Synthesis of the answers to the questionnaire on statelessness

In connection to the expert meeting on Statelessness in Budapest on December 12-13, a questionnaire was distributed to all participating states. An overview is provided below on the basis of the 11 responses received and the answers are equally listed in full in alphabetical order. Given the relatively low number of respondents, it is difficult to make general projections or refer to trends.

As regards the relevant international law, there are two main conventions in the area of statelessness; the 1954 convention relating to the status of stateless persons¹ and the 1961 convention on the reduction of statelessness². It appears that most states have accessed both of them, except Belarus who is not a party to either of the convention, Ukraine who has only acceded the 1961 convention and Georgia only acceding the 1954 convention. Those States (GE, UA, BY) who are not party to both conventions or who have not yet ratified all of them nevertheless refer to having a de facto alignment with the international standards laid down in them. In terms of reservations listed, it includes for the 1954 convention articles 27 (CZ, MD), 23, 24, 25 and 31 (MD), 28 (HU) and 8 and 26 (NL). Reservations to the 1961 convention are fewer. Lithuania for example retains the right to deprive a person of his nationality where a citizen is in the public service of another state without authorisation of the Government.

The 1997 European Convention on Nationality³ has been signed and ratified by most respondents. LT, LV and GE have not ratified yet. Hungary made reservations to art.11, 12 and 21.

The statistics on stateless persons applying for international protection and being residents of the state vary between the states and alter over time to a great extent. Georgia stands out with 2 000 people being registered as stateless each year and Belarus with more than 6 000 registered stateless persons residing in the country. Figures on asylum applicants show that the majority of the respondent EU Member States deal with roughly 50-100

¹ Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons (http://www.unhcr.org/3bbb25729.pdf)
² Convention on the Reduction on Statelessness (http://www.unhcr.org/3bbb286d8.pdf)
³European Convention on Nationality http://www.unhcr.org/451790842.html
asylum applications per year from stateless persons, whereas Sweden stands out with between 1 000- 2 000, stateless persons, thus constituting the second largest group of applicants. The numbers of permanently residing stateless persons is around 700 for NL and FI and is much lower, almost negligible for CZ, HU or LV. In the EaP states higher numbers are noted in some cases such as Moldova and Azerbaijan with roughly 100-300 applications yearly. For more detailed statistics please see relevant section under each country.

Regarding definition of a stateless person almost all states have a legal definition enshrined in its national law that corresponds entirely to the definition set out in the 1954 convention, defining that a stateless person is a person who is not considered as a national by any State under the operation of its law. Sweden does not have a definition in its legal acts, and the CZ is to have one in its new law on nationality, replacing the 1993 law.

**Determination procedure** is also an area where there are large differences. In some cases established identity is a prerequisite for granting the status of a stateless. Procedures such as the recently adopted one in the UK which is independent from the asylum process are less common, but similar processes were set up in Hungary in 2007 and Moldova in 2011. Some states such as Latvia require foreign competent authority to certify that the person is not a citizen of the relevant state, and Azerbaijan has a compulsory element of examining possible Azeri citizenship. Most states, both EU and EaP, do not operate specific determination procedures for the asylum process.

The pattern for obtaining citizenship usually follows the ordinary procedure with no or few differences, since citizenship as such is not a legal right. Stateless persons are thus subject to naturalization procedures with pre-conditions such as certain period of residence, cultural and historical knowledge and language skills. Length of residence requirements vary widely as well. Finland stands out by having no requirement for time of residence for refugees and stateless persons. Other states provide more favorable conditions for stateless persons applying for citizenship by shortening the required length of residency (from e. g. from five to three years). In Moldova a minimum of eight years is required which is the longest period of time among the respondents.

In cases of children, states generally grant citizenship of the state in cases where the child is not granted the citizenship of either parent, thus applying the *jus soli* principle. Some countries have also lowered the requirements of the validity of residence permits for the parents. In the Czech Republic, for instance, the citizenship law to be adopted in 2014 will only require that one parent has a residence permit of longer than 90 days. As a consequence of stepping up efforts in reducing statelessness following the 1961 convention, several states have lowered requirements for legal residence, such as Lithuania (from ten to five years) and in Hungary the entire condition of five years residence may be waived. The legal presumption is also
commonly recognised that a child found on the territory of the State is considered a national until the contrary is proved before reaching an age between 15 and 18. Meanwhile, Georgia for instance does not operate any different measures for minors apart from the standard naturalization procedure.

In relation to **risk reduction**, applied measures differ as well. In Georgia an interagency working group on stateless persons is set up within the frame of the State Commission on Migration Issues. Further alignment with the 1954 and 1961 convention is also commonly referred to, as well as an asylum procedure that duly takes into account the issue of statelessness even when lacking a distinct process. Some countries that are faced with very low number of stateless people do not see the need for specific measures of risk reduction. Moldova established a recognition procedure in 2011, in which vulnerable groups enjoy additional assistance, and the general protection against refoulement is guaranteed during the entire procedure. Some countries, such as the Netherlands, also offer possibilities of residence permits even in cases where the person does not qualify for legal residence on general conditions if there is no possibility of legally entering another state.

**Protracted statelessness** is mostly present in the EaP states as a result of the collapse of the Soviet Union where large groups of people never acquired citizenship of the newly formed states after 1991. In Azerbaijan there is an additional feature, stemming from the 1940’s, when hundreds of political migrants from Iran migrated to Azerbaijan and USSR legislation documented these migrants as stateless. In Georgia, many people, who renounced the citizenship of Georgia remained in a stateless status between 1993-2012. Lack of information on new citizenship creates a situation where these persons are still registered as stateless in the PSDA database. Also in Moldova, statistical data of 2004 census shows that 5374 persons declared themselves as being stateless, and 390 that did not indicate their citizenship. Former citizens of the Soviet Union who remained on the territory of Moldova did not acquire nationality. Ukraine faces a similar situation. The issue of protracted statelessness is nearly non-existent in EU Member States, with the exception of the Netherlands, referring to Dutch nationality law in which there is a small possibility of protracted statelessness in case the conditions of legal residence and integration are not met.
Individual answers to the questionnaire on statelessness

AZERBAIJAN

1. Has your country signed and ratified the 1954 and 1961 conventions\(^4\) and the European Convention on Nationality? If possible, please specify some of the most important reservations.


2. Please provide statistical information on the number and possible country of origin of stateless persons (including minors) applying for asylum in your country during 2010-2012 and on the number of permanently residing stateless persons in your country.

365 stateless persons acquired the citizenship of the Republic of Azerbaijan in 2010-2012. At present, applications of 217 stateless persons remain under consideration. Stateless persons currently residing in Azerbaijan usually comes from the former Soviet Union Republics as well as from the Islamic Republic of Iran and etc.

3. Do you have a definition of a stateless person in the national legislation of your country?

In accordance with the Article 3.0.2 of the Migration Code of the Republic of Azerbaijan, stateless person means a person who is not considered as a national by any state under operation of its law.

4. What statelessness determination procedures, if any, are applied in your country?

No statelessness determination procedure is applied in Azerbaijan. At the same time, procedure on the determination of the affiliation of a person to the citizenship of the Republic of Azerbaijan is in place in accordance with the Constitution of the Republic of Azerbaijan as well as Law of the Republic of Azerbaijan on the Citizenship of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

\(^4\) 1954 convention relating to the status of stateless persons and 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness
5. What measures and procedures are offered in your country for stateless persons to obtain citizenship? Are there measures preventing a stateless person from obtaining citizenship through a naturalization procedure?

According to the Law of the Republic of Azerbaijan on the Citizenship of the Republic of Azerbaijan, a foreigner or stateless person permanently residing on the territory of the Republic of Azerbaijan for the last five years without interruption who assumes obligation to respect the Constitution of the Republic of Azerbaijan and its legislation as well as submits a document certifying his/her knowledge of the state language may be admitted to the citizenship of the Republic of Azerbaijan upon his/her personal application in accordance with this Law regardless of his/her origin, race and nationality, sex, educational background, religious views, political and other convictions.

No restrictions are applied for stateless persons to acquire the citizenship of Azerbaijan.

6. Do you have any procedure for children who are born in your country as stateless to obtain citizenship?


At the same time, if one of the parents of a child residing on the territory of the Republic of Azerbaijan is a person who has acquired the citizenship of Azerbaijan and the other one is a stateless person, in these cases a child acquires a citizenship of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

7. Please give a brief overview of the work of your government to reduce the risks and vulnerability of stateless persons seeking international protection in your country.

The Government of the Republic of Azerbaijan cooperates with UNHCR and IOM Offices in Azerbaijan in these fields.

8. Has your country experienced so called protracted statelessness situations?

Yes. Hundreds of political migrants from Iran migrated to Azerbaijan at the end of 1940th of the last century. Then USSR legislation documented these persons and their children as stateless persons.

The above-mentioned persons who applied to the competent national authorities within one year from the day of entry into force of the Law of the Republic of Azerbaijan on the Citizenship of the Republic of Azerbaijan

BELARUS

1. Has your country signed and ratified the 1954 and 1961 conventions\(^5\) and the European Convention on Nationality? If possible, please specify some of the most important reservations.

The conventions were not signed. In order to avoid inappropriate finance pressures on the state budget, all stakeholders generally agreed that accession of the Republic of Belarus to conventions on statelessness of 1954 and 1961 would be premature.

The European Convention on Nationality - The Convention was not signed. It would be appropriate to consider accession of Belarus to the European Convention on Nationality of 1997 in proportion to prospects of accession of Belarus to the Council of Europe.

2. Please provide statistical information on the number and possible country of origin of stateless persons (including minors) applying for asylum in your country during 2010-2012 and on the number of permanently residing stateless persons in your country?

In 2010, 155 persons applied for refugee status in the Republic of Belarus; 85 persons in 2011; 106 in 2012; and 147 foreigners in 9 months of 2013, including 17 stateless persons from the following countries of origin: Syria (13); Saudi Arabia (1); Kazakhstan (1) and Belarus (2). Similar data for previous years with the breakdown may be provided later.

6,345 stateless persons from the following countries of origin reside permanently in the Republic of Belarus: Russia (1286); Latvia (1150); Kazakhstan (625); Uzbekistan (397); Lithuania (322); Georgia (276); Tajikistan (266); Azerbaijan (260); Kyrgyzstan (113); Ukraine (186); Turkmenistan (97); Moldova (83); Israel (31).

Less than 11 stateless persons represent the following countries of origin: Nicaragua, the Netherlands, Canada, Bangladesh, Afghanistan, Germany, Ghana, Hungary, Bolivia, Palestine, Pakistan, Lebanon.

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\(^5\) 1954 convention relating to the status of stateless persons and 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness
In the case of 833 stateless persons, countries of origin/departure were not specified.

3. Do you have a definition of a stateless person in the national legislation of your country?

Yes, the definition is provided in Law of the Republic of Belarus on Citizenship of the Republic of Belarus and in Law of the Republic of Belarus on Legal Status of Foreigners and Stateless Persons in the Republic of Belarus.

4. What statelessness determination procedures, if any, are applied in your country?

There is no separate specific procedure.

5. What measures and procedures are offered in your country for stateless persons to obtain citizenship? Are there measures preventing a stateless person from obtaining citizenship through a naturalization procedure?

Stateless persons acquire citizenship of the Republic of Belarus by naturalisation or by registration - i.e. without accounting for duration of their permanent residence in the country.

There is no separate specific procedure for granting Belorussian citizenship to stateless persons.

6. Do you have any procedure for children who are born in your country as stateless to obtain citizenship?

A child born in the Republic of Belarus by stateless persons who are granted residence permits in the country, is granted nationality of the Republic of Belarus by birth.

7. Please give a brief overview of the work of your government to reduce the risks and vulnerability of stateless persons seeking international protection in your country.

The national legislation provides for mandatory access of all foreigners and stateless persons who seek refugee status or subsidiary protection in the Republic of Belarus, to the full procedure of processing their appeals for protection. Any foreigner may declare his/her application for protection both in the course of crossing the state border of the Republic of Belarus and while staying at the territory of the country. Based on results of review of individual appeals, the MoI Department on Nationality and Migration of the Republic of Belarus makes decisions that might be appealed against to a court of law.
CZECH REPUBLIC

1. Has your country signed and ratified the 1954 and 1961 conventions and the European Convention on Nationality? If possible, please specify some of the most important reservations.

The Czech Republic has accessed the 1954 convention on 19th July 2004 with reservation:

"(...) Acceding to the Convention we declare the following:

1. Pursuant to Article 27 of the Convention, identity papers shall be issued only to stateless persons having permanent residence permits in the territory of the Czech Republic in accordance with the country's national legislation.

2. Article 23 of the Convention shall be applied to the extent provided by the national legislation of the Czech Republic.

3. Article 24, paragraph 1(b) shall be applied to the extent provided by the national legislation of the Czech Republic.

4. Pursuant to Article 28 of the Convention, travel documents shall be issued to stateless persons having permanent residence permits in the territory of the Czech Republic in accordance with the country's national legislation. Such persons shall be issued 'aliens' passports' stating that their holders are stateless persons under the Convention of 28th September 1954."

The Czech Republic has accessed the 1961 convention on 19th December 2001 without reservations.

The Czech Republic has signed the European Convention on Nationality on 7th May 1999 and it has ratified it on 19th March 2004 without reservations.

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6 1954 convention relating to the status of stateless persons and 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness
2. **Please provide statistical information on the number and possible country of origin of stateless persons (including minors) applying for asylum in your country during 2010-2012 and on the number of permanently residing stateless persons in your country.**

The number of stateless persons applying for asylum in the Czech Republic during 2010 – 2012.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>year</th>
<th>2010</th>
<th>2011</th>
<th>2012</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The number of applications</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>24</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Most of the stateless persons were born in the Czech Republic. The most often we are speaking about persons who consider themselves as persons of Kazakh nationality. Another large groups are persons claiming to Kurdish or Arab nationality or persons who consider themselves as persons of Russian nationality.

The number of permanently residing stateless persons in the Czech Republic (to date 31. 12.). The stateless persons whom were granted a temporary residence permit in the Czech Republic or a permanent residence permit in the Czech Republic.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2010</th>
<th>2011</th>
<th>2012</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Temporary residence permit</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>92</td>
<td>102</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Permanent residence permit</td>
<td>614</td>
<td>658</td>
<td>661</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Overall</td>
<td>628</td>
<td>750</td>
<td>763</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

3. **Do you have a definition of a stateless person in the national legislation of your country?**

Yes. The Czech Republic has definition of a stateless person in the Act No. 40/1993 “o nabývání a pozbývání státního občanství České republiky” (Acquiring and Losing Nationality of the Czech Republic) in § 3. Since 1st January 2014 will be valid new act about nationality No. 186/2013. It will include a definition of stateless person in § 5.
4. What statelessness determination procedures, if any, are applied in your country?

In the Czech Republic is not any special procedure. It is possible to use „general procedure“ according to Administrative procedure act No.500/2004 Coll.

5. What measures and procedures are offered in your country for stateless persons to obtain citizenship? Are there measures preventing a stateless person from obtaining citizenship through a naturalization procedure?

The granting of citizenship is not a legal right.

The Ministry of the Interior may grant the Citizenship of the Czech Republic on the request only to the person (foreigner or stateless person), who simultaneously fulfills the following conditions:
1. on the day of application has in the Czech Republic for at least five years of permanent residence permit and during this time has mostly been staying,
2. demonstrates that the acquisition of citizenship of the Czech Republic will cease their current citizenship or demonstrates that it has lost its previous citizenship (unless it is not a stateless person or a person with refugee status),
3. has not been in the last five years convicted of an intentional crime,
4. demonstrates by interview before the competent authority its knowledge of the Czech language,
5. fulfills the obligations arising from the statutory law (a special law regulating the entry and stay of foreigners in the Czech) and the obligations arising from special regulations according public health insurance, social security, pension, insurance, taxes.

Ministry of the Interior may forgive the conditions set out in points 1-2 and 4-5 for the reasons set out in the Act.

6. Do you have any procedure for children who are born in your country as stateless to obtain citizenship?

Since the 1st January 2014 a new Act NO. 186/2013 about national citizenship is coming into force in the Czech Republic. This act, among other, changes in several parameters the procedure of gaining the citizenship for stateless children born in the Czech Republic. According to the previous law, the child who was born on the territory of the Czech Republic and would become a stateless person received the Czech citizenship if at least one of the parents had a permanent residence in the country. The new law is changing this procedure and the “stateless to be” children get the citizenship of the Czech Republic in case that at least one of the parents has a residence permission on the territory of the Czech Republic longer than 90 days. There is also a possibility for children who are born in the Czech Republic.
as stateless persons to receive citizenship in case that they have been allowed as permanent residents in the Czech Republic.

7. Please give a brief overview of the work of your government to reduce the risks and vulnerability of stateless persons seeking international protection in your country.

The government of the Czech Republic takes special care about the stateless persons seeking the international protection. Their stateless situation is being considered during the decision-making process about the international protection request. Also the country of their last permanent residence is being taken as one of deciding factors during the whole process of considering the justification of their request.

8. Has your country experienced so called protracted statelessness situations?

The Czech Republic does not have large experiences with the high amount of stateless persons on its territory and has not experienced the protracted statelessness situations either.

FINLAND

1. Has your country signed and ratified the 1954 and 1961 conventions and the European Convention on Nationality? If possible, please specify some of the most important reservations.

Finland has ratified all of the above mentioned conventions. According to section 1 of the Nationality Act (359/2003), the purpose of the Act is to regulate the acquisition and loss of Finnish citizenship taking account of the interests of both individuals and the State, to prevent and reduce statelessness and to implement and promote the principles of good governance and legal protection when processing and making decisions on matters of citizenship. According to section 4 of the Nationality Act, the provisions the Act on the loss of and release from citizenship must not be applied if, as a consequence of the application of these provisions, a person were to become stateless.

2. Please provide statistical information on the number and possible country of origin of stateless persons (including minors) applying for asylum in your country during 2010-2012 and on the number of permanently residing stateless persons in your country.

There were 52 stateless applying for asylum in 2010; 34 persons in 2011 and 27 persons in 2012. According to the statistics of the Finnish Population
Information System there were 774 stateless persons permanently residing in Finland in the end of October, 2013.

3. **Do you have a definition of a stateless person in the national legislation of your country?**

The Nationality Act contains two definitions: Involuntarily stateless means a person who has no citizenship in any State and who has remained stateless against his or her own or his or her parent’s or custodian’s will. Voluntarily stateless means a person who has no citizenship in any State and who has remained stateless of his or her own or his or her parent’s or custodian’s will.

4. **What statelessness determination procedures, if any, are applied in your country?**

According to section 36 of the Nationality Act, the Finnish Immigration Service shall define citizenship status at the request of a government authority or the party concerned if the matter is of importance with regard to the existence of Finnish citizenship or some right or obligation related to it, the correctness of any entry in government authorities’ personal data files, an alien’s residence in Finland or some other reason corresponding to these. Efforts shall be made to define the citizenship status of a person with unknown citizenship if his or her municipality of residence is in Finland. Citizenship status shall not, however, be defined if the person’s identity has not been established in other respects.

5. **What measures and procedures are offered in your country for stateless persons to obtain citizenship? Are there measures preventing a stateless person from obtaining citizenship through a naturalization procedure?**

Finnish citizenship may be obtained by birth, application or declaration. According to section 20 of the Nationality Act, an alien may be granted Finnish citizenship without residence requirement if he/she has refugee status in Finland, has been granted a residence permit on the basis of subsidiary protection or humanitarian protection, or is involuntarily stateless. See also answer to question 6.

6. **Do you have any procedure for children who are born in your country as stateless to obtain citizenship?**

A child born in Finland may obtain Finnish citizenship if the child is not granted the citizenship of any other country on the basis of the parents’ citizenships and the child does not have even a secondary right to the citizenship of another country on the basis of birth. A child is granted Finnish citizenship on the basis of place of birth also if the child would not be granted the citizenship of either parent without the assistance of the authorities of that country, and the child’s parents have refugee status or
they have been granted protection against the authorities of their country of nationality.

7. Please give a brief overview of the work of your government to reduce the risks and vulnerability of stateless persons seeking international protection in your country.

Stateless persons go through the same asylum procedure as other asylum seekers. In the procedure, statelessness is taken duly into account when assessing whether the applicant can receive protection in another country. If no such country exists for this particular applicant, he/she will be given the appropriate status in Finland. According to the Aliens Act, alien’s passports may be issued to individuals without citizenship. Stateless persons who are granted refugee status are issued a refugee travel document.

8. Has your country experienced so called protracted statelessness situations?

No.

GEORGIA

1. Has your country signed and ratified the 1954 and 1961 conventions and the European Convention on Nationality? If possible, please specify some of the most important reservations.

On 9 December 2011 Georgia has acceded to the UN 1954 convention on “status of stateless persons”. To this date, legal proceedings for joining UN 1961 convention are finalized. Convention together with the new draft organic law on “Georgian citizenship” will be submitted to the parliament for ratification. At this stage Georgia has not ratified the European Convention on Citizenship. However, the main regulations of the Convention are envisaged in the new draft law on “Georgian Citizenship“.

2. Please provide statistical information on the number and possible country of origin of stateless persons (including minors) applying for asylum in your country during 2010-2012 and on the number of permanently residing stateless persons in your country.

Number of stateless persons in Georgia throughout 2010–2012 was the following: 2010 - 1826 persons; 2011- 1968 persons; 2012–1690 persons. The main countries of origin are: Georgia, Russia, Azerbaijan, and Armenia.

Currently, Georgia lists 765 stateless persons possessing permanent residence permits of Georgia.

3. Do you have a definition of a stateless person in the national legislation of your country?

Following the legislative changes in 2012, definition of the stateless person was introduced in the draft law on “Legal Status of Aliens and Stateless Persons” being in full compliance with the definition established by the UN 1954 Convention.

4. What statelessness determination procedures, if any, are applied in your country?

Rule establishing status of stateless person is approved by the Presidential decree dated as of 27 June 2012. Mentioned instruction envisages possibility to submit application for establishing stateless person’s status - both for legally and illegally residing persons.

Following the submission of the application, person is interviewed in order to define his/her civic belonging. In case if the citizenship of Georgia or other country is not established and there is no refusal from the competent body in regards to the reasonableness of his/her residence in Georgia, status of stateless person will be granted simultaneously with the residence permit for 3 years period.

5. What measures and procedures are offered in your country for stateless persons to obtain citizenship? Are there measures preventing a stateless person from obtaining citizenship through a naturalization procedure?

Citizenship of Georgia may be granted to a person of legal age if s/he meets the following requirements:

(a) Has been permanently residing within the territory of Georgia during the last 5 years;
(b) Knows the state language at the established frames;
(c) Is familiar with the history and legislation of Georgia at the established frames;
(d) Has a job or any real estate on the territory of Georgia, realizes business or owns shares in the Georgian company/industry.

Together with meeting the above requirements, there should not be a reason for refusing granting a citizenship to the person, e.g. if

(a) Committed an international crime against peace and humanity; or
(b) Participated in a crime against the states provided for in the Georgian legislation;
(c) On the grounds of interest of the state or/and public safety protection, granting of citizen of Georgia is not reasonable; Apart from gaining citizenship through naturalization, Georgian citizenship could be established in case of meeting requirements defined by law.

6. **Do you have any procedure for children who are born in your country as stateless to obtain citizenship?**

To this date, legislation doesn’t foresee any special procedure for naturalization of the stateless child. Children listed in this category receive citizenship of Georgia by the special act of the president of Georgia.

7. **Please give a brief overview of the work of your government to reduce the risks and vulnerability of stateless persons seeking international protection in your country.**

Georgian government has started to work on stateless related issues since 2010. Amendments proposed to the law on citizenship established new mechanism for leaving citizenship of Georgia. In particular, decree regarding persons’ leaving citizenship of Georgia will enter into force, only after person submits justification of receiving citizenship of other country, or guarantee issued by the competent body of other country stating that person will be certainly granted citizenship of this country.

Since 2011, within the frames of the State Commission on Migration Issues, interagency work group on stateless persons is set up. Work group prepares recommendations for the commission on reducing statelessness and regulation of the sphere.

With the aim to ensure harmonization of the Georgian legislation with UN 1954 convention, amendment was proposed to the 12 legal acts, whereby rights and guarantees regarding status of stateless persons established by the convention were reflected in the Georgian legislation. Moreover, rule establishing status of stateless persons was established.

8. **Has your country experienced so called protracted statelessness situations?**

Due to the non-existence of the legislative regulation in regards to the stateless issues, those persons who left the citizenship of Georgia, didn’t receive citizenship of other country and remained to reside in Georgia, were regarded to have status of stateless person by the law (before acceding to the convention; within 1993-2012 years). To this date, database of the Public Service Development Agency (Ministry of Justice) lists up to 755 registered stateless persons, whose residence place is unknown. There is justified assumption that they have received citizenship of other country. However, *de jure* they are regarded to be stateless persons.
Due to the fact that government is not informed whether stateless person has received citizenship, these persons are still registered as stateless in the PSDA database. PSDA periodically checks their civic belonging and in case if the citizenship of other country is revealed, terminates the status of stateless persons.

HUNGARY

1. Has your country signed and ratified the 1954 and 1961 conventions and the European Convention on Nationality? If possible, please specify some of the most important reservations.

Yes, Hungary is party to all there instruments. Hungary acceded to the 1954 New York Convention on 21 November 2001 (the Convention was incorporated into domestic law by Act II of 2002). We used to have reservations to Articles 23 and 24 but these were withdrawn in July 2012 and the only declaration now relates to Article 28 of the Convention (format of the Travel Document). Hungary acceded to the 1961 Convention on 12 May 2009 (the Convention was incorporated into domestic law by Act XV of 2009). We do not have any reservation to this Convention. Hungary ratified to the 1997 European Convention on Nationality on 21 November 2001 (the Convention was incorporated into domestic law by Act III of 2002). We made reservations to Articles 11-12 and 21(3).

2. Please provide statistical information on the number and possible country of origin of stateless persons (including minors) applying for asylum in your country during 2010-2012 and on the number of permanently residing stateless persons in your country.

Between 2010 and 2012, only 3 stateless persons applied for asylum. In 2013, as of 31 October, an additional 2 stateless persons lodged an asylum application. In Hungary there are 110 permanently residing stateless people as well as a couple of dozen stateless persons possess a residence permit (valid for 3 years that can be prolonged 1 year each time and on the basis of that they may apply for permanent resident status).

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8 1954 convention relating to the status of stateless persons and 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness
3. Do you have a definition of a stateless person in the national legislation of your country?

Yes, we do. It is in Article 2 of the Act II of 2007 on the Entry and Stay of Third Country Nationals and follows word by word the definition contained in Article 1(1) of the 1954 Convention.

4. What statelessness determination procedures, if any, are applied in your country?

Hungary has a fully-fledged statelessness determination procedure since 1 July 2007. It is a self-standing, autonomous and comprehensive procedure established by law (see: Chapter VIII of the Act II of 2007 on the Entry and Stay of Third Country Nationals and its implementing Government Decree); with guarantees comparable to the refugee status determination procedure, fulfilling also the specific needs of this group (e.g. evidence, burden of proof, and administrative assistance).

5. What measures and procedures are offered in your country for stateless persons to obtain citizenship? Are there measures preventing a stateless person from obtaining citizenship through a naturalization procedure?

Stateless people can benefit from facilitated naturalization (meaning that the compulsory “waiting period” before applying for naturalization is reduced to five years (instead of eight years, which is the general rule – see: Article 4(4) lit. c) of the Act No LV of 1993 on Hungarian Citizenship). It is worth noting that the “waiting period” starts being counted from the date when the stateless person establishes a place of permanent residence (“lakóhely”) in Hungary. This only comes with obtaining the permanent residence permit [Article 23(1) lit. a) of the above Act].

As for the prevention, the Citizenship Act stipulates in Article 3(3) as follows:
“Until proven otherwise the following persons shall be regarded as Hungarian citizens:

a) children born in Hungary to stateless persons residing in Hungary;
b) children born to unknown parents and found in Hungary.”

6. Do you have any procedure for children who are born in your country as stateless to obtain citizenship?

Yes we do. See the above answers. Moreover, the condition of five years continuous residence in Hungary may be waived in the case of a minor stateless if his/her application for naturalization is submitted together with that of his/her parent or if his/her parent acquired Hungarian citizenship.
7. Please give a brief overview of the work of your government to reduce the risks and vulnerability of stateless persons seeking international protection in your country.

8. Has your country experienced so called protracted statelessness situations?

No, we have not. Nearly all applications are persons originating from the former Yugoslavia or Soviet Union or Palestinians, so the migratory context prevails.

LATVIA

1. Has your country signed and ratified the 1954 and 1961 conventions and the European Convention on Nationality? If possible, please specify some of the most important reservations.


Latvia has signed the 6 November 1997 European Convention on Nationality in 2001, but has not ratified it.

2. Please provide statistical information on the number and possible country of origin of stateless persons (including minors) applying for asylum in your country during 2010-2012 and on the number of permanently residing stateless persons in your country.

During the period from 2010 to 2012 asylum in Latvia was sought by 1 (one) stateless person born in Georgia.

There are 176 Latvian stateless persons in Latvia.

3. Do you have a definition of a stateless person in the national legislation of your country?

According to the Law on Stateless Persons a person may be recognised as a stateless person in the Republic of Latvia if some other state has not recognised him as a citizen thereof in accordance with the laws of such state.

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91954 convention relating to the status of stateless persons and 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness
Above mentioned definition is no different from the definition in the Convention.

4. What statelessness determination procedures, if any, are applied in your country?

The procedure for recognising the person as a stateless person is governed by the Law on Stateless Persons. The documents are examined and decision is taken by the Office of Citizenship and Migration Affairs of Ministry of Interior (hereinafter the OCMA). The procedure for granting the status of a stateless person is initiated basing on the application of the person. In order to recognise a person as a stateless person he or she shall submit to the OCMA a document issued by a foreign competent authority certifying that the person is not a citizen of the relevant state and he or she is not guaranteed the citizenship thereof, or documentary evidence that it is not possible to obtain such a document. In defining the state of whose citizen respective person could be legal bounds of the person with the respective state are taken into account.

If required, during the procedure of determination of status of a stateless person the person is entitled to deliver additional documents and the OCMA is entitled to request additional information as well.

A decision regarding recognition or refusal to recognise a person as a stateless person shall be made within three months after the submission of documents. If required, the time period may be extended.

Person who has received a document certifying the status of a stateless person according to the law is entitled to receive a temporary residence permit for five years and receive the permanent residence permit after five years have elapsed.

5. What measures and procedures are offered in your country for stateless persons to obtain citizenship? Are there measures preventing a stateless person from obtaining citizenship through a naturalization procedure?

According to the provisions of the Citizenship Law, stateless person residing in Latvia five years from the day of receipt of the permanent residence permit is entitled to obtain the citizenship of Latvia through naturalisation procedures. Namely, person may be admitted to Latvian citizenship through naturalisation procedures where he or she is fluent in the Latvian language, knows the basic principles of the Constitution of the Republic of Latvia (Satversme), knows the text of the National Anthem and the basics of the history and culture of Latvia and who has a legal source of income.

6. Do you have any procedure for children who are born in your country as stateless to obtain citizenship?

Under the conditions laid down in Section 31 of the Citizenship Law a child of stateless persons born in Latvia shall be recognised as a Latvian
citizen if the permanent place of residence of the child is in Latvia and if both parents of the child are stateless persons. According to the legislation citizenship of Latvia is not granted to the child of stateless persons born in Latvia automatically but concurrently with the registration of the child’s birth fact on the basis of the volition expressed by one of the parents. A child who has not been recognised as a Latvian citizen in accordance with above mentioned procedure (registration of the child’s birth fact on the basis of the volition expressed by one of the parents) shall be recognised as a Latvian citizen until reaching 15 years of age on the basis of an application submitted to OCMA by one of the parents. If the parents have not done this until the child reaches the age of 15, child shall be recognised as a Latvian citizen after reaching 15 years of age and until reaching 18 years of age on the basis of his or her application providing document that certifies the fluency in the Latvian language.

7. Please give a brief overview of the work of your government to reduce the risks and vulnerability of stateless persons seeking international protection in your country.

According to the Asylum Law there are no special provisions applied during asylum procedure regarding asylum seekers who are stateless persons. Taking into consideration the amount of asylum seekers who are stateless persons in the Republic of Latvia during 2010 - 2012 there is no special program for this group.

8. Has your country experienced so called protracted statelessness situations?

LITHUANIA

1. Has your country signed and ratified the 1954 and 1961 conventions and the European Convention on Nationality? If possible, please specify some of the most important reservations.


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10 1954 convention relating to the status of stateless persons and 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness
of Lithuania in the Law on the Ratification of the United Nations Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness declared that the Republic of Lithuania retains the right to deprive a person of his nationality on the grounds of the deprivation of nationality of the Republic of Lithuania, as provided for in Article 24(4) (according to which citizenship of the Republic of Lithuania shall be lost where a citizen of the Republic of Lithuania is in the service of another state without authorisation of the Government of the Republic of Lithuania) and (6) (according to which citizenship of the Republic of Lithuania shall be lost when circumstances specified in Article 22 of the Law of the Republic of Lithuania on Citizenship are discovered, by reason of which citizenship of the Republic of Lithuania could not have been granted, reinstated or restored) of the Law of the Republic of Lithuania on Citizenship.

The Republic of Lithuania did not ratified the European Convention on Nationality.

2. Please provide statistical information on the number and possible country of origin of stateless persons (including minors) applying for asylum in your country during 2010-2012 and on the number of permanently residing stateless persons in your country.

During 2010-2012 24 stateless persons had applied for asylum in Lithuania, mostly of Palestinian and Kurdish origin.

3. Do you have a definition of a stateless person in the national legislation of your country?

According to paragraph 1 of Article 2 of the Law of the Republic of Lithuania on Citizenship, stateless person means a person who is not a citizen of any state.

4. What statelessness determination procedures, if any, are applied in your country?

After collecting all the documents and performing corresponding inspections (for example, if person lived in the foreign country, we collect information on person’s legal status in this foreign country) we assess and decide if a person has citizenship of another country. If he/she is not a citizen of the checked (known for us) country, he/she is considered a stateless person.

5. What measures and procedures are offered in your country for stateless persons to obtain citizenship? Are there measures preventing a stateless person from obtaining citizenship through a naturalization procedure?
As a result of ratification of 1961 United Nations Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness, changes were made in the Law of the Republic of Lithuania on Citizenship for stateless persons to be granted citizenship of the Republic of Lithuania through Naturalisation under simplified conditions: According to paragraph 2 of Article 18 of the Law of the Republic of Lithuania on Citizenship, stateless person which was born in the territory of the Republic of Lithuania, may be granted citizenship of the Republic of Lithuania provided that such person has been legally permanently resident in the Republic of Lithuania for the last five years (instead of ten years), never had citizenship of another state, at the time of the application for the granting of citizenship of the Republic of Lithuania and the decision regarding the granting of citizenship of the Republic of Lithuania, has the right of permanent residence in the Republic of Lithuania, also has passed an examination in the state language, has passed an examination in the fundamentals of the Constitution of the Republic of Lithuania, has legal means of subsistence and there are no circumstances specified in Article 22 of this Law.

6. Do you have any procedure for children who are born in your country as stateless to obtain citizenship?

According to paragraph 1 of Article 15 of the Law of the Republic of Lithuania on Citizenship, a child of stateless persons who are legally permanently resident in the Republic of Lithuania shall be a citizen of the Republic of Lithuania, irrespective of whether he was born in or outside the territory of the Republic of Lithuania, provided he has not acquired citizenship of another state at birth.

According to paragraph 2 of Article 15 of the Law of the Republic of Lithuania on Citizenship, a child whose one parent is a stateless person who is legally permanently resident in the Republic of Lithuania and the other parent is unknown shall be a citizen of the Republic of Lithuania, irrespective of whether he was born in or outside the territory of the Republic of Lithuania, provided he has not acquired citizenship of another state at birth.

According to Article 16 of the Law of the Republic of Lithuania on Citizenship a child found or living in the territory of the Republic of Lithuania, both of whose parents are unknown, shall be considered to be born in the territory of the Republic of Lithuania and acquire citizenship of the Republic of Lithuania, unless it transpires that the child has acquired citizenship of another state or other circumstances are discovered, by reason of which the child would acquire citizenship of another state. This provision shall also apply to a child where both of his parents or his only parent are dead or recognised as missing, or both of his parents or his only parent have been recognised as legally incapable in accordance with the established procedure, or where the parental powers of both of his parents or his only
parent have been restricted and the child has been placed under permanent guardianship (custody).

7. Please give a brief overview of the work of your government to reduce the risks and vulnerability of stateless persons seeking international protection in your country.

Due to relatively low number of stateless asylum seekers there are no specific measures designed to reduce the risks related to vulnerability of this category of persons, though general practice is to take due account of the statelessness element when deciding on possibility of return, even where a person clearly does not qualify for international protection, and to allow stay on other grounds.

8. Has your country experienced so called protracted statelessness situations?

The Republic of Lithuania didn’t experienced protracted statelessness situations.

MOLDOVA

1. Has your country signed and ratified the 1954 and 1961 conventions\(^{11}\) and the European Convention on Nationality? If possible, please specify some of the most important reservations.


Republic of Moldova made reservation on Articles 23, 24, 25 and 31 of the Convention and reserved the right to apply their provisions in accordance with national legislation.

Also, in accordance with Article 38 paragraph 1 of the Convention, the Republic of Moldova reserved the right to apply the provisions of Article 27 of the Convention only to stateless persons whose status was recognized by the Republic of Moldova, and to those who have the right of residence in the Republic of Moldova.

\(^{11}\) 1954 convention relating to the status of stateless persons and 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness
2. Please provide statistical information on the number and possible country of origin of stateless persons (including minors) applying for asylum in your country during 2010-2012 and on the number of permanently residing stateless persons in your country.

Within period 1 November 2012 – 1st December 2013, 271 persons applied for stateless status, 91 persons were recognized as stateless persons and 78 persons were rejected from recognition as stateless person. Currently, decisions on 102 persons are pending.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country of origin</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Russian Federation</td>
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<td>Ukraine</td>
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<td>Hungary</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lithuania</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Republic of Moldova</td>
<td>85</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
3. Do you have a definition of a stateless person in the national legislation of your country?

The core acts regulating issues related to nationality and statelessness are the Law on Citizenship and the Law on Legal Status of Foreign Citizens and Stateless Persons in the Republic of Moldova. According them a stateless person is a person who is not considered as a national by any State under the operation of their law.

4. What statelessness determination procedures, if any, are applied in your country?

Regardless of the manner in which the 1954 Convention becomes part of the domestic law, it does not dictate the procedure for identifying a person as stateless. Thus, to make it applicable in a national structure, some form of implementing legislation setting up a recognition procedure is necessary. On 28.12.2011 the Parliament adopted the amendments to the legislation in order to align its legislation with the provisions of the UN Convention.


Main Provisions of the Law
- Applicant is protected against refoulement/deportation throughout the duration of the procedure (including the appeal process), except on grounds of national security or public order;
- Procedure is initiated through application or ex officio;
- First instance decision within a period of 6 months, with possible extension (no more than 12 months in total);
- The first-instance decision can be contested in appeal (no special Courts);
- Right to a free-of-charge interpreter;
- Permanent residence issued to stateless persons;
- Right to an individual interview for all applicants.

Procedural Aspects
- Every applicant has the right to an individual interview;
- The interview shall take place within 15 days following the application date;
- Unaccompanied minors are assisted by a representative designated by the competent administration;
- Accompanied minors are represented by one of the parents or a representative whose powers result from the law or a legal act;
- Persons with psychological disorders declared incapable or with limited capacity shall be accompanied by the tutor or, if applicable, the trustee under the law;
- Decision on recognition is notified to the applicant within 3 working days from the issuing date;
• Decision on rejection is communicated to the applicant in writing within 3 working days from date of issue;
• Negative decisions can be appealed within 30 days from the date of notification of the decision.

5. **What measures and procedures are offered in your country for stateless persons to obtain citizenship? Are there measures preventing a stateless person from obtaining citizenship through a naturalization procedure?**

According to Law on the citizenship grounds for acquisition of citizenship are:
- a) birth;
- b) recognition;
- c) adoption;
- d) recovery;
- e) naturalization

*Acquisition of nationality through naturalization.* Based on art.17 (1c) of the Law on Citizenship, citizenship will be granted to stateless persons who have resided legally and permanently on the territory of the State for not less than 8 years. For other foreigners the residence term is 10 years. The term would be 3 years in case of marriage with a Moldovan citizen or if the person resides for the same term with parents/children (including adoptive parents or children). In the case of persons under 18 years the residence term would be 5 years. In all cases, apart from persons married to Moldovan nationals, the person applying for naturalization must have resided lawfully and permanently in Moldova during the residence period stipulated in the law.

Article 19 endorses that a child born from foreigners or stateless persons acquiring Moldovan citizenship will be granted Moldovan nationality together with his/her parents. In cases when only one of the parents will be granted the Moldovan citizenship, the decision on the children’s nationality shall be taken jointly by his/her parents. If the parents fail to reach an agreement, a court shall decide on the affiliation of the child to the Moldovan citizenship, taking into account the child’s interest, but only if the parents make a declaration in this.

6. **Do you have any procedure for children who are born in your country as stateless to obtain citizenship?**

In general terms, the **Law on Citizenship** endorses the principle of *jus sanguinis* for granting nationality. Yet art.11 of the law declares, that a national of the Republic of Moldova will be considered a child born from stateless parents or born from foreign parents or one of them being foreigner and another stateless, if the State of nationality of the parent(s) fails to grant nationality to the child. The same article established that a child found on
the territory of the State is considered a national until the contrary is proved before reaching the age of 18. These rules should be read in conjunction with one of the basic principles endorsed in the Law – avoidance of statelessness. In any case the child would be granted the Moldovan nationality in the above situations, and will be able to choose, if one of the parents (eventually both of them) is foreigner. The law cover most situations where a child born in Moldova or from Moldovan parents otherwise would become stateless.

7. **Please give a brief overview of the work of your government to reduce the risks and vulnerability of stateless persons seeking international protection in your country.**


On 28.12.2011th the Parliament adopted the amendments to the legislation in order to align its legislation with the provisions of the UN Convention.

- Law no. 284 of 28.12.2011 introduced into the Law on the regime on foreigners a new Chapter “Procedure for recognition of stateless status”. A special procedure was established with very clear procedural aspects. Applicant is protected against refoulement/deportation throughout the duration of the procedure (including the appeal process), except on grounds of national security or public order). Unaccompanied minors are assisted by a representative designated by the competent administration. Accompanied minors are represented by one of the parents or a representative whose powers result from the law or a legal act. Persons with psychological disorders declared incapable or with limited capacity shall be accompanied by the tutor or, if applicable, the trustee under the law.

8. **Has your country experienced so called protracted statelessness situations?**

According the statistical data of 2004 census shows that 5374 persons declared themselves as being stateless, and 390 that did not indicate their citizenship. This relatively large number could be contributed to the fact that former citizens of the Soviet Union who remained on the territory of the Republic of Moldova did not acquire nationality and to former Soviet Union citizens who moved to the Republic of Moldova without having their legal status established, as well as persons who could not for various reasons extend their national passports.

A more concrete and veridical information would be possible to present after the 2014 census.
NETHERLANDS

1. Has your country signed and ratified the 1954 and 1961 conventions\textsuperscript{12} and the European Convention on Nationality? If possible, please specify some of the most important reservations.


2. Please provide statistical information on the number and possible country of origin of stateless persons (including minors) applying for asylum in your country during 2010-2012 and on the number of permanently residing stateless persons in your country.

Number and possible country of origin of stateless persons (including minors) applying for asylum during 2010-2012

\begin{tabular}{|c|c|}
\hline
Year & Number of Stateless Persons \\
\hline
2011 & 70 \\
2012 & 40 \\
2013 incl. October & 130 \\
\hline
\end{tabular}

In 2010 the Netherlands counted 2097 persons registered as stateless, in 2011, 2107 persons and in 2012, 2005 persons (1400 of them were born in the Netherlands).

3. Do you have a definition of a stateless person in the national legislation of your country?

Yes. The Netherlands has adopted the definition of the 1954 Convention in the legislation on nationality.

4. What statelessness determination procedures, if any, are applied in your country?

Statelessness is registered in the Municipal Personal Records Database. Statelessness is also registered in migration procedures. However, the Netherlands has as yet no stateless determination procedure.

\textsuperscript{12} 1954 convention relating to the status of stateless persons and 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness
5. **What measures and procedures are offered in your country for stateless persons to obtain citizenship? Are there measures preventing a stateless person from obtaining citizenship through a naturalization procedure?**

Children who are born in the Netherlands without nationality can opt for Dutch nationality after three years of legal residence. Stateless adults can apply for Dutch nationality on more favorable conditions (after three years of legal residence in stead of five years and for a lesser fee (€ 603 in stead of € 810).

6. **Do you have any procedure for children who are born in your country as stateless to obtain citizenship?**

Yes, article 6, 1 section b of the Dutch Nationality Law. See also under 5.

7. **Please give a brief overview of the work of your government to reduce the risks and vulnerability of stateless persons seeking international protection in your country.**

Stateless persons staying in the Netherlands who do not qualify for legal residence on the general conditions may however obtain a residence permit (exemption) if their is no possiblity for legally entering another state. Even though statelessenss may lead to the conclusion that leaving the country is not possible, in practice many stateless persons can return to an country of former residence. After obtaining legal residence and a three year waiting period an application for Dutch nationality can be made.

8. **Has your country experienced so called protracted statelessness situations?**

Because of the conditions for obtaining Dutch nationality in Dutch nationality law there is a small possibility of protracted statelessness in case the conditions of legal residence and integration are not met. We have no data on this issue.
1. Has your country signed and ratified the 1954 and 1961 conventions and the European Convention on Nationality? If possible, please specify some of the most important reservations.

Sweden has signed and ratified the 1954 and 1961 conventions and the European Convention on Nationality.

2. Please provide statistical information on the number and possible country of origin of stateless persons (including minors) applying for asylum in your country during 2010-2012 and on the number of permanently residing stateless persons in your country.

Number of asylum applicants.
2010 1033
2011 1109
2012 2289

The numbers above are all stateless persons regardless of country of origin. Sweden do not register country of origin for stateless persons.

The number of stateless persons residing in Sweden with a permanent resistant permit is 10 307.

3. Do you have a definition of a stateless person in the national legislation of your country?

No.

4. What statelessness determination procedures, if any, are applied in your country?

Sweden does the same identity check in stateless cases as in any other asylum cases which means examination of travel documents and other identity-documents. We sometimes ask UNWRA (after consent from the applicant) whether they can confirm the registration. In return cases we sometimes ask the consular section at the Palestinian Authority in Stockholm if they can verify an identity.

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13 1954 convention relating to the status of stateless persons and 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness
5. **What measures and procedures are offered in your country for stateless persons to obtain citizenship? Are there measures preventing a stateless person from obtaining citizenship through a naturalization procedure?**

Yes, the section of the Swedish Citizenship Act concerned is article 7, according to which a stateless child acquires Swedish citizenship on notification by the guardian or guardians of the child if the child holds a permanent Swedish residence permit and has been domiciled in Sweden for three years. The notification shall be handed in before the child turns 18 years of age. Stateless adults can naturalise according to the rules in article 11 where the principal criteria are proof of identity, above 18 years of age, permanent residence, domicile in Sweden since 4 years and an honest living (lack of serious criminal convictions and debt).

6. **Do you have any procedure for children who are born in your country as stateless to obtain citizenship?**

Yes, the section of the Swedish Citizenship Act concerned is article 6, according to which a stateless child born in Sweden acquires Swedish citizenship on notification by the guardian or guardians of the child if the child holds a permanent Swedish residence permit and is domiciled in Sweden. The notification shall be handed in before the child turns five years of age. The Swedish Migration Board provides information on acquisition and loss of Swedish citizenship at its website ([www.migrationsverket.se](http://www.migrationsverket.se)).

7. **Please give a brief overview of the work of your government to reduce the risks and vulnerability of stateless persons seeking international protection in your country.**

Stateless persons are explicitly mentioned in the Swedish Aliens Act in the provision that defines who is eligible for protection in Sweden.
1. Has your country signed and ratified the 1954 and 1961 conventions\textsuperscript{14} and the European Convention on Nationality? If possible, please specify some of the most important reservations.


2. Please provide statistical information on the number and possible country of origin of stateless persons (including minors) applying for asylum in your country during 2010-2012 and on the number of permanently residing stateless persons in your country.

In the period from 2012 to 2013, 15 stateless person applied for asylum. In the same period of time, 231 stateless persons were granted permits for immigration to Ukraine.

3. Do you have a definition of a stateless person in the national legislation of your country?

Law of Ukraine on Legal Status of Foreigners and Stateless Persons stipulates the following definition: a stateless person means a person who is not recognised as its national by any state under law of that state.

4. What statelessness determination procedures, if any, are applied in your country?

There are no statelessness determination procedures. Some elements are defined by regulations on citizenship matters.

5. What measures and procedures are offered in your country for stateless persons to obtain citizenship? Are there measures preventing a stateless person from obtaining citizenship through a naturalization procedure?

Procedures of granting citizenship of Ukraine to children of stateless persons are defined in para 2 and 3 of Art. 7 of Law of Ukraine on Citizenship of Ukraine. Children born by stateless persons outside Ukraine, whose parents reside legally permanently at the territory of Ukraine, as well as new-born children found at the territory of Ukraine, have legal grounds for acquisition of Ukrainian citizenship.

\textsuperscript{14} 1954 convention relating to the status of stateless persons and 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness
6. **Do you have any procedure for children who are born in your country as stateless to obtain citizenship?**

In connection of Ukraine's accession to the above mentioned Convention, relevant regulations are being developed.

7. **Please give a brief overview of the work of your government to reduce the risks and vulnerability of stateless persons seeking international protection in your country.**

In the period of independence, all policies of our country sought to reduce statelessness, reforms were implemented in the sphere of legislation on citizenship matters.

8. **Has your country experienced so called protracted statelessness situations?**

Such cases were associated with immigration of stateless persons from other countries of the former USSR to Ukraine for permanent residence, and these persons have not applied for Ukrainian citizenship yet.