



Developments further to the visit as referred to by the Hungarian authorities during the 20th meeting of the Lanzarote Committee (29-31 January 2018)

The Lanzarote Committee took note of the following developments which took place further to the visit and were presented by the Hungarian authorities during its 20th meeting.

1. Changes in the law

Following the legal changes from 1st January 2018, additional regulations were introduced favouring minors in general and unaccompanied minors in Hungary:

1.1. According to the former legal rules, five meals per day were available only for children aged under 14 years, but as of 1st of January 2018, it is provided for all minor asylum seekers.

1.2. The asylum interview must be conducted in a language that is understandable for the minors while taking into consideration their age, maturity, sexual and cultural characteristics.

1.3. If a second or further asylum interview is needed, the same interviewer should conduct the interview with the minor.

1.4. If it is possible, the asylum interview of children aged under 14 years, should be held in a kid-friendly interview room.

1.5. The asylum interviewer of minors must have the necessary knowledge and training for interviewing minors. For this, it is important to provide such children with a professional asylum assistance staff, meaning also that during the asylum interview the interviewer should have the quality of inspiring confidence and provide a child-friendly atmosphere, finding the perfect, professional interpreter who has relevant practice in communicating with children.

1.6. The applicant may choose the sex of the interpreter and the case worker.

2. Changes in the transit zones

2.1. During the visit of the Committee, there was a summer holiday affecting every Hungarian school and children. However, from September 2017, the school year began in the transit zones as well. The education is carried out by the educational authorities having jurisdiction and competence under the guidance of the Ministry of Human Capacities. A specific curriculum was developed for the minor asylum seekers staying in the transit zones, and as of the beginning of September 2017, education is provided according to this curriculum for minors aged between 6 and 16 years, and if the child wishes, even up to their 18 years of age, by competent and specially trained teachers. In Hungary, it is obligatory for children to go to school till the age of 16 years. The necessary tools for educational purposes are also provided (e.g. PC, exercise books, pens etc.) to aid their education. (R 10) and (R 13)

2.2. The Office has so far completed the training of 120 administrators for the successful identification of victims of human trafficking (partially sexual exploitation) and to increase the awareness of those who are more likely to be in contact with such persons during their day-to-day work. Moreover, managers of the Office also have to participate in this training as well. In addition, a summary of relevant knowledge has been prepared and handed out for the staff. The Office started cooperation with the IOM in order to provide special training for the personnel of the transit zones on the rights of the child – especially who are affected by the migration crisis - and also trafficking in human beings.

Since 2011, the police personnel serving in the transit zone have participated in psychological, tactical and intercultural training that greatly contributes to the recognition and proper handling of vulnerable persons and their situations. The briefing of the personnel contains the requirements of performing tasks in a multicultural environment and the instructions for appropriate behaviour in such an environment. (R 16)

2.3. An additional food package is provided since October 2017 every week for different age groups, which contains fruits and vegetables, chocolate, instant coffee, tea, refreshment, biscuit etc. This is beyond the five times meal that is provided officially. (R 14)

2.4. Both adults and children are provided with the adequate standard of medical care available generally in Hungary. Medical doctors for adults are present every day for 4 hours, while paediatrician doctors are available twice a week in the transit zones (similarly to office hours of doctors for the general population). However, paramedics are present 24/7 at the transit zones, who can provide emergency medical treatment, and if necessary, they can also arrange the transfer of any children to the hospital. The Immigration and Asylum Office with the help of Hungarian Baptist Aid charity weekly provides health visitor service in the transit zones specialised for little children. (R 18)

2.5. From November 2017 the Immigration and Asylum Office employs a psychologist in the transit zones. The psychologist works at Röske Transit Zone in 9 hours per week, and at Tompa Transit Zone in 6 hours per week. From January 2018, a psychiatrist in 3 hours per week is present in each of the transit zones. The psycho-social help was available by NGOs even before these dates. Also, if necessary, the psychiatric care of state hospitals is still available for the applicants. (R 20)

2.6. Throughout the summer sunshades and also shading canopies were installed throughout the transit zones. During summer, the community rooms are air-conditioned and in the living quarters fans are installed, while during winter, the living quarters are individually heated. (R 13)