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Factsheet «Implementation of the EU Pact on Migration and Asylum in Switzerland»

What aspects of the EU Pact on Migration and Asylum will Switzerland adopt?

The EU Pact on Migration and Asylum is a comprehensive reform of the Common European Asylum System within the EU. Its objective is to better protect external borders, reduce secondary migration in Europe and improve the functioning of the Dublin system. As a country associated with the Schengen and Dublin agreements, Switzerland is adopting certain elements of this reform. Parliament approved the related legislative amendments on 26 September 2025. The Federal Council brought the amendments to national laws and ordinances into force on 20 May 2026.

The exact changes can be found here: [Übernahme und Umsetzung der Rechtsgrundlagen zum EU-Migrations- und Asylpakt \(Weiterentwicklungen des Schengen-/Dublin-Besitzstands\) \(not available in English at present\)](#)

The following applies in Switzerland from 12 June 2026:

- a new screening procedure will be introduced: third-country nationals who do not have authorisation to enter the Schengen area will be identified and assessed within a few days;
- the identification of asylum seekers and people who have entered the country illegally will be made easier. In addition to fingerprints, further data such as a person's name, age and facial image will now be recorded in the Eurodac database;
- the new rules apply to cooperation with other Dublin states and during a Dublin procedure.

How will this be implemented in Switzerland?

The changes will be implemented in Switzerland at both national and cantonal level. The Federal Department of Justice and Police, working with other federal offices and in consultation with the cantonal authorities, has made the technical and procedural adjustments required to ensure as smooth a transition as possible from mid-June 2026.

The screening procedure

In accordance with Screening Regulation (EU) 2024/1356, Switzerland is introducing a standardised screening procedure for third-country nationals who do not meet the entry requirements for Switzerland or the Schengen Area. The aim is for these individuals to undergo a swift screening process that is standardised across Europe. Within a few days, their identity will be



verified and biometric data collected. They will also be assessed for any security risks, and undergo a preliminary health and vulnerability check.

Switzerland, i.e. the State Secretariat for Migration and the cantonal authorities responsible, is only required to carry out this screening if no other Schengen country has already done so. As a result of the division of responsibilities between the Confederation and the cantons, the Federal Administration is only responsible for screening individuals who apply for asylum.

What does this mean in practice?

The existing procedures in federal asylum centres and at airports have been adapted to the new guidelines. The new screening procedure does not differ fundamentally from the standard admission and registration process under the asylum procedure. Once screening has been completed, the result is recorded on a form designed for this purpose. This is then handed to the person being assessed. The asylum procedure is not dependent on the result of the screening procedure and can be initiated before screening has been completed.

Revised Eurodac database

The revised Eurodac Regulation (EU) 2024/1358 will also modernise fundamental technical aspects of European cooperation on asylum matters. When it comes to matching data related to asylum applications or apprehending people who have entered the country irregularly, it will now be possible to check not only fingerprints but also facial images against the data in the Eurodac database. From now on, data must be also collected on persons aged 6 and over (previously 14 and over). As the name and age of registered people will now be recorded, Switzerland will have access to more information that can be used for identification purposes. The data obtained in connection with checks on irregular residence or as a result of screening in all European countries will also help to increase security in relation to matters of asylum and residence in Switzerland. From 2027 onwards, law enforcement agencies will also be able to use this data where this is specifically requested in justified cases. The database will continue to be developed after the implementation date. In the coming years, interfaces with other European information and data systems should be possible.

What does this mean in practice?

In future, more data will be recorded in Eurodac and this data will be cross-checked. If a person applies for asylum and does not yet have a record in the system, the Swiss authorities are required to enter that person's data in the relevant categories. Under the new rules, the cantonal authorities are now required to register individuals in Eurodac who are residing in Switzerland illegally even if they do not apply for asylum. Eurodac-related procedures at federal asylum centres will remain the same, but will take longer due to the new requirements.

Changes to the Dublin Regulation

The new Asylum and Migration Management Regulation (AMMR) (EU) 2024/1351 replaces the previous Dublin III Regulation. Switzerland will adopt the new criteria (Dublin criteria) for determining the country responsible for an asylum application. Compared with the previous position, a country will remain responsible for an asylum application for a longer period. The criteria that have already been in place, such as family unity, holding a visa or residence permit, or irregular entry into a country, will remain in force. Various deadlines are also being adjusted in order to



speed up procedures and make transfers to other Dublin countries more efficient. In certain cases, audio recordings of interviews are also made during the Dublin procedure.

What does this mean in practice?

The basic principle of Dublin remains in place, i.e. the state in which asylum is first applied for is responsible for processing the application. Thanks to shorter deadlines for making decisions and conducting investigations, as well as simplified communication between countries, Dublin procedures should be faster in future. Furthermore, additional family constellations will now be taken into account when determining which country is responsible for examining their asylum applications, i.e. all asylum applications from members of the same family will be examined within a single country; this should help reduce irregular onward movements within the Schengen area. In cases where interviews are recorded, secure devices designated by the Federal Administration will be used for this purpose. Applicants and their legal representatives will be allowed to inspect the files at the place where they are kept.

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