



COA Centraal Orgaan opvang asielzoekers

Reception and Integration of Asylum Seekers in Belgium

enaro
EUROPEAN NETWORK OF ASYLUM RECEPTION
ORGANISATIONS

Report of an exchange programme in Belgium

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1. Introduction

Enaro, the European Network of Asylum Reception Organisations is an association fostering cooperation between ten European organisations involved in asylum reception.¹

Fedasil is a Reception Organisation in Belgium, taking part in the association.

From the 17th to the 28th of October we went to Brussels. During these two weeks Enaro organised an exchange-programme for us.

The Exchange-programme consisted of a visit to the Aliens Office (DVZ), a visit to the Commissioner Generals Office (CGVS), a visit to the Belgium Committee for Refugee Assistance (BCHV), visiting several reception centres of Fedasil and the Deportation Centre and several meetings with other organisations involved with asylum seekers in the region. ([For the detailed programme of the exchange, see appendix 1.](#))

The main goal of the exchange was to get information about the way Belgium organises the reception of asylum seekers, return policy, and integration.

During the exchange programme we had the opportunity to learn a lot about the Belgian system concerning the reception of asylum seekers. We did not get answers to all questions, but we had a lot of impressions. Of course we looked at the reception of asylum seekers in Belgium from the perspective of the Dutch system. We will give some impressions and for us significant points in the last chapter of this summery.

We want to thank the staff of Fedasil for their great hospitality and for the way they organised our visit. And we want to thank Ingrid Declunder, who organised the programme.

¹ Participating Asylum Reception Organisations in Enaro are from the countries: Ireland, Spain, Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Belgium, The Netherlands, Czech Republic, Hungary, England



2. Asylum and Immigration in Belgium

2.1 Asylum, facts and figures

Belgium has signed the UN Convention relating to the status of Refugees from 1951 (Refugee Convention), and will therefore grant refugees protection. Belgium doesn't have a clear act about the reception of asylum seekers. Several laws contain some provisions concerning the reception of asylum seekers.

Thus Article 57 of the organic law of 8 July 1976 stipulates concerning the public centres for social well being which the competent authorities are concerning welfare for asylum seekers.

Since January 2001 welfare has been only provided in the form of material aid for asylum seekers of whom the file in the admissibility-phase is.

The number of people asking for asylum in Belgium dropped during the last 4 years.² In 2004 Belgium received about 15357 asylum applications. Compared to 2000 the number shows a decline of 27334 applications. For Belgium it was the lowest number since 1997.

Number of applications during the last 9 years

	<i>Belgium</i>	<i>Netherlands</i>
1997	11.668	34.400
1998	21.965	45.200
1999	35.778	39.300
2000	42.691	43.900
2001	24.549	32.600
2002	18.805	18.700
2003	16.940	13.400
2004	15.357	9.800

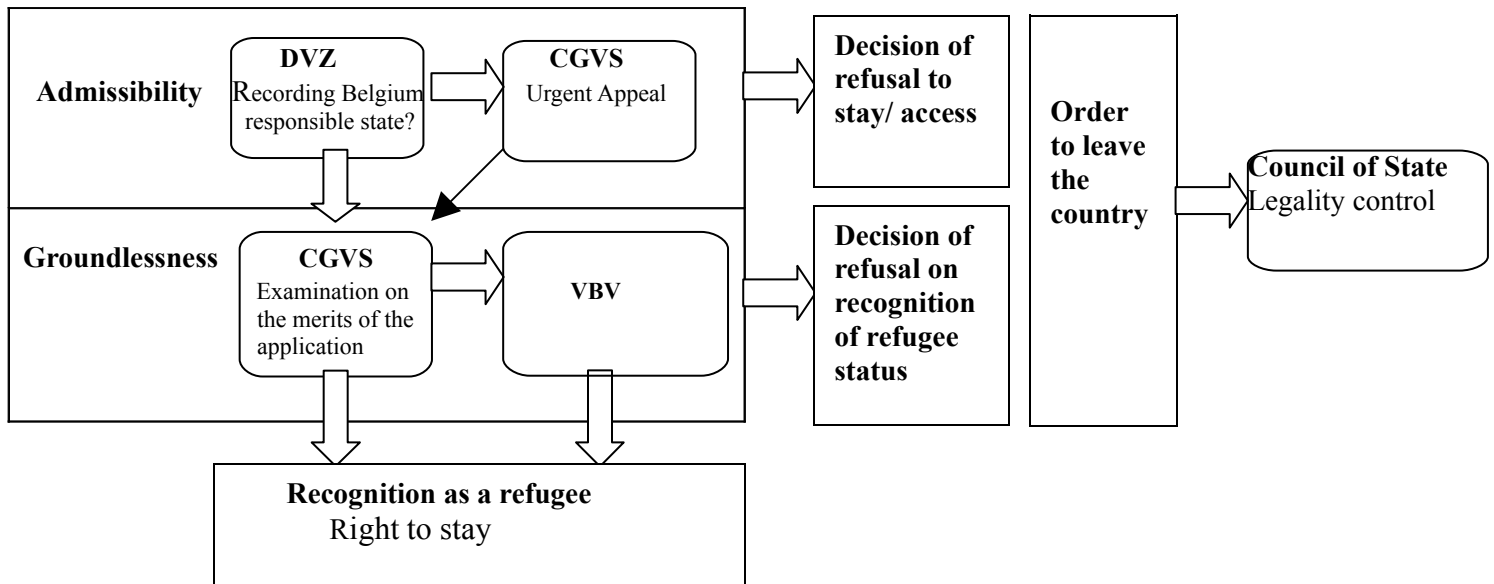
The highest number of applications in 2004 in Belgium came from persons from DR Congo (9,6 %), followed by Russia (8,9 %), Serbia Montenegro (5,1 %). In the Netherlands most applications in 2004 were from persons from Iraq (11 %), followed by Somalia (8 %), Afghanistan (7 %), Iran (5 %).

² The numbers in this chapter are from the websites of the Fedasil, the COA (Central Agency for Reception of Asylum seekers in The Netherlands), the IND (Immigration and Naturalisation Department in The Netherlands)



3. Asylum Procedure

3.1 Diagram of the Asylum Procedure



3.2 The Aliens Office (DVZ) ³

The Aliens Office (DVZ) assists the minister of home affairs in the implementation of an alien policy. The entry and the stay of aliens in Belgium are regulated on the one hand in national law. Thus the basis rules appear come to Belgium for a short stay or described a long stay in the law of 15 December 1980 concerning the access to the territory, the stay, the establishment and the disposal of aliens and the executive Royal Decree of 8 October 1981.

On the other hand must be taken into account there is more and more a broad pallet of international legislations. This includes both the traditional treaties such as the convention of Geneva of 28 July 1951 concerning the status of refugees and binding regulations and directives of the European Council.

DVZ looks on that the alien respects the rules concerning immigration and stay. If this is the case, DVZ will issue instructions to provide a visa or a residence permit to the alien concerned. In the opposed case deportation measures, which must be sometimes carried out in an obliged manner, are taken if necessary.

When the asylum seeker arrives in Belgium without the required documents, he has to apply for asylum within eight working days, at DVZ in Brussels. If an asylum seeker arrives at the border (airport, port or Euro star station) he will be placed in a detention centre and there he can apply for asylum.

AT DVZ the asylum seeker has to prove his identity by providing documents, the fingerprints will be taken and checked at the European database (EURODAC) and an X-ray for TB-research. Also DVZ will take the first interview with an interpreter (when necessary). The asylum seeker can choose the language of procedure, which is the language (French or Dutch) in which all documents are drafted.

³ Source website DVZ.



Fedasil-dispatching unit is located in the Alien Office (DVZ)-building in the North of Brussels. In the Dispatching unit there are 15 staff working for Fedasil and 2 staff working for the Belgium Red Cross.

The Dispatching unit will transfer the asylum seekers the day of application, after they finished the first procedure at DVZ. They can be placed at several types of reception locations, where there are available places. This can be at one of the reception centres of Fedasil, a LRI (Local Reception Initiative) or a Red Cross reception centre.

If needed, the Dispatching unit can send people to the emergency reception centre in Woluwe Saint Pierre for a limited time period.

If they wish, asylum seekers may choose not to live in a reception centre but in such cases, they have right to medical treatment only from the centre to which they have been assigned.

The asylum seeker will stay as long as he is in the admissibility phase, in the reception centre. Only when the asylum seeker is declared admissible, he will be transferred to the municipal (OCMW)

After DVZ did the first check, to see which country is responsible for the treatment of the asylum application (Schengen) they will investigate the admissibility of the asylum application. At this stage DVZ decides, on the basis of an interview if the asylum application it is credible and meets certain legal conditions.

If the asylum seeker receives a negative decision of DVZ, so he is declared inadmissible, he can submit urgently appeal at CGVS.

If the asylum seeker is declared admissible, CGVS will start an examination on the merits of the asylum application.

3.3 Commissioner Generals Office (CGVS) ⁴

The Commissioner General Office for the refugees and the stateless persons has been since 1988 the most important asylum agency and are conducted by commissioner-general, assisted by two deputy directors. The Commissioner-General and the two adjunct directors are entirely independent, impartial and nobody can give them instructions.

If the asylum seeker submits an **urgent appeal**, CGVS will once again do an examination on the admissibility of the asylum application. The asylum seeker will be called for an interview.

CGVS can support the negative decision of DVZ and confirm the negative up to access and stay to the territory.

If CGVS are confirmed the negative decision of DVZ only there is the possibility of appeal at the Council of State. The Council of State (CS) examines only if the procedure has been followed according to legal regulations.

⁴ Source website CGVS



CGVS examines the admissible applications on the merits. The asylum seeker can be invited to this end for a second interview at CGVS, but this is no obligation. There is examined if the asylum tale is credible and if the declarations answer to the Convention of Geneva.

DGVS can take a positive decision (recognition as a refugee) or a negative decision (unrecognised as a refugee)

If CGVS decides, after the examination on the merits, to reject the asylum application, the asylum seeker has the possibility to appeal at the Permanent Refugee Appeals Commission (PRAC/VBV)

3.4 The Permanent Refugee Appeals Commission (VBV/PRAC) ⁵

The Permanent Refugee Appeals Commission is the administrative court that rules on appeals lodged against the decisions made by the Commissioner General for Refugees and Stateless people (CGRS) granting or refusing refugee status.

What are the effects of a PRAC decision?

1) If the answer to your appeal is positive:

The asylum seeker is granted refugee status and will be summoned to come and receive the refugee card. With this card he will obtain an appropriate residence permit from the local authorities.

2) If the answer to the appeal is negative:

The asylum seeker is not recognised as a refugee and he will be informed of this decision by recorded delivery or by fax sent to his lawyer. The PRAC will simultaneously inform the Aliens office which will then send the asylum seeker an "annex 13" (removal order).

The asylum seeker has the right to appeal against a PRAC decision before the Council of State within 30 days of the serving of the refusal notice.

3.5 Belgium Committee for Refugee Assistance

The Belgian Committee for Refugee Assistance is also one of the institutions. The Belgian Committee is a Non Governmental Organisation (NGO). Since 1996 The Belgian Committee works on behalf of the UNHCR.

The primary tasks of the Belgian Committee are:

- Juridical assistance for individuals in the asylum procedure
- Administrative assistance for individuals in family reunion procedures

⁵ *Source website VBV/PRAC*



- Taking part in the monthly meetings with all organizations in the asylum chain.

The Belgian Committee has a team of 4 juridical workers, of which 1 person is dealing with the family reunion procedures. The European Refugee Fund is financing the staffs.

First the asylum seeker needs to make an appointment and to fill in a questionnaire. Then the juridical worker decides if the case is worthwhile, if yes, the asylum seeker is invited for an interview with the juridical worker of the Belgian Committee. If the juridical worker decides that it is worthwhile to open a second asylum procedure, the advice will be send to the UNCHR. The UNCHR can decide to support the asylum application and to give a positive advice to the competent body. The latter must take the advice into account, but is not obliged to follow it.

The juridical worker of the Belgian Committee is, unlike a lawyer, in an objective position.



4. Fedasil ⁶

4.1 Preface

Belgium has had several kinds of reception structures for asylum seekers since 1995: the federal reception centres, the reception centres of the Belgian Red Cross, as well as smaller-scale reception facilities in family homes set up in connection with the OCIV and CIRE refugee reception organisations and the 'local reception initiatives' organised by the public social welfare centres (OCMW/CPAS).

The growth of the reception network went hand in hand with a drastic upturn in the number of asylum applications in Belgium. In fact, 2000 was a record year with 42.691 applications. In January 2001 the federal government decided that the reception centres would give new asylum seekers material support only. Previously they had also received financial support. In 2001 the number of asylum applications dropped again to 24.549 partly as a result of this decision.

In order to improve on the organisation of the reception of asylum seekers, the federal government decided in February 2001 to create the Federal Agency for the Reception of Asylum Seekers (Fedasil). Fedasil opened its doors in May 2002.

(Source: Fedasil's Core Document, page 1)

4.2 Mission

Fedasil's mission is described as:

"To organise the humane, efficient, flexible and high-quality reception of asylum seekers in Belgium. The humane and respectful treatment of asylum seekers has first consideration. The number of asylum applications can vary sharply depending on the international political and economic situation. As an efficient and flexible organisation, Fedasil must be quick at repartee to anticipate and respond to changing reception needs. Finally, the quality of reception must at the very least comply with European standards".

(Source: Fedasil's Core Document, page 1)

4.3 Core tasks

The federal government assigned Fedasil the following core tasks:

⁶ *Source: Fedasil's Core Document 2004*



1. Obtaining, managing and disposing of accommodation

Fedasil advises the minister on the opening of new reception centres and obtains and manages the centres.

2. Taking in, referring and discharging asylum seekers

Fedasil is building a reception model in stages so that asylum seekers can progress in parallel with the asylum procedure. Rejected asylum seekers have at every stage the opportunity to return to their country of origin voluntarily.

3. Providing material assistance, psychosocial and medical support and other services

Receiving asylum seekers means more than simply providing for their basic needs (bed, bath, bread) and providing medical, social, administrative and legal support. Fedasil also gives asylum seekers meaningful ways to spend their time.

4. Coordinating the uniform provision of medical assistance to all asylum seekers

5. Providing information and making referrals

Fedasil gives asylum seekers a realistic picture of their reception and their stay in Belgium, and informs them of their rights and obligations so that they can fit into Belgian society.

6. Providing information and support during the asylum procedure

Fedasil supports asylum seekers throughout the asylum procedure, but without interfering in those areas in which the institutions responsible for the asylum procedure are active.

7. Providing education and daily programmes

By providing education and other training courses Fedasil increases the future opportunities of asylum seekers, in Belgium or elsewhere.

8. Ensuring communication and promoting social understanding local authorities and residents.

Fedasil strives to integrate reception centres into society and to increase understanding for asylum seekers, including via contacts with local authorities and residents.

9. Providing support for specific target groups

Fedasil ensures an appropriate reception for unaccompanied minor asylum seekers, victims of human trafficking and psychiatric or deeply traumatised patients

10. Defining quality standards and quality control

Fedasil defines quality standards for reception and enforces their application.

11. Monitoring agreements with Fedasil partners

Fedasil keeps in touch with its partners (Belgian Red Cross, Socialist Mutual Insurance Companies, OCIV/CIRE, OCMW/CPAS) and ensures that they apply the same quality standards at their reception centres.

12. Examining reception procedures in other countries: research aimed at preparing and supporting policy

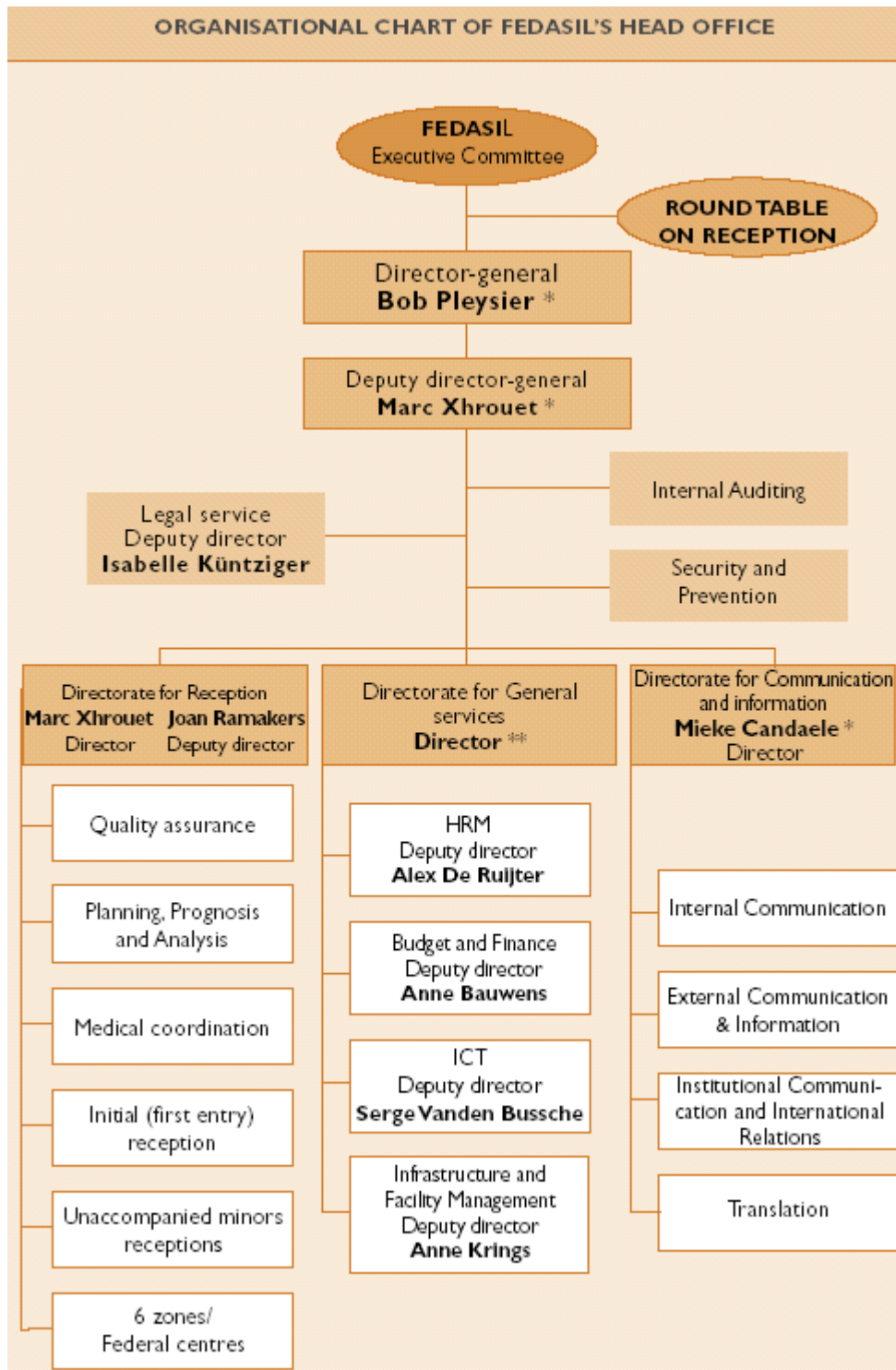
13. Maintaining international contacts with other political bodies, departments and international organisations

(Source: Fedasil's Core Document, page 1)

4.4 Structure and organisation ⁷

Fedasil's semi-public status means that it is an independent organisation, for which the Ministry of Social Integration is politically responsible. Fedasil has a preparatory and executive task.

⁷ Source Fedasil's Core Document, page 20



Fedasil's central organisation in Brussels consists of the Director-General and the Directors of General Services, Reception and Communication. Together they form the Executive Committee, which has the following tasks:

- *Ensuring the correct operation of Fedasil and coordinating services and activities;*



- *Presenting, modifying and implementing the budget;*
- *Presenting, modifying and implementing the personnel plan.*

The Fedasil directorates and central services in Brussels have around 100 staff in total.

Another 850 staff works at in the decentralised offices (regions and federal reception centres) within the Fedasil organisation.

(Source: Fedasil's Core Document, page 2)

4.5 The asylum chain

Fedasil is just one link in the Belgian asylum chain. A number of institutions (governmental and others) carry out asylum and reception policy.

The main institutions are:

- *The Federal Aliens Office*
- *The Commissioner-General for Refugees and Stateless Persons*
- *The Permanent Refugee Appeals Commission*
- *The Federal Agency for the Reception of Asylum seekers (Fedasil)*
- *The International Organisation for Migration (IOM)*

(Source: Fedasil's Core Document, page 2)

4.6 Reception network and Fedasil's partners [\(see Appendix 2\)](#)

The reception network in Belgium is very diverse. First, there are the 18 federal reception centres, which are under the direct authority of Fedasil. One centre is used as an emergency reception centre. The reception capacity of the federal centres make up 24% of the total capacity, i.e. 3826 places, including the emergency reception places (figures as at 01-08-2005).

Second, there are the 22 centres run by the Belgian Red Cross. The reception capacity of the Red Cross centres make up 20% of the total capacity, i.e. 3173 places (figures as at 01-08-2005).

Third, there is the Belle Vue centre in Erezee, Luxembourg provinces, which is run by the socialist mutual assistance societies. These reception centres has 47 places.

Forth, there are the local reception initiatives (LRI), run directly by the public social welfare centres. The LRI's with 7306 places make up the biggest part (47%) of the total reception capacity (figures as at 01-08-2005).

Finally, there are 1331 reception places provided by two NGO umbrella organisations (Cire and Vluchtelingenwerk Vlaanderen), which makes up 8% of the total reception capacity (figures as at 01-08-2005).



The total capacity of all reception facilities is 15683 places (figures as at 01-08-2005).

The reception facilities are spread all over the country. Some are in rural areas, some are in urban areas. The size of the reception centres differs from 47 places in the one in Ezeree and 840 places in the Petit Château centre in Brussels. Some reception centres are located in former military barracks, other in former hospitals, schools, etc. The size of the LRI's differs between one and 142 reception places per public social welfare centre.

Below I will give a short description of the centres we visited, starting with the first link in the chain: the Dispatching unit. (*see chapter 3.2, page 7*)

Woluwe Saint Pierre: Emergency reception

The emergency reception centre at Woluwe Saint Pierre (120 reception places) provides reception for a limited period (varying from one day till two weeks). The Dispatching unit sends asylum seekers there. The emergency reception centre was opened in November 1998 because of the huge number of Kosovarian asylum seekers at that time. It was meant to be used for 6 months only, but the centre continued to be used in case while asylum seekers have to wait while reception arrangements are made for them at the appropriate facility; while arrangements with institutions or authorities in Brussels are finalised; or just one night so as to be in time for an appointment with the authorities the next morning or before travelling to the airport to catch a flight under the voluntary return programme.

The emergency reception receives about 30 till 70 new persons a day. About 12.000 persons pass the emergency centre in a year. In the reception centre is no school and there are no day activities because the reception is meant only for a couple of days. Most of the people staying in the emergency reception are big families (most of them Gipsy families) consisting of 7 persons or more, because most reception centres have no immediate space for such big families. Unfortunately the bigger families sometimes have to wait longer for a place in a reception centre.

Fedasil used to have two emergency reception centres. In August 2004, Steenokkerzeel became an initial reception centre for unaccompanied foreign minors.

Steenokkerzeel: Reception Centre for Unaccompanied Foreign Minors

Since August 2004, the open centre in Steenokkerzeel provides initial reception for 50 unaccompanied foreign minors. The police brings in about 60%-70% of the minors. They came into contact with the police force, because they have committed for example, shoplifting or have been begging on the streets. These are youngsters from the Magreb countries or Romanians or Roma youngsters, some other youngsters are on their way to a third country. Almost none of these youngsters apply for asylum.



The director of the centre, Stef Vercruysse, notices that since the opening of this centre the police no longer advise the youngsters to apply for asylum, but just bring them in the open centre in Steenokkerzeel. Therefore the number of applies for asylum amongst unaccompanied foreign youngsters has decreased since then. Only 30% of the occupations in Steenokkerzeel are girls.

The three most important tasks that should take place during their stay in the centre Steenokkerzeel are:

- 1) The identification of the young people.
- 2) Observation of the youngster a period of fourteen days.
- 3) Designating a guardian.

During 14 days the youngsters are being identified and observed. The unaccompanied asylum seekers (UMA's) leave for an asylum centre after 2 or 3 weeks. The other youngsters stay for maximum one month. The ones who don't apply for asylum and turn out to be older than 18 years old, are put back on the street again. The others are taken care of by the custody organisation. Because of the short stay in the centre, the youngsters don't attend school in the open centre in Steenokkerzeel.

The living in Steenokkerzeel is very structured and strict. The young people must hand in their mobile phone at entry and are not allowed to leave the centre alone. They must follow a complete tight programme, among which education, sport, cleaning tasks, etc.

Some UMA's are being transferred to one of the Fedasil or Red Cross centres with a special UMA department; others are transferred to one of the special LRI houses for UMA's. We visited the UMA-department in the reception centre in St. Truiden and the Petit Château centre in Brussels (see for further information chapter ...)

Brussels : Le Petit Château, the biggest reception centre

The Petit Château centre is the first reception centre in Belgium. It opened its doors in October 1986. Before it was a military barrack and before that it used to be a prison. Already in that time the people in Brussels called it the Petit Château because of the two towers at the entrance of the building.

The Petit Château centre has a capacity of 840 places. The Petit Château is the only centre till now where are rooms with an own kitchen. This part of the buildings is meant for families who are staying in the centre for already quite some time. These families receive food cheques, which they can use in certain supermarket chains.

More than half of the population of the centre is waiting for the answer for the Council of State. So they are staying illegal in the country. However, not a great deal of these people is returning voluntary to their country.

Unique for the Petit Château centre is the "Information SAS", which is part of the Animation Service. At the "Information SAS" an inventory is made of the education, work experience of the asylum seeker and the possibility and the wishes for further educational courses in the reception centre, like language courses, computer courses, catering industry and "Bonne vie" a combination of a painter, electrician and plumber course.

The "Information SAS" has just recently started, so a computer system where all the information can be stored and brought together has still to be developed.



Ekeren: a reception centre suitable for disabled people

The reception centre in Ekeren is suitable for disabled people because all facilities are on stage floor. Though the centre has a lot of serious ill mentally and physically disabled people, the centre has no specialized staff. The capacity of the centre is 100 beds, and will be extended to 125 beds. At the moment there are 84 people staying in the centre, out of them are about 30 seriously ill or disabled. The medical staff consists of a part time nurse and a doctor one a week during consultation hour. Moreover there is one psychologist. The other staffs in the centre have no special medical education, but because of the lack of medical staff in the centre however, they have to help to wash the patients and so on. The centre in Ekeren also receives quite a lot of people who were by sanction sent away from another reception centre. These people seem to do fine in the small-scaled centre in Ekeren.

Though it's a small reception centre and 30% of the people is seriously ill or disabled, every month one person or family is returning voluntary to the country of origin, so it seems the social assistants has an active policy on repatriation in this centre. The social assistants in Ekeren don't seem to have a problem combining their guiding tasks regarding to the procedure together with the psychological guiding of the asylum seeker.

Like all other reception centres we've visited, the centre in Ekeren organizes a large scale of activities for the asylum seekers. The staffs itself organizes everything. The staffs work in day- and night shifts. Moreover they don't work with consultation hours, so the staffs are available for the people every hour of the day.

Zaventem: The 127 bis closed reception centre

There are six closed centres in Belgium, controlled by the Federal Public Service Home Affairs. They are used to house foreign nationals, some seeking asylum, others not.

We visited the closed centre 127 bis, close to Zaventem airport. The closed centres are, like the Aliens' Service, under the responsibility of the ministry of internal affairs, so they don't relate to Fedasil. People in 127 bis are waiting for their repatriation. When they look out of the window, they can see the airplanes taking off. The people stay for about 20 days in the repatriation centre. The 127 bis centre has place for 120 people. The population differs from time to time; at the moment there are a lot of Slovak families, with a lot of children (50% of the population).

Though it was a closed centre, with a huge fence around it and a lot of safety measures, the centre didn't really remind of a prison, except for the 2 hours a day "breathing time". The people stay in rooms (4 persons per room) and the rooms are not locked, so people can move freely within their own department of the centre. The different departments however never meet, even not during "breathing time".

The structure of the centre reminded of the open centres of Fedasil, though in the closed centre almost no attention is being paid to day activities for adults and children.



Ghent: Local reception initiatives (LRI's)

The LRI we visited was one house in the surroundings of the city of Ghent. 4 single African women shared the house. All these women came straight from the Dispatching unit, so they still had to learn how to manage themselves in Belgium. The social worker of the public social welfare centre is in charge of these 4 asylum seekers. She receives them every week when they pick up their money cheque, makes appointments with the doctor when necessary and provides them with information about their procedure. Though the social worker was working part time, it seems that she has quite a lot of hours to spend a person.

The public social welfare centres were the first who took care of the asylum seekers by financial support. In that time the asylum seeker had to look for a place to live. When the inflow of asylum seekers in Belgium reached the amount of 45.000 people in 1999, the government decided to stop the financial support, and to give material support only. At this time the Petit Château centre in Brussels was opened. The public social welfare centres were offered € 40,- a day a person to provide housing, a small amount of pocket money and some other material support instead of financial support. Because this arrangement is quite profitable for the public social welfare centres, the Belgian government managed to create 750 small-scale reception places in 430 municipalities all over Belgium.

SURVEY ON LOCAL RECEPTION INITIATIVES

In 2004, Fedasil presented the results of its survey entitled “The reception of asylum seekers in local reception initiatives: a qualitative and quantitative study of LRI’s”.

Four years after the introduction of local reception initiatives (LRI’s), the need arose to undertake an exhaustive and systematic operational review. During the first few years, the emphasis was placed on introducing an effective working method and a reception structure focused on results. Today, at a period of relative stability, this first assessment has highlighted the way in which public social welfare centres organise the reception of asylum seekers in material terms.

A total of 387 public social welfare centres (89.2%) completed the ‘LRI survey’ questionnaire, which focused on staff and organisation, allowances and the way they are used, training given to staff and asylum seekers, day-to-day activities, medical support, social and administrative services, LRI agreements and working links.

*According to the study, each LRI has an average of one FTE (full-time equivalent) for every 20 asylum seekers, gives €50 per week pocket money to each adult asylum seeker and organises language lessons and a wide range of sporting and cultural activities in partnership with other organisations.**

** There is a difference however between the Flemish and the Wallonian communities, since the Flemish communities are more prospered and therefore able to organize more courses and activities than the Wallonian communities.*

AN URBAN LRI IN GHENT



Since late 2004, Fedasil and the City of Ghent have been running a private, urban reception facility for around 50 asylum seekers.

The Ghent initiative is the only one of its kind. As with other facilities, it offers frontline reception to individuals in the first stage of the asylum process, when the admissibility of their application is being assessed, but in addition to this it can accommodate homeless asylum seekers under the City of Ghent's re-housing policy.

The urban LRI in Ghent has a capacity of 50 reception places. Ten places are reserved for asylum seekers sent there directly by Fedasil's Dispatching unit.

The remaining 40 places are run by the City of Ghent. In agreement with Fedasil, and as part of its rehousing policy, the City offers them to asylum seekers:

- *Who have to leave their own accommodation because it has become too expensive or insalubrious;*
- *Whose accommodation has been sealed off following legal action against a rogue landlord;*
- *Who are sent there by a public social welfare centre (or other social service).*

As with other reception facilities (private accommodation, federal and Red Cross centres), the urban LRI offers its residents material assistance and administrative, psychosocial, medical and legal support.



5. Organisational chart of a reception centre

5.1 Preface

Although capacity varies from one centre to the next and the size of the team varies with the capacity of the centre (from 20 full-time equivalents at the small centres to over 100 at Petit-Château) and not every reception centre has all the official services and departments given below, in overall terms the same work is carried out at every centre.

CENTRE MANAGEMENT		
Resident Services	Logistics	External Contacts
Social Assistance	Service Coordination	Reception
Children's Service	Catering, Kitchens	Community Initiatives
UMA Service	Store	Communication
Entertainment Service	Transport	
Reception, 24-hour staff	Finance	
Medical Service	Personnel	
	Administration	
	Technical	
	Shop	

8

5.2 The different services and departments

Below we will tell something about the different Services we visited in the Petit Château and other centres.

Reception Service

In general the asylum seekers arrive in the late afternoon or early evening in the reception centre, because they have spend whole day at the Aliens Service for their asylum application. Each centre has a Reception Service that is manned 24 hours a day. Asylum seekers must always pass through this office on their way in and out of the centre to leave and collect their access badges. So usually this Reception Service takes the new people to their rooms. The Reception Service also intervenes when incidents happen.

Coordination Service

The Coordination Service registers the new asylum seekers, makes them a badge, informs the Service Store and matches them to a social assistant. Coordination manages occupancy of rooms and arrivals and departures of residents. Bedrooms contain multiple beds and are shared by individuals with the same profile: men or women on there own, families, a large family, etc. Asylum seekers who arrive alone are required to share a room with strangers, most of the time from another country. In general people accept this and don't cause many problems. The Coordination Service also updates the residents' details. The Coordinator is in constant contact with Fedasil's Dispatching unit.

⁸ (Source: Fedasil's Annual Report 2004, page 23)



The Store

The Store organises 'bed and board' and distributes hygiene supplies (hygiene products or sheets for example), clothing (distribution of donated items, sale of second-hand clothing), washing powder and so forth. The asylum seeker also receives a small amount of pocket money. Adults and small children receive € 3,83 versus € 2,50 a week. Children who attend school receive € 6,25 a week in order to buy a lunch.

The social assistant

The social assistant shows the asylum seekers the centre, introduces them about the house rules and regulations and gives them information, where possible in their own language, about such matters as opening times, training courses available and the individual services and departments. Fedasil prefers to work with a multi lingual staff, so often there is no need for an interpreter. One social assistant in Petit Château speaks 7 languages! Fedasil facilitated one of her language courses.

The reception centres make their own house rules. These house rules are being handed out to the asylum seeker at the first day after arrival. If a person does not obey the rules or shows unaccepted behaviour, the staff will speak with the person and can give an official warning or, when necessary, a sanction. A sanction can consist of a temporary prohibit in working in the Community Service for example. In general, the sanction is connected to the service where the violation took place. When nothing works, Fedasil can give a person a transfer. When there is an acute problem, the asylum seeker is first sent to the emergency reception in Woluwe Saint Pierre. According to one of the social assistants in the Petit Château reception centre Fedasil introduced a new sanction policy, but she didn't had to read it during the last six month, which shows the low amount of sanctions that are given.

Moreover, the social assistant guides asylum seekers through the complex administrative procedure. Social workers keep a close eye on the asylum seekers' schedules (interviews at the Aliens Office or with the Commissioner-General for Refugees and Stateless Persons) and arrange external contacts (in particular with lawyers). They explain the consequences of each decision and, if necessary, provide psychological support. If the social assistant is not able to provide the psychological support needed, he can send the asylum seeker to the psychologist (if available on the centre) or to the Medical Service, which will also look for an external psychologist or psychiatrist if necessary.

Animation Service

The Animation Service organizes a lot of activities for the people in the reception centre. First of all people can participate in Dutch, French or English lessons. Everybody can participate in these lessons; it doesn't depend on the stage of the procedure the asylum seeker is in. Moreover there are computer lessons, technical courses, cooking classes and so on. Most lessons are given by volunteers, other lessons are being given by Fedasil employees themselves or by an external organization.

Besides the different courses there are to follow, the asylum seekers can do sports. Some centres like the one in St. Truiden have there own sport accommodation. Other centres have there own fitness room, like the Petit Château.

The Animation Service, together with volunteers and external organizations, also organizes excursions and games. Sometimes they take the people out to the cinema or the theatre, some centres have there own cinema room, like the emergency reception centre in Woluwe Saint Pierre, other centres cooperate with cultural centres in order to be able to let the asylum seekers participate for free, like in the Petit Château. The asylum seekers only get material support plus a small amount of pocket money, so they are not able to pay for the activities themselves.

Children's Service



The Children's' Service organizes the school, homework classes and free time activities for the children. All children go to regular schools. In the Petit Château centre there are at the moment about 170 children between 6 and 18 years old. All these children go to school somewhere in Brussels (15 schools in total). The small children attend primary schools in the neighbourhood of the reception centre. The parents of the children in Brussels can choose between French or Dutch speaking schools. Fedasil is paying all education costs including travel costs.

In the evening the Children's' Service organizes homework classes. On Wednesday afternoons, in the weekends and in the holidays the children can participate in a various kind of activities. The children groups are divided by age. In the Petit Château centre once a month on a Wednesday afternoon all birthdays of the children of that month are being celebrated together. We had the luck to participate in one of them!

Community Service

In all centres the asylum seekers have to clean the centre themselves. Only in the emergency reception centre in Woluwe Saint Pierre the centre is cleaned by professionals because of the continuing changing population of the centre. The asylum seekers can earn some extra pocket money by cleaning and doing other jobs in the centre, the so called Community Service, so it's really popular and most centres are working with waiting lists or on bases of some kind of rotation system. The community service pays about € 1,50 till € 2,- an hour. In this way the asylum seeker can earn an extra amount of € 25,- till € 50,- a month, depending on the reception centre. In the reception centre in Ekeren people who are taking part in a repatriation programme have priority in taking part in the community service, so they can save some money to take back home. Only in the centre for unaccompanied foreign minors in Steenokkerzeel the cleaning of the centre is part of the education programme for the minors, so they don't get paid.

Volunteer work & local initiatives

In Belgium, a lot of attention is being paid to the relation of the reception facilities and it's surroundings. On the one hand volunteers are being attracted, and on the other hand "open days" and exhibitions are being organized.

In the Petit Château some volunteers help to find a place to live for people who are declared admissible. They also can help to arrange all the paperwork in the public social welfare centre, because the person has to leave the reception centre within 6 weeks time after they have been matched to a public social welfare centre.

At the UMA department of the reception centre in St. Truiden the minors have "godmothers" and "godfathers". The minors can go and visit their "godparents" on Wednesday afternoon or in the weekends and holidays. Sometimes the "godparents" take them out for an excursion. The "godparents" pay all the costs themselves.

We visited two photo exhibitions. One exhibition is called "New Young Europeans". This exhibition shows pictures and tells stories of European youngsters and young asylum seekers in different countries in Europe. The exhibition has been travelling from one European city to the other, at the moment being in the Petit Château centre in Brussels.

The other exhibition called "Wrong time, wrong place" is moving around the country. We visited the exhibition in St. Truiden, where one asylum seeker from the local reception centre was volunteering. This young man from Sierra Leone loved to talk about his life as a refugee. He told us about his experiences as a volunteer in the local church and about his efforts to come closer to the local people in St. Truiden. In



Belgium, it can enlarge your chances to get a permit to stay if you can prove to be well integrated into society.



6. Several target groups in the reception

There are several target groups in the reception centres of Belgium.

6.1 Asylum seekers in the admissibility phase

The first target group who is present in the reception centres in Belgium, is the asylum seekers who are in admissibility phase and waiting for an answer of DVZ. Or the asylum seekers who lodged an appeal against the decision inadmissible (negative), of DVZ.

6.2 Illegal minors with their parents

A large target group who is present in the reception centres in Belgium, are **illegal minors with their parents**.

This because the Court of Arbitration acknowledged (Ruling No. 106/2003) that minors residing illegally in Belgium with their parents are entitled to social assistance if their parents are not in a position to meet their needs.

However, in an effort to reconcile the objective of child protection laid down in the International Convention on the Rights of the Child with the aim of legislators not to remain in the country, the Court made this right subject to certain conditions: the parents must be seen not to be looking after, or not to be able to look after, their offspring; the support in question must be essential to the development of the child for whom it is requested, and the public social welfare centre must ensure that the support will be used exclusively to cover these expenses.

Under the programme law of 22 December 2003, Article 57 paragraph 2(I) of the organic law on public social welfare centres was amended to give minors the right to material assistance from a federal reception centre if the public social welfare centre has found them to be in need of such assistance. This programme law therefore extended the Fedasil mission, which henceforth includes offering reception to minors residing illegally in Belgium with their parents. The conditions and methods governing allocation of the material assistance are laid down in the royal decree of 24 June 2004 (Belgium Official Gazette, 1 July 2004)

6.3 Unaccompanied minor asylum seekers (UMA'S)

Then there is the group **Unaccompanied minor asylum seekers (UMAs)**. These are young people who have ended up in Belgium without their parents and ask for asylum. They are protected until the age of 18 and will not be deported as long as they're minors.

First the UMAs will be placed in an **Observation & Orientation Centre (Steenokkerzeel or Nederover Heembeek)** (see chapter 4.6, page 15). They will stay there for two or three weeks.

The UMA will go to a reception centre where they have a specified number of places for unaccompanied minor asylum seekers. In the reception centres, UMAs live in a separate community with their own team of social workers, support staff and instructors.

6.4 Unaccompanied Foreign Minors



The centres in Steenokkerzeel and Neder over Heembeek are not only for UMAs, but also for **Unaccompanied Foreign Minors**. This group is special, because they don't apply for asylum. Each minor in Belgium is entitled to reception in Belgium, even if they don't apply for asylum.

6.5 Asylum seekers in appeal at the Council of State

Also the **asylum seekers** who has finished the asylum procedure, but submitted an **appeal at the Council of State** has the right to wait for the answer at the reception centre.



7.Integration

7.1 Preface

It is important to stress that the asylum seeker, once declared admissible, leaves the reception facility and goes and live in the municipality, though he is still not being recognized as a refugee and has no permanent residence permit. Because we only visited the different kind of reception facilities, we didn't get a good view on the integration process of the asylum seeker in the municipality.

7.2 Settlement

All admissible asylum seekers are matched in about 2 weeks by the Dispatching Service to a certain public social welfare centre (never in Brussels because of the large number of immigrants in Brussels), but they are not obliged to live in this municipality. So one can be matched to the public social welfare centre in Ghent for example, but this person can choose to live in Brussels and to go to Ghent to pick up his money every month. So this person can be registered in Brussels, but receive the money in Ghent.

Unfortunately the public social welfare centre isn't always able to provide the admissible asylum seekers with housing. So up till now, some people have to look for housing themselves. Most people succeed in finding their own housing with help from the social assistant or a volunteer, like in the Petit Château, though it's imaginable that larger families have a problem with finding appropriate housing. Once they are matched to a public social welfare centre, the people from the Petit Château centre have six weeks to leave the reception centre. This period within they have to leave, can differ in other reception centres.

7.3 Work

As soon as an asylum seeker is declared admissible, he or she is allowed to work. However, the administrative process of getting a license to work takes a minimum of 4 weeks. In the Petit Château centre the asylum seeker has to leave the reception centre within 6 weeks after they were matched to a public social welfare centre, this means in practice that asylum seekers in the reception centre don't get the chance to do some paid work, except in the community service. All admissible asylum seekers move to housing in a municipality, and are not under the umbrella of Fedasil anymore. So we didn't get any more information about this subject.



4. Return

8.1 Preface

It is the task of the social assistants to guide the asylum seeker throughout his asylum procedure. So it's also the task of the social assistant to inform the asylum seeker about the possibility to return voluntarily to their home country by one of the programmes of IOM. In case the asylum seeker is rejected, but still has the right to stay in a reception centre because he applied by the Council of State, but he has no right to stay on Belgium territory. This means that this person still can be removed by the Aliens Service and being brought into detention or repatriated to his country of origin.

Since October this year, the Aliens Service started to inform the social assistants in the refugee centres when they are planning to pick up people who remain illegally on Belgium territory. The Aliens Service sends a fax with the names and the dates and the social assistant contacts the persons in question. The person in question has the possibility to undersign a document that he is willing to cooperate on voluntary bases with return by IOM. In this case his repatriation will be delayed. In case the person doesn't want to return to his country of origin voluntarily, he can write down the reason(s) why he thinks he shouldn't be removed from the reception centre (think of serious medical issues). It is the task of the social assistant to make this person aware that the Aliens Service won't accept these reasons. A third possibility for the asylum seeker is to leave the reception centre before the Aliens Service comes to pick him up. The latter possibility may be an option for healthy singles, but isn't a most of the time an option for families. Families most of the time chooses to stay in the reception centre and to write down their obstacles why they think they cannot be removed. The fax has to be send back to the Aliens Service within 5 days.

This summer some Slovak families were picked up by the police and repatriated to their country. This caused some trouble and it was a hot issue in the Belgian media. Since then -the Aliens Service stopped to pick up people for some time.

8.2 Guiding in reception centres

Like said before, it's the task of the social assistant to guide the asylum seeker throughout his procedure. When the asylum seeker receives a negative decision, the social assistant immediately invites this person to his office. The social assistant tells about the consequences of the negative decision and the further possibilities. The social assistant is also noticing the possibility of voluntary return. Some social assistants admit that they find it hard to talk about repatriation because they want to maintain a good and friendly contact with the asylum seeker. Beside assistance during the procedure, the social assistant also provides psychological assistance. That's why some social assistants find it hard be stay objective. Moreover it's the task of the social assistant to make a first appeal (not with respect to the content) when the asylum seeker gets his first negative decision. After that the social assistant will find the asylum seeker a lawyer who can look after his case.

There are no special programmes in the reception centres on repatriation. Sometimes IOM is invited to give information to a group of people. In the Petit Château centre one social assistant is the contact person for all repatriation requests. He fills in all the forms, and keeps in contact with IOM. So the asylum seeker is in contact with the social assistant only, not with the IOM worker. The social assistant in Petit Château told us that most IOM-meetings in the centre are being used by the asylum seekers to show their frustration. Very few people from the Petit Château centre decide to return to their country of origin



voluntary. After this summer some Slovak families were picked up and repatriated by the Aliens Service, an increasing number of Slovak families came to his office to apply for voluntary return by IOM. In the reception centre in Ekeren much more persons are returning voluntarily to their country of origin: one person/family a month on a population of 80 asylum seekers.

8.3 IOM

The IOM in Belgium is, like Fedasil, financed by the ministry of social integration. IOM Belgium has five partners:

- Fedasil
- Red Cross
- Public Social Welfare Centres
- NGO's
- Migrant organisations

IOM informs these organizations about the different repatriation programmes, and these organizations inform the target groups. In this way it's a less big step for a person to inform about the possibilities for repatriation. Most people are returning to their country of origin within 6 till 9 months, or they wait until they have reached the stage of being illegal after about 24 months.

Our contact person, Giovanni Heyde, notices a difference in attitude towards repatriation between social workers in Flandria and Wallonia. He notices that in Wallonia repatriation is more a sensitive subject than it is in Flandria. Therefore Wallonia has a quite inactive repatriation policy, which is visible in the difference between repatriation figures in Flandria and Wallonia (see appendix ...).

Moreover he notices that the social workers in the Red Cross reception centres find more difficulties in talking about repatriation than their colleagues in the Fedasil centre, because the social workers in the Red Cross centres don't see it as one of their working tasks. But it stays a difficult subject even for the social workers in the Fedasil reception centres, because the social assistants prefer to keep a good relationship with their clients.

People who are illegal and don't live in a reception centre can turn to one of the NGO's when they wish to be repatriated. IOM has therefore a very active policy on informing the NGO' about their repatriation programmes. Migrants, who don't trust any of the institutions anymore, can turn towards a migrant organization. These migrant organizations are happy to cooperate with IOM because they face the problem of people willing to be repatriated, but they don't have the financial means to do so.

At the moment IOM has a REAB plus programme for Congo-Kinshasa, since there are quite a lot asylum seekers from this former Belgium colony.

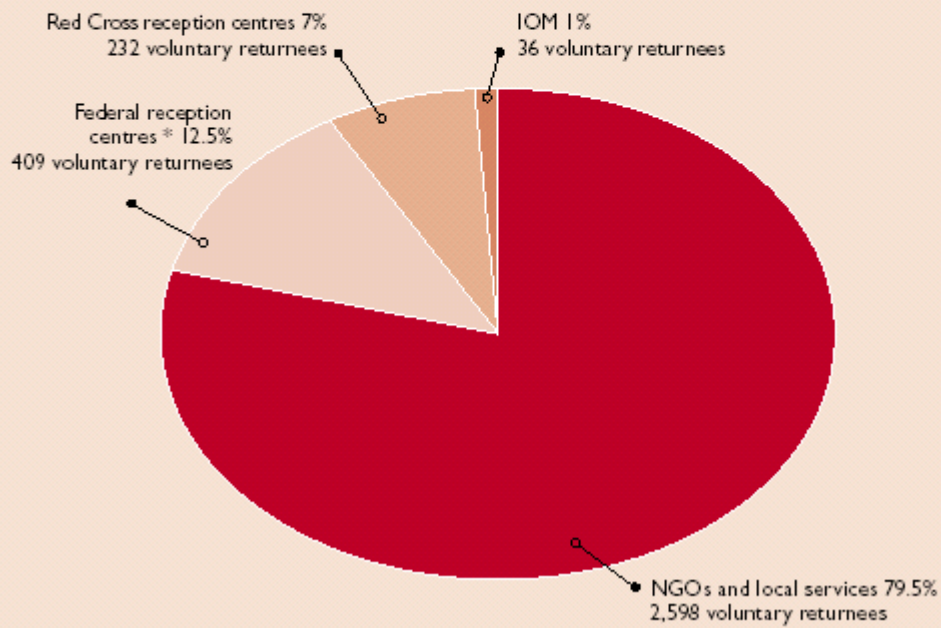
8.4 Facts and figures⁹

⁹ Source Fedasil's Core Document, page 30



Percentage of voluntary returnees per operator (2004)

Partners	Voluntary returnees	%
NGOs and local services	2,598	79.5%
Federal reception centres *	409	12.5%
Red Cross reception centres	232	7%
IOM	36	1%
Total	3,275	100%



* open and closed centres
Source: IOM



REAB programme	
Voluntary returnees per federal reception centre (2004)	
Arendonk	21
Arlon	4
Bovigny	0
Broechem	27
Charleroi	6
Ekeren	12
Florennes	7
Jodoigne	13
Kapellen	38
Morlanwelz	0
Petit-Château	30
Pondrôme *	1
Rixensart	4
Sint-Truiden	10
Sugny	0
Virton	2
Total	175

* Opened on 29 November 2004.
Source: IOM

Evolution of voluntary returnees per operator in the reception network			
Year	NGOs and local services	Federal reception centres	Red Cross reception centres
2002	68%	19%	13%
2003	78%	13%	8%
2004	79.5%	12.5%	7%



9. Significant points and impressions

9.1 Preface

In the 2 weeks we have spent in Belgium visiting different organizations and reception centres, we noticed a lot of significant things. In this chapter we'll tell something about our impressions. Some of the points we'll mention will be based on more or less objective observation but most of the things we'll describe are based on our personal experiences and therefore subjective impressions.

9.2 Common significant points and impressions

Belgium differs from most other European countries because of the fact that the country is divided in three different regions: the Dutch speaking Flemish region, the French speaking Wallonian region, the bilingual Brussels region and the small German region. Except differences in the spoken languages, there is also a significant political and cultural difference between the regions. These differences are also visible in the way the reception of asylum seekers in Belgium is being organized.

Procedure

Language of procedure

According to several people working in the asylum chain, it makes a difference if the asylum seeker is linked to the Dutch or the French language of procedure, because of the political and cultural differences between the Flemish and the Wallonian regions. People linked to the French language of procedure seem to have a bigger chance on a residence permit. However, it also might be possible that the difference in chances between the French speaking and other asylum seekers is caused by the difference in the problems between the countries of origin of the French speaking asylum seekers and the other asylum seekers.

Stage of admissibility

The biggest difference in the stage of admissibility between the Netherlands and Belgium is that in the Netherlands this stage of procedure is being finished within 48 hours in one of the Application Centres. If the apply for asylum is declared inadmissible, an asylum seeker in the Netherlands has no right on reception facilities. In Belgium however, every person who applies for asylum will be transferred the same day to one of the reception facilities. Only after a couple of weeks admissibility of the apply will be examined. If the apply is declared inadmissible, the asylum seeker can make an appeal and a higher appeal. Consequently, the total procedure can take months or even years. In the Netherlands this first stage is being finished within 48 hours.

If an apply for asylum is declared admissible, the asylum seeker in Belgium has the right on housing, work or social benefit. Only in this stage the merits of the application are being investigated. So the asylum seeker is able to rent a house, to work or to receive social benefits of the public social welfare centre while he is still without a residence permit. In the Netherlands only persons with a residence permit have these same rights.



Way of working

We noticed that the hearings and the issue of documents in Belgium happen in a more unofficial way than in the Netherlands. At the Aliens Service the hearings take place at the personal desk of the employee and if the employees share one office, the hearings also will take place in the same office. Moreover, the desks of the employees were decorated with personal details. One employee of the Alien's Service said that, according to him, this helps the asylum seeker to feel comfortable.

The reception facilities

Before the foundation of Fedasil in may 2002 Belgium has had several kinds of reception structures for asylum seekers since 1995: the federal reception centres, the reception centres of the Belgian Red Cross, as well as smaller-scale reception facilities in family homes set up in connection with the Ociv and Cire refugee reception organisations and the 'local reception initiatives' organised by the public social welfare centres (ocmw/cpas). So Fedasil is still a quiet young organization, which after a couple of beginners years, just has started to unify the different reception facilities. Till now there is still a significant difference in the way reception is being organized. This shows in the following:

- The way of living
- The kind of material and financial support that is given
- The arrange of education and activities
- The wide arrange of tasks of the employees
- The way is being dealt with repatriation
- The chance of being repatriated

Moreover, there is a difference in the way of working between the different federal reception centres. Each centre has his own director, who seems to have relatively a lot of freedom within the boundaries of Fedasil.

However, one thing that is very well centrally organized is the community initiatives. At Fedasil head office one employee is responsible for the policy on community initiatives. Fedasil is subsidizing the community initiatives in the reception centres. So Fedasil pays a lot of attention to the community initiatives. We got a very positive impression about it.

Significant groups in the reception facilities.

Because minors in Belgium are being protected and in all cases have right to reception, the Belgian reception facilities have to deal with a great number of families with minor children and non-accompanied minors who are staying illegal in the country. Amongst them are even people who didn't apply for asylum, or people who applied for asylum a second or a third time. In the Netherlands on the contrary, families with minor children are allowed to be removed from the reception centre after their apply for asylum is being rejected. In the Netherlands, non-asylum seekers don't have rights for reception. Neither do they who applied for asylum a second time.

Because Belgium is the only EU-member that takes applies for asylum of residents of other EU-countries in consideration, a lot of gypsies from Slovakia come to Belgium to apply for asylum. Most of the time these are big families, which may cause a problem by finding a place in one of the reception facilities.



Way of working

We noticed that like the employees of the Aliens Service, also the employees in the reception centres receive the asylum seeker at their personal desk. Moreover, there are no or almost no consultation hours, so the asylum seeker is able to walk into the office during working hours. So also here the way of working seems to be more informal than in the Netherlands.

Fedasil carries out almost all the tasks in the reception centre, except for the catering services. So also the security, the reception and the medical services are being carried out by Fedasil staff. In the Netherlands, COA hires external organizations for these kind of tasks.

The staff at Fedasil organizes a wide arrange of educational courses en activities. It was very nice to see their enthusiasm.

Generally spoken the atmosphere reminded us a lot of the way reception was organized a couple of Holland a couple of years ago.

Return

Statistics of IOM (see appendix ...) show that more people are voluntary repatriating from the federal reception centres in the Flemish region. According to IOM staff member this is caused by the difference in attitude regarding repatriation between the employees in Flandria and Wallonia. Moreover he notices a difference in the attitude between the employees in the federal and the Red Cross centres. We found it very positive however how IOM succeeds to create low accessibility by informing and training the social workers of the reception facilities, NGO's and migrant organizations, so the asylum seekers and illegal people can finish the whole procedure on repatriation with a social worker and they don't have to come to the IOM office in Brussels.

In Belgium there is no structural repatriation policy like in the Netherlands. In the Netherlands, a case manager has frequent conversations with the asylum seeker about his chance for repatriation. Moreover, the Netherlands started to train groups of asylum seekers on repatriation. In Belgium, a social assistant only mentions the possibility of repatriation, besides the possibility of continuing the procedure, every time a negative decision has been taken. In the Netherlands, much more emphasize is being put on repatriation than on the different possibilities of continuing the procedure. We noticed that several employees we've spoken with were a little hesitant towards the Dutch repatriation policy, but on the other side they were interested because it may be a solution for the great amount of illegal people who are a burden to the Belgian reception facilities.



5. Epilogue

We tried to make a summary in this report about the procedure and the reception of asylum seekers in Belgium. During the exchange programme we got a lot of information about the way the procedure and the reception in Belgium is being organized. We didn't really focus on one certain aspect; as well as the "checklist" we got from the Netherlands, as the way the programme was being organized in Belgium, led to a more general overview.

So here's a lot more to tell and there are a lot more interesting aspects of the reception of asylum seekers in Belgium. (See appendix ... for links to some more information.)

We hope this report made more people curious about it and it will help future ENARO candidates to prepare themselves for the exchange to Belgium.



Appendix 1

The Exchange Programme

Programme week 1

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<p>Presentation of the Belgium reception system (by Ingrid Declunder)</p>	<p>Focus: Asylum procedure in Belgium & Dispatching Fedasil</p> <p>Visit at: * Aliens Office (DVZ)/ Dispatching Fedasil</p>	<p>Focus: UMA's and Unaccompanied Minors</p> <p>Visit at: * Observation & Orientation Reception Centre for UMA's and Unaccompanied Minors: Steenokkerzeel (by Stef Vercruysse)</p>	<p>Focus: End of procedure, deportation</p> <p>Visit at: * Deportation Centre 127 BIS, in Zaventem</p>	<p>Focus: Voluntary return, REAB+</p> <p>Visit at: * IOM office Brussels (by Giovanni Heyde)</p>
Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch
<p>Focus: Asylum procedure in Belgium</p> <p>Visit at: * Commissioner Generals Office for Refugees and Stateless Persons (CGVS) * Belgium Committee for Refugee Assistance (BCHV)</p>	<p>Focus: Inflow of asylum seekers and the reception, in the first phase.</p> <p>Visit at: * Temporary Reception Centre Woluwe Saint-Pierre (by Gregory Bluck)</p>	<p>Visit at: * Exhibition Wrong time, wrong place in Sint-Truiden</p> <p>* Reception Centre Bevingen, the UMA-department</p>	<p>Focus: Reception in Belgium</p> <p>Visit at: * Reception Centre in Ekeren</p>	<p>Visit at: * Exhibition New Young Europeans, Petit Chateau, Brussels</p>

Programme week 2: **Training period at Reception Centre Petit Chateau, Brussels**

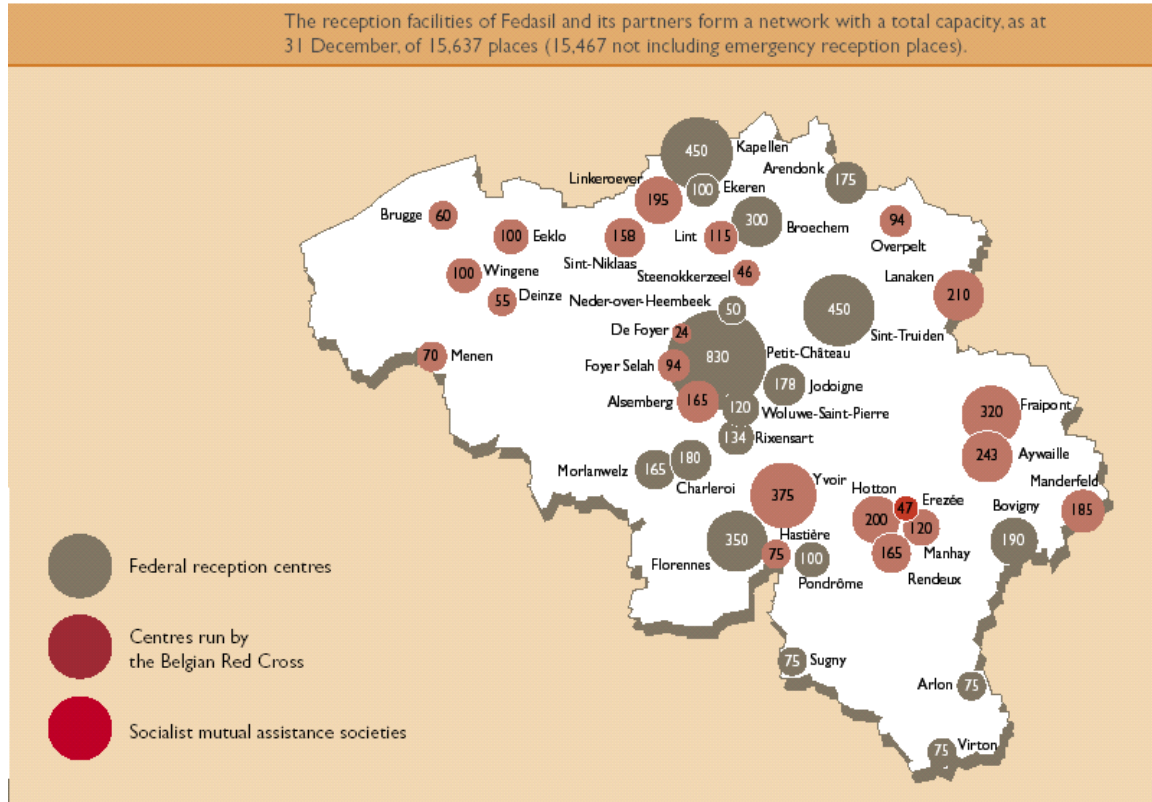


Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Focus: Introduction from Sofie Alen, about the Reception Centre, Petit Chateau, Brussels	Preparation for our presentation on Friday	Focus: * Social Assistance Service * UMA Department	Focus: Visit to Ghent * Urban Reception Facility	Preparation for our presentation
Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch
Focus: * Coordination Service, inflow * Medical Service	Focus: * Reception * Animation Service	Focus: * UMA Department * Children's Service	Focus: * LRI in Meller (close to Ghent)	Presentation about COA, reception in The Netherlands Exchange of experience



Appendix 2

Reception network and Fedasil's partners



(Source: Fedasil's Annual Report 2004, page 14)



Appendix 3

Relevant links

Fedasil, Federal Agency for the Reception of Asylum Seekers
www.fedasil.be

Alien Office (DVZ)
www.dofi.fgov.be

Commissioner-General for Refugees and Stateless Persons (CGRA/CGVS)
www.belgium.be/cgra

Permanent Refugee Appeals Commission (CPRR/VBV)
www.vbvcprp.fgov.be

Council of State
www.raadvst-consetat.be

IOM International Organization for Migration
www.belgium.iom.int

French Red Cross
www.croix-rouge.be

Flemish Red Cross
www.rodekruis.be

Dutch Immigration and Nationalisation Service
www.ind.nl

Dutch Agency for the Reception of Asylum Seekers
www.coa.nl