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Ad-Hoc Query

2025.12 Family reunification of Syrian beneficiaries of international protection

European Migration Network
Ad-hoc query

May, 2025

AD-HOC QUERY ON 2025.12 FAMILY REUNIFICATION OF SYRIAN BENEFICIARIES OF INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION

REQUESTED BY EMN NCP FINLAND ON 7 MARCH 2025

COMPILATION PRODUCED ON 28 APRIL 2025

Exported for: Wider Dissemination

Responses from: EMN NCP Austria, EMN NCP Belgium, EMN NCP Bulgaria, EMN NCP Croatia, EMN NCP Cyprus, EMN NCP Czech Republic, EMN NCP Finland, EMN NCP France, EMN NCP Germany, EMN NCP Greece, EMN NCP Hungary, EMN NCP Ireland, EMN NCP Lithuania, EMN NCP Luxembourg, EMN NCP Netherlands, EMN NCP Poland, EMN NCP Portugal, EMN NCP Slovakia, EMN NCP Slovenia, EMN NCP Spain, EMN NCP Sweden **(21 in total)**

Disclaimer: The following responses have been provided primarily for the purpose of information exchange among EMN National Contact Points (NCPs) in the framework of the EMN. The contributing EMN NCPs have provided, to the best of their knowledge, information that is up-to-date, objective and reliable. Note, however, that the information provided does not necessarily represent the official policy of an EMN Country.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Due to the change of regime in Syria in December 2024 and the following changes in the country's security situation, The Finnish Immigration Service (Migri) has paused its decision-making on asylum applications from Syrians. Finland has also paused decision-making regarding residence permits of those applicants for family reunification of Syrian nationality who, according to Finnish legislation, would be granted the same status as the sponsor living in Finland, i.e. refugee status or subsidiary protection.

According to Finnish Aliens Act section 106, a family member of a person who has been granted a refugee status or subsidiary protection is granted the same status as the sponsor, if the family member is considered to have an equivalent need for asylum or subsidiary protection as the sponsor. Family members of beneficiaries of international protection (BIPs) are, as a rule, granted corresponding protection status, if the family member has previously lived together with the sponsor (old or pre-existing family member) and has the same citizenship as the sponsor. Protection status is not granted to the family member, if the family member does not have an equivalent need for asylum or subsidiary protection as the sponsor. Protection

Ad-Hoc Query on 2025.12 Family reunification of Syrian beneficiaries of international protection

status is not granted to the family member, if the sponsor has been granted their own status on individual grounds, for instance due to vulnerabilities. A new family member is usually not granted the same protection status as the sponsor.

The Finnish Immigration Service is considering whether to issue residence permits to Syrian family members without granting them protection status at the same time, even though they would be eligible for the same status as the sponsor according to the Finnish Aliens Act. Therefore, we would like to ask you the following questions:


WE WOULD LIKE TO ASK THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS:

We would very much appreciate your responses by **28 March 2025**.

1. In your EMN Member Country, do you usually grant (old) family members the same protection status as the sponsor when making a positive decision on family reunification? YES/NO. If you answer YES, please elaborate.
2. If you answered YES to question 1: Due to the changed situation in Syria, have you paused decision-making for those applicants for family reunification of Syrian nationality who would be granted the same status as the sponsor? YES/NO. If yes, please explain:
3. If you answered YES to question 2: Have you paused decision-making for both groups: family members of refugees and family members of recipients of subsidiary protection? Please explain if the policy between the two groups differs.
4. If you answered YES to Q1: If you would normally issue a protection status to family members of BIPs, do you at the moment issue positive decisions for Syrian family members applying from abroad without granting them the same protection status as the sponsor? Please explain.
5. If you answered YES to question 4: Has there been a change in policy regarding the granting of protection status to family members in the family reunification process due to the changed situation in Syria?

Ad-Hoc Query on 2025.12 Family reunification of Syrian beneficiaries of international protection


RESPONSES

		Wider Dissemination?	
	EMN NCP Austria	Yes	<p>1. In your EMN Member Country, do you usually grant (old) family members the same protection status as the sponsor when making a positive decision on family reunification? YES/NO. If you answer YES, please elaborate.</p> <p>Yes. If family members of persons granted asylum in Austria, beneficiaries of subsidiary protection status or asylum seekers file an application for international protection, this application is considered to be an application for the same protection (Art. 34 para. 1 Asylum Act 2005), so that they are granted the same protection status as the sponsor if the requirements are met. The authority must grant family members of beneficiaries of subsidiary protection status subsidiary protection status if the requirements are met and they are not granted asylum status (Art. 34 para. 3 subpara. 4 Asylum Act 2005).</p> <p>---</p> <p>Source: Ministry of the Interior</p> <p>2. If you answered YES to question 1: Due to the changed situation in Syria, have you paused decision-making for those applicants for family reunification of Syrian nationality who would be granted the same status as the sponsor? YES/NO. If yes, please explain:</p> <p>Yes. In connection with the fall of the former Syrian regime, Austria declared that it would pause all asylum procedures for Syrian nationals and also suspend family reunification (https://orf.at/stories/3378404/). In view of the current political developments in Syria, there is at present insufficient reliable information available to make informed decisions on asylum applications from Syrian nationals.</p>

Ad-Hoc Query on 2025.12 Family reunification of Syrian beneficiaries of international protection

			<p>As the previous country reports no longer fully reflect the current situation in Syria, it is necessary to first create an up-to-date picture of the situation. The Country of Origin Information Unit is already working on an initial situation report in order to ensure a reliable basis for the further examination and processing of these cases. As soon as a sound basis for a decision is available, the decision in these cases will be made immediately.</p> <p>---</p> <p>Source: Ministry of the Interior</p> <p>3. If you answered YES to question 2: Have you paused decision-making for both groups: family members of refugees and family members of recipients of subsidiary protection? Please explain if the policy between the two groups differs.</p> <p>Yes, family reunification has been suspended for both groups.</p> <p>Generally, see question 1, yes, the decisions are currently suspended. In all cases of family proceedings, it must first be examined whether the original risk situation that led to the granting of protection status to the anchor person still exists. As soon as there is a sound basis for a decision, the decision in these cases will be made immediately.</p> <p>---</p> <p>Source: Ministry of the Interior</p> <p>4. If you answered YES to Q1: If you would normally issue a protection status to family members of BIPs, do you at the moment issue positive decisions for Syrian family members applying from abroad without granting them the same protection status as the sponsor? Please explain.</p> <p>An application for asylum in Austria can only be made in person before a public security body. If the anchor person has a valid status in Austria (asylum/subsidiary protection status), the family members can apply for</p>
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Ad-Hoc Query on 2025.12 Family reunification of Syrian beneficiaries of international protection

			<p>entry from abroad. If the decision is favourable, the parties travel to Austria with a VISA and then submit the asylum application. Regarding the decision: see question 3.</p> <p>---</p> <p>Source: Ministry of the Interior</p> <p>5. If you answered YES to question 4: Has there been a change in policy regarding the granting of protection status to family members in the family reunification process due to the changed situation in Syria?</p> <p>No.</p> <p>---</p> <p>Source: Ministry of the Interior</p>
	<p>EMN NCP Belgium</p>	<p align="center">Yes</p>	<p>1. In your EMN Member Country, do you usually grant (old) family members the same protection status as the sponsor when making a positive decision on family reunification? YES/NO. If you answer YES, please elaborate.</p> <p>No.</p> <p>2. If you answered YES to question 1: Due to the changed situation in Syria, have you paused decision-making for those applicants for family reunification of Syrian nationality who would be granted the same status as the sponsor? YES/NO. If yes, please explain:</p>


Ad-Hoc Query on 2025.12 Family reunification of Syrian beneficiaries of international protection

			N/A
			3. If you answered YES to question 2: Have you paused decision-making for both groups: family members of refugees and family members of recipients of subsidiary protection? Please explain if the policy between the two groups differs.
			N/A
			4. If you answered YES to Q1: If you would normally issue a protection status to family members of BIPs, do you at the moment issue positive decisions for Syrian family members applying from abroad without granting them the same protection status as the sponsor? Please explain.
			N/A
			5. If you answered YES to question 4: Has there been a change in policy regarding the granting of protection status to family members in the family reunification process due to the changed situation in Syria?
			N/A


Ad-Hoc Query on 2025.12 Family reunification of Syrian beneficiaries of international protection

	EMN NCP Bulgaria	Yes	<p>1. In your EMN Member Country, do you usually grant (old) family members the same protection status as the sponsor when making a positive decision on family reunification? YES/NO. If you answer YES, please elaborate.</p> <p>Yes. The same protection status as the sponsor is usually granted to family members when making a positive decision on family reunification. Both recognised refugees and subsidiary protection holders are entitled to ask to be reunited with their families without any distinction in the scope of their rights or procedures applicable.</p> <p>2. If you answered YES to question 1: Due to the changed situation in Syria, have you paused decision-making for those applicants for family reunification of Syrian nationality who would be granted the same status as the sponsor? YES/NO. If yes, please explain:</p> <p>No.</p> <p>3. If you answered YES to question 2: Have you paused decision-making for both groups: family members of refugees and family members of recipients of subsidiary protection? Please explain if the policy between the two groups differs.</p> <p>N/A</p> <p>4. If you answered YES to Q1: If you would normally issue a protection status to family members of BIPs, do you at the moment issue positive decisions for Syrian family members applying from abroad without granting them the same protection status as the sponsor? Please explain.</p>
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Ad-Hoc Query on 2025.12 Family reunification of Syrian beneficiaries of international protection

			<p>N/A</p> <p>The application for protection is made in person and of one's own free will; an application for protection cannot be submitted from abroad.</p> <p>5. If you answered YES to question 4: Has there been a change in policy regarding the granting of protection status to family members in the family reunification process due to the changed situation in Syria?</p> <p>No.</p>
	<p>EMN NCP Croatia</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>1. In your EMN Member Country, do you usually grant (old) family members the same protection status as the sponsor when making a positive decision on family reunification? YES/NO. If you answer YES, please elaborate.</p> <p>No. In case of family reunification of adult family members they are granted temporary stay pursuant to Aliens Act.</p> <p>2. If you answered YES to question 1: Due to the changed situation in Syria, have you paused decision-making for those applicants for family reunification of Syrian nationality who would be granted the same status as the sponsor? YES/NO. If yes, please explain:</p> <p>N/A</p>


Ad-Hoc Query on 2025.12 Family reunification of Syrian beneficiaries of international protection

			<p>3. If you answered YES to question 2: Have you paused decision-making for both groups: family members of refugees and family members of recipients of subsidiary protection? Please explain if the policy between the two groups differs.</p> <p>N/A</p> <p>4. If you answered YES to Q1: If you would normally issue a protection status to family members of BIPs, do you at the moment issue positive decisions for Syrian family members applying from abroad without granting them the same protection status as the sponsor? Please explain.</p> <p>N/A</p> <p>5. If you answered YES to question 4: Has there been a change in policy regarding the granting of protection status to family members in the family reunification process due to the changed situation in Syria?</p> <p>N/A</p>
	<p>EMN NCP Cyprus</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>1. In your EMN Member Country, do you usually grant (old) family members the same protection status as the sponsor when making a positive decision on family reunification? YES/NO. If you answer YES, please</p>

Ad-Hoc Query on 2025.12 Family reunification of Syrian beneficiaries of international protection

			<p>elaborate.</p> <p>No. In Cyprus, family members joining a refugee through family reunification are granted the same legal status as their sponsor, meaning they receive the necessary permits as refugee dependents, ensuring equal legal rights. However, they are not automatically granted the same protection status in the sense of independently holding refugee status. Their status is dependent on the sponsor's status. If the sponsor's refugee status is revoked, so is the dependent's.</p> <p>2. If you answered YES to question 1: Due to the changed situation in Syria, have you paused decision-making for those applicants for family reunification of Syrian nationality who would be granted the same status as the sponsor? YES/NO. If yes, please explain:</p> <p>N/A</p> <p>3. If you answered YES to question 2: Have you paused decision-making for both groups: family members of refugees and family members of recipients of subsidiary protection? Please explain if the policy between the two groups differs.</p> <p>N/A</p> <p>4. If you answered YES to Q1: If you would normally issue a protection status to family members of BIPs, do you at the moment issue positive decisions for Syrian family members applying from abroad without granting them the same protection status as the sponsor? Please explain.</p>
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Ad-Hoc Query on 2025.12 Family reunification of Syrian beneficiaries of international protection

			<p>N/A</p> <p>5. If you answered YES to question 4: Has there been a change in policy regarding the granting of protection status to family members in the family reunification process due to the changed situation in Syria?</p> <p>N/A</p>
	<p>EMN NCP Czech Republic</p>	<p align="center">Yes</p>	<p>1. In your EMN Member Country, do you usually grant (old) family members the same protection status as the sponsor when making a positive decision on family reunification? YES/NO. If you answer YES, please elaborate.</p> <p>No. Family reunification is governed by the Act on the Residence of Foreigners (not the Asylum Act). Therefore, family members of beneficiaries of international protection or subsidiary protection can apply for a family reunification visa at the Czech embassy. However, there are almost no cases of Syrian nationals who have done this. Then, they would receive a visa for the purpose of family reunification, not international protection. (They could also apply for international protection and go through the standard procedure in case they are already in the territory of the Czech Republic.) Due to the current situation in Syria, decisions on applications for international protection have been paused (currently until May 2025).</p> <p>2. If you answered YES to question 1: Due to the changed situation in Syria, have you paused decision-making for those applicants for family reunification of Syrian nationality who would be granted the same</p>


Ad-Hoc Query on 2025.12 Family reunification of Syrian beneficiaries of international protection

			<p>status as the sponsor? YES/NO. If yes, please explain:</p> <p>N/A</p> <p>3. If you answered YES to question 2: Have you paused decision-making for both groups: family members of refugees and family members of recipients of subsidiary protection? Please explain if the policy between the two groups differs.</p> <p>N/A</p> <p>4. If you answered YES to Q1: If you would normally issue a protection status to family members of BIPs, do you at the moment issue positive decisions for Syrian family members applying from abroad without granting them the same protection status as the sponsor? Please explain.</p> <p>N/A</p> <p>5. If you answered YES to question 4: Has there been a change in policy regarding the granting of protection status to family members in the family reunification process due to the changed situation in Syria?</p> <p>N/A</p>
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Ad-Hoc Query on 2025.12 Family reunification of Syrian beneficiaries of international protection

 EMN NCP Estonia	No	Response is marked as EMN Sensitive
 EMN NCP Finland	Yes	<p>1. In your EMN Member Country, do you usually grant (old) family members the same protection status as the sponsor when making a positive decision on family reunification? YES/NO. If you answer YES, please elaborate.</p> <p>YES. If the sponsor has been granted refugee status or subsidiary protection status, their family member is, as a rule, granted corresponding protection status, if the family member has previously lived together with the sponsor (old or pre-existing family member) and has the same citizenship as the sponsor.</p> <p>2. If you answered YES to question 1: Due to the changed situation in Syria, have you paused decision-making for those applicants for family reunification of Syrian nationality who would be granted the same status as the sponsor? YES/NO. If yes, please explain:</p> <p>YES. Decision-making is paused for all those applicants for family reunification of Syrian nationality who according to legislation would be granted the same status as the sponsor.</p> <p>3. If you answered YES to question 2: Have you paused decision-making for both groups: family members of refugees and family members of recipients of subsidiary protection? Please explain if the policy between the two groups differs.</p> <p>Yes, decisions are paused for both groups, who according to legislation would be granted the same status as the sponsor.</p>


Ad-Hoc Query on 2025.12 Family reunification of Syrian beneficiaries of international protection

			<p>4. If you answered YES to Q1: If you would normally issue a protection status to family members of BIPs, do you at the moment issue positive decisions for Syrian family members applying from abroad without granting them the same protection status as the sponsor? Please explain.</p> <p>Yes. Decision-making is paused only for those family members of Syrian nationality who, according to legislation, would be granted the same status as the sponsor. New family members (family formation) are not granted the same status. Protection status is not granted to the family member, if the sponsor has been granted their own status on individual grounds (for instance due to vulnerabilities). Decision-making continues for those groups.</p> <p>5. If you answered YES to question 4: Has there been a change in policy regarding the granting of protection status to family members in the family reunification process due to the changed situation in Syria?</p> <p>No. Policy is not yet changed. Finland is considering whether to issue residence permits to family members of BIPs without granting protection status, even though they would be eligible for the same status as the sponsor according to Finnish Aliens Act.</p>
	<p>EMN NCP France</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>1. In your EMN Member Country, do you usually grant (old) family members the same protection status as the sponsor when making a positive decision on family reunification? YES/NO. If you answer YES, please elaborate.</p> <p>NO</p> <p>In France, a family member of a person under international protection who arrives in France through family</p>

Ad-Hoc Query on 2025.12 Family reunification of Syrian beneficiaries of international protection

			<p>reunification does not automatically obtain international protection. However, they may, if they wish, apply for international protection for themselves once in France. In such a case, they are granted a status derived from that of the sponsor.</p> <p>A family member who has benefited from family reunification receives a residence permit linked to the status granted to the protected person (a ten-year resident card for family members of a refugee; a multi-year residence permit titled 'family member of a beneficiary of subsidiary protection' valid for four years). They therefore enjoy the same rights associated with the issued residence permit.</p> <p>2. If you answered YES to question 1: Due to the changed situation in Syria, have you paused decision-making for those applicants for family reunification of Syrian nationality who would be granted the same status as the sponsor? YES/NO. If yes, please explain:</p> <p>NO The family reunification applications for Syrian nationals are not suspended.</p> <p>3. If you answered YES to question 2: Have you paused decision-making for both groups: family members of refugees and family members of recipients of subsidiary protection? Please explain if the policy between the two groups differs.</p> <p>N/A</p> <p>4. If you answered YES to Q1: If you would normally issue a protection status to family members of BIPs, do you at the moment issue positive decisions for Syrian family members applying from abroad without granting them the same protection status as the sponsor? Please explain.</p>
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Ad-Hoc Query on 2025.12 Family reunification of Syrian beneficiaries of international protection

			<p>N/A</p> <p>The granting of protection to a family member of a person under international protection is independent of the family reunification procedure and is a voluntary process once they arrive in France.</p> <p>5. If you answered YES to question 4: Has there been a change in policy regarding the granting of protection status to family members in the family reunification process due to the changed situation in Syria?</p> <p>N/A</p>
	<p>EMN NCP Germany</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>1. In your EMN Member Country, do you usually grant (old) family members the same protection status as the sponsor when making a positive decision on family reunification? YES/NO. If you answer YES, please elaborate.</p> <p>Yes, if a foreigner has been granted international protection, his or her close family members may also qualify for the same protection status (international protection for family members). However, for spouses this only applies if (1) the recognition of the foreigner as a BIP is final, (2) the marriage already existed in the state where the foreigner has been persecuted and (3) the spouse has entered Germany before the recognition of the foreigner as a BIP.</p> <p>Children of BIPs who are minors and unmarried, at the time the asylum application was filed, shall be granted the status as a BIP if the foreigner’s asylum status is incontestable and there is no reason to repeal or withdraw this status.</p>

Ad-Hoc Query on 2025.12 Family reunification of Syrian beneficiaries of international protection

			<p>The parents of a minor unmarried child shall be granted the status as a BIP on application, if (1) the recognition of the foreigner's BIP status is incontestable, (2) the family as defined in Article 2 (j) of Directive 2911/95/EU already existed in the country where the person granted BIP status was politically persecuted or experienced serious harm, (3) they entered the country before the person granted BIP status or if they filed their application immediately after entry, (4) there is no reason to repeal or withdraw the recognition of the person granted BIP status and (5) If they have the right of care and custody of the person granted BIP status.</p> <p>Other family members may not benefit from international protection for family members.</p> <p>Where international protection for spouses, minor and unmarried children or parents of married and unmarried children is not an available option, family reunification may still be an option.</p> <p>Family reunification means that these family members can receive a visa or a residence permit for entry and residence in Germany without being granted the same protection status as the BIP.</p> <p>2. If you answered YES to question 1: Due to the changed situation in Syria, have you paused decision-making for those applicants for family reunification of Syrian nationality who would be granted the same status as the sponsor? YES/NO. If yes, please explain:</p> <p>Yes. Decision-making on asylum applications has been paused for all applicants of Syrian nationality which includes those who would be granted the same status as the sponsor. However, family reunification remains unaffected as it is a right of residence and not based on protection.</p> <p>3. If you answered YES to question 2: Have you paused decision-making for both groups: family members of refugees and family members of recipients of subsidiary protection? Please explain if the policy between the two groups differs.</p> <p>Yes, decision-making on international protection status for family members has been paused for both, family</p>
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Ad-Hoc Query on 2025.12 Family reunification of Syrian beneficiaries of international protection

			<p>members of refugees and for family members of recipients of subsidiary protection.</p> <p>4. If you answered YES to Q1: If you would normally issue a protection status to family members of BIPs, do you at the moment issue positive decisions for Syrian family members applying from abroad without granting them the same protection status as the sponsor? Please explain.</p> <p>Yes, family members of BIPs may still apply for family reunification from abroad without being granted a protection status.</p> <p>5. If you answered YES to question 4: Has there been a change in policy regarding the granting of protection status to family members in the family reunification process due to the changed situation in Syria?</p> <p>Yes, see answers to Q2 an Q3.</p>
	<p>EMN NCP Greece</p>	<p align="center">Yes</p>	<p>1. In your EMN Member Country, do you usually grant (old) family members the same protection status as the sponsor when making a positive decision on family reunification? YES/NO. If you answer YES, please elaborate.</p> <p>According to the contribution by the Processes and Training Department of the Asylum Service, Presidential Decree 131/2006 [Government Gazette (GG) A' 143/13-07-2006] transposing the Family Reunification Directive 2003/86/EC, as amended by Presidential Decree 167/2008 (GG A' 223/04-11-2008) and Presidential Decree 113/2013 (O.G. A' 146/14-06-2013) stipulate that only recognised refugees have the</p>


Ad-Hoc Query on 2025.12 Family reunification of Syrian beneficiaries of international protection

			<p>right to apply for reunification with family members who are third-country nationals residing in their country of origin or in another country outside the EU.</p> <p>The status and the residency rights of refugee family members who enter Greece after a successful family reunification are not equal to the rights of the sponsor. Family members are entitled to a renewable residence permit. The residence permit granted is dependent on that of the sponsor (the beneficiary of refugee status) and its duration does not go beyond the date of expiry of the residence permit held by the sponsor.</p> <p>2. If you answered YES to question 1: Due to the changed situation in Syria, have you paused decision-making for those applicants for family reunification of Syrian nationality who would be granted the same status as the sponsor? YES/NO. If yes, please explain:</p> <p>N/A</p> <p>3. If you answered YES to question 2: Have you paused decision-making for both groups: family members of refugees and family members of recipients of subsidiary protection? Please explain if the policy between the two groups differs.</p> <p>N/A</p> <p>4. If you answered YES to Q1: If you would normally issue a protection status to family members of BIPs, do you at the moment issue positive decisions for Syrian family members applying from abroad without granting them the same protection status as the sponsor? Please explain.</p>
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Ad-Hoc Query on 2025.12 Family reunification of Syrian beneficiaries of international protection

			<p>N/A</p> <p>5. If you answered YES to question 4: Has there been a change in policy regarding the granting of protection status to family members in the family reunification process due to the changed situation in Syria?</p> <p>N/A</p>
	<p>EMN NCP Hungary</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>1. In your EMN Member Country, do you usually grant (old) family members the same protection status as the sponsor when making a positive decision on family reunification? YES/NO. If you answer YES, please elaborate.</p> <p>No, in this case a 'Residence permit for the purpose of family reunification' can be granted to a third-country national who is eligible according to Section 71 of Act XC of 2023 on General Rules for the Admission and Right of Residence of Third-country Nationals.</p> <p>2. If you answered YES to question 1: Due to the changed situation in Syria, have you paused decision-making for those applicants for family reunification of Syrian nationality who would be granted the same status as the sponsor? YES/NO. If yes, please explain:</p> <p>N/A</p>



Ad-Hoc Query on 2025.12 Family reunification of Syrian beneficiaries of international protection

			<p>3. If you answered YES to question 2: Have you paused decision-making for both groups: family members of refugees and family members of recipients of subsidiary protection? Please explain if the policy between the two groups differs.</p> <p>N/A</p> <p>4. If you answered YES to Q1: If you would normally issue a protection status to family members of BIPs, do you at the moment issue positive decisions for Syrian family members applying from abroad without granting them the same protection status as the sponsor? Please explain.</p> <p>N/A</p> <p>5. If you answered YES to question 4: Has there been a change in policy regarding the granting of protection status to family members in the family reunification process due to the changed situation in Syria?</p> <p>N/A</p>
	<p>EMN NCP Ireland</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>1. In your EMN Member Country, do you usually grant (old) family members the same protection status as the sponsor when making a positive decision on family reunification? YES/NO. If you answer YES, please elaborate.</p>

Ad-Hoc Query on 2025.12 Family reunification of Syrian beneficiaries of international protection

			<p>Please note, Ireland did not opt into the EU's Family Reunification Directive. In Ireland, the International Protection Act 2015 documents the provisions on family reunification for beneficiaries of international protection.</p> <p>No, if an application for family reunification is approved, the family members can obtain travel documents to travel to Ireland and an Irish residence permit to live in Ireland. They do not receive the same protection status as the sponsor.[1][2]</p> <p>[1] Department of Justice. 'Family Reunification of International Protection Holders', https://www.irishimmigration.ie/coming-to-join-family-in-ireland/family-reunification-of-international-protection-holders/#application-approved , last accessed on 17 March 2025</p> <p>[2] Citizens Information. 'International Protection and Family Reunification ', https://www.citizensinformation.ie/en/moving-country/asylum-seekers-and-refugees/refugee-status-and-leave-to-remain/family-reunification-for-refugees-in-ireland/#72cf28 , last accessed on 17 March 2025</p> <p>2. If you answered YES to question 1: Due to the changed situation in Syria, have you paused decision-making for those applicants for family reunification of Syrian nationality who would be granted the same status as the sponsor? YES/NO. If yes, please explain:</p> <p>N/A, family members do not receive the same protection status as the sponsor.</p> <p>3. If you answered YES to question 2: Have you paused decision-making for both groups: family members of refugees and family members of recipients of subsidiary protection? Please explain if the policy between the two groups differs.</p> <p>N/A</p>
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Ad-Hoc Query on 2025.12 Family reunification of Syrian beneficiaries of international protection

			<p>4. If you answered YES to Q1: If you would normally issue a protection status to family members of BIPs, do you at the moment issue positive decisions for Syrian family members applying from abroad without granting them the same protection status as the sponsor? Please explain.</p> <p>N/A</p> <p>5. If you answered YES to question 4: Has there been a change in policy regarding the granting of protection status to family members in the family reunification process due to the changed situation in Syria?</p> <p>N/A</p>
	<p>EMN NCP Latvia</p>	<p align="center">No</p>	<p>Response is marked as EMN Sensitive</p>
	<p>EMN NCP Lithuania</p>	<p align="center">Yes</p>	<p>1. In your EMN Member Country, do you usually grant (old) family members the same protection status as the sponsor when making a positive decision on family reunification? YES/NO. If you answer YES, please elaborate.</p> <p>No.</p> <p>In Lithuania, refugee status is not automatically granted to family members when a positive decision on family reunification is made. Instead, each family member must individually qualify for refugee status. If they</p>

Ad-Hoc Query on 2025.12 Family reunification of Syrian beneficiaries of international protection

			<p>do not meet the necessary criteria, they may still be granted a residence permit for family reunification, but not refugee status itself.</p> <p>2. If you answered YES to question 1: Due to the changed situation in Syria, have you paused decision-making for those applicants for family reunification of Syrian nationality who would be granted the same status as the sponsor? YES/NO. If yes, please explain:</p> <p>N/A</p> <p>3. If you answered YES to question 2: Have you paused decision-making for both groups: family members of refugees and family members of recipients of subsidiary protection? Please explain if the policy between the two groups differs.</p> <p>N/A</p> <p>4. If you answered YES to Q1: If you would normally issue a protection status to family members of BIPs, do you at the moment issue positive decisions for Syrian family members applying from abroad without granting them the same protection status as the sponsor? Please explain.</p> <p>N/A</p> <p>5. If you answered YES to question 4: Has there been a change in policy regarding the granting of</p>
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Ad-Hoc Query on 2025.12 Family reunification of Syrian beneficiaries of international protection

			<p>protection status to family members in the family reunification process due to the changed situation in Syria?</p> <p>No</p>
 <p>EMN NCP Luxembourg</p>		<p>Yes</p>	<p>1. In your EMN Member Country, do you usually grant (old) family members the same protection status as the sponsor when making a positive decision on family reunification? YES/NO. If you answer YES, please elaborate.</p> <p>No. In Luxembourg when a beneficiary of international protection applies for family reunification in accordance with article 69 (3) of the amended law of 29 August 2008 on free movement of persons and immigration (Immigration Law), and if it is approved, the family member will receive a “family member” residence permit and not an “international protection” residence permit.</p> <p>2. If you answered YES to question 1: Due to the changed situation in Syria, have you paused decision-making for those applicants for family reunification of Syrian nationality who would be granted the same status as the sponsor? YES/NO. If yes, please explain:</p> <p>N/A.</p> <p>3. If you answered YES to question 2: Have you paused decision-making for both groups: family members of refugees and family members of recipients of subsidiary protection? Please explain if the policy between the two groups differs.</p>

Ad-Hoc Query on 2025.12 Family reunification of Syrian beneficiaries of international protection

			<p>N/A.</p> <p>4. If you answered YES to Q1: If you would normally issue a protection status to family members of BIPs, do you at the moment issue positive decisions for Syrian family members applying from abroad without granting them the same protection status as the sponsor? Please explain.</p> <p>The Luxembourg authorities have paused beginning on 10th December 2025 the treatment of the applications of for international protection from Syrian nationals. Nevertheless, if the Syrian national has already been granted the status and has already applied for family reunification the family members will receive the “family member” residence permit in accordance with article 74 (1) of the Immigration Law (see answer of the Ministry of Interior of 9 January 2025 to parliamentary question no 1698 of 19 December 2024).</p> <p>5. If you answered YES to question 4: Has there been a change in policy regarding the granting of protection status to family members in the family reunification process due to the changed situation in Syria?</p> <p>See answer to Q.4.</p>
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Ad-Hoc Query on 2025.12 Family reunification of Syrian beneficiaries of international protection

 EMN NCP Netherlands	Yes	<p>1. In your EMN Member Country, do you usually grant (old) family members the same protection status as the sponsor when making a positive decision on family reunification? YES/NO. If you answer YES, please elaborate.</p> <p>YES, the Netherlands usually grants family members the same protection status as the sponsor when making a positive decision on family reunification.[1] This decision is based on the given protection status of the sponsor and does not involve an individual asylum assessment for the family member. After a positive decision, family members have the same rights and obligations as the sponsor. However, their residence permit is dependent on the one of the sponsor and is referred to as a derivative residence permit. This means that the Immigration and Naturalisation Service (Immigratie- en Naturalisatiedienst, 'IND') may withdraw the derivative residence permit if there is for example no longer a family relationship between this family member and the sponsor.[2]</p> <p>[1] Article 29(2) Dutch Aliens Act 2000. [2] IND, 'Family reunification refugee: The residence permit', https://ind.nl/en/residence-permits/asylum/family-reunification-refugee#the-residence-permit-, last accessed on 10 March 2025.</p> <p>2. If you answered YES to question 1: Due to the changed situation in Syria, have you paused decision-making for those applicants for family reunification of Syrian nationality who would be granted the same status as the sponsor? YES/NO. If yes, please explain:</p> <p>NO, the decision-making process for applicants for family reunification of Syrian nationality has not been paused in the Netherlands. These applicants are requesting to reunite with a family member who already has a protection status. Therefore, although they are granted the same protection status as their sponsor, this status is based on their family reunification application and not on an individual application for international protection.[1] This explains why the Netherlands has not paused these decisions after the changed situation in Syria.</p>
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Ad-Hoc Query on 2025.12 Family reunification of Syrian beneficiaries of international protection

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Ad-Hoc Query on 2025.12 Family reunification of Syrian beneficiaries of international protection

	<p>EMN NCP Poland</p>	<p align="center">Yes</p>	<p>1. In your EMN Member Country, do you usually grant (old) family members the same protection status as the sponsor when making a positive decision on family reunification? YES/NO. If you answer YES, please elaborate.</p> <p>NO</p> <p>In Poland the family members are not automatically recognized as beneficiaries of international protection. There are two ways of legalizing their stay on Polish territory:</p> <p>a. The family member, after arriving in Poland, has the possibility to apply for international protection presenting his/her own reasons for refugee status or subsidiary protection. That application is being examined in separate procedure from the case of the sponsor. If requirements for granting international protection are fulfilled, the one of the forms of international protection is granted to the applicant.</p> <p>b. The sponsor, who was granted a refugee status or subsidiary protection, can apply for residence permit for his/her family members (spouse, children) living abroad. After fulfil the requirements of this procedure and receiving the positive decision on residence permit, the family member applies for visa (if needed) in the country of origin. When granted – is permitted to come and stay in Poland in frames of regular migration.</p> <p>2. If you answered YES to question 1: Due to the changed situation in Syria, have you paused decision-making for those applicants for family reunification of Syrian nationality who would be granted the same status as the sponsor? YES/NO. If yes, please explain:</p> <p>NO</p>


Ad-Hoc Query on 2025.12 Family reunification of Syrian beneficiaries of international protection

			<p>3. If you answered YES to question 2: Have you paused decision-making for both groups: family members of refugees and family members of recipients of subsidiary protection? Please explain if the policy between the two groups differs.</p> <p>NO</p> <p>4. If you answered YES to Q1: If you would normally issue a protection status to family members of BIPs, do you at the moment issue positive decisions for Syrian family members applying from abroad without granting them the same protection status as the sponsor? Please explain.</p> <p>N/A</p> <p>5. If you answered YES to question 4: Has there been a change in policy regarding the granting of protection status to family members in the family reunification process due to the changed situation in Syria?</p> <p>N/A</p>
	<p>EMN NCP Portugal</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>1. In your EMN Member Country, do you usually grant (old) family members the same protection status as the sponsor when making a positive decision on family reunification? YES/NO. If you answer YES, please elaborate.</p>

Ad-Hoc Query on 2025.12 Family reunification of Syrian beneficiaries of international protection

			<p>Yes. According to Article 68(1) of Law 27/08 of 30/06 (Portuguese Asylum Law), beneficiaries of refugee status or international protection are entitled to family reunification with the members of their family referred to in Article 2(1)(k), under the conditions laid down in the legal regime for the entry, stay, exit and removal of foreigners from national territory.</p> <p>In accordance with Article 68(2) of the aforementioned legislation, the effects of asylum or subsidiary protection must be declared to extend to the family members declared in the previous paragraph.</p> <p>2. If you answered YES to question 1: Due to the changed situation in Syria, have you paused decision-making for those applicants for family reunification of Syrian nationality who would be granted the same status as the sponsor? YES/NO. If yes, please explain:</p> <p>No.</p> <p>3. If you answered YES to question 2: Have you paused decision-making for both groups: family members of refugees and family members of recipients of subsidiary protection? Please explain if the policy between the two groups differs.</p> <p>No.</p> <p>4. If you answered YES to Q1: If you would normally issue a protection status to family members of BIPs, do</p>
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Ad-Hoc Query on 2025.12 Family reunification of Syrian beneficiaries of international protection

			<p>you at the moment issue positive decisions for Syrian family members applying from abroad without granting them the same protection status as the sponsor? Please explain.</p> <p>No. BIP family members are granted the same status as the sponsor. In accordance with Article 68(2) of Law 27/08 of 30/06 (Portuguese Asylum Law), the effects of asylum or subsidiary protection must be declared to extend to the family members declared in the previous paragraph.</p> <p>5. If you answered YES to question 4: Has there been a change in policy regarding the granting of protection status to family members in the family reunification process due to the changed situation in Syria?</p> <p>N/A</p>
	<p>EMN NCP Slovakia</p>	<p align="center">Yes</p>	<p>1. In your EMN Member Country, do you usually grant (old) family members the same protection status as the sponsor when making a positive decision on family reunification? YES/NO. If you answer YES, please elaborate.</p> <p>For at least the last 3 years, there have been no cases of families or family reunification from Syria in Slovak caseload.</p> <p>In general, in the case of family reunification, Slovakia would grant a national form of protection (asylum or subsidiary protection) for the purpose of family reunification. The content of rights and obligations for the</p>

Ad-Hoc Query on 2025.12 Family reunification of Syrian beneficiaries of international protection

			<p>beneficiaries of these national statuses is the same as for the sponsor with whom the family is reunified. The difference is that the national form of protection - asylum for the purpose of family reunification - is granted for the first time for a period of three years, whereas the international form of protection - asylum - is granted for an indefinite period. However, it should be noted that if, after an individual assessment of the application, the applicant fulfils the conditions for international protection (asylum or subsidiary protection), the applicant is granted international form of protection primarily. A national form of protection for the purpose of family reunification is granted, only if the applicant does not meet the conditions for international protection.</p> <p>2. If you answered YES to question 1: Due to the changed situation in Syria, have you paused decision-making for those applicants for family reunification of Syrian nationality who would be granted the same status as the sponsor? YES/NO. If yes, please explain:</p> <p>As per answer to Q1, there have been no cases of families or family reunification from Syria in Slovak caseload for at least the last 3 years.</p> <p>In general, examination of the Syrian applications is not suspended. However, it should be noted that</p> <p>(1) There have been no examination and decision issued in merits in cases of Syrian applicants since 8/12/2024, and currently there is no such application under examination;</p> <p>(2) If there is a new application of Syrian national, including the cases of family reunification, and the individual circumstances of the case would not allow to make a decision (e.g. due to insufficient COI), the examination would be postponed.</p> <p>3. If you answered YES to question 2: Have you paused decision-making for both groups: family members of refugees and family members of recipients of subsidiary protection? Please explain if the policy between the two groups differs.</p> <p>NA</p>
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Ad-Hoc Query on 2025.12 Family reunification of Syrian beneficiaries of international protection

			<p>4. If you answered YES to Q1: If you would normally issue a protection status to family members of BIPs, do you at the moment issue positive decisions for Syrian family members applying from abroad without granting them the same protection status as the sponsor? Please explain.</p> <p>No. The Slovak Republic does not allow people to apply for international protection or for a national form of protection (for the purpose of family reunification) from abroad. A person has to make such an application on the Slovak territory.</p> <p>5. If you answered YES to question 4: Has there been a change in policy regarding the granting of protection status to family members in the family reunification process due to the changed situation in Syria?</p> <p>NA</p>
	<p>EMN NCP Slovenia</p>	<p align="center">Yes</p>	<p>1. In your EMN Member Country, do you usually grant (old) family members the same protection status as the sponsor when making a positive decision on family reunification? YES/NO. If you answer YES, please elaborate.</p> <p>NO. The Republic of Slovenia does not grant the same protection status as the sponsors' (i.e. beneficiary of international protection) to family members in family reunification procedures. Under Slovene Foreigners Act, family members of beneficiaries of international protection are in family reunification procedures issued</p>


Ad-Hoc Query on 2025.12 Family reunification of Syrian beneficiaries of international protection

			<p>a corresponding residence permit (either temporary or permanent) for family reunification purposes without determining the family members' need for asylum or subsidiary protection and, consequently, the need for recognition of such status.</p> <p>2. If you answered YES to question 1: Due to the changed situation in Syria, have you paused decision-making for those applicants for family reunification of Syrian nationality who would be granted the same status as the sponsor? YES/NO. If yes, please explain:</p> <p>N/A</p> <p>3. If you answered YES to question 2: Have you paused decision-making for both groups: family members of refugees and family members of recipients of subsidiary protection? Please explain if the policy between the two groups differs.</p> <p>N/A</p> <p>4. If you answered YES to Q1: If you would normally issue a protection status to family members of BIPs, do you at the moment issue positive decisions for Syrian family members applying from abroad without granting them the same protection status as the sponsor? Please explain.</p> <p>N/A</p>
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Ad-Hoc Query on 2025.12 Family reunification of Syrian beneficiaries of international protection

			<p>5. If you answered YES to question 4: Has there been a change in policy regarding the granting of protection status to family members in the family reunification process due to the changed situation in Syria?</p> <p>N/A</p>
	<p>EMN NCP Spain</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>1. In your EMN Member Country, do you usually grant (old) family members the same protection status as the sponsor when making a positive decision on family reunification? YES/NO. If you answer YES, please elaborate.</p> <p>Not exactly. The Spanish International Protection Act states that Family Reunification status is granted even if the family member does not have an equivalent need for asylum or subsidiary protection as the beneficiary. That is, provided the family member meets the required criteria, namely, first-degree ascendants who can prove dependency, their first-degree descendants who are minors, and spouse among others. Additionally, the status of family reunification is not exactly equivalent to that of international protection in terms of rights granted to the beneficiary.</p> <p>2. If you answered YES to question 1: Due to the changed situation in Syria, have you paused decision-making for those applicants for family reunification of Syrian nationality who would be granted the same status as the sponsor? YES/NO. If yes, please explain:</p> <p>N/A</p>

Ad-Hoc Query on 2025.12 Family reunification of Syrian beneficiaries of international protection

			<p>3. If you answered YES to question 2: Have you paused decision-making for both groups: family members of refugees and family members of recipients of subsidiary protection? Please explain if the policy between the two groups differs.</p> <p>N/A</p> <p>4. If you answered YES to Q1: If you would normally issue a protection status to family members of BIPs, do you at the moment issue positive decisions for Syrian family members applying from abroad without granting them the same protection status as the sponsor? Please explain.</p> <p>N/A</p> <p>5. If you answered YES to question 4: Has there been a change in policy regarding the granting of protection status to family members in the family reunification process due to the changed situation in Syria?</p> <p>Since family reunification is not linked to the need for asylum or subsidiary protection, Spain continues to grant family reunification to Syrian refugees´ family members.</p>
	<p>EMN NCP Sweden</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>1. In your EMN Member Country, do you usually grant (old) family members the same protection status as the sponsor when making a positive decision on family reunification? YES/NO. If you answer YES, please elaborate.</p>

Ad-Hoc Query on 2025.12 Family reunification of Syrian beneficiaries of international protection

			<p>No, Sweden does not grant refugee or protection status to relatives if the sponsor has refugee or protection status. They are granted a residence permit as relatives. The relatives can apply for refugee status when they arrive in Sweden. An individual assessment is made of each family member's need for protection.</p> <p>2. If you answered YES to question 1: Due to the changed situation in Syria, have you paused decision-making for those applicants for family reunification of Syrian nationality who would be granted the same status as the sponsor? YES/NO. If yes, please explain:</p> <p>3. If you answered YES to question 2: Have you paused decision-making for both groups: family members of refugees and family members of recipients of subsidiary protection? Please explain if the policy between the two groups differs.</p> <p>4. If you answered YES to Q1: If you would normally issue a protection status to family members of BIPs, do you at the moment issue positive decisions for Syrian family members applying from abroad without granting them the same protection status as the sponsor? Please explain.</p> <p>5. If you answered YES to question 4: Has there been a change in policy regarding the granting of protection status to family members in the family reunification process due to the changed situation in Syria?</p>
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Ad-Hoc Query on 2025.12 Family reunification of Syrian beneficiaries of international protection

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