

Country: Estonia

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No. Asylum seekers 2007	No. of persons granted protection	No. of Ngos'/ GOs'/ projects offering mental health services	No. of NGOs'/ GOs'/ projects working with persons with broken family links	No. of NGOs'/ GOs'/ projects working with survivors of torture	No. of NGOs'/ GOs'/ projects working with the elderly and frail
14	2 refugee status 2 subsidiary protection	1 (project based)	1 Estonian RC	1 CMB	None

Access to health system:

It is stated in the Act Granting International Protection to Aliens (AGIPA) that asylum seeker is obliged to allow his/her state of health being checked. It is the obligation of the reception centre to organize visits to the doctor and the immediate medical help.

Legal Access to mental health care:

Provision of mental healthcare has only recently been identified as necessary. It is provided by the state healthcare institutions, free of charge. However, the legal framework does not specify regulations for mental health care.

Systematic assessment of mental health needs:

There is no systematic assessment enforced. The needs are identified by the asylum officer/case worker, by the staff of the reception centre or by the support-person.

Main stakeholders in the asylum system:

Refugees Department of Citizenship and Migration Board (CMB); Board of Border Guard; Ministry of Social Affairs; Illuka Reception Center; Administrative Court; County Court; Supreme Court;

Country specific features: What drew my attention?

Asylum in Estonia appears to be a small operation. Mental health care has only recently been discovered as issue.

Difficulties: No further specific rules regarding health care have been laid down and medical needs of asylum seekers have been met on case by case basis.