

HUB VESSEL – ONBOARD INFORMATION

Welcome.

You have been rescued by the Italian authorities. On board this vessel, certain procedures will be carried out, which we will explain to you now. You will be always required to fully cooperate with the authorities by providing all the correct information and respecting the people, things, and regulations of the place where you are located.

You will first be subjected to a medical examination. Please declare immediately if you have health problems or special needs like a mental disorder, or if you are a victim of torture, rape, or other severe forms of psychological, physical, or sexual violence, because you are entitled to receive adequate assistance and specialised services.

After your onboard medical examination, the Police will proceed with **your initial identification**. Do not be afraid to speak to the Police and to the onboard personnel: they can help and protect you.

During **identification**, you will have to declare, correctly and completely, your name, surname, date of birth, the country where you were born and the one of which you are currently a citizen. If you are stateless (that is, if you have no citizenship), remember to declare this immediately.

During this phase, you have to cooperate with Italian authorities, who could ask to provide more elements concerning all the above information including the countries you resided in or transited through. To this end, the Police could also ask you, to have the access to **your electronic devices**. If you refuse to cooperate, the local head of police may issue a **search warrant**, authorizing police officers to forcibly access to your devices and sim/e-sim cards, to gather these identification data. The warrant is subjected to validation by the Justice of the Peace, which must be sought by the Police within 48 hours after the search operations have started. you have the right to attend the search operation, with the presence of a cultural mediator.

If you are under 18 years of age and are travelling alone, declare this to the authorities immediately. Minors, in fact, are entitled to protection immediately upon arrival.

It is important for you to declare whether you are travelling with other family members.

In this phase, if you have **documents**, like a passport or other equivalent document, show them.

It is important for you to understand what is being said to you, and for your declarations to be correctly reported. For this purpose, an **interpreter** will always be on hand and may be asked for clarifications should doubts arise.

If you are afraid to return to a country of which you are a citizen (or, if you are stateless, to the country of habitual residence) because your life and/or your freedom or that of your family members is in danger, or because you fear torture, serious mistreatment, or abuse, **you are entitled to apply for protection**. If you have been persecuted or you fear persecution on account of your race, nationality, membership of an ethnic group, religion or political opinion, or if you belong to a particular social group and you fear violence or you fear being reduced to slavery, or if you fear being sentenced to death or being tortured, or you come from a war zone, you can apply for protection.

In the next hours, you will be transferred to an Italian centre built in Albania, because:

1. **You are from a country that Italy considers “safe”**, which is to say a country where, generally, there are no widespread and serious human rights violations or specific dangers in event of your return. On the other hand, if you believe that, on account of **your personal and individual situation**, you would be at risk in your country, it is important to explain this fully. (Currently, the countries Italy considers safe are: Albania, Algeria, Bangladesh, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Cape Verde, Egypt, Gambia, Georgia, Ghana, Ivory Coast, Kosovo, Montenegro, Morocco, Northern Macedonia, Peru, Senegal, Serbia, Sri Lanka, and Tunisia).
2. **You do not belong to categories considered vulnerable** under Italian law (minors, disabled people, elderly people, women, 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 female genital mutilation), or to family units that include vulnerable persons.

3. **You do not hold a valid passport or other equivalent document.**

Financial guarantee

If you decide to apply for international protection, you can avoid being detained at the centre if you declare to Police personnel your intention to provide a financial guarantee amounting to a sum of between € 2,500 and €5,000; the amount will be determined on a case-by-case basis, and in view of your current situation.

- The financial guarantee can be provided by a bank or insurance guarantee or by a security deposit of that amount payable to a specific banking account that shall be made known to you.
- It can also be provided by **your relatives within the third degree** (e.g. parents, children, brothers, sisters, grandparents, grandchildren, uncles and aunts, nephews and nieces) legally residing in Italy or in another European Union Member State.
- It must be provided **within seven working days** after communication from the Police, and in any case before the Territorial Commission makes a decision on your asylum application. If you declare that you want to provide it, pending its provision you can still be detained.
- It is provided for a period of 28 days. **If, during the procedure, you abscond, the sum cannot be returned to you.**

In these cases, and should you wish to apply for international protection, your international protection application will be examined more quickly by the Italian authorities following what is defined as the **“accelerated”** border procedure, and in the meantime, you may be detained for a maximum period of up to 28 days in the Italian centre built in Albania. It is important for you to know that even if the procedure will take place in Albania, your application for international protection will be assessed by the Italian authorities, who will be responsible for all decisions relating to you.

After the initial identification on board the vessel, **you will be transferred to the Shëngjin centre in Albania**, where you will remain for several hours. At Shëngjin, **the police will complete the identification procedures** and, if you wish to apply for international protection, the Police will work with you to fill out the application for international protection, called **“Form C3”**, which contains some more detailed personal information like your ethnic group, your language, your religion, and the reasons why you are applying for international protection. During this phase, you will be asked how you made the journey, whether you experienced torture, trauma, violence and detention in your country or during the journey, and if you have your documents with you.

At the Shëngjin centre, you will be given additional information on your rights and the phases of the asylum procedure.

Remember to ask your **interpreter** for clarifications if you need more information, or if certain things are unclear.

INFORMATION AT THE Shëngjin CENTRE

Welcome to Shëngjin.

This centre is located in Albania but is operated by the Italian authorities, who will be responsible for all decisions relating to you. You will be required at all times to fully cooperate with the authorities by providing all the correct information and respecting the people, things, and regulations of the place where you are located.

You have been transferred to this centre, where you will remain for several hours, because:

1. **You are from a country that Italy considers “safe”**, which is to say a country where, generally, there are no widespread and serious human rights violations or specific dangers in event of your return. On the other hand, if you believe that, on account of **your personal and individual situation**, you would be at risk in your country, it is important to explain this fully. (Currently, the countries Italy considers safe are: Albania, Algeria, Bangladesh, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Cape Verde, Egypt, Gambia, Georgia, Ghana, Ivory Coast, Kosovo, Montenegro, Morocco, Northern Macedonia, Peru, Senegal, Serbia, Sri Lanka, and Tunisia).
2. **You do not belong to categories considered vulnerable** under Italian law (minors, disabled people, elderly people, women, 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 female genital mutilation), or to family units that include vulnerable persons.
3. **You do not hold a valid passport or other equivalent document.**

Financial guarantee

If you decide to apply for international protection, you can avoid being detained at the centre if you declare to Police personnel your intention to provide a financial guarantee amounting to a sum of between € 2,500 and €5,000; the amount will be determined on a case-by-case basis, and in view of your current situation.

- The financial guarantee can be provided by a bank or insurance guarantee or by a security deposit of that amount payable to a specific banking account that shall be made known to you.
- It can also be provided by **your relatives within the third degree** (e.g. parents, children, brothers, sisters, grandparents, grandchildren, uncles and aunts, nephews and nieces) legally residing in Italy or in another European Union Member State.
- It must be provided **within seven working days** after communication from the Police, and in any case before the Territorial Commission makes a decision on your asylum application. If you declare that you want to provide it, pending its provision you can still be detained.
- It is provided for a period of up to 28 days. **If you abscond during the asylum procedure, the sum cannot be returned to you.**

In these cases, and should you wish to apply for international protection, your international protection application will be examined more quickly by the Italian authorities following what is defined as the **accelerated border procedure, and in the meantime, you may be detained for a maximum period of up to 28 days.**

Even if the procedure will take place in Albania, your application for international protection will be assessed by the Italian authorities, who will be responsible for all decisions relating to you.

You will first be subjected to another medical examination. Please declare immediately if you have health problems or special needs like a mental disorder, or if you are a victim of torture, rape, or other severe forms of psychological, physical, or sexual violence, because you are entitled to receive adequate assistance and specialised services.

After the medical examination, the Police will conclude **your identification**, during which you will have to declare, correctly and completely, your name, surname, date of birth, the country where you were born and the one of

which you are currently a citizen. If you are stateless (that is, if you have no citizenship), remember to declare this immediately.

During this phase, you have to cooperate with Italian authorities, who could ask to provide more elements concerning all the above information including the countries you resided in or transited through. To this end, the Police could also ask you, to have the access to **your electronic devices**. If you refuse to cooperate, the local head of police may issue a **search warrant**, authorizing police officers to forcibly access to your devices and sim/e-sim cards, to gather these identification data. The warrant is subjected to validation by the Justice of the Peace, which must be sought by the Police within 48 hours after the search operations have started. you have the right to attend the search operation, with the presence of a cultural mediator.

If you are under 18 years of age and are travelling alone, declare this to the authorities immediately. Minors, are entitled to be protected immediately upon arrival.

It is important for you to declare whether you are travelling with other family members.

In this phase, if you have **documents**, like a passport or other equivalent document, show them.

It is important for you to understand what is being said to you, and for your declarations to be correctly reported. For this purpose, an interpreter will always be on hand and may be asked for clarifications should doubts arise. If something is unclear or you have doubts, you can ask for clarifications through the **assistance of an interpreter**.

Once the identification is completed, if you wish to apply for international protection, the Police will work with you to fill out the application for international protection, called "**Form C3**", which contains some more detailed personal information like your ethnic group, your language, your religion, and the reasons why you are applying for international protection. During this phase, you will be asked how you made the journey that brought you to Europe, and whether you experienced torture, trauma, violence and detention in your country or during the journey.

During this phase, clearly explain the reasons why you are applying for protection. You may also submit these reasons in writing. Lastly, it is important for you to understand what is being said to you, and for your declarations to be correctly reported. For this purpose, an interpreter will always be on hand to clear up any doubts you may have.

Even though your country of origin is defined as safe, **if you believe there are serious reasons why you would be in danger in the event of your return to your country**, explain this immediately to the police. In particular, it is important to explain:

- **what risks you run in the event of repatriation**
- **why you run these risks**

Deliver all the documentation in your possession, if it is available to you, so you can explain your situation and the dangers you would be running in your country. If you need to collect documents and elements to explain your case, make this known immediately to the police, and then also to the Territorial Commission, which is the authority that will have to decide your application for international protection.

After your application for international protection has been filled out, you will be asked to sign the document, and you will be given a copy. Keep it carefully. All the information you provide will be processed with the utmost **confidentiality** and cannot be shared with the authorities in your country of origin, or with third countries. Remember: if you need more information, you may contact police personnel with the support of the interpreters on hand.

Once the application for protection has been filled out, if the conditions are confirmed for fast-tracking your application, you will be transferred to the Gjader centre, a short distance from Shëngjin. If you leave Shëngjin without authorisation, you will be brought back to the centre.

You may not leave the Gjader centre. There, your application for international protection will be examined within 28 days.

If an asylum application is submitted, the following activities will be performed at Gjader, **via videoconference**:

- A judge will have to validate detention **within 96 hours** after it has been ordered. **Only if it is validated will you continue to be detained.** Otherwise, you will be transferred to Italy.
- **Within 7 days after the formalisation of the application for international protection**, you will be granted an interview with an officer from the Territorial Commission, which is responsible for examining your application, and the Commission will make a decision. During the procedure before the Commission, you may be assisted by hired counsel **at your own expense.**
- If the application is rejected, **within 7 days after communication of this outcome, you may submit an appeal** and, in the meantime, ask not to be returned to your country of origin during the appeal, by submitting a request for suspensive effect. To do this, you will need an attorney. If you lack sufficient economic resources, you are generally entitled to be assisted by an attorney free of charge (you may ask the manager of the structure where you are located, as well as the legal caseworkers, to help place you in contact with a lawyer to assist you).

At the Gjader centre, you will receive further information on your rights and on the phases of the procedure for the granting of international protection.

Remember to ask your **interpreter** for clarifications if you need more information, or if certain things are unclear.

INFORMATION AT THE GJADER CENTRE

Welcome to the Gjader centre.

This centre is located in Albania but is operated by the Italian authorities, who will be responsible for all decisions relating to you. You will be required at all times to fully cooperate with the authorities by providing all the correct information and respecting the people, things, and regulations of the place where you are located.

You may not leave this centre while your application for international protection is being examined, for a maximum of up to 28 days.

At this centre, the following activities will be performed, **via videoconference**:

- A judge will have to validate detention within 96 hours after it has been adopted. Only if it is validated will you continue to be detained. Otherwise, you will be transferred to Italy.
- The Territorial Commission will examine your application for international protection.

1. While your application is being examined, you may not leave the centre: why?

While your application is being examined, you may not leave the centre where you are located at this moment because your situation falls under those that, under Italian law, require **detention**, that is: because you are from a safe country of origin, you submitted an asylum application in a border or transit zone and you have not delivered your valid passport or other equivalent document, or you have been unable to provide the financial guarantee established by the regulations. If you leave without authorisation, you will be brought back to the centre.

The detention decision by the Italian authority ("Questore") **shall be confirmed by a judge within 96 hours after its adoption**: in the coming days, a videoconference hearing will be held with an Italian judge. **At that time, you will have to share all the information of use for making a decision on your detention, including that relating to the reasons underlying your application and the feared risk in the event of your return to your country of origin.**

If the judge confirms the decision on your detention, you may be detained for up to a maximum of up to 28 days, without prejudice to your right to request a reassessment if you believe that your health conditions or your personal situation are not compatible with detention. After this period, the procedure will continue following different paths depending on the outcome of the application and the appeal if any:

- If a form of protection (refugee status; subsidiary protection; special protection) is granted, you will be transferred to Italy as quickly as possible, where you will be able to apply for reception at a dedicated centre.
- If the application for international protection is rejected, or in the event of a decision that the application is manifestly unfounded, **you may submit an appeal** and, in the meantime, ask not to be returned to your country of origin during the appeal (request for suspensive effect). To do this, you will need an attorney. If you lack sufficient economic resources, you are generally entitled to be assisted by an attorney free of charge, (you may ask the manager of the structure where you are located, as well as the legal caseworkers, to help place you in contact with a lawyer to assist you). If the request for suspension is upheld, you will be transferred to Italy with the right to be received. However, if the request is rejected, you will be transferred to the Gjader repatriation centre.

2. Your application will be examined following what is called a accelerated border procedure: what does this entail?

Your application is subject to the accelerated border procedure, since you submitted an application for international protection in a border (or transit) zone and you are from a country that Italy considers "safe" (Albania, Algeria, Bangladesh, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Cape Verde, Egypt, Gambia, Georgia, Ghana, Ivory Coast, Kosovo, Montenegro, Morocco, Northern Macedonia, Peru, Senegal, Serbia, Sri Lanka, and Tunisia). A "safe" country is a country where, generally, there are no widespread and serious human rights violations or specific

dangers in event of your return. **On the other hand, if you believe that, on account of your personal and individual situation, you would be at risk in your country, it is important to explain this fully.**

In these cases, the application is decided quite quickly. **It is important to understand, from the very first moment, what will happen, and to make immediately known to the authorities all the information that may be of use for deciding your case and understanding the problems you might have in the event of your return to your country of origin.**

3. How does the accelerated border procedure work?

The Territorial Commission, which is the authority responsible for examining your application for international protection, will proceed with your interview, during which you will be heard by a caseworker supported by an interpreter; they will be in Italy and linked via videoconference. The Commission will make a decision **within 7 days**.

During the interview, you will be able to tell your whole story and the reasons why you believe that you cannot return to your country of origin today. Remember to ask your **interpreter** for clarifications if you need more information, or if certain things are unclear.

If you need to search for, or for someone to send you, documents of any kind (medical, school, identity, or documents relating to your family unit, photos, newspaper articles, membership cards in an association, etc.) that you believe may be of use for understanding your situation, it is **important to say so right away** and to try to understand when you will have them at your disposal, so this may be taken into account during the procedure. During the procedure before the Commission, you may be assisted by hired counsel **at your own expense**.

After examining your application, the Commission **may adopt one of the following decisions**:

- granting of refugee status;
- granting of subsidiary protection;
- granting of special protection;
- rejection of the application for international protection;
- rejection of the application as manifestly unfounded;

If the application is rejected, **you have 7 days to submit an appeal**. Remember that in order not to be returned to your country of origin pending the Court's decision, **you will have to ask the judge for a specific authorisation to stay**, called "**suspensive effect**". To do this, you will need an attorney: if you lack sufficient economic resources, you are generally entitled to be assisted by an attorney free of charge, (you may ask the manager of the structure where you are located, as well as the legal caseworkers, to help place you in contact with a lawyer to assist you).

For more information on the procedure or on the appeal process and deadlines, as well as on the consequences in the event of rejection, you may ask your centre's legal caseworkers or your attorney for assistance.

4. Are you an unaccompanied minor or a person with specific needs?

The accelerated procedure does not apply to **minors**, including unaccompanied ones (that is, persons under 18 years of age in Italy without a parent or guardian) or to persons with specific needs.

Specific needs are vulnerabilities related to age, condition of physical or mental health, family situation, or having experienced violence, torture, trauma, etc. Examples of persons with specific needs are: minors, disabled people, elderly people, women, 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 female genital mutilation), **In all these cases, you will be transferred to Italy and your application will be examined under another procedure referred to as the "ordinary" one, guaranteeing the most suitable forms of assistance and support during the procedure. It is therefore highly important to make known whether you have specific needs.**

5. Additional information on rights and procedural guarantees

All the Italian authorities you will meet during the procedure are bound to **confidentiality** and may therefore communicate to no one the information you will give them; above all, they cannot make this information known to the Embassies and Consulates of your country of origin.

At every phase of the procedure, you are also entitled to be **assisted by an interpreter in your own language** and to receive any communication on the procedure in a language you understand. The interpreters are also bound to confidentiality, and may tell no one what they hear, read, and see during their work.

At every phase of the procedure of **examining your application, you are entitled to contact UNHCR or any other organisation that works in the field of international protection: +39 351 137 63 35**