

Return path

An information and support path for voluntary return

This leaflet is meant for asylum seekers and their social workers.



You have applied for asylum in Belgium. If you receive a negative response to your asylum application, you have to make a decision about your future. We can help you to arrange your voluntary return.

Fedasil has an **information and support path**, which we also call the 'return path'. Every asylum seeker follows this path. Your social worker will assist you through this path.

1. DURING YOUR ASYLUM APPLICATION

You are informed about voluntary return when you submit an asylum application. Indeed, you can decide to return to your country of origin at any time, even if your asylum procedure has not yet been completed.

2. YOU RECEIVE A NEGATIVE DECISION

If you receive a negative decision (= if the CGRS¹ does not grant you refugee status), your social worker examines your options for the future with you, including voluntary return. Your social worker will talk to you in person.

3. THE NEGATIVE DECISION IS CONFIRMED

You may have submitted an appeal against the negative decision of the CGRS. If the CCE² rejects your appeal, this is the end of your asylum procedure and you must leave the reception centre or housing. Reception can only be extended in an **open return place**.

¹ CGRS: Commissioner General for Refugees and Stateless Persons

² CCE: Le Conseil du Contentieux des Etrangers (Council for Alien Disputes)

OPEN RETURN PLACES

Open centre

Return places are found in the Fedasil reception centres and are open places, in open centres. Therefore, you can come and go from the centre as you wish.

30 days

Reception in a return place lasts 30 days. During this period, you have three meetings with a return advisor.

Return advisor

You are supported by a return advisor, who is in contact with your previous social worker. The advisor gives you useful information about a voluntary return to your country of origin and helps you make a decision.

Aid for reintegration

During your reception in an open return place, the return advisor reviews your personal situation. The advisor explains how we can help you to return to your country. This is what we call aid for reintegration in your country of origin.

The Immigration Office

After the final negative decision (by the CCE), your asylum procedure is finished. In the centres with open return places a worker of the Immigration Office is present to monitor your case.

After 30 days

After 30 days, the reception in a return place ends. Reception can be extended to prepare for your voluntary return. If you do not choose voluntary return and do not leave the centre, the Immigration Office can then conduct a removal.

VOLUNTARY RETURN

You can request a voluntary return at any time. However, we understand that this is a difficult decision to make and so Fedasil is on hand to help you look for solutions to your problems when returning to your country of origin.

If you would like to know more about voluntary return, you can ask your **social worker**.

You can also call the **free phone number 0800 32 745** (from 9am to 5pm).

Information is also available from one of Fedasil's return desks (in Brussels, Antwerp, Ghent and Liège) or from one of our partners. You can find their addresses on: **www.voluntaryreturn.be**.

Important:

Even if you are no longer an asylum seeker or you are in Belgium illegally, you can still return voluntarily to your country.