

# Feelings and Perceptions of Safety of Asylum Seekers in the Dutch Asylum Procedure

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**Abstract:**

This thesis aims to measure and to explain the feelings and perceptions of safety of asylum seekers in the Dutch asylum procedure. However no permission could be granted of the relevant Dutch governmental organisation in order to collect data for this purpose. Therefore data was collected on the base of a simulation making use of a questionnaire measuring these feelings and perceptions amongst 33 respondents. The data collected via the questionnaire was displayed and analysed making use of the Kruskal-Wallis H Test in order to identify explanatory factors for the feelings and perceptions of safety of the respondents based on environmental and socio-demographic factors. Based on the analysis could be concluded that no inclusive explanation could be given for the feelings and perceptions of safety of the respondents, but that the feeling of being welcomed by the Dutch population plays a significant role in this.

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# 1 Introduction:

## 1.1 Background:

According to data of the UNHCR, at the end of 2017 more than 71,4 million people worldwide were on the run for war and violence (UNHCR, 2019c). Current conflicts which are motivating people to leave their homes and to seek a safe place for shelter are for example the Syrian civil war, the war in Afghanistan and the Somalian civil war, which all have been causing thousands of fatalities since their starting points (Wikipedia, 2019). This form of migration caused by armed conflict is nothing new when taking a glimpse at the history of mankind. An example of such a migration stream caused by war and violence is the Migration of the Nations ( 4<sup>th</sup> until 7<sup>th</sup> century AD). During that period the Germanic tribes fled their homelands in the east of Europe and migrated to the west of Europe due to the Hunnic invasion which eventually caused other chain reactions of migration on the European continent (Schrover & Obdeijn, 2008). In current time, refugees from armed conflicts like the Syrian civil war travel to Europe in the hope of being granted asylum. Europe, which in this sense should be understood as the European Union, makes use of a Common European Asylum System. The central point in this Asylum System is that all EU member states have a shared responsibility when it comes to welcoming asylum seekers, therefore making use of uniform standards in order to ensure similar asylum procedure outcomes (European Commission, 2019). One of the 28 European member states responsible for the execution of the Common European Asylum System is The Netherlands.

Based on data of the CBS and the IND, 20.150 people applied for asylum in The Netherlands in 2018. Most of the asylum seekers who applied for asylum in The Netherlands in 2018 are from Syria, followed by Iran and Eritrea (CBS & IND, 2019). In The Netherlands the asylum procedure is processed by a chain of different governmental and non-governmental organisations, including the Dutch police (COA, 2019; Rijksoverheid, 2019). On the 4<sup>th</sup> of March 2019 in Soest, a meeting was held with officials from the police department responsible for migration, the Taskforce Migration. During that meeting came forward that the Taskforce wanted to get a better insight on the perspective of asylum seekers in the Dutch asylum procedure, with special attention to their feelings and perceptions of safety. The main research question this theses will address therefore will be: **How to explain the feelings and perceptions of safety of asylum seekers in the Dutch asylum procedure?**

## **1.2 Research question:**

As stated in the previous part, this thesis will address the question: **How to explain the feelings and perceptions of safety of asylum seekers in the Dutch asylum procedure?**

This empirical explanatory research question aims to explain the feelings and perceptions of safety asylum seekers in the Dutch asylum procedure. The units of analysis in this study therefore are asylum seekers in the Dutch asylum procedure, with the Dutch asylum procedure being the setting in which the research takes place.

The main research question will be answered on the base of the answers of four sub-questions, which are:

1. How can feelings and perceptions of safety be explained?
2. What is the asylum procedure asylum seekers in The Netherlands have to follow?
3. What are the feelings and perceptions of asylum seekers in the asylum procedure?
4. How to explain these feelings and perceptions?

The underlying logic behind these sub-questions is that the first two sub-questions will be based on qualitative literature research after which a research method will be selected with the goal to answer the quantitative based third and fourth sub-questions in order to eventually explain the feelings and perceptions of safety of the asylum seekers as stated in the main research question.

As stated the research question this thesis addresses is not based on a critical assessment of scientific theory but on a question provided by officials of a governmental institution. A theoretical justification for the research question will therefore be given in the theory part of this thesis.

## **1.3 Scientific relevance:**

Multiple studies have been conducted on the Dutch asylum procedure related to the perceptions and feelings of safety of asylum seekers. In 2016 a study was conducted by EenVandaag Opiniepanel in order to get insight on how asylum seekers experienced The Netherlands. Parts of this study were focussing on the asylum seeker perspective on the asylum procedure, including their feelings and perceptions of safety. In that study of EenVandaag Opiniepanel was concluded that asylum seekers averagely grade the reception centres with a 5,8 and that 72% of them felt safe there, and 17% did not feel safe there. Besides that, 76% of the questioned asylum seekers stated they were well informed about the asylum procedure by the authorities (Opiniepanel, 2016, pp. 8,10,12)

In 2018 a cross-sectional study was conducted by the Sociaal en Cultureel Plan Bureau on the experiences of Syrian refugees in The Netherlands. In that study by the SCPB individual characteristics of the Syrian refugees, or asylum seekers, were combined with their feelings and perceptions on the sheltering in reception centres. The researchers could conclude that 60% of the Syrians questioned were satisfied with the sheltering in the reception centres, especially with the experienced safety and the COA-personnel. Aspects which scored bad were the experienced privacy and the quality of food in the reception centres (SCPB, 2018, p. 8). Besides studies focussed on the asylum seeker perspective, research also has been conducted on the authority perspective related to the feelings and perceptions of safety of asylum seekers in The Netherlands. A study of the Dutch Ministry of Justice and Safety looked into the difference between the policy on paper on the social safety of asylum seekers and the policy in practice, which therefore gives insight on the actions of the authorities on this topic (Veiligheid, 2018).

All these studies however lack a clear scientific conceptualisation and operationalisation on feelings and perceptions of safety. This bachelor thesis will fill up this scientific gap by making use of relevant scientific literature on the feelings and perceptions of safety of asylum seekers in The Netherlands in general and specifically in the asylum procedure. Potentially this thesis can be used as a starting point for broader scientific research on different aspects of the Dutch asylum procedure, besides that it will contribute to current scientific knowledge available on feelings and perceptions of safety.

#### **1.4 Societal relevance:**

This thesis can be seen as societal relevant since it studies the fulfilment of a public function in The Netherlands, and in broader context of the EU, which is being financed with public money, the Dutch asylum procedure. This thesis can contribute to a more efficient and possibly better fitting asylum procedure in which the feelings and perceptions of safety of the asylum seekers are potentially improved which can lead to a better integration of these asylum seekers into the Dutch society maximizing the outcome of public good.

## 2. Theory section

As explained in the introduction, the theory section will serve as the theoretical justification for the research question: **How to explain the feelings and perceptions of safety of asylum seekers in the Dutch asylum procedure?** This will be done on the base of relevant scientific literature. Based on the theories discussed in this section, an explanatory diagram will be created to be used in the following parts of this thesis. Besides that the theory section will address the first sub-question: *How can feelings and perception of safety be explained?*

### 2.1 Feelings and perceptions of safety

The central concept in this research are feelings and perceptions of safety. This concept of safety can be understood in different ways containing many dimensions. It can be seen as a pure conditional construct, with safety being “a state in which or a place where you are safe and not in danger or at risk” (Dictionary). This is however a simple definition and contains nothing about the way we people perceive our environment and how our emotional status, our feelings and perceptions, is affected by that environment. Slovic, Finucane, Peters, & MacGregor (2004) argue that humans primarily evaluate their environment and risks on the base of emotions and intuition, which make up human feelings. This risks as feelings as Slovic et al. (2004) argue plays a big role in the human emotion of fear which has an effect on our perception of safety (Slovic, Finucane, Peters, & MacGregor, 2004, pp. 311,312). That the human emotion of fear is based on environmental effects is also supported in Garofalo (1981). As stated in Garofalo (1981, p. 840) fear is “an emotional reaction characterized by a sense of danger or anxiety”. In this definition fear is characterized as being an irrational reaction caused by a perceived possibility of harm. Though Garofalo (1981) explicitly focusses on fear of crime, it can be assumed that the same mechanisms also partake in other types of fear. Garofalo (1981, p. 840) makes a difference between two types of fear. Fear of potential physical harm and fear of potential loss of property. Garofalo (1981, p. 840) states that both types of fear are based on different dimensions, physical harm being based on emotions and loss of property being based on calculations or worrying, but both can be intertwined in the constitution of fear. Another distinction Garofalo (1981, pp. 841,842) makes is between actual and anticipated fear. Actual fear is fear triggered by a certain trigger which means that a person is actually experiencing fear, while anticipated fear is about situations in which a person could be experiencing fear. Hinkle (2015) also looks into the concept of fear of crime.

As stated in Hinkle (2015) most studies which measure fear (of crime) make use of different indicators like perception of safety or perceived risks besides fear of crime (Hinkle, 2015, pp. 147,148). According to Hinkle (2015, p. 159) this gives implications for the true meaning of fear of crime due to bias caused by the difference in meaning of the indicators. Based on the results, Hinkle (2015) could conclude three things. The first thing that Hinkle (2015, p. 164) could conclude was that “perceptions of social disorder have a significant positive effect on the three indicators of fear of crime”, which means that social disorder is partly responsible for causing fear. The second thing that Hinkle (2015, p. 164) could conclude is that “all three measures of fear were found to be negatively related to collective efficacy”, which means that social cohesion and social control lower the three measures of fear. The third thing Hinkle (2015, p. 164) could conclude was that “perceptions of physical disorder reduced perceived safety and increased perceived risk, but had no impact on emotional fear”.

A study conducted by De Vries (2004) stated that individual perception of safety is based on three dimensions which are intertwined. A affective component, a cognitive component and a behavioural component (de Vries, 2004, pp. 11-24). The affective component should be understood as the feelings surrounding unsafety, like the chance of being victimized (de Vries, 2004, p. 14). The cognitive component is based on the individual knowledge on unsafe situations and the personal estimate on the risks to be caught in such a situation (de Vries, 2004, p. 15). The behavioural component is how individuals are affected in their behaviour and actions based on their cognitive and affective perceptions of safety (de Vries, 2004, pp. 17,18).

When taking into account the theories from Slovic et al. (2004), Garofalo (1981), Hinkle (2015) and de Vries (2004) the following conceptualisation of feelings and perceptions of safety can be made. Feelings and perceptions of safety is the human individual interpretation of the perceived risks and dangers caused by their environment and earlier life experiences which could harm themselves and their property on the base of irrational thinking containing affective, cognitive and behavioural dimensions.

Since the feelings and perceptions of individuals will be studied in this thesis it is relevant to include individual background factors which can be used in order to explain these feelings and perceptions of safety. In de Vries (2004) four general types of factors are mentioned which affect the safety perception of individuals based on the effect of crime. These are socio-demographic factors, individual experience factors, social factors and environmental factors (de Vries, 2004, pp. 21-28).



Socio-demographic factors are based on for example age and gender. De Vries (2004, pp. 21,47) could conclude in a research conducted on the safety perceptions of the Dutch population that men tend to perceive feeling more safe than women.

Individual experience factors are related to a person's individual experience with victimisation (de Vries, 2004, pp. 22,23). De Vries (2004, p. 52) could conclude that Dutch civilians who received emotional and mental damage due to their victimisation had a lower safety perception, felt more unsafe, than civilians which did not had that same experience. In general individual experiences affect the way an individual perceives his or her environment as based on Gregory's Top Down Processing Theory, which states that human perception is based on past experiences and stored information (McLeod, 2018). Since individual experience with victimisation is seen as having a strong traumatic impact, an effect is taken into account from these individual experience factors on the way an individual perceives his or her environment, as seen in environmental factors, on the base his or her emotional status. As stated in de Vries (2004, pp. 26,27,28) environmental factors are divided in physical effects and social effects. Physical effects are based on the quality, function and nature of residential areas and the presence of different types of criminality (de Vries, 2004, p. 26). Social effects are based on the social integration of citizens and the ethnical composition in that same residential area (de Vries, 2004, p. 26). The last group of factors which De Vries (2004) mentions are social factors. Social factors are related to the social processes, mass hysterics and hype, and the effect of the media on the safety perception of individuals in larger groups (de Vries, 2004, pp. 24,25).

Based on the above explained theoretical framework the following explanatory diagram can be created which will be used in the following parts of this thesis and can be seen as the answer to the first sub-question: *How can feelings and perceptions of safety be explained?*

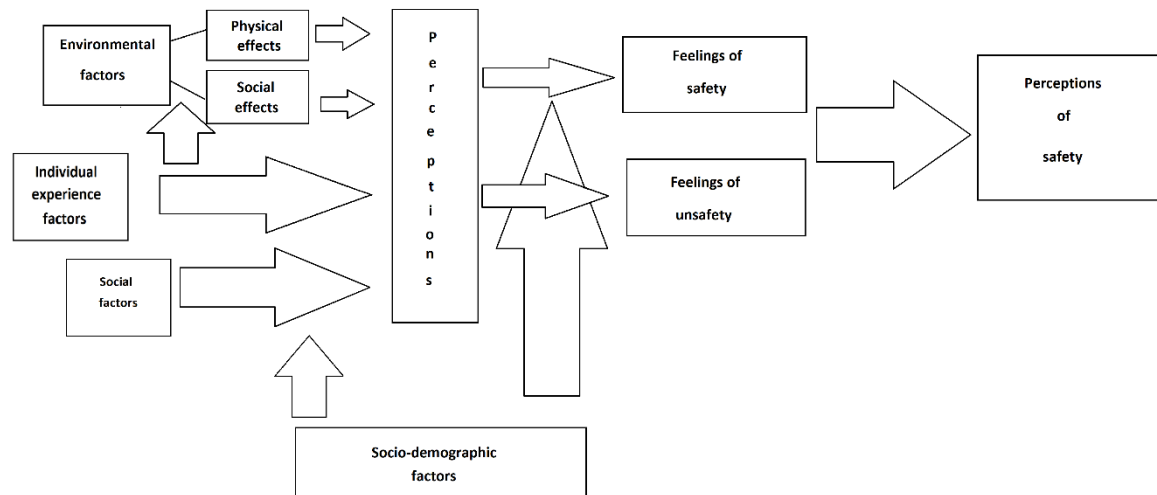


Figure 1

But how does that relate specifically to the Dutch asylum procedure? When taking into account the explanatory diagram it can be stated that it partakes in every environment and individual, therefore also in asylum seekers in the Dutch asylum procedure. This way the relationship mentioned in the research question is justified, but can be more specified since no clear conceptualisations of asylum seekers and the Dutch asylum procedure is given. These however will be made in the following sections of this thesis.

### 3. Asylum seekers and the Dutch asylum procedure

In this part of the thesis an answer will be given to the second sub-question: *What is the asylum procedure asylum seekers in The Netherlands have to follow?* Which is the environment in this research as based on de Vries (2004).

In order to answer this sub-question usage will be made of policy documents and other information related to the Dutch asylum procedure coming from governmental and non-governmental organisations which are involved in the execution of this public domain. Since this question focusses on one specific case, namely the Dutch asylum procedure, it will be answered on the base of a so called case-oriented analysis in order to understand the theoretical components of this procedure (Babbie, 2013, p. 391). Since the Dutch asylum procedure is based on a legal structure, there will be no concerns related to the reliability and the validity of this answer given. Since the research population in this thesis are asylum seekers in the Dutch asylum procedure, the asylum procedure will be discussed from the asylum seeker perspective. First however a more detailed conceptualisation will be given of asylum seekers, including their background and other personal attributes relevant for

measuring their feelings and perceptions of safety, meant to be used in later parts of this thesis.

### **3.1 Asylum seekers**

In everyday language there seems to be confusion related to the term asylum seeker and the differences with migrants, refugees and economic migrants. This part of the thesis aims to take away that confusion by giving clear definitions and explaining the differences and similarities between the different groups. What all three groups have in common is that they all are migrants. According to the International Organisation of Migration a migrant is “any person who is moving or has moved across an international border or within a State away from his/her habitual place of residence, regardless of (1) the person’s legal status; (2) whether the movement is voluntary or involuntary; (3) what the causes for the movement are; or (4) what the length of the stay is” (IOM, 2019b). According to the UNHCR “an asylum seeker is someone whose request for sanctuary has yet to be processed” (UNHCR, 2019a). An asylum seeker therefore is a migrant who is in the process of being granted or declined the right of sanctuary.

According to the definition of the UNHCR “A refugee is someone who has been forced to flee his or her country because of persecution, war or violence. A refugee has a well-founded fear of persecution for reasons of race, religion, nationality, political opinion or membership in a particular social group. Most likely, they cannot return home or are afraid to do so. War and ethnic, tribal and religious violence are leading causes of refugees fleeing their countries” (UNHCR, 2019d).

All refugees therefore are asylum seekers, but not all asylum seekers are refugees. Some of the migrants who request for sanctuary do not fulfil the criteria to be granted the refugee status, and the international rights belonging to that status, but are still allowed to stay since “substantial grounds have been shown to believe that the person concerning, if returned to his or her country of origin or, in the case of a stateless person, to his or her country of former habitual residence, would face a real risk of suffering serious harm and who is unable or, owing to such risk, unwilling to avail himself or herself of the protection of that country” (EU Commission, 2019). These asylum seekers have been granted subsidiary protection. Besides subsidiary protection, asylum seekers could also be allowed to stay due to humanitarian reasons which could for example be due to domestic violence or human trafficking (Advocaten, 2019).

In the final quartile of 2018 in the European Union, 32% of the asylum applicants were given one of the three mentioned international protection statuses: refugee status, subsidiary protection or humanitarian reasons (Eurostat, 2019). That means that 68% of the asylum seekers in the European Union in that period had a negative outcome of their asylum request. The most common reason why these asylum requests were rejected is because the individuals who applied these do not fulfil the asylum criteria because they migrated was not because of persecution or war and violence but due to for example economic reasons. That group is known as economic migrants and are individuals “who leaves his or her country of origin purely for financial and/or economic reasons” (International, 2019). Due to the EU policy related to asylum seekers, all get divided amongst the member states. Therefore it is relevant to look at the way they enter Europe and not The Netherlands.

Though the motives of asylum seekers differ to travel to Europe, the routes they tend to take are similar. According to data of the IOM most of the migrants (there is no data on asylum seekers) which travelled to Europe in 2018 did that via sea, which means a boat was used to get across the Mediterranean to enter Europe (IOM, 2019a). In order to arrive at the boats, migrants have to travel through dangerous territory and have the risk of being exploited by criminals (Awo Dovi, 2017 ). The boats are often of bad quality, overcrowded with people and operated by smugglers whose main concern is money and do not care about the wellbeing of their passengers (Kassar & Dourgnon, 2014, p. 11). The journey across the Mediterranean is not without danger since in 2018 for every 51 arrivals in Europe via sea, one migrant died (UNHCR, 2019b, p. 6). Due to the death rate of and the circumstances in which this journey across sea takes place it is most likely migrants had experienced this in a traumatic manner. Though less migrants enter Europe via land-routes these journeys are also not without danger since 136 migrants died in 2018 along these routes, mainly due to drowning while crossing rivers or car crashes (UNHCR, 2019b, pp. 6,13).

When arrived in Europe the migrants are processed in arrival reception centres in which they are identified, registered and further send in to the European asylum procedure, or in some cases deported back if a migrant does not fulfil the necessary legal conditions (OHCHR, 2017, p. 11). In 2017 the OHCHR visited 19 of these centres and concluded that most of the migrants in there were in vulnerable situations due to the circumstances why they left their homes and due to the experiences they processed along the way, besides the inadequate individual physical and mental health treatment in these centres (OHCHR, 2017, p. 19). This is further supported in Cleveland, Kronick, Gros, and Rousseau (2018, p. 1002) which states that asylum seekers have the tendency to show high levels of distress while in asylum

reception or detention. Similar findings were discovered in Bjertrup et al. (2018) which found that the main part of asylum seekers in identification and reception centres in Greece and Turkey were suffering from anxiety disorder besides having experienced acts of violence like being bombed or being beaten (Bjertrup et al., 2018, p. 56). Bjertrup et al. (2018, p. 56) also found that a share of the investigated asylum seekers experienced violence while in the identification and reception centres either from other migrants but also from state authorities like the army and the police.

Kirmayer et al. (2011, p. 961) makes a division on factors related to migration which affect mental health on the base of pre-migration, migration and post-migration factors. These pre-migration, migration and post-migration factors which affect mental health are according to Kirmayer et al. (2011, p. 961):

<b>Pre-migration</b>	<b>Migration</b>	<b>Post-migration</b>
The disruption of social networks and social support	The route and the duration of the journey	Uncertainty about the immigration or the refugee status
Trauma	Exposure to harsh living conditions	Unemployment or underemployment
Political involvement (commitment to a cause)	Disruption of community and family networks	Loss of social status
Social status in the country of origin	Uncertainty about the outcome of the migration	Loss of family and community social supports
		Concern about family members left behind and possibility for reunification
		Difficulties in language learning, acculturation and adaptation

Figure 2

Eventually the migrants who are further send in to the asylum procedure are divided among EU member states, therefore arriving in The Netherlands.

The concept of asylum seekers in this thesis therefore should be understood as migrants who are in the Dutch asylum procedure due to their application of an asylum-request but have different reasons, e.g. war and violence, persecution or money, why they made that request and are assumed having experienced traumatic events in order to arrive in The Netherlands independently from the route that was taken besides being uncertain about their future, being in a dependent situation and being present in a for them alien environment.

### **3.2 Dutch asylum procedure**

With the Dutch asylum procedure is meant the bureaucratic procedure, and the organisations involved, an asylum seeker is in after applying for asylum in The Netherlands as part of the EU Common European Asylum System (COA, 2019; European Commission, 2019). What will follow is a pointwise explanation of the steps an asylum seeker has to undergo while in the Dutch asylum procedure.

1. In order for an asylum seeker to apply for asylum in The Netherlands he or she has to report at the application centre of the IND, the Integration and Naturalisation Service which is responsible for the assessment of asylum requests, in Ter Apel where a registration interview is conducted (COA, 2019). At the application centre in Ter Apel, the AVIM, the Dutch police department responsible for Aliens, Identification and Human trafficking, together with the KMar, The Netherlands Royal Marechaussee, checks the identity of the asylum seeker besides registering relevant personal data to be used for identification purposes (COA, 2019).
2. After the application of the asylum request the asylum seeker is placed in one of the two COLs, Centrale Opvang Locaties, either in Ter Apel or in Budel which are run by the COA, the Centraal Orgaan opvang asielzoekers (COA, 2019). At the COL the asylum seeker will be provided with meals, shelter, and medical care (COA, 2012). As a part of the asylum procedure the asylum seeker will be tested on TBC by the GGD, and the GZA will conduct a general medical check in (COA, 2019). At all the COA locations, private security contractors are present to maintain the safety (AMW, 2018). Asylum seekers will be at a COL for a minimum of 4 days (COA, 2019).
3. After being in a COL, an asylum seeker will be transferred to one of the Proces Opvang Locaties, POLs, which are placed throughout the Netherlands and also fall under the responsibility of the COA (COA, 2019). At the POL the asylum seeker will

get information surrounding the life in a Opvang Locatie via DVD and an information booklet which contains house rules and rights and duties (COA, 2012). The period in the POL is meant to prepare the asylum seeker for the asylum procedure in a safe and calm environment for a period of maximum eight days (COA, 2019). In the preparation for the procedure, asylum seekers get legal and personal support from VluchtelingenWerk and the Raad Voor Rechtsbijstand (COA, 2019).

4. After eight days in a POL, the Algemene Asielprocedure starts which will be conducted by the IND and takes eight days (COA, 2012, 2019). In order to arrive at the IND location, the COA arranges transport for the asylum seekers (COA, 2012).
  - i. Day 1: On the first day of the AA procedure an asylum seeker has an official meeting with an IND employee concerning the identity, route and nationality of the asylum seeker. Besides that information given by the asylum seeker at the application centre is checked. During this meeting an independent translator is allowed to be present next to an employee of VluchtelingenWerk.
  - ii. Day 2: On the second day of the procedure the asylum seeker has an appointment with his lawyer to discuss the transcription of the meeting conducted at the first day and to check whether information is incomplete or untrue besides preparing for the following days of the procedure. An independent translator can also be present at this meeting. If information is incomplete or missing, the lawyer notifies the IND about this via letter.
  - iii. Day 3: On the third day the asylum seeker has another meeting with a IND employee to discuss the motives why the application for the asylum-request was made. Again, a lawyer, VluchtelingenWerk and a translator can be present.
  - iv. Day 4: On the fourth day the asylum seeker has an appointment with his lawyer to discuss the meeting of day three following the same procedure as discussed at day two.
  - v. Day 5: On the fifth day an IND employee reads the transcriptions of the meetings conducted between the asylum seeker and the IND and the reactions of the lawyer on these meetings to come to a temporal decision whether an asylum seeker fulfils the conditions to be granted asylum. In this temporal decision the IND has three options:

1. Asylum-request is approved.
  2. The IND needs more time to be able to make decision.
  3. Asylum-request is rejected.
- vi. Day 6: On day six the asylum seeker is able to respond to the temporal decision of the IND with a letter via his lawyer in case of disagreement.
- vii. Day 7 and day 8: On day seven and eight the IND makes a final decision based on the reaction letter written by the lawyer of the asylum seeker. In this final decision there are three options.
1. Asylum-request is yet approved.
  2. The IND needs more time to be able to make decision.
  3. Asylum-request is again rejected.
- (AMW, 2018; COA, 2012, 2019; Naturalisatiedienst)
5. Independent from the decision made by the IND after the Algemene Asielprocedure, asylum seekers are placed in an asylum reception centre, a so called AZC. In the AZC asylum seekers have more personal responsibility, like taking care of their own meals, and freedom, a weekly reporting obligation, than in both the COL and POL locations. When arrived in the AZC asylum seekers will receive information related to the rules which apply there besides receiving information related to their rights and duties (COA, 2012, 2019).
- i. In case the IND needed more time to be able to make a decision related to the asylum-request, the asylum seeker is placed in the so called Verlengde Asielprocedure. In the VA the IND has a maximum of six months to make a decision, but this can be expanded to 18 months. In the VA the asylum seekers do not have to visit the IND on a daily base as with the AA (Naturalisatiedienst, 2019). In the VA the IND can decide on two options:
1. Asylum-request is approved.
  2. Asylum-request is rejected.
- While in the VA asylum seekers get support in their orientation on the future by VluchtelingenWerk (COA, 2012; Naturalisatiedienst, 2019).
- ii. In case the IND approved the asylum request made by an asylum seeker, the asylum seeker receives a residence permit for five years. At the AZC the asylum seeker will be prepared on living in the Dutch society by starting to learn the Dutch language besides finding a house



and a job. The central organisation in this integration trajectory is VluchtelingenWerk. The asylum seeker is allowed to live in the AZC until he has found a home of his own or has been appointed one by a municipality (AMW, 2018; COA, 2012, 2019; VluchtelingenWerk, 2019).

- iii. In case the IND rejected the asylum request, the asylum seeker has 28 days to arrange own transport to be transferred to the country of origin. During these 28 days the asylum seeker has the right to stay in a AZC. In the preparation to return to the country of origin, the asylum seeker gets assistance from the Dienst Terugkeer en Vertrek and NGO's like the IOM and VluchtelingenWerk. In case the asylum seeker refuses to cooperate to return to the country of origin he can be placed in a Vrijheidsbeperkende locatie. In the VBL the asylum seeker is placed under supervision and has a daily reporting obligation. In extreme cases the asylum seeker can be placed in a Detentiecentrum if there is a significant risk the asylum seeker tries to withdraw himself from supervision while the transfer is being prepared (AMW, 2018; COA, 2012, 2019; Veiligheid, 2017).

As stated in section 3.1 a rejected asylum request does not necessarily have to mean that an asylum seeker who is not being appointed the refugee status, has to return to the county of origin. A asylum seeker can also stay due to humanitarian reasons or because he has been granted subsidiary protection (Advocaten, 2019; EU Commission, 2019).

These are the steps asylum seekers have to undergo while in the Dutch asylum procedure. The procedure however can differ in individual circumstances from a duration of eight days to eighteen months. While in the asylum procedure an asylum seeker comes into contact with at least nine different organisations (IND, COA, AVIM, KMar, private security contractors, VluchtelingenWerk, Raad Voor Rechtsbijstand, GGD, GZA) and can be placed at five different locations (application centre, COL, POL, AZC, VBL) which means four transfers can happen during the procedure.

## 4. Data

In this part of the thesis will be discussed which methods will be used in order to conduct the quantitative part of thesis, which are the third and fourth sub-questions. Therefore will be discussed which method will be used to collect data, which data will be collected, how that data will be operationalised and which procedures were followed in order to collect that data. Next to that the research design to be used for this quantitative part will also be discussed.

### 4.1 Data collection method

As stated earlier, this thesis aims to measure the feelings and perceptions of safety of asylum seekers in the Dutch asylum procedure which is quantitative data. Feelings and perceptions of safety are individual characteristics, needed to be measured at the individual level. Since data needs to be collected from a large group of respondents in order to be able to give a reliable and valid answer on the main research question usage will be made from survey research.

As stated in Babbie (2013, p. 229) survey research is a mode of observation which is frequently being used in the social sciences to measure individual characteristics and “is probably the best method available to the social researcher who is interested in collecting original data for describing a population too large to observe directly”. A main aspect of survey research is that it involves respondents which provide the data by responding to a range of questions (Babbie, 2013, p. 229). A general benefit of using surveys in research is that the answers are standardized and do not have to be recoded. Another benefit is that without a significant amount of resources, data can be collected from a large group of respondents. A disadvantage of surveys however is that the standardized answers do not go in depth which could lead to the missing of relevant information (Babbie, 2013, pp. 262-263).

A survey method which Babbie (2013, pp. 230,231) mentions is the questionnaire. A questionnaire is an instrument specifically designed to elicit information that will be useful for analysis by asking a range of open-ended or close-ended questions related to specific indicators the researcher aims to measure (Babbie, 2013, pp. 230-233).

Due to these reasons, a questionnaire will be created in order to measure the feelings and perceptions of safety of the research population in this thesis. That a questionnaire is a suitable and epistemological accepted scientific method to be used in order to measure feelings and perceptions of safety is supported with the example of *Ethnic Diversity and Perceptions of Safety in Urban Middle Schools* by Junoven, Nishina, and Graham (2006). In Junoven et al. (2006) a questionnaire is used in order to measure the perception of safety of

middle schools students by asking a range of questions related to their feeling of safety at school and other related indicators.

## **4.2 Research design**

The research in this thesis can be seen as cross-sectional research since all data related to the variables and the units will be measured at the same time without any of the variables being manipulated differently for a specific sub-set of units. This research design is appropriate for measuring and explaining the feelings and perceptions of safety of asylum seekers in the Dutch asylum procedure since it allows the researcher to process data provided by a large group of respondents measured at the same point in time in order to draw meaningful conclusions. As can be read in previous parts of this thesis, no clear hypotheses were derived from theory in order to be tested. Because of that the research design in this thesis is inductive, since conclusions and theories will be derived from the patterns in the collected data. The research therefore is explorative.

For this research design three threats to causal inference can be identified. These are not having an association between variables in a relationship, having a wrong time order (the cause of the effect precedes the consequence) and having a spurious relationship with a third variable causing the relationship between variables (Babbie, 2013, pp. 93,94). Two of these threats do not apply to this thesis, since no causal effect is being scrutinised or hypothesised. The threat of not having a correct time order is not a threat in this thesis, since asylum seekers before they can develop their feelings and perceptions of safety in the Dutch asylum procedure have to be in the asylum procedure.

Since cross-sectional research does not contain limitations for this thesis it will be used for this thesis. First data will be collected via a questionnaire with the intention to answer the third sub-question after it will be analysed in order to answer the fourth sub-question, and eventually the main research question.

## **4.3 Operationalisation**

The main research question of this thesis aims to explain the feelings and perceptions of safety of asylum seekers in the Dutch asylum procedure, which therefore can be seen as the main variable in this research. In this part of the thesis this concept will be operationalised into a set of questionnaire questions intended to measure this construct and indicators related to environmental, socio-demographic and individual experience factors to be used to explain

these feelings and perceptions. Since this research is inductive the questionnaire questions are not based on hypotheses.

As stated in the theory section feelings and perceptions of safety are conceptualised as being the human individual interpretation of the perceived risks and dangers caused by their environment and earlier life experiences which could harm themselves and their property on the base of irrational thinking containing affective, cognitive and behavioural dimensions. The research population in this thesis are asylum seekers, which should be understood as migrants who are in the Dutch asylum procedure due to their application of an asylum-request but have different reasons, e.g. war and violence, persecution or money, why they made that request and are assumed having experienced traumatic events in order to arrive in the Netherlands independently from the route that was taken besides being uncertain about their future, being in a dependent situation and being present in a for them alien environment.

In order to operationalise the feelings and perceptions of asylum seekers, and to generate the questionnaire questions, usage will be made of the conceptualisations, De Vries (2004), McLeod (2018), the created explanatory diagram and the answers to the first and second sub-questions.

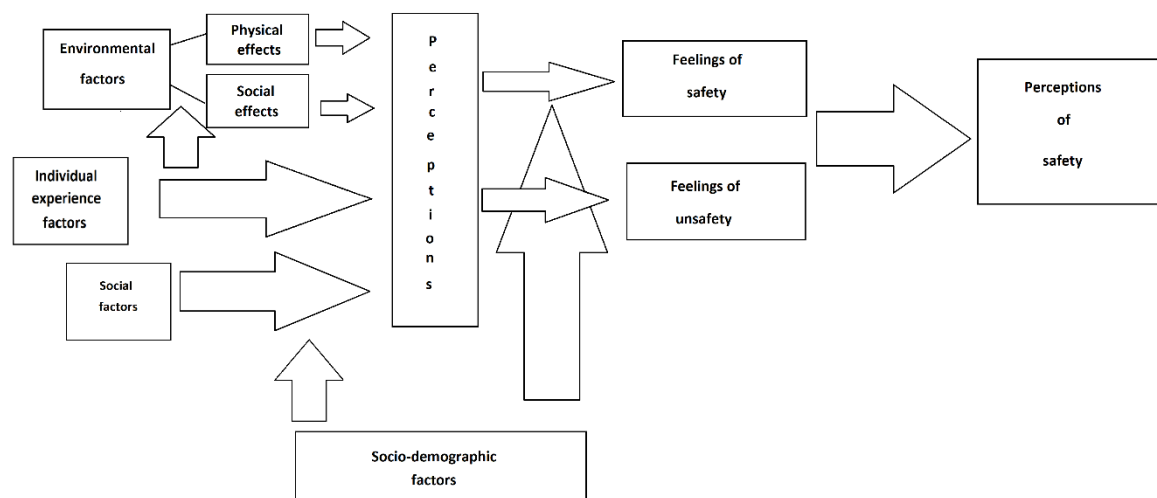


Figure 3

As can be understood from the explanatory diagram and de Vries (2004) there are four types of factors which have an impact on the feelings and perceptions of safety of individuals, these are environmental factors, social factors, individual experience factors and socio-demographic factors. For each category of factors questionnaire questions with answer options will be generated in order to measure the feelings and perceptions of safety of asylum seekers in the

Dutch asylum-procedure focussing on all three mentioned dimensions of safety perception in De Vries (2004).

Since this research and the collection of data involves human subjects it needs to be ethically responsible based on the ethical standards of the BMS faculty of the University of Twente to ensure and protect the wellbeing and other legitimate interests of the subjects involved. In the questionnaire development process these aspects are taken into account and will be explained why for the sake of scientific knowledge it is legitimized to ask certain questions about potential traumatic and sensitive topics.

#### **4.3.1 Socio-demographic factors:**

Socio-demographic factors are individual characteristics like age and gender. De Vries (2004, p.83) could conclude that both age and gender have an effect on the feelings and perceptions of safety, and could be used to explain these. A first questionnaire question therefore is: *What is your gender?*

Answer options for this close-ended question are:

- a. Male
- b. Female

A second questionnaire question based on socio-demographic factors is: *What is your age?* For this open-ended question respondents can fill in their age from ranging from 18 till any number.

Other socio-demographic factors which are relevant to take into account are the country of origin and the reasons why the asylum seekers migrated. These can give an indication of the type of regime the asylum seekers are from and their individual status, e.g. minority, in that regime. Asylum seekers which fled their country of origin are assumed to have a negative experience with governmental institutions. Since the research setting is the Dutch asylum procedure, which is government based, both socio-demographic variables could explain the perceptions, and the including feelings, of safety of asylum seekers based on trust in governmental institutions.

Other questionnaire questions based on socio-demographic factors therefore are: *What is your country of origin?* And: *Why did you leave your country of origin?* The first question is an open-ended question. The second is a close-ended question which offers a range of answer options based on the conceptualisation of asylum seekers made in this thesis. Besides that the definition of a refugee of the UNHCR will be included to deepen the answer options which

states that “A refugee is someone who has been forced to flee his or her country because of persecution, war or violence. A refugee has a well-founded fear of persecution for reasons of race, religion, nationality, political opinion or membership in a particular social group. Most likely, they cannot return home or are afraid to do so. War and ethnic, tribal and religious violence are leading causes of refugees fleeing their countries” (UNHCR, 2019d). From an ethics perspective it can be argued that it is unethical to ask this question since potential traumatic events might be triggered which could undermine the wellbeing of the subject. This question however aims to measure relevant individual characteristics in order to explain the feelings and perceptions of safety of the asylum seekers. Besides that during the asylum procedure the same kind of questions are asked.

Answer options therefore are:

- a. War
- b. Persecution
  - 1) Racial
  - 2) Religious
  - 3) Nationality
  - 4) Political opinion
  - 5) Membership in a particular social group
- c. Economic/financial reasons
- d. Other

Since it is relevant to include which type of persecution an asylum seeker underwent sub-answer options are added to answer option b. Minority groups are most likely being persecuted by the government. Therefore the answer to this question should be seen as an indicator for trust in governmental organisations, which could affect the feelings and perceptions of safety in the governmental based asylum procedure. A question measuring trust in governmental institutions, like: *Do you trust governmental institutions?* could be included as an explanatory variable. However due to the dependent situation asylum seekers are in while in the Dutch government based asylum procedure it was chosen not to include it, also since it could potentially compromise the further collection of data due to a refusal in answering.

#### **4.3.2 Individual experience factors:**

As stated in the theory section of this thesis, de Vries (2004, p. 52) could conclude that Dutch civilians who received emotional and mental damage due to their victimisation had a lower

safety perception, felt more unsafe, than civilians which did not had that same experience. For the research population in this study, asylum seekers, this same association is taken into account. Though both research settings differ there seems to be enough scientific evidence in this thesis, like Bjertrup et al. (2018), Cleveland et al. (2018) and Kirmayer et al. (2011), to support this claim since all mentioned studies highlight the emotional and mental damage of asylum seekers and their victimisations caused during either on their journeys or in their countries of origin. In the conceptualisation of feelings and perceptions of safety is stated that victimisation is not based on personal harm but also enhances damage to property and personal belongings in earlier life experiences, therefore that aspect will also be included. Since the research setting is the Dutch asylum-procedure, which is government based, it is relevant to investigate the experiences of asylum seekers with victimisation and the damaging of property by governmental institutions. This could be in the country of origin or as explained in Kirmayer et al. (2011) in the assumed safe haven of Europe by police and military organisations responsible for the execution of the EU Common European Asylum System. Therefore the question: *Have you ever been victimized or has your property been destroyed by governmental officials before your arrival in The Netherlands, if so where?* is made.

The answer options for the this question are:

- a. No
- b. Yes, in the country of origin
- c. Yes, while on the journey
- d. Yes, in Europe

More options can be true since they do not rule out each other. The different answer options can explain the feelings and perceptions of safety of asylum seekers in the sense that asylum seekers which did not have this experience (option a) perceive their environment to be more safe and feel more safe than asylum seekers which did have this experience (b, c and d).

Besides that asylum seekers which answer this question with option d are expected to feel less safe than asylum seekers which answer with options b and c. The asylum seekers migrated to Europe in the hopes of finding safety, but if they had a negative experience with European governmental officials this could have a negative effect on their feelings and perceptions of safety. Besides that the time period in which the experiences with option d happened is shorter than with options b and c, which is another explanation for the difference in effect. Based on de Vries (2004) it can be stated this question is based on the affective dimension of safety perception since it will increase the feelings surrounding the possibility, the perceived

risks and dangers, of being victimized or having property destroyed by governmental institutions.

Another individual experience factor which is seen as being relevant is victimisation or the destruction of property by other migrants or asylum seekers. This is relevant since it can be seen as an indicator for the trust in other asylum seekers, which will likely have an effect on the feelings and perceptions of safety. This question therefore is: *Have you ever been victimized or has your property been destroyed by other asylum seekers or migrants, if so where?*

The answer options for this question are:

- a. No
- b. Yes, while on the journey
- c. Yes, somewhere else in Europe
- d. Yes, while in the Netherlands.

More options can be true since they do not rule out each other. The different answer options can explain the feelings and perceptions of safety of asylum seekers in the sense that asylum seekers which did not have this experience (option a) feel safer than asylum seekers which did have this experience (b, c and d). Further differences are explained via the same reasons as the previous question. Based on de Vries (2004) it can be stated this question is based on the affective dimension of safety perception since it will increase the perceptions surrounding the possibility of being victimized or having property destroyed by other asylum seekers or migrants. When applying McLeod (2018) to both questions earlier victimisation by both other asylum seekers, or migrants, and governmental officials can in general explain the feelings and perceptions of the asylum seekers towards these two groups, since asylum seekers which were victimised by them are expected to have negative feelings towards these perceiving them in a hostile way.

For both questions, ethical arguments can be placed. However the epistemological value of both answers is too valuable. Besides that other safeguarding mechanisms are included as explained in the approved research request. Since both questions focus on traumatic events which could have happened on route to Europe, the question *Which route did you take to enter Europe?* could be included to get further inside on the individual experience factors, but also on the socio-demographic factors. This was however not chosen for since the individual experience factors investigated based on victimisation are assumed to have happened independently from the route that was taken.



#### 4.2.3 Environmental factors:

As explained in the theory section there are two types of environmental factors, physical effects and social effects. Physical effects are based on the quality, function and nature of residential areas and the presence of different types of criminality (de Vries, 2004, p. 26). Social effects are based on the social integration of citizens in and the ethnical composition in that same residential area (de Vries, 2004, p. 26). The physical environment in this thesis is the Dutch asylum procedure. This procedure was explained in chapter 3.2, based on the sub-question *What is the asylum procedure asylum seekers in The Netherlands have to follow?* and was conceptualised as being: the bureaucratic procedure, and the organisations involved, an asylum seeker is in after applying for asylum in the Netherlands as part of the EU Common European Asylum System.

Since this thesis aims to measure and to explain the feelings and perceptions of safety of asylum seekers in the Dutch asylum procedure a first questionnaire question based on the physical environment is: *Do you, in general, feel safe since your arrival in The Netherlands ?*

Answer options are:

- a. Very safe
- b. Safe
- c. Not safe not unsafe
- d. Unsafe
- e. Very unsafe

The answer options for this question are designed on the base of a scale ranging from very safe to very unsafe.

This question contains all three dimensions of safety perception, the affective, cognitive and behavioural dimensions, as stated in de Vries (2004) and does not directly ask whether the asylum seekers feel safe in the Dutch asylum procedure due to two reasons. The first reason is that asylum seekers might not have the feeling that they are in the Dutch asylum procedure, but feel that they are in The Netherlands which could lead to confusion. The second reason is that asylum seekers when they arrive in The Netherlands are expected to directly come in contact with Dutch officials as a part of the asylum procedure. This explanation also applies for following questionnaire questions.

To determine the time an asylum seeker is in The Netherlands the question: *How long are you already in The Netherlands?* will be asked. This question can give an indication about the duration of the asylum procedure, and the phase the asylum seeker is in. Besides that it can be used to explain the level of habituation of the asylum seeker in the Netherlands which is expected to have a positive effect on the feelings and perceptions of safety. Based on de Vries (2004) it can be stated this question is based on the cognitive dimension of safety perception. This is in the sense that the duration of the presence in The Netherlands of the asylum seeker will have a positive effect on the cognitive dimension of safety perception since the individual knowledge of asylum seekers surrounding unsafe situations and the personal estimate on the risks to be caught in such a situation will increase.

In the Dutch asylum-procedure a decision will be made surrounding the future of the asylum seekers, which brings uncertainty. This uncertainty could have an effect on the feelings and perceptions of safety of the asylum seekers. However since all asylum seekers are conceptualised as being uncertain about their future this uncertainty is seen as having no explanatory value surrounding the feelings and perceptions of safety of asylum seekers since it has no impact. However the question: *Do you have the feeling that Dutch officials understand your situation?* can be asked. This question should be seen as an indicator on the asylum seeker perspective on the capability of the Dutch officials working in the asylum procedure in assessing individual asylum requests and could be affected by earlier victimizations or the destruction of property by governmental officials as asked in an earlier question as based on McLeod (2018).

Answer options are:

- a. Very sure
- b. Sure
- c. Not sure not unsure
- d. Unsure
- e. Very unsure

The answer options are designed on the base of a scale ranging from very sure to very unsure. Very sure should be seen as an indicator for the asylum seeker feeling safe since the Dutch officials, which are part of the environment and decide on the asylum seekers future, are not perceived in a negative way. Because of that very unsure should be seen as an indicator for the asylum seekers feeling unsafe.

Another question to be used based on Dutch officials is: *Do you have the feeling that Dutch officials are honest?*

Answer options are:

- a. Very honest
- b. Honest
- c. Not honest not dishonest
- d. Dishonest
- e. Very dishonest

This question should be seen as an indicator for the feelings and perceptions of safety caused by the interaction with the organisations which are involved in the Dutch asylum procedure, and whether the asylum seekers see the officials involved as being honest, integer and trustworthy. The same as with the previous question this answer could be affected by earlier victimizations by governmental officials as asked in an earlier question as based on McLeod (2018). The answer options are designed on the base of a scale ranging from very honest to very dishonest and should be understood in the same way as those of the previous question.

Based on the answer to sub-question two can be stated that asylum seekers have limited freedom while they are in the Dutch asylum procedure. This limited freedom could give the asylum seekers the feeling that they are treated as criminals. Besides that the asylum seekers are not able to pursuit all options in their personal development due to these restrictions but also due to the for them alien environment and language. Next to that this limited freedom could be a trigger for traumatic experiences of the asylum seekers to show up. To measure the perceptions of asylum seekers on the limited freedom in terms of movements and opportunities in the asylum procedure the question: *Do you feel restricted in your movements and your opportunities since your arrival in The Netherlands?* will be included.

- 1. Yes
  - a. By my lack of knowledge of the language
  - b. By the obligations of the asylum procedure
  - c. By my lack of knowledge of the environment
  - d. Due to the limited freedom
  - e. Other, namely: .....
- 2. No

Another environmental effect which could have an impact on the feelings and perceptions of safety of asylum seekers is their experience with the Dutch population. Therefore the question: *Do you feel welcomed by the Dutch population?* will be asked. For this close-ended question two answer options are generated.

- a. Yes
- b. No

Asylum seekers which feel welcomed by the Dutch population are expected to feel more safe than asylum seekers which do not feel welcomed based on the perceived hostility of the alien environment.

In the answer to sub-question two also came forward that asylum seekers are provided with different types of information related to the asylum procedure, their legal rights and the house rules in the different COA locations. Since being well informed is likely to have an effect on the feelings and perceptions of safety, the question: *Do you feel well informed about?*

- a. The asylum procedure
- b. My legal rights
- c. The house rules in the COA locations
- d. None of the above

will be included, with more options being possible.

Based on de Vries (2004) it can be stated this question is based on all three dimensions surrounding individual safety perception. The affected dimension is included since being well informed about the asylum procedure, legal rights and house rules are lowering the perception of the possibility being victimized or having your property destroyed since the rights and rules are meant to prevent that. The cognitive dimension is included since being well informed about procedure, rights and rules will have a positive effect on the individual knowledge surrounding safe situations and that the procedure, rights and rules are meant to minimize these besides. The behavioural dimension is included since asylum seekers which feel well informed about the rules and their rights are expected to behave more freely since they know what they are allowed to and what they can expect of others. Asylum seekers which feel not well informed are therefore expected to feel less safe than asylum seekers which have the feeling that they are well informed on the base of certainty.

Differences between the reception centres can be used to explain the perceptions, and included feelings, of safety of asylum seekers. Newer, more comfortable and less crowded

reception centres are assumed to have a positive effect on the perceptions of safety of asylum seekers. The location of the reception centre can also play a role since there is more societal pressure against some reception centres, e.g. Ter Apel, than others (EenVandaag, 2019). This societal pressure could have negative effect on the perceptions of safety of asylum seekers since it in general means that they are undesired in these areas. Therefore the question: *Which AZC are you in?* will be asked.

The answer options for this question are based on the three AZC's which were initially selected for the collection of data for this thesis.

- a. Winterswijk
- b. Almelo
- c. Azelo

Since the conceptualisation of feelings and perceptions of safety also includes a behavioural component a question will be included in the questionnaire measuring this. This question is *Do you avoid certain locations in the centre you are living in because you feel unsafe there?*

Answer options for this close-ended question are:

- a. Yes, because of other asylum seekers
- b. Yes, because of Dutch officials
- c. Yes, other...
- d. No

Asylum seekers which avoid certain locations in the centre they are living in since they feel unsafe there are expected to feel less safe than asylum seekers who do not avoid certain locations. The differentiation in answer options a, b and c can be used as explanatory factors for these feelings of unsafety.

As explained in answering sub-question two, an asylum seeker can have four transfers while in the Dutch asylum procedure. That means when in these uncertain times surrounding their future the asylum seekers have to acclimatize to different environments, therefore the question: *How many transfers did you have since your arrival in the Netherlands?* will be included.

Answer options will be ranging from 1 to 4 as based on the answer to sub-question two. The amount of transfers can be used to explain the feelings and perceptions of safety of asylum seekers as based on habituation and the in general alien environment the asylum seekers are in.

Social environmental effects as explained in de Vries (2004, p. 26) are in this thesis about the social integration and cohesion and the ethnic composition in the reception centres. As stated in de Vries (2004, p. 26), social cohesion has a positive effect on the perceptions of safety and can therefore be used to explain these perceptions. This also further supported in Hinkle (2015) which states that social cohesion and social control have a positive effect on the feelings and perceptions of safety of individuals. Therefore the question: *Do you have the feeling you and your property are safe amongst other asylum seekers?* will be asked, with answer options:

- a. Completely sure
- b. Sure
- c. Not sure not unsure
- d. Unsure
- e. Completely unsure

This question contains all three dimension of safety perception as explained in De Vries (2004), since leaving property amongst other asylum seekers is based on personal actions which is behaviour. The affective component is included since this behaviour is potentially affected by earlier victimizations or the destruction of property by other asylum seekers as asked in an earlier question as based on McLeod (2018). The cognitive component is included since it is affected by the knowledge of the house rules in the centre and trust in other asylum seekers.

As a measure of social cohesion the question: *Do you feel a bond with other asylum seekers?* will be included, with answer options:

- a. Very strong
- b. Strong
- c. Neutral
- d. Weak
- e. Very weak

The answers given to this question should be conceived in the same manner as those of the previous question and could be affected by earlier victimizations or the destruction of property by other asylum seekers as asked in an earlier question which can have a negative effect on the feelings and perceptions of safety of the asylum seekers (McLeod, 2018). The affective dimension as stated in de Vries (2004) therefore is included in this question.

#### **4.3.4 Social factors**

For asylum seekers social factors are seen as irrelevant since they are assumed to live inside their own bubble having other priorities, like uncertainty about their future and other post migration factors as stated in Kirmayer et al. (2011), than being prone to broader social processes related to safety besides being in their own ‘homogenous’ asylum seeker community.

#### **4.4 Data collection procedure**

In this part of the thesis will be explained which procedures were followed in order to collect the data on the base of the questionnaire questions generated in the previous part of the thesis with the eventual goal to answer the main research question. Unfortunately it was not possible to collect data of asylum seekers which was the intention as can be understood throughout this thesis. Multiple research requests were made but the relevant organisations (IND, COA and VluchtelingenWerk) which should give permission before the questionnaire could be conducted were not able to cooperate. Since this thesis, and the accompanying passing of the bachelor study in Management, Society and Technology, is depended on this it was decided upon together with the educational staff to let a simulation happen in order to collect data which could be further worked out and analysed to show that the researcher possessed the competences needed to pass. This simulation can be seen as being in conflict with the Netherlands Code of Conduct for Research Integrity since it can be deemed as the fabrication and falsification of data. However this thesis will not state that the research results which are collected on the base of the simulation are facts and can besides that be further justified since it is caused by circumstances beyond the researcher’s control. Next to that this thesis aims to report to the research process in a proper way, therefore staying in line with the epistemological values of honesty, transparency and scrupulousness which are meant to guide proper scientific research (KNAW, 2018).

##### **4.4.1 Research population**

Since it was not possible to have asylum seekers to act as research population, participants for the simulation were selected in the researchers personal network. These participants will in further parts of thesis be known as respondents since calling them asylum seekers is seen as unjust and would give the false impression that any scientific value can be derived from the answers.

The procedure which was followed to select the respondents was based on communication via the telephone app WhatsApp. Potential adult respondents were messaged if they wanted to help the researcher by providing data for the bachelor thesis while acting as asylum seekers by answering a range of questionnaire questions. In that same message information was provided about the asylum procedure and the research in general (see appendix 1). Before potential respondents were contacted it was considered whether they were able to answer the questionnaire questions in a reasonable manner.

As stated earlier since this research involves human subjects it needs to be ethically responsible based on the ethical standards of the BMS faculty of the University of Twente to ensure and protect the wellbeing and other legitimate interests of the subjects involved, which was considered with the original research setting focussing on asylum seekers. Since the simulation does not collect personal data of the respondents, and therefore does not intervene with their wellbeing and other legitimate interests it was considered to be irrelevant to let the respondents sign an informed consent form which was created for the original research setting.

#### **4.4.2 Questionnaire procedure**

In this part of the thesis will be explained in which way the questionnaire was conducted, and how the respondents provided their data.

In order to conduct the questionnaire usage was made of the Qualtrics program. In this program the questionnaire questions and answers as explained in the operationalisation part of this thesis were placed, with some exceptions. For the question: *What is your country of origin?* answer options were created to give guidance to the respondents and to get more similar answer outcomes by avoiding a wide range of answers due to the simulation. These answer options are:

- a) Syria
- b) Nigeria
- c) Iran

and were based on the three most common asylum request nationalities in The Netherlands for the first quartile of 2019 (CBS, 2019).

For the question: *How long are you already in The Netherlands?* due to the same reasons answer options were generated on the base of the answer of sub-question two. These answer options are:



- a. 0-13 days
- b. 14-21 days
- c. 22-50 days
- d. +50 days

and were meant to reflect in which phase of the asylum procedure the respondent would be. Option a is meant to reflect the days between the application of the asylum request and the start of the Algemene Asielprocedure. Option b is meant to reflect the Algemene Asielprocedure. Option c is meant to reflect the period after the Algemene Asielprocedure. Option d is meant to reflect the Verlengde Asielprocedure.

This also is the case for the question: *How many transfers did you have since your arrival in The Netherlands?* which allowed the respondents to choose a number between 1 and 4 instead of a random number.

The final questionnaire as filled in by the respondents can be found in appendix 2.

In order to let the respondents fill in the questionnaire an internet link was provided in the same message as earlier mentioned which led to the questionnaire and enabled the respondents to react to the questions. The questionnaire was online for the period of 29/07-31/07 2019 in which 33 responds were made, meaning data from 33 respondents was collected.

This data was downloaded and placed in the SPSS program. The original raw data set can be found in the data appendix. Since this data set included irrelevant information for this thesis, like the duration of the questionnaire response and the way in which the questionnaire was opened it was adjusted, which meant that irrelevant information was deleted besides giving proper names to the variables. Next to that variables which were belonging to each other were grouped together. This adjusted data set can also be found in the data appendix.

## 5 Analyses

In this part of the bachelor thesis, the results of the questionnaire conducted amongst the respondents will be displayed and analysed on the base of cross-sectional research in order to give an answer to the main research question. This will be done by answering the third and the fourth sub-questions. First an answer will be given to the third sub-question which is: *What are the feelings and perceptions of asylum seekers in the asylum procedure?* after which an answer will be given to the fourth sub-question: *How to explain these feelings and perceptions?*

## **5.1 What are the feelings and perceptions of asylum seekers in the asylum procedure?**

The main variable in this thesis to be measured and to explained are the feelings and perceptions of safety of asylum seekers in the asylum procedure. This sub-question however does not only focus on feelings and perceptions of safety, but also on feelings and perceptions which are based on both social as physical environmental factors as stated in de Vries (2004). Questionnaire questions which measure feelings and perceptions are the questions:

- Do you, in general, feel safe since your arrival in The Netherlands ?
- Do you feel restricted in your movements and your opportunities since your arrival in The Netherlands?
- Do you avoid certain locations in the centre you are living in because you feel unsafe there?
- Do you feel welcomed by the Dutch population?
- Do you have the feeling that Dutch officials are honest?
- Do you feel well informed about...?
- Do you have the feeling that Dutch officials understand your situation?
- Do you have the feeling you and your property are safe amongst other asylum seekers?
- Do you feel a bond with other asylum seekers?

In order to answer the third sub-question frequential distributions of the answers given by the respondents will be displayed. Next to that different combinations of questions measuring specific types of feelings and perception will be displayed. Before such a combination of variables will be created, also known as scale making, a reliability analysis will be conducted. The displayed Cronbach's Alpha should at least be 0,650 before a scale will be made, unless strong theoretical evidence can be given why it is justified to do so with a lower Alpha score.

### **5.1.1 Questions measuring feelings and perceptions of safety**

Three questions measuring feelings and perceptions of safety can be distinguished. These are:

- Do you, in general, feel safe since your arrival in The Netherlands?
- Do you avoid certain locations in the centre you are living in because you feel unsafe there?
- Do you have the feeling you and your property are safe amongst other asylum seekers?

In the data set these questions are coded as: Safe\_NL, Avoiding\_Locations and Safe\_AS. These three questions can be seen as valid indicators from a theoretical perspective for measuring feelings and perceptions of safety since all three components of safety perception are included, as stated in de Vries (2004), and besides that measure both the personal as the property status of safety.

As can be seen in the frequency distribution of the variable Safe\_NL, *table 1*, 19 of the respondents did feel very safe or safe since they arrived in The Netherlands, while 5 feel unsafe or very unsafe. Since 57,6% feels very safe or safe it can be concluded that most of the respondents feel safe since they arrived in the Netherlands. This further supported with the histogram, *figure 4*, which is skewed to the left side which can be seen as indicator for feelings of safety since the lower the score the more safer the respondents should feel.

Do you, in general, feel safe since your arrival in The Netherlands ? - Feeling safe in the Netherlands					
		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Very safe	3	9,1	9,1	9,1
	Safe	16	48,5	48,5	57,6
	Not safe, not unsafe	9	27,3	27,3	84,8
	Unsafe	4	12,1	12,1	97,0
	Very unsafe	1	3,0	3,0	100,0
	Total	33	100,0	100,0	

*Table 1*

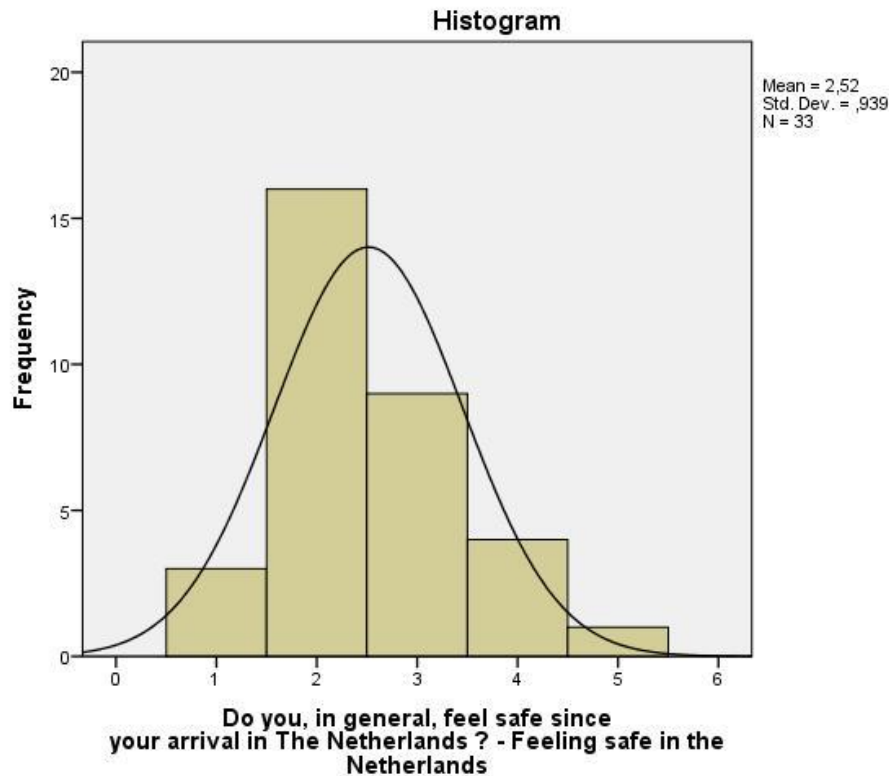


Figure 4

As can be seen in *table 2*, 72,7% of the respondents stated that they avoid certain locations in the centre they are living in since they feel unsafe there while 27,3% does not avoid certain locations which can be understood as them not feeling unsafe.

Whether locations are avoided or not					
		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Yes	24	72,7	72,7	72,7
	No	9	27,3	27,3	100,0
Total		33	100,0	100,0	

Table 2

The most common given reason why certain locations are avoided is because of other asylum seekers, with 69% as seen in *table 3*. In 20,7% of the cases locations are avoided due to Dutch officials, and in 10,3% of the cases locations are avoided due to other reasons which are displayed in the data set as: two times the presence of Dutch people and one time the presence of Nigerian people. Other asylum seekers are therefore the main reason why the respondents feel unsafe and avoid certain locations in the centre they are living in.

<b>\$Avoiding_Locations Frequencies</b>				
		Responses		Percent of Cases
		N	Percent	
\$Avoiding_Locations <sup>a</sup>	Do you avoid certain locations in the centre you are living in because you feel unsafe there? - Selected Choice Yes, because of other asylum seekers	20	69,0%	83,3%
	Do you avoid certain locations in the centre you are living in because you feel unsafe there? - Selected Choice Yes, because of Dutch officials	6	20,7%	25,0%
	Do you avoid certain locations in the centre you are living in because you feel unsafe there? - Selected Choice Yes, because of	3	10,3%	12,5%
	Total	29	100,0%	120,8%

a. Dichotomy group tabulated at value 1.

Table 3

For the variable Safe\_AS the following distribution in answers was given by the respondents. As seen in *table 4*, the most given answer by the respondents in 36,4% of the cases is not sure and not unsure whether themselves and their property are safe amongst other asylum seekers. 21,2% of the respondents are completely sure and sure about this, while 42,4% is unsure or completely unsure. When looking at the plotted histogram, *figure 5*, it can be stated that the distribution is skewed to the right. Based on that can be stated that overall seen respondents are feeling unsure whether they and their property are safe amongst other asylum seekers.

<b>Do you have the feeling you and your property are safe amongst other asylum seekers? - Safety of you and your property</b>					
		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Completely sure	2	6,1	6,1	6,1
	Sure	5	15,2	15,2	21,2
	Not sure, not unsure	12	36,4	36,4	57,6
	Unsure	6	18,2	18,2	75,8
	Completely unsure	8	24,2	24,2	100,0
	Total	33	100,0	100,0	

Table 4

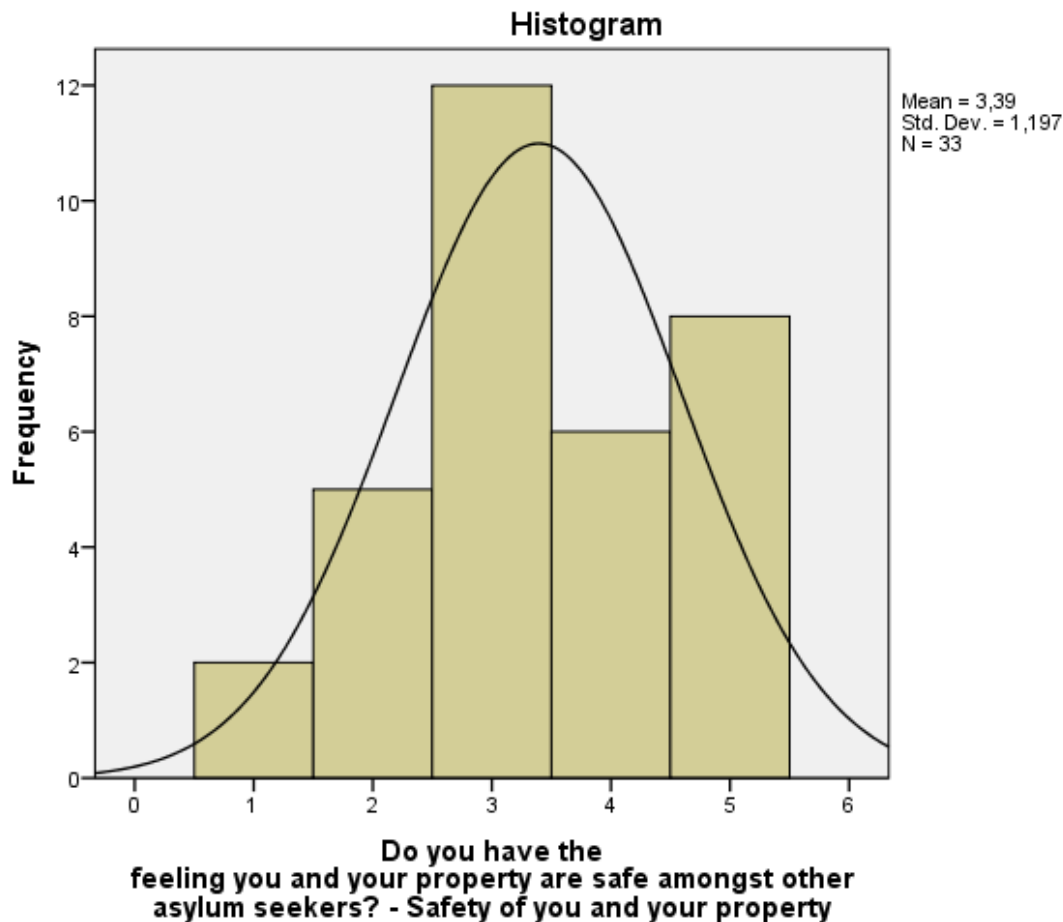


Figure 5

When combining all three variables into one variable, making a scale, the variable Safe\_All can be generated. This variable can be seen as the variable measuring the feelings and perceptions of safety in this thesis on the base of the theoretical justification given. As can be seen in *table 5*, Cronbach's Alpha for this variable is 0,571 which is too low on the base of the earlier mentioned criteria to generate a scale.

Reliability Statistics		
Cronbach's Alpha Based on Standardized Items		
Cronbach's Alpha	Standardized Items	N of Items
,567	,571	3

Table 5

Because of that all three variables are recoded into the variables Safe\_NL1, Avoiding\_Locations1 and Safe\_AS1. In these variables the neutral options of the variables Safe\_NL and Safe\_AS are recoded on the base of the value of the mean given at both

histograms. All three variables therefore have only two answer options, 1 and 2, with 1 being an indicator for feelings and perceptions of safety and 2 being an indicator for feelings and perceptions of unsafety.

In *table 6* the reliability statistics of the recoded variables as included in the variable Safe\_All can be found. As can be seen Cronbach's Alpha is 0,647, which should be seen as an indication that the three variables cannot be merged into one scale. However due to the theoretical justification to do so, and the not extremely low Alpha, in comparison with the set criterium of 0,650, it was decided keep the variable Safe\_All in the current form as the main indicator for feelings and perceptions of safety which is the dependent variable in this thesis.

Reliability Statistics		
Cronbach's Alpha	Cronbach's Alpha Based on Standardized Items	N of Items
,642	,647	3

Table 6

The frequency distribution of the variable Safe\_All can be found in *table 7*. The lower the score, the more safe the respondents should feel.

Scale variable Safe_All					
		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	3,00	8	24,2	24,2	24,2
	4,00	12	36,4	36,4	60,6
	5,00	8	24,2	24,2	84,8
	6,00	5	15,2	15,2	100,0
	Total	33	100,0	100,0	

Table 7

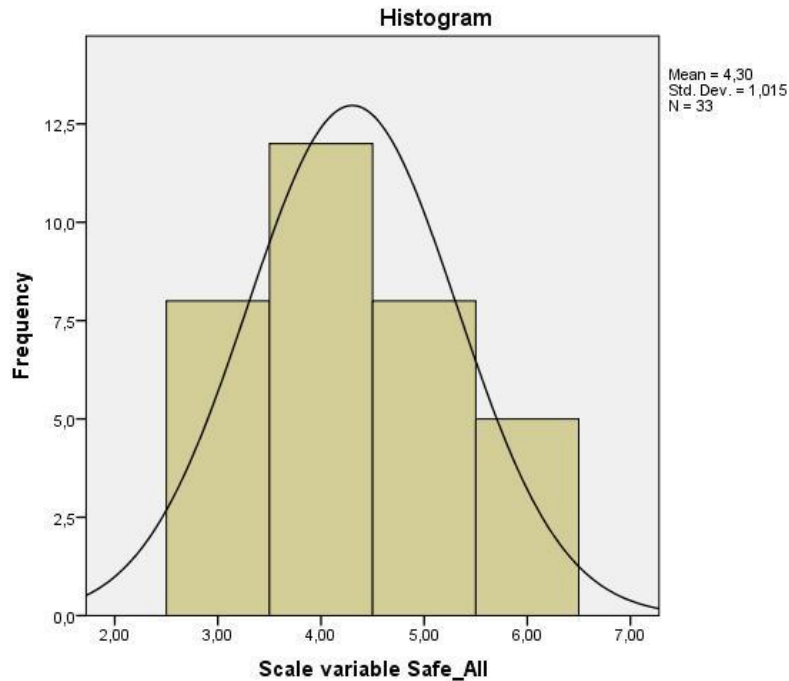


Figure 6

As can be seen in the plotted histogram, *figure 6*, on average the respondents report feeling safe, as indicated by the mean score of 4,30, and the left skewness of the distribution with the lower the score the more safe respondents should feel. Concluding it can therefore be stated on the base of these data that overall seen the respondents are feeling safe while in the Dutch asylum procedure.

### 5.1.2 Questions measuring feelings and perceptions on environmental factors

Based on the environmental factors as stated in de Vries (2004) multiple question divisions can be made. A division can for example be made based on The Netherlands. In the questionnaire are two questions which directly ask the respondents about how they feel about The Netherlands or the Dutch population. These questions are:

- Do you feel restricted in your movements and your opportunities since your arrival in The Netherlands?
- Do you feel welcomed by the Dutch population?

The variable names of these questions are: Restricted and Welcomed\_Popu.

As can be seen in *table 8* a significant proportion of the respondents, 78,8%, feels restricted in his or her movements since they arrived in The Netherlands. 21,2% does not feel restricted since they arrived in The Netherlands.



**Do you feel restricted in your  
movements and your opportunities since your arrival in The  
Netherlands?**

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Yes	26	78,8	78,8	78,8
	No	7	21,2	21,2	100,0
	Total	33	100,0	100,0	

Table 8

As can be seen in *table 9* of the 26 respondents who feel restricted, the majority of them, 53,8%, feels restricted because of their lack of knowledge of the Dutch language. This is followed as most common reason given by the obligations of the asylum procedure, by 50% of the 26 respondents. 26,9% of the 26 respondents feels restricted due to the lack of knowledge of the environment, and also due to the limited freedom. 6,8% of the 26 respondents feels restricted due to other reasons than the ones given, but will not be explained due to the limited significance.

<b>\$Restricted Frequencies</b>				
		Responses		Percent of Cases
		N	Percent	
\$Restricted <sup>a</sup>	Why do you feel restricted? - Selected Choice By my lack of knowledge of the language	14	31,8%	53,8%
	Why do you feel restricted? - Selected Choice By the obligations of the asylum procedure	13	29,5%	50,0%
	Why do you feel restricted? - Selected Choice By my lack of knowledge of the environment	7	15,9%	26,9%
	Why do you feel restricted? - Selected Choice Due to the limited freedom	7	15,9%	26,9%
	Why do you feel restricted? - Selected Choice Other	3	6,8%	11,5%
Total		44	100,0%	169,2%

a. Dichotomy group tabulated at value 1.

Table 9

As seen in *table 10* a small majority, 57,6%, of the respondents reported feeling welcomed by the Dutch population. 39,4% of the respondents reported not feeling welcomed, and one of the respondents did not fill in this question.

Do you feel welcomed by the Dutch population?					
		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Yes	19	57,6	59,4	59,4
	No	13	39,4	40,6	100,0
	Total	32	97,0	100,0	
Missing	System	1	3,0		
Total		33	100,0		

Table 10

In order to measure the respondents feelings towards The Netherlands, a scale variable can be created called Opi\_NL combining the outcomes of both Restricted, and Welcomed\_Popu. This however is not possible due to the negative Cronbach's Alpha as seen in *table 11*.

Reliability Statistics		
Cronbach's Alpha <sup>a</sup>	Cronbach's Alpha Based on Standardized Items <sup>a</sup>	N of Items
-,776	-,792	2

a. The value is negative due to a negative average covariance among items. This violates reliability model assumptions. You may want to check item codings.

Table 11

While in the Dutch asylum procedure, asylum seekers come in contact with two groups: Dutch officials and other asylum seekers. Since both are part of the environment as stated in de Vries (2004) and as based on the answer of sub-question two, the frequency distributions of the feelings and perceptions of the respondents towards these will be given.

The two questions measuring the feelings towards the Dutch officials are:

- Do you have the feeling that Dutch officials understand your situation?
- Do you have the feeling that Dutch officials are honest?

The variable names are: Understanding\_Off and Honesty\_Off.

As can be seen in *table 12* the majority of the respondents, 36,4%, has the feeling that Dutch officials hardly understand their situations. 33,3% of the respondents has the feeling that Dutch officials understand their situations very well or well. 27,3% of the respondents has the feeling that Dutch officials do not or do not at all understand their situations. Based on the plotted histogram, *figure 7*, can be stated that based on the mean score, 3, the respondents

hardly have the feeling that Dutch officials understand their situations, but since it is skewed to the left can be stated that this capacity of Dutch officials is not viewed in a too negative way.

Do you have the feeling that Dutch officials understand your situation? - Feeling of being understood					
		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Very well	1	3,0	3,1	3,1
	Well	10	30,3	31,3	34,4
	Hardly	12	36,4	37,5	71,9
	Not	6	18,2	18,8	90,6
	Not at all	3	9,1	9,4	100,0
	Total	32	97,0	100,0	
Missing	System	1	3,0		
Total		33	100,0		

Table 12

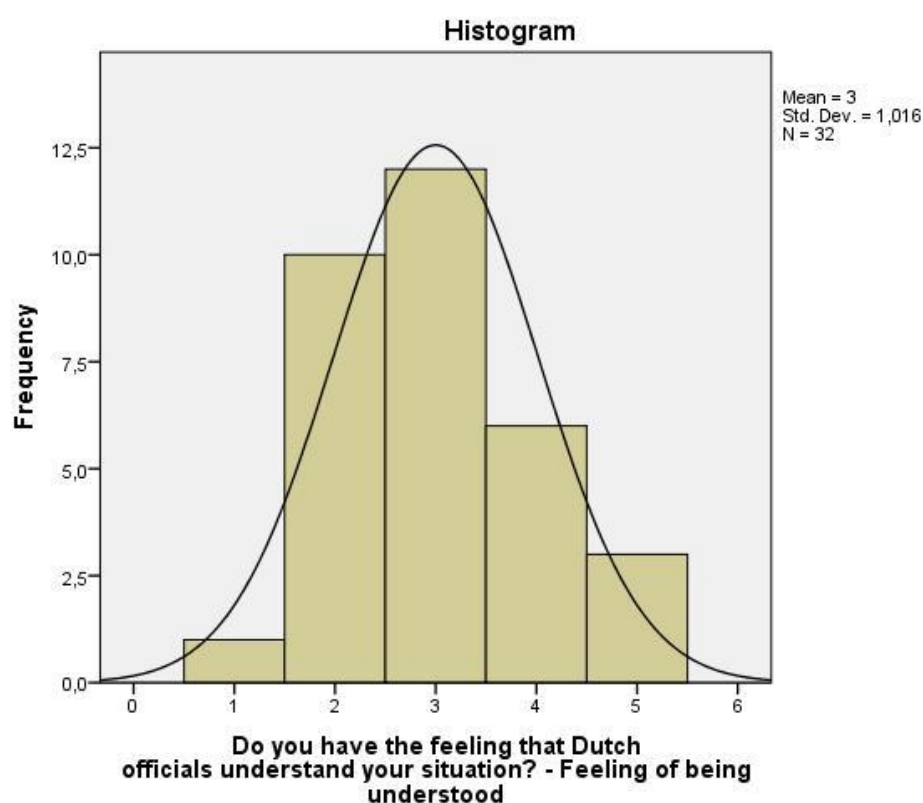


Figure 7

As based on *table 13* can be stated that the majority of respondents, 39,4%, have the feeling that Dutch officials are honest. 27,3% of the respondents has the feeling that Dutch officials are not honest but also not dishonest. 24,4% of the respondents have the feeling that Dutch

officials are dishonest, with 3% having the feeling Dutch officials are very dishonest. 6,1% of the respondents have the feeling Dutch officials are very honest. As can be seen in the plotted histogram, *figure 8*, the mean score is 2,79 next to the histogram being skewed to the left. Based on that can be concluded that overall seen the respondents have the feeling that Dutch officials are honest, since the lower the score the more honest the Dutch officials are viewed.

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Very honest	2	6,1	6,1	6,1
	Honest	13	39,4	39,4	45,5
	Not honest, not dishonest	9	27,3	27,3	72,7
	Dishonest	8	24,2	24,2	97,0
	Very dishonest	1	3,0	3,0	100,0
	Total	33	100,0	100,0	

Table 13

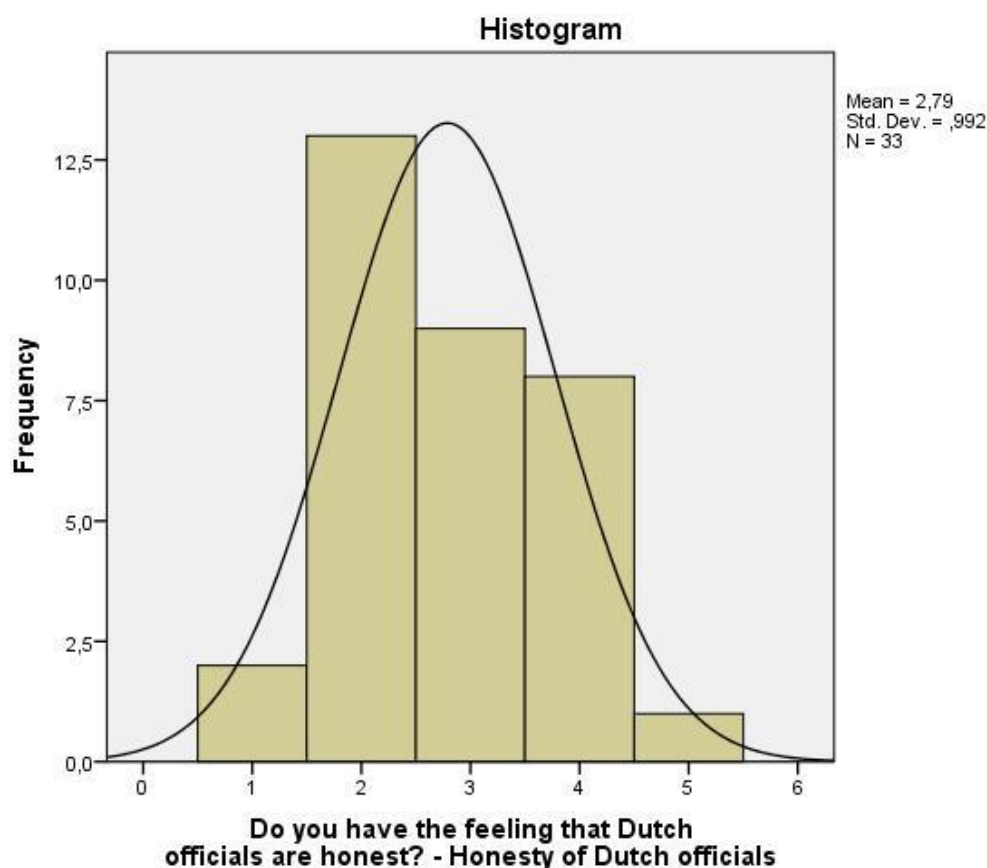


Figure 8

When combining both the Understanding\_Off and Honesty\_Off variables into a scale, the feelings and perceptions of the respondents towards Dutch officials can be measured. As can be seen in *table 14*, Cronbach's Alpha for this scale is 0,652 which can be seen as

questionable. However 0,652 is not seen as too low to not generate this scale called Opi\_Off as based on the earlier mentioned criteria.

Reliability Statistics	
Cronbach's Alpha	N of Items
,652	2

Table 14

In *figure 9*, the plotted histogram of the variable Opi\_Off is displayed. As can be seen the minimum value is 3, while the maximum is value 10. How lower the value the more positively the respondents feel about Dutch officials. Based on the mean score of 5,70, which is closer to 3 than to 10, and the fact that the histogram is skewed to the left can be concluded that the respondents on average feel positive about Dutch officials based on their honesty and their capacity to understand.

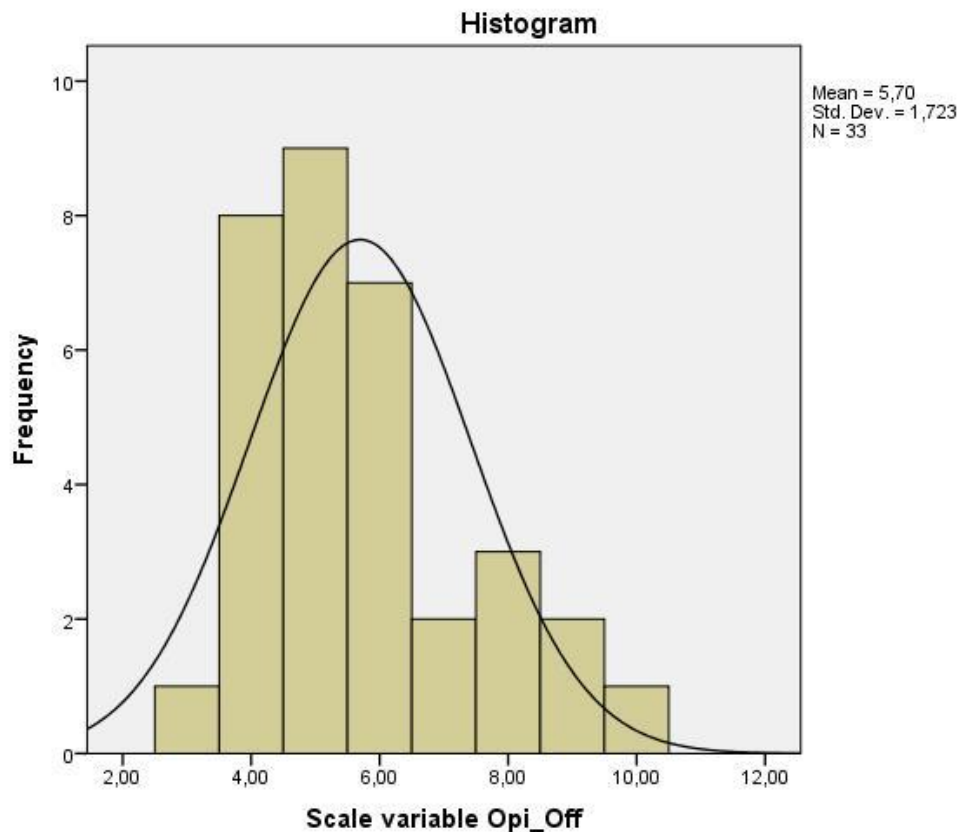


Figure 9

In the questionnaire there are two variables measuring feelings and perceptions towards other asylum seekers, these are:

- Do you have the feeling you and your property are safe amongst other asylum seekers?

- Do you feel a bond with other asylum seekers?

The variable names of these questions are: Safe\_AS and Social\_Bond AS.

Safe\_AS was already discussed, therefore only Social\_Bond AS will be displayed.

As can be seen in *table 15* and *figure 10*, the respondents have the tendency to no feel a social bond with other asylum seekers since the cumulative score of neutral, weak and very weak is with 78,8% much higher than the cumulative score of very strong, strong and neutral with 54,5% and the fact that the histogram is skewed to the right.

Do you feel a bond with other asylum seekers? - Bond with other asylum seekers					
		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Very strong	1	3,0	3,0	3,0
	Strong	6	18,2	18,2	21,2
	Neutral	11	33,3	33,3	54,5
	Weak	6	18,2	18,2	72,7
	Very weak	9	27,3	27,3	100,0
	Total	33	100,0	100,0	

Table 15

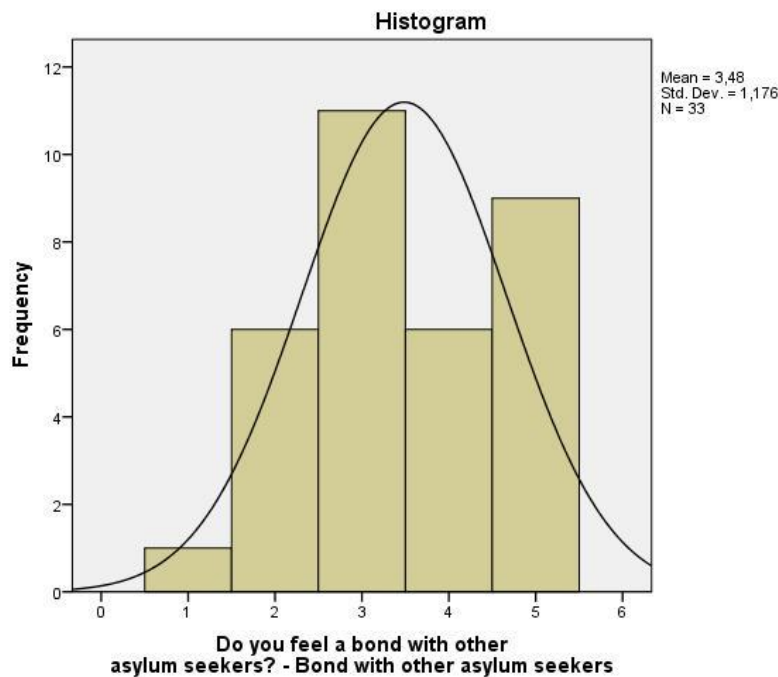


Figure 9

When combining the variables of Safe\_AS and Social\_Bond AS into a scale, the feelings and perceptions of the respondents towards other asylum seekers can be measured. As can be seen in *table 16*, Cronbach's Alpha is high enough as based on the mentioned criteria to do so. This scale variable is called: Opi\_AS.

Reliability Statistics	
Cronbach's Alpha	N of Items
,650	2

Table 16

As can be seen in *figure 11*, which is the plotted histogram of the variable Opi\_AS, the minimum score is 2 while the maximum score is 10. The lower the score the more positive and safe the respondents should feel towards other asylum seekers. As shown the mean score is 6,88 with the histogram being skewed to the right with two outliers on the 6, which is right in the middle, and on the 10, which is the maximum score. Based on that can be concluded that the respondents overall on average have negative feelings towards other asylum seekers besides feeling unsafe for themselves and their property.

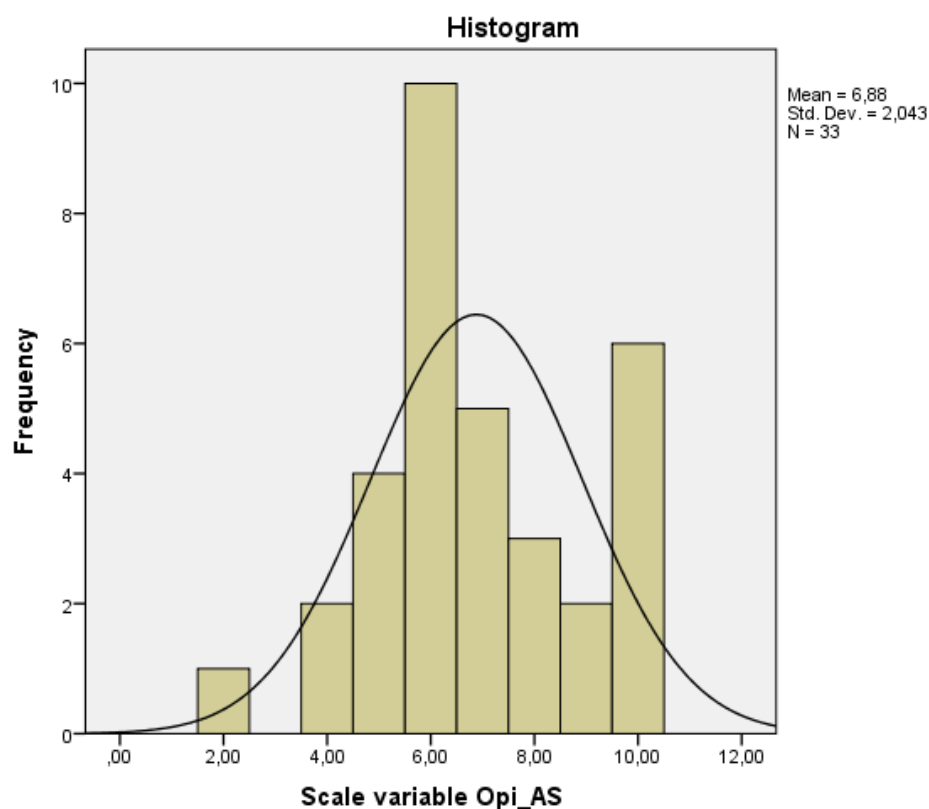


Figure 10

The question: Do you feel well informed about...? Asks the respondents on what they feel informed about in the asylum procedure. When combining all three answer options the variable \$Informed\_All was created. As can be seen in *table 17*, of the 33 respondents 7 did

not feel well informed about at least on the three options, which is 21,2% of the respondents. 78,8% of the respondents therefore feels well informed about at least one of the three options.

Case Summary						
	Cases					
	Valid		Missing		Total	
	N	Percent	N	Percent	N	Percent
\$Informed_All <sup>a</sup>	26	78,8%	7	21,2%	33	100,0%

a. Dichotomy group tabulated at value 1.

Table 17

As can be seen in *table 18*, 15 of the respondents feel well informed about the asylum procedure. 17 feel well informed about their legal rights, and 19 feel well informed about the house rules in the COA locations.

\$Informed_All Frequencies				
		Responses		Percent of Cases
		N	Percent	
\$Informed_All <sup>a</sup>	Do you feel well informed about? The asylum procedure	15	29,4%	57,7%
	Do you feel well informed about? My legal rights	17	33,3%	65,4%
	Do you feel well informed about? The house rules in the COA locations	19	37,3%	73,1%
Total		51	100,0%	196,2%

a. Dichotomy group tabulated at value 1.

Table 18

Based on *tables 17 and 18* can be concluded that there is a minority of the respondents, 21,2%, which does not feel well informed about anything. Of the respondents which feel well informed, most feel well informed about the house rules in the COA locations followed by their legal rights and the asylum procedure.

Another grouping of questions including environmental factors which can be made is based on the asylum procedure. These questions are:

- Do you have the feeling you and your property are safe amongst other asylum seekers?
- Do you feel a bond with other asylum seekers?
- Do you have the feeling that Dutch officials understand your situation?
- Do you have the feeling that Dutch officials are honest?



- Do you feel well informed about...?

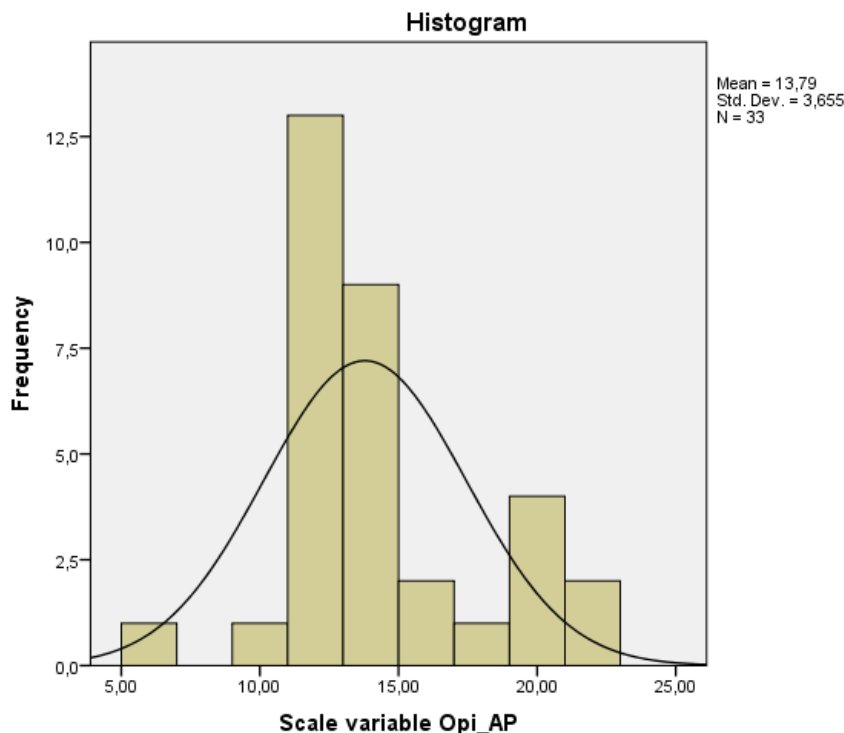
In order to generate this scale, the different variables based on being informed were recoded in the variable Informed\_All whether the respondents stated they are well informed or not.

As can be seen in *table 19*, Cronbach's Alpha for this scale is 0,802 which means it fulfils the earlier mentioned criterium. Therefore the variable Opi\_AP was generated in order to measure the respondents feelings and perceptions towards the asylum procedure as a whole.

Reliability Statistics	
Cronbach's Alpha	N of Items
,802	5

*Table 19*

In *figure 12* the plotted histogram of Opi\_AP can be found, with the lower the score the more positive the respondents feel about the asylum procedure. As can be seen in *figure 12* the distribution of Opi\_AP is diverse, which is supported by the high standard deviation of 3,665. Two outliers can be detected in *figure 12*, which lay around the scores of 11 and 14. In *table 20*, the scores between 11 and 14 are including 60,6% of all cases. Because of that can be concluded that the respondents overall tend to feel positive about the asylum procedure on the base of the included variables.



*Figure 11*

Opi_AP					
		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	6,00	1	3,0	3,0	3,0
	10,00	1	3,0	3,0	6,1
	11,00	6	18,2	18,2	24,2
	12,00	7	21,2	21,2	45,5
	13,00	7	21,2	21,2	66,7
	14,00	2	6,1	6,1	72,7
	15,00	1	3,0	3,0	75,8
	16,00	1	3,0	3,0	78,8
	17,00	1	3,0	3,0	81,8
	19,00	1	3,0	3,0	84,8
	20,00	3	9,1	9,1	93,9
	21,00	1	3,0	3,0	97,0
	22,00	1	3,0	3,0	100,0
	Total	33	100,0	100,0	

Table 20

This part of the thesis was based on answering the sub-question: *What are the feelings and perceptions of asylum seekers in the asylum procedure?* The frequency distributions of different categories of feelings and perceptions were displayed and analysed, next to different scale combinations of feelings and perceptions based on environmental factors.

## 5.2 How to explain these feelings and perceptions?

In this part of the thesis the in section 5.1 displayed feelings and perceptions will be analysed and explained on the base of the discussed theoretical framework. This will be done by making use of the Kruskal-Wallis H Test. This test can be used to explain whether there are significant differences between the mean scores of two or more groups. The assumptions needed to use this test are: The dependent variable is measured at the ordinal or continuous level and there should be multiple independent groups. A difference is significant when the p value is smaller than 0,05. With the Kruskal-Wallis H Test can be stated whether there are significant differences between the mean scores of the feelings and perceptions of safety of for example males and females in order to state whether gender can be used as an explanatory factor, or if environmental factors like feeling positive about other asylum seekers also can be used as an explanatory factor. For every Kruskal-Wallis H Test to be conducted can already be stated that the dependent variable, which is Safe\_All, is measured at the continuous scale

level and that all groups tested are independent from each other since that is how the question options were build.

### 5.2.1 Feelings and perceptions of safety based on socio-demographic factors

A socio-demographic factor identified which can be used to explain the feelings and perceptions of safety of individuals is gender: variable name Gender.

Ranks			
	What is your gender?	N	Mean Rank
Safe_All	Male	19	16,24
	Female	14	18,04
	Total	33	

Table 21

Test Statistics <sup>a,b</sup>	
	Safe_All
Chi-Square	,303
df	1
Asymp. Sig.	,582

a. Kruskal Wallis Test

b. Grouping Variable: What is your gender?

Table 22

As seen in *tables 21 and 22* a Kruskal-Wallis H test shows that there is no statistically significant difference in Safe\_All between males and females,  $\chi^2(2) = 0303$ ,  $p = 0,582 > 0,05$ , with a mean rank Safe\_All score of 16,24 for males and 18.04 females. Concluding it can be stated that male respondents on average report feeling safer than female respondents, since the lower the score the safer respondents should feel, but that the difference is not significant meaning gender cannot be used to explain feelings and perceptions of safety.

Another socio-demographic factor which can explain differences is age: variable name Age2.

Ranks			
	Age2	N	Mean Rank
Safe_All	10-29	12	14,75
	30-49	9	18,89
	50-69	12	17,83
	Total	33	

Table 23

Test Statistics <sup>a,b</sup>	
	Safe_All
Chi-Square	1,175
df	2
Asymp. Sig.	,556

a. Kruskal Wallis Test

b. Grouping Variable: Age2

Table 24

As seen in *tables 23 and 24* a Kruskal-Wallis H test shows that there is no statistically significant difference in Safe\_All between different age categories,  $\chi^2(2) = 1,175$ ,  $p = 0,556 > 0,05$ , with a mean rank Safe\_All score of 14,75 for respondents aged 10-29, 18,89 for respondents aged 30-49 and 17,83 for respondents aged 50-69. Concluding it can be stated that feelings and perceptions of safety cannot be explained on the base of the age of the respondents, but that the group of respondents aged 10-29 feels more safe than the group aged 50-69 followed by the group aged 30-49 since the lower the score the safer respondents should feel.

Another socio-demographic factor which can explain differences is the country of origin: variable name Country\_Ori.

Ranks			
	What is your country of origin?	N	Mean Rank
Safe_All	Syria	16	16,19
	Nigeria	5	18,50
	Iran	11	16,05
	Total	32	

Table 25

Test Statistics <sup>a,b</sup>	
	Safe_All
Chi-Square	,293
df	2
Asymp. Sig.	,864

a. Kruskal Wallis Test

b. Grouping Variable: What is your country of origin?

Table 26

As seen in *tables 25 and 26* a Kruskal-Wallis H test shows that there is no statistically significant difference in Safe\_All between respondents coming from different countries of origin.  $\chi^2(2) = 0,293$ ,  $p = 0,864 > 0,05$ , with a mean rank Safe\_All score of 16,19 for respondents from Syria, 18,50 for respondents from Nigeria and 16,05 for respondents from Iran. Concluding it can be stated that feelings and perceptions of safety cannot be explained on the base of the country of origin of the respondents, but that the respondents from Iran report feeling more safe than respondents from Syria and Nigeria since the lower the score the safer respondents should feel. However it must be stated the respondents are not equally distributed amongst the different groups which can have affected the outcome of this test.

Another socio-demographic factor which can explain differences is the time the respondents are in The Netherlands: variable name Time\_NL.

Ranks			
	How long are you already in The Netherlands?	N	Mean Rank
Safe_All	14-21 days	9	10,06
	22-50 days	11	18,41
	+50 days	13	20,62
	Total	33	

Table 27

Test Statistics <sup>a,b</sup>	
	Safe_All
Chi-Square	7,269
df	2
Asymp. Sig.	,026

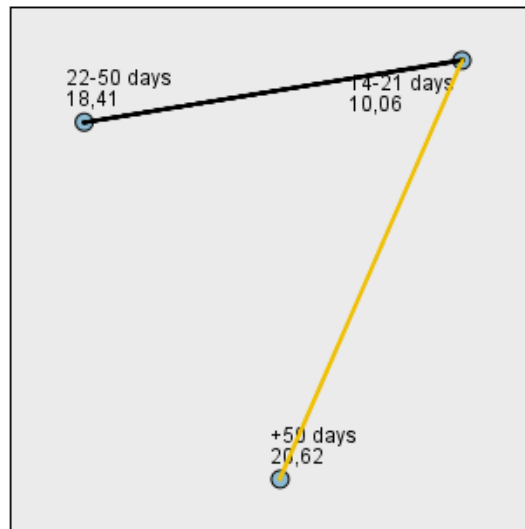
a. Kruskal Wallis Test

b. Grouping  
Variable: How long are you already in The Netherlands?

Table 28

As seen in *tables 27 and 28* a Kruskal-Wallis H test shows that there is a statistically significant difference in Safe\_All between respondents based on their time in The Netherlands.  $\chi^2(2) = 7,269$ ,  $p = 0,026 < 0,05$ , with a mean rank Safe\_All score of 10,06 for respondents which are between 14-21 days in The Netherlands, 18,41 for respondents 22-50 days in The Netherlands and 20,62 for respondents more than 50 days in The Netherlands, with the lower the score the safer respondents should feel. In order to be able to state where these significant differences occur, a so called post hoc test needs to be conducted.

### Pairwise Comparisons of How long are you already in The Netherlands?



Each node shows the sample average rank of How long are you already in The Netherlands?.

Sample1-Sample2	Test Statistic	Std. Error	Std. Test Statistic	Sig.	Adj.Sig.
14-21 days-22-50 days	-8,354	4,170	-2,003	,045	,136
14-21 days-+50 days	-10,560	4,024	-2,625	,009	,026
22-50 days-+50 days	-2,206	3,801	-,580	,562	1,000

Each row tests the null hypothesis that the Sample 1 and Sample 2 distributions are the same.  
Asymptotic significances (2-sided tests) are displayed. The significance level is ,05.  
Significance values have been adjusted by the Bonferroni correction for multiple tests.

Table 29

The results of this post hoc test are displayed in *table 29*. As can be seen in *table 29* there is a significant difference between respondents which are 14-21 days in The Netherlands and respondents which are +50 days in The Netherlands. No other significant differences based on a pairwise comparison can be identified. Based on that can be concluded that though there is a significant difference, age cannot be used to explain feelings and perceptions of safety of the respondents since no inclusive explanation can be found. Besides that must be stated that the durations are based on phases in the asylum procedure therefore being made up artificially with unequal differences. This has however been done because of the simulation and to give guidance to the answers of the respondents, but can have affected the outcome of this test.

Another socio-demographic factor which can explain differences is the amount of transfers of the respondent in the asylum procedure: variable name Amount\_Transfers.

Ranks			
	How many transfers did you have since your arrival in The Netherlands? (1-4)	N	Mean Rank
Scale variable Safe_All	1	3	17,83
	2	7	12,57
	3	11	15,09
	4	12	21,13
	Total	33	

Table 30

Test Statistics <sup>a,b</sup>	
	Scale variable Safe_All
Chi-Square	4,456
df	3
Asymp. Sig.	,216

a. Kruskal Wallis Test

b. Grouping Variable:  
How many transfers did you have since your arrival in The Netherlands? (1-4)

Table 31

As seen in *tables 30 and 31* a Kruskal-Wallis H test shows that there is no statistically significant difference in Safe\_All between respondents based on their amount of transfers.  $\chi^2(2) = 4,456$ ,  $p = 0,216 > 0,05$ , with a mean rank Safe\_All score of 17,83 for with one transfer, 12,57 for respondents with two transfers, 15,09 for respondents with three transfers and 21,13 for respondents with four transfers, with the lower the score the safer respondents should feel. Concluding it can be stated that feelings and perceptions of safety of the respondents cannot be explained on the base of the amount of transfers they had in the Dutch asylum procedure. However must be stated the distribution of respondents amongst the different groups is unequal. Because that a new KWH Test will be conducted combining the respondents who had one and two transfers: variable name Transfers1. As can be seen in *table 32* this however leads to the same outcome, with no significant differences being identified.



Test Statistics <sup>a,b</sup>	
	Safe_All
Chi-Square	3,781
df	2
Asymp. Sig.	,151
a. Kruskal Wallis Test	
b. Grouping Variable: Transfers1	

Table 32

Another socio-demographic factor which can explain differences is the centre the respondent is in: variable name AZC.

Ranks			
	Which AZC are you in?	N	Mean Rank
Safe_All	Winterswijk	19	16,34
	Azelo	8	16,31
	Almelo	5	17,40
	Total	32	

Table 33

Test Statistics <sup>a,b</sup>	
	Safe_All
Chi-Square	,059
df	2
Asymp. Sig.	,971
a. Kruskal Wallis Test	
b. Grouping Variable: Which AZC are you in?	

Table 34

As seen in *tables 33 and 34* a Kruskal-Wallis H test shows that there is no statistically significant difference in Safe\_All between respondents based on the centre they are living in.  $\chi^2(2) = 0,059$ ,  $p = 0,971 > 0,05$ , with a mean rank Safe\_All score of 16,34 for respondents in Winterswijk, 16,31 for respondents in Azelo and 17,40 for respondents in Almelo, with the lower the score the safer respondents should feel. Concluding it can be stated that feelings and

perceptions of safety of the respondents cannot be explained on the base of the amount of transfers they had in the Dutch asylum procedure. However it must be stated the respondents are not equally distributed amongst the different groups which can have affected the outcome of this test.

Another socio-demographic factor which can explain differences is the reason why the respondents fled. This is problematic to do since respondents can be present in multiple of the groups tested, because they could have fled due to multiple reasons. To be able to state whether there are significant differences between groups no good statistical procedure can be identified. Because of that the double responses, four of them, will be deleted in copied variables in a way the distribution among groups is as equalized as possible. This is expected to have little to none effect on the outcome of the KWH Test, which justifies this decision. A KWH Test can be used for this since the dependent variable Safe\_All is measured at the continuous scale level, and the groups tested based on Leave\_All are made independent.

Ranks			
Variable combining Leave_War1, Persecution1,Economic1, Other			
	N	Mean Rank	
Scale variable Safe_All			
War	18	13,94	
Persecution	9	17,06	
Economic	5	25,10	
Other	1	31,00	
Total	33		

Table 35

Test Statistics <sup>a,b</sup>	
Scale variable Safe_All	
Chi-Square	8,039
df	3
Asymp. Sig.	,045

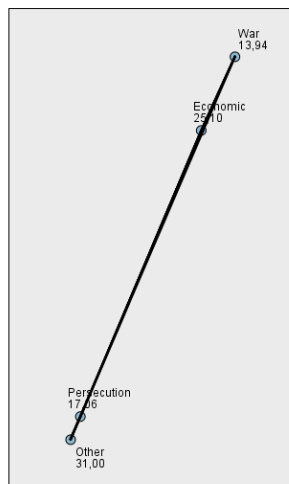
a. Kruskal Wallis Test

b. Grouping Variable:  
Variable combining  
Leave\_War1,  
Persecution1,  
Economic1,Other

Table 36

As seen in *tables 35 and 36* a Kruskal-Wallis H test shows that there is a statistically significant difference in Safe\_All between respondents based on the reason why they fled.  $\chi^2(2) = 8,039$ ,  $p = 0,045 < 0,05$ , with a mean rank Safe\_All score of 13,94 for respondents which fled from war, 17,06 for respondents fled from persecution, 25,10 for respondents which fled due to economic reasons and 31 for the respondent who fled due to other reasons which is divorce, with the lower the score the safer respondents should feel. In order to be able to state where these significant differences occur, a so called post hoc test needs to be conducted.

Pairwise Comparisons of Variable combining Leave\_War1,Persecution1,Economic1,Other



Each node shows the sample average rank of Variable combining Leave\_War1,Persecution1,Economic1,Other.

Sample1-Sample2	Test Statistic	Std. Error	Std. Test Statistic	Sig.	Adj.Sig.
War-Persecution	-3,111	3,788	-.821	,411	1,000
War-Economic	-11,156	4,691	-2,378	,017	,104
War-Other	-17,056	9,533	-1,789	,074	,442
Persecution-Economic	-8,044	5,175	-1,554	,120	,721
Persecution-Other	-13,944	9,781	-1,426	,154	,924
Economic-Other	-5,900	10,164	-.580	,562	1,000

Each row tests the null hypothesis that the Sample 1 and Sample 2 distributions are the same.  
Asymptotic significances (2-sided tests) are displayed. The significance level is ,05.  
Significance values have been adjusted by the Bonferroni correction for multiple tests.

Figure 12

In *figure 13* the results of this post hoc test are displayed. However as can be seen in *figure 13* no significant differences are present after adjustments have been made based on the automatic Bonferroni correction for multiple tests. Since one of the categories in Leave\_All,

other, only has one respondent another KWH Test will be conducted without that category to be able to state whether there are significant differences between the remaining groups.

Ranks			
Variable combining Leave_War1, Persecution1,Economic1, Other			
	N	Mean Rank	
Scale variable Safe_All			
War	18	13,94	
Persecution	9	16,94	
Economic	5	24,90	
Total	32		

Table 37

Test Statistics <sup>a,b</sup>	
Scale variable Safe_All	
Chi-Square	5,864
df	2
Asymp. Sig.	,053

a. Kruskal Wallis Test

b. Grouping Variable:  
Variable combining  
Leave\_War1,  
Persecution1,  
Economic1,Other

Table 38

As can be seen in *tables 37 and 38* no significant effect is found.  $\chi^2(2) = 5,864$ ,  $p = 0,053 > 0,05$ . Concluding it can be stated that feelings and perceptions of safety of the respondents cannot be explained on the base of why these respondents fled their homelands. However it must be stated the respondents are not equally distributed amongst the different groups which can have affected the outcome of this test.

Earlier victimisation is another socio-demographic factor, but also an individual experience factor, which can explain the feelings and perceptions of safety of the respondents. However in the conceptualisation of asylum seekers was included that independently from which route was taken all of them had experienced traumatic events and victimisation before their arrival in Europe and The Netherlands. This also supported with the frequency distribution of the variable \$Victimisation\_Yes, *table 39*, which shows that 93,9% of the respondents were victimised or got property destroyed by either governmental officials or other asylum seekers

and migrants. Because of that no significant differences will researched based on victimisation.

Case Summary						
	Cases					
	Valid		Missing		Total	
	N	Percent	N	Percent	N	Percent
\$Victimisation_Yes <sup>a</sup>	31	93,9%	2	6,1%	33	100,0%

a. Dichotomy group tabulated at value 1.

Table 39

### 5.2.2 Feelings and perceptions of safety based on feelings and perceptions of environmental factors

Besides socio-demographic factor feelings and perceptions of safety can also be explained based on other feelings and perceptions related to environmental factors. The variables which measure these are: Restricted, Welcomed\_Popu, Opi\_off, Opi\_AS and Opi\_Ap.

A first environmental factor which can explain the feelings and perceptions of safety of the respondents is based on the variable Restricted.

Ranks			
Do you feel restricted in your movements and your opportunities since your arrival in The Netherlands?			
		N	Mean Rank
Scale variable Safe_All	Yes	26	17,67
	No	7	14,50
	Total	33	

Table 40

Test Statistics <sup>a,b</sup>	
Scale variable Safe_All	
Chi-Square	,645
df	1
Asymp. Sig.	,422

a. Kruskal Wallis Test

b. Grouping Variable:  
Do you feel restricted  
in your  
movements and your  
opportunities since  
your arrival in The  
Netherlands?

Table 41

As seen in *tables 40 and 41* a Kruskal-Wallis H test shows that there is no statistically significant difference in Safe\_All between respondents based on whether they feel restricted.  $\chi^2(2) = 0,645$ ,  $p = 0,422 > 0,05$ , with a mean rank Safe\_All score of 17,67 for respondents which feel restricted and 14,50 for respondents which do not feel restricted. The lower the score the safer respondents should feel which means that respondents who do not feel restricted feel safer. But because the difference is not significant feelings and perceptions of safety cannot be explained on the base of feelings of being restricted.

Another environmental factor which can explain the feelings and perceptions of safety is based on feelings and perceptions towards the Dutch population, variable name: Welcomed\_Popu.

Ranks			
		Do you feel welcomed by the Dutch population?	
		N	Mean Rank
Scale variable Safe_All	Yes	19	12,39
	No	13	22,50
	Total	32	

Table 42

Test Statistics <sup>a,b</sup>	
Scale variable Safe_All	
Chi-Square	9,789
df	1
Asymp. Sig.	,002

a. Kruskal Wallis Test

b. Grouping Variable:  
Do you feel  
welcomed by the  
Dutch population?

Table 43

As seen in *tables 42 and 43* a Kruskal-Wallis H test shows that there is a statistically significant difference in Safe\_All between respondents based on their feelings and perceptions towards being welcomed by the Dutch population.  $\chi^2(2) = 9,789$ ,  $p = 0,002 < 0,05$ , with a mean rank Safe\_All score of 12,39 for respondents which feel welcomed and 22,50 for respondents which do not feel welcomed. The lower the score the safer respondents should feel which means that respondents who feel welcomed feel safer than those who do not feel welcomed. Since there are only two groups, it is not necessary to do a post hoc test. However it must be stated the respondents are not equally distributed amongst the different groups which can have affected the outcome of this test.

This significant difference identified can be explained on the base of two factors, as found in the theory and taken into account in the operationalisation, namely the time in The Netherlands and the AZC the respondent is in.

As seen in *tables 44 and 45* a Kruskal-Wallis H test shows that there is a statistically significant difference in Safe\_All between respondents based on whether they feel welcomed by the Dutch population and the time they are in The Netherlands.  $\chi^2(2) = 15,540$ ,  $p = 0,008 < 0,05$ , with the lower the score the safer respondents should feel.

Ranks			
	Time_Welcomed	N	Mean Rank
Scale variable Safe_All	Yes: 14-21	6	7,83
	Yes:22-50	6	12,83
	Yes:+50	7	15,93
	No:14-21	3	14,50
	No:22-50	5	24,90
	No:+50	5	24,90
	Total	32	

Table 44

Test Statistics <sup>a,b</sup>	
Scale variable Safe_All	
Chi-Square	15,540
df	5
Asymp. Sig.	,008

a. Kruskal Wallis Test

b. Grouping Variable:  
Time\_Welcomed

Table 45

The results of the post hoc test displayed in *figure 14* show there are two significant differences. These are both between the respondents which feel welcomed and are between 14-21 days in the Netherlands and between respondents which do not feel welcomed and are respectively between 22-50 days in The Netherlands and +50 days in The Netherlands. No other significant differences based on a pairwise comparison can be identified. Based on that can be concluded that the significant difference between respondents which feel welcomed and those who do not feel welcomed in terms of their feelings and perceptions of safety cannot be explained on the base of their duration of presence in The Netherlands.

Pairwise Comparisons of Time\_Welcomed

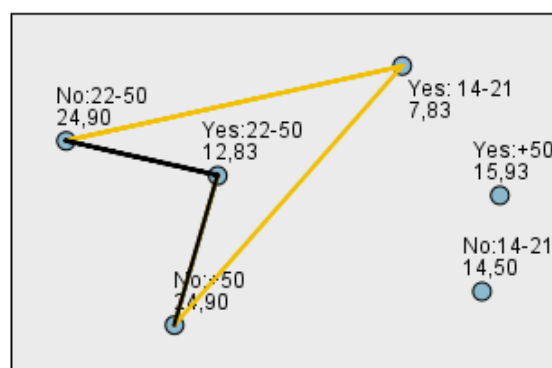


Figure 13

As seen in *tables 46 and 47* a Kruskal-Wallis H test shows that there is a statistically significant difference in Safe\_All between respondents based on whether they feel welcomed by the Dutch population and the AZC they are in.  $\chi^2(2) = 13,439$ ,  $p = 0,02 < 0,05$ , with the lower the score the safer respondents should feel.



Ranks			
	Welcomed_AZC	N	Mean Rank
Scale variable Safe_All	Yes: Winterswijk	11	11,73
	Yes: Azelo	5	14,40
	Almelo	2	4,50
	No: Winterswijk	7	21,50
	No: Azelo	3	19,33
	No: Almelo	3	25,83
	Total	31	

Table 46

Test Statistics <sup>a,b</sup>	
	Scale variable Safe_All
Chi-Square	13,439
df	5
Asymp. Sig.	,020

a. Kruskal Wallis Test

b. Grouping Variable:  
Welcomed\_AZC

Table 47

However as can be seen in *figure 15* no significant differences are present after adjustments have been made based on the automatic Bonferroni correction for multiple tests. Based on that can be concluded that the significant difference between respondents which feel welcomed and those who do not feel welcomed in terms of their feelings and perceptions of safety cannot be explained on the base of the AZC they are in.

Pairwise Comparisons of Welcomed\_AZC

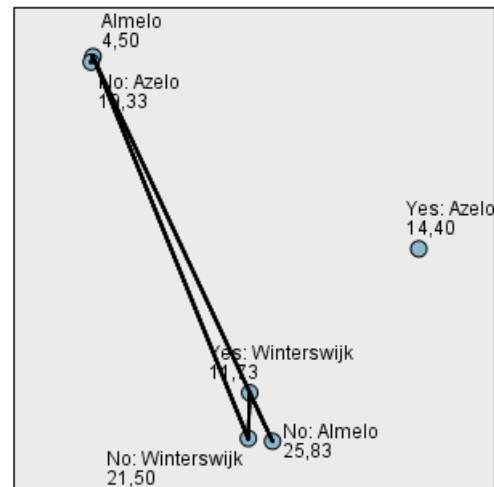


Figure 14

Another environmental factor which can explain the feelings and perceptions of safety is based on feelings and perceptions towards Dutch officials: variable name Opi\_Off. Since there are two groups located at both the minimum and maximum value which have only one respondent, these are left out of the test.

Ranks			
	Scale variable Opi_Off	N	Mean Rank
Scale variable Safe_All	4	8	14,75
	5,00	9	14,00
	6,00	7	11,29
	7,00	2	18,75
	8,00	3	27,50
	9,00	2	26,50
	Total	31	

Table 48

Test Statistics <sup>a,b</sup>	
Scale variable Safe_All	
Chi-Square	11,001
df	5
Asymp. Sig.	,051
a. Kruskal Wallis Test	
b. Grouping Variable:	
Scale variable	
Opi_Off	

Table 49

As seen in *tables 48 and 49* a Kruskal-Wallis H test shows that there is no statistically significant difference in Safe\_All between respondents based on their feelings and perceptions towards Dutch officials since  $\chi^2(2) = 11,001$ ,  $p = 0,051 > 0,05$ . However it must be stated the respondents are not equally distributed amongst the different groups which can have affected the outcome of this test.

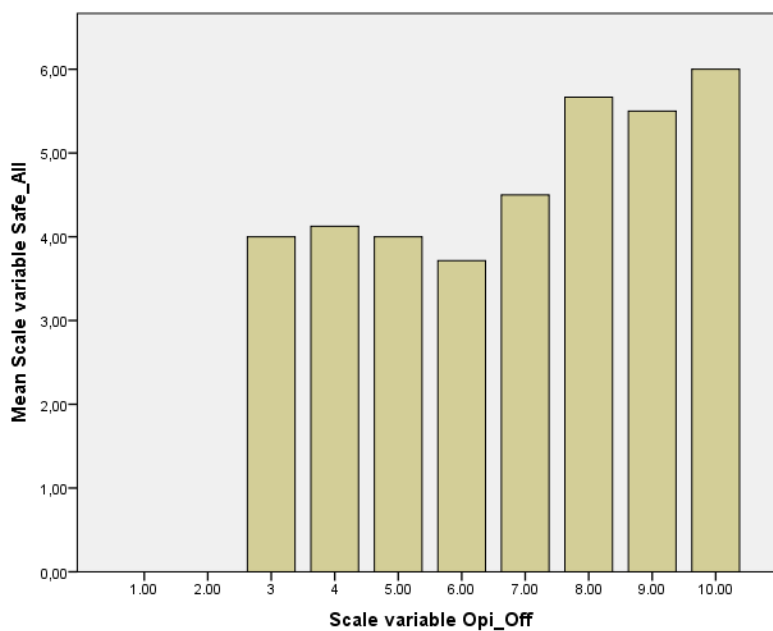


Figure 15

A trend which can be identified in *figure 16* is that respondents which are more positive about Dutch officials tend to feel more safe than respondents which are more negatively about Dutch officials, but as shown no significant differences are found. Due to that can be concluded that feelings and perceptions of safety cannot be explained on the base of the feelings and perceptions towards Dutch officials.

Based on the theory, explanatory factors were generated in the operationalisation which can be used to further explain significant differences on the base of earlier victimisation by governmental officials and the reason why the asylum seekers fled. This however will not be done since no significant difference could be identified.

Another environmental factor which can explain the feelings and perceptions of safety is based on feelings and perceptions towards other asylum seekers: variable name Opi\_AS.

Ranks			
	Scale variable Opi_AS	N	Mean Rank
Scale variable Safe_All	2,00	1	14,50
	4,00	2	9,50
	5,00	4	4,50
	6,00	10	14,50
	7,00	5	12,50
	8,00	3	24,50
	9,00	2	24,50
	10,00	6	29,92
	Total	33	

Table 50

Test Statistics <sup>a,b</sup>	
	Scale variable Safe_All
Chi-Square	25,435
df	7
Asymp. Sig.	,001

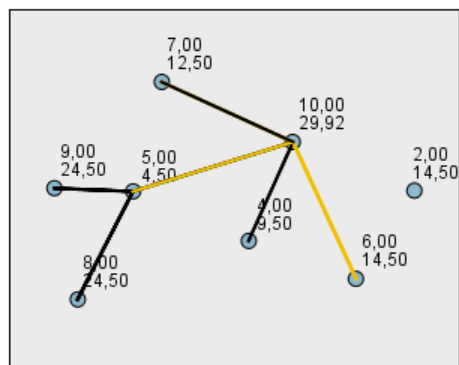
a. Kruskal Wallis Test

b. Grouping Variable:  
Scale variable  
Opi\_AS

Table 51

As seen in *tables 50 and 51* a Kruskal-Wallis H test shows that there is a statistically significant difference in Safe\_All between respondents based on their feelings and perceptions towards other asylum seekers, since  $\chi^2(2) = 25,435$ ,  $p = 0,001 < 0,005$ .

### Pairwise Comparisons of Scale variable based on perceptions towards other asylum seekers



Each node shows the sample average rank of Scale variable based on perceptions towards other asylum seekers.

Figure 16

The results of the post hoc test displayed in *figure 17* show there are two significant differences. These are between the respondents which view other asylum seekers with a 6 and a 10, and between respondents with a 5 and a 10. No other significant differences based on a pairwise comparison can be identified. Besides that as shown in *figure 18* no clear trend can be identified between the respondents on the base of their feelings and perceptions of safety and their feelings and perceptions towards other asylum seekers. Based on that can be concluded that feelings and perceptions of safety cannot be explained on the base of feelings and perceptions towards other asylum seekers.

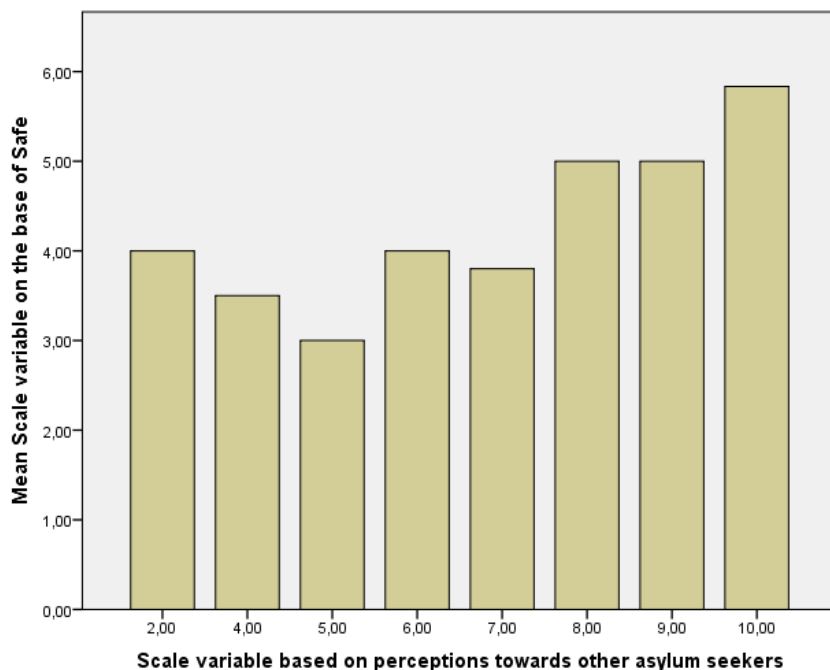


Figure 17

Based on the theory, an explanatory factor was generated in the operationalisation which can be used to further explain significant differences on the base of earlier victimisation by asylum seekers. This however will not be done since no significant difference could be identified.

Another environmental factor which can explain the feelings and perceptions of safety is based on feelings and perceptions towards the asylum procedure in general, variable name: Opi\_AP. Since one outlier can be identified based on one respondent, score 6, it will be kept out of the test.

Ranks			
	Scale variable Opi_AP	N	Mean Rank
Scale variable Safe_All	10,00	1	4,50
	11,00	6	10,83
	12,00	7	11,29
	13,00	7	12,64
	14,00	2	23,50
	15,00	1	30,00
	16,00	1	23,50
	17,00	1	23,50
	19,00	1	23,50
	20,00	3	27,83
	21,00	1	30,00
	22,00	1	30,00
	Total	32	

Table 52

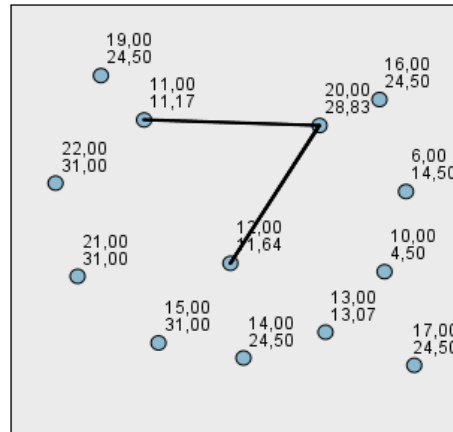
Test Statistics <sup>a,b</sup>	
	Scale variable Safe_All
Chi-Square	22,209
df	11
Asymp. Sig.	,023
a. Kruskal Wallis Test	
b. Grouping Variable: Scale variable Opi_AP	

Table 53

As seen in *tables 52 and 53* a Kruskal-Wallis H test shows that there is a statistically significant difference in Safe\_All between respondents based on their feelings and perceptions towards the asylum procedure since  $\chi^2(2) = 22,209$ ,  $p = 0,023 < 0,05$ . However as can be seen

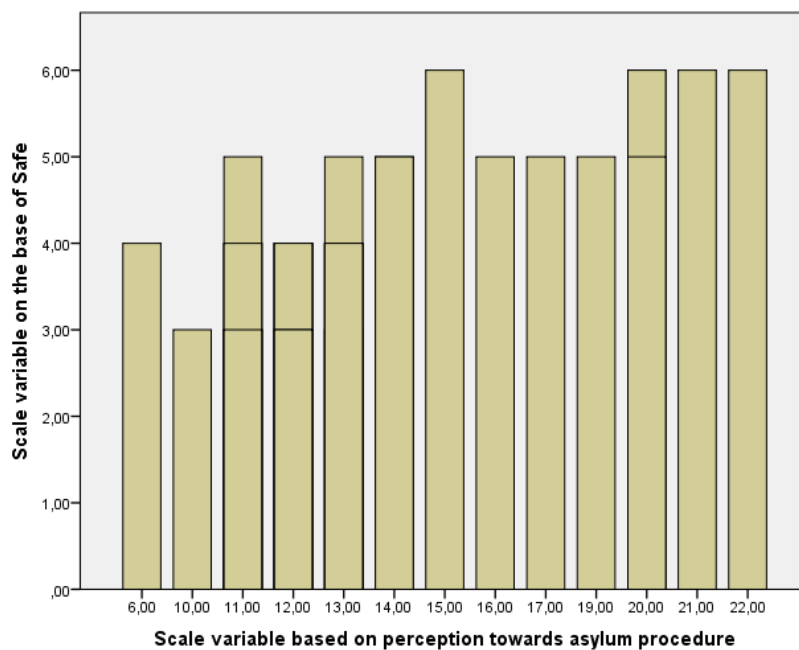
in *figure 19* no significant differences are present after adjustments have been made based on the automatic Bonferroni correction for multiple tests.

**Pairwise Comparisons of Scale variable based on perception towards asylum procedure**



*Figure 18*

Besides that as shown in *figure 20* no clear trend can be identified between the respondents on the base of their feelings and perceptions of safety and those towards the asylum procedure. Based on that can be concluded that the feelings and perceptions of safety of the respondents cannot be explained on the base of the feelings and perceptions towards the asylum procedure.



*Figure 19*

Based on the theory, explanatory factors were generated in the operationalisation which could be used to further explain significant differences on the base of the amount of transfers, the AZC the asylum seeker is in and the duration of the time in The Netherlands. This however will not be done since no significant difference could be identified.

This part of the thesis aimed to explain the feelings and perceptions of the respondents. Different socio-demographic and environmental factors were tested of which only one, feeling welcomed by the Dutch population, showed a significant difference between groups. However this difference could also not be explained on the base of extra explanatory factors.



## 6 Conclusion:

In this part of the thesis an answer will be given to the main research question, which is: **How to explain the feelings and perceptions of safety of asylum seekers in the Dutch asylum procedure?** First of all must be stated that independent from the answer given, no theoretical value can be derived from this thesis since it is based on data collected via a simulation instead of a real field study. Nevertheless the data collected via the simulation is based on a proper scientific conceptualisation and operationalisation of literature further making use of an epistemologically accepted data collection method and research design. Based on that can be stated that though this thesis possesses no theoretical value it contributes to the practical knowledge on the conductance of proper scientific research based on epistemological values. Besides that the developed theoretical framework and operationalisation could be used as stepping stones for a future study which is able to collect data of asylum seekers, so that in the end the in the introduction discussed scientific and public values can be achieved. In order to be able to come a conclusion to the main research question in this thesis firstly was discussed how feelings and perceptions of safety could be explained. As the answer to this first sub-question the following explanatory diagram could be developed:

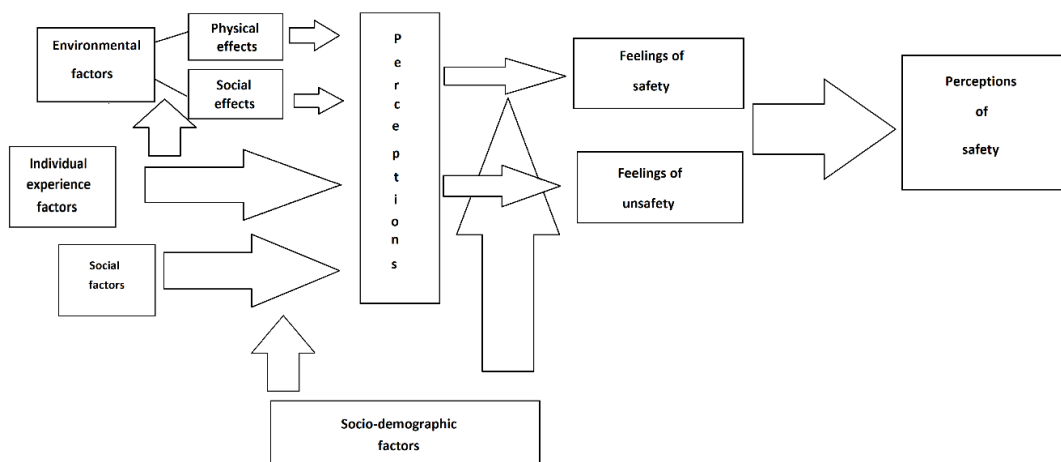


Figure 20

However no clear conceptualisation and explanation on the research population and the research setting was given, which was done by answering the second sub-question as guided by the developed explanatory diagram.

In order to measure and to eventually explain the feelings and perceptions of safety of the asylum seekers (read as the respondents) a questionnaire was generated and conducted amongst 33 respondents based on measuring their feelings and perceptions of safety and environmental and socio-demographic factors. The questionnaire results were displayed and

explained in the analysis part of this thesis which was based on both the third and fourth sub-questions.

When combining these answers given the following conclusion can be made to the main research question of this thesis:

- Overall it can be stated that the respondents feel safe in the Dutch asylum procedure and are perceiving and feeling about it in positive way, but that other asylum seekers are the main reason why feelings of unsafety are developed. A large group of the respondents feels restricted in its movements and opportunities, with the main reason given their lack of understanding of the Dutch language. Overall seen Dutch officials are viewed as honest and understanding by the respondents, of which most of them are feeling welcomed by the Dutch population. The majority of the respondents feels well informed about at least one of the three types of relevant information in the asylum procedure which are: the house rules in the COA locations, their legal rights and the asylum procedure.
- When analysing these feelings and perceptions displayed on the base of socio-demographic factors of the respondents can be stated that these cannot be explained as based on gender, age, country of origin, time in The Netherlands, amount of transfers, the AZC and the reason why the respondent fled.
- The displayed feelings and perceptions were also analysed on the base of environmental factors like The Netherlands, other asylum seekers, Dutch officials and the asylum procedure as a whole. Based on this analysis only one explanatory factor could be identified as based on a significant difference found on the feelings and perceptions of safety by respondents feeling welcomed and not feeling welcomed by the Dutch population. However no explanation for this difference could be found as based on supplemental explanatory factors which are the time in The Netherlands and the AZC the respondent is in.
- Based on that can therefore be concluded that no inclusive explanation can be given for the measured feelings and perceptions of safety of the asylum seekers (the respondents) in the Dutch asylum procedure, but that feeling welcomed or not feeling welcomed by the Dutch population is the main explanatory factor identified.

From a theoretical perspective these simulation based findings seem to conflict with de Vries (2004), since no inclusive explanation on feelings and perceptions of safety can be given.

However it supports the findings of the in the introduction mentioned studies conducted by EenVandaag Opiniepanel (2016) and SCPB (2018) since both were able to conclude that asylum seekers on average felt safe while in the Dutch asylum procedure.

When reflecting the findings of this thesis to the weaknesses of the research design used the first thing which is relevant to mention is the effect of the sample size. In this thesis the research population existed of 33 respondents, of which the data was not normally distributed. When the sample size increases, data becomes more normally distributed which increases the chance of discovering meaningful findings and explanations. Besides that this thesis lacked a general question asking the respondents whether they feel safe about themselves and their property while in the Dutch asylum procedure, since based on this operationalisation only was asked whether they felt safe amongst other asylum seekers. Next to that Dutch officials could have been included as another explanatory factor. Strengths of the research design however are the clear documentation and the extensive usage of proper statistical tests in order to explain differences and possible effects based on significance next to the ethical safeguard mechanisms included. Therefore recommendations for further research are to increase the amount of respondents and to get concrete and clear permission before the start of a research project whether data can be collected.

If the findings of this thesis were real, and not based on a simulation, the conclusion as made would be presented to the Taskforce Migration of the Dutch Police, since this research was requested by them, in the hopes they could get a better insight on the feelings and perceptions of asylum seekers in the Dutch asylum procedure as they wanted to achieve.

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## Appendix:

### Appendix 1: Recruiting message

Hallo allemaal. Voordat ik kan afstuderen moet ik eerst mijn thesis nog afmaken, en daar heb ik jullie hulp bij nodig. Mijn onderzoeksvraag is: How to explain the feelings and perceptions of safety of asylum seekers in the Dutch asylum-procedure?. Om deze vraag te beantwoorden was het de bedoeling om asielzoekers een vragenlijst te laten invullen. Helaas was het niet mogelijk om dit op een goede manier uit te voeren, terwijl het onderzoek en mijn slagen daar van afhankelijk zijn. Gelukkig heb ik na overleg met mijn begeleider toestemming gekregen om een simulatie uit te voeren, om toch data te verzamelen die ik dan verder kan uitwerken en analyseren. Voor deze simulatie worden jullie uitgenodigd om een vragenlijst in te vullen die ik heb opgesteld op basis van mijn theoretisch framework. Bij het invullen van deze moeten jullie jezelf voorstellen alsof jullie een asielzoeker zijn die in de Nederlandse asiel procedure zit. Binnen mijn thesis zijn asielzoekers geconceptualiseerd als: migrants who are in the Dutch asylum procedure due to their application of an asylum-request but have different reasons, e.g. war and violence, persecution or money, why they made that request and are assumed having experienced traumatic events in order to arrive in the Netherlands independently from the route that was taken besides being uncertain about their future, being in a dependent situation and being present in a for them alien environment. Meer informatie over de asielprocedure is hier te vinden:

<https://www.coa.nl/nl/asielopvang/asielprocedure>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4RB4ikJM1Qk>

Deze bronnen kunnen jullie helpen om je beter in te leven in een asielzoeker en meer te begrijpen over de asielprocedure. Alvast bedankt voor jullie tijd en moeite!

Link naar de enquête:

Wachtwoord: asielzoeker

[https://saxion.eu.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_cA8VaYN8n1kIybz](https://saxion.eu.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_cA8VaYN8n1kIybz)

## Appendix 2: Conducted questionnaire

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### Start of Block: Vragen

Q1 *What is your gender?*

- ☐ Male (1)
- ☐ Female (2)
- 

Q2 *What is your age? (18-...)*

---

Q3 *What is your country of origin?*

- ☐ Syria (1)
- ☐ Nigeria (2)
- ☐ Iran (3)
- 

Q4 *How long are you already in The Netherlands?*

- ☐ 0-8 days (1)
- ☐ 9-16 days (2)
- ☐ 16-50 days (3)
- ☐ +50 days (4)
-

Q5 *Why did you leave your country of origin?*

- ☐ War (1)
- ☐ Persecution (2)
- ☐ Economic/financial reasons (3)
- ☐ Other (4) \_\_\_\_\_

---

*Display This Question:*

*If Why did you leave your country of origin? = Persecution*

Q6 In case persecution was chosen at the previous question, which type of persecution?

- ☐ Racial (1)
- ☐ Religious (2)
- ☐ Nationality (3)
- ☐ Political opinion (4)
- ☐ Membership in a particular social group (5)
- ☐ Other (6) \_\_\_\_\_

---

Q7 *Have you ever been victimized or has your property been destroyed by governmental officials before your arrival in The Netherlands, if so where?*

- ☐ No (1)
- ☐ Yes, in the country of origin (2)
- ☐ Yes, while on the journey (3)
- ☐ Yes, in Europe (4)



---

Q8 Have you ever been victimized or has your property been destroyed by other asylum seekers or migrants, if so where?

- ☐ No (1)
- ☐ Yes, in the country of origin (2)
- ☐ Yes, while on the journey (3)
- ☐ Yes, in Europe (4)
- 

Q9 How many transfers did you have since your arrival in The Netherlands? (1-5)

---

---

Q10 Do you, in general, feel safe since your arrival in The Netherlands ?

	Very safe (1)	Safe (2)	Not safe, not unsafe (3)	Unsafe (4)	Very unsafe (5)
Feeling safe in the Netherlands (1)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

---

Q11 Do you feel restricted in your movements and your opportunities since your arrival in The Netherlands?

- ☐ Yes (1)
- ☐ No (2)
-

*Display This Question:*

*If Do you feel restricted in your movements and your opportunities since your arrival in The Nether... = Yes*

Q12 Why do you feel restricted?

- ☐ By my lack of knowledge of the language (1)
  - ☐ By the obligations of the asylum procedure (2)
  - ☐ By my lack of knowledge of the environment (3)
  - ☐ Due to the limited freedom (4)
  - ☐ Other (5) \_\_\_\_\_
- 

Q20 Which AZC are you in?

- ☐ Winterswijk (1)
  - ☐ Azelo (2)
  - ☐ Almelo (3)
- 

Q13 Do you avoid certain locations in the centre you are living in because you feel unsafe there?

- ☐ Yes, because of other asylum seekers (1)
  - ☐ Yes, because of Dutch officials (2)
  - ☐ Yes, because of (3) \_\_\_\_\_
  - ☐ No (4)
-

Q14 *Do you feel welcomed by the Dutch population?*

☐ Yes (1)

☐ No (2)

---

Q15 *Do you have the feeling that Dutch officials are honest?*

	Very honest (1)	Honest (2)	Not honest, not dishonest (3)	Dishonest (4)	Very dishonest (5)
Honesty of Dutch officials (1)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

---

Q17 *Do you feel well informed about?*

- ☐ The asylum procedure (1)
- ☐ My legal rights (2)
- ☐ The house rules in the COA locations (3)
- ☐ None of the above (4)
- 

Q16 *Do you have the feeling that Dutch officials understand your situation?*

	Very well (1)	Well (2)	Hardly (3)	Not (4)	Not at all (5)
Feeling of being understood (1)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

---

Q18 *Do you have the feeling you and your property are safe amongst other asylum seekers?*

	Completely sure (1)	Sure (2)	Not sure, not unsure (3)	Unsure (4)	Completely unsure (5)
Safety of you and your property (1)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

-----

Q19 *Do you feel a bond with other asylum seekers?*

	Very strong (1)	Strong (2)	Neutral (3)	Weak (4)	Very weak (5)
Bond with other asylum seekers (1)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

End of Block: Vragen

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