



EUROPEAN MIGRATION NETWORK STUDY 2020

Accurate, timely, interoperable?
Data management in the asylum procedure

National Report: Greece

Theodoros Fouskas
George Koulierakis
Fotini-Maria Mine
Andrea De Maio



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

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EUROPEAN MIGRATION NETWORK • STUDY 2020:1
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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:

www.emn.europa.eu

or on the Greek website:

<http://emn.immigration.gov.gr>

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Abbreviations

EASO	European Asylum Support Office
EMN	European Migration Network
EU	European Union
JMD	Joint Ministerial Decision
PD	Presidential Decree
ALC	Act of Legislative Content
TCN	Third Country National
GG	Government Gazette

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National Contribution from Greece¹

Disclaimer: The following information has been provided primarily for the purpose of contributing to a synthesis report for this EMN study. The EMN NCP has provided information that is, to the best of its knowledge, up-to-date, objective and reliable within the context and confines of this study. The information may thus not provide a complete description and may not represent the entirety of the official policy of the EMN NCPs' Member State.

Top-line "Factsheet"

The top-line factsheet will serve as an overview of the **national reports** introducing the study and drawing out key facts and figures from across all sections, with a particular emphasis on elements that will be of relevance to (national) policy-makers.

Please provide a concise summary of the main findings of Sections 0-7:

The National Report for Greece conducted in the framework of the Study 2020:1 of the European Migration Network (EMN). The study aims at covering different phases of the asylum procedure, beginning from the moment a person makes his or her asylum application until the first instance decision is made. It focuses, on the one hand, on data collected by various actors involved in the asylum procedure. On the other hand, the study also covers data collected in the context of the asylum procedure but meant for other purposes than the asylum procedure itself (e.g. information on language skills used to better plan and coordinate integration and language courses; information on previous qualifications in order to smoothen labour market integration etc.). In the years of high influx of asylum seekers in the EU (2015-2016) several Member States experienced major challenges with regard to their capacities to register asylum seekers as well as with subsequent data management across different databases within their respective asylum authorities and with regard to other authorities linked to the asylum procedure and reception of asylum applicants². 'Application for international protection' is defined as a request made by a third-country national or a stateless person for protection from a Member State, who can be understood to seek refugee status or subsidiary protection status, and who does not explicitly request another kind of protection, outside the scope of Directive 2011/95/EU (Recast Qualification Directive), that can be applied for separately³. A smooth and fast registration and identification procedure and ensuring the accuracy of the information collected, are essential aspects of a functioning asylum procedure. An effective asylum system relies on the collection of timely information that could appropriately channel asylum applicants into the right track, as well as on accurate and reliable information that could inform subsequent asylum decisions. Similarly, the smooth transmission of information to relevant authorities as well as the interoperability of databases where this information is collected avoid duplication and contribute to the efficiency of the asylum system. Finally, the use of information collected during different phases of the asylum procedure to inform further related steps of the process (including the Dublin procedure) reception conditions, and to inform future planning for the migration system (including integration and possibly return) increase the preparedness of the migration system overall.

Section 0 lists any significant changes/reforms introduced by Greece related to data management due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Section 1, provides an introductory section and serves as a first overview to better understand the procedures on data management. Section 2 presents information on asylum seekers making an asylum application to an authority that is not competent to register an asylum application.

¹ Replace highlighted text with your **Member State** name here.

² See European Migration Network (EMN) (2018). Changing Influx of Asylum Seekers 2014-2016, Synthesis Report. Brussels: EMN/European Commission: https://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/sites/homeaffairs/files/00_eu_changing_influx_study_synthesis_final_en.pdf and Hatzopoulos, V., Fouskas, T., Grigoriou, P., Gerassimos, Karabelias, Kazanas, K., Mine, F., de Maio, A., Novak, C. and Pechliidi, G. (2017). The Changing Influx of Asylum Seekers in 2014-2016: Member State Responses. Athens: European Public Law Organization (EPLO)/Hellenic Ministry for Migration Policy/European Commission/European Migration Network (EMN). In English <http://emn.immigration.gov.gr/en/repository/send/27-2017/50-3rd-focused-study-2017-el-changing-influx-of-asylum-seekers-2014-2016> and in Greek <http://emn.immigration.gov.gr/el/meletes/send/26-2017/49-3i-meleti-2017-allagi-sti-roi-ton-aitovnton-asylo-2014-2016-oi-empeiries-ton-kraton-melon>

³See UNHCR (2018). Discussion Paper Fair and Fast – Accelerated and Simplified Procedures in the European Union, <https://www.refworld.org/pdfid/5b589eef4.pdf>; European Migration Network (2018). Glossary 6.0. Brussels: European Migration Network https://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/what-we-do/networks/european_migration_network/glossary_search/seasonal-worker_en; European Migration Network (EMN) (2017). Challenges and practices for establishing the identity of third-country nationals in migration procedures, Synthesis Report. Brussels: EMN/European Commission: https://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/sites/homeaffairs/files/00_eu_changing_influx_study_synthesis_final_en.pdf; Hatzopoulos, V., Fouskas, T., Mine, F.-M., DeMaio, A. and Novak, C. Challenges and practices for establishing applicants' identity in the migration process. Athens: European Public Law Organization (EPLO)/Hellenic Ministry for Migration Policy/European Commission/European Migration Network. In English <http://emn.immigration.gov.gr/en/repository/send/27-2017/58-1rd-focused-study-2017-el> and in Greek <http://emn.immigration.gov.gr/el/meletes/send/26-2017/57-1i-meleti-tou-edm-2017-prokliseis-kai-praktikes-ton-kraton-melon-kata-ti-diadikasia-taftopoiisis-ton-vpikoon-triton-xoron>; European Asylum Support Office (EASO) (2019). EASO Guidance on asylum procedure: Operational standards and indicators. EASO Practical Guides Series. Luxembourg: Publications Office of the European Union https://easo.europa.eu/sites/default/files/Guidance_on_asylum_procedure_operational_standards_and_indicators_EN.pdf; Asylum Information Database (AIDA) (2018). Access to protection in Europe. The registration of asylum applications. Brussels: European Council on Refugees and Exiles http://asylumineurope.org/sites/default/files/shadow-reports/aida_accessii_registration.pdf; FRA (2015). Fundamental rights implications of the obligation to provide fingerprints for Eurodac. Vienna: FRA – European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights https://fra.europa.eu/sites/default/files/fra_uploads/fra-2015-fingerprinting-focus-paper_en.pdf

Section 3 analyzes information on the registration of asylum applications. In Section 4 information on asylum applicants lodging an asylum application are examined. Section 5 studies information on any additional data collected after an asylum application is deemed to have been lodged and before a first instance decision is issued. Section 6 explores information on how data quality is managed and the safeguards that (Member) States apply. Sections 7, investigates responses to challenges in data management: recent reforms to the asylum procedure. Sections 8 draws conclusions as to the (Member) State's existing policies, practices and case law related to the registration and data management in the asylum procedure.

Section 0: Impact of COVID-19

Did your (Member) State introduce any major change(s)/reform(s) related to data management due to the COVID-19 pandemic?

- Yes.
 No.

If yes, please describe these changes.

On 13/03/2020, with its announcement, the Asylum Service announced the suspension of the public's reception and service (asylum seekers) until 10/04/2020 to prevent the spread of the COVID-19 virus. With the same announcement, the public was notified of the suspension of all administrative procedures (recordings, interviews, filing of an appeal, etc.), and at the same time, in this context, the validity of Asylum Seeker Cards and Residence Permits expired within the above period was extended⁴. With a newer announcement of Asylum Service on 15/05/2020, it was announced to the public that from 18/05/2020, the Service would accept the public again; however, the validity for the Applications for International Protection, which had expired or expired on 13.3.2020 (date of commencement of suspension of public service) until 31.5.2020 was extended by a new ministerial decision for a period of six (6) months, and the renewals of the tickets were suspended until 31/05/2020. Finally, with the same announcement, applications for change of contact details, change of necessary data, separation of files, issuance of a copy of the case file, confirmation of request status, postponement/acceleration of interview, legal assistance, as well as applications for submission of documents were decided to be submitted electronically to the addresses of the competent offices. From that day on, appeals were typically carried out⁵. With a newer announcement on 11/06/2020, Asylum Service announced the extension of the International Protection (ID) applicants' cards, which expired and had not been renewed during the period from 1 June 2020 to 30 September 2020. Also, the announcement states that "For All tickets that expired during the period of suspension of services to the public, i.e., between 13 March 2020 and 31 May 2020, their validity has been automatically extended for a period of six (6) months from the expiration of the ticket based on Ministerial Decision TT9028/2020 (Government Gazette B 1854/15.5.2020)". Besides, from 15/6/2020, the Digital Services Portal of the Ministry of Immigration and Asylum was put into operation. In it, applicants for international protection can carry out a series of administrative actions. Also, from 15/6/2020, the Digital Services Portal of the Ministry of Migration and Asylum began their operation⁶. Via this platform, applicants for international protection can carry out a series of administrative actions⁷.

⁴ <http://asylo.gov.gr/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/ΑΝΑΚΟΙΝΩΣΗ-ΑΝΑΣΤΟΛΗΣ-ΥΠΟΔΟΧΗΣ-ΚΑΙ-ΕΞΥΠΗΡΕΤΗΣΗΣ-ΚΟΙΝΟΥ-ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΑ-13-3-2020-1.pdf>

⁵ http://asylo.gov.gr/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/Εξυπηρέτηση-Κοινού_fin-2.pdf

⁶ <https://applications.migration.gov.gr>

⁷ <https://applications.migration.gov.gr>

Section 1: The asylum procedure

Please note that the data management aspects of each phase of making, registering, lodging and examining an asylum claim will need to be described in more detail in the following Sections. This introductory section shall serve as a first overview to better understand the following sections on data management within each phase. If your (Member) State has implemented specific procedures (e.g. 'airport procedure') that deviate from the usual procedure(s), please point this out. However, (Member) States may decide on their own, into how much depth they want to go with regard to such specific or more exceptional procedures. In case (Member) States decide not to elaborate in more detail on specific procedures but focus more on their 'general asylum procedure', a reference can be made to the fact that the specific procedure will not be further elaborated in order to reduce the complexity of the study.

1.1. Overview of the asylum procedure

Please provide an overview on the regular asylum procedure in your (Member) State by answering the following questions.

1. Does your (Member) State clearly distinguish in national legislation among the abovementioned phases of **making, registering** and **lodging** of an application? (clear distinction – see the background section 7 - Definitions)

Yes / No.

If yes, please elaborate briefly.

The legal framework regarding the access to the asylum procedure (creation, registration, and submission of applications for international protection) includes: a) First arrival of a third country citizen in the territory L. 4636/2019⁸ (A' 01/11/2019, no.169) On International Protection and other provisions. Regarding the Asylum Service and asylum procedures, the (EU and its transposition into national) legislation of 2018 is still in force. Asylum policy remains consistent in the individual examination of International Protection applications according to each asylum case's particular circumstances and specific characteristics. For the stages of this process, see Q.2 below. b) Access to the asylum procedure (i.e. including the completion and submission of applications lodged at the border, in the territory of the Member State and at the time of detention) L. 4636/2019⁹ (A' 01/11/2019, no. 169) On International Protection and other provisions. The application of the border procedure of article 60 par. 4 of L.4375/16 remains¹⁰. - According to Law 4540/2018 Article 28 par. 7, the participation of EASO employees is allowed when there is an urgent need in the administrative actions of examining asylum applications. In addition, according to Ministerial Decision no. 16490/18 (Government Gazette 3807 B/04-09-2018) the participation of Greek-speaking staff of the European Asylum Support Service (EASO) in the Asylum Service is allowed. Also, according to Law 4375/2016 as in force, the participation of Greek-speaking staff available from the European Asylum Support Service to cover the particularly increased and emergency needs of the Asylum Service, which participates in the registration and interviews of applications for international protection submitted to the Asylum Service, as well as to any other administrative action, except the issuance of administrative acts, is allowed. c) Registration of applications for international protection (including subsequent applications and repatriation under the Dublin procedure), identification and fingerprinting^{11, 12}.

If no, please briefly describe the different phases of the asylum procedure in your (Member) State.

-

⁸ <http://asylo.gov.gr/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/%CE%9D-4636.2019-%CE%A6%CE%95%CE%9A-169.%CE%91.1.11.2019.pdf>

⁹ <http://asylo.gov.gr/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/%CE%9D-4636.2019-%CE%A6%CE%95%CE%9A-169.%CE%91.1.11.2019.pdf>

¹⁰ Asylum Service.

¹¹ Asylum Service.

¹² Reception and Identification Procedures <https://migration.gov.gr/en/ris/diakasies/> An Overview of International Protection Procedures in Greece <https://migration.gov.gr/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Overview-of-Asylum-Procedure-English.pdf>

2. a) Does your (Member) State clearly distinguish in practice among the abovementioned phases of **making, registering and lodging** of an application?

Yes / No.

If no, please briefly describe the different phases of the asylum procedure in your (Member) State specifying whether in practice some of the abovementioned phases are merged/overlapping.

Procedures regarding access to the asylum procedure (creation/receipt, registration, and submission of applications for international protection) in 2019 include: First arrival in Greek/EU territory (including information and assistance provided upon the first arrival in Greek/EU territory and services assisting asylum seekers to access asylum procedures upon arrival). After the arrival of the third country citizen in the country, the stages of receiving, registering, and submitting an asylum application are as follows: Submitting an asylum application to the Regional Asylum Offices and the Independent Asylum Scales (receiving the fingerprints of the applicants for international protection, receiving and examining applications for international protection in the first instance, informing the applicants for international protection about the process of examining their applications, as well as about their rights and obligations, providing the applicants for international protection as well as the beneficiaries of international protection with the legal and travel documents, facilitating applicants in terms of reception conditions in cooperation with other co-competent bodies). In cases of residents in a Reception and Identification Center (RIC), the Asylum Service is informed, where either on the spot by an Asylum Service Unit, the application is recorded with an interpreter's help. During this phase, a photograph and fingerprints of the third-country national are taken, which are inserted in the European Central Data Base EURODAC. This is followed by an interview of the applicant with an employee of the Asylum Service to cross-check the identification data declared with the application. After the completion of the submission and the follow-up of the examination of the application, each interested party is informed by phone, either by letter or telegram, or by fax, or by e-mail, from the Asylum Service, for the decision, granting refugee or beneficiary status subsidiary protection or rejection of the application and its receipt¹³. Asylum Service policy remains consistent in the individual examination of International Protection applications according to each asylum case's particular circumstances and specific characteristics. In 2019, the emphasis was placed on asylum seekers' rights at the country's entry-exit points and informing asylum seekers about access to the on-spot asylum application process¹⁴. Access to the asylum procedure (i.e., including the completion and submission of applications submitted at the border in the Member State territory and at the time of detention)¹⁵ L. 4636/2019¹⁶ (A 01/11/2019, no 169) On International Protection and other provisions.

- b) in practice, are there any differences in the division of the phases based on the different types of entry routes (i.e. land, sea, air)? For Member States implementing the **hotspot approach**, does this distinction hold in the hotspots?

In cases of residents in a Reception and Identification Center (RIC), the Asylum Service is informed, were either on the spot by an Asylum Service Unit, and the application is recorded with the assistance of an interpreter. During this phase, a photograph and fingerprints of the third-country national are taken, which are inserted in the European Central Data Base EURODAC. This is followed by an interview of the applicant with an employee of the Asylum Service to cross-check the identification data declared with the application. Upon completion of the submission and subsequent examination of the application, each interested party is informed by telephone, either by letter or telegram, or by fax, or e-mail, from the Asylum Service, of the decision, and its receipt, granting refugee status or a beneficiary of subsidiary protection or rejection of the application¹⁷.

¹³ Asylum Service.

¹⁴ Asylum Service.

¹⁵ This refers to any developments related to the Member State's obligation to ensure that a person intending to apply for international protection has an adequate opportunity to do so as soon as possible, following Directive 2013/32 / EU (Recast of Directive Asylum Procedures).

¹⁶ <http://asylo.gov.gr/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/%CE%9D.-4636.2019-%CE%A6%CE%95%CE%9A-169.%CE%91.1.11.2019.pdf>

¹⁷ http://asylo.gov.gr/?page_id=307

3. a) Does 'channelling' of specific caseloads take place in the asylum procedure of your (Member) State?

Channelling:

Yes / No.

If yes, please elaborate how the asylum procedure is organised, in relation to the single channels/tracks.

Vulnerable groups: Unaccompanied Minors. In the case of Unaccompanied Minors, i.e., a person under the age of 18 who is not accompanied by an adult responsible for their care under Greek law, the authorities must immediately inform the competent Prosecutor. The Prosecutor appoints a representative who will be responsible for the unaccompanied and defends his/her interests. Law 4636/2019 provides for the Reception and Identification Service that it is operationally responsible for the detailed registration, identification, and verification procedures of third-country nationals or stateless persons entering the country irregularly, in five (5) distinct stages to which unaccompanied minors are subject: a) Information, b) Inclusion, c) Registration and Medical Examination, d) Referral to the procedure of inclusion in international protection status and e) Further referral and transfer. For persons under 15 years old, the application for international protection must be submitted by the appointed representative, while for persons over 15 years of age, he/she can submit his/her application. The authorities take care of his / her protection and hospitality in a suitable environment for minors¹⁸. Victims of torture, rape, or other severe acts of violence should inform the authorities to be properly assisted. The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and various humanitarian organizations provide legal, medical, and psychological support¹⁹. Also, with Law 4636/2019²⁰ (A 01/11/2019, no. 169) On International Protection and other provisions, applications for international protection are considered based on a priority when: (aa) the applicant belongs to the category of vulnerable persons²¹. As of July 1, 2019, the responsibility for assessing vulnerability has been reassigned to the Asylum Service. To assess vulnerability, EASO is still required to refer potentially vulnerable applicants to the Asylum Service.²² Also, before the first interview, if it has been set within fifteen (15) days from the submission of the application, if he/she belongs to the category of vulnerable persons, according to article 58 of the above law, a reasonable time to prepare properly and consult a legal or another advisor to assist him during the proceedings is granted to the applicant. The reasonable time is determined by the competent Receiving Authority and may not exceed three (3) days. If the interview has been determined no later than fifteen (15) days from submitting the application for international protection, no reasonable preparation time is granted. The competent authorities are obliged to immediately inform the National System for the Identification and Referral of Victims of Human Trafficking, according to article 6 of Law 4198/2013 (A 215), in case they identify victims of human trafficking.

- b) Did your (Member) State introduce any changes on 'channelling' since 2014?

If so, please describe the change(s) and intended purpose. If applicable and feasible, please also refer to findings of studies or evaluations on these changes made.

-

¹⁸ http://asylo.gov.gr/?page_id=303

¹⁹ http://asylo.gov.gr/?page_id=107

²⁰ <http://asylo.gov.gr/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/%CE%9D.-4636.2019-%CE%A6%CE%95%CE%9A-169.%CE%91.1.11.2019.pdf>

²¹ <http://asylo.gov.gr/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/%CE%9D.-4636.2019-%CE%A6%CE%95%CE%9A-169.%CE%91.1.11.2019.pdf>

²² <https://www.eca.europa.eu/Lists/ECADocuments/EASO-Replies-SR-24-19/EASO-Replies-SR-24-19-EL-01.pdf>

4. a) Are there any national time frames/limits for each of the single phases (making, registering, lodging and examining a claim) in the context of Article 6 of the recast Asylum Procedures Directive?²³

Yes / No.

If yes, please describe and specify the time frames/limits for the phases applicable in your (Member) State.

According to Article 82 L. 4636/2019²⁴ (A' 01/11/2019, no. 169) On International Protection and other provisions, the decisions on the application for international protection, including the transfer decisions based on Regulation (EC) 604/2013, served on the applicant with the care of the competent Receiving Authority, under the provisions of the following paragraphs. The decision is served no later than ten (10) days from its issuance. Exceptionally, if the procedure is applied at the border, the decision is served within one (1) day. According to the same Law, when submitting applications for international protection, especially at the border, under the Special Units for Fast Assistance (Fast-Track Border Procedure), established by decision of the Director of the Asylum Service and consisting of a sufficient number of agents/handlers, as well as administrative staff of the Asylum Service, who separate applications by country of origin. Based on all the allegations made during the registration of the application for international protection, under article 65 of the above law and any data submitted on them under article 4 of the above law, they prioritize the applications by country of origin and proceed to the examination of applications in accordance with paragraph 7 of article 83 of the above law, with a special note in the electronic registration system of the Asylum Service. Applications for international protection shall be considered as a matter of absolute priority when the circumstances (aa) of case c of paragraph 10 of the above article meet, (bb) of paragraph 8 of Article 46. In such cases, the applications shall be immediately referred for further consideration, and the examination is completed in twenty (20) days. 2) Applications for international protection shall be considered as a matter of priority when: (aa) the applicant belongs to the category of vulnerable persons under paragraph 5, provided that he is deprived of his/her liberty under paragraph 4, (bb) the applicant applies to Article 90 (border procedure) of this Article located in port or airport transit areas of the country²⁵.

- b) Did your (Member) State introduce any changes in the national timeframes / limits in the years since 2014? If so, please describe the change(s) and intended purpose. If applicable and feasible, please also refer to findings of studies or evaluations on these changes made.

Yes. In total, the examination of the application may take from twenty (20) days to six (6) months, depending on the case²⁶.

²³ Directive 2013/32/EU (NB Denmark and Ireland do not participate in the recast Asylum Procedures Directive).

²⁴ <http://asylo.gov.gr/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/%CE%9D.-4636.2019-%CE%A6%CE%95%CE%9A-169.%CE%91.1.11.2019.pdf>

²⁵ <http://asylo.gov.gr/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/N.-4636.2019-%CE%A6%CE%95%CE%9A-169.A.1.11.2019.pdf>

²⁶ <https://migration.gov.gr/gas/diakikasia-asylov/sychnes-erotiseis/>

5. a) In practice, how long does the procedure take from an asylum applicant making an application to lodging the application (average days)?

Table 1

Year	Average duration (days) from making to lodging a claim ²⁷
2014	The application is submitted to the Receiving Authorities, which immediately perform a full registration.
2015	The application is submitted to the Receiving Authorities, which immediately perform a full registration.
2016	The application is submitted to the Receiving Authorities, which immediately perform a full registration.
2017	The application is submitted to the Receiving Authorities, which immediately perform a full registration.
2018	The application is submitted to the Receiving Authorities, which immediately perform a full registration.
2019	The application is submitted to the Receiving Authorities, which immediately perform a full registration ²⁸ .

²⁷ In case there is no information on the exact average duration, please include estimates about the average duration.

²⁸ Access to the international protection procedure is unrestricted and free of charge. Any third country citizen or stateless person has the right to apply for international protection. The application is submitted to the Receiving Authorities, which immediately perform a full registration. The authorities that are competent for receiving applications are the Regional Asylum Offices, the Autonomous Asylum Service Units and the Mobile Units of the Asylum Service. The International Protection Application is lodged by the applicant in person. However, the application may now be lodged online through the self-registration application. An individual may also apply for his/her family members, provided that they are with him/her in Greece and they wish to do so. They should also come along with him/her to the Asylum Service. In case he/she has entered the country without going through the legal formalities or he/she is staying in Greece without meeting the legal requirements, he/she will be transferred to a Reception and Identification Centre and, in case he/she does not possess any document issued by an official authority that proves his/her identity and nationality, he/she will undergo reception and identification procedures. In that case, in order to submit an international protection application, he/she will be referred to the local competent Regional Asylum Service Office, an Asylum Unit of which may be operating within the Reception and Identification Centre where he/she is staying. It will be compulsory for him/her to stay within the premises of the centre for the whole duration of the examination of his/her application, provided that the duration of this time period does not exceed twenty five (25) days. In certain cases (i.e. if he/she submits an application at the borders or in a transit zone of a port/airport of the country, if he/she deceive the authorities by providing false information, if he/she is detained, and in other cases listed in the law) your application's examination will be prioritized. In total, the examination of his/her application may last from twenty (20) days to six (6) months, depending on his/her personal case. Source: Asylum Service, 2020: <https://migration.gov.gr/en/gas/diakikasia-asyloy/i-aitisi-gia-asylo/>

b) In practice, how long does the procedure take from lodging the application until a first instance decision is made (average days)? If information is not available, please indicate legal time limits and an indication that these are legal limits.

In case your (Member) State applies ‘channelling’, please specify the average time for each channel (average days; and please add additional columns in case more Channels apply). If (Member) State rather differentiates between special procedures in place (such as fast track procedures) and/or if these are interconnected with the ‘channelling’ please add additional columns and elaborate in a footnote what the special procedure is about – if not yet done so in Chapter 1.1)

Table 2

Year	From lodging until first time decision				
	Average days	Channel 1 (please specify)	Channel 2 (please specify)	Channel 3 (please specify)	Channel 4 (please specify)
2014	-NI-	-NI-	-NI-	-NI-	-NI-
2015	-NI-	-NI-	-NI-	-NI-	-NI-
2016	-NI-	-NI-	-NI-	-NI-	-NI-
2017	Pending First Degree Applications Duration < 6 months 24,905 ²⁹ Duration 6-9 months 4,146 ³⁰ Duration 9-12 months 3,237 ³¹ Duration > 12 months 4,052 ³² Total 36,340	-NI-	-NI-	-NI-	-NI-
2018	Pending First Degree Applications Duration < 6 months 31,503 ³³ Duration v> 6 months 27,290 ³⁴ Total: 58,793	-NI-	-NI-	-NI-	-NI-
2019	Pending First Degree Applications Duration < 6 months 42,436 ³⁵ Duration > 6 months 45,025 ³⁶ Total: 87,461 ³⁷ In total, the examination of the application may take from twenty (20) days to six (6) months, depending on the case ³⁸ .				

²⁹ Asylum Information Database (AIDA) (2018). Asylum Procedure: Regular Procedure (2017 Update March 2018). https://www.asylumineurope.org/sites/default/files/report-download/aida_gr_2017update.pdf

³⁰ Asylum Information Database (AIDA) (2018). Asylum Procedure: Regular Procedure (2017 Update March 2018). https://www.asylumineurope.org/sites/default/files/report-download/aida_gr_2017update.pdf

³¹ Asylum Information Database (AIDA) (2018). Asylum Procedure: Regular Procedure (2017 Update March 2018). https://www.asylumineurope.org/sites/default/files/report-download/aida_gr_2017update.pdf

³² Asylum Information Database (AIDA) (2018). Asylum Procedure: Regular Procedure (2017 Update March 2018). https://www.asylumineurope.org/sites/default/files/report-download/aida_gr_2017update.pdf

³³ Asylum Information Database (AIDA) (2018). Asylum Procedure: Regular Procedure (2018 Update March 2019). https://www.asylumineurope.org/sites/default/files/report-download/aida_gr_2018update.pdf

³⁴ Asylum Information Database (AIDA) (2019). Asylum Procedure: Regular Procedure (2018 Update March 2019). https://www.asylumineurope.org/sites/default/files/report-download/aida_gr_2018update.pdf

³⁵ Asylum Information Database (AIDA) (2020). Asylum Procedure: Regular Procedure (2019 Update June 2020). https://www.asylumineurope.org/sites/default/files/report-download/aida_gr_2019update.pdf

³⁶ Asylum Information Database (AIDA) (2020). Asylum Procedure: Regular Procedure (2019 Update June 2020). https://www.asylumineurope.org/sites/default/files/report-download/aida_gr_2019update.pdf

³⁷ Asylum Service (2020). Asylum Service Statistics (from 07.06.2013 to 31.01.2020). Athens: Asylum Service/Ministry of Migration and Asylum <https://migration.gov.gr/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/ΦΕΡΒΟΥΑΡΙΟΣ-2020.zip> The Asylum Information Database (AIDA) mentions that the Asylum Service received 77,287 new applications in 2019, which amounts to an increase of 15.4% compared to 2018. Out of the 77,287 new applications 39,505 were initially channeled under the Fast-Track Border Procedure. Of those, 18,849 were referred to the regular procedure due to vulnerability and 1,432 due to the application of the Dublin Regulation. Also, there were delays in interview scheduling times all over Greece are indicative of the extent of the current challenges. The average time between the applicant’s expression of intention to apply for asylum and the interview in 2019 was 10.6 months. Source: Asylum Information Database (AIDA) (2020). Asylum Procedure: Regular Procedure https://www.asylumineurope.org/reports/country/greece/asylum-procedure/procedures/regular-procedure#_ftn10

³⁸ <https://migration.gov.gr/gas/diakikasia-asylov/i-aitisi-gia-asylo/>

1.2. Authorities involved in the asylum procedure

6. Which authorities are involved in and responsible for the asylum procedure from making an application to first instance decision?
Please indicate whether those authorities are legally competent for registering an asylum application or not. For those authorities which are not, please also see Section 2.1

Table 3

Type of Authority	Specify name of the authority involved in <u>making</u> an application	Legally competent for <u>registering</u> an asylum application (please indicate type of authority and specify name)	Legally competent for <u>lodging</u> an asylum application (please indicate type of authority and specify name)	Legally competent for <u>examining</u> an asylum application (please indicate type of authority and specify name)
Border Police	-NI-	-NI-	-NI-	-NI-
Local Police	-NI-	-NI-	-NI-	-NI-
(Branch) office for Refugees	Regional Asylum Service Offices and Asylum Units	Regional Asylum Service Offices and Asylum Units	Regional Asylum Service Offices and Asylum Units	Headquarters of Asylum Service
Ministries (Interior, Justice, etc.)	-NI-	-NI-	-NI-	-NI-
Local Citizen's Office/Mayor of a local city/town	-NI-	-NI-	-NI-	-NI-
(Local) immigration office	-NI-	-NI-	-NI-	-NI-
(Shared) accommodation for refugees	-NI-	-NI-	-NI-	-NI-
EU Agency	-NI-	-NI-	-NI-	-NI-
International Organisation	-NI-	-NI-	-NI-	-NI-
Detention facility	For those detained, the Detention Authorities inform the Asylum Service of their desire to apply for international protection, and the application is scheduled to be recorded. On the day of registration, either a transfer will be made to the nearest Regional Asylum Office, or the request will be recorded by an Asylum Service Ladder operating at the detention facility where the applicant is located.	-NI-	-NI-	-NI-

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Type of Authority	Specify name of the authority involved in <u>making</u> an application	Legally competent for <u>registering</u> an asylum application (please indicate type of authority and specify name)	Legally competent for <u>lodging</u> an asylum application (please indicate type of authority and specify name)	Legally competent for <u>examining</u> an asylum application (please indicate type of authority and specify name)
Reception centre	For those who are in a Reception and Identification Center, the Reception and Identification Authorities inform the Asylum Service of their desire to apply for international protection, and the registration of the application is planned.	-NI-	-NI-	-NI-
Others (please specify)	-	-	-	-

1.3. Data collected during the asylum procedure

7. Which information is gathered during the asylum procedure at the different phases and by whom? Please, fill Table 4 below.

Table 4

1. Categories of data collected	2. In which phase(s) is this information collected? (including self-registration) - Registering (1) - self-registration (1.1) - lodging (2) - examination (3)	3. Which organization collects this information in each of the different phases? <i>(whenever possible please refer to the authorities listed in section 1.2)</i>	4. How is this particular category of data /biometric data collected? - online self-registration - written questionnaire (in paper) - oral (interview, face-to-face) - oral (interview via phone/videocall) - open source (e.g. social media) - analysing documents - analysing content of mobile devices (e.g. phones, laptops) - using automated or artificial intelligence for analysis of data - other: please specify (multiple answers possible) <i>If different data collection tools are used in the different phases, please specify it. If possible, please indicate if any specific technology is used in the process.</i>	5. Where is this particular category of data /biometric data stored? - in an electronic file - in a database - on paper	6. If applicable, please specify the name of the database(s)
	<p><i>Please use the numbers provided for each phase to indicate the phase the data is collected. In case phases are combined in your state, please indicate it accordingly by using a dash (see example below). If data is re-used but not re-collected in a following phase, data is not collected in that phase. Therefore, if data is not collected in a specific phase but only re-used or not used at all, please do not add any number for that phase.</i></p>				

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Name					
<i>current name</i> Yes	Registration	Asylum Service	- electronic self-registration - written questionnaire (on paper) - oral (interview, face to face) - oral (interview via phone/videocall) ³⁹	- in an electronic file - in a database - on paper	
<i>birth name</i> Yes	Registration	Asylum Service	- ηλεκτρονική αυτο-Registration - written questionnaire (on paper) - oral (interview, face to face) - oral (interview via phone/videocall) ⁴⁰	- in an electronic file - in a database - on paper	
<i>previous name(s)</i> Yes	Registration	Asylum Service	- electronic self-registration - written questionnaire (on paper) - oral (interview, face to face) - oral (interview via phone/videocall) ⁴¹	- in an electronic file - in a database - on paper	
<i>pen name (alias)</i> Yes	Registration	Asylum Service	- electronic self-registration - written questionnaire (on paper) - oral (interview, face to face) - oral (interview via phone/videocall) ⁴²	- in an electronic file - in a database - on paper	
<i>religious names</i> Yes	Registration	Asylum Service	- electronic self-registration - written questionnaire (on paper) - oral (interview, face to face) - oral (interview via phone/videocall) ⁴³	- in an electronic file - in a database - on paper	
<i>other names</i> Yes	Registration	Asylum Service	- electronic self-registration - written questionnaire (on paper) - oral (interview, face to face) - oral (interview via phone/videocall) ⁴⁴	- in an electronic file - in a database - on paper	
Sex Yes	Registration	Asylum Service	- electronic self-registration - written questionnaire (on paper) - oral (interview, face to face) - oral (interview via phone/videocall) ⁴⁵	- in an electronic file - in a database - on paper	

³⁹ Asylum Service.

⁴⁰ Asylum Service.

⁴¹ Asylum Service.

⁴² Asylum Service.

⁴³ Asylum Service.

⁴⁴ Asylum Service.

⁴⁵ Asylum Service.

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Biometric data					
- <i>photo</i>	Registration	Asylum Service	- electronic self-registration - depositing/taking a live photo during the interview ⁴⁶	- in an electronic file - in a database - on paper	
- <i>fingerprints (which fingers, rolled or pressed fingerprints)</i>	Registration	Asylum Service	- use of automated or artificial intelligence for data analysis ⁴⁷	- in an electronic file - in a database - on paper	
- <i>iris scan</i>	Registration	Asylum Service	- use of automated or artificial intelligence for data analysis ⁴⁸	- in an electronic file - in a database	
- <i>other</i>	-	-	-	-	
Eye colour	Registration	Asylum Service	- use of automated or artificial intelligence for data analysis ⁴⁹	- in an electronic file in a database	
Height	Registration	Asylum Service	- electronic self-registration - written questionnaire (on paper) - oral (interview, face to face) - oral (interview via phone/videocall) ⁵⁰	- in an electronic file - in a database - on paper	
Date of birth	Registration	Asylum Service	- electronic self-registration - written questionnaire (on paper) - oral (interview, face to face) - oral (interview via phone/videocall) ⁵¹	- in an electronic file - in a database - on paper	
Citizenship(s)	Registration	Asylum Service	- electronic self-registration - written questionnaire (on paper) - oral (interview, face to face) - oral (interview via phone/videocall) ⁵²	- in an electronic file - in a database - on paper	
Country of origin	Registration	Asylum Service	- electronic self-registration - written questionnaire (on paper) - oral (interview, face to face) - oral (interview via phone/videocall) ⁵³	- in an electronic file - in a database - on paper	

⁴⁶ Asylum Service.

⁴⁷ Asylum Service.

⁴⁸ Asylum Service.

⁴⁹ Asylum Service.

⁵⁰ Asylum Service.

⁵¹ Asylum Service.

⁵² Asylum Service.

⁵³ Asylum Service.

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Place of birth					
<i>town</i>	Registration	Asylum Service	- electronic self-registration - written questionnaire (on paper) - oral (interview, face to face) - oral (interview via phone/videocall) ⁵⁴	- in an electronic file - in a database - on paper	
<i>region</i>	Registration	Asylum Service	- electronic self-registration - written questionnaire (on paper) - oral (interview, face to face) - oral (interview via phone/videocall) ⁵⁵	- in an electronic file - in a database - on paper	
<i>country</i>	Registration	Asylum Service	- electronic self-registration - written questionnaire (on paper) - oral (interview, face to face) - oral (interview via phone/videocall) ⁵⁶	- in an electronic file - in a database - on paper	
<i>other</i>	-	-	-	-	
Date of arrival in the (Member) State	Registration	Asylum Service	- electronic self-registration - written questionnaire (on paper) - oral (interview, face to face) - oral (interview via phone/videocall) ⁵⁷	- in an electronic file - in a database - on paper	
Last place of residence in the country of origin	Registration	Asylum Service	- electronic self-registration - written questionnaire (on paper) - oral (interview, face to face) - oral (interview via phone/videocall) ⁵⁸	- in an electronic file - in a database on paper	
Last place of residence before entry in the (Member) State	Registration	Asylum Service	- electronic self-registration - written questionnaire (on paper) - oral (interview, face to face) - oral (interview via phone/videocall) ⁵⁹	- in an electronic file - in a database - on paper	

⁵⁴ Asylum Service.

⁵⁵ Asylum Service.

⁵⁶ Asylum Service.

⁵⁷ Asylum Service.

⁵⁸ Asylum Service.

⁵⁹ Asylum Service.

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Contact details					
<i>phone number</i>	Registration	Asylum Service	- electronic self-registration - written questionnaire (on paper) - oral (interview, face to face) - oral (interview via phone/videocall) ⁶⁰	- in an electronic file - in a database - on paper	
<i>email address</i>	Registration	Asylum Service	- electronic self-registration - written questionnaire (on paper) - oral (interview, face to face) - oral (interview via phone/videocall) ⁶¹	- in an electronic file - in a database - on paper	
<i>current address</i>	Registration	Asylum Service	- electronic self-registration - written questionnaire (on paper) - oral (interview, face to face) - oral (interview via phone/videocall) ⁶²	- in an electronic file - in a database - on paper	
<i>other</i>	-	-	-	-	
Civil status	Registration	Asylum Service	- electronic self-registration - written questionnaire (on paper) - oral (interview, face to face) - oral (interview via phone/videocall) ⁶³	- in an electronic file - in a database - on paper	

⁶⁰ Asylum Service.

⁶¹ Asylum Service.

⁶² Asylum Service.

⁶³ Asylum Service.

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Accompanied by:					
- <i>spouse or civil partner</i>	Registration	Asylum Service	- electronic self-registration - written questionnaire (on paper) - oral (interview, face to face) - oral (interview via phone/videocall) ⁶⁴	- in an electronic file - in a database - on paper	
- <i>children</i>	Registration	Asylum Service	- electronic self-registration - written questionnaire (on paper) - oral (interview, face to face) - oral (interview via phone/videocall) ⁶⁵	- in an electronic file - in a database - on paper	
- <i>parents</i>	Registration	Asylum Service	- electronic self-registration - written questionnaire (on paper) - oral (interview, face to face) - oral (interview via phone/videocall) ⁶⁶	- in an electronic file - in a database - on paper	
- <i>other relatives</i>	Registration	Asylum Service	- electronic self-registration - written questionnaire (on paper) - oral (interview, face to face) ⁶⁷ - oral (interview via phone/videocall) ⁶⁸	- in an electronic file - in a database - on paper	

⁶⁴ Asylum Service.

⁶⁵ Asylum Service.

⁶⁶ Asylum Service.

⁶⁷ Asylum Service.

⁶⁸ Asylum Service.

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Family members in the (Member) State					
<i>name</i>	Registration	Asylum Service	- electronic self-registration - written questionnaire (on paper) - oral (interview, face to face) - oral (interview via phone/videocall) ⁶⁹	- in an electronic file - in a database - on paper	
<i>residency</i>	Registration	Asylum Service	- electronic self-registration - written questionnaire (on paper) - oral (interview, face to face) - oral (interview via phone/videocall) ⁷⁰	- in an electronic file - in a database - on paper	
<i>citizenship</i>	Registration	Asylum Service	- electronic self-registration - written questionnaire (on paper) - oral (interview, face to face) - oral (interview via phone/videocall) ⁷¹	- in an electronic file - in a database - on paper	
<i>other</i>	-	-	-	-	
Family members in another (Member) State	Registration	Asylum Service	- electronic self-registration - written questionnaire (on paper) - oral (interview, face to face) ⁷² - oral (interview via phone/videocall) ⁷³	- in an electronic file - in a database - on paper	
Close relatives in the (Member) State	Registration	Asylum Service	- electronic self-registration - written questionnaire (on paper) - oral (interview, face to face) - oral (interview via phone/videocall) ⁷⁴	- in an electronic file - in a database - on paper	
Close relatives in another (Member) State	Registration	Asylum Service	- electronic self-registration - written questionnaire (on paper) - oral (interview, face to face) - oral (interview via phone/videocall) ⁷⁵	- in an electronic file - in a database - on paper	

⁶⁹ Asylum Service.

⁷⁰ Asylum Service.

⁷¹ Asylum Service.

⁷² Asylum Service.

⁷³ Asylum Service.

⁷⁴ Asylum Service.

⁷⁵ Asylum Service.

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Health status					
<i>specifics on health status</i>	Registration	Asylum Service	- electronic self-registration - written questionnaire (on paper) - oral (interview, face to face) - oral (interview via phone/videocall) ⁷⁶	- in an electronic file - in a database - on paper	
<i>reference that a general health check has been carried out</i>	Registration	Asylum Service	- electronic self-registration - written questionnaire (on paper) - oral (interview, face to face) - oral (interview via phone/videocall) ⁷⁷	- in an electronic file - in a database - on paper	
<i>other</i>	-	-	-	-	
Education					
<i>school attendance</i>	Registration	Asylum Service	- electronic self-registration - written questionnaire (on paper) - oral (interview, face to face) - oral (interview via phone/videocall) ⁷⁸	- in an electronic file - in a database - on paper	
<i>academic studies</i>	Registration	Asylum Service	- electronic self-registration - written questionnaire (on paper) - oral (interview, face to face) - oral (interview via phone/videocall) ⁷⁹	- in an electronic file - in a database - on paper	
<i>trainings</i>	Registration	Asylum Service	- electronic self-registration - written questionnaire (on paper) - oral (interview, face to face) - oral (interview via phone/videocall) ⁸⁰	- in an electronic file - in a database - on paper	
<i>apprenticeships</i>	Registration	Asylum Service	- electronic self-registration - written questionnaire (on paper) - oral (interview, face to face) - oral (interview via phone/videocall) ⁸¹	- in an electronic file - in a database - on paper	
<i>non-formal work experience</i>	Registration	Asylum Service	- electronic self-registration - written questionnaire (on paper) - oral (interview, face to face) - oral (interview via phone/videocall) ⁸²	- in an electronic file - in a database - on paper	
<i>other</i>	-	-	-	-	

⁷⁶ Asylum Service.

⁷⁷ Asylum Service.

⁷⁸ Asylum Service.

⁷⁹ Asylum Service.

⁸⁰ Asylum Service.

⁸¹ Asylum Service.

⁸² Asylum Service.

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Language skills	Registration	Asylum Service	- electronic self-registration - written questionnaire (on paper) - oral (interview, face to face) - oral (interview via phone/videocall) ⁸³	- in an electronic file - in a database - on paper	
Profession	Registration	Asylum Service	- electronic self-registration - written questionnaire (on paper) - oral (interview, face to face) - oral (interview via phone/videocall) ⁸⁴	- in an electronic file - in a database - on paper	
Criminal record	Registration	Asylum Service	- electronic self-registration - written questionnaire (on paper) - oral (interview, face to face) - oral (interview via phone/videocall) ⁸⁵	- in an electronic file - in a database - on paper	
Financial resources	Registration	Asylum Service	- electronic self-registration - written questionnaire (on paper) - oral (interview, face to face) - oral (interview via phone/videocall) ⁸⁶	- in an electronic file - in a database - on paper	
Supporting documents					
passport	Registration	Asylum Service	- electronic self-registration - written questionnaire (on paper) - oral (interview, face to face) - oral (interview via phone/videocall) ⁸⁷	- in an electronic file - in a database - on paper	
travel document	Registration	Asylum Service	- electronic self-registration - written questionnaire (on paper) - oral (interview, face to face) - oral (interview via phone/videocall) *επίδειξη διαβατηρίου ⁸⁸	- in an electronic file - in a database - on paper	
other	-	-	-	-	

⁸³ Asylum Service.

⁸⁴ Asylum Service.

⁸⁵ Asylum Service.

⁸⁶ Asylum Service.

⁸⁷ Asylum Service.

⁸⁸ Asylum Service.

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Reasons for fleeing	Registration	Asylum Service	- electronic self-registration - written questionnaire (on paper) - oral (interview, face to face) - oral (interview via phone/videocall) ⁸⁹	- in an electronic file - in a database - on paper	
Reasons for not wanting to be returned to the competent Member State as part of a Dublin procedure	Registration	Asylum Service	- electronic self-registration - written questionnaire (on paper) - oral (interview, face to face) - oral (interview via phone/videocall) ⁹⁰	- in an electronic file - in a database - on paper	
Previous applications	Registration	Asylum Service	- electronic self-registration - written questionnaire (on paper) - oral (interview, face to face) - oral (interview via phone/videocall) ⁹¹	- in an electronic file - in a database - on paper	
Information on the route taken	Registration	Asylum Service	- electronic self-registration - written questionnaire (on paper) - oral (interview, face to face) - oral (interview via phone/videocall) ⁹²	- in an electronic file - in a database - on paper	
Information on exclusion grounds	Registration	Asylum Service	- electronic self-registration - written questionnaire (on paper) - oral (interview, face to face) ⁹³ - oral (interview via phone/videocall) ⁹⁴	- in an electronic file - in a database - on paper	
Religious affiliation	Registration	Asylum Service	- electronic self-registration - written questionnaire (on paper) - oral (interview, face to face) - oral (interview via phone/videocall) ⁹⁵	- in an electronic file - in a database - on paper	

⁸⁹ Asylum Service.

⁹⁰ Asylum Service.

⁹¹ Asylum Service.

⁹² Asylum Service.

⁹³ Asylum Service.

⁹⁴ Asylum Service.

⁹⁵ Asylum Service.

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Vulnerabilities					
- <i>Unaccompanied minor</i>	Registration	Asylum Service	- electronic self-registration - written questionnaire (on paper) - oral (interview, face to face) - oral (interview via phone/videocall) ⁹⁶	- in an electronic file - in a database - on paper	
- <i>Pregnant</i>	Registration	Asylum Service	- electronic self-registration - written questionnaire (on paper) - oral (interview, face to face) - oral (interview via phone/videocall) ⁹⁷	- in an electronic file - in a database - on paper	
- <i>Disabilities (which?)</i>	Registration	Asylum Service	- electronic self-registration - written questionnaire (on paper) - oral (interview, face to face) - oral (interview via phone/videocall) ⁹⁸	- in an electronic file - in a database - on paper	
- <i>Elderly</i>	Registration	Asylum Service	- electronic self-registration - written questionnaire (on paper) - oral (interview, face to face) - oral (interview via phone/videocall) ⁹⁹	- in an electronic file - in a database - on paper	
- <i>Single parent with minor child(ren)</i>	Registration	Asylum Service	- electronic self-registration - written questionnaire (on paper) - oral (interview, face to face) ¹⁰⁰ - oral (interview via phone/videocall) ¹⁰¹	- in an electronic file - in a database - on paper	
- <i>Victims of human trafficking</i>	Registration	Asylum Service	- electronic self-registration - written questionnaire (on paper) - oral (interview, face to face) - oral (interview via phone/videocall) ¹⁰²	- in an electronic file - in a database - on paper	
- <i>Mental disorders</i>	Registration	Asylum Service	- electronic self-registration - written questionnaire (on paper) - oral (interview, face to face) - oral (interview via phone/videocall) ¹⁰³	- in an electronic file - in a database - on paper	

⁹⁶ Asylum Service.

⁹⁷ Asylum Service.

⁹⁸ Asylum Service.

⁹⁹ Asylum Service.

¹⁰⁰ Asylum Service.

¹⁰¹ Asylum Service.

¹⁰² Asylum Service.

¹⁰³ Asylum Service.

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- <i>Victims of torture, physical or sexual violence (female genital mutilation)</i>	Registration	Asylum Service	- electronic self-registration - written questionnaire (on paper) - oral (interview, face to face) - oral (interview via phone/videocall) ¹⁰⁴	- in an electronic file - in a database - on paper	
- <i>other</i>	-	-	-	-	
Other (please specify)	-	-	-	-	

¹⁰⁴ Asylum Service.

8. Has your (Member) State identified any good practice in frontloading information collected by other authorities not directly connected to the asylum procedure? If yes, please elaborate and specify in which phase does the frontloading take place. For each good practice mentioned, please describe a) for whom it is a good practice, b) why it is considered a good practice and c) what is the source of the statement – (please indicate sources)

With the application of the provisions provided by Law 4636/2019 when submitting applications for international protection of third-country nationals and stateless persons, especially at the borders, under the Special Units for Fast Assistance (Fast-Track Border Procedure) separate the applications by country of origin, according to the data collected and break them down by country of origin prioritize the examination of applications under paragraph 7 of Article 83 of the same law. Applications for international protection are considered as a priority when the applicant belongs to the category of vulnerable persons and when the applicant submits an application (border procedure) of the above article located in the transit zones of ports or airports of the country. The possibility of electronic self-registration via the Asylum Service's official website contributes to the facilitation and faster registration of asylum applications, followed by the verification of the declared data through the interview of the applicants and the submission of the respective supporting documents.

1.4 Data management during the asylum procedure

9. Please fill Table 5 based on the information given in column 6 of Table 4 (filling as many rows as the databases indicated that Table).

Table 5

Data-base	Overview/definition of the database (please indicate whether it is a regional, national or European database).	National authorities that have access to the databases or access to its data ¹⁰⁵			Data shared with other Member States (apart from the data that (Member) States share through EU databases e.g. Eurostat, VIS, SIS)	
		Name of authority/organisation	In which phase of the asylum procedure	For what purpose	Type of data	For what purpose
(Data-base 1)	EURODAC106	Asylum Service	Examina-tion of applica-tion	Data verification/identification	In addition to fingerprints, data transmitted by EU countries include: EU country of origin; gender; place and date of application for asylum or arrest; the reference number; date on which the receiving the fingerprints; the date of transmission of the data to the central unit.	The EURODAC system enables the European Union (EU) countries to help identify asylum seekers and those arrested for crossing the Union's external borders illegally. By comparing fingerprints, EU countries can determine whether an asylum seeker or foreign national who is found irregularly residing in one EU country has already applied in another EU country, or whether the asylum seeker has entered the country illegally the territory of the European Union ¹⁰⁷ .

¹⁰⁵ Please differentiate between access to database and access to data. 'Access to database' is understood as a national authority being authorised to have direct access to a database without the need to request data to be transmitted to them via other authorities or intermediaries. 'Access to data' is reserved to cases where an authority has access to data contained to a database, through transmission or sharing by another authority.

¹⁰⁶ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EL/TXT/?uri=LEGISSUM%3A133081>

¹⁰⁷ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EL/TXT/?uri=LEGISSUM%3A133081>

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(Database 2)	VIS108	Visa authorities and Authorities competent for checks at the external border crossing points, immigration checks and asylum, and is limited to the extent the data is required for the performance of their tasks.	When applying for a visa.	Facilitating the application of the Dublin II Regulation for determining the EU country that is responsible for the examination of a non EU-country national's asylum application and for examining said application ¹⁰⁹ .	Alphanumeric data on the applicant and on the visas requested, issued, refused, annulled, revoked or extended; photographs; fingerprint data; links to previous visa applications and to the application files of persons travelling together ¹¹⁰ .	The examination of applications for short stay visas and decisions on extending, revoking and annulling visas, as well as the checks on visas and the verifications and identifications of visa applicants and holders are facilitated ¹¹¹ .
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¹⁰⁸ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=LEGISSUM%3A14517>

¹⁰⁹ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=LEGISSUM%3A14517>

¹¹⁰ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=LEGISSUM%3A14517>

¹¹¹ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=LEGISSUM%3A14517>

Section 2: Making an asylum application

This section requests information on asylum seekers making an asylum application to an authority that is not competent to register an asylum application.

‘Making an application’: The expression of intent to apply for international protection.

2.1. Making an application to an authority not competent to register the asylum application

If your (Member) State does not differentiate between “making an application” and “registering an application”, or if these two phases are conducted concurrently, as referred to in Section 1.1, please skip and go to Section 3.

10. What information do authorities who are not competent to register an asylum application provide to the asylum applicants on where to go and what to do?

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11. Do the authorities who are not competent to register any asylum application collect any data on the asylum applicant?
 Yes / No.

If yes, please specify which type of data is collected.

Upon arrival in Greece, third-country nationals, certain First Reception and Identification Service steps are carried out¹¹²:
Recording of personal [basic and additional] data in the Information System of the Hellenic Police.
Identity and Citizenship verification, biometric data for EURODAC I, II, and III, and face photograph.
Medical Examination - Medical Examinations (a medical record).
Caring for Vulnerable Groups - Providing Psychosocial Support.

If yes, is this data further transferred to the competent authorities?

Third-country nationals or stateless persons wishing to be granted international protection are referred to the locally competent Regional Asylum Office¹¹³.

¹¹² <https://migration.gov.gr/ris/diadikasies/>

¹¹³ <https://migration.gov.gr/ris/diadikasies/>

Section 3: Registering an asylum application

Registering an asylum application¹⁴: Record the applicant's intention to seek protection.

This section requests information on the registration of asylum applications.

If the process of registering and lodging of the asylum application are conducted concurrently (according to the law or in practice) in your (Member) State, please make this clear in Section 1 and proceed by skipping this Section and going directly to Section 4. If however, registering and lodging of an asylum application are conducted separately in your (Member) State (e.g. in crisis times or regionally with regard to islands vs. main land, cities vs. rural areas, centralised vs decentralised) please proceed by answering the following questions in Sections 3 and 4.

If the process of registering, lodging and examination of the asylum application are conducted concurrently (according to the law or in practice) in your (Member) State, please make this clear in Section 1 and proceed by skipping this Section and going directly to Section 5.

For Member States implementing **the hotspot approach**, please highlight whether there are differences in the processes applied in hotspots with regard to the standard/general asylum procedure.

3.1. Cross checking of data collected at the registration phase

12. Against which databases at i. local/regional, ii. national, iii. European and iv. international levels is the information collected during registration cross-checked¹⁴ (please elaborate, what the purpose is of the cross-checking and if only specific categories of data are cross-checked)?

The registration of asylum applications is checked through the EURODAC system in order for EU countries to determine the responsibility for examining the applications they receive, by comparing the fingerprints of applicants/third-country nationals in the central database; and to enable law enforcement authorities, under certain conditions, to carry out searches in EURODAC for the verification/identification of evidence and the prevention of serious criminal offenses¹⁵. Legal framework: JMD no 1302 (2) (Government Gazette B 4907-31-12-2019)¹⁶. Compilation of a National List of countries of origin that are characterized as safe according to article 87 par. 5 of Law 4636/2019. With this Joint Decision of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs and Citizen Protection, a national list of countries of origin that are characterized as safe is compiled in accordance with article 87 par. 5 of law 4636/2019. The list of Safe Countries of Origin includes the following: Ghana, Senegal, Togo, Gambia, Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Albania, Georgia, Ukraine, India, and Armenia. Adaptation of the internal Standard Operating Procedure (SOPs) of the Asylum Service. Criteria in the instructions of the Asylum Service for the procedures concerning the application of the concept of the first country of Asylum and the Safe Third Country, based on articles 35 and 38 of Directive 2013/32/EU, are introduced¹⁷.

13. Does systematic cross-checking against (i) VIS and (ii) SIS take place?

Yes / No.

14. What issues has your (Member) State encountered in cross-checking data collected at registration phase?

For each issue mentioned, please describe a) for whom it is an issue, b) why it is considered an issue and c) whether the assessment that this issue based on input from experts (please indicate sources)

-NI-

¹⁴ Purpose of cross-checking: Previous asylum applications, Prior legal residence/stay, Illegal border crossing, Illegal stay (overstay), Criminal record, Security risks, Detect counterfeit identity/travel documents, Other (please specify).

¹⁵ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EL/TXT/?uri=LEGISSUM%3A133081>

¹⁶ <http://asylo.gov.gr/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/KYA-Aσφαλείς-χώρες-καταγωγής.pdf>

¹⁷ Asylum Service.

3.2 Information provided to asylum applicants in the registration phase

15. Are asylum applicants provided with a processing/privacy notice¹¹⁸ about the personal data collected from them during the registration phase?

Yes / No.

If yes, please describe which information is provided (i.e. the purpose for which personal data from the asylum applicant is collected and on what basis, who has access to the information, data protection rights etc).

As regards the protection of personal data, EU countries sending data to EURODAC must ensure that the taking of fingerprints and all operations involving the processing, transmission, conservation or erasure of the data are carried out lawfully. The European Commission supervises for the proper application of the regulation by the Central Unit and takes the necessary measures to ensure the security thereof. It also informs the European Parliament and the Council of the measures it takes. Data processing activities of EU countries are monitored by the national supervisory authorities, while those of the Commission are monitored by the European Data Protection Supervisor (EDPS)¹¹⁹.

16. a) Who provides the information mentioned above (under Q15) (public authorities, international organisations, CSO - civil society organisations)?

The competent officials of the Asylum Service, which is the Authority responsible for receiving and registering asylum applications.

- b) How is this information provided (orally, digitally, in writing or all three)?

Please describe.

In all three ways respectively (orally, digitally, in writing).

- c) Where information is provided orally, is interpretation available?

Yes / No.

- d) Where information is provided digitally, is translation available?

Yes / No.

If yes, who provides the digital information (e.g. national authorities, NGOs etc)?

National Authorities.

- e) Where information is provided in writing is translation available?

Yes / No.

If yes, who provides the translation service (e.g. national authorities, NGOs etc)?

Instructions are provided by the Asylum Service, the staff of NGOs and other organizations, as well as the information available via the official website of the Asylum Service¹²⁰.

17. Is any specific training or guidance (i.e. guidelines) provided for staff responsible for data management with regard to information collected at the registration phase?

The staff responsible for managing the personal data of asylum seekers of the Asylum Service, during the registration phase, is trained continuously through seminars and training programmes on the relevant procedures and applicable legal provisions.

¹¹⁸ The obligation to take appropriate measures to provide data subjects with a processing or privacy notice stems from Article 12 GDPR which obliges data controllers to provide "any information referred to in Articles 13 and 14 and any communication under Articles 15 to 22 and 34 relating to processing to the data subject in a concise, transparent, intelligible and easily accessible form, using clear and plain language." The information referred to in Articles 13 sets out the information to be provided where data has been collected from the data subject. It includes setting out the purpose of the data collected and legal basis; legitimate interests of the data controller (where this is used as the legal base); recipients of the data or categories of data; and if the data will be transferred to a third country or international organisation. Articles 15 to 22 refer to the data subject's rights including the rights to access, rectification and erasure; the right to object (if data is being collected for certain purposes including for a task carried out in the public interest or an official function vested in the data controller or in pursuit of legitimate interests of the data controller); right to data portability etc.

¹¹⁹ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=LEGISSUM%3A133081#>

¹²⁰ Asylum Service.

3.3 Where self-registration procedures apply, (Member) States are asked to elaborate more on the framework and experiences.

18. Does your (Member) State have any self-registration procedures in place?

Yes / No.

If yes, please answer questions 19-23.

If not, please move to section 4.

19. When was the self-registration procedure introduced and why?

The self-registration process was introduced in 2020.

20. Where do asylum seekers self-register (e.g. website, by phone)?

According to a relevant announcement of the Asylum Service¹²¹: In case the applicants have already been pre-registered by the Reception and Identification Service upon entering the country, by the Greek Police during administrative detention or by the Asylum Service through the use of the Skype application and the registration of their application has not been completed, they can submit the full registration form electronically at the following link: <https://applications.migration.gov.gr/selfregistration/login>

21. Are asylum seekers provided with any guidance/assistance/information on how to self-register?

If yes, please elaborate and indicate who provides this information

Instructions are provided by the First Reception and Identification Service, before the applicants are referred to the Asylum Service, by the staff of NGOs and other organizations, and by the information available on the official website of the Asylum Service, where the self-registration hyperlink is available.

22. In which languages is the self-registration procedure available?

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23. Is self-registration mandatory or optional?

Please elaborate.

Self-registration is mandatory and concerns anyone who has already been pre-registered by the Reception and Identification Service upon entering the country, by the Hellenic Police during administrative detention, or by the Asylum Service through the via of the Skype application and full record of his/her application has not been complete¹²².

¹²¹ <http://asylo.gov.gr/?p=9858>

¹²² <http://asylo.gov.gr/?p=9858>

Section 4: Lodging an asylum application

This section requests information on asylum applicants lodging an asylum application.

4.1 Cross checking of data collected at the lodging phase

24. Against which databases at i. local/regional, ii. national, iii. European and iv. international levels is the information collected during the lodging phase cross-checked (please elaborate, what the purpose is of the cross-checking and if only specific categories of data are cross-checked)?

The registration of asylum applications is checked through the EURODAC system in order for EU countries to determine the responsibility for examining the applications they receive, by comparing the fingerprints of applicants/third-country nationals in the central database; and to enable law enforcement authorities, under certain conditions, to carry out searches in EURODAC for the verification/identification of evidence and the prevention of serious criminal offenses¹²³. Legal framework: JMD no 1302 (2) (Government Gazette B 4907-31-12-2019)¹²⁴. Compilation of a National List of countries of origin that are characterized as safe according to article 87 par. 5 of Law 4636/2019. With this Joint Decision of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs and Citizen Protection, a national list of countries of origin that are characterized as safe is compiled in accordance with article 87 par. 5 of law 4636/2019. The list of Safe Countries of Origin includes the following: Ghana, Senegal, Togo, Gambia, Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Albania, Georgia, Ukraine, India, and Armenia. Adaptation of the internal Standard Operating Procedure (SOPs) of the Asylum Service. Criteria in the instructions of the Asylum Service for the procedures concerning the application of the concept of the first country of Asylum and the Safe Third Country, based on articles 35 and 38 of Directive 2013/32/EU, are introduced¹²⁵.

25. Does systematic cross-checking against (a) VIS and (b) SIS take place?

Yes / No.

26. What issues have you encountered in cross checking data collected at the lodging phase?

For each issue mentioned, please describe a) for whom it is an issue, b) why it is considered an issue and c) whether the assessment that this issue based on input from experts - please indicate sources)

-NI-

¹²³ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EL/TXT/?uri=LEGISSUM%3A133081>

¹²⁴ <http://asylo.gov.gr/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/KYA-Aσφαλείς-χώρες-καταγωγής.pdf>

¹²⁵ Asylum Service.

4.2 Information provided to asylum applicants at the lodging phase

28. Are asylum applicants provided with a processing/privacy notice¹²⁶ about the personal data collected from them during the lodging phase?

Yes / No.

If yes, please describe which information is provided (i.e. the purpose for which personal data from the asylum applicant is collected and on what basis, who has access to the information, data protection rights etc).

As regards the protection of personal data, EU countries sending data to EURODAC must ensure that the taking of fingerprints and all operations involving the processing, transmission, conservation or erasure of the data are carried out lawfully. The European Commission supervises for the proper application of the regulation by the Central Unit and takes the necessary measures to ensure the security thereof. It also informs the European Parliament and the Council of the measures it takes¹²⁷.

Data processing activities of EU countries are monitored by the national supervisory authorities, while those of the Commission are monitored by the European Data Protection Supervisor (EDPS)¹²⁸.

29. a) Who provides the information mentioned above (under Q 28) (public authorities, international organisations, CSO - civil society organisations)?

Instructions are provided by the Asylum Service, the staff of NGOs and other organizations, as well as the information available on the official website of the Asylum Service.

- b) How is this information provided (orally, digitally, in writing or all three)?

Please describe.

In all three ways respectively (orally, digitally, in writing).

- c) Where information is provided orally, is interpretation available?

Yes / No.

If yes, who provides the interpretation services (e.g. national authorities, NGOs etc)?

Instructions are provided by the Asylum Service, the staff of NGOs and other organizations, as well as the information available via the official website of the Asylum Service.

- d) Where information is provided digitally, is translation available?

Yes / No.

If yes, who provides the digital information (e.g. national authorities, NGOs etc)?

The digitally available information is accessible in languages spoken by third-country nationals and is posted on the official websites of the Asylum Service, International Organizations, NGOs, etc..

- e) Where information is provided in writing is translation available?

Yes / No.

If yes, who provides the translation service (e.g. national authorities, NGOs etc)?

Instructions are provided by the Asylum Service, the staff of NGOs and other organizations, as well as the information available via the official website of the Asylum Service¹²⁹.

30. Is any specific training or guidance provided for staff responsible for data management with regard to information collected at the lodging phase?

The staff responsible for managing the personal data of asylum seekers of the Asylum Service, during the registration phase, is trained continuously through seminars and training programmes on the relevant procedures and applicable legal provisions

¹²⁶ The obligation to take appropriate measures to provide data subjects with a processing or privacy notice stems from Article 12 GDPR which obliges data controllers to provide "any information referred to in Articles 13 and 14 and any communication under Articles 15 to 22 and 34 relating to processing to the data subject in a concise, transparent, intelligible and easily accessible form, using clear and plain language." The information referred to in Articles 13 sets out the information to be provided where data has been collected from the data subject. It includes setting out the purpose of the data collected and legal basis; legitimate interests of the data controller (where this is used as the legal base); recipients of the data or categories of data; and if the data will be transferred to a third country or international organisation. Articles 15 to 22 refer to the data subject's rights including the rights to access, rectification and erasure; the right to object (if data is being collected for certain purposes including for a task carried out in the public interest or an official function vested in the data controller or in pursuit of legitimate interests of the data controller); right to data portability etc.

¹²⁷ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=LEGISSUM%3A133081#>

¹²⁸ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=LEGISSUM%3A133081#>

¹²⁹ Asylum Service.

Section 5: Examining an asylum application

The following sections request information on any additional data collected after an asylum application is deemed to have been lodged and before a first instance decision is issued.

5.1 Cross checking of data collected at the examination phase

31. Against which databases at i. local/regional, ii. national, iii. European and iv. international levels is the information collected during the examination phase cross-checked (please elaborate, what the purpose is of the cross-checking and if only specific categories of data are cross-checked)?

The registration of asylum applications is checked through the EURODAC system in order for EU countries to determine the responsibility for examining the applications they receive, by comparing the fingerprints of applicants/third-country nationals in the central database; and to enable law enforcement authorities, under certain conditions, to carry out searches in EURODAC for the verification/identification of evidence and the prevention of serious criminal offenses¹³⁰. Legal framework: JMD no 1302 (2) (Government Gazette B 4907-31-12-2019)¹³¹. Compilation of a National List of countries of origin that are characterized as safe according to article 87 par. 5 of Law 4636/2019. With this Joint Decision of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs and Citizen Protection, a national list of countries of origin that are characterized as safe is compiled in accordance with article 87 par. 5 of law 4636/2019. The list of Safe Countries of Origin includes the following: Ghana, Senegal, Togo, Gambia, Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Albania, Georgia, Ukraine, India, and Armenia. Adaptation of the internal Standard Operating Procedure (SOPs) of the Asylum Service. Criteria in the instructions of the Asylum Service for the procedures concerning the application of the concept of the first country of Asylum and the Safe Third Country, based on articles 35 and 38 of Directive 2013/32/EU, are introduced¹³².

32. Does systematic cross-checking against (a) VIS and (b) SIS take place?

Yes / No.

33. What issues has your (Member) State encountered in cross checking data collected at the examination phase? For each issue mentioned, please describe a) for whom it is an issue, b) why it is considered an issue and c) whether the assessment that this issue based on input from experts (please indicate sources).

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¹³⁰ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EL/TXT/?uri=LEGISSUM%3A133081>

¹³¹ <http://asylo.gov.gr/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/KYA-Aσφαλείς-χώρες-καταγωγής.pdf>

¹³² Asylum Service.

5.2 Information provided to asylum applicants at the examination phase

34. Are asylum applicants provided with a processing/privacy note¹³³ about the personal data collected from them during the examination phase?

Yes / No.

35. If yes, please describe which information is provided (i.e. the purpose for which personal data from the asylum applicant is collected and on what basis, who has access to the information, data protection rights etc). a) Who provides the information mentioned above (under Q 34) (public authorities, international organisations, CSO - civil society organisations)?

As regards the protection of personal data, EU countries sending data to EURODAC must ensure that the taking of fingerprints and all operations involving the processing, transmission, conservation or erasure of the data are carried out lawfully. The European Commission supervises for the proper application of the regulation by the Central Unit and takes the necessary measures to ensure the security thereof. It also informs the European Parliament and the Council of the measures it takes¹³⁴.

Data processing activities of EU countries are monitored by the national supervisory authorities, while those of the Commission are monitored by the European Data Protection Supervisor (EDPS)¹³⁵.

- b) How is this information provided (orally, digitally, in writing or all three)?

Please describe.

In all three ways respectively (orally, digitally, in writing).

- c) Where information is provided orally, is interpretation available?

Yes / No.

If yes, who provides the interpretation services (e.g. national authorities, NGOs etc)?

The competent officials/interpreters of the Asylum Service, which is the Authority responsible for receiving and examining asylum applications.

- d) Where information is provided digitally, is translation available?

Yes / No.

If yes, who provides the digital information (e.g. national authorities, NGOs etc)?

The digital information is provided through the official website of the Asylum Service.

- e) Where information is provided in writing is translation available?

Yes / No.

If yes, who provides the translation service (e.g. national authorities, NGOs etc)?

Instructions are provided by the Asylum Service, the staff of NGOs and other organizations, as well as the information available via the official website of the Asylum Service.

36. Is any specific training or guidance provided for staff responsible for data management with regard to information collected at the examination phase?

The staff responsible for managing the personal data of asylum seekers of the Asylum Service, during the registration phase, is trained continuously through seminars and training programmes on the relevant procedures and applicable legal provisions.

¹³³ The obligation to take appropriate measures to provide data subjects with a processing or privacy notice stems from Article 12 GDPR which obliges data controllers to provide "any information referred to in Articles 13 and 14 and any communication under Articles 15 to 22 and 34 relating to processing to the data subject in a concise, transparent, intelligible and easily accessible form, using clear and plain language." The information referred to in Articles 13 sets out the information to be provided where data has been collected from the data subject. It includes setting out the purpose of the data collected and legal basis; legitimate interests of the data controller (where this is used as the legal base); recipients of the data or categories of data; and if the data will be transferred to a third country or international organisation. Articles 15 to 22 refer to the data subject's rights including the rights to access, rectification and erasure; the right to object (if data is being collected for certain purposes including for a task carried out in the public interest or an official function vested in the data controller or in pursuit of legitimate interests of the data controller); right to data portability etc.

¹³⁴ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=LEGISSUM%3A133081#>

¹³⁵ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=LEGISSUM%3A133081#>

Section 6: Data quality and safeguards

The following sections request information on how data quality is managed and the safeguards that (Member) States apply.

6.1 Data quality management

37. Is the quality of (at least some categories of) data (alphanumeric and biometric) collected during the asylum procedure assessed (e.g. with regard to accuracy, timeliness, completeness, consistency, duplication and validity of the data)?

Yes / No.

If yes, please elaborate on some contrasting¹³⁶ examples of data quality assessment and indicate:

- a) In which phase(s) of the asylum procedure is the quality of data assessed (quality assessment)?

Law 4636/2019 in Chapter F. art. 91 provides: 1. When new data that constitute a reason for review of the international protection status have emerged, the competent Receiving Authorities shall examine whether there is a case of revocation of this status under the relevant provisions of Part A of this law. The decision of revocation is taken by the Head of the locally competent Receiving Authority, after a suggestion of an employee (operator) who is specially appointed and which is specifically justified. 2. In cases of application of paragraph 1, the interested individual: a. He is informed in writing by the competent Receiving Authority at least fifteen (15) working days before the review of the assistance provided to him/her for the necessary conditions of international protection and the reasons for this review. b. He is entitled to submit in a written memorandum to the competent Receiving Authority the reasons why he considers that the granted status should not be revoked. 3. The Deciding Authority, in the context of this procedure: a. is informed in writing by the Department of Education, Quality Assurance and Documentation of the Asylum Service, in particular regarding the general political, social and economic situation prevailing in the countries of origin of the persons concerned, and b. may, if it deems appropriate, collect further information on the case in order to review the status.¹³⁷ Also, in addition to the above case provided by law, the Department of Education, Quality Assurance and Documentation of the Asylum Service: Takes care of the organization of education and continuous training of the staff of the service to ensure the quality of services provided by the Regional Asylum Services, as well as for the evaluation of the quality of the international protection decisions of First degree. Researches, collects, evaluates, and maintains information on the political, social, and economic situation in the countries of origin of applicants for international protection and for this purpose it cooperates with other competent Greek authorities, foreign authorities, European or international organizations, especially in the framework of international agreements, co-competent authorities of the Member States of the European Union, as well as with the European Asylum Support Office. Ensures the quality of international protection decisions issued throughout the administrative review process of international protection applications and keeps statistics and other data of international protection decisions¹³⁸.

- b) How (specific tools)¹³⁹ and by whom (centralised/decentralised) is the quality assessment carried out?

-NI-

- c) If decentralised, how is it ensured that the other actors get to know about data amendments and changes?

-NI-

38. Do quality assessment measures only apply retroactively? Yes / No.

39. Are any preventative measures in place to get the information right at the very beginning? Yes / No. If yes, which safeguards are in place?

-NI-

¹³⁶ It will not be feasible to elaborate on all data quality assessment measures for each type of data collected which is why we are asking for contrasting examples where different types of quality assessment measure (e.g. tools, technical equipment, data analytics etc.) apply.

¹³⁷ <http://asylo.gov.gr/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/N.-4636.2019-ΦΕΚ-169.A.1.11.2019.pdf>

¹³⁸ http://asylo.gov.gr/?page_id=254

¹³⁹ E.g. name transliteration, screening for duplicates against data already stored in the database, automated data quality checks, data analytics, artificial intelligence.

6.2 Safeguards

40. Describe the supervision mechanism for data protection supervision of the personal data collected during the asylum procedure in your Member State.¹⁴⁰

The IT Department of the Asylum Service maintains the logistics computerization system of the Service, ensures its proper connection with files kept by other Public Sector Services and other respective Authorities of EU Member States under relevant agreements and is responsible for the collection, processing, and maintenance of statistical data by the Regional Asylum Services and the Appeals Authority¹⁴¹.

41. Have (national) data protection authorities or similar entities assessed any of the databases described above?

Yes / No.

If yes, please specify the relevant authorities, briefly describe what conclusions have they drawn, including whether such conclusions have led to changes in data management. *Please indicate sources and whether there are any published reports or audits available on these inspections.*

-NI-

42. How is it arranged in practice the manner in which the rights of asylum applicants in relation to access, rectification and erasure of their data stored in the national systems are exercised? *Please provide available statistics concerning the number of requests made by asylum applicants, if any.*

-NI-

¹⁴⁰ The question does not refer to the legal framework but to how a data protection authority in a Member State supervises the implementation of that legal framework (what are the structures in place in your Member State to ensure the data subject's data protection rights are being ensured).

¹⁴¹ http://asylo.gov.gr/?page_id=3777

Section 7: Responding to challenges in data management: recent reforms to the asylum procedure

7.1 Challenges and changes/reforms in data management

43. Has your (Member) State experienced any of the following challenges related to data management in the past years (since 2014)?

Please elaborate on each of the selected challenges, mentioning: a) for whom it is a challenge (policy-maker, organisation, other stakeholders); b) why it is considered a challenge; and c) how was it identified as a challenge (e.g. surveys, evaluation reports, focus groups, experts opinions etc).

Lack of human or financial resources

The economic crisis that our country is facing in recent years, combined with the numerous arrivals of third-country nationals from Greece's sea and land borders, have been challenging issues for the management of the refugee phenomenon in terms of available resources and sufficient staff for the operation of the Service.

Self-registration

-

Legal obstacles

-

Cooperation between national authorities

-

Interoperability of databases

-

Technical limitations in data processing

-

Implementation of Eurodac and/or GDPR regulation

-

Lack of training/information

-

Transliteration (e.g. Arabic to Latin or other alphabets)

-

Other (please specify):

-

44. Did your (Member) State introduce any major change(s)/reform(s) related to data management in the past years (since 2014)?

Yes / No.

If yes, please describe those changes and why they were made.

For the faster management of asylum applications in recent years, the Regional Asylum Offices and the Independent Asylum Units were established for the receipt and fast examination of applications for international protection, within the limits of their local competence.

If not, please move to Q48.

45. Have any of the abovementioned changes become standard operating procedure in your (Member) State?

Yes / No.

Please elaborate

The operation of the Regional Asylum Offices as well as the Independent Asylum Units, as well as the electronic self-registration of asylum applications, as analyzed above, have been established as best practices for faster and more efficient management of asylum applications.

46. Were any of these changes/reforms related to data management introduced due to the introduction of 'channelling'?

Yes / No.

If yes, please elaborate.

-NI-

47. Did the reforms introduced achieve the intended results? Why?

Please elaborate and explain why the reform(s) achieved/did not achieve the intended results.

-NI-

48. Would your (Member) State consider this reform (s) as a good practice?

Please elaborate and explain why your (Member) State considers/ does not consider the reform(s) a good practice. In particular, please mention whether any of those reform(s) are believed to have improved the quality of the asylum procedure.

The operation of the Regional Asylum Offices as well as Independent Asylum Units in order to decongest the work of the central Asylum Service, as well as online self-registration of asylum applications, as previously analyzed, , have been established as best practices for faster and more efficient management of asylum applications.

49. Have any on-going (unaddressed) challenges related to data management in the asylum procedure been identified in your (Member) State?

Yes / No.

If yes, please elaborate.

-NI-

If yes, is your (Member) State taking any steps to address these challenges?

-NI-

7.2 Contingency measures

50. Are there any contingency measures in place to accelerate and/or ease the process in times of high influx of asylum seekers with regard to data management?

If yes, please describe those measures.

In addition to the operation of the Regional Asylum Offices as well as the Independent Units and the possibility of self-registration, due to a large number of applicants for international protection in recent years, including the year 2020, in Greece, their service through the standard procedure of their self-presence in the Asylum Service has become quite complicated. Therefore, it is possible to assign a recording date (appointment) via the Skype¹⁴² web application. However, this action pre-existed in previous years and continued in 2020. Also, to better serve a large number of applications, the Asylum Service strengthens its action through the continuous recruitment of staff. According to Law 4540/2018 Article 28 (7), the participation of EASO staff is permitted when there is an urgent need for administrative procedures to examine asylum applications. From mid-2019, the European Asylum Support Office (EASO) assists the Asylum Service and the normal procedure. Specifically, the EASO 2019 plan aims to help strengthen the implementation of the community acquis and reception in line with EU standards for individuals in need of protection in Greece¹⁴³.

¹⁴² http://asylo.gov.gr/?page_id=107

¹⁴³ Asylum Service.

Section 8: Conclusions

This section of the Synthesis Report will draw conclusions as to the (Member) States' existing policies, practices and case law related to the registration and data management in the asylum procedure.

With regard to the aims of this study, what conclusions would you draw from your findings reached in elaborating your national contribution? In particular, what is the relevance of your findings to (national and/or EU level) policymakers?

The National Report on Greece in the framework of the Study 2020: 1 of the European Migration Network (EMN) aimed to cover different phases of the asylum process, starting from when an individual submits the asylum application until the first decision is made. The use of information collected during different phases of the asylum procedure to inform further related steps of the process reception conditions, and to inform future planning for the migration system (including integration and possibly return) increase the preparedness of the migration system overall.

This National Report aimed to record the main findings regarding data management and procedures regarding the formation, submission, registration, and examination of asylum applications of third-country nationals entering the Greek territory. After the reception, the provision of aid and information on the rights and obligations of the incoming populations, by the Reception and Identification Service, the responsible service for the receipt, registration, and examination of asylum applications is the Asylum Service. This study examined how data is managed in the different phases of the asylum procedure and to identify any recent trends. In particular, it (i) mapped Member States' data management approaches in the asylum procedure, (ii) examined whether there have been any procedural changes to enhance data sharing within the asylum authorities and beyond and how these have impacted on data management in these processes, and (iii) challenges and good practices that have arisen in relation to data management.

The procedures are divided into an application to the local Regional Asylum Offices and the Independent Units, which can even be submitted individually, electronically via the Asylum Service's website. Then, after examining the applicants' biometric data for complete identification, the profile of the third-country national and the a attribution of the respective status is evaluated. Third-country nationals' data are stored on the EURODAC platform for the practical safeguarding of communication and exchange of information between European countries and for the verification of applicants' data, while the protection of personal data is provided at national and European level.

The data process's examination and quality assurance are done by the competent Department of Education, Quality Assurance, and Documentation of the Asylum Service. Regarding the challenges identified, they are part of the complex economic crisis of recent years in Greece, combined with the large number of asylum applications (accumulated from previous years and new registrations), leading to the urgent and ongoing need to cover the human and material resources of the Asylum Service, for the faster and more efficient work in the field of asylum.

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Annex 1 National statistics

Please fill in the attached excel sheet with the respective statistics for your (Member) State – provided in a separate Excel file. The Statistical Annex consists of the following:

Annex 1.1. Number of registrations of asylum applications

Number of registrations of asylum applications Please provide the data for the years 2014-2019.					
2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
9431	13187	51053	58637	66962	77285

Source: Statistics of the Asylum Service (from 07.06.2013 until 31.01.2020) <https://migration.gov.gr/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/ΦΕΒΡΟΥΑΡΙΟΣ-2020.zip>

