot** be included)

Is the beneficiary in a vulnerable situation?

- No (can be included)
- Yes (can be included, duly consideration to be given to their individual situation)





Annex 3. Template form to collect the written consent of beneficiaries of international protection

Consent form to be relocated to (name of Member State of relocation)

Name:

Surname:

Case number / unique identifier:

I confirm that I have received and understood the information provided to me on (date) in (language) in relation to my possible voluntary transfer to (name of Member State of relocation).

I have had an opportunity to ask questions and have had these answered satisfactorily.

I understand that participation to relocation is voluntary and that in (name Member State of relocation) I will be automatically granted the same protection status as currently held in (name of benefitting Member State).

I understand that my voluntary transfer to (name of Member State of relocation) is subject to a selection procedure. If I am not selected, or I do not wish to be transferred to (name of Member State of relocation), I retain the rights that accrue to my status in (name of benefitting Member State).

I hereby give my voluntary and informed consent to be relocated to (name of Member State of relocation).

Date:

Place:

Signature of the beneficiary:

Signature of the guardian / legal representative (if applicable):





Annex 4. Points to remember when relocating unaccompanied children

Points to remember for the benefitting Member State	Points to remember for the Member State of relocation
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appoint a guardian/representative as soon as possible and ensure that they are familiar with the relocation procedure. • Ensure active involvement of the guardian/representative in all steps of the procedure (collection of meaningful links, conduct of best interests assessment, personal interview, notification of transfer decision, transfer). • Initiate family tracing procedures. • Provide information in a child-friendly manner. • Take into consideration and assess throughout the procedure their best interests. • Ensure continuity of care and support (such as education, psychosocial and medical support) during the relocation process and for the arrival. • Consider when the child turns 18 years old and how this impacts the next steps of the procedure. • When matching, consider the capacity of the Member State of relocation to receive unaccompanied children. • Carefully consider their best interests when planning the transmission of information for the purpose of relocation (e.g. avoid disruptions in their schooling, where possible). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As soon as the planning of (incoming) transmissions of information for the purpose of relocation is available, follow up on the availability of appropriate accommodation and appointment of a guardian/representative. • Ensure continuity of care and support (such as education, psychosocial and medical support) after arrival. • Consider the exact age of the child and how this affects the next steps (need to attend personal interview, type of accommodation and schooling, etc.). • To facilitate the planning of the transmission of information for the purpose of relocation, inform the benefitting Member State about the minimum age for unaccompanied children to be invited for a personal interview. • Ensure that personnel conducting personal (security) interviews have received relevant training in interviewing children. • Share the relocation file with the guardian/representative of the child as soon as possible. • Ensure appropriate reception conditions. • Inform child protection authorities and the guardian/representative of the arrival of the child.





<ul style="list-style-type: none">• In case of security interviews, ensure safeguards and involvement of the representative of the minor• Coordinate the planning of the transmission of information for the purpose of relocation with the Member State of relocation. This will allow the Member State of relocation to follow-up on appropriate reception conditions and the appointment of a guardian/representative.• Ensure that relocation is in the best interest of the child.• Include in the transmission of information for the purpose of relocation the outcome of the best interests assessment.• Ensure that children understand what to expect in terms of living conditions in the Member State of relocation.• Ensure that relocation procedures involving unaccompanied children are prioritised and carried out without undue delay.	
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Annex 5. Summary of key points



Remember: general considerations for relocation

- Relocation under the AMMR is not a right for individual applicants or beneficiaries of international protection.
- Procedures should allow a fast and efficient relocation avoiding excessive administrative burdens.
- For applicants for international protection, relocation is not a voluntary procedure requiring their consent.
- Beneficiaries of international protection have to provide their consent in writing to be relocated to a specific Member State.
- Where relocation is to be carried out, the benefitting Member State identifies the persons who could be relocated. Inclusion in the relocation pool does not constitute a guarantee that a person will be relocated.



Remember: identification, persons not eligible for relocation

- Before including an applicant in the pool of persons that may be relocated, the benefitting Member State must verify that the person concerned does not pose a threat to internal security.
- If, at any stage of the relocation procedure, there are reasonable grounds to believe that the person concerned poses a threat to internal security, that person must be excluded from any future relocation or transfer to any Member State. The benefitting Member State must be responsible for examining the application for international protection.
- To ensure respect for the right to family life, the benefitting Member State must ensure that there are no indications that it is responsible for examining the application for international protection pursuant to the family criteria of the AMMR. Such applicants are not eligible for relocation unless the entire family unit can be relocated.



Remember: identification, considerations beyond eligibility

- The benefitting Member State should consider excluding from relocation applicants for which another Member State may be the Member State responsible for examining the application for international protection in accordance with the responsibility criteria of the AMMR.
- The benefitting Member State must consider giving primary consideration to the relocation of vulnerable persons.
- When considering additional elements for determining the relocation pool, the benefitting Member State should consider how relocation can be used in a way that is as efficient as possible to support the overall strategy in the management of its asylum and reception system.



- Beneficiaries of international protection should be relocated only when their relocation is bilaterally agreed between the benefitting Member State and the Member State of relocation.

**Remember: establishing the relocation pool**

- It is recommended that benefitting Member States clearly mark in their national asylum database which applicants have been included in the relocation pool.
- Member States should regularly check and update the relocation pool based on the planning and progress of the available pledges to ensure that applicants do not remain uncertain for an unnecessarily long time about the status of their application and that the legal time limits of the APR and the AMMR are respected.

**Remember: matching persons to a Member State of relocation**

- Both benefitting Member States and the Member States of relocation may express reasonable preferences in the first meeting of the Technical-Level Solidarity Forum for the persons to be relocated.
- Matching should take into account the arrangements decided within the Technical-Level Forum concerning the implementation of the solidarity contributions during the year.
- When matching persons, benefitting Member States should take into consideration the planning of the implementation of the pledges as well as the fact that persons included in it should not remain uncertain for an unnecessarily long time about the status of their procedure. In all cases it is imperative that the deadline for the examination of the application in the APR is respected.
- In the matching, benefitting Member States must take into account the existence of meaningful links based on family and cultural considerations where applicable.
- Benefitting Member States are recommended to carefully consider the individual vulnerability of persons to be relocated.

**Remember: the practical organisation of relocation**

- The Technical-Level Forum and the EU Solidarity Coordinator play an important role in ensuring a smooth relocation process and coordination between Member States.
- It is recommended that this work is complemented by bilateral coordination on relevant topics between benefitting Member States and Member States of relocation.
- Benefitting Member States should ensure that persons considered for relocation receive information about the procedure.
- Benefitting Member States should consider at which steps of the procedure to collect information from applicants and the written consent from beneficiaries of international protection.



Remember: considerations for the timelines for relocation

- The deadline of (one or two months) for submitting a take charge request under the AMMR responsibility rules remains unchanged regardless of whether an applicant is being considered for relocation.
- The fact that an applicant is being considered for relocation in the benefitting Member State does not suspend any of the deadlines laid out in the APR.
- The length of the border procedure may be extended from 12 to 16 weeks in case the applicant is relocated to another Member State.
- The timelines that apply specifically to the relocation procedure start when the benefitting Member State transmits the information for the purpose of relocation.
- The one-week deadline for confirmation or non-confirmation of the transmission of information for relocation may be extended to two weeks if the case is complex or if the Member State of relocation faces a large number of cases. Any relocation personal security interview must be organised within this timeframe.
- Within one week of the confirmation by the Member State of relocation, the benefitting Member State must make a transfer decision.
- The benefitting Member State notifies the applicant in writing without delay and in any case at the latest two days before the transfer. In the case of beneficiaries of international protection, they should be notified at least one week before the transfer.
- The transfer must be carried out within 4 weeks of the confirmation by the Member State of relocation or 4 weeks from the final decision on an appeal or review with suspensive effect.



Remember: security assessment by the benefitting Member State

- The benefitting Member State must carry out an assessment to confirm that the person concerned does not pose a threat to internal security.
- The aim of this second security assessment is to ensure that the most up-to-date information is available to support the relocation case and not to replicate the first security check performed at an earlier step in accordance with Articles 5 and 7 Screening Regulation.
- If a significant period of time has passed since the initial screening, it is recommended to repeat the relevant security checks to ensure accuracy and reliability.



Remember: transmission of the information for the purpose of relocation

- Before transmitting the information for the purpose of relocation, the benefitting Member State must ensure that all necessary preparatory steps have been completed.



- The benefitting Member State must use the Commission standard relocation form (Annex IV to the AMMR Implementing Regulation) to transmit information for the purpose of relocation to the Member State of relocation.
- The benefitting Member State may update the information transmitted via the standard relocation form in case any new, corrected or relevant information becomes available after the transmission of information for the purpose of relocation has been submitted.
- A transmission of information may be withdrawn to avoid outright rejection if all steps needed to be undertaken cannot be completed within the set timeframes.
- Following the completion of the security assessment (and relocation personal security interview if applicable), the Member State of relocation must reply with a confirmation or non-confirmation of the transmission of information for the purpose of relocation.
- If the Member State of relocation identifies that a person being considered for relocation poses a threat to internal security, all the relevant information should be transmitted through appropriate channels without any delay to the benefitting Member State, where this person is present, so that they may take the necessary actions.
- Where relocation is confirmed, the benefitting Member State must update their Eurodac record to include the Member State of relocation.

**Remember: organisation of the relocation personal security interview for security assessment under the relocation procedure**

- The decision on the format of the relocation personal security interview (in-person or remote) lies with the Member State of relocation.

**Remember: transfer decision**

- The benefitting Member State should ensure all necessary information is included in the transfer decision.
- The person concerned must be notified of the transfer decision in writing. The notification must be addressed to the individual concerned and delivered on an individual basis.

**Remember: appeal**

- The person subject to a transfer decision has the right to an effective remedy in the form of an appeal or review before a court or tribunal.
- The person may request that the appeal suspends the implementation of the transfer.



- The person concerned must have access to legal assistance and, if necessary, to interpretation or translation support. Legal assistance and representation must be provided free of charge upon request if the person cannot afford it.



Remember: transfer implementation

- The benefitting Member State is responsible for ensuring all arrangements for the transfer are completed within the four-week timeframe
- To ensure effective implementation of the relocation procedure, the benefitting Member State may need to organise internal transfers of applicants from various locations within its territory to ensure their availability for the actual relocation transfer to the Member State of relocation.
- To minimise absconding and ensure that transfers take place as smoothly as possible, Member States should adopt effective strategies and best practices at each stage of the procedure.



Remember: obligations on the Member State of relocation after relocation

- After relocation, the Member State of relocation must inform the benefitting Member State, the EUAA and the EU Solidarity Coordinator of the safe arrival of the person concerned or of the fact that they did not appear within the set time limit.
- Where the person relocated is an applicant for whom the responsible Member State has not been determined yet, the Member State of relocation must apply a limited responsibility determination procedure.
- The Member State of relocation must send an updated dataset to Eurodac, including the date of arrival, as soon as the person concerned arrives in the Member State of relocation.
- The Member State of relocation should consider how to integrate the efficient gathering of proof of successful relocation transfers for the purpose of AMIF funding into their procedures.
- The Member State of relocation must automatically grant beneficiaries of international protection the same protection status as the one granted by the benefitting Member State.
- If the applicant absconds from the benefitting Member State after the transfer decision, but before the transfer can be carried out, and later appear in another Member State, a take back notification should be sent to the Member State of relocation rather than the benefitting Member State.





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