

SCREENING INFORMATION NOTICE – Checks at the external border

Unauthorized sea crossing or SAR events - *Lampedusa and Pantelleria*

You are in Lampedusa/Pantelleria, Italy. Italy is part of the European Union. We are here to support you. If you have questions or need help, please ask us.

You have the right to use interpretation and cultural mediation services. These services help you communicate with the Authorities. You can ask questions and request explanations at any time. Where possible, you can ask to speak with a man or with a woman.

1. Entry conditions

At this stage, you have not yet been legally admitted to the EU because you did not enter through the regular entry procedure. For this reason, the Authorities must carry out checks called *screening*. During screening, all rights and obligations under Italian, international and EU law still apply.

2. Screening activities

Screening may take place here in Lampedusa/Pantelleria. It may also continue after you are transferred to another place called _____.

During *screening*, the following steps may take place:

- Security checks on you and your personal belongings when you enter the centre.
- Initial health checks by medical staff to see if you need urgent medical care or isolation for public health reasons.
- Verification of your identity and collection of your personal data, such as your name, date and place of birth, and nationality. You must also show any identity or travel documents you have. If you do not hand over these documents, this may be considered a lack of cooperation with the Authorities.
- Informing the Authorities if you are stateless, meaning that no country recognizes you as its citizen.
- Informing the Authorities if you are travelling with family members, so that you can stay together where possible.
- Explaining why you entered Italy.
- Sharing your personal data between the competent Authorities. Your data will not be shared with other people or organizations without your consent, unless the law allows it.
- Taking your fingerprints and your photograph.
- Checking your data in Italian and European digital systems for security reasons.
- Collecting and keeping your data only for as long as needed to manage the procedure.
- A further medical check to see if you need urgent care, isolation for health reasons, specialist healthcare or psychological support.

- An individual interview to identify any vulnerabilities or specific needs and to report them immediately.

If you have particular needs, tell the Authorities immediately. For example, tell them if you are under 18; need medical care; are pregnant; need psychological support; are an older person; are a person with disabilities; are a single parent with minor children; have a serious illness or mental health condition, including post-traumatic stress disorder; have survived torture, rape or other serious psychological, physical or sexual violence; are lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender or intersex; have experienced gender-based violence, female genital mutilation, child or forced marriage, or violence linked to your sex, gender, race or religion; or are a victim of trafficking, including for sexual exploitation, labour exploitation, other forms of exploitation, or forced marriage.

If you are under 18, you are considered a child in Italy. You will receive reception and support suited to your age and needs. If you are not with your parents or another adult who is legally responsible for you, an adult will be appointed to support you and help protect your rights.

If you have documents or medical certificates that support what you say, show them as soon as possible.

- Collection of information about you, your family members and your journey from your country of origin to the country where you are now.
- At the end of screening, you will be asked to check the form. You can confirm the information or ask for corrections. You will then sign the form and receive a copy.
- Screening should be completed within seven days from your disembarkation in Italy.

All information you provide during this procedure is confidential. It will not be shared with people who are not involved in the procedure.

3. **Rights and obligations during screening**

- During screening, you have the right to receive food, accommodation and medical care, including mental health care. You must be treated with dignity and with respect for your fundamental rights.
- If you have a medical problem, need psychological or other support, or want to report something that happened in your country of origin, during your journey or while crossing the border, you can tell the competent Authorities or the staff assisting you.
- You have the right to contact people or organizations that provide advice and assistance, including legal assistance.

- If you believe that your fundamental rights have not been respected during screening, you have the right to contact the competent Authorities.
- During the procedure, you must remain available to the screening Authorities in the place assigned to you. You must also provide accurate and complete information when requested. This helps the Authorities check whether you have the right to enter and stay in Italy.
- You must cooperate with the Authorities. In particular, you must provide:
 - name, date of birth, gender and nationality;
 - any documents you have that can help verify your identity;
 - your fingerprints and a photograph, which will be taken by authorized staff.

If you do not cooperate with the Authorities, this may have negative consequences for the procedures that follow.

- You must provide complete and correct information. If you do not remember something or cannot provide some information, say so clearly.

4. **Right to apply for international protection**

- You have the right to ask for protection if you are afraid to return to your country of citizenship or, if you are stateless, to the country where you usually lived. You can ask for protection if your life or freedom, or the life or freedom of your family members, would be at risk. You can also ask for protection if you fear torture, serious ill-treatment or abuse; if you have been persecuted or fear persecution because of your race, nationality, ethnic group, religion, political opinion or membership of a particular social group; if you fear violence, slavery, the death penalty or torture; or if you come from a war zone.
- If you want to apply for international protection, say this clearly during screening and explain your reasons to the competent Authorities.
- If you apply for international protection, you have the right to be transferred to a reception centre that is suitable for your needs.
- You must submit your application in Italy because this is where you arrived and where you are now. You cannot choose which country will examine your case, but family unity will be taken into account.
- If you have family members in an EU Member State, tell the competent screening Authority. This may help assess whether you have the right to be reunited with them legally.
- If you apply for international protection, you must stay in Italy. You may not move to another EU Member State without permission from the Authorities. If you leave Italy before a decision is made on your application, this may affect your procedure. You must first wait for the decision on which State is responsible for your application. If you move to another country before this decision, the Authorities may stop your reception at the centre.
- In Italy, there are different procedures to examine an application for international protection: the ordinary procedure, the accelerated procedure with shorter timeframes, and the accelerated border procedure. The accelerated border procedure is very fast and applies in places that Italy considers border or transit areas.

- The different procedures and their timeframes will be explained to you later. Italian law sets the procedure, and the Italian Authorities apply it based on your personal situation.

If you are under 18 and you are not with your parents or another adult who is legally responsible for you, you are an unaccompanied child. You have the right to access a specific procedure to obtain a residence permit because you are a child.

5. **Return**

If you do not apply for international protection and you do not meet the entry conditions, you may be returned to your country of origin or to another country where you have the right to enter and stay. This may happen on the basis of a return decision.

6. **Relocation**

You may also be transferred to another Member State that agrees to take responsibility for your application for international protection. This procedure is called relocation.

7. **Applicable procedure**

At the end of screening, you will receive more information about international protection, return or relocation, depending on the procedure that applies to your case.

8. **Data protection**

EU data protection law gives you rights over your personal data. Personal data means the information about you that you have shared. Under certain legal conditions, you have the right to access your data, correct it, and ask for it to be deleted from Italian and European databases where it was recorded during the procedure.

You always have the right to receive information about the procedures concerning you. You also have the right to ask questions and request explanations. You can speak at any time with the staff members you meet during your stay in Italy.