



Any foreigner over the age of 14 who submits an international protection application in the territory of the Republic of Poland in accordance with national law and the provisions of Council Regulation (EC) No 2725/2000 of 11 December 2000 (the so-called Eurodac Regulation) is subject to fingerprinting i.e. taking a sample of an impression left by the papillary ridges.

Fingerprints are sent to the central unit in Luxembourg for registration and verification whether the foreigner has not previously applied for international protection or whether the foreigner has not previously resided illegally in one of the Schengen Area Member States.

Fingerprinting is a necessary condition to initiate the international protection procedure. In case the foreigner does not comply with this obligation, the application will be disregarded.

The data concerning fingerprints are blocked in the central unit after the foreigner has been granted asylum or has been granted asylum in a different Member State.

As a member of the Schengen Area, Poland also complies with Regulation (EU) No 604/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 26 June 2013 (so-called Dublin III Regulation). The said Regulation establishes the criteria and mechanisms for determining the Member State responsible for examining an application for international protection lodged in one of the Member States by a third-country national.

In the case of most foreigners, an application for international protection in Poland is their first application. Foreigners who lodged an application for international protection in Poland are obliged to stay within its territory until the final decision is issued, as they are informed in the moment of lodging the application.

In accordance with the Dublin III Regulation, if a foreigner leaves the territory of Poland and submits an application for international protection in another Schengen Member State, this person will be sent back to Poland.

If there are circumstances that justify the application of Poland to another Member State for the foreigner's acquisition or re-acceptance, it is in the foreigner's interest to immediately pass on the relevant information to the Dublin Procedures Unit of the Department for Refugee Procedures of the Office for Foreigners. Such circumstances may include having family members or relatives on the territory of other Member States, appearing in the Eurodac system, having a visa or another document issued by another Member State.