

Updated: August 12th, 2016



Information about Switzerland

Changes at the Swiss Italian Border

Since a couple of weeks, the Swiss border guards and police are heavily controlling the border between Switzerland and Italy. Most people crossing by train are being controlled. If you do not seek asylum in Switzerland, the border guards and police can immediately send you back to Italy. You are entitled to seek asylum at all times by telling it to the police or border guards (orally or written).

Police Controls

In Switzerland, whenever the police control you, you have to show your passport, otherwise they can take you to the police station and keep you arrested for up to 96 hours. You are allowed to make one phone call when you are detained. You can call the organisation *Augen auf* in Switzerland, they might be able to help you or give you advice (+41313320235/ +41442411177).

Push-backs

If you are brought to Italy even though you have asked for asylum, this is an illegal push-back. If this happens to you, please contact a lawyer in Italy. For example: *Associazione per gli Studi Giuridici sull'Immigrazione (ASGI)* : +393894988460. For more contacts see: <http://www.w2eu.info/italy/en/articles/italy-contacts.en.html/>

Applying for Asylum in Switzerland

If you do ask for asylum and are not pushed back, you will be brought to one of six open reception centres, where you will be sheltered for up to two months. You can't choose where you are brought and won't have total freedom of movement but will be allowed to get in and out the centre at least once a day. In the centre, your personal data and fingerprints will be taken. You will also be asked which way you arrived to Switzerland. If they discover that you came through Italy, they will ask the Italian government to take you back. This procedure is called a Dublin-deportation. However, the procedure takes some time, and you have the right to appeal against the Dublin deportation order to Italy, for example on the basis of being especially vulnerable (minor, women, family, impaired, etc.).

If you are underage (and can prove it), you have the right to ask for asylum in every country you are in, so Switzerland is not allowed to send you back. Further if you are underage and have relatives in another country, you might be eligible for family reunification. Finally, if you have a spouse in another country, you might be eligible for family reunification. In this case, contact a free legal advice centre see: <http://w2eu.info/switzerland.en.html>. In the Italian speaking Southern part of Switzerland, we advise you to contact *Movimento dei senza voce* (+41 91 647 46 47, senzavoce@bluewin.ch).

Further Information

Find further independent contacts and information on **Switzerland** here:

- <http://www.w2eu.info/switzerland.en.html>

Find independent contacts and information on **Italy** here:

- <http://www.w2eu.info/italy.en.html>

Finally, don't hesitate to contact Welcome to Europe: w2eu_info@yahoo.com or on FB: Welcome to Europe.