

Legal provision and situation of minorities and migrants in Belgium





Belgian Population

11.100.000 inhabitants
(2013)

Flemish: 58%

Walloon: 31%

Other ethnic groups: 11%

Italian: 1.5%

French: 1.4%

Dutch: 1.2%

Moroccan: 0.8%

Number of migrants in 2015

(data in June 2015, source: UNHCR)

45,778



of which

Refugees: 31,115

Asylum seekers: 9,396

Stateless persons: 5,267

Legal framework

Law of 15 December 1980 on «*Access to territory, stay and expulsion of foreign nationals*»

Art. 9 bis

Residency permit for stays exceeding three months

- ☐ Submit to the mayor of the city of residence and to the Embassy or Consulate of the host country in the foreign national's home country;
- ☐ If the application is recognised as admissible and founded, it is remitted to the Belgian Immigration Office (*Office des Etrangers*);
- ☐ If the application is accepted, a one-year renewable permit is issued;
- ☐ After 5 years of stay, the permit becomes permanent.

Asylum seekers

Art. 50

Submit to border authorities or to the Immigration Office within 8 days from arrival

Art. 51

Verification of requirements by the Immigration Office

Art. 57

Interview by the General Commissioner for Refugees and Stateless Persons (*Commissariat Général pour les Réfugiés et les Apatrides*)

Reception of asylum seekers

FEDASIL (Federal Agency for the Reception of Asylum Seekers)

16,000 reception places in total:

- ❖ **Collective reception centres:** asylum seekers are provided with accommodation, medical support, legal assistance and pocket money; there are 50 collective centers in Belgium.
- ❖ **Individual housing:** after a period of four months, asylum seekers can ask for an individual accommodation (with or without other asylum seekers); the Public Social Welfare Centre and NGOs can provide for it.

