

maldusa.org - **Mini Guide - Update: September 2023**
Information after Arrival in Lampedusa and Sicily

Arrival

If you arrive - autonomously or rescued - with a boat from Tunisia or Libya in Lampedusa or Sicily, the Italian authorities will send you first to a so-called Hot Spot. These are the first reception centres - closed camps in often bad and overcrowded conditions - in Lampedusa, Pozzallo, Messina and Taranto. You should receive food and health care, but authorities might keep you arrested there for a few weeks or a few months.

Nowadays - through the many arrivals in Lampedusa - the reception system is very overloaded and chaotic. Particularly in Lampedusa, the stay should last only 1-3 days, and because of a lack of capacity, the authorities might send you by ferry or even by plane to any other place in Italy.

Find useful contacts for information and support all over Italy:

<https://w2eu.info/en/countries/italy/contacts>

„Identification“

Generally, identification procedures take place in the hotspots. They consist of photos and fingerprint collection, and you will be asked to provide personal data - **name, surname, date of birth, nationality** – as well as to specify the **reasons for travelling** – whether in order to seek asylum or for economic reasons.

Families/Relatives

If you are travelling with a family member and you want to stay in reception centres with them, you should explain your family relationship to the authorities. If possible for you, you can show your identity documents to prove the relationship. Wives, husbands, mothers, fathers, daughters, sons, brothers, and sisters have the right not to be separated. If you are travelling with uncles, aunts, nephews, cousins or other family members, the authorities decide, if you go to the same or to a different reception centre and it is not guaranteed, that you can stay together.

Minors

If you are a minor (less than 18 years old) you have specific rights. You have the right to not be expelled from Italy. After a few weeks in hotspots and camps, you will be moved to a reception centre for people under 18 years old, and you will have a legal permit to stay, access to food and bed, medical care and education until you are 18 or 21 years old. When you turn 18, you can ask to go to a reception centre for adults. If the authorities do not believe, that you are under 18 years old and you do not have a copy of ID documents, they will assess your age by asking many questions and you may be sent to take medical exams (age assessment). But during this procedure, you must be treated as a minor, according to the benefit of the doubt.

„Asylum“

If you ask for asylum, you will have to do a longer interview with a series of hard questions, in which you will have to explain in detail the reasons for which you left your country, and why a possible return there would put your life at risk. As an asylum seeker, they should transfer you to another open camp somewhere in Italy. There you should wait for the decision about your asylum request. And if it is negative, you have the chance to go to court for a second decision. **But in any case, it would be important to find a lawyer or a counselling office to support you in your asylum procedure, which can last several months or years.**

Work/„Economic Migrant“

If you do not express a willingness to seek asylum and if you answer in the info sheet, that you came for work to Italy, you will be treated as an „economic migrant“, so a person who is not entitled to remain in Italy.

Therefore a certain risk is given to receive a removal order from the territory or being transferred to a detention center, in order to be repatriated. You can appeal against the removal order, detention, and deportation through a lawyer.

For some nationalities (like Tunisia or Egypt) the risk is a bit bigger to be detained in a prison. But mostly „economic migrants“ will be brought to Porto Empedocle (near Agrigento in Sicily) and will receive a document, in which they are ordered to leave Italy within seven days.

In any case, we recommend trying to find support with good lawyers or counselling offices and to understand better the legal procedures and your options.

Reasons, why expulsion could be prevented:

- If you have an Italian wife/husband, son/daughter, mother/father, sister/brother;
- If you are pregnant – this is also valid for the father of your child;
- If you have serious health conditions that can't be cured in your home country.

Other European countries/fingerprints/„Dublin“

If you plan to leave Italy and to go to other European countries it is useful to get proper information about the travelling routes and the conditions in the next country. As you have given the fingerprints in Italy – making it become the “responsible country” for the definition of your juridical status – once reaching another country there is the risk of being deported back to Italy, according to the so-called Dublin regulation. **But right now Italy does not take back many people.** Thus from many EU countries, there are no deportations back to Italy at the moment. But the same recommendation after you arrive in any other city in Europe: please try to get into contact with local solidarity groups or lawyers to find legal and social support.

Support on the route

We can help you to find useful addresses for counselling and support in various cities or regions in Italy, but also in other European countries.

Find here information and support in many countries: <https://w2eu.info/>

Important Phone Numbers in Lampedusa and Italy

In Lampedusa

— Maldusa: 0039 351 763 5899 (best via whats app)

In Italy, if you are imprisoned or in undignified reception conditions

— LasciateCIEntrare campaign: 0039 3515086336

— InLimine - ASGI: 0039 347 845 4648

— ARCI: +39 3511376335 (from non-EU Sim cards), via WhatsApp: 800 905 570 (from EU/Italian sim card)