

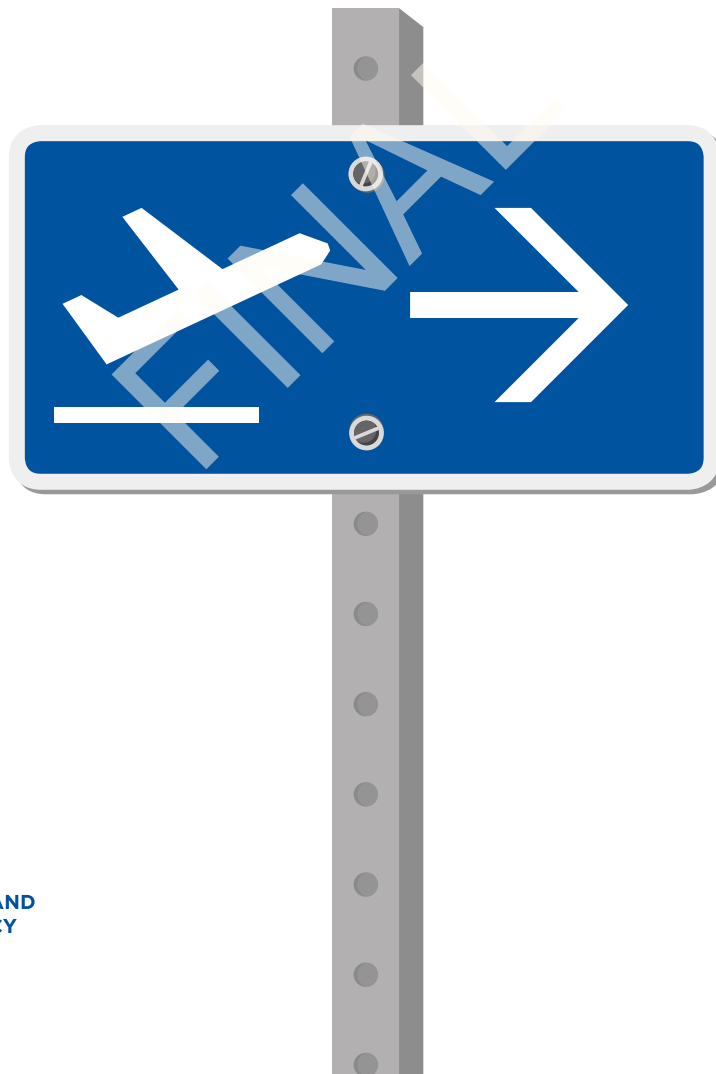
# My guidebook on return



Youth  
version

FINAL

# My guidebook on return



**FRONT****X**



EUROPEAN BORDER AND  
COAST GUARD AGENCY

**Youth  
version**

This book belongs to:

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Plac Europejski 6,  
00-844 Warsaw, Poland  
T +48 22 205 95 00  
F +48 22 205 95 01  
frontex@frontex.europa.eu  
www.frontex.europa.eu

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## Note to parents/guardians:



Did you arrive in Europe from another country? Is your family now returning home or leaving for another country? Yes! This book could help your children. This move will be a big change for them. Some parts of it might be difficult. We know that as a parent/guardian you want the best for your children and that you might be worried for their wellbeing. Fortunately, there are things you can do to make moving easier for them. Often, young people do better when they have information about what will happen to them. You can ask them about what they read, listen to how they are feeling and answer any questions they have. This is what this book is for. After your children read it you can ask them.

This book is written for young people 12 years and over. Another book about the same topic is available for younger children. There is also a book to help younger children write about their experiences and emotions about this move and their life afterwards called: Activity Book.

If your children ask you questions you do not know the answers to, please ask authorities. Also, remember that children and young people do well when their family is doing well. Be sure to take care of yourself, so that you can take care of your children.



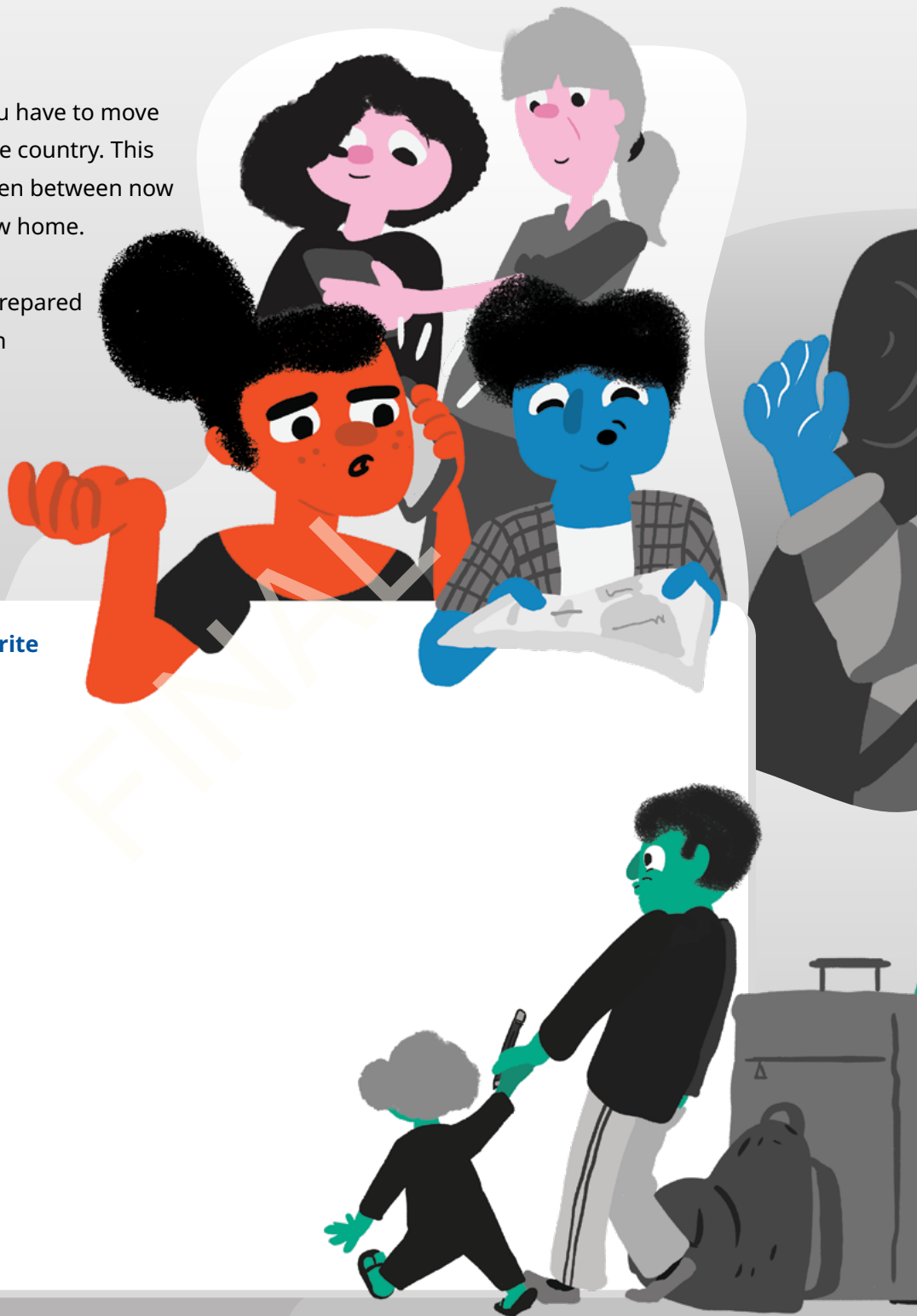
**We wrote this book for you.**

You may have been told that you have to move and go live in your family's home country. This book explains what might happen between now and when you arrive at your new home.

The more you know, the more prepared you will be for this big change in your life.

Do you have questions about traveling back to your family's home country?

**If you feel like it, you can write about them here:**



Not everything we describe in this book will apply to you. Things may happen for you in a different order.

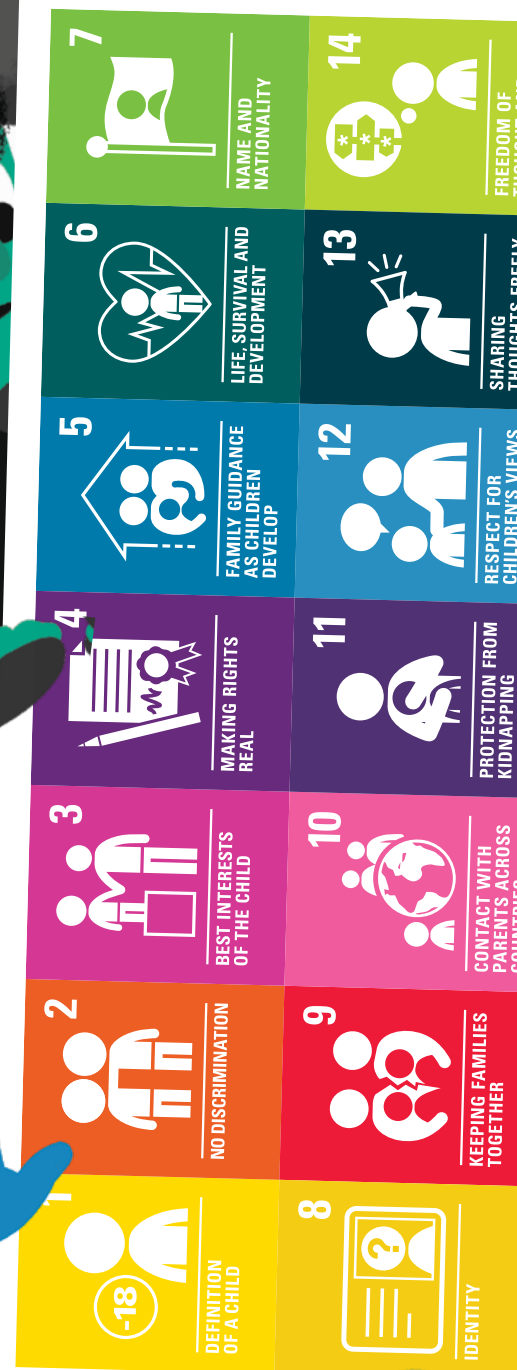


As you take this journey you will meet adults whose job it is to help you and your family. If this book doesn't answer your questions, ask these people or someone you trust.

# Important! Your rights

Just like adults, children and youth have rights. Rights provide you with what you need to survive and develop, protect you from violence and discrimination, and help you participate and be heard on decisions that affect you. People under the age of 18 have special rights and these are written in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. This is an important agreement by countries who have promised to protect the rights of ALL children. All the rights are connected, they are all important, they cannot be taken away from you, and you have these rights everywhere you go.

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# CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD

43-54



HOW THE CONVENTION WORKS



# 1. Hearing about the return decision

The country where you are staying, as every country, has laws and rules. Decisions are made by the authorities of the country based on these laws and rules. For you and your family there is now no possibility to stay and live here. Sadly, even if you wanted to stay here this is not possible at the moment. This means that you have to return to your family's home country

This is a big change. You might not remember your family's home country. You might feel sad to leave your friends or school. You might be worried about the move and uncertain about what your life afterwards will be like. Or perhaps you are happy to see friends and family from your family's home country and excited about this change. All these feelings are normal.







If you want to, you can write about them here:

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Sometimes it is helpful to share your feelings with someone you trust.

If you feel comfortable you can show them what you wrote.



## 2. Identification and travel documents

You need a passport to travel. If you don't have a passport, the government of your family's home country will make you one. You either get your own passport or you will be included on your parent's passport.

A person from the government of your family's home country may meet with you to check that the information for your passport is correct. This person may ask your name, where you were born and the places you have lived. They might speak to you in a language of your family's home country. Another person, a translator, might be present to translate if you cannot understand the spoken language and tell you what is asked or said.



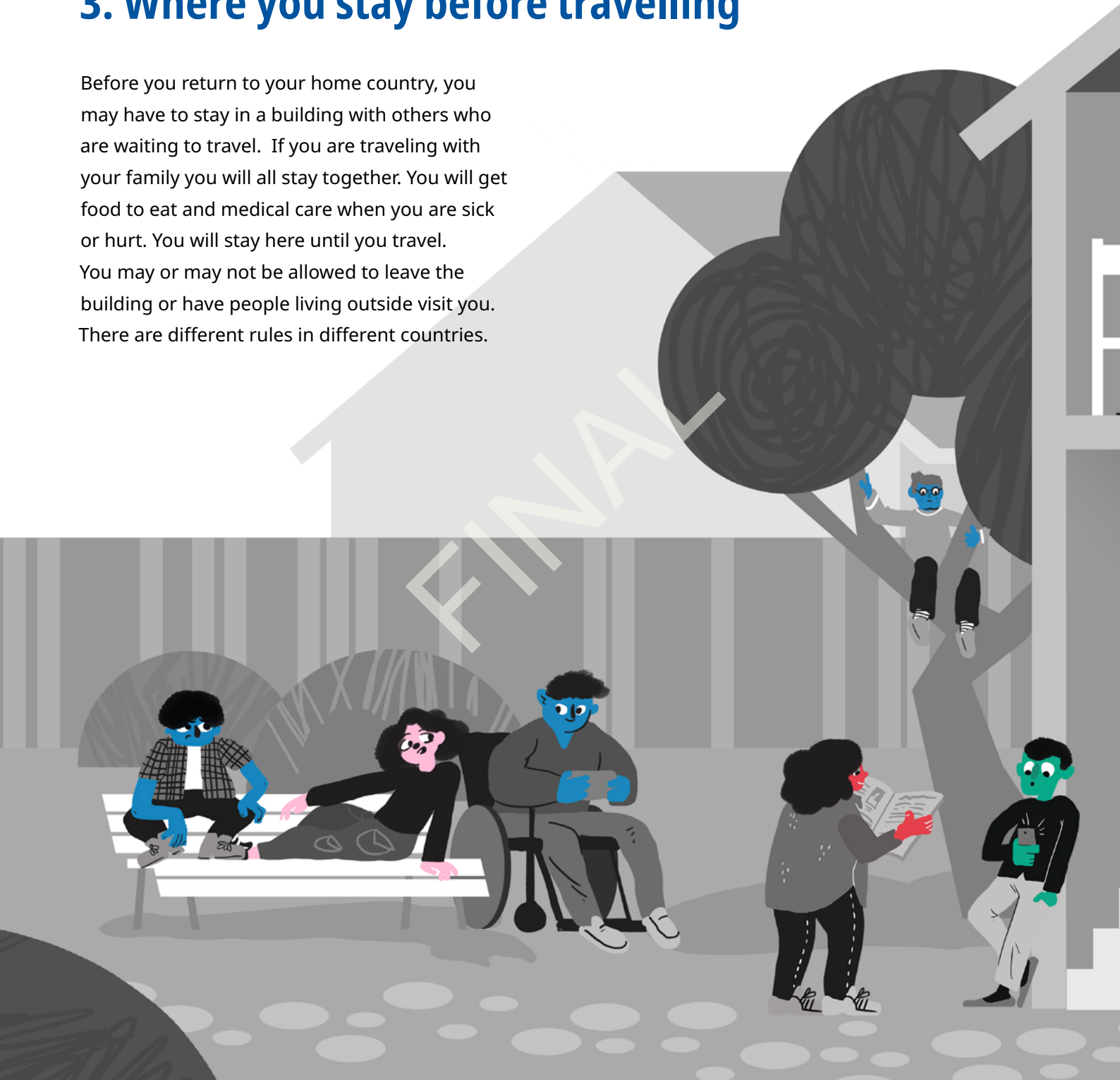




Also, someone will take your photo for your passport. If you are older, your fingerprints could also be taken. You will be asked to put your fingers one by one on a glass plate and a picture will be taken as part of the biometric data stored in a chip in your passport. This is so no one else can use your passport.

### 3. Where you stay before travelling

Before you return to your home country, you may have to stay in a building with others who are waiting to travel. If you are traveling with your family you will all stay together. You will get food to eat and medical care when you are sick or hurt. You will stay here until you travel. You may or may not be allowed to leave the building or have people living outside visit you. There are different rules in different countries.





## 4. Travelling to the airport

When it is time to travel, you and your family will travel together to your family's home country by plane.

A van will take you and your family to the airport. A person(s) called an escort may go in the van with you.



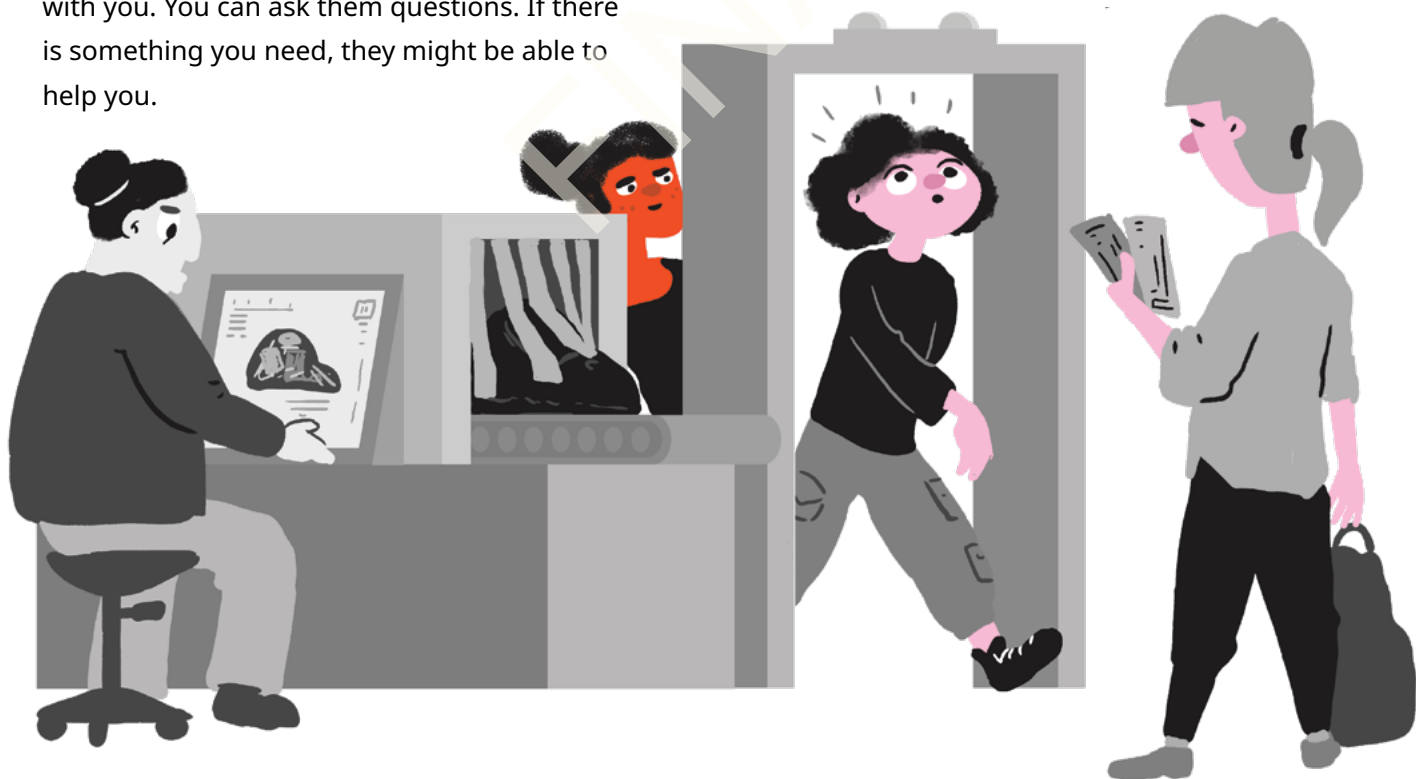
If so, this escort will wear a special vest so you can recognize them. They are here to ensure safety and security during the return and to help you. You can ask them questions, this is their job.



## 5. At the airport

At the airport you must show your passports at the check-in desk. You leave your big luggage here. It will travel in the bottom of the plane. You may take a small bag with you on the plane.

After the check in you will go through the security screening. They will check everybody's luggage, also the bag that you want to bring in the plane. You may have to show your passports to an official. If you are travelling with your family, you will wait together at the airport. When the plane is ready to leave, you will get on the plane as a family and sit together. An escort may wait with you. You can ask them questions. If there is something you need, they might be able to help you.







It can happen that you see someone with hand-cuffs. This is to keep them and others safe.

## 6. In the plane

If you are travelling with your family, you will sit together with them in the plane.





You may be served a meal and drinks and you may be able to watch a video on the screens. There is a toilet on the plane. Flight attendants will help you if you need anything and give instructions about what to do to be safe, like fasten your seatbelt.

It is a good idea to bring a book, or games in your hand luggage so you can use them during the flight.

You may only have to take one plane, or you might have to stop at another airport and change planes to get to your destination.



#### Hand luggage rules



#### Liquid rules



Max. 100ml each

#### Clear plastic bag



Max. 1 litre total  
at the moment

## 7. Arrival



When you arrive in your family's home country, you will leave the plane. You must wait for your luggage.

A person may help you travel from the airport to where you will be staying. Your family may get help from an organization to support you.



# The future

What are your wishes for the future after you return?

Everyone has dreams and wishes in life and you shouldn't stop dreaming and wishing for good things to happen if you move to your home country. How do you imagine your future in a few years from now on? What would you like to see


happen, what would make you happy? Where will you be? Where will you live and who are you with and how will it make you feel?

If you have clear dreams, wishes and goals it can help you to take the right steps to make them happen.

**You can write down your thoughts here if you want:**

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**"No-one knows the future for sure,  
there is one thing certain though:  
You are the chief designer of your own future."**

# Room for notes

Handwriting practice area with 25 horizontal dotted lines.

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For feedback on the books,  
please contact us at:  
[frontex@frontex.europa.eu](mailto:frontex@frontex.europa.eu)



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EUROPEAN BORDER AND  
COAST GUARD AGENCY

Plac Europejski 6,  
00-844 Warsaw, Poland  
T +48 22 205 95 00  
F +48 22 205 95 01  
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