

Can i visit another country?

You can travel inside the European Union without a visa, for any other country you must obtain a visa, **however you are not allowed to visit your country (or they will take your status away)!** Your work permit is only valid for Slovenia, you cannot work legally in other countries, unless it is for a Slovenian employer or agency. If you ask for asylum in another country, they will most likely return you to Slovenia, as you are already in the system. **BE CAREFUL:** if you stay out of Slovenia for more than 60 days in a year the time needed to apply for citizenship will start again.

Can i get slovenian citizenship?

When you have a refugee status you can apply for citizenship after 5 years of living in Slovenia (also the years you were in the asylum process count) – after that you will have all the same rights as other European Union citizens.

Conditions are tough, you need to have:

- B1 level Slovene language certificate
- uninterrupted employment for 2 years (or 6 months if you have contract for employment for indefinite period of time)
- uninterrupted residence in Slovenia with no more than 60 days a year outside of the country



You got your refugee status



WHAT DOES THAT BRING?

You are finally not in the asylum home anymore, you got the residency permit in Slovenia. This means you are entitled to:

- work
- education
- welfare support
- compensation for accommodation for 1 year
- the right to unite with your family

What do i have to do when i get the positive?

The ministry wants to sign the integration contract with you: you promise to attend the Slovene language course and fulfil your duties at the employment office ('zavod za zaposlovanje'), they will pay the rent for a flat or accommodation in the integration house for one year. If you fulfil all of your duties, they can extend your benefits for another year. During this time you are accompanied by one orientation programme employee.

It all sounds great, but there is not that much time to learn the language and look for a job, after this time you will lose all the benefits. Use that time to pass the course and save up money!

Together with a ministry employee you need to sort out your health insurance, apply at the employment office and sort out your documents.

Where do i live after getting the status?

Once you obtain the refugee status you have 15 days to move out of the asylum home. If they have a space available, the ministry can place you in the integration house where you live together with other refugees – but BE CAREFUL – that is not necessary in Ljubljana, it might also be in Maribor. If you want to stay in Ljubljana you have to rent an apartment and the ministry will pay for it up to 390 €.

It is hard to find your own place for this money in Slovenia, it is easiest to share with other people – ask for help at the 'Odnos' society (**00386 41 552 628**) or ask some other volunteers you trust. When you get an apartment the owner makes a contract with the ministry which pays for your rent for one year.

How do i make money?

JOB

You can work in Slovenia with the refugee status. You need to apply at the employment office ('zavod za zaposlovanje') and other agencies. You tell them your preferred employment type and they will send you job offers (the ministry orientation programme must help you with that).

BE CAREFUL! Many employers in Slovenia will try to cheat the workers – before starting work double check the contract! Check how many hours you are obliged to work and get paid for; they must cover the expenses of a meal during work time, transport cost and insurance. If you can't come to work or want to stop working, make sure to inform your boss with an email or paper, and get a notice from your doctor if you are sick. You can be represented by the union (sindikata) at your work. If your employer is causing you trouble or you have questions, ask for help from 'Delavska svetovalnica' (00386 31 517 201).

You must open a bank account – many banks make complications for foreigners, but they must open a basic account for you.

WELFARE SUPPORT

If you attend school or if the institute of employment cannot find you a job, you are entitled to 420 € welfare support (+ addition if you have children) + compensation for accommodation. **BE CAREFUL – if you are getting any other income transferred to your bank account during that time, they will take the amount out of your welfare support.**