



# FUNDING FOR SHORT-TERM MIGRATION NEEDS IN GREECE

## Overview

EU funding contributes to the **increase of reception capacity** for people fleeing their home countries, the **improvement of living conditions** for people awaiting asylum decisions, including in hotspots on the Greek islands, **faster asylum procedures** that respect fundamental human rights, the protection of children traveling alone, the **safeguarding of the European borders**, and the **prevention of lives lost at sea**.

### Beneficiaries:

- Ministry of Migration and Asylum,
- Ministry of Defense,
- Ministry of Citizen Protection,
- Hellenic Coast Guard,
- Greek Asylum Service,
- Reception and Identification Service,
- International Organization for Migration (IOM),
- The United Nations Refugee Agency (UNHCR)

## AT A GLANCE

### Geographical coverage:

Greece (mainland and islands)

### Budget (in € million):

Total EU Support since 2015: €1,83m

- € 646.0m to Greek authorities
- € 1,18 b to International Organizations
- More than 20 ongoing projects

### Type of funding:

Emergency Assistance (EMAS) under:

- Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF)
- Internal Security Fund (ISF)

## Greater Reception Capacity in the Mainland

The majority of emergency funding provides **support to the Greek reception system**. EU funding managed by the Greek authorities and international organizations currently provides accommodation of more than 50.000 asylum-applicants on the mainland. Reception standards are upheld by providing cleaning, catering and security services as well as referral to health care and legal assistance. By providing **psychosocial counselling**, education on **rights and duties** and referral to social, **recreational** and **educational activities**, projects promote self-reliance.

## Better living conditions on the Islands

EU emergency funding **improves living conditions** for people awaiting a decision on their asylum request on the Greek islands. **Safe Zones for children** provide a protected environment in which different skills can be developed. Psychosocial counselling is available for survivors of sexual or gender based violence. Additionally, new reception centers are under construction on the islands of Samos, Kos and Leros in order to improve reception standards.



## Fast and Fair Asylum Procedures

EU emergency funding also contributed to a **fair and efficient asylum procedure** on the Greek mainland and islands, in line with relevant EU legislation, by training of 300 new as well as experienced Asylum Service staff, the creation of fully equipped workstations and the deployment of interpreters. Additionally, EU funding also allows Asylum Service employees to operate after hours, in order to **clear existing backlogs** in asylum decisions in Greece.

## Protecting Children Traveling Alone

**Children are a priority for the EU**, and special attention and care is given to children traveling to Greece without parents. For these unaccompanied minors, the EU funds emergency **accommodation in hotels, relocation to other Member States and associated countries** along with tailored protection services by trained professionals to upgrade their living conditions and promote their personal development. Additionally, children who have traveled to Greece alone, receive clothing, **transfers to primary and secondary schools**, and **health care**. The funding allowed the establishment of places where a number of these minors, having reached the age of 16, can live partially independently. This way, they are being **prepared and equipped for adult life** in the Greek society in a safe and protected manner, under the supervision, guidance and care of a certified guardian. **Child and Family Support Hubs** provide services dedicated to **mother and baby care** and referral to specialized services and child protection services.

## Integration into the Greek Society

It is important that recognized refugees can swiftly leave reception accommodation, in order to keep these facilities for people still awaiting a decision of their asylum request. By providing language classes, soft skill trainings, job counselling and financial support for the rent of housing, the partners that receive funding do not only help refugees to **fully integrate into Greek society** but also help to **decongest reception facilities**.



## EFFECTIVE SEARCH AND RESCUE AT SEA

The Greek Coast Guard was able to deploy 60 additional staff members and 65 additional maritime vessels in order to protect the Greek borders and perform Search and Rescue Missions to prevent lives lost at sea. These actions helped to increase the capacity of local coast guard authorities on the Greek islands, contributing to the internal security within the European Union.

## MAINTAIN HUMAN DIGNITY FOR ASYLUM SEEKERS

To ensure better provision of living conditions such as food and clothes or those in search of asylum, the funding provides for cash allowances on regular basis.

## TESTIMONY OF A BENEFICIARY IN EU-FUNDED ACCOMMODATION PROJECT

*"From a very young age I used to paint.*

*Faces, cartoons, landscapes, are the main source of my inspiration. And I would love to do that here.*

*To be free and to feel safe in my everyday life and in my art. This is what I want most of all, now that I am here. I want to stay here and grow.*

*I want to take care of my family, go to school and learn Greek".*