

	Principles/standards	Brief description of standard	Main legal basis <sup>1</sup>
STRUCTURE	<b>1. Part of a two-stage approach to the examination of asylum applications</b>	Decisions on international protection should be conducted with a two-stage approach, in which stage one involves the gathering of relevant information, the identification of material facts, and the assessment of the credibility of these material facts. Stage two (which is only conducted once stage one is completed) is the assessment of the well-founded fear of persecution and the real risk of serious harm.	CJEU jurisprudence ( <i>M.M.</i> ) UNHCR guidance
	<b>2. Balanced assessment using clear indicators</b>	Credibility assessment (part of stage one of the above-mentioned two-stage process) has to be conducted in a structured manner, using a set of clear indicators. The applicant's statements and other evidence should be assessed "in the round" using clear credibility indicators; credibility findings should not be based on a single indicator.	UNHCR guidance
FAIRNESS	<b>3. Shared duty</b>	Credibility assessment has to be carried out as a joint and cooperative effort of the asylum-seeker and the decision-maker. Both have clear tasks in this process, as defined by EU law and guidance.	Qualification Directive, Art. 4 CJEU jurisprudence ( <i>M.M.</i> )
	<b>4. Focus on material facts</b>	Credibility assessment should focus on the material facts of the claim (core elements which are of direct relevance for the determination of international protection needs). Credibility conclusions should not be based on findings related to only minor or peripheral issues of the claim.	UNHCR guidance
	<b>5. Benefit of the doubt</b>	The applicant should be given the benefit of the doubt if her/his claim is coherent and generally credible, but there is still a lack of evidence or clarity regarding some of her/his statements.	Qualification Directive, Art. 4(5) ECtHR jurisprudence UNHCR guidance
OBJECTIVITY	<b>6. Evidence-based assessment</b>	Credibility findings have to be based on and supported by evidence, and all available and relevant evidence should be considered in the assessment process. Credibility findings should not be based on unfounded assumptions, speculation, stereotyping, intuition or "gut feelings".	Procedures Directive, Art. 8(2) UNHCR guidance
	<b>7. Individual assessment</b>	Credibility assessment should be conducted in an individualised manner, with due consideration of the applicant's individual and contextual circumstances.	Qualification Directive, Art. 4(3) Procedures Directive, Art. 8(2)(a) UNHCR guidance
	<b>8. Impartial approach</b>	Credibility assessment should be conducted in an impartial manner. The impact of the decision-maker's individual and contextual circumstances on credibility findings should be minimised.	Procedures Directive, Art. 8(2)(a) UNHCR guidance
TRANSPARENCY	<b>9. Clear findings</b>	Credibility assessment should result in clear findings, stating which material facts are accepted as credible, which are rejected and whether the benefit of the doubt principle has been applied.	Procedures Directive, Art. 9(2) EU Charter of Fundamental Rights, Art. 41(2), 47 and 48 CJEU jurisprudence ( <i>M.M.</i> ) UNHCR guidance
	<b>10. Opportunity to comment on negative credibility findings</b>	Decision-makers should give applicants a reasonable opportunity to comment on issues that may result in negative credibility findings, before a decision is made.	Qualification Directive, Art. 4(1) CJEU jurisprudence (incl. <i>M.M.</i> ) ECtHR jurisprudence UNHCR guidance

<sup>1</sup> In addition to IARLJ and national guidance, as well as national jurisprudence and the content of the European Asylum Curriculum

