



EUROPEAN MIGRATION NETWORK

ANNUAL REPORT 2017

ON MIGRATION AND ASYLUM

IN GREECE

NATIONAL REPORT

PART 2



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Organization

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**EUROPEAN MIGRATION NETWORK • ANNUAL REPORT 2017
ON MIGRATION AND ASYLUM IN GREECE • NATIONAL REPORT • PART 2**

The European Migration Network (EMN) was established in 2003, originally as a preparatory action of the European Commission, with the aim of providing the European Commission and the Member States with objective, reliable, comparable and up-to-date data on migration and asylum, to build policymaking in the European Union and hence their national policies in these areas. Subsequently, the Council of the EU in 2008, with the No. 381/2008/EK Judgment founded the EMN, as a permanent structure that will operate within the European Commission, with the participation of Member States in order to achieve these goals.

More information on the EMN and its work can be found on the website

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EMN ANNUAL REPORT 2017 ON MIGRATION AND ASYLUM IN GREECE NATIONAL REPORT • PART 2

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Annual Policy Report of 2017 aims at informing the Member-States and the European Commission on all the developments that took place in the year of 2017 or were scheduled to be implemented in a future period, in the areas of asylum and migration in Greece. This Report presents, in detail, the legal provisions, policies adopted, measures taken and programmes implemented during the year, as follows: In **Section 1** there is an introductory description of migration and asylum in Greece for the year 2017 as well as the objectives of the Annual Policy Report are presented. **Section 2** includes an overview of the developments of the policies in the fields of asylum and migration is made. In **Section 3** all the developments in legislative framework regarding legal migration and mobility in 2017 are reported. **Section 4** includes international protection, including asylum, the implementation of the Common European Asylum System (CEAS) and related developments regarding legislation, policies and practices in relation to access the asylum procedure. In **Section 5** the developments on unaccompanied minors and other vulnerable groups are analysed. **Section 6** includes developments related the facilitation of integration of third-country nationals through socio-economic participation, e.g. measures to improve attainment in the education system, measures to enhance language skill, access to social security, healthcare and housing, and integration into the labour market. In **Section 7** there is an overview of the actions policies/measures in relation to border control measures/management at the external borders implemented during 2017 for the prevention and tackling of irregular migration. **Section 8** highlights the policies regarding enhancing return migration management, including cooperation among EU Member States on return practices. **Section 9** examines national policies/measures regarding the prevention and/or the fight against trafficking in human beings of third-country nationals (e.g. national action plans or national strategies) introduced in 2017. Finally, **Section 10** includes developments concerning the mainstreaming of migration in development policies. For example: studies, development of approaches to make migration an integral part in sectoral policies (e.g. agriculture, health, education etc.), solidarity development projects, etc.

1. INTRODUCTION

This Report aims at informing not only the Member-States and the European Commission, but also the national audience for all legislative developments, policies, measures and programmes that were implemented during the year 2017 or were designed/planned to be implemented in a future period in the sectors of migration and asylum, along with an overview of the respective per question issues with the presentation of figures and other data. Greece – due to its geographical position between three continents and because of its long coastline - comprising a significant part of the external sea borders and part of the land borders of the European Union (EU) and the Schengen area – is the main entry and transit point to the European territory for incoming third country nationals, asylum seekers, refugees and immigrants, who cross the Greek-Turkish land borders via the area of Evros and the sea borders via the Aegean Sea¹. Since 2015, Greece has faced the largest asylum seeker, refugee and immigrant flows of recent years, as there is a dramatic increase². Greece is the main entry point in Europe for almost a million refugees and migrants seeking security for themselves and their families. The unprecedented asylum seeker, refugee and immigrant flows of 2015 coupled with the movement of the migratory route that comes to Greece from Turkey has caused difficulties in handling the dramatic rise of migrants and refugees and the coverage of their humanitarian needs. In October 2015, Greece presented a Roadmap to the EU Council on its plan for the implementation of hotspots. In January 2016, the government announced that the hotspots on the islands of Lesbos (extension to pre-existing center), Leros, Chios and Samos will be completed in the Spring of 2016. Law 4375/2016 entered into force in April 2016, amid discussions and estimations about the legal reforms needed to implement the EU-Turkey Joint Statement of March 18, 2016, along with other relevant laws, presidential decrees, and decisions. Emphasis has been placed on the process of pre-recording populations (immigrant/refugee) that remained in the country after February 2016 –when the northern borders were sealed– although their original intention was to depart. These populations were “mapped” and their management was organized and further issues were arranged (i.e. relocation, family reunification, or granting asylum procedures in Greece, to those entitled to such status). Apart from the reception, identification, and asylum services, the management of the large volume of refugee flows in Greece involves the services of the Regions, the Municipalities, the Hellenic Coast Guard, the Hellenic Police, the hospitals, central government, international organizations, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), civil society organizations, foundations, institutions, and voluntary organizations. The work of the aforementioned bodies includes actions and services with very high administrative and organizational requirements due to the enormous intensity of the workload compared to local communities and infrastructures. Additionally, high budget costs such as the costs for the construction of new reception infrastructures, expenditures on basic hospitality and subsistence benefits (food, water, etc.), infrastructure maintenance costs, operating costs of all the aforementioned activities, costs for medical care and hospitalization of incoming populations, and other costs, present difficulties while Greece is in a deep economic recession. According to the official statistical data of the Asylum Service, multiple applications for asylum were submitted. Arrivals of flows through sea routes have also been recorded: 2014: 43.500 sea arrivals³, (with a proviso), 2015: 856.723 sea arrivals⁴, 2016: 173.450 sea arrivals⁵. Following the peak of flows in October 2015, the number of irregular arrivals in Greece decreased, mostly due to the bad weather conditions in the midst of winter months. In addition, the progressive closure of the Balkan route occurred in September 2015, as a result of the closure of the border between Hungary and Serbia and the subsequent construction of a barbed-wire fence along the Hungarian-Serbian and Hungarian-Croatian frontiers, which had already deterred migrants from undertaking the perilous journey through the Aegean Sea. The fluctuation in the number of incoming flows of third-country nationals in Greece over the period examined

¹ Fouskas, T. and Tseveris, V. (eds.), (2014) *Contemporary Immigration in Greece: A Sourcebook*. Athens: European Public Law Organization (EPLO) Publications; Voutsinou, M. et al. (2017) *Migration flows and refugee protection - Administrative challenges and human rights issues. Special Report*. Athens: The Greek Ombudsman, <http://goo.gl/bdymPW>; The Greek Ombudsman (2017) *Return of Third-Country Nationals - Special Report 2016*. Athens: The Greek Ombudsman, <http://www.synigoros.gr/resources/docs/eidikiethesiepiotrofesallodapwn2016en.pdf>; Afouxenidis, A. Petrou, M. Kandyli, G. Tramountanis, A. and Giannaki, D. (2017) “Dealing with a Humanitarian Crisis: Refugees on the Eastern EU Border of the Island of Lesbos”, *Journal of Applied Security Research* 12(1): 7-39; Chtouris, S., and Miller D. (2017) “Refugee Flows and Volunteers in the Current Humanitarian Crisis in Greece”, *Journal of Applied Security Research*, 12(1):61-77; Hatzopoulos, V., Fouskas, T., Grigoriou, P., Karabelias, G., Kazanas, K., Mine, F., de Maio, A., Novak, C. and Pechlidi, G. (2017) *European Migration Network Focused Study: The Changing Influx of Asylum Seekers in 2014-2016: Member State Responses*. Athens: European Public Law Organization (EPLO)/Hellenic Ministry for Migration Policy/European Commission/European Migration Network (EMN), https://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/sites/homeaffairs/files/12a_greece_changing_influx_final_en.pdf; Hatzopoulos, V., Fouskas, T., Mine, F., DeMaio, A. and Novak, C. (2017) *European Migration Network Focused Study: Challenges and practices for establishing applicants' identity in the migration process*. Athens: European Public Law Organization (EPLO)/Hellenic Ministry for Migration Policy/European Commission/European Migration Network; Hatzopoulos, V., Fouskas, T., Pechlidi, G., DeMaio, A. and Novak, C. (2017) *European Migration Network Focused Study: The Effectiveness of Return in EU Member States: Challenges and Good Practices Linked to EU Rules and Standards*. Athens: European Public Law Organization (EPLO)/Hellenic Ministry for Migration Policy/European Commission/European Migration Network, https://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/sites/homeaffairs/files/12a_greece_study_on_return_final_en.pdf; International Organization for Migration – Office in Greece, (2017) *Migration legal guide for practitioners in Greece*. Athens: IOM – Office in Greece, https://greece.iom.int/sites/default/files/IOM%20Legal%20Guide_English.pdf; International Organization for Migration (IOM) (2017). Missing Migrants Project. Geneva: IOM, (accessed on: December 10, 2017, <https://missingmigrants.iom.int/>); Outsiska, C., Vanikioti, Z., Emmanouil, L., Flessa A., and Mintzioli, K. (2017) *The Implementation of Assisted Voluntary Returns including Reintegration Measures. Annual Report June 2016-May 2017*. Athens: International Organization for Migration (IOM) - Office in Greece, 2017, <http://goo.gl/SYA2JE>; Psimitis, M., Georgoulas, S. and Nagopoulos, N. (2017) *Refugee crisis and public services in Lesbos (2015-2016)*. Athens: Koinoniko Polykentro, <https://goo.gl/jb83bg> (in Greek); Rontos K., Nagopoulos, N. and Panagos, N. (2017) *The refugee immigrant phenomenon in Lesbos of 2016 and the local Societies. Attitudes and behaviors*. Athens: Tziolas, (in Greek); Williams, C., Demetriades, S. and Patra, E. (ILO) *Diagnostic Report on Undeclared Work in Greece*. International Labour Office (ILO), Employment Department, Informal Economy Unit, Geneva: ILO, <http://goo.gl/UEniYL>

² Cabot, H. (2014) *On the Doorstep of Europe: Asylum and Citizenship in Greece*. Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press; Sassen, S. (2017) “A massive loss of habitat: New drivers for migration”, *Sociology of Development*, 2(2): 204-233; Amnesty International (2018) *Report 2017/18: The State of the World's Human Rights*. London: Amnesty International. (accessed on December 1, 2017, <https://www.amnesty.gr/sites/default/files/pdf/pol1067002018english.pdf>); Konstantinou, A., et al. (2017) *The Asylum Information Database (AIDA): Country Report: Greece (31 December 2017)*. Asylum Information Database (AIDA), funded by the European Programme for Integration and Migration (EPIM), a collaborative initiative by the Network of European Foundations, and the European Union's Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF). Athens/Brussels: Greek Council for Refugees (GCR)/European Council on Refugees and Exiles (ECRE). <http://goo.gl/fvypGh>

³ <https://goo.gl/WYojGC>

⁴ <https://data2.unhcr.org/ar/documents/download/49921>

⁵ <https://data2.unhcr.org/en/situations/mediterranean/location/5179>

was greatly affected, inter alia, by the EU-Turkey Joint Statement. In recent years, Greece has received numerous flows of third-country nationals, both from the land of Evros and from its maritime borders. According to official Frontex statistics, 50.830 irregular/illegal border crossings across the Eastern Mediterranean route have been recorded for 2014. In the following years, this figure was 885.386 irregular/illegal border crossings (2015) and 18.2534 (2016) respectively⁶. The demands of third-country nationals for asylum within the territory of Greece have more than doubled between 2014-2017 (9.431 requests in the year 2014, 13.188 requests in the year 2015, 51.061 requests in the year 2016, and 58.661 requests in the year 2017)⁷. This demonstrates the pressure on the state mechanism, the competent services and the Greek society, in the management of the aforementioned flows, in receiving, identifying, managing, and rendering the statutory status etc. Important actions and measures have been taken by the State, concerning the sectors of migration and asylum, for the management of the developments, with the valuable contribution of International Organizations and the Civil Society Institutions. All legislative and policy developments as well as the programmes that are related to the areas of interest of this study are presented in detail in the following sections 2-10.

⁶ <http://frontex.europa.eu/trends-and-routes/eastern-mediterranean-route/>

⁷ http://asylo.gov.gr/en/wp-content/uploads/2018/01/Greek_Asylum_Service_Statistical_Data_EN.pdf

2. CONTEXT FOR ASYLUM AND MIGRATION POLICY DEVELOPMENTS

Key policy developments on migration and asylum that had a significant impact in Greece during the reporting year 2017 include the following. Regarding legal migration and mobility: Ministerial Decision No. 10700, Government Gazette 891 B' 08/03/2017, on the Modification of the No. 123/2016 (B' 35) Joint Decision of Ministers Interior, Home Affairs, Foreign Affairs and Labour, Social Security and Social Solidarity on the "Determination of the residence permit category for third country nationals, who held residence permits or identity cards of foreigners issued by the Hellenic Police services"⁸. Ministerial Decision No. 2816, Government Gazette 480 B' 15/02/2017, on the "Definition of the starting date of the issuance of residence permits of uniform format for third-country nationals in the form of stand-alone document"⁹. Ministerial Decision No. 4441, Government Gazette 406 B' 25/01/2017, on the "Regulation of issues for monitoring of the implementation of the provisions of the Code of Immigration and Social Integration and other provisions (Law 4251/2014)"¹⁰.

In relation to international protection including asylum: Law 4461/2017 Article 101 on "Amendment of L. 4375/2016 (A51)". According to the above article, in case of a large number of appeals, the Independent Boards of Appeal may be assisted in their work, in addition to the existing staff, by staff, "rapporteurs", and secretaries, made available by the European Asylum Support Office (EASO)¹¹. Decision No. 14720, Government Gazette B 3264 18/09/2017, entitled "Validity of application forms for applicants for international protection". In the aforementioned decision, the Director of the Asylum Service decided that the cards with which the applicants for international protection are provided, if a complete registration of the application for international protection has been made in accordance with article 36 par. 1 (a) of Law 4375/2016, will have a duration of six (6) months, except the following exception: "Sheets for applicants for international protection with country of origin in Albania, Georgia and Pakistan last for two (2) months."¹² Decision no. 10464, Government Gazette B' 1977, 07/06/2017, on "Restricting the circulation of applicants for international protection". With this above decision, the Director of the Asylum Service decided that in the application forms for international protection, which are issued by the Regional Services of Lesbos, Rhodes, Samos, Kos, Leros and Chios, and concern applicants who entered the Greek territory after 20th March 2016, restrictions on the movement of applicants on the islands of Lesbos, Rhodes, Samos, Kos, Leros and Chios, are respectively imposed. This restriction is not imposed or removed when the case is referred to a regional office of the Asylum Service of mainland Greece¹³. Circular of the Hellenic Police 1604/17/681730-03/04/2017, on "Implementation of the EU-Turkey Joint Declaration - Participation of foreign nationals applying for international protection status in voluntary repatriation programmes of the International Organization for Migration (IOM)". According to the above circular, guidance is given on the eligibility criteria for participation in the voluntary return scheme for foreign nationals of third countries, which is carried out by the International Organization for Migration (IOM). In particular, foreign nationals who have applied for asylum to Regional Asylum Bodies in order to participate in the IOM programmes should apply for a maximum of five (5) days after the delivery of the negative first instance decision of their application for international protection status from the competent Asylum Regional Office, while those who do not express their will within the aforementioned deadline will be returned to Turkey after the completion of the their labels asylum procedures¹⁴.

Concerning unaccompanied minors and other vulnerable groups: In 2017, the main development for the accommodation structures for unaccompanied minors was the effort to provide an adequate framework for the protection and care of unaccompanied minors in order to gradually prepare for their adulthood and autonomy. Action of the Ministry of Economy and Development Special Programme Coordination and Management Agency for the upgrading and renovation of existing buildings of the General Secretariat of Welfare and its supervised bodies in order to act as structures for the accommodation of unaccompanied minors¹⁵. Action of the Ministry of Economy and Development Special Programme Coordination and Management Agency for the subsidization of bodies for the operation of existing structures for the accommodation of unaccompanied minors¹⁶. Action of the Ministry of Economy and Development Special Programme Coordination and Management Service for the subsidization of bodies for the operation of structures for hosting unaccompanied minors¹⁷.

Regarding integration: Ministerial Decision No. 193/DG4, Government Gazette 3974 B' 13/11/2017, on "Establishment of Reception Structures for Refugee Education. Establishment of school units for the school year 2017-2018 within which Host Structures for Refugee Education will operate". Ministerial Decision No 180/2017, Government Gazette 3878 B' 03/11/2017, on the "Establishment of a Task Force for the Management, Coordination and Monitoring of Refugee Education". Ministerial Decision No 139/2017, Government Gazette 2985 B' 30/08/2017, on the "Organization, Operation, Coordination and Training of Refugee Structures for the Education of Refugees, criteria and procedure for staff recruitment. because of structures". Ministerial Decision No. 667/2017, Government Gazette 1524 B' 04/05/2017, on the "Operation of reception structures for the education of refugees as annexes of kindergartens within the Hospitality Centres for the school year 2016-17". Ministerial Decision No 115/2017, Government Gazette 227 B' 01/02/2017, on the "Determination of the school units of the Regional Directorates of Primary and

⁸ Available at <http://immigration.gov.gr/documents/20182/49311/kya10700-08032017.pdf/41cc5a74-d08a-40c6-b656-fec1c5f7b604>

⁹ Available at

<http://immigration.gov.gr/documents/20182/31271/%CE%9ACE%81CE%B8CE%BFCE%81CE%B9CE%83CE%BCCE%BFCE%82+%CE%B7CE%BCCE%B5CE%F81CE%BFCE%BCCE%B7CE%BDCE%B9CE%B1CF%82+%CE%B5CE%BDCE%B1CF%81CE%BECE%B7CF%82+%CE%B5CE%BACE%B4CE%BFCE%83CE%B7CF%82+%CE%B1CF%85CF%84CE%BFCE%84CE%B5CE%BBCE%BFCE%85CF%82.pdf/2f2dbf13-62ce-4c96-a5f5-a3a47aa62191>

¹⁰ Available at: <http://immigration.gov.gr/documents/20182/31271/KYA+DNA.pdf/2ef7c24d-d22c-4804-b3f7-af2bd16ae0e5>

¹¹ Available at: http://www.asylumineurope.org/sites/default/files/resources/nomos_4461_2017.pdf.

¹² Available at: <http://asylo.gov.gr/wp-content/uploads/2017/09/ΔΙΑΠΡΑΞΙΑ-ΙΣΧΥΟΣ-ΔΕΛΤΙΟΝ-.pdf>.

¹³ Available at: <http://asylo.gov.gr/wp-content/uploads/2017/06/ΦΕΚ-1977-7.6.2017-ΠΕΡΙΟΡΙΣΜΟΣ-ΚΥΚΛΟΦΟΡΙΑΣ.pdf>.

¹⁴ Available at: https://www.synigoros.gr/resources/docs/20170512-egkyklios-el_as.pdf.

¹⁵ Available at: <http://www.amifisf.gr/prosklisi/yprobale-protaseon-gia-ten-anabathmise-anakinise-uphistamenon-ktirion-gia-te-philoxenia-asynodeuton-anelikon/>.

¹⁶ Available at: <http://www.amifisf.gr/prosklisi/epichorigisi-foreon-gia-ti-litourgia-yfistamenon-domon-filoxenias-asynodefton-anilikon/>.

¹⁷ Available at: <http://www.amifisf.gr/prosklisi/epichorigisi-foreon-gia-ti-litourgia-domon-filoxenias-asynodefton-anilikon/>.

Secondary Education of Central Macedonia, Attica and Central Greece for the school year 2016-2017 within the Refugee Education Facilities¹⁸. Implementation of a pilot agricultural training programme for refugees aged 15-18. The objective of the action is to help trainees acquire technical skills that they can use to join the labour market or meet personal needs and/or welfare goals¹⁸.

Concerning irregular migration: In order to prevent and tackle irregular migration more effectively, the implementation of the national enterprise under the code name ASPIDA continued in the area of Evros and the islands of the eastern Aegean Sea. Under this organization, police officers and technical means of the designated areas are provided with assistance from other police services. In addition to the aforementioned national operational action implemented by Greece, Frontex has been active in recent years in the areas of Joint Operation (JO), risk analysis and return procedures. Greece, as one of the main gateways for the entry of migratory flows into the territory of the EU, has been actively implementing Joint Ventures coordinated by the European Border Guard and Coast Guard (FRONTEX), involving the Member States of the EU, with sufficient personnel and technical equipment. The reported operational actions implemented in 2017 are as follows: Land Borders Sector: JO Flexible Operational Activities 2017 Land on Border Surveillance, JO Focal Points 2017 Land (statutory audits). Maritime Borders Sector: JO Poseidon 2017 (under the Joint Operation, police officers transferred to Lesbos, Chios, Samos, Kos and Leros (Hot-Spots) were funded by Frontex for coastal surveillance, registration, nationality assessment/identification, debriefing, guarding of facilities, maintaining order and security). Air Borders Sector: Joint Operations Focal Points Air 2017-Intermediate Managers, Joint Operations Focal Points Air 2017-Regular Officers, Joint Operation Pegasus 2017. In addition, special attention was paid to the training and training of police officers from Border Guard Services and Passport Control Services to more effectively manage mixed migratory flows. In this context, training has been conducted on border surveillance and border controls, the screening process, the debriefing process, as well as risk analysis. In the framework of the implementation of the National Programme of Greece, for the reinforcement of the resources of the Internal Security Fund - Border and Visa, procedures were launched for the implementation of actions related to the control of the country's external land and river borders and the management of mixed migratory flows.

In relation to return: The Recommendation of the European Commission since 07/03/2017, on reinforcing the effectiveness of returns in the framework of the implementation of the Directive 2008/115/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council which recommends that the Member-States (inter alia) to use detention as a means, as required and appropriate, in the cases provided for in Article 15 par. 1 of the Directive 2008/115/EC; and in particular where there is a risk of absconding, as provided for in points 16 and 17 of this Recommendation, and to harmonize the capacity for detention, with real needs, using where necessary aberration for cases of emergencies, as provided for in Article 18 of the Directive 2008/115/EC, in order to ensure the effective removal of irregularly staying third country nationals¹⁹. The implementation of the above-mentioned European Commission Recommendation has created a further basis for Greece to extend administrative detention practices to third-country nationals for the purpose of return.

Regarding actions against trafficking in human beings: The year 2017 is characterized by significant developments at national level. In 2017, Law 4478/2017²⁰ was passed and entered into force, which defines the minimum number of services that the state must provide to victims of criminal activities (including victims of human trafficking)²¹. Other developments in Greek State's efforts against Trafficking in Human Beings (THB) are aligned with recommendations of GRETA report (2017)²²: (i) A new bill on the themes of guardianship and foster care is under consideration and will soon be voted (in 2018). (ii) The SOPs of NRM have been set up and the latter will be implemented soon (in 2018). (iii) Specialized training for labor inspectors and health professionals is planned in the first half of 2018. (iv) The so-called "Vulnerability Assessment" of potential victims, which is a unified victim identification process, has been developed and will be implemented in all Reception and Identification Centers of third-country nationals. This vulnerability assessment includes indicators for detecting victimization (THB) between migrants and asylum seekers²³. (v) In addition, a 3-year office appointment in response to the commitment as a Member State is established and emphasis has been given in the National strategy within the EU. (vi) 3 pillars of the 2011/36/EU Directive²⁴: Prevention-Protection-Suppression. (vii) Good Practice: Coordination of the National Center for Social Solidarity, with the National Referral Mechanism for Potential Victims. (viii) Further training of personnel of the Ministry for Migration Policy, the Reception and Identification Service, the Asylum Service, the Labour Inspectorate. (ix) Emphasis was given in the Identification of 1st level for a presumptive/potential victim. (x) Focus on the private supply chains and companies and (xi) on the implementation of the National Referral Mechanism (EMA)²⁵. (xii) Further training of relevant organizations aimed at reducing the "demand" of victims, before prevention. (xiii) Project Management Team (EFC) conclusion of the General Secretariat for Gender Equality (GSGE)²⁶ giving emphasis on issues of interconnection of prostitution and trafficking with human dignity. (xiv) The "Break the Chain" Festival

¹⁸ Available at: <http://www.amifisf.gr/wp-content/uploads/2017/06/Πρόσκληση-010.pdf>

¹⁹ Available at: https://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/sites/homeaffairs/files/what-we-do/policies/european-agenda-migration/20170302_commission_recommendation_on_making_returns_more_effective_en.pdf

²⁰ Available at: <http://goo.gl/691yu5>

²¹ Data provided by the National Rapporteur on Combating Trafficking in Human Beings, to the Project Team, on 13/02/2018.

²² Secretariat of the Council of Europe (CoE) Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings (GRETA and Committee of the Parties (2017) *G R E T A: Group of Experts on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings [GRETA (2017)]: Report concerning the implementation of the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings by Greece*. Council of Europe. Strasbourg: Council of Europe <https://rm.coe.int/greta-2017-27-fgr-gre-en/168075f2b6>

²³ Data provided by the National Rapporteur on Combating Trafficking in Human Beings, to the Project Team, on 13/02/2018.

²⁴ <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2011:101:0001:0011:EN:PDF>

²⁵ See: <https://www.mfa.gr/exoteriki-politiki/pagkosmia-zitimata/paranomi-diakinisi-prosopon.html>

²⁶ See: <https://tomov.gr/2017/05/23/%CF%83%CF%85%CE%B3%CE%BA%CF%81%CF%8C%CF%84%CE%B7%CF%83%CE%B7-%CE%BF%CE%BC%CE%AC%CE%B4%CE%B1%CF%82-%CE%B4%CE%B9%CE%BF%CE%AF%CE%BA%CE%B7%CF%83%CE%B7%CF%82-%CE%AD%CF%81%CE%B3%CE%BF%CF%85-%CE%BF%CE%B4/>

organized in 2017²⁷ as well and the aim is to last all year long. (xv) Focus is given to the wider field of migration. (xvi) The European Union Regional Task Force (EUTF)²⁸ cooperates with EC agencies, EASO, FRA, EUROPOL, Police, Hellenic Centre for Disease Control and Prevention (HCDCP) via data and training, along with (xvii) the parliamentary subcommittee on combating Trafficking and Exploitation of Humans Beings²⁹. (xviii) Further training became available through the National Centre for Public Administration and Local Government (EKDDA)/Institute of Training (INEP)³⁰.

Concerning maximising development impact of migration and mobility: The National Strategic Reference Framework (NSRF) (2014-2020), includes actions of social integration of marginalized communities, such as immigrants, asylum seekers and refugees, et al., based on four pillars: housing, employment, education and health, aiming at: a) The establishment/creation of new and/or improvement of existing housing facilities for individuals experiencing, or are faced with the problem of homelessness, b) The decline of school dropouts, c) The provision of services of health, sanitation and welfare, d) Information and individual empowerment, e) Vocational and business counseling and training, f) Strengthening of employment via community service and social entrepreneurship. Specifically, the National Strategic Reference Framework (NSRF) includes the development by prefecture/region at local level, compensated actions, where is needed by investment priorities of the European Social Fund (ESF) and in synergy with actions under the Fund for European Aid to the Most Deprived (FEAD). In the Multiannual Programme 2014-2020 of the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF), which approved by the European Commission in 2015, an Action is planned/provided for with the title "Strengthening the relations of Greece with the countries of origin of third country nationals and implementation of programmes for the better integration of third country nationals in the host society". In the context of this action at least three (3) introductory programmes will be implemented/materialized, in countries of origin of legal immigrants with which Greece has signed or will sign Mobility Partnerships and Bilateral Agreements.

²⁷ Available at: <http://www.breakthechain.gr/index.php/%CE%BF%CE%BB%CE%BF%CE%BA%CE%BB%CE%B7%CF%81%CF%8E%CE%B8%CE%B7%CE%BA%CE%B5-%CE%BC%CE%B5-%CE%B5%CF%80%CE%B9%CF%84%CF%85%CF%87%CE%AF%CE%B1-%CF%84%CE%BF-%CF%86%CE%B5%CF%83%CF%84%CE%B9%CE%B2%CE%AC%CE%BB/>

²⁸ <https://www.europol.europa.eu/newsroom/news/operation-aurus-%E2%80%93-greece-and-europol-dismantle-organized-crime-group> and https://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/sites/homeaffairs/files/what-we-do/policies/european-agenda-migration/20171114_commission_staff_working_document_en.pdf

²⁹ See: http://www.hellenicparliament.gr/Koinovouleftikes-Epitropes/Synedriaseis?met_id=2f239783-8c28-4219-9720-a72400f2941c and http://www.hellenicparliament.gr/Koinovouleftikes-Epitropes/Synedriaseis?met_id=7dda3bb5-4394-48aa-8652-a7f200a7ba56

³⁰ Data provided by the National Rapporteur on Combating Trafficking in Human Beings, to the Project Team, on 13/02/2018.

3. LEGAL MIGRATION AND MOBILITY

Regarding the institutional framework for legal migration and mobility in 2017 (see also Section 2) the following legal arrangements for the admission of specific categories of third-country nationals, were introduced:

Ministerial Decision no. 11134, Government Gazette 867 B' 10/03/2017, on the "Amendment of the Joint Ministerial Decision No. 66224/2014/22-12-2014", on the "Determination of specific issues regarding the process of determining the volume of admission of third country nationals and the procedure for recruitment for dependent work, seasonal employment, employment of fishermen and highly skilled workers"³¹.

Ministerial Decision no. 27354, Government Gazette 3080 B' 01/09/2017, on the "Amendment of the Joint Ministerial Decision with Ref. No. 4872/105/13/02/2017," on the "Determination of the maximum number of residence permits for employment of third country nationals for the years 2017 and 2018" (B 398)³².

f) Ministerial Decision no. 4872, Government Gazette 398 B' 13/03/2017, on the "Determination of the maximum number of residence permits for employment of third country nationals for the years 2017 and 2018"³³.

47201 – Government Gazette 4503 B' 12/12/2017 Setting up mobile biometric data acquisition teams from cases of third-country nationals who are unable to visit the biometric data service in person.

46710 – Government Gazette 4503 B' 07/12/2017 Extension of the provisions of Joint Ministerial Decision No. 51738/2014 (Government Gazette 2947 B')

27354 – Government Gazette 3080 B' 01/09/2017 Amendment of the Joint Ministerial Decision with Ref. No. 4872/105/13/02/2017 on the "Determination of the maximum number of residence permits for employment of third country nationals for the years 2017 and 2018" (B 398)

15380 – Government Gazette 1307 13/04/2017 Supplementing the Joint Ministerial Decision No. 23443-07/09/11 on determining the type of residence permit issued to third-country nationals, who are partners of a of the EU or Greek citizen, with whom they maintain a stable relationship duly proven.

7451 – Government Gazette 867 B' 16/03/2017 Modification in the admission volume for dependent work.

4872 Government Gazette 398 B' 13/03/2017 Determination of the maximum number of residence permits for employment of third country nationals for the years 2017 and 2018.

11134 – Government Gazette 867 B' 10/03/2017 Amendment of the Joint Ministerial Decision No. 66224/2014/22/12/2014 on the "Determination of specific issues concerning the process of determining the volume of admission of third country nationals and the recruitment procedure for dependent work, seasonal employment, employment of fishermen and highly skilled".

10700 – Government Gazette 891 B' 08/03/2017 Modification of the No. 123/2016 (B' 35) Joint Decision of Ministers Interior, Home Affairs, Foreign Affairs and Labour, Social Security and Social Solidarity on the "Determination of the residence permit category for third country nationals, who held residence permits or identity cards of foreigners issued by the Hellenic Police services".

2816 – Government Gazette 480 B' 15/02/2017 Definition the starting date of the issuance of residence permits of uniform format for third-country nationals in the form of stand-alone document.

4441 – Government Gazette 406 B' 25/01/2017 Regulation of issues for monitoring of the implementation of the provisions of the Immigration and Social Integration Code and other provisions (Law 4251/2014).

Regarding labour market and skill needs and shortages in relation to the employment of third-country nationals, the following legislative regulation was introduced: Ministerial Decision No. 7451, Government Gazette 867 B' 16/03/2017, on the "Modification in the admission volume for dependent work"³⁴. Also, by decision of the Board of Directors (BoD) of the Manpower Employment Organization (OAED in Greek): 1) By the No. 553/15-27/02/2018 Decision of the BoD of the Organization the amendment of the Decision No. 3701/55-22/11/2011 of the BoD of OAED (Government Gazette 3018/B-30/12/2012), was approved, as follows: "Following case b', of paragraph 1, of Article 6, of Chapter A', three new cases are added as follows: "(c) Certificate of Temporary Hospitality Structures or certificate of residence in a concessional property or contract of concession for unemployed refugees and asylum seekers. d) Certificate of residence from an Open Day Centre for the Homeless/Dormitory or a certificate issued by a Social Service that the beneficiary lives on the street or in inappropriate accommodation facilities or a certificate of residence in special hospitality structures or in Units of Closed Care or in Shelters of Supported Living or in Guesthouses of Transitional Hospitality or Social Guesthouse of Short-Term Hospitality for the unemployed homeless. e) Certificate of hospitality by corresponding Hospitality Structures for: Unemployed women hosted in Shelters for Women victims of violence. Unemployed individuals who are hosted in Children's Protection Structures, have reached the age of 18, are not studying or do not have access to housing. Unemployed individuals who are hosted in Psychosocial Rehabilitation Units (boarding houses, guesthouses, etc.), or are beneficiaries of the Protected Apartments Programme of the no. 9 of Law 2716/1999". Cases c, d, e and f of paragraph 1 of Article 6 of Chapter A' shall be renumbered as f, g, h and i". As a result, it is possible the registration in the registry of the Organization of refugees and asylum seekers with the submission of a certificate of Temporary Hospitality or a certificate of Temporary Hospitality Structures The unemployed of the Organization of Refugees and Asylum Seekers by

³¹ Available at: <http://immigration.gov.gr/documents/20182/31271/KYA-11134-FEK867B.pdf/485e6fb9-2720-443e-a28b-757342266522>

³² Available at: <http://immigration.gov.gr/documents/20182/31271/kya27354-444-01092017.pdf/0ea441b9-8bdd-47fc-a688-01d051684846>

³³ Available at: <http://immigration.gov.gr/documents/20182/31271/KYA-4872-FEK398B.pdf/1b7c0bc8-72eb-4753-806f-95b9257b6400>

³⁴ Available at:

<http://immigration.gov.gr/documents/20182/31271/KYA+%CF%84%CF%81%CF%BF%CF%80%CE%BF%CF%80%CE%BF%CF%B9%CE%B7%CF%83%CE%B7%CF%82+%CE%BF%CF%B3%CE%BA%CE%BF%CF%85+%CE%B5%CE%B9%CF%83%CE%B4%CE%BF%CF%87%CE%B7%CF%82+%CE%B3%CE%B9%CE%B1+%CE%B5%CE%BE%CE%B1%CF%81%CF%84%CE%B7%CE%BC%CE%B5%CE%BD%CE%B7+%CE%B5%CF%81%CE%B3%CE%B1%CF%83%CE%B9%CE%B1.pdf/55cac95c-125c-4a8a-bec7-24776de20128>

submitting a Certification of Temporary Hosted Structures or a certificate of residence in a concessional property or contract of concession and if they meet the rest requirements of the Decision No. 3701/55-22/11/2011 of the BoD of OAED (Government Gazette 3018/B'-30/12/2012). Also, for students and researchers the following legislative regulations introduced: Ministerial Decision No. 368, Government Gazette 352 B' 07/02/2018, on "Residence permits of third-country nationals entering Greece to attend Training Schools for pilots, engineers and cabin crew members, operating under the approval of the Civil Aviation Authority"³⁵. Moreover, regarding students, the legislation is under revision (recast) and for the ICTs, an amendment has been submitted at the Hellenic Parliament. Regarding information on the routes to and conditions of legal migration, information campaigns, websites, specific centres, etc., and Cooperations with third countries were implemented; for example, pre-departure measures were implemented, which may include provision of information on visas and work permits, taking place both in the (Member) State and/or a third country. In relation to long-term residence and intra-EU mobility of legally resident third-country nationals emphasis was given to: a) Long-term residence³⁶ and b) intra-EU mobility of third-country nationals between (Member) States. Other measures on legal migration schemes include: Circular no. 13 regarding the Implementation of the provisions of no. 58114/22/12/2016 of the Minister for Immigration Policy on the "Restatement of the competent authorities issuing residence permits granted in accordance with provisions of article 19 of Law 4251/2014, as in force"³⁷, and the Presidential Decree no. 122 "Organization of the Ministry for Migration Policy" (Government Gazette 149 A'/1010-2017/10/10/2017)³⁸. Moreover, the electronic residence permit³⁹ and the website of the Ministry for Migration Policy⁴⁰ were created. In addition, the launching event of the new electronic residence permit⁴¹ took place and an operation of telemedicine and remote interpreting premises in the Reception and Identification Centre (RIC) of Samos began its operation⁴².

In relation to Schengen governance in 2017, the design for changes regarding entry visas began. Additionally, instructions to Consular Authorities for more multiple-entry, three-year and five-year duration visas were given, and deployment of additional staff to support Consular Authorities was realised. Also, a more systematic training in the application of European legislation and the use of the VIS information system in document fraud was implemented and emphasis was given to the securing of European resources for the proper functioning of Consular Authorities (workstations, software). Moreover, the pilot programme of the islands of the Eastern Aegean with Turkey was implemented, and border entry points reinforced with seconded police officers and equipment and European Border and Coast Guard Agency - Frontex (EBCG)⁴³ were established. Standing corps personnel and equipment [at least 1.500 border guards and others, see rapid reaction pool] was formed and possibility of owned equipment financed by the EU budget or co-owned by Member States was implemented. Also, emphasis was given to the analysis and combating of "hybrid threats" of organized Crime, migration management, and "Search & Rescue" actions. Moreover, the right to intervene in specific cases (specific and disproportionate challenge), and borders closure in the event that the Member-State does not comply with an operational intervention plan were applied. The permanent presence of the Frontex expert (liaison officer) at the Member-State who reports back to the Executive Director (part of the evaluation report) and the reporting/evaluating/vulnerability assessment, were implemented. Particular emphasis was given to the hot spot areas, Frontex's mandate was extended to return operations, and a pool of continuous forced return escorts/specialists were formed. The cooperation with third countries (consent of the neighbouring Member States) was enhanced and liaison officers in third countries were deployed. Also, a strategy for the protection of Fundamental Rights was designed (via Fundamental Rights Officer, complaints mechanism) and an independent budget-EU financing (mainly) was formed. Moreover, EU initiatives that affect the transit crossing of third-country nationals were implemented and guidelines for more systematic controls were given. A complete operation of the VIS (biometrics) began and at the borders (SIS II) applied. The security systems (counterfeit identification devices, interoperability of databases) upgraded and liaison officers deployed in third countries, while the exchange of information expanded and a Schengen evaluation was completed. In addition, emphasis was given to the amendment of the Schengen Borders Code (checks to EU citizens), to the development of the Suspension Mechanism (announced on 04/05/2016), and to the common exit/entry system (the dialogue is to be concluded by the end of 2016) as well as the implementation of smart borders (e-gates). Finally, facilitation arrangements were made, visa liberalization agreements (15/03/2016 agreed by Peru, 05/10/2016 agreed by Ukraine, Georgia, Kosovo) were agreed, and the ETIAS⁴⁴ system was implemented.

In relation to the implementation of the Visa Code and the Visa Information System (VIS) and in relation to cooperation between (Member) States' consulates and the set-up of joint consular services for visas, the following are in force: Regulation (EU) 2016/399 - Schengen Borders Code⁴⁵, Regulation (EC) No 767/2008- VIS⁴⁶ and Regulation (EC) No 810/2009 - VISA Code⁴⁷. Legislative documents applying for 2017 are: a) Law 4251/2014, Immigration and Social Integration Code and other provisions [GG

³⁵ <http://immigration.gov.gr/documents/20182/49311/KYA368-24012018.pdf/9b55f428-f8b2-4175-a9a4-a36df2ad7357>

³⁶ A long-term resident is a citizen from a country outside the EU who has been given long-term resident status. This status means that the person will have similar rights as EU citizens. (Directive 2003/109/EC).

³⁷ Available at: <http://www.ypes.gr/UserFiles/f0ff9297-f516-40ff-a70e-eca84e2ec9b9/egk13-280317.pdf>, 28/03/2017.

³⁸ Available at: <http://www.immigration.gov.gr/documents/20182/31274/FEK149A-10102017.pdf/c6ef518a-b8c2-4bd9-ba15-b02c580aaebe>

³⁹ <http://www.immigration.gov.gr/e-rp>, 08/2017

⁴⁰ <http://www.immigration.gov.gr/>, 2017

⁴¹ http://www.immigration.gov.gr/article-details/-/journal_content/56_INSTANCE_qAPKik32D3aH/20182/49271?back=news, 09/10/2017. See also Invitation to the launching event of the "new electronic residence permit", (http://www.immigration.gov.gr/article-details/-/journal_content/56_INSTANCE_qAPKik32D3aH/20182/49454?back=news, 13/10/2017

⁴² http://www.immigration.gov.gr/article-details/-/journal_content/56_INSTANCE_qAPKik32D3aH/20182/50111?back=news, 24/11/2017

⁴³ See also: http://frontex.europa.eu/assets/Publications/Risk_Analysis/FRAN_Q3_2017.pdf and

http://frontex.europa.eu/assets/Publications/Risk_Analysis/Risk_Analysis_for_2018.pdf

⁴⁴ <https://etias.com/etias-countries/greece-etias>

⁴⁵ <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?qid=1460125655983&uri=CELEX:32016R0399>

⁴⁶ <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EL/TXT/?qid=1460019192803&uri=CELEX:32008R0767>

⁴⁷ <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EL/TXT/?qid=1460019015370&uri=CELEX:32009R0810>

80/issue A'/01/04/2014]⁴⁸, b) Ministerial Decision (Ministry of Foreign Affairs) GG 3497.3/PN 24245/28/05/2014 on the "Determination of general supporting documents and procedures for the issuance of national long-stay visas (Type D VISA) [GG 1820/issue B'/03/07/2014], c) Joint Ministerial Decision (Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Ministry of Interior) no. 30825/04/06/2014 on the "Establishment of the required supporting documents for the issuance of national visas and for granting and renewing residence permits in accordance with the provisions of Law no. 4251/2014" [GG 1528/issue B'/06/06/2014]⁴⁹. National Type A visas (VIS) for the year 2017 are recorded as follows: (7) applications for a national type A visa were filed, (1) a national A visa was granted, (3) issued, (2) were refused and (1) was dropped. Type C visas for the year 2017 are recorded as follows: (1.029.571) Type C visa applications were filed, (57) were granted (99.0077) issued, (35.637) were refused and (1.572) were dropped. See table below:

⁴⁸ Available at: <http://www.ypes.gr/UserFiles/24e0c302-6021-4a6b-b7e4-8259e281e5f3/metanast-N4251-2014.pdf>

⁴⁹ Data from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.



EL-VIS (HELLENIC VISA INFORMATION
SYSTEM)

Στατιστικά Στοιχεία
Θεωρήσεων

Περίοδος: 1/1/2017 Έως: 31/12/2017

Θεωρήσεις τύπου C

| | Applied | Consid | Granted | Issued | Refused | M_Issued | VTL_Issued | Dropped | Revoked | Annuled |
|----------------------------|---------|--------|---------|--------|---------|----------|------------|---------|---------|---------|
| Business reasons | 24923 | 17 | 2 | 22823 | 1849 | 10667 | 1178 | 124 | 103 | 6 |
| Cultural reasons | 4782 | 1 | 0 | 4314 | 419 | 1958 | 37 | 22 | 25 | 0 |
| Medical reasons | 413 | 4 | 0 | 338 | 59 | 186 | 27 | 7 | 5 | 0 |
| Official visit | 961 | 0 | 0 | 862 | 82 | 532 | 226 | 12 | 3 | 2 |
| Other | 5205 | 9 | 1 | 4726 | 417 | 2734 | 783 | 34 | 17 | 1 |
| Sports | 2931 | 9 | 0 | 2527 | 369 | 939 | 54 | 24 | 2 | 0 |
| Study | 758 | 3 | 0 | 695 | 51 | 372 | 3 | 8 | 1 | 0 |
| Tourism | 962399 | 305 | 48 | 928593 | 30574 | 743062 | 6008 | 1258 | 1470 | 137 |
| Transit | 5508 | 5 | 2 | 5329 | 144 | 2275 | 117 | 10 | 18 | 0 |
| Visiting Family or Friends | 21691 | 28 | 4 | 19870 | 1673 | 14001 | 74 | 73 | 40 | 2 |
| Σύνολο | 1029571 | 381 | 57 | 990077 | 35637 | 776726 | 8507 | 1572 | 1684 | 148 |

Source: Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Type D visas for the year 2017 are recorded as follows: (13.764) Type D visa applications were filed, (4) were granted, (12.399) issued, (1.144) were refused. See table below:



EL-VIS (HELLENIC VISA INFORMATION
SYSTEM)

Στατιστικά Στοιχεία
Θεωρήσεων

Περίοδος: 1/1/2017 Έως: 31/12/2017

Θεωρήσεις τύπου D

| | Annuled | Applied | Consid | Dropped | Granted | Issued | Refused | Revoked |
|---|---------|---------|--------|---------|---------|--------|---------|---------|
| A.1.1-Εξαρτημένη εργασία | 3 | 2065 | 2 | 2 | | 1756 | 278 | 24 |
| A.1.2-Μισθωτή εργασία και παροχή υπηρεσιών ή έργου | | 4 | | | | 2 | 2 | |
| A.2.10-Ανταποκριτές ξένου τύπου | | 4 | | | | 4 | | |
| A.2.11-Μέλη ξένων αρχαιολογικών σχολών | | 51 | | | | 51 | | |
| A.2.12-Εκπαιδευτικοί | | 22 | | | | 22 | | |
| A.2.1-Στελέχη ημεδαπών και αλλοδαπών εταιρειών εγκατεστημένων στην Ελλάδα | 1 | 194 | | 2 | | 179 | 12 | |
| A.2.2-Υπαλληλικοί προσωπικό ημεδαπών και αλλοδαπών εταιρειών εγκατεστημένων στην Ελλάδα | | 547 | 1 | 1 | | 525 | 5 | 15 |
| A.2.3-Στελέχη και υπάλληλοι επιχειρήσεων βάσει ειδικών συμφωνιών | | 11 | | | | 11 | | |
| A.2.4-Στελέχη εταιρειών εξόρυξης υδρογονανθράκων | | 2 | | | | 2 | | |
| A.2.5-Στελέχη και υπάλληλοι σε εταιρείες που διέπονται από ειδική νομοθεσία | | 208 | 2 | 5 | | 143 | 57 | 1 |
| A.2.7-Αθλητές και προπονητές | | 70 | | | | 67 | 3 | |

Note: A.1 Employment; A.1 Paid employment; A.2.10 Foreign Press correspondents; A.2.11. Members of foreign schools of archaeology; A.2.12 Teachers; A.2.1 Executives of companies established in Greece; A.2.12 Teachers; A.2.3 Executives and Employees of Companies Based on Special Agreements; A.2.4 Companies Executives Mining Hydrocarbons; A.2.5 Executives and employees of undertakings governed by special laws; A.2.7 Athletes and coaches (Source: <http://goo.gl/KfQtTL>)
Source: Ministry of Foreign Affairs



EL-VIS (HELLENIC VISA INFORMATION
SYSTEM)

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|--|---|-----|--|---|--|-----|-----|----|
| A.2.8-Πνευματικοί δημιουργοί | | 12 | | | | 12 | | |
| A.2.9-Λειτουργοί γνωστών θρησκειών | | 29 | | | | 28 | 1 | |
| A.3.1-Επενδυτές | | 3 | | | | 3 | | |
| A.3.2-Στελέχη και υπαλληλικά προσωπικό που απασχολούνται σε επενδυτική δραστηριότητα | | 1 | | | | 1 | | |
| B.1-Εποχική εργασία. | | 650 | | | | 575 | 64 | 11 |
| B.2-Αλιεργάτες. | 1 | 960 | | 1 | | 835 | 123 | |
| B.3-Μέλη καλλιτεχνικών συγκροτημάτων. | | 54 | | | | 54 | | |
| B.4-Πολίτες τρίτων χωρών που μετακινούνται από επιχείρηση εγκατεστημένη σε κράτος –μέλος της ΕΕ ή του ΕΟΧ με σκοπό την παροχή υπηρεσίας. | | 4 | | | | 4 | | |
| B.5-Πολίτες τρίτων χωρών που μετακινούνται από επιχείρηση εγκατεστημένη σε Τρίτη χώρα με σκοπό την παροχή υπηρεσίας. | | 66 | | | | 66 | | |
| B.6-Αρχηγοί οργανωμένων ομάδων τουρισμού | | 918 | | | | 906 | 2 | 10 |
| B.7-Αθλητική προετοιμασία. | | 9 | | | | 9 | | |

Note: A2.8 Intellectual creators; A.2.9 Ministers of known religions; A.3.1 Investment activity; A.3.2 Directors and employees in investment; B.1 Seasonal Employment; B.2 Fishermen; B.3 Members of artistic groups; B.4 Third - country nationals moving from an undertaking established in a EU Member State or the European Economic Area (EEA) with the purpose of providing services; B.5 Third - country nationals moving from an undertaking established in a third country with the purpose of providing services; B.6 Leaders of organized tourist groups; B.7 Sports preparation (Source: <http://goo.gl/KfQtTL>)
Source: Ministry of Foreign Affairs



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| B8-Πολίτες τρίτων χωρών φοιτητές τριτοβάθμιας εκπαίδευσης που συμμετέχουν σε προγράμματα πρακτικής άσκησης. | | 47 | | | | 45 | 2 | |
| Γ.2.1-Μέλη Διπλ. Προξ. Αρχών, Διεθ. Οργ/σύζυγοι-τέκνα | 1 | 502 | 2 | 4 | | 495 | | |
| Γ.2-Δημόσιο συμφέρον | | 95 | | | | 92 | 2 | 1 |
| Γ.3.1-Οικονομικά ανεξάρτητα άτομα | | 336 | 5 | 2 | | 304 | 25 | |
| Γ.3.2-Ιδιοκτήτες ακινήτων | | 149 | 1 | | | 148 | | |
| Γ.3.3-Ενήλικα τέκνα διπλωματικών υπαλλήλων | | 12 | | | | 12 | | |
| Γ.3.4-Εξαρτώμενα μέλη οικογένειας διπλωματικών υπαλλήλων | | 23 | | | 1 | 22 | | |
| Γ.3.5-Υπαλληλικά προσωπικό διπλωματικών αποστολών | | 40 | | | | 38 | | 2 |
| Γ.3.6-Σπουδές ή γνωριμία του Αγιορείτικου μοναχικού βίου | | 30 | | | | 29 | 1 | |
| Γ.3.7-Γνωριμία του μοναχικού βίου | | 38 | | | | 34 | 4 | |
| Γ.3.8-Χείρ. Αεροσκαφών Κ.Υ.Α. 49122/30.09.2014 | | 198 | 41 | 13 | 2 | 130 | 10 | 2 |
| Δ.1.1-Σπουδές | | 522 | | | | 441 | 79 | 2 |
| Δ.2-Εθελοντική υπηρεσία | | 67 | | | | 58 | 9 | |
| Δ.3.1-Έρευνα | | 35 | | | | 34 | 1 | |

Note: B.8 Foreigners, higher education students participating in remunerated traineeship programs; C.2.1 Members of Diplomatic Missions – Consular Posts - International Organizations - Spouses and Children; C.2 Public interest; C.3.1 Financially independent persons; C.3.2 Real Estate Owners; C.3.3 Adult children of diplomatic officers; C.3.4 Dependent family members of diplomatic staff; C.3.5. Private servants to members of diplomatic missions; C.3.6 Study or acquaintance with the Mount Athos monastic life; C.3.7 Acquaintance with the monastic life or monasticism; C.3.8 Attendance at pilot training schools, operating under the approval of the Civil Aviation Authority - Joint Ministerial Decision No. 49122/30.9.2014; D.1.1 Studies in universities; D.2 Voluntary services; D.3.1 Researchers (Source: <http://goo.gl/KfQtTL>)

Source: Ministry of Foreign Affairs



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| Δ.4.1-Επαγγελματική κατάρτιση | 1 | 1224 | 1 | 1 | | 1078 | 141 | 2 |
| Δ.4.2-Υπότροφφοι | | 153 | | | | 148 | 1 | 4 |
| Δ.4.3-Συμμετοχή σε ειδικά προγράμματα | 1 | 522 | | | | 514 | 3 | 4 |
| Δ.4.4-Στρατιωτικές και παραγωγικές σχολές | | 35 | | | | 34 | | 1 |
| Δ.4.5-Απόκτηση ιατρικής ειδικότητας | | 1 | | | | 1 | | |
| Δ.4.6-Φοίτηση στην Αθωνιάδα Σχολή | | 5 | | | | 5 | | |
| H.1 Ανθρ. λόγοι-υιοθεσία ΚΥΑ30651/03.06.2014 | | 22 | | | | 22 | | |
| H.2 Ανθρ. λόγοι-οικότροφοι ΚΥΑ30651/03.06.2014 | | 4 | | | | 4 | | |
| ΣΤ.1-Μέλη οικογένειας πολίτη τρίτης χώρας | 1 | 3004 | 19 | 16 | 1 | 2855 | 110 | 2 |
| ΣΤ.2.6-Σύζυγος ομογενούς | | 91 | | | | 86 | 4 | 1 |
| ΣΤ.2.7α- Ομογενείς-Αλβανική Ιθ. | | 338 | | 2 | | 136 | 200 | |
| ΣΤ.2.7β- Ανήλ. τέκνα Ομογ.- Αλβανική Ιθ. | | 144 | 1 | | | 143 | | |
| ΣΤ.2.7γ- Άλλοδ. σύζυγοι Ομογ. Αλβανίας-Άνεξ. Ιθ. | | 69 | | | | 66 | 3 | |
| ΣΤ.2.7ε- Εν χηρεία άλλοδ. σύζυγοι Ομογ. Αλβανίας | | 4 | | | | 3 | 1 | |
| ΣΤ.2.7-Ομογενείς από την Αλβανία | | 1 | | | | | 1 | |

Note: D.4.1 Vocational training; D.4.2 Scholars; D.4.3 Participation in special programs; D.4.4 Military training schools; D.4.5 Acquisition of a medical speciality; D.4.6 Attendance at the Athonias Ecclesiastical Academy of Mount Athos; G.1 Humanitarian Reasons – Adoptions; G.2 Humanitarian Grounds - Accommodation in Boarding Houses; F.1. Family members of a third - country national; F.2.7. Expatriates from Albania and their family members (Source: <http://goo.gl/KfQtTL>)

Source: Ministry of Foreign Affairs



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| ΣΤ2.8α-Ομογενείς-Τουρκική Ιθ. | | 103 | | | | 102 | | 1 |
| ΣΤ2.8β-Τέκνα Ομογ.-Τουρκική Ιθ. | | 33 | | | | 33 | | |
| ΣΤ2.8γ-Άλλοδ. σύζυγοι Ομογ. Τουρκίας-Άνεξ. Ιθ. | | 33 | | | | 32 | | 1 |
| Σύνολο | 9 | 13764 | 75 | 49 | 4 | 12399 | 1144 | 84 |

Note: F.2.8 Expatriates from Turkey and members of their families (Source: <http://goo.gl/KfQtTL>)

Source: Ministry of Foreign Affairs

4. INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION, INCLUDING ASYLUM

Regarding the implementation of the Common European Asylum System (CEAS) and related developments in legislation, policies and practices to access to the asylum procedure (see also Section 2), concerning: a) the first arrival to territory (including information provided at the time of first arrival to the EU territory and operations to help asylum seekers on arrival) the following are in effect: Law 4375/2016: “On the organization and operation of the Asylum Service, the Appeals Authority, the Reception and Identification Service, the establishment of the General Secretariat for Reception, the transposition into Greek legislation of the provisions of Directive 2013/32/EC “on common procedures for granting and withdrawing the status of international protection (recast) (L 180-29/06/2013), provisions on the employment of beneficiaries of international protection and other provisions”⁵⁰. The European Agency for the Management of Operational Cooperation at the External Borders of the European Union (Frontex)⁵¹ strengthens Greece’s work, and of the Reception and Identification Service in particular, on the registration of third-country nationals or stateless persons entering the country without legal formalities, by providing border guards, while also providing Rapid Border Intervention Teams (RABIT) in the Aegean and in the Aegean Islands, which are available upon the request of Greece⁵². The new Frontex regulation strengthens and extends its scope of competence and activities. In Article 60, paragraph 4 of Law 4375/2016, it is stated that “4. In case of third country nationals or stateless persons arriving in large numbers and applying for international protection at the border or at airport/ port transit zones or while they remain in Reception and Identification Centres, the following procedures shall exceptionally apply, following a relevant Joint Decision by the Minister of Interior and Administrative Reconstruction and the Minister of National Defense: (a) The registration of applications for international protection, the notification of decisions and other procedure-related documents as well as the receiving of appeals may be conducted by staff of the Hellenic Police or the Armed Forces. (b) In the implementation of procedures under (a) above, the Asylum Service may be assisted, in the conduct of interviews with applicants for international protection as well as any other procedure, by staff and interpreters deployed by the European Asylum Support Office. (c) The time limit provided for in article 52, paragraph 5, shall be one (1) day. The time limit provided for in article 62, paragraph 2(c), shall be two (2) days. The time limits provided for in article 62, paragraph 3, regarding the invitation of the applicant to an oral hearing as well for the submission of a memorandum after the examination of an appeal, shall be one (1) day. (d) Decisions on applications for international protection shall be issued, at the latest, the day following the day the interview is conducted and shall be notified to the individuals concerned, at the latest, the day following the day of issuance. (e) Appeals shall be examined within three (3) days from their submission. Decisions on appeals shall be issued, at the latest, two (2) days following the day of the appeal examination or the submission of a memorandum and shall be notified to the individuals concerned, at the latest, the day following the day of their issuance. When the appellant requests to be granted an oral hearing, as per article 62, paragraph 1 (e) below, the Appeals Committee may, based on its judgement, invite him/her to a hearing. (f) Individuals falling under Articles 8 to 11 of EU Regulation 604/2013 of the Parliament and the Council as well as vulnerable persons under Article 14 paragraph 8 of this law shall be exempted from the procedures described above”⁵³. Regarding b) access to the asylum procedure (including applications made at the border, within the (Member) State’s territory and in detention), including making and lodging applications, in accordance with Article 25 of the Presidential Decree 122/2017 (Organization of the Ministry for Migration Policy)⁵⁴, the Reception and Identification Service is intended to carry out effectively the procedures for the reception and identification of third-country nationals entering the country without legal documents. In particular, the reception and identification procedures shall include: (a) the recording of the personal data of the third country nationals (TCNs) and the receipt and registration of the fingerprints of those who have reached the age of 14; (b) their identity and nationality; (c) medical care and the provision of any necessary care and psychosocial support; (d) information on their rights and obligations, e.g. on the procedure for affiliation to international protection status, on the procedure for the inclusion process in voluntary return programme and whatever applies in case of third-country national; (e) provision of services for persons belonging to vulnerable groups; (f) referral to start the process of international protection for those who wish it; (g) referral to the competent services for the purposes of readmission, return, or expulsion⁵⁵. Article 36, paragraph 3, of Law 4375/2016, states: 3. If an alien or stateless person is subject to detention or is in a Reception and Identification procedure according to the legislation in force and declares his intention to submit an application for international protection, the competent authorities shall ensure the immediate recording and submission of a relevant written statement. Following this, the application for international protection shall be registered by the detention authority or by the Reception and Identification Service according to the provisions of paragraph 1 (b) of this article (simple registration) through an electronic network connected with the Receiving Authority no later than six (6) working days afterwards. The detention authorities or the Regional Reception and Identification Services shall ensure, in cooperation with the Receiving Authority, the transfer of the detainee before the Receiving Authority so as to complete the full registration of the application for international protection as per paragraph 1 point (a) above. In case the applicant is released before the completion of the full registration, he/she must appear within 10 days before the competent Receiving Authority in order to schedule the full registration of the application for international protection. In case the applicant does not appear for registration, the case shall be filed to the archive by decision of the Head of the competent Regional Asylum

⁵⁰ https://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/sites/homeaffairs/files/12a_greece_changing_influx_final_en.pdf

⁵¹ Available at: <http://frontex.europa.eu/> and http://frontex.europa.eu/assets/Publications/Risk_Analysis/Risk_Analysis_for_2018.pdf

⁵² Available at: Grizis, V., Tsoukala, A., Fouskas, T., and Mine F. (2015b) *European Migration Network: Annual Policy Report 2015 Part 2 – Greece: Annual Policy Report on Asylum and Migration Part 2*. Athens: Center for Security Studies/Hellenic Ministry of Interior and Administrative Reconstruction. Brussels: European Migration Network/European Commission, <http://goo.gl/eDzUjI>

⁵³ Available at: http://asylo.gov.gr/en/?page_id=113 (in English)

⁵⁴ Available at: <https://www.synigoros.gr/resources/docs/20171016-organismos-yp-met-pol.pdf> and <http://www.firstreception.gov.gr/content.php?id=4>

⁵⁵ https://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/sites/homeaffairs/files/12a_greece_changing_influx_final_en.pdf

Office. The person who expresses his/her intention to submit an application for international protection is an asylum applicant, in accordance with the provisions of Article 34 point (d) of the present law.⁵⁶ The reception of applicants in 2017 in relation to reception capacities – rise/fall/stable, material reception conditions, i.e. housing, food and clothing and financial support, contingency planning in reception, access to labour market and vocational training, medical care, schooling and education, residence and freedom of movement, under the terms of the Reception Conditions Directive 2013/33/EU, is under review. Also, for same year, concerning detention during the asylum procedure (detention capacity – rise/fall/stable practices regarding detention, grounds for detention, alternatives to detention, time limit for detention), Law 4375/2016 is in effect, (Article 46): “On the organization and operation of the Asylum Service, the Appeals Authority, the Reception and Identification Service, the establishment of the General Secretariat for Reception, the transposition into Greek legislation of the provisions of Directive 2013/32/EC “on common procedures for granting and withdrawing the status of international protection (recast) (L 180-29/06/2013), provisions on the employment of beneficiaries of international protection and other provisions”⁵⁷. Moreover, it is imminent an Operating Plan agreed between EASO and Greece (13/12/2017)⁵⁸.

In 2017, regarding the asylum procedures and access to information and legal counselling/representation (including at the border and during the asylum procedure), interpretation services by EASO and METAdrasi (until 31/12/2017)⁵⁹ are provided. In relation to the Dublin procedure (including changes in the organisational framework, IT systems, practical development and suspension of transfers to selected countries, detention in the framework of Dublin procedures), no changes have been recorded in 2017, while the Dublin Regulation is under review. Concerning the special procedures: border procedures, procedures in transit zones, accelerated procedures, admissibility procedures, prioritised procedures or any special procedure for selected caseloads, Law 4375/2016 is in effect: On the organization and operation of the Asylum Service, the Appeals Authority, the Reception and Identification Service, the establishment of the General Secretariat for Reception, the transposition into Greek legislation of the provisions of Directive 2013/32/EC “on common procedures for granting and withdrawing the status of international protection (recast) (L 180-29/06/2013), provisions on the employment of beneficiaries of international protection and other provisions”⁶⁰. In relation to the safe country concept: safe country of origin, safe third country, European safe third country, first country of asylum (introduction of the concept into law, applicability of the concept in practice, measures undertaken to create, revise or implement a list of safe countries), there is no list. There are only indicative instructions from UNHCR. Regarding the appeal/Judicial Review (changes in: organisation of the process, hearings, written procedures, timeframes, case management, including backlog management), the Council of State Plenary, in its 1237-8/2017 decisions, found the participation of judicial officers of the Regular Administrative Courts (RAC) in the Independent Appeal Committees, to abide with the Constitution. According to Article 4, par.1 of Law 4375/2016 the Independent Appeal Committees “shall be competent to examine, receive and issue decisions on quasi-judicial appeals against decisions by the Asylum Service”. Moreover, changes regarding the members and the number of committees in order to make their work more efficient are under discussion and the Council of State Plenary with its 2348/2017 decision advised on Turkey is safe third country status for an asylum seeker from Syria⁶¹. Concerning country of Origin Information (changes or updates in: organisation, methodology, products, databases, fact-finding missions, cooperation between (Member) States), the Department of Education, Quality Assurance and Documentation/Asylum Service ensures the provision of education and continuous training to employees of the service, ensures the quality of services provided by the Regional Asylum Services, and assesses the quality of decisions at 1st degree. The Department searches, collects, evaluates and maintains information on the political, social and economic situation in the countries of origin of applicants for international protection, and cooperates with other competent Greek and foreign authorities, European or international organizations (in particular in the framework of international agreements), EU Member State authorities, as well as with the European Asylum Support Office. It ensures that the quality of the international protection decisions issued throughout the administrative procedure of examining applications for international protection is sound and keeps statistical and other data on international protection decisions. In addition, the Asylum Service participated in the EASO network committee for Afghanistan.

⁵⁶ https://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/sites/homeaffairs/files/12a_greece_changing_influx_final_en.pdf

⁵⁷ Available at: http://asylo.gov.gr/en/wp-content/uploads/2016/05/GREECE_Law_4375_2016_EN_final.pdf

⁵⁸ Available at: <https://www.easo.europa.eu/sites/default/files/Greece%20OP%202018-13-12-2017.pdf>

⁵⁹ Available at: <http://metadrasi.org/campaigns/%CF%80%CE%B1%CF%81%CE%BF%CF%87%CE%AE-%CF%85%CF%80%CE%B7%CF%81%CE%B5%CF%83%CE%B9%CF%8E%CE%BD-%CF%B4%CE%B9%CE%B5%CF%81%CE%BC%CE%B7%CE%BD%CE%B5%CE%AF%CE%B1%CF%82-2/> in Greek)

⁶⁰ Available at: http://asylo.gov.gr/en/wp-content/uploads/2016/05/GREECE_Law_4375_2016_EN_final.pdf

⁶¹ See: <https://www.lawspot.gr/nomika-nea/ste-olom-2348-2017-asfalisi-triti-hora-i-toyrkia-gia-aitoynta-asylo-apo-ti-syria-analysi>

Regarding residence/entry documents granted to beneficiaries of international protection (including length/duration), Single Authorized Residence Permit (ADET) is granted to beneficiaries of international protection, and a TDV document. TDVs travel documents are given to beneficiaries of international protection who apply for asylum from the Asylum Service. The TDV issuance is implemented by the Hellenic Police. In relation to rights and obligations regarding family reunification, access to social welfare scheme, access to accommodation, healthcare, citizenship, education, employment etc., concerning the participation of beneficiaries of international protection in the labor market⁶² (Articles 68-71), Law 4375/2016 establishes automatic access to the labor market/employment as soon as applicants receive an asylum seeker card, whereas the previous legislation required a separate procedure for a work permit after granting the refugee status or the asylum seeker's card and included preconditions that were linked to labor market needs for specific professions⁶³. With regard to family reunification, this is governed by Council Directive 2003/86/EC of 22 September 2003 on the right to family reunification⁶⁴. Concerning information on residence/entry documents granted to beneficiaries of international protection (including length/duration) on the rights and obligations related to that status, in a language that they understand or are reasonably supposed to understand, temporary cards and cards for Beneficiaries of renewable 3-year residence permit are included. Information on rights and obligations regarding family reunification, access to social welfare scheme, access to accommodation, healthcare, citizenship, employment and integration programmes related to that status, in a language that they understand or are reasonably supposed to understand, are distributed via the new bilingual website of the Asylum Service that is updated daily⁶⁵, the "Asylum Service Application", a smartphone application of the Asylum Service developed in cooperation with Harokopio University of Athens⁶⁶. Also, the information brochure of the Asylum Service is translated into 18 languages, entitled: Basic information on applicants for international protection in Greece⁶⁷, and the brochure for unaccompanied minors entitled "I am under 18 and seek asylum in Greece" in translated 6 languages⁶⁸. Regarding institutional and organisational aspects, procedural rules, grounds for revocation of ending of or refusal to renew international protection (including cessation, exclusion, misrepresentation and omission of facts and danger to the security or the community), and consequences of revocation of ending of or refusal to renew international protection, no changes were made in 2017. The Directive regarding identifying standards for the qualification of third-country nationals or stateless persons as beneficiaries of international protection, for a uniform status for refugees or for persons eligible for subsidiary protection, and for the content of the protection granted (2011/95/EU)⁶⁹ and Law 4375/2016. Revocation of international protection takes place when new data are available for the country of origin or aggravating data. The revocation of international protection status shall take place in accordance with the provisions of Articles 14 and 19 of the Presidential Decree 141/2013. Regarding policies/measures of 2017 implemented in cooperation with third countries and activities in the external dimension of the CEAS (including participation in capacity building activities in third countries, Regional Development Protection Programmes or any relevant activities under Partnership Framework with Third Countries and European Neighbourhood Policy), as for example, to equip third countries of first asylum with the means to guarantee refugee protection and to better manage mixed migration flows including national asylum legislation and asylum policy frameworks – trainings were realized with EASO, emphasis was given to the cooperation with Western Balkans, the Asylum Service in Albania, FYROM, Montenegro. Also, participation in capacity building activities in third countries was realised and Readmission Protocols were implemented following the EU-Turkey Joint Statement (see Hellenic Police data, Section 7. Irregular Migration).

Legislative developments in asylum for the year 2017, include: Law 4485/2017 amends Law 4375/2016 (A 51) as follows: Subparagraph a' of the article 22 of Law 4375/2016 is replaced by the following: "1.a. By way of derogation from the provisions of paragraphs 1 and 2 of Article 28 of the Presidential Decree 114/2010 (A' 195), the Secretary General of Public Order of the Ministry of the Interior grants a status for humanitarian reasons to applicants for international protection, who hold an applicant's application form in force, whose application was submitted not later than 31/07/2012 and its examination is pending at a second degree, unless there is a risk to national security or public order, in particular as a result of a final conviction of the applicant for committing a serious crime".⁷⁰ Article 97 - Amendment of the Presidential Decree 167/2014 (A 252): The first sentence of subparagraph a' of par. 1 of Article 7 of the Presidential Decree 167/2014 (A' 252) is replaced by the following: "1.a. By way of derogation from the provisions of paragraphs 2 and 3 of Article 14 of the Presidential Decree 114/2010, the determining authority referred to in point 19 of Article 2 of the Presidential Decree 114/2010, due to tacit revocation, interrupts the procedure for examining applications for international protection, which, at the time of entry into force of this document, have been rejected in the first degree extent and their examination is pending in the second degree, if the applicant had not appeared for to renew or receive the applicant's special asylum application form by 30 November 2016"⁷¹. Also, the following Ministerial decisions:

⁶² See Grizis, V., Tsinisizelis, M., Fouskas, T., Karatrantos, A. and Mine, F. (2015a) *European Migration Network Focused Study: Integration of Beneficiaries of International/Humanitarian Protection into the Labour Market: Policies and Good Practices*. EMN Focused Study 2015. Athens: Center for Security Studies/Hellenic Ministry of Interior and Administrative Reconstruction. Brussels: European Migration Network/European Commission, <https://goo.gl/5i6VA7>

⁶³ Asylum Service, Answers to questions about the rights of applicants and beneficiaries of international protection. Available in: <https://goo.gl/AoUnSB>.

⁶⁴ Available at: <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EL/TXT/?uri=CELEX:3A32003L0086>

⁶⁵ <http://asylo.gov.gr/>

⁶⁶ <http://asylo.gov.gr/en/wp-content/uploads/2017/04/Mobile-App-Announcement-EN-31032017.pdf>

⁶⁷ http://asylo.gov.gr/en/?page_id=99

⁶⁸ http://asylo.gov.gr/en/?page_id=3285

⁶⁹ Available at: <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32011L0095&from=EN>

⁷⁰ Available at: <http://asylo.gov.gr/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/%CE%A6%CE%95%CE%9A-%CE%91-114.pdf>

⁷¹ Available at: <http://asylo.gov.gr/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/%CE%A6%CE%95%CE%9A-%CE%91-114.pdf>

Decision No. 16654 (Government Gazette B - 3614 - 12/10/2017): Launch of Regional Asylum Offices of Piraeus and Alimos⁷².
Decision No. 14715 (Government Gazette B - 3370 - 27/09/2017): «Establishment of Regional Asylum Bodies in the Attica region⁷³.
Decision No. 14720 (Government Gazette B - 3264 - 18/09/2017): Duration of validity of application forms for applicants for international protection⁷⁴.
Decision No. 12634 (Government Gazette B' - 2476 - 19/07/2017): Launch of the Regional Office of Asylum in Crete and determination of the responsibilities of the Regional Offices of Asylum of Attica and Crete⁷⁵.
Decision No. 10624 (Government Gazette B' - 2089 - 17/06/2017): Amendment of the "Asylum Service Operation Regulation" (Government Gazette B' 2034) - Keeping of the Register of Interpreters at the Central Asylum Service⁷⁶.
A central register database of NGOs/interpreters will be created.
Decision No. 10464 (Government Gazette B' - 1977 - 07/06/2017): Restriction of the circulation of applicants for international protection⁷⁷.
Decisions No. 9778 and 9807/2017 (Government Gazette B' - 1936 - 02/06/2017): Launch of Asylum Regional Offices, Determination of the responsibilities of Regional Asylum Bodies, Establishment of Asylum Separation Stages, Responsibilities of Individual Asylum Sections and Determination of Types of Service Seals the Central Asylum Service and the Regional Services of the Asylum Service⁷⁸.
Decision No. 4199/2017 (Government Gazette B' - 881 - 16/03/2017): Establishment of an Independent Asylum Seeking Platform for Applications for the International Protection of Albanian and Georgian Nationals - Competences of Individual Asylum Sections - Duration of validity of applicants⁷⁹.
Decision No. 2380/2017 (Government Gazette B' - 393 - 10/02/2017): Duration of validity of application forms for applicants for international protection⁸⁰.

Regarding institutional changes in the asylum field at ministry/agency/section level (including changes in mandate, creation of new entities, internal restructuring and transfer of competences), in 2017, the internal structure of the Ministry for Migration Policy (04/11/2016), and the organization chart of the Ministry for Migration Policy (and the Asylum Service, Reception and Identification Service, Appeals Service) (08/2017) were completed. Concerning the increase/decrease of staffing, there were not changes in 2017. In 2017, job vacancies were announced via the Supreme Council for Civil Personnel Selection (ASEP), 2017 for 218 Permanent Officials. Moreover, 130 additional contracted staff posts in the Asylum Service, will be announced within 2018.

In relation to the efficiency and quality of the national asylum system, concerning safeguards of the national asylum system (preventing and combatting unfounded applications, credibility assessment⁸¹, establishing identity, nationality assessment/identification, detection of security concerns, age fraud) including information on tools, mechanisms and training provided to staff, Law 4375/2016 is in effect: "On the organization and operation of the Asylum Service, the Appeals Authority, the Reception and Identification Service, the establishment of the General Secretariat for Reception, the transposition into Greek legislation of the provisions of Directive 2013/32/EC "on common procedures for granting and withdrawing the status of international protection (recast) (L 180-29/06/2013), provisions on the employment of beneficiaries of international protection and other provisions"⁸². For fraud due to false age, discussions and consultations have begun on the creation of a standard tool for the age verification (a process of the Reception and Identification Service carried out by cooperative NGOs and is now conducted by the Hellenic Centre for Diseases Control and Prevention (HCDCP) of the Ministry of Health. HCDCP has been trained on its use specific tool). Regarding the quality of the national asylum system (internal measures to improve quality in decision-making processes and the content of issued decisions, in particular by issuing decisions e.g. creation of guidelines and instructions, including information on training, tools and mechanisms, an element indicative of the quality of the decisions of the first instance of examination of applications for international protection is the fact that the decisions of the first instance remain strong after their examination at a second instance in a percentage around 80%. In relation to the efficiency of the processing of (first) applications and appeals (increasing speed, reducing costs, use of new technology, specialised training provided) of the national asylum system, the backlog ranges, but it remains manageable. Concerning challenges in the national

⁷² Available at: <http://asylo.gov.gr/wp-content/uploads/2017/10/PGA-ALIMOU-PIREA.pdf>

⁷³ Available at: <http://asylo.gov.gr/wp-content/uploads/2017/10/%CE%99%CE%94%CE%A1%CE%A5%CE%A3%CE%97-%CE%A0%CE%93%CE%91-%CE%A3%CE%A4%CE%97%CE%9D-%CE%A0%CE%95%CE%A1%CE%99%CE%A6%CE%95%CE%A1%CE%95%CE%99%CE%91-%CE%91%CE%A4%CE%99%CE%9A%CE%97%CE%A3-3264-%CE%92-18-9-17.pdf>

⁷⁴ Available at: <http://asylo.gov.gr/wp-content/uploads/2017/09/%CE%94%CE%99%CE%91%CE%A1%CE%9A%CE%95%CE%99%CE%91-%CE%99%CE%A3%CE%A7%CE%A5%CE%9F%CE%A3-%CE%94%CE%95%CE%9B%CE%A4%CE%99%CE%A9%CE%9D-.pdf>

⁷⁵ Available at: <http://asylo.gov.gr/wp-content/uploads/2017/07/%CE%A0%CE%93%CE%91-%CE%9A%CE%A1%CE%97%CE%A4%CE%97%CE%A3.pdf>

⁷⁶ Available at: <http://asylo.gov.gr/wp-content/uploads/2017/06/%CE%A6%CE%95%CE%9A-2089-19.6.2017-%CE%9C%CE%97%CE%A4%CE%A1%CE%A9%CE%9F-%CE%94%CE%99%CE%95%CE%A1%CE%97%CE%9D%CE%95%CE%A9%CE%9D.pdf>

⁷⁷ Available at: <http://asylo.gov.gr/wp-content/uploads/2017/06/%CE%A6%CE%95%CE%9A-1977-7.6.2017-%CE%A0%CE%95%CE%A1%CE%99%CE%9F%CE%A1%CE%99%CE%A3%CE%9C%CE%9F%CE%A3-%CE%9A%CE%A5%CE%9A%CE%9B%CE%9F%CE%A6%CE%9F%CE%A1%CE%99%CE%91%CE%A3.pdf>

⁷⁸ Available at: <http://asylo.gov.gr/wp-content/uploads/2017/06/%CE%A6%CE%95%CE%9A-1936-2.06.2017.pdf>

⁷⁹ Available at: <http://asylo.gov.gr/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/%CE%91%CE%9A%CE%91-%CE%91%CE%9B%CE%92%CE%91%CE%9D%CE%99%CE%91-%CE%93%CE%95%CE%A9%CE%A1%CE%93%CE%99%CE%91-%CE%9A%CE%9B%CE%A0.pdf>

⁸⁰ Available at: <http://asylo.gov.gr/wp-content/uploads/2017/02/diarkeia-deltion.pdf>

⁸¹ According to EASO, credibility assessment is performed in order to establish if the applicant's statements substantiating the claim are truthful in the light of other circumstances of the case and other means of evidence

⁸² <http://asylo.gov.gr/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/N.4375.pdf>

asylum system that have proven to be particularly challenging (see AIDA report⁸³) there are: the difficulty for the applicants to have access to be recorded, i.e. to proceed from pre-recording to recording and relevant issues that have been subject to criticism from third parties (civil society, press, international organisations), the criticism about the Turkish soldier's case⁸⁴, the criticism for the processing time (new backlog), and a problem of time lag with applicants for family reunification as provided for in Dublin III because of delays in the transfer. Implementation of the Reception Directive is a challenge, as the number of benefiting service providers exceeds the hosting capacity in Reception and Identification Centres on the islands. The large number of asylum claims leading to longer stays in Reception and Identification Centres is also a challenge. The lack of medical specialties at local hospitals on the islands which severely hampers the full medical coverage and needs, is also a challenge. Actions undertaken to counter these challenges are the improvement of access and the use of Skype.

Concerning the intra-EU relocation mechanism⁸⁵ in the context of the implementation of the Decisions (EU) 2015/1523 (14/09/2015) and (EU) 2015/1601 (22/09/2015) for the adoption of interim measures in the field of international protection in favor of Greece and Italy and the implementation of the commitments resulting from the above decisions, the resettlement programme that started in October 2015 and officially ended September 26, 2017 was implemented by the Asylum Independent Asylum Unit. As part of the implementation of the aforementioned relocation decisions from the beginning to the finalization of the programme, in total 21.731 applicants were relocated from Greece to the Member States of Relocation⁸⁶. (See also data of the Asylum Service Data⁸⁷). Concerning resettlement and humanitarian admission programmes under EU resettlement programmes⁸⁸, currently, Greece is not participating in a resettlement programme. In relation to the setting of a new national jurisprudence relating to asylum with major policy implications, it concerned the Decision of the Council of State, which was published in September 22, 2017 (Case number: 2347/2017) and referred to EASO's participation in the asylum procedure, the Constitutionality of the composition of Asylum Committees, and whether Turkey is a safe country⁸⁹, and is included in the 445/2017 Decision of the Chamber for the assessment of the composition of Committees, and the 2348/2017 Decision of the Plenary Committee⁹⁰.

March 18, 2018 marked the second anniversary of the Joint Statement between the EU and Turkey, according to which all new irregular migrants crossing from Turkey to the Greek islands after March 20, 2016 are returned to Turkey, in respect of the principle of non-refoulement and after the completion of the individual examination of the applications for international protection that may be submitted in the country with a negative decision. The Asylum Service⁹¹ is competent for receiving and examining these applications at first instance, following the expression of will of the third-country nationals or stateless persons to any public authority and in accordance with the recast Directive 2013/32/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council on common procedures for granting and withdrawing international protection, as incorporated into the Greek legal system by Law 4375/2016. In the framework of the implementation of the Joint Statement, the Asylum Service applies the provisions of article 60, par. 4 of Law 4375/2016 ("Border Procedures"). According to these provisions, in cases of large number arrivals of third-country nationals or stateless persons who are applying for international protection at the borders, or during the time in which they remain at the Reception and Identification Centers (R.I.C.s), a special, exceptional fast-track procedure takes place. In order for this procedure to be implemented in a rapid and effective way, the Asylum Service is assisted by staff and interpreters of the European Asylum Support Office (EASO), as well as by the Hellenic Police. Regional Asylum Offices and Asylum Units are operating on the five islands with Reception and Identification Centers (R.I.C.s) (Lesvos, Chios, Samos, Leros and Kos), which were established on 15/10/2013, 29/02/2016, 14/01/2016, 11/03/2016 and 08/06/2016 respectively. Geographical restrictions are imposed to international protection applicants who have entered illegally those islands after March 20, 2016, unless the examination of their case has been assigned to a Regional Service located on the mainland. Specifically, the said restriction is stated on the cards issued to them. The Asylum Service and EASO apply common standardized guidelines in managing applications submitted in the framework of border procedure, during which the following aspects are examined: 1) the application of the safe third country concept to Turkey, 2) the compliance with the conditions for exemption from this specific procedure (vulnerable applicants and cases of family reunification under Dublin Regulation), and 3) the substance of the application for international protection⁹². In the context of optimizing the management of the non-nationals located on the islands of the Eastern Aegean, as well as transparency, the Asylum Service shares data on a regular basis with the following co-competent authorities: the Readmission Unit of the Hellenic Police Headquarters, the International Organization for Migration

⁸³ See http://www.asylumineurope.org/sites/default/files/report-download/aida_gr_2017update.pdf (31/12/2017)

⁸⁴ See <http://www.kathimerini.gr/941373/gallery/epikairothta/ellada/xorhghsh-asyloy-ston-enan-apo-toys-oktw-toyrkovs-stratiwtikoyv> and <http://www.kathimerini.gr/941418/article/epikairothta/politikh/antipara8esh-kyvernshshs---antipoliteyshs-me-fonto-to-asylo-ston-toyrko-stratiwtiko>

⁸⁵ Relocation: The transfer of persons having a status defined by the Geneva Convention of 1951 or subsidiary protection within the meaning of Directive 2011/95/EU from the EU Member State which granted them international protection to another EU Member State where they will be granted similar protection, and of persons having applied for international protection from the EU Member State which is responsible for examining their application to another EU Member State where their applications for international protection will be examined. In the context of the EU emergency response system, relocation means the transfer of an applicant in clear need of international protection from the territory of the Member State initially indicated as responsible for examining their application for international protection to the territory of the Member State of relocation. Following transfer, the latter will become the Member State responsible for examining the application for international protection (see Art. 2(e) of Council Decision (EU) 2015/1523 and Art. 2(e) of Council Decision (EU) 2015/1601). (see EMN Glossary V5).

⁸⁶ <http://asylo.gov.gr/en/wp-content/uploads/2018/01/Relocation-Closing-Event-Presentation.pdf>

⁸⁷ http://asylo.gov.gr/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/Relocation-procedures-up-to-28-1-2018_en.pdf

⁸⁸ Resettlement: In the EU context, the transfer, on a request from the UNHCR and based on their need for international protection, of a third-country national or stateless person, from a third country to a Member State, where they are permitted to reside with one of the following statuses: (i) refugee status within the meaning of Art. 2(d) of Directive 2011/95/EU; or (ii) a status which offers the same rights and benefits under national and EU law as refugee status. (see EMN Glossary Version 5).

⁸⁹ <http://www.asylumineurope.org/reports/country/greece/asylum-procedure/safe-country-concepts/safe-third-country>

⁹⁰ <http://www.asylumineurope.org/news/04-10-2017/greece-ruling-council-state-asylum-procedure-post-eu-turkey-deal>

⁹¹ http://asylo.gov.gr/en/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/EU-Turkey-Common-Statement-2-years_EN.pdf

⁹² See relevant flowchart under title "Asylum procedure in the context of the EU-Turkey Statement" at: <http://asylo.gov.gr/en/7page?id=2074>

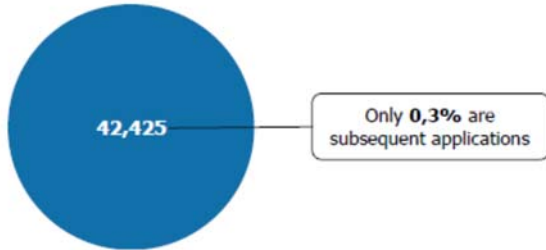
(IOM), the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNCHR), the Reception and Identification Service, the European Asylum Support Office (EASO), and offices and agencies of the European Union.

2-YEARS SINCE THE JOINT STATEMENT BETWEEN EUROPEAN UNION AND TURKEY (MARCH 2016-MARCH 2018)

A. GRAND TOTALS

Figure 1: Full registrations

1. FULL REGISTRATIONS



Source: Asylum Service, 2018 (retrieved on 15/04/2018, available at: <http://goo.gl/rmX2Fs>).

The number of third-country nationals fully registered during the past two years is 42.425.

Figure 2: Final decisions/acts at first instance

2. FINAL DECISIONS/ACTS AT FIRST INSTANCE



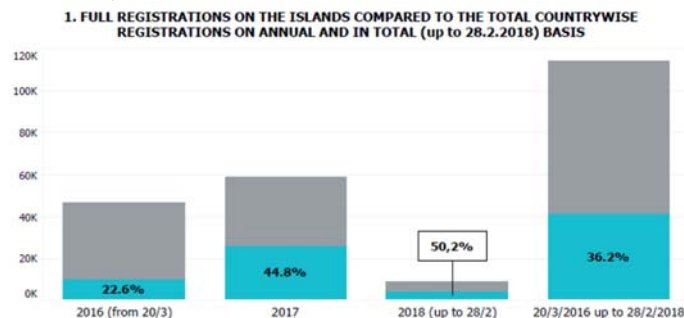
Source: Asylum Service, 2018 (retrieved on 15/04/2018, available at: <http://goo.gl/rmX2Fs>).

From the first day of the EU-Turkey Agreement implementation until 18/03/2018, a total of 39.650 final decisions/acts at first instance⁹³ were issued based on the procedures applied to the cases that fall under the article 60, par. 4 of Law 4375/2016.

⁹³ Note: The final decision/acts include: (a) inadmissibility decisions on subsequent applications, (b) inadmissibility due to implementation of the safe country concept, (c) inadmissibility decisions due to implementation of the safe country concept (Syrian third-country nationals), (d) positive decisions in substance (refugee status and subsidiary protection) for non-Syrian third country nationals, (e) negative decisions in substance, (f) referrals to the normal procedure due to vulnerability, (g) referrals to the normal procedure due to family reunification, (h) implicit withdrawals, (i) explicit withdrawals.

B. FULL REGISTRATIONS ON THE ISLANDS - ANALYSIS

Figure 1: Full registrations on the islands compared to the total countrywise registrations on annual and in total (up to 28.02.2018) basis

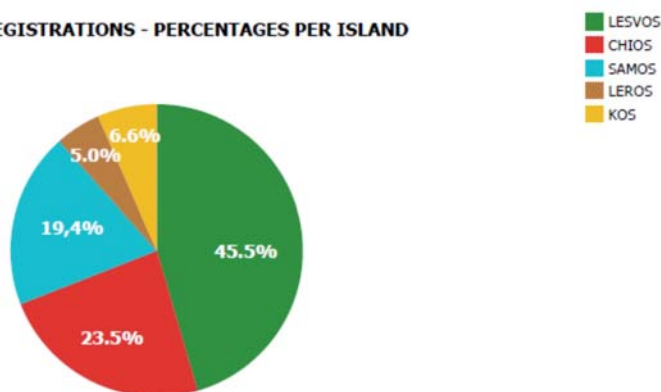


Source: Asylum Service, 2018 (retrieved on 15/04/2018, available at: <http://goo.gl/rmX2Fs>).

Asylum applications (full registrations) submitted on the 5 islands comprise 36.2% of the total applications submitted in all Asylum Offices/Units in the country. More specifically, in 2017 and 2018 this percentage increased to 44.8% and 50.2% respectively, indicating an upward trend.

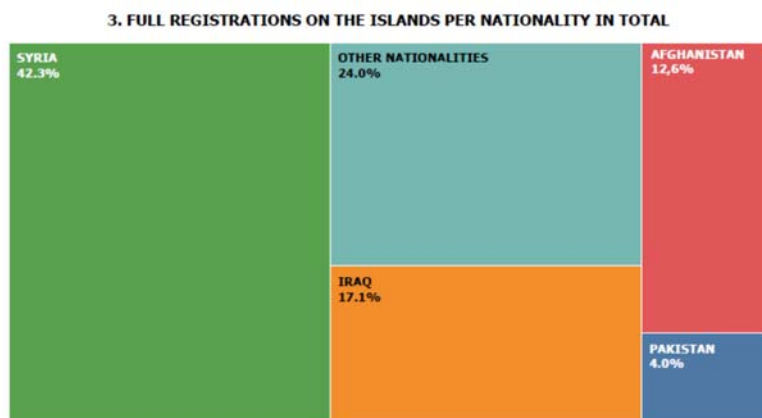
Figure 2: Full registrations - percentages per island

2. FULL REGISTRATIONS - PERCENTAGES PER ISLAND



Source: Asylum Service, 2018 (retrieved on 15/04/2018, available at: <http://goo.gl/rmX2Fs>).

Figure 3: Full registrations on the islands per nationality in total

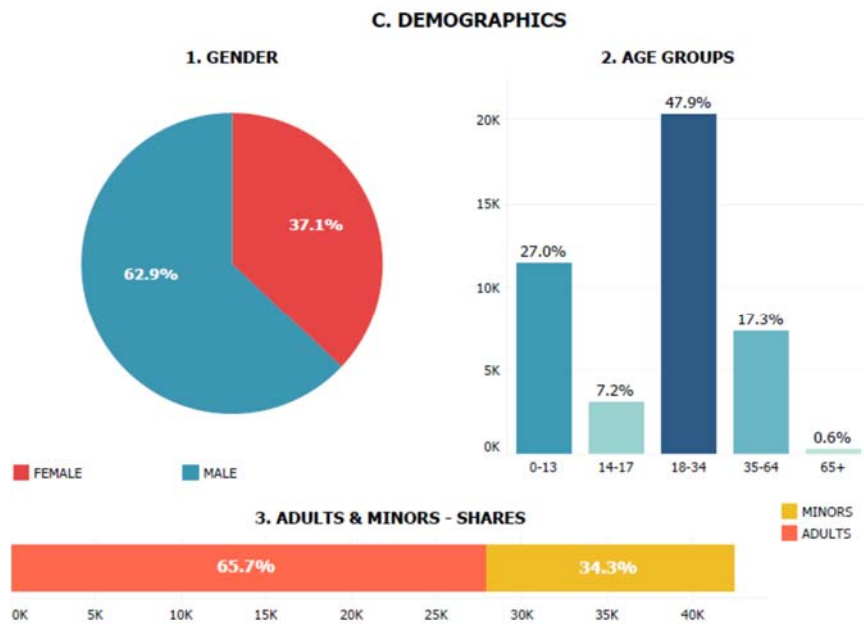


Source: Asylum Service, 2018 (retrieved on 15/04/2018, available at: <http://goo.gl/rmX2Fs>).

Regarding the country of origin of those who applied for asylum through full registration procedures, from the starting date of the EU-Turkey Joint Statement implementation until 18/03/2018, it is noted that the vast majority (76.0%) of the applicants come from Syria (42.3%), Iraq (17.1%), Afghanistan (12.6%) and Pakistan (4.0%).

C. DEMOGRAPHICS

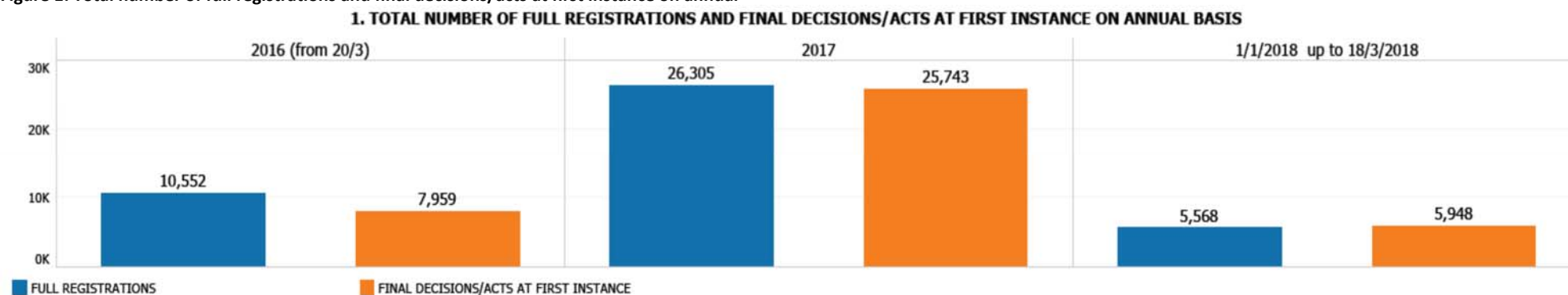
Graphs 1, 2 and 3: Demographics



Source: Asylum Service, 2018 (retrieved on 15/04/2018, available at: <http://goo.gl/rmX2Fs>).

D. FULL REGISTRATIONS & FINAL DECISIONS/ACTS AT FIRST INSTANCE - COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS

Figure 1: Total number of full registrations and final decisions/acts at first instance on annual



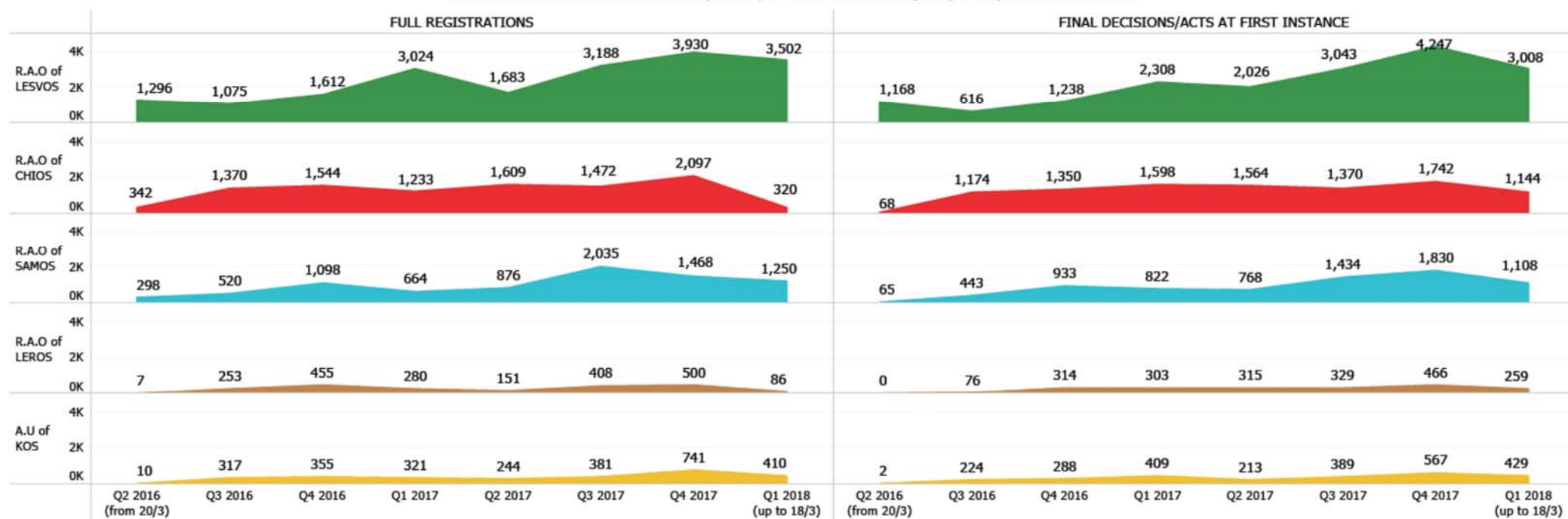
Source: Asylum Service, 2018 (retrieved on 15/04/2018, available at: <http://goo.gl/rmX2Fs>).

As indicated on the **first** chart, the number of applications processed at first instance in 2016 was significantly lower than the number of applications submitted on the 5 islands with Reception and Identification Centres (R.I.C.s/hotspots) infrastructure within the same year, due to the demands deriving from the new implementation of the special procedure regarding the processing of applications submitted at the borders (spaces, staff, equipment, interpretation/translation services, specific guidelines, co-operation with the Turkish authorities and co-competent bodies etc.). In 2017, this gap was significantly narrowed down, while between 01/01/2018 to 18/03/2018 the number of applications processed was 7% higher compared to the number of applications submitted in the same time period. As a result, the number of pending applications was reduced. The **second** chart presents quarterly time series of data regarding full registrations and final decisions issued at first instance from 20/03/2016 until 18/03/2018 per Regional Asylum Office or Asylum Unit.

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Figure: 2. Number of full registrations & final decisions/acts at first instance per Regional Asylum Office (R.A.O.) or Asylum Unit (A.U.) on quarterly basis

2. NUMBER OF FULL REGISTRATIONS & FINAL DECISIONS/ACTS AT FIRST INSTANCE
PER REGIONAL ASYLUM OFFICE (R.A.O.) OR ASYLUM UNIT (A.U.) ON QUARTERLY BASIS



Source: Asylum Service, 2018 (retrieved on 15/04/2018, available at: <http://goo.gl/rmX2Fs>).

E. AVERAGE WAITING TIME & PENDING APPLICATIONS

Figure 1: Average waiting time & pending applications

E. AVERAGE WAITING TIME & PENDING APPLICATIONS



Source: Asylum Service, 2018 (retrieved on 15/04/2018, available at: <http://goo.gl/rmX2Fs>).

The average waiting time until the complete processing of an application for international protection at first instance on the islands during the implementation of the EU-Turkey Joint Statement was 48 days counting from the full registration date and 82 days from the pre-registration date (expression of will to submit an application for international protection). The number of pending applications following a personal interview amounts to 2,089, while the total number of non-nationals whose full registration is still pending is 1.906.

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Statistical Data of the Greek Asylum Service (from 07/06/2013 to 31/12/2017)

Table 1: Asylum applications

| Asylum Applications | | | | | | | | | | |
|------------------------|-------------|-----------------------------|-------------|-----------------------------|--------------|-----------------------------|--------------|-----------------------------|--------------|---------------|
| | 2013 | Difference % (2013-2014) | 2014 | Difference % (2014-2015) | 2015 | Difference % (2015-2016) | 2016 | Difference % (2016-2017) | 2017 | Total |
| Total | 4814 | | 9431 | | 13188 | | 51061 | | 58661 | 137155 |
| Monthly average | 688 | 14.3% ↑ | 786 | 39.8% ↑ | 1099 | 287.2% ↑ | 4255 | 14.9% ↑ | 4888 | 2494 |

Source: Asylum Service, 2017 (accessed on 25/01/2018, available at: <http://goo.gl/g4V1NR>).

Table 2: Asylum applications – Gender and Age range

| Asylum Applications - Gender and Age range | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|---------------|-------------|-------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|---------------|
| | 2013 | | | 2014 | | | 2015 | | | 2016 | | | December 2017 | | | 2017 | | | Total | | |
| Age ranges | Men | Women | Total | Men | Women | Total | Men | Women | Total | Men | Women | Total | Men | Women | Total | Men | Women | Total | Men | Women | Total |
| 0-13 | 255 | 182 | 437 | 388 | 306 | 694 | 919 | 792 | 1711 | 7684 | 7105 | 14789 | 511 | 390 | 901 | 7620 | 6726 | 14346 | 16866 | 15111 | 31977 |
| 14-17 | 272 | 37 | 309 | 569 | 84 | 653 | 608 | 168 | 776 | 3535 | 1389 | 4924 | 349 | 65 | 414 | 4350 | 1094 | 5444 | 9334 | 2772 | 12106 |
| 18-34 | 2370 | 600 | 2970 | 5171 | 921 | 6092 | 6198 | 1466 | 7664 | 15282 | 6593 | 21875 | 1465 | 521 | 1986 | 21477 | 7165 | 28642 | 50498 | 16745 | 67243 |
| 35-64 | 748 | 338 | 1086 | 1510 | 460 | 1970 | 2098 | 856 | 2954 | 5356 | 3796 | 9152 | 435 | 215 | 650 | 6572 | 3420 | 9992 | 16284 | 8870 | 25154 |
| 65 and over | 7 | 5 | 12 | 7 | 15 | 22 | 35 | 48 | 83 | 144 | 177 | 321 | 10 | 10 | 20 | 107 | 130 | 237 | 300 | 375 | 675 |
| Total | 3652 | 1162 | 4814 | 7645 | 1786 | 9431 | 9858 | 3330 | 13188 | 32001 | 19060 | 51061 | 2770 | 1201 | 3971 | 40126 | 18535 | 58661 | 93282 | 43873 | 137155 |
| Unaccompanied Minors (included in the above total) | 177 | 12 | 189 | 385 | 35 | 420 | 332 | 51 | 383 | 1663 | 314 | 1977 | 43 | 3 | 46 | 2147 | 128 | 2275 | 4704 | 540 | 5244 |

Source: Asylum Service, 2017 (accessed on 25/01/2018, available at: <http://goo.gl/g4V1NR>).

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Table 3: Asylum applications – Region of registration

| Asylum Applications - Region of registration | | | | | | | |
|--|------|------|-------|-------|---------------|-------|--------|
| | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | December 2017 | 2017 | Total |
| ATTICA | 4398 | 6357 | 7830 | 14141 | 572 | 8839 | 41565 |
| THESSALONIKI | 0 | 412 | 1191 | 11411 | 388 | 7626 | 20640 |
| LESVOS | 30 | 209 | 692 | 5093 | 1196 | 11952 | 17976 |
| CHIOS | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3395 | 328 | 6513 | 9908 |
| THRACE | 166 | 900 | 829 | 4459 | 88 | 2040 | 8394 |
| SAMOS | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2433 | 475 | 5116 | 7549 |
| PIRAEUS | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2473 | 66 | 3977 | 6450 |
| ALIMOS | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3141 | 107 | 3258 | 6399 |
| AMYGDALAZA | 98 | 606 | 588 | 451 | 136 | 1543 | 3286 |
| RHODES | 0 | 454 | 803 | 931 | 43 | 699 | 2887 |
| KOS | 0 | 0 | 0 | 686 | 142 | 1698 | 2384 |
| FYLAKIO | 122 | 399 | 412 | 448 | 101 | 955 | 2336 |
| LEROS | 0 | 0 | 0 | 871 | 53 | 1389 | 2260 |
| PATRA | 0 | 54 | 265 | 414 | 54 | 987 | 1720 |
| XANTHI | 0 | 40 | 578 | 386 | 53 | 689 | 1693 |
| KORINTHOS | 0 | 0 | 0 | 324 | 131 | 1065 | 1389 |
| HERAKLION | 0 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 38 | 315 | 319 |
| Total | 4814 | 9431 | 13188 | 51061 | 3971 | 58661 | 137155 |

Source: Asylum Service, 2017 (accessed on 25/01/2018, available at: <http://goo.gl/g4V1NR>).

Table 4: Asylum applications – Countries of Origin

| Asylum Applications - Countries of Origin | | | | | | | | |
|---|------|------|-------|-------|---------------|-------|--------|--------|
| | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | December 2017 | 2017 | Total | % |
| SYRIA | 252 | 773 | 3490 | 26673 | 979 | 16396 | 47584 | 34.7% |
| PAKISTAN | 610 | 1618 | 1822 | 4693 | 659 | 8923 | 17666 | 12.9% |
| AFGHANISTAN | 803 | 1709 | 1720 | 4366 | 541 | 7567 | 16165 | 11.8% |
| IRAQ | 107 | 174 | 661 | 4811 | 625 | 7924 | 13677 | 10.0% |
| ALBANIA | 419 | 569 | 1003 | 1420 | 205 | 2450 | 5861 | 4.3% |
| BANGLADESH | 230 | 633 | 738 | 1215 | 81 | 1383 | 4199 | 3.1% |
| IRAN | 131 | 361 | 241 | 1096 | 75 | 1316 | 3145 | 2.3% |
| GEORGIA | 342 | 350 | 386 | 687 | 90 | 1107 | 2872 | 2.1% |
| PALESTINE | 17 | 74 | 60 | 852 | 52 | 1311 | 2314 | 1.7% |
| EGYPT | 255 | 280 | 342 | 334 | 31 | 970 | 2181 | 1.6% |
| OTHER COUNTRIES | 1648 | 2890 | 2725 | 4914 | 633 | 9314 | 21491 | 15.7% |
| Total | 4814 | 9431 | 13188 | 51061 | 3971 | 58661 | 137155 | 100.0% |

Source: Asylum Service, 2017 (accessed on 25/01/2018, available at: <http://goo.gl/g4V1NR>).

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Table 5: 1st Instance Procedures

| 1st Instance Procedures | | | | | | | |
|---|-------------|-------------|--------------|--------------|---------------|--------------|---------------|
| | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | December 2017 | 2017 | Total |
| Refugee Status | 229 | 1223 | 3647 | 2452 | 969 | 9323 | 16874 |
| Subsidiary Protection | 93 | 487 | 347 | 249 | 143 | 1041 | 2217 |
| Negative in substance | 1754 | 4254 | 4434 | 6589 | 998 | 12149 | 29180 |
| Inadmissible decisions | 261 | 1453 | 2019 | 15241 | 404 | 22497 | 41471 |
| a) due to the application of the safe third country principle (Border Procedures) | | | | 1312 | 39 | 919 | |
| b) due to acceptance by another Member State (Dublin Regulation procedures) | | | | 2070 | 313 | 8330 | |
| c) due to acceptance by another Member State (Relocation procedures) | | | | 11000 | 2 | 12323 | |
| d) on subsequent (repeated) applications | | | | 775 | 50 | 915 | |
| e) due to administrative reasons | | | | 84 | | 10 | |
| Implicit & Explicit withdrawals ¹ | 243 | 1078 | 2375 | 2387 | 644 | 6989 | 13072 |
| Total | 2580 | 8495 | 12822 | 26918 | 3158 | 51999 | 102814 |
| Monthly average | 369 | 708 | 1069 | 3513 | | 6772 | 2603 |
| Recognition Rate (%) ² | 15.5% | 28.7% | 47.4% | 29.1% | 52.7% | 46.0% | 39.6% |

Source: Asylum Service, 2017 (accessed on 25/01/2018, available at: <http://goo.gl/g4V1NR>).

Table 6: 1st Instance Procedures – Unaccompanied Minors

| 1st Instance Procedures - Unaccompanied Minors | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|-----------|----------|-----------|------------|-----------|------------|------------|-----------|------------|------------|------------|------------|---------------|----------|------------|-------------|------------|-------------|-------------|------------|-------------|
| | 2013 | | | 2014 | | | 2015 | | | 2016 | | | December 2017 | | | 2017 | | | Total | | |
| | Men | Women | Total | Men | Women | Total | Men | Women | Total | Men | Women | Total | Men | Women | Total | Men | Women | Total | Men | Women | Total |
| Refugee Status | 7 | 1 | 8 | 45 | 6 | 51 | 54 | 19 | 73 | 52 | 13 | 65 | 23 | 2 | 25 | 131 | 29 | 160 | 289 | 68 | 357 |
| Subsidiary Protection | 4 | | 4 | 24 | | 24 | 22 | | 22 | 17 | | 17 | 4 | | 4 | 27 | | 27 | 94 | 0 | 94 |
| Negative in substance | 53 | 2 | 55 | 147 | 6 | 153 | 92 | 6 | 98 | 216 | 6 | 222 | 36 | 1 | 37 | 485 | 8 | 493 | 993 | 28 | 1021 |
| Inadmissible decisions ³ | 12 | 3 | 15 | 56 | 21 | 77 | 68 | 10 | 78 | 310 | 117 | 427 | 27 | 2 | 29 | 572 | 168 | 740 | 1018 | 319 | 1337 |
| Implicit & Explicit withdrawals ¹ | 14 | | 14 | 85 | | 85 | 106 | 10 | 116 | 55 | 9 | 64 | 19 | | 19 | 241 | 29 | 270 | 501 | 48 | 549 |
| Total | 90 | 6 | 96 | 357 | 33 | 390 | 342 | 45 | 387 | 650 | 145 | 795 | 109 | 5 | 114 | 1456 | 234 | 1690 | 2895 | 463 | 3358 |

(1): This category includes withdrawals that have not been revoked

(2): Calculation based only on decisions in substance (Refugee Status, Subsidiary Protection, Negative in substance)

(3): This category includes decisions: (a) due to the application of the safe third country principle (Border Procedures), (b) due to acceptance by another Member State (Relocation procedures), (c) due to acceptance by another Member State (Dublin Regulation procedures), (d) on subsequent (repeated) applications, (e) due to administrative reasons

Source: Asylum Service, 2017 (accessed on 25/01/2018, available at: <http://goo.gl/g4V1NR>).

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Table 7: 1st Instance Procedures – Decisions in Substance per Gender and Age range

| 1st Instance Procedures - Decisions in Substance per Gender and Age range | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|--------------|-------------|------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|---------------|------------|-------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| Type of Decision in Substance | Age range | 2013 | | | 2014 | | | 2015 | | | 2016 | | | December 2017 | | | 2017 | | | Total | | |
| | | Men | Women | Total | Men | Women | Total | Men | Women | Total | Men | Women | Total | Men | Women | Total | Men | Women | Total | Men | Women | Total |
| Refugee Status | 0-13 | 7 | 12 | 19 | 62 | 58 | 120 | 382 | 339 | 721 | 328 | 328 | 656 | 172 | 145 | 317 | 1656 | 1507 | 3163 | 2435 | 2244 | 4679 |
| | 14-17 | 14 | 3 | 17 | 60 | 16 | 76 | 133 | 62 | 195 | 119 | 57 | 176 | 70 | 29 | 99 | 488 | 213 | 701 | 814 | 351 | 1165 |
| | 18-34 | 112 | 35 | 147 | 631 | 166 | 797 | 1304 | 516 | 1820 | 665 | 396 | 1061 | 224 | 145 | 369 | 2482 | 1465 | 3947 | 5194 | 2578 | 7772 |
| | 35-64 | 32 | 14 | 46 | 186 | 43 | 229 | 594 | 282 | 876 | 325 | 215 | 540 | 102 | 76 | 178 | 873 | 595 | 1468 | 2010 | 1149 | 3159 |
| | 65 and over | | | | | 1 | 1 | 9 | 26 | 35 | 10 | 9 | 19 | 2 | 4 | 6 | 17 | 27 | 44 | 36 | 63 | 99 |
| | Total | 165 | 64 | 229 | 939 | 284 | 1223 | 2422 | 1225 | 3647 | 1447 | 1005 | 2452 | 570 | 399 | 969 | 5516 | 3807 | 9323 | 10489 | 6385 | 16874 |
| Subsidiary Protection | 0-13 | 9 | 7 | 16 | 16 | 12 | 28 | 13 | 8 | 21 | 12 | 11 | 23 | 26 | 18 | 44 | 167 | 132 | 299 | 217 | 170 | 387 |
| | 14-17 | 6 | | 6 | 39 | 3 | 42 | 31 | 2 | 33 | 32 | 2 | 34 | 10 | 3 | 13 | 72 | 15 | 87 | 180 | 22 | 202 |
| | 18-34 | 39 | 13 | 52 | 313 | 31 | 344 | 203 | 21 | 224 | 116 | 23 | 139 | 43 | 17 | 60 | 349 | 122 | 471 | 1020 | 210 | 1230 |
| | 35-64 | 10 | 8 | 18 | 65 | 8 | 73 | 46 | 20 | 66 | 30 | 21 | 51 | 13 | 12 | 25 | 119 | 62 | 181 | 270 | 119 | 389 |
| | 65 and over | | 1 | 1 | | | | | 3 | 3 | | 2 | 2 | 1 | | 1 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 1 | 8 | 9 |
| | Total | 64 | 29 | 93 | 433 | 54 | 487 | 293 | 54 | 347 | 190 | 59 | 249 | 93 | 50 | 143 | 708 | 333 | 1041 | 1688 | 529 | 2217 |
| Negative in substance | 0-13 | 86 | 70 | 156 | 92 | 68 | 160 | 98 | 84 | 182 | 148 | 126 | 274 | 41 | 43 | 84 | 373 | 355 | 728 | 797 | 703 | 1500 |
| | 14-17 | 90 | 14 | 104 | 202 | 25 | 227 | 159 | 22 | 181 | 390 | 30 | 420 | 65 | 11 | 76 | 869 | 57 | 926 | 1710 | 148 | 1858 |
| | 18-34 | 858 | 236 | 1094 | 2446 | 464 | 2910 | 2602 | 533 | 3135 | 4113 | 488 | 4601 | 573 | 66 | 639 | 7555 | 805 | 8360 | 17574 | 2526 | 20100 |
| | 35-64 | 229 | 169 | 398 | 674 | 277 | 951 | 659 | 268 | 927 | 944 | 337 | 1281 | 156 | 43 | 199 | 1662 | 448 | 2110 | 4168 | 1499 | 5667 |
| | 65 and over | 1 | 1 | 2 | 4 | 2 | 6 | 3 | 6 | 9 | 4 | 9 | 13 | | | | 11 | 14 | 25 | 23 | 32 | 55 |
| | Total | 1264 | 490 | 1754 | 3418 | 836 | 4254 | 3521 | 913 | 4434 | 5599 | 990 | 6589 | 835 | 163 | 998 | 10470 | 1679 | 12149 | 24272 | 4908 | 29180 |
| Decisions in Substance in total | 0-13 | 102 | 89 | 191 | 170 | 138 | 308 | 493 | 431 | 924 | 488 | 465 | 953 | 239 | 206 | 445 | 2196 | 1994 | 4190 | 3449 | 3117 | 6566 |
| | 14-17 | 110 | 17 | 127 | 301 | 44 | 345 | 323 | 86 | 409 | 541 | 89 | 630 | 145 | 43 | 188 | 1429 | 285 | 1714 | 2704 | 521 | 3225 |
| | 18-34 | 1009 | 284 | 1293 | 3390 | 661 | 4051 | 4109 | 1070 | 5179 | 4894 | 907 | 5801 | 840 | 228 | 1068 | 10386 | 2392 | 12778 | 23788 | 5314 | 29102 |
| | 35-64 | 271 | 191 | 462 | 925 | 328 | 1253 | 1299 | 570 | 1869 | 1299 | 573 | 1872 | 271 | 131 | 402 | 2654 | 1105 | 3759 | 6448 | 2767 | 9215 |
| | 65 and over | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 3 | 7 | 12 | 35 | 47 | 14 | 20 | 34 | 3 | 4 | 7 | 29 | 43 | 72 | 60 | 103 | 163 |
| | Total | 1493 | 583 | 2076 | 4790 | 1174 | 5964 | 6236 | 2192 | 8428 | 7236 | 2054 | 9290 | 1498 | 612 | 2110 | 16694 | 5819 | 22513 | 36449 | 11822 | 48271 |

Source: Asylum Service, 2017 (accessed on 25/01/2018, available at: <http://goo.gl/g4V1NR>).

Table 8: 1st Instance Procedures – Inadmissible Decisions per Gender and Age range

| 1st Instance Procedures - Inadmissible Decisions ³ per Gender and Age range | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|--------------|------------|-----------|------------|-------------|------------|-------------|-------------|------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|--------------|---------------|------------|------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| | Age range | 2013 | | | 2014 | | | 2015 | | | 2016 | | | December 2017 | | | 2017 | | | Total | | |
| | | Men | Women | Total | Men | Women | Total | Men | Women | Total | Men | Women | Total | Men | Women | Total | Men | Women | Total | Men | Women | Total |
| Inadmissible Decisions in total | 0-13 | 39 | 26 | 65 | 161 | 103 | 264 | 187 | 169 | 356 | 2758 | 2633 | 5391 | 76 | 63 | 139 | 4726 | 4351 | 9077 | 7871 | 7282 | 15153 |
| | 14-17 | 15 | 5 | 20 | 101 | 24 | 125 | 123 | 41 | 164 | 683 | 435 | 1118 | 47 | 21 | 68 | 1448 | 845 | 2293 | 2370 | 1350 | 3720 |
| | 18-34 | 93 | 24 | 117 | 597 | 87 | 684 | 795 | 128 | 923 | 3704 | 2221 | 5925 | 83 | 48 | 131 | 4206 | 2862 | 7068 | 9395 | 5322 | 14717 |
| | 35-64 | 41 | 15 | 56 | 305 | 69 | 374 | 446 | 111 | 557 | 1540 | 1191 | 2731 | 35 | 29 | 64 | 1992 | 1910 | 3902 | 4324 | 3296 | 7620 |
| | 65 and over | 2 | 1 | 3 | 2 | 4 | 6 | 10 | 9 | 19 | 33 | 43 | 76 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 72 | 85 | 157 | 119 | 142 | 261 |
| | Total | 190 | 71 | 261 | 1166 | 287 | 1453 | 1561 | 458 | 2019 | 8718 | 6523 | 15241 | 242 | 162 | 404 | 12444 | 10053 | 22497 | 24079 | 17392 | 41471 |

Source: Asylum Service, 2017 (accessed on 25/01/2018, available at: <http://goo.gl/g4V1NR>).

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Table 9: 1st Instance Procedures – Implicit & Explicit withdrawals per Gender and Age range

| 1st Instance Procedures - Implicit & Explicit withdrawals ¹ per Gender and Age range | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|-------------|------|-------|-------|------|-------|-------|------|-------|-------|------|-------|-------|---------------|-------|-------|------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| | Age range | 2013 | | | 2014 | | | 2015 | | | 2016 | | | December 2017 | | | 2017 | | | Total | | |
| | | Men | Women | Total | Men | Women | Total | Men | Women | Total | Men | Women | Total | Men | Women | Total | Men | Women | Total | Men | Women | Total |
| Implicit & Explicit withdrawals in total | 0-13 | 13 | 10 | 23 | 40 | 23 | 63 | 106 | 91 | 197 | 208 | 196 | 404 | 44 | 35 | 79 | 696 | 549 | 1245 | 1063 | 869 | 1932 |
| | 14-17 | 22 | 1 | 23 | 103 | 4 | 107 | 190 | 28 | 218 | 118 | 50 | 168 | 44 | 6 | 50 | 484 | 144 | 628 | 917 | 227 | 1144 |
| | 18-34 | 107 | 44 | 151 | 570 | 141 | 711 | 1324 | 239 | 1563 | 1079 | 281 | 1360 | 293 | 100 | 393 | 2811 | 1020 | 3831 | 5891 | 1725 | 7616 |
| | 35-64 | 32 | 14 | 46 | 149 | 46 | 195 | 278 | 101 | 379 | 294 | 145 | 439 | 79 | 38 | 117 | 823 | 416 | 1239 | 1576 | 722 | 2298 |
| | 65 and over | | | | 1 | 1 | 2 | 10 | 8 | 18 | 6 | 10 | 16 | 1 | 4 | 5 | 21 | 25 | 46 | 38 | 44 | 82 |
| | Total | 174 | 69 | 243 | 863 | 215 | 1078 | 1908 | 467 | 2375 | 1705 | 682 | 2387 | 461 | 183 | 644 | 4835 | 2154 | 6989 | 9485 | 3587 | 13072 |

Source: Asylum Service, 2017 (accessed on 25/01/2018, available at: <http://goo.gl/g4V1NR>).

Table 10: 1st Instance Procedures – Recognition Rates (%) (Countries with more than 200 Decisions in substance)

| 1st Instance Procedures - Recognition Rates (%) ² (Countries with more than 200 Decisions in substance) | | | |
|--|-------|--|-------|
| 10 Countries of Origin with the highest recognition rates | | 10 Countries of Origin with the lowest recognition rates | |
| SYRIA | 99.6% | GEORGIA | 0.0% |
| PALESTINE | 95.0% | ALBANIA | 0.2% |
| STATELESS | 87.7% | PAKISTAN | 2.4% |
| ERITREA | 85.7% | ALGERIA | 2.5% |
| SOMALIA | 78.0% | INDIA | 2.9% |
| IRAQ | 74.0% | BANGLADESH | 3.6% |
| AFGHANISTAN | 67.5% | EGYPT | 6.6% |
| SUDAN | 59.1% | CHINA | 8.6% |
| ETHIOPIA | 58.3% | MOROCCO | 11.0% |
| IRAN | 56.0% | NIGERIA | 11.9% |

Source: Asylum Service, 2017 (accessed on 25/01/2018, available at: <http://goo.gl/g4V1NR>).

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Table 11: 1st Instance Procedures – Appeals – Countries of Origin

| 1st Instance Procedures - Appeals - Countries of Origin | | | | | | | |
|---|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|---------------|--------------|--------------|
| | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | December 2017 | 2017 | Total |
| PAKISTAN | 187 | 977 | 1044 | 1872 | 459 | 4850 | 8930 |
| ALBANIA | 189 | 618 | 381 | 842 | 227 | 1516 | 3546 |
| BANGLADESH | 98 | 338 | 491 | 526 | 77 | 860 | 2313 |
| SYRIA | 3 | 10 | 4 | 1172 | 37 | 965 | 2154 |
| GEORGIA | 119 | 327 | 195 | 365 | 35 | 520 | 1526 |
| EGYPT | 52 | 308 | 136 | 328 | 28 | 359 | 1183 |
| AFGHANISTAN | 28 | 290 | 180 | 210 | 78 | 448 | 1156 |
| NIGERIA | 36 | 242 | 250 | 242 | 6 | 151 | 921 |
| ALGERIA | 9 | 88 | 61 | 357 | 14 | 286 | 801 |
| IRAQ | 23 | 41 | 35 | 46 | 26 | 353 | 498 |
| OTHER COUNTRIES | 308 | 1008 | 935 | 1288 | 106 | 1394 | 4933 |
| Total | 1052 | 4247 | 3712 | 7248 | 1093 | 11702 | 27961 |

Source: Asylum Service, 2017 (accessed on 25/01/2018, available at: <http://goo.gl/g4V1NR>).

Table 12: 1st Instance Procedures – Pending Applications – Countries of Origin

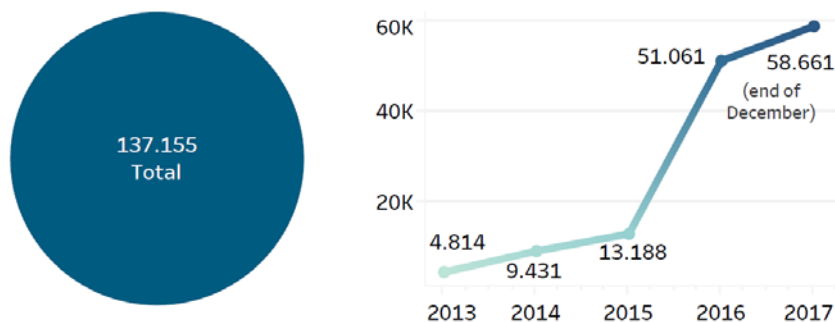
| 1st Instance Procedures - Pending Applications - Countries of Origin | |
|--|--------------|
| SYRIA | 9105 |
| AFGHANISTAN | 6549 |
| IRAQ | 5146 |
| PAKISTAN | 4749 |
| OTHER COUNTRIES | 10791 |
| Total | 36340 |

Source: Asylum Service, 2017 (accessed on 25/01/2018, available at: <http://goo.gl/g4V1NR>).

Asylum Procedures from 07/06/2013-31/12/2017

Figure 1: Applications by year

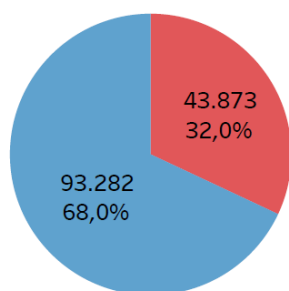
Applications by year



Source: Asylum Service, 2017 (accessed on 25/12/2017, available at: <http://goo.gl/sV5LW6>).

Figure 2: Applications by gender

Applications by gender



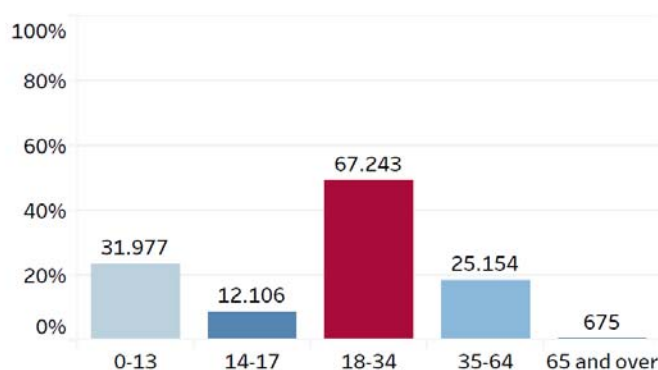
Gender ■ Female ■ Male

Source: Asylum Service, 2017 (accessed on 25/12/2017, available at: <http://goo.gl/sV5LW6>).

Figure 3: Applications by age range

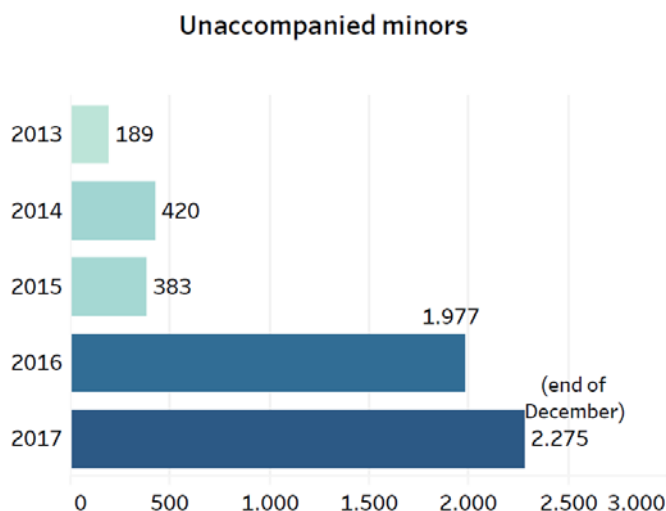
Applications by age range

2013 to 2017 (end of December)



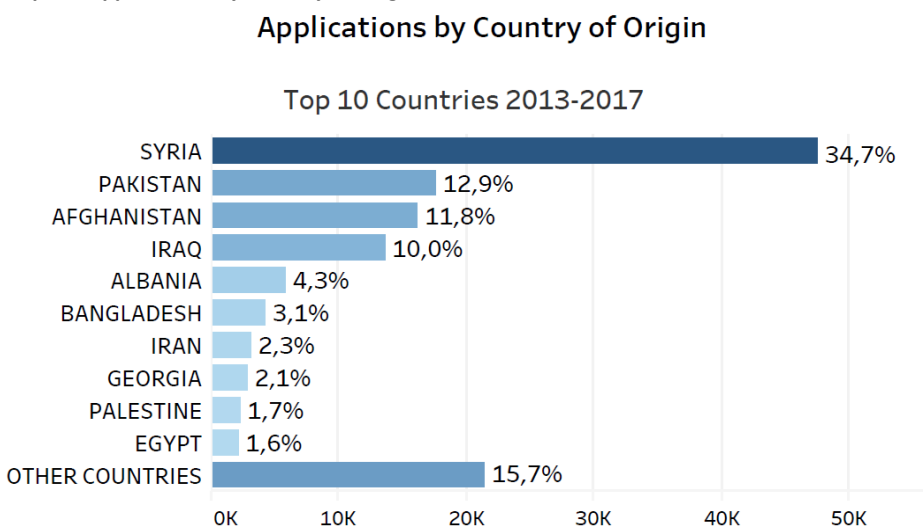
Source: Asylum Service, 2017 (accessed on 25/12/2017, available at: <http://goo.gl/sV5LW6>).

Figure 4: Unaccompanied minors



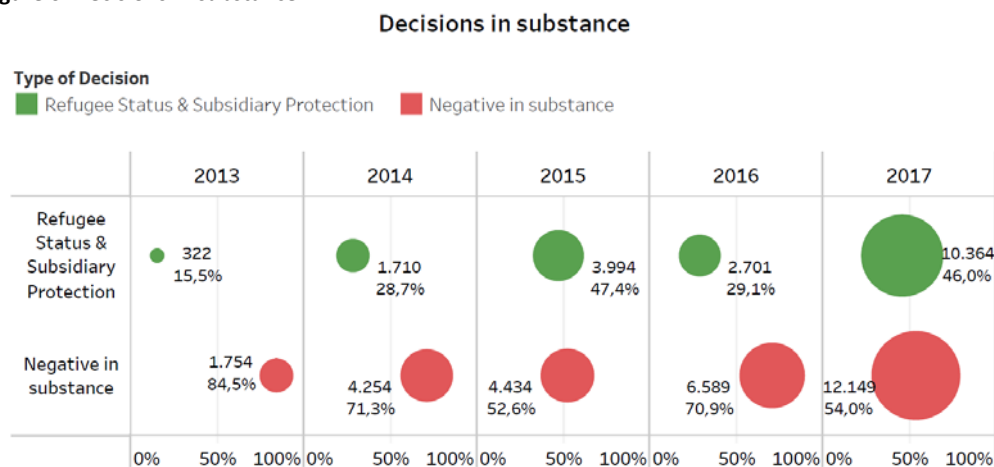
Source: Asylum Service, 2017 (accessed on 25/12/2017, available at: <http://goo.gl/sV5LW6>).

Graph 5: Applications by Country of Origin



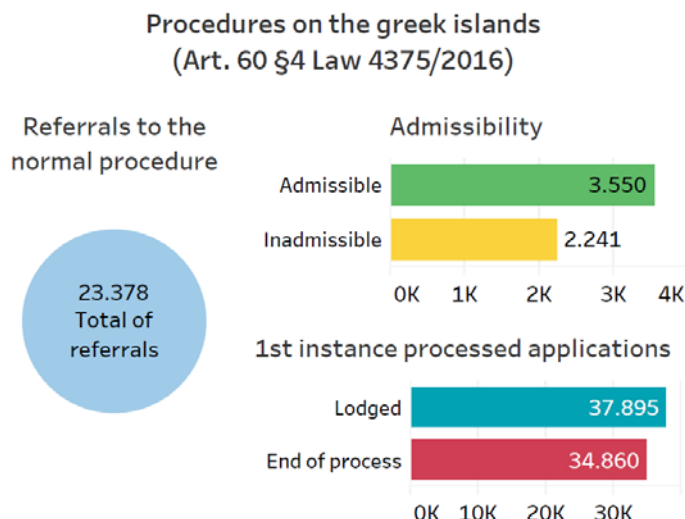
Source: Asylum Service, 2017 (accessed on 25/12/2017, available at: <http://goo.gl/sV5LW6>).

Figure 6: Decisions in substance



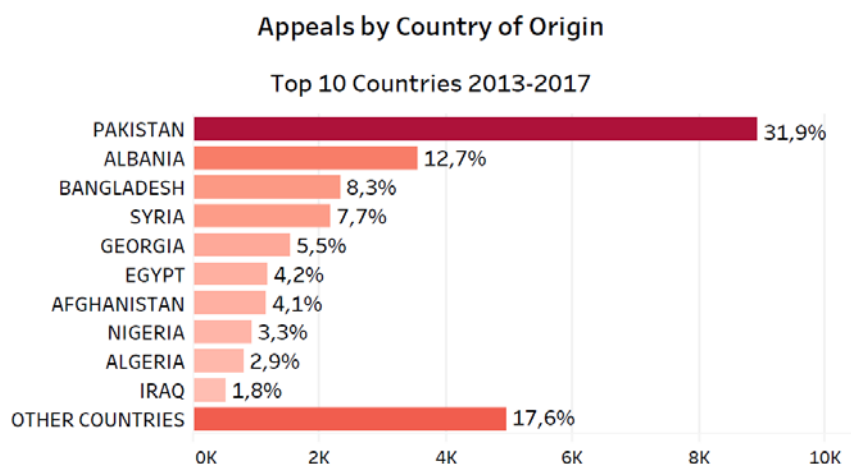
Source: Asylum Service, 2017 (accessed on 25/12/2017, available at: <http://goo.gl/sV5LW6>).

Figure 7: Procedures on the Greek islands



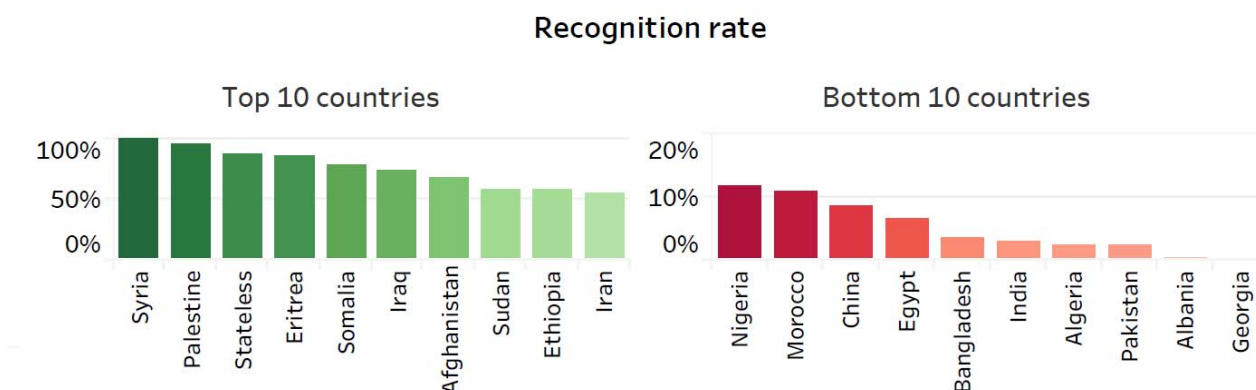
Source: Asylum Service, 2017 (accessed on 25/12/2017, available at: <http://goo.gl/sV5LW6>).

Figure 8: Appeals by County of Origin



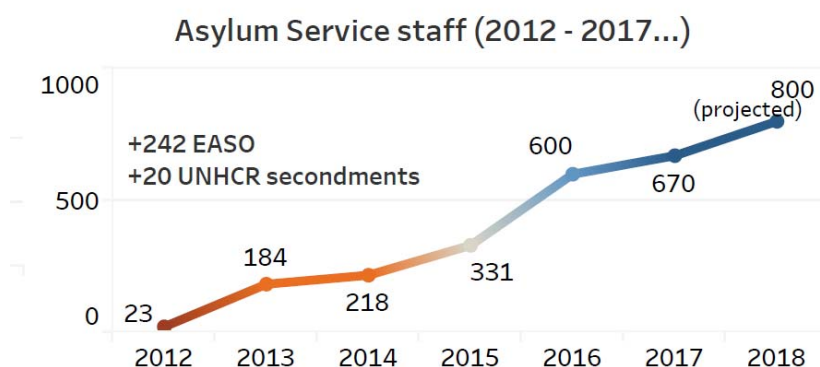
Source: Asylum Service, 2017 (accessed on 25/12/2017, available at: <http://goo.gl/sV5LW6>).

Figure 9: Recognition rate



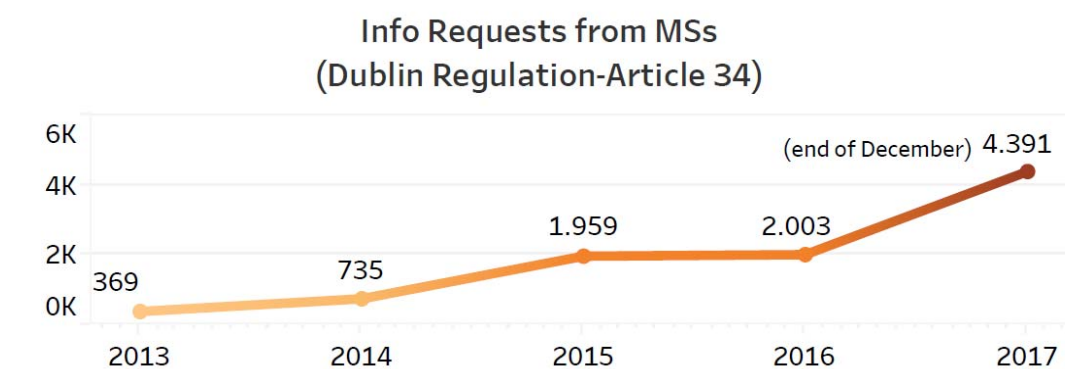
Source: Asylum Service, 2017 (accessed on 25/12/2017, available at: <http://goo.gl/sV5LW6>).

Figure 10: Asylum Service staff (2012-2017...)



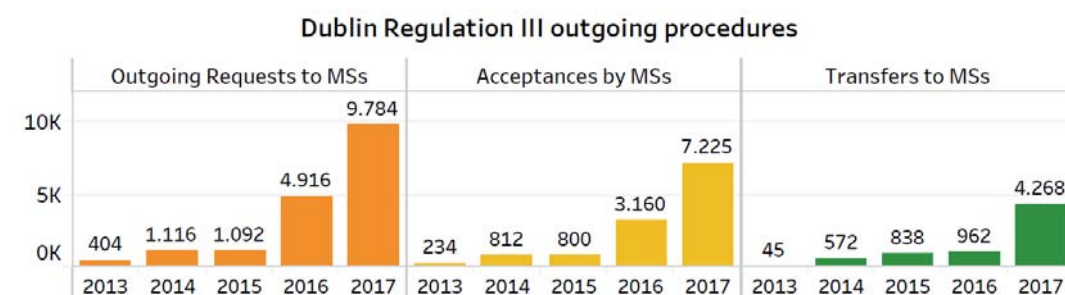
Source: Asylum Service, 2017 (accessed on 25/12/2017, available at: <http://goo.gl/sV5LW6>).

Figure 11: Info Requests from MSs



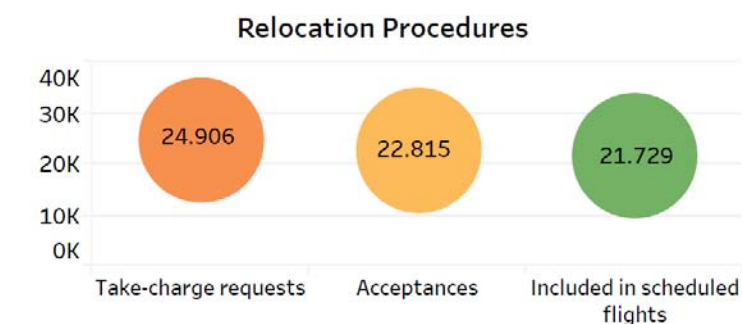
Source: Asylum Service, 2017 (accessed on 25/12/2017, available at: <http://goo.gl/sV5LW6>).

Figure 12: Dublin Regulation III outgoing procedure



Source: Asylum Service, 2017 (accessed on 25/12/2017, available at: <http://goo.gl/sV5LW6>).

Figure 13: Relocation Procedures



Source: Asylum Service, 2017 (accessed on 25/12/2017, available at: <http://goo.gl/sV5LW6>).

Arrivals of flows through sea routes have also been recorded:

2014: 43.500 sea arrivals⁹⁴. (with a proviso)

2015: 856.723 sea arrivals⁹⁵.

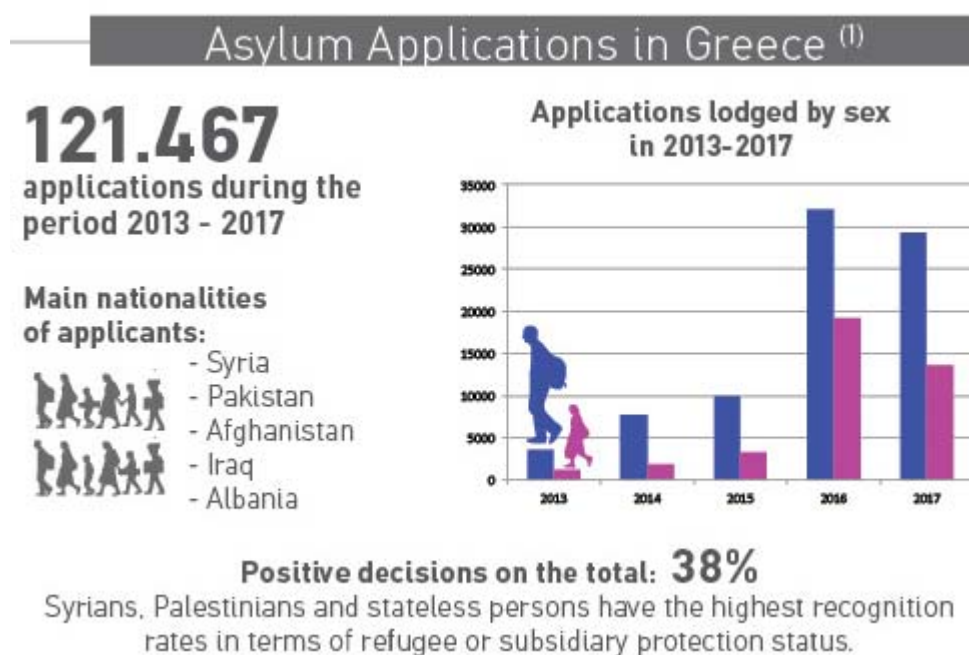
2016: 173.450 sea arrivals⁹⁶.

Following the peak of flows in October 2015, the number of irregular arrivals in Greece decreased, mostly due to the bad weather conditions in the midst of winter months. In addition, the progressive closure of the Balkan route occurred in September 2015, as a result of the closure of the border between Hungary and Serbia and the subsequent construction of a barbed-wire fence along the Hungarian-Serbian and Hungarian-Croatian frontiers, which had already deterred migrants from undertaking the perilous journey through the Aegean Sea. In short, the combined effect of the closure of the Balkan routes and the EU-Turkey Joint Statement resulted in the maintenance of migration across the Aegean Sea at very low levels even during the summer months of 2016.

Also, according to the Reception and Identification Service, the fluctuation in the number of incoming flows of third-country nationals in Greece over the period examined was greatly affected, inter alia, by the EU-Turkey Statement.⁹⁷

Refugees in Greece 2013-2017

Figure 14: Asylum Applications in Greece



Source: ELIAMEP, 2017 (accessed on: 08/12/2017, available at: <https://goo.gl/wmmX9b>)

Figure 15: Accommodation



Source: ELIAMEP, 2017 (accessed on: 08/12/2017, available at: <https://goo.gl/wmmX9b>)

⁹⁴ Available at: <http://www.unhcr.org/news/latest/2015/10/560e63626/refugee-sea-arrivals-greece-year-approach-400000.html>.

⁹⁵ Available at: <https://data2.unhcr.org/ar/documents/download/49921>.

⁹⁶ Available at: <https://data2.unhcr.org/en/situations/mediterranean/location/5179>.

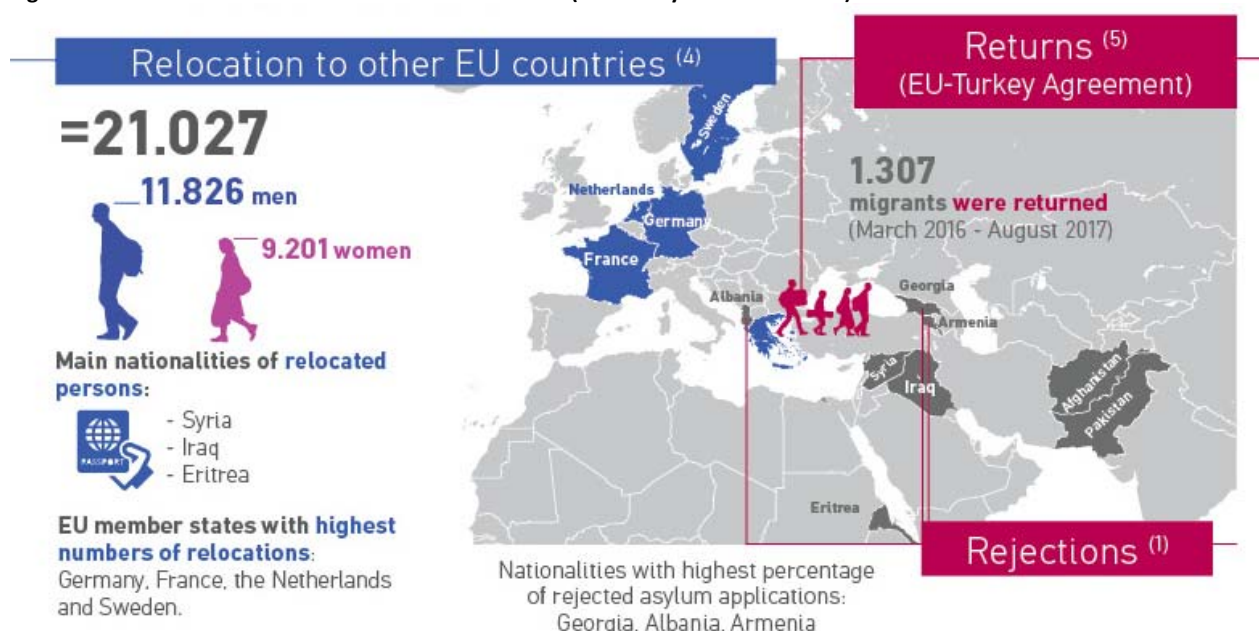
⁹⁷ Interview with the Reception and Identification Service held on 27/11/2017.

Figure 16: Unaccompanied Minors (UAC)



Source: ELIAMEP, 2017 (accessed on: 08/12/2017, available at: <https://goo.gl/wmmX9b>)

Figure 17: Relocation to other EU countries and Returns (EU-Turkey Joint Statement)



Sources: ⁽¹⁾ Asylum Service (data 7 June 2013 - 30 Sept. 2017) Ministry for Migration Policy.

⁽²⁾ EKKA, National Center for Solidarity (data till 15 Oct. 2017). ⁽³⁾ UNHCR (data 31/10/2017). ⁽⁴⁾ Asylum

Service (data till 22 Oct. 2017) Ministry for Migration Policy. ⁽⁵⁾ UNHCR (data 20 March 2016 - 31 Aug. 2017)

Data processing & design:
Hellenic Foundation for European and Foreign Policy

Source: ELIAMEP, 2017 (accessed on: 08/12/2017, available at: <https://goo.gl/wmmX9b>)

Statistical Data of the Greek Asylum Service – Relocation Procedures

Table 13: Relocation – take charge – Requests

| Relocation -take charge- Requests | |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------|
| Gender | Up to 14.1.2018 |
| Men | 14051 |
| Women | 10855 |
| Total | 24906 |

Source: Asylum Service, 2017 (accessed on 25/01/2018, available at: <http://goo.gl/X1ctAc>).

Table 14: Nationalities

| Nationalities | Up to 14.1.2018 |
|--------------------------|-----------------|
| Syria | 19579 |
| Iraq | 4214 |
| Eritrea | 186 |
| Stateless | 231 |
| Yemen | 88 |
| Central African Republic | 2 |
| Iran | 2 |
| Palestine | 603 |
| Burundi | 1 |
| Total | 24906 |

Source: Asylum Service, 2017 (accessed on 25/01/2018, available at: <http://goo.gl/X1ctAc>).

Table 15: Age Groups

| Age Groups | Up to 14.1.2018 | % |
|--------------|-----------------|-------------|
| 0-13 | 9530 | 38,3% |
| 14-17 | 1713 | 6,9% |
| 18-34 | 9500 | 38,1% |
| 35-64 | 3997 | 16,0% |
| 65 and over | 166 | 0,7% |
| Total | 24906 | 100% |

Source: Asylum Service, 2017 (accessed on 25/01/2018, available at: <http://goo.gl/X1ctAc>).

Table 16: Relocation Procedures

| Relocation Procedures (up to 14.1.2018) | |
|---|-------|
| Total number of relocation applications registered by the Asylum Service (up to 14.1.2018) | 27457 |
| Relocation Requests (up to 14.1.2018) ¹ | 24906 |
| Acceptances (up to 14.1.2018) | 22815 |

¹ Asylum Service does not submit relocation files when either security issues or issues of nationality are in doubt.

Source: Asylum Service, 2017 (accessed on 25/01/2018, available at: <http://goo.gl/X1ctAc>).

Table 17: Implementation of relocation requests analysis

| Implementation of relocation requests analysis | | | | | | | | | |
|--|------------------|--------------------------------------|-----------------|-------------|--------------|-------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Member States | Pledges (by MSR) | Number of Relocation Requests by GAS | Pending Answers | Rejections | Approvals | Relocated Persons | Persons with pending relocation | Persons who absconded relocation | Persons with Explicit Withdrawals |
| Austria | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Belgium | 1055 | 746 | 0 | 4 | 720 | 700 | 0 | 18 | 0 |
| Bulgaria | 960 | 271 | 0 | 47 | 187 | 50 | 0 | 27 | 45 |
| Croatia | 225 | 62 | 0 | 0 | 62 | 60 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| Cyprus | 160 | 143 | 0 | 4 | 120 | 96 | 0 | 6 | 7 |
| Czech Republic | 30 | 31 | 0 | 16 | 15 | 12 | 0 | 3 | 0 |
| Estonia | 382 | 321 | 0 | 171 | 150 | 141 | 0 | 5 | 0 |
| Finland | 1349 | 1287 | 0 | 38 | 1237 | 1202 | 0 | 32 | 0 |
| France | 5770 | 5174 | 0 | 510 | 4473 | 4394 | 0 | 84 | 3 |
| Germany | 6740 | 5895 | 21 | 100 | 5433 | 5371 | 17 | 38 | 0 |
| Hungary | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Ireland | 1132 | 1113 | 0 | 68 | 1034 | 755 | 264 | 5 | 5 |
| Latvia | 363 | 342 | 0 | 24 | 318 | 294 | 0 | 7 | 3 |
| Liechtenstein | 10 | 13 | 0 | 0 | 10 | 10 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Lithuania | 1070 | 488 | 0 | 75 | 396 | 355 | 0 | 18 | 5 |
| Luxembourg | 298 | 337 | 0 | 33 | 304 | 300 | 0 | 3 | 0 |
| Malta | 138 | 120 | 0 | 14 | 106 | 101 | 0 | 3 | 0 |
| Netherlands | 1950 | 1862 | 0 | 65 | 1787 | 1754 | 1 | 19 | 7 |
| Norway | 685 | 718 | 0 | 9 | 706 | 693 | 0 | 13 | 0 |
| Poland | 65 | 73 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 18 |
| Portugal | 2030 | 1275 | 0 | 14 | 1254 | 1192 | 0 | 33 | 13 |
| Romania | 1172 | 924 | 0 | 12 | 903 | 683 | 0 | 72 | 40 |
| Slovakia | 50 | 40 | 0 | 21 | 19 | 16 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Slovenia | 349 | 179 | 0 | 0 | 172 | 172 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Spain | 1875 | 1154 | 0 | 2 | 1149 | 1123 | 1 | 12 | 3 |
| Sweden | 2378 | 1682 | 0 | 7 | 1665 | 1656 | 0 | 6 | 0 |
| Switzerland | 600 | 656 | 0 | 58 | 595 | 580 | 0 | 4 | 0 |
| Total | 30836 | 24906 | 21 | 1292 | 22815 | 21710 | 283 | 409 | 149 |

Source: Asylum Service, 2017 (accessed on 25/01/2018, available at: <http://goo.gl/X1ctAc>).

Table 18: Relocation Procedures Overview

| Relocation Procedures Overview | | | Relocation - Takecharge-Requests | Acceptances-Rejections | Closures Total(*) | Closures after Acceptance(**) | Transfers | Pending Decision | Pending Closure |
|--------------------------------|------------|------------|----------------------------------|------------------------|-------------------|-------------------------------|--------------|------------------|-----------------|
| 2015 | 12/10/2015 | 31/12/2015 | 577 | 158 | 121 | 102 | 82 | 400 | 438 |
| 2016 | 1/1/2016 | 31/12/2016 | 12900 | 11432 | 8019 | 7693 | 7192 | 1542 | 4654 |
| 2017 | 1/1/2017 | 31/12/2017 | 11429 | 12517 | 15163 | 14730 | 14430 | 21 | 311 |
| Week 117 | 1/1/2018 | 7/1/2018 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 21 | 311 |
| Week 118 | 8/1/2018 | 14/1/2018 | 0 | 0 | 7 | 7 | 6 | 21 | 304 |
| Total | | | 24906 | 24107 | 23310 | 22532 | 21710 | 21 | 304 |

(*) Closures of the relocation case due to specific reasons (Implemented Transfer, Abscondment, Opt for examination by GR, Missing Family Members, Medical Reasons, Death of the Applicant, Return to country of origin, Explicit Withdrawals, Other reasons)

(**) Closures of the relocation case after the issuance of an acceptance decision by the M-S (including implemented transfers)

Source: Asylum Service, 2017 (accessed on 25/01/2018, available at: <http://goo.gl/X1ctAc>).

Table 19: Pledges, relocation -take charge- requests, acceptances, rejections, applicants included in scheduled flights,

| Pledges | Relocation -take charge- Requests | Acceptances | Rejections | Relocation Applicants Included in Scheduled Flights | Dublin Associated Family Members of Applicants Included in Scheduled Flights (*) |
|---------|-----------------------------------|-------------|------------|---|--|
| 30836 | 24906 | 22815 | 1292 | 21729 | 22 |

Source: Asylum Service, 2017 (accessed on 25/01/2018, available at: <http://goo.gl/X1ctAc>).

Table 20: Implemented Relocation Transfers

| Implemented Relocation Transfers (Up to 14.1.2018) | |
|---|-------|
| Men | 12191 |
| Women | 9519 |
| Total | 21710 |

(*) Family Members associated with Relocation Applicants according to Dublin Regulation Provisions of Family Reunification.
Source: Asylum Service, 2017 (accessed on 25/01/2018, available at: <http://goo.gl/X1ctAc>).

5. UNACCOMPANIED MINORS AND OTHER VULNERABLE GROUPS

In 2017, regarding unaccompanied minors (UAMs) (see also Section 2) applying for asylum at the national level, there was no increase/decrease of human resources and/or training of staff (partial staff via EASO). In relation to training of staff working in the Reception and Identification Centres, training has been received from international, European and national institutions, and from NGOs as well, for the better management of unaccompanied minors. Concerning the improvement of protection and care of UAMs, including reception facilities, Law 4375/2016 is in force. Also, in Reception and Identification Centres, the UAMS's area is separated and guarded; safe zones, for the same reason, have been created. In relation to legal guardianship and foster care, legal representation and guardianship through NGOs is implemented, while a new bill on the themes of guardianship and foster care is under consideration. Concerning age verification, the Joint Ministerial Decision (01/2016) is in force and is now being conducted by the Hellenic Centre for Diseases Control and Prevention (HCDCP) of the Ministry of Health. Regarding procedural safeguards, Law 4375/2016 is in effect and provides for a new Reception Directorate and a Social Integration Division comprising specialized Departments for the reception and integration of unaccompanied minors at the Ministry of Interior and Administrative Reconstruction, including the provision of a legal representative.⁹⁸ Finally, regarding the provision of information (info material, e.g. videos, leaflets, booklets etc.), the information brochure of the Asylum Service entitled "Basic information on applicants for international protection in Greece"⁹⁹, is translated into 18 languages and the brochure of the Asylum Service for unaccompanied minors, entitled "I am under 18 and seek asylum in Greece"¹⁰⁰ is translated into 6 languages. In addition, the information brochure of the Reception and Identification Service, is being updated. Regarding other vulnerable groups¹⁰¹ applying for asylum, such as minors, disabled people, elderly people, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex (LGBTI) people, pregnant women, single parents with minor children, persons with serious illnesses, persons with mental disorders and persons who have been subjected to torture, rape or other serious forms of psychological, physical or sexual violence, such as victims of female genital mutilation, are defined as vulnerable by Greek law, enjoy and have access to different hosting and service structures on a case-by-case basis. With regard to unaccompanied minors (UAMs) not applying for asylum at national level, Law 4375/2016 (Article 14, paragraph 8) is in effect: "On the organization and operation of the Asylum Service, the Appeals Authority, the Reception and Identification Service, the establishment of the General Secretariat for Reception, the transposition into Greek legislation of the provisions of Directive 2013/32/EC "on common procedures for granting and withdrawing the status of international protection (recast) (L 180-29/06/2013), provisions on the employment of beneficiaries of international protection and other provisions"¹⁰². Concerning other vulnerable groups not applying for asylum, the identification mechanisms/referrals are implemented according to the Ministerial Decision No. 47201, Government Gazette 4503 B', 12/12/2017, on "Creation of mobile teams to receive biometric data from third-country nationals who are unable to come in person before the biometric data service"¹⁰³.

Regarding the situation unaccompanied minors (UAMs) in Greece (National Center of Social Solidarity (EKKA), with support from UNICEF, 2017): 3.350 is the estimated number of unaccompanied minors (UAMs) in Greece based on analysis of data available to the National Center of Social Solidarity (as of 31 December 2017). 1.101 is the total number of places available in UAC shelters (filled, pending assigned cases as of 31 December. Including 23 vacant places. 2.290 is the total number of UAC on waiting list¹⁰⁴ for placement in shelter (as of 31 December 2017) including: 438 unaccompanied minors staying in facilities of closed type (in Reception and Identification Centers) and 54 in protective custody. 10.538 is the total number of UAMs referrals to the National Center of Social Solidarity (from 1 Jan 2016 to 31 December 2017) out of the total: 9.862 are boys (94%), 676 are girls (6%) and 632 <14 years old (6%)¹⁰⁵. The statistical presentation includes:

⁹⁸ Article 31 L. 4375/2016.

⁹⁹ http://asylo.gov.gr/?page_id=159

¹⁰⁰ http://asylo.gov.gr/?page_id=6210

¹⁰¹ Not including victims of human trafficking, as this is covered in Section 7.

¹⁰² <http://asylo.gov.gr/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/N.4375.pdf>

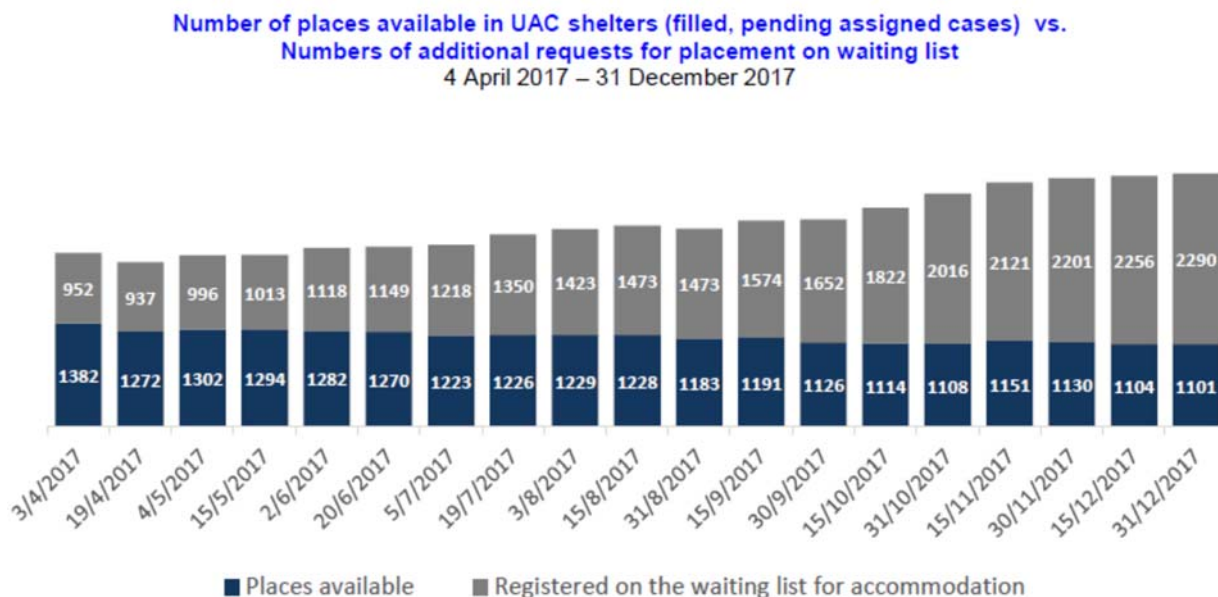
¹⁰³ <http://immigration.gov.gr/documents/20182/31271/kya47201-12122017.pdf/e9029f4d-83a5-48a3-ba61-b11bee89c0d2>

¹⁰⁴ Waiting list does not include referrals of unknown location carried out during pre-registration exercise. Waiting list includes 173 separated children.

¹⁰⁵ Figures dynamically change and may be adjusted based on verification by EKKA.

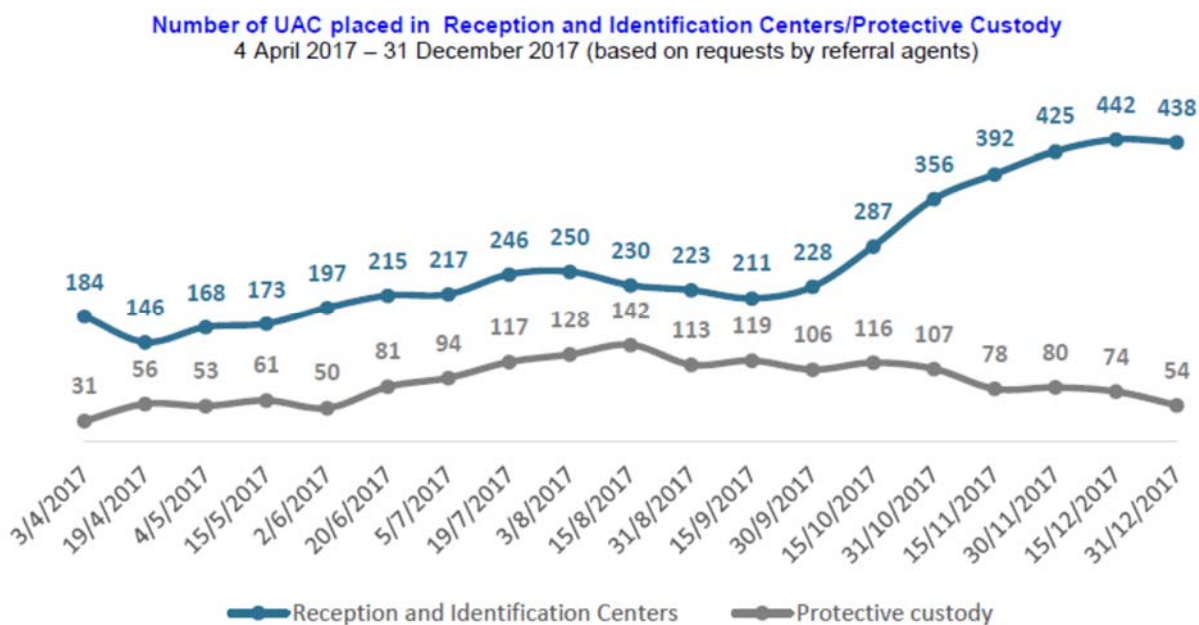
Situation Update: Unaccompanied Children (UAC) in Greece:

Figure 1: Number of places available in UAC shelters (filled, pending assigned cases) vs. Numbers of additional requests for placement on waiting list (4 April 2017-31 December 2017)



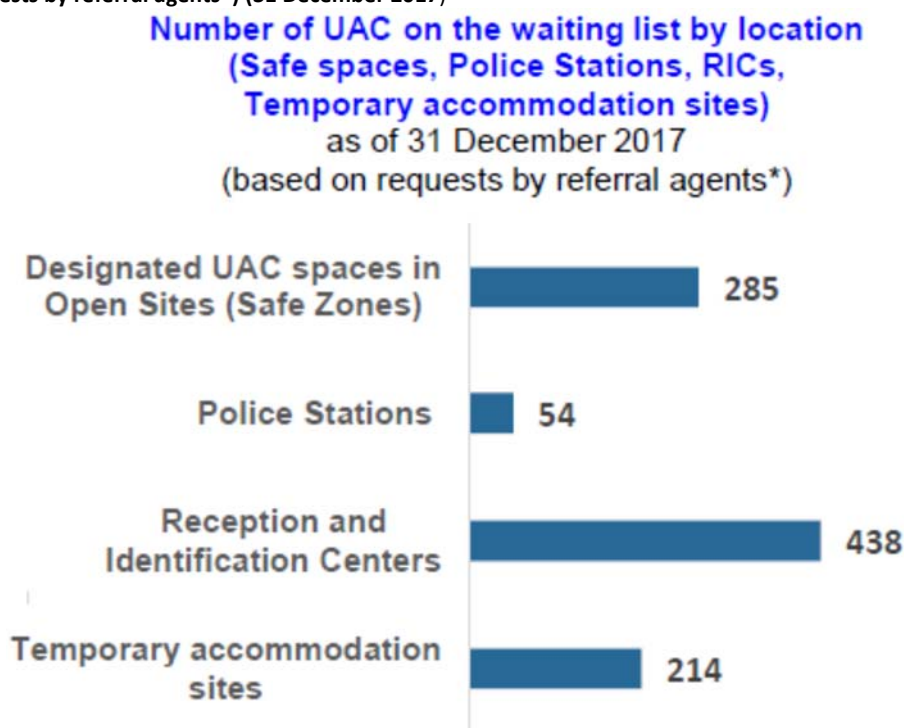
Source: National Center of Social Solidarity (EKKA). With support from UNICEF, 2017

Figure 2: Number of UAC placed in Reception and Identification Centers/Protective Custody (based on requests by referral agents) (4 April 2017-31 December 2017)



Source: National Center of Social Solidarity (EKKA). With support from UNICEF, 2017

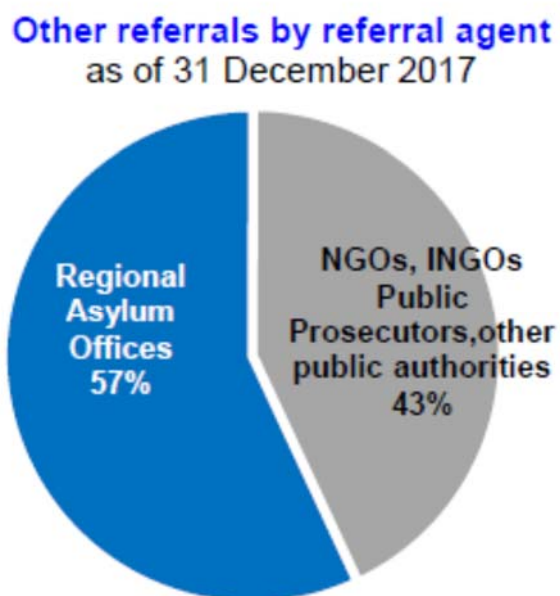
Figure 3: Number of UAC on the waiting list by location (Safe spaces, Police Stations, RICs, Temporary accommodation sites) (based on requests by referral agents*) (31 December 2017)



Source: National Center of Social Solidarity (EKKA). With support from UNICEF, 2017

*Referrals from open facilities are carried out by referral agents including Asylum Service, NGOs, INGOs, Public Prosecutors. The actual number of UAC in the RICs as of 31 December is higher than the referrals received by EKKA. In addition to the above 163 extra referrals are pending submission to EKKA.

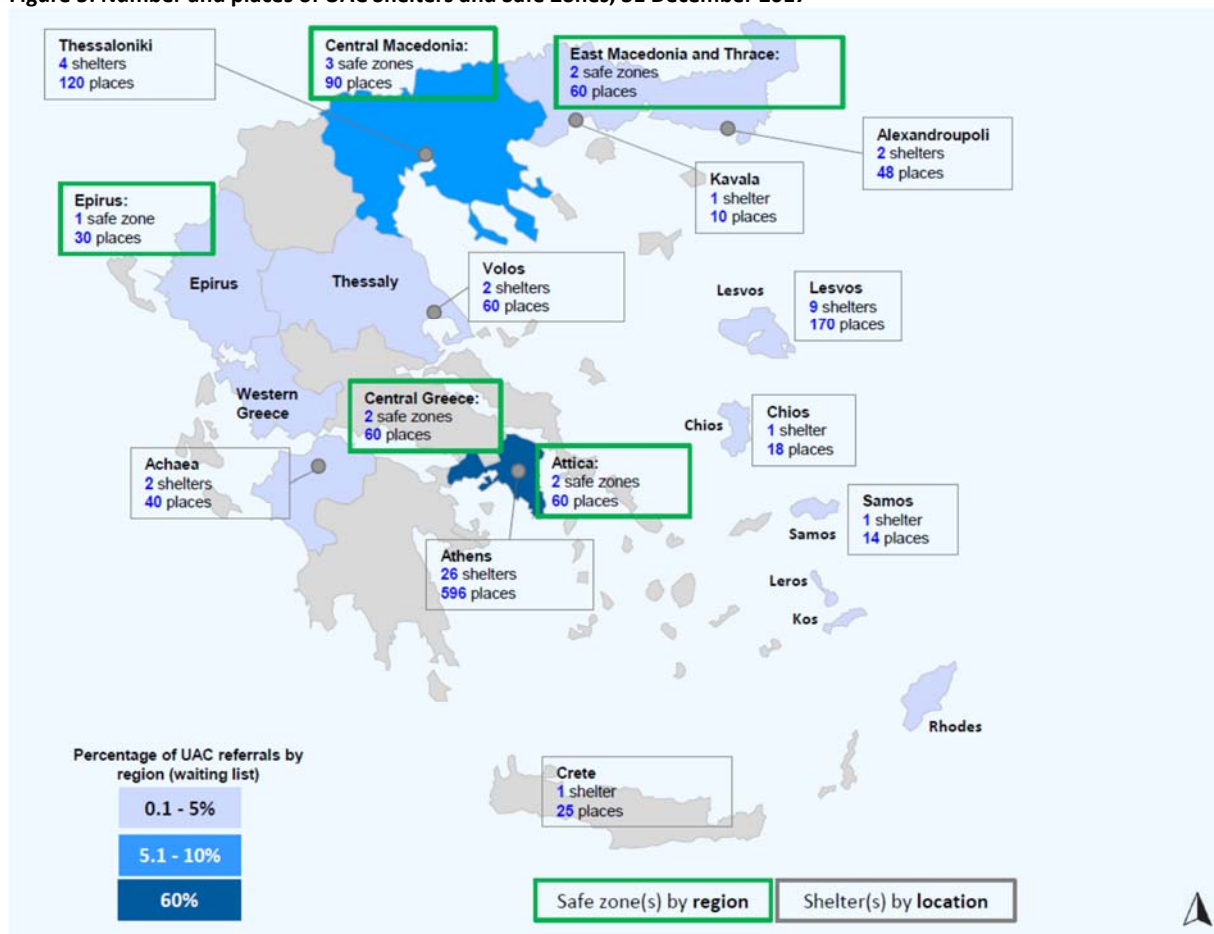
Figure 4: Other referrals by referral agent (31 December 2017)



Source: National Center of Social Solidarity (EKKA). With support from UNICEF, 2017

Regarding UAC Shelters (transit and long-term) (basic data until 31 December 2017), currently are in operation: 49 UAC shelters with total capacity of 1.101 places. (the capacity increased from 423 places in March 2016). 1 new UAC shelter is planned with total 15 new places. Regarding Safe Zones* (short-term)¹⁰⁶, currently 10 Safe Zones for UAC are in operation with total capacity of 300 places.

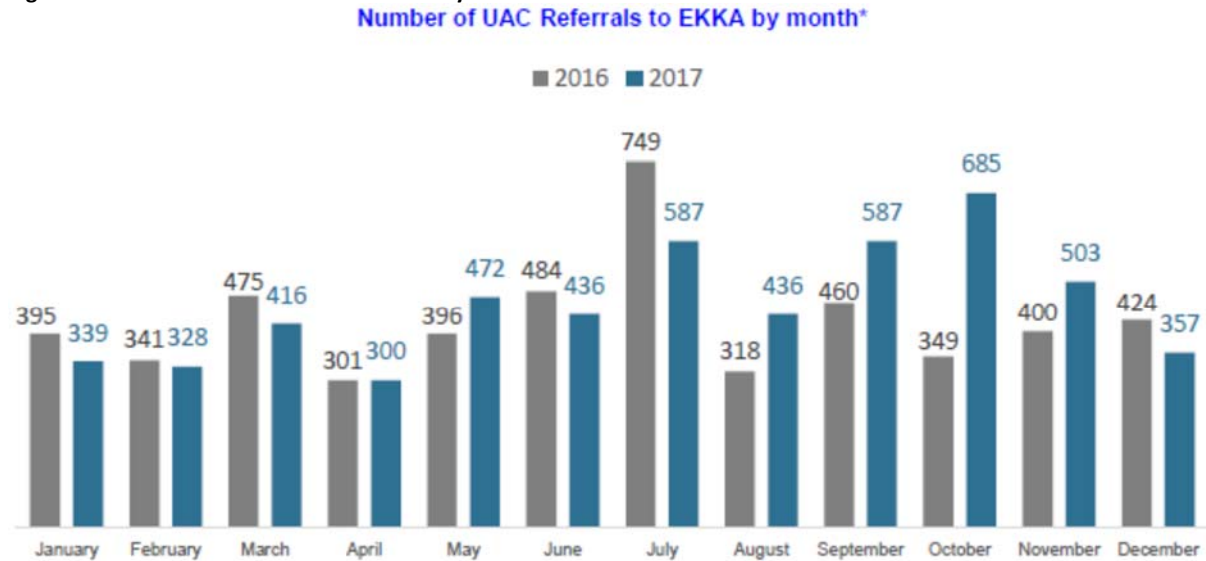
Figure 5: Number and places of UAC Shelters and Safe Zones, 31 December 2017



Source: National Center of Social Solidarity (EKKA). With support from UNICEF, 2017

¹⁰⁶ Safe Zones are designated supervised spaces within the refugee accommodation sites which provide UAC with 24/7 emergency protection and care. They should be used as short term (maximum 3 months) measures to care for UAC in light of the insufficient number of available shelter places. Safe Zone priority is given to UAC in protective care status as well as other vulnerable children, in line with their best interests. (Source: National Center of Social Solidarity (EKKA). With support from UNICEF, 2017).

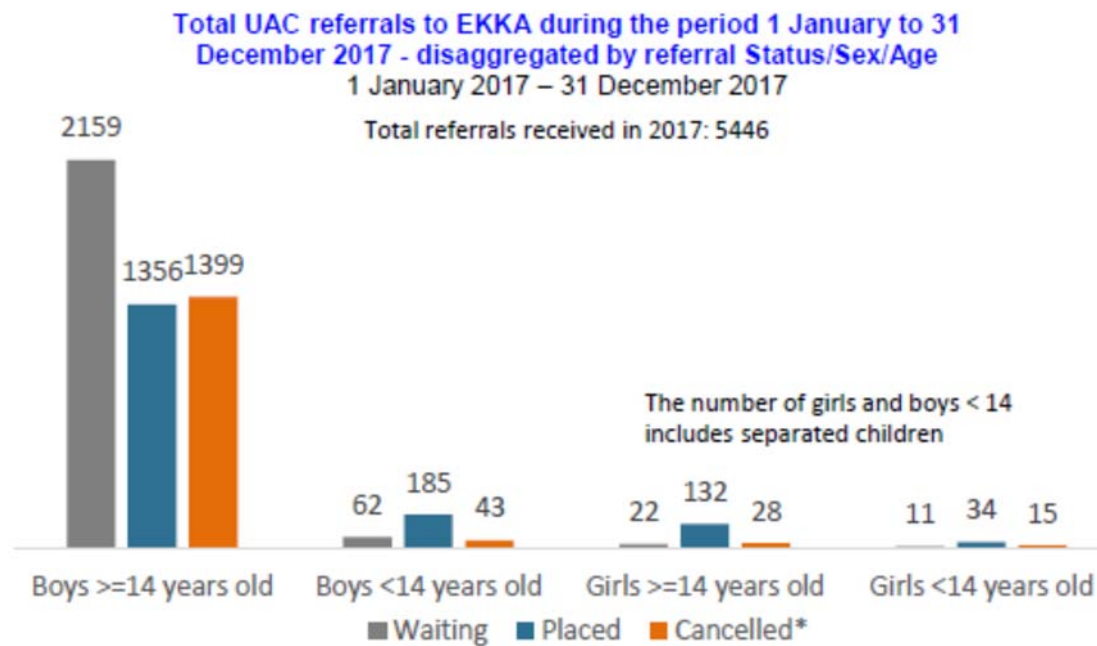
Figure 6: Number of UAC Referrals to EKKA by month*



* Increase in July 2016 due to pre-registration exercise and referrals from the Asylum service

Source: National Center of Social Solidarity (EKKA). With support from UNICEF, 2017

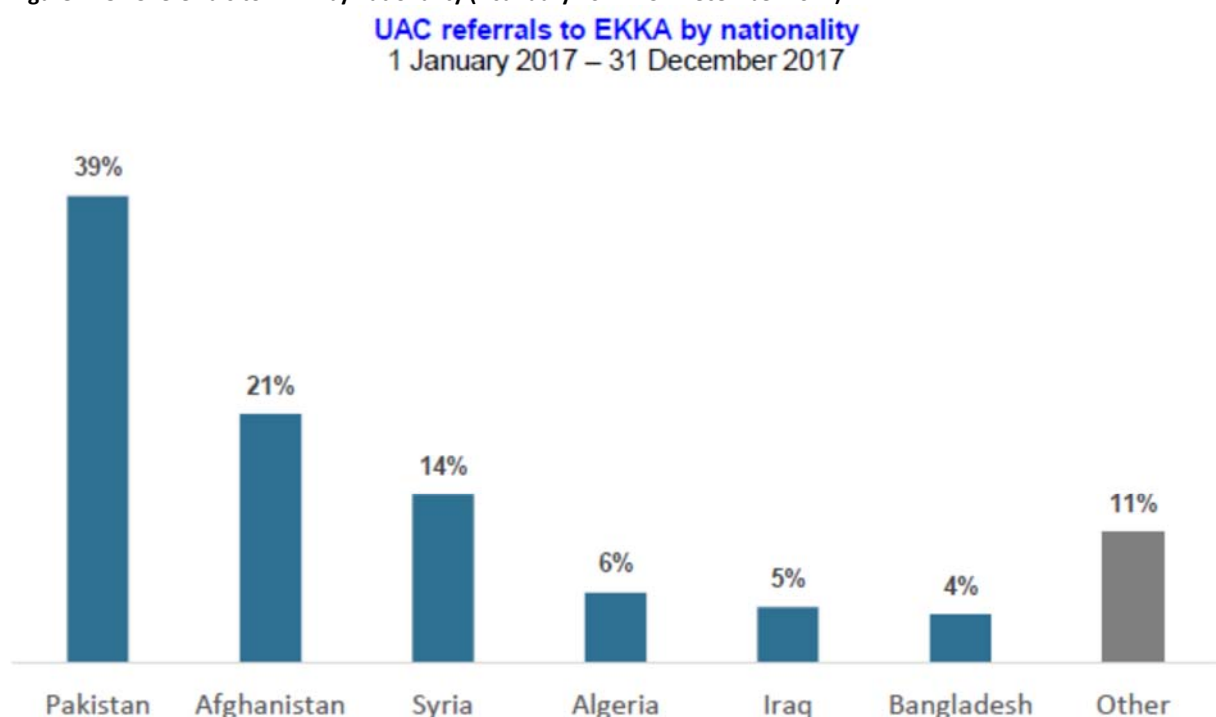
Figure 6: Total UAC referrals to EKKA during the period 1 January to 31 December 2017 - disaggregated by referral Status/Sex/Age (1 January 2017 – 31 December 2017) Total referrals received in 2017: 5.446



* Cancelled either by the referral agent or UAC reached adulthood before placement

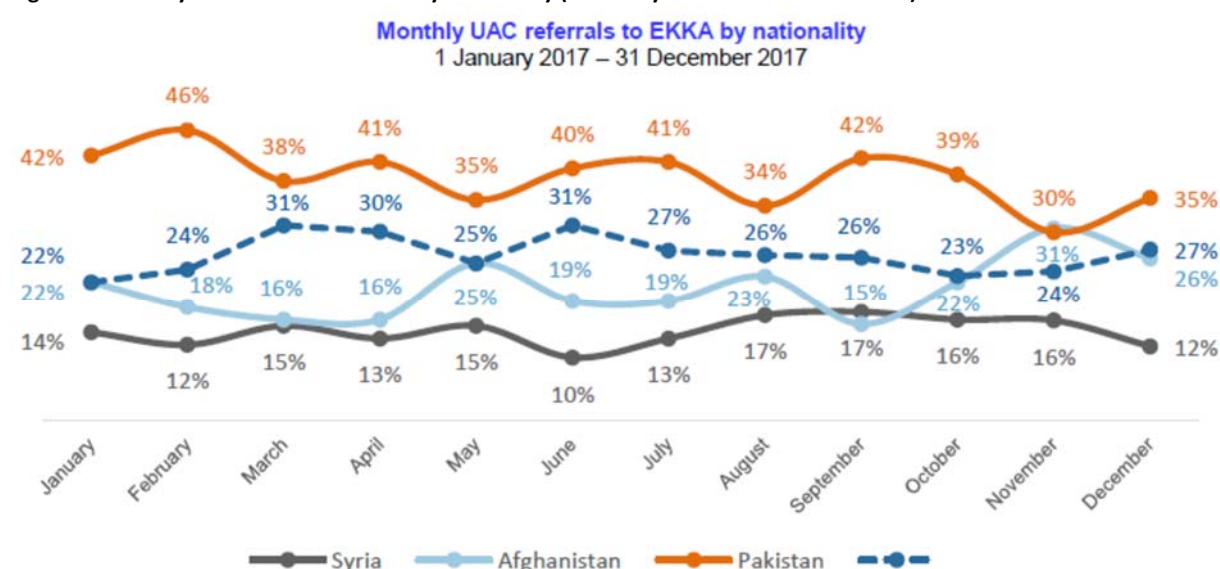
Source: National Center of Social Solidarity (EKKA). With support from UNICEF, 2017

Figure 7: UAC referrals to EKKA by nationality (1 January 2017 – 31 December 2017)



Source: National Center of Social Solidarity (EKKA). With support from UNICEF, 2017

Figure 8: Monthly UAC referrals to EKKA by nationality (1 January 2017-31 December 2017)



Source: National Center of Social Solidarity (EKKA). With support from UNICEF, 2017

6. INTEGRATION

Regarding the facilitation of integration of third-country nationals through socio-economic participation, such measures to improve attainment in the education system, measures to enhance language skills, access to social security, healthcare and housing, integration into the labour market (see also Section 2), at the Ministry for Migration Policy, a National Strategy for the Integration of Migrants and Refugees is in the process of developing, in line with the national priorities and principles and directives of the EU. The main directions of the National Strategy are:

- The integration of beneficiaries of international protection and of applicants who are temporarily residing in the country and/or will remain there after recognition of their protection status;
- The facilitation of return to the legality of migrants, who due to the economic crisis are unable to maintain the status of legal residence;
- The strengthening of the role of Local Government as an integral part in shaping the integration policies and as a basic executive mechanism for their implementation, as well as the creation and provision of a favorable framework for the participation of municipalities and regions in the process of integration;
- The sensitization of the host society and the wider public opinion regarding the importance of the integration of third country nationals;
- The formation of a joint coordinating framework of horizontal character, which will inspire all the actors involved in the reception and integration of state actors;
- The coordination and cooperation with transnational, international and private actors; of the Civil Society;
- The modernization of the process of granting residence permits and the status of international protection;
- The timely and comprehensive information for migrants and applicants/beneficiaries of international protection on new national developments in the field of migration policy, national and local actions; the programmes from which they can benefit, as well as their rights and obligations as part of their integration into the Greek state and society.

With the Presidential Decree 122/2017, the Strategic Planning Council (SPC), a consultative body that monitors and evaluates the public policies that constitute the mission of the Ministry, is formed within the Ministry for Migration Policy, with a goal to promote complex issues to the political leadership. With Presidential Decree 122/2017, the Directorate for the Protection of Asylum Seekers has the strategic purpose to implement the national policy for the reception of applicants for international protection, mainly through the design, monitoring and implementation of protection programmes, giving particular emphasis on vulnerable groups. The Ministry for Migration Policy in cooperation with the Ministry of Education will participate as adjunctively to the under-development language programmes, and in particular of Greek and English language, as well as elements of Greek culture for migrants/applicants/beneficiaries of international protection of 15-18 years old and for adults over 18 years old. The programmes aim at supporting migrant and refugee populations aged 15-18 and adults (18+) via education in order to ensure their better adaptation to both Greek reality and the wider European context. Language development is an essential tool in this direction, as it contributes to the ability of individuals to integrate in different contexts, to deepen the cultural understanding of the host country, and to respond to cases of communication at their social and professional space. Strengthening and promoting the integration of migrants also contributes to the learning of key elements of computing, technical understanding, and of new technologies. Greek language programmes will result in, depending on the level of learners and the pace of learning (intensive or regular courses), the acquisition of a recognized language certificates (B1, B1+, B2 as defined in the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages). Respective diplomas will be awarded for English. At the same time, the programme will include courses in Greek and European culture and professional orientation, while emphasis will be placed on the development of basic communication skills of students. It will be combined with the acquisition of knowledge on topics such as Informatics, Health-Welfare-Wellness, Rights, Culture etc. Finally, it is noted that all the above programmes in their planning and implementation will also take into account the particular needs of vulnerable groups of migrants and applicants/beneficiaries of international protection.

Regarding the promotion of integration of third-country nationals through civic participation, rights, obligations and belonging, measures are being implemented such as measures to increase the participation of third country nationals' representatives (including women) in the design and implementation of integration policies, outreach programmes and work placements to build capacity within migrant organisations and encourage support at local level, and measures to enhance democratic participation; for example, training mentors etc. One of the axes of action of the planned National Strategy for the Integration of Ministry for Migration Policy is the "Participation in the Common Affairs". This axis was considered to be extremely important for the creation of the "sense of belonging" of migrants in the host society as well as for the creation of conditions of mutual acquaintance with the partnership and acceptance. Participation can be either collective or individual, and/or both. An important element in the integration of migrants/refugees is their active participation in associations of volunteers, sports, environment, culture, parents and guardians, in local workers' organizations and the formation of associations and organizations. Also, the participation in Migrant Integration Councils favors the basic form of participation in the common affairs, and, with related actions, prepares the ground for the acquisition of the status of Greek citizen. Indicative actions designed under this axis are:

- Setting up a process of issuance of an athlete's ID for football clubs for outstanding talents;
- Creating mixed teams of volunteers and mixed workshops; and networking volunteers within Migrant Integration Centers;
- Activating Migrant Integration Councils of Municipalities as well as strengthening their role and extending their competencies through legislation.

This policy is primarily a policy of deepening and completing integration, as it implies the existence of a sense of belonging in the host society and involves the active participation of migrants, beneficiaries of international protection, and the applicants, and the co-shaping of the conditions of social and cultural coexistence. The involvement of third-country nationals themselves in the design and implementation of integration policies is essential to improve their participation and the effects of their integration.

Regarding policies/measures specifically targeted to facilitate integration of specific categories of third-country nationals, such as beneficiaries of international protection, family migrants, etc. measures are being implemented to improve attainment in schooling and/or the education system and/or vocational training of specific categories of TCNs, in order to enhance language skills of specific categories of TCNs, allow access of specific categories of TCNs to social security, healthcare, and housing, and allow integration of specific categories of TCNs into the labour market. These measures include:

- EPA (ZEP-DYEP in Greek)¹⁰⁷: "Arrangements of Educational Priority Area (EPA, ZEP in Greek)-Establishment of EPA Reception Classes, EPA Reinforcing Teaching Classes and EPA Reception Structures for the Education of Refugees EPA (RSER EPA, DYEP ZEP in Greek) in School Units of Primary Education (PE)", Government Gazette 2687/B'/29/08/2016¹⁰⁸.
- Joint Ministerial Decisions DYEP¹⁰⁹:
- Joint Ministerial Decision 152360/DG4/2016-GG 3049/B'/23/09/2016
- Joint Ministerial Decision 180647/GD4/2016-GG 3502/B'/31/10/2016 (replacing the above decision).
- 11/07/2017: Programme "Education Unites" - Higher Education Scholarships for Refugees: The US Embassy in cooperation with the American College of Thessaloniki-Anatolia College, Deree-American College of Greece and Perrotis College-American Agricultural School, will offer higher education grants to 100 refugees in Athens and 100 in Thessaloniki. The Education Unites: From Camp to Campus programme will offer two courses per student for the next two semesters (Autumn 2017 and Spring 2018) at the three American Colleges in Athens and Thessaloniki¹¹⁰.

The Ministry for Migration Policy has designed and implemented, in cooperation with the Municipalities of Levadia and Thiva and the International Organization for Migration, a pilot programme of integrated interventions of second reception of families of applicants and beneficiaries of international protection. The programme is a pilot model based on which the Local Government can manage the second reception, supported by national programmes (e.g. language learning), while, at the same time expanding the social services it already provides to people living within of its spatial responsibility. The action seeks to create the basis for integrated interventions of second reception (housing provision, psychosocial support, counseling regarding work, support and reinforcement of technical training, language skills learning, facilitation of access to local services and host society, legal support, etc.) to thirty (30) families of applicants for international protection, aiming at the beneficiaries in order to gradually obtain their autonomy and to join the social web of the cities of Thiva and Livadia. At the same time, the programme aims at collecting qualitative and quantitative data with a view to improving their impact and effectiveness.

In relation to policies/measures to facilitate and promote integration of vulnerable groups of third-country nationals (UAMs, LGBT, elderly, pregnant women, disabled migrants etc.), one of the axes of action of the planned National Strategy for the Integration of Ministry for Migration Policy is the "Targeted Policies for Vulnerable Social Groups of Migrants, Applicants and Beneficiaries of International Protection". Migrants and beneficiaries of international protection belong to vulnerable groups of the population. Among these, however, are some groups that are vulnerable in multiple ways, such as children, especially the unaccompanied ones, women, the disabled, and the elderly individuals. These groups need more protection and support to avoid being victims of exploitation, social exclusion, and poverty. The policies of protection of vulnerable groups are based on the need for targeted actions in order to address the socio-economic disadvantage they encounter as they face problems regarding their adaptation and integration into the Greek society. For example, some of the planned actions for these vulnerable groups of immigrants/refugees are:

- Provision of counseling by working women (mentoring) to their same-gender individuals with problems of integrating into the labor market;
- Promoting the institution of the "host family" for unaccompanied minors,
- Pilot programmes for learning the Greek language for the facilitation of individuals with disabilities targeted to their needs, as appropriate,
- Facilitating the access of elder individuals of the target groups at Open Care Centers for the Elderly (KAPI in Greek) with the help of intercultural mediators of the Centers for Migrant Integration (KEM in Greek).

¹⁰⁷ See https://www.minedu.gov.gr/publications/docs2017/16_06_17_Epistimoniki_Epitropi_Prosfygon_YPPETH_Apotimisi_Protaseis_2016_2017_Final.pdf

¹⁰⁸ Available at: <https://www.minedu.gov.gr/publications/docs2016/%CE%96%CE%95%CE%A0.pdf>

¹⁰⁹ See https://www.minedu.gov.gr/publications/docs2017/16_06_17_Epistimoniki_Epitropi_Prosfygon_YPPETH_Apotimisi_Protaseis_2016_2017_Final.pdf

¹¹⁰ See <http://www.firstreception.gov.gr/news-detail.php?id=45>

Regarding non-discrimination and relevant activity, legal or policy development and related actors that concern promotion, implementation and monitoring of non-discrimination policies¹¹¹, in particular on grounds of ethnicity, race or others that would be particularly relevant for third-country nationals, the following actions are included:

- National Action Plan on Gender Equality 2016-2020 (NAPGE): "The basic framework for equality policies between women and men in Greece is determined by the National Action Plan for Gender Equality (NAPGE) 2016-2020"¹¹², which was formulated by General Secretariat for Gender Equality (GSGE) through a process of exploring needs and consultation with women and male equality experts, representatives of civil society, academia, politics and public administration. The NAPGE is of national scope, taking into account the particular circumstances and needs that arose during the economic crisis. The strategic objectives set for the new period are as follows:
- The protection of women's human rights, with emphasis on vulnerable population groups and women migrant and refugee women,
- Preventing and tackling violence against women in family, work and society,
- Supporting the employment of women and removing the consequences of reducing male employment in gender identity and gender relations,
- Promoting equality in education, culture, the media and sport,
- The lifting of gender inequalities in health,
- The balanced participation of women in decision-making centers"¹¹³.

One of the axes of action of the planned National Strategy for the Integration of the Ministry for Migration Policy is "Fighting against Racism and Xenophobia". The aim of this particular axis is to raise public awareness regarding racist and xenophobic phenomena and to support the recording of such phenomena in order to design policies to combat them effectively. Key tools for implementing this policy are education, information and awareness, the existence of Independent Authorities as an intermediate administrative control of the Administration, organizations monitoring violations and monitoring of this policy (e.g. the Greek Ombudsman), the proper functioning of state agencies for the control of legality and respect for the rights of foreign workers (Labour Inspectorate Corps) and the punishment of the offenders of the relevant law (Law 4285/2014, 191, A').

Concerning the promotion of integration at local level and cooperation, consultation and coordination of local stakeholders, activities by national, regional and/or local governments on the integration of third-country nationals involving the active participation of local authorities and/or civil society, including activities addressing integration challenges in disadvantaged urban areas, the improvement of multi-level cooperation between different levels of governance (e.g. national, regional, local government) and granting voting rights in local elections etc. – one of the main pillars of action of the planned National Strategy for the Integration of the Ministry for Migration Policy is "Cooperation with the Local Self-Government Authorities". This axis is dealt with in specific measures and actions such as:

- Promotion of cooperation between central public administration and Local Self-Government Authorities (provision of the elaboration of an Integrated Action Plan for Integration by municipalities and creation of Network of Municipalities for Integration);
- Creation of a framework for mobilizing and ensuring the participation of the Local Self-Government Authorities in the integration (the creation of a regional mechanism for the distribution of the migrant population is suggested),
- Upgrade an extension of the programme regarding housing and financial assistance of applicants for international protection in apartments and
- Support and extension of the operation of Centers for Migrant Integration (KEM in Greek).

Regarding policies/measures aimed at raising awareness/engaging the receiving community within the (Member) State in order to enhance its understanding of the phenomenon of migration and thereby promote integration and social cohesion (information campaigns, websites, etc.), the International Organization for Migration (IOM) – Office in Greece implemented in Greece the awareness raising campaign against stereotypes, racism, xenophobia and discrimination, #StopMindBorders. The campaign was launched in cooperation with the Ministry for Migration Policy and the support of the Directorate-General (DG) Migration and Home Affairs of European Commission¹¹⁴.

The Ministry of Education, Research and Religious Affairs in cooperation with the General Directorate for Democracy, the Council of Europe¹¹⁵, the Hellenic National Academic Recognition Information Centre (NARIC) and the Centers for the Recognition of Qualifications (ENIC/NARIC) Norway, the United Kingdom and Italy produced the "Passport for Refugee Qualifications" pilot program in 2017. The main purpose of the program was to record the academic qualifications of refugees even when they cannot be adequately documented through an evaluation process which includes the completion of a questionnaire followed by an interview conducted by authorized assessors of the centers information on the recognition of qualifications from the participating countries. At present, this is not a formal act of recognition and does not give access to curricula or professions with specific requirements, such as highly regulated professions (physician, dentist, lawyer, engineer, etc.). During the pilot phase of the program in 2017, three evaluation rounds were held in Athens (6-10/03/2017, 12-16/06/2017, 25-29/09/2017) where 92 refugees were assessed as a whole, while 72 European refugee qualification passes were issued. The teams of the authorized assessors of Hellenic National Academic Recognition Information Centre and the ENIC/NARIC of Norway and UK, conducted the interviews in Arabic, Farsi, English, and other European languages to facilitate

¹¹¹ European non-discrimination law, as constituted by the EU non-discrimination directives (Racial Equality and Employment Equality Directive), and Article 14 of and Protocol 12 to the European Convention on Human Rights, prohibits discrimination across a range of contexts and a range of grounds.

¹¹² See <http://www.isotita.gr/ethniko-programma-drasis/>.

¹¹³ Ministry of Interior, General Secretariat for Gender Equality, Data provided by the National Rapporteur on Combating Trafficking in Human Beings to the Project Team on 13/02/2018.

¹¹⁴ <https://greece.iom.int/en/stopmindborders-campaign>

¹¹⁵ <http://goo.gl/bzkhsZ>

communication with the respondents. At the same time, remote interviews (via Skype) were carried out with the participation of both evaluators at the venue and evaluators at the ENIC / NARIC of Italy. In addition, during the interviews, the participants were informed by the evaluators of the free language courses (Greek and other languages) offered free of charge in the Attica region, of the current system of Higher Education in our country as well as the possibility for the official recognition of the academic qualifications of Hellenic National Academic Recognition Information Centre if they have the necessary official documents. Our ministry will participate in the next phase of the program that will last for three years (2018-2020). During the second phase, evaluations will take place in Greece, Italy and the Netherlands, while Germany, France, Armenia and Canada will participate in the program. In particular, a total of six rounds of evaluations will be held in Greece, two for each of the next 3 years. The 2018 intention is to have a circle in Athens in June and a circle in Thessaloniki in September. In addition, for the next phase, it is planned to set up an electronic platform where all relevant documents will be stored and accessible to all refugees holding the European Qualifications Passport wherever they are.

The Municipality of Athens implemented important projects: (i) Athens Coordination Center for Migrant and Refugee issues (ACCMR) (June 2017)¹¹⁶: Since the beginning of 2015, with Greece's unprecedented number of migrant and refugee arrivals fleeing conflict, the City of Athens has increasingly adopted a proactive approach towards developing strategies to address the needs of these vulnerable populations. In this context, the City of Athens undertook the initiative to establish the Athens Coordination Center for Migrant and Refugee issues (ACCMR). The initiative aims at the efficient coordination between the municipal authorities and stakeholders operating within the city, such as national and international NGOs, international organizations, and migrant and refugee community groups. Its goal is to shape the necessary conditions for the smooth integration of migrants and refugees currently living in the city of Athens, but also for dealing with emergency situations linked with future migration flows. The ACCMR was established and has been operating since June 2017 with an exclusive grant from Stavros Niarchos Foundation under the "Migration and Refugees Coordination Center & Observatory" project and with the support of Athens Partnership which manages the implementation of the project. ACCMR operates within the framework of the Vice – Mayor's Office for Migrants and Refugees. (ii) Housing for Asylum Seekers¹¹⁷ (2017) part of the ESTIA (Emergency Support to Integration and Accommodation, which is implemented by the United Nations Higher Commission for Refugees (UNHCR)). UNHCR, among other important actions, works with the Greek Government, local authorities and NGOs to provide urban accommodation and cash assistance to refugees and asylum-seekers in Greece through ESTIA¹¹⁸, the Emergency Support to Integration and Accommodation programme, funded by the European Union Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid. Regarding healthcare, the project "CARE – Common Approach for Refugees and other migrants' health"¹¹⁹, which has received funding from the European Union's Health Programme (2014-2020), aimed to promote a better understanding of refugees and migrants' health condition as well as to support the adaptation of the appropriate clinical attitude towards refugees and migrants' health needs and in particular towards the health needs of fragile subgroups, such as minors, pregnant women and victims of violence.

¹¹⁶ See: <https://www.accmr.gr/el/%CF%84%CE%BF-%CE%BA%CE%AD%CE%BD%CF%84%CF%81%CE%BF-%CF%83%CF%85%CE%BD%CF%84%CE%BF%CE%BD%CE%B9%CF%83%CE%BC%CE%BF%CF%8D.html> and <https://www.facebook.com/ACCMR.gr/>

¹¹⁷ <http://www.developathens.gr/relocation>

¹¹⁸ <http://estia.unhcr.gr/en/home/> Regarding housing see also the HOME Project <http://www.homeproject.org> and the "Home for Hope" programme by SolidarityNow (<https://www.solidaritynow.org/en/home-for-hope/> and http://www.solidaritynow.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/10/%CE%91CCOMMODATION_ENG.pdf).

¹¹⁹ <http://careformigrants.eu/the-project/> See also the programmes implemented by PRAKSIS

<https://www.praxis.gr/en/%CF%80%CF%81%CE%BF%CE%B3%CF%81%CE%AC%CE%BC%CE%B1%CF%84%CE%B1%CF%80%CE%B1%CF%81%CE%B5%CE%BC%CE%B2%CE%AC%CF%83%CE%B5%CE%B9%CF%82-%CE%B3%CE%B9%CE%B1-%CF%84%CE%BF-%CF%80%CF%81%CE%BF%CF%83%CF%86%CF%85%CE%B3%CE%B9%CE%BA%CF%8C> Regarding education see also the programme "The Learning for Integration Project: Quality Learning and Non-Formal Education for Refugees and Migrant Children in Greece" <http://www.elix.org.gr/index.php/en/training-en/eu-project-reports-en/1551-report-jan-feb-elix-unicef-learning-4-integration-project-en>

7. IRREGULAR MIGRATION

Regarding policies/measures in relation to border control measures/management at the external borders implemented during 2017, in order to prevent and tackle irregular migration more effectively (see also Section 2), the implementation of the national enterprise under the code name ASPIDA continued in the area of Evros and the islands of the eastern Aegean Sea. Under this organization, police officers and technical means of the designated areas are provided with assistance from other police services. In addition to the aforementioned national operational action implemented by Greece, Frontex has been active in recent years in the areas of Joint Operation (JO), risk analysis and return procedures. Greece, as one of the main gateways for the entry of migratory flows into the territory of the EU, has been actively implementing Joint Ventures coordinated by the European Border Guard and Coast Guard (FRONTEx), involving the Member States of the EU, with sufficient personnel and technical equipment. The reported operational actions implemented in 2017 are as follows: Land Borders Sector: JO Flexible Operational Activities 2017 Land on Border Surveillance, JO Focal Points 2017 Land (statutory audits), Maritime Borders Sector: JO Poseidon 2017 (under the Joint Operation, police officers transferred to Lesbos, Chios, Samos, Kos and Leros (Hot-Spots) were funded by Frontex for coastal surveillance, registration, nationality identification, debriefing, guarding of facilities, maintaining order and security), Air Borders Sector: Joint Operations Focal Points Air 2017-Intermediate Managers, Joint Operations Focal Points Air 2017-Regular Officers, Joint Operation Pegasus 2017.

In addition, special attention was paid to the training of police officers from Border Guard Services and Passport Control Services to more effectively manage mixed migratory flows. In this context, training has been conducted on border surveillance and border controls, the screening process, the debriefing process, as well as risk analysis. In the framework of the implementation of the National Programme of Greece, for the reinforcement of the resources of the Internal Security Fund - Border and Visa, procedures were launched for the implementation of actions related to the control of the country's external land and river borders and the management of mixed migratory flows. In particular, the following measures were taken: Extension of the automated surveillance system to the border crossing of the Greek-Turkish border in the Evros area and interconnection of the Regional Centers for Integrated Border Management and Migration. Support was given to police services with police personnel (operation ASPIDA) at the Hellenic Police Directorates (PD) located in the area of Evros (PD of Orestiada and Alexandroupolis) (Greek-Turkish land and river borders) and the East Aegean islands (PD of Lesbos, Chios, Samos and the B' Dodecanese) with the aim of enhancing their operational capacity - ready for more effective control of the country's external borders and more efficient management of incoming mixed migratory flows. The support included the following: supply and maintenance of three (03) mobile scanning units to identify any hidden irregular immigrants; supply of twenty-one (21) mobile devices for the detection of heartbeats and their vehicles; supply of seven (07) CCTV camera systems; training of Hellenic Police personnel on integrated management of external borders; supply of Hellenic Police Vehicles to meet the operational needs of the Services responsible for the control of the country's external borders and the management of migratory flows; supply of other technological equipment (thermal imaging systems, full page readers, magnifying glasses, etc.); and supply and maintenance of twenty-six (26) vehicle tag readers passing through statutory entry-exit points. In addition, the EU-Turkey Joint Statement of March 2016 aims to end the uncontrolled influx of immigrants into the Aegean islands. It also provides opportunities for legal refugees to enter Europe. As a result, the number of refugees and immigrants coming from Turkey is significantly reduced. From the record of 10,000 arrivals in a single day in October 2015, the average arrivals in Greece has fallen from March 2016 to less than 74 per day. The EU and Turkey have agreed that irregular immigrants arriving from Turkey on the Greek islands who do not seek asylum or who have not been admitted may be returned to Turkey¹²⁰. For every Syrian returning to Turkey from the Greek islands after illegal transit, the EU will receive a Syrian from Turkey who did not seek to make this trip illegally¹²¹. Under this provision, 7.807 Syrian refugees from Turkey were resettled in the EU by 21 July 2017¹²². Also, with the Ministerial Decision No 8038/23/22-xe' (65) Government Gazette B' 322 07/02/2017 on: "Establishment of a Pre-Departure Center in Kos". The Pre-Departure Center operates at the as a Service of the Hellenic Police, at Police Station level and is administratively assigned to the B' Police Directorate of the Dodecanese. For the other issues concerning the operation of the Pre-Departure Center, are applied proportionally the provisions of the Joint Ministerial Decision (B' 118) no. 8038/23/22-ic' (13) from 20/01/2015.

In addition, policies/measures to ensure more effective control of the external borders, such as reinforcing border control staff, providing training, increasing overall resources, introducing action plans or protocols, etc., include the following actions: (a) Strengthening human resources at border crossing points, where required (particularly in the summer months when traffic increases). (b) Continuous training of police personnel (on passport control, fake travel documents, security checks, etc.). (c) Joint controls - actions with collaborating Authorities at the border checkpoints (cooperation with the Hellenic Accreditation Council, customs authorities, Memorandum of Cooperation with Customs). (d) Use of technical equipment for conducting tests (e.g. heart rate sensors, carbon dioxide devices, UV magnifiers, fingerprint scanners, etc.).

¹²⁰ <http://publications.europa.eu/webpub/com/factsheets/migration-crisis/el/>

¹²¹ <http://publications.europa.eu/webpub/com/factsheets/migration-crisis/el/>

¹²² <http://publications.europa.eu/webpub/com/factsheets/migration-crisis/el/>

Regarding policies/measures introduced to prevent irregular migration as a result of visa liberalization, in-depth and continuous checks to verify whether the conditions for entry to the border control stations are met, third-country nationals whose countries have been admitted to the EU visa liberalization regime. Concerning policies/measures to prevent, identify and/or investigate fraudulent acquisition and use of false travel documents, checks on travel documents using various methods and technological equipment are conducted, from suitably trained personnel who are members of the Passport Control Services. In addition, regular and targeted training of police officers are conducted, especially those serving at the country's legal entry/exit points, in counterfeit documents. In 2017, training in the detection of false documents by the Foreign Ministry staff at the Diplomatic Academy (5 days) was implemented: 3 Seminars 35 individuals/May 2017, 14 individuals/October 2017, 8 individuals/November 2017. Also, 1 in situ training at the Consular Authority of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Tehran, 15 people, in 2017. Regarding policies/measures aimed at preventing and combatting facilitation of irregular migration (smuggling), including facilitation of unauthorised entry and prevention of irregular stay, an emergency relocation programme was set up in 2015 and EU Member States pledged to relocate people from Greece and Italy to other EU countries. By 21 July 2017, more than 24.000 people had relocated - 16.774 from Greece and 2.675 from Italy - in the 24 participating countries. Member States should be able to relocate all eligible persons by the end of 2017. The EU also wants to create safe and legal paths for entry into the EU for asylum seekers and refugees so that they do not have to risk their lives by resorting to illegal trafficking and human trafficking channels. The voluntary resettlement scheme agreed by the Member States provides for the transfer of 22.500 people from non-EU countries. By July 2017, some 16.500 people had resettled to 21 resettlement states¹²³. Specific cooperation activities developed in 2017 with third countries. To prevent irregular migration, the following are noted:

Turkey: Cooperation with the Turkish Police Authorities to tackle irregular migration to Greece is in part satisfactory, but this does not mean that there is not much room for improvement. Establishing contact points at the operational level has contributed to the wider effort to prevent irregular migration in Greece. Regular meetings at central and regional level have helped to create an early warning mechanism through the exchange of information on a 24-hour basis. Also, holding regular meetings between the Police Chiefs of the Alexandroupolis and Orestiada Police Directorates with their counterparts on the Turkish side has helped to establish a climate of cooperation and trust between the two countries. In addition, the "Regional Cooperation on Border Management between Greece, Turkey and Bulgaria" programme continues successfully, whose overall aim is to enhance border security and strengthen the cooperation of the three countries and which will be completed in 2020. Albania: Meetings are taking place between the Police Chiefs of the two countries to examine and agree on measures to achieve the necessary level of security. Regular meetings are held at local and regional level between the Police Authorities of the two countries to tackle irregular migration and combat cross-border crime. Contemporary operations are being carried out at points of common land borders of Greece, which require increased surveillance to address criminal activities, including irregular migration. Albanian Police staff are available (as observers) to the Hellenic Police's Passport Control Services at the border with the aim of identifying Albanian irregular migrants attempting passage using mainly fake travel documents. FYROM: Meetings have taken place between the Police Chiefs of the two countries with a view to considering and agreeing on measures to establish the necessary level of security. Efforts are under way to establish a mechanism for systematic cooperation of Greece with the competent authorities of the FYROM at the operational and local level to exchange information to address irregular migration issues and, in particular, secondary flows and cross-border crime. At the strategic level, possible ways of promoting this cooperation are considered, which, after being determined and after consultation at internal level, will be forwarded to the competent authorities of FYROM for opinion-comments.

¹²³ <http://publications.europa.eu/webpub/com/factsheets/migration-crisis/el/>

8. RETURN

Regarding the enhancement of return migration management, including cooperation among EU Member States on return practices (see also Section 2), the Return Implementation Framework of the Frontex (including Joint Return Operations (JTOs)), and The European Border and Coastguard Agency – FRONTEX supports the Member-States and particularly Greece in the field of Border Management and Security, as well as in the field of returns, with technical equipment (thermal cameras, telescopes, etc.) (National Actions, Joint European Return and Readmission Actions), organizing relevant training and working groups for the staff involved (Chiefs of guards/escorts, Police escorts Observers), exchange of experience and training for safer operations, and supporting Greece with trained staff of other Member-States specialists belonging to the Agency's tank (such as guards for readmission actions) due to increased needs from operations. In relation to maximising the potential of a common EU approach in the field of return, both voluntary and forced, in compliance with existing EU acquis the European Commission and in the framework of the support of the Member-States in the area of Management of Migration Flows, and in particular in the return procedures for irregular third-country nationals, the issuance of no. 2008/115/EC Return Directive has occurred, which has been incorporated into the national law (Law 3907/2011). In 2015, the European Commission adopted an Action Plan to support the return of Member-States, which included a series of actions aimed at improving voluntary returns, more effectively implementing European legislation and amending national legislation, widening the exchange strengthening the role of the FRONTEX Agency, setting up an electronic platform for information exchange and use of its capabilities, increasing the focus on the implementation of existing Readmission Agreements, highlighting youth and Dialogue, and creating incentives and pressure levers for cooperation and fulfillment of obligations by third countries.

Some of these actions were either not implemented by 2017 or were not achieving the expected efficiency, and therefore the European Commission has launched a revised Draft (6943/17) - Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament and the Council on A Return Renewed Action Plan on returns, which complements the Plan drawn up in 2015, and includes measures to be implemented by the Commission, the FRONTEX-European Border Guard, Coast Guard Agency, and the Member-States to help increase returns. In particular, the revised Action Plan addresses the fullest application of the Returns Directive, the treatment of abuses related to asylum procedures, improved exchange of information on returns, the strengthening of cooperation between the various competent bodies for returns, voluntary returns and reintegration, use of the capabilities of the IRMA electronic platform, better use of the upgraded FRONTEX Agency and the available European funding—financing, and hardship that have to do with the proper implementation of readmission agreements. The revised Action Plan strengthens the joint effort made by the Member State to cope with the particularly high demands of the modern immigration issue and complements the proposed actions in line with the latest facts and experiences at European level. Starting with the pursuit of fuller, more vigorous and flexible implementation of the Return Directive, the European Commission has issued a Recommendation detailing the points that the Member-States will need to implement to achieve this objective (provided that have not been implemented to date). The majority of these points are already provided for in the national legislation and are strictly enforced by the competent authorities, with a special emphasis on the need for targeted detention to avoid the risk of escaping third country nationals by widening the circumstances that may lead to this.

The revised Action Plan has also focused on addressing the current abuse of the system of access to international protection by making better use of existing legislation, which is also related to discussions at European level on the creation of a Common European Asylum System and facilitates both faster completion of existing/future applications and increased returns. It is noteworthy that Greece should make efforts to link the asylum claims process to returns (such as the return decision in the event of final rejection cases). In addition, improved coordination and cooperation on returns between the European Commission and the Member-States and the various actors involved at national level, as well as the exchange of information, best practice, and statistics, contributes significantly to increasing the capacity of the Member-States to make effective returns, improve the quality of approaches, and to draw useful conclusions for modifying the existing strategy. Greater impetus is given through the new European Commission's Integrated Return Management Platform (IRMA), which will electronically and securely contain all return-related information with capabilities for upgrading and facilitating Member-States in various sectors, such as the exchange of information with third countries. Emphasis is also placed on areas of particular importance for Member-States' returns, such as voluntary returns and reintegration packages, and the need for wider action by the FRONTEX Agency and the use of its greatest potential. It is of course not forgotten the importance of providing funds through the European Asylum, Immigration and Inclusion Fund (AMIF) to the Member-States for returns in the Plan; above all the possibility of increasing this funding to support actions and new ventures involving returns, showing the European Commission once again that the immigration issue is at the top of its policy agenda. The Readmission Agreements could not be absent from the revised Action Plan, as the constant aim of the European Commission, the other Member-States, and Greece is to constantly monitor the proper implementation of existing Agreements and to sign new ones, so as to increase the speed of issuance of travel documents, to increase number of these, to increase returns, and to support the existence of a single procedure for the steps required by the requesting Member-State to issue the necessary travel documents.

All the above-mentioned actions foreseen in the revised Action Plan have their own necessity, focus on separate areas that require improvement or an increase of collective efficiency, and contribute globally to Europe's adaptation to the requirements of the modern migration issue.

Concerning policies/measures to develop swift, sustainable and effective return, regarding the procedures for the return of irregularities of foreign nationals, Greece applies the European Directive no. 2008/115/EC on Returns, which has been incorporated into the national law of Greece (Law 3907/2011). There are no new policies in this area, except for the revised return plan, which Greece applies at all levels. On the side of Greece, efforts are being made to continuously improve relations with the Diplomatic Authorities of Third Countries with which readmission agreements have been concluded with the EU.

In relation to policies/measures with regard to issuing return decisions, all Return Decisions are issued within the framework of the aforementioned Law and the European Directive. Concerning policies/measures with regard to issuing entry bans, the issue of the Return Decision, if it is executed, allows the details of the third country national concerned to be recorded in the National Evidence List as well as in the Schengen SIS II System, imposing the Administrative Measures of the Ban on Entry into Greece and more generally in the Schengen countries. Regarding (assisted) voluntary returns, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) is responsible for implementing programmes for voluntary/assisted returns. The International Organization for Migration (IOM) - the Hellenic Office is the competent agency for the implementation of an Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration Programme (AVRR), which has helped more than 35,000 third country nationals to return safely¹²⁴ to their country of origin since 2010. IOM's AVRR programme includes the economic and social reintegration of returnees and the co-operation of all interested parties in the return / host countries. The return decision in the country of origin is voluntary and is based on the request of every citizen. "IOM reintegration assistance is provided under the European Union (EU) and Greek government programme supported by the Greek Government, the implementation of assisted voluntary returns, which includes the AVRR¹²⁵ and is funded by the EU Migration and Integration Fund for Asylum as well as the Ministry of the Interior¹²⁶". The IOM programmes have been taking place for four decades, helping tens of thousands of people return to their home country. It is indicative that only in the last decade IOM has helped more than 400,000 migrants return to their homeland with security and dignity. At the same time, their economic and social reintegration is supported, and co-operation and networking between competent actors in the countries of origin and host countries is promoted. The return decision is 100% voluntary and takes place at the request of the immigrant. The programmes are based on the principles of free choice and correct and timely information. According to the International Migration Organization, reintegration is the process of smoothly re-integrating a person into a group, in this case an immigrant, in his country. In other words, it is a process that enables the benefactor to create conditions of sustainability and to participate again in the social, economic, political and cultural life of his country. Beneficiaries of reintegration assistance receive information and advice from qualified staff and cultural mediators to implement personalized reintegration plans based on their needs. Reintegration plans are being implemented in cooperation with IOM offices in return countries that benefit returnees, local communities and host countries. Voluntary return and reintegration programmes are targeted at third-country nationals who do not have the legal formalities to remain in Greece or do not wish to remain, asylum seekers who have withdrawn their application for international protection, and asylum seekers whose request has been rejected. Special care is taken for migrants belonging to vulnerable groups, such as trafficking victims, unaccompanied minors, single parent families, people in need of medical care, etc. Why one returns to his homeland: The escalation of migratory flows, especially in recent years due to geopolitical developments, has rampantly increased the number of people trapped in Greece in their endeavor to cross the border and go to another European country. It is characteristic that 85% of the countries that carry out voluntary return and reintegration programmes are in Europe. The process includes pre-departure information and advice, support for collecting the necessary documents (e.g. travel documents), assistance in the ticket-finding process, escort at the airport, and assistance to the stopover and final destination in cooperation with IOM Offices at countries. IOM's office in Greece plays an important role in the Global Map of Voluntary Return and Reintegration programmes. Since 2010, it has helped more than 35,000 third-country nationals return home with security and dignity. At the same time, it has supported over 3,500 returnees to implement personalized reintegration plans and to create conditions of sustainability for themselves and their families¹²⁷. The return of migrants via the IOM from 2010 to 8 February 2018 are summarized as: Total number: 41.145¹²⁸. Moreover, the return of migrants from June 2016 to February 8, 2018 are summarized as: Total number: 9.551¹²⁹.

¹²⁴ Available at: <https://greece.iom.int/el/%CF%80%CF%81%CE%BF%CE%B3%CF%81%CE%AC%CE%BC%CE%B1%CF%84%CE%B1%CE%B5%CE%B8%CE%B5%CE%BB%CE%BF%CE%BD%CF%84%CE%B9%CE%BA%CE%AE%CF%82-%CE%B5%CF%80%CE%B9%CF%83%CF%84%CF%81%CE%BF%CF%86%CE%AE%CF%82-%CE%B5%CF%80%CE%B1%CE%BD%CE%AD%CE%BD%CF%84%CE%B1%CE%BE%CE%B7%CF%82-avrr>

See <https://greece.iom.int/worldmap> and http://greece.iom.int/sites/default/files/AVRR%20Annual%20Report%20YEAR%201%20-%20RT.1243%20%28GR%29_0.pdf
¹²⁵ See and: Grizis, V., Tsinisizelis, M., Fouskas, T., Karatrantos, A. and Mine F. (2015b) *European Migration Network Focused Study: Dissemination of Information on Voluntary Return: How to Reach Irregular Migrants not in Contact with the Authorities*. EMN Focused Study 2015. Athens: Center for Security Studies/Hellenic Ministry of Interior and Administrative Reconstruction. Brussels: European Migration Network/European Commission, <http://goo.gl/b3KI7L>

¹²⁶ Assisted Voluntary Return Programs (AVRR): <https://goo.gl/YThgJA>

¹²⁷ Available at: <https://greece.iom.int/worldmap>

¹²⁸ Available at: <https://greece.iom.int/worldmap>

¹²⁹ Available at: <https://greece.iom.int/worldmap>

Concerning the use of detention and alternatives to detention in return procedures, in order to apply the return procedures, irregular third-country nationals are subject to the detention procedure, which is 6 months and can be extended for another 12 months (a total of 18 months). Greece has so far eight (8) Pre-Departure Detention Centers (PRO.KE.KA.), while two more (2) are planned in the islands of Samos and Chios. Alternative measures for detention are either: a) the restriction of the foreigners' stay in a particular geographical area (e.g. in the eastern Aegean islands); or b) the possibility of being regularly presented to the police station by stating his presence. In relation to recording entry bans in the SIS and facilitating the exchange of information on entry bans.¹³⁰ with the no. 4000/4/32-la' (31) of 2012 as well as the no. 4000/4/32-n' of 2017, Joint Ministerial Decisions refer to all criteria for inclusion in the National Evidence List and in the Schengen SIS II.

Concerning policies/measures with regard to the operation of the national forced return monitoring system (established in accordance with Article 8 (6) of the Return Directive¹³¹ to date, there is within the Police System the Mapping system, which contains data from the logging of all irregular incoming third country nationals. Studies are being carried out to extend the System, including all stages (illegal entry, arrest, request for asylum, course of the request, relevant documents of the third country national, relevant decisions issued, time and place of detention, and date and date way of return).

In order to ensure swift, sustainable and effective return, and to respond to the European Return Directive in adherence to the Revised Plan for more efficient returns, Greece has launched financial competitions concerning (a) chartering aircraft, (b) issuing tickets for the return of irregular foreigners by charter flights, (c) the possibility of expanding and increasing the capacity of the Pre-Departure Detention Centers (PRO.KE.KA.), (d) the creation of new Pre-Departure Detention Centers (PRO.KE.KA. in Greek) in the Samos and Chios Islands, (e) the creation of a Pre-Removal Center at Athens International Airport "Eleftherios Venizelos".

Concerning policies/measures regarding the return of rejected asylum applicants (including measures in relation to reception measures and supports, (alternatives) to detention, etc.): Please specify if there are any specific measures for unaccompanied minors and other vulnerable groups¹³², and if the same return procedure applies to other irregular third country nationals. As far as unaccompanied minors are concerned, they are sent after a public prosecutor's order and the care of the National Center of Social Solidarity (EKKA) to accommodation facilities appropriately designed for their stay. It is reported that for this particular vulnerable group, initially with their arrest, a return decision is issued, which is then revoked in order to be transferred to the above-formed structures. The Reception and Identification Service of the Ministry for Migration Policy is responsible for the management and referral of this vulnerable group. For the other vulnerable groups (e.g. families, the elderly) a return decision is issued initially with their arrest, and is then suspended for a period of 6 months with the right to renew and lead to open structures in the hinterland. For the management of open structures, the Reception and Identification Service of the Ministry for Migration Policy is responsible.

¹³⁰ This category of measure relates to the commitments of the Stockholm Programme specifically.

¹³¹ Directive 2008/115/EC.

¹³² This group includes minors, disabled people, elderly people, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex (LGBTI) people, pregnant women, single parents with minor children, persons with serious illnesses, persons with mental disorders and persons who have been subjected to torture, rape or other serious forms of psychological, physical or sexual violence, such as victims of female genital mutilation.

Regarding the return of irregular migrants and in relation to policies/measures to ensure the accelerated and swift return of persons overstaying permissions to stay or otherwise misusing legal migration channels and specific measures for unaccompanied minors and other vulnerable groups, there are no cases of new policies in accelerating the return process. The same procedure as mentioned above is applied. In relation to the effectiveness of the above-mentioned measures in ensuring return, specific actions are reported that lead to the effectiveness of return measures:

- Increase of capacity and creation of new Pre-Departure Detention Centers (PRO.KE.KA. in Greek).
- Rapid examination of asylum requests
- Organization and participation of return enterprises (National, Social European) and Readmission Enterprises
- Co-operation with the Member States, the European Commission and the European Agencies
- Improving relations with Third Country Embassies to facilitate travel identification and issuance procedures
- Organization of Identification Missions to speed up the identification and issuance of travel documents
- Implementation of existing EU Readmission Agreements between the EU and Third Countries and the Bilateral Agreements.

Regarding activities undertaken to ensure implementation of all EU readmission agreements to their full effect (implementing protocols, cooperation (including diplomatic pressure) with third countries to encourage implementation) see table below:

| EU Readmission agreement (country) | National development (i.e. implementing protocol, cooperation) | Date of agreement (if relevant) |
|---|---|--|
| Hong Kong | Drafting of the Implementation Protocol is pending. | 27 November 2002 |
| Macao | Drafting of the Implementation Protocol is pending. | 13 October 2003 |
| Sri Lanka | Drafting of the Implementation Protocol is pending. | 4 June 2004 |
| Albania | Drafting of the Implementation Protocol is pending. | 14 April 2005 |
| Russia | Signature of the Protocol of Implementation on 18/12/2012. (L.4466, Official Gazette A' 55/12/04/2017) | 25 May 2006 |
| Ukraine | Drafting of the Implementation Protocol is pending. | 18 June 2007 |
| Skopje - FYROM | Drafting of the Implementation Protocol is pending. | 18 September 2007 |
| Bosnia and Herzegovina | Signature of the Protocol of Implementation on 24/11/2015. Pending inclusion in the Government Gazette. | 18 September 2007 |
| Montenegro | A protocol has been sent on 23/02/2018 through Ministry of Foreign Affairs | 18 September 2007 |
| Serbia | Signature of the Protocol of Implementation on 11/09/2013. Pending inclusion in the Government Gazette. | 18 September 2007 |
| Moldavia | Signature of the Protocol of Implementation on 28/03/2014. Pending inclusion in the Government Gazette. | 10 October 2007 |
| Pakistan | In order to improve the cooperation with the Pakistani authorities and to save time required for the signing of a bilateral Implementing Protocol, the EU-Pakistan Agreement is implemented directly by Greece, in parallel with the procedure for identifying and supplying travel documents that are made through the Attica TCNs Directorate, as the competent Existing Office, with the Embassy of Pakistan here. | 26 October 2009 |
| Georgia | A final version of an Implementation Protocol draft has been sent to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs/A5 on 26-09-2014 and a response is expected. | 22 November 2010 |
| Armenia | Drafting of the Implementation Protocol is pending. | 19 April 2013 |
| Azerbaijan | Drafting of the Implementation Protocol is pending. | 12-13 March 2013 |
| Turkey | Drafting of the Implementation Protocol is pending. | 16 December 2013 |
| Cape Verde | Drafting of the Implementation Protocol is pending. | 18 April 2013 |

Source: Migration Management Division of the Hellenic Police Headquarters, 2018

Regarding measures to support reintegration, these may include developing a rights-based framework for re-integration and for temporary and circular migration. In relation to reintegration activities, The International Organization for Migration (IOM) – Office in Greece cooperates with the IOM Missions in return countries for the preparation, implementation and monitoring of Reintegration Plans in the countries of return of third country nationals. Assistance regarding Reintegration reaches the average cost of 1.500 euros depending on the type of assistance provided, its duration, and it is assistance in kind. Reintegration Plans, depending on each case, and in particular the socio-economic characteristics, special needs, qualifications and capabilities of each beneficiary, (either wholly or in combination, where appropriate) consist of types of assistance that may be included in one of the following main categories:

- Assistance to start an independent economic activity (e.g. to set-up a small individual business);
- Job search and job placement assistance (e.g. finding and selecting an employer or business, subsidizing an employer or business to offer a job by covering part or all of the total remuneration of the employed national, etc.);
- Assistance for participation of a national in actions or vocational training programmes;
- Assistance to participate in training programmes;
- Assistance in providing specialized counseling and support services;
- Assistance to facilitate the resettlement of a national to his final destination, which may cover the costs of purchasing, repairing or transporting household and household furniture from Greece, covering the cost of repair of the living dwelling and purchasing goods to meet the national's basic needs.
- Assistance to meet special needs in the cases of nationals belonging to vulnerable groups such as individuals with disabilities, individuals with chronic health problems, victims of human trafficking and others.

In the year 2017, under the programme: "Implementation of Assisted Voluntary Returns including reintegration measures" (AVRR), implemented by International Organization for Migration (IOM) – Office in Greece with 75% funding from Europeans Funds (AMIF) and 25% National Resources and the "Open Centre for Migrants Registered for Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration (OCAVRR)"¹³³ programme co-funded by the European Return Fund and the Ministry for Migration Policy, in total 1.925 returnees (1.907 and 18 respectively) have received reintegration assistance in kind in their countries of origin such as Pakistan, Afghanistan, Georgia, Iraq, Iran, Morocco, India, Bangladesh, Egypt, etc.

Between June 2016 and February 2018, 2.411 beneficiaries received reintegration assistance in kind and 623 beneficiaries received reintegration assistance in cash in 27 countries of origin¹³⁴. From June 2016 until February 2018 have realized: 4.932 referrals by registration unit, 4.504 reintegration counselling interviews and 3.034 approved reintegration plans in Country of Origin¹³⁵. In February 2018, 42 returnees (25 male and 17 female) were benefited from reintegration assistance in kind¹³⁶. The vast majority of them were nationals of Pakistan, Georgia, Iraq and Iran¹³⁷. The most preferred reintegration activities were: dairy farms, mini markets and construction services¹³⁸.

In February 2018, IOM Mission of Greece conducted a monitoring visit in Morocco, specifically in the cities and wider areas of Marrakesh, El Kelaa des Sraghna and Casablanca with the aim to evaluate the progress of implemented reintegration plans of the beneficiaries who were assisted by the IOM AVRR Reintegration Program¹³⁹. IOM staff visited Fadil Mokhlis, at his butcher shop in Marrakech¹⁴⁰. As the beneficiary had 9 years of experience as a butcher before migration, he requested to use IOMs' assistance in order to start his own butcher shop¹⁴¹. In total, he spent 6.000 EUR to start his business, including IOM funds and a loan that he managed to get from a friend¹⁴². His current monthly income is 1.000 MAD¹⁴³. During on site visit it was noticed that his shop was very neat and clean, and he stated that he obtained a sanitary license from the relevant administrative commune¹⁴⁴. His business is doing relatively well, as there are no similar shops in the area¹⁴⁵. It is worth noting that during the on-site visit a considerable number of customers visited the shop¹⁴⁶. Natia decided to return to Georgia after spending 7.5 years in Greece as she found it difficult to get a job¹⁴⁷. Thanks to IOM Reintegration assistance, Natia started a beekeeping business¹⁴⁸. She produces honey that she sells to the local market and can now look to the future with optimism¹⁴⁹. Reintegration is a process that enables the migrant returnee to once again participate in the social, cultural, economic and political life of his/her country of origin¹⁵⁰.

¹³³ <https://greece.iom.int/en/open-centre-migrants-registered-assisted-voluntary-return-reintegration-ocavrr>

¹³⁴ https://greece.iom.int/sites/default/files/MONTHLY%20NEWSLETTER%20REINTEGRATION_FEB%202018.pdf

¹³⁵ https://greece.iom.int/sites/default/files/MONTHLY%20NEWSLETTER%20REINTEGRATION_FEB%202018.pdf

¹³⁶ https://greece.iom.int/sites/default/files/MONTHLY%20NEWSLETTER%20REINTEGRATION_FEB%202018.pdf

¹³⁷ https://greece.iom.int/sites/default/files/MONTHLY%20NEWSLETTER%20REINTEGRATION_FEB%202018.pdf

¹³⁸ https://greece.iom.int/sites/default/files/MONTHLY%20NEWSLETTER%20REINTEGRATION_FEB%202018.pdf

¹³⁹ https://greece.iom.int/sites/default/files/MONTHLY%20NEWSLETTER%20REINTEGRATION_FEB%202018.pdf

¹⁴⁰ https://greece.iom.int/sites/default/files/MONTHLY%20NEWSLETTER%20REINTEGRATION_FEB%202018.pdf

¹⁴¹ https://greece.iom.int/sites/default/files/MONTHLY%20NEWSLETTER%20REINTEGRATION_FEB%202018.pdf

¹⁴² https://greece.iom.int/sites/default/files/MONTHLY%20NEWSLETTER%20REINTEGRATION_FEB%202018.pdf

¹⁴³ https://greece.iom.int/sites/default/files/MONTHLY%20NEWSLETTER%20REINTEGRATION_FEB%202018.pdf

¹⁴⁴ https://greece.iom.int/sites/default/files/MONTHLY%20NEWSLETTER%20REINTEGRATION_FEB%202018.pdf

¹⁴⁵ https://greece.iom.int/sites/default/files/MONTHLY%20NEWSLETTER%20REINTEGRATION_FEB%202018.pdf

¹⁴⁶ https://greece.iom.int/sites/default/files/MONTHLY%20NEWSLETTER%20REINTEGRATION_FEB%202018.pdf

¹⁴⁷ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JablgOuvqoY>

¹⁴⁸ https://greece.iom.int/sites/default/files/MONTHLY%20NEWSLETTER%20REINTEGRATION_FEB%202018.pdf

¹⁴⁹ https://greece.iom.int/sites/default/files/MONTHLY%20NEWSLETTER%20REINTEGRATION_FEB%202018.pdf

¹⁵⁰ https://greece.iom.int/sites/default/files/MONTHLY%20NEWSLETTER%20REINTEGRATION_FEB%202018.pdf

Figure 1: The implementation of assisted voluntary returns including reintegration measures (AVRR) IOM-Office in Greece (June 2016-February 2018)



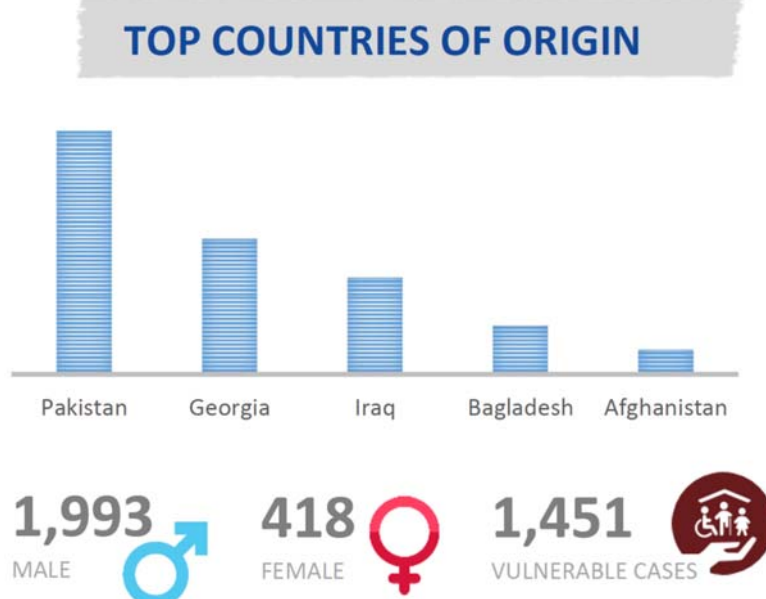
Source: International Organization for Migration – Office in Greece, 2018

Figure 2: Types of assistance in kind



Source: International Organization for Migration – Office in Greece, 2018

Figure 3: Top countries of origin, gender and vulnerable cases



Source: International Organization for Migration – Office in Greece, 2018

Picture 1: Monitoring visit in Morocco (13-16 February 2018): Fadil Mokhlis at his butcher shop in Marrakesh



Source: International Organization for Migration – Office in Greece, 2018

9. ACTIONS ADDRESSING TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS

Regarding national strategic developments policies/measures on the prevention and/or the fight against trafficking in human beings^{151, 152} of third-country nationals (e.g. national action plans or national strategies) introduced during 2017 (see also Section 2), the year is characterized by significant developments at national level. In 2017, Law 4478/2017¹⁵³ was passed and entered into force, which defines the minimum number of services that the state must provide to victims of criminal activities (including victims of human trafficking)¹⁵⁴. Other development in the Greek State's efforts against Trafficking in Human Beings (THB) are aligned with recommendations of GRETA report (2017)¹⁵⁵: (i) A new bill on the themes of guardianship and foster care is under consideration and will soon be voted on (in 2018). (ii) The SOPs of NRM have been set up and the latter will be implemented soon (in 2018). (iii) Specialized training for labor inspectors and health professionals is planned in the first half of 2018. (iv) The so-called "Vulnerability Assessment" of potential victims, which is a unified victim identification process, has been developed and will be implemented in all Reception and Identification Centers of third-country nationals. This vulnerability assessment includes indicators for detecting victimization (THB) between migrants and asylum seekers¹⁵⁶. (v) In addition, a 3-year office appointment in response to the commitment as a Member State is established, and emphasis has been given in the National strategy within the EU. (vi) The 3 pillars of the 2011/36/EU Directive¹⁵⁷ are: Prevention-Protection-Suppression. (vii) Good Practice: Coordination of the National Center for Social Solidarity, with the National Referral Mechanism for Potential Victims. (viii) Further training of personnel of the Ministry for Migration Policy, the Reception and Identification Service, the Asylum Service, the Labour Inspection Corps. (ix) Emphasis was given in the Identification of 1st level for a presumptive/potential victim. (x) Focus on the private supply chains and companies and (xi) on the implementation of the National Referral Mechanism (EMA)¹⁵⁸. (xii) Further training of relevant organizations and aiming at reducing the "demand" of victims, before prevention. (xiii) Project Management Team (EFC) conclusion of the General Secretariat for Gender Equality (GSGE)¹⁵⁹ giving emphasis on issues of interconnection of prostitution and trafficking with human dignity. (xiv) The "Break the Chain" Festival organized in 2017¹⁶⁰ as well and the aim is to last all year long. (xv) Focus is given to the wider field of migration. (xvi) The European Union Regional Task Force (EURTF)¹⁶¹ cooperates with EC agencies, EASO, FRA, EUROPOL, Police, Hellenic Centre for Disease Control and Prevention (HCDCP) via data and training. (xvii) Also, the parliamentary subcommittee on combating Trafficking and Exploitation of Humans Beings¹⁶². (xviii) Further training through National Centre for Public Administration and Local Government (EKDDA)/Institute of Training (INEP)¹⁶³.

Concerning policies/measures for the improvement of identification of and provision of information on assistance and support to third-country national victims of human trafficking (including child victims and applicants for asylum), these measures include: (a) Legislative changes/policies: In 2017, the criminal element, as a subject of training, was incorporated, as well as inclusion of the analysis of ILO on forced labor, the Decision on Manolada case/Training of Labour Inspection Corps/National Commission to the Prime Minister and National Council of Fighting to introduce issues in schools. (b) Training and awareness-raising measures: Initiatives of strengthening: the issue of supply chains, start-up businesses of victims that recruit victims, the "Athens partnership" in local government, programmes of the AMIF/ISF Funds, connection of the NREM with the National Center for Social Solidarity, trainings at the Athens International Airport, emphasis on religion/faith/sensitization and tackling the politics of fear. (c) Measures for cooperation between national authorities: Establishment of the National Referral Mechanism (NREM) and via actions of the European Union Regional Task Force (EURTF). (d) Measures for cooperation between Member States: Bulgaria and Romania as well as public-private partnerships.

¹⁵¹ <http://ec.europa.eu/anti-trafficking/>

¹⁵² http://ec.europa.eu/anti-trafficking/member-states-0_en

¹⁵³ Available at: <http://goo.gl/691yu5>

¹⁵⁴ Data provided by the National Rapporteur on Combating Trafficking in Human Beings, to the Project Team, on 13/02/2018.

¹⁵⁵ Secretariat of the Council of Europe (CoE) Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings (GRETA and Committee of the Parties (2017) *GRETA: Group of Experts on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings [GRETA (2017)]: Report concerning the implementation of the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings by Greece*. Council of Europe. Strasbourg: Council of Europe <https://rm.coe.int/greta-2017-27-fgr-gre-en/168075f2b6>

¹⁵⁶ Data provided by the National Rapporteur on Combating Trafficking in Human Beings, to the Project Team, on 13/02/2018.

¹⁵⁷ <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2011:101:0001:0011:EN:PDF>

¹⁵⁸ See: <https://www.mfa.gr/exoteriki-politiki/pagkosmia-zitimata/paranomi-diakiniisi-prosopon.html>

¹⁵⁹ See: <https://tomov.gr/2017/05/23/%CF%83%CF%85%CE%B3%CE%BA%CF%81%CF%8C%CF%84%CE%B7%CF%83%CE%B7-%CE%BF%CE%BC%CE%AC%CE%B4%CE%B1%CF%82-%CE%B4%CE%B9%CE%BF%CE%AF%CE%BA%CE%B7%CF%83%CE%B7%CF%82-%CE%AD%CF%81%CE%B3%CE%BF%CF%85-%CE%BF%CE%B4/>

¹⁶⁰ Available at: <http://www.breakthechain.gr/index.php/%CE%BF%CE%BB%CE%BF%CE%BA%CE%BB%CE%B7%CF%81%CF%8E%CE%B8%CE%B7%CE%BA%CE%B5-%CE%BC%CE%B5-%CE%B5%CF%80%CE%B9%CF%84%CF%85%CF%87%CE%AF%CE%B1-%CF%84%CE%BF-%CF%86%CE%B5%CF%83%CF%84%CE%B9%CE%B2%CE%AC%CE%BB/>

¹⁶¹ <https://www.europol.europa.eu/newsroom/news/operation-taurus-%E2%80%93-greece-and-europol-dismantle-organized-crime-group> and https://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/sites/homeaffairs/files/what-we-do/policies/european-agenda-migration/20171114_commission_staff_working_document_en.pdf

¹⁶² See: http://www.hellenicparliament.gr/Koinovouleftikes-Epistrofes/Synedriaseis?met_id=2f239783-8c28-4219-9720-a72400f2941c and http://www.hellenicparliament.gr/Koinovouleftikes-Epistrofes/Synedriaseis?met_id=7dda3bb5-4394-48aa-8652-a7f200a7ba56

¹⁶³ Data provided by the National Rapporteur on Combating Trafficking in Human Beings, to the Project Team, on 13/02/2018.

Regarding policies/measures for the improvement of the identification of victims (including child victims and applicants for asylum): Legislative changes/policies include: The National Referral Mechanism (NREM). Training and awareness-raising measures: For the Hellenic Police. On 08/04/2017, a criminal organization that was involved in the sexual exploitation of young foreign women at the Accommodation Center of Migrants in Malakasa, was decommissioned by the Department of Combating Trafficking in Human Beings of the Department of Combating Organized Crime and Trafficking in Persons at the Attica Security Division. The perpetrators, exploiting the vulnerable position and the precarious financial situation of the victims, recruited them using violence and threats against both their own and members of their families, as well as false promises to facilitate their exits from Greece and transition in a country of their desires (usually a central European country), forcing the victims to sexual exploitation while withholding the relevant proceeds¹⁶⁴. The two (2) victims of trafficking in Afghanistan, who were granted protection and assistance, were identified and “freed”¹⁶⁵. Other places include: the National Centre for Public Administration and Local Government (EKDDA)/Institute of Training (INEP) and public Hospitals/National School of Public Health (NSPH)¹⁶⁶. Measures for cooperation between national authorities: The action of the Hellenic Police in the field of combating trafficking in human beings is based on the Hellenic Police Headquarters' Anti-Corruption Policy Programme 2015-2019, which sets specific targets through targeted actions¹⁶⁷. In this context, the Public Security Directorate of the Hellenic Police Headquarters on a daily basis monitors how to handle related cases (and victim management) from First Line Services and intervening where necessary to provide guidance, and seeks to coordinate procedures and enhance co-operation (with all the actors involved) with the ultimate aim of combating the phenomenon more effectively¹⁶⁸. In order to achieve the aforementioned objectives, it is essential to continuously train ELS officers who are involved in investigating cases of trafficking in human beings and/or are likely to come into contact with (potential) victims of trafficking¹⁶⁹. For the year 2017, executives of the Hellenic Police participated in the following educational actions, either as trainers or as trainees:

For 2017: Participation of officers of the Hellenic Police Force at a two-day conference organized by UNHCR in Samos on 16-17/03/2017, on “Training on Identification of Victims of Trafficking in Human Beings”; participation of a Hellenic Police Officer, as an expert-trainer, in the training of national trainers to combat trafficking in human beings, organized by the European Organization FRONTEX on 21-23/03/2017 in Warsaw, Poland; participation of officers of the Hellenic Police at a CEPOL seminar in Madrid, Spain, on 31/01-02/02/2017, on “Illegal trafficking in children”; organization – implementation by the Public Security Directorate of the Hellenic Police Headquarters of a Seminar on the handling of human trafficking cases by teleconference on 29/04/2017, “Analysis report, status report on trafficking in human beings in Greece for 2016 dealing with trafficking in human beings” (this seminar was attended by 140 First Line Officers, with a selection criterion based on the possibility of contact with potential victims-perpetrators-human trafficking cases); participation of a Hellenic Police Officer in OSCE training on the fight against trafficking in irregular migration flows (Italy, 05-09/06/2017); participation of ten (10) Hellenic Police officers in training days to combat trafficking in human beings, organized by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) in Athens (03-04/04/2017) and Thessaloniki (06-07/04/2017) respectively; participation of a Hellenic Police Officer in a Seminar on Combating Trafficking in Human Beings co-organized by the Global Center for Women and Justice, Humanitarian Initiative BRIGES, and Salvation Army on 20-21-22/06/2017 in Athens. The Hellenic Police, within 2017, participated in Common Days of Action to combat trafficking in human beings for the purpose of labor exploitation, under the priority EMPACT Trafficking in Human Beings, which took place from 15/05/2017 to 19/05/2017. The measures also included: organizing on 16/05/2017, by the Athens Airport Police Department, a training meeting/training to trace victims of trafficking in Athens International Airport; participation of a Hellenic Police Officer, as an expert-trainer, in the training of national trainers to combat trafficking in human beings, organized by the European Organization FRONTEX on 20-22/06/2017 in Ljubljana, Slovenia; participation of a Hellenic Police Officer at a seminar on the theme of “Fighting Trafficking in Human Beings” (Paris, 16-18/10/2017); participation of two (02) police officers at Lesvos Police Directorate at a seminar on Trafficking conducted by UNHCR for refugees, on 29/09/2017, at its offices in the area “Epano Skala” in Mytilene, Lesvos; participation of a Hellenic Police Officer at a CEPOL Seminar on New Trends and Methods in Crime Prevention that took place in Tampere (Finland, 13-16/11/2017); participation of Hellenic Police Executives at a workshop organized by the Office of the National Rapporteur on Combating Trafficking in Human Beings in co-operation with the UK Embassy to effectively combat trafficking in human beings (29/11/2017); finally, the thematic section “Trafficking in Human Beings” is included in the curriculum and is taught to the students of the Hellenic Police Academy schools¹⁷⁰. In addition, Hellenic Police have responded to a large number of requests for information (requests from relevant authorities: Switzerland, the Netherlands, Belgium, Cyprus, the Netherlands, Belgium, the Netherlands, Belgium, Germany, Slovenia, Sweden, Portugal, Ireland, the United Kingdom, Denmark, Hungary, Spain and the Czech Republic) concerning cases of trafficking in human beings under investigation¹⁷¹. Finally, the Hellenic Police provided a contribution to the Europol Analysis Project “PHEONIX” (for trafficking in human beings)¹⁷². Measures for cooperation between Member States: As part of the co-operation between Member States, bilateral meetings with neighboring countries (Albania, Bulgaria) take place at the border points of neighboring Regional Police Authorities whenever necessary, with a view to exchanging information, developing

¹⁶⁴ Data provided by the National Rapporteur on Combating Trafficking in Human Beings, to the Project Team, on 13/02/2018.

¹⁶⁵ Data provided by the National Rapporteur on Combating Trafficking in Human Beings, to the Project Team, on 13/02/2018.

¹⁶⁶ Data provided by the National Rapporteur on Combating Trafficking in Human Beings, to the Project Team, on 13/02/2018.

¹⁶⁷ Data provided by the National Rapporteur on Combating Trafficking in Human Beings, to the Project Team, on 13/02/2018.

¹⁶⁸ Data provided by the National Rapporteur on Combating Trafficking in Human Beings, to the Project Team, on 13/02/2018.

¹⁶⁹ Data provided by the National Rapporteur on Combating Trafficking in Human Beings, to the Project Team, on 13/02/2018.

¹⁷⁰ Data provided by the National Rapporteur on Combating Trafficking in Human Beings, to the Project Team, on 13/02/2018.

¹⁷¹ Data provided by the National Rapporteur on Combating Trafficking in Human Beings, to the Project Team, on 13/02/2018.

¹⁷² Data provided by the National Rapporteur on Combating Trafficking in Human Beings, to the Project Team, on 13/02/2018.

coordinated - targeted actions and the strengthening of cooperation and contacts¹⁷³. Also, adaptation of NREMs occurs, depending on the victim's needs. In addition, bilateral/multilateral partnerships are also being developed under the auspices of the European Agencies (SELEC, EUROPOL, EUROJUST) with a view to enhancing cooperation between Member States and coordinating their actions and synergy in cases¹⁷⁴. With regard to cases of trafficking in human beings, the following tables show¹⁷⁵:

| Table 1: Cases - Victims - Drinkers for the year 2017 | |
|--|------------------------------------|
| CASES | 21 |
| VICTIMS | 38 (24 adult and 14 minors) |
| PERPETRATORS | 147 |

Source: Hellenic Police/National Rapporteur on Trafficking in Human Beings, 2018

| Table 2: Assumptions by type of holding for the year 2017 | |
|--|-----------|
| LABOUR EXPLOITATION | 0 |
| EXPLOITATION OF THE REQUEST | 1 |
| SEXUAL EXPLOITATION | 20 |
| TOTAL CASES | 21 |

Source: Hellenic Police/National Rapporteur on Trafficking in Human Beings, 2018

| Table 3: Victims by gender and nationality for the year 2017 | | |
|---|-------------|---------------|
| Sex / nationality | MALE | FEMALE |
| ALBANIAN | | 2 |
| AFGHAN | | 4 |
| BULGARIAN | 2 | 4 |
| GREEK | 2 | 2 |
| MOLDOVAN | | 8 |
| UKRAINE | | 2 |
| ROMANIAN | | 9 |
| RUSSIAN | | 3 |
| Total victims by sex | 4 | 34 |
| Total victims | 38 | |

Source: Hellenic Police/National Rapporteur on Trafficking in Human Beings, 2018

| Table 4: Victims by type of holding and nationality for the year 2017 | | | |
|--|----------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Type of exploitation/Nationality | LABOUR EXPLOITATION | EXPLOITATION OF BEGGING | SEXUAL EXPLOITATION |
| GREEK | | | 4 |
| ALBANIAN | | | 2 |
| AFGHAN | | | 4 |
| BULGARIAN | | 3 | 3 |
| MOLDOVAN | | | 8 |
| UKRAINE | | | 2 |
| ROMANIAN | | | 9 |
| RUSSIAN | | | 3 |
| Total number of victims by type of exploitation | 0 | 3 | 35 |
| Total victims | 38 | | |

Source: Hellenic Police/National Rapporteur on Trafficking in Human Beings, 2018

¹⁷³ Data provided by the National Rapporteur on Combating Trafficking in Human Beings, to the Project Team, on 13/02/2018.

¹⁷⁴ Data provided by the National Rapporteur on Combating Trafficking in Human Beings, to the Project Team, on 13/02/2018.

¹⁷⁵ Data provided by the National Rapporteur on Combating Trafficking in Human Beings, to the Project Team, on 13/02/2018.

Table 5: Perpetrators per gender and nationality for the year 2017

| Gender/nationality | MALE | FEMALE |
|--------------------------------------|------------|-----------|
| ALBANIAN | 29 | 4 |
| AFGHAN | 3 | |
| VENEZUELA | | 2 |
| BULGARIAN | 6 | 5 |
| GREEK | 52 | 12 |
| COLOMBIAN | | 5 |
| MOROCCAN | 1 | |
| MOLDOVAN | 2 | 2 |
| UKRANIAN | | 2 |
| PAKISTANI | 2 | |
| ROMANIAN | 4 | 4 |
| RUSSIAN | | 2 |
| Total perpetrators per gender | 99 | 38 |
| Total perpetrators | 137 | |

Source: Hellenic Police/National Rapporteur on Trafficking in Human Beings, 2018

Table 6: Minors, victims by gender, type of exploitation and nationality for the year 2017

| Nationality/Type of Exploitation/Gender | SEXUAL EXPLOITATION | | BEGGING | |
|--|---------------------|--------|---------|--------|
| | MALE | FEMALE | MALE | FEMALE |
| BULGARIAN | | | 2 | 1 |
| GREEK | | 3 | | |
| ROMANIAN | | 8 | | |
| Total number of victims by type of holding | 11 | | 3 | |
| Total of minor victims | 14 | | | |

Source: Hellenic Police/National Rapporteur on Trafficking in Human Beings, 2018

Regarding policies/measures involving cooperation with third-countries on the prevention and fight against trafficking in human beings, these include deliverables and partnerships such as via the Council of Europe (CoE)¹⁷⁶, the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) (2017)¹⁷⁷, and via the support of United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) in Athens and Thessaloniki (2017)¹⁷⁸.

¹⁷⁶ Secretariat of the Council of Europe (CoE) Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings (GRETA and Committee of the Parties (2017) *GRETA: Group of Experts on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings [GRETA (2017)]: Report concerning the implementation of the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings by Greece*. Council of Europe. Strasbourg: Council of Europe <https://rm.coe.int/greta-2017-27-fgr-gre-en/168075f2b6>

¹⁷⁷ See:: <https://www.osce.org/secretariat/315581>

¹⁷⁸ See:: <https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/frontpage/2017/April/identification--investigation-of-human-trafficking-in-greece-boosted-with-unodcs-help.html>

10. MAXIMISING DEVELOPMENT IMPACT OF MIGRATION AND MOBILITY

Concerning the mainstreaming of migration that is occurring in development policies; for example: studies, development of approaches to make migration an integral part in sectoral policies (e.g. agriculture, health, education etc.), solidarity development projects, etc.¹⁷⁹ (see also Section 2), the National Strategic Reference Framework (NSRF) (2014-2020), includes actions of social integration of marginalized communities, such as immigrants, asylum seekers and refugees, et al., based on four pillars: housing, employment, education and health, aiming at: a) The establishment/creation of new and/or improvement of existing housing facilities for individuals experiencing, or are faced with the problem of homelessness, b) The decline of school dropouts, c) The provision of services of health, sanitation and welfare, d) Information and individual empowerment, e) Vocational and business counseling and training, and f) Strengthening of employment via community service and social entrepreneurship. Specifically, the National Strategic Reference Framework (NSRF) includes the development by prefecture/region at local level, and compensated actions, when they are needed by investment priorities of the European Social Fund (ESF) and in synergy with actions under the Fund for European Aid to the Most Deprived (FEAD). These actions aim at a holistic intervention and include the provision of basic services and goods, support to pupils of vulnerable groups for their early school enrollment, school attendance, and transition from one level of education to another, and promotion into the labour market. It also planned/provided for the development of integrated interventions regarding issues of smooth integration of third country nationals who are seeking asylum in the country, and involve: the establishment/creation of new structures and the reconstruction/renovation of the existing structures of hospitality/reception as well as and the short-term cover of their operational costs; the provision of medical, legal and psychosocial support; the implementation of programmes of training and personal development of skills of asylum seekers, of beneficiaries of international protection and vulnerable groups of third countries nationals; raise awareness/sensitize of Greek nationals in cooperation with the local society/community for the purposes of smooth operation of the above structures. The activation of the civil society, local government and volunteers is considered as particularly important. Combat against discrimination of marginalized communities through targeted information campaigns and awareness raising/sensitization of citizens, mainly of students and young individuals, is imperative. Especially in the case of immigrants, refugees and asylum seekers, the interventions will be complementary to the actions of the European Funds: Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF) and Internal Security Fund (ISF)¹⁸⁰. Migrants' remittances for 2017 regarding receipts were 138.6¹⁸¹ and regarding payments, 497.4¹⁸². In the Multiannual Programme 2014-2020 of the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF), which approved by the European Commission in 2015, an Action is planned/provided for with the title "Strengthening the relations of Greece with the countries of origin of third country nationals and implementation of programmes for the better integration of third country nationals in the host society". In the context of this action, at least three (3) introductory programmes will be implemented/materialized, in the countries of origin of legal immigrants with which Greece has signed or will sign Mobility Partnerships and Bilateral Agreements. These programmes will include, at least, the following topics: a) Learning aspects of the Greek language, so that trainees be able to develop the basic communication skills in written and spoken word, b) Information on the conditions prevailing and the needs that exist in the Greek labour market as well as vocational training, and c) Provision of information concerning practical issues of everyday life as well as with issues of particular importance for third country nationals (such as social security, renewal of residence permits, rights of migrants) et al.¹⁸³

¹⁷⁹ See: Grizis, V., Tsoukala, A., Fouskas, T., and Mine F. (2015a) *European Migration Network: Annual Policy Report 2015 Part 1 – Greece: National Report Part 1 and Statistics Annex. Contributing to the EMN Annual Report on Asylum and Migration 2015*. Athens: Center for Security Studies/Hellenic Ministry of Interior and Administrative Reconstruction. Brussels: European Migration Network/European Commission.

¹⁸⁰ See: http://www.esfhellas.gr/el/Documents/%CE%9D%CE%95%CE%91%20%CE%A0%CE%A0%PA_ESPA_2014-2020_220514_full.pdf

¹⁸¹ Amounts in million euro. Source: Bank of Greece, Balance of Payments.

¹⁸² Amounts in million euro. Source: Bank of Greece, Balance of Payments.

¹⁸³ See: http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-15-4662_el.htm and http://www.amifsf.gr/prosklisi_cat/tame/

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ANNEX A: METHODOLOGY

This Annual Report on Migration and Asylum in Greece for 2017 (reference period January 1, 2017-December 31, 2017) lists information and developments that were collected and recorded. References were made both in previous years and in future planning. For the conduction of the Annual Report on Migration and Asylum in Greece for 2017, there have been contacts, meetings and extensive cooperation with representatives of relevant Greek administration bodies on migration and asylum issues in Greece, who have contributed decisively to the preparation of the Annual Report on 2017. Data from secondary sources, references to literature and primary sources were also collected.

| Sources of information/methods | Sources for secondary sources, references to literature, primary sources, stakeholders |
|--|---|
| Scientific/academic sources | Multiple scientific/academic sources (monographs, chapters of collective volumes, articles in scientific journals) |
| Studies/Reports | Multiple studies/reports, information resulting from the results of international and Greek qualitative and quantitative surveys |
| Other reports | Multiple reports, information resulting from international and Greek qualitative and quantitative surveys |
| Legislation | National Legislative Framework, Migration Policy |
| Policy documents | Multiple policy documents |
| Internet | Internet search (search engines and websites) |
| Interviews with interested parties/stakeholders | Semi-structured interviews were carried out with executives of: the Asylum Service (2), the Reception and Identification Service (1), the Department of European and International Migration Policy of the Ministry for Migration Policy (1) and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (3) as well as with the Rapporteur on Combating Trafficking in Human Beings (1). The interviews provided in-depth information. |
| Consultation with national bodies | With members of the Directorate for Social Integration, the Migration Policy Directorate of the Department of European and International Migration Policy of the Ministry for Migration Policy (1) and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, as well as the National Rapporteur on Combating Trafficking in Human Beings, for recommendations on the study regarding Part 1, Part 2 and the Statistical Annex and for the collection of data, information, other data (descriptive, qualitative and quantitative/statistical data) |
| Consultation with the national network | National Contact Point (NPC) of the European Migration Network (EMN) for recommendations on the study regarding Part 1, Part 2 and the Statistical Annex and for the collection of data, information, other data (descriptive, qualitative and quantitative/statistical data) |
| Other | Asylum Service, Reception and Identification Service, Department of European and International Migration Policies of the Ministry for Migration Policy, Hellenic Police Headquarters, International Organization for Migration (IOM) – Office in Greece, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Bank of Greece, Ministry of Labor, Social Security and Social Solidarity for the collection of data, information, other data (qualitative and quantitative/statistical data) |

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