



Bulgaria: The Bulgarian refugee card and humanitarian status card

The following note describes the application and issuance procedure for the Bulgarian refugee card and the Bulgarian humanitarian status card.

The note is based on interviews conducted in Bulgaria in May 2022 as well as open source material.

Refugee and humanitarian status

In Bulgaria, there are two types of international protection: refugee status and humanitarian status. If a third-country national is given status in Bulgaria, the person will get an identity document issued.¹

If the applicant is granted refugee status, the applicant is entitled to receive a refugee card. If the applicant is granted humanitarian status, the applicant is entitled to a humanitarian status card.²

ID cards for either refugee status or humanitarian status are issued to persons who are 14 years old or above. If the applicant applying is underage, the application has to be submitted in person in the presence of a parent or a guardian.³

Temporary and permanent civil registration number

When a third-country national applies for asylum in Bulgaria, the person will get a temporary civil number issued. The temporary civil number is randomly generated. The temporary civil number is valid for six months.⁴

If the application is approved and the person is granted either refugee or humanitarian status, he or she will have a permanent civil number issued. The number is a personal number. If the application for protection is rejected, only the temporary civil number is issued.⁵

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¹ AIDA, 2022.

² AIDA, 2022.

³ UNHCR, 2022.

⁴ The Regional Police Directorate of the Ministry of Interior, Haskovo, June 2022.

⁵ The Regional Police Directorate of the Ministry of Interior, Haskovo, June 2022.

Technical specifications for the residence permit card are accessible in:
“Vejledning til undersøgelse af bulgarske opholdskort” (in Danish).

References

Oral sources

The Regional Police Directorate of the Ministry of Interior (June 2022): Interviewed in Haskovo, Bulgaria.

Written sources

AIDA: [Travel documents - Asylum Information Database | European Council on Refugees and Exiles \(asylumineurope.org\)](#) retrieved 24 August 2022.

UNHCR: <https://refugee.bg/en/civil-registration-and-id-documents/> retrieved 24 August 2022.