



Legal aid

National information and online forms concerning Directive 2003/8/EC

General information

🔗 [Council Directive 2003/8/EC](#) of 27 January 2003 to improve access to justice in cross-border disputes by establishing minimum common rules relating to legal aid for such disputes seeks to promote the application of legal aid in cross-border disputes for persons who lack sufficient resources where aid is necessary to secure effective access to justice.

The Directive applies between all Member States of the European Union with the exception of Denmark. Between Denmark and certain Member States the European Agreement on the Transmission of Applications for Legal Aid of 1977 applies.

Transmitting authorities are competent to send applications. Receiving authorities are competent to receive applications.

The directive provides for two standard forms, one for legal aid applications and one for the transmission of legal aid applications.

The European e-Justice Portal provides you with information concerning the application of the Directive and a user-friendly tool for filling in the forms.

Please select the relevant country's flag to obtain detailed national information.

Related links

🔗 [Commission Decision of 9 November 2004](#) establishing a form for legal aid applications under Council Directive 2003/8/EC to improve access to justice in cross-border disputes by establishing minimum common rules relating to legal aid for such disputes

🔗 [Commission Decision of 26 August 2005](#) establishing a form for the transmission of legal aid applications under Council Directive 2003/8/EC

🔗 [ARCHIVED European Judicial ATLAS website \(closed on 30 September 2017\)](#)

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Last update: 07/10/2020

Legal aid - Belgium

[Article 14\(2\), second indent - Receiving and transmitting authorities' geographical areas of jurisdiction](#)

[Article 14\(2\), third indent - Available methods of receiving applications](#)

[Article 14\(2\), fourth indent - Languages that may be used for completion of the application](#)

Article 14(2), second indent - Receiving and transmitting authorities' geographical areas of jurisdiction

The Federal Public Justice Service has territorial jurisdiction throughout the Kingdom.

Article 14(2), third indent - Available methods of receiving applications

Both the legal aid offices and the Federal Public Justice Service can receive applications by post.

Article 14(2), fourth indent - Languages that may be used for completion of the application

The Federal Public Justice Service can accept applications in Dutch, French and German. Applications in other languages will not be accepted.

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Last update: 07/03/2017

Legal aid - Bulgaria

[Article 14\(2\), first indent - Names and addresses of the competent receiving or transmitting authorities](#)

[Article 14\(2\), second indent - Receiving and transmitting authorities' geographical areas of jurisdiction](#)

[Article 14\(2\), third indent - Available methods of receiving applications](#)

[Article 14\(2\), fourth indent - Languages that may be used for completion of the application](#)

Article 14(2), first indent - Names and addresses of the competent receiving or transmitting authorities

The receiving and transmitting authority is:

Ministry of Justice

International Legal Cooperation and European Affairs Directorate

Cooperation in Civil Matters Unit

Administrative address: Ul. Slavyanska No 1

Postcode : 1040

City/municipality: Sofia

Telephone: (+359-2) 92 37 544;

92 37 576

E-mail address: civil@justice.government.bg

Article 14(2), second indent - Receiving and transmitting authorities' geographical areas of jurisdiction

The receiving and transmitting authorities have jurisdiction over the whole of Bulgaria's territory.

Article 14(2), third indent - Available methods of receiving applications

Applications for legal aid must be sent to the Ministry of Justice by post or submitted directly at the Ministry's registry.

Article 14(2), fourth indent - Languages that may be used for completion of the application

Applications and accompanying documents must be drawn up in, or translated into, Bulgarian.

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Last update: 14/09/2020

Legal aid - Czech Republic

National law

[Article 14\(2\), first indent - Names and addresses of the competent receiving or transmitting authorities](#)

[Article 14\(2\), second indent - Receiving and transmitting authorities' geographical areas of jurisdiction](#)

[Article 14\(2\), third indent - Available methods of receiving applications](#)

[Article 14\(2\), fourth indent - Languages that may be used for completion of the application](#)

Article 14(2), first indent - Names and addresses of the competent receiving or transmitting authorities

Article 14(2), second indent - Receiving and transmitting authorities' geographical areas of jurisdiction

Geographical area of its jurisdiction: the Czech Republic.

Article 14(2), third indent - Available methods of receiving applications

Postal license holder and fax.

Article 14(2), fourth indent - Languages that may be used for completion of the application

Languages that may be used for the completion of the application: Czech, English.

Article 14 paragraph 3: The Czech Republic receives the legal aid applications completed also in English.

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Last update: 14/04/2021

Legal aid - Germany

National law

[Article 14\(2\), first indent - Names and addresses of the competent receiving or transmitting authorities](#)

[Article 14\(2\), third indent - Available methods of receiving applications](#)

[Article 14\(2\), fourth indent - Languages that may be used for completion of the application](#)

Article 14(2), first indent - Names and addresses of the competent receiving or transmitting authorities

The court that has jurisdiction for outgoing requests is the local court (*Amtsgericht*) of the district where the applicant has their domicile (*Wohnsitz*) or habitual residence (*gewöhnlicher Aufenthalt*). The Land governments may make orders (*Rechtsverordnungen*) giving a single local court the function of requested court for the districts of several local courts. In North Rhine-Westphalia the local courts that sit in the same place as the regional court (*Landgericht*) have jurisdiction for receiving and transmitting applications for cross-border assistance with court costs (*Prozesskostenhilfe*) submitted by natural persons, and for transmitting applications for cross-border assistance with legal advice (*Beratungshilfe*).

In accordance with the first sentence of section 21(1) of the Foreign Maintenance Act (*Auslandsunterhaltgesetz - AUG*), the transmitting authority for cross-border requests for assistance with court costs in maintenance claims is the local court for the district of the seat of the higher regional court (*Oberlandesgericht*) in whose jurisdiction the applicant habitually resides.

The address given should be the special postal address for large customers (the *Großkundenadresse*, consisting of a post code and locality), if available, and failing that — or indeed in addition — the PO box address (*Postfachadresse*). Letter post should use the special postal address for large customers and failing that the PO box address. Express items and packages (including small packages) should use only the full street address.

Incoming applications for assistance with court costs are dealt with by the court hearing the case or enforcing the decisions.

Article 14(2), third indent - Available methods of receiving applications

The following means of communication are available:

For receipt and dispatch: post, including private courier services, fax.

For informal communications: Telephone and email (where indicated).

Article 14(2), fourth indent - Languages that may be used for completion of the application

German

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Last update: 22/06/2020

Legal aid - Estonia

Council Directive 2003/8/EC has been transposed into Estonian law by the [Est State Legal Aid Act](#), which entered into force on 1 March 2005.

[Article 14\(2\), first indent - Names and addresses of the competent receiving or transmitting authorities](#)

[Article 14\(2\), second indent - Receiving and transmitting authorities' geographical areas of jurisdiction](#)

[Article 14\(2\), third indent - Available methods of receiving applications](#)

[Article 14\(2\), fourth indent - Languages that may be used for completion of the application](#)

Article 14(2), first indent - Names and addresses of the competent receiving or transmitting authorities

Article 14(2), second indent - Receiving and transmitting authorities' geographical areas of jurisdiction

The conditions for submitting an application for state legal aid are laid down in Section 10 of the [Est State Legal Aid Act](#).

Article 14(2), third indent - Available methods of receiving applications

Applications for state legal aid must be submitted to the competent county court in writing. The application form is available on the [website of the Ministry of Justice](#) and in every court and law firm.

Article 14(2), fourth indent - Languages that may be used for completion of the application

Applications for state legal aid must be submitted in Estonian. Applications may also be submitted in English if legal aid is applied for by a natural person residing in another Member State of the European Union or by a citizen or legal person of another Member State of the European Union. Applications submitted to the court in any other language will be returned to the applicant.

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Last update: 03/09/2020

Legal aid - Ireland

National Law

[Article 14\(2\), first indent - Names and addresses of the competent receiving or transmitting authorities](#)

[Article 14\(2\), second indent - Receiving and transmitting authorities' geographical areas of jurisdiction](#)

[Article 14\(2\), third indent - Available methods of receiving applications](#)

[Article 14\(2\), fourth indent - Languages that may be used for completion of the application](#)

Article 14(2), first indent - Names and addresses of the competent receiving or transmitting authorities

The names and addresses of the competent receiving or transmitting authority is:

The Legal Aid Board

Legal Services Support Unit

Quay Street

Cahirciveen

Co Kerry

Ireland

Article 14(2), second indent - Receiving and transmitting authorities' geographical areas of jurisdiction

The geographical areas in which we have jurisdiction: Ireland.

Article 14(2), third indent - Available methods of receiving applications

The means by which they are available to receive application: Post.

Article 14(2), fourth indent - Languages that may be used for completion of the application

The languages that may be used for the completion of the application: English.

The official language of the Community institutions other than their own which is acceptable: French.

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Last update: 29/06/2020

Legal aid - Greece



Please note that the original language version of this page [\[el\]](#) has been amended recently. The language version you are now viewing is currently being prepared by our translators.

National law

[Article 14\(2\), first indent - Names and addresses of the competent receiving or transmitting authorities](#)

[Article 14\(2\), second indent - Receiving and transmitting authorities' geographical areas of jurisdiction](#)

[Article 14\(2\), third indent - Available methods of receiving applications](#)

[Article 14\(2\), fourth indent - Languages that may be used for completion of the application](#)

Article 14(2), first indent - Names and addresses of the competent receiving or transmitting authorities

Greek Ministry of Justice, Transparency and Human Rights

Υπουργείο Δικαιοσύνης, Διαφάνειας και Ανθρωπίνων Δικαιωμάτων

Department for International Judicial Cooperation in Civil and Criminal Matters

Τμήμα Διεθνούς Δικαστικής Συνεργασίας σε Αστικές και Ποινικές Υποθέσεις
96 Mesogion Av.
11527 Athens, Greece

Telephone: (0030) 210 7767529, (0030) 210 7767322, (0030) 210 7767312

Fax: (0030) 210 7767499

Email: civilunit@justice.gov.gr, gkouvelas@justice.gov.gr, mntolia@justice.gov.gr, avasilopoulou@justice.gov.gr

Article 14(2), second indent - Receiving and transmitting authorities' geographical areas of jurisdiction

The above competent authority has jurisdiction throughout Greece.

Article 14(2), third indent - Available methods of receiving applications

Requests are received by post. In urgent cases, they may be received by fax or email, pending receipt of the original request by post.

Article 14(2), fourth indent - Languages that may be used for completion of the application

Requests may be completed in Greek or English.

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Last update: 02/02/2021

Legal aid - Spain

National law

[Article 14\(2\), first indent - Names and addresses of the competent receiving or transmitting authorities](#)

[Article 14\(2\), second indent - Receiving and transmitting authorities' geographical areas of jurisdiction](#)

[Article 14\(2\), third indent - Available methods of receiving applications](#)

[Article 14\(2\), fourth indent - Languages that may be used for completion of the application](#)

Article 14(2), first indent - Names and addresses of the competent receiving or transmitting authorities

Article 14(2), second indent - Receiving and transmitting authorities' geographical areas of jurisdiction

N/A

Article 14(2), third indent - Available methods of receiving applications

Means of communication : only by mail or personal presentation.

Article 14(2), fourth indent - Languages that may be used for completion of the application

The language that may be used for the completion of the application will be Spanish, nevertheless, in the future, another official language of the Community could be notified to the Commission.

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Last update: 25/05/2020

Legal aid - France

The national laws on legal aid are [Law No 91-647](#) and [Decree No 91-1266](#).

[Article 14\(2\), first indent - Names and addresses of the competent receiving or transmitting authorities](#)

[Article 14\(2\), second indent - Receiving and transmitting authorities' geographical areas of jurisdiction](#)

[Article 14\(2\), third indent - Available methods of receiving applications](#)

[Article 14\(2\), fourth indent - Languages that may be used for completion of the application](#)

Article 14(2), first indent - Names and addresses of the competent receiving or transmitting authorities

Ministry of Justice, Department for Access to Law and Justice and Support for Victims (*Service de l'accès au droit et à la justice et de l'aide aux victimes*), Legal Aid Office (*Bureau de l'aide juridictionnelle*)

Office address: 13 Place Vendôme; 75042 Paris CEDEX 01; France

Tel.: +33 1 70 22 74 12

Email: baj.sadjav-sg@justice.gouv.fr

Article 14(2), second indent - Receiving and transmitting authorities' geographical areas of jurisdiction

The geographical areas of jurisdiction are metropolitan France, the overseas departments (Guadeloupe, Martinique, Mayotte, French Guiana and Réunion) and Saint-Pierre et Miquelon.

Article 14(2), third indent - Available methods of receiving applications

By post to the following address:

Ministry of Justice, Department for Access to Law and Justice and Support for Victims (*Service de l'accès au droit et à la justice et de l'aide aux victimes*), Legal Aid Office (*Bureau de l'aide juridictionnelle*)

13, place Vendôme

75042 Paris CEDEX 01

France

Article 14(2), fourth indent - Languages that may be used for completion of the application

Applications must be completed in French.

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Last update: 17/02/2020

Legal aid - Croatia

[Article 14\(2\), first indent - Names and addresses of the competent receiving or transmitting authorities](#)

[Article 14\(2\), second indent - Receiving and transmitting authorities' geographical areas of jurisdiction](#)

[Article 14\(2\), third indent - Available methods of receiving applications](#)

[Article 14\(2\), fourth indent - Languages that may be used for completion of the application](#)

Article 14(2), first indent - Names and addresses of the competent receiving or transmitting authorities

The competent authority to send and receive applications in the Republic of Croatia is:

the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Croatia (*Ministarstvo pravosuđa Republike Hrvatske*)

Ulica grada Vukovara 49

tel.: +385 1 371 40 00

fax: +385 1 371 45 07

website: <http://www.mprh.hr>

Article 14(2), second indent - Receiving and transmitting authorities' geographical areas of jurisdiction

The Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Croatia is the competent authority for the whole of the Republic of Croatia.

Article 14(2), third indent - Available methods of receiving applications

Applications are accepted by mail in the Republic of Croatia.

Article 14(2), fourth indent - Languages that may be used for completion of the application

If a party domiciled or resident in a Member State of the European Union seeks legal aid in a cross-border dispute before a court in the Republic of Croatia, the relevant forms and documents must be submitted translated into Croatian. If a party domiciled or resident in the Republic of Croatia seeks legal aid in a cross-border dispute before a court in another Member State of the European Union, the application form and accompanying documents will be translated by the Ministry of Justice into the official language or one of the official languages of the relevant Member State of the European Union and of the competent receiving authority.

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Last update: 20/03/2018

Legal aid - Italy

Legal aid is governed by Presidential Decree (DPR) No 115 of 30 May 2002 (consolidated text of legislative provisions and regulations on court fees), the relevant provisions of which are annexed.

[Article 14\(2\), first indent - Names and addresses of the competent receiving or transmitting authorities](#)

[Article 14\(2\), second indent - Receiving and transmitting authorities' geographical areas of jurisdiction](#)

[Article 14\(2\), third indent - Available methods of receiving applications](#)

[Article 14\(2\), fourth indent - Languages that may be used for completion of the application](#)

Article 14(2), first indent - Names and addresses of the competent receiving or transmitting authorities

MINISTERO DELLA GIUSTIZIA (*Ministry of Justice*)

Dipartimento Affari di Giustizia

Direzione Generale degli Affari Internazionali

e della Cooperazione Giudiziaria

Ufficio I – Cooperazione Giudiziaria Internazionale

Tel.: +39 06.6885.2633

Fax: +39 06 6889 7528

Email: cooperation.dginternazionale.dag@giustizia.it

Via Arenula, 70 - 00186 Rome, Italy

Article 14(2), second indent - Receiving and transmitting authorities' geographical areas of jurisdiction

Solely responsible in Italy

MINISTERO DELLA GIUSTIZIA

Dipartimento Affari di Giustizia

Direzione Generale degli Affari Internazionali

e della Cooperazione Giudiziaria

Ufficio I – Cooperazione Giudiziaria Internazionale

Tel.: +39 06.6885.2633

Fax: +39 06.6889.7528

Email: cooperation.dginternazionale.dag@giustizia.it

Via Arenula, 70 - 00186 Rome, Italy

Article 14(2), third indent - Available methods of receiving applications

There are three possible ways of communicating with the institutions concerned:

1) email: cooperation.dginternazionale.dag@giustizia.it

2) registered letter to the following address:

MINISTERO DELLA GIUSTIZIA

Dipartimento Affari di Giustizia

Direzione Generale degli Affari Internazionali

e della Cooperazione Giudiziaria

Ufficio I – Cooperazione Giudiziaria Internazionale

Via Arenula, 70 - 00186 Rome, Italy

3) fax to +39 06 6889 7528

Article 14(2), fourth indent - Languages that may be used for completion of the application

Italian, English, French

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Last update: 16/03/2021

Legal aid - Cyprus

National law

Article 14(2), first indent - Names and addresses of the competent receiving or transmitting authorities

[Article 14\(2\), second indent - Receiving and transmitting authorities' geographical areas of jurisdiction](#)

[Article 14\(2\), third indent - Available methods of receiving applications](#)

[Article 14\(2\), fourth indent - Languages that may be used for completion of the application](#)

Article 14(2), first indent - Names and addresses of the competent receiving or transmitting authorities

The authority competent to transmit applications made by persons domiciled or habitually resident in Cyprus is the Ministry of Justice and Public Order.

The authority competent to receive applications made by persons domiciled or habitually resident in a Member State other than Cyprus is the Ministry of Justice and Public Order.

Address: Ministry of Justice and Public Order

Leoforos Athalassas 125, 1461 Nicosia

Tel.: +357 22805950

Fax: +357 22518356

Email: registry@mjpo.gov.cy

Article 14(2), second indent - Receiving and transmitting authorities' geographical areas of jurisdiction

The entire territory of the Republic of Cyprus.

Article 14(2), third indent - Available methods of receiving applications

By post, email or fax

Article 14(2), fourth indent - Languages that may be used for completion of the application

Greek and English

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Last update: 08/09/2020

Legal aid - Latvia

National law

[Article 14\(2\), first indent - Names and addresses of the competent receiving or transmitting authorities](#)

[Article 14\(2\), second indent - Receiving and transmitting authorities' geographical areas of jurisdiction](#)

[Article 14\(2\), third indent - Available methods of receiving applications](#)

[Article 14\(2\), fourth indent - Languages that may be used for completion of the application](#)

Article 14(2), first indent - Names and addresses of the competent receiving or transmitting authorities

The address of the legal aid administration is Pils laukums 4, Riga, LV-1050, e-mail: jpa@jpa.gov.lv. Telephone information line (free of charge): 80001801 (information provided about the services of the legal aid administration and how to fill in forms)

Article 14(2), second indent - Receiving and transmitting authorities' geographical areas of jurisdiction

The territorial extent of the jurisdiction of the transmitting and receiving authority, i.e. the legal aid administration, is the Republic of Latvia.

Article 14(2), third indent - Available methods of receiving applications

The competent authority may be asked to decide whether the decision to grant legal aid is to be sent by post or delivered in person to the legal aid administration.

Article 14(2), fourth indent - Languages that may be used for completion of the application

The applications may be completed in Latvian.

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Last update: 15/09/2020

Legal aid - Lithuania

National law

[Article 14\(2\), first indent - Names and addresses of the competent receiving or transmitting authorities](#)

[Article 14\(2\), second indent - Receiving and transmitting authorities' geographical areas of jurisdiction](#)

[Article 14\(2\), third indent - Available methods of receiving applications](#)

[Article 14\(2\), fourth indent - Languages that may be used for completion of the application](#)

Article 14(2), first indent - Names and addresses of the competent receiving or transmitting authorities

Article 14(2), second indent - Receiving and transmitting authorities' geographical areas of jurisdiction

The State-guaranteed Legal Aid Service, as the competent receiving and transmitting authority, exercises its competence throughout the territory of the Republic of Lithuania.

Article 14(2), third indent - Available methods of receiving applications

All methods permitted (post, fax, electronic means of communication).

Article 14(2), fourth indent - Languages that may be used for completion of the application

It should be noted that legal aid applications and documents attesting to a person's right to receive State-guaranteed legal aid, which are submitted to the receiving institution, must be translated into Lithuanian or English.

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Last update: 10/07/2019

Legal aid - Luxembourg

National law

[Article 14\(2\), first indent - Names and addresses of the competent receiving or transmitting authorities](#)

[Article 14\(2\), second indent - Receiving and transmitting authorities' geographical areas of jurisdiction](#)

[Article 14\(2\), third indent - Available methods of receiving applications](#)

[Article 14\(2\), fourth indent - Languages that may be used for completion of the application](#)

Article 14(2), first indent - Names and addresses of the competent receiving or transmitting authorities

Ministère de la Justice

Administrative Address: 13, rue Erasme; L-1468 Luxembourg-Kirchberg

Article 14(2), second indent - Receiving and transmitting authorities' geographical areas of jurisdiction

N/A

Article 14(2), third indent - Available methods of receiving applications

Legal aid applications are received by post at the Ministry of Justice, L-2934 Luxembourg. In urgent cases requiring accelerated processing, applications may be sent by fax to the following numbers:

- (352) 22 52 96 or
- (352) 26 68 48 61

After sending an application by fax, the original application must be forwarded by post as soon as possible.

Article 14(2), fourth indent - Languages that may be used for completion of the application

Applications for legal aid made in Luxembourg are to be completed in one of the official administrative languages listed below:

- Luxembourgish
- French
- German

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Last update: 24/04/2020

Legal aid - Hungary

National Law

[Article 14\(2\), first indent - Names and addresses of the competent receiving or transmitting authorities](#)

[Article 14\(2\), second indent - Receiving and transmitting authorities' geographical areas of jurisdiction](#)

[Article 14\(2\), third indent - Available methods of receiving applications](#)

[Article 14\(2\), fourth indent - Languages that may be used for completion of the application](#)

Article 14(2), first indent - Names and addresses of the competent receiving or transmitting authorities

Article 14(2), second indent - Receiving and transmitting authorities' geographical areas of jurisdiction

Article 14(2), third indent - Available methods of receiving applications

The application for legal aid shall be submitted to the competent authority personally (in oral or written form) or by postal way.

Article 14(2), fourth indent - Languages that may be used for completion of the application

The languages of the completion of the applications for legal aid are the Hungarian or English.

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Last update: 05/04/2017

Legal aid - Malta

The directive has been transposed by means of a legal notice ([Ordni ta' l-2005 dwar Emenda fil-Kodiċi ta' Organizzazzjoni u Proċedura Ċivili](#)).

[Article 14\(2\), first indent - Names and addresses of the competent receiving or transmitting authorities](#)

[Article 14\(2\), second indent - Receiving and transmitting authorities' geographical areas of jurisdiction](#)

[Article 14\(2\), third indent - Available methods of receiving applications](#)

[Article 14\(2\), fourth indent - Languages that may be used for completion of the application](#)

Article 14(2), first indent - Names and addresses of the competent receiving or transmitting authorities

Article 14(2), second indent - Receiving and transmitting authorities' geographical areas of jurisdiction

The jurisdiction covers both the Island of Malta and the Island of Gozo.

Article 14(2), third indent - Available methods of receiving applications

Communication may be:

- via fax (Fax No. 00356 25902859) or

- via post addressed to:

Ir-Registratur tal-Qorti Ċivili

Il-Qorti,

Triq ir-Repubblika,

Il-Belt Valletta,

Malta

Article 14(2), fourth indent - Languages that may be used for completion of the application

The languages that may be used for the completion of the application are Maltese and English.

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Last update: 16/01/2018

Legal aid - Netherlands

The Netherlands have implemented the EC-Directive in the existing Act on Legal Aid. This is done by [Act of 19 february 2005 \(Stb. 2005, 90\)](#), which has come into force on 2 march 2005. Since that date, new articles 23a - 23k provide for legal aid in cross-border European cases. Of course this was already possible from the earlier moment the Directive had to be implemented in the Dutch legal system: 30 november 2004.

[Article 14\(2\), first indent - Names and addresses of the competent receiving or transmitting authorities](#)

[Article 14\(2\), second indent - Receiving and transmitting authorities' geographical areas of jurisdiction](#)

[Article 14\(2\), third indent - Available methods of receiving applications](#)

[Article 14\(2\), fourth indent - Languages that may be used for completion of the application](#)

Article 14(2), first indent - Names and addresses of the competent receiving or transmitting authorities

Article 14(2), second indent - Receiving and transmitting authorities' geographical areas of jurisdiction

In strictly Dutch cases, this Council only has jurisdiction in the western part of The Netherlands. But in cross-border ("European") cases, the The Hague Council has central jurisdiction for the whole country.

Article 14(2), third indent - Available methods of receiving applications

Applications can be done by fax or by normal postal means. Our The Hague Council not only accepts requests done by E-mail (which often happen to be incomplete).

Article 14(2), fourth indent - Languages that may be used for completion of the application

Languages for the application are Dutch and English. Also done in the French or German language.

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Last update: 31/08/2016

Legal aid - Austria

National law

[Article 14\(2\), first indent - Names and addresses of the competent receiving or transmitting authorities](#)

[Article 14\(2\), third indent - Available methods of receiving applications](#)

[Article 14\(2\), fourth indent - Languages that may be used for completion of the application](#)

Article 14(2), first indent - Names and addresses of the competent receiving or transmitting authorities

Article 14(2), third indent - Available methods of receiving applications

Means of communication available to these authorities for the receipt of requests:

Post and fax.

Article 14(2), fourth indent - Languages that may be used for completion of the application

Languages in which the form may be completed:

German and English.

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Last update: 25/03/2021

Legal aid - Poland

National legislation

[Article 14\(2\), first indent - Names and addresses of the competent receiving or transmitting authorities](#)

[Article 14\(2\), second indent - Receiving and transmitting authorities' geographical areas of jurisdiction](#)

[Article 14\(2\), third indent - Available methods of receiving applications](#)

[Article 14\(2\), fourth indent - Languages that may be used for completion of the application](#)

Article 14(2), first indent - Names and addresses of the competent receiving or transmitting authorities

The transferring authorities are regional courts (*sądy okręgowe*).

Receiving authorities:

Ministry of Justice

Department of International Cooperation and Human Rights

Al. Ujazdowskie 11

00-950 Warsaw

Tel./Fax: +48 22 23-90-870 +48 22 628 09 49

Email: dwmipc@ms.gov.pl

District courts (*sądy rejonowe*) and regional courts are also receiving authorities.

Article 14(2), second indent - Receiving and transmitting authorities' geographical areas of jurisdiction

Territorial jurisdiction of the transferring authorities:

Legal aid applications which are to be transferred to another Member State must be filed with the regional court with jurisdiction over the applicant's domicile or habitual residence.

Territorial jurisdiction of the receiving authorities:

Under Article 8(1) of the Act of 17 December 2004 on the right to legal aid in civil proceedings in Member States of the European Union (Journal of Laws 2005 No 10, item 67), legal aid applications may be filed directly with the court competent to examine the application (that is, the court before which the declaratory proceedings are ongoing or are to be opened), or, if the application is for legal aid in enforcement proceedings, with the district court with jurisdiction over the place of enforcement.

For all legal aid applications submitted to Polish courts by applicants with domicile or habitual residence in other EU Member States, the receiving authority with territorial jurisdiction is the Ministry of Justice.

Article 14(2), third indent - Available methods of receiving applications

Methods of receiving applications.

Applications may be filed directly with the transferring authority or by post.

Applications may be filed directly with the receiving authority or by post.

Article 14(2), fourth indent - Languages that may be used for completion of the application

Languages that may be used for completing the application

Transferring authorities: The application must be drafted in Polish and in an official language of the Community institutions accepted by the EU Member State to which the application is to be transferred.

Receiving authorities: The application must be drafted in Polish or in English.

Official languages of the Community institutions, other than Polish, which are accepted by Polish receiving authorities: English.

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Last update: 13/06/2019

Legal aid - Portugal

Click here for a copy of Law [No 34/2004](#) of 29 July 2004 and Decree-Law No [71/2005](#) of 17 March 2005 (both in Portuguese).

[Article 14\(2\), first indent - Names and addresses of the competent receiving or transmitting authorities](#)

[Article 14\(2\), third indent - Available methods of receiving applications](#)

[Article 14\(2\), fourth indent - Languages that may be used for completion of the application](#)

Article 14(2), first indent - Names and addresses of the competent receiving or transmitting authorities

Article 14(2), third indent - Available methods of receiving applications

Applications may be made in person or sent by fax or by post.

It is also possible to submit an application electronically by filling in an online form.

Article 14(2), fourth indent - Languages that may be used for completion of the application

Persons who are resident in another EU Member State but are seeking legal aid in a case for which the Portuguese courts have jurisdiction may send their application in **Portuguese** or **English**.

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Last update: 08/03/2021

Legal aid - Romania

- Articles 90 and 91 of Law No 134/2010 of the Code of Civil Procedure

- Government Emergency Order No 51/2008 on public legal aid, approved with amendments by Law No 193/2008, as amended

- Articles 42 to 44 of Emergency Government Order No 80/2013 on judicial stamp duties.

- Law No 51/1995 on the organisation and exercise of the legal profession, as amended

[Article 14\(2\), first indent - Names and addresses of the competent receiving or transmitting authorities](#)

[Article 14\(2\), second indent - Receiving and transmitting authorities' geographical areas of jurisdiction](#)

[Article 14\(2\), third indent - Available methods of receiving applications](#)

[Article 14\(2\), fourth indent - Languages that may be used for completion of the application](#)

Article 14(2), first indent - Names and addresses of the competent receiving or transmitting authorities

The Romanian transmitting authority is

the Ministry of Justice, Directorate for International Law and Judicial Cooperation (*Ministerul Justiției, Direcția Drept Internațional și Cooperare Judiciară*)

Service for international judicial cooperation in civil and commercial matters (*Serviciul Cooperare judiciară internațională în materie civilă și comercială*)

Str. Apolodor 17, Sector 5, Bucharest 050741

Tel.: + 40372041077, Fax: + 40372041079, Fax: + 40372041084 Email: ddit@just.ro

The Romanian receiving authority can be

either the Ministry of Justice

Directorate for International Law and Judicial Cooperation

Service for international judicial cooperation in civil and commercial matters

Str. Apolodor 17, Sector 5, Bucharest 050741

Tel.: + 40372041077, Fax: + 40372041079, Fax: + +40372041084 Email: ddit@just.ro

or the Romanian court with the relevant territorial/material jurisdiction

Article 14(2), second indent - Receiving and transmitting authorities' geographical areas of jurisdiction

As regards the receiving authorities, under Government Emergency Order No 51/2008 on public legal aid in civil matters, approved with amendments by Law No 193/2008, as amended, *the application for public legal aid shall be submitted to the court which has jurisdiction to rule on the case in respect of which aid is being requested; in the case of public aid requested in connection with the enforcement of a judgment, the competent court shall be the court of enforcement.*

Where it is not possible to determine the competent court, it shall be the district court in whose jurisdiction the applicant is domiciled or resident.

Under Government Emergency Order No 51/2008 on public legal aid in civil matters, approved with amendments by Law No 193 /2008, as amended, where, at the time of submission of an application for public legal aid, it is not possible to determine the competent court, the application shall be ruled on by the Tribunalul București (Bucharest Court).

Article 14(2), third indent - Available methods of receiving applications

Applications must be sent by post.

Article 14(2), fourth indent - Languages that may be used for completion of the application

The application and supporting documents must be translated into Romanian and lodged in that language.

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Last update: 12/04/2021

Legal aid - Slovenia

 [Zakon o brezplačni pravni pomoči \(Free Legal Aid Act\)](#)

[Article 14\(2\), first indent - Names and addresses of the competent receiving or transmitting authorities](#)

[Article 14\(2\), second indent - Receiving and transmitting authorities' geographical areas of jurisdiction](#)

[Article 14\(2\), third indent - Available methods of receiving applications](#)

[Article 14\(2\), fourth indent - Languages that may be used for completion of the application](#)

Article 14(2), first indent - Names and addresses of the competent receiving or transmitting authorities

The receiving and transmitting authority in Slovenia is:

Ministrstvo za pravosodje (Ministry of Justice)

Župančičeva 3

SLO-1000 Ljubljana

Tel.: (+386) 1 369 53 42

Fax: (+386) 1 369 57 83

Email: gp.mp@gov.si

Article 14(2), second indent - Receiving and transmitting authorities' geographical areas of jurisdiction

The geographical areas in which it has jurisdiction:

The Ministry of Justice has jurisdiction for the territory of the Republic of Slovenia.

Article 14(2), third indent - Available methods of receiving applications

The means by which it is able to receive applications:

Legal aid applications must be sent by post.

Article 14(2), fourth indent - Languages that may be used for completion of the application

The languages that may be used for the completion of the application: Slovenian.

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Last update: 10/03/2017

Legal aid - Slovakia

National rule: Legal Aid Act

Act No 327/2005 on the provision of legal aid, by which the Slovak Republic transposed the Legal Aid Directive, has been in force since 1 January 2006.

[Article 14\(2\), first indent - Names and addresses of the competent receiving or transmitting authorities](#)

[Article 14\(2\), second indent - Receiving and transmitting authorities' geographical areas of jurisdiction](#)

[Article 14\(2\), third indent - Available methods of receiving applications](#)

[Article 14\(2\), fourth indent - Languages that may be used for completion of the application](#)

Article 14(2), first indent - Names and addresses of the competent receiving or transmitting authorities

Applications shall be handed in or sent to the Legal Aid Centre's office serving the place where the applicant normally or temporarily resides.

Article 14(2), second indent - Receiving and transmitting authorities' geographical areas of jurisdiction

Geographical territory where the Legal Aid Centre has jurisdiction: Slovak Republic.

Article 14(2), third indent - Available methods of receiving applications

Means of communication:

- submission of applications in person at one of the Centre's offices
- sending of applications via a postal operator to one of the Centre's office addresses

Article 14(2), fourth indent - Languages that may be used for completion of the application

Languages in which applications may be submitted: Slovak.

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Last update: 22/04/2020

Legal aid - Finland

National Law

[Article 14\(2\), first indent - Names and addresses of the competent receiving or transmitting authorities](#)

[Article 14\(2\), second indent - Receiving and transmitting authorities' geographical areas of jurisdiction](#)

[Article 14\(2\), third indent - Available methods of receiving applications](#)

[Article 14\(2\), fourth indent - Languages that may be used for completion of the application](#)

Article 14(2), first indent - Names and addresses of the competent receiving or transmitting authorities

Article 14(2), second indent - Receiving and transmitting authorities' geographical areas of jurisdiction

The Ministry of Justice and the Legal Aid Offices are competent throughout Finland.

Article 14(2), third indent - Available methods of receiving applications

Applications may be delivered to the receiving authority in person or sent by post, fax or, under certain conditions, by e-mail (further information available from <http://www.oikeus.fi/oikeusapu/fi/index.html>)

Article 14(2), fourth indent - Languages that may be used for completion of the application

The receiving authority will accept applications in Finnish, Swedish or English.

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Last update: 04/01/2021

Legal aid - Sweden

Council Directive 2003/8/EC of 27 January 2003 to improve access to justice in cross-border disputes by establishing minimum common rules relating to legal aid for such disputes.

This constitutes communication pursuant to Articles 14(4) and 21(1) of the above legal act.

The act has been transposed through the following [national provisions](#):

See the correlation table in Annex 1 and the legislative text in Annexes 2 and 3. The provisions entered into force on 1 November 2004.

In addition, Sweden fulfils its obligations under the Directive by means of the provisions of the Legal Aid Act (*rättshjälpslagen*, 1996:1619, Annex 4) and the Legal Aid Ordinance (*rättshjälpsförordningen*, 1997:404, Annex 5); Chapter 5 Sections 6 and 8, Chapter 33 Section 9 and Chapter 36 Section 24 of the Code of Judicial Procedure (*rättegångsbalken*, Annex 6); Sections 26, 50

and 52 of the Administrative Judicial Procedure Act (*förvaltningsprocesslagen*, 1971:291, Annex 7); Section 8 of the Administrative Procedure Act (*förvaltningslagen*, 1986:223, Annex 8); and Section 48 of the Act on Court Matters (*lagen om domstolsärenden*, 1996:242, Annex 9).

[Article 14\(2\), first indent - Names and addresses of the competent receiving or transmitting authorities](#)

[Article 14\(2\), second indent - Receiving and transmitting authorities' geographical areas of jurisdiction](#)

[Article 14\(2\), third indent - Available methods of receiving applications](#)

[Article 14\(2\), fourth indent - Languages that may be used for completion of the application](#)

Article 14(2), first indent - Names and addresses of the competent receiving or transmitting authorities

- Ministry of Justice (*Justitiedepartementet*)

Article 14(2), second indent - Receiving and transmitting authorities' geographical areas of jurisdiction

Not applicable.

Article 14(2), third indent - Available methods of receiving applications

The Ministry of Justice can accept an application for legal aid submitted by post, courier or fax, or, following agreement in an individual case, by any agreed means.

Article 14(2), fourth indent - Languages that may be used for completion of the application

The application may be made in Swedish or English (see Sections 11c-d of the Legal Aid Ordinance).

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Last update: 09/11/2020

Legal aid - England and Wales

Legal Aid Directive UK Compliance

Article 15 - Processing of Applications

The computer systems of the United Kingdom legal aid authorities ensure that applicants are informed when applications are received and when any decisions are made on an application.

Reasons are always given by the appropriate authority for all full or partial rejections of applications.

In England and Wales, for most forms of legal aid there is a right of appeal to an independent legal panel of experienced lawyers drawn from private practice. Procedures for review of refusal of applications for civil legal aid are also in place in Scotland. All refusals of legal aid in the United Kingdom are challengeable by the Courts through judicial review.

Article 16 - Standard Form

In England and Wales the standard form established under this Directive will entitle the applicant to any required pre-litigation advice. As with any applicant, further information or a further form may be required to proceed to representation in Court. The solicitor providing initial advice will assist the client in preparing any further information or application form that may be required.

Scotland will accept the standard form for applications for civil legal aid for representation from November 2004 but is not yet in a position to introduce measures which will allow it to accept applications for pre litigation advice and assistance under the Directive. However, the existing advice and assistance scheme allows pre litigation advice to be made available to cross border applicants regardless of nationality or residence.

As well as the standard form under this Directive, the United Kingdom will, of course, accept applications for legal aid from persons using its own domestic application forms in cross border cases.

Final Provisions

In relation to Article 18 full information and guidance on legal aid in the United Kingdom can be found in the following website:

Legal Services Commission for England and Wales: <http://www.legalservices.gov.uk/>

Legal Aid Board for Scotland: <http://www.slabb.org.uk/>

Northern Ireland Legal Services Commission: <http://www.nilsc.org.uk/>

[Transposition Note for Implementation in The United Kingdom of the Legal Aid Directive](#)

[Article 14\(2\), first indent - Names and addresses of the competent receiving or transmitting authorities](#)

[Article 14\(2\), third indent - Available methods of receiving applications](#)

[Article 14\(2\), fourth indent - Languages that may be used for completion of the application](#)

Article 14(2), first indent - Names and addresses of the competent receiving or transmitting authorities

Article 14(2), third indent - Available methods of receiving applications

We accept applications by post (including Document Exchange) or email to the address given above. We also accept requests from solicitors to undertake urgent steps on behalf of clients prior to submission and determination of the actual application for civil legal aid.

Article 14(2), fourth indent - Languages that may be used for completion of the application

Applications will be accepted in English. The Central Customer Services Team is able to arrange for translations of applications or documents if required by the receiving authority.

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Last update: 17/05/2016

Legal aid - Northern Ireland

Legal Aid Directive UK Compliance

Article 15 - Processing of Applications

The computer systems of the United Kingdom legal aid authorities ensure that applicants are informed when applications are received and when any decisions are made on an application.

Reasons are always given by the appropriate authority for all full or partial rejections of applications.

In England and Wales, for most forms of legal aid there is a right of appeal to an independent legal panel of experienced lawyers drawn from private practice. Procedures for review of refusal of applications for civil legal aid are also in place in Scotland. All refusals of legal aid in the United Kingdom are challengeable by the Courts through judicial review.

Article 16 - Standard Form

In England and Wales the standard form established under this Directive will entitle the applicant to any required pre-litigation advice. As with any applicant, further information or a further form may be required to proceed to representation in Court. The solicitor providing initial advice will assist the client in preparing any further information or application form that may be required.

Scotland will accept the standard form for applications for civil legal aid for representation from November 2004 but is not yet in a position to introduce measures which will allow it to accept applications for pre litigation advice and assistance under the Directive.

However, the existing advice and assistance scheme allows pre litigation advice to be made available to cross border applicants regardless of nationality or residence.

As well as the standard form under this Directive, the United Kingdom will, of course, accept applications for legal aid from persons using its own domestic application forms in cross border cases.

Final Provisions

In relation to Article 18 full information and guidance on legal aid in the United Kingdom can be found in the following website:

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[Transposition Note for Implementation in The United Kingdom of the Legal Aid Directive](#)

[Article 14\(2\), first indent - Names and addresses of the competent receiving or transmitting authorities](#)

[Article 14\(2\), third indent - Available methods of receiving applications](#)

[Article 14\(2\), fourth indent - Languages that may be used for completion of the application](#)

Article 14(2), first indent - Names and addresses of the competent receiving or transmitting authorities

Article 14(2), third indent - Available methods of receiving applications

We would accept an application by personal delivery or post (including document exchange). We also accept requests by fax from solicitors to undertake urgent steps on behalf of clients prior to submission and determination of the actual application for civil legal aid.

We are also committed to developing an e-business solution in the longer term.

Article 14(2), fourth indent - Languages that may be used for completion of the application

Applications will be accepted in English.

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Last update: 05/11/2018

Legal aid - Scotland

Legal Aid Directive UK Compliance

Article 15 - Processing of Applications

The computer systems of the United Kingdom legal aid authorities ensure that applicants are informed when applications are received and when any decisions are made on an application.

Reasons are always given by the appropriate authority for all full or partial rejections of applications.

In England and Wales, for most forms of legal aid there is a right of appeal to an independent legal panel of experienced lawyers drawn from private practice. Procedures for review of refusal of applications for civil legal aid are also in place in Scotland. All refusals of legal aid in the United Kingdom are challengeable by the Courts through judicial review.

Article 16 - Standard Form

In England and Wales the standard form established under this Directive will entitle the applicant to any required pre-litigation advice. As with any applicant, further information or a further form may be required to proceed to representation in Court. The solicitor providing initial advice will assist the client in preparing any further information or application form that may be required.

Scotland will accept the standard form for applications for civil legal aid for representation from November 2004 but is not yet in a position to introduce measures which will allow it to accept applications for pre litigation advice and assistance under the Directive. However, the existing advice and assistance scheme allows pre litigation advice to be made available to cross border applicants regardless of nationality or residence.

As well as the standard form under this Directive, the United Kingdom will, of course, accept applications for legal aid from persons using its own domestic application forms in cross border cases.

Final Provisions

In relation to Article 18 full information and guidance on legal aid in the United Kingdom can be found in the following website:

Legal Services Commission for England and Wales: <http://www.legalservices.gov.uk/>

Legal Aid Board for Scotland: <http://www.slac.org.uk/>

Northern Ireland Legal Services Commission: www.nilsc.org.uk

[Transposition Note for Implementation in The United Kingdom of the Legal Aid Directive](#)

[Article 14\(2\), first indent - Names and addresses of the competent receiving or transmitting authorities](#)

[Article 14\(2\), third indent - Available methods of receiving applications](#)

[Article 14\(2\), fourth indent - Languages that may be used for completion of the application](#)

Article 14(2), first indent - Names and addresses of the competent receiving or transmitting authorities

Article 14(2), third indent - Available methods of receiving applications

We would accept an application by personal delivery or post (including document exchange). We also accept requests by fax from solicitors to undertake urgent steps on behalf of clients prior to submission and determination of the actual application for civil legal aid.

We are also committed to developing an e-business solution in the longer term.

Article 14(2), fourth indent - Languages that may be used for completion of the application

Scotland will accept applications in English or French

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