

Working  
together



# My journey in Romania

Unaccompanied and separated children  
Asylum procedure. Rights and obligations.  
Family reunification procedure.



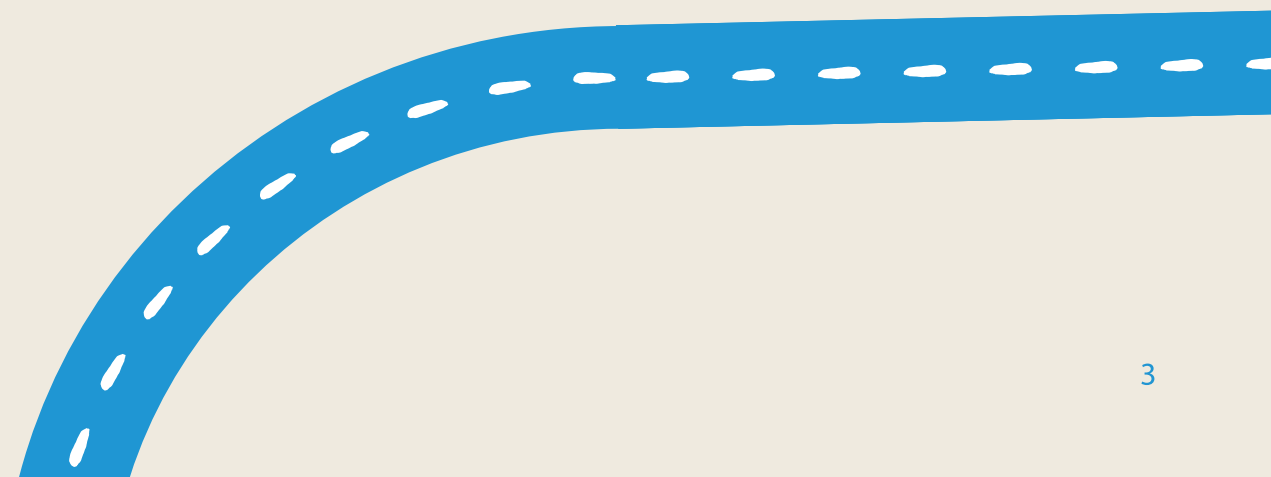
Engleză - 2024



## Welcome to Romania!

You probably have many questions about your situation: “What will happen to me?”, “Can I stay in this country?”, “Can I see my family again?”.

In Romania, you will meet different people who will make sure you are safe. Some of them work for the government of Romania and others work for non-governmental organisations (NGOs).





# Hello!

My name is Salim! Because of the challenges in my home country, I had to leave and, just like you, I've become an asylum seeker in Romania. I will show you the next steps and the people that you will meet, just follow the arrows with me!



**Border police**

They will call the immigration officers to help you and get you to the GII Centre.



**General Inspectorate for Immigration (GII)**

The immigration officers will register your asylum request and give you a Temporary Identity Document.



**Services of the General Directorate of Social Assistance and Child Protection (DGASPC)**

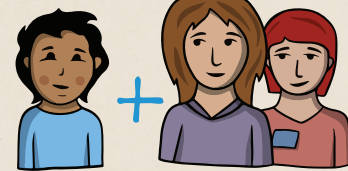
If you are under 16 years old, you will live with a foster family or in a family house/apartment belonging to the General Directorate of Social Assistance and Child Protection (DGASPC).



**GII Centre**

If you're over 16, you can choose to stay at the GII Centre.

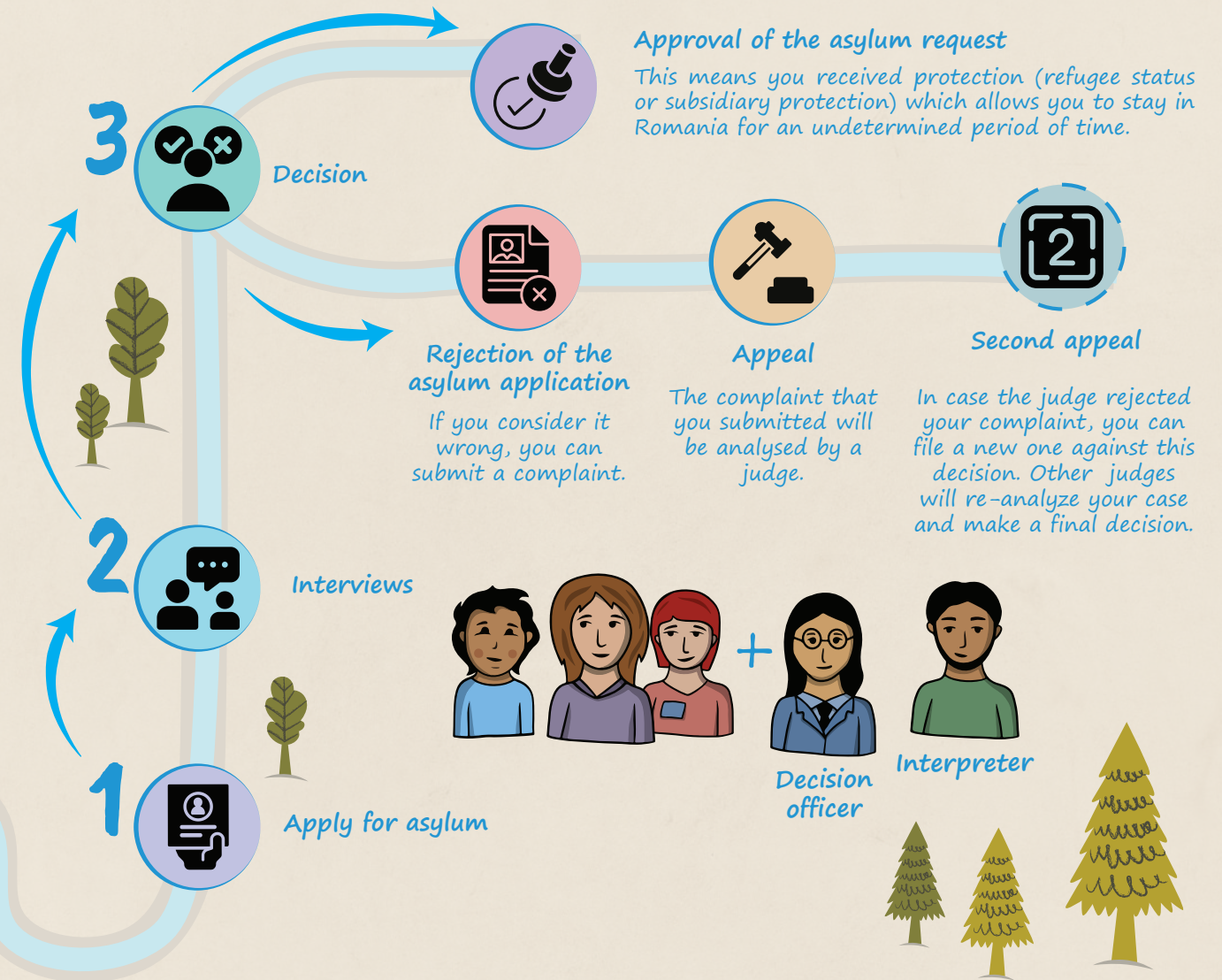
**NGO counsellor**



**Representative**

**Asylum procedure**

Read more about it at page 6



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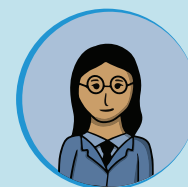
**Border police**



**Representative**



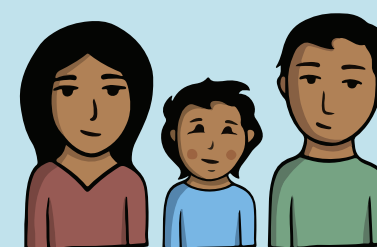
**NGO counsellor**



**Decision officer**



**Interpreter**



**Family reunification**

If your asylum request is approved, you can request for your parents to come to Romania. Read more about this on page 16.

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# Chapter 1

## What does asylum mean?

If you are afraid to go back to your home country you can ask for asylum in Romania. Asylum is an international protection that a country gives to people who were forced to leave their own home because it wasn't safe. Here are more information about the procedure and persons involved.



The General Inspectorate for Immigration (GII) is the Romanian authority responsible for the analysis and the approval or rejection of your asylum request.

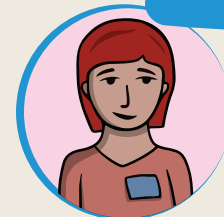
## Who will help you?

If you are in Romania without your family, you will be assigned a representative from the General Directorate of Social Assistance and Child Protection (DGASPC). The appointed representative will ensure that your rights are respected and will assist you throughout the asylum procedure.

### Representative



### Non-governmental organization (NGO) counsellor



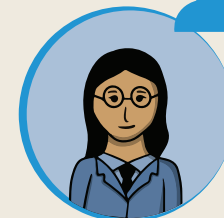
You can also have the support of a person from a non-governmental organization (NGO) counsellor. He/she can support you to understand better the steps you need to follow during the asylum procedure. This person does not replace the assigned representative and has different roles than him/her. Ask the GII Centre staff or the assigned representative how you can contact this person.

### GII Centre Staff

In the GII Centre work immigration officers who will make sure that you are safe during your stay.



### Decision officer



This is the immigration officer that will analyse your request for asylum and make a decision about it. In order to make a decision, this person will look at all the information you provide and may ask you more questions during an interview. Don't worry, it's a normal procedure.

### Interpreter



During the interviews with the decision officer, you will have an interpreter who will help you communicate in a language that you know. The interpreter should translate everything that you and the other persons are saying, word for word, and not speak for you. If you do not understand what the interpreter says, you must tell her/him that with no hesitation.



# Chapter 2

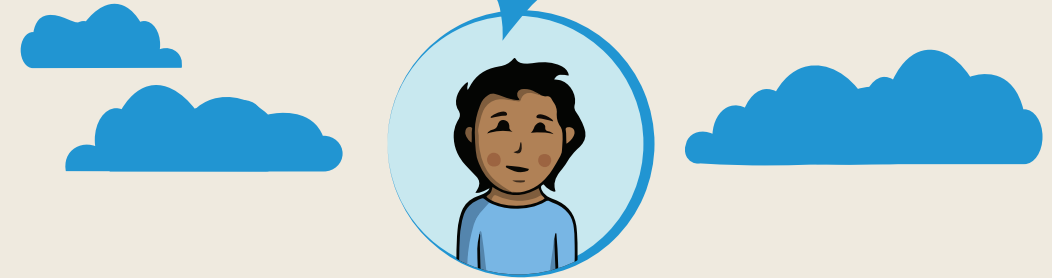
How can I ask for asylum? Let's take a look at the steps you have to take!

## How will I submit my asylum request?



When you arrive at the GII Centre, the officers will ask the DGASPC to appoint a person to be your representative. If you are under 14, the appointed representative will submit the application for you. If you are already 14 years old, you can submit the application yourself, but it must be signed by your appointed representative.

It might take a little while for someone to be your representative. While you're waiting, you can talk to the authorities or the NGO counsellors at the place where you're staying if you need help or information. They are there to make things easier for you.



## Share your papers/documents

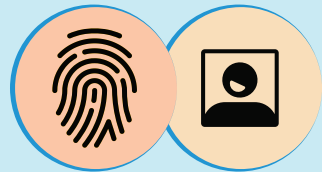
You have to share any documents you have, for example your passport, birth certificate or other identity documents. If you don't have them, it is possible to share other documents, such as school records or anything that shows where you are from and how old you are. These will help the decision officer to understand your situation better. Don't worry, your asylum request will be analysed even if you don't have documents from your country.



## Interviews



The decision officer will ask you questions about the reasons for which you requested asylum. Your representative must be at the interview with you. You can also ask for an NGO counsellor to be present with you, if you wish. Remember that you will also have an interpreter who speaks your language to help you communicate during the interviews. If you want to know more about the interviews, ask your representative or an NGO counsellor.



## Age assessment:

If you are over 14 years old, you will be fingerprinted. Don't worry, it is a normal procedure! After that you will be issued a temporary identity document as an asylum seeker. You need to have it on you every time you go out from the centre you live in.

Sometimes, there is a possibility that Immigration office asks doctors to check how old you are. Do not be alarmed if this happens as it is a simple procedure. The medical examiner is a specialist that has seen many children like you and the only thing he/she will do is take some body measurements to determine your age. If at any time you do not agree or feel uncomfortable with these procedures, please discuss your concerns with your representative or the GII Centre staff where you are staying.

## Very important:

*In case you have parents or relatives in other countries in Europe, inform as soon as possible your representative and the decision officer if you want to join them.*

## Remember:



Asking for asylum and receiving a final decision can take time. Until you have a final decision, you have to stay in the Centre and continue to receive support (read more about these on page no. 14).

During this time, your representative and, as the case, the NGO counsellor will keep you updated regarding the status of the procedure. Do not hesitate to ask them for additional information.



## Decision on your asylum request

The decision officer will look at all the things you talked about and the papers you gave and will take a motivated decision regarding your asylum request. Your representative and NGO counsellor will help you understand it.



### YES

Approval of the asylum request means you get protection: refugee status or subsidiary protection. You can stay in Romania for an undetermined period of time. You will continue to receive the same help from the child-protection authority (DGASPC) as you did so far, until you will turn 18 or until you will be with your family again.



### NO

Rejection of the asylum request means that the decision officer considered that your reasons don't justify protection. If you don't agree with the decision, you can submit a complaint against it with the support of the representative and the NGO counsellor. Discuss with them your options as soon as possible as you can complain about the rejection only for a few days (10 days). They will also try to get you a lawyer as you will need to discuss with a judge this time.

## Know your rights!

The representative, the NGO counsellor and immigration officers will tell you about your rights. They will make sure you get all the services and support you need, such as:

- food
- a place to stay
- medical care
- getting help for your feelings when you go through tough times
- recreational activities
- things to keep you clean

## In case of emergencies, you can call these services:

- **119** - Dedicated call-centre line for children that you can call whenever you feel in danger
- **112** - General phone number for police and medical emergencies

Romania is considered to be a safe country in general, however we highly recommend that you do not go alone outside your accommodation centre, especially at night. If a person is trying to sell you goods (money, cigarettes) or illegal substances (such as drugs, unprescribed medication, alcohol) **DO NOT ACCEPT AND WALK AWAY.**



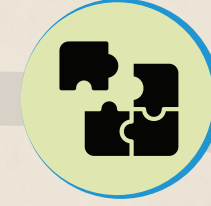
## Social services

Your representative works in a team with several social workers and specialists. They are the ones who must assess the needs you have and guide you to the services that are right for you.



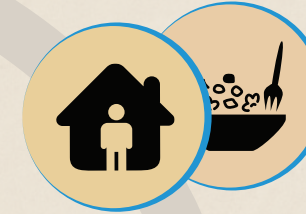
## Recreational activities

You can participate in recreational activities that will help you make friends here and to understand your environment better.



## Accommodation and food

During your stay in this country, you should have access to a safe place to stay and food. If you're under 16, you will stay in a service for children within the DGASPC\*; if you are over 16, you can choose to stay in the GII Centre\*\*.



\*The DGASPC service is a place specially set up for the accommodation and care of children who are temporarily or permanently separated from their parents and where unaccompanied children can also be accommodated. Here you can participate in educational and recreational activities that will help you develop. It is important to respect the rules and staff of the service and participate in the organised events.

\*\*The GII Center is managed by the immigration office and it hosts both asylum seekers and refugees, who come from various countries, adults and children. To live in good conditions in the centre, you must respect your roommates, the rules of the centre and maintain cleanliness. Here you will also find NGOs workers to whom you can ask for help.

## Education

While you are waiting for the decision on your asylum request you should go to school. If you are not enrolled in school, contact your representative. School plays an important role in your life and future, and is also a good place to make friends.



## Safety

Don't forget that whenever you feel in danger or you have a medical emergency, you can call the emergency numbers: 119 (dedicated call-centre line for children) and 112.



*Let me walk you through some of the services that should be accessible to you:*

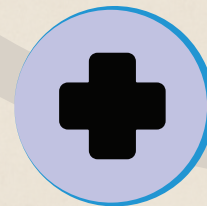
## Psychological support

If you are scared or can't sleep, if you are sad or worried, the psychologist can help you. If you want to talk to a psychologist, you can ask your representative to put you in touch with him/her.



## Medical care

In case you need a doctor, the people from the GII Centre or from the DGASPC Service will help you. We encourage you to tell your representative about your medical problems as soon as possible. You don't have to fear and feel embarrassed because it is important to take care of your health.



## Labor

Normally children do not work because going to school is the most important thing at this age. However, if you are over 16, you can work. Talk to the representative and the NGO counsellor about the terms of employment.

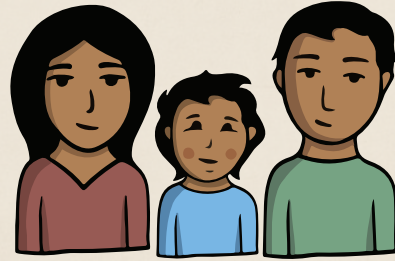


## Financial support

You are entitled to a monthly amount of money as an asylum seeker, but also after you receive protection. For more details, ask your representative or an NGO counsellor.



Did you know that you can bring your parents to Romania, after your asylum request is approved?



This is called the reunification procedure. Your representative and the NGO counsellor can explain what you need to do to request this from the immigration office.

*Keep in mind that this is possible only if your asylum request is approved*



#### What do I have to do to request family reunification?

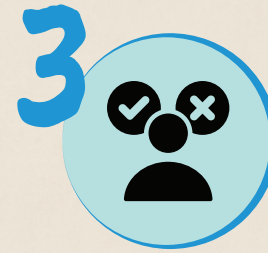
You must submit an application to the GII, accompanied by documents proving the identity of the parents and the family relationship with them. Your application for family reunification will be considered even if you do not have these documents.

If you are under 16, your representative must submit this file for you. If you are over 16, you can submit it yourself, but it is mandatory that the application is signed by your representative.



#### Wait for a decision

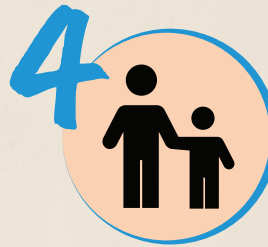
It can take up to 9 months for immigration office to decide. In special cases, the term can be extended for 6 months.



#### Possible decisions:

**Approval** - you can ask for the support of an NGO to help your parents get a visa to travel to Romania.

**Rejection** - you can file a complaint with the support of your representative and/or the NGO counsellor.



#### Your parents apply for asylum

After arriving in Romania, your parents will apply for asylum, just like you did. Afterwards, DGASPC can do some checks to make sure they can take care of you. For this reason, it may take some time before you can live with them.



*After these steps you will be together again with your family!*

## Useful contacts that can help you:



The Romanian National Council for Refugees

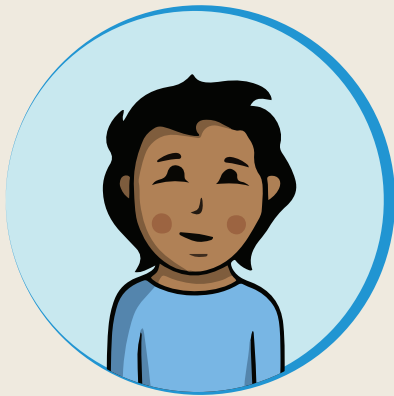
+40 21 312 6210  
office@cnrr.ro  
www.cnrr.ro



UNHCR, The UN Refugee Agency

+40 723 653 651

To access reliable and up to date information on services and assistance,  
to report a complaint or provide feedback  
Opening hours: 08:00 - 16:00 (Monday to Friday)



*You've come a long way, now it's time to say goodbye!  
I know arriving to a new country can be tough, but  
don't forget there are people here to help you. Don't  
hesitate to ask for support!*

Working  
together



The Romanian National Council for Refugees Foundation (CNRR) is a non-governmental organization established in 1998. In 2003, CNRR acquired the status of a public utility foundation. CNRR is currently the implementation partner of the Representation in Romania of UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency.

Our mission is to promote and defend by all legal means human rights in general and the rights of refugees and asylum seekers in particular. CNRR provides information services and legal advice within its specialized departments. All these services are offered free of charge.

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