



**EUROPEAN MIGRATION NETWORK  
ANNUAL REPORT 2018  
ON MIGRATION AND ASYLUM IN GREECE  
NATIONAL REPORT  
PART 2  
AND STATISTICAL ANNEX**

**CONTRIBUTING TO THE EMN ANNUAL REPORT  
ON MIGRATION AND ASYLUM 2018**



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## EUROPEAN MIGRATION NETWORK

### Annual Report 2018 on Migration and Asylum in Greece

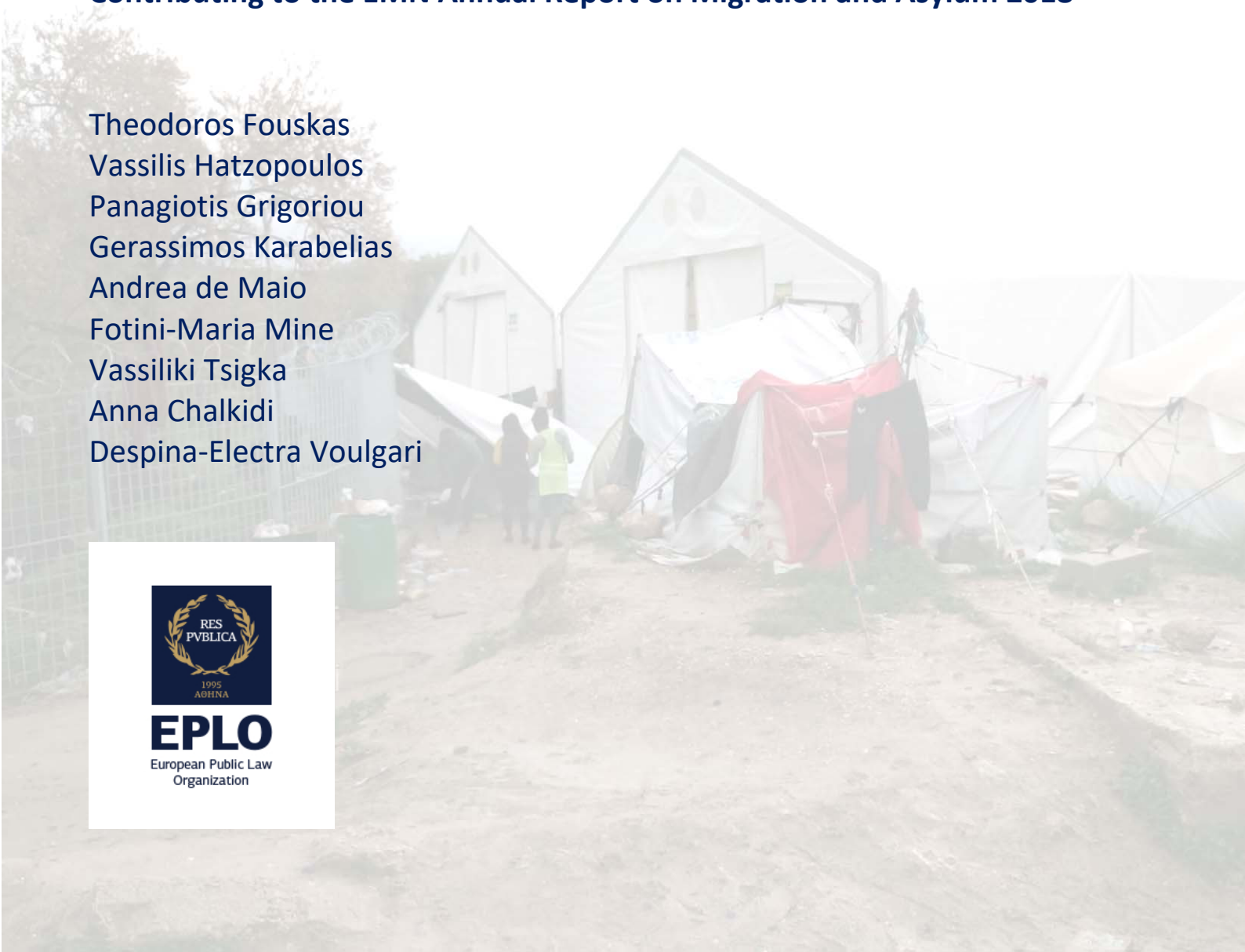
### NATIONAL REPORT Part 2 and Statistical Annex

Contributing to the EMN Annual Report on Migration and Asylum 2018

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The study was conducted by the Working Group of the European Public Law Organization (EPLO).

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**EUROPEAN MIGRATION NETWORK • ANNUAL REPORT 2018**  
**ON MIGRATION AND ASYLUM IN GREECE • NATIONAL REPORT • PART 2 AND STATISTICAL ANNEX**

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 support/build policymaking in the European Union and, hence, their national policies in these areas. Subsequently, in 2008, the Council of the EU, 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.

Further information on the EMN and its work on the website:

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## Contents

Executive Summary .....	9
1. Introduction.....	10
2. Context for Asylum and Migration Policy Developments .....	13
3. Legal Migration .....	27
4. International Protection including Asylum .....	29
5. Unaccompanied Minors and other Vulnerable Groups .....	34
6. Integration .....	36
7. Citizenship and Statelessness .....	41
8. Borders, Schengen and Visas .....	43
9. Irregular Migration and Migrant Smuggling .....	46
10. Trafficking in Human Beings .....	48
11. Return and Readmission .....	54
Annex A: Methodology .....	62
Annex B: Implementation of EU Legislation .....	64
Annex C: National Statistics .....	66
Annex D: References .....	90

**List of Tables**

Table 1: Asylum Applications.....	66
Table 2: Asylum Applications – Gender and Age range.....	66
Table 3: Asylum Applications – Region of registration.....	66
Table 4: Asylum Applications – Countries of Origin.....	67
Table 5: First Instance Procedures.....	67
Table 6: First Instance Procedures – Unaccompanied Minors.....	67
Table 7: First Instance Procedures – Decisions in Substance per Gender and Age range.....	68
Table 8: First Instance Procedures – Inadmissible Decisions <sup>3</sup> per Gender and Age range.....	68
Table 9: First Instance Procedures – Implicit and Explicit withdrawals <sup>1</sup> per Gender and Age range.....	68
Table 10: First Instance Procedures – Recognition Rates (%) <sup>2</sup> (Countries with more than 300 Decisions in substance).....	69
Table 11: First Instance Procedures – Appeals – Countries of Origin.....	69
Table 12: First Instance Procedures – Pending Applications - Countries of Origin.....	69
Table 13: Cases – Victims – Perpetrators for 2018.....	81
Table 14: Cases per kind of exploitation for 2018.....	81
Table 15: Victims per gender and nationality for 2018.....	81
Table 16: Victims per kind of exploitation and nationality for 2018.....	81
Table 17: Total of perpetrators per gender and nationality for 2018.....	82
Table 18: Perpetrators per kind of exploitation and nationality for 2018.....	82
Table 19: Minor victims per gender, kind of exploitation and nationality for 2018.....	83
Table 20: Presentation of the national situation regarding the refugee/migrant issue on 31/12/2018 – Picture of the situation of the East Aegean islands on Monday 31 December 2018.....	86
Table 21: Relocation -take charge- Requests (As of 30/03/2018).....	87
Table 22: Nationalities (As of 30/03/2018).....	87
Table 23: Age groups (as of 30/03/2018).....	87
Table 24: Relocation procedures (as of 30/03/2018).....	87
Table 25: Implementation of relocation requests analysis (as of 30/03/2018).....	88
Table 26: Relocation Procedures Overview (as of 30/03/2018).....	88
Table 27: – Relocation Procedures (as of 30/03/2018).....	89
Table 28: Implemented Relocation Transfers (as of 30/03/2018).....	89

**List of Figures**

Figure 1: Applications by year.....	70
Figure 2: Applications by gender.....	70
Figure 3: Applications by age range.....	70
Figure 4: Unaccompanied minors.....	71
Figure 5: Applications by Country of Origin.....	71
Figure 6: Decisions in substance.....	71
Figure 7: Procedures on the Greek islands (Art. 60 §4 Law 4375/2016).....	72
Figure 8: Appeals by Country of Origin (Top 10 Countries 2013-2018).....	72
Figure 9: Recognition rate.....	72
Figure 10: Asylum Service staff.....	73
Figure 11: Dublin Regulation III outgoing procedures.....	73
Figure 12: Dublin Regulation III incoming procedures.....	73
Figure 13: Info Requests (Art. 34) 2013 to 2018.....	73
Figure 14: Relocation Procedures.....	74
Figure 15: Number of return beneficiaries per country of origin, June 2017-May 2018.....	74
Figure 16: Number of reintegration beneficiaries per country of origin, June 2017-May 2018.....	74
Figure 17: Migrants assisted with in-kind reintegration assistance, June 2017-May 2018.....	75
Figure 18: UAC per accommodation type.....	76
Figure 19: Number of UAC in Reception and Identification Centers/Protective Custody.....	76
Figure 20: Reported place of stay of children – Total: 3.741.....	77
Figure 21: UAC out of long term or temporary accommodation disaggregated by age group and sex.....	77
Figure 22: Number and places of UAC shelters, safe zones hotels.....	78
Figure 23: Total number of UAC referrals to EKKA by month.....	79
Figure 24: Referrals processed* per month in 2018.....	79
Figure 25: Monthly UAC referrals to EKKA by nationality.....	80
Figure 26: Estimated UAC population disaggregated by nationality.....	80
Table 27: Irregular foreigners arrested for illegal entry and irregular stay, by Police and Coast Guard Authorities during 2017 and 2018.....	83
Table 28: Smugglers of illegal foreigners arrested from Police and Coast Guard Authorities during 2017 and 2018.....	83
Table 29: Irregular foreigners arrested for illegal entry and irregular stay, per border, by police and Coast Guard Authorities during 2017 and 2018.....	84
Figure 30: Forced returns of irregular foreigners during 2017 and 2018.....	84
Figure 31: Irregular foreigners arrested for illegal entry and irregular stay by nationality in 2018.....	85

**Abbreviations**

AMIF	Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund
AMKA (in Greek)	National Insurance Number
AS	Asylum Service
BIA	Best Interest Assessment
CEAS	Common European Asylum System
CEPOL	European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Training
CMI (KEM in Greek)	Centers for Migrant Integration
EASO	European Asylum Support Office
EPZ (ZEP in Greek)	Education Priority Zones
ETIAS	European Travel Information and Authorisation System
EU	European Union
EURODAC	European Asylum Dactyloscopy Database
EUROPOL	European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Cooperation
FADO	False and Authentic Documents Online
FRONTEX	European Border and Coast Guard Agency
GCSP (KISKOIP in Greek)	Government Council for Social Policy
GL	General Lyceum
GNC	Greek Nationality Code
GPDA (GADA in Greek)	General Police Directorate of Attica
GPDT (DADT in Greek)	General Police Directorate of Thessaloniki
HCDCP (KEELPNO in Greek)	Hellenic Center for Disease Control and Prevention
HEIs	Higher Educational Institutes
Hellenic NARIC	Hellenic National Academic Recognition and Information Center
HP	Hellenic Police
HPH	Hellenic Police Headquarters
HQA	Hellenic Quality Assurance and Accreditation Agency
IEP	Institute of Educational Policy
IOM	International Organization for Migration
ISF	Internal Security Fund
JMD	Joint Ministerial Decision
LI (SEPE in Greek)	Labour Inspectorate
MEO (OAED in Greek)	Manpower Employment Organization
MERRA	Ministry of Education, Research and Religious Affairs
MFA	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
MI	Ministry of Interior
MMP	Ministry for Migration Policy
MRIC	Migrant and Refugee Integration Council
NCCBCIA (ESKESMA in Greek)	National Coordination Center for Border Control, Immigration and Asylum
NCSS (EKKA in Greek)	National Center for Social Solidarity
NDUF (EKANA in Greek)	National Database for Undesirable Foreigners
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
NRM	National Referral Mechanism
NRO (GETHEIS in Greek)	Office of the National Rapporteur on Trafficking in Human Beings
NSI	National Strategy for Integration
OSCE	Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe
OTA	Organizations of Local Self-Governance
PD	Presidential Decree
RACs	Refugee Accommodation Centers
RC	Reception Classes
RCIBMM (PEKODISME in Greek)	Regional Centers for Integrated Border Management and Migration
REC (SEP in Greek)	Refugee Education Coordinator
RFRE (DYEP in Greek)	Reception Facilities for Refugee Education
RIC	Reception and Identification Center
RIS	Reception and Identification Service
SICE (EDTO in Greek)	Special Identity Card of Expatriate
SIS	Schengen Information System
TEI	Technological Educational Institutes
TGO	The Greek Ombudsman
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
VSHS (EPAL in Greek)	Vocational Senior High School



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CONTRIBUTING TO THE EMN ANNUAL REPORT  
ON MIGRATION AND ASYLUM 2018

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Annual Policy Report of 2018 aims at informing the Member-States and the European Commission on all the developments that took place in the year of 2018, in the areas of migration and asylum 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 2018 as well as the objectives of the Annual Policy Report are presented. In **Section 2** an overview of the developments in asylum and migration policies that have had a significant impact on Greece during the reference year is made. In **Section 3** all the developments in the legislative framework regarding legal migration for 2018 are presented, including new developments on economic migration, new developments in relation to students and researchers, developments in family reunification and family formation, developments in 2018 in order to improve the provision of information on the routes and conditions of legal immigration to third country nationals. Next, **Section 4** includes international protection, including asylum and related developments in legislation, policies and practices with access to the asylum process, and the relocation mechanism within the EU in 2018. In **Section 5** the developments at a national level regarding unaccompanied minors and other vulnerable asylum seekers who have applied for asylum and those who have not applied for asylum, are made. **Section 6** includes: developments related to facilitating the integration of third-country nationals through socio-economic participation, e.g. measures to improve monitoring in the education system, enhancing language skills, access to social security, healthcare and housing, labour market integration, and civic participation. It also includes new developments in 2018 specifically targeted to facilitate the integration of specific categories of third-country nationals such as beneficiaries of international protection, family migrants, unaccompanied minors (UAMs) and other vulnerable groups, developments aimed at promoting, implementing and the monitoring of anti-discrimination policies, in particular on the grounds of nationality, race and other reasons, as well as the cross-over of many grounds of discrimination which would be particularly important for third-country nationals, actions implemented by national, regional and/or local governments on the integration of third-country nationals with the active involvement of local authorities and/or civil society, and developments aimed at raising the awareness/involvement of the reception community within Greece in order to improve the understanding of the phenomenon of migration and thus promote integration and social cohesion. In **Section 7** the developments in 2018 in relation to the acquisition of citizenship (preconditions and terms) for legally residing third-country nationals and issues related to statelessness, are presented. In **Section 8**, issues such as: new developments in relation to measures of border control/border management, new developments in the implementation of the Visa Code and the Visa Information System (VIS) or other developments related to the issuance of visas, in particular as regards the cooperation between the Member States' consulates and the creation of a consular visa service in 2018 and new developments in Schengen governance that were implemented in 2018, are investigated. In **Section 9**, with emphasis on irregular migration including migrant smuggling, the developments in preventing and combating the misuse of legal migration routes in 2018 and combating the facilitation of irregular migration (trafficking) and the prevention of irregular residence, are analysed. In **Section 10** the national strategic policy developments/measures to prevent and/or combat trafficking in human beings, third-country nationals (e.g. national action plans or national strategies) adopted in 2018, as well as the improvement of the provision of information and assistance to third-country nationals-victims (including children and asylum seekers) in 2018, are examined. In **Section 11** emphasis is given on policies to enhance the management of return, including co-operation between EU Member States on return practices, on developments in direct, sustainable and effective return and on the development of return activities in cooperation with third countries in 2018.

## 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 2018, in the fields of asylum and migration, together with an overview, of the relevant issues by presenting qualitative and quantitative data<sup>1</sup>. In the Annual Newsletter (January-December 2018) on Refugee-Migration (Ministry of Digital Policy, Telecommunications and Media/Special Secretariat for Crisis Management Communication, 2019), it is underlined that the complex issue of refugee-migrant remains a major challenge, which the Greek State is committed to manage based on the principles and values of humanity and solidarity<sup>2</sup>. Until September 2018, the total number of asylum seekers living in structures under the supervision of the Greek state reached up to 70.000<sup>3</sup>. From January to August 6, 2018, end of the programme PHILOS<sup>4</sup> for health, in Centers of Reception and Accommodation of refugees-migrants were administered a total of 11.043 vaccines<sup>5</sup>. In total, in the country apart from the 6 Reception and Identification Centers for Refugees and Migrants in the 5 Greek islands and Evros, there are 28 other structures for temporary residence and hospitality on the mainland<sup>6</sup>. With regard to education, the total number of refugee children enrolled in all levels of education during the school year 2017-18 was 8.017<sup>7</sup>.

At the end of 2018, in mainland Greece, based on the ESTIA programme<sup>8</sup>, carried out in cooperation with the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, 22.686 people stayed in apartments under optimal conditions<sup>9</sup>. Similarly, in the 26 Open Structures of Hospitality in the mainland, 18.369 individuals lived in conditions ranging from very good to excellent<sup>10</sup>. According to the temporary accommodation programme, implemented in cooperation with the International Organization for Migration, 6.793 individuals lived in apartments and hotel rooms<sup>11</sup>. In the Reception and Identification Centers of the 5 East Aegean islands, at the end of 2018 there were 11.683 individuals, from 18.107 in September 2018<sup>12</sup>. In the Annual Newsletter it is noted that this significant decrease was achieved via the transfers from the islands to the mainland of 29.090 individuals, mainly belonging to vulnerable population groups, over the past year<sup>13</sup>. At the same time, the flows of refugees and migrants to the country continued and throughout the year 2018; 47.929 people entered the territory, 32.115 from the Aegean islands and 15.814 from Evros<sup>14</sup>. The corresponding total for 2017 was 34.707, i.e. from the islands 29.130 and 5.577 from Evros<sup>15</sup>.

<sup>1</sup> Amnesty International (2018). *Report 2017/18: The State of the World's Human Rights*. London: Amnesty International, <https://www.amnesty.org/sites/default/files/pdf/poi1067002018english.pdf>; ANTIGONE - Information and Documentation Center on Racism, Ecology, Peace and Non-Violence (2018). *National Report 2018: National Integration Evaluation Mechanism (NIEM): National Report on the Evaluation Mechanism of Integration of Beneficiaries of International Protection: Greece*. Athens: ANTIGONE - Information and Documentation Center on Racism, Ecology, Peace and Non-Violence, [http://www.antigone.gr/files/Greece\\_National\\_Report\\_2018-GR.pdf](http://www.antigone.gr/files/Greece_National_Report_2018-GR.pdf) (in Greek); 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/bdvmPW>; Cabot, H. (2014). *On the Doorstep of Europe: Asylum and Citizenship in Greece*. Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press; Γιατροί Χωρίς Σύνορα/Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) (2017). *Médecins Sans Frontières/Doctors Without Borders (MSF) (2017) MSF in Greece Report on Activities 2017*. Athens: Médecins Sans Frontières/Doctors Without Borders <https://bit.ly/2PimQLL>; Doctors of the World - Greece/Médecins du Monde - Greece (2017). *Annual Report 2017*. Athens: Doctors of the World - Greece/Médecins du Monde - Greece [http://mdmgreece-annualreport2017.com/documents/Annual\\_Report\\_2017\\_%CE%95%CE%9D\\_1.pdf](http://mdmgreece-annualreport2017.com/documents/Annual_Report_2017_%CE%95%CE%9D_1.pdf); Racist Violence Recording Network (RVRN) (2018). *Racist Violence Recording Network: Annual Report 2018*. Athens: Racist Violence Recording Network (RVRN), [http://rvrn.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/RVRN\\_report\\_2018gr.pdf](http://rvrn.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/RVRN_report_2018gr.pdf) (in Greek); European Asylum Support Office (EASO) (2018). *Annual Report on the Situation of Asylum in the European Union 2017*. Luxembourg: Publications Office of the European Union, <http://publications.europa.eu/webpub/easo/annual-report-2017/img/BZ-AB-18-001-EN-N.pdf>; Theodoridis, N. (ed.), (2019). *Annual Report 2018: ANTIGONE - Information and Documentation Center on Racism, Ecology, Peace and Non-Violence*. Athens: ANTIGONE - Information and Documentation Center on Racism, Ecology, Peace and Non-Violence, <https://bit.ly/2vfyNzA> (in Greek); Kaminioti, O. (2018). *Social Inequalities, Social Rights and Social Policy. Annual Report*. Athens: National Institute of Labour and Human Resources <http://www.eiead.gr/publications/docs/Annual%20Exhibition%20HEAD-2018.pdf> (in Greek); Konstantinou, A. and Georgopoulou, A. (GCR), ECRE (ed.), (2017). *Country Report: Greece (31 December 2018)*. The 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), <https://bit.ly/213P95L>; Karamitrou, Z., Benekou, E. et al. (2018) *Annual Report of The Greek Ombudsman for 2018*. Athens: The Greek Ombudsman, <https://www.synigoros.gr/resources/docs/ee2018-p00-plires-keimeno.pdf> (in Greek); Marinaki, Chr. and Team of Legal Advisors of the International Organization for Migration (IOM) - Office in Greece (2017). *Migration legal guide for practitioners in Greece*. Athens: International Organization for Migration (IOM) - Office in Greece, [https://greece.iom.int/sites/default/files/IOM%20Legal%20Guide\\_English.pdf](https://greece.iom.int/sites/default/files/IOM%20Legal%20Guide_English.pdf); 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, <http://goo.gl/SYA2JE>; Pagona, M. (2018). *The Rights of Children on the Move in Greece. Annual Report 2018*. Athens: The Greek Ombudsman/UNICEF <https://www.synigoros.gr/resources/docs/ee2018-kdp-dikaion-paid-pou-metakin.pdf> (in Greek)

<sup>2</sup> Ministry of Digital Policy, Telecommunications and Media/Special Secretariat for Crisis Management Communication (2019). *Newsletter on the Refugee-Migration Issue. Issue 5. January-December 2018. Published February 2019 (updated until 31 December 2018)*. Athens: Ministry of Digital Policy, Telecommunications and Media/Special Secretariat for Crisis Management Communication <http://www.mindigital.gr/index.php/pliioforiaka-stoixeia/3652-2018-5> (in Greek)

<sup>3</sup> Ministry of Digital Policy, Telecommunications and Media/Special Secretariat for Crisis Management Communication (2018). *Newsletter on the Refugee-Migration Issue. Issue 4. November 2018 (updated until 30 September 2018)*. Athens: Ministry of Digital Policy, Telecommunications and Media/Special Secretariat for Crisis Management Communication <http://www.mindigital.gr/index.php/pliioforiaka-stoixeia/3206-enimerotiko-deltio-gia-to-prosfigiko-metanastefiko-2018-teyxos-4> (in Greek)

<sup>4</sup> <https://philosgreece.eu/en/>

<sup>5</sup> Ministry of Digital Policy, Telecommunications and Media/Special Secretariat for Crisis Management Communication (2018), *ibid.*

<sup>6</sup> Ministry of Digital Policy, Telecommunications and Media/Special Secretariat for Crisis Management Communication (2018), *ibid.*

<sup>7</sup> Ministry of Digital Policy, Telecommunications and Media/Special Secretariat for Crisis Management Communication (2018), *ibid.*

<sup>8</sup> <http://estia.unhcr.gr/en/home/>

<sup>9</sup> Ministry of Digital Policy, Telecommunications and Media/Special Secretariat for Crisis Management Communication (2019), *ibid.*

<sup>10</sup> Ministry of Digital Policy, Telecommunications and Media/Special Secretariat for Crisis Management Communication (2019), *ibid.*

<sup>11</sup> Ministry of Digital Policy, Telecommunications and Media/Special Secretariat for Crisis Management Communication (2019), *ibid.*

<sup>12</sup> Ministry of Digital Policy, Telecommunications and Media/Special Secretariat for Crisis Management Communication (2019), *ibid.*

<sup>13</sup> Ministry of Digital Policy, Telecommunications and Media/Special Secretariat for Crisis Management Communication (2019), *ibid.*

<sup>14</sup> Ministry of Digital Policy, Telecommunications and Media/Special Secretariat for Crisis Management Communication (2019), *ibid.*

<sup>15</sup> Ministry of Digital Policy, Telecommunications and Media/Special Secretariat for Crisis Management Communication (2019), *ibid.*

These figures show an increase of about 10% for the islands and 280% for Evros<sup>16</sup>. On the other hand, 10.746 people left the country, 322 returned on the basis of the EU-Turkey Joint Statement, 4.968 returned to their countries of origin, taking advantage of the voluntary return programme managed by the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and 5.456 reunited with their families in other countries of the European Union. In relation to asylum applications, 66.970 applications were registered in 2018 compared to 58.642 in 2017, an increase of about 14%, ranking Greece as the first among EU Member States in asylum applications per capita and fourth in absolute numbers<sup>17</sup>. All refugees and migrants in Greece have access to health services at a satisfactory level, and all children of school-age have the opportunity to join the educational process<sup>18</sup>. In the school year 2018-2019, approximately 12.500 refugee and migrant children attended classes in regular classes or classes within the Accommodation Structures<sup>19</sup>. For the next year, the increase of the available vacancies in apartments, under the ESTIA programme, by 5.000 is planned<sup>20</sup>.

The Annual Edition notes that a new programme is being created for those who have already been granted international protection, which will provide accommodation for another 5.000 seats in apartments for a period of six months on a rolling basis<sup>21</sup>. The next key objective is the implementation of the National Strategy for Integration, which was published to public consultation<sup>22</sup> and was completed. In this context, integrated policies are planned, in cooperation with local government, in order to offer the opportunity for genuine, equal and functional integration of refugees and migrants into the social fabric<sup>23</sup>. The Annual Report stresses the strong belief that building a “Greek integration model”, aiming at mutual understanding, peaceful and creative coexistence and interaction, can make a decisive contribution to the elimination of the phenomena of intolerance, racism and xenophobia by the whole of Greek society<sup>24</sup>.

<sup>16</sup> Ministry of Digital Policy, Telecommunications and Media/Secretariat for Crisis Management Communication (2019)., *ibid*.

<sup>17</sup> Ministry of Digital Policy, Telecommunications and Media/Secretariat for Crisis Management Communication (2019)., *ibid*.

<sup>18</sup> Ministry of Digital Policy, Telecommunications and Media/Secretariat for Crisis Management Communication (2019)., *ibid*.

<sup>19</sup> Ministry of Digital Policy, Telecommunications and Media/Secretariat for Crisis Management Communication (2019)., *ibid*.

<sup>20</sup> Ministry of Digital Policy, Telecommunications and Media/Secretariat for Crisis Management Communication (2019)., *ibid*.

<sup>21</sup> Ministry of Digital Policy, Telecommunications and Media/Secretariat for Crisis Management Communication (2019)., *ibid*.

<sup>22</sup> Ministry of Digital Policy, Telecommunications and Media/Secretariat for Crisis Management Communication (2019)., *ibid*.

<sup>23</sup> Ministry of Digital Policy, Telecommunications and Media/Secretariat for Crisis Management Communication (2019)., *ibid*.

<sup>24</sup> Ministry of Digital Policy, Telecommunications and Media/Secretariat for Crisis Management Communication (2019)., *ibid*.

In the Annual Newsletter (January-December 2018) on refugee-migrant issue<sup>25</sup>, data of the Ministry of Labour, Social Security and Social Solidarity for the labour integration of refugees and migrants show that the total number of registered refugees in the Manpower Employment Organization's records is 6.150 individuals by the end of 2018, of which 3.645 are men and 2.505 are women<sup>26</sup>. As far as Health is concerned, as evidenced by the HCDCP, there has been no serious public health event in 2018 in center of accommodation and first reception and identification of migrants/refugees<sup>27</sup>. According to data from the National Center of Operations of the Health Ministry of Enterprise, during the months of October, November and December 2018, the refugees receiving health services in the health mechanisms in the country were 17.601 individuals<sup>28</sup>.

<sup>25</sup> Ministry of Digital Policy, Telecommunications and Media/Secretariat for Crisis Management Communication (2019). *Newsletter on the Refugee-Migration Issue. Issue 5. January-December 2018. Published February 2019 (updated until 31 December 2018)*. Athens: Ministry of Digital Policy, Telecommunications and Media/Secretariat for Crisis Management Communication <http://www.mindigital.gr/index.php/plirotoriaka-stoixeia/3652-2018-5> (in Greek) See also United Nations Higher Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) – Office in Greece (2018). *Information for Refugees and Asylum Seekers in Greece in 5 Languages*. Athens: United Nations Higher Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) – Office in Greece <https://help.unhcr.org/greece/>; Ministry of Digital Policy, Telecommunications and Media/Secretariat for Crisis Management Communication (2018a). *Newsletter on the Refugee-Migration Issue. Issue 1. (updated until 28 February 2018)*. Athens: Ministry of Digital Policy, Telecommunications and Media/Secretariat for Crisis Management Communication <http://www.mindigital.gr/index.php/plirotoriaka-stoixeia/2174-enimerotiko-deltio-gia-to-prosfygiko-metanasteftiko-tevxos-1-2018> (in Greek); Ministry of Digital Policy, Telecommunications and Media/Secretariat for Crisis Management Communication (2018b). *Newsletter on the Refugee-Migration Issue. Issue 2. June 2018 (updated until 30 April 2018)*. Athens: Ministry of Digital Policy, Telecommunications and Media/Secretariat for Crisis Management Communication <http://www.mindigital.gr/index.php/plirotoriaka-stoixeia/2386-2018-2> (in Greek); Ministry of Digital Policy, Telecommunications and Media/Secretariat for Crisis Management Communication (2018c). *Newsletter on the Refugee-Migration Issue. Issue 3. August 2018 (updated until 30 June 2018)*. Athens: Ministry of Digital Policy, Telecommunications and Media/Secretariat for Crisis Management Communication <http://www.mindigital.gr/index.php/plirotoriaka-stoixeia/2824-enimerotiko-deltio-gia-to-prosfygiko-metanasteftiko-2018-tevxos-3> (in Greek); Ministry of Digital Policy, Telecommunications and Media/Secretariat for Crisis Management Communication (2018d). *Newsletter on the Refugee-Migration Issue. Issue 4. November 2018 (updated until 30 September 2018)*. Athens: Ministry of Digital Policy, Telecommunications and Media/Secretariat for Crisis Management Communication <http://www.mindigital.gr/index.php/plirotoriaka-stoixeia/3206-enimerotiko-deltio-gia-to-prosfygiko-metanasteftiko-2018-tevxos-4> (in Greek); Flessa, A., Outsika, C., Mintzoli, K., Emmanouil, L. and Vanikioti, Z. (2018). *The Implementation of Assisted Voluntary Returns including Reintegration Measures (AVRR). Annual Report June 2017-May 8. Annual Report*. 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<sup>26</sup> Ministry of Digital Policy, Telecommunications and Media/Secretariat for Crisis Management Communication (2019), *ibid*.

<sup>27</sup> Ministry of Digital Policy, Telecommunications and Media/Secretariat for Crisis Management Communication (2019), *ibid*. See also <http://old.keelpno.gr/el-επιδημιολογικάστατιστικάδεδομένα/εκθέσειςαπόσυστήματαεπιτήρησης/epidemicsurveypointsofcarerefugeesmigrants.aspx>; [http://old.keelpno.gr/Portals/Αρχεία/Επιδημιολογικά%20δεδομένα/Επιδ%20Επιτ%20Προσφύγων%20-%20μεταναστών/Περιγραφή%20συστήματος%20επιτήρησης%20συνδρομικής\\_refugees.pdf](http://old.keelpno.gr/Portals/Αρχεία/Επιδημιολογικά%20δεδομένα/Επιδ%20Επιτ%20Προσφύγων%20-%20μεταναστών/Περιγραφή%20συστήματος%20επιτήρησης%20συνδρομικής_refugees.pdf); <http://old.keelpno.gr/Portals/0/Αρχεία/Επιδημιολογικά%20δεδομένα/Επιδ%20Επιτ%20Προσφύγων%20-%20μεταναστών/2018/Surveillance-refugees-weekly-GR-2018-52.pdf>

<sup>28</sup> Ministry of Digital Policy, Telecommunications and Media/Secretariat for Crisis Management Communication (2019), *ibid*.

## 2. CONTEXT FOR ASYLUM AND MIGRATION POLICY DEVELOPMENTS

There have been changes in all areas covered by this study, both in the field of migration and asylum, due to the number of incoming third-country nationals as developed below.

Regarding legal Migration<sup>29</sup> changes in 2018 include: Law 4546/2018 (Government Gazette 101/A/12.06.2018), concerning the required fees for the issue, renewal or re-issue of residence permits of third-country nationals for the purpose of highly qualified employment<sup>30</sup>. Law 4540/2018 (Government Gazette 91/A/22.05.2018) (Articles 25-27), amending Law 4251/2014 on the conditions of entry and residence of third-country nationals in the framework of an intra-corporate transfer, with a view to incorporating them in the Greek legal order of Directive 2014/66/EU of 15 May 2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 15 May 2014 (EEL 157 of 27.5.2014)<sup>31</sup>. Law 4546/2018 (Government Gazette 101/A/12.06.2018), with regard to the required fees for the employment of a seasonal worker<sup>32</sup>. Law 4540/2018 (Government Gazette 91/A/22.05.2018) and Law 4546/2018 (Government Gazette 101/A/12.06.2018) for entrepreneurs and Law 4546/2018 (Government Gazette 101/A/12.06.2018) for researchers. Law 4546/2018 (Government Gazette 101/A/12.06.2018) for trainees and volunteer service providers. no.28473/605/2018: Amendment of the Joint Ministerial Decision No 4872/105/13.02.2017 on “Determination of the maximum number of residence permits for third country nationals for the years 2017 and 2018” (B/398)<sup>33</sup>. National Strategy for Integration<sup>34</sup> of the Ministry for Migration Policy, June 2018<sup>35</sup>: Upon its completion, the National Strategy for the Integration was launched in an inter-ministerial consultation in February 2018 and was approved by the Government Council for Social Policy (in Greek KISKOIP) in July 2018. The text reflects the Ministry for Migration Policy’s perspective and planning on the rights of refugees and migrants, considering the massive flow of mixed migrants as well as applicants for international protection, as well as the country’s economic recession over the period 2009-2017<sup>36</sup>. Moreover, Law 4546/2018 (GG 101/A/12.06.2018) for student and Researchers, as well as JMD no 47094 (Government Gazette 3678/B/28.08.2018) lay down the required documents and the procedure for issuing a national long-stay visa (VISA-type D) to third-country nationals or stateless persons in the context of family reunification with refugees<sup>37</sup>. Via the Ministry for Migration Policy: Document 93/18/14.3.2018<sup>38</sup>, on the provision of clarifications for the renewal of residence permits for exceptional reasons, for the purpose of family reunification<sup>39</sup>. Circular no: 3 on the application of the provisions of Law 4540/2018 (91 A)<sup>40</sup>.

<sup>29</sup> Laws in 2018: 4519/2018, 25 A “Extension of residence permits for third-country nationals” <http://www.immigration.gov.gr/documents/20182/31274/nMetan4540-22052018.pdf/23c07ff2-6488-4e59-8101-92cfce8a75d4> 4540/2018, 91 A, “Amendments of the Greek legislation in accordance with the provisions of Directive 2013/33/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of Europe of June 26 2013, on the standards required for the reception of applicants for international protection (recast, L 180/96/29.6.2013) and other provisions – Amendment of Law 4251/2014 (A 80) to transpose to Greek Law Directive 2014/66/EU of May 15 2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council concerning conditions of entry and residence of third-country nationals in the framework of an intra-corporate transfer – Amendment of asylum procedures and other provisions” <http://www.immigration.gov.gr/documents/20182/31274/nMetan4540-22052018.pdf/23c07ff2-6488-4e59-8101-92cfce8a75d4> 4546/2018, 101 A, “Update and establishment of fees, charges and fines and other provisions of Law 4251/2014” <http://www.immigration.gov.gr/documents/20182/31274/nMetan4546-12062018.pdf/ba63bdd6-6000-4e1a-bc35-240ef8eece54> Law 4587/2018, 218 A, “Emergency arrangements of the Ministry for Migration Policy and other provisions” [http://www.immigration.gov.gr/documents/20182/31274/N+4587\\_2018.pdf/605eff7f-5c1d-4de0-98ed-9acbbc90a7b5](http://www.immigration.gov.gr/documents/20182/31274/N+4587_2018.pdf/605eff7f-5c1d-4de0-98ed-9acbbc90a7b5)

Circulars: 06/11/2018 “Implementation of the provisions of L. 4540/2018 (91 A)” <http://www.immigration.gov.gr/documents/20182/31268/egk3-06112018.pdf/2057d0b4-e59d-4b79-a064-06f1cda5b2f7> 16/07/2018 “Residence of third country nationals with no passport” <http://www.immigration.gov.gr/documents/20182/31268/egk2-23036-16072018.pdf/67dff78-2cc9-48c7-bacf-e9cca8862b0e>

Ministerial Decisions in 2018: 27/12/2018, 43965, 6051B/18 (389B/19) “Adjustment of fee paid” [http://www.immigration.gov.gr/documents/20182/31271/YA\\_43965\\_27122018.pdf/b01002ac-8cf0-45ff-a33f-9bfd39609e40](http://www.immigration.gov.gr/documents/20182/31271/YA_43965_27122018.pdf/b01002ac-8cf0-45ff-a33f-9bfd39609e40) 08/10/2018, 35686, 4782 B’ “Extension of the provisions of the no. 51738/2014 (2947 B’) Joint Ministerial Decision” <http://www.immigration.gov.gr/documents/20182/31271/kya35686-08102018.pdf/1d51cfd6-5786-4421-b2c0-c16b680062c7> 18/09/2018, 31399, 4366 B’ “Modification of the 30825/4.6.2014 (1528 B’) Joint Ministerial Decision, “Establishment of required documentation for the issuance of national visas and the issue and renewal of a residence permit in accordance with the provisions of L. 4251/2014” <http://www.immigration.gov.gr/documents/20182/31271/apof31399-18092018.pdf/117528f6-78f3-4c58-a343-6a5b63335121> 06/07/2018, 28473/605, 2835/B’/16-07-2018 “Modification of the no. 4872/105/13-02-2017 Joint Ministerial Decision (JMD) with subject “Determining the maximum number of residence permits for employment of third country nationals for the years 2017 and 2018” (B’/398), as amended by the no. 27354/444/01-09-2017 Joint Ministerial Decision (B’/3080)” <http://www.immigration.gov.gr/documents/20182/49311/kya-28473-605-06072018.pdf/3228a73d-6a14-47b7-ad0a-40e0c08c2a9f> 22/06/2018, 18951, 2487/B “Definition of documents of a definite date evidencing the seven-year period of uninterrupted stay in the Country, of a third-country national who has made an application for being granted a residence permit on the basis of exceptional circumstances, as well as documents evidencing the parent-child relationship of the third-country national with the national minor, in accordance with Article 19 of Law 4251/2014, as replaced by paragraph 4 of Article 31 of Law 4540/2018 (91 A)” <http://www.immigration.gov.gr/documents/20182/31271/apof18951-24873CE%92.pdf/6f80c181-0763-4188-8882-3662b48db7de> 17/01/2018, 1371, 483/B/16.2.2018 “Supplement to the no. 42267/6.9.2013 Joint Ministerial Decision “Assignment to the Passport Directorate of the Hellenic Police Headquarters for the printing of residence permits issued by the relevant departments of the Ministry of the Interior and the Decentralized Administrations of the Country” (2298 B’)» [http://www.immigration.gov.gr/documents/20182/49311/kya1371\\_2018.pdf/a14ad547-7c47-43f6-b7ac-324181ca54b5](http://www.immigration.gov.gr/documents/20182/49311/kya1371_2018.pdf/a14ad547-7c47-43f6-b7ac-324181ca54b5) 24/01/2018, 368, 352 B/7.2.2018 “Residence permits of third-country nationals entering Greece for attendance at Pilot Training Schools, engineers and cabin crew members operating with the approval of the Civil Aviation Authority” <http://www.immigration.gov.gr/documents/20182/49311/KYA368-24012018.pdf/9b55f428-f8b2-4175-a9a4-a36df2ad7357>

<sup>30</sup> [http://www.et.gr/idocs-nph/search/pdfViewerForm.html?args=5C7QrtC22wG3UHk-ZeQumndtvSoClrL8zNy8yCs-iQh5MXD0LzQLWPU9yLzB8V68knBzLcmTxKaO6fpVZ6Lx3UnK1p8NxdnJ5r9cmWYjWelDvWVS\\_18kAEHATUkjb0x1LldQ163nV9K--td6SiuU65b8pXvGR4mTv-qz7CBuN03xBugVGivXxWH9zlvTv](http://www.et.gr/idocs-nph/search/pdfViewerForm.html?args=5C7QrtC22wG3UHk-ZeQumndtvSoClrL8zNy8yCs-iQh5MXD0LzQLWPU9yLzB8V68knBzLcmTxKaO6fpVZ6Lx3UnK1p8NxdnJ5r9cmWYjWelDvWVS_18kAEHATUkjb0x1LldQ163nV9K--td6SiuU65b8pXvGR4mTv-qz7CBuN03xBugVGivXxWH9zlvTv)

<sup>31</sup> <https://www.synigoros.gr/?i=foreigner.el.metanastis-nomoi.500153>

<sup>32</sup> <https://www.synigoros.gr/resources/docs/201806260-nomos-4546.pdf>

<sup>33</sup> <https://www.taxheaven.gr/laws/circular/view/id/29013>

<sup>34</sup> <https://government.gov.gr/tag/τροποδευτικό/>

<sup>35</sup> <http://www.opengov.gr/immigration/wp-content/uploads/downloads/2019/01/ethniki-stratigiki.pdf>

<sup>36</sup> <http://www.opengov.gr/immigration/?p=801>

<sup>37</sup> Asylum Service, Ministry for Migration Policy, Greece.

<sup>38</sup> <https://www.synigoros.gr/?i=foreigner.el.metanastis-egkykloi.495458>

<sup>39</sup> <https://www.synigoros.gr/resources/docs/20180502-paroxi-dieukriniseon.pdf>

<sup>40</sup> <http://immigration.gov.gr/documents/20182/31268/egk3-06112018.pdf/2057d0b4-e59d-4b79-a064-06f1cda5b2f7>

As far as asylum practice is concerned, there have been no changes in the procedures followed. The provisions of the Presidential Decree 131/2006 (Government Gazette A 143/13-07-2006)<sup>41</sup> on the right to family reunification, are in force. In addition, the opportunity to enroll in the Registry of the Manpower Employment Organization (OAED) for migrants who are holders of a residence permit and for refugees who are beneficiaries of international protection or applicants for international protection or holders of subsidiary protection status<sup>42</sup>, was provided. The JMD 43965/18 (Government Gazette 6051 B/31-12-18) on the adjustment of the amount of the fee paid by third country nationals for the issue or renewal of a residence permit pursuant to Article 20, paragraph A, of Law 4251/14, was issued<sup>43</sup>.

Concerning international protection including asylum<sup>44</sup> changes in 2018 include: a) First arrival to territory: Law 4540/2018 (GG 91/A/22.05.2018) includes the following<sup>45</sup>: 1. Amendments of the Greek legislation in accordance with the provisions of Directive 2013/33/EU on the standards required for the reception of applicants for international protection. 2. Amendment of Law 4251/2014 (A 80) to transpose to Greek Law Directive 2014/66/EU concerning conditions of entry and residence of third-country nationals in the framework of an intra-corporate transfer. 3. Amendment of provisions in order to improve and simplify the administrative and judiciary procedures for the provision of international protection. 4. Amendment of provisions in order to improve and simplify the procedures of the Services of the Ministry for Migration Policy. 5. Abolishment or replacement of certain organizational provisions. Participation of the Reception and Identification Service in the chain of procedures for the location of potential victims (EMA)<sup>46</sup> and collaboration with the jointly responsible services Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Hellenic Police<sup>47</sup> As far as the Asylum Service is concerned, existing (EU and national) legislation is still in force, as in 2017. Changes are made periodically in terms of improving the quality of procedures, the most important ones in 2018 were those introducing the provisioning regulations of the 2018 adopted laws<sup>48</sup>. Among the most important are the interventions on asylum procedures at the border, where the exceptional procedure under Article 60 par. 4 extends until 31/12/2018, changes in the issuing of decisions on international protection requests to the deadlines with the provisions of Law 4540/2018, the valid and timely provision of information to asylum seekers at all stages of the asylum procedure, from the arrival to the procedures related to the first degree decision<sup>49</sup>. In 2018, the Best Interest Assessment (BIA) for unaccompanied minors in Dublin processes was adopted. In addition, the provision of information to applicants in 18 languages (audio-visual material)<sup>50</sup> was implemented.

<sup>41</sup> Asylum Service, Ministry for Migration Policy, Greece.

<sup>42</sup> <http://www.oaed.gr/documents/10195/1214556/DELTIΟ+ΤΥΠΟY+ΑΣΤΕΓΟΙ+28+02+2018.pdf/8b5ebd83-9ece-4efc-9163-dbbe359fde42>

<sup>43</sup> <https://www.e-nomothesia.gr/kat-allodapoi/koine-upourgike-apophase-43965-18.html>

<sup>44</sup> Laws in 2018: Law 4531/2018 (A' 5/04/2018, GG 62) "(I) Ratification of the Council of Europe Convention on the Prevention and Combating of Violence Against Women and Domestic Violence and Adaptation of Greek Legislation, II) Incorporation of the Framework Decision 2005/214/JHA as amended by the Framework Decision 2009/299/JHA on the application of the principle of mutual recognition to financial penalties and III) Other provisions of the competence of the Ministry of Justice, Transparency and Human Rights and other provisions" <http://asylo.gov.gr/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/%CE%9D%CF%8C%CE%BC%CE%BF%CF%82-4531-2018.pdf> Law 4540/2018 (A' 22/05/2018, GG 91) "Amendments of the Greek legislation in accordance with the provisions of Directive 2013/33/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of Europe of June 26 2013, on the standards required for the reception of applicants for international protection (recast, L 180/96/29.6.2013) and other provisions – Amendment of Law 4251/2014 (A 80) to transpose to Greek Law Directive 2014/66/EU of May 15 2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council concerning conditions of entry and residence of third-country nationals in the framework of an intra-corporate transfer – Amendment of asylum procedures and other provisions" <http://asylo.gov.gr/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/%CE%9D%CE%9F%CE%9C%CE%9F%CE%A3-4540-22.05.2018.pdf> Law 4554/2018 (A' 18/07/2018, GG 130) "Insurance and pension arrangements - Addressing undeclared work - Enhancing worker protection - Guardianship of unaccompanied minors and other provisions" <http://asylo.gov.gr/wp-content/uploads/2018/08/%CE%95%CE%A0%CE%99%CE%A4%CE%A1%CE%9F%CE%A0%CE%95%CE%99%CE%91-XLcompressed.pdf> Decisions within 2018: Decision no. 8038/23/22-pz/ (GG B' – 5906 – 31.12.2018) "Extension of Operation of Pre-Detention Centers for Foreigners" <http://asylo.gov.gr/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/%CE%A0%CE%A1%CE%9F%CE%9A%CE%95%CE%9A%CE%91-%CE%A5%CE%A0.pdf> Decision of the Minister for Migration Policy "Grant to the Asylum Service a Department for use on the ground floor of the "Keranis" <http://asylo.gov.gr/wp-content/uploads/2018/12/%CE%A5%CE%A0-%CE%95%CE%99%CE%91-%CE%A5%CE%A0.pdf> Decision of the Minister for Migration Policy "Grant to the Asylum Service regarding the local competence of the Asylum Regional Office of Attica for applications submitted by nationals of the countries of Sub-Saharan Africa" <http://asylo.gov.gr/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/%CE%A0%CE%A1%CE%9F%CE%9A%CE%95%CE%9A%CE%91-%CE%A5%CE%A0.pdf> Decision ref. no. 7586/18 (GG B' – 4794 – 26.10.2018) "Launch of registry of Greek and foreign non-governmental organizations active in the field of international protection, migration and social integration" <http://asylo.gov.gr/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/MKO.pdf> Decision ref. no. 18984 (GG B' – 4427 – 05.10.2018 ) "Restrictions on the movement on applicants for international protection" <http://asylo.gov.gr/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/%CE%A0%CE%A1%CE%9F%CE%9A%CE%95%CE%9A%CE%91-%CE%A5%CE%A0.pdf> Joint Ministerial Decision ref. no. 47094 (GG B' – 3678 – 28.08.2018) "Specification of required documentation and procedure for granting national long-stay entry visa (VISA-type D) to third-country nationals or stateless persons as part of their family reunification with refugees" <http://asylo.gov.gr/wp-content/uploads/2018/08/%CE%A0%CE%A1%CE%9F%CE%9A%CE%95%CE%9A%CE%91-%CE%A5%CE%A0.pdf> Decision to modify the identity data of applicants for international protection (GG B' – 3598 – 23.08.2018) <http://asylo.gov.gr/wp-content/uploads/2018/08/%CE%A0%CE%A1%CE%9F%CE%9A%CE%95%CE%9A%CE%91-%CE%A5%CE%A0.pdf> Decision 7001/9/37-nc' (1.) and decision (2.) ref. no. 8269 (GG B' - 1366 – 20.04.2018) "1. Temporary entry - exit of people from the ports of Kalymnos, Petra, Lesvos, Karlovasi of Samos and from the airports of Chios and Karpathos. 2. Restrictions on the movement on applicants for international protection" <http://asylo.gov.gr/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/%CE%A0%CE%A1%CE%9F%CE%9A%CE%95%CE%9A%CE%91-%CE%A5%CE%A0.pdf> Decision 8061/18-4-2018 of the Minister for Migration Policy (GG issue Employees of Special Positions and Administration Bodies of Public and Wider Public Sector Bodies– 220-18.04.2018) "Appointment of Director of Asylum Service for 3 years" <http://asylo.gov.gr/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/%CE%A0%CE%A1%CE%9F%CE%9A%CE%95%CE%9A%CE%91-%CE%A5%CE%A0.pdf> Decision ref. no. 3385 (GG B' – 417 – 14.02.2018) "Regulation of Operation of the Asylum Service" <http://asylo.gov.gr/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/%CE%A0%CE%A1%CE%9F%CE%9A%CE%95%CE%9A%CE%91-%CE%A5%CE%A0.pdf> Decision ref. no. 3153 and ref. no. 3028 (GG B' – 310 – 2.02.2018) "A. Modification of the identity data of applicants for international protection ka B. Launch of operations of the Independent Asylum Unit in Ioannina" <http://asylo.gov.gr/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/%CE%A0%CE%A1%CE%9F%CE%9A%CE%95%CE%9A%CE%91-%CE%A5%CE%A0.pdf> Απόφαση αριθμ. οικ. 868 (ΦΕΚ Β' – 201 – 30.01.2018) "Duration of validity of application forms for applicants for international protection" <http://asylo.gov.gr/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/%CE%A0%CE%A1%CE%9F%CE%9A%CE%95%CE%9A%CE%91-%CE%A5%CE%A0.pdf>

Circulars in 2018: Circular – 25.10.2018 "Regarding changing data of applicants for international protection" <http://asylo.gov.gr/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/%CE%A0%CE%A1%CE%9F%CE%9A%CE%95%CE%9A%CE%91-%CE%A5%CE%A0.pdf> Circular – 13.02.2018 "Regarding the issuance of AMKA to beneficiaries of international protection and asylum seekers" <http://asylo.gov.gr/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/%CE%A0%CE%A1%CE%9F%CE%9A%CE%95%CE%9A%CE%91-%CE%A5%CE%A0.pdf> Circular no.1 – 26.1.2018 "Committing a serious crime and its consequences for granting and withdrawing international protection status and for granting a uniform residence permit" <http://asylo.gov.gr/wp-content/uploads/2018/01/%CE%A0%CE%A1%CE%9F%CE%9A%CE%95%CE%9A%CE%91-%CE%A5%CE%A0.pdf>

<sup>45</sup> <http://asylo.gov.gr/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/%CE%9D%CE%9F%CE%9C%CE%9F%CE%A3-4540-22.05.2018.pdf>

<sup>46</sup> <http://www.ekka.org.gr/images/sampled/ASYDONISMOU/EMA.pdf>

<sup>47</sup> Reception and Identification Service, General Secretariat for Reception, Ministry for Migration Policy, Greece.

<sup>48</sup> [http://asylo.gov.gr/?page\\_id=141](http://asylo.gov.gr/?page_id=141)

<sup>49</sup> Asylum Service, Ministry for Migration Policy, Greece.

<sup>50</sup> [http://asylo.gov.gr/?page\\_id=7248](http://asylo.gov.gr/?page_id=7248)

b) Access to the asylum procedure. L. 4540/2018 (GG 91/A/22.05.2018)<sup>51</sup> includes the following: 1. Amendments of the Greek legislation in accordance with the provisions of Directive 2013/33/EU on the standards required for the reception of applicants for international protection. 2. Amendment of provisions in order to improve and simplify the administrative and judiciary procedures for the provision of international protection. 3. Amendment of provisions in order to improve and simplify the procedures of the Services of the Ministry for Migration Policy. 4. Abolishment or replacement of certain organizational provisions. In addition, EASO's Operation Plan for Greece was launched<sup>52</sup>. Moreover, the Ministerial Decision no.31399/18/GG B 4366/1.10.2018 was issued, which modifies the 30825/4.6.2014 (1528 B) Joint Ministerial Decision "Determination of the requirements for the provision of visas and for the provision and renewal of residence permit according to the provisions of L. 4251/2014" as in force<sup>53</sup>.

c) Registration of applications for international protection, identification and fingerprinting). (L. 4540/2018 GG 91/A/22.05.2018)<sup>54</sup>. Improvement of the quality of implementation of the Dublin Regulation processes and provision of information procedures. The provisions in force continue to apply<sup>55</sup>.

Reception of applicants: (L. 4540/2018 GG 91/A/22.05.2018)<sup>56</sup>. Despite the EU-Turkey Statement, the flows continued in an upward trend in 2018. Many RICs facilities were upgraded and repaired as well as Structure of responsibility of RIS<sup>57</sup>. The responsible reception authority, in collaboration with the responsible in each case national authorities, international organizations and certified social stakeholders, ensures the provision of material reception conditions or in the form of financial support to the applicants for international protection. The provision of the entirety or part of the material reception conditions is implemented provided that they do not have employment or that their employment does not provide them with adequate income. As regards asylum procedures in relation to the operation of the first reception and integration practices for UAMs, excluded from the border procedure of article 60 par.4 of Law 4375/2016, and are subject to: 1. the National Center for Social Solidarity automatic notification procedure for finding a suitable accommodation structure (even if they indicate a home address, as well as a procedure for certifying minority status) 1. in cases of doubting the declared age, 2. in the appointment of a Guardian. The Asylum Service is working on the certification of vulnerability and medical referrals, as well as the preparation of the Service for the launch of the National Referral Mechanism for Victims of Human Trafficking, to be launched on 01/01/2019<sup>58</sup>. In order to provide dignified and safe housing, in collaboration with the Ministry of Defense, property was renovated to house unaccompanied minors and refugee families. This property belongs to the General Secretariat of Welfare, with a total capacity of 800 individuals, while for the same purpose, seven more buildings of the General Secretariat of Welfare are being renovated<sup>59</sup>.

Detention during the asylum procedure: L. 4540/2018 (GG 91/A/22.05.2018)<sup>60</sup>: Concerning the reception conditions, Law 4540/2018, incorporates the provisions of the Directive 2013/33/EU. These include: the possibility of geographical restriction is provided for in the relocation of the asylum applicants with the Decision of the Director of the Asylum Service, when that serves the rapid processing and the effective monitoring of the applications for international protection. The restriction does not affect private life and the exercise of rights and is mentioned at the application documents for international protection. Concerning the detention of the asylum applicants, the relevant provisions incorporate the ones of the Directive, while special care is taken in case of vulnerable groups. Specifically, the communication of the detained asylum applicants is ensured, both with their family members, with their legal representatives and with spokespersons from organizations that act on their behalf. Their detention takes place in locations that respect human dignity and not in the same location as criminal law prisoners. During the detention, the mental health of the detainees is the primary concern<sup>61</sup>.

Access to information and legal counselling/representation, includes: i) Completion of the Register of Asylum Service Lawyers: Register of Asylum Service Lawyers, ii) Inclusion of Lawyers Registry of Asylum Service, and iii) Allocation of Lawyers at Regional Asylum Offices<sup>62</sup>.

Provision of interpretation, includes: Greek-speaking personnel is provided by EASO to the Asylum Service during the registration of applications for international protection and for any other administrative action.

<sup>51</sup> <http://asylo.gov.gr/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/%CE%9D%CE%9F%CE%9C%CE%9F%CE%A3-4540-22.05.2018.pdf>

<sup>52</sup> <https://www.easo.europa.eu/sites/default/files/Greece%20OP%202018-13-12-2017.pdf>

<sup>53</sup> <https://www.eea.gr/epikairota-eea/ta-dikaiogitika-gia-tis-adeies-diamonis/>

<sup>54</sup> <http://asylo.gov.gr/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/%CE%9D%CE%9F%CE%9C%CE%9F%CE%A3-4540-22.05.2018.pdf>

<sup>55</sup> Asylum Service, Ministry for Migration Policy, Greece.

<sup>56</sup> <http://asylo.gov.gr/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/%CE%9D%CE%9F%CE%9C%CE%9F%CE%A3-4540-22.05.2018.pdf>

<sup>57</sup> Reception and Identification Service, General Secretariat for Reception, Ministry for Migration Policy, Greece.

<sup>58</sup> Asylum Service, Ministry for Migration Policy, Greece.

<sup>59</sup> <https://www.euro2day.gr/news/economy/article/1655430/yp-ergasias.html>

<sup>60</sup> <http://asylo.gov.gr/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/%CE%9D%CE%9F%CE%9C%CE%9F%CE%A3-4540-22.05.2018.pdf>

<sup>61</sup> [http://www.mindigital.gr/attachments/article/2387/EN%CE%97%CE%9C%CE%95%CE%A1%CE%A9%CE%A4%CE%99%CE%9A%CE%9F%20%CE%94%CE%95%CE%9B%CE%A4%CE%99%CE%9F%CE%A0%CE%A1%CE%9F%CE%A3%CE%A6%CE%A5%CE%93%CE%99%CE%9A%CE%9F\(2\).pdf](http://www.mindigital.gr/attachments/article/2387/EN%CE%97%CE%9C%CE%95%CE%A1%CE%A9%CE%A4%CE%99%CE%9A%CE%9F%20%CE%94%CE%95%CE%9B%CE%A4%CE%99%CE%9F%CE%A0%CE%A1%CE%9F%CE%A3%CE%A6%CE%A5%CE%93%CE%99%CE%9A%CE%9F(2).pdf)

<sup>62</sup> Asylum Service, Ministry for Migration Policy, Greece.

Dublin procedure: (including changes in: the organisational framework, IT systems<sup>63</sup>, practical development and suspension of transfers to selected countries, detention in the framework of Dublin procedures): The main changes in the Dublin procedures are: The acceleration of the transfer procedures for the payment of outgoing claims by the Member States, determined in accordance with the mechanisms and criteria of L. 604/2013, responsible for examining their application for international protection. Also incorporate the BIA<sup>64</sup> tool into the Dublin National Agency processes and improve service quality<sup>65</sup>.

Special procedures (include border procedures, procedures in transit zones, accelerated procedures, admissibility procedures, prioritised procedures or any special procedure for selected cases):

Concerning the acceleration of the procedures of examination and provision of international protection: The deadlines were compressed, for the completion of the examination of 1st degree asylum applications, to 30 days (from 90 that used to apply) and of the examination of 2nd degree asylum applications, to 40 days (from 60 that used to apply).

Modification of Asylum Service Guidelines on Qualitative Characteristics – participation of the European Asylum Support Office (EASO). The provisions of article 60 par. 4 of the Law 4375/1920 and the Joint Ministerial Decision of the Hellenic Ministry of Defense with the no. 13257/16 (Government Gazette 3455 B/26-10-2016) apply. Implementation of the provisions of paragraph 4 of Article 60 of the No. 4375/2016 (A '51) according to the modifications made by Law 4540/2018<sup>66</sup>.

Safe country concept (includes: 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): Similar to 2017, there is no safe country list and cases are evaluated on an individual basis<sup>67</sup>.

Procedures at first instance include: L. 4540/2018 (GG 91/A/22.05.2018) Includes the following: 1. Amendments of the Greek legislation in accordance with the provisions of Directive 2013/33/EU on the standards required for the reception of applicants for international protection. 2. Amendment of provisions in order to improve and simplify the administrative and judiciary procedures for the provision of international protection. 3. Amendment of provisions in order to improve and simplify the procedures of the Services of the Ministry for Migration Policy. 4. Abolishment or replacement of certain organizational provisions. In addition, in August 2018, 20 interim European Asylum Support Office (EASO) caseworkers were placed in Lesbos to support the interrogations of asylum applications under the normal procedure following an extensive training programme. Under Law 4540/2018. Article 28 (7), EASO officials are allowed to participate when there is an urgent need for administrative inquiries into asylum applications. In addition, according to Ministerial Decree No. 16490/18 (Government Gazette 3807 B/04-09-2018) the participation of Greek-language staff of the European Asylum Support Office (EASO) in the Asylum Service is allowed due to the fact that, according to Eurostat official statistics, the number of applications asylum in Greece in 2017 augmented 15%, with 9% of the total number of applications for international protection filed in the European Union, i.e. 5 times more applications than those that are theoretically attributable. It is also noted that Greece holds the first place of submission of applications for international protection in proportion to population in the European Union (5.295 applications per 1.000.000 inhabitants)<sup>68</sup>. The participation of Greek-language staff available from the European Asylum Support Office in order to cover the particularly high and exceptional needs of the Asylum Service, in accordance with the provisions of par. 11 of law 4375/2016, as it applies to the taking of the records and interviews of applications for international protection lodged with the Asylum Service, as well as any other administrative action other than the adoption of administrative acts<sup>69</sup>.

Appeal/judicial review: Law 4540/2018 (GG 91/A/22.05.2018) includes: There are provisions for alternative fictitious performances in case the person who appealed is not found, in order to deliver the 2nd degree decision. These are addressed to the proxy or to their lawyer, to the commander of the RIC or to the supervisor of the infrastructure, and are also uploaded to a relevant website. It is possible to replace the judicial officials. It is permitted to submit a subsequent request only if the applicant provides new information, which, not by their culpability, they did not bring up during the examination of their prior application. There are provisions for the inability to remain in the country if the application aims to delay or obstruct the decision of removal implementation, and in case the applicant submits a second subsequent after the issuing of final decision based on which the first subsequent was found not acceptable or unfounded. The decision issued by the Appeals Authority is final, in case the appeal against the 1st degree decision is submitted on time. The asylum applicant has the right to appeal to the appropriate administrative courts. However, exercising a cancellation application and a probation application does not constitute on its own grounds for suspending any refusal of the asylum application. There is provision for the discussion of overdue appeals only in case they were overdue due to force majeure. The method of appointment of the Administrative Director for the Appeals Authority changed.

<sup>63</sup> For example, information on setting up new databases that allow managing of Dublin cases, problems with managing DubliNet which can cause a delay in sending/receiving Dublin requests, acquisition of new equipment, such as Eurodac machines etc. as it is a relevant development in boosting the capacity to conduct Dublin procedures.

<sup>64</sup> [http://asylo.gov.gr/?page\\_id=113](http://asylo.gov.gr/?page_id=113); [http://asylo.gov.gr/wp-content/uploads/2018/08/Best\\_Interest\\_Assessment\\_Checklist\\_for\\_Dublin\\_Procedures.pdf](http://asylo.gov.gr/wp-content/uploads/2018/08/Best_Interest_Assessment_Checklist_for_Dublin_Procedures.pdf); [http://asylo.gov.gr/wp-content/uploads/2018/08/Best\\_Interest\\_Assessment\\_Form\\_FINAL.pdf](http://asylo.gov.gr/wp-content/uploads/2018/08/Best_Interest_Assessment_Form_FINAL.pdf)

<sup>65</sup> Asylum Service, Ministry for Migration Policy, Greece.

<sup>66</sup> Asylum Service, Ministry for Migration Policy, Greece.

<sup>67</sup> Asylum Service, Ministry for Migration Policy, Greece.

<sup>68</sup> [https://www.minedu.gov.gr/publications/docs2018/ΦΕΚ\\_Β\\_3807\\_139454\\_Δ2\\_28\\_08\\_2018\\_ΟΠ\\_ΗΜΕΡΗΣΙΟΥ\\_ΓΕΛ.pdf](https://www.minedu.gov.gr/publications/docs2018/ΦΕΚ_Β_3807_139454_Δ2_28_08_2018_ΟΠ_ΗΜΕΡΗΣΙΟΥ_ΓΕΛ.pdf)

<sup>69</sup> Asylum Service, Ministry for Migration Policy, Greece.



It will be implemented after a decision from the Minister of Migration Policy following a public call and the recommendation of a three-membered committee, within exclusive deadlines, aiming for to promptly cease to operation of the Committee with an interim director.

Country of origin information, include: On 12/3/2018 Comments on the handling of international protection claims for Sudanese nationals. Concerning cases from Sudanese applicants, in particular regarding the treatment of non-Arabs in Darfur in Sudan and the treatment of returned asylum seekers in Sudan (Arabs and non-Arabs). On 9/2018 Directive on the handling of applications submitted by stateless Palestinian origin. On 12/2018 Guidelines for the Examination of International Protection Claims Submitted by Afghan nationals<sup>70</sup>

On residence/entry documents granted to beneficiaries of international protection (including length/duration), the Decision ref. no. 868 (Government Gazette 201/B/30.01.2018)<sup>71</sup> - Duration of validity of application forms for applicants for international protection, was issued. Current legal framework is in force, including law amendments of 2018<sup>72</sup>.

Rights and obligations regarding family reunification, access to social welfare scheme, access to accommodation, healthcare, citizenship, education, employment etc. L. 4540/2018 (GG 91/A/22.05.2018) includes the following: 1. Amendments of the Greek legislation in accordance with the provisions of Directive 2013/33/EU on the standards required for the reception of applicants for international protection. 2. Amendment of provisions in order to improve and simplify the administrative and judiciary procedures for the provision of international protection. 3. Amendment of provisions in order to improve and simplify the procedures of the Services of the Ministry for Migration Policy. 4. Abolishment or replacement of certain organizational provisions.

Regarding unaccompanied minors and other vulnerable groups, changes in 2018 include: An increase of personnel at the "safe zones" of RICs with jurisdiction to look after Unaccompanied Minors<sup>73</sup>. Law 4554/2018<sup>74</sup>, (GG 130/A/18), Section C, Regulatory Framework for the Guardianship of Unaccompanied Minors, Chapter A' Guardianship of Unaccompanied Minors, Article 18, regarding the Responsibilities of the professional guardian, includes that he/she: a) Attends the fulfillment of daily basic survival needs, which means the nutrition of the minor by referring them to actors that provide meals on a daily basis, the accommodation by submitting accommodation requests at accommodation centers for unaccompanied minors of the National Center for Social Solidarity and by following up on the request. b) Represents and supports the minor at all the judicial and administrative procedures, particularly in the asylum procedure, family reunification, readmission and granting of residence permit. The guardian of unaccompanied minors is also considered the spokesperson of unaccompanied minors, according to the provisions of law 4375/2016. c) Assists the minor with the Health Services throughout the provision of healthcare. d) Can submit an asylum application or an application for a residence permit on behalf of the minor, taking into consideration their desire in accordance to their maturity. The minor above 15 years old can submit themselves the asylum application, according to the provisions of articles 36 and 45 of the law 4375/2016. e) Exercises the projected legal means and aids against administrative or judicial decisions that concern the minor, as well as administrative appeals by the attorney-at-law. f) Ensures that the minor is protected during their stay in the country and during the readmission procedure to their country of origin<sup>75</sup>, according to the provisions of Law 3907/2011 (A' 7). g) Ensures that there is free legal support and interpretation for the minor. h) Ensures that there is psychological support and healthcare for the minor. i) Ensure the training and education of the minor<sup>76</sup>. For instance, ensures the registration of the minor at the regular or non-regular education, in order for them to learn the Greek language, their mother tongue, foreign languages etc. j) Ensures that there are appropriate reception and accommodation conditions<sup>77</sup>. k) Takes steps to ensure that the actual care of the minor is assigned to an appropriate family (foster family), according to the provisions in place. l) Ensures the respect and freedom of expression and the development of the political, philosophical and religious beliefs of the minor. m) Ensures the locating of the family of the minor and their reunification with them, provided that it is in the minor's best interest. n) He/she is in contact with the appropriate authorities for each procedure that concerns the minor, with a spokesperson of their accommodation center<sup>78</sup> or with the foster parents of the minor, with the local District Attorney, with the legal representative of the minor, with civil society actors, as well as with international organizations for any matter that concerns the minor<sup>79,80</sup>. o) Maintains regular contact with the minor, at least once per week, and ensures the development of a relationship of trust with the minor and the understanding of their needs and goals. p) Updates the minor in a language simple and friendly to them, which they comprehend, on the judicial and administrative procedure and on all the matters that concern them. The Guardian collaborates with the legitimated supporter of the unaccompanied minor. Additionally, secures the ability of the minor to effectively participate in all the decisions that concern them. q) Ensures that the minor benefits from all social security benefits. r) Takes charge in urgent cases that concern the minor as soon as he/she is informed by any competent authority or a third person or the minor himself/herself.

<sup>70</sup> Asylum Service, Ministry for Migration Policy, Greece.

<sup>71</sup> <http://asylo.gov.gr/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/Διάρκεια-ισχύος-6ετίας.pdf>

<sup>72</sup> Asylum Service, Ministry for Migration Policy, Greece.

<sup>73</sup> Reception and Identification Service, General Secretariat for Reception, Ministry for Migration Policy, Greece.

<sup>74</sup> Ν. 4554/2018 «Ασφαλιστικές και συνταξιοδοτικές ρυθμίσεις - Αντιμετώπιση της αδήλωτης εργασίας - Ενίσχυση της προστασίας των εργαζομένων - Επιτροπεία ασυνόδευτων ανηλίκων και άλλες διατάξεις» <http://asylo.gov.gr/wp-content/uploads/2018/08/ΕΠΙΤΡΟΠΕΙΑ-ΧΙ.compressed.pdf>

<sup>75</sup> <https://www.synigoros.gr/?i=human-rights.el.files.525805>

<sup>76</sup> <https://government.gov.gr/epichorigisi-tis-voulis-ton-ellinon-sta-scholia-opou-litourgoun-domes-ipodochis-ekpedefsis-prosfigon-diep/>

<sup>77</sup> [http://mindigital.gr/images/prosfigiko/Fotografiko\\_leukoma\\_prosfyges\\_gr.pdf](http://mindigital.gr/images/prosfigiko/Fotografiko_leukoma_prosfyges_gr.pdf)

<sup>78</sup> [http://www.mindigital.gr/index.php/press\\_releases-m/1974-episkepsi-tis-eidikis-grammateos-epikoinoniakis-diaxeirisis-kriseon-sta-kentra-vpodoxis-prosfigon-kai-metanaston-sti-lero-2](http://www.mindigital.gr/index.php/press_releases-m/1974-episkepsi-tis-eidikis-grammateos-epikoinoniakis-diaxeirisis-kriseon-sta-kentra-vpodoxis-prosfigon-kai-metanaston-sti-lero-2)

<sup>79</sup> [http://www.mindigital.gr/index.php/press\\_releases-m/2149-enimerotiko-deltio-gia-to-prosfigiko](http://www.mindigital.gr/index.php/press_releases-m/2149-enimerotiko-deltio-gia-to-prosfigiko)

<sup>80</sup> [http://www.mindigital.gr/index.php/press\\_releases-m/2387-ekdosi-2ou-tevxous-tou-enimerotikoy-deltiou-gia-to-prosfigiko](http://www.mindigital.gr/index.php/press_releases-m/2387-ekdosi-2ou-tevxous-tou-enimerotikoy-deltiou-gia-to-prosfigiko)

s) Treats the minor with affection and respect, without any discrimination due to race, color, national or ethnic origin, genealogical origins, social background, religious, political or other beliefs, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity or gender characteristics. t) Is updated and acts in accordance to the provisions of the Joint Ministerial Decision no. 1982/15.2.2016 (B' 335), in case of procedures for the age assessment/adolescence assessment. u) Ensures the contact of the child with their biological family<sup>81</sup>. Finally, facilities were upgraded and restored<sup>82</sup>.

Regarding integration, changes in 2018 include: The presentation of the National Strategy for the Integration of Migrants, Ministry for Migration Policy (June 2018)<sup>83</sup>. In addition the following measures were taken: Law 4555/2018 (Kleisthenes I) for the Migrant and Refugee Integration Councils (MRIC) (article 79 in replacement of article 78, L. 3852/2010). Law 4547 (Government Gazette A' 102/12-06-2018 (12.06.2018), as applicable (Law No. 4559/2018, GG 142 A'. Reception Facilities for Refugee Education), Ministerial Decision no. 10645/CD4 (23.01.2018) for enrolment in General High-Schools/Technical High-Schools with lacking documentation<sup>84</sup>. Ministerial Decision F1/143929/D1/05-09-2018 (GG 3900 B'), on the exemption of students who have studied at RFREs and who hold a certificate of studies from examinations for the ascertainment of their studies in classes of the Reception Facility. Article 13 (article 14 of Directive 2013/33/EU), of Law No. 4540/2018 (GG 91 A'), Adaptation of Greek legislation to the provisions of Directive 2013/33/EU of the European Parliament and the Council of June 26th 2013, regarding the requirements for the reception of those applying for international protection (recast, L 180/96/29.6.2013) and other provisions – Amendment of Law No. 4251/2014 (A' 80) for the adaptation of Greek legislation to Directive 2014/66/EU of May 15th 2014 of the European Parliament and the Council regarding the prerequisites for the entry and stay of third-country nationals in the context of intra-corporate transfer – Amendment of asylum procedures and other provisions<sup>85</sup>. Amendment of the Ministry for Migration Policy, no. 1603/194 01/06/2018 Athens, June 5<sup>th</sup> 2018 for the adjustment of the amount of the administrative fee paid by third-country nationals for their residence permit in Greece<sup>86</sup>.

In 2018, the following actions were implemented: Action "Integration of Refugee Children, up to the age of 15, in the Education System" with Code OPS 5002810, for the school year 2018-2019, in the context of the National Programme of the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund 2014-2020. Via the aforementioned action, substitute educators are hired to work in RFREs, costs for expendable materials of the school units, within which the RFREs operate, were covered, while psychologists (sector University Degree (P) no. 23) were hired in the RFREs, in order to provide counselling support to refugee students and their families, while also assisting with the management of issues that may arise within the school unit. Via the Decision no. 182559/D2/30-10-2018, of the General Directorate for Primary Level and Secondary Level Education of the Ministry of Education, Research and Religious Affairs, entitled "Entry Permission of Translators to School Units". Based on the aforementioned decision, the collaboration between the MERRA and NGO METAdrasi for the provision of certified translators, is being implemented for the second consecutive year, in schools of Attica and Thessalonica. The Department of Coordination and Monitoring of the Refugee Education, in the context of its responsibilities, organized an educative seminar for the Coordinators of Refugee Education, on the 9th-10th of October 2018, in order to provide information regarding how their responsibilities and educative role can contribute to the improvement of the quality of the provided education<sup>87</sup>. The programme "HELIOS" was presented and the Ministry for Migration Policy, the IOM and the Municipalities of Thebes and Livadia, signed of memorandum of understanding<sup>88</sup>. On 22-10-2018: Inclusion of School Units of Secondary Education in the Zones of Educational Priority, within which Reception Classes I ZEP can operate<sup>89</sup>. Following an intervention by the Greek Ombudsman, the Ministry of Interior informed the responsible regional services of the Hellenic Police to issue (and renew) travel documents for foreigners entitled to international protection who have been issued residence permits under the category of "long-term residency"<sup>90</sup>. In relation to the promotion of the integration on a local level and collaboration, consultation and coordination of the local interested actors, there has been development on a practical level. Members of Centers for Migrant Integration (CMI, KEM in Greek) were invited to a seminar in May 2018 (in the context of regular meetings established by the Ministry for Migration Policy with the Centers for Migrant Integration). The purpose of this seminar was to inform the Centers for Migrant Integration executives, to get to know each other, to develop a network and to exchange of experiences/good practices and opinions/concerns, based on the topics that emerged as necessities from the completion of a questionnaire that had previously been sent to the Centers for Migrant Integration.

Other measures to enhance the education and training of refugees include<sup>91</sup>: On 19-12-18: Administrative circular regarding the evaluation and absences of students in Reception Classes, was published. On 19-12-18 The Hellenic Parliament will be promoting the Education of Refugees also for the school year 2018-2019, as announced. On 16-11-18 Francois Hollande visited Eleonas - Open Reception Center for Refugees. On 01-11-18 An administrative circular for the formation and operation of Reception Classes I ZEP was published. On 22-10-18 Integration of School Units for Secondary Education into the Education Priority Zones (EPZ, ZEP in Greek), within which Reception Classes (REC) I ZEP could operate. On 22-10-18 submission for applications for secondment of educators as Refugee Education Coordinators (RECs, SEP in Greek) for the Regional Directorates of Attica, N. Aegean and Central Greece was opened.

<sup>81</sup> [http://www.opengov.gr/minlab/wp-content/uploads/downloads/2018/07/nomos-4554\\_20](http://www.opengov.gr/minlab/wp-content/uploads/downloads/2018/07/nomos-4554_20)

<sup>82</sup> Reception and Identification Service, General Secretariat for Reception, Ministry for Migration Policy, Greece.

<sup>83</sup> <http://www.opengov.gr/immigration/wp-content/uploads/downloads/2019/01/ethniki-stratigiki.pdf>

<sup>84</sup> Ministry of Education, Research and Religious Affairs.

<sup>85</sup> Ministry of Education, Research and Religious Affairs.

<sup>86</sup> [http://www.immigration.gov.gr/article-details/-/journal\\_content/56\\_INSTANCE\\_qAPKIk32D3aH/20182/54103?back=press-release](http://www.immigration.gov.gr/article-details/-/journal_content/56_INSTANCE_qAPKIk32D3aH/20182/54103?back=press-release)

<sup>87</sup> Ministry of Education, Research and Religious Affairs.

<sup>88</sup> [http://www.immigration.gov.gr/article-details/-/journal\\_content/56\\_INSTANCE\\_qAPKIk32D3aH/20182/51591?back=press-release](http://www.immigration.gov.gr/article-details/-/journal_content/56_INSTANCE_qAPKIk32D3aH/20182/51591?back=press-release)

<sup>89</sup> [https://www.minedu.gov.gr/publications/docs2018/171022\\_ΥΠΟΥΡΓΙΚΗ\\_ΖΕΠ\\_ΠΕΡΙΦΕΡΕΙΣ\\_18-19\\_signed.pdf](https://www.minedu.gov.gr/publications/docs2018/171022_ΥΠΟΥΡΓΙΚΗ_ΖΕΠ_ΠΕΡΙΦΕΡΕΙΣ_18-19_signed.pdf)

<sup>90</sup> [https://www.synigoros.gr/?i=human-rights.el.eggrafa\\_tautotitas.489471](https://www.synigoros.gr/?i=human-rights.el.eggrafa_tautotitas.489471)

<sup>91</sup> <https://www.minedu.gov.gr/prosf-ekpaideusi-m>

On 04-10-2018 the recruitment of 350 substitute educators, of full-time and part-time contracts for topics/specialties of Secondary Education, was implemented. On 03-10-18 1239 educators of Primary Education were hired as temporary substitutes with private law fixed term contracts for the school year 2018-2019. On 03-10-18 78 substitute educators were hired<sup>92</sup>, with full-time and part-time contracts, for topics/specialties of Secondary Educations, was implemented. On 27-09-18 a unit of the Ministry for Education, in collaboration with the Ministry of Health in Lesbos, Chios and Samos for refugee children, deployed. From October 15 to October 19, 2018, the second round of interviews for the “European Passport of Refugee Qualifications” was organized. On 11-09-18 classes for refugee children for the new school year began. On 29-08-18 the Department for the Coordination and Monitoring of the Refugee Education, Ministry of Education, Research and Religious Affairs provided a review of the school year 2017-2018. From August 3 to August 8 2018, applications from permanent educators for Refugee Education Coordinators (RECs, SEP in Greek) in Centers or/and facilities for the Accommodation of Refugees were submitted. On 01-08-2018 the Hellenic Parliament granted funding to schools that include Reception Facilities for Refugee Education (RFREs). On 26-07-2018 information for the personnel of refugee facilities and the refugee parents on access to Education was carried-out. On 21-06-2018<sup>93</sup> the evaluation of European Passport for the Qualifications of Refugees was completed<sup>94</sup>. On 20-06-2018 the Minister of Education, Research and Religion published his message for World Refugee Day<sup>95</sup>. On 18-06-2018 secondments of educators<sup>96</sup> to Regional Directorates of Education as Refugee Education Coordinators (RECs, SEP in Greek) were realized. On 03-03-2018 the Institute on Educational Policy (IEP in Greek) announced the inauguration of educative activities for the support of the Education of Refugee Children<sup>97</sup>. On 05-02-18 A call for permanent educators of Elementary and Secondary Education to submit applications for secondment to the Regional Directorates of Elementary and Secondary Education of the North Aegean, Western Greece and Epirus, so that they be appointed as Refugee Education Coordinators (RECs, SEP in Greek). On 09-01-18 Substitute educators were hired in order to work in the Reception Facilities for Refugee Education. On 02-01-18 a Joint Press Conference of the Minister for Education, Research and Religion Affairs Kostas Gavroglou and the Minister for Migration Policy, Giannis Mouzalas was held. On 05-01-2018 127 educators were hired for the operation of Reception Classes in school units of Secondary Education.

Concerning measures to enhance language skills: With the support of the Institute on Educational Policy (IEP in Greek), UNICEF (Refugee and Migrant Response in Greece) in collaboration with the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, the Aristotelian University of Thessalonica, the University of Thessaly, the University of Ioannina and the University of Crete organized a series of free educational programmes for educators involved in the education of refugee children, with the funding of the European Commission (DG-ECHO)<sup>98</sup>.

The Institute on Educational Policy (IEP in Greek) in the context of action entitled “Training interventions to strengthen school structures in the education system” MIS 5004204, implemented Action no. 4 “Educational Actions for the Support of the Education of Refugee Children” during the school year 2018, under which the following actions were carried out: a) Creation of a Register of Educators for the topics: Socio-cultural background of refugees/migrants, Teaching of Greek as a second/foreign language<sup>99</sup>, Differentiated education with an emphasis on particular topics, Techniques regarding awareness, prevention and handling of xenophobic and stereotypical perceptions, Issues of psychosocial support-resolution of conflicts. b) On-site visits from Scientific Associates to the Reception Classes and RFREs where refugees studied, aiming at collecting data and developing supporting educational material, appropriate for the education of the children of refugees<sup>100</sup>. c) Educational interventions (distance and in person) directed to school Councillors, Principals, Refugee Education Coordinators (RECs, SEP in Greek) and members of the education system of the Educational Regions of Attica, Central Greece, East Macedonia and Thrace, Central Macedonia, Western Greece, Epirus and Thessaly. Specifically, from 09-03-18 until 31-05-2018, 104 hours of training were completed in these particular educational regions. d) The preparation and distribution of educational material for the support of students studying in RCs/RFREs, as well as educational material for the support of educators was developed<sup>101</sup>.

Concerning access to social security, social assistance, healthcare, housing and other basic services in 2018, the following changes were made: Via Law 4554/2018 and article 46 in particular, citizens of third-countries to whom residence permits for humanitarian reasons are granted, will henceforth be able to be included in the Programmes for the Economic Support of People with Special Needs, insofar as they fulfil the requirements defined per Programme<sup>102</sup>. In addition, a circular for the issuance of AMKA (National Insurance Number) to those entitled to international protection and those applying for asylum<sup>103</sup>.

<sup>92</sup> <https://government.gov.gr/proslipsis-anapliroton-ekpedeftikon-gia-apascholisi-stis-diep-domes-ipodochis-gia-tin-ekpedefsi-ton-prosfigon-3/>

<sup>93</sup> <https://government.gov.gr/oloklirothike-axiologisi-tou-evropaikou-diavatiriou-prosonton-prosfigon/>

<sup>94</sup> <https://government.gov.gr/diavatiriou-prosonton-prosfigon-axiologithikan-ta-prosonta-92-prosfigon-ke-ekdothikan-72-evropaika-diavatiria-prosonton-entos-tou-2017/>

<sup>95</sup> [http://www.mindigital.gr/index.php/press\\_releases-m/3299-ekdilosi-afieromeni-stin-pagkosmia-imer-a-metanasti-triti-18-dekemvriou-2018-sto-ypsioite](http://www.mindigital.gr/index.php/press_releases-m/3299-ekdilosi-afieromeni-stin-pagkosmia-imer-a-metanasti-triti-18-dekemvriou-2018-sto-ypsioite)

<sup>96</sup> <https://government.gov.gr/aupospasis-ekpedeftikon-se-periferiak-es-diefthinsis-ekpedefsis-os-sintonistes-ekpedefsis-prosfigon/>

<sup>97</sup> <https://government.gov.gr/anakinosi-tou-iep-enarxi-epimorfotikon-draseon-gia-tin-ipostirixi-tis-ekpedefsis-pedion-prosfigon/>

<sup>98</sup> Ministry of Education, Research and Religious Affairs.

<sup>99</sup> <https://government.gov.gr/programma-mathimata-glossas-ke-politismou-gia-prosfiges-ke-metanastes-15-2/>

<sup>100</sup> Ministry of Education, Research and Religious Affairs.

<sup>101</sup> Ministry of Education, Research and Religious Affairs.

<sup>102</sup> Ministry of Labour, Social Security and Social Solidarity, Greece.

<sup>103</sup> <https://government.gov.gr/egkiklios-gia-tin-apodosi-amka-se-dikeouchous-prostasias-ke-etountes-asilo/>

Regarding integration into the labour market in 2018, the following changes were made: a) Entry of third-country nationals for the purpose of intra-corporate transfer according to Directive 2014/66/EU: Incorporation of the directive in law no. 4251/2014 with the passing of law no. 4540/2018. b) Law No. 4540/2018 (articles 15, 16). Applicants for International Protection: Specifically, in article 15 it is stated that “the right to access the labour market cannot be revoked during the course of the appeal procedure, until notified of a negative decision on the appeal”. In article 16, “professional knowledge”, it is stated that “The applicants have access to the enrolment into and attendance of professional expertise programmes, under the same conditions as Greek citizens, regardless of whether or not they have access to the labour market”<sup>104</sup>. The Ministry of Labour, Social Security and Social Solidarity aimed at implementing for the first time a vocational training, certification and job search programme for 3.000 unemployed refugees in high demand sectors in the regions of Attica and Central Macedonia. The aim of the programme is to help refugees acquire technical skills that they can use to join the labour market<sup>105</sup>.

Regarding citizenship and statelessness in 2018, the following changes were made: Changes regarding the conditions acquiring citizenship according to circular 11/25.04.2018 of the Ministry of Interior of Law 4531/2018 (Government Gazette 62 A/5.4.20018) including: Article 3: Extension of duration of legal residence in Greece from seven to twelve years. However, a foreigner who is applying for citizenship is not required have a particular residence permit as previously required, but any valid residence permit except for the provisional ones. In order to acquire the Greek citizenship by declaration or by request due to being born in Greece or attending a school in Greece, this school can be Greek or foreign, but in any case it must follow the Greek educational and teaching curriculum<sup>106</sup>. Simplified instructions for the acquisition of Greek citizenship were published, entitled: “How can I become a Greek citizen?”<sup>107</sup>. Units of the decentralized administration to recommended Regional Directorates of Citizenship of the Ministry of Interior, were transferred according to Law 4555/2018 (Greek Government Gazette 133/A/19.7.2018)<sup>108</sup>. Article 272 of Law 4555/2018, which amended the section a of par. 3 of article 2 of Law 4332/2015 (Government Gazette 133/A/19.7.2018), the deadline of submitting application for acquisition of the Greek citizenship for those, who are subject to the transitional provisions of Article 1B of the Greek Nationality Code, was extended (due to attending Greek school in Greece/graduating from Higher Educational Institute/Technical Educational Institute)<sup>109</sup>. The Ministerial Decision no. 130181/6353/27.3.2018 (Government Gazette 1208/B/2.4.2018) included: the addition of undefined duration residence permit or residence permit for 10 years or residence permit for investing activities, for owning real property, for investors to the titles of permanent residence permit required for naturalization of foreigners<sup>110</sup>. Withdrawal of naturalization decisions of expatriate holders of a Special Identity Card of Expatriate (SICE, EDTO in Greek) on the grounds of questioning the expatriate status with the circular 14/9.11.2018 of the Ministry of Interior<sup>111</sup>, where among others it is mentioned: “Withdrawal of the relevant naturalization decision and subsequent removal of the person concerned from the population registries where he/she has a share is required in cases where, at any time after the completion of the process of naturalization of an Albanian citizen as an expatriate holder of a Special Identity Card of Expatriate (SICE, EDTO in Greek), questioning his/her expatriate status or the legitimacy of issuing a Special Identity Card of Expatriate (SICE, EDTO in Greek) to him/her, in the cases: a) to a consular visa forgery which appears to have been granted to a person with different data that is proven not to be the same person as the naturalized; b) providing a certified consular visa with an issue date after 2001, that is proven not to be of an Expatriate type<sup>112</sup>.

Other circulars and instructions regarding naturalization, included<sup>113</sup>: Separation of the name and surname of Indian nationals, who apply for naturalization<sup>114</sup>. Return of the fee for naturalization of those who have Special Identity Card of Expatriate/Hellenic descent (SICE, EDTO in Greek) on the grounds of change of legal basis<sup>115</sup>.

Other circulars<sup>116</sup>: The Directorate of Citizenship, Special Secretariat of Citizenship, Ministry of Interior issued the following: On 10/09/2018 31 requests were made for acceleration of the procedure of naturalization and acquisition of citizenship according to articles 1A and 1B of the Greek Nationality Code – Change of residence. On 24/07/2018 no.130181/17760 provision of instructions for the acquisition of Greek citizenship of citizens of Hellenic descent/Expatriate (stateless or not), who come from Turkey. On 20/07/2018 no. 130181/12313 implementation of orders Law.4332/2015. On 25/04/2018 11 Notification of new orders regarding citizenship. On 25/01/2018 02 Inclusion of specific cases of applicants within the scope of orders regarding naturalization of citizens of Hellenic descent/Expatriate.

<sup>104</sup> Ministry of Labour, Social Security and Social Solidarity, Greece.

<sup>105</sup> <https://ec.europa.eu/migrant-integration/news/greek-government-announces-labour-market-support-for-refugees> See also <https://ec.europa.eu/migrant-integration/news/greece- asylum-seekers-allowed-to-register-as-unemployed>

<sup>106</sup> <https://www.synigoros.gr/resources/docs/20170507-egkyklios-11.pdf>

<sup>107</sup> <http://www.vpes.gr/el/EidGramlthageneias/>

<sup>108</sup> <http://www.vpes.gr/UserFiles/f0ff9297-f516-40ff-a70e-eca84e2ec9b9/N.4555-2018-FEK-A-133%20%20.pdf>

<sup>109</sup> Special Secretariat of Citizenship, Citizenship Directorate, Ministry of Interior (MI), Greece.

<sup>110</sup> Special Secretariat of Citizenship, Citizenship Directorate, Ministry of Interior (MI), Greece.

<sup>111</sup> <https://diavgeia.gov.gr/doc/%CE%A9%CE%92%CE%9F%CE%9B465%CE%A7%CE%987-%CE%9B%CE%9A%CE%9B?inline=true>

<sup>112</sup> <https://diavgeia.gov.gr/doc/%CE%A9%CE%92%CE%9F%CE%9B465%CE%A7%CE%987-%CE%9B%CE%9A%CE%9B?inline=true>

<sup>113</sup> <http://www.vpes.gr/el/EidGramlthageneias/GrafeioEidGrammatea/Egkyklioi/EgkyklioiOdhgiesPolitografisi/>

<sup>114</sup> <http://www.vpes.gr/UserFiles/f0ff9297-f516-40ff-a70e-eca84e2ec9b9/eggr0038250-08022018.pdf>

<sup>115</sup> <http://www.vpes.gr/UserFiles/f0ff9297-f516-40ff-a70e-eca84e2ec9b9/epistroti-paravolou.pdf>

<sup>116</sup> [http://www.vpes.gr/el/EidGramlthageneias/diefthinsi\\_ithageneiasNEW/EgkyklioiNEW/](http://www.vpes.gr/el/EidGramlthageneias/diefthinsi_ithageneiasNEW/EgkyklioiNEW/)

Other circulars<sup>117</sup> via the Office of Special Secretary, Special Secretariat of Citizenship, Ministry of Interior, included: Acquisition of citizenship because of recognition from a Greek citizen – procedure, recognized as refugees for political reasons. Rejection of appeal against refusal of naturalization of a person, who has a Special Identity Card of Expatriate (SICE, EDTO in Greek) on the grounds of not staying in the country. Provision of instructions for the withdrawal of naturalization of people who have Special Identity Card of Expatriate (SICE, EDTO in Greek) on the grounds of questioning their expatriate. Providing instructions for the acquisition of Greek citizenship to those of Hellenic descent (stateless or not), who come from Turkey. Requests for acceleration of the procedure of naturalization and acquisition of citizenship according to articles 1A and 1B of the Greek Nationality Code – Change of residence. Withdrawal of citizenship on the grounds of providing false documents to prove that Greece is the country of origin. Addition of the surname of the Greek husband to the surname of a foreign national for a wedding that took place in Greece after 1983. Determining Greek citizenship according to the previous Greek Nationality Code for a person of undefined citizenship who was born in Greece. Case in which a correction of legal basis of acquiring Greek citizenship is permitted. Scope of implementation of Article 13 of Law 4018/2011, as is in force. It is permitted to submit a request under Article 2 (3) of Law 4332/2015 for those who, without their own fault, their residence has not been recognized as having been deprived of a passport. Issues 1A and 1B of the Greek Nationality Code: Attendance at special schools – Change of residence permit of the parent -Correction of first name and surname. Clarifying details regarding acquisition of citizenship on the grounds of declaration of voluntary recognition. Application of the principle of the autonomy of individual sentences – Cases in which there is no restriction on acquiring citizenship. Naturalization as expatriate persons born in Greece for whom, as for the relatives in their ascendants, they have been certified with a long historical presence in Greece. Naturalization of administrative official that works for an international organization with a residence permit by the Directorate for Administration and Protocol of the Greek Ministry for Foreign Affairs. Regarding permanent stay of people who have a naturalization certificate and a Special Identity Card of Expatriate (SICE, EDTO in Greek) according to Article 23, Law 3838/2010. Residence permit for humanitarian reasons which is subject to art. 5 par. 1 sect. e of the Greek Nationality Code. Applications for naturalization of persons who suffer from a serious mental or psychological problem. Withdrawal of unfavourable administrative act – New developments: Acquisition of citizenship of a child, whose mother was proved Greek after the wedding day. Acquisition of Greek citizenship on the grounds of school attendance; not taking into account the years of attending an Institute of Professional Training (IEK in Greek)<sup>118</sup>.

Concerning borders, Schengen and visas in 2018 the following changes were made: Greece is implementing an action plan to settle the recommendations issued by the regular Schengen evaluation regarding the management of the external borders that started in April, 2016 (land borders, sea borders, air borders). The result of the evaluation was an implementing decision by the European Council including recommendations to Greece. This evaluation is the biggest mission of a field evaluation in a Schengen Member - State and therefore 123 recommendations were issued. As a result, measures are being taken for a complete national strategy for the complete management of external borders and for a complete risk analysis. The properly trained staff at the border crossing points should be enriched and the infrastructure should be improved. In September 2018 Greece submitted a report of the above-mentioned action plan showing significant progress, as many recommendations have been settled whereas other of high cost cannot be completed<sup>119</sup>. This issue concerns only measures taken at the external borders. For stopping and the more effectively managing of the irregular migration, the implementation of the national operation under the code name “ASPIDA”, continued at the Police Departments located in the area of Evros (Orestiada and (Greek-Turkish land and river borders) and the islands of the eastern Aegean (Lesvos, Chios, Samos and Dodecanese). Under this particular operation, the support/strengthening of the police staff police officers - special guards, of the areas mentioned, was provided, with the assignment of others, of other police stations. This support was aimed at improving the operational capability - readiness for more effective control of the country's external borders and more efficient management of the incoming mixed migration flows. In addition, within the year 2018, the action “Strengthening of the Police Services with staff to provide security services to the Reception and Identification Centers of the Islands of the Eastern Aegean” was launched. This action is being implemented with a view to safeguarding, securing and respond to emergencies in the Hotspots, in which migrants and refugees, irregularly entering the Greek territory and operating in the islands, of the eastern Aegean (Police Departments of Lesvos, Chios, Samos and Dodecanese) remain/are accommodated. Within the framework of this action, secondments of police officers - Special Guards serving in other police services, are carried out. Additionally, secondments of police officers - special guards, serving in Crime Prevention and Suppression Teams (OPKE in Greek) and temporary transfers of police officers serving at the Police Divisions of Attica and Thessaloniki, as well as the transfer of their police vehicles are being implemented. In addition to the above mentioned national operational action implemented by the country, in recent years, FRONTEX has also been active in the fields of Joint Operations, Risk Analysis and Return Procedures of foreigners.

<sup>117</sup> <http://www.ypes.gr/el/EidGramlthageneias/GrafeioEidGrammatea/Egkyklioi/>

<sup>118</sup> <http://www.ypes.gr/UserFiles/f0ff9297-f516-40ff-a70e-eca84e2ec9b9/eggr2017-11012018.pdf>

<sup>119</sup> C4 Directorate, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Greece.

Greece, as one of the main gateways for the entry of migratory flows into EU territory, over the last years has been actively implementing Joint Operations coordinated by the European Border Guard and Coast Guard Agency (FRONTEX), involving EU Member States providing sufficient personnel and technical equipment. The reported operational actions implemented in 2018 are the following: Land borders sector: JO Flexible Operational Activities 2018 Land on Border Surveillance (border surveillance). JO Focal Points 2018 Land on Border Checks (controls in areas defined by law). Sea borders sector: JO Poseidon 2018 (under the Joint Operation, police officers were sent to Lesbos, Chios, Samos, Kos and Leros (Hotspots) funded by FRONTEX for duties including coastal surveillance, registration, nationality identification, debriefing, security of facilities, law and order). Air border sector: Joint Operations Focal Points Air 2018-Regular Officers. In addition, special attention was paid to the training of police officers from Border Guard Services and Passport Control Services to manage more effectively the mixed migratory flows.

In this context, trainings were implemented, among other training activities, on border surveillance and border controls, the process of identifying the nationality of newcomer foreigners (screening process), the debriefing process, and risk analysis issues. In the framework of the implementation of the National Programme of Greece, for the reinforcement of the resources of the Internal Security Fund (ISF) - Border and Visa sector, 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, these include: Expansion of the automated surveillance system in the riverside sector of the Greek-Turkish border in the area of Evros and interconnection of the Regional Centers for Integrated Border Management and Migration (RCBMM (PEKODISME in Greek). Supply of mobile scanning units to detect any hidden irregular migrants in vehicles. The action includes the project "Supply and maintenance of 02 mobile scanning units of vehicles for the detection of any hidden individuals". Supply of mobile devices for heartbeat detection and supply of CCTV camera systems. This action is comprised of the following projects in 2018:

(a) "Supply of 25 heartbeat detection systems", which was completed in the year 2018; and (b) "Supply of 07 CCTV camera systems". Trainings of the Hellenic Police personnel on the integrated management of external borders. In 2018, the 3rd Year of Education was completed. Provision of Services to Third-Country Nationals and operational support of the Hellenic Police Services. This action includes projects that were completed in the year 2018, i.e.: Supply of buses of 19 plus 1 seats. With the completion of the project, the supply of 22 buses to meet the operational needs of the services, responsible for controlling the country's external borders and managing migratory flows, was achieved. Repairing of vehicles, Supplying a set of tires for vehicles, Supply of consumable office supplies, Supply of office desks, Supply of office chairs, Supply of printers/photocopiers, Supply of computers, Supply of medical masks, Supply of antiseptic fluids, Supply of medicines, Disinfections, Supply of communication systems, Supply of metal detectors, Supply of portable counterfeit detection devices, Supply of stable counterfeit detection devices, Supply of magnifying glasses, Maintenance of an automated surveillance system, Maintenance of the 2nd Generation National Information System (N.SIS II) as well as projects whose procedures are in progress: Supply of portable surveillance systems with thermal cameras, Supplying passport readers, Supply of equipment and spare parts for the operational operation of the systems of unmanned aircraft of the Hellenic Police, Upgrading the existing information systems of the Hellenic Police for the registration procedure of third country nationals, Supply of the identification systems of vehicle plates passing through the legalized entry-exit points of the country, Supply of Vehicles of the Hellenic Police, Supply of the Advanced Passenger Information System (APIS).

The EU-Turkey Statement of March 2016 aims to stop the uncontrolled influx of migrants to the Aegean islands. It also provides opportunities for legal refugees to enter Europe. The result was to significantly reduce the number of refugees and migrants coming from Turkey. From the record of 10.000 arrivals in one 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 migrants arriving from Turkey on the Greek islands who are not asylum seekers or whose application has not been accepted can be returned to Turkey. For every Syrian returning to Turkey from the Greek islands after irregular transit, the EU will receive a Syrian from Turkey who did not seek to make this trip irregularly. However, according to FRONTEX's latest reports in 2018 (January-December)<sup>120</sup>, an increase of 32% of irregular border crossings in the Eastern Mediterranean was observed compared to 2017. At the same time in the land border area of the Greek-Turkish border in East Mediterranean, there was an increase in irregular cross-border crossings of 222%, which is the biggest upward trend in Europe<sup>121</sup>.

<sup>120</sup> <https://frontex.europa.eu/along-eu-borders/migratory-routes/eastern-mediterranean-route/>

<sup>121</sup> Hellenic Police Headquarters.

Concerning irregular migration including migrant smuggling in 2018 the following changes were made: The General Secretariat for Migration Policy, as the national contact point of the European Migration Network for Greece, organized in cooperation with the Contact Point of Luxembourg a two-day conference on “The practices of EU Member States to combat counterfeiting of security documents”<sup>122</sup> in Athens, on December 5 and 6 of 2018<sup>123</sup>. Also, during 2018 continuous training of police personnel on issues of counterfeit travel documents, the use of technical equipment for the identification of counterfeit travel documents and use a FADO database to match samples of fake travel documents was implemented.

Regarding trafficking in human beings (THB) in 2018 the following changes were made: Since July 2018, most of the migrants entering Greece come from Afghanistan. Cases of THB occurred before entering Greece are identified, but it is extremely difficult to further investigate them (due to the lack of official documents, difficulties in tracing the perpetrators, etc.). Intelligence and field experience also indicate that most migrant and refugee victims and presumed victims of trafficking that were identified as such in a later occasion, had been smuggled into Greece. Upon their arrival to the Greek islands, future victims only know that they have been smuggled into Greece and they fear of being deported as irregular migrants. Less coercive means and a promise of certain benefits are used by smugglers at such early stages to bind vulnerable people with debts and build up control over them. The Hellenic Police has found evidence on money transactions taken place through companies facilitating transnational financial transactions. Receipts and forms related to money deposits made to Greek as well as to foreign banks were found. In a limited number of cases, the perpetrators forced their victims to transfer money from the country of destination (where the exploitation was taking place) to the country of victim’s (and usually the perpetrator’s) origin. Large amounts of money were “fragmented” into smaller amounts of money. Each victim would carry a small amount of money as not to attract authorities’ attention. Concerning data on identified THB victims, the Hellenic Police has reported that from January to December 2018, 27 cases of human trafficking were recorded, 128 persons were prosecuted for trafficking in persons, 30 victims of THB were rescued and supported (21 adults and 9 minors). Of those 30 victims of THB, 26 were of female gender and 4 of male gender. Of those 30 victims, 29 were trafficked for sexual exploitation purposes, and 1 for forced labour. In relation to victims’ citizenship, 5 were Greek citizens, 10 were Bulgarian citizens, and 3 were Romanian. The third-country victims were from: 2 Albania, 1 Afghanistan, 1 Georgia, 2 Kazakhstan, 2 Belarus, 1 Ukraine, 1 Pakistan, and 1 Russia. From the 128 perpetrators, the majority (N = 67) was Greek, followed by Albanian (N = 10), Ukrainian (N = 5) and Russian (N = 5) nationals. Most perpetrators were men (N = 88) (see Annex C). For the period from April 2017 to January 2018, NGOs and the IOM – Office in Greece reported that they offered services to 102 presumed victims. Of those 63 presumed victims, 50 were minors. 38 were unaccompanied boys (principally from Pakistan, Afghanistan and Syria), and 12 were girls. Their age varied between 13 and 17 years old. Most boys had been recruited for forced labour. All girls were sexually exploited, some of them in the context of forced marriage. Concerning adult presumed victims, 10 were women who had been exploited sexually, and 3 were men who had been trafficked for forced labour<sup>124</sup>.

Legislative framework and updates for 2018 include: National policy covers all four pillars of the strategy to combat trafficking (Prevention, Protection, Prosecution and Partnerships with civil society and the private sector). Some of the most important deliverables concerning the fight against THB, are the following: The development of a stringent legal framework regarding the criminalization of THB. The definition of THB in Greek Penal Code (art. 323A and 351) includes the following forms of exploitation: sexual exploitation, removing cells, tissues or organs of a person, exploiting the labour or begging thereof and forcing into marriage. Perpetrators are punished by a maximum penalty of 10 years’ imprisonment and by a fine of 10.000 to 50.000 Euros. In aggravating circumstances the perpetrator shall be punished by a penalty of at least 10 years of imprisonment and a fine of 50.000 to 100.000 Euros. If the offense resulted in the victim’s death the perpetrator shall be punished by life imprisonment. The Greek legislation provides for criminal and administrative sanctions, as well as for freezing, seizure and confiscation of property in order to tackle money laundering related to proceeds derived from acts constituting criminal activities, such as Trafficking in Human beings. The Law also provides for the criminalization of knowingly using the services of a trafficked person. So far, a variety of legal provisions have been introduced, fostering a victim-centered and more inclusive identification regime that protects the human rights and the provision of comprehensive assistance to victims, such as: granting a residence permit for victims formally identified by the Prosecutor either when they cooperate in the investigations or for humanitarian reasons, non-punishment provision for victims involvement in unlawful actions to the extent they were compelled to do so, the right to claim a compensation, witness protection, protection of unaccompanied and separated minors of migration. Moreover, a significant number of shelters specifically for victims of gender-based violence, and victims of human trafficking have been secured, run by public sector and NGOs. The Council of Europe’s “Istanbul Convention” was ratified by Greece on April 2018 (Law 4351/2018). Based on this Law, forcing into marriage is now included among the forms of human trafficking recognized by the Penal Code. Concerning the protection of unaccompanied minors against any risk including human trafficking, the Laws 4538/2018 and 4540/2018 foresee that unaccompanied minors may benefit from the National foster care system.

<sup>122</sup> [http://www.immigration.gov.gr/article-details/-/journal\\_content/56\\_INSTANCE\\_qAPKIk32D3aH/20182/57726?back=news](http://www.immigration.gov.gr/article-details/-/journal_content/56_INSTANCE_qAPKIk32D3aH/20182/57726?back=news)

<sup>123</sup> [http://www.immigration.gov.gr/article-details/-/journal\\_content/56\\_INSTANCE\\_qAPKIk32D3aH/20182/57726?back=news](http://www.immigration.gov.gr/article-details/-/journal_content/56_INSTANCE_qAPKIk32D3aH/20182/57726?back=news)

<sup>124</sup> Γραφείο Εθνικού Εισηγητή για την Καταπολέμηση της Εμπορίας Ανθρώπων, Ενημερωτικό Σημείωμα για την καταπολέμηση της Εμπορίας Ανθρώπων στην Ελλάδα, Υπουργείο Εξωτερικών.

The General Secretary of Social Solidarity, Ministry of Labour, Social Security and Solidarity will be responsible to follow up those foster care cases. An additional Law N4554/2018 brings in positive changes for the Guardianship system concerning unaccompanied minors. In July 2018, the new Law on Guardianship was voted, which foresees the establishment of a State Network of Professional Guardians, who among others will receive specialized training on taking care of children victims of human trafficking and children at risk for human trafficking<sup>125</sup>.

Prevention of trafficking in human beings and identification of victims in the hotspots: The Vulnerability Assessment, which includes human trafficking indicators, is continued to be applied to all migrants registered in the RICs. Since July 2018, the Office of the National Rapporteur supports the development of a THB prevention programme at the island of Chios (which receives the greatest percentage of African migrants and hosts a considerable number of unaccompanied minors). Specifically, two experiential workshops have been carried out to address unaccompanied minors residing at the local shelter run by the NGO METAdrasi and at the local RIC. The main objective of those workshops was to inform minors on their rights and on the risks of human trafficking. In the context of this same programme, a one-day training on human trafficking was carried out to 50 local professionals (including the THB Focal Points of Local Agencies), and an open event for the people of Chios island to raise awareness on the risks faced by unaccompanied minors especially the risks of human trafficking. In November 2018, the Office of the National Rapporteur paid a field visit to Chios's RIC and discussed with the RIC's Director on issues related to human trafficking and the protection of women and children. According to the Director, currently, gender-based violence (GBV) cases are of greatest concern and number. Five Focal Points of different Agencies acting in the RIC have been established. In June 2018, the Office of the National Rapporteur (ONR) in collaboration with the OSCE organized a seminar in Athens on optimizing the procedures and tools to more effectively identify victims of trafficking in the mixed migration flows. The National Rapporteur participated in a seminar with the same aims which was organized by the Italian Authorities and the OSCE in October, in Catania. Relevant National authorities and field professionals participated in both seminars. Trainings: In September 2018, the Office contributed with expert personnel to the training provided by the UNHCR to welfare professionals working at community structures in agricultural areas of Peloponnese (close to Manolada area). On the 30th of November, an International Workshop was carried out to discuss the Manolada case<sup>126</sup>, and the steps already made to treat the European Court for Human Rights' suggestions. The workshop was co-organized by the Office of the National Rapporteur, the General Secretary for Human Rights, Ministry of Justice, Transparency and Human Rights, and the Supreme Prosecutor, and it was supported by the Council of Europe. In December 7th, a specialized training for all Heads of Labour Inspectorate Departments situated in different geographical areas of the country was carried out, organized by the Office of the National Rapporteur and the Ministry of Labour, Social Security and Social Solidarity. The aim was to raise awareness to all Heads of the Labour Inspectorate on THB, before the training of all Labour Inspectors starts in early 2019.

Prevention: Several prevention events were organized since June 2018; most of them celebrated the European Anti-Trafficking Day. The largest events were: a) The Break the Chain Festival which was held in mid-October, and b) the Festival "Raise your Voice" which was carried out on the 18th of November and brought together a large crowd including locals, migrant and refugees' communities, grass-roots organizations, Civil Society Organizations, and National Authorities.

National Action Plan 2018-2023: The new National Action Plan has been drafted and is now being budgeted, before its submission to the Greek Parliament. The national legal framework for combating Trafficking in Human Beings is fully in line with the relevant international conventions and directives<sup>127</sup>. The National Action Plan is to establish an integrated framework for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings and Protecting and Assisting victims of trafficking in human beings in Greece for the years 2018 - 2023. The National Action Plan essentially identifies ways of practical implementation of the existing legal framework and sets national priorities and objectives in terms of combating trafficking in human beings and protecting and assisting victims for the aforementioned period.

<sup>125</sup> National Rapporteur for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Greece.

<sup>126</sup> <https://hudoc.echr.coe.int/eng-press#%22itemid%22:%22003-5671464-7189869%22>

<sup>127</sup> In particular, the country has ratified: The UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Council of Europe Convention Against Trafficking in Human Beings. It has also incorporated the European Directive 2001/36 into the National legal framework, under which the Ministry of Foreign Affairs plays the role of the national coordination authority for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings through the NRO (Office of the National Rapporteur on Trafficking in Human Beings) responsible for the elaboration, co-ordination and implementation of a national strategy to address the phenomenon by preventing, repressing and prosecuting the perpetrators, as well as by protecting and assisting the victims.



Establishment of the National Referral Mechanism (NRM)<sup>128</sup> via the no. 30840/29-06-2016 JMD<sup>129</sup>. As of 01/01/2019, the operation of NRM officially launched its operation in Greece<sup>130</sup>, which is an internationally recognized collaborative reference “tool”, through which, jointly responsible state bodies National Center for Social Solidarity and the National Rapporteur for Trafficking in Human Beings, international organizations and humanitarian organizations co-ordinate the identification, referral and assistance actions for the effective protection of victims and potential victims of trafficking in human beings<sup>131</sup>.

Via the NRM, a strategic partnership with civil society is also in place and all stages of victim protection are interlinked, from first-level initial identification, official prosecution, to voluntary assisted return, social reintegration and foreseen civil and criminal proceedings. The establishment of this mechanism was completed the previous year and has been put into practice since the beginning of this year. The Hellenic Police operates in the framework of this mechanism and for more detailed information, the Directorate of Migration Management ensures that the editorial team should send a request to the National Center for Social Solidarity (NCSS, EKKA in Greek), which is the main management service of the Mechanism. The Labour Inspectorate (LI, SEPE in Greek) is part of the National Plan on Combating Trafficking in Human Beings 2018-2023 with actions referring to, in addition to, strengthening its audit work in this field, education, development of the legislative framework and participation in awareness-raising actions. At the same time, in the coming period, it will proceed to the ratification of the International Labour Convention 129 to extend controls on undeclared work in the agricultural sector as well<sup>132</sup>. The Asylum Service is a point of reference in an effort to strengthen the coordination of all aid providers and victims of trafficking. The National Referral Mechanism will begin operations from 01/01/2019. Meanwhile, trainings and briefings by Asylum Service operators are carried out in order to be able to identify victims of trafficking and to follow the procedures of the National Referral Mechanism<sup>133</sup>. The Office for Monitoring and Combating Trafficking in Human Beings published a Report on Trafficking in Human Beings in Greece 2018<sup>134</sup>. Also, a circular of the Supreme Court’s Public Prosecution Office on “Trafficking in Human Beings (trafficking in Human Beings) and trafficking in migrants was issued<sup>135</sup>. The First Reception Service participates in the Integrated National Strategy Working Group through activities and actions (service co-operation and reference points at the Hellenic Police)<sup>136, 137</sup>.

Regarding return and readmission in 2018 the following changes were made: The European Commission, in the context of provision of support to the Member States in the field of Migration Management, and in particular in the return procedures for irregular third-country nationals, has issued the no. 2008/115/EC Return Directive which has been incorporated into the national law (Law 3907/2011). The European Commission adopted in 2015 an Action Plan to support Member States’ returns, which included a series of actions to improve voluntary returns, more effective implementation of European legislation and amendments to national laws, widening the exchange strengthening the role of the European Border Guard and Coast Guard Agency (FRONTEX), setting up an electronic platform for information exchange and use of its capabilities, increasing the focus on the implementation of existing Readmission Agreements and the signing of new and high-level Dialogue and the creation of incentives and exercising pressure for cooperation and fulfilment of obligations by third countries.

<sup>128</sup> According to the Department of Social Interventions (19/12/2018): The importance of such an Mechanism in Greece is reflected in the Law 4198/2013 (transposition of Directive 2011/36/ EU), to prevent and combat trafficking in human beings and to protect its victims, which provides for the creation of the «National System for the Recognition and Referral of victims of Trafficking» under the supervision of the Office of the National Rapporteur on Trafficking in Human Beings (NRO). With the Joint Ministerial Decision no. 30840 (Government Gazette 3003/20-9-2016), NRM is established and its management is assigned to National Center for Social Solidarity and its supervision and oversight coordination is assigned to NRO.

<sup>129</sup> The National Center for Social Solidarity (NCSS, EKKA in Greek) is responsible for managing the National Referral Mechanism for the Protection of Victims of Trafficking in Human Beings under the coordination of the Office of the National Rapporteur on Combating Trafficking in Human Beings.

<sup>130</sup> <http://www.ekka.org.gr/images/sampled/2018/04/11/εγκύκλιος-της-εισ-α-π-εμπορία-ανθρώπων-traffic-in-human-beings-και-παράνομη-διακίνηση-μεταναστών.html>

<sup>131</sup> Office of the National Rapporteur for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Greece.

<sup>132</sup> <https://www.euro2day.gr/news/economy/article/1655430/yp-ergasias.html>

<sup>133</sup> Asylum Service, Ministry for Migration Policy, Greece.

<sup>134</sup> [https://gr.usembassy.gov/wp-content/uploads/sites/206/TIP2018\\_Greece\\_gr.pdf](https://gr.usembassy.gov/wp-content/uploads/sites/206/TIP2018_Greece_gr.pdf)

<sup>135</sup> <https://www.ethemis.gr/nomothesia/2018/04/11/εγκύκλιος-της-εισ-α-π-εμπορία-ανθρώπων-traffic-in-human-beings-και-παράνομη-διακίνηση-μεταναστών.html>

<sup>136</sup> According to the Department of Social Interventions (19/12/2018): The National Referral Mechanism Guide, contains the standard operating procedures of the NRM relating to 5 basic stages of victim protection: I. Identification and First Reporting to NRM II. Taking over the case by the “Reference Body”. III. First level protection, which includes housing, health care, psychological, social and legal support of the victim. IV. Repatriation or Third Country Settlement V. Social Integration. Due to the special operating conditions of Reception and Identification Centers (RIC) of the Service of Reception and Identification (Ministry for Migration Policy) as well as of the Health Units in the country, it has been established the description of a specific procedure principally for the identification stage (Procedure I) and first level protection (Procedure III).

<sup>137</sup> Reception and Identification Service, General Secretariat for Reception, Ministry for Migration Policy, Greece.

Some of the above actions either were not implemented or did not achieve the expected effectiveness and therefore the European Commission launched a revised Draft (6943/17 - Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament and the Council on a more effective return policy in the European Union - A Renewed Action Plan) on returns<sup>138</sup>, which complements the Plan drawn up in 2015 and includes measures to be implemented by the Commission, European Border Guard and Coast Guard Agency (FRONTEX) and the Member States that help in the increase of returns.

In particular, the revised Action Plan addresses the fullest implementation of the Return Directive, addressing misuses related to asylum procedures, improving the exchange of information on returns, strengthening the cooperation of the various competent bodies for returns, voluntary returns and reintegration, using the capabilities of the IRMA online platform, making better use of the upgraded FRONTEX and the available European fund and in order difficulties to be addressed that have to do with the proper implementation of readmission agreements. The revised Action Plan strengthens the joint effort made by the Member-States to cope with the particularly high demands of the current immigration issue and complements the proposed actions in line with the latest data and experience at European level. Starting with the pursuit of fuller, more vigorous and more flexible implementation of the Returns Directive, the European Commission has issued a Recommendation highlighting the points that the Member-States will need to implement in order to achieve this objective (provided that have not been implemented so far). The majority of these points are already provided 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 also focused on addressing the existing misuse 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 the faster completion of existing/future applications and the increase in returns.

It is noteworthy that Greece should make efforts to link the asylum application process more closely with returns (such a return decision in case of rejection of cases to final degree). In addition, improved co-ordination and cooperation on returns between the European Commission and Member States and the various actors involved at national level and the exchange of information, best practices and statistics contribute significantly to increasing the capacity of the Member States to make effective returns, improve the quality of approaches and tactics, and draw useful conclusions to modify the existing strategy. Greater impulse is given through the new European Commission's Integrated Return Management Platform (IRMA), which contains electronically and secured all return-related information with the potential to upgrade and facilitate Member States in a number of areas such as exchange of information with third countries. Emphasis is also given to areas of particular importance for Member States' returns, such as voluntary returns and reintegration packages offered, and the need for wider action by the European Border Guard and Coast Guard Agency (FRONTEX) and the use of its greatest potential. It is of course not forgotten in the Plan and the importance of funding through the European Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF) to the Member States for returns, but above all the possibility of increasing this funding to support actions and new returns actions, showing the European Commission in practice 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 the country is to constantly monitor the proper implementation of existing Agreements and to sign new ones, in order to increase the speed of issuing travel documents, their number, increase of returns and the existence of a uniform procedure for the steps required by the requesting Member State to issue the necessary travel documents<sup>139</sup>. All of the above-mentioned actions provided in the revised Action Plan have their own necessity, focus on separate areas that require improvement or increase collective efficiency and contribute globally to adapting Europe to the demands of the current migration issue<sup>140</sup>. Various meetings between the European Parliament and the Council of Europe took place in 2018 with a view to revising the current Return Directive 2008/115 EC and the Regulation of Operation of the European Border Guard and Coast Guard Agency (FRONTEX), with a view to integrate the increasing needs/challenges faced by the Member-States on the management of third-country nationals who are irregular and their return issues. In addition, in 2018 a bilateral "Administrative Arrangement"<sup>141</sup> between Germany and Greece, a newsletter for refugees and migrants of the Ministry of Digital Policy, Telecommunications and Media/Secretariat for Crisis Management Communication was implemented.

<sup>138</sup> <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A52017DC0200>

<sup>139</sup> Hellenic Police Headquarters.

<sup>140</sup> Hellenic Police Headquarters.

<sup>141</sup> [http://www.mindigital.gr/attachments/article/3208/Ενμμερωτικό%20Δελτίο%20για%20το%20προσφυγικό%20μεταναστευτικό\\_Τεύχος%204.pdf](http://www.mindigital.gr/attachments/article/3208/Ενμμερωτικό%20Δελτίο%20για%20το%20προσφυγικό%20μεταναστευτικό_Τεύχος%204.pdf)

3. LEGAL MIGRATION

Developments of legal migration in 2018 include: Concerning economic migration, there were developments in relation to highly skilled/qualified workers via Law 4546/2018<sup>142</sup> (Government Gazette 101/A/12.06.2018), concerning the required fees for the issue, renewal or re-issue of residence permits<sup>143</sup> of third-country nationals for the purpose of highly qualified employment<sup>144</sup>. In addition, there were developments in relation to intra-corporate transferees in 2018 via L. 4540/2018<sup>145</sup> (Government Gazette 91/A/22.05.2018) (Articles 25-27), amending Law 4251/2014 on the conditions of entry and residence of third-country nationals in the framework of an intra-corporate transfer, with a view to incorporating them in the Greek legal order of Directive 2014/66 EU of 15 May 2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 15 May 2014 (EEL 157 of the 27.5.2014)<sup>146</sup>. Moreover, there were new developments in relation to seasonal workers via Law 4546/2018 (Government Gazette 101/A/12.06.2018), with regard to the required fees for the employment of a seasonal worker<sup>147</sup>. In 2018 there were no new developments in relation to low and medium skilled workers, other than seasonal workers. In relation to entrepreneurs and investors there were new developments via Law 4540/2018 (Government Gazette 91/A/22.05.2018) and Law 4546/2018 (Government Gazette 101/A/12.06.2018)<sup>148</sup> for entrepreneurs and Law 4546/2018 (Government Gazette 101/A/12-6-2018)<sup>149</sup> for researchers. Regarding trainees, au-pairs and volunteers there new legislative developments regulations via Law 4546/2018 (Government Gazette 101/A/12.06.2018)<sup>150</sup> for trainees and volunteer service providers. Concerning new developments to satisfy labour market and skill needs/shortages in relation to the employment of third-country nationals there were changes via the Joint Ministerial Decision no.28473/605/2018: Amendment of the Joint Ministerial Decision No 4872/105/13.02.2017 on “Determination of the maximum number of residence permits for third country nationals for the years 2017 and 2018” (B’/398)<sup>151</sup>. In addition, in relation to new developments aimed at tackling labour exploitation and/or social dumping<sup>152</sup> of third-country national workers legally residing in Greece, in 2018 in the framework of Law 4554/2018 (Government Gazette 130/A/18.07.2018), Government Gazette 130/A/18.07.2018), “Insurance and pension arrangements - Tackling undeclared work - Enhancing worker protection - Guardianship of unaccompanied minors and other provisions”. Via Law 4554/2018 passed in July, the Ministry of Labour strengthens efforts to effectively protect unaccompanied minor refugees by establishing the framework of the Unaccompanied Minors’ Guardianship<sup>153</sup>: *“With this law, the Ministry of Labour strengthens efforts to effectively protect unaccompanied minors by establishing the framework of the Unaccompanied Minors’ Guardianship. According to the law, unaccompanied or separated from their family, third country minors or stateless persons under the age of 18, who arrive in Greek territory without being accompanied by a person exercising their parental responsibility, are placed under the protection of the Greek state and their care is assigned to professional guardians”*<sup>154</sup>. With a view to integrating refugees and migrants into the labour market, the Manpower Employment Organization (OAED in Greek) modified the registration conditions in order to facilitate the integration in the registries of the Organization of refugees, beneficiaries of international protection or applicants for international protection or holders of subsidiary protection status and people are deprived of permanent residence or reside in hosting facilities<sup>155</sup>. With the no. 553/15-27/02/2011 Decision of the Board of Directors (BoD) of the Organization, the amendment of the decision of the BoD No 3701/55-22/11/2011 of the Manpower Employment Organization (OAED in Greek) (Government Gazette 3018/B/30/12/2012), was approved, as follows: “ After section b of paragraph 1 of Article 6 of Chapter A, three new cases are added as follows: «c) Certificate of Structures of Residence in Temporary Hospitality Structures or Certificate of residence in a concessional residence or concession contract of accommodation for unemployed refugees and asylum seekers. d) Certificate of residence from an Open Day Center for the Homeless/Dormitory or a certificate from a Social Service that the beneficiary lives on the street or in inappropriate accommodation or a certificate of residence in special hospitality structures or in Close Accommodation Units or in Residences or Transitional Accommodation Structures or Social Hostel for Short-Term Hospitality for the unemployed homeless. e) Certificate of residence by corresponding Hospitality Structures for: Unemployed women residing in Women’s Victims of Violence Hostels. Unemployed individuals, accommodated in Child Protection Structures, who have reached the age of 18, who are not students and have no access to housing. Unemployed individuals who reside in Psychosocial Rehabilitation Units (boarding houses, hostels, etc.), or who are beneficiaries of the Protected Apartments Programme of art. 9 of Law 2716/1999”.

<sup>142</sup> <https://www.synigoros.gr/resources/docs/201806260-nomos-4546.pdf>

<sup>143</sup> See also adjustment of fee paid no. 43965/18/27-12-2018 <https://www.taxheaven.gr/laws/circular/view/id/30172>

<sup>144</sup> <http://www.et.gr/idos-nph/search/pdfViewerForm.html?args=5C7QrtC22wG3UHk-ZeQumndtvSoCirL8zNy8yccs->

<sup>145</sup> <http://immigration.gov.gr/documents/20182/45639/egg25220-27072018.pdf/1be6f897-e874-4375-a7c3-cbafd76bb060>

<sup>146</sup> <http://asylo.gov.gr/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/%CE%9D%CE%9F%CE%9C%CE%9F%CE%A3-4540-22.05.2018.pdf>

<sup>147</sup> <https://www.synigoros.gr/?i=foreigner.el.metanastis-nomoi.500153>

<sup>148</sup> <https://www.synigoros.gr/resources/docs/201806260-nomos-4546.pdf>

<sup>149</sup> <https://www.synigoros.gr/resources/docs/201806260-nomos-4546.pdf>

<sup>150</sup> <https://www.synigoros.gr/resources/docs/201806260-nomos-4546.pdf>

<sup>151</sup> <https://www.taxheaven.gr/laws/circular/view/id/29013>

<sup>152</sup> While there is no definition of the concept of “social dumping” in EU law, the term is generally used to point to unfair competition due to the application of different wages and social protection rules to different categories of worker (Parliamentary questions, 27 May 2015, E-008441-15). The European Commission described the practice as a situation “where foreign service providers can undercut local service providers because their labour standards are lower”, more info at [Eurofound](http://Eurofound).

<sup>153</sup> <https://www.euro2day.gr/news/economy/article/1655430/yp-ergasias.html>

<sup>154</sup> <https://www.euro2day.gr/news/economy/article/1655430/yp-ergasias.html>

<sup>155</sup> <https://www.euro2day.gr/news/economy/article/1655430/yp-ergasias.html>

The cases c, d, e and f of par. 1 of Article 6, of Chapter A' are renumbered to f, g, h and I". As a result, it is possible to enroll in the unemployed register of the Refugees and Asylum Seekers Agency by submitting a Certification of Temporary Hospitality Structures or a certificate of residence in a concessional residence or concession contract and if they meet the rest of the conditions under the no. 3701/55-22/11/2011 decision of the BoD of OAED (Government Gazette 3018/B/30/12/2012)<sup>156</sup>. Concerning new developments regarding circular migration and other bilateral labour agreements between Greece and third countries there were no new developments in 2018. Other new developments in the area of economic migration in 2018 are included in the National Strategy for Integration (NSI)<sup>157</sup> of the Ministry for Migration Policy (June 2018)<sup>158</sup>, upon its completion, the National Strategy for the Integration was launched in an inter-ministerial consultation in February 2018 and was approved by the Government Council for Social Policy (in Greek KISKOIP) in July 2018. The text reflects the Ministry for Migration Policy's perspective and planning on the rights of refugees and migrants, taking into account the massive flow of mixed migrants as well as applicants for international protection, as well as the country's economic recession over the period 2009-2017<sup>159</sup>. New developments in relation to Students and Researchers included the regulations made via Law 4546/2018 (Government Gazette 101/A/12.06.2018)<sup>160</sup>. New developments regarding family reunification and family formation in 2018 include: JMD no. 47094 (Government Gazette 3678/B/28.08.2018) laying down the required documents and the procedure for issuing a national long-stay visa (VISA-type D) to third-country nationals or stateless persons in the context of family reunification with refugees<sup>161</sup>. In addition via Ministry for Migration Policy the following were issued: Document 93/18/14.3.2018<sup>162</sup> on the provision of clarifications for the renewal of residence permits for exceptional reasons, for the purpose of family reunification<sup>163</sup>. Circular no: 3 on the application of the provisions of Law 4540/2018 (91 A')<sup>164</sup>. As far as asylum practice is concerned, there have been no changes in the procedures followed. The provisions of the Presidential Decree 131/2006 (Government Gazette A 143/13/07/2006)<sup>165</sup> on the right to family reunification, are in force. In 2018 there were no new developments to improve the provision of information on the routes to and conditions of legal migration for third-country nationals via: a) Information campaigns, websites, specific centers etc., b) Cooperation with third countries, for example on pre-departure measures, which may include provision of information on visas and residence/work permits, which take place both in Greece and/or a third country. Other new developments regarding legal migration include: (i) the opportunity to enrol in the Manpower Employment Organization (OAED) Register migrants holding a residence permit and for refugees who are beneficiaries of international protection or applicants for international protection or holders of subsidiary protection status<sup>166</sup> was provided. (ii) The JMD 43965/18 (Government Gazette 6051/B/31-12-2018): on the adjustment of the amount of the fee paid by third country nationals for the issue or renewal of a residence permit pursuant to Article 20, paragraph A, of Law 4251/14<sup>167</sup> was issued. Also, Law 4587/2018<sup>168</sup> "Emergency regulations of the Ministry for Migration Policy and other provisions" was published.

<sup>156</sup> <http://www.oaed.gr/>

<sup>157</sup> <https://government.gov.gr/tag/προσφυγικό/>

<sup>158</sup> <http://www.opengov.gr/immigration/wp-content/uploads/downloads/2019/01/ethniki-stratigiki.pdf>

<sup>159</sup> <http://www.opengov.gr/immigration/?p=801>

<sup>160</sup> <https://www.synigoros.gr/resources/docs/201806260-nomos-4546.pdf>

<sup>161</sup> Asylum Service, Ministry for Migration Policy, Greece.

<sup>162</sup> <https://www.synigoros.gr/?i=foreigner.el.metanastis-egkyklio.495458>

<sup>163</sup> <https://www.synigoros.gr/resources/docs/20180502-paroxi-dieukriniseon.pdf>

<sup>164</sup> <http://immigration.gov.gr/documents/20182/31268/egk3-06112018.pdf/2057d0b4-e59d-4b79-a064-06f1cda5b2f7>

<sup>165</sup> Asylum Service, Ministry for Migration Policy, Greece.

<sup>166</sup> <http://www.oaed.gr/documents/10195/1214556/DELTI0+TYPOY+ASTEGOI+28+02+2018.pdf/8b5ebd83-9ece-4efc-9163-dbbe359fde42>

<sup>167</sup> <https://www.e-nomothesia.gr/kat-allodapoi/koine-upourgike-apophase-43965-18.html>

<sup>168</sup> [http://www.immigration.gov.gr/documents/20182/31274/N+4587\\_2018.pdf/605eff7f-5c1d-4de0-98ed-9acbbc90a7b5](http://www.immigration.gov.gr/documents/20182/31274/N+4587_2018.pdf/605eff7f-5c1d-4de0-98ed-9acbbc90a7b5)

#### 4. INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION INCLUDING ASYLUM

New developments in relation to access to the asylum procedure in 2018, include: a) 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): Law 4540/2018 (GG 91/A/22.05.2018)<sup>169</sup> includes the following: 1. Amendments of the Greek legislation in accordance with the provisions of Directive 2013/33/EU on the standards required for the reception of applicants for international protection. 2. Amendment of Law 4251/2014 (A 80) to transpose to Greek Law Directive 2014/66/EU concerning conditions of entry and residence of third-country nationals in the framework of an intra-corporate transfer. 3. Amendment of provisions in order to improve and simplify the administrative and judiciary procedures for the provision of international protection. 4. Amendment of provisions in order to improve and simplify the procedures of the Services of the Ministry for Migration Policy. 5. Abolishment or replacement of certain organizational provisions. Participation of the Reception and Identification Service in the chain of procedures for the identification of potential victims (EMA)<sup>170</sup> in collaboration with the jointly responsible services Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Hellenic Police<sup>171</sup>. As far as the Asylum Service is concerned, existing (EU and national) legislation is still in force, as in 2017. Changes are made periodically in terms of improving the quality of procedures, the most important ones in 2018 were those introducing the provisioning regulations of the 2018 adopted laws<sup>172</sup>. Among the most important changes are the interventions on asylum procedures at the border, where the exceptional procedure under Article 60 par. 4 extends until 31/12/2018, changes in the issuing of decisions on international protection requests to the deadlines with the provisions of Law 4540/2018, the valid and timely provision of information to asylum seekers at all stages of the asylum procedure, from the arrival to the procedures related to the first degree decision<sup>173</sup>. In 2018, the Best Interest Assessment (BIA) for unaccompanied minors in Dublin processes was adopted<sup>174</sup>. In addition, the provision of information to applicants in 18 languages (audio-visual material)<sup>175</sup> was implemented.

b) Access to the asylum procedure (including applications made at the border, within the (Member) State's territory and in detention): Law 4540/2018 (GG 91/A/22.05.2018)<sup>176</sup> includes the following: 1. Amendments of the Greek legislation in accordance with the provisions of Directive 2013/33/EU on the standards required for the reception of applicants for international protection. 2. Amendment of provisions in order to improve and simplify the administrative and judiciary procedures for the provision of international protection. 3. Amendment of provisions in order to improve and simplify the procedures of the Services of the Ministry for Migration Policy. 4. Abolishment or replacement of certain organizational provisions. In addition, EASO's Operation Plan for Greece was launched<sup>177</sup>. Moreover, the Ministerial Decision ref. no. 31399/18/GG B 4366/1.10.2018 was issued, which modifies the 30825/4.6.2014 (1528 B) Joint Ministerial Decision "Determination of the requirements for the provision of visas and for the provision and renewal of residence permit according to the provisions of L. 4251/2014" as in force<sup>178</sup>.

c) Registration of applications for international protection (including subsequent applications and Dublin returnees), identification and fingerprinting: Law 4540/2018 (GG 91/A/22.05.2018)<sup>179</sup>, which includes the improvement of the quality of implementation of the Dublin Regulation processes and provision of information procedures. The provisions in force continue to apply<sup>180</sup>.

Regarding new developments in relation to reception of asylum applicants in 2018, these include: a) Reception of applicants (for information on reception capacities – increase/decrease/stability, 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), (see Law 4540/2018 GG 91/A/22.05.2018)<sup>181</sup>. Despite the EU-Turkey Statement, the flows continued in an upward trend in 2018. Many RICs and RIS facilities upgraded and repaired<sup>182</sup>. The responsible reception authority, in collaboration with the responsible in each case national authorities, international organizations and certified social stakeholders, ensures the provision of material reception conditions or in the form of financial support to the applicants for international protection. The provision of the entirety or part of the material reception conditions is implemented provided that they do not have employment or that their employment does not provide them with adequate income. In regards to asylum procedures in relation to the operation of the first reception and integration practices for UAMs, excluded from the border procedure of article 60 par.4 of Law 4375/2016, and are subject to: 1. automatic notification procedure of the National Center for Social Solidarity for finding a suitable accommodation structure (even if they indicate a home address, as well as a procedure for certifying minority status) 1. in cases of doubting the declared age, 2. the appointment of a Guardian.

<sup>169</sup> <http://asylo.gov.gr/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/%CE%9D%CE%9F%CE%9C%CE%9F%CE%A3-4540-22.05.2018.pdf>

<sup>170</sup> <http://www.ekka.org.gr/images/sampled/2018/05/20180522/EMA.pdf>

<sup>171</sup> Reception and Identification Service, General Secretariat for Reception, Ministry for Migration Policy, Greece.

<sup>172</sup> [http://asylo.gov.gr/?page\\_id=141](http://asylo.gov.gr/?page_id=141)

<sup>173</sup> Asylum Service, Ministry for Migration Policy, Greece.

<sup>174</sup> [http://asylo.gov.gr/?page\\_id=113](http://asylo.gov.gr/?page_id=113); [http://asylo.gov.gr/wp-content/uploads/2018/08/Best\\_Interest\\_Assessment\\_Checklist\\_for\\_Dublin\\_Procedures.pdf](http://asylo.gov.gr/wp-content/uploads/2018/08/Best_Interest_Assessment_Checklist_for_Dublin_Procedures.pdf);

[http://asylo.gov.gr/wp-content/uploads/2018/08/Best\\_Interest\\_Assessment\\_Form\\_FINAL.pdf](http://asylo.gov.gr/wp-content/uploads/2018/08/Best_Interest_Assessment_Form_FINAL.pdf)

<sup>175</sup> [http://asylo.gov.gr/?page\\_id=7248](http://asylo.gov.gr/?page_id=7248)

<sup>176</sup> <http://asylo.gov.gr/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/%CE%9D%CE%9F%CE%9C%CE%9F%CE%A3-4540-22.05.2018.pdf>

<sup>177</sup> <https://www.easo.europa.eu/sites/default/files/Greece%20OP%202018-13-12-2017.pdf>

<sup>178</sup> <https://www.eea.gr/epikairota-eea/ta-dikaiologitika-gia-tis-adeies-diamonis/>

<sup>179</sup> <http://asylo.gov.gr/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/%CE%9D%CE%9F%CE%9C%CE%9F%CE%A3-4540-22.05.2018.pdf>

<sup>180</sup> Asylum Service, Ministry for Migration Policy, Greece.

<sup>181</sup> <http://asylo.gov.gr/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/%CE%9D%CE%9F%CE%9C%CE%9F%CE%A3-4540-22.05.2018.pdf>

<sup>182</sup> Reception and Identification Service, General Secretariat for Reception, Ministry for Migration Policy, Greece.

The Asylum Service is elaborating on the certification of vulnerability and medical referrals, as well as the preparation of the Service for the launch of the National Referral Mechanism for Victims of Human Trafficking, will be launched on 01/01/2019<sup>183</sup>. In order to provide dignified and safe housing, in collaboration with the Ministry of Defense, property was renovated to house unaccompanied minors and refugee families. This property belongs to the General Secretariat of Welfare, with a total capacity of 800 individuals, while for the same purpose, seven more buildings of the General Secretariat of Welfare are being renovated<sup>184</sup>.

b) Detention during the asylum procedure (detention capacity – increase/decrease/stability, practices regarding detention, grounds for detention, alternatives to detention, time limit for detention): Concerning the reception conditions, L. 4540/2018 (GG 91/A/22.05.2018)<sup>185</sup> incorporates the provisions of the Directive 2013/33/EU. These include: the possibility of geographical restriction is provided for in the relocation of the asylum applicants with the Decision of the Director of the Asylum Service, when that serves the rapid processing and the effective monitoring of the applications for international protection. The restriction does not affect private life and the exercise of rights and is mentioned at the application documents for international protection. Concerning the detention of the asylum applicants, the relevant provisions incorporate the ones of the Directive, while special care is taken in case of vulnerable groups. Specifically, the communication of the detained asylum applicants is ensured, both with their family members, with their legal representatives and with spokespersons from organizations that act on their behalf. Their detention takes place in locations that respect human dignity and are not in the same location as criminal law prisoners. During the detention, the mental health of the detainees is the primary concern<sup>186</sup>.

Concerning new developments in relation to asylum procedures in 2018, regarding: a) Access to information and legal counselling/representation (including at the border and during the asylum procedure) includes: i) Completion of the Register of Asylum Service Lawyers: Register of Asylum Service Lawyers, ii) Inclusion of Lawyers Registry of Asylum Service, and iii) Allocation of Lawyers at Regional Asylum Offices<sup>187</sup>. b) Provision of interpretation, includes: Greek-speaking personnel is provided by the European Asylum Support Office (EASO) to the Asylum Service during the registration of applications for international protection and for any other administrative action. c) Dublin procedure (including changes in: the organisational framework, IT systems<sup>188</sup>, practical development and suspension of transfers to selected countries, detention in the framework of Dublin procedures): The main changes in the Dublin procedures are: 1. The acceleration of the transfer procedures for the payment of outgoing claims by the Member-States, determined in accordance with the mechanisms and criteria of L. 604/2013, responsible for examining their application for international protection. Also, the BIA<sup>189</sup> tool was incorporated into the Dublin National Agency processes and improved service quality<sup>190</sup>. d) Special procedures (border procedures, procedures in transit zones, accelerated procedures, admissibility procedures, prioritised procedures or any special procedure for selected caseloads) include: Concerning the acceleration of the procedures of examination and provision of international protection: The deadlines were compressed, for the completion of the examination of 1st degree asylum applications, to 30 days (from 90 that used to apply) and of the examination of 2nd degree asylum applications, to 40 days (from 60 that used to apply)<sup>191</sup>. Modification of Asylum Service Guidelines on Qualitative Characteristics with EASO's participation (see operational plan). The provisions of article 60 par. 4 of the Law 4375/1920 and the Joint Ministerial Decision of the Hellenic Ministry of Defense with the no. 13257/16 (Government Gazette 3455/B/26-10-2016) are in force. Implementation of the provisions of paragraph 4 of Article 60 of the No. 4375/2016 (A '51) according to the modifications made by Law 4540/2018<sup>192</sup>. e) 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) includes: Similarly to 2017, there is no safe country list and cases are evaluated on an individual basis<sup>193</sup>. f) a) Procedures at first instance (relevant changes in: the authority in charge, organisation of the process, interviews, evidence assessment, international protection status determination, decision making, timeframes, case management, including backlog management), include: Law 4540/2018 (GG 91/A/22.05.2018) includes the following: 1. Amendments of the Greek legislation in accordance with the provisions of Directive 2013/33/EU on the standards required for the reception of applicants for international protection. 2. Amendment of provisions in order to improve and simplify the administrative and judiciary procedures for the provision of international protection. 3. Amendment of provisions in order to improve and simplify the procedures of the Services of the Ministry for Migration Policy. 4. Abolishment or replacement of certain organizational provisions. In addition, in August 2018, 20 interim EASO caseworkers were placed in Lesvos to support the interrogations of asylum applications under the normal procedure following an extensive training programme.

<sup>183</sup> Asylum Service, Ministry for Migration Policy, Greece.

<sup>184</sup> <https://www.euro2day.gr/news/economy/article/1655430/yp-ergasias.html>

<sup>185</sup> <http://asylo.gov.gr/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/NOMOS-4540-22.05.2018.pdf>

<sup>186</sup> [http://www.mindigital.gr/attachments/article/2387/ENHMEPOTIKO%20ΔΕΛΤΙΟ\\_ΠΡΟΣΦΥΓΙΚΟ\(2\).pdf](http://www.mindigital.gr/attachments/article/2387/ENHMEPOTIKO%20ΔΕΛΤΙΟ_ΠΡΟΣΦΥΓΙΚΟ(2).pdf)

<sup>187</sup> Asylum Service, Ministry for Migration Policy, Greece.

<sup>188</sup> For example, information on setting up new databases that allow managing of Dublin cases, problems with managing DubliNet which can cause a delay in sending/receiving Dublin requests, acquisition of new equipment, such as Eurodac machines etc. as it is a relevant development in boosting the capacity to conduct Dublin procedures.

<sup>189</sup> [http://asylo.gov.gr/?page\\_id=113](http://asylo.gov.gr/?page_id=113); [http://asylo.gov.gr/wp-content/uploads/2018/08/Best\\_Interest\\_Assessment\\_Checklist\\_for\\_Dublin\\_Procedures.pdf](http://asylo.gov.gr/wp-content/uploads/2018/08/Best_Interest_Assessment_Checklist_for_Dublin_Procedures.pdf);

[http://asylo.gov.gr/wp-content/uploads/2018/08/Best\\_Interest\\_Assessment\\_Form\\_FINAL.pdf](http://asylo.gov.gr/wp-content/uploads/2018/08/Best_Interest_Assessment_Form_FINAL.pdf)

<sup>190</sup> Asylum Service, Ministry for Migration Policy, Greece.

<sup>191</sup> [http://www.mindigital.gr/attachments/article/2387/ENHMEPOTIKO%20ΔΕΛΤΙΟ\\_ΠΡΟΣΦΥΓΙΚΟ\(2\).pdf](http://www.mindigital.gr/attachments/article/2387/ENHMEPOTIKO%20ΔΕΛΤΙΟ_ΠΡΟΣΦΥΓΙΚΟ(2).pdf)

<sup>192</sup> Asylum Service, Ministry for Migration Policy, Greece.

<sup>193</sup> Asylum Service, Ministry for Migration Policy, Greece.

Under Law 4540/2018 in Article 28 par. 7, EASO officials are allowed to participate when there is an urgent need for administrative inquiries into asylum applications. In addition, according to Ministerial Decree No. 16490/18 (Government Gazette 3807 B/04-09-2018) the participation of Greek-language staff of the European Asylum Support Office (EASO) in the Asylum Service is allowed due to the fact that, according to Eurostat official statistics, the number of applications asylum in Greece in 2017 augmented 15%, with 9% of the total number of applications for international protection filed in the European Union, i.e. 5 times more applications than those that are theoretically attributable. It is also noted that Greece holds the first place of submission of applications for international protection in proportion to population in the European Union (5.295 applications per 1,000,000 inhabitants). The participation of Greek-language staff available from the European Asylum Support Office in order to cover the particularly high and exceptional needs of the Asylum Service, in accordance with the provisions of par. 11 of law 4375/2016, as it applies to the taking of the records and interviews of applications for international protection lodged with the Asylum Service, as well as any other administrative action other than the adoption of administrative acts<sup>194</sup>. g) Appeal/judicial review (changes in: organisation of the process, hearings, written procedures, timeframes, case management, including backlog management): Law 4540/2018 (GG 91/A/22.05.2018) includes: There are provisions for alternative fictitious performances in case the person who appealed is not found, in order to deliver the 2nd degree decision. These are addressed to the proxy or to their lawyer, to the commander of the RIC or to the supervisor of the infrastructure, and are also uploaded to a relevant website. It is possible to replace the judicial officials. It is permitted to submit a subsequent request only if the applicant provides new information, which, not by their culpability, they did not bring up during the examination of their prior application. There are provisions for the inability to remain in the country if the application aims to delay or obstruct the decision of removal implementation, and in case the applicant submits a second subsequent after the issuing of final decision based on which the first subsequent was found not acceptable or unfounded. The decision issued by the Appeals Authority is final, in case the appeal against the 1st degree decision is submitted on time. The asylum applicant has the right to appeal to the appropriate administrative courts. However, exercising a cancellation application and a probation application does not constitute on its own grounds for suspending any refusal of the asylum application. There is provision for the discussion of overdue appeals only in case they were overdue due to *force majeure*. The method of appointment of the Administrative Director for the Appeals Authority changed. It will now be the decision of the Minister of Migration Policy after a public call and after the recommendation of a three-membered committee, within exclusive deadlines, aiming for to promptly cease to operation of the Authority with an interim director. h) Country of origin information (changes or updates in: organisation, methodology, products, databases, fact-finding missions, cooperation between (Member) States): On 12/3/2018 Comments on the handling of international protection claims for Sudanese nationals. Concerning cases from Sudanese applicants, in particular regarding the treatment of non-Arabs in Darfur in Sudan and the treatment of returned asylum seekers in Sudan (Arabs and non-Arabs). On 9/2018 Directive on the handling of applications submitted by stateless Palestinian origin. On 12/2018 Guidelines for the Examination of International Protection Claims Submitted by Afghan nationals<sup>195</sup>.

Regarding new developments in relation to residence/entry documents and rights/obligations of beneficiaries of international protection in 2018<sup>196</sup>, the following are included: a) Residence/entry documents granted to beneficiaries of international protection (including length/duration): The Decision ref. no. 868 (Government Gazette 201/B/30.01.2018)<sup>197</sup> on the duration of validity of application forms for applicants for international protection, was issued. The existing institutional framework with the amendments to the 2018 passed laws is in force<sup>198</sup>. b) Rights and obligations regarding family reunification, access to social welfare scheme, access to accommodation, healthcare, citizenship, education, employment etc.: Law 4540/2018 (GG 91/A/22.05.2018) includes the following: 1. Amendments of the Greek legislation in accordance with the provisions of Directive 2013/33/EU on the standards required for the reception of applicants for international protection. 2. Amendment of provisions in order to improve and simplify the administrative and judiciary procedures for the provision of international protection. 3. Amendment of provisions in order to improve and simplify the procedures of the Services of the Ministry for Migration Policy. 4. Abolishment or replacement of certain organizational provisions.

<sup>194</sup> Asylum Service, Ministry for Migration Policy, Greece.

<sup>195</sup> Asylum Service, Ministry for Migration Policy, Greece.

<sup>196</sup> See [http://asylo.gov.gr/?page\\_id=1299](http://asylo.gov.gr/?page_id=1299); <http://asylo.gov.gr/wp-content/uploads/2015/02/Ερωτήσεις-Απαντήσεις-αιτούντες-πρόσφυγες-18.2.15.pdf>; <http://asylo.gov.gr/en/wp-content/uploads/2017/02/Rights-of-beneficiaries-of-international-protection-2.2017.jpg>

<sup>197</sup> <http://asylo.gov.gr/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/Διάρκεια-ισχύος-δελτίων.pdf>

<sup>198</sup> Asylum Service, Ministry for Migration Policy, Greece.

Regarding new developments in relation to the provision of information on residence/entry documents and rights/obligations of beneficiaries of international protection on the rights and obligations related to that status, in a language that they understand or are reasonably supposed to understand in 2018, the following are included: a) Information on residence/entry documents granted to beneficiaries of international protection (including length/duration): (see Law 4540/2018, GG 91/A/22.05.2018): The procedure is as follows: The registration of Third-Country Nationals (TCNs) is implemented as in 2017<sup>199</sup>. b) Information on rights and obligations regarding family reunification, access to social welfare scheme, access to accommodation, healthcare, citizenship, employment and integration programme: (see Law 4540/2018, GG 91/A/22.05.2018)<sup>200</sup>: Provision of information to applicants in 18 languages (audio-visual material)<sup>201</sup> was implemented.

Concerning the withdrawal of international protection, the Circular of the Ministry for Migration Policy, no. 1/26.1.2018 concerning the commitment of a serious crime and the consequences of it in the provision on and withdrawal of international protection, and to the provision of residence permit of uniform format, was issued<sup>202</sup>. Regarding legislation and policy, there have been no other changes in the procedures for the withdrawal of international protection in 2018. An effort has been made to control of the withdrawal decisions at central level for national security reasons with the cooperation of the actors involved<sup>203</sup>. There were no new policies/measures in 2018 implemented in cooperation with third countries, including activities related to the external dimension of the CEAS.

Other developments in asylum legislation, policy and practices include: There are developments at the international and European level related to the CEAS and asylum policies in general. Specifically, at International level, these concern the passage of the two (2) Agreements by the United Nations Conference in December 2018: 1. The Global Compact for Refugees (GCR) and 2 Global Compact for Safe, Smooth, Legal Migration (GCM). At European level, the debate that begun since mid-2016 on the package of legislative proposals for the revision of EU asylum legislation, is continued. These legislative proposals concern: 1) the procedures for granting and withdrawing international protection status (proposal for a Regulation to replace Directive 2013/32/EU), 2) the conditions for the recognition of third-country nationals as beneficiaries of international protection (proposal for a Directive to replace Directive 2011/95/EU), 3) the conditions for the reception of applicants for international protection (proposal for a Directive to replace Directive 2013/33/EU), 4) the establishment of criteria and mechanisms for determining the Member State responsible to consider an application for international protection (proposal for a Dublin IV Regulation to replace Regulation 604/2013), 5) the establishment of the European Asylum Service [proposal for a Regulation amending Regulation 439/2010 establishing a European Asylum Support Office (EASO)], 6) the establishment of a Union resettlement programme (proposal for a Regulation) and 7) the revision of the EURODAC Regulation (proposal for a Regulation replacing the EU Regulation 603/2013). At national level developments include: a) Decision ref. no. 18984/18 (GG 4427/B/5.10.2018) on the restriction of movement of international protection applicants<sup>204</sup>, b) Decision for the modification of the identity of international protection applicants (GG 3598/B/23.08.2018)<sup>205</sup>, c) Decision ref. no. 8269/18 (GG 1366/B/20.04.2018) on the restriction of movement of international protection applicants<sup>206</sup>, d) Decision ref. no. 3153 (GG 310/B/02.02.2018) on the modification of the identification information of international protection applicants<sup>207</sup>, e) Circular number 2/25.10.2018 on the alteration of the information of international protection applicants<sup>208</sup>, f) Circular number 31547/9662/13.02.2018 on the provision of Social Security Number (AMKA in Greek) to beneficiaries of international protection and to asylum applicants<sup>209</sup>.

<sup>199</sup> Reception and Identification Service, General Secretariat for Reception, Ministry for Migration Policy, Greece.

<sup>200</sup> <http://asylo.gov.gr/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/NOMOS-4540-22.05.2018.pdf>

<sup>201</sup> [http://asylo.gov.gr/?page\\_id=7248](http://asylo.gov.gr/?page_id=7248)

<sup>202</sup> <http://asylo.gov.gr/wp-content/uploads/2018/01/ΕΓΚΥΚΛΙΟΣ-διάπραξη-σβαροού-εγκλήματος-και-καθεστώς-διεθνούς-προστασίας-.pdf>

<sup>203</sup> Asylum Service, Ministry for Migration Policy, Greece.

<sup>204</sup> <http://asylo.gov.gr/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/ΠΕΡΙΟΡΙΣΜΟΣ-ΚΥΚΛΟΦΟΡΙΑΣ-ΦΕΚ-ΟΚΤ-2018.pdf>

<sup>205</sup> <http://asylo.gov.gr/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/ΠΕΡΙΟΡΙΣΜΟΣ-ΚΥΚΛΟΦΟΡΙΑΣ-ΦΕΚ-ΟΚΤ-2018.pdf>

<sup>206</sup> <http://asylo.gov.gr/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/ΠΕΡΙΟΡΙΣΜΟΣ-ΚΥΚΛΟΦΟΡΙΑΣ.pdf>

<sup>207</sup> [https://www.minedu.gov.gr/publications/docs2018/EPAL\\_FEK\\_310A\\_02-02-2018.pdf](https://www.minedu.gov.gr/publications/docs2018/EPAL_FEK_310A_02-02-2018.pdf)

<sup>208</sup> <http://asylo.gov.gr/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/ΕΓΚΥΚΛΙΟΣ-2-διορθωμένο.pdf>

<sup>209</sup> <http://asylo.gov.gr/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/Εγκύκλιος-απόδοσης-ΑΜΚΑ-σε-δικαιούχους-διεθνούς-προστασίας-και-αιτούντες-άσυλο.pdf>



Concerning any new 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, increase/decrease of staffing), the following were implemented in 2018: a) Decision ref. no. 22099/18 (GG 5131/B/16.11.2018) with which is modified the decision ref. no. 16654/5-10-2017 of the Director of the Asylum Service concerning local jurisdiction of the Regional Asylum Office of Attica on the applications submitted by nationals of the Sub-Saharan countries<sup>210</sup>; b) Decision ref. no. 7586/18 (GG 4794/B/26.10.2018) concerning the function of Registry of Greek and Foreign Non-Governmental Organizations active in issues of international protection, migration and social integration<sup>211</sup>; c) Decision ref. no. 3028/10 (GG 310/B/02.02.2018) concerning the beginning of function of Independent Regional Asylum Unit in Ioannina<sup>212</sup>; d) Decision ref. no. 8061/18.04.2018 of the Minister for Migration Policy (GG 220/18.04.2018), concerning the appointment of Director of Asylum Service with a 3year term<sup>213</sup>; e) Decision ref. no. 3385/18 (GG 417/B/14.02.2018), concerning the Regulation of Operation of the Asylum Service<sup>214</sup>; f) Decision ref. no. 8038/23/22-pz/(GG 5906/B/31.12.2018), concerning the extension of the function of the Pre-removal Detention Centers of Foreigners<sup>215</sup>; g) Decision of Minister for Migration Policy number 25030/14.12.2018, concerning the granting to the Asylum Service a sector for use on the ground floor of the “Keranis” building<sup>216</sup>.

There were no other measures taken to improve efficiency and quality of the national asylum system. No change with regard to applicants relocated under the intra-EU relocation mechanism was introduced at the level of legislation and policy in 2018<sup>217</sup>, but it was decided to continue the Action until 30/3/2018<sup>218, 219</sup>. There were no actions undertaken in 2018 with regard to relocation activities organised under national schemes. Greece does not participate in the resettlement and humanitarian admission programmes<sup>220, 221</sup>.

<sup>210</sup> <http://asylo.gov.gr/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/ΠΓΑ-Αλιμου-ΠΓΑ-Αττικής.pdf>

<sup>211</sup> [http://asylo.gov.gr/?page\\_id=141](http://asylo.gov.gr/?page_id=141)

<sup>212</sup> <http://www.et.gr/idoes-nph/search/pdfViewerForm.html?args=5C7QrtC22wG3UHK-ZeQumndtvSoClrL8YmjdnDP4Wox5MXD0LzQLf7MGgcO23N88knBzLCmTXKaO6fpvZ6Lx9hLsJUqeiQ2-3nLACZtfce0Df51682ISItYatVilYzEzi0AjVtA>

<sup>213</sup> [http://www.et.gr/idoes-nph/search/pdfViewerForm.html?args=5C7QrtC22wG3UHK-ZeQumndtvSoClrL89eDCOmS-8Ux5MXD0LzQLWPu9yLzB8V6PZKHBU5qIM6GIBSQOpYnT00MHhcXFRtsFkA4YZCPd|pyueyXdZmX2vB-MmGdJiyO\\_wjiTitB60](http://www.et.gr/idoes-nph/search/pdfViewerForm.html?args=5C7QrtC22wG3UHK-ZeQumndtvSoClrL89eDCOmS-8Ux5MXD0LzQLWPu9yLzB8V6PZKHBU5qIM6GIBSQOpYnT00MHhcXFRtsFkA4YZCPd|pyueyXdZmX2vB-MmGdJiyO_wjiTitB60)

<sup>214</sup> <http://asylo.gov.gr/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/KANONISMOS-ΛΕΙΤΟΥΡΓΙΑΣ-ΥΠΗΡΕΣΙΑΣ-ΑΣΥΛΟΥ-2018.pdf>

<sup>215</sup> <http://asylo.gov.gr/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/ΠΡΟΚΕΚΑ-ΥΠ.pdf>

<sup>216</sup> <http://asylo.gov.gr/wp-content/uploads/2018/12/ΨΨΗΦ465XΘΕ-ΜΣ4-Παράχώρηση-Κεράνη.pdf>

<sup>217</sup> Relocation: The transfer of persons having a status defined by the Geneva Refugee Convention and Protocol or subsidiary protection within the meaning of Directive 2011/95/EU (Recast Qualification Directive) 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 relocation programme, the transfer of persons in clear need of international protection, as defined in Council Decision 2015/1601 and 2016/1754, having applied for international protection from the EU Member State, CH or NO which is responsible for examining their application to another EU Member State, CH or NO where their application for international protection will be examined. (see EMN Glossary V6).

<sup>218</sup> See here [http://asylo.gov.gr/en/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/Relocation-procedures-up-to-30-3-2018\\_en.pdf](http://asylo.gov.gr/en/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/Relocation-procedures-up-to-30-3-2018_en.pdf) and <http://asylo.gov.gr/wp-content/uploads/2018/01/Relocation-Closing-Event-Presentation.pdf>

<sup>219</sup> See also: [http://asylo.gov.gr/?page\\_id=1886](http://asylo.gov.gr/?page_id=1886) Asylum Service, Ministry for Migration Policy, Greece.

<sup>220</sup> Resettlement: In the EU context, the transfer, on a request from the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and based on their need for international protection, of a third-country national or stateless person, from a third country to an EU 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 (Recast Qualification Directive); (ii) a status which offers the same rights and benefits under national and EU law as refugee status. (see EMN Glossary Version 6).

<sup>221</sup> Asylum Service, Ministry for Migration Policy, Greece.

5. UNACCOMPANIED MINORS AND OTHER VULNERABLE GROUPS

New developments at national level in 2018 in relation to unaccompanied minors (UAMs) who were applying for asylum, include: a) Increase of personnel at the “safe zones” of RICs with jurisdiction to look after Unaccompanied Minors<sup>222</sup>. b) Improvement of protection and care of UAMs, with the following: Law 4554/2018, (GG 130/A/18), Section C, Regulatory Framework for the Guardianship of Unaccompanied Minors, Chapter A’ Guardianship of Unaccompanied Minors, Article 18, regarding the Responsibilities of the professional guardian, includes that he/she: a) Focuses on the fulfillment of daily basic survival needs, which means the nutrition of the minor by referring them to actors that provide meals on a daily basis, the accommodation by submitting accommodation requests at accommodation centers for unaccompanied minors of the National Center for Social Solidarity and by following up on the request. b) Represents and supports the minor at all the judicial and administrative procedures, particularly in the asylum procedure, family reunification, readmission and granting of residence permit. The guardian of unaccompanied minors is also considered the spokesperson of unaccompanied minors, according to the provisions of law 4375/2016. c) Assists the minor with the Health Services throughout the provision of healthcare. d) Can submit an asylum application or an application for a residence permit on behalf of the minor, taking into consideration their desire in accordance to their maturity. The minor above 15 years old can submit themselves the asylum application, according to the provisions of articles 36 and 45 of the Law 4375/2016. e) Exercises the projected legal means and aids against administrative or judicial decisions that concern the minor, as well as administrative appeals by the attorney-at-law. f) Ensures that the minor is protected during their stay in the country and during the readmission procedure to their country of origin<sup>223</sup>, according to the provisions of Law 3907/2011 (A’ 7). g) Ensures that there is free legal support and interpretation for the minor. h) Ensures that there is psychological support and healthcare for the minor. i) Ensures the training and education of the minor<sup>224</sup>. For instance, ensures the registration of the minor at the regular or non-regular education, in order for them to learn the Greek language, their mother tongue, foreign languages etc. j) Ensures that there are appropriate reception and accommodation conditions<sup>225</sup>. k) Takes steps to ensure that the actual care of the minor is assigned to an appropriate family (foster family), according to the provisions in place. l) Ensures the respect and freedom of expression and the development of the political, philosophical and religious beliefs of the minor. m) Ensures the locating of the family of the minor and their reunification with them, provided that it is in the minor’s best interest. n) He/she is in contact with the appropriate authorities for each procedure that concerns the minor, with a spokesperson of their accommodation center<sup>226</sup> or with the foster parents of the minor, with the local District Attorney, with the legal representative of the minor, with civil society actors, as well as with international organizations for any matter that concerns the minor<sup>227, 228</sup>. o) Maintains regular contact with the minor, at least once per week, and ensures the development of a relationship of trust with the minor and the understanding of their needs and goals. p) Updates the minor in a language simple and friendly to them, which they comprehend, on the judicial and administrative procedure and on all the matters that concern them. The Guardian collaborates with the legitimated supporter of the unaccompanied minor. Additionally, secures the ability of the minor to effectively participate in all the decisions that concern them. q) Ensures that the minor benefits from all social security benefits. r) Takes charge in urgent cases that concern the minor as soon as he/she is informed by any competent authority or a third person or the minor themselves. s) Treats the minor with affection and respect, without any discrimination due to race, color, national or ethnic origin, genealogical origins, social background, religious, political or other beliefs, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity or gender characteristics. t) Is updated and acts in accordance to the provisions of the Joint Ministerial Decision number 1982/15.2.2016 (B’ 335), in case of procedures for the age assessment/adolescence assessment. u) Ensures the contact of the child with their biological family<sup>229</sup>. In addition, in the context of improving the protection and care of UAMs, including reception facilities, facilities were upgraded and restored<sup>230</sup> c) Concerning legal guardianship and foster care, the following changes were made: In Law 4554/2018, Article 16 defines details on the appointment of Guardian for Unaccompanied Minors<sup>231</sup>; In Law 4554/2018 clarifications on Insurance and pension arrangements - Tackling undeclared work - Enhancing worker protection - Guardianship of unaccompanied minors and other provisions, are included; In Law 4538/2018 measures for the promotion of the institutions of foster care and adoption and other provisions<sup>232</sup>, are defined. Regarding d) age assessment; c) procedural safeguards, d) provision of information (info material, e.g. videos, leaflets, booklets etc.); legislation, policies and practices continued, as in 2017. Also, the Evaluation Form for the Child’s Best Interest (02.08.2018) was created; a new tool for the demands of applications for family reunification of unaccompanied minors<sup>233</sup>.

<sup>222</sup> Reception and Identification Service, General Secretariat for Reception, Ministry for Migration Policy, Greece.

<sup>223</sup> <https://www.synigoros.gr/?i=human-rights.el.files.525805>

<sup>224</sup> <https://government.gov.gr/epichorigisi-tis-voulis-ton-ellinon-sta-scholia-opou-litourgoun-domes-ipodochis-ekpedefsis-prosfigon-diep/>

<sup>225</sup> [http://mindigital.gr/images/prosfigiko/Fotografiko\\_leukoma\\_prosfyges\\_gr.pdf](http://mindigital.gr/images/prosfigiko/Fotografiko_leukoma_prosfyges_gr.pdf)

<sup>226</sup> [http://www.mindigital.gr/index.php/press\\_releases-m/1974-episkepsi-tis-aidikis-grammateos-epikoiniakis-diaxeirisis-kriseon-sta-ken-tra-ypodochis-prosfigon-kai-metanaston-sti-lero-2](http://www.mindigital.gr/index.php/press_releases-m/1974-episkepsi-tis-aidikis-grammateos-epikoiniakis-diaxeirisis-kriseon-sta-ken-tra-ypodochis-prosfigon-kai-metanaston-sti-lero-2)

<sup>227</sup> [http://www.mindigital.gr/index.php/press\\_releases-m/2149-enimerotiko-deltio-gia-to-prosfigiko](http://www.mindigital.gr/index.php/press_releases-m/2149-enimerotiko-deltio-gia-to-prosfigiko)

<sup>228</sup> [http://www.mindigital.gr/index.php/press\\_releases-m/2387-ekdosi-2ou-teyxous-tou-enimerotikoy-deltiou-gia-to-prosfigiko](http://www.mindigital.gr/index.php/press_releases-m/2387-ekdosi-2ou-teyxous-tou-enimerotikoy-deltiou-gia-to-prosfigiko)

<sup>229</sup> [http://www.opengov.gr/minlab/wp-content/uploads/downloads/2018/07/nomos-4554\\_20](http://www.opengov.gr/minlab/wp-content/uploads/downloads/2018/07/nomos-4554_20)

<sup>230</sup> Reception and Identification Service, General Secretariat for Reception, Ministry for Migration Policy, Greece.

<sup>231</sup> [http://www.opengov.gr/minlab/wp-content/uploads/downloads/2018/07/nomos-4554\\_20](http://www.opengov.gr/minlab/wp-content/uploads/downloads/2018/07/nomos-4554_20)

<sup>232</sup> <http://www.publicrevenue.gr/elib/view?d=/gr/act/2018/4538>

<sup>233</sup> <http://asylo.gov.gr/?p=7056>

In relation to new developments at national level in relation to other vulnerable groups<sup>234, 235</sup> applying for asylum in 2018, with regard to: a) Measures clarifying the definition of vulnerable groups: The debates with the Asylum Service and European Asylum Support Office (EASO) continued on the agreement on a tool for the evaluation/definition of vulnerability<sup>236</sup> (See Amendment of Law 4540 2018 (Official Gazette A 91/22-05-2018), Part C Amendment of asylum procedures Article 28 Amendment of Law 4375/2016 (A 51)<sup>237</sup>); b) Special reception facilities for vulnerable groups, the operation of the structures of the National Center for Social Solidarity (EKKA in Greek)<sup>238</sup> (including Accommodation Facilities for Unaccompanied Minors<sup>239, 240</sup>); c) the identification mechanisms/referrals continued as in 2017. Concerning d) Applicable procedural safeguards there were no changes.

Concerning new developments at national level in 2018 in relation to unaccompanied minors (UAMs) not applying for asylum, there were no changes.

Regarding new developments at national level in 2018 in relation to other vulnerable groups not applying for asylum, in relation to: a) Measures clarifying the definition of vulnerable groups: The consultations between the Asylum Service and the European Asylum Support Office (EASO) in relation to the agreement regarding the tool for the evaluation/definition of vulnerability continued<sup>241</sup>. There were no new developments concerning, b) Special reception facilities for vulnerable groups, c) Identification mechanisms/referrals, and d) Applicable procedural safeguards.

In relation to the statistical analysis on Unaccompanied Children (UAC) in Greece as of 31/12/2018 (See Annex): The Estimated number of UAC currently in Greece is 3.741<sup>242</sup>. Out of the total 93,8% are boys, 6,2% are girls and 7,2% are below the age of 14 years old. The total number of places in long term accommodation (Shelters/SIL) are 1.064. The total number of places in temporary accommodation (Safe zones/Emergency hotels) are 895. 1.983\* UAC are out of long term or temporary accommodation, out of which: 701 in RICs, 86 in protective custody 124 pending transfer to long term or temporary accommodation<sup>243</sup>.

Number and places of UAC shelters, safe zones and hotels as of 31 December 2018 (see Annex), include: UAC shelters: In operation: 48 UAC shelters with total 1.040 places. Planned: 3 UAC shelters with total 92 places. Supported Independent Living (SIL) apartments, in operation: 6 SIL apartments for UAC older than 16 years old with total 24 places. Safe zones\*, in operation: 10 Safe Zones for UAC with total 300 places. Hotels\*\*, in operation: 15 Hotels for UAC with total 595 places. Planned: 1 Hotels for UAC with total 35 places<sup>244</sup>.

<sup>234</sup> Not including victims of human trafficking, as this is covered in Section 10.

<sup>235</sup> Other vulnerable groups include minors, disabled people, elderly people, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer or questioning, and intersex (LGBTQI) 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.

<sup>236</sup> Reception and Identification Service, General Secretariat for Reception, Ministry for Migration Policy, Greece.

<sup>237</sup> Asylum Service, Ministry for Migration Policy, Greece.

<sup>238</sup> <http://www.ekka.org.gr/index.php/author-login/2018-05-17-09-06-24>

<sup>239</sup> [http://www.ekka.org.gr/images/PDF\\_ARXEIA/ΠΑΡΕΜΒΑΣΕΩΝ/EKKA%20%2031-12-2018.pdf](http://www.ekka.org.gr/images/PDF_ARXEIA/ΠΑΡΕΜΒΑΣΕΩΝ/EKKA%20%2031-12-2018.pdf)

<sup>240</sup> Reception and Identification Service, General Secretariat for Reception, Ministry for Migration Policy, Greece.

<sup>241</sup> Reception and Identification Service, General Secretariat for Reception, Ministry for Migration Policy, Greece.

<sup>242</sup> The number include 283 separated children.

<sup>243</sup> Source: National Center for Social Solidarity (EKKA) With support from UNISEF, 31/12/2018.

[http://www.ekka.org.gr/images/PDF\\_ARXEIA/ΠΑΡΕΜΒΑΣΕΩΝ/EKKA%20%2031-12-2018.pdf](http://www.ekka.org.gr/images/PDF_ARXEIA/ΠΑΡΕΜΒΑΣΕΩΝ/EKKA%20%2031-12-2018.pdf)

<sup>244</sup> Source: National Center for Social Solidarity (EKKA) With support from UNISEF, 31/12/2018. [http://www.ekka.org.gr/images/PDF\\_ARXEIA/ΠΑΡΕΜΒΑΣΕΩΝ/EKKA%20%2031-12-2018.pdf](http://www.ekka.org.gr/images/PDF_ARXEIA/ΠΑΡΕΜΒΑΣΕΩΝ/EKKA%20%2031-12-2018.pdf)\* Safe Zones are designated supervised spaces within 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 detention as well as other vulnerable children, in line with their best interests. \*\* Hotels are emergency accommodation spaces being used as a measure to care for UAC in light of the insufficient number of available shelter places. Priority is given to UAC in Reception and Identification Centers.

6. INTEGRATION

Regarding integration of third-country nationals and developments to facilitate integration of third-country nationals, through socio-economic participation in 2018 the following were implemented: a) Measures to improve attainment in schooling and/or the education system and/or vocational training, included: The National Strategy for the Integration of Migrants, Ministry for Migration Policy (June 2018)<sup>245</sup> was presented which included relevant measures. Concerning legislation the following were included: Law 4547 (Government Gazette A' 102/12-06-2018, as applicable, Law 4559/2018 (Government Gazette 142A' Reception Facilities for Refugee Education), Ministerial Decision no. 10645/CD4 (23.01.2018) for enrolment in General High-Schools/Technical High-Schools with lacking documentation<sup>246</sup>. Ministerial Decision F1/143929/D1/05-09-2018 (Government Gazette 3900 B'), on the exemption of students who have studied at RFREs and who hold a certificate of studies from examinations for the ascertainment of their studies in Reception Classes. Ministerial Decision 219116/CD4/19-12-2018, on the assessment and the absence of foreign students attending Secondary Education schools in which Reception Classes operate. Article 13 (Article 14 of Directive 2013/33/EU), of Law No. 4540/2018 (GG 91 A'), Amendments of the Greek legislation in accordance with the provisions of Directive 2013/33/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of Europe of June 26 2013, on the standards required for the reception of applicants for international protection (recast, L 180/96/29.6.2013) and other provisions – Amendment of Law 4251/2014 (A 80) to transpose to Greek Law Directive 2014/66/EU of May 15 2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council concerning conditions of entry and residence of third-country nationals in the framework of an intra-corporate transfer – Amendment of asylum procedures and other provisions<sup>247</sup>. Amendment of the Ministry for Migration Policy, no. 1603/194 01/06/2018 Athens, June 5<sup>th</sup> 2018 for the adjustment of the amount of the administrative fee paid by third-country nationals for their residence permit in Greece<sup>248</sup>.

In 2018, the following actions were implemented: Action “Integration of Refugee Children, up to the age of 15, in the Education System” with Code OPS 5002810, for the school year 2018-2019, in the context of the National Programme of the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund 2014-2020. Via the aforementioned action, substitute educators are hired to work in RFREs, costs for expendable materials of the school units, within which the RFREs operate, were covered, while psychologists (sector University Degree (P) no. 23) were hired in the RFREs, in order to provide counselling support to refugee students and their families, while also assisting with the management of issues that may arise within the school unit. Via the Decision no. 182559/D2/30-10-2018, of the General Directorate for Primary Level and Secondary Level Education of the Ministry of Education, Research and Religious Affairs, entitled “Entry Permission of Translators to School Units”. Based on the aforementioned decision, the collaboration between the MERRA and NGO METADrasi for the provision of certified translators, is being implemented for the second consecutive year, in schools of Attica and Thessalonica. Department of Coordination and Monitoring of the Refugee Education, in the context of its responsibilities, organized an educative seminar for the Coordinators of Refugee Education, on the 9<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> of October 2018, in order to provide information regarding how their responsibilities and educative role can contribute to the improvement of the quality of the provided education<sup>249</sup>. On 22-10-2018 the inclusion of School Units of Secondary Education in the Zones of Educational Priority, within which Reception Classes (RC) I ZEP can operate, was implemented<sup>250</sup>. Following an intervention by the Greek Ombudsman, the Ministry of Interior informed the responsible regional services of the Hellenic Police to issue (and renew) travel documents for foreigners entitled to international protection who have been issued residence permits under the category of “long-term residency”<sup>251</sup>. In relation to the promotion of the integration on a local level and collaboration, consultation and coordination of the local interested actors, there has been development on a practical level. Members of Centers for Migrant Integration (CMI, KEM in Greek) were invited to a seminar in May 2018 (in the context of regular meetings established by the Ministry for Migration Policy with the Centers for Migrant Integration). The purpose of this seminar was to inform the Centers for Migrant Integration executives, to get to know each other, to develop a network and to exchange of experiences/good practices and opinions/concerns, based on the topics that emerged as necessities from the completion of a questionnaire that had previously been sent to the Centers for Migrant Integration (CMI, KEM in Greek).

Other measures to enhance the education and training of refugees include<sup>252</sup>: On 19-12-18 an administrative circular regarding the evaluation and absences of students in Reception Classes, was published. On 19-12-18 The Hellenic Parliament will be promoting the Education of Refugees also for the school year 2018-2019, as announced. On 16-11-18 Francois Hollande visited Eleonas - Open Reception Center for Refugees. On 01-11-18 An administrative circular for the formation and operation of Reception Classes I ZEP was published. On 22-10-18 Integration of School Units for Secondary Education into the Education Priority Zones (EPZ, ZEP in Greek), within which Reception Classes (REC) I ZEP could operate. On 22-10-18 submission for applications for secondment of educators as Refugee Education Coordinators (RECs, SEP in Greek) for the Regional Directorates of Attica, N. Aegean and Central Greece was opened. On 04-10-2018 the recruitment of 350 substitute educators, of full-time and part-time contracts for topics/specialties of Secondary Education, was implemented. On 03-10-18 1239 educators of Primary Education were hired as temporary substitutes with private law fixed term contracts for the school year 2018-2019. On 03-10-18 78 substitute educators were hired<sup>253</sup>, with full-time and part-time contracts, for topics/specialties of Secondary Education, was implemented.

<sup>245</sup> <http://www.opengov.gr/immigration/wp-content/uploads/downloads/2019/01/ethniki-stratigiki.pdf>

<sup>246</sup> Ministry of Education, Research and Religious Affairs.

<sup>247</sup> Ministry of Education, Research and Religious Affairs.

<sup>248</sup> [http://www.immigration.gov.gr/article-details/-/journal\\_content/56\\_INSTANCE\\_qAPkIk32D3aH/20182/54103?back=press-release](http://www.immigration.gov.gr/article-details/-/journal_content/56_INSTANCE_qAPkIk32D3aH/20182/54103?back=press-release)

<sup>249</sup> Ministry of Education, Research and Religious Affairs.

<sup>250</sup> [https://www.minedu.gov.gr/publications/docs2018/171022\\_ΥΠΟΥΡΓΙΚΗ\\_ΖΕΠ\\_ΠΕΡΙΦΕΡΕΙΕΣ\\_18-19\\_signed.pdf](https://www.minedu.gov.gr/publications/docs2018/171022_ΥΠΟΥΡΓΙΚΗ_ΖΕΠ_ΠΕΡΙΦΕΡΕΙΕΣ_18-19_signed.pdf)

<sup>251</sup> [https://www.synigoros.gr/?i=human-rights.el.eggrafa\\_tautotitas.489471](https://www.synigoros.gr/?i=human-rights.el.eggrafa_tautotitas.489471)

<sup>252</sup> <https://www.minedu.gov.gr/prosf-ekpaideusi-m>

<sup>253</sup> <https://government.gov.gr/proslipsis-anapliroton-ekpedeftikon-gia-apascholisiti-stis-diep-domes-ipodochis-gia-tin-ekpedefsi-ton-prosfigon-3/>

On 27-09-18 a unit of the Ministry for Education, in collaboration with the Ministry of Health in Lesvos, Chios and Samos for refugee children, deployed. From October 15 to October 19, 2018, the second round of interviews for the “European Passport of Refugee Qualifications” was organized. On 11-09-18 classes for refugee children for the new school year began. On 29-08-18 the Department for the Coordination and Monitoring of the Refugee Education, Ministry of Education, Research and Religious Affairs provided a review of the school year 2017-2018. From August 3 to August 8 2018, applications from permanent educators for Refugee Education Coordinators (RECs, SEP in Greek) in Centers or/and facilities for the Accommodation of Refugees were submitted. On 01-08-2018 the Hellenic Parliament granted funding to schools that include Reception Facilities for Refugee Education (RFREs). On 26-07-2018 information for the personnel of refugee facilities and the refugee parents on access to Education was carried-out. On 21-06-2018<sup>254</sup> the evaluation of European Passport for the Qualifications of Refugees was completed<sup>255</sup>. On 20-06-2018 the Minister of Education, Research and Religion published his message for World Refugee Day<sup>256</sup>. On 18-06-2018 secondments of educators<sup>257</sup> to Regional Directorates of Education as Refugee Education Coordinators (RECs, SEP) were realized. On 03-03-2018 the Institute on Educational Policy (IEP in Greek) announced the inauguration of educative activities for the support of the Education of Refugee Children<sup>258</sup>, On 05-02-18 A call for permanent educators of Elementary and Secondary Education to submit applications for secondment to the Regional Directorates of Elementary and Secondary Education of the North Aegean, Western Greece and Epirus, so that they be appointed as Refugee Education Coordinators (RECs, SEP in Greek). On 09-01-18 Substitute educators were hired in order to work in the Reception Facilities for Refugee Education. On 02-01-18 a Joint Press Conference of the Minister for Education, Research and Religion Affairs Kostas Gavroglou and the Minister for Migration Policy, Giannis Mouzalas was held. On 05-01-2018 127 educators were hired for the operation of Reception Classes in school units of Secondary Education. The National Strategy for Integration of the Ministry for Migration Policy was presented (June 2018)<sup>259</sup> which included relevant measures. Also, the programme “HELIOS” was presented<sup>260</sup> and a Memorandum of Understanding signed between the Ministry for Migration Policy, the International Organization for Migration, the Municipality of Thiva and the Municipality of Livadia<sup>261</sup>.

b) Concerning measures to enhance language skills: With the support of the Institute on Educational Policy (IEP in Greek), UNICEF (Refugee and Migrant Response in Greece) in collaboration with the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, the Aristotelian University of Thessalonica, the University of Thessaly, the University of Ioannina and the University of Crete organized a series of free educational programmes for educators involved in the education of refugee children, with the funding of the European Commission (DG-ECHO)<sup>262</sup>.

The Institute on Educational Policy (IEP in Greek) in the context of action entitled “Training interventions to strengthen school structures in the education system” MIS 5004204, implemented Action no. 4 “Educational Actions for the Support of the Education of Refugee Children” during the school year 2018, under which the following actions were carried out: a) Creation of a Register of Educators for the topics: Socio-cultural background of refugees/migrants, Teaching of Greek as a second/foreign language<sup>263</sup>, Differentiated education with an emphasis on particular topics, Techniques regarding awareness, prevention and handling of xenophobic and stereotypical perceptions, Issues of psychosocial support-resolution of conflicts. b) On-site visits from Scientific Associates to the Reception Classes and RFREs where refugees studied, aiming at collecting data and developing supporting educational material, appropriate for the education of the children of refugees<sup>264</sup>. c) Educational interventions (distance and in person) directed to school Councillors, Principals, Refugee Education Coordinators (RECs) and members of the education system of the Educational Regions of Attica, Central Greece, East Macedonia and Thrace, Central Macedonia, Western Greece, Epirus and Thessaly. Specifically, from 09-03-18 until 31-05-2018, 104 hours of training were completed in these particular educational regions. d) The preparation and distribution of educational material for the support of students studying in RCs/RFREs, as well as educational material for the support of educators was developed<sup>265</sup>.

c) Concerning access to social security, social assistance, healthcare, housing and other basic services in 2018, the following changes were made: Via Law 4554/2018 and article 46 in particular, citizens of third-countries to whom residence permits for humanitarian reasons are granted, will henceforth be able to be included in the Programmes for the Economic Support of People with Special Needs, insofar as they fulfil the requirements defined per Programme<sup>266</sup>. In addition a circular for the issuance of AMKA (National Insurance Number) to those entitled to international protection and those applying for asylum<sup>267</sup>.

<sup>254</sup> <https://government.gov.gr/oloklirothike-axiologisi-tou-evropaikou-diavatiriou-prosonton-prosfigon/>

<sup>255</sup> <https://government.gov.gr/diavatirio-prosonton-prosfigon-axiologithikan-ta-prosonta-92-prosfigon-ke-ekdothikan-72-evropaika-diavatiria-prosonton-entos-tou-2017/>

<sup>256</sup> [http://www.mindigital.gr/index.php/press\\_releases-m/3299-ekdilosi-afieromeni-stin-pagkosmia-imeria-metanasti-triti-18-dekembrivriou-2018-sto-ypsipte](http://www.mindigital.gr/index.php/press_releases-m/3299-ekdilosi-afieromeni-stin-pagkosmia-imeria-metanasti-triti-18-dekembrivriou-2018-sto-ypsipte)

<sup>257</sup> <https://government.gov.gr/apospasis-ekpedeftikon-se-periferiakies-dieftinsis-ekpedefsis-os-sintonistes-ekpedefsis-prosfigon/>

<sup>258</sup> <https://government.gov.gr/anakinosi-tou-iep-enarxi-epimorfotikon-draseon-gia-tin-ipostirixi-tis-ekpedefsis-pedion-prosfigon/>

<sup>259</sup> <http://www.opengov.gr/immigration/wp-content/uploads/downloads/2019/01/ethniki-stratigiki.pdf>

<sup>260</sup> <https://greece.iom.int/el/helios-hellenic-integration-system>

<sup>261</sup> [http://www.immigration.gov.gr/article-details/-/journal\\_content/56\\_INSTANCE\\_qAPKlk3D3aH/20182/51591?back=press-release](http://www.immigration.gov.gr/article-details/-/journal_content/56_INSTANCE_qAPKlk3D3aH/20182/51591?back=press-release)

<sup>262</sup> Ministry of Education, Research and Religious Affairs

<sup>263</sup> <https://government.gov.gr/programma-mathimata-glossas-ke-politismou-gia-prosfiges-ke-metanastes-15-2/>

<sup>264</sup> Ministry of Education, Research and Religious Affairs.

<sup>265</sup> Ministry of Education, Research and Religious Affairs.

<sup>266</sup> Ministry of Labour, Social Security and Social Solidarity, Greece.

<sup>267</sup> <https://government.gov.gr/egkiklios-gia-tin-apodosi-amka-se-dikeouchous-prostasias-ke-etountes-asilo/>

d) Regarding integration into the labour market in 2018, the following changes were made: a) Entry of third-country nationals for the purpose of intra-corporate transfer according to Directive 2014/66/EU: Incorporation of the directive in law no. 4251/2014 with the passing of law no. 4540/2018. b) Law No. 4540/2018 (Articles 15, 16). Applicants for International Protection: Specifically in article 15 it is stated that “the right to access the labour market cannot be revoked during the course of the appeal procedure, until notified of a negative decision on the appeal”. In article 16, “professional knowledge”, it is stated that “The applicants have access to the enrolment into and attendance of professional expertise programmes, under the same conditions as Greek citizens, regardless of whether or not they have access to the labour market”<sup>268</sup>. The Ministry of Labour, Social Security and Social Solidarity through targeted actions and interventions that it implements, works towards the protection of the rights of refugees and migrants, especially on issues related to their integration into the labour market, the protection of their labour rights, and especially the protection of the most vulnerable, refugee and migrant minors. By Law 4554/2018 passed in July, the Ministry of Labour, Social Security and Social Solidarity strengthens efforts to effectively protect unaccompanied minor refugees by establishing the framework of the Unaccompanied Minors Guardianship. According to the law, unaccompanied or separated from their family foreign minors or stateless persons under the age of 18, who arrive in Greek territory without being accompanied by a person exercising their parental responsibility, are placed under the protective mantle of the Greek state and their care is now assigned to professional guardians. At the same time, in order to ensure a decent and safe housing, in cooperation with the Ministry of National Defense, buildings belonging to the General Secretariat of Welfare, with a total capacity of 800 individuals, were renovated for the accommodation of unaccompanied minors and refugee families, while for the same purpose, seven (7) more buildings of the General Secretariat of Welfare are being renovated. With the aim of integrating refugees and migrants into the labour market, the Manpower Employment Organization (OAED in Greek) amended the registration conditions to facilitate the integration of migrants holding a residence permit, refugees, beneficiaries of international protection or applicants for international protection or status holders subsidiary protection in the registries of the Organization and lack permanent residence or reside in accommodation facilities. In addition, the Ministry of Labour, Social Security and Social Solidarity in the immediate future, aimed at implementing for the first time a vocational training, certification and job search programme for 3.000 unemployed refugees in high demand sectors in the regions of Attica and Central Macedonia. The aim of the programme is to help refugees acquire technical skills that they can use to join the labour market<sup>269</sup>.

Finally, the Labour Inspectorate (LI, SEPE in Greek) was integrated in the National Plan for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings 2018-2023 with actions that concern, besides strengthening its check work in this sector, education, development of legislative framework and participation in awareness-raising actions. At the same time, in the upcoming period, SEPE will proceed to the ratification of the International Labour Convention 129<sup>270</sup> to extend checks on undeclared work and in the agricultural sector<sup>271</sup>.

Programmes and actions in the year 2018 include: (a) Pilot Programme “HELIOS” (Hellenic Integration System)<sup>272</sup>: The programme aimed at utilizing measures that had already been implemented at local level, such as education, financial assistance (Programme of Financial Aid – Cash assistance) and housing (Programme “Emergency Support To Integration and Accommodation” – ESTIA) combining them with new supportive actions. The basic projects of the programme included: the recording of the professional profile and the finding of the beneficiaries, access to education and the job market and contact with the society of reception. At the same time, actions regarding the empowerment of women, informative seminars, information and awareness/sensitisation but also to serve target groups on issues of interest of the local actors were implemented. Period for implementation: 6 months 02.5.2018-31.10.2018. (b) Monitoring of activities of non-typical education of refugees/migrants living at reception facilities as well as intercultural activities<sup>273</sup>: Via a special leaflet that is sent from the Ministry for Migration Policy – Directorate for Social Integration to those responsible for the open reception facilities for refugees and to NGOs, data regarding the implemented activities directed towards applicant/beneficiaries of international protection, living in open reception facilities and apartments are collected, with an emphasis on intercultural activities and activities on non-typical education. Period for implementation: 2018-2019 with possible extension (ongoing activity).

<sup>268</sup> Ministry of Labour, Social Security and Social Solidarity, Greece.

<sup>269</sup> <https://ec.europa.eu/migrant-integration/news/greek-government-announces-labour-market-support-for-refugees> see also <https://ec.europa.eu/migrant-integration/news/greece-asylum-seekers-allowed-to-register-as-unemployed>

<sup>270</sup> [https://www.ilo.org/dyn/normlex/en/f?p=NORMLEXPUB:12100:0::NO::P12100\\_INSTRUMENT\\_ID:312274](https://www.ilo.org/dyn/normlex/en/f?p=NORMLEXPUB:12100:0::NO::P12100_INSTRUMENT_ID:312274)

<sup>271</sup> <https://ec.europa.eu/migrant-integration/news/greek-government-announces-labour-market-support-for-refugees>; <https://www.euro2day.gr/news/economy/article/1655430/yp-ergasias.html>

<sup>272</sup> <https://greece.iom.int/el/helios-hellenic-integration-system>

<sup>273</sup> Social Integration Directorate, Ministry for Migration Policy, Greece.

Regarding new developments to promote the integration of third-country nationals through civic participation in 2018, these include: Concerning activities at local level: The Center for Migrant Integration (CMI, KEM in Greek) of the Municipality of Athens provides specialized services to migrants and refugees for the purpose of improving their quality of life, their access to the job market and the social integration of the correlating populations. The implementation of this programme is carried out with co-funding from Greece and the EU, NSRF 2014-2020 (European Social Fund)<sup>274</sup>. Moreover, via the Law 4555/2018 “Reformation of the institutional framework of Local Self-Government – Strengthening of Democracy – Enforcement of Participation – Improvement of financial and developmental function of the Organizations of Local Self-Government (OTA) (Programme “Kleisthenes I”) – Regulations for more efficient, faster and uniform exercise of responsibilities concerning the issuance of citizenship and naturalization – Other provisions falling under the scope of the Ministry of Interior”<sup>275</sup>, regarding civic participation, Law 4555/2018<sup>276</sup> (Programme “Kleisthenes I”) introduced the Migrant and Refugee Integration Councils (MRICs) (article 79 in replacement of article 78 of Law 3852/2010).

There were no new developments specifically targeted to facilitate integration of specific categories of third-country nationals, such as beneficiaries of international protection, family migrants, UAMs and other vulnerable groups etc. in 2018.

Other developments in 2018 included: a) Informing and Sensitizing Public Opinion: The Special Secretariat for Crisis Management Communication of the Ministry of Digital Policy, Telecommunications and Media publishes almost on a daily basis on the Ministry’s official webpage, articles and announcements regarding the national situation on the refugee/migrant issue<sup>277</sup>, additionally, in 2018 it published<sup>278</sup> a series of Informative Newsletters<sup>279, 280</sup> regarding the refugee/migrant issue<sup>281</sup>. The aim of these newsletters, which are published on a regular periodic basis<sup>282</sup>, is to further inform the public<sup>283</sup> on all the issues that relate to the management of the refugee/migrant issue<sup>284</sup>. The Ministry for Migration Policy and the Special Secretariat for Crisis Management Communication of the Ministry of Digital Policy, Telecommunications and Media, issued a special photographic album on the Reception Facilities<sup>285</sup> of the asylum applicants in mainland Greece<sup>286</sup>. b) Actions and initiatives for the information and sensitization of the local society towards the refugee/migration issue and for the promotion of the social integration of third-country citizens, include: Interventions<sup>287, 288</sup> of specialized officials<sup>289, 290</sup>. “The refugee and migration crisis need to be managed as a collective European challenge”, was mentioned by Prime-Minister, Alexis Tsipras after the Unofficial Summit Meeting in Brussels on 25/06/2018, in his statements<sup>291</sup>. Prime-Minister, Alexis Tsipras in his speech at the UN General Assembly on 28/09/2018 stated that “Greece was found at the vanguard in the midst of three international crises: a financial, a migration and a security”<sup>292</sup>. “The current refugee crisis, is nowadays the central political and ideological issue for the future of Europe” was highlighted by Prime-Minister, Alexis Tsipras, after the end of the Unofficial Summit Meeting on 20/09/2018<sup>293</sup>. Moreover, the following are included: Conferences<sup>294, 295</sup>, information/awareness campaigns to combat gender based violence (GBV)<sup>296</sup>, and Cultural Activities<sup>297, 298</sup>, such as: Presentation of cultural activities on the refugee issues Home New Home with 32 short films from refugees and volunteers<sup>299</sup>.

<sup>274</sup> <https://www.accmr.gr/el/%CF%85%CF%80%CE%B7%CF%81%CE%B5%CF%83%CE%AF%CE%B5%CF%82/service/839.html>

<sup>275</sup> <http://www.ypes.gr/UserFiles/f0ff9297-f516-40ff-a70e-eca84e2ec9b9/N.4555-2018-FEK-A-133%20%20.pdf>

<sup>276</sup> <https://www.ypes.gr/UserFiles/f0ff9297-f516-40ff-a70e-eca84e2ec9b9/N.4555-2018-FEK-A-133%20%20.pdf>

<sup>277</sup> <http://mindigital.gr/index.php/%CF%80%CF%81%CE%BF%CF%83%CF%86%CF%85%CE%B3%CE%B9%CE%BA%CF%8C-%CE%B6%CE%AE%CF%84%CE%B7%CE%BC%CE%B1-refugee-crisis?limit=10&start=60>

<sup>278</sup> [http://www.mindigital.gr/index.php/press\\_releases-m/3208-ekdosi-4ou-tevxous-tou-enimerotikoy-deltiou-gia-to-prosfygiko](http://www.mindigital.gr/index.php/press_releases-m/3208-ekdosi-4ou-tevxous-tou-enimerotikoy-deltiou-gia-to-prosfygiko)

<sup>279</sup> [http://www.mindigital.gr/index.php/press\\_releases-m/3298-ekdosi-tou-ymepo-kai-tis-ekdikis-grammateias-epikoinoniakis-diaxeirisis-kriseon-tou-ypsipte](http://www.mindigital.gr/index.php/press_releases-m/3298-ekdosi-tou-ymepo-kai-tis-ekdikis-grammateias-epikoinoniakis-diaxeirisis-kriseon-tou-ypsipte)

<sup>280</sup> <https://government.gov.gr/enimerotiko-deltio-gia-to-prosfygiko-metanastefitiko/>

<sup>281</sup> <https://government.gov.gr/enimerotiko-deltio-gia-to-prosfygiko-metanastefitiko-3/>

<sup>282</sup> <https://government.gov.gr/enimerotiko-deltio-gia-to-prosfygiko-metanastefitiko-tefchos-4/>

<sup>283</sup> <http://mindigital.gr/index.php/προσφυγικό-ζήτημα-refugee-crisis/3347-national-situational-picture-regarding-the-islands-at-eastern-aegean-sea-31-12-2018>

<sup>284</sup> <https://government.gov.gr/enimerotiko-deltio-gia-to-prosfygiko-metanastefitiko-2/>

<sup>285</sup> [http://www.mindigital.gr/index.php/press\\_releases-m/2880-episkepsi-tis-ekdikis-gram](http://www.mindigital.gr/index.php/press_releases-m/2880-episkepsi-tis-ekdikis-gram)

<sup>286</sup> [http://www.mindigital.gr/index.php/press\\_releases-m/3298-ekdosi-tou-ymepo-kai-tis-ekdikis-grammateias-epikoinoniakis-diaxeirisis-kriseon-tou-ypsipte](http://www.mindigital.gr/index.php/press_releases-m/3298-ekdosi-tou-ymepo-kai-tis-ekdikis-grammateias-epikoinoniakis-diaxeirisis-kriseon-tou-ypsipte)

<sup>287</sup> <https://government.gov.gr/ellada-vrethike-stin-emprosthoifilaki-3-diethnon-kriseon-is-ikonimikis-tis-prosfygikis-ke-tis-krisis-asfalias/>

<sup>288</sup> <https://government.gov.gr/prosfygiki-krisi-ine-simera-kentriko-politiko-ke-ideologiko-zitima-gia-to-mellon-tis-evropis/>

<sup>289</sup> <https://government.gov.gr/to-metanastefitiko-ke-prosfygiki-krisi-prepi-na-antimetopistoun-os-mia-evropaiki-silogiki-proklisi/>

<sup>290</sup> [http://www.mindigital.gr/index.php/press\\_releases-m/2942-symmetoxi-kai-paremvasi-tis-ekdikis-grammateos-epikoinoniakis-diaxeirisis-kriseon-tou-ypsipte-foteinis-pantiara-sto-1o-evromesogeiaiko-ergastirio-ypefthynon-epikoinonias-gia-to-prosfygiko-metanastefitiko-zitima](http://www.mindigital.gr/index.php/press_releases-m/2942-symmetoxi-kai-paremvasi-tis-ekdikis-grammateos-epikoinoniakis-diaxeirisis-kriseon-tou-ypsipte-foteinis-pantiara-sto-1o-evromesogeiaiko-ergastirio-ypefthynon-epikoinonias-gia-to-prosfygiko-metanastefitiko-zitima)

<sup>291</sup> <https://government.gov.gr/to-metanastefitiko-ke-prosfygiki-krisi-prepi-na-antimetopistoun-os-mia-evropaiki-silogiki-proklisi/>

<sup>292</sup> <https://government.gov.gr/ellada-vrethike-stin-emprosthoifilaki-3-diethnon-kriseon-is-ikonimikis-tis-prosfygikis-ke-tis-krisis-asfalias/>

<sup>293</sup> <https://primeminister.gr/2018/09/20/20578>

<sup>294</sup> <http://www.mindigital.gr/index.php/προσφυγικό-ζήτημα-refugee-crisis/3347-national-situational-picture-regarding-the-islands-at-eastern-aegean-sea-31-12-2018>

<sup>295</sup> [http://www.mindigital.gr/index.php/press\\_releases-m/3072-xairetismos-ekdikis-grammateos-epikoinoniakis-diaxeirisis-kriseon-tou-ypsipte-f-pantiara-se-imerida-tis-gif-gia-to-prosfygiko-kai-tin-prostasia-ton-gynaikon-prosfygon-metanastriion-apo-ti-via](http://www.mindigital.gr/index.php/press_releases-m/3072-xairetismos-ekdikis-grammateos-epikoinoniakis-diaxeirisis-kriseon-tou-ypsipte-f-pantiara-se-imerida-tis-gif-gia-to-prosfygiko-kai-tin-prostasia-ton-gynaikon-prosfygon-metanastriion-apo-ti-via)

<sup>296</sup> <http://socialpolicy.gr/2019/01/ιυλδμε-για-την-εμδβλν-βλα-εγνμερωτκδ.html?fbclid=IwAR0mrWPLICsRP2Fud2s2JP3X81c70XZ0Mfom7NtvcEabT08Z4W0sJQx3eQ>

<sup>297</sup> <https://government.gov.gr/pagkosmia-imeria-prosfigon/>

<sup>298</sup> [http://www.mindigital.gr/index.php/press\\_releases-m/3299-ekdilosi-afieromeni-stin-pagkosmia-imeria-metanasti-triti-18-dekembriou-2018-sto-ypsipte](http://www.mindigital.gr/index.php/press_releases-m/3299-ekdilosi-afieromeni-stin-pagkosmia-imeria-metanasti-triti-18-dekembriou-2018-sto-ypsipte)

<sup>299</sup> [http://www.mindigital.gr/index.php/press\\_releases-m/3119-home-new-home-32](http://www.mindigital.gr/index.php/press_releases-m/3119-home-new-home-32)

Also, annual events were organized including: “World Refugee Day”<sup>300</sup> and “International Migrants Day”<sup>301</sup> aiming at informing and raising awareness<sup>302</sup>. In addition other developments included: Enhancing - Strengthening existing actions such as “Additional incentives for medical doctors and dentists at refugee facilities”<sup>303</sup>, and “Grant of the Hellenic Parliament to Schools where Reception Facilities for Refugee Education (RFRE, DYEP in Greek) operate”<sup>304</sup>. Regarding new relevant developments in 2018 that concern promotion, implementation and monitoring of non-discrimination policies, in particular on grounds of ethnicity, race and others, as well as the intersection of several grounds for discrimination that would be particularly relevant for third-country nationals<sup>305</sup>. There were no changes from 2017, regarding relevant activities implemented 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, developments aimed at raising awareness/engaging the receiving community within Greece in order to enhance its understanding of the phenomenon of migration and thereby promote integration and social cohesion (information campaigns, websites, etc.).

Regarding new pre-departure policies/measures taking place in the countries of origin of third-country nationals to prepare for their integration after arrival in 2018, for example, language training, vocational training, recognition of qualifications and skills, the Ministry of Education, Research and Religion in collaboration with the General Directorate for Democracy of the Council of Europe, the Hellenic National Academic Recognition and Information Center (Hellenic NARIC), as well as the information centers for the recognition of qualifications (of ENIC/NARIC) of Norway, the United Kingdom and Italy, initiated the pilot programme “Qualifications Passport for Refugees”. The second stage<sup>306</sup> of the Programme began in 2018<sup>307</sup>. There were no changes from 2017, regarding integration developments involving the diaspora communities, such as activities either organised by public authorities or by diaspora communities with the government’s support, to promote cultural awareness and/or integration activities for particular diaspora communities.

The need to integrate Third-Country Nationals (TCNs) into society and promote their active participation in the Greek socio-political fabric (i.e. employment, formal education, health, social care, intercultural coexistence) is becoming more urgent than ever. The objective of the Local Alliance for Integration project (accr. LION/776213 - AMIF-2016-AG-INTE) is geared towards this direction, to create a platform where consultations will take place between stakeholders of the local society and third-country nationals (TCNs) into the city of Thessaloniki<sup>308</sup>. The “PHILOS – Emergency Health Response to Refugee Crisis” is a programme of the Hellenic Ministry for Health implemented by the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (HCDCP, KEELPNO in Greek). This is a new response of the Greek State to deal with the refugee crisis and is based on a holistic approach to address the health and psychosocial needs of refugees and migrants living in accommodation/hospitality centers<sup>309</sup>.

<sup>300</sup> [http://www.mindigital.gr/index.php/press\\_releases-m/3310-ekdilosi-afieromeni-stin-pagkosmia-imer-a-metanasti](http://www.mindigital.gr/index.php/press_releases-m/3310-ekdilosi-afieromeni-stin-pagkosmia-imer-a-metanasti)

<sup>301</sup> [http://www.mindigital.gr/index.php/press\\_releases-m/3316-to-vinteo-tou-ape-be-apo-tin-ekdilosi-gia-tin-pagkosmia-imer-a-metanasti](http://www.mindigital.gr/index.php/press_releases-m/3316-to-vinteo-tou-ape-be-apo-tin-ekdilosi-gia-tin-pagkosmia-imer-a-metanasti)

<sup>302</sup> [http://www.mindigital.gr/index.php/press\\_releases-m/3109-prosklisi-se-synentefksi-typou-parousiasi-tis-politistikis-drasis-gia-to-prosfygiko-home-new-home-32-tainies-apo-prosfyges-kai-ethelontes-se-attiki-kai-lesvo](http://www.mindigital.gr/index.php/press_releases-m/3109-prosklisi-se-synentefksi-typou-parousiasi-tis-politistikis-drasis-gia-to-prosfygiko-home-new-home-32-tainies-apo-prosfyges-kai-ethelontes-se-attiki-kai-lesvo)

<sup>303</sup> <https://government.gov.gr/epibleon-kinitra-gia-tous-giatrous-ke-odontiatrous-stis-egkatastasis-prosfigon/>

<sup>304</sup> <https://government.gov.gr/epichorigisi-tis-voulis-ton-ellinon-sta-scholia-opou-litourgoun-domes-ipodochis-ekpedefsis-prosfigon-diep/>

<sup>305</sup> Moschovakou, N. and Ntani, S. (2018). *Discrimination on grounds of gender identity and sexual orientation: data, institutional framework and qualitative investigation*. Athens: Research Center for Gender Equality (KETHI) [https://kethi.gr/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/FINAL\\_publication\\_isbn.pdf](https://kethi.gr/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/FINAL_publication_isbn.pdf) (in Greek); ANTIGONE - Information and Documentation Center on Racism, Ecology, Peace and Non-Violence (2018). *National Report 2018: National Integration Evaluation Mechanism (NIEM): National Report on the Evaluation Mechanism of Integration of Beneficiaries of International Protection: Greece*. Athens: ANTIGONE - Information and Documentation Center on Racism, Ecology, Peace and Non-Violence, [http://www.antigone.gr/files/Greece\\_National\\_Report\\_2018-GR.pdf](http://www.antigone.gr/files/Greece_National_Report_2018-GR.pdf) (in Greek); Theodoridis, N. (ed.), (2019). *Annual Report 2018: ANTIGONE - Information and Documentation Center on Racism, Ecology, Peace and Non-Violence*. Athens: ANTIGONE - Information and Documentation Center on Racism, Ecology, Peace and Non-Violence, <https://bit.ly/2vfyNzA>; Karamitrou, Z., Benekou, E. et al. (2018) *Annual Report of The Greek Ombudsman for 2018*. Athens: The Greek Ombudsman, <https://www.synigoros.gr/resources/docs/ee2018-p00-plires-keimeno.pdf> (in Greek)

<sup>306</sup> 27-03-2018 International Workshop on the launching of the second phase of the programme for recording refugee qualifications.

<sup>307</sup> <https://government.gov.gr/diavatirio-prosonton-prosfigon-axiologithikan-ta-prosonta-92-prosfigon-ke-ekdothikan-72-evropaika-diavatiria-prosonton-entos-tou-2017/>

<sup>308</sup> <http://allianceforintegration.eu> Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF)

<sup>309</sup> <https://philosgreece.eu/> Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF)



7. CITIZENSHIP AND STATELESSNESS

Developments in relation to the acquisition of citizenship (prerequisites and conditions) for legally residing third-country nationals in Greece during 2018, include: Changes regarding the conditions acquiring citizenship according to circular 11/25.04.2018 of the Ministry of Interior of Law 4531/2018 (Government Gazette 62 A/5.4.20018) Article 3 including: Extension of duration of legal residence in Greece from seven to twelve years. However, a foreigner who is applying for citizenship is not required have a particular residence permit as previously required, but any valid residence permit except for the provisional ones. In order to acquire the Greek citizenship by declaration or by request due to being born in Greece or attending a school in Greece, this school can be Greek or foreign, but in any case it must follow the Greek educational and teaching curriculum<sup>310</sup>. Simplified instructions for the acquisition of Greek citizenship were published, entitled: "How can I become a Greek citizen?"<sup>311</sup> Units of the decentralized administration to recommended Regional Directorates of Citizenship of the Ministry of Interior, were transferred according to Law 4555/2018 (Greek Government Gazette 133/A/19.7.2018)<sup>312</sup>.

Article 272 of Law 4555/2018, which amended the section a of par. 3 of article 2 of Law 4332/2015 (Government Gazette 133/A/19.7.2018), the deadline of submitting application for acquisition of the Greek citizenship for those, who are subject to the transitional provisions of Article 1B of the Greek Nationality Code, was extended (due to attending Greek school in Greece/graduating from Higher Educational Institute/Technical Educational Institute)<sup>313</sup>. The Ministerial Decision no. 130181/6353/27.3.2018 (Government Gazette 1208/B/2.4.2018) included: the addition of undefined duration residence permit or residence permit for 10 years or residence permit for investing activities, for owning real property, for investors to the titles of permanent residence permit required for naturalization of foreigners<sup>314</sup>.

New developments regarding the grounds for revocation of citizenship during 2018, include: Revocation of naturalization decisions of expatriate holders of a Special Identity Card of Expatriate (SICE, EDTO in Greek) on the grounds of questioning the expatriate status with the circular 14/9.11.2018 of the Ministry of Interior<sup>315</sup>, where among others is mentioned: "Revocation of the relevant naturalization decision and subsequent removal of the person concerned from the population registries where he/she has a share is required in cases where, at any time after the completion of the process of naturalization of an Albanian citizen as an expatriate holder of a Special Identity Card of Expatriate (SICE, EDTO in Greek), questioning his/her expatriate status or the legitimacy of issuing a Special Identity Card of Expatriate (SICE, EDTO in Greek) to him/her, in the cases: a) to a consular visa forgery which appears to have been granted to a person with different data that is proven not to be the same person as the naturalized; b). providing a certified consular visa with an issue date after 2001, that is proved not to be of an expatriate type"<sup>316</sup>. Other circulars and instructions regarding naturalization, included<sup>317</sup>: Separation of the name and surname of Indian nationals, who apply for naturalization<sup>318</sup>, Return of the fee for naturalization of those who have Special Identity Card of Expatriate (SICE, EDTO in Greek) on the grounds of change of legal basis<sup>319</sup>.

Other circulars<sup>320</sup> include: The Directorate of Citizenship, Special Secretariat of Citizenship, Ministry of Interior issued the following: On 10/09/2018 31 requests were made for acceleration of the procedure of naturalization and acquisition of citizenship according to articles 1A and 1B of the Greek Nationality Code – Change of residence. On 24/07/2018 no.130181/17760 provision of instructions for the acquisition of Greek citizenship of citizens of Hellenic descent (stateless or not), who come from Turkey. On 20/07/2018 no. 130181/12313 implementation of orders Law.4332/2015. On 25/04/2018 11 Notification of new orders regarding citizenship. On 25/01/2018 02 Inclusion of specific cases of applicants within the provisions regarding naturalization of citizens of Hellenic descent.

<sup>310</sup> <https://www.synigoros.gr/resources/docs/20170507-egkyklios-11.pdf>

<sup>311</sup> <http://www.ypes.gr/el/EidGramlthageneias/>

<sup>312</sup> <http://www.ypes.gr/UserFiles/f0ff9297-f516-40ff-a70e-eca84e2ec9b9/N.4555-2018-FEK-A-133%20%20.pdf>

<sup>313</sup> Special Secretariat of Citizenship, Citizenship Directorate, Ministry of Interior (MI), Greece.

<sup>314</sup> Special Secretariat of Citizenship, Citizenship Directorate, Ministry of Interior (MI), Greece.

<sup>315</sup> <https://diavgeia.gov.gr/doc/%CE%A9%CE%92%CE%9F%CE%9B465%CE%A7%CE%987-%CE%9B%CE%9A%CE%9B?inline=true>

<sup>316</sup> <https://diavgeia.gov.gr/doc/%CE%A9%CE%92%CE%9F%CE%9B465%CE%A7%CE%987-%CE%9B%CE%9A%CE%9B?inline=true>

<sup>317</sup> <http://www.ypes.gr/el/EidGramlthageneias/GrafeioEidGrammatea/Egkyklioi/EgkyklioOdhgiesPolitografisi/>

<sup>318</sup> <http://www.ypes.gr/UserFiles/f0ff9297-f516-40ff-a70e-eca84e2ec9b9/eggr0038250-08022018.pdf>

<sup>319</sup> <http://www.ypes.gr/UserFiles/f0ff9297-f516-40ff-a70e-eca84e2ec9b9/epistroti-paravolou.pdf>

<sup>320</sup> [http://www.ypes.gr/el/EidGramlthageneias/dieftinsi\\_ithageneiasNEW/EgkyklioNEW/](http://www.ypes.gr/el/EidGramlthageneias/dieftinsi_ithageneiasNEW/EgkyklioNEW/)

Other circulars<sup>321</sup> via the Office of Special Secretary, Special Secretariat of Citizenship, Ministry of Interior, included: Acquisition of citizenship because of recognition from a Greek citizen – procedure, recognized as refugees for political reasons. Rejection of appeal against refusal of naturalization of a person, who has a Special Identity Card of Expatriate (SICE, EDTO in Greek) on the grounds of not staying in the country. Provision of instructions for the withdrawal of naturalization of people who have Special Identity Card of Expatriate (SICE, EDTO in Greek) on the grounds of questioning their expatriate. Provision of instructions for the acquisition of Greek citizenship to those of Hellenic descent (stateless or not), who come from Turkey. Requests for acceleration of the procedure of naturalization and acquisition of citizenship according to articles 1A and 1B of the Greek Nationality Code – Change of residence. Withdrawal of citizenship on the grounds of providing false documents to prove that Greece is their country of origin. Addition of the surname of the Greek husband to the surname of a foreign national for a wedding that took place in Greece after 1983. Determining Greek citizenship according to the previous Greek Nationality Code for a person of undefined citizenship who was born in Greece. Case in which a correction of legal basis of acquiring Greek citizenship is permitted. Scope of implementation of Article 13 of Law 4018/2011, as is in force. It is permitted to submit a request under Article 2 par. 3 of Law 4332/2015 for those who, without their own fault, their residence has not been recognized as having been deprived of a passport. Issues 1A and 1B of the Greek Nationality Code: Attendance at special schools – Change of residence permit of the parent -Correction of first name and surname. Clarifying details regarding acquisition of citizenship on the grounds of declaration of voluntary recognition. Application of the principle of the autonomy of individual sentences – Cases in which there is no restriction on acquiring citizenship. Naturalization as expatriate persons born in Greece for whom, as for the relatives in their ascendants, they have been certified with a long historical presence in Greece. Naturalization of administrative officials that work for an international organization with a residence permit by the Directorate for Administration and Protocol of the Greek Ministry for Foreign Affairs. Regarding permanent stay of people who have a naturalization certificate and a Special Identity Card of Expatriate (SICE, EDTO in Greek) according to Article 23, Law 3838/2010. Residence permit for humanitarian reasons which is subject to art. 5 par. 1 sect. e of the Greek Nationality Code. Applications for naturalization of persons who suffer from a serious mental or psychological problem. Withdrawal of unfavourable administrative act – New developments: Acquisition of citizenship of a child, whose mother was proved Greek at the time of her wedding. Acquisition of Greek citizenship on the grounds of school attendance; not taking into account the years of attending an Institute of Professional Training (IEK in Greek)<sup>322</sup>.

Concerning new developments in relation to statelessness determination and status during 2018, these include: A dedicated statelessness determination procedure (SDP) or any other procedures or mechanisms by which statelessness can be identified and status determined: Pursuant to Article 1 par. 1 of Law 4375/16 (Government Gazette A51/03-04-2016), the Asylum Service is also responsible for the implementation of the New York Convention of 28 September 1954 on the Legal Status of Stateless Persons. Also, according to the same law, article 7 par. 8, by decision of the Minister of Interior and Administrative Reconstruction and the competent Ministers, where necessary, issues concerning the procedure and the conditions for the admission of foreigners and stateless persons to temporary protection status, the procedure and conditions for granting legal aid to applicants for international protection, the procedure and conditions age assessment for minors applicants for international protection, as well as issues relating to the implementation of provisions of presidential decrees which issued pursuant to this Article, are regulated. The Asylum Service has prepared a preliminary draft of the Presidential Decree (PD) for the regulation of matters relating to the legal status of stateless persons. According to this preliminary draft, basic targeting is the introduction of a procedure similar to similar to procedures for applying for international protection by providing the same rights and obligations as asylum seekers<sup>323</sup>. Good practices in 2018 include: The bodies involved are: Ministry of Interior - Department of Citizenship, Ministry for Migration Policy, The Greek Ombudsman, Ministry of Foreign Affairs-Special Legal Service, UN, Ministry of Citizen Protection-Department of Third Country Nationals. In 2018, rights granted to recognised statelessness persons are: Easier/faster access to naturalization (3 years of stay in Greece instead of 7, 100 Euros of fee instead of 700, deposit of particular documents is no longer obligatory) in effect since 2010 (Articles 2 and 4, Law 3838/2010)<sup>324</sup>. Implementation of *jus soli* for stateless individuals, who are born in Greece (Article 1, Paragraph 2, section b and c of the Greek Nationality Code). This provision has been in effect over time in the Greek law for nationality<sup>325</sup>. There have been no changes in the ratification of international conventions on statelessness.

<sup>321</sup> <http://www.ypes.gr/el/EidGramlthageneias/GrafeioEidGrammatea/Egkyklio/>

<sup>322</sup> <http://www.ypes.gr/UserFiles/f0ff9297-f516-40ff-a70e-eca84e2ec9b9/eggr2017-11012018.pdf>

<sup>323</sup> Asylum Service, Ministry for Migration Policy, Greece.

<sup>324</sup> Special Secretariat of Citizenship, Citizenship Directorate, Ministry of Interior (MI), Greece.

<sup>325</sup> Special Secretariat of Citizenship, Citizenship Directorate, Ministry of Interior (MI), Greece.

## 8. BORDERS, SCHENGEN AND VISAS

Regarding new developments in relation to border control measures/management implemented during 2018: Greece is implementing an action plan to settle the recommendations issued by the regular Schengen evaluation regarding the management of the external borders that started in April, 2016 (land borders, sea borders, air borders). The result of the evaluation was an implementing decision by the European Council including recommendations to Greece. This evaluation is the biggest mission of a field evaluation in a Schengen Member - State and therefore 123 recommendations were issued. As a result, measures are being taken for a complete national strategy for the complete management of external borders and for a complete risk analysis. The properly trained staff at the border crossing points should be enriched and the infrastructure should be improved. In September 2018 Greece submitted a report of the above-mentioned action plan showing significant progress, as many recommendations have been settled whereas other of high cost could not be completed<sup>326</sup>. Concerning measures taken at the external borders:

For stopping and the more effectively managing of the irregular migration, the implementation of the national operation under the code name “ASPIDA”, continued at the Police Directorates (PD) located in the area of Evros (PD of Orestiada and PD of Alexandroupolis) (Greek-Turkish land and river borders) and the islands of the eastern Aegean (PD of Lesbos, PD of Chios, PD of Samos and Dodecanese). Under this particular operation, the strengthening of the police staff police officers - Special Guards, of the areas mentioned, was provided, with the assignment of others, of other police stations. This support aimed at improving the operational capability – preparedness for more effective control of the country’s external borders and more efficient management of the incoming mixed migration flows.

In addition, within the year 2018, the action “Strengthening of the Police Services with staff to provide security services to the Reception and Identification Centers of the Islands of the Eastern Aegean” was launched. This action is being implemented with a view to safeguarding, securing and responding to emergencies, in the Reception and Identification Centers (RIC) and Hotspots, in which migrants and refugees, irregularly entering the Greek territory and operating in the islands, of the eastern Aegean (Police Departments of Lesbos, Chios, Samos and Dodecanese) remain/are accommodated. Within the framework of this action, secondments of police officers - Special Guards serving in other police services, are carried out. Additionally, secondments of police officers - Special Guards, serving in Crime Prevention and Suppression Teams (OPKE in Greek) and temporary transfers of police officers serving at the Police Divisions of Attica and Thessaloniki, as well as the transfer of their police vehicles were implemented.

In addition to the above mentioned national operational action implemented by the country, in recent years, FRONTEX has also been active in the fields of Joint Operations, Risk Analysis and Return Procedures of foreigners. Greece, as one of the main gateways for the entry of migratory flows into EU territory, over the last years has been actively implementing Joint Operations coordinated by the European Border Guard and Coast Guard Agency (FRONTEX), involving EU Member States providing sufficient personnel and technical equipment. The reported operational actions implemented in 2018 are the following:

Land borders sector: JO Flexible Operational Activities 2018 Land on Border Surveillance (border surveillance). JO Focal Points 2018 Land on Border Checks (controls in areas defined by law).

Sea borders sector: JO Poseidon 2018 (under the Joint Operation, police officers had been on secondment to Lesbos, Chios, Samos, Kos and Leros (Hotspots) funded by FRONTEX for duties including coastal surveillance, registration, nationality identification, debriefing, security of facilities, law and order).

Air Borders sector: Joint Operations Focal Points Air 2018-Regular Officers.

In addition, special attention was paid to the training of police officers from Border Guard Services and Passport Control Services to manage more effectively the mixed migratory flows. In this context, trainings were implemented, among other training activities, on border surveillance and border controls, the process of identifying the nationality of newcomer foreigners (screening procedure), the debriefing procedure, and risk analysis issues. In the framework of the implementation of the National Programme of Greece, for the reinforcement of the resources of the Internal Security Fund (ISF) - Border and Visa sector, 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, these include: Expansion of the automated surveillance system in the riverside sector of the Greek-Turkish border in the area of Evros and interconnection of the Regional Centers for Integrated Border Management and Migration (RCIBMM (PEKODISME in Greek). Supply of mobile scanning units to detect any hidden irregular migrants in vehicles. The action includes the project “Supply and maintenance of 02 mobile scanning units of vehicles for the detection of any hidden individuals”. Supply of mobile devices for heartbeat detection and supply of CCTV camera systems.

<sup>326</sup> C4 Directorate, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Greece.

This action is comprised of the following projects in 2018: (a) “Supply of 25 heartbeat detection systems”, which was completed in the year 2018; and (b) “Supply of 07 CCTV camera systems”. Trainings of the Hellenic Police personnel on the integrated management of external borders. In 2018, the 3rd Year of Education was completed. Provision of Services to Third-Country Nationals and operational support of the Hellenic Police Services. This action includes projects that were completed in the year 2018, i.e.: Supply of buses of 19 plus 1 seats. With the completion of the project, the supply of 22 buses to meet the operational needs of the services, responsible for controlling the country’s external borders and managing migratory flows, was achieved. Repairing of vehicles, Supplying a set of tires for vehicles, Supply of consumable office supplies, Supply of office desks, Supply of office chairs, Supply of printers/photocopiers, Supply of computers, Supply of medical masks, Supply of antiseptic fluids, Supply of medicines, Disinfections, Supply of communication systems, Supply of metal detectors, Supply of portable counterfeit detection devices, Supply of stable counterfeit detection devices, Supply of magnifying glasses, Maintenance of an automated surveillance system, Maintenance of the 2nd Generation National Information System (N.SIS II) as well as projects whose procedures are in progress: Supply of portable surveillance systems with thermal cameras, Supplying passport readers, Supply of equipment and spare parts for the operational operation of the systems of unmanned aircraft of the Hellenic Police, Upgrading the existing information systems of the Hellenic Police for the registration procedure of third country nationals, Supply of the identification systems of vehicle plates passing through the legalized entry-exit points of the country, Supply of Vehicles of the Hellenic Police, Supply of the Advanced Passenger Information System (APIS).

The EU-Turkey Statement of March 2016 aims to stop the uncontrolled influx of migrants to the Aegean islands. It also provides opportunities for legal refugees to enter Europe. The result was to significantly reduce the number of refugees and migrants coming from Turkey. From the record of 10.000 arrivals in one 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 migrants arriving from Turkey on the Greek islands who are not asylum seekers or whose application has not been accepted can be returned to Turkey. For every Syrian returning to Turkey from the Greek islands after irregular transit, the EU will receive a Syrian from Turkey who did not seek to make this trip irregularly. However, according to FRONTEX’s latest reports in 2018 (January-December), an increase of 32% of irregular border crossings in the Eastern Mediterranean was observed compared to 2017. At the same time in the land border area of the Greek-Turkish border in East Mediterranean, there was an increase in irregular cross-border crossings of 222%, which is the biggest upward trend in Europe<sup>327</sup>.

Regarding new developments 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. in 2018, these included the following: Efforts have been made to increase the properly trained staff. In September, 2018 Greece submitted to the European Commission its first Monitoring Report of the implementation of the Action Plan regarding the shortage of staff at the borders. Briefly, the staff was increased up to 25% at the border crossing point of Evzoni, up to 13% at the airport in Thessaloniki, up to 5% at the airport in Athens, up to 23% at the airport in Heraklion, in comparison to April of 2016. In order to meet the overall increased needs in 2018, apart from the national funding, the budget of the national programme of the Internal Security Fund for human resources was increased up to 2 million Euros. Nowadays, according to the evaluation of needs, 67 officers are funded by FRONTEX in the islands of Eastern Aegean, more than those who have already been seconded by natural resources and 440 officers by the Internal Security Fund. Moreover, from May, 2017, the operation “ASPIDA” has been funded by the Internal Security Fund. The total budget until late 2018 came up to 12.600.000 Euros. Regarding the Hellenic Coast Guard the decision for its funding concerning human resources is being taken on annual basis, so that it can fulfil the whole range of its duties<sup>328</sup>. Continuous training of the Police Officers, either at national or EU level, with FRONTEX’ support (in terms of passport control, counterfeit travel documents, security controls, debriefing information, identification of citizenship, anti-trafficking, etc.) carried-out. Moreover, the following were implemented: Increase in human resources at border crossing points, where required (particularly in the summer months when traveller traffic increases). Continuous training of police personnel (on passport control, counterfeit travel documents, security controls, etc.). Joint control - actions with cooperating Authorities at the border checkpoints (cooperation with the Hellenic Coast Guard, Customs authorities, Memorandum of Cooperation with Customs). Use of technical equipment to carry out controls (e.g. heartbeat sensors, carbon dioxide devices, magnifiers with UV rays, fingerprint scanners, etc.). Preparations to install the Entry/Exit System and the European Travel Information and Authorisation System (ETIAS) were implemented.

<sup>327</sup> Hellenic Police Headquarters.

<sup>328</sup> C4 Directorate, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Greece.

The participation in the European External Borders Fund (EBF)<sup>329</sup> and the actions of the Regional Centers for Integrated Border Management and Migration (RCIBMM (PEKODISME in Greek) of the Hellenic Police, were continued<sup>330</sup>.

Concerning reinforced cooperation with third countries in the area of border management, in 2018 with an objective to strengthen the operational capacity in combating irregular migration and controlling of external borders, the following agreements, and other forms of bilateral and multilateral cooperation with third countries were implemented:

In June, 2018 Greece and FYROM (since February 2019, North Macedonia) signed the Final Agreement for dispute settlement, as described in Resolutions 817 (1993) and 845 (1993) of the United Nations Security Council, the completion of the temporary agreement of 1995 and the founding of a strategic partnership between Greece and FYROM (since February 2019, North Macedonia)<sup>331</sup>. Article 16, Paragraph 1 of the Agreement noted: "Cooperation in matters of policing and civil protection" (for fighting against organized and cross – border crime, terrorism, financial crimes, especially concerning human smuggling/trafficking)<sup>332</sup>. The Programme entitled "Improving Security at the EU's External Borders and Enhancing Co-operation with Turkey to Address Migratory Pressures" (PRIORITY) (2018), included the participation in joint meetings and trainings between Greek-Turkish and Bulgarian executives responsible for border management at local, regional and central level. This action is managed by the International Organization for Migration.

Regarding visa policy and developments in relation to the implementation of the Visa Code and the Visa Information System (VIS) or any other Visa related developments, in particular in relation to cooperation between (Member) States' consulates and the set-up of joint consular services for visas in 2018, there are no new developments in the legal framework that applies. The Visa Information System is in effect (VIS)<sup>333</sup>. Regarding the consular presence, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs<sup>334</sup> in 2018 has 95 Consular Authorities, 85 External service providers in 19 countries (e.g. Russia 27, China 17, India 15, Turkey 10, Iran 1) and 72 Representation agreements with other Member-States<sup>335</sup>.

Concerning Schengen governance, new developments during 2018 include the following: During 2018 Austria, Denmark, France, Germany, Norway and Sweden carried on with border checks with other Schengen Member – States on the basis of migration pressure, but statistics and the amount of refusals of entry did not justify their actions. In 2018, the Commission recommended the upgrading of the Visa Information System (VIS), which provides information about people applying for a Schengen visa, so that the challenges of the security sector and the migration flows can be met efficiently and the management of the external borders of EU can be improved. Recommended changes will result in more exhaustive checks of Schengen visa applicants, a better exchange of information between the Member-States and interoperability with other data bases on EU level. The recommendation expands the scope of VIS – basically with the addition of residence permits to the system of national visas – with full respect to the personal data protection, to ensure that these authorities have those information they need when they need them. This recommendation is the second step of the reform of the EU common policy for visas and follows the alterations of the Visa Code, that the Commission issued in March, 2018. The debate on the revision of the Regulations (Visa Code, Reg. 810/2009 and VIS Regulation 767/2008) went on during 2018 in the European Council. Finally, in view of the implementation of the new Entry Exit System (Regulation of Entry Exit System (EES) – 2017/2226, realization in 2020) and of the new European Travel and Authorization System (Regulation ETIAS, realization in 2022) and the issues regarding their implementation and the interoperability with the Visa Information System (VIS) and other systems, competent Ministries take actions for the preparation of the country<sup>336</sup>. In addition, the following were implemented: i) Pilot Programme of East. Aegean with Turkey. ii) Strengthening border entry points with posted police officers and equipment. iii) Instructions for systematic controls, complete VIS (biometrics) operation at borders, SIS II, upgrading of the security systems (devices identifying fake documents, interoperability of databases), liaison officers in third countries, exchange of information, Schengen evaluation.

<sup>329</sup> [http://www.astynomia.gr/index.php?option=ozo\\_content&perform=view&id=2195&Itemid=440](http://www.astynomia.gr/index.php?option=ozo_content&perform=view&id=2195&Itemid=440)

<sup>330</sup> [http://www.hellenicpolice.gr/index.php?option=ozo\\_content&perform=view&id=53871&Itemid=96&lang=](http://www.hellenicpolice.gr/index.php?option=ozo_content&perform=view&id=53871&Itemid=96&lang=)

<sup>331</sup> C4 Directorate, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Greece.

<sup>332</sup> C4 Directorate, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Greece.

<sup>333</sup> <https://www.mfa.gr/theoriseis-eisodou-visas/theoriseis-schengen/neo-plerophoriako-sustema-theoreseon-vis.html>

<sup>334</sup> C4 Directorate, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Greece.

<sup>335</sup> C4 Directorate, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Greece.

<sup>336</sup> C4 Directorate, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Greece.

9. IRREGULAR MIGRATION AND MIGRANT SMUGGLING

Regarding preventing and tackling of misuse of legal migration channels, there were no new developments introduced in 2018 to prevent irregular migration as a result of visa liberalisation, nor for the monitoring of the effects of visa free regimes, or results/key findings of these monitoring activities – especially in relation to impact on the number unfounded asylum applications registered.

Concerning irregular migration as a result of misuse of legal migration channels, there were no new developments in 2018 to tackle misuse of legal migration channels by third-country national workers, nor any new developments in 2018 to tackle misuse of legal migration channels by third-country national students and researchers. In addition, there were no new developments in 2018 to tackle misuse of family reunification migration channels.

In relation to false travel documents, new developments in 2018 to prevent, identify and/or investigate fraudulent acquisition and use of false travel documents, include: The General Secretariat for Migration Policy, as the national contact point of the European Migration Network for Greece, organized in cooperation with the Contact Point of Luxembourg a two-day conference on “The practices of EU Member States to combat counterfeiting of security documents”<sup>337</sup> Athens, on December, 5 and 6 of 2018<sup>338</sup>. Also, during 2018 continuous training of police personnel on issues of counterfeit travel documents, the use of technical equipment for the identification of counterfeit travel documents and use a FADO database to match samples of fake travel documents was implemented. Concerning irregular migration caused by the misuse of free movement rights by third-country nationals and preventing the fraudulent acquisition and use of free movement rights by third-country nationals, there were no new developments in 2018 to prevent the fraud and misuse of free movement rights.

Regarding the fight against facilitation of irregular migration (‘smuggling’) and prevention of irregular stay, and particularly new developments in 2018 aimed at preventing and combatting facilitation of irregular migration (smuggling), including facilitation of unauthorised entry, include: The implementation of the National Operational Plan in cooperation with EUROPOL continues in the context of combating the trafficking of migrants. More specifically: 1. The Chief of the Hellenic Police and the Executive Director of the European Police Office (EUROPOL) signed on the 3rd of June 2016 the National Operational Plan (hereinafter referred to as NOP), on the Investigation and Prosecution of Networks of Organized Trafficking in Human Beings. 2. for the Investigation and Prosecution of Organized Trafficking Networks. 2. The NOP is a product of the inter-service working group of the Hellenic Police and the Hellenic Coast Guard, in collaboration with EUROPOL and developed in the framework of the European Migration Agenda, presented in May 2015 by the European Commission, in order to support the Member-States of the EU which are under great pressure from migratory flows. The NOP is the national response to the effort to tackle one of the most serious transnational criminal phenomena, the organized human smuggling. 3. The core of the NOP’s provisions is to collect, process, analyze and, in general, manage forensic information, mainly related to organized human trafficking networks, and conduct secondary security checks by specially trained EUROPOL staff (Guest Officers, Seconded National Experts). 4. In addition, since September 2016, Guest Officers have been deployed in the five (5) East Aegean islands (Lesvos, Chios, Samos, Kos, Leros), where hotspots are operating, who support the Greek Authorities in carrying out second-line security checks, providing further enrichment with information for the Hellenic Police Information Center (Directorate for Information Management and Analysis - DIDAP) and EUROPOL<sup>339</sup>. In the framework of cooperation with EUROPOL through the EMPACT Programme, Greece is leading an Action that involves conducting operations aimed at dismantling organized networks of migrant smuggling from Turkey to Greece and then into Central and Northern Europe. More specifically, the Action includes: (a) the exchange of information with the countries concerned; (b) the conduction of operational meetings; (c) the conduction of joint or parallel investigations aiming at arresting smugglers; (d) conducting investigations to identify counterfeit documentation; e) the conduction of economic research and f) identifying suspected Social Networking accounts providing services of migration smuggling. The above Action includes: Austria, Germany, the United Kingdom, Italy, Spain, Portugal, Bulgaria, Croatia, Slovenia, Macedonia, EUROPOL and FRONTEX<sup>340</sup>.

In 2018, there were no new developments responding to the objective of prevention of irregular migration from third countries of origin and transit (information campaigns, websites, projects with grass-roots NGOs or involving the diaspora, etc.) nor developments aimed at preventing irregular stay and combating facilitation of irregular stay, including disincentives and sanctions.

In relation to specific cooperation activities with third countries developed in 2018 to prevent irregular migration, included:

a) In the Western and Southern Mediterranean countries (i.e. Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Mauritania, Palestine, Syria and Tunisia, specific cooperation activities were not implemented.

b) In the Eastern Partnership countries (i.e. Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine), specific cooperation activities were not implemented.

<sup>337</sup> [http://www.immigration.gov.gr/article-details/-/journal\\_content/56\\_INSTANCE\\_qAPKIk32D3aH/20182/57726?back=news](http://www.immigration.gov.gr/article-details/-/journal_content/56_INSTANCE_qAPKIk32D3aH/20182/57726?back=news)

<sup>338</sup> [http://www.immigration.gov.gr/article-details/-/journal\\_content/56\\_INSTANCE\\_qAPKIk32D3aH/20182/57726?back=news](http://www.immigration.gov.gr/article-details/-/journal_content/56_INSTANCE_qAPKIk32D3aH/20182/57726?back=news)

<sup>339</sup> Hellenic Police Headquarters.

<sup>340</sup> Hellenic Police Headquarters.

c) In the Western Balkans countries (i.e. Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia) specific cooperation activities were implemented. In Turkey, the following activities were implemented: The cooperation with the Turkish Police Forces on tackling irregular immigration to Greece can be characterized as satisfactory, but this does not mean that there is not much room for improvement. Also, regular meetings under the Greek-Turkish Readmission Protocol between the Police Chiefs of the Alexandroupolis Police and Orestiada Police Services, with their counterparts on the Turkish side, have helped to establish a context of cooperation and trust between the two countries. In addition, the “Regional Cooperation on Border Management between Greece, Turkey and Bulgaria” programme is continued successfully, whose overall objective is to strengthen border security and strengthen the cooperation of the three countries and it will be completed in 2020. Joint Police and Customs Cooperation Center: The Agreement between Greece, Bulgaria and Turkey on the Establishment and Operation of a Joint Police and Customs Cooperation Center, signed in Sofia on 25.05.2015, entered into force on behalf of the country on May 10, 2016. The Center (Bulgaria, Kapetan Andrejevo Border Station) provides the possibility to exchange information in a short period of time and generally has a supportive role in the Surveillance Operations at the Land Border. This Center is already in operation.

In Albania, the following were implemented: Meetings are held between the Police Chiefs of the two countries with a view to considering and agreeing on measures to achieve the necessary level of security. Systematic exchange of information on security issues through the police liaison of the two countries located in Tirana and Athens. Regular local and regional meetings are held between the Police Authorities of the two countries to tackle irregular immigration and combat cross-border crime. FRONTEX cooperation with Albania, developed on the basis of an Operating Arrangement in the following areas: Participation of officers as observers in FRONTEX Joint Operations, taking place in the Agency's Members-States, to transfer useful know-how and best operational policies regarding migration management issues. Capacity building activities. Joint actions of forced returns of Member states to Albania, and training on return issues Exchange of information for risk analysis purposes, on irregular immigration and trafficking networks in the South-eastern Europe.

In FYROM, (since February 2019, North Macedonia) the following were implemented: Collaboration within the FRONTEX Risk Analysis Network of Western Balkans Risk Analysis Network to exchange information on migratory flows. Meeting of the seventh (7th) Greek-FYROM Delegation Consultation Circle in the framework of Trust Building Measures. Disposal of a Greek Liaison Officer in Skopje (since February 2019, North Macedonia) for the exchange of operational information. Meetings between the Police Chiefs of both countries as well as between the competent regional and local Police Authorities with a view to examining and agreeing on measures to achieve the necessary level of security<sup>341</sup>.

d) In countries in the African Atlantic coast (e.g. Gambia, Ghana, Nigeria, Democratic Republic of Congo, Ivory Coast etc.) were not implemented.

Finally, regarding monitoring and identifying irregular migration routes there were no new developments with regard to identifying, monitoring and aggregating information on irregular migration routes in 2018.

<sup>341</sup> Hellenic Police Headquarters.

## 10. TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS

Regarding national strategic policy developments in 2018, and particularly new developments or actions regarding the prevention and/or the fight against trafficking in human beings of third-country nationals (e.g. national action plans or national strategies), since July 2018, most of the migrants entering Greece come from Afghanistan. Cases of THB occurred before entering Greece are identified, but it is extremely difficult to further investigate them (due to the lack of official documents, difficulties in tracing the perpetrators, etc.). Intelligence and field experience also indicate that most migrant and refugee victims and presumed victims of trafficking that were identified as such in a later occasion, had been smuggled into Greece. Upon their arrival to the Greek islands, future victims only know that they have been smuggled into Greece and they fear of being deported as irregular migrants. Less coercive means and a promise of certain benefits are used by smugglers at such early stages to bind vulnerable people with debts and build up control over them. The Hellenic Police has found evidence on money transactions taken place through companies facilitating transnational financial transactions. Receipts and forms related to money deposits made to Greek as well as to foreign banks were found. In a limited number of cases, the perpetrators forced their victims to transfer money from the country of destination (where the exploitation was taking place) to the country of victim's (and usually the perpetrator's) origin. Large amounts of money were "broken" into smaller amounts of money. Each victim would carry a small amount of money as not to attract authorities' attention. Concerning data on identified THB victims, the Hellenic Police has reported that from January to December 2018, 27 cases of human trafficking were recorded, 128 persons were prosecuted for trafficking in persons, 30 victims of THB were rescued and supported (21 adults and 9 minors). Of those 30 victims of THB, 26 were of female gender and 4 of male gender. Of those 30 victims, 29 were trafficked for sexual exploitation purposes, and 1 for forced labour. In relation to victims' citizenship, 5 were Greek citizens, 10 were Bulgarian citizens, and 3 were Romanian. The third-country victims were from: 2 Albania, 1 Afghanistan, 1 Georgia, 2 Kazakhstan, 2 Belarus, 1 Ukraine, 1 Pakistan, and 1 Russia. From the 128 perpetrators, the majority (N = 67) was Greek, followed by Albanian (N = 10), Ukrainian (N = 5) and Russian (N = 5) nationals. Most perpetrators were men (N = 88) (see Annex C). For the period from April 2017 to January 2018, NGOs and the IOM – Office in Greece reported that they offered services to 102 presumed victims. Of those 63 presumed victims, 50 were minors. 38 were unaccompanied boys (principally from Pakistan, Afghanistan and Syria), and 12 were girls. Their age varied between 13 and 17 years old. Most boys had been recruited for forced labour. All girls were sexually exploited, some of them in the context of forced marriage. Concerning adult presumed victims, 10 were women who had been exploited sexually, and 3 were men who had been trafficked for forced labour<sup>342</sup>.

Regarding the legislative framework and updates for 2018 the following are included: National policy covers all four pillars of the strategy to combat trafficking (Prevention, Protection, Prosecution and Partnerships with civil society and the private sector). Some of the most important deliverables concerning the fight against THB, are the following: The development of a stringent legal framework regarding the criminalization of THB. The definition of THB in Greek Penal Code (art. 323A and 351) includes the following forms of exploitation: sexual exploitation, removing cells, tissues or organs of a person, exploiting the labour or begging thereof and forcing into marriage. Perpetrators are punished by a maximum penalty of 10 years' imprisonment and by a fine of 10.000 to 50.000 Euros. In aggravating circumstances the perpetrator shall be punished by a penalty of at least 10 years of imprisonment and a fine of 50.000 to 100.000 Euros. If the offense resulted in the victim's death the perpetrator shall be punished by life imprisonment. The Greek legislation provides for criminal and administrative sanctions, as well as for freezing, seizure and confiscation of property in order to tackle money laundering related to proceeds derived from acts constituting criminal activities, such as Trafficking in Human beings. The Law also provides for the criminalization of knowingly using the services of a trafficked person. So far, a variety of legal provisions have been introduced, fostering a victim-centered and more inclusive identification regime that protects the human rights and the provision of comprehensive assistance to victims, such as: granting a residence permit for victims formally identified by the Prosecutor either when they cooperate in the investigations or for humanitarian reasons, non-punishment provision for victims involvement in unlawful actions to the extent they were compelled to do so, the right to claim a compensation, witness protection, protection of unaccompanied and separated minors of migration. Moreover, a significant number of shelters specifically for victims of gender-based violence, and victims of human trafficking have been secured, run by the public sector and NGOs. The Council of Europe's "Istanbul Convention" was ratified by Greece on April 2018 (Law 4351/2018). Based on this Law, forcing into marriage is now included among the forms of human trafficking recognized by the Penal Code.

<sup>342</sup> Γραφείο Εθνικού Εισηγητή για την Καταπολέμηση της Εμπορίας Ανθρώπων, Ενημερωτικό Σημείωμα για την καταπολέμηση της Εμπορίας Ανθρώπων στην Ελλάδα, Υπουργείο Εξωτερικών.



Concerning the protection of unaccompanied minors against any risk including human trafficking, the Laws 4538/2018 and 4540/2018 foresee that unaccompanied minors may benefit from the national foster care system. The General Secretary of Social Solidarity, Ministry of Labour, Social Security and Solidarity will be responsible to follow up those foster care cases. An additional Law N4554/2018 brings in positive changes for the Guardianship system concerning unaccompanied minors. In July 2018, the new Law on Guardianship was voted, which foresees the establishment of a State Network of Professional Guardians, who among others will receive specialized training on taking care of children victims of human trafficking and children at risk for human trafficking<sup>343</sup>.

Trafficking in Human Beings (THB) prevention and identification of victims in the Hotspots: The Vulnerability Assessment, which includes human trafficking indicators, is continued to be applied to all migrants registered in the RICs. Since July 2018, the Office of the National Rapporteur supports the development of a THB prevention programme at the island of Chios (which receives the greatest percentage of African migrants and hosts a considerable number of unaccompanied minors). Specifically, two experiential workshops have been carried out to address unaccompanied minors residing at the local shelter run by the NGO METAdrasi and at the local RIC. The main objective of those workshops was to inform minors on their rights and on the risks of human trafficking. In the context of this same programme, a one-day training on human trafficking was carried out to 50 local professionals (including the THB Focal Points of Local Agencies), and an open event for the people of Chios island to raise awareness on the risks faced by unaccompanied minors especially the risks of human trafficking. In November 2018, the Office of the National Rapporteur paid a field visit to Chios's RIC and discussed with the RIC's Director on issues related to human trafficking and the protection of women and children. According to the Director, currently, gender based violence (GBV) cases are of greatest concern and number. Five Focal Points of different Agencies acting in the RIC have been established. In June 2018, the Office of the National Rapporteur (ONR) in collaboration with the OSCE organized a seminar in Athens on optimizing the procedures and tools to more effectively identify victims of trafficking in the mixed migration flows. The National Rapporteur participated in a seminar with the same aims which was organized by the Italian Authorities and the OSCE in October, in Catania. Relevant National authorities and field professionals participated in both seminars.

Trainings: In September 2018, the Office contributed with expert personnel to the training provided by the UNHCR to welfare professionals working at community structures in agricultural areas of Peloponnese (close to Manolada area). On the 30th of November, an International Workshop was carried out to discuss the Manolada case<sup>344</sup>, and the steps already made to treat the European Court for Human Rights' suggestions. The workshop was co-organized by the Office of the National Rapporteur, the General Secretary for Human Rights, Ministry of Justice, Transparency and Human Rights, and the Supreme Prosecutor, and it was supported by the Council of Europe. In December 7th, a specialized training for all Heads of Labour Inspectorate Departments situated in different geographical areas of the country was carried out, organized by the Office of the National Rapporteur and the Ministry of Labour, Social Security and Social Solidarity. The aim was to raise awareness to all Heads of the Labour Inspectorate on THB, before the training of all Labour Inspectors starts in early 2019.

Prevention: Several prevention events were organized since June 2018; most of them celebrated the European Anti-Trafficking Day. The largest events were: a) The Break the Chain Festival<sup>345</sup> which was held in mid-October, and b) the "Raise your Voice" Festival which was carried out on the 18th of November and brought together a large crowd including locals, migrant and refugees' communities, grass-roots organizations, Civil Society Organizations, and National Authorities.

National Action Plan 2018-2023: The new National Action Plan has been drafted and is now being budgeted, before its submission to the Greek Parliament. The national legal framework for combating Trafficking in Human Beings is fully in line with the relevant international conventions and directives<sup>346</sup>. The National Action Plan is to establish an integrated framework for Combating Trafficking In Human Beings and Protecting and Assisting victims of trafficking in human beings in Greece for the years 2018-2023. The National Action Plan essentially identifies ways of practical implementation of the existing legal framework and sets national priorities and objectives in terms of combating trafficking in human beings and protecting and assisting victims for the aforementioned period.

<sup>343</sup> National Rapporteur for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Greece.

<sup>344</sup> <https://www.asylumlawdatabase.eu/en/content/ecthr-chowdury-and-others-v-greece-application-no-2188415-30-march-2017>

<sup>345</sup> <http://www.breakthechain.gr/>

<sup>346</sup> In particular, the country has ratified: The UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Council of Europe Convention Against Trafficking in Human Beings. It has also incorporated the European Directive 2001/36 into the National legal framework, under which the Ministry of Foreign Affairs plays the role of the national coordination authority for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings through the NRO (Office of the National Rapporteur on Trafficking in Human Beings) responsible for the elaboration, co-ordination and implementation of a national strategy to address the phenomenon by preventing, repressioning and prosecuting the perpetrators, as well as by protecting and assisting the victims.

Establishment of the National Referral Mechanism<sup>347</sup> (NRM): Via the no. 30840/29-06-2016 JMD<sup>348</sup>, as of 01/01/2019, the operation of NRM officially launched its operation in Greece<sup>349</sup>, which is an internationally recognized collaborative reference “tool”, through which, jointly responsible state bodies National Center for Social Solidarity and the National Rapporteur for Trafficking in Human Beings, international organizations and humanitarian organizations co-ordinate the identification, referral and assistance actions for the effective protection of victims and potential victims of trafficking in human beings<sup>350</sup>. Via the NRM a strategic partnership with civil society is also in place and all stages of victim protection are interlinked, from first-level initial identification, official prosecution, to voluntary assisted return, social reintegration and foreseen civil and criminal proceedings. The establishment of this mechanism was completed the previous year and has been put into practice since the beginning of this year. The Hellenic Police operates in the framework of this mechanism and for more detailed information, the Directorate of Migration Management ensures that the editorial team should send a request to the National Center for Social Solidarity (NCSS, EKKA in Greek), which is the main management service of the Mechanism. The Labour Inspectorate (LI, SEPE in Greek) is part of the National Plan on Combating Trafficking in Human Beings 2018-2023 with actions referring to, in addition to strengthening its audit work in this field, education, development of the legislative framework and participation in awareness-raising actions. At the same time, in the coming period, it will proceed to the ratification of the International Labour Convention 129 to extend controls on undeclared work in the agricultural sector as well<sup>351</sup>. The Asylum Service is a point of reference in an effort to strengthen the coordination of all aid providers and victims of trafficking. The National Referral Mechanism will begin operations from 01/01/2019. Meanwhile, trainings and briefings by Asylum Service operators are carried out in order to be able to identify victims of trafficking and to follow the procedures of the National Referral Mechanism<sup>352</sup>.

The Reception and Identification Service participates in the Integrated National Strategy Working Group through activities and actions (service co-operation and reference points – Hellenic Police)<sup>353, 354</sup>. The Office for Monitoring and Combating Trafficking in Human Beings published a Report on Trafficking in Human Beings in Greece 2018<sup>355</sup>. Also, regarding trafficking in human beings and the illegal smuggling of migrants, a circular was issued by the Supreme Court’s Public Prosecution Office<sup>356</sup>.

In relation to improving identification of and provision of information to third-country national victims of human trafficking and particularly new developments in relation to the improvement of the provision of information and assistance to third-country national victims (including child victims and applicants for asylum) during 2018, are included: a) Training and awareness raising: i) Training: implementation of educational programmes and special training programmes for civil servants and frontline professionals on legislation, as well as on protection and support of the victims<sup>357</sup>. ii) Social Alertness and Public Awareness Campaigns, aimed at limiting the “demand” for services from trafficking and exploitation of victims<sup>358</sup>. iii) Raise awareness of the private sector and enterprises with the aim of exempting supply chains from products and services derived from Trafficking in Human Beings. Also, interventions at schools for the training and sensitisation of students and parents about human rights<sup>359</sup>. iv) Recruitment of personnel with fixed-term employment contract for the implementation of the Action “Strengthening the National Referral Mechanism for the Protection of Victims of Trafficking in Human Beings”<sup>360</sup>. v) Supply of electronic and various equipment for the project “Strengthening the National Referral Mechanism (NRM) for the Protection of Victims of Trafficking in Human Beings”<sup>361</sup>.

<sup>347</sup> According to the Department of Social Interventions (19/12/2018): The importance of such an Mechanism in Greece is reflected in the Law 4198/2013 (transposition of Directive 2011/36/ EU), to prevent and combat trafficking in human beings and to protect its victims, which provides for the creation of the “National System for the Recognition and Referral of victims of Trafficking” under the supervision of the Office of the National Rapporteur on Trafficking in Human Beings (NRO), GETHEIS in Greek). With the Joint Ministerial Decision no. 30840 (Government Gazette 3003/20-9-2016), NRM is established and its management is assigned to National Center for Social Solidarity and its supervision and coordination to the Office of the National Rapporteur for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings.

<sup>348</sup> National Center for Social Solidarity (EKKA in Greek) is responsible for managing the National Referral Mechanism for the Protection of Victims of Trafficking in Human Beings under the coordination of the Office of the National Rapporteur on Combating Trafficking in Human Beings.

<sup>349</sup> <http://www.ekka.org.gr/images/sampled/EMA.pdf>

<sup>350</sup> Office of the National Rapporteur for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Greece, Informative Note on Combating Trafficking in Human Beings in Greece

<sup>351</sup> <https://www.euro2day.gr/news/economy/article/1655430/vp-ergasias.html>

<sup>352</sup> Asylum Service, Ministry for Migration Policy, Greece.

<sup>353</sup> According to the Department of Social Interventions (19/12/2018): The National Referral Mechanism Guide, contains the standard operating procedures of the NRM relating to 5 basic stages of victim protection: I. Identification and First Reporting to NRM, II. Taking over the case by the “Reference Body”, III. First level protection, which includes housing, health care, psychological, social and legal support of the victim, IV. Repatriation or Third Country Settlement, V. Social Integration. Due to the special operating conditions of Reception and Identification Centers (RIC) of the Service of Reception and Identification (Ministry for Migration Policy) as well as of the Health Units in the country, it has been established the description of a specific procedure principally for the identification stage (Procedure I) and first level protection (Procedure III).

<sup>354</sup> Reception and Identification Service, General Secretariat for Reception, Ministry for Migration Policy, Greece.

<sup>355</sup> [https://gr.usembassy.gov/wp-content/uploads/sites/206/TIP2018\\_Greece\\_gr.pdf](https://gr.usembassy.gov/wp-content/uploads/sites/206/TIP2018_Greece_gr.pdf)

<sup>356</sup> <https://www.ethemis.gr/nomothesia/2018/04/11/ενκύκλιος-της-εισ-α-π-επιτορία-ανθρώπων-trafficking-in-human-beings-και-παρόνομη-διακίνηση-μεταναστών>  
<https://d1qmdf3vop2107.cloudfront.net/noted-gift.cloudvent.net/compressed/d634fe88993e77cd63ddd3fe2dcf4af6.pdf>

<sup>357</sup> Office of the National Rapporteur for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Greece, Informative Note on Combating Trafficking in Human Beings in Greece.

<sup>358</sup> Office of the National Rapporteur for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Greece, Informative Note on Combating Trafficking in Human Beings in Greece.

<sup>359</sup> Office of the National Rapporteur for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Greece, Informative Note on Combating Trafficking in Human Beings in Greece.

<sup>360</sup> [http://www.ekka.org.gr/images/1.ΤΕΛΙΚΗ\\_ΑΝΑΚΟΙΝΩΣΗ\\_ΠΡΟΣΔΗΨΗΣ.pdf](http://www.ekka.org.gr/images/1.ΤΕΛΙΚΗ_ΑΝΑΚΟΙΝΩΣΗ_ΠΡΟΣΔΗΨΗΣ.pdf)

<sup>361</sup> [http://www.ekka.org.gr/images/PDF\\_ARXΕΙΑ/ΠΡΟΜΗΘΕΙΩΝ/2.1.2019\\_ΠΡΟΚΗΡΥΞΗ\\_EMA.pdf](http://www.ekka.org.gr/images/PDF_ARXΕΙΑ/ΠΡΟΜΗΘΕΙΩΝ/2.1.2019_ΠΡΟΚΗΡΥΞΗ_EMA.pdf)

An effective response to trafficking in human beings is a key priority for the Hellenic Police Headquarters. In order to achieve the aforementioned goal, it is decisive to provide of updated training to Hellenic Police personnel, which is required to investigate cases of trafficking in human beings and/or likely to come in contact with (potential) victims. Under the above prism, for 2018, Hellenic Police Officers participated in the following educational activities either as trainers or trainees (both in Greece and abroad), on trafficking in human beings: 1) Participation of a Hellenic Police Officer as expert in a meeting - development training of the European programme of training of trainers on combat against trafficking in human beings of FRONTEX on 04-08/06/2018 in Warsaw, Poland. 2) Participation of a Hellenic Police Officer as expert-trainer in a training for recruitment, trafficking of persons for exploitation, within the framework of FRONTEX, on 14-18/05/2018 in Tbilisi Georgia. 3) Participation of a Hellenic Police Officer at a seminar organized by NGO "ARSIS" on the topic "Unaccompanied minor victims of trafficking and exploitation in Greece" on 13-06-2018 in Athens. 4) Participation of a Hellenic Police Officer in a workshop on trafficking in human beings and domestic violence on 24-05-2018 in Athens. 5) Participation of a Hellenic Police Officer at a meeting of the General Secretariat for Gender Equality - Ministry of the Interior on the legislation and the elaboration of a national strategy for combating prostitution in Greece, on 27/04/2018, in Athens. 6) Participation of officers of the Hellenic Police at a seminar on "Combating Modern Slavery and Trafficking in Human Beings" on 05-09/03/2018 in London. 7) Participation of a Hellenic Police Officer as rapporteur in a training seminar entitled "Aspects of Gender Violence: The phenomenon of trafficking of women and transnational trafficking" at the National Center for Public Administration and Local Government. 8) Participation of a Hellenic Police Officer as expert in a meeting - development training of the European programme of training of trainers on combat against trafficking in human beings of FRONTEX on 11-17.03.1918 in Warsaw, Poland. 9) Participation of an officer of the Hellenic Police as expert-trainer in an education for recruitment, human trafficking for exploitation, within the framework of FRONTEX on 19-23/03/2018 in Skopje, FYROM (since February 2019, North Macedonia). 10) Provision to the Hellenic Police Services of the Handbook of FRONTEX for 2017 regarding the profile of risk in the field of trafficking in human beings, for information and further use. 11) Participation of a Hellenic Police Officer as expert-trainer in a training on recruitment, human trafficking for exploitation, within the framework of the FRONTEX on 24-28/09/2018 in Tirana, Albania. 12) Participation of the Hellenic Police Officer in a workshop of the General Secretariat for Gender Equality on "The Operation of the Structures of the Network of the General Secretariat for Gender Equality - A Presumption of a necessity" held on 28-09-2018 in Athens. 13) Preparation of an annual "report on the assessment of the situation regarding human trafficking in the country for 2017", its approval by Leadership of the Force and implementation of a training via teleconferencing, which took place on 10/11/2018, with 10 Officers from each General Regional Police Directorates and of the General Police Directorate of Attica (GPDA, GADA in Greek)/General Police Directorate of Thessaloniki (GPDA, DADT in Greek), in the framework of the tasks under which the handling of complaints-cases of human trafficking is integrated. 14) Participation of a Hellenic Police Officer as expert-trainer in a training on human trafficking issues within the framework of the FRONTEX which was organized from 15 to 21/12/2018 in Warsaw, Poland. 15) Participation of a Hellenic Police Officer, as expert-trainer in a training on human trafficking issues within the framework of FRONTEX which was organized from 27/10 to 02/11-2018 in Belgrade, Serbia. 16) Participation of a Hellenic Police Officer as expert-trainer in a training on human trafficking within the framework of FRONTEX which was organized on 12 to 14/11/2018 in Skopje, FYROM (since February 2019, North Macedonia). 17) Participation of an officer of the Hellenic Police as trainer in a training on issues of recruitment, human trafficking for exploitation, within the framework of the "Shield Project", which was organised on 28/11/2018 in Chios. 18) Participation of Hellenic Police Officers in a CEPOL Seminar, with the theme "Combating Trafficking in Human Beings - Labour Exploitation", which was organized from 17 to 19/09/2018 in Budapest, Hungary. 19) Participation of a Hellenic Police Officer at a CEPOL Seminar on the subject of "Combating child trafficking" (Child Trafficking", which was organized from 19 to 22/11/2018 in Budapest, Hungary. 20) Online Seminars (Webinars): "The Internet as an enabler of Trafficking in Human Beings" ("Trafficking in Human Beings: Internet as an enabler") on 22/05/2018 with the participation of 66 officers. 21) Online Courses: "Detection, identification, and investigation in the cyber space for criminal activities of trafficking in human beings" ("Detection and investigation of criminal activities in the area of trafficking in human beings - THB and Cyber-investigation"), from 17/09 to 12/10/2018 with the participation of 3 members of the Hellenic Police. 22) Lastly, it is worth mentioning that the thematic section entitled "Trafficking in Human Beings" is included in the curriculum and is taught to the students of the Hellenic Police Academy.

b) Measures on cooperation between national authorities: 1) Parliamentary Committee on Combating Trafficking in Human Beings: In 2016, the Parliamentary Subcommittee on Combating Trafficking and Exploitation in Human Beings was established, which is operating in the context of the Special Permanent Commission on Equality, Youth and Human Rights<sup>362</sup>. 2) Operation of Headquarters in the Police Department for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings and Regional Anti-Trafficking Teams covering the whole country<sup>363</sup>. 3) Joint actions of the Hellenic Police and Labour Inspectorate to identify cases of work exploitation and trafficking<sup>364</sup>. 4) Appointment of a Public Prosecutor competent for issues of Human Trafficking in the Supreme Court's Public Prosecution Office<sup>365</sup>.

c) Measures on cooperation between (Member) States: Regarding Human Trafficking in S.E. Europe: On February 6 2018, the European Commission approved the strategy for a "credible prospect of enlargement and a stronger EU engagement with the Western Balkans" (Strategy for the Western Balkans)<sup>366</sup>. The Greek State already enjoys a long-standing cooperation with the Balkan states on issues of preventing and combating trafficking in human beings and protecting the victims, while the country is continually working to make this cooperation even better. For instance, Greece has signed a bilateral agreement with Albania on the protection of minors victims of trafficking in human beings (Law 3692/2008). The National Center for Social Solidarity is the responsible state authority in respect of this agreement. The Hellenic Police conducts bilateral meetings with the Albanian Police, on a regular or extraordinary basis. These meetings aim to exchange information, develop coordinated and targeted actions and strengthen mutual trust. In addition, bilateral and multilateral partnerships under the aegis of the European organizations (SELEC, EUROPOL, EUROJUST) are being developed to enhance co-operation, co-ordination of actions and contribution to case investigations. In addition, the Greek authorities recently co-operated with Western Balkan countries in the framework of an organized OSCE working group in Skopje (since February 2019, North Macedonia), in the first half of 2018, to optimize the identification of victims of human trafficking in mixed migratory flows. The goal of Greece is to be among the protagonists in the international campaign to address modern forms of exploitation<sup>367</sup> and fully comply with its commitments under European legislation<sup>368</sup>. All initiatives<sup>369</sup> of the Greek State<sup>370</sup> in this direction clearly set as its priority the victim-centered perspective, informed of the basic principles of human rights<sup>371</sup>. The Hellenic Police participated in Common Days of Action to combat trafficking in human beings for labour exploitation, under the priority EMPACT Trafficking in Human Beings, which took place from 14/05/2017 to 19/05/2017. In addition, through the official channels of international police cooperation (INTERPOL, EUROPOL, SELEC and Liaison Officers), the Hellenic Police accepted (and responded) to a sufficient number of requests for information (requests from authorities: Switzerland, Netherlands, Belgium, Cyprus, Germany, Slovenia, Sweden, Portugal, Ireland, the United Kingdom, Hungary, Spain and the Czech Republic) concerning investigations into cases of trafficking in human beings. Finally, the Hellenic Police provided a contribution to the Project of Analysis "PHOENIX" (for trafficking in human beings) of EUROPOL.

<sup>362</sup> Office of the National Rapporteur for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Greece, Informative Note on Combating Trafficking in Human Beings in Greece.

<sup>363</sup> Office of the National Rapporteur for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Greece, Informative Note on Combating Trafficking in Human Beings in Greece.

<sup>364</sup> Office of the National Rapporteur for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Greece, Informative Note on Combating Trafficking in Human Beings in Greece.

<sup>365</sup> Office of the National Rapporteur for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Greece, Informative Note on Combating Trafficking in Human Beings in Greece.

<sup>366</sup> Office of the National Rapporteur for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Greece, Informative Note on Combating Trafficking in Human Beings in Greece.

<sup>367</sup> [https://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/sites/homeaffairs/files/what-we-do/policies/european-agenda-security/20181204\\_data-collection-study.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/sites/homeaffairs/files/what-we-do/policies/european-agenda-security/20181204_data-collection-study.pdf)

<sup>368</sup> <https://rm.coe.int/greta-2017-27-fgr-gre-en/168075f2b6>

<sup>369</sup> Intervention by the President of the Republic on Combating Trafficking in Human Beings in Greece during his visit to Croatia.

<sup>370</sup> <https://www.state.gov/documents/organization/282801.pdf>

<sup>371</sup> Office of the National Rapporteur for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Greece, Informative Note on Combating Trafficking in Human Beings in Greece.

New developments in relation to the improvement of the identification of victims (including child victims and applicants for asylum) during 2018, include: a) Training and awareness raising: The aim of preparing the National Action Plan is to develop a comprehensive framework for the fight against trafficking in human beings and the protection and assistance of victims of trafficking in Greece for the years 2018-2023. The draft of the National Action Plan essentially identifies ways of practical implementation of the existing legal framework and sets national priorities: 1. Prevention, Awareness and Restrain of Vulnerability (Objectives: Optimizing data collection and statistical data processing, Information campaigns and evaluating their effectiveness, Integrating the theme “Human Rights” in formal education, Restrain vulnerability of human beings). 2. Education and Training of Personnel and Development of the institutional framework (Objectives: Investigating Needs in Education and Training of Professionals and Evaluating Education and Training<sup>372</sup>, Education and Training of Professionals, Development of the institutional framework, Introduction of topics related to human trafficking in academic curricula of universities and vocational schools). 3. Protection and Assistance to Victims (Objectives: Optimizing the National Referral Mechanism and the Detection of first Level Victims of Human Trafficking, Support of the Operation of Accommodation Structures for Victims of Human Trafficking, Evaluation and Optimization of Services, and Sustainability, social reintegration programmes for victims of trafficking in human beings, research on protection, assistance and detection of trafficking victims, Compensation and voluntary return programmes). 4. Active Investigation of Human Trafficking Cases, Delivering Justice and Rehabilitation of Victims of Human Trafficking (Objectives: Strengthen the Security Forces to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings, Enhance International Collaborations for the Prosecution of Human Trafficking and the administration of justice, Legislative framework and procedures for the administration of justice, New technologies and prosecution and crimes of human trafficking, Promoting synergy between competent national and international agencies institutions. Staffing and financial support of the Office of the National Rapporteur). 5. Promote synergy between competent national and international bodies (Objectives: Strengthen and develop the Office of the National Rapporteur on Combating Trafficking in Human Beings, in partnership with Non-Governmental Organizations, Public and Private Partnerships, International Partnerships). The new National Action Plan aims to create a framework to support a more co-ordinated implementation of education and training for professionals in the field of trafficking in human beings. The National Action Plan 2018-2023 sets the goal of systematic education and training primarily (but not exclusively) specific groups of professionals<sup>373</sup>. Furthermore, in the context of adopting a systemic approach to tackling the phenomenon of trafficking in human beings, the development of the country's institutional framework on human trafficking issues is central. Moreover, measures are being promoted regarding anti-Trafficking Policy by the Municipality of Athens<sup>374</sup>, blocks to companies that do not apply anti-trafficking practices<sup>375</sup>, the constant updating of the National Referral Mechanism, the participation of the Reception and Identification Service to the Integrated National Strategy Working Group, and activities and first-line actions (co-operation of services and reference points – Hellenic Police) to identify potential victims<sup>376</sup>.

b) Measures on cooperation between national authorities, include: In the framework of the National Action Plan the strengthening of the Security Forces to combat trafficking in human beings in cooperation with the Police (including the Borders), and the Coast Guard are planned. Moreover, the enhancement of international partnerships to prosecute trafficking in human beings and the administration of justice in co-operation with Security Forces and the Ministry of Justice as well as the cooperation with Embassies, are included. Under the same context the legislative framework and procedures for the administration of justice, with the contribution of the Ministry of Justice are designed. Also, the use of new technologies for the prosecution of crimes of trafficking is included. Moreover, the promotion of the co-operation between competent national and international actors, implementation and financial support of the National Rapporteur Office is planned.

c) Measures on cooperation between (Member) States, are included in the objective of the National Action Plan 2018-2023, as well as international Partnerships.

New developments involving cooperation with third-countries on the prevention and fight against trafficking in human beings in 2018, include: a) Training and awareness raising: The objectives of the National Action Plan 2018-2023 includes International Partnerships: Through the Programme: “Improving Security at the EU’s External Borders and Enhancing Co-operation with Turkey to Address Migratory Pressures – “PRIORITY”, a joint training of border management personnel of Greece, Turkey and Bulgaria was implemented. b) Joint investigation teams: The objectives of the National Action Plan 2018-2023 includes International Partnerships. Regarding c) Information and prevention campaigns: There were no new developments in 2018.

<sup>372</sup> For this purpose, the Office of the National Rapporteur will collaborate with Academic Institutions and Research Centers in Greece and will establish a postgraduate scholarship to support the development of research programmes in this direction.

<sup>373</sup> 1. Security Forces: Hellenic Police, Coast Guard, Fire Brigade, 2. Judicial Officers, Prosecutors, Attorneys, 3. Hospital Doctors and Paramedical Staff of General Hospitals, 4. Doctors, Social Workers and Mental Health Professionals of Municipal and Regional Health Centers, 5. Labour Inspectors, 6. First Reception and Identification Services Employees, 7. Employees of the Asylum Service, 8. Primary and Secondary Education Teachers, 9. Employees of Public Transport, 10. Executives of Greek Non-Governmental Organizations providing services in the community, in vulnerable social groups, in first Reception and Identification Centers, 11. Interpreters and Intercultural Ombudsmen, 12. Professional commissioners of unaccompanied minors,

<sup>374</sup> <http://athina984.gr/wp-site/2019/02/01/anti-trafficking-politiki-apo-ton-dimo-athinaion/>

<sup>375</sup> <https://www.naftemporiki.gr/story/1439650/d-athinaion-mploko-se-etaireies-pou-den-efarmozoun-praktikes-anti-trafficking>

<sup>376</sup> Reception and Identification Service, General Secretariat for Reception, Ministry for Migration Policy, Greece.

## 11. RETURN AND READMISSION

Regarding enhancement of return migration management including cooperation among EU Member-States on return practices, the main national developments in the field of return, and new developments with regard to the development of swift, sustainable and effective return in 2018, these include: the European Commission, in the context of provision of support to the Member States in the field of Migration Management, and in particular in the return procedures for irregular third-country nationals, has issued the no. 2008/115/EC Return Directive which has been incorporated into the national law (Law 3907/2011). The European Commission adopted in 2015 an Action Plan to support Member States' returns, which included a series of actions to improve voluntary returns, more effective implementation of European legislation and amendments to national laws, strengthening the role of the European Border Guard and Coast Guard Agency (FRONTEX), setting up an electronic platform for information exchange and use of its capabilities, increasing the focus on the implementation of existing Readmission Agreements and the signing of new and high-level Dialogue and the creation of incentives and exercising pressure for cooperation and fulfilment of obligations by third countries. Some of the above actions either were not implemented or did not achieve the expected effectiveness and therefore the European Commission launched a revised Draft (6943/17 - Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament and the Council on a more effective return policy in the European Union - A Renewed Action Plan) on returns, which complements the Plan drawn up in 2015 and includes measures to be implemented by the Commission, European Border Guard and Coast Guard Agency (FRONTEX) and the Member States that help in the increase of returns. In particular, the revised Action Plan addresses the fullest implementation of the Return Directive, addressing misuses related to asylum procedures, improving the exchange of information on returns, strengthening the cooperation of the various competent bodies for returns, voluntary returns and reintegration, using the capabilities of the IRMA online platform, making better use of the upgraded FRONTEX and the available European fund and in order difficulties to be addressed that have to do with the proper implementation of readmission agreements. The revised Action Plan strengthens the joint effort made by the Member-States to cope with the particularly high demands of the current immigration issue and complements the proposed actions in line with the latest data and experience at European level. Starting with the pursuit of fuller, more vigorous and more flexible implementation of the Returns Directive, the European Commission has issued a Recommendation highlighting the points that the Member-States will need to implement in order to achieve this objective (provided that have not been implemented so far). The majority of these points are already provided in the national legislation and are strictly enforced by the competent Authorities, whereas special emphasis is placed on the need for targeted detention to avoid the risk of third-country nationals escaping by expanding the circumstances that may lead to this.

The revised Action Plan also focused on addressing the existing misuse 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 the faster completion of existing/future applications and the increase in returns. It is noteworthy that Greece should make efforts to link the asylum application process more closely with returns (such a return decision in case of rejection of cases to final degree). In addition, improved co-ordination and cooperation on returns between the European Commission and Member States and the various actors involved at national level and the exchange of information, best practices and statistics contribute significantly to increasing the capacity of the Member States to make effective returns, improve the quality of approaches and tactics, and draw useful conclusions to modify the existing strategy. Greater impulse is given through the new European Commission's Integrated Return Management Platform (IRMA), which contains electronically and secured all return-related information with the potential to upgrade and facilitate Member States in a number of areas such as exchange of information with third countries. Emphasis is also given to areas of particular importance for Member States' returns, such as voluntary returns and reintegration packages offered, and the need for wider action by the European Border Guard and Coast Guard Agency (FRONTEX) and the use of its greatest potential. It is of course not forgotten in the Plan and the importance of funding through the European Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF) to the Member States for returns, but above all the possibility of increasing this funding to support actions and new returns actions, showing the European Commission in practice 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 the country is to constantly monitor the proper implementation of existing Agreements and to sign new ones, in order to increase the speed of issuing travel documents, their number, increase of returns and the existence of a uniform procedure for the steps required by the requesting Member State to issue the necessary travel documents<sup>377</sup>.

<sup>377</sup> Hellenic Police Headquarters.

All of the above-mentioned actions provided in the revised Action Plan have their own necessity, focus on separate areas that require improvement or increase collective efficiency and contribute globally to adapting Europe to the demands of the current migration issue<sup>378</sup>.

Various meetings between the European Parliament and the Council of Europe took place in 2018 with a view to revising the current Return Directive 2008/115 EC and the Regulation of Operation of the European Border Guard and Coast Guard Agency (FRONTEX), with a view to integrating the increasing needs-challenges faced by the Member-States on the management of third-country nationals who are irregular and their return issues. In addition in 2018 a bilateral “Administrative Arrangement”<sup>379</sup> between Germany and Greece, a newsletter for the refugees-migrants of the Ministry of Digital Policy, Telecommunications and Media/Secretariat for Crisis Management Communication were implemented. Regarding the other relevant matters, actions and programmes of the International Organization for Migration (IOM)<sup>380</sup> were carried-out.

Regarding new developments with regard to issuing return decisions in 2018, these include: i) Agreement on the return of migrants from Germany to Greece and Spain<sup>381</sup>. ii) As regards the procedures for the return of irregular third country nationals, the country applies the European Directive no. 2008/115/EC Return Directive, which has been incorporated into the national law (Law 3907/2011). There are no new policies in this area, except for the revised return plan, which the country applies at all levels. iii) All Return Decisions are issued within the framework of the abovementioned Law and the European Directive. iv) On the part of Greece, efforts are being made to continuously improve and strengthen relations with the Diplomatic Authorities of Third Countries with which readmission agreements have been concluded with the EU. in order to speed up the recognition procedures and the issuance of travel documents in order to ensure their return.

Concerning new developments with regard to issuing entry bans in 2018, it is noted that with the issue of the Return Decision and if it is executed, the data of the Third Country Nationals concerned will be recorded in the National Database for Undesirable Foreigners (EKANA in Greek) as well as in the Schengen SIS II System by imposing the Administrative Measures of the Ban on Entry into Greece and more generally in the Schengen area countries.

Regarding new developments with regard to (assisted) voluntary return in 2018<sup>382</sup>, since the end of March 2017, by decision of the Minister for Migration Policy, the deadline for submitting a request for participation in the Voluntary Return and Reintegration Programme was 5 days from the delivery of the rejection decision of their asylum application (first instance asylum decision). In November 2018, with a new decision of the Minister for Migration Policy, this deadline changed to 15 days. More specifically: “Third-country nationals who have applied for asylum at any of the First Reception and Identification Centers in order to be eligible for the Voluntary Return and Reintegration Programme should apply within 15 days from the rejection decision of their request for asylum (first instance asylum decision)”<sup>383</sup>. The International Organization for Migration (IOM) is responsible for implementing programmes for voluntary-assisted returns.

Concerning new developments with regard to the use of detention and alternatives to detention in return procedures in 2018, the following were noted: The issue of increased migration flows into the Greek territory is a major issue with a humanitarian dimension. The Hellenic Police Headquarters is committed to taking all necessary measures to tackle the phenomenon more effectively in a way that ensures the control of the legitimacy of Third-Country Nationals (TCNs) in the country and their movement in the Schengen area. The fundamental aim of the Hellenic Police was the incorporation and implementation of EU law, whether it concerned primary (Treaties) or secondary justice (Directives, Regulations), Court rules, and reports by Agencies (such as the CPT). In order to ensure the correct implementation of the Returns Directive 2008/115/EC, clear instructions have been given and we continue the effort not to keep third-country nationals subject to return procedures in police detention facilities but to be taken to the Pre-Detention Centers as soon as possible Detention Centers for Third-Country Nationals (TCNs) after their identification and the necessary decisions. The legislative framework on irregular migration is in line with EU law, and the detention of irregular arrivals and Third-Country Nationals (TCNs) in the country is provided for in specific provisions in Laws 3386/2005 and 4251/2014, 3907/2011 and 4375/2016. The provisions of Law 4375/2016 apply to Third-Country National entrants who are located on the islands of the Eastern Aegean. The implementation of the Joint EU Turkey Statement of 18 March 2016, in addition to the reduction of migrant flows, has also changed their management. For Third-Country Nationals (TCNs) residing in the mainland of the country (Law 3907/2011) (irregular entry from Eastern Aegean islands before the implementation of the Joint Statement of 18 March 2016 EU-Turkey, or nationals who entered the country’s northern border) and are subject to return procedures pursuant to paragraph 1 of Article 21 shall be detained in order their return to be prepared, only if not other adequate measures cannot be applied in the particular case.

<sup>378</sup> Hellenic Police Headquarters.

<sup>379</sup> [http://www.mindigital.gr/attachments/article/3208/Ενημερωτικό%20Δελτίο%20για%20το%20προσφυγικό%20μεταναστευτικό\\_Τεύχος%204.pdf](http://www.mindigital.gr/attachments/article/3208/Ενημερωτικό%20Δελτίο%20για%20το%20προσφυγικό%20μεταναστευτικό_Τεύχος%204.pdf)

<sup>380</sup> <https://publications.iom.int/books/implementation-assisted-voluntary-returns-including-reintegration-measures-avrr?fbclid=IwAR00ITvvXYfAzFT6uQYINLxEwkAgxVCeyrR2CnIBSUVTp29L53VGb9XzSjs>

<sup>381</sup> <http://www.kathimerini.gr/980447/article/epikairotha/politikh/epistrofh-prosfygwn-apo-th-germania>

<sup>382</sup> <https://greece.iom.int/el/ιστοπλες>

<sup>383</sup> International Organization for Migration (IOM) – Office in Greece.

According to Article 30 of Law 3907/2011 and paragraph 3 of Article 76 of Law 3386/05, third-country nationals subject to return and readmission procedures are detained in order their return/expulsion to be prepared and the handling of the removal procedure, unless in this case other effective measures such as those provided for in Article 22 par. 3 of Law 3907/2011 cannot be effectively implemented.

For third-country nationals (TCNs) located at the external borders of the country (except the islands of the Eastern Aegean) (Law 3386/2005 as amended and in force), they are detained for the time necessary to complete the necessary procedures of screening (identification, registration, fingerprinting, photographing) and then depending on the category/target group of Third-Country Nationals (TCNs), the detention measure is applied.

Greece currently implements the following alternative detention types: Regular appearance before the Authorities, the obligation to stay in a particular place (without limitation of freedom), which may be accompanied by assistance in Voluntary Return and Reintegration Programmes of the International Organization for Migration (IOM) with the assistance of the Hellenic Police Services, while other alternative detention measures, which are aimed at less human costs (avoiding the difficulties associated with detention). At the same time, to the measures that the Hellenic Police implements as an alternative to detention for the management of TCNs, was their stay in the open or semi-open Reception and Identification Centers (RICs) in the Eastern Aegean islands until their readmission to Turkey was achieved (consideration of requests asylum, the exercise of legal remedies). For this purpose, a number of relevant orders were issued by the Hellenic Police to ensure that expulsion/readmission decisions (under a readmission procedure) are suspended pursuant to Article 78 of Law 3386/05 and Article 22 par. 3 of Law 3907/11 (alternative measures, more favourable provisions), with the obligation to stay in a certain place (organized hosted areas such as Kara Tepe in Lesbos) and the additional condition of non-departure from the island. In addition, the measures taken in the management of the foreigners hosted at the Reception and Identification Centers in the East Aegean islands, a series of relevant orders was issued by the Hellenic Police which gives the possibility of voluntary return (via IOM programmes) as an alternative for irregular Third-Country Nationals (TCNs) who cannot continue their journey to central and northern Europe<sup>384</sup>. The measure of detention (Law 3907/2011 and Law 3386/2005) applies when: (a) there is a risk of escape; or (b) the third-country national avoids or hinders the preparation of the return or the removal, and (c) there are reasons of national security. In addition to the above, a number of conditions are taken into account: (a) the impossible return/expulsion of Third-Country Nationals (TCNs) (e.g. Syrians, Palestinians, etc.) who are given a 6-month postponement with renewal, (b) the treatment of vulnerable groups (e.g. women, single parent families) and especially of minor refugees in order to provide the required level of protection, c) submitting a request for political asylum during the first reception procedures, (d) the availability of appropriate detention facilities and the possibility of securing decent living conditions for detainees, (e) any prior arrests.

The detention is required for the strictly necessary period of time to complete the return procedure with a maximum period of 6 months, which can be extended for an additional 12 months in cases where, despite the reasonable efforts of the relevant Services the return procedure is likely to last longer because the third-country national refuses to cooperate or delays the receipt of the necessary documents from third countries. In any event, the imposition or continuation of the detention measure takes into account the availability of detention facilities and the possibility of securing decent living conditions for the detainees.

The national legislation is fully adapted to the requirements of EU law as regards the guidance of those entitled to international protection. The right of Third-Country Nationals (TCNs) to challenge the detention measure in expulsion cases is provided for by existing legislation. In particular, in article 76 of Law 3386/2005 entitled “Conditions and procedure for administrative deportation” is stated that “...The TCN detained, along with his/her rights under the Code of Administrative Procedure, may raise objections to the detention decision or extension of his/her detention to the President or the designated first instance judge of the Administrative Court of First Instance in whose Region he/she is detained...”, a right which may be exercised at any time during the detention. A corresponding provision exists in Law 3907/2011.

In no case are third-country nationals (TCNs) arbitrarily detained, beyond for those provided by the applicable law, while each case of a foreigner’s detainee is examined on an individual basis. Regarding the period of detention, Third-Country Nationals (TCNs) are detained until the return procedures have been completed. The fulfilment of the conditions of detention is reviewed ex officio every three months by the institution issuing the detention order or by the Service responsible for managing further of the Third Country National, while the imposition or continuation of the measure shall take into account the availability of suitable detention facilities and the possibility of securing decent living conditions for detainees. The conditions of detention are also reviewed automatically every 3 months and by the Administrative Courts of First Instance of the Country.

It should be noted that the removal procedures are subject to an external check system which operates under the responsibility of the Independent Authority “The Greek Ombudsman”, which cooperates for this purpose with International Organizations (IO) and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs). [no. 4000/4/7-ia Joint Ministerial Decision (JMD)/Government Gazette B-2870/24.10.2014)].

In addition, instructions have been given and highlighted in order to fully understand the specific issues relating to the compliance with the necessary health and safety conditions in the detention facilities of foreigners as well as the protection of the human and other intended rights of the detainees, for which the Services should take special care and ensure their provision<sup>385</sup>.

<sup>384</sup> Hellenic Police Headquarters.

<sup>385</sup> Hellenic Police Headquarters.



New developments with regard to recording entry bans in the SIS and facilitating the exchange of information on entry bans in 2018<sup>386</sup>, include: a) The National Database for Undesirable Foreigners (EKANA in Greek) includes Third-Country Nationals (TCNs) who: are to be deported from the country, according to court order; a deportation decision or return decision issued by the competent administrative authority, if not have complied with this obligation (departure from the country), there are reasons of public health as defined in section d of Article 76, paragraph 1 of Law 3386/2005 as replaced by article 59 of Law 4075/2012, their presence on national territory constitutes a threat to public security.

b) Third-Country Nationals (TCNs) who are recorded in the National Database for Undesirable Foreigners (EKANA in Greek) shall also be recorded in the Schengen Information System (SIS II), provided the conditions of the Articles 20 and 24 of Regulation (EC) No 1987/2006 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20 December 2006 on the establishment, operation and use of the second generation Schengen Information System (SSI II), are met. Regarding the registration time for recording in the National Database for Undesirable Foreigners (Greek EKANA in Greek) and in the Schengen Information System (SIS II): The time of registrations is determined by the deciding body as below: For failure to comply with the National Law on entry, residence and work, will not exceed 5 years, To commit criminal offenses (public order and security reasons), from 5 to 10 years, depending on their type and severity. When determining the length of time of the ban on entry will be weighted, the damage caused in the personal and family life of the TCN with the reasons of public interest that make it necessary to leave the country taking into account the nature and gravity of the offense committed by the TCN, the number and type of previous convictions, the frequency the number of offenses committed, the risk of relapse, the duration of his/her stay in the country, the length of time that has elapsed since the commission of the offense and the behaviour of the TCN during that period, his/her age, health condition, the nationality of the person affected by the return measure, the family situation (duration of marriage - real marital status of the couple), if children are born from marriage, their age and their best interest, the severity of the difficulties the foreigner's spouse and children may face and the stability of the social, cultural and family ties of the TCN with Greece and the country of destination, - for as long as it is specified in the Criminal Court's decision ordering expulsion and a re-entry ban in the country (up to 10 years as defined in paragraph 3 of Article 74 of the Penal Code as replaced by Article 4 of Law 4222/2015). It should be noted that in the case of third-country nationals (TCNs) already recorded, the change of the ending date of the measure will take place by the issuance of a new decision, in which any previous recording decision(s) that may exist with parallel change of the old elements of the measure with the new ones, will be taken into account.

Automatic deletion by the National Database for Undesirable Foreigners (EKANA in Greek) and SIS. II, is realized via: a) Registrations by decisions of administrative authorities shall cease: Upon the expiration of the time specified in the decision, with the revocation or cancellation of the decision under which registration was made, via granting or renewing the residence permit of the competent authorities for Third-Country Nationals (TCNs) who are registered solely on the basis of non-compliance with national law on entry, stay and work (Article 6 of Law 4251/2014). b) Judicial expulsions (executed or not) enforced on the basis of imprisonment; or therapeutically-reforming measures. Article 110 (4) of Law 4055/2012 stipulates that deportations imposed on the basis of imprisonment until the entry into force of this law (02.04.2012) are effective and exclude the entry of Third-Country Nationals (TCNs) expelled for a period of 5 years from the execution of the decision. Article 14 par. 7 of Law 4232/2015 stipulates that deportation ordered by imprisonment ceases to be valid and is not performed by the publication of the law (27.04.2015).

According to the no. 4000/4/32-la from 17-10-2012 Joint Ministerial Decision as amended by the no. 4000/4/32-n from 31/03/2017 Joint Ministerial Decision states that: Recordings concerning Third-Country Nationals (TCNs) who have been deported under court expulsion imprisonment or reforming measures until the entry into force of Law 4055/2012 (02.04.2012) and has been executed, as well as recordings concerning Third-Country Nationals (TCNs) who were detained on the grounds of imprisonment or reforming measures until the entry into force of Law 4232/2015 (27.04.2015) and has not been executed, are automatically deleted from the National Database for Undesirable Foreigners (EKANA in Greek) since the judicial decision imposing them has no effect. c) Judicial expulsions imposed on the basis of a sentence of imprisonment: According to the no. 4000/4/32-la from 17.10.2012 Joint Ministerial Decision the recording of Third-Country Nationals (TCNs) in the National Database for Undesirable Foreigners (EKANA in Greek) shall automatically cease to be valid: "(a) upon the expiry of the duration of validity of the recording decision; (b) from the revocation or cancellation of the administrative deportation or return decision on the basis of which it was recorded; (c) from the issue of the decision of the competent Council of Misdemeanours Judges which allows the return of the Third-Country Nationals (TCNs) to the country and for the period specified in the decision (d) the abolition of the court order imposing the expulsion; (e) suspension of execution of the decision expulsion or return by the competent court for the duration of such suspension". In paragraphs 3 and 4 of article 74 of the Penal Code as amended by article 23 par. 2 of Law 4055/2012, it is stipulated that "the court which orders the expulsion of the foreigner shall impose on him/her a re-entry ban in the country for a period of ten (10) years or indefinitely. The Council of Misdemeanours Judges of the place of the court that imposed the deportation, after an opinion of the competent police authority, may allow the foreigner to return to the country, upon his request, after three (3) years from the expulsion".

<sup>386</sup> This category of measure relates to the commitments of the Stockholm Programme specifically.

Also, according to the provision of Article 110, paragraph 4, sect. (b) of Law 4055/2012 on deportations imposed on imprisonment, until the entry into force of the aforementioned law, the period of validity of the TCN's entry ban in the country shall be determined by the Council of Penal Advocates of the place of the court which has deferred expulsion, at the request of the applicant, submitted in accordance with the procedure referred to in Article 74 par. 3 of the Penal Code (PC).

Finally, according to the provision of article 74 par. 3 of the Penal Code (PC) as in effect and its replacement by Article 4 of Law 4322/2015, the court that orders the expulsion of the TCN imposes on him/her a re-entry ban in the country for a period of up to 10 years. The Council of Public Prosecutors of the place where the deportation court was ordered, after an opinion of the competent police authority, may allow the TCN to return to the country at his/her request, after three years from the expulsion.

Based on the above and according to the no. 4000/4/32-la from 17-10-2012 Joint Ministerial Decision as amended by the no. 4000/4/32-v from 31/03/2017 Joint Ministerial Decision, it is stated that: Registrations to National Database for Undesirable Foreigners (EKANA in Greek) concerning Third-Country Nationals against whom judicial deportation was imposed on the basis of imprisonment decision until the entry into force of Law 4055/2012 (A 51), are automatically deleted after the expiry of the ban on entry, such as this was determined by the competent Council of Public Prosecutors in accordance with paragraph 4 of article 110 of Law 4055/2012. In the absence of a time limit on the court decisions, it will be set a 10-year ban on entry. In the case where no such period has been set at the entry into force of no. 4000/4/32-n from 31-03-2017 of the Joint Ministerial Decision, the entries under the preceding paragraph shall be automatically deleted after the expiration of 10 years from the implementation of the first expulsion, provided that according to article 110 par. 4 of the Law 4055/2014 is not issued within a period of 6 months from the entry into force of the aforementioned Joint Ministerial Decision, i.e. from 01-10-2017 and later<sup>387</sup>.

New developments with regard to the operation of the national forced return monitoring system (established in accordance with Article 8 (6) of the Return Directive) in 2018<sup>388</sup>, include: Until nowadays, within the Police Electronic System, there is already a Mapping system containing data of irregular incoming Third Country Nationals (TCNs). In particular, information on the TCN's data, entry, arrest, any decisions made against them and any requests they have submitted for international protection are provided within the Mapping System. Since the beginning of 2018, the Hellenic Police in cooperation with the European Border and Coast Guard Agency (FRONTEX) and the European Commission are working methodically to improve the existing National System and to provide further information for its upgrading and operation, in accordance with a Return Case Management System (RECAMAS) that the interested Member States will use to better and more efficiently manage third country nationals. It is reported that this Return Case Management System (RECAMAS), in addition to the above information already contained in the Mapping application, additional fields will be included, including further details such as time and place of detention, the entire identification process and issuing travel documents, their transfer to the Detention Centers and the time and procedure of their return. This system will greatly facilitate the management of Third Country Nationals (TCNs) by providing a wealth of information and enabling the continually improvement and adaption to new data<sup>389</sup>.

Other actions related to swift, sustainable and effective return in 2018 include: In the context of an increase in returns, Greece implements the relevant legislation (European Directive 2008/115/EC on returns of the European Parliament and Council of the European Union via Law 3907/2011), while implementing the Regulation of the European Border and Coast Guard Agency (FRONTEX) in order to manage irregular migratory flows and to carry out effective returns of Third Country Nationals (TCNs) to their countries of origin. In this context, the Hellenic Police in co-operation with European Border and Coast Guard Agency (FRONTEX) carried out various actions which were aimed in this direction. In particular, there has been close co-operation with the European Border and Coast Guard Agency European Border and Coast Guard Agency (FRONTEX) in all areas.

In 2018, Greece participated in 13 Joint Return Operations JRO's of third-country nationals, whose destinations were Georgia, Pakistan, Nigeria and Afghanistan, and were carried out through (Joint EU-Turkey Statement, 18-03-2016), 31 maritime and 13 air operations of readmission of foreign nationals from third countries to Turkey. All of these operations were funded by European Border and Coast Guard Agency (FRONTEX).

In addition, with the support from European Border and Coast Guard Agency (FRONTEX), 11 trainings were organized on the island of Lesbos and 1 at Athens International Airport Eleftherios Venizelos for the escort officers participating in the aforementioned operations in order to strengthen the operational level of the police escorts and to improve the techniques used for safer operations. FRONTEX, in cooperation with the European Commission, provided support to Greece to begin the process of studying, designing and improving the existing National Migration Management System, creating a Return Case Management System (RECAMAS) which can be adopted by any interested Member State in order to manage the different needs-problems that faces in the field of migration.

<sup>387</sup> Hellenic Police Headquarters.

<sup>388</sup> Directive 2008/115/EC.

<sup>389</sup> Hellenic Police Headquarters.

At the beginning of 2018, the Hellenic Police signed a long-term contract until the end of 2019, providing both charter flights and national operations (4.329.000,00 Euros), as well as a contract for the provision of non-scheduled air services (tickets) with or without police escort (4.329.00,00 Euros), for the purpose of carrying out forced return of irregular Third Country Nationals (TCNs) to their home countries under funding from the Asylum Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF). In particular, within the year 2018, Greece organized 6 National Return Operations (NROs) with destinations such as Georgia and Pakistan and 20 returns of irregular Third Country Nationals (TCNs) via commercial flights.

From Greece, the “European travel document for the return of irregularly staying third-country nationals<sup>390</sup> (E.U. L.P.)” was used, pursuant to the “Joint Way Forward” Statement between the EU and Afghanistan, which contributed significantly to the forced return of Afghan nationals to their country of origin. The use of the European travel document was implemented as the Afghan Embassy in Athens did not issue the necessary travel documents within the prescribed period.

Meetings were held in cooperation with FRONTEX and the European Networks to acquire the know-how from other Member States and exchange of experiences and best practices to address effective barriers related activities in the area of return (such as the proposal to amend the legislative framework for more dignified and equally effective new engagement practices, meetings for cooperation with the Pakistan-Afghanistan-Bangladesh Authorities).

Trainings were organized to further train the staff of the country’s Services involved in return issues, both for implementation of return operations and pre-return procedures (trainings of escorts for returns and readmission operations, use of European platforms – IRMA, FAR, EU-Pakistan Readmission Agreement, funding procedures of the European Border and Coast Guard Agency (FRONTEX), methods for intervention on the returning foreigners). In fact, in many cases, Greek trainers were invited to participate in the implementations of trainings of the European Border and Coast Guard Agency (FRONTEX) to candidate Heads of Escorts of the Members-States and to Working Groups to improve the educational models and methods followed.

Greece actively participates in the European Return Network (EURLO)<sup>391</sup>. It actively uses existing Liaison Officers of the Network established in Third Countries to facilitate procedures for identifying and issuing travel documents of irregular third-country nationals. As part of the action of the European Network, Greece has been actively involved in the procurement procedures of 11 videoconferencing devices (VCI) for the purpose of identifying third-country nationals and facilitating communication between the competent National Services of the Hellenic Police, both with the European agencies and with the European Network of Return Offices (EURLO). Their delivery is expected to take place in the first quarter of 2019. Actions are being carried out by the Hellenic Police, in order to create in the near future a pre-removal center in a specially designed area of the Athens International Airport Eleftherios Venizelos, according to the standards of other Members-States, such as that of Austria and the Netherlands, where the irregular foreigners of Greece under return (to their country of origin), as well as the irregular foreigners from the operations of other Member States, who will be detained for up to 48 hours until the implementation of the Joint European Operation (JRO) (flight) to the countries of their origin<sup>392</sup>.

New developments regarding the return of rejected asylum applicants (including measures in relation to reception and supports, (alternatives) to detention, etc.) in 2018 and specific measures for unaccompanied minors and other vulnerable groups<sup>393</sup>, include: The same return procedure applies to rest irregular third-country nationals. As far as unaccompanied minors are concerned, they are transferred after a public prosecutor's order and care of the National Center for Social Solidarity (EKKA) in accommodation/hospitality structures suitably designed for their accommodation. 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-defined structures. The Reception and Identification Service of the Ministry for Migration Policy is responsible for the management and care of this vulnerable group.

For the other vulnerable groups (e.g. families, the elderly), although initially with their arrest, a return decision is issued, it is later suspended for a period of 6 months with the right to renew and they are led to open structures in the mainland. For the management of open structures, the Reception and Identification Service of the Ministry for Migration Policy is also responsible<sup>394</sup>.

<sup>390</sup> <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/legislative-train/theme-towards-a-new-policy-on-migration/file-european-travel-document-for-the-return-of-illegal-migrants>

<sup>391</sup> European Return Liaison Officers network (EURLO). [https://ec.europa.eu/knowledge4policy/organisation/european-return-liaison-officers-network\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/knowledge4policy/organisation/european-return-liaison-officers-network_en)

<sup>392</sup> Hellenic Police Headquarters.

<sup>393</sup> This group includes minors, disabled people, elderly people, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer or questioning, and intersex (LGBTQI) 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.

<sup>394</sup> Hellenic Police Headquarters.

Regarding the return of irregular migrants, new developments to ensure the swift return of persons, overstaying permissions to stay or otherwise misusing legal migration channels in 2018 and specific measures for unaccompanied minors and other vulnerable groups, the return of three irregular migrants to Turkey under the responsibility of the Hellenic Police and the assistance of staff of the European Border Guard and Coast Guard Agency (FRONTEX), was implemented<sup>395</sup>.

Concerning strengthening cooperation with third countries of origin and transit on return and reintegration management, the involvement of third countries in return measures new developments regarding return activities implemented in cooperation with third countries in 2018, strengthening of the cooperation with third countries of origin and transit for the return and reintegration management was implemented. In relation to the refugee mechanism in Turkey: Member States agreed on the details of additional funding<sup>396</sup>. The European Commission, together with the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the National Database and Registration Authority (NADRA) of the Ministry of Interior of the Pakistani Authorities, created the Return Case Management System (RCMS) in order to submit and manage electronically all requests from Member-States that concern the EU-Pakistan Readmission Agreement. Greece participated with France, Belgium and Germany in the pilot project on this platform. In September 2018 all the necessary technical procedures for the connection of Greece to the RCMS platform were implemented in collaboration with the IT Directorate of the Hellenic Police Headquarters. and the Hellenic Police began to submit cases via this platform. At the same time, its operation is monitored and problems identified during its operation are regularly reported to the European Commission as well as suggestions for its improvement, in cooperation with the other organizations involved (NADRA and IOM). The mechanism of cooperation with the consular authorities of third countries in Greece was developed further in order to for speed up the recognition of the citizenship of irregular migrants and the issuance of travel documents for their return, through frequency of visits to diplomatic representations of third countries and intensive implementation of existing European Readmission Agreements, Declarations and Standard Operating Procedures (Pakistan, Afghanistan, Bangladesh, etc.). In cooperation with the EURINT and the European Programme and the European Border and Coast Guard Agency (FRONTEX) at the end of February 2018, the arrival of an identification mission by the authorities of Bangladesh in Greece was organized in order to aiming at the fast identification and issuance of travel documents for 26 Bangladeshi foreign nationals<sup>397</sup>. Activities undertaken to support the implementation of EU readmission agreements (implementing protocols, cooperation (including diplomatic pressure) with third countries to encourage implementation), include:

<sup>395</sup> [http://www.mopocp.gov.gr/index.php?option=ozo\\_content&perform=view&id=6444&Itemid=663&lang=GR](http://www.mopocp.gov.gr/index.php?option=ozo_content&perform=view&id=6444&Itemid=663&lang=GR)

<sup>396</sup> <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/el/press/press-releases/2018/06/29/facility-for-refugees-in-turkey-member-states-agree-details-of-additional-funding/>

<sup>397</sup> Hellenic Police Headquarters.

<b>EU Readmission agreement (country)</b>	<b>National development (e.g, implementing protocol, cooperation)</b>	<b>Date of agreement (if relevant)</b>
EU – Hong Kong	This Agreement entered into force on 01-03-2004. The establishment of the Implementation Protocol is pending.	27-11-2002
EU - Makao	This Agreement entered into force on 01-06-2004. The establishment of the Implementation Protocol is pending.	13-10-2003
EU – Sri Lanka	This Agreement entered into force on 01-05-2005. The establishment of the Implementation Protocol is pending.	04-06-2004
EU – Albania	This Agreement entered into force on 01-05-2006. The establishment of the Implementation Protocol is pending.	14-04-2005
EU – Russia	This Agreement entered into force on 01-06-2007. On 18-12-2012 the Implementation Protocol was signed (L. 4466, GG A' - 55/12-04-2017).	25-05-2006
EU – Ukraine	This Agreement entered into force on 01-01-2008.	18-06-2007
EU – FYROM (since February 2019, North Macedonia)	This Agreement entered into force on 01-01-2008. The establishment of the Implementation Protocol is pending.	18-09-2007
EU – Bosnia and Herzegovina	This Agreement entered into force on 01-01-2008. An Implementation Protocol was signed on 24-11-2015 and its inclusion in the Government Gazette is pending.	18-09-2007
EU – Montenegro	This Agreement entered into force on 01-01-2008. On 28-12-2018 the final draft text was sent to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the signing of the text is expected.	18-09-2007
EU – Serbia	This Agreement entered into force on 01-01-2008. An Implementation Protocol was signed on 11-09-2013 and its inclusion in the Government Gazette is pending.	18-09-2007
EU – Moldova	This Agreement entered into force on 01-01-2008. An Implementation Protocol was signed on 28-03-2014 and its inclusion in the Government Gazette is pending.	10-10-2007
EU – Pakistan	This Agreement entered into force on 01-12-2010. In order to improve the co-operation with the Pakistani authorities and to save time required for the signing of the Bilateral Implementation Protocol, the Agreement is applied directly, in parallel with the procedure followed for the identification and supply of travel documents through the Aliens Directorate of Attica with the Embassy of Pakistan in Greece.	26-10-2009
EU - Georgia	This Agreement entered into force on 01-03-2011. On 29-09-2014, a Draft Protocol of the Implementation Protocol was sent to the Authorities of Georgia and a relevant response is still pending.	22-11-2010
EU – Armenia	This Agreement entered into force on 01-01-2014. The establishment of the Implementation Protocol is pending.	19-04-2013
EU – Azerbaijan	This Agreement entered into force on 01-09-2014. The establishment of the Implementation Protocol is pending.	12/13-03-2013
EU – Turkey	This Agreement entered into force on 01-010-2014. In May 2016, negotiations on the Implementing Protocol were concluded.	16-12-2013
EU – Cape Verde	This Agreement entered into force on 01-12-2014. The establishment of the Implementation Protocol is pending.	18-04-2013

Regarding new developments in relation to reintegration activities implemented in cooperation with countries of origin in 2018, in the framework of the voluntary return and reintegration programmes<sup>398</sup> of the International Organization for Migration (IOM)<sup>399</sup>: the International Organization for Migration (IOM), the European Programme (ERRIN) as well as the International Return and Reintegration Assistance (IRARA) are active both through voluntary return and reintegration third country nationals in their countries of origin. In particular, the ERRIN European Programme in cooperation with the IRARA International Organization have established a network and are active in 16 third countries (Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Ethiopia, Egypt, Gambia, Ghana, India, Iraq, Morocco, Nigeria, Pakistan, Senegal, Somalia, Somalia, Sri Lanka and Sudan) providing advice to facilitate the return process and the sustainable reintegration of third country nationals into their country of origin.

<sup>398</sup> [https://publications.iom.int/system/files/pdf/iom\\_greece\\_avrr\\_booklet.pdf](https://publications.iom.int/system/files/pdf/iom_greece_avrr_booklet.pdf)

<sup>399</sup> <https://greece.iom.int/el/προγράμματα-δου>

**ANNEX A: METHODOLOGY**

This Annual Report on Migration and Asylum in Greece for 2018 (reference period 1 January 2017-31 December 2018) lists information and developments that were collected and recorded. Past years and future actions have been taken into account. For the preparation of the Annual Report on Migration and Asylum in Greece for 2018 there have been contacts, meetings and extensive cooperation with representatives of the competent bodies of the Greek administration on migration and asylum issues in Greece, who have contributed decisively to the preparation of the Annual Report for 2018. Data from primary and secondary sources were also collected.

Sources of information/ methods	Sources: secondary sources, references in the literature, primary sources, stakeholders
<b>Scientific/ Academic sources</b>	Multiple scientific/academic sources (monographs, collective volume chapters, articles of scientific journals).
<b>Research studies/projects</b>	Multiple studies, information resulting from the results of international and Greek qualitative and quantitative research studies/projects.
<b>Other reports</b>	Multiple reports, information resulting from international and Greek qualitative and quantitative studies/projects.
<b>Legislation</b>	Legislative framework on migration and asylum, migration policy.
<b>Policy documents</b>	Multiple policy documents.
<b>Electronic sources</b>	Internet search on websites of government agencies, international organizations and NGOs (search engines and web sites).
<b>Interviews</b>	12 semi-structured interviews with executives were conducted: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Office of the National Rapporteur for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Greece (1).</li> <li>2. Department of Social Interventions, National Center for Social Solidarity (EKKA), Greece (1).</li> <li>3. Special Secretariat of Citizenship, Citizenship Directorate, Citizenship Determination Department, Ministry of Interior (MI), Greece (1).</li> <li>4. Department of International and European Cooperation of the Central Reception and Identification Service of the Ministry for Migration Policy (1).</li> <li>5. European and International Cooperation Department, Asylum Service, Ministry for Migration Policy, Greece (2).</li> <li>6. Department of EU and International Migration Policies Unit, Migration Policy Directorate, Ministry for Migration Policy, Greece (4).</li> <li>7. Department of Planning and Monitoring of Policies and Programmes, Social Integration Directorate, Ministry for Migration Policy, Greece (1).</li> <li>8. Department of Reception, On-site Intervention Center and Ampelokipi Social Support Center, National Center for Social Solidarity (EKKA), Greece (1).</li> </ol>
<b>Consultations with national bodies</b>	Consultations with the National Rapporteur for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Greece was conducted, as well as consultations with the following executives were carried-out: the Department of International and European Cooperation, the Central Reception and Identification Service of the Ministry for Migration Policy, the Department of European and International Cooperation, the Asylum Service, Ministry for Migration Policy, Department of Social Interventions, National Center for Social Solidarity (EKKA), Greece, Special Secretariat of Citizenship, Citizenship Directorate, Citizenship Determination Department, Ministry of Interior (MI), Greece, European and International Cooperation Department, Asylum Service, Ministry for Migration Policy, Greece, Department of Planning and Monitoring of Policies and Programmes, Social Integration Directorate, Ministry for Migration Policy, Greece, Department of Reception, On-site Intervention Center and Ampelokipi Social Support Center, National Center for Social Solidarity (EKKA), Greece, for recommendations on the study and in Part 1, Part 2 and the Statistical Annex and for the collection of data, information, data (descriptive, qualitative and quantitative/statistical data).
<b>Consultations with the national network</b>	Consultations were conducted with the National Contact Point (NCP) of the European Migration Network (EMN) for recommendations on the study both for Part 1, Part 2 and the Statistical Annex and for the collection of data, information, statistics (descriptive, qualitative and quantitative/statistical data).
<b>Other</b>	Information, qualitative and quantitative data and statistics were collected from:

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Department for the Coordination and Monitoring of the Refugee Education, Ministry of Education, Research and Religious Affairs, Greece.</li><li>2. C4 Directorate for Justice, Home Affairs and Schengen, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Greece.</li><li>3. Office of the National Rapporteur for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Greece.</li><li>4. International Organization for Migration (IOM) - Office in Greece.</li><li>5. Special Secretariat of Citizenship, Citizenship Directorate, Citizenship Determination Department, Ministry of Interior (MI), Greece.</li><li>6. Aliens and Border Protection Branch, Migration Management Division, Hellenic Police Headquarters, Greece.</li><li>7. Division IV, Directorate of Individual Regulations, General Directorate of Labour Relations, Ministry of Labour, Social Security and Social Solidarity, Greece.</li><li>8. European and International Cooperation Department, Asylum Service, Ministry for Migration Policy, Greece.</li><li>9. Department of EU and International Migration Policies Unit, Migration Policy Directorate, Ministry for Migration Policy, Greece.</li><li>10. Department of Planning and Monitoring of Policies and Programmes, Social Integration Directorate, Ministry for Migration Policy, Greece.</li><li>11. Directorate of Electronic Residence Permits, General Directorate of Migration Policy, General Secretariat for Migration Policy, Ministry for Migration Policy, Greece.</li></ol>
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**ANNEX B: IMPLEMENTATION OF EU LEGISLATION**

EU legislation	Transposition into National Legislation <sup>400</sup>	Status
“Directive (EU) 2016/801 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 May 2016 on the conditions of entry and residence of third-country nationals for the purposes of research, studies, training, voluntary service, pupil exchange schemes or educational projects and au pairing”	Not transposed into National Legislation <sup>401</sup>	In force
“Amendment of the provisions of the Greek Nationality Code – Amendment of Law 4521/2014 to transpose to Greek law Directive 2011/98/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council “on a single application procedure for a single permit for third-country nationals to reside and work in the territory of a Member State and on a common set of rights for third-country workers legally residing in a Member State” and Directive 2014/36/EU “on the conditions of entry and stay of third-country nationals for the purpose of employment as seasonal workers” and other provisions”	Law 4332/2015 (GG A’ 76/09.07.2015) <sup>402</sup>	In force
“Amendments of the Greek legislation in accordance with the provisions of Directive 2013/33/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of Europe of June 26 2013, on the standards required for the reception of applicants for international protection (recast, L 180/96/29.6.2013) and other provisions – Amendment of Law 4251/2014 (A 80) to transpose to Greek Law Directive 2014/66/EU of May 15 2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council concerning conditions of entry and residence of third-country nationals in the framework of an intra-corporate transfer – Amendment of asylum procedures and other provisions”	Law 4540/2018 (GG A’ 91/22.05.2015) <sup>403</sup>	In force
“Establishment of an Asylum Service and a First Reception Service, adaptation of the Greek legislation to the provisions of Directive 1008/115/EC ‘with regard to the common rules and procedures in Member States for the return of illegally staying third-country nationals’ and other provisions”	Law 3907/2011 (GG A’ 7/26.01.2011) <sup>404</sup>	In force
“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 180/29.6.2013), provisions on the employment of beneficiaries of international protection and other provisions”	Law 4375/2016 (GG A’ 51/03.04.2016) <sup>405</sup>	In force
“Amendments of the Greek legislation in accordance with the provisions of Directive 2013/33/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of Europe of June 26 2013, on the standards required for the reception of applicants for international protection (recast, L 180/96/29.6.2013) and other provisions – Amendment of Law 4251/2014 (A 80) to transpose to Greek Law Directive 2014/66/EU of May 15 2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council concerning conditions of entry and residence of third-country nationals in the framework of an intra-corporate transfer – Amendment of asylum procedures and other provisions”.	Law 4540/2018 (GG A’ 91/22/05/2018) <sup>406</sup>	In force
“Amendments of the Greek legislation in accordance with the provisions of Directive 2011/95/EE of the European Parliament and of the Council of 13 December 2011 (L 337) on 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 (recast)”.	Presidential Decree 141/2013 (GG A’ 226-21.10.2013) <sup>407</sup>	In force

<sup>400</sup> [http://asylo.gov.gr/?page\\_id=141](http://asylo.gov.gr/?page_id=141); <http://www.immigration.gov.gr/web/guest/homoi-metanasteusi>

<sup>401</sup> Directive (EU) 2016/801 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 May 2016 on the conditions of entry and residence of third-country nationals for the purposes of research, studies, training, voluntary service, pupil exchange schemes or educational projects and au pairing. <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/HTML/?uri=CELEX:32016L0801&from=EN>

<sup>402</sup> <https://www.ypes.gr/UserFiles/24e0c302-6021-4a6b-b7e4-8259e281e5f3/metan-n4332-2015.pdf>

<sup>403</sup> [http://www.immigration.gov.gr/documents/20182/31274/LAW\\_4540+\\_EN\\_PART+%2BII%2BIV.pdf/b99d73c5-ffcd-47cc-ba1a-deedbee86793](http://www.immigration.gov.gr/documents/20182/31274/LAW_4540+_EN_PART+%2BII%2BIV.pdf/b99d73c5-ffcd-47cc-ba1a-deedbee86793)

<sup>404</sup> <http://www.yptp.gr/images/stories/2011/law%203907.pdf.pdf>

<sup>405</sup> [http://asylo.gov.gr/en/wp-content/uploads/2016/05/GREECE\\_Law\\_4375\\_2016\\_EN\\_final.pdf](http://asylo.gov.gr/en/wp-content/uploads/2016/05/GREECE_Law_4375_2016_EN_final.pdf)

<sup>406</sup> [http://www.immigration.gov.gr/documents/20182/31274/LAW\\_4540+\\_EN\\_PART+%2BII%2BIV.pdf/b99d73c5-ffcd-47cc-ba1a-deedbee86793](http://www.immigration.gov.gr/documents/20182/31274/LAW_4540+_EN_PART+%2BII%2BIV.pdf/b99d73c5-ffcd-47cc-ba1a-deedbee86793)

<sup>407</sup> [http://asylo.gov.gr/wp-content/uploads/2014/06/PD\\_141\\_2013.pdf](http://asylo.gov.gr/wp-content/uploads/2014/06/PD_141_2013.pdf)



**EUROPEAN MIGRATION NETWORK • ANNUAL REPORT 2018**  
**ON MIGRATION AND ASYLUM IN GREECE • NATIONAL REPORT • PART 2 AND STATISTICAL ANNEX**

<p>“Amendments of Law 3907/2011 «Establishment of Asylum Service and First Reception Service, Amendments of the Greek legislation in accordance with the provisions of Directive 2008/115/EC “on common standards and procedures in Member States for returning illegally staying third-country nationals» and other provisions” (A’ 7) and the PD 104/2012 “Organization and operation of the Asylum Service at the Ministry of Public Order and Citizen Protection” (A’ 104)”.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Presidential Decree 133/2013 (GG A’ 198-25.09.2013)<sup>408</sup></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">In force</p>
<p>“Establishment of a single procedure for granting the status of refugee or of subsidiary protection beneficiary to aliens or to stateless individuals in conformity with Council Directive 2005/85/EC “on minimum standards on procedures in Member States for granting and withdrawing refugee status” (L 326/13.12.2005) and other provisions”.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Presidential Decree 113/2013 (GG A’ 146-14.06.2013)<sup>409</sup></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">In force</p>
<p>“Amendments of the PD 114/2010 “Establishing a uniform procedure for the recognition of refugee or subsidiary protection status to foreigners and stateless persons in accordance with the Council Directive 2005/85/EC “on minimum standards on procedures in Member States for granting and withdrawing refugee status (L 326/13.12.2005)”.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Presidential Decree 116/2012 (GG A’ 201-19.10.2012)<sup>410</sup></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">In force</p>
<p>“Amendments of the Greek legislation in accordance with the provisions of Directive 2003/9/EC of the Council of 27 January 2003, laying down minimum standards for the reception of asylum seekers in the Member States (OJ L 31/6.2.2003)”.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Presidential Decree 220/2007 (GG A’ 251-13.11.2007)<sup>411</sup></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">In force</p>

<sup>408</sup> [http://asylo.gov.gr/wp-content/uploads/2014/06/P.D.\\_133\\_2013-AMENDMENT\\_OF\\_I3907\\_AND\\_PD\\_104.pdf](http://asylo.gov.gr/wp-content/uploads/2014/06/P.D._133_2013-AMENDMENT_OF_I3907_AND_PD_104.pdf)

<sup>409</sup> [http://www.yptp.gr/images/stories/2013/asylo/PD%20113\\_2013\\_EN%20Final.pdf](http://www.yptp.gr/images/stories/2013/asylo/PD%20113_2013_EN%20Final.pdf)

<sup>410</sup> [http://asylo.gov.gr/wp-content/uploads/2014/06/p.d.\\_116\\_2012.pdf](http://asylo.gov.gr/wp-content/uploads/2014/06/p.d._116_2012.pdf)

<sup>411</sup> [http://asylo.gov.gr/wp-content/uploads/2014/06/p.d.\\_220\\_2007.pdf](http://asylo.gov.gr/wp-content/uploads/2014/06/p.d._220_2007.pdf)

ANNEX C: NATIONAL STATISTICS

Table 1: Asylum Applications

Asylum Applications												
	2013	Difference % (2013-2014)	2014	Difference % (2014-2015)	2015	Difference % (2015-2016)	2016	Difference % (2016-2017)	2017	Difference % (2017-2018)	2018	Total
Total	4814		9431		13187		51053		58642		66970	204097
Monthly average	688	14,3% ↑	786	39,8% ↑	1099	287,1% ↑	4254	14,9% ↑	4887	14,2% ↑	5581	3046

Source: Asylum Service/Ministry for Migration Policy (2018). *Statistical Data of the Hellenic Asylum Service (from 7.6.2013 to 31.12.2018)*. Athens: Asylum Service/Ministry for Migration Policy <http://asylo.gov.gr/en/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/Greek-Asylum-Service-Statistical-Data-EN.pdf>

Table 2: Asylum Applications – Gender and Age range

Asylum Applications - Gender and Age range																								
Age ranges	2013			2014			2015			2016			2017			December 2018			2018			Total		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
0-13	255	182	437	388	306	694	919	792	1711	7683	7103	14786	7614	6721	14335	623	583	1206	8617	7686	16303	25476	22790	48266
14-17	272	37	309	569	84	653	608	168	776	3533	1389	4922	4349	1093	5442	494	91	585	4342	1126	5468	13673	3897	17570
18-34	2370	600	2970	5171	921	6092	6197	1466	7663	15282	6592	21874	21473	7162	28635	1803	659	2462	24685	8830	33515	75178	25571	100749
35-64	748	338	1086	1510	460	1970	2098	856	2954	5354	3796	9150	6572	3420	9992	616	317	933	7454	3948	11402	23736	12818	36554
65 and over	7	5	12	7	15	22	35	48	83	144	177	321	108	130	238	9	15	24	121	161	282	422	536	958
Total	3652	1162	4814	7645	1786	9431	9857	3330	13187	31996	19057	51053	40116	18526	58642	3545	1665	5210	45219	21751	66970	138485	65612	204097
Unaccompanied Minors (included in the above total)	177	12	189	385	35	420	332	51	383	1664	314	1978	2318	142	2460	340	20	360	2445	194	2639	7321	748	8069

Source: Asylum Service/Ministry for Migration Policy (2018). *Statistical Data of the Hellenic Asylum Service (from 7.6.2013 to 31.12.2018)*. Athens: Asylum Service/Ministry for Migration Policy <http://asylo.gov.gr/en/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/Greek-Asylum-Service-Statistical-Data-EN.pdf>

Table 3: Asylum Applications – Region of registration

Asylum Applications - Region of registration								
	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	December 2018	2018	Total
ATTICA	4398	6357	7830	14141	8838	704	8377	49941
LESVOS	30	209	692	5091	11949	976	17270	35241
THESSALONIKI	0	412	1190	11410	7625	637	7369	28006
SAMOS	0	0	0	2432	5109	637	6743	14284
CHIOS	0	0	0	3394	6509	302	4082	13985
THRACE	166	900	829	4458	2040	179	2386	10779
ALIMOS	0	0	0	3141	3258	204	2572	8971
PIRAEUS	0	0	0	2472	3976	157	2053	8501
FYLAKIO	122	399	412	448	955	440	4182	6518
AMYGDALAZA	98	606	588	451	1544	175	1901	5188
KOS	0	0	0	685	1696	136	2141	4522
LEROS	0	0	0	871	1389	247	1784	4044
RHODES	0	454	803	931	698	55	727	3613
KORINTHOS	0	0	0	324	1065	120	1972	3361
XANTHI	0	40	578	386	689	79	1232	2925
PATRA	0	54	265	414	987	59	775	2495
HERAKLION	0	0	0	4	315	50	765	1084
IOANNINA	0	0	0	0	0	53	639	639
Total	4814	9431	13187	51053	58642	5210	66970	204097

Source: Asylum Service/Ministry for Migration Policy (2018). *Statistical Data of the Hellenic Asylum Service (from 7.6.2013 to 31.12.2018)*. Athens: Asylum Service/Ministry for Migration Policy <http://asylo.gov.gr/en/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/Greek-Asylum-Service-Statistical-Data-EN.pdf>

Table 4: Asylum Applications – Countries of Origin

Asylum Applications - Countries of Origin									
	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	December 2018	2018	Total	%
SYRIA	252	773	3490	26677	16398	519	13390	60980	29,9%
AFGHANISTAN	803	1709	1720	4362	7566	1334	11926	28086	13,8%
PAKISTAN	610	1618	1822	4692	8922	581	7743	25407	12,4%
IRAQ	107	174	661	4810	7920	671	9731	23403	11,5%
ALBANIA	419	569	1003	1420	2450	242	3319	9180	4,5%
TURKEY	17	41	42	189	1826	409	4834	6949	3,4%
BANGLADESH	230	633	738	1215	1383	132	1552	5751	2,8%
IRAN	131	361	241	1096	1316	175	1763	4908	2,4%
GEORGIA	342	350	386	687	1107	136	1461	4333	2,1%
PALESTINE	17	74	60	850	1304	226	1519	3824	1,9%
OTHER COUNTRIES	1886	3129	3024	5055	8450	785	9732	31276	15,3%
<b>Total</b>	<b>4814</b>	<b>9431</b>	<b>13187</b>	<b>51053</b>	<b>58642</b>	<b>5210</b>	<b>66970</b>	<b>204097</b>	<b>100,0%</b>

Source: Asylum Service/Ministry for Migration Policy (2018). *Statistical Data of the Hellenic Asylum Service (from 7.6.2013 to 31.12.2018)*. Athens: Asylum Service/Ministry for Migration Policy <http://asylo.gov.gr/en/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/Greek-Asylum-Service-Statistical-Data-EN.pdf>

Table 5: First Instance Procedures

1st Instance Procedures								
	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	December 2018	2018	Total
Refugee Status	229	1223	3647	2451	9306	986	12626	29482
Subsidiary Protection	93	487	347	249	1045	211	2579	4800
Negative in substance	1754	4254	4434	6586	12137	1161	15563	44728
Inadmissible decisions				15232	22450	269	4842	46257
a) due to the application of the safe third country principle (Border Procedures)				1305	912	1	400	
b) due to acceptance by another Member State (Dublin Regulation procedures)	261	1453	2019	2069	8297	180	3242	
c) due to acceptance by another Member State (Relocation procedures)				11000	12316		33	
d) on subsequent (repeated) applications				774	915	86	1158	
e) due to administrative reasons				84	10	2	9	
Implicit & Explicit withdrawals <sup>1</sup>	243	1078	2373	2389	6676	1022	10713	23472
<b>Total</b>	<b>2580</b>	<b>8495</b>	<b>12820</b>	<b>26907</b>	<b>51614</b>	<b>3649</b>	<b>46323</b>	<b>148739</b>
Monthly average	369	708	1068	2242	4301		3860	2220
Recognition Rate (%) <sup>2</sup>	15,5%	28,7%	47,4%	29,1%	46,0%	50,8%	49,4%	43,4%

Source: Asylum Service/Ministry for Migration Policy (2018). *Statistical Data of the Hellenic Asylum Service (from 7.6.2013 to 31.12.2018)*. Athens: Asylum Service/Ministry for Migration Policy <http://asylo.gov.gr/en/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/Greek-Asylum-Service-Statistical-Data-EN.pdf>

Table 6: First Instance Procedures – Unaccompanied Minors

1st Instance Procedures - Unaccompanied Minors																								
	2013			2014			2015			2016			2017			December 2018			2018			Total		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Refugee Status	7	1	8	45	6	51	54	19	73	52	13	65	132	29	161	24	3	27	236	43	279	526	111	637
Subsidiary Protection	4		4	24		24	22		22	17		17	27		27	3	1	4	61	5	66	155	5	160
Negative in substance	53	2	55	147	6	153	92	6	98	216	6	222	488	7	495	29	1	30	555	8	563	1551	35	1586
Inadmissible decisions <sup>3</sup>	12	3	15	56	21	77	68	10	78	310	117	427	571	167	738	17	1	18	314	36	350	1331	354	1685
Implicit & Explicit withdrawals <sup>1</sup>	14		14	85		85	106	10	116	55	9	64	223	28	251	28	3	31	564	24	588	1047	71	1118
<b>Total</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>357</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>390</b>	<b>342</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>387</b>	<b>650</b>	<b>145</b>	<b>795</b>	<b>1441</b>	<b>231</b>	<b>1672</b>	<b>101</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>1730</b>	<b>116</b>	<b>1846</b>	<b>4610</b>	<b>576</b>	<b>5186</b>

(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/Ministry for Migration Policy (2018). *Statistical Data of the Hellenic Asylum Service (from 7.6.2013 to 31.12.2018)*. Athens: Asylum Service/Ministry for Migration Policy <http://asylo.gov.gr/en/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/Greek-Asylum-Service-Statistical-Data-EN.pdf>



Table 10: First Instance Procedures – Recognition Rates (%)<sup>2</sup> (Countries with more than 300 Decisions in substance)

1st Instance Procedures - Recognition Rates (%) <sup>2</sup> (Countries with more than 300 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%
YEMEN	98,9%	ALBANIA	0,2%
PALESTINE	96,8%	PAKISTAN	2,5%
STATELESS	89,8%	INDIA	2,6%
ERITREA	87,4%	BANGLADESH	3,3%
SOMALIA	84,6%	ALGERIA	3,5%
AFGHANISTAN	70,9%	CHINA	8,0%
IRAQ	69,4%	EGYPT	8,6%
SUDAN	60,8%	NIGERIA	12,1%
IRAN	60,2%	MOROCCO	13,3%

Source: Asylum Service/Ministry for Migration Policy (2018). *Statistical Data of the Hellenic Asylum Service (from 7.6.2013 to 31.12.2018)*. Athens: Asylum Service/Ministry for Migration Policy [http://asylo.gov.gr/en/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/Greek\\_Asylum\\_Service\\_Statistical\\_Data\\_EN.pdf](http://asylo.gov.gr/en/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/Greek_Asylum_Service_Statistical_Data_EN.pdf)

Table 11: First Instance Procedures – Appeals – Countries of Origin

1st Instance Procedures - Appeals - Countries of Origin								
	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	December 2018	2018	Total
PAKISTAN	187	977	1044	1872	4847	345	5419	14346
ALBANIA	189	618	381	842	1510	149	2471	6011
BANGLADESH	98	338	491	525	860	80	941	3253
SYRIA	3	10	4	1173	963	8	443	2596
GEORGIA	119	327	195	365	518	56	877	2401
AFGHANISTAN	28	290	180	210	447	51	826	1981
IRAQ	23	41	35	46	353	147	1419	1917
EGYPT	52	308	136	327	359	69	560	1742
NIGERIA	36	242	250	242	151	10	123	1044
ALGERIA	9	88	61	357	287	25	235	1037
OTHER COUNTRIES	308	1008	935	1288	1394	173	1979	6912
<b>Total</b>	<b>1052</b>	<b>4247</b>	<b>3712</b>	<b>7247</b>	<b>11689</b>	<b>1113</b>	<b>15293</b>	<b>43240</b>

Source: Asylum Service/Ministry for Migration Policy (2018). *Statistical Data of the Hellenic Asylum Service (from 7.6.2013 to 31.12.2018)*. Athens: Asylum Service/Ministry for Migration Policy [http://asylo.gov.gr/en/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/Greek\\_Asylum\\_Service\\_Statistical\\_Data\\_EN.pdf](http://asylo.gov.gr/en/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/Greek_Asylum_Service_Statistical_Data_EN.pdf)

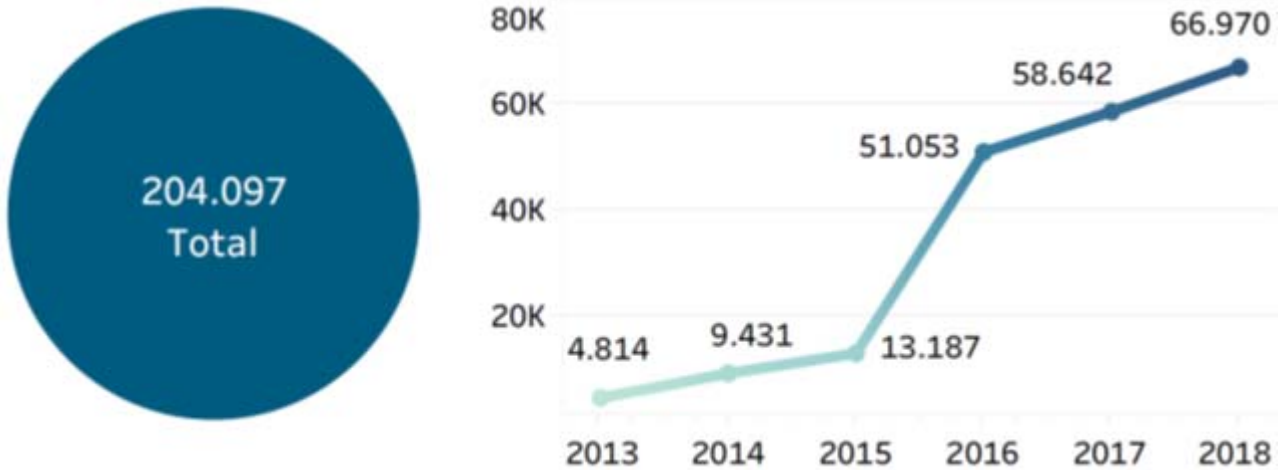
Table 12: First Instance Procedures – Pending Applications - Countries of Origin

1st Instance Procedures - Pending Applications - Countries of Origin	
SYRIA	13917
AFGHANISTAN	12664
IRAQ	7749
PAKISTAN	4979
OTHER COUNTRIES	19484
<b>Total</b>	<b>58793</b>

Source: Asylum Service/Ministry for Migration Policy (2018). *Statistical Data of the Hellenic Asylum Service (from 7.6.2013 to 31.12.2018)*. Athens: Asylum Service/Ministry for Migration Policy [http://asylo.gov.gr/en/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/Greek\\_Asylum\\_Service\\_Statistical\\_Data\\_EN.pdf](http://asylo.gov.gr/en/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/Greek_Asylum_Service_Statistical_Data_EN.pdf)

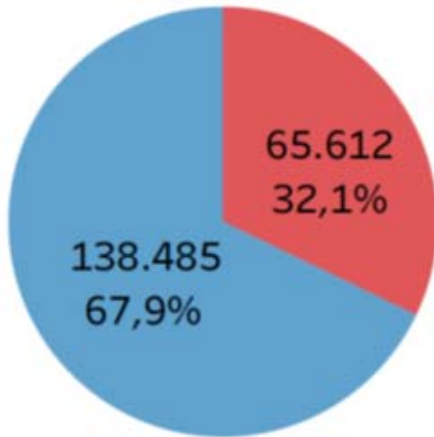
Asylum Procedures from 07.06.2013 to 31.12.2018

Figure 1: Applications by year



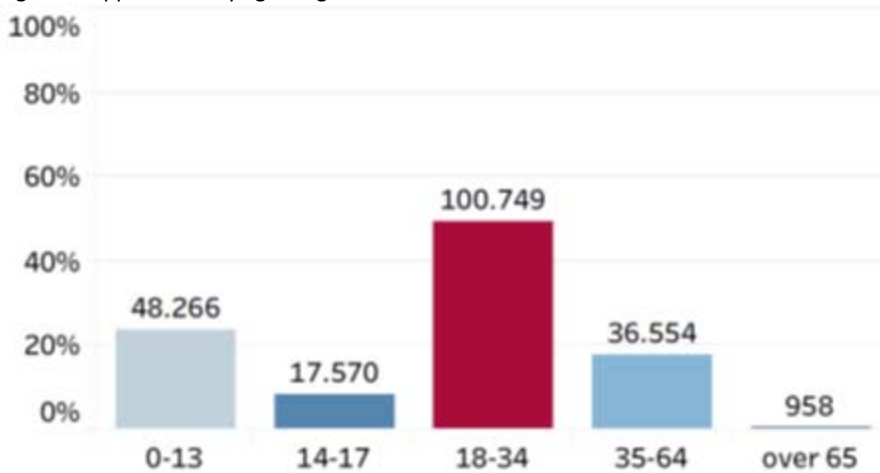
Source: Asylum Service/Ministry for Migration Policy (2018). *Asylum Procedures from 07.06.2013 to 31.12.2018*. Athens: Asylum Service/Ministry for Migration Policy [http://asylo.gov.gr/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/Dashboard\\_december\\_2018.pdf](http://asylo.gov.gr/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/Dashboard_december_2018.pdf)

Figure 2: Applications by gender



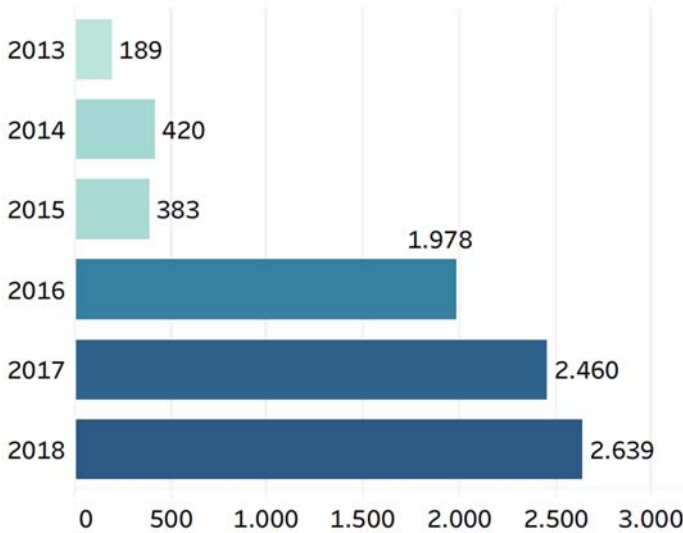
Source: Asylum Service/Ministry for Migration Policy (2018). *Asylum Procedures from 07.06.2013 to 31.12.2018*. Athens: Asylum Service/Ministry for Migration Policy [http://asylo.gov.gr/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/Dashboard\\_december\\_2018.pdf](http://asylo.gov.gr/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/Dashboard_december_2018.pdf)

Figure 3: Applications by age range



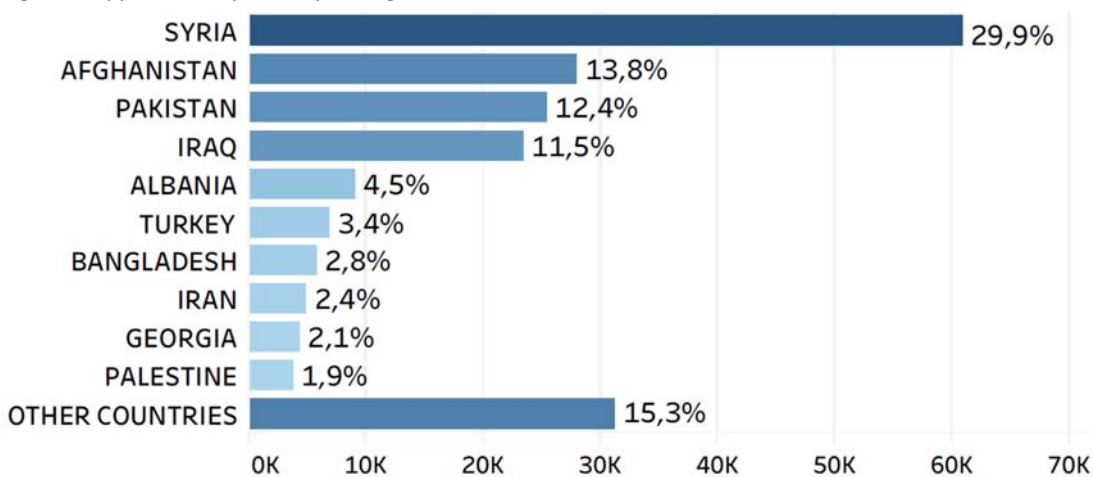
Source: Asylum Service/Ministry for Migration Policy (2018). *Asylum Procedures from 07.06.2013 to 31.12.2018*. Athens: Asylum Service/Ministry for Migration Policy [http://asylo.gov.gr/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/Dashboard\\_december\\_2018.pdf](http://asylo.gov.gr/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/Dashboard_december_2018.pdf)

Figure 4: Unaccompanied minors



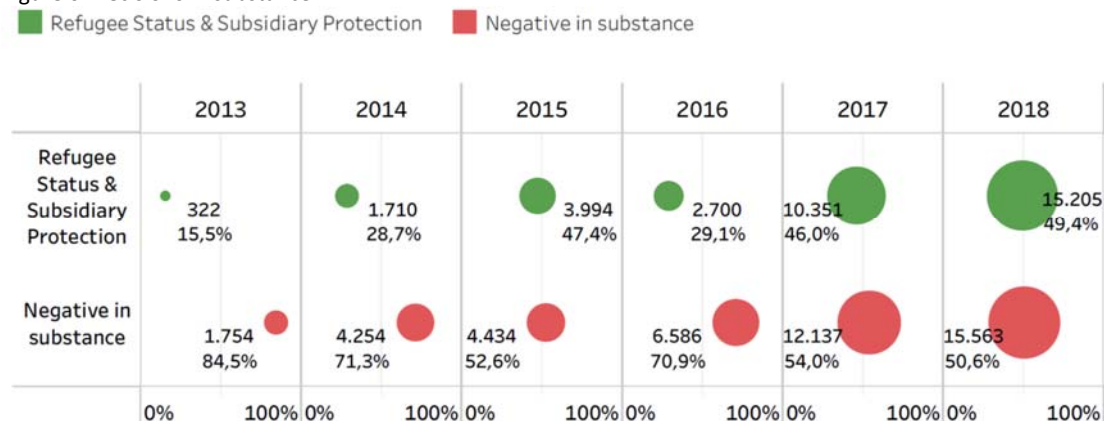
Source: Asylum Service/Ministry for Migration Policy (2018). *Asylum Procedures from 07.06.2013 to 31.12.2018*. Athens: Asylum Service/Ministry for Migration Policy [http://asylo.gov.gr/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/Dashboard\\_december\\_2018.pdf](http://asylo.gov.gr/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/Dashboard_december_2018.pdf)

Figure 5: Applications by Country of Origin



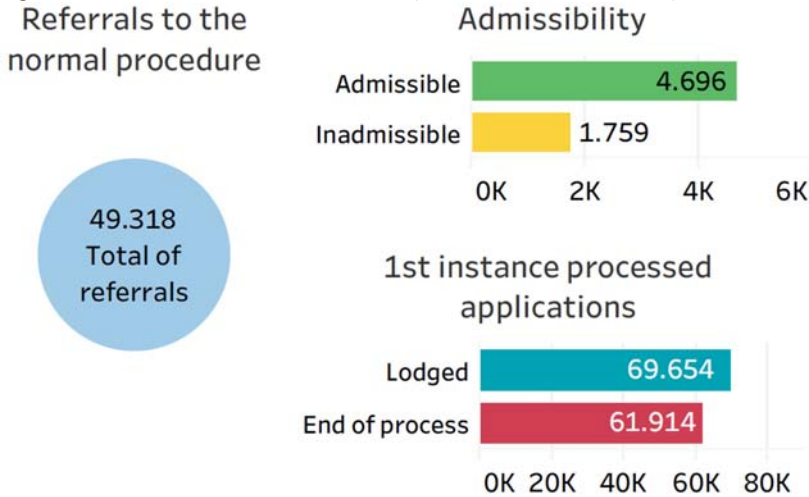
Source: Asylum Service/Ministry for Migration Policy (2018). *Asylum Procedures from 07.06.2013 to 31.12.2018*. Athens: Asylum Service/Ministry for Migration Policy [http://asylo.gov.gr/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/Dashboard\\_december\\_2018.pdf](http://asylo.gov.gr/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/Dashboard_december_2018.pdf)

Figure 6: Decisions in substance



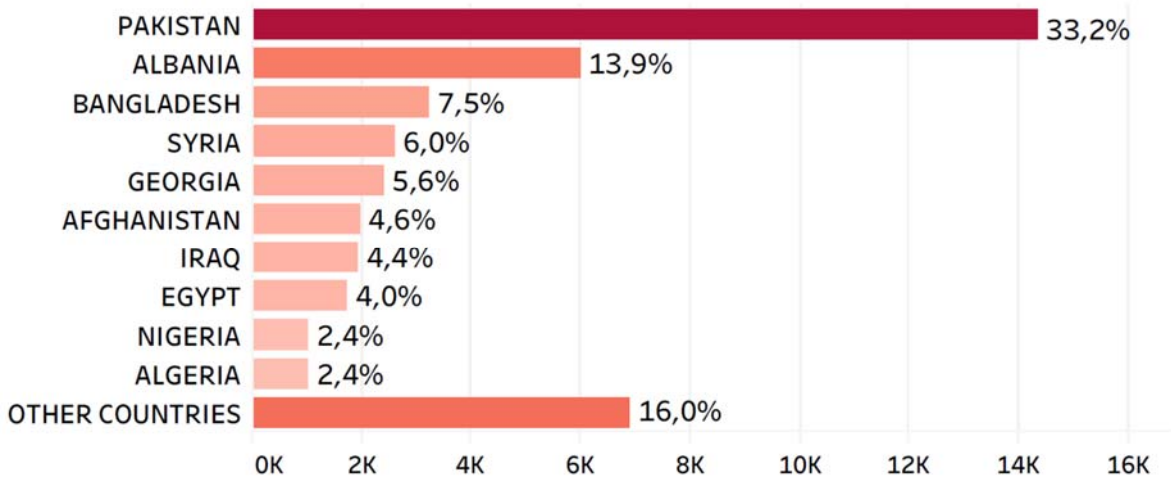
Source: Asylum Service/Ministry for Migration Policy (2018). *Asylum Procedures from 07.06.2013 to 31.12.2018*. Athens: Asylum Service/Ministry for Migration Policy [http://asylo.gov.gr/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/Dashboard\\_december\\_2018.pdf](http://asylo.gov.gr/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/Dashboard_december_2018.pdf)

Figure 7: Procedures on the Greek islands (Art. 60 §4 Law 4375/2016)



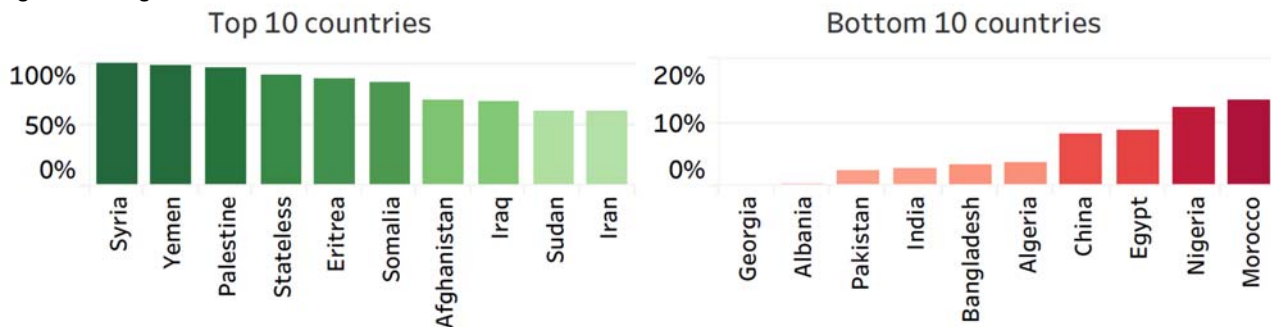
Source: Asylum Service/Ministry for Migration Policy (2018). *Asylum Procedures from 07.06.2013 to 31.12.2018*. Athens: Asylum Service/Ministry for Migration Policy [http://asylo.gov.gr/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/Dashboard\\_december\\_2018.pdf](http://asylo.gov.gr/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/Dashboard_december_2018.pdf)

Figure 8: Appeals by Country of Origin (Top 10 Countries 2013-2018)



Source: Asylum Service/Ministry for Migration Policy (2018). *Asylum Procedures from 07.06.2013 to 31.12.2018*. Athens: Asylum Service/Ministry for Migration Policy [http://asylo.gov.gr/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/Dashboard\\_december\\_2018.pdf](http://asylo.gov.gr/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/Dashboard_december_2018.pdf)

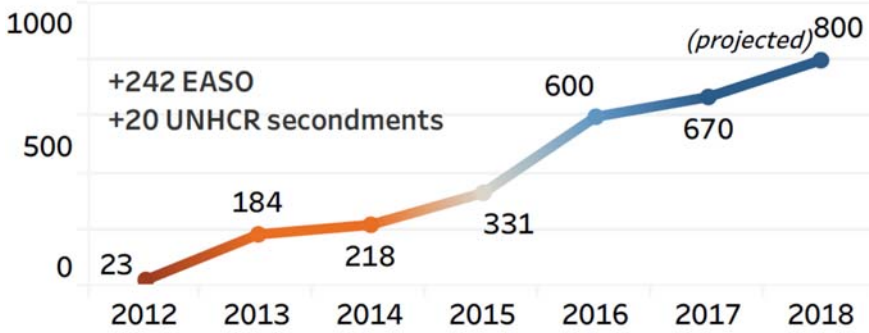
Figure 9: Recognition rate



Source: Asylum Service/Ministry for Migration Policy (2018). *Asylum Procedures from 07.06.2013 to 31.12.2018*. Athens: Asylum Service/Ministry for Migration Policy [http://asylo.gov.gr/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/Dashboard\\_december\\_2018.pdf](http://asylo.gov.gr/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/Dashboard_december_2018.pdf)

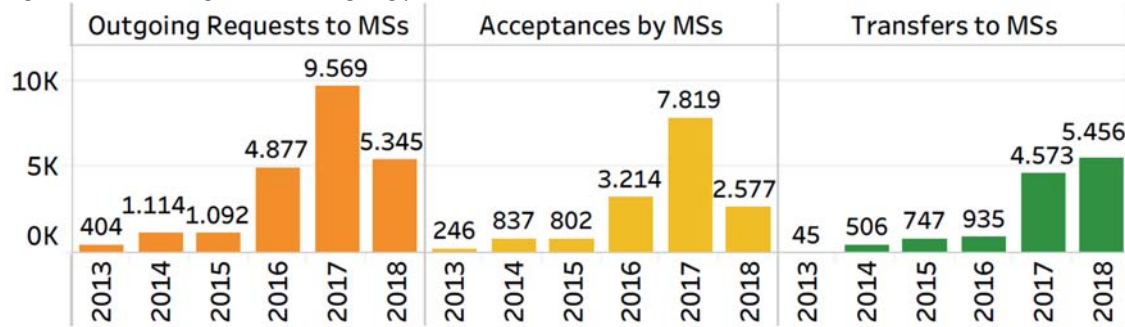


Figure 10: Asylum Service staff



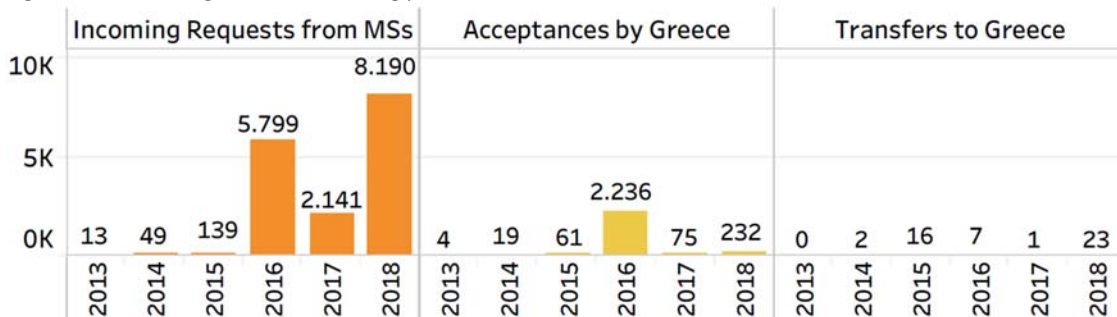
Source: Asylum Service/Ministry for Migration Policy (2018). *Asylum Procedures from 07.06.2013 to 31.12.2018*. Athens: Asylum Service/Ministry for Migration Policy [http://asylo.gov.gr/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/Dashboard\\_december\\_2018.pdf](http://asylo.gov.gr/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/Dashboard_december_2018.pdf)

Figure 11: Dublin Regulation III outgoing procedures



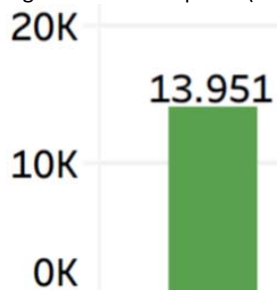
Source: Asylum Service/Ministry for Migration Policy (2018). *Asylum Procedures from 07.06.2013 to 31.12.2018*. Athens: Asylum Service/Ministry for Migration Policy [http://asylo.gov.gr/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/Dashboard\\_december\\_2018.pdf](http://asylo.gov.gr/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/Dashboard_december_2018.pdf)

Figure 12: Dublin Regulation III incoming procedures



Source: Asylum Service/Ministry for Migration Policy (2018). *Asylum Procedures from 07.06.2013 to 31.12.2018*. Athens: Asylum Service/Ministry for Migration Policy [http://asylo.gov.gr/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/Dashboard\\_december\\_2018.pdf](http://asylo.gov.gr/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/Dashboard_december_2018.pdf)

Figure 13: Info Requests (Art. 34) 2013 to 2018



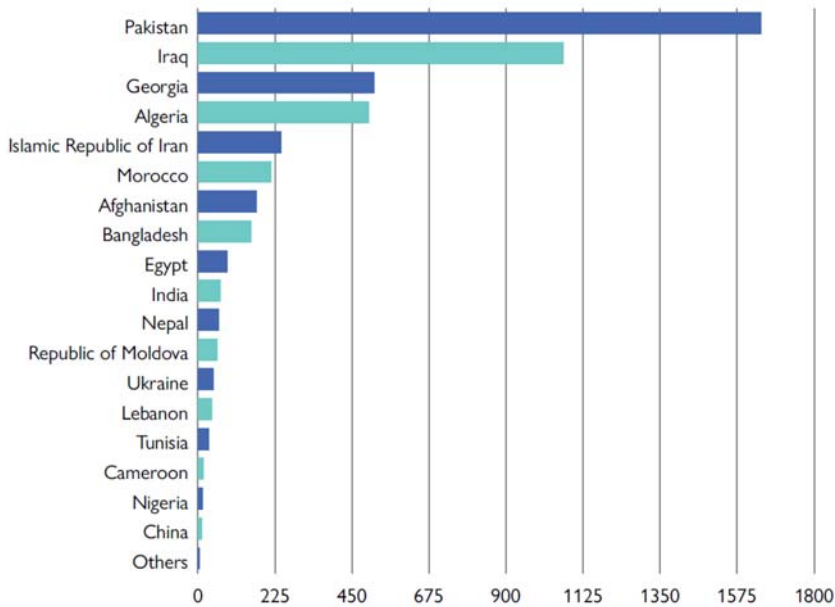
Source: Asylum Service/Ministry for Migration Policy (2018). *Asylum Procedures from 07.06.2013 to 31.12.2018*. Athens: Asylum Service/Ministry for Migration Policy [http://asylo.gov.gr/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/Dashboard\\_december\\_2018.pdf](http://asylo.gov.gr/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/Dashboard_december_2018.pdf)

Figure 14: Relocation Procedures



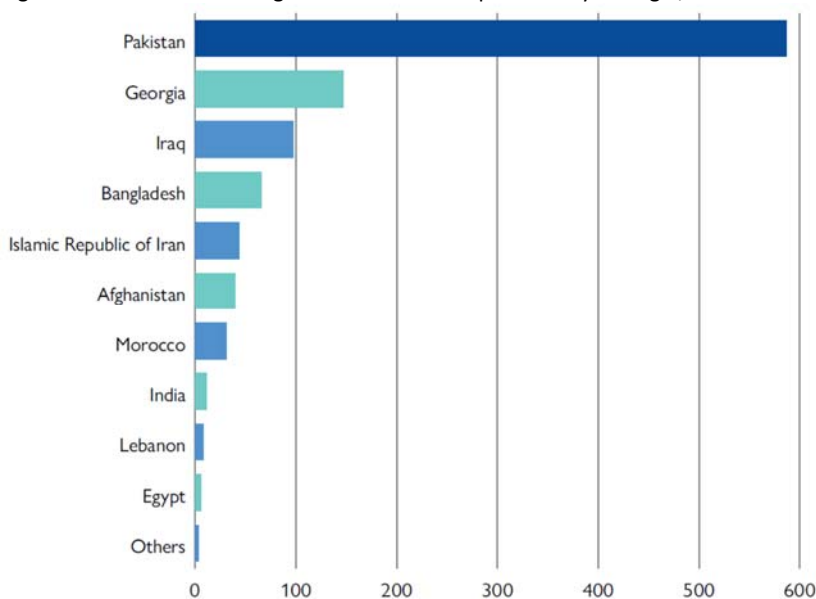
Source: Asylum Service/Ministry for Migration Policy (2018). *Asylum Procedures from 07.06.2013 to 31.12.2018*. Athens: Asylum Service/Ministry for Migration Policy [http://asylo.gov.gr/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/Dashboard\\_december\\_2018.pdf](http://asylo.gov.gr/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/Dashboard_december_2018.pdf)

Figure 15: Number of return beneficiaries per country of origin, June 2017-May 2018



Source: Flessa, A., Outsika, C., Mintzoli, K., Emmanouil, L. and Vanikioti, Z. (2018). *The Implementation of Assisted Voluntary Returns including Reintegration Measures (AVRR). Annual Report June 2017-May 8. Annual Report*. Athens: International Organization for Migration (IOM) - Office in Greece [https://publications.iom.int/system/files/pdf/iom\\_greece\\_avrr\\_booklet.pdf](https://publications.iom.int/system/files/pdf/iom_greece_avrr_booklet.pdf)

Figure 16: Number of reintegration beneficiaries per country of origin, June 2017-May 2018



Source: Flessa, A., Outsika, C., Mintzoli, K., Emmanouil, L. and Vanikioti, Z. (2018). *The Implementation of Assisted Voluntary Returns including Reintegration Measures (AVRR). Annual Report June 2017-May 8. Annual Report*. Athens: International Organization for Migration (IOM) - Office in Greece [https://publications.iom.int/system/files/pdf/iom\\_greece\\_avrr\\_booklet.pdf](https://publications.iom.int/system/files/pdf/iom_greece_avrr_booklet.pdf)

Figure 17: Migrants assisted with in-kind reintegration assistance, June 2017-May 2018



**976**  
Men

**226**  
Women

**1,118**

Migrants in situation of vulnerability

**2,186**

Counsellings sessions in IOM Greece

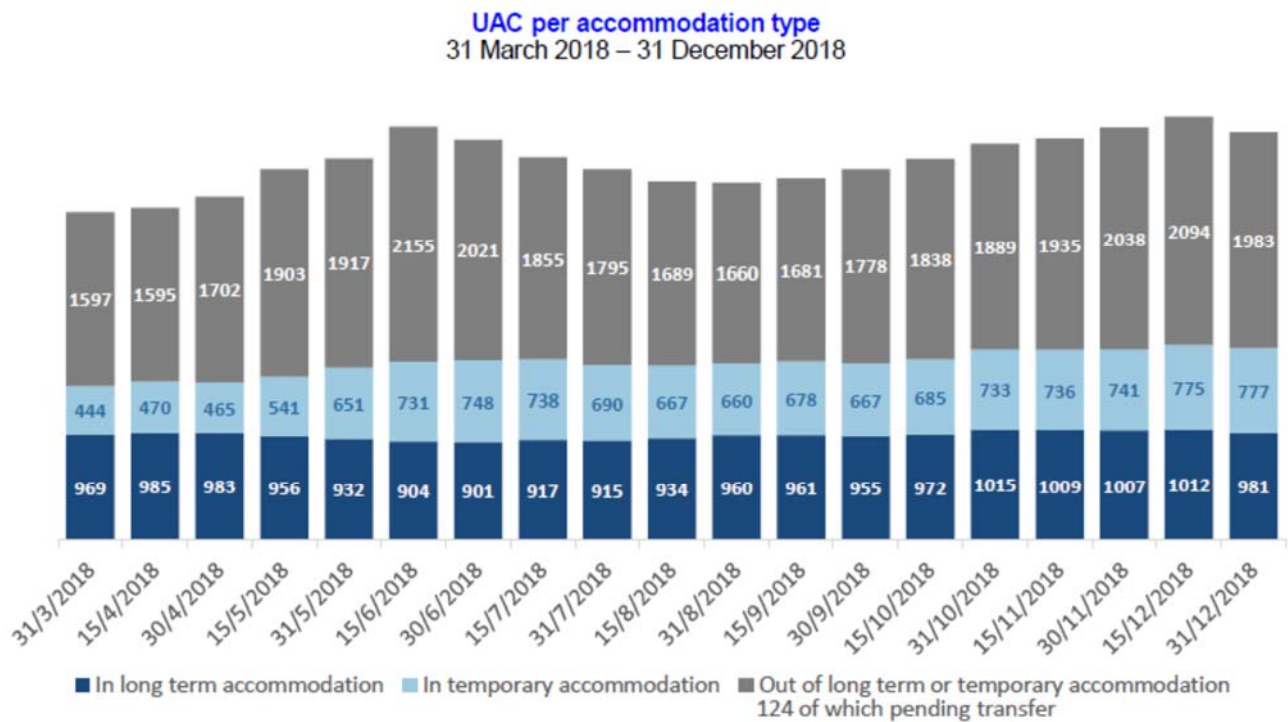
**2,390**

Registered migrants referred to IOM Greece Reintegration unit

Source: Flessa, A., Outsika, C., Mintzoli, K., Emmanouil, L. and Vanikioti, Z. (2018). *The Implementation of Assisted Voluntary Returns including Reintegration Measures (AVRR). Annual Report June 2017-May 8. Annual Report*. Athens: International Organization for Migration (IOM) - Office in Greece [https://publications.iom.int/system/files/pdf/iom\\_greece\\_avrr\\_booklet.pdf](https://publications.iom.int/system/files/pdf/iom_greece_avrr_booklet.pdf)

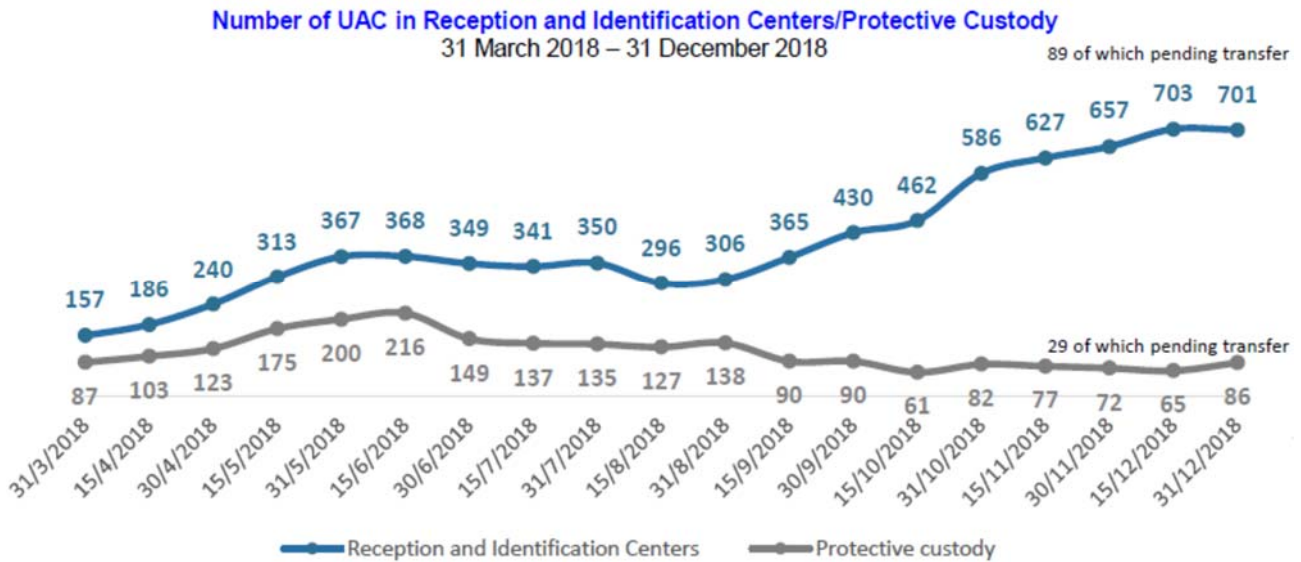
Situation Update: Unaccompanied Children (UAC) in Greece by 31 December 2018

Figure 18: UAC per accommodation type



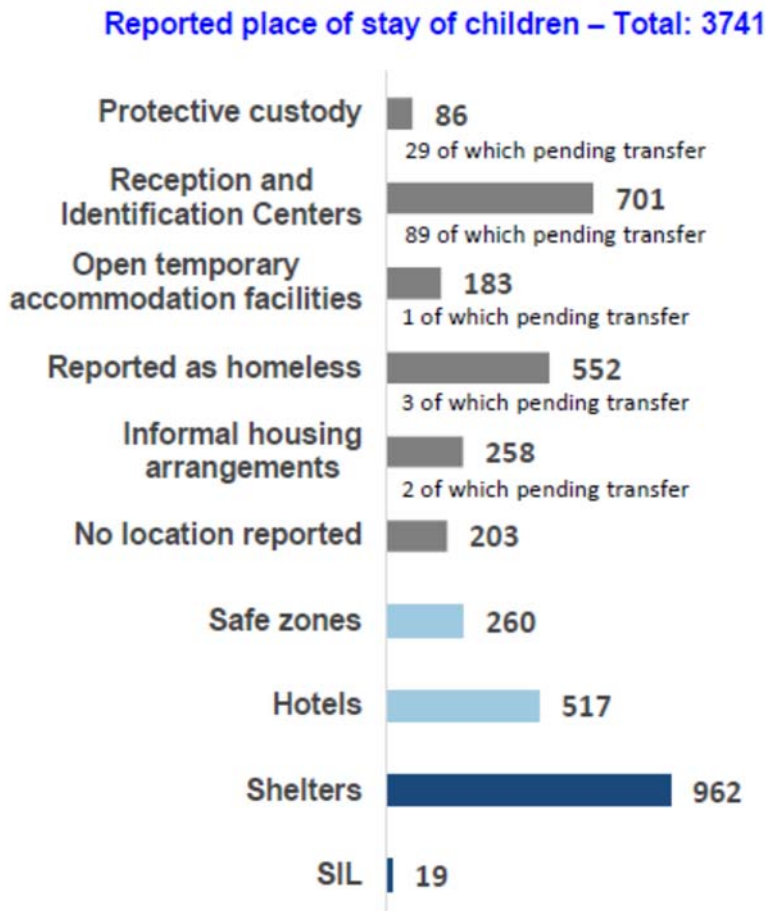
Source: National Center for Social Solidarity (EKKA) (2018). *Situation Update: Unaccompanied Children (UAC) in Greece: 31 March 2018-31 December 2018*. Athens: National Center for Social Solidarity (EKKA) with support from UNICEF. [http://www.ekka.org.gr/images/PDF\\_ARXΕΙΑ/ΠΑΡΕΜΒΑΣΕΩΝ/EKKA%20%2031-12-2018.pdf](http://www.ekka.org.gr/images/PDF_ARXΕΙΑ/ΠΑΡΕΜΒΑΣΕΩΝ/EKKA%20%2031-12-2018.pdf)

Figure 19: Number of UAC in Reception and Identification Centers/Protective Custody



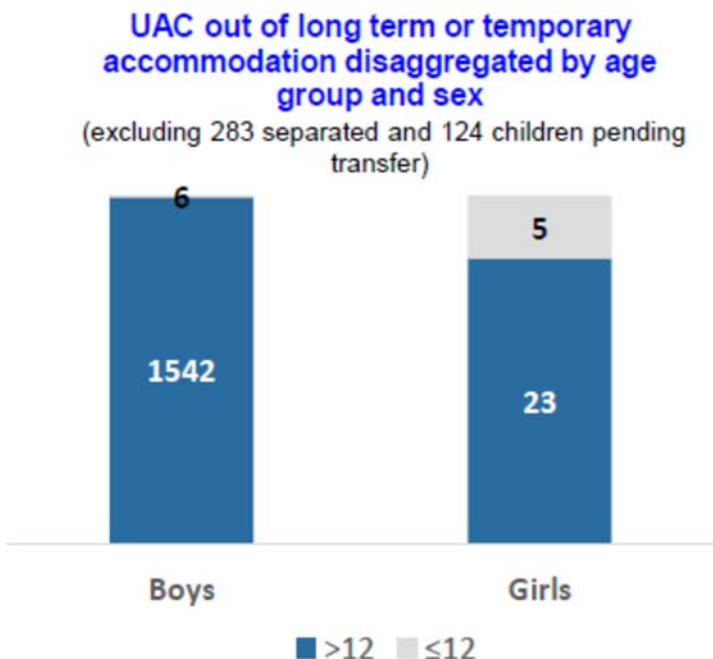
Source: National Center for Social Solidarity (EKKA) (2018). *Situation Update: Unaccompanied Children (UAC) in Greece: 31 March 2018-31 December 2018*. Athens: National Center for Social Solidarity (EKKA) with support from UNICEF. [http://www.ekka.org.gr/images/PDF\\_ARXΕΙΑ/ΠΑΡΕΜΒΑΣΕΩΝ/EKKA%20%2031-12-2018.pdf](http://www.ekka.org.gr/images/PDF_ARXΕΙΑ/ΠΑΡΕΜΒΑΣΕΩΝ/EKKA%20%2031-12-2018.pdf)

Figure 20: Reported place of stay of children – Total: 3.741



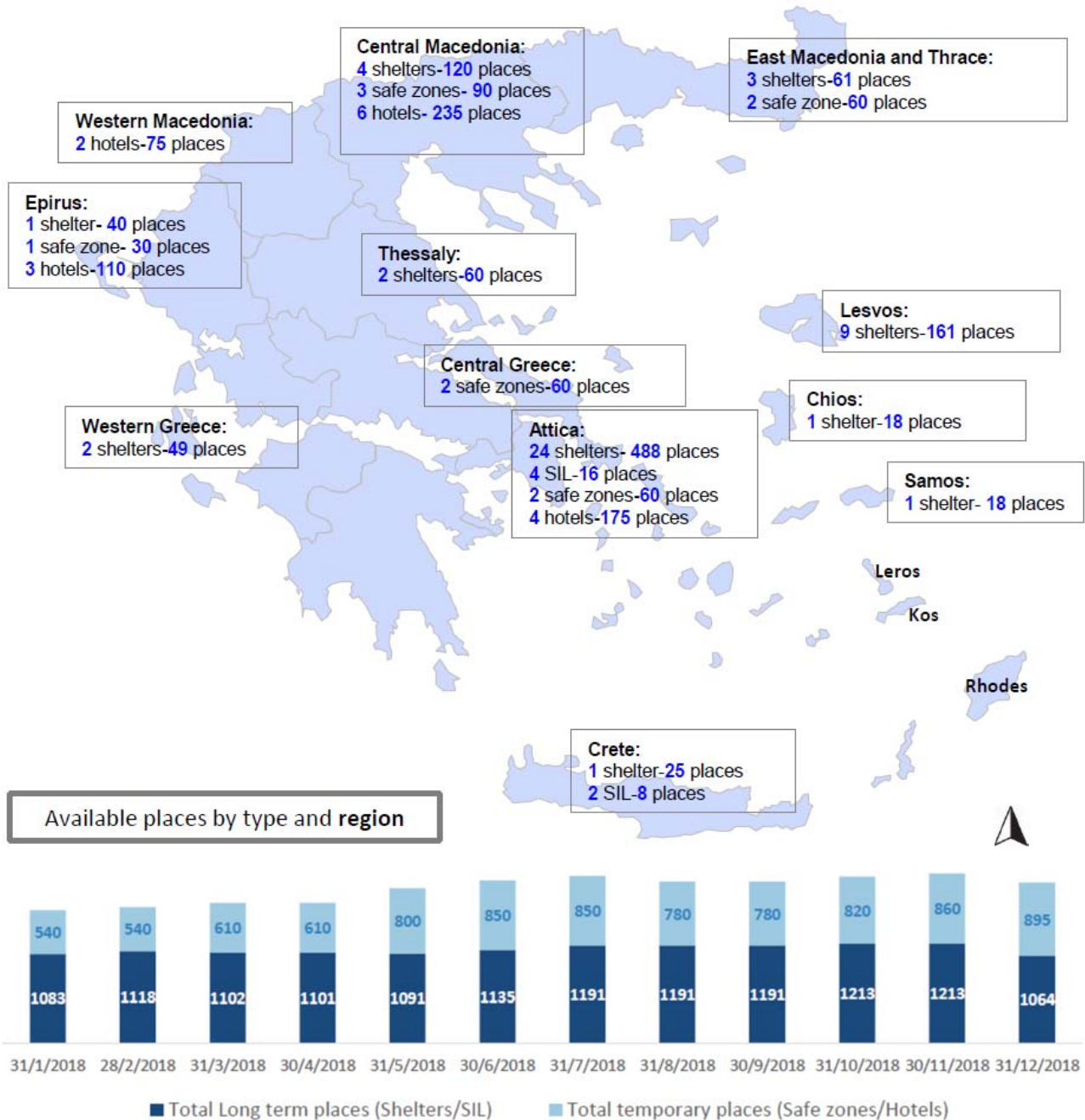
Source: National Center for Social Solidarity (EKKA) (2018). *Situation Update: Unaccompanied Children (UAC) in Greece: 31 March 2018-31 December 2018*. Athens: National Center for Social Solidarity (EKKA) with support from UNICEF. [http://www.ekka.org.gr/images/PDF\\_ARXEIA/ΠΑΡΕΜΒΑΣΕΩΝ/EKKA%20%2031-12-2018.pdf](http://www.ekka.org.gr/images/PDF_ARXEIA/ΠΑΡΕΜΒΑΣΕΩΝ/EKKA%20%2031-12-2018.pdf)

Figure 21: UAC out of long term or temporary accommodation disaggregated by age group and sex



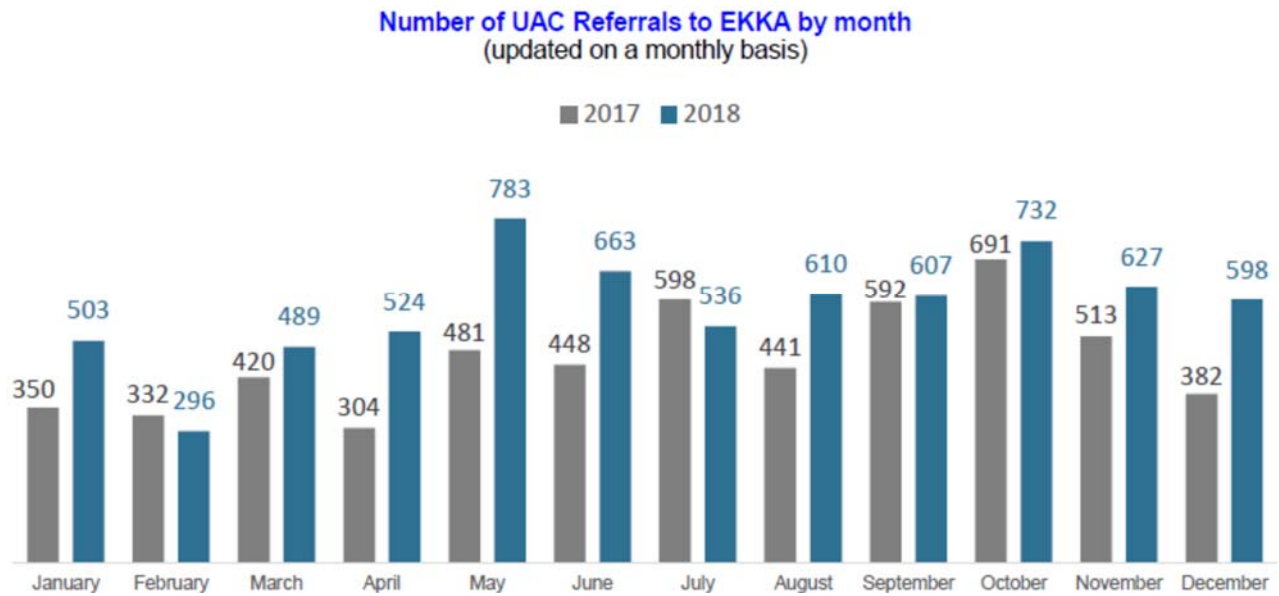
Source: National Center for Social Solidarity (EKKA) (2018). *Situation Update: Unaccompanied Children (UAC) in Greece: 31 March 2018-31 December 2018*. Athens: National Center for Social Solidarity (EKKA) with support from UNICEF. [http://www.ekka.org.gr/images/PDF\\_ARXEIA/ΠΑΡΕΜΒΑΣΕΩΝ/EKKA%20%2031-12-2018.pdf](http://www.ekka.org.gr/images/PDF_ARXEIA/ΠΑΡΕΜΒΑΣΕΩΝ/EKKA%20%2031-12-2018.pdf)

Figure 22: Number and places of UAC shelters, safe zones hotels



Source: National Center for Social Solidarity (EKKA) (2018). *Situation Update: Unaccompanied Children (UAC) in Greece: 31 March 2018-31 December 2018*. Athens: National Center for Social Solidarity (EKKA) with support from UNICEF. [http://www.ekka.org.gr/images/PDF\\_ARXEIA/ΠΑΡΕΜΒΑΣΕΩΝ/EKKA%20%2031-12-2018.pdf](http://www.ekka.org.gr/images/PDF_ARXEIA/ΠΑΡΕΜΒΑΣΕΩΝ/EKKA%20%2031-12-2018.pdf)

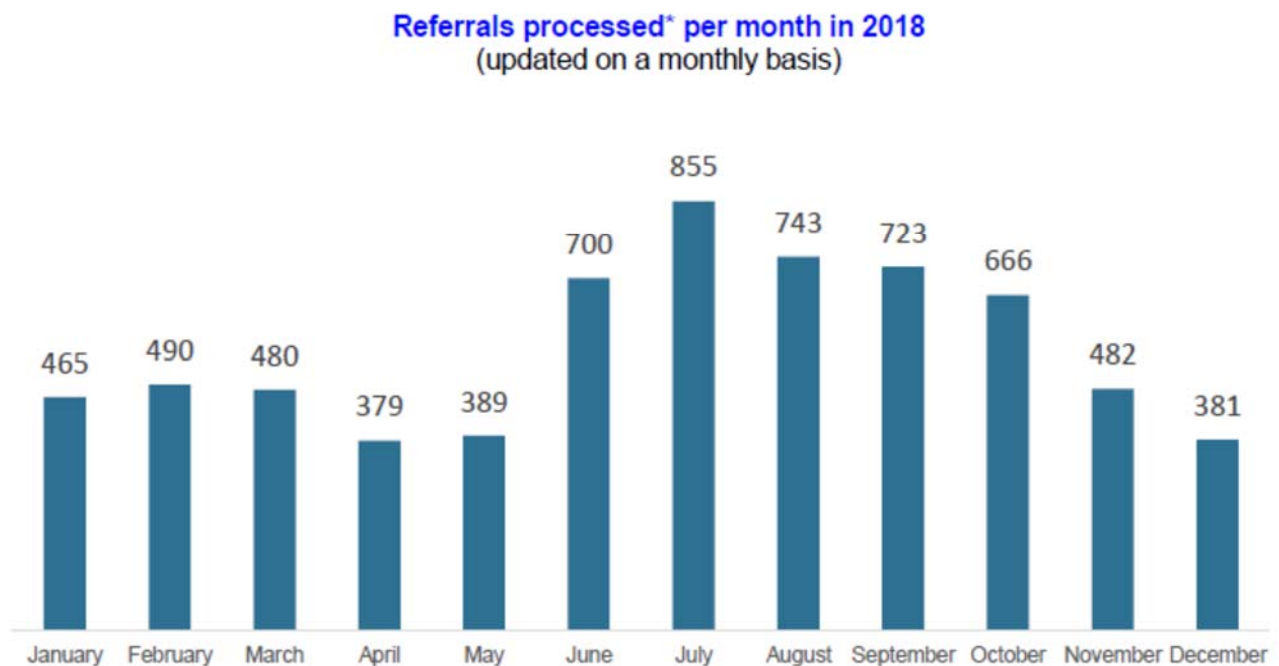
Figure 23: Total number of UAC referrals to EKKA by month



17.719: Total number of UAC referrals received between January 2016 and December 2018.

Source: National Center for Social Solidarity (EKKA) (2018). *Situation Update: Unaccompanied Children (UAC) in Greece: 31 March 2018-31 December 2018*. Athens: National Center for Social Solidarity (EKKA) with support from UNICEF. [http://www.ekka.org.gr/images/PDF\\_ARXEIA/ΠΑΡΕΜΒΑΣΕΩΝ/EKKA%20%2031-12-2018.pdf](http://www.ekka.org.gr/images/PDF_ARXEIA/ΠΑΡΕΜΒΑΣΕΩΝ/EKKA%20%2031-12-2018.pdf)

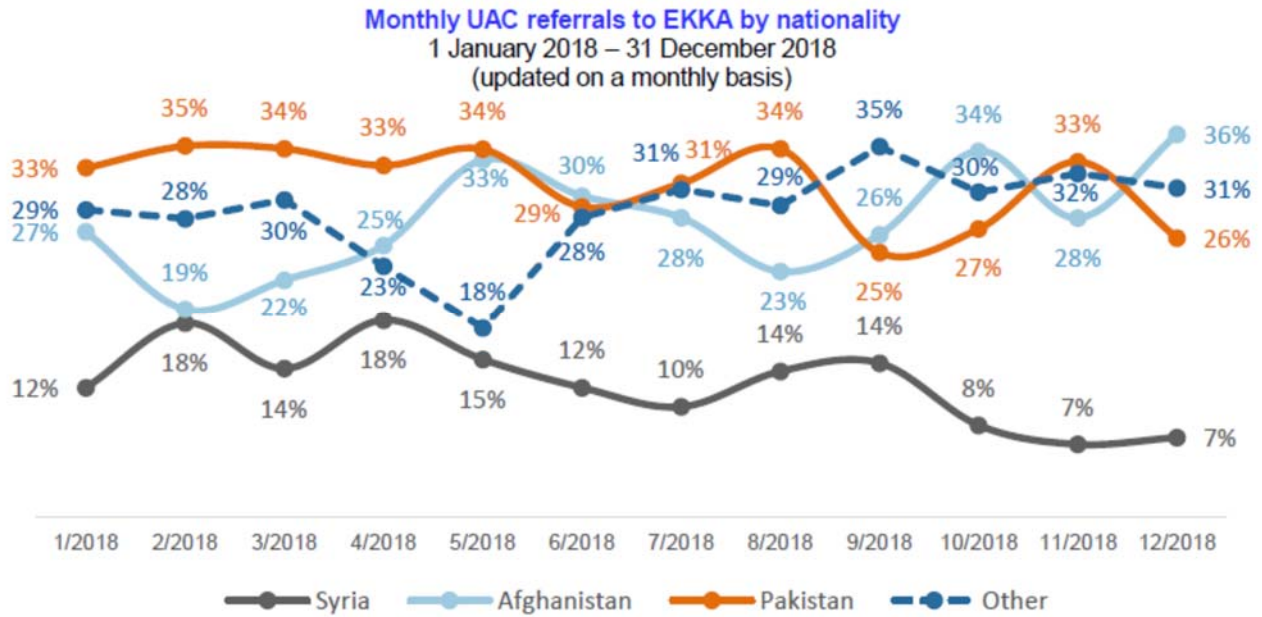
Figure 24: Referrals processed\* per month in 2018



\*Placement issued or referral cancelled upon verification

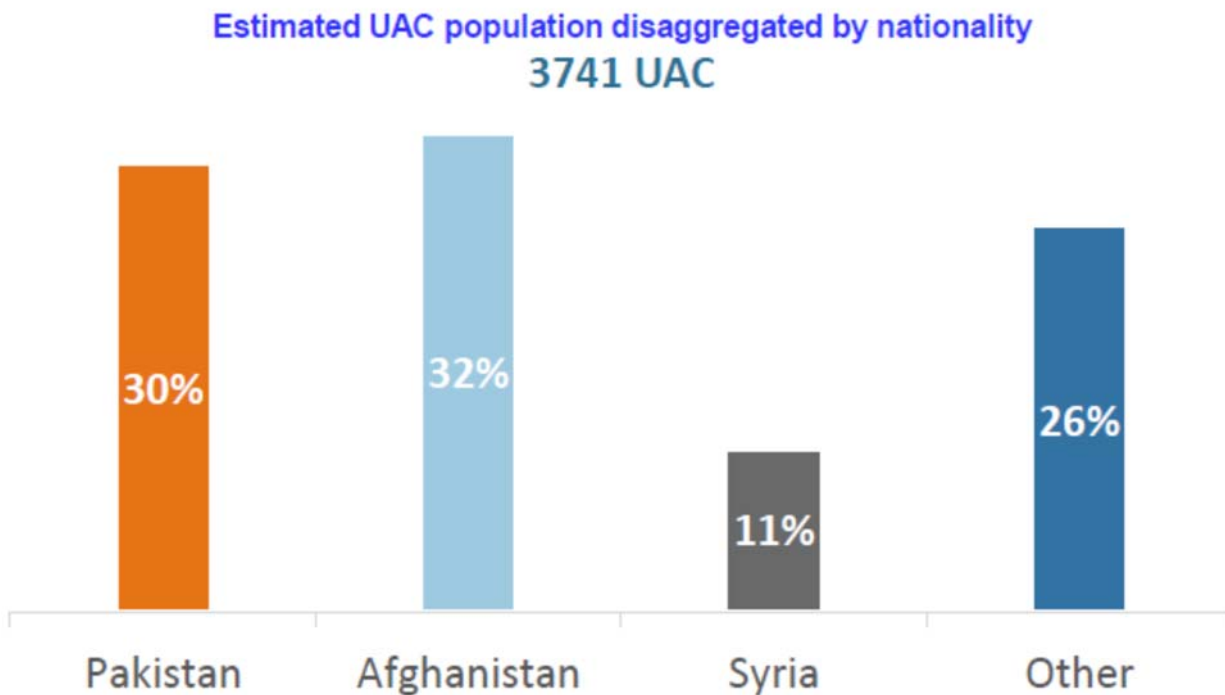
Source: National Center for Social Solidarity (EKKA) (2018). *Situation Update: Unaccompanied Children (UAC) in Greece: 31 March 2018-31 December 2018*. Athens: National Center for Social Solidarity (EKKA) with support from UNICEF. [http://www.ekka.org.gr/images/PDF\\_ARXEIA/ΠΑΡΕΜΒΑΣΕΩΝ/EKKA%20%2031-12-2018.pdf](http://www.ekka.org.gr/images/PDF_ARXEIA/ΠΑΡΕΜΒΑΣΕΩΝ/EKKA%20%2031-12-2018.pdf)

Figure 25: Monthly UAC referrals to EKKA by nationality



Source: National Center for Social Solidarity (EKKA) (2018). *Situation Update: Unaccompanied Children (UAC) in Greece: 31 March 2018-31 December 2018*. Athens: National Center for Social Solidarity (EKKA) with support from UNICEF. [http://www.ekka.org.gr/images/PDF\\_ARXEIA/ΠΑΡΕΜΒΑΣΕΩΝ/EKKA%20%2031-12-2018.pdf](http://www.ekka.org.gr/images/PDF_ARXEIA/ΠΑΡΕΜΒΑΣΕΩΝ/EKKA%20%2031-12-2018.pdf)

Figure 26: Estimated UAC population disaggregated by nationality



Source: National Center for Social Solidarity (EKKA) (2018). *Situation Update: Unaccompanied Children (UAC) in Greece: 31 March 2018-31 December 2018*. Athens: National Center for Social Solidarity (EKKA) with support from UNICEF. [http://www.ekka.org.gr/images/PDF\\_ARXEIA/ΠΑΡΕΜΒΑΣΕΩΝ/EKKA%20%2031-12-2018.pdf](http://www.ekka.org.gr/images/PDF_ARXEIA/ΠΑΡΕΜΒΑΣΕΩΝ/EKKA%20%2031-12-2018.pdf)



Statistics on human trafficking for 2018

Table 13: Cases – Victims – Perpetrators for 2018

Cases – Victims – Perpetrators for 2018	
CASES	<b>27</b>
VICTIMS	<b>30 (21 adults and 9 minors)</b>
PERPETRATORS	<b>128</b>

Source: Hellenic Police Headquarters/Ministry of Citizens Protection (2018). *Statistics on human trafficking for 2018*. Athens: Hellenic Police Headquarters/Ministry of Citizens Protection [http://www.astynomia.gr/images/stories/2018/statistics18/2018-emporia\\_anthropon.doc](http://www.astynomia.gr/images/stories/2018/statistics18/2018-emporia_anthropon.doc)

Table 14: Cases per kind of exploitation for 2018

Cases per kind of exploitation for 2018	
LABOUR EXPLOITATION	<b>1</b>
SEXUAL EXPLOITATION	<b>26</b>
TOTAL OF CASES	<b>27</b>

Source: Hellenic Police Headquarters/Ministry of Citizens Protection (2018). *Statistics on human trafficking for 2018*. Athens: Hellenic Police Headquarters/Ministry of Citizens Protection [http://www.astynomia.gr/images/stories/2018/statistics18/2018-emporia\\_anthropon.doc](http://www.astynomia.gr/images/stories/2018/statistics18/2018-emporia_anthropon.doc)

Table 15: Victims per gender and nationality for 2018

Victims per gender and nationality for 2018		
	MALE	FEMALE
ALBANIAN		<b>2</b>
AFGHAN	<b>2</b>	
BULGARIAN		<b>10</b>
GEORGIAN		<b>1</b>
GREEK	<b>1</b>	<b>4</b>
KAZAKHSTAN		<b>2</b>
BELARUS		<b>2</b>
UKRAINE		<b>1</b>
PAKISTANI	<b>1</b>	
ROMANIAN		<b>3</b>
RUSSIAN		<b>1</b>
Total of victims per gender	<b>4</b>	<b>26</b>
Total of victims	<b>30</b>	

Source: Hellenic Police Headquarters/Ministry of Citizens Protection (2018). *Statistics on human trafficking for 2018*. Athens: Hellenic Police Headquarters/Ministry of Citizens Protection [http://www.astynomia.gr/images/stories/2018/statistics18/2018-emporia\\_anthropon.doc](http://www.astynomia.gr/images/stories/2018/statistics18/2018-emporia_anthropon.doc)

Table 16: Victims per kind of exploitation and nationality for 2018

Victims per kind of exploitation and nationality for 2018		
Kind of exploitation/Nationality	LABOUR EXPLOITATION	SEXUAL EXPLOITATION
GREEK		<b>5</b>
ALBANIAN		<b>2</b>
AFGHAN		<b>2</b>
BULGARIAN		<b>10</b>
GEORGIAN		<b>1</b>
KAZAKHSTAN		<b>2</b>
BELARUS		<b>2</b>
UKRAINE		<b>1</b>
PAKISTANI	<b>1</b>	
ROMANIAN		<b>3</b>
RUSSIAN		<b>1</b>
Total of victims per kind of exploitation	<b>1</b>	<b>29</b>
Total of victims	<b>30</b>	

Source: Hellenic Police Headquarters/Ministry of Citizens Protection (2018). *Statistics on human trafficking for 2018*. Athens: Hellenic Police Headquarters/Ministry of Citizens Protection [http://www.astynomia.gr/images/stories/2018/statistics18/2018-emporia\\_anthropon.doc](http://www.astynomia.gr/images/stories/2018/statistics18/2018-emporia_anthropon.doc)

Table 17: Total of perpetrators per gender and nationality for 2018

Total of perpetrators per gender and nationality for 2018		
	MALE	FEMALE
UNKNOWN	11	
ALBANIAN	10	
AFGHAN	2	
BOSNIAN - HERZEGOVINIAN	1	
BULGARIAN	6	6
GERMAN		1
GEORGIAN	1	
GREEK	52	15
KAZAKSTAN		1
BELARUS		3
MOLDAVIAN		3
HUNGARIAN		1
UKRAINIAN		5
PAKISTANI	3	
ROMANIAN		1
RUSSIAN	1	4
SERBIAN	1	
Total of perpetrators per gender	88	40
Total of perpetrators	128	

Source: Hellenic Police Headquarters/Ministry of Citizens Protection (2018). *Statistics on human trafficking for 2018*. Athens: Hellenic Police Headquarters/Ministry of Citizens Protection [http://www.astynomia.gr/images/stories/2018/statistics18/2018-emporia\\_anthropon.doc](http://www.astynomia.gr/images/stories/2018/statistics18/2018-emporia_anthropon.doc)

Table 18: Perpetrators per kind of exploitation and nationality for 2018

Perpetrators per kind of exploitation and nationality for 2018		
Kind of exploitation/Nationality	LABOUR EXPLOITATION	SEXUAL EXPLOITATION
UNKNOWN		11
ALBANIAN		10
AFGHAN		2
BOSNIAN - HERZEGOVINIAN		1
BULGARIAN		12
GERMAN		1
GEORGIAN		1
GREEK		67
KAZAKSTAN		1
BELARUS		3
MOLDAVIAN		3
HUNGARIAN		1
UKRAINIAN		5
PAKISTANI	3	
ROMANIAN		1
RUSSIAN		5
SERBIAN		1
Total of perpetrators per kind of exploitation	3	125
Total of perpetrators	128	

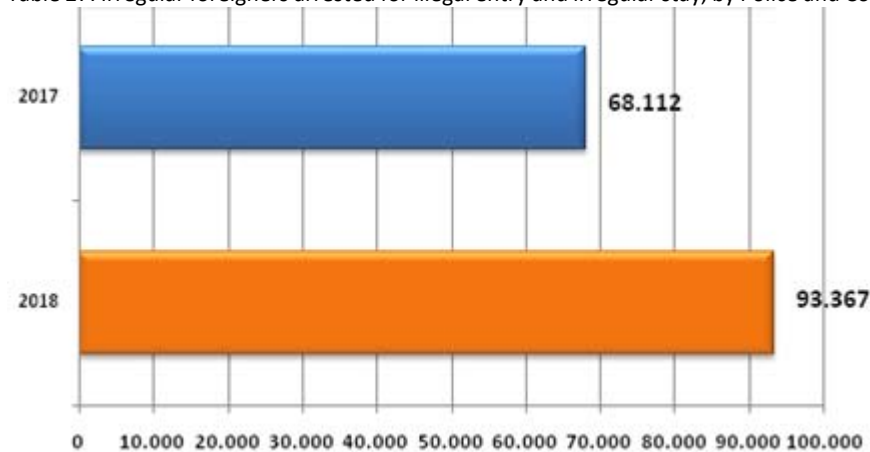
Source: Hellenic Police Headquarters/Ministry of Citizens Protection (2018). *Statistics on human trafficking for 2018*. Athens: Hellenic Police Headquarters/Ministry of Citizens Protection [http://www.astynomia.gr/images/stories/2018/statistics18/2018-emporia\\_anthropon.doc](http://www.astynomia.gr/images/stories/2018/statistics18/2018-emporia_anthropon.doc)

Table 19: Minor victims per gender, kind of exploitation and nationality for 2018

Minor victims per gender, kind of exploitation and nationality for 2018		
SEXUAL EXPLOITATION		
Nationality/Gender	MALE	FEMALE
BULGARIAN		5
GREEK	1	2
ALBANIAN		1
TOTAL	1	8
Total of minor victims	9	

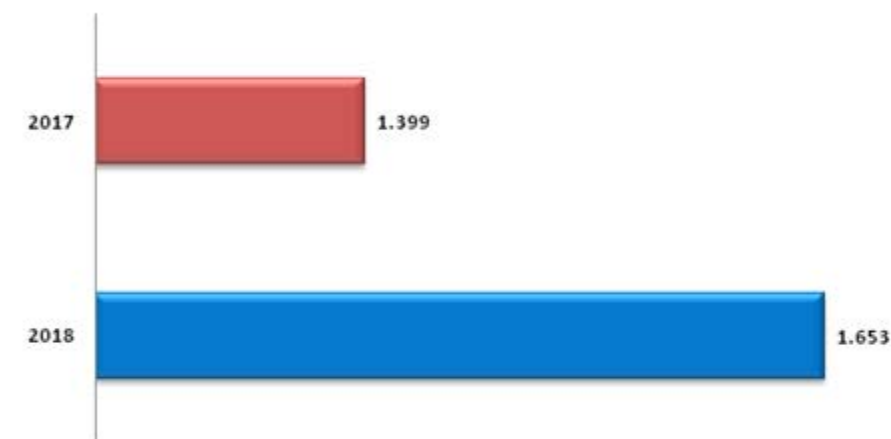
Source: Hellenic Police Headquarters/Ministry of Citizens Protection (2018). *Statistics on human trafficking for 2018*. Athens: Hellenic Police Headquarters/Ministry of Citizens Protection [http://www.astynomia.gr/images/stories/2018/statistics18/2018-emporia\\_anthropon.doc](http://www.astynomia.gr/images/stories/2018/statistics18/2018-emporia_anthropon.doc)

Table 27: Irregular foreigners arrested for illegal entry and irregular stay, by Police and Coast Guard Authorities during 2017 and 2018



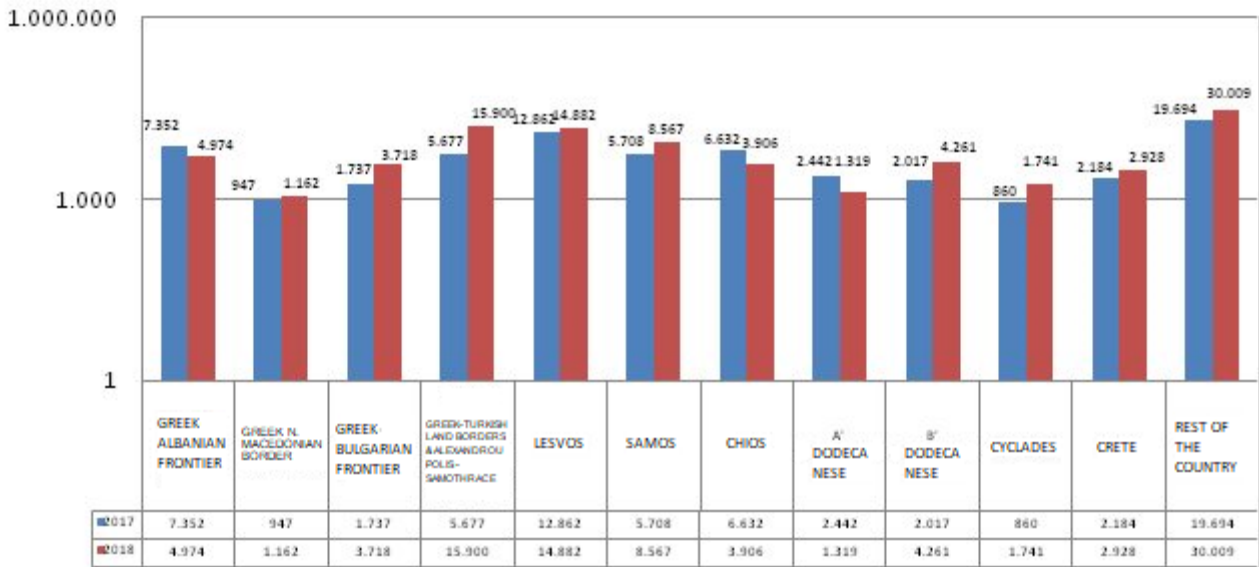
Source: Hellenic Police Headquarters (2018). *Statistics on irregular migration*. Athens: Hellenic Police Headquarters/Ministry of Citizens Protection [http://www.astynomia.gr/index.php?option=ozo\\_content&perform=view&id=78538&Itemid=73&lang=](http://www.astynomia.gr/index.php?option=ozo_content&perform=view&id=78538&Itemid=73&lang=)

Table 28: Smugglers of illegal foreigners arrested from Police and Coast Guard Authorities during 2017 and 2018



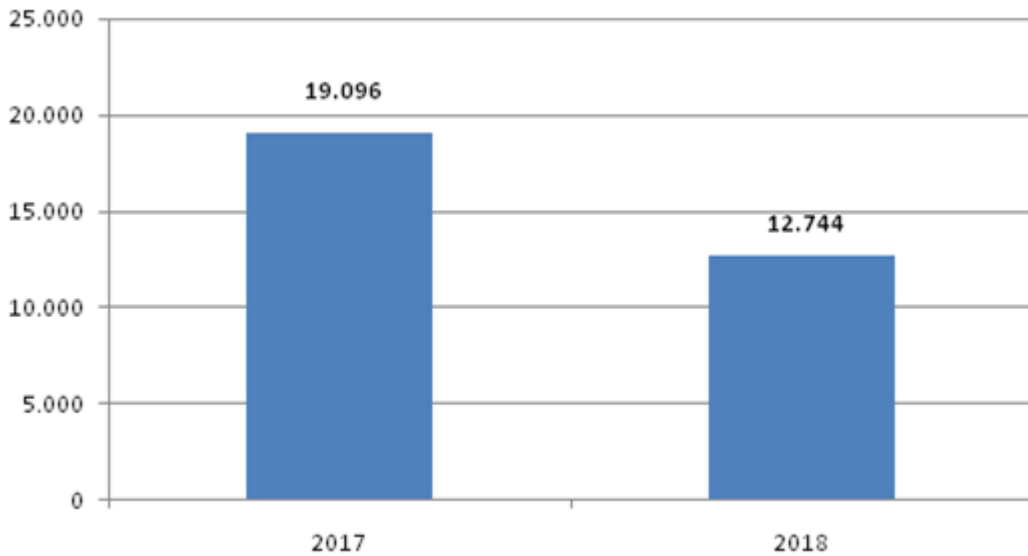
Source: Hellenic Police Headquarters (2018). *Statistics on irregular migration*. Athens: Hellenic Police Headquarters/Ministry of Citizens Protection [http://www.astynomia.gr/index.php?option=ozo\\_content&perform=view&id=78538&Itemid=73&lang=](http://www.astynomia.gr/index.php?option=ozo_content&perform=view&id=78538&Itemid=73&lang=)

Table 29: Irregular foreigners arrested for illegal entry and irregular stay, per border, by police and Coast Guard Authorities during 2017 and 2018



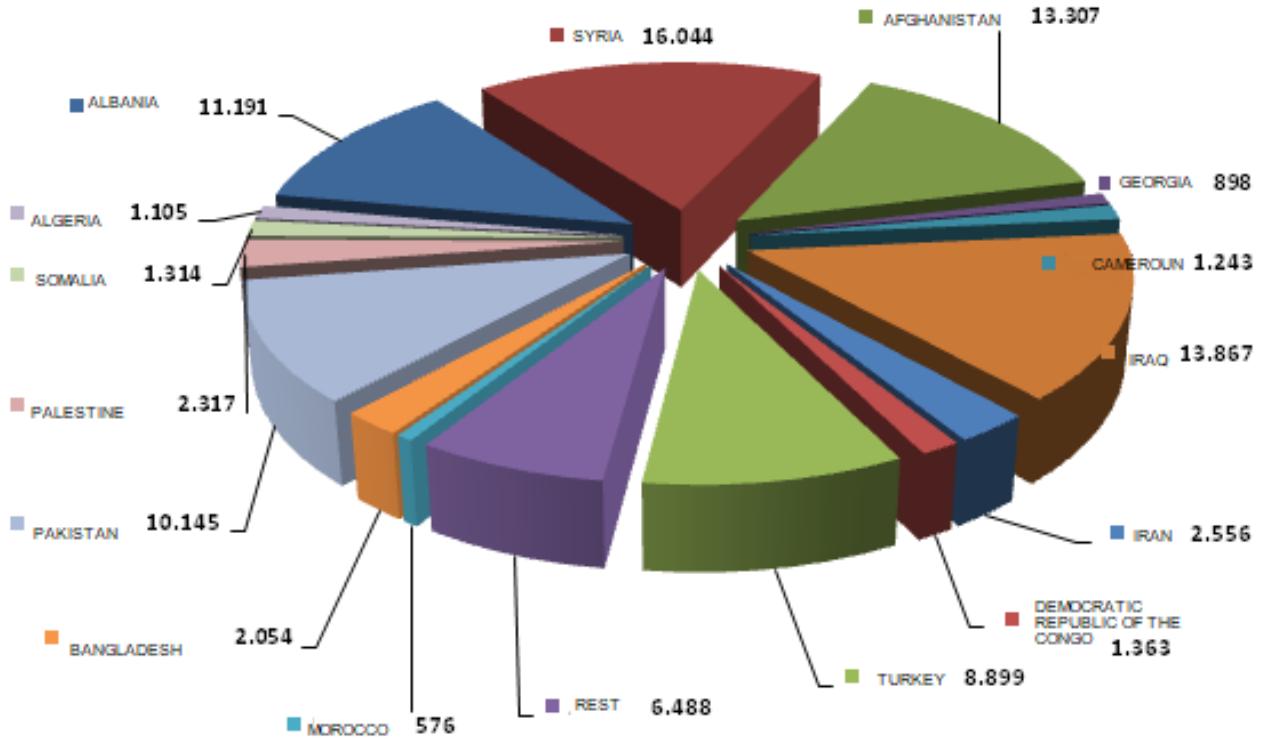
Source: Hellenic Police Headquarters  
[http://www.astynomia.gr/images/stories//2018/statistics18/allodapwn/12\\_statistics\\_all\\_2018\\_methorio.png](http://www.astynomia.gr/images/stories//2018/statistics18/allodapwn/12_statistics_all_2018_methorio.png)  
 Hellenic Police Headquarters/Ministry of Citizens Protection (2018). *Statistics on irregular migration*. Athens: Hellenic Police Headquarters/Ministry of Citizens Protection  
[http://www.astynomia.gr/index.php?option=ozo\\_content&perform=view&id=78538&Itemid=73&lang=](http://www.astynomia.gr/index.php?option=ozo_content&perform=view&id=78538&Itemid=73&lang=)

Figure 30: Forced returns of irregular foreigners during 2017 and 2018



Source: Hellenic Police Headquarters  
[http://www.astynomia.gr/images/stories//2018/statistics18/allodapwn/12\\_statistics\\_all\\_2018\\_apelaseis.png](http://www.astynomia.gr/images/stories//2018/statistics18/allodapwn/12_statistics_all_2018_apelaseis.png)  
 Hellenic Police Headquarters/Ministry of Citizens Protection (2018). *Statistics on irregular migration*. Athens: Hellenic Police Headquarters/Ministry of Citizens Protection  
[http://www.astynomia.gr/index.php?option=ozo\\_content&perform=view&id=78538&Itemid=73&lang=](http://www.astynomia.gr/index.php?option=ozo_content&perform=view&id=78538&Itemid=73&lang=)

Figure 31: Irregular foreigners arrested for illegal entry and irregular stay by nationality in 2018




Source: Hellenic Police Headquarters  
[http://www.astynomia.gr/images/stories/2018/statistics18/allodapwn/12\\_statistics\\_all\\_2018\\_sull\\_yphkoothta.png](http://www.astynomia.gr/images/stories/2018/statistics18/allodapwn/12_statistics_all_2018_sull_yphkoothta.png)  
 Hellenic Police Headquarters/Ministry of Citizens Protection (2018). *Statistics on irregular migration*. Athens: Hellenic Police Headquarters/Ministry of Citizens Protection [http://www.astynomia.gr/index.php?option=ozo\\_content&perform=view&id=78538&Itemid=73&lang=](http://www.astynomia.gr/index.php?option=ozo_content&perform=view&id=78538&Itemid=73&lang=)

**EUROPEAN MIGRATION NETWORK • ANNUAL REPORT 2018  
ON MIGRATION AND ASYLUM IN GREECE • NATIONAL REPORT • PART 2 AND STATISTICAL ANNEX**

Table 20: Presentation of the national situation regarding the refugee/migrant issue on 31/12/2018 – Picture of the situation of the East Aegean islands on Monday 31 December 2018

Athens, 1/1/2019



**HELLENIC REPUBLIC  
MINISTRY OF CITIZEN PROTECTION  
NATIONAL COORDINATION CENTER FOR  
BORDER CONTROL, IMMIGRATION AND  
ASYLUM (N.C.C.B.C.I.A.)**

**NATIONAL SITUATIONAL PICTURE REGARDING THE ISLANDS AT EASTERN AEGEAN SEA (31/12/2018)**

PLACE/LOCATION	LESVOS		CHIOS		SAMOS		LEROS		KOS		OTHER ISLANDS		TOTAL	
	OCC.	CAP.	OCC.	CAP.	OCC.	CAP.	OCC.	CAP.	OCC.	CAP.	OCC.	CAP.	OCC.	CAP.
R.I.C.	5010	3100	1252	1014	3723	648	936	860	762	816			11683	6438
OTHER ACCOMODATION FACILITIES	1115						117	120					1232	
HELLENIC POLICE FACILITIES	49	210							64	500			113	710
P.D.C.			15		9		8		0		9		41	
DETENTION FACILITIES	0													
U.N.H.C.R.	545	718	240	271	192	252	104	116	168	189	42	54	1291	1600
N.C.S.S.	146	171	12	18	12	18							170	207
OTHER N.G.O.s	85	100											85	
MAKESHIFT CAMPS	0		0		0		0		0		0		0	
<b>MIGRANTS PRESENT ON THE ISLAND</b>	<b>6950</b>		<b>1519</b>		<b>3936</b>		<b>1165</b>		<b>994</b>		<b>51</b>		<b>14615</b>	
ARRIVALS	36		0		0		0		0		75		111	
TRANSPORTS TO THE MAINLAND	8		0		0		0		0		0		8	
DEPARTURES (EU-TURKEY STATEMENT)	0		0		0		0		0		0		0	
DEPARTURES (I.O.M.)	0		0		0		0		0		0		0	
<b>TOTAL DEPARTURES FROM THE ISLAND</b>	<b>0</b>		<b>0</b>		<b>0</b>		<b>0</b>		<b>0</b>		<b>0</b>		<b>0</b>	

CAP. CAPACITY  
OCC. OCCUPANCY  
R.I.C. RECEPTION AND IDENTIFICATION CENTRE  
N.C.S.S. NATIONAL CENTRE FOR SOCIAL SOLIDARITY  
P.D.C. PREDEPARTURE DETENTION CENTRE

Source: Ministry of Citizen Protection/National Coordination Center for Border Control, Immigration and Asylum (NCCBCIA) (2018). *National Situational Picture Regarding the Islands at Eastern Aegean Sea (31/12/2018)*. Athens: Ministry of Digital Policy, Telecommunications and Media <http://mindigital.gr/index.php/προσφυγικό-ζήτημα-refugee-crisis/3347-national-situational-picture-regarding-the-islands-at-eastern-aegean-sea-31-12-2018>

Statistical Data of the Greek Asylum Service– Relocation Procedures (As of 30/03/2018)

Table 21: Relocation -take charge- Requests (As of 30/03/2018)

Relocation -take charge- Requests	
Gender	Up to 30.3.2018
Men	14052
Women	10859
<b>Total</b>	<b>24911</b>

Source: Asylum Service/Ministry for Migration Policy (2018). *Asylum Service Statistical data – Relocation Procedures (30.03.18 FINAL)*. Athens: Asylum Service/Ministry for Migration Policy [http://asylo.gov.gr/en/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/Relocation-procedures-up-to-25-3-2018\\_en.pdf](http://asylo.gov.gr/en/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/Relocation-procedures-up-to-25-3-2018_en.pdf)

Table 22: Nationalities (As of 30/03/2018)

Nationalities	Up to 30.3.2018
Syria	19584
Iraq	4214
Eritrea	186
Stateless	231
Yemen	88
Central African Republic	2
Iran	2
Palestine	603
Burundi	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>24911</b>

Source: Asylum Service/Ministry for Migration Policy (2018). *Asylum Service Statistical data – Relocation Procedures (30.03.18 FINAL)*. Athens: Asylum Service/Ministry for Migration Policy [http://asylo.gov.gr/en/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/Relocation-procedures-up-to-30-3-2018\\_en.pdf](http://asylo.gov.gr/en/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/Relocation-procedures-up-to-30-3-2018_en.pdf)

Table 23: Age groups (as of 30/03/2018)

Age Groups	Up to 30.3.2018	%
0-13	9534	38,3%
14-17	1713	6,9%
18-34	9500	38,1%
35-64	3998	16,0%
65 and over	166	0,7%
<b>Total</b>	<b>24911</b>	<b>100%</b>

Source: Asylum Service/Ministry for Migration Policy (2018). *Asylum Service Statistical data – Relocation Procedures (30.03.18 FINAL)*. Athens: Asylum Service/Ministry for Migration Policy [http://asylo.gov.gr/en/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/Relocation-procedures-up-to-30-3-2018\\_en.pdf](http://asylo.gov.gr/en/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/Relocation-procedures-up-to-30-3-2018_en.pdf)

Table 24: Relocation procedures (as of 30/03/2018)

Relocation Procedures (up to 30.3.2018 )	
Total number of relocation applications registered by the Asylum Service (up to 30.3.2018 )	27460
Relocation Requests (up to 30.3.2018 ) <sup>1</sup>	24911
<b>Acceptances (up to 30.3.2018 )</b>	<b>22822</b>

Source: Asylum Service/Ministry for Migration Policy (2018). *Asylum Service Statistical data – Relocation Procedures (30.03.18 FINAL)*. Athens: Asylum Service/Ministry for Migration Policy [http://asylo.gov.gr/en/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/Relocation-procedures-up-to-30-3-2018\\_en.pdf](http://asylo.gov.gr/en/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/Relocation-procedures-up-to-30-3-2018_en.pdf)

<sup>1</sup>Asylum Service does not submit relocation files when either security issues or issues of nationality are in doubt

Table 25: Implementation of relocation requests analysis (as of 30/03/2018)

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	5897	0	119	5437	5391	0	39	0
Hungary	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ireland	1132	1116	0	68	1037	1022	5	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	1755	0	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	1124	0	12	3
Sweden	2378	1682	0	7	1665	1656	0	6	0
Switzerland	600	656	0	58	595	580	0	4	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>30836</b>	<b>24911</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1311</b>	<b>22822</b>	<b>21999</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>410</b>	<b>149</b>

Source: Asylum Service/Ministry for Migration Policy (2018). *Asylum Service Statistical data – Relocation Procedures (30.03.18 FINAL)*. Athens: Asylum Service/Ministry for Migration Policy [http://asylo.gov.gr/en/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/Relocation-procedures-up-to-30-3-2018\\_en.pdf](http://asylo.gov.gr/en/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/Relocation-procedures-up-to-30-3-2018_en.pdf)

Table 26: Relocation Procedures Overview (as of 30/03/2018)

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	12902	11432	8019	7693	7192	1544	4656
2017	1/1/2017	31/12/2017	11429	12519	15165	14732	14432	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
Week 119	15/1/2018	21/1/2018	0	0	1	1	1	21	303
Week 120	22/1/2018	28/1/2018	0	0	18	18	18	21	285
Week 121	29/1/2018	4/2/2018	0	0	0	0	0	21	285
Week 122	5/2/2018	11/2/2018	0	0	37	37	37	21	248
Week 123	12/2/2018	18/2/2018	0	0	1	1	1	21	247
Week 124	19/2/2018	25/2/2018	0	0	49	49	49	21	198
Week 125	26/2/2018	4/3/2018	0	0	0	0	0	21	198
Week 126	5/3/2018	11/3/2018	1	2	29	29	29	20	170
Week 127	12/3/2018	18/3/2018	1	21	1	1	1	0	151
Week 128	19/3/2018	25/3/2018	1	1	147	147	146	0	5
Week 129	19/3/2018	25/3/2018	0	0	5	5	5	0	0
<b>Total</b>			<b>24911</b>	<b>24133</b>	<b>23600</b>	<b>22822</b>	<b>21999</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

Source: Asylum Service/Ministry for Migration Policy (2018). *Asylum Service Statistical data – Relocation Procedures (30.03.18 FINAL)*. Athens: Asylum Service/Ministry for Migration Policy [http://asylo.gov.gr/en/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/Relocation-procedures-up-to-30-3-2018\\_en.pdf](http://asylo.gov.gr/en/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/Relocation-procedures-up-to-30-3-2018_en.pdf)

(\*) 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)



Table 27: – Relocation Procedures (as of 30/03/2018)

Pledges	Relocation -take charge- Requests	Acceptances	Rejections	Relocation Applicants Included in Scheduled Flights	Dublin Associated Family Members of Applicants Included in Scheduled Flights (*)
30836	24911	22822	1311	21999	20

Source: Asylum Service/Ministry for Migration Policy (2018). *Asylum Service Statistical data – Relocation Procedures (30.03.18 FINAL)*. Athens: Asylum Service/Ministry for Migration Policy [http://asylo.gov.gr/en/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/Relocation-procedures-up-to-30-3-2018\\_en.pdf](http://asylo.gov.gr/en/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/Relocation-procedures-up-to-30-3-2018_en.pdf)

(\*) Family Members associated with Relocation Applicants according to Dublin Regulation Provisions of Family Reunification.

Table 28: Implemented Relocation Transfers (as of 30/03/2018)

Implemented Relocation Transfers (Up to 30.3.2018 )	
Men	12353
Women	9646
<b>Total</b>	<b>21999</b>

Source: Asylum Service/Ministry for Migration Policy (2018). *Asylum Service Statistical data – Relocation Procedures (30.03.18 FINAL)*. Athens: Asylum Service/Ministry for Migration [http://asylo.gov.gr/en/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/Relocation-procedures-up-to-30-3-2018\\_en.pdf](http://asylo.gov.gr/en/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/Relocation-procedures-up-to-30-3-2018_en.pdf)

ANNEX D: REFERENCES

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ON MIGRATION AND ASYLUM IN GREECE • NATIONAL REPORT • PART 2 AND STATISTICAL ANNEX

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