



Raphaelswerk e.V.

GREECE: Information for refugees who are returned to Greece

Last updated in December 2019

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 2019), there was only a small number of permanent support structures. We therefore do not claim that the list is exhaustive.

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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 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.

There is no retroactive resumption of transfers. Anyone who stayed in Greece already before 15 March 2017 before moving on to Germany will not be returned.

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

Change in the law: new Asylum Act

At the end of 2019, a new Asylum Act was passed in Greece, which will enter into force on 1 January 2020. It will aggravate 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 standards².

Among other things, the following changes are planned:

- safe countries of origin are defined,
- accelerated asylum procedures may also be carried out for vulnerable persons,
- 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.

¹ Source: Reply of the German Federal Government to a question posed by MPs and the parliamentary party "DIE LINKE", Document No. 18/13190. Additional information on asylum statistics for the second quarter of 2017 – questions on key issues of the Dublin procedure, <http://dip21.bundestag.de/dip21/btd/18/134/1813428.pdf>, last retrieved on 3/12/2019

² Cf. "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>, retrieved on 3/12/2019

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.

The person concerned has not lodged an asylum application in Greece yet.

- 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.

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

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.

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.

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.

Residence status in Greece

a) 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 three years. From 1/1/2020: residence permit for one year.
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.

b) National protection:

- Humanitarian status: residence permit for two years.
Persons whose applications have been pending before the Backlog Committee for at least five years are granted this humanitarian status.

Procedures under the law of residence / asylum procedures

Note: Asylum procedures under the old system

The Greek Asylum Service was established in 2013. The reference date for the new regulations governing the processing of asylum applications is 7 June 2013. Asylum applications that were lodged before 7 June 2013 are processed by so-called Backlog Committees. As regards the extension of residence permits, applications for family reunification or issue of documents for persons who lodged their application for asylum before 7 June 2013, the Greek police is the competent authority.

Asylum procedures under the new system

All asylum applications lodged after 7 June 2013 are processed by the Asylum Service. The application for asylum must be lodged with the Greek Asylum Service in person.

Nowadays, the only case where the Asylum Service is not the competent authority is when an asylum application was lodged in Greece before 7 June 2013.

Pre-registration

Asylum seekers must contact the Asylum Service via Skype to arrange an appointment for full registration. This service is provided in various languages. Further information:
http://asylo.gov.gr/en/?page_id=987

The Asylum Service informs the asylum seekers of the time and place at which they are fully registered by the Asylum Service. One day after the appointment is arranged, they may collect a document, the Pre-Registration Asylum Seeker's Card, from the Asylum Service. This document serves as proof of the right of residence in Greece during the asylum procedure.

Registration

Full registration mostly takes place about one or two months after pre-registration.

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 (International Protection Applicant Card or Full Registration Asylum Seeker's Card), which is valid for up to six months. 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 and to the labour market.

In most cases, the interview takes place a few months after registration.

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 status is granted or whether the application is rejected. The applicant is informed some months after the interview, either over the telephone or in writing by post, fax or e-mail.

After a decision in favour of granting the asylum application has been taken (refugee status or subsidiary status), the refugee may apply for a residence permit. It takes about one or two months to issue the residence permit. In the meantime, the Full Registration 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. Legal advice should be sought before lodging such an appeal.

The individual steps of the asylum procedure are described on the website of the Greek Asylum Service <http://asylo.gov.gr/en/> and in a brochure that is available in 18 languages: http://asylo.gov.gr/en/?page_id=99

Competent authorities

Stage of the procedure	Competent authority	English name of the authority
Application	Υπηρεσία Ασύλου	Asylum Service
Dublin procedure	Υπηρεσία Ασύλου	Asylum Service
Refugee status determination	Υπηρεσία Ασύλου	Asylum Service
First appeal	Ανεξάρτητες Επιτροπές Προσφυγών (Αρχή Προσφυγών)	Independent Appeals Committees (Appeals Authority)
Second (onward) appeal	Διοικητικό Εφετείο	Administrative Court of Appeal
Subsequent application (admissibility)	Υπηρεσία Ασύλου	Asylum Service

Source: Country Report: Greece, 2018 update; aida Asylum Information Database

Contact with the Greek Asylum Service (Υπηρεσία Ασύλου):

Tel. +30 210 69 88 500

Hotline providing recorded information for asylum seekers in 10 languages:

Tel. +30 210 69 88 660

Further telephone numbers and contact details as well as addresses of regional offices:

http://asylo.gov.gr/en/?page_id=129

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 own 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. Various organisations offer advice on possibilities of receiving financial support and being reintegrated.

Tax number and social security number

Social security number (AMKA):

An application for a social security number must be filed with the Citizens' Service Centre (KEP) at the place of residence. It is required for social insurance (health, unemployment and pension insurance) and when taking up work.

Asylum seekers may apply for the social security number as soon as they receive the Pre-Registration Card.

Tax number (AFM):

An application for a tax number must be filed with the tax authority.

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 a 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. Applications for these numbers may also be filed by asylum seekers and recognised refugees. However, problems may occur 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.³

Asylum seekers may request to be placed in state accommodation. In this connection, the social services of Caritas Hellas may be of help.

³ Source: Reply of the German Federal Government to a question posed by MPs and the parliamentary party "DIE LINKE", Document No. 18/13190. Additional information on asylum statistics for the second quarter of 2017 – questions on key issues of the Dublin procedure, <http://dip21.bundestag.de/dip21/btd/18/134/1813428.pdf>, p. 20, last retrieved on 3/12/2019; reply of the German Federal Government to a question posed by MPs and the parliamentary party "DIE LINKE", Document No. 19/14079. Additional information on asylum statistics for the second quarter of 2019 – questions on key issues of the Dublin procedure, <http://dip21.bundestag.de/dip21/btd/19/140/1914079.pdf>, p. 22, last retrieved on 3/12/2019

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 persons⁴.

Access to accommodation

Beneficiaries of international protection are equal to other third-country nationals as regards access to accommodation. There is no state accommodation and no rent allowance for them.

Recognised beneficiaries of protection deported from other EU countries are not given any accommodation or financial support.

State accommodation is reserved for asylum seekers. Beneficiaries of protection may stay there for another 6 months after their recognition. Unofficially, it was often possible to stay there for longer in the past. As announced by the Greek government at the beginning of 2019, beneficiaries of protection are now supposed to be requested to leave the accommodation after 6 months.⁵

Shelters for the homeless in the towns often have long waiting lists; refugees are often not accepted and families can only be accommodated in exceptional cases.⁶

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.

Access to health care

Asylum seekers who do not have health insurance have free 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 also entitled to psychological support.

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

The Greek social security number (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.

⁴ Cf. "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/?filter=berichte-und-studien&type=post_tag, retrieved on 3/12/2019

⁵ Refugee.Info, report of 18/2/2019, <https://blog.refugee.info/exit-accommodation-cash/>, retrieved on 3/12/2019

⁶ Cf. "Update: Statement of Pro Asyl: Living conditions of beneficiaries of international protection in Greece" (Update: Stellungnahme Pro Asyl: Lebensbedingungen international Schutzberechtigter in Griechenland), 30 August 2018 <https://www.proasyl.de/material/stellungnahme-update-lebensbedingungen-international-schutzberechtigter-in-griechenland/>, retrieved on 3/12/2019

The public health care system in Greece is seriously affected by the financial crisis. 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

In 2017, support in the form of cash was established, which is paid to asylum seekers and refugees.

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.

Refugees and asylum seekers who are placed in official hostels or apartments are entitled to this payment on certain conditions. Persons living in informal accommodation, e.g. people squatting in houses, are excluded from receiving this benefit in cash.

The programme named Greece Cash Alliance is implemented by UNHCR and international NGOs. It is not clear yet whether this support will continue beyond 2019. Further information: <https://help.unhcr.org/greece/living-in-greece/access-to-cash-assistance/>

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:

- Social assistance (Social Solidarity Income, Κοινωνικό Εισόδημα Αλληλεγγύης ΚΕΑ): financial aid, support in connection with integration into the labour market (minimum duration of stay: one year)
- 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)
- Family allowance (minimum duration of stay: 10 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.⁷

⁷ Cf. "Update: Statement of Pro Asyl: Living conditions of beneficiaries of international protection in Greece" (Update: Stellungnahme Pro Asyl: Lebensbedingungen international Schutzberechtigter in Griechenland), 30 August 2018 <https://www.proasyl.de/material/stellungnahme-update-lebensbedingungen-international-schutzberechtigter-in-griechenland/>, retrieved on 3/12/2019

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

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

Asylum seekers may take up employment as soon as they have lodged their asylum application, are fully registered and have received a Full Registration Asylum Seeker's Card. From 1 January 2020, asylum seekers may only take up employment six months after lodging the asylum application.

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

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

Recognised refugees must have a valid residence permit.

Further information: <https://help.unhcr.org/greece/living-in-greece/access-to-employment/>

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.

Access to educational institutions

Minor asylum seekers are entitled to access to the education system just like Greek citizens. Compulsory school attendance also applies to them.

Recognised refugees also have access to the education system and may attend primary schools, secondary schools as well as universities and take part in other educational programmes.

Reception/Preparatory Classes for the Education of Refugees (DYEP):

This programme was established on the Greek mainland in 2016. Children who live in official refugee camps attend special preparatory classes in public schools in the afternoon that are held by supply teachers. Due to transport problems, in practice access to these courses is not guaranteed for all children.

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.

Adults who are in need of 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 minors, pregnant women, disabled persons, single parents with under-age children, persons who were subject 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.

Victims of torture can prove their special protection needs by presenting a certificate issued by a state-run healthcare facility. From January 2020, a certificate issued by an NGO will not suffice any more due to the change in asylum law.

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

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 2019), 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:

Safe Refugee is a portal where refugees and migrants find contact details of authorities, organisations and NGOs that provide health care, social counselling, psychological support, legal advice, accommodation and educational services. The portal is available in English, French, Greek, Arabic and Farsi: <https://www.saferefugees.info/>

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/>

Contact Information: NGOs helping refugees and migrants 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>

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://www.refugee.info/greece/services/>. The portal has not been updated any more since August 2019; you should therefore check the information and addresses locally.

Moreover, we refer to the addresses compiled in the guide "**Welcome to Greece. An Info Guide for Refugees and Migrants**". The information is gathered by the initiative "Welcome to Europe", in short: W2EU. This is a network of activists and organisations from Europe and North Africa that gathers independent information for migrants and refugees on various European countries and publishes it on the portal <http://www.w2eu.info>. Here is a list of contacts in Greece: <http://www.w2eu.info/greece/en/articles/greece-contacts.en.html>

Contacts / local advisory services

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

Health centre: EHS Ambelokipi
Athanasaki Street 1, Athens
Tel. +30 213 2068992, +30 210 6910143
E-mail: ehs.ambelokipi@gmail.com

Mobile health care:
Tel. +30 210 6910143
E-mail: HellenicRedCrossHPA@redcross.gr

Doctors Without Borders Greece (Γιατροί Χωρίς Σύνορα, MSF)

Xenias St. 15
Athens
Tel. +30 210 5 200 500
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

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

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

Caritas Hellas Social Spot Kypseli

Fokionos Negri Str. 42
Kypseli
(Kypseli municipal market)
Tel. +30 210 5225659
kipselicercenter@caritas.gr
www.caritas.gr

Greek Council for Refugees

Solomou 25
Athens
Address in Greek: Σολωμού 25
Tel.: +30 210 3800990-1
E-mail: gcr1@gcr.gr
<http://www.gcr.gr/index.php/en/>
(also in Thessaloniki and Ioannina)

METAdrasi

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

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

Thessaloniki:
7, Vilara Street, 54625 Valaoritou
Tel. +30 2310 501151

AITIMA Non-Governmental Organization

Tripou Str. 4 - 6, Athens 117 41
Tel. +30 210 9241677
E-mail aitima@freemail.gr
<http://www.aitima.gr/index.php/en/projects>

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
<http://metadrasi.org/en/greek-language-courses-athens/>

KYRIAKATIKO SXOLEIO METANASTON

Argous Street 145
Kolonos Athens
Address in Greek: Αργούς 145
Tel. +30 210 5130373
E-mail: kyriakatiko@yahoo.gr
www.ksm.gr

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

Caritas Hellas Social Spot Kypseli

Fokionos Negri Str. 42
Kypseli
(Kypseli municipal market)
Tel. +30 210 5225659
kipselicercenter@caritas.gr
www.caritas.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 iomathens@iom.int
<https://greece.iom.int>
(IOM offices also in Thessaloniki, Patra, Ioannina)

Night shelters for the homeless in Athens:

KYΑΔΑ Reception and Solidarity Center of the Municipality of Athens
Pireos 35
10552 Athens
Tel. +30 210 5246516
Further information: <https://www.cityofathens.gr/organotiki-domi-dimoy-athinaion/dimotikoi-foreis/kentro-ypodoxis-astegon-dimoy-athinaion-k-y-d>

However, access to night shelters is extremely difficult because there are not enough places available or refugees do not meet the requirements.⁸

Regional services in Athens and Thessaloniki

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

- Athens survival guide: Survival Guide for asylum seekers & refugees in Attica
- Thessaloniki Service Mapping: Free services in urban area of Thessaloniki

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

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

Note: Brochure published by Caritas Hellas

Caritas Hellas has published a brochure that contains important information and practical advice for refugees in Greece in four languages (Greek, English, Arabic and Farsi).

Rights in the Everyday Life of the Refugee,

Publisher: Mardaki, Andriani/Caritas Social Spot, Caritas Hellas, 2017

It includes the following topics:

1. Provision of AMKA number
2. Provision of VAT number
3. Birth and Naming

⁸ Cf. "Update: Statement of Pro Asyl: Living conditions of beneficiaries of international protection in Greece" (Update: Stellungnahme Pro Asyl: Lebensbedingungen internationaler Schutzberechtigter in Griechenland), 30 August 2018 <https://www.proasyl.de/material/stellungnahme-update-lebensbedingungen-international-schutzberechtigter-in-griechenland/>, retrieved on 29/11/2019

4. Marriage
5. Death
6. Employment
7. Home
8. Education
9. Health

The brochure can be used as information material for refugees returning to Greece.

If you send your request to infostelle@raphaelswerk.de, we will send you a PDF file of the brochure.

Sources

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- Caritas Hellas, www.caritas.gr
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- Refugee Support Aegean, <https://rsaegean.org/en/>