



Raphaelswerk e.V.

GREECE: Information for refugees who are returned to Greece

Last updated in December 2022

Under the Dublin Regulation, refugees may be transferred to the EU country responsible (in most cases, the country of first entry), so that the asylum procedure is carried out there. Refugees who have already been recognised in another EU country will be returned to that country on the basis of the safe third country clause because their asylum application is not admissible in Germany.

For many refugees, their imminent return to another EU country creates great uncertainty.

Our guide is intended for advisers, voluntary support groups and people who are affected. It is supposed to show existing services and contacts. Refugees will be given information about their situation after being returned as well as addresses of organisations they may contact locally for support. However, no assessment of these organisations and services is made.

Many services offering help in Greece are short-term projects and not subsidised on a regular basis. At the time when the information provided herein was compiled (December 2022), there was only a small number of permanent support structures. We therefore do not claim that the list is exhaustive. This report must not be used as general proof of existing services offering help.

Publisher:
Raphaelswerk e. V.
Adenauerallee 41
D-20097 Hamburg
Tel.: +49 40 248442-0
Fax: +49 40 248442-39
E-mail: kontakt@raphaelswerk.de
Internet: www.raphaelswerk.de

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Introduction

Resumption of transfers to Greece

According to a recommendation of the EU Commission of 8 December 2016, transfers of refugees to Greece under the Dublin Regulation were resumed after they had been suspended for several years. Only asylum seekers who entered Greece after 15 March 2017 or for whom Greece is responsible from that date for another reason (e.g. because they were granted a visa) are returned.

Unaccompanied minors or other vulnerable persons will not be returned. In each individual case, Greece is asked to assure that the returnee is accommodated appropriately and that his/her asylum procedure is carried out under EU law.¹

In fact, virtually no transfers from Germany to Greece have taken place in the last few years due to the living conditions of asylum seekers.²

Removal of refugees recognised in Greece

Lately, the living conditions of recognised refugees in Greece have deteriorated immensely. According to a statement by Pro Asyl and Refugee Support Aegean (RSA), beneficiaries of protection who have travelled on to Germany and lodge a new asylum application here are in danger of becoming homeless and impoverished if they return to Greece³. They do not receive any support from the state. Due to inhumane living conditions, deportation is not possible in many cases.

In such cases, various courts in Germany have ordered that the refugee concerned should not be deported because the most basic needs cannot be satisfied if the person in question returns to Greece. Especially in the case of vulnerable persons (e.g. families with small children), their return is assessed as unacceptable. In the meantime, this also applies to the majority of decisions concerning single, healthy people who are able to work⁴.

On 13 November 2019, the European Court of Justice ruled that asylum applications of persons who have already been recognised as refugees in another EU state cannot be rejected as inadmissible if such persons face the threat of violations of human rights in that state. If there is danger of inhuman or degrading treatment that violates the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union, a new asylum application in another Member State is possible.⁵

¹ Reply of the German Federal Government to a question posed by MPs and the parliamentary party "DIE LINKE", Document No. 19/30849. Additional information on asylum statistics for 2020 and the first quarter of 2021 – questions on key issues of the Dublin procedure, p. 27, <https://dserver.bundestag.de/btd/19/308/1930849.pdf>, last retrieved on 15/12/2022

² Reply of the German Federal Government to a question posed by MPs and the parliamentary party "DIE LINKE", Document No. 20/437. Additional information on asylum statistics for 2021 – questions on key issues of the Dublin procedure, <https://dserver.bundestag.de/btd/20/008/2000861.pdf>, last retrieved on 15/12/2022

³ Pro Asyl, RSA: "Statement: On the current situation of beneficiaries of international protection in Greece" (Stellungnahme: Zur aktuellen Situation von internationalen Schutzberechtigten in Griechenland), April 2021, <https://www.proasyl.de/material/stellungnahme-zur-aktuellen-situation-international-schutzberechtigter-in-griechenland/>, and RSA, Pro Asyl: Beneficiaries of international protection in Greece. Access to documents and socio-economic rights, March 2022, https://rsaegean.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/2022-03_RSA_BIP_EN.pdf, last retrieved on 15/12/2022

⁴ Meyerhöfer, Andreas: "The situation of refugees 'recognised' in Greece. Current information and court decisions" (Die Situation von in Griechenland „Anerkannten“. Aktuelle Informationen und Rechtsprechung). In: Asylmagazin. Zeitschrift für Flüchtlings- und Migrationsrecht 6/2021, p. 201

⁵ ECJ, judgment of 13/11/2019 - C-540/17; C-541/17 Germany vs. Hamed and Omar, <https://curia.europa.eu/juris/document/document.jsf?text=&docid=220782&pageIndex=0&doclang=DE&mode=req&dir=&occ=first&part=1&cid=2843967>, last retrieved on 2/11/2021

In Germany, the previous ruling to stop taking decisions on asylum applications lodged by persons who have been recognised in Greece was set aside in April 2022. Accordingly, asylum applications could be rejected as inadmissible if there is no danger of any violation of human rights in Greece. In reply to Pro Asyl's question, the German Federal Office for Migration and Refugees (*BAMF*) stated that this would only happen in justifiable, individual cases. Normally, admission and examination of asylum applications in terms of content are to be assumed in Germany.⁶

Persons affected on whose asylum application no decision has been taken yet should consult a legal adviser to decide whether proceedings for failure to act would be useful in their case to bring about a decision on the asylum application.⁷

Change in the law: new Asylum Act 2020

At the end of 2019, a new Asylum Act was passed in Greece, which entered into force on 1 January 2020. It aggravates the situation of asylum seekers, which is regarded critically by relief organisations as this will make access to a fair asylum procedure more difficult and is intended to facilitate deportations by lowering legal standards⁸.

Among other things, the following changes are included:

- safe countries of origin are defined,
- asylum seekers are only granted access to the labour market six months after lodging their application,
- beneficiaries of subsidiary protection are granted a residence permit for one year instead of three years as was the case previously.

Procedure after re-entry into Greece

The German authorities inform the Greek Asylum Service of the arrival of persons who are returned to Greece under the Dublin Regulation. The Greek authorities then inform the German authorities whether there are places available in reception centres and whether the asylum procedure can be resumed. Upon arrival at the airport in Greece, returnees are received by the police and referred to the Asylum Service.

⁶ Pro Asyl, press release of 26 July 2022, <https://www.proasyl.de/pressemitteilung/pro-asyl-und-bayerischer-fluechtlingsrat-gefaehrlicher-und-schaebiger-testlauf/>, last retrieved on 15/12/2022

⁷ BAMF, official decision/notification dated 31 March 2022 - 61D 7600/71-2022 - asyl.net: M30573, <https://www.asyl.net/rsdb/m30573>

⁸ Cf. Country Report: Greece; aida Asylum Information Database, 2020 update, pp. 19 ff and 33 ff, <https://asylumineurope.org/reports/country/greece/>, and "Planned asylum reform works to the disadvantage of persons in need of protection" (Geplante Asylreform geht zu Lasten von Schutzsuchenden), Amnesty International Deutschland e.V., 29/10/2019 <https://www.amnesty.de/informieren/aktuell/griechenland-geplante-asylreform-geht-zu-lasten-von-schutzsuchenden>, last retrieved on 15/12/2022

What needs to be done first?

That depends on whether the person concerned left Greece while the asylum procedure was in progress or whether he/she had not yet initiated an asylum procedure in Greece before his/her departure. Depending on the situation, different steps must be taken.

1. The person concerned had not yet lodged an asylum application in Greece before his/her departure.

As soon as the person concerned arrives in Greece, he/she tells the police that he/she wants to apply for asylum. The person is then referred to the Asylum Service in order to lodge the application for asylum.

2. The person concerned had already lodged an application for asylum in Greece and left Greece during the asylum procedure:

a) A decision in favour of granting the asylum application has been taken:

Protection status has been granted. The person concerned has residence status in Greece. Upon return to Greece, he/she must apply for a residence permit, unless he/she received such a permit before departure. The application for a residence permit is filed with the Greek police. To do so, confirmation from the competent Greek Asylum Service is required.

b) No decision has yet been taken on the asylum application:

Asylum seekers are obliged to remain in Greece until their asylum application has been processed. If they left the country beforehand without permission from the Asylum Service, this may be considered a withdrawal of the asylum application.

Therefore, the person concerned must contact the Asylum Service immediately after returning to Greece and state that he/she is still interested in his/her application being processed. Then the Asylum Service will decide whether it continues to handle the application and invite the person concerned to an interview if necessary.

If less than nine months have passed since the asylum procedure was discontinued, the original procedure may be resumed. Otherwise a subsequent application must be lodged.

If a decision against the application is taken, an appeal may be lodged.

c) The asylum application was rejected with final and binding effect:

An appeal may be lodged against the rejection within the period specified in the notice.

If an appeal had already been lodged before the applicant left Greece, the Greek Asylum Service will re-examine the application and invite him/her to an interview if necessary.

3. Recognised refugees in Greece: the person had already been granted protection status when he/she left Greece.

Beneficiaries of protection leaving Greece do not normally lose their status. Upon return to Greece, they must apply for an extension of their residence permit if it has expired or for a new residence permit if they had not yet received such a permit before departure.



To this end, returnees must first contact the competent Greek Asylum Service. That authority will take a decision on whether a residence permit can be granted or renewed. Once the returnee has received confirmation from the Asylum Service, he/she can apply to the Greek police for a residence permit. In so doing, returnees must take into account that the police only accept confirmation from an office of the Asylum Service in the same region. Such confirmation must have been issued no more than six months previously.⁹

There are waiting times of up to one year until the residence permit is issued.

The residence permit is needed in order to apply for a social security number. Without this number, returnees have no access to health care, social services and the labour market.

Returnees should contact one of the advisory centres named in the annex to get support.

Information provided by the Asylum Service regarding application for or renewal of a residence permit: <https://migration.gov.gr/en/gas/aitoyntes-kai-dikaioychoi/adeies-diamonis/>

Residence status in Greece

International protection:

- Refugee status: residence permit for three years.
It is possible to apply for a travel document. There is a right to family reunification, i.e. family members from the country of origin may join the refugee in Greece.
- Subsidiary protection: residence permit for one year, which may be extended for two years.
It is possible to apply for a travel document. There is no right to family reunification, i.e. family members from the country of origin may not join the refugee in Greece.

Procedures under the law of residence / asylum procedures

Asylum seekers must register with the Asylum Service. Appointments can be booked online: <https://apps.migration.gov.gr/international-protection-registration?lang=en>. Registration takes place at a reception centre, on the mainland either in Diavata (Thessaloniki region) or Malakasa (Athens region).

During registration, the refugee's fingerprints and photographs are taken and he/she is asked briefly about the reasons for applying for asylum. Moreover, a date is set for the interview and the applicant is given a residence document as asylum seeker (Asylum Seeker's Card or International Protection Applicant Card), which is valid for up to one year. It is extended if the asylum procedure takes longer. This document entitles the holder to remain in Greece until the asylum procedure is completed. In addition, it enables access to health care in public hospitals.

⁹ RSA, *Pro Asyl: Beneficiaries of international protection in Greece. Access to documents and socio-economic rights, March 2022*, https://rsaegean.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/2022-03_RSA_BIP_EN.pdf, last retrieved on 15/12/2022

Both during registration and during the interview, the applicant is entitled to an interpreter. He/she may bring a lawyer or another adviser to the interview; however, this is done at his/her own expense. NGOs offer free legal advice.

After the interview, the Asylum Service decides whether refugee status or subsidiary protection status is granted or whether the application is rejected. The applicant is informed some months after the interview, either personally, over the telephone or in writing by post, fax or e-mail or via an online application of the Asylum Service. The notice may also be sent to engaged lawyers or representatives.

After a decision in favour of granting the asylum application has been taken (refugee status or subsidiary protection), the refugee may apply for a residence permit ("ADET"). It takes a few months to issue the residence permit. In the meantime, the Asylum Seeker's Card is stamped with the words ΕΚΚΡΕΜΕΙ ΑΔΕΙΑ ΔΙΑΜΟΝΗΣ, which shows that an application for a residence permit has been filed. This stamp is considered as a provisional residence permit.

An appeal may be lodged against a rejected asylum application within the time limit specified in the notice of rejection. The appeal must be written in Greek. Legal advice should be sought before lodging such an appeal. The asylum seeker concerned is entitled to free legal assistance during the appeal procedure. However, since capacities are insufficient, not all persons concerned can avail of this service.

Safe countries of origin

The following countries are considered safe countries of origin: Ghana, Senegal, Togo, Gambia, Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Albania, Georgia, Ukraine, India, Armenia, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Benin, Nepal and Egypt. For persons from safe countries of origin, an accelerated procedure is carried out. Accelerated procedures should be completed within 20 days and there is a shorter time limit for an appeal against a negative decision.

Safe third countries

Since June 2021, Turkey is considered a safe third country for asylum seekers from Syria, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Bangladesh and Somalia. Asylum applications lodged by persons from these countries who previously stayed in Turkey may be rejected as inadmissible and the asylum seekers concerned may be deported to Turkey.

The individual steps of the asylum procedure are described on the website of the Greek Asylum Service <https://migration.gov.gr/en/>.

Competent authorities

Stage of the procedure	Competent authority	English name
Application	π	Asylum Service
Dublin procedure	π	Asylum Service
Refugee status determination	π	Asylum Service
Appeal at first instance	π π ()	Independent Appeals Committees (Appeals Authority)
Appeal at second instance		First Instance Administrative Court of Athens or Thessaloniki
Subsequent application (admissibility)	π	Asylum Service

Source: Country Report: Greece, 2021 update; aida Asylum Information Database

What duties do asylum seekers have in Greece?

Asylum seekers are obliged:

- to remain in Greece until a decision on the asylum application is taken;
- to inform the Asylum Service of any changes of address or the like;
- to apply for a tax number and file a tax return each year.

What rights do asylum seekers have in Greece?

Asylum seekers are entitled:

- to free access to the public health care system
- to information on, among other things, the procedure for applying for asylum and on their rights and duties in a language they understand
- to free legal assistance in connection with an appeal against a negative decision on asylum

As soon as an application for asylum is lodged, the applicant has the right:

- to remain in Greece until a decision is taken;
- to receive an Asylum Seeker's Card, which enables the holder to move freely within Greece;
- to be accommodated in a hostel for asylum seekers.

Lack of the following may result in infringement of rights:

- lack of information
- lack of interpreters
- lack of medical care (incl. medicine)
- lack of legal assistance
- inadequate accommodation
- lack of or insufficient provision of food and/or clothes
- problems with authorities (delayed issue of residence permit, insufficient information, lack of interpreters, etc.)

In the event of any discrimination or infringement of rights, an advisory centre/NGO, etc. should be contacted; see addresses in the annex.

Return to the country of origin

Refugees who want to return to their country of origin may receive financial support on certain conditions. IOM Greece is responsible for implementing the relevant programmes in Greece.

Tax number and social security number

Social security number (PAAYP A and AMKA):

The social security number is required for health, unemployment and pension insurance and when taking up work. Asylum seekers are given a provisional number (Alien's Temporary Social Security and Medical Care Number, PAAYP A) that is stated on their Asylum Seeker's Card. If the asylum application is granted, the provisional number is changed to the permanent social security number AMKA. If the asylum application is rejected, the provisional social security number is no longer valid.

Beneficiaries of international protection must apply to the Civic Centre (KEP) at their place of residence for a social security number. To do so, they need a residence permit, an address and a tax number.

Tax number (AFM):

Applications for a tax number are filed with the tax authority. Asylum seekers are given a tax number as soon as their asylum application has been registered. This number is required when dealing with authorities, banks or the tax authority and when entering into contracts (e.g. leases, contracts with mobile telephone providers). Moreover, it is required when the asylum seeker takes up employment or applies for social services. As soon as the asylum seeker has been given a tax number, he/she is obliged to file an annual tax return; this also applies if he/she does not have any income.

All persons residing legally in Greece need the social security number and the tax number. However, asylum seekers and recognised refugees may encounter problems when documents are missing, e.g. documents to prove the place of residence, a certificate of homelessness or to prove the marital status.

Accommodation after re-entry

In the event of return under the Dublin III Regulation, the Greek authorities must assure the German authorities that the returnee can be accommodated in compliance with European standards.¹⁰

Asylum seekers may request to be placed in state accommodation. In this connection, the social services of Caritas Hellas may be of help. There may be waiting times until accommodation is provided.

The reception conditions are not only critical on the islands but also on the mainland, where most returnees under the Dublin Regulation live. Many camps are temporary, overcrowded reception centres, access to basic support services is difficult, health care is insufficient and it is not possible to take adequate care of vulnerable persons¹¹.

Access to accommodation

Beneficiaries of international protection are equal to other third-country nationals as regards access to accommodation. They may receive a rent allowance on certain conditions through the HELIOS programme. Usually, recognised beneficiaries of protection deported from other EU countries do not meet these conditions and are not given any accommodation or financial support. They are usually at risk of becoming homeless.¹²

State accommodation is reserved for asylum seekers. Beneficiaries of protection may only stay there for another 30 days after their recognition.

There are shelters for the homeless in the towns; however, it is almost impossible to find accommodation there. There are not enough places and there are long waiting lists. Refugees are often not accepted and families can only be accommodated in exceptional cases.¹³

Consequently, many beneficiaries of protection are homeless or live in precarious conditions in derelict houses, without electricity and running water.

The social services of Caritas Hellas or other NGOs are able to provide support to persons looking for accommodation.

¹⁰ Reply of the German Federal Government to a question posed by MPs and the parliamentary party "DIE LINKE", Document No. 19/30849. Additional information on asylum statistics for 2020 and the first quarter of 2021 – questions on key issues of the Dublin procedure, p. 27, <https://dserver.bundestag.de/btd/19/308/1930849.pdf>, last retrieved on 15/12/2022

¹¹ "Unaccompanied minors who are refugees in Greece" (Unbegleitete minderjährige Flüchtlinge in Griechenland), publisher: Bundesfachverband unbegleitete minderjährige Flüchtlinge e. V., author: Equal Rights Beyond Borders, July 2019, https://bumf.de/material/?filter=berichte-und-studien&type=post_tag, last retrieved on 15/12/2022

¹² Pro Asyl, RSA: "Statement: On the current situation of beneficiaries of international protection in Greece" (Stellungnahme: Zur aktuellen Situation von international Schutzberechtigten in Griechenland), April 2021, <https://www.proasyl.de/material/stellungnahme-zur-aktuellen-situation-international-schutzberechtigter-in-griechenland/>

¹³ Pro Asyl, RSA: "Statement: On the current situation of beneficiaries of international protection in Greece" (Stellungnahme: Zur aktuellen Situation von international Schutzberechtigten in Griechenland), April 2021, p. 10, <https://www.proasyl.de/material/stellungnahme-zur-aktuellen-situation-international-schutzberechtigter-in-griechenland/>

Access to health care

With the provisional social security number PAAYPA, **asylum seekers** gain access to medical care via the public health care system. That means that they are entitled to medical examinations in approved clinics and institutions, to treatments in public hospitals and to medicine that is prescribed for them.

Persons with special needs such as pregnant women, victims of torture, unaccompanied minors and disabled persons are entitled to psychological support. However, there is a lack of therapeutic services for asylum seekers and beneficiaries of protection.¹⁴

Beneficiaries of international protection have access to health care on the same terms as Greek citizens.

The Greek social security number (PAAYPA or AMKA) is required to gain access to the public health care system. Anyone who does not have a social security number should bring the Asylum Seeker's Card when going into hospital and ask for help. Without a social security number, refugees are entitled to medical care in case of emergency; further treatments and medication must be paid privately.

The public health care system in Greece is seriously affected by the financial crisis and the pandemic. There are long waiting times, there is not enough personnel and medicine, and patients are requested to make co-payments. Moreover, there are not enough interpreters in hospitals and other institutions.

Access to social services

Asylum seekers receive financial support on certain conditions. The payment is made through a cash card the size of a cheque card that can be used at cash dispensers. The payment is supposed to cover basic needs such as food, transport, clothes, hygiene products, school material and medicine, unless these are made available as part of state provision. The amount of the payment depends on the size of the family and other benefits received.

Asylum seekers who are placed in official hostels are entitled to this payment. Persons living in informal accommodation, e.g. people squatting in houses, are excluded from receiving this benefit in cash. Asylum seekers who are placed in private accommodation are not entitled to financial support, either.

Benefits for asylum seekers are discontinued immediately after the asylum application is granted.

Beneficiaries of international protection have access to social services under the same conditions as Greek citizens. They are not entitled to benefits intended for asylum seekers.

Some examples of individual benefits:

- Guaranteed minimum income: financial aid, support in connection with integration into the labour market
- Pension for persons over the age of 67 who do not receive a pension under a pension insurance scheme (minimum duration of stay: 15 years)

¹⁴ RSA, *Pro Asyl: Beneficiaries of international protection in Greece. Access to documents and socio-economic rights, March 2022*, https://rsaegear.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/2022-03_RSA_BIP_EN.pdf

- Family allowance (minimum duration of stay: 5 years)
- Social welfare benefits for disabled persons

Most social services require a legal minimum stay in Greece (between one and fifteen years, depending on the benefit); the time needed for lodging the asylum application is not considered in this regard. Moreover, documents such as tax assessment notice, lease or certificate of homelessness must be submitted, which most beneficiaries of protection cannot present. Therefore, in practice claims for benefits often fail because the persons concerned do not meet the requirements.

As a result, beneficiaries of protection who are deported to Greece are, in practice, mostly left to their own resources and do not receive any benefits.¹⁵

Voluntary support groups in Germany can support returnees by collecting money as an initial aid for them and transferring it to them as soon as they arrive in Greece. They should not take cash with them.

Access to the labour market

Asylum seekers may take up employment six months after lodging the asylum application if no decision has been taken on their application by then. They must be fully registered and have a Full Registration Asylum Seeker's Card.

Recognised refugees and beneficiaries of subsidiary protection have unrestricted access to the labour market and do not require a work permit.

Persons seeking employment may contact the Greek employment service (OAED) (www.oad.gr).

To take up employment, the tax number (AFM) and the social security number (AMKA or PAAYPA) are required.

Recognised refugees must have a valid residence permit.

In practice, however, it is extremely difficult to find work for various reasons: high level of unemployment, lack of language skills, non-recognition of qualifications. Consequently, illicit work, insufficient social insurance or underpayment are widespread phenomena. Especially if refugees recognised in Greece are deported from Germany to Greece and they do not have a valid residence permit and social security number any more, there may be waiting times of up to one year before they theoretically have access to the labour market.¹⁶

Access to educational institutions

Asylum seekers and beneficiaries of protection who are under age are entitled to access to the education system just like Greek citizens. Compulsory school attendance also applies to them.

¹⁵ Pro Asyl, RSA: "Statement: On the current situation of beneficiaries of international protection in Greece" (Stellungnahme: Zur aktuellen Situation von international Schutzberechtigten in Griechenland), April 2021, p. 10,

<https://www.proasyl.de/material/stellungnahme-zur-aktuellen-situation-international-schutzberechtigter-in-griechenland/>

¹⁶ Ibid.

For children aged between 6 and 15 years who live in official refugee camps and do not yet speak any Greek, the programme DYEP has been set up. They attend special preparatory classes in public schools in the afternoon that are held by supply teachers.

Children who do not live in refugee camps may attend a regular school in the surrounding area. They are taught together with Greek children. Some schools also offer special preparatory classes.

In addition, there are informal lessons in various refugee camps, especially on the islands.

In practice, for many children access to regular schools and preparatory classes is not guaranteed due to transport problems. The Coronavirus pandemic has made school attendance for children of refugees impossible over a longer period due to school closures and curfews.

Adults enjoying protection have access to educational institutions on the same terms as other third-country nationals living in Greece. They are entitled to take part in educational programmes and vocational training.

Access to language courses

There are no free language courses for recognised refugees that are offered by the state. Some NGOs offer free language courses for asylum seekers and refugees.

Vulnerable persons

Among the vulnerable persons are: unaccompanied and accompanied minors, direct relatives of victims of shipwrecks, pregnant women, disabled persons, elderly people, single parents with minor children, victims of human trafficking, persons with serious illnesses, persons with cognitive or mental disabilities, victims of genital mutilation as well as persons who have been subjected to torture, rape or other forms of severe psychological, physical or sexual violence.

The needs of vulnerable persons must be taken into account when accommodation is provided as well as during the asylum procedure, especially during the interview. In practice, there are often not enough places in the accommodation facilities.

Victims of torture and victims of sexual violence can prove their special protection needs by presenting a certificate issued by a state-run healthcare facility. A certificate issued by an NGO is not sufficient.

Vulnerable persons may be given preferential treatment with regard to various services, e.g. the allocation of sleeping places in shelters for the homeless.

According to an aida report¹⁷, vulnerability is often not ascertained during the asylum procedure because mechanisms to detect it are insufficient.

No transfers of vulnerable persons from Germany are currently taking place¹⁸.

If vulnerable persons are returned from Germany, the German Federal Office for Migration and Refugees (*BAMF*) notifies the competent Dublin Unit in Greece. The notification gives

¹⁷ *Country Report: Greece; aida Asylum Information Database, 2021 update, pp. 21 and 109 ff.*
<https://asylumineurope.org/reports/country/greece/>

¹⁸ *Reply of the German Federal Government to a question posed by MPs and the parliamentary party "DIE LINKE", Document No. 19/30849. Additional information on asylum statistics for 2020 and the first quarter of 2021 – questions on key issues of the Dublin procedure, p. 27, <https://dserver.bundestag.de/btd/19/308/1930849.pdf>, last retrieved on 15/12/2022*



information on special needs with regard to accommodation and medical care. This also applies, for example, to families who are transferred separately due to violence within the family and are to be placed in different accommodation facilities. The responsibility of the German authorities ends upon arrival in the country of destination and will pass to the authorities in the country of destination.

In practice, however, it becomes apparent that the special needs are not always sufficiently taken into account in the country of destination. If possible, advisers should remain in touch with the transferred persons where critical cases are concerned. If their needs are not taken into account after arrival, they can take action, if required, and arrange contact with relief organisations.

Annex: Where can I get advice and support?

Note: Many services offering help in Greece are short-term projects and not subsidised on a regular basis. At the time when the information provided herein was compiled (December 2022), there was only a small number of permanent support structures. We therefore do not claim that the list is exhaustive.

Please do not hesitate to send your comments and feedback to: infostelle@raphaelswerk.de

Information material on Greece for refugees in various languages:

An Overview of International Protection Procedures in Greece, leaflet published by the Greek Ministry for Migration and Asylum in 18 languages:

<https://migration.gov.gr/en/gas/pliories-se-18-glosses/> (currently only available in Greek; versions in other languages are being revised)

Refugee.info: The portal in various languages provides information on the asylum procedure and on working and living in Greece. Moreover, you can look for contact details of services offering help by category: <https://greece.refugee.info/en-us>

Help in Greece – UNHCR portal providing information and addresses for asylum seekers and refugees in Greece; in English, French, Arabic, Greek, Farsi and Turkish:

<https://help.unhcr.org/greece/>

"Hilfsorganisationen – Hilfe für Flüchtlinge in Griechenland" (Relief organisations – help for refugees in Greece), leaflet published by the German embassy in Athens, in German, English and Arabic: <https://griechenland.diplo.de/gr-de/service/05-VisaEinreise/-/1345826>

w2eu.info – welcome to Europe: Independent information for migrants and refugees in Greece, in English, French, Arabic and Farsi, compiled by a network of activists and organisations from Europe and North Africa, containing addresses of relief organisations:

<https://w2eu.info/en/countries/greece/contacts>

Rights in the Daily Life of the Refugee: Brochure for refugees by Caritas Hellas containing important information and practical advice for refugees in Greece (in Greek, English, French,

Arabic and Farsi), published by Caritas Hellas (2020): <https://caritas.gr/en/publications-en/legal-guide-rights-in-the-daily-life-of/>

Mobile Info Team: Information for refugees and asylum seekers in Greece, in Arabic, Bengali, English, Farsi and Urdu: <https://www.mobileinfoteam.org/>

Contacts / local advisory services

Asylum Service (Υπηρεσία Ασύλου):

Tel. +30 210 69 88 500

Hotline with recorded information for asylum seekers in 10 languages:

Tel. +30 210 69 88 660

Further telephone numbers and contacts as well as addresses of regional offices:

<https://migration.gov.gr/en/gas/dioikisi/>

Organisations providing services nationwide

Below is a list of the addresses of the headquarters of each organisation; you can inquire about addresses of local offices and further details there:

Health care and advice:

Hellenic Red Cross

Emergency telephone number for refugees: +30 210 5140440

<http://www.redcross.gr/default.asp?pid=34&la=1>

Doctors Without Borders Greece (Γιατροί Χωρίς Σύνορα, MSF)

Day Care Center

Solonos 133

Athens

Tel. +30 210 3839372

E-mail: info@msf.gr

<https://msf.gr/en>

Doctors of the World (Giatroi tou Kosmou, Médecins du Monde (Mdm) Greece)

Sapfous Street 12

Athens

Tel. +30 210 3213150

E-mail: info@mdmgreece.gr

<http://mdmgreece.gr/en/>

Open practice for migrants and refugees
(also in Thessaloniki)

Praksis (Programs of Development, Social Support and Medical Cooperation)

57 Stournari Str.
10432 Athens
Tel. +30 210 520 5200
E-mail: info@praksis.gr
www.praksis.gr/en
(also in Thessaloniki)

Legal advice and social counselling:

Caritas Hellas Social Spot Neos Kosmos

Rene Pio 2A
Neos Kosmos
Athens
Address in Greek: Ρ. Πιύ 2Α
Tel. +30 213 0909940
E-mail: neoskosmoscenter@caritas.gr
www.caritas.gr

Greek Council for Refugees

E-mail: gcr1@gcr.gr
<http://www.gcr.gr/index.php/en/>

Athens:
Solomou 25
Address in Greek: Σολωμού 25
Tel.: +30 210 3800990-1

Thessaloniki:
9, Danaidon str.
Tel.: +30 231 0250045, +30 2311 821677

METAdrasi

E-mail: info@metadrasi.org
<http://metadrasi.org>

Athens:
7, 25 Martiou, 17778 Tavros
Tel. +30 214 100 8700

Thessaloniki:
2-8, Aisopuo Street, 54627 Thessaloniki
Tel. +30 2314 07 04 33

Equal Rights Beyond Borders

Emmanouil Mpenaki 69A
106 81 Athens

Tel. +30 210 3803067
E-mail: athens@equal-rights.org
<https://equal-rights.org/>
Legal advice on family reunification within the EU

Language courses:

METAdrasi

7, 25 Martiou Street
17778 Tavros
Athens
Address in Greek: 25ης Μαρτίου 7, Ταυρος
Tel. +30 214 100 8700
E-mail: info@metadrasi.org
<https://metadrasi.org/en/campaigns/greek-language-courses/>

Caritas Hellas Social Spot Neos Kosmos

Rene Pio 2A
Neos Kosmos
Athens
Address in Greek: Ρ. Πιύ 2Α
Tel. +30 213 0909940
E-mail: neoskosmoscenter@caritas.gr
www.caritas.gr

KYRIAKATIKO SXOLEIO METANASTON

Kolonos Athens
Tel. +30 6974486368
E-mail: kyriakatiko@yahoo.gr
www.ksm.gr

Information on assistance in returning to the country of origin:

IOM Greece

6 Dodekanisou Str.
17456 Alimos, Athens
Tel. +30 210 9919040
E-mail infoAVRRgreece@iom.int
<https://www.iom-avrr.gr/>
(IOM offices also in Thessaloniki, Patra, Ioannina and Heraklion)

Night shelters for the homeless:

Access to night shelters is extremely difficult because there are not enough places available or refugees do not meet the requirements. Refugee Support Aegean/Pro Asyl have compiled a list of shelters in the Attika region (last updated in March 2022): https://rsaegean.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/2022-03_RSA_BIP_EN.pdf, p. 23.

Vulnerable persons

METAdrasi

7, 25 Martiou Street

17778 Tavros

Athens

Tel. +30 214 100 8700

E-mail: vot@metadrasi.org

<https://torturesurvivor.metadrasi.org/en/>

Ascertainment of special protection needs of victims of torture

Babel Day Care Centre

72, I. Drosopoulou st.,

112 57 Athens

Tel. +30 2108616280 und +30 2108616266

E-mail: babel@syn-eirmos.gr

<https://babeldc.gr>

Psychosocial counselling and legal advice for victims of torture and violence in cooperation with the Greek Council for Refugees and Doctors Without Borders (MSF).

Regional services in Athens and Thessaloniki

Overview of services offering help in the Athens region and in Thessaloniki:

- Athens Guide for Asylum Seekers & Refugees
- Thessaloniki Guide for Asylum Seekers & Refugees

The two leaflets can be downloaded as a PDF file in various languages:

<https://help.unhcr.org/greece/where-to-seek-help/other-services/>

Sources

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- An Overview of International Protection Procedures in Greece; leaflet published by the Greek Ministry for Migration and Asylum, <https://migration.gov.gr/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Overview-of-Asylum-Procedure-English.pdf>
- Beneficiaries of international protection in Greece. Access to documents and socio-economic rights, Refugee Support Aegean (RSA)/Pro Asyl: March 2022, https://rsaegean.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/2022-03_RSA_BIP_EN.pdf
- Statement: On the current situation of beneficiaries of international protection in Greece (*Stellungnahme: Zur aktuellen Situation von international Schutzberechtigten in Griechenland*), Pro Asyl/Refugee Support Aegean (RSA): April 2021, <https://www.proasyl.de/material/stellungnahme-zur-aktuellen-situation-international-schutzberechtigter-in-griechenland/>
- The situation of refugees 'recognised' in Greece. Current information and court decisions (*Die Situation von in Griechenland „Anerkannten“. Aktuelle Informationen und Rechtsprechung*), Meyerhöfer, Andreas, in: *Asylmagazin. Zeitschrift für Flüchtlings- und Migrationsrecht* 6/2021
- Greece as a safe third country. Legal analysis – update 2022 (*Griechenland als sicherer Drittstaat. Juristische Analyse – Update 2022*), Romer, Adriana, Swiss Refugee Council: August 2022, https://www.fluechtlingshilfe.ch/fileadmin/user_upload/Publikationen/Juristische_Themenpapiere/220803_Juristische_Analyse_GR_DE.pdf
- Unaccompanied minors who are refugees in Greece (*Unbegleitete minderjährige Flüchtlinge in Griechenland*), publisher: Bundesfachverband unbegleitete minderjährige Flüchtlinge e. V., author: Equal Rights Beyond Borders, July 2019, <https://b-umf.de/material/unbegleitete-minderjaehrige-fluechtlinge-in-griechenland/>
- Greek Ministry for Migration and Asylum, <https://migration.gov.gr/en/>
- UNHCR, portal "Help in Greece", <https://help.unhcr.org/greece/>
- Infoportal Refugee.Info <https://greece.refugee.info/en-us>
- Relief organisations – help for refugees in Greece (*Hilfsorganisationen – Hilfe für Flüchtlinge in Griechenland*); leaflet published by the German embassy in Athens, December 2019, <https://griechenland.diplo.de/gr-de/service/05-VisaEinreise/-/1345826>
- Deutscher Caritasverband e.V., Caritas International Division
- Caritas Hellas, www.caritas.gr
- Greek Council for Refugees, <http://www.gcr.gr>
- Refugee Support Aegean, <https://rsaegean.org/en/>