

A man in a dark tank top and light-colored pants stands on a rocky shore, looking out at the sea. The sun is low on the horizon, creating a bright glow and long shadows. In the foreground, a white and black paddle lies on the rocks. The sea is dark with white foam from the waves. In the distance, there are mountains and a few small boats on the water.

WELCOME TO GREECE!

UPDATED VERSION
OCTOBER 2016

► www.w2eu.info

**AN INFO-GUIDE
FOR REFUGEES AND MIGRANTS**



...domestic police
...ce against refugees



...WAR

DO NOT
FORGET
US

WE
STAND
for our
rights

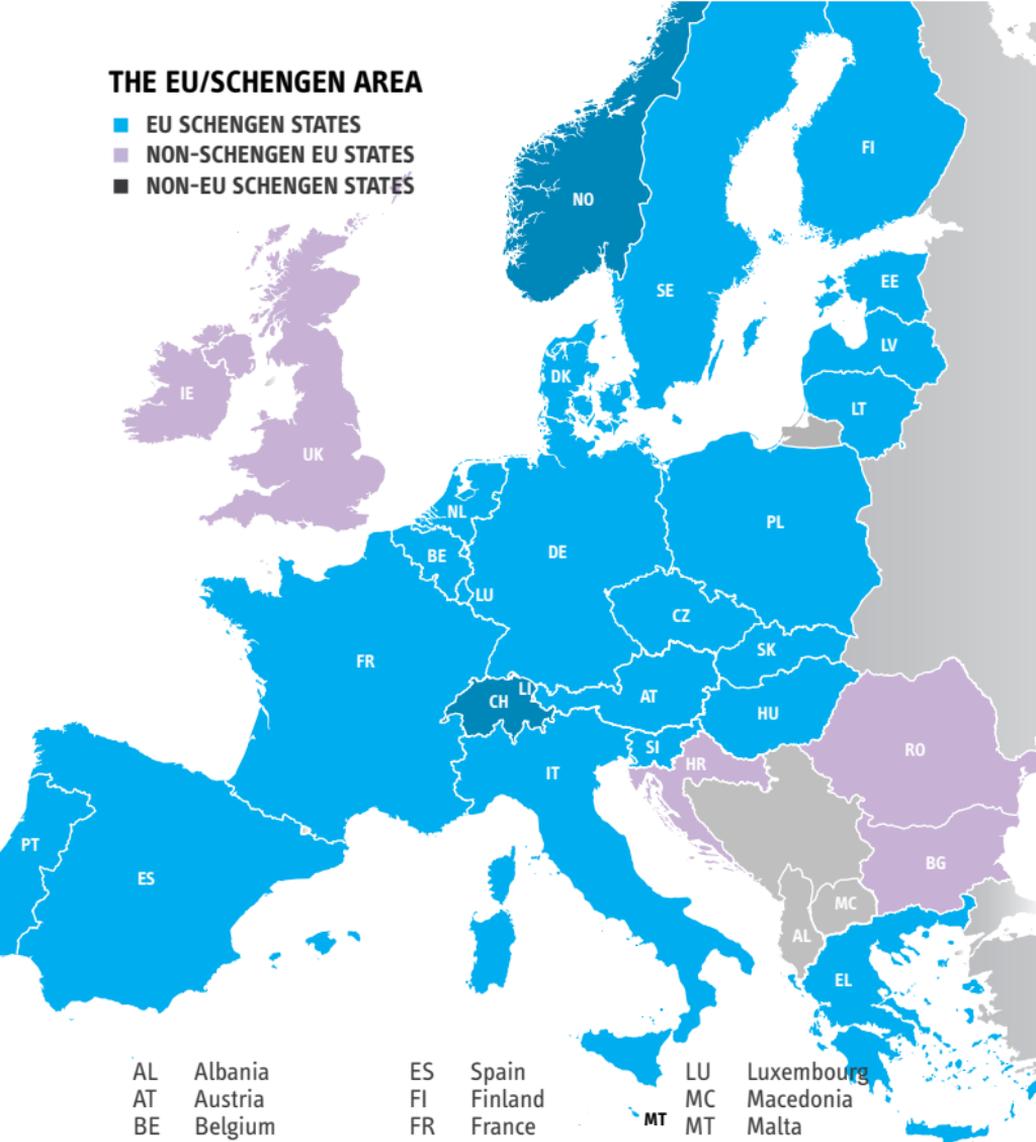


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THE EU/SCHENGEN AREA

- EU SCHENGEN STATES
- NON-SCHENGEN EU STATES
- NON-EU SCHENGEN STATES



AL	Albania	ES	Spain	LU	Luxembourg
AT	Austria	FI	Finland	MC	Macedonia
BE	Belgium	FR	France	MT	Malta
BG	Bulgaria	HR	Croatia	NE	Netherlands
CH	Switzerland	HU	Hungary	NO	Norway
CY	Cyprus	IE	Ireland	PL	Poland
CZ	Czech Republic	IS	Iceland	PT	Portugal
DE	Germany	IT	Italy	SE	Sweden
DK	Denmark	LI	Liechtenstein	SI	Slovenia
EE	Estonia	LT	Lithuania	SK	Slovakia
EL	Greece	LV	Latvia	UK	United Kingdom

We are a group of people, some of whom live in Greece and some others come from and (usually) live in different European countries. We support refugees in the places we live and elsewhere as activists, because for us all human beings are equal. We struggle for freedom of movement as everybody's right and a world without borders. In order to support you we would like to give you some useful information about your rights in Greece and the overall situation here. We don't ask for money, we don't take money and we don't ask for any reward. We just wish you a safe journey to a better place and tell you from our side:

WELCOME TO EUROPE!

If you need any further information not provided in this flyer or if you have more specialised/personalised questions please ask us directly or contact us via mail:

✉ CONTACT@W2EU.INFO OR
W2EU_INFO@YAHOO.COM

visit our internet page

✉ [HTTP://W2EU.INFO](http://W2EU.INFO)

or check the Welcome to Europe live feed for updated infos about different areas in Europe:

✉ [HTTP://LIVE.W2EU.INFO](http://LIVE.W2EU.INFO).

Last update
October 2016

You have arrived in Greece, a European Union (EU) member-state. Greece is still severely impacted by an economic crisis. There is a lack of sufficient reception conditions for asylum seekers and refugees. Apart from that, many of the people who arrive in Greece have nowadays families in another EU-country. So most of them don't wish to submit an asylum application to the Greek authorities, but want to continue their trip and move elsewhere.

In any case, nowadays you have to apply for asylum upon arrival (and immediately state that you wish to apply for family reunification within the EU or for relocation), otherwise you will be readmitted (deported) back to Turkey. Last year from October until December 2015, a travel "corridor" through Macedonia, Serbia, Hungary and later via Croatia and Slovenia was opened by the masses of escaping refugees. Then, step by step, when the flows decreased in winter, the governments of the Balkans used the opportunity to allow only certain nationalities to cross their borders, until they fi-

nally closed the border again to everybody on March 8, 2016. Around that time, a lot of people had gathered and struggled together for open borders. Nevertheless, people had crossed the border also before, in times when it was officially closed - even in the most difficult circumstances - on hidden paths, often dangerous and expensive. But, during the period of 'open borders', there was a way out for most of the people. For a few months there was no need to use people-smugglers but, instead, people escaping wars and conflict could just use public transport to reach a safe place. This is the world of freedom of movement we need to (re-) create and preserve.

If you wish to leave Greece and continue to another EU-country, you should know that currently it is still the case that most of the other EU-countries don't send people back to Greece, even if they were fingerprinted or have asked for asylum there! BUT many EU countries are now considering to re-start Dublin returns to Greece, and there was a proposal by the EU Commission to think about a re-start in the end of 2016. So, al-

ways seek advice from groups offering legal counselling and/or lawyers, who can update you on the current situation and the practices followed by other countries and who support your individual case.

ATTENTION: If you get later fingerprinted in Bulgaria, Croatia, Hungary, Italy or any other EU-country where you DON'T want to stay, this will be a problem! There are Dublin III returns to these countries from Northern/Western Europe; there is no general halt of deportations as there is for Greece, even if the conditions there are bad, too. In order to increase your chances to not be sent back, you should immediately upon arrival contact groups who offer counselling for refugees and have experience with this Dublin III problem in the country where you want to stay (you may find contacts here:

📧 CONTACT@W2EU.INFO

There have been a number of court cases won by refugees against their Dublin returns to Hungary, Bulgaria and Italy, for example in Germany, and there are many other ways to struggle against a return (see for example “Fingerprints in Bulgaria – how to stop a deportation”

📧 [HTTP://BIT.LY/2cZPzqR](http://bit.ly/2cZPzqR)

ATTENTION: Unaccompanied minors are excluded from the Dublin returns!

? THE CURRENT SITUATION

The **Greek government is permanently and very strongly under EU-pressure**. In the past year, when so many people arrived, Greece was strongly criticised by different EU member states and countries of the Balkan region, for “not securing the external EU-borders as it should”. Thus, any developments in Greece toned to be understood in light of European migration policies. Greece repeatedly got

threatened to be forced to leave the Schengen Area¹ if they failed to comply to EU plans, for example, with

- ▶ **1)** the construction of the so called “Hot Spots” – First Reception Detention Centers - on the Greek Islands. In February 2016, Greece opened five so-called Hot Spots on Lesbos, Samos, Chios, Kos and Leros, which are closed camps for the first identification and registration of newcomers;
- ▶ **2)** a close co-operation with Turkish authorities, the European Border Control Agency Frontex and NATO in order to close and control the Turkey-Greece borders;
- ▶ **3)** implementing as many forced returns as possible. As a conse-

quence, since the deal between Turkey and the EU got sealed on March 20, 2016 and until June 8, not more than 449 persons have been forcibly returned (readmitted) to Turkey.

In the same time, the borders to FYROM/Macedonia officially closed on March 8, 2016 and since then already more than 57,000 refugees have arrived in Greece, who got stuck there because they could not enter the open corridor any more to get to their countries of destination. 8,500 of them were caught after the implementation of the EU-Turkey-deal up on the Aegean Islands inside and outside of the Hot Spots. For the remaining 49,000 and more, the government has ever-since set up “over night” more than 45 provisory mass refugee camps all over mainland

¹*The Schengen Area consists of 26 European countries, of which not all are in the EU. The area had largely abolished passport and any other type of border control at their mutual borders, while sharing a common visa-policy. But as a result of the ongoing migration crisis and with the excuse of security issues following the terrorist attacks in Paris, a number of countries have temporarily reintroduced controls on some or all of their borders with other Schengen states. As of 22 March 2016, Austria, Belgium, Denmark, France, Germany, Norway, and Sweden have imposed controls on some or all of their borders with other Schengen states.*

Greece, most of which are tent camps, difficult to reach from cities/urban centres and often ruled by the army. Lacking any welcoming infrastructure and any system to protect and integrate the thousands of refugees, Greece is far from securing even basic needs such as proper housing, medical aid, information and food, until now. Generally, the Greek government announced that there were three options for refugees in Greece:

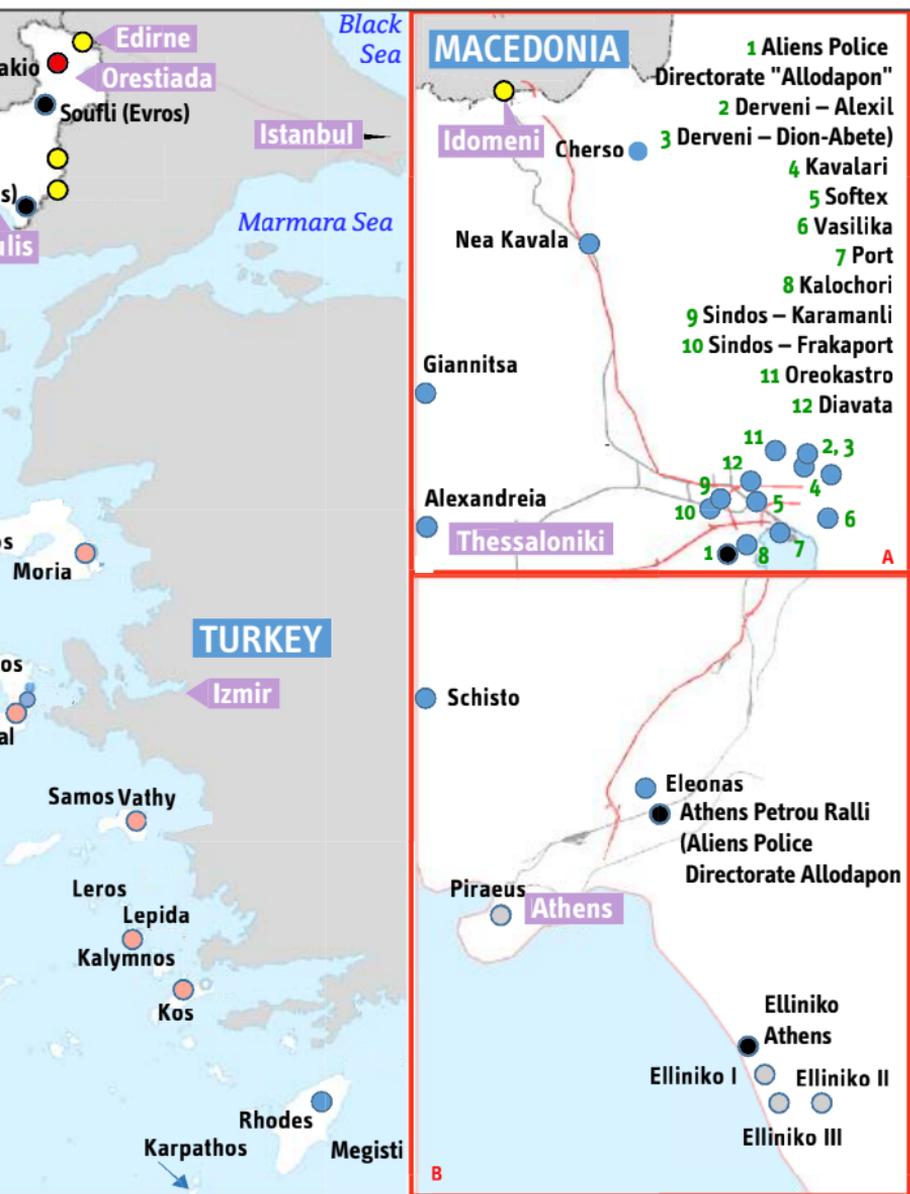
- ▶ Applying for asylum,
- ▶ Voluntary Return and
- ▶ Deportation

Since most refugees stuck in Greece suffered both from the shock of the sudden closure of the borders of the Balkans and the dire conditions in the Greek camps, hundreds of people have signed voluntary returns and went back to war and conflict without being really aware of their different options. NGOs specialised in mental and physical health described how deteriorating and dangerous the

living conditions in the mass camps are for refugees.

What has been rarely said is that applying for asylum includes also the options of family reunification and relocation to other EU countries. Even if these procedures are very slow and might be for many people only a “plan B” for the case they cannot manage to cross the borders in other ways, we will explain more details about these options in the following chapters.

In June 2016, the Greek government’s Asylum Office with the help of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the European Asylum Support Office (EASO) started a so-called “pre-registration exercise” to register all refugees on the mainland. The aim is to provide all pre-registered persons with a one-year paper (a form of a legalisation for those with outdated papers) and securing thereby also their access to the public health care system (but **not to create access to work/employment!**).



ATTENTION: This is NOT the registration of asylum claims, family reunification or relocation! It will start later – at an unknown date. Pre-registered refugees – always according to the government – should finally receive a text message on the mobile phone (the number they gave during the procedure) with the date of their registration.

ATTENTION: Parallel, access via Skype and through lawyers for vulnerable cases continues, **BUT officially only for the ones who did not pre-register.** Nevertheless, if you want to apply or family reunification and you have a very serious and life-threatening health condition, or if you or your relatives abroad are going to turn 18 years within the next 12 months, you need immediate registration and you should not participate in pre-registration but urgently seek help

ATTENTION: *In Greece, and also along the way, you will encounter many activists and volunteers, tourists, professionals or simply natives, who will try to help and who show solidarity through action. Many self-organised solidarity groups try to arrange provisory accommodation, food, clothes, information provision, medical aid, and/or they transport people with their private cars. Be aware that many of these people are helping on a daily basis by investing their time and energy. They might also risk conflicts with the authorities in order to support you. Try to be patient with them and supportive and respectful with each other, but be clear in what you need and express it. Please don't use any drugs or alcohol in order to avoid pointless aggressions and fights, especially in any place of self-organised housing and solidarity. Sexist and racist behaviours are not welcomed, as well as any form of exploitation of others, for example by persons involved in selling over-priced ferry- or bus-tickets.*

at an NGO, i.e. the Ecumenical Refugee Program, Iridanou 20, Athens, Telephone Number: 210-72.95.926. Seek help specifically also in case you pre-registered but time is running out for you.

When the EU-Turkey-deal came into existence on the 20th of March 2016, a division into two big groups of refugees was created in Greece: a) those who arrived before the 20th of March and after the closure of the border and are since then stuck on the Greek mainland and b) those who arrived after the 20th of March and are blocked on the Greek islands. Both groups are facing different kinds of problems. In the following chapters we will try to give information for both groups – please check carefully what information applies to your particular situation.

1 UPON ARRIVAL AFTER MARCH 20TH: IN THE HOT SPOTS

? WHAT ARE REASONS FOR BEING ARRESTED AND DETAINED UPON ARRIVAL?

You have been arrested and detained upon arrival for having entered the country unofficially and without papers, which, according to the law is illegal. Typically, you will be detained with the aims: 1. To examine if you have to be readmitted (forcibly returned) to Turkey, in case this is considered as “safe first/third country” for you, or 2. to be deported back to your country of origin. Any procedures concerning your arrest, identification, registration and return or asylum procedure at the borders will be proceeded according to the “fast track procedures for border areas”.

? WHERE WILL/DID THEY BRING ME UPON ARREST ● AT THE BORDER AND WHAT FOR?

Upon detection and arrest by Greek officers, or sometimes also foreign officers cooperating with the European Border Control Agency FRONTEX, they might first ask you for your names and nationalities in order to write a list of arrested persons. Then you will be brought in most of the times directly to a Reception and Identification Center – RIC (namely a detention center for the newly arriving of a new type, called Hot Spot) or, if not existent at the place of arrival, to a coastguard, borderguard or police station.

? WHAT ARE THE ● HOT SPOTS?

Since the summer 2015 authorities on Lesbos Island are officially running the closed camp “Moria” as a so-called Reception and Identification Centre or Hot Spot in Greece. Until March 2016, four more

Hot Spots were opened on the islands of the Aegean on Samos, Chios, Kos and Leros. These Hot Spots are designed as closed camps where the identification and registration of newcomers in Europe takes place first. European Agencies such as the Border Control Agency FRONTEX, Europol and the European Asylum Service Office (EASO) have sent their experts to cooperate with the Greek authorities and directly control what happens along the external borders of the EU. The selection process separating newcomers in the two categories of A. asylum seekers and B. deportees, is part of a broader European migration policy, which aims to allow only a controlled flow of a few chosen people into the EU and to keep others out.

From its launch and up until today, the Hot Spot in Moria, but also the other four Hot Spots that opened later, were criticized by international organisations such as Human Rights Watch and Amnesty International for their inhumane living conditions. Riots and protests by refugees have taken place often in the first period after their opening but do continue until today

as refugees are now almost six months trapped there. Conditions in all Hot Spots are similarly poor, thus violating international human rights standards. The centres are often overcrowded, thus, there are many protection problems for children and women who are often alone among all others. There is lack of basic provisions and hygiene standards, of adequate ways to identify and protect people with special needs, as well as of reliable information and legal aid. Moreover, those who are inside the Hot Spots for many months already are still waiting for their asylum procedures to start.

? WHAT IS THE PROCEDURE FOR THE REGISTRATION OF MY PERSONAL DATA?

In the Hot Spot a first registration of your first name, family name, age and nationality will be conducted by the police and a nationality screening will also be carried out by Frontex. Usually, this first registration will be completed within the first hours. You

might be handed a registration paper by the police where you fill in your personal data. Your fingerprints will be taken if you are older than 14 years. The fingerprints will be registered in the European EURODAC computer system.

? IS THE NATIONALITY I REGISTER MYSELF WITH ALWAYS ACCEPTED ONLY BASED ON MY DECLARATION?

Many refugees cannot provide documents to prove their identity, age and nationality due to the conditions of war they escaped from. In most of the cases personal data is just registered based on your mere oral declaration. BUT if there are doubts, in some cases the European Border Police FRONTEX might make an additional estimation of your nationality and age in an interview that is usually conducted by a borderguard with the respective “expertise”. These officers come usually from other EU-member states and ask ques-

tions in English, that are translated to you by an interpreter. They might ask you different questions about your stated home country (flag, geography, culture, history, politics, etc.). Sometimes they also conduct more detailed interviews in order to learn something about smuggling networks.

Frontex can then propose their estimation of your nationality or age to the Reception and Identification Service. They then can accept Frontex's suggestion or not. Usually they just accept the suggestion made by Frontex.

The registration of your nationality finalised by the Reception and Identification Service will be the one on your document. You can only appeal against it effectively with a lawyer and pieces of evidence, such as identity documents, birth certificates etc. Or you can demand a second nationality screening by Frontex, where you will be asked again to prove by your language/dialect as well as your knowledge of culture, geography and history that you belong to the nationality you claim to belong to. The age registered by the police

in the first instance might get changed by the Reception and Identification Service.

! ATTENTION: Be sure to check the data the authorities are writing down during registration to secure that everything is written correctly.

! ATTENTION: Don't sign anything you don't understand. Ask for translation in your language.

? WHEN CAN I SAY THAT I HAVE SPECIAL NEEDS AND AM VULNERABLE? AND WHEN WILL THIS BE FIRST ASSESSED AND RECORDED?

The registration procedure continues with a visit of the socio-medical team of the Reception and Identification Service from the state, which is usually done by a co-operating NGO such as Praksis (Leros, Kos and Chios), MEDIN (Samos), Doctors of the World (Lesvos). They will conduct a basic health examination and ask you a few questions in order to identify major

health problems like chronic diseases, disabilities and /or other factors that are considered to qualify you as vulnerable or not, i.e. visible vulnerabilities such are pregnancies, very young unaccompanied minors, families with newborns or single mothers of underage children. However, there are a few factors that cannot be visually immediately recognized as vulnerability, such as mental health problems, being a survivor of a shipwreck, a victim of torture or of other forms of violence and exploitation in your home country or on the journey to Europe. It is at this point that you need to report your vulnerability, that means to tell them if you have been a survivor of a shipwreck, a victim of torture or other forms of violence, or if you suffer from mental health problems. If you have any documented evidence, show the documents. Your registration will be administratively finalised by the Reception and Identification Service within some days or weeks (maximum of 25 days).

ATTENTION: This procedure is not automatically carried out in all Hot Spots. You might be just offered to visit the Reception and Identification Service employees. Follow the offer in order to be sure your vulnerability is recorded from the beginning. This is very important because if you are vulnerable you should not be detained. Otherwise the Service will issue you an administrative document without seeing you!

? WHO ARE PERSONS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS?

- ▶ Unaccompanied minors,
- ▶ handicapped/disabled persons or persons suffering an uncured or serious illness,
- ▶ elderly persons,
- ▶ pregnant women or women who have recently given birth,
- ▶ single parent families with minor children,

- ▶ victims of torture, rape or other kinds of psychological, physical or sexual assault or exploitation, persons with post traumatic syndromes, especially survivors or relatives of victims of shipwrecks,
- ▶ victims of human slavery.

ATTENTION: Report any severe health or mental problem, handicap or special condition such as of pregnancy, elderly or newborns immediately to the doctors, the authorities, organisations or persons helping you. Inform them about any medicine you need to take if you have any chronic health problems or any serious illness. Don't wait to be asked.

ATTENTION: The identification and recognition of vulnerability is according to law carried out by the Reception and Identification Services of the Greek authorities. Nevertheless, on some islands, EASO insists on a second assessment by their own experts in order for a full recognition of vulnerability. This means, that in most of

the cases one has to wait for the asylum procedure to start with the first instance, in order to meet EASO experts and inform them.

WHO IS IN DANGER TO BE READMITTED TO TURKEY?

According to law, all nationalities can be readmitted to Turkey! There is no nationality that is protected per se. All persons can be readmitted if they do not express their wish to seek asylum in Greece. You can ask any police officer in the Hot Spot or the Reception and identification Service or any employee of the UN or EASO to register your wish to ask for asylum or to be referred to the responsible authorities to do so. If you ask for asylum you will enter asylum procedures on the island. Practically, in September 2016, only Syrians are affected by the admissibility interviews, where Greek authorities with the help of EASO examine whether or not one can be returned to Turkey or allowed to stay in Greece and apply for asylum.

ATTENTION: The situation can change at any point of time and other nationalities might get affected too by the admissibility procedure.

ATTENTION: People from **Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Egypt, Bangladesh and Pakistan** – countries that are not considered typical refugee producing countries, if applying for asylum, they will be referred to fast track procedures on the island and in most cases are in danger to receive a very quick rejection.

ATTENTION: If you belong to these nationalities, you even might not be released after 25 days but either get transferred to other detention centres on the mainland in order to sign voluntary return agreements, to be subjected to deportation procedures, or to be readmitted to Turkey.

? WHO IS EXCLUDED FROM THE READMISSION PROCEDURE?

Persons who are identified and assessed as vulnerable are excluded from the readmission and the “border asylum procedure”. Persons who apply for family reunification with their close relatives in Europe are excluded from readmissions or detention as long as there are in the application procedure and the restriction of residence on the island of arrival should be lifted.

? HOW LONG WILL I BE DETAINED?

In the First Reception Centre (FRC) Fylakio near the Greek-Turkish landborder and the Hot Spots on the Greek islands Lesbos, Samos, Chios, Leros and Kos you should not stay longer than 25 days. You will nevertheless usually afterwards get a restriction of movement on the island

which does not permit you to move on the mainland or elsewhere. In most of the cases, after that period of the first 25 days, you will be either ordered to stay inside the Hot Spot but with the permit to move freely on the island or you will be ordered to live in an open camp on the island of arrival while you will not be allowed to leave the island until the admissibility of your claim is granted or your asylum procedure is completed. Then you will be free to travel within Greece.

ATTENTION: In a few cases, it is possible that you will be transferred after the 25 day period to a police station on the island or a detention centre on the mainland.

WHICH PERSONS SHOULD NOT BE DETAINED AT ALL ACCORDING TO LAW?

You should not be detained if you belong to the following groups:

- ▶ Vulnerable groups, especially unaccompanied minors
- ▶ Dublin III family reunification cases
- ▶ Cases that have been accepted as admissible
- ▶ Persons whose asylum application got completely registered after 25 days.

HOW DO I APPLY FOR ASYLUM?

First you have to state to any official of the guarding staff (police/borderguards) or the Reception and Identification Service, that you wish to apply for asylum. Then, in a second step, you will officially register your intention to apply for international protection before the Asylum Service. They will record your personal details and the

basic facts concerning your reasons of escape, but your asylum claim will not be assessed at this stage. At this point, the Asylum Service will issue a decision suggesting your detention, because alternative measures cannot be applied and you are not a vulnerable person.

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT FOR SYRIANS?

After a few days or weeks, if you are Syrian, you will be asked to come to the admissibility interview, which is where authorities decide whether the Greek government is responsible for examining your claim for asylum, whether you could have applied for protection in Turkey, or whether you already had sufficient protection in Turkey before. If the admissibility of your claim has not been examined within 25 days of detention, you will receive an asylum seeker's card and you will be permitted to move freely on the island of arrival. Yet, the authorities have the legal option to keep you de-

tained even during asylum seeking procedure for the reason of the danger to abscond, but this happens currently very rarely.

ATTENTION: If you applied for asylum and are declared admissible, authorities can issue you an asylum seeker's card without specification of residence and limitation of freedom of movement.

HOW TO PREPARE FOR THE ADMISSIBILITY INTERVIEW?

The interview is currently conducted on all islands by EASO international experts in English with one interpreter. EASO makes a suggestion for the decision of your case to the Greek Asylum Service which is responsible to take the decision. As this is the stage when most people have their claims rejected, it is vitally important for you to prepare for this. Consider that most interviews are carried out in a very standardised way, so you should

make also an extra effort during the interview to explain in the best way possible the dangers you personally fear if being returned to Turkey. Explain why it is not safe for you there; why you fear deportation to Turkey and from there back to your country of origin; why you fear detention; why you are afraid to go back; why you could not stay longer in Turkey or as long as you stayed you had not the possibility to integrate (no dignified accommodation, no job, no access to the public health system); that you had not access to asylum procedures, were not allowed to registered asylum, or were not effectively protected. Name any personal experiences of deportation on the Turkish borders to Iran, Iraq, Syria or detention in Turkey; any experiences of racist, police or other violent behaviour experienced in Turkey and any experience of deportation to your home country of you or people you know. If your reasons to escape from your home country are valid also in Turkey as you fear the same persons/organisations to put your life there in danger too, please explain this too.

WHAT HAPPENS IF I AM NOT ALLOWED TO APPLY FOR ASYLUM IN GREECE?

If you are not considered admissible, your application will be rejected. You will be notified with a document informing you about the decision. Then you have **only 5 calendar days to appeal** against it. The second instance procedure is decided by the Greek authorities. It is crucial to **get legal aid** to do this! Many refugees have succeeded in appealing against these decisions. You need to name reasons why you are not safe in Turkey and write them down in a form! If your appeal gets rejected, you will be deported to Turkey.

! ATTENTION: A recent change in  the committees that decide on the appeals might bring new changes and it is not easy to foresee if the appeals will be in near future as successful as in the first three months of this procedure. At the same time the situation in Turkey has generally worsened, what gives more reasons to state that Turkey is not a so called “safe third country”. Nevertheless, readmissions were not halted.

? WHAT HAPPENS IF I AM CONSIDERED ADMISSIBLE?

If you are considered admissible, you will be invited to the substantive asylum interview, where your individual reasons for applying for international protection will be examined. This interview will get conducted by the Asylum Service in Athens after a vague period of time, which cannot be defined currently as it varies from a few days to weeks and months. After you get the decision by which you are considered admissible, the restriction of staying on the island will be lifted. That means that you can then leave the island and go to Athens.

ATTENTION: Seek legal advice from any NGO or a private lawyer to prepare yourself for the asylum interview in advance.

ATTENTION: This is the latest moment when you should state that you want to apply for family reunification or relocation or that you are a vulnerable case!

? WHEN WILL MY ASYLUM CLAIM GET REGISTERED AND EXAMINED ON THE ISLAND?

The Hot Spots have opened and started functioning at different points in time. Also the Asylum Service and EASO have started their work on each island at a different point in time. This means that the situation is different on each island. In general, the admissibility interviews of Syrians have been first handled alongside with or followed shortly after by fast tracked asylum applications of people belonging to nationalities that are not considered to have a high recognition rate, such as people from Pakistan. Severe delays until now have been recorded for the asylum cases of, amongst others, Afghans, Eritreans, Iranians, Palestinians and Iraqis, whose claims in the best case have just been registered. In most of the cases, family reunification cases in general have been registered soon on all islands and they received appointments for the interviews in Athens for 2016 mainly.

ATTENTION: You have to first register your intention to apply for international protection in Greece, otherwise you can be deported at any time.

ATTENTION: State from the beginning if you have close relatives in Europe with whom you want to be reunited at the place where they reside.

ATTENTION: Relocation is not carried out anymore from the islands!



READ MORE ABOUT THE FAMILY REUNIFICATION AND THE ASYLUM INTERVIEW IN SECTION III, SEE PAGE 40-63

? I AM YOUNGER THAN 18 YEARS AND WITHOUT MY PARENTS, WHAT HAPPENS TO ME?

A minor is a child from 0-17 years. An unaccompanied minor is a child up to 17 years who is travelling alone – meaning not accompanied by his/her mother or father. Unaccompanied minors are excluded from the readmission program and are not in danger to be deported! Upon arrival you will usually be registered by the First Reception Service in the closed camp. You have to declare your name, nationality and age. It is crucial to say here if you are travelling alone. If the authorities doubt your age, according to the law, they can use medical methods to determine if you are younger than 18 or older. In such a case, you should be informed, in a language you understand, about the possibility to assess the age with a medical examination, as well as the method that will be used, the possible consequences of the result or of your refusal to undertake a medical examination. If the medical examination does not clearly with certainty that someone is an adult,

he/she has to be treated as a minor. You can appeal against the result of an age-assessment before the First Reception Service. You can also appeal before the administrative court against it with the help of a lawyer. If you have documents, proving your young age (such as your original passport or birth certificates, validated by your countries' ministry or embassy), you can hand them to the authorities, the First Reception Service or (in case you apply for asylum or for family reunification) to the Asylum Service. You should be then placed in a part of the camp where only minors are held and soonest possible you should be transferred to an adequate open shelter. As long as you are detained you are in so called "protective custody".

ATTENTION: Minors should not be detained! Only in exceptional cases they can be detained according to the law. However, in practice, minors are routinely detained in Greece in "protective custody". If you are a registered unaccompanied minor, you might be detained until

a place is found in a reception centre for unaccompanied minors, where you will be referred. This means practically that you might stay longer in detention than your adult or accompanied friends. Currently, minors have stayed in average 1-3 months in detention after arrival, awaiting an accommodation place in an open care centre. Some have been released earlier, others later from the Hot Spots. In most of the cases minors are nowadays allowed to join special activities for them outside of the Hot Spot on a weekly basis in order to have some time out of detention. This period might decrease or increase according to how many minors are waiting for a place in open reception centres like you, and according to how many minors arrive in Greece. By end of September 2016 there existed 1,047 places in open reception centres for minors in Greece of which some are transit/temporary shelters and there are around 1,567 minors on the waiting list for such a shelter. The camps are located

on the islands and on the mainland in different cities. The reception centres for unaccompanied minors are not detention centres! You will be free. The reception centres on the islands are open "transit" centres so you will be free in general but not allowed to move from the island until a permanent shelter is found for you. These centres have been created so that you won't need to stay too long in detention until a place for you is found.free there.

ATTENTION: Minors who are not accompanied have to be taken care of by the Greek authorities. If you are a documented unaccompanied minor the Public Prosecutor is your temporary guardian. He/she is responsible for you in place of your family, which is currently not with you. However, unfortunately most minors never have personal contact to their guardians, and the guardians rarely know each child they are responsible for. A few minors – mostly the ones younger than 14 – get a legal guardian by the NGO Metadrasi.

ATTENTION: Minors cannot be deported and only under very strict examination of their best interest they can do the voluntary return.

ATTENTION: If you have close family members in another EU-country, such as father and mother, elder brother or sister, first degree uncle or aunt, you can ask for family reunification. In order not to delay the long lasting procedures, report as soon as you arrive in Greece that you want to be reunited with your relative. In the Hot Spots, registration of asylum and family reunification claims of minors tend to be severely delayed, often for some months. Nevertheless, its worth beginning the procedure as soon as possible.

ATTENTION: In general, unaccompanied minors can stay in the European country best for suited their interests and well being, EVEN if they had applied for asylum before elsewhere. Only unaccompanied minors who got recognized and received asylum cannot re-apply elsewhere. This means unaccompanied minors

are not sent back to the EU country they first entered and got fingerprinted, or where they even applied for asylum.

ATTENTION: If you turn 18 soon and want to apply for family reunification you have to hurry up and register properly your claim before your birthday. Seek immediate support by and NGO or private lawyer.

ATTENTION: If you are younger than 15 you cannot apply for asylum, family reunification or relocation before getting a legal guardian!

ATTENTION: The Police Note (white paper) you get as unaccompanied minor is valid until concluding the 18th year of age. BUT as soon as you leave the open care centre, where you are assigned, the organisation running the place has to report you as missing. Practically, this means for you that during a police control you might get arrested and the authorities might detain you again until they find a place

in an open care centre where they can send you. Unaccompanied minors arrested this way in Athens region are usually held in Amygdaleza special holding centre for minors in Athens. Currently unaccompanied minors detected in Athens area, i.e. in one of the bigger camps such as Malakassa, are not detained!

ATTENTION: If you have been first registered as adult for whatever reason and you want to change your age later, you should know that this is sometimes very difficult if your (young) age is not very obvious at first sight. If you have not been age-assessed yet by Reception and Identification Service, you can ask them for an age-assessment based on medical and psycho-social methods. Nevertheless, often authorities will ask you to hand in identification documents of proof, such as identity cards certified by embassies or ministries of your country or even passports. In any case, it is much easier to report your real age from the beginning.

? WHAT ARE THE DOCUMENTS I WILL RECEIVE AFTER ARREST AND REGISTRATION AND UNTIL THE ASYLUM APPLICATION?

- ▶ 1) First you get a police registration paper.
- ▶ 2) After the registration you will be first issued a Limitation of Freedom Note by the Reception and Identification Service, that states that you will have to stay in the Hot Spot for a maximum of 25 days for the completion of your readmission.
- ▶ 3) Following the police registration and the latest after 25 days – theoretically only if you did not ask for asylum - you should receive a Police Note - a deportation and detention decision based on the aim to readmit you. Nevertheless, many times this is issued to all people independently of the fact that they applied for asylum or not.
- ▶ 4) If you applied for asylum until your claim gets completely

registered, you should get the suspension of the deportation and detention decision Police Note based on the fact, that you have declared your will to apply for asylum. This Police Note might allow you alternative (shelter) measures so you don't need to stay in the closed camp. But it usually restricts your movement to the island, if you do not belong to a vulnerable group that cannot get adequate reception conditions there or do not have a very urgent health issue, which makes a transfer to the mainland necessary-

! ATTENTION: If you are a highly vulnerable person, independently of completing the 25 days of detention or not, and even if you did not apply for asylum, the authorities if not able to transfer you to an adequate open reception centre, can issue you a suspension of the deportation decision and you will be released with a police note of release.

▶ **5)** Upon registration of your asylum application (or family reunification application) at the Asylum Services you will receive an Asylum Seeker's Card. Normally this paper has a red stamp on it, stating the restriction of movement to the island of arrival

ATTENTION: Vulnerable persons who cannot get adequate reception places/medical aid/protection on the island or family reunification cases should not have a restriction of movement.

ATTENTION: Children traveling with their families, from 14 years old receive their own Police Notes. Those under 14 years are registered on the document of their mother or father.

ATTENTION: If you registered more than 25 days ago and have not received this Police Note, go and ask for it at the First Reception Service or the police office. Do not leave the

camp overnight until you have received a Police Note, which says that you are free to do so. Otherwise you will risk being classified as likely to abscond, which means you would then not be issued with the Police Note saying you are free to move around the island until you are called for your next interview.

? SHOULD I MOVE TO THE MAINLAND OR NOT?

The ones among you who have no limitation of movement on the island, but who can move freely to the mainland, obviously face the serious problem that, in most cases, there is no place arranged for you where you could go to and stay until your procedures are completed. For this very serious reason, many of you have remained on the islands. However, if you are not planning to remain in Greece forever, try to take advantage of the opportunity and the freedom to move. On the mainland you can seek advice and help from all NGOs

and activists/volunteers available, to find some shelter there. This way you will not conclude your asylum/family reunification procedure on the island, but, if possible, in Athens. Once you get all your claims and appeals rejected, you will not anymore be able to leave the island. BUT balance the reasons for staying against the ones for leaving. If, for example, you have health issues or are with many children, or if you have a strong asylum claim and high chances to get international protection, OR if your family reunification application is very likely to be successful, and if you have found a fair midterm or longterm solution for shelter on the island and if you can imagine to build up a life there, staying on the island might be the better option for you.

2 ARRIVALS BEFORE MARCH 20TH 2016: THE MAINLAND

▶ 2A. Shelter

? WHAT IS THE OVERALL SITUATION FOR HOUSING AND ACCOMMODATION ON THE MAINLAND?

There are three different categories of housing facilities for refugees in Greece:

▶ Reception places

By the end of September there are around 1,500 reception places in open camps for asylum seekers and unaccompanied minors all over Greece. UNHCR is constantly building up new places mainly for relocation applicants and vulnerable persons, which can be also in hotels or flats. The plan is to create 20,000 new places. As of October 3, 13,036 places already exist but they are also already

filled. You can apply for housing when you register your asylum/relocation/family reunification claim at the Asylum Service or in vulnerable cases also before and with the help of NGOs.

▶ **Transit camps**

Newcomers who did not apply for asylum and who don't belong to vulnerable groups, as well as most others too, are hosted in the currently existing 45 transit camps with a total of approximately 44,500 Places (as of July 21st). If the camps have places they might accept you directly when appearing before their doors. In most cases of better camps they are already full and in general it is not so easy to get accepted in as newcomer.

▶ **Squats and places of solidarity**

Open borders, open houses! During the last months, a couple of squats have been opened by solidarity people welcoming and housing 15-400 refugees each, depending

on capacities. Almost 1,000 refugees are hosted in this way by the civil society and without any funding. In Athens, most of the squats are located in Exarhia area, besides the biggest squat City Plaza. As places are limited and these houses usually full; many times priority is given to very vulnerable persons like families. All the squats are run solely by donations with the collective help of activists and refugees staying there.

▶ **2B. Pre-Registration**

? WHAT WAS THE PRE-REGISTRATION EXERCISE?

Between June and the end of July 2016, teams from the Asylum Service visited refugee camps on the Greek mainland for a so-called “pre-registration exercise”. The pre-registration is not yet the real registration

of the asylum application and it does not yet start the procedure of family reunification or relocation. Nevertheless, it is important that you declare it, if you want to apply for one of these. On the same day of pre-registration one receives an asylum seeker's card that allows you to stay in Greece until the Greek state has made a final decision on your request for asylum. The card is valid for one year. Pre-registration was only the first step for many thousands of people to apply for asylum in Greece -ask for family reunification or for relocation to another European country. The next steps are another appointment at the Asylum Service office, followed by a longer and more detailed interview for the actual registration. Upon the finalisation of the pre-registration in all Greece, the Asylum Service will send you a text-message on your phone (SMS) with the date and location for your next appointment at the Asylum Service. They will send it to your mobile phone number which you gave to the pre-registration clerk. It is unclear when your appointment for the actual registration will take place. The Asylum Service announced first registrations to take place most probably in August, but on average,

according to them, it will take six months or even longer from the date of pre-registration. The date of your next appointment at the Asylum Service Office depends on these things:

- ▶ the date when you arrived in Greece,
- ▶ the language you speak,
- ▶ if you have asked for asylum in Greece, family reunification or relocation, and
- ▶ if you belong to any highly vulnerable group such as unaccompanied minors.

ATTENTION: It is very important that you go to that appointment to complete your registration. If you miss the appointment, you will need to restart the whole process by booking a new appointment through Skype and if your applicants card will get invalid according to authorities.

ATTENTION: If you lose your asylum seekers card of pre-registration you will also have to re-start the procedure from the beginning via Skype.

? WHERE CAN PEOPLE REGISTER THEIR CLAIMS WHO HAVE NOT BEEN REGISTERED OR PRE-REGISTERED YET?

The only way currently is via Skype and the direct access to the Asylum Service for certain language speakers, or in vulnerable cases via NGOs and private lawyers.

- ▶ You can move freely within Greece after pre-registration and you will not be detained if you are controlled on the streets.
- ▶ There are also a few other benefits like: the Government will offer you a place to live in a refugee camp on the mainland and you can get access to public health care.

? WHAT ARE THE ADVANTAGES OR PRE-REGISTRATION?

The main advantage is that you get a valid paper and that you are not in danger to get arrested. In detail, with the card you receive during the pre-registration you can:

- ▶ legally live in Greece until the Asylum Service has made a final decision on your asylum case. This means you cannot be returned to another country against your will, while you wait for the decision.

! ATTENTION: You do NOT have the right to work in Greece. You will only get the right to work after you have completed your registration during another appointment with the Asylum Service.

? UNDER WHICH CIRCUMSTANCES IS PRE-REGISTRATION A DISADVANTAGE?

Pre-registration excludes you from the possibility to directly register your claim before the Asylum Service and it forces you to wait for the authorities to proceed your registration at an

unknown point in time. If you pre-register, the Asylum Service will officially not permit you further access through Skype. Also vulnerable persons will not have the option to get direct access through lawyers at the office for vulnerable persons in the Asylum Service.

ATTENTION: People with urgent cases belonging to the following two groups who have participated in pre-registration should seek the help of an NGO providing free legal aid immediately:

- ▶ If you want to apply for relocation or family reunification and you or your **relatives abroad** with whom you want to (re-)join are in a very serious health condition and have only a limited time left to live.
- ▶ If you want to do **family reunification** and you or your relative you want to (re-)join is about to turn 18 years old, which might render a family reunification impossible.

▶ 2C. Arrest, Detention

WHY WAS I ARRESTED?

Most likely reasons:

- ▶ Your paper run out of time.
- ▶ You document had a limitation of movement and you were not allowed to: leave a certain place (i.e. an island) or move to a certain place (i.e. the prefecture of Achaia).
- ▶ Some people who the Greek authorities at the time considered, based on their nationality, to have ‘manifestly unfounded’ claims for asylum were also detained in the Hot-spots in pre-removal detention facilities, even if they arrived before 20th March. NGOs and private lawyers.

? FOR HOW LONG AM I GOING ● TO BE DETAINED?

According to the law, you can be detained from a few hours up to six months. Your detention can be extended twice, for a maximum of 18 months in total. If that happens then the competent authorities will issue a new detention decision. But nowadays, if someone is detained, **he/she is in practice** normally released after 6 months.

If you are an asylum seeker, **according to the law**, you can be detained for three reasons:

- ▶ **1.** as long as it is necessary for the determination of your nationality,
- ▶ **2.** if you are considered a public threat according to the police and
- ▶ **3.** for the prompt and effective completion of the asylum procedure.

If you apply for asylum during your detention, your detention cannot last more than 6 months

in total (under 3, see above). If you are detained for reason 1 and 2 then the duration of your detention cannot exceed the 12 months. It can be extended only after a new individually justified detention decision issued by the competent authorities.

If you are from **Syria, Jemen, Iraq, Eritrea, South Sudan, Palestine or Somalia (and registered as such)** you will be either not detained at all or released very soon anyway as you should normally not be detained at all after your registration and identification because your deportation is considered not feasible by UNHCR.

If you are detained upon second arrest on the mainland nowadays and you do not belong to these 7 nationalities or you cannot prove belonging to them and have been registered wrongly, then you will be normally released after 6 months.

! ATTENTION: If you are an unaccompanied minor, you should not be detained but you might still be held longer than the others but not longer than 25 days, according to the law.

? WHAT ARE MY RIGHTS WHILE I AM IN PRISON?

- ▶ I have the right to spend one hour per day outside
- ▶ I have the right to talk to a lawyer
- ▶ I have the right to ask for medical treatment
- ▶ If I am a minor or a woman I should be detained separately and not in mixed detention cells
- ▶ I have the right to be informed about my rights and the asylum procedure in my own language
- ▶ I have the right to make phone calls
- ▶ Unaccompanied minors are usually detained until an available place is found in a reception centre for unaccompanied minors.

? HOW DO I APPEAL BEFORE THE COURT IN ORDER TO BE RELEASED SOONER IN CASE I AM DETAINED?

In order to appeal before the court against your detention, and in order to ask for your release, you need to have a lawyer. NGO lawyers don't ask and don't take money for this – or for any other procedure. Private lawyers will ask for money, for the court expenses. If you hire a private lawyer, make sure, you get proof/the receipts that the lawyer submitted an application.

! ATTENTION: No lawyer or other third person can apply for asylum in your place. Don't pay money to anyone to do this for you. You personally have to lodge an asylum application before the competent authorities. Everybody can appeal before the court to be released sooner – persons who apply for asylum and also the ones who don't. If you have a relative or a friend who legally lives in Greece, you will need his address

in order to prove that you have a place to stay upon release. Your friend or relative has to sign a specific document called “ipeft-hini dilosi” (Solemn Declaration) where he states that he is willing to offer you accommodation and submit that to the Court, along with his house/rent contract. The lawyer will have to submit these papers to the court, asking for your release. For this application, it is important to say why you cannot stay any longer in prison. Important reasons are, among others: if you are sick, if you are a torture victim, if you have mental or psychological problems, if you have already applied for asylum, if you have a family in another European country. Remember to say these things to your lawyer. In case your detention is prolonged, according to the law, there must be a review of your detention and a justified new decision issued by the authorities.

▶ 2D. Documents

? WHAT KIND OF DIFFERENT IDENTIFICATION DOCUMENTS EXIST?

- ▶ Different kinds of Police Notes (see next paragraph)
- ▶ Asylum Seekers Card
- ▶ Identity card/passport of recognized refugees

? WHAT IS WRITTEN ON THE WHITE PAPER (POLICE NOTE) THAT THE POLICE GAVE TO ME UPON RELEASE?

There are two different kinds of Police Notes authorities issue to people arrested for “illegal entry and stay” along the border and it depends on your nationality which one you get. The ones who are considered to be currently refugee populations by UNHCR and whose deportation is not feasible, receive other documents than the rest.

ATTENTION: Make a copy of your paper as soon as possible and keep it somewhere safe, in case you lose the original.

ATTENTION: It is very important that you take care of your proper nationality registration in the place of first arrival to Greece as it might be crucial later and it will be more difficult to change then!

The common “**white paper**” is an official note issued by the police upon release from detention in which you are told to leave Greece and go back to your country, within a period of a few days up to 30 days. This paper is neither a travel document nor a residence permit. It just protects you from being arrested for the period specifically mentioned in it (on the right bottom side), from the day it was issued (date on the upper right side).

Once it expires, you are at risk of being arrested and detained again. This time detention will most probably last up to six months (and under specific conditions an additional 1 bis 3 months).

This order **cannot be renewed**. BUT if they arrest you after the expiration of that paper and they release you again after an undefined period of time, you might receive the same paper again with a new expiration date or a suspension of removal paper.

If you are from **Syria, Somalia, Eritrea, Yemen, South Sudan, Palestine or Iraq** you will be given a “Suspension of the deportation” note. This document is usually issued for 6 months instead of 30 days and can be renewed. You have to go to the “Aliens Police Directorate” in Athens (Petrou Ralli/Al-lodapon) and ask for its renewal.

? WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE ASYLUM SEEKERS

CARD OF THE PRE-REGISTRATION AND THE ONE RECEIVED DIRECTLY BY THE ASYLUM SERVICE?

The asylum seekers card issued to persons who applied for pre-registration does not contain a date for the complete registration. It protects you from being arrested, but actually only states that you started a registration procedure for an asylum application.

▶ 2E. Deportation

? WHO IS IN DANGER TO BE DEPORTED FROM GREECE?

Generally speaking, people belonging to nationalities who are considered not to come from the typical refugee producing countries and whose deportation is technically feasible, are in danger: i.e. currently Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Pakistan, Nigeria, Santo Dominica, Georgia. Systematically organized deportation flights supported by the European Border Control Agency FRONTEX are planned to further enforce returns. The Greek government has declared shortly after the closing of the Greek-Macedonian border that, for many nationalities, voluntary return and forced deportations will be part of the migration policy for some people who have no right to stay.

? WHO CANNOT BE DEPORTED?

Currently, people arrested at the Greek-Turkish borders are usually held in closed facilities until registration procedures are completed – if at all. The only ones who cannot be deported for sure are the ones who seek asylum and the ones belonging to nationalities, which are considered by UNHCR as not-deportable, which were as of December 2015: Syrians, Eritreans, people of South Sudan, Palestinians, Somalis, Yemenis and Iraqis. Anyway, Greece at the moment does also not deport refugees from Afghanistan as well as people from other war-torn countries.

ATTENTION: If you are not released from the detention centre/first reception centre and you are brought to a prison in Athens and if the police transfers you to your country's embassy, you might be in risk of deportation. Seek legal advice immediately.

3 FAMILY REUNIFICATION; RELOCATION AND ASYLUM

? HOW CAN I MOVE ON AND OUT OF GREECE LEGALLY?

There are two options:

- ▶ Family Reunification or
- ▶ Relocation.

? HOW CAN I ACCESS THE PROCEDURES OF FAMILY REUNIFICATION, RELOCATION OR ASYLUM?

The responsible authority for all three procedures is the Asylum Service. If you have not already informed the authorities about your wish to apply for one of the three options upon arrival on the islands in one of the Hot Spots, and if you did not participate in the Pre-Registration Exercise, then you can either contact the Asylum Service via Skype to get an

appointment for the registration of your claim, or in case you belong to any vulnerable group you can ask an NGO for support or a private lawyer. They can ask the office for vulnerable cases for an appointment for you.

ATTENTION: In any case, and if you are not very lucky, it can take a lot of time until you get an appointment.

ATTENTION: Persons who participated in the Pre-Registration Exercise are officially excluded from any other access to direct registration.

▶ 3A. Family Reunification

? WHAT IS FAMILY REUNIFICATION?

Families might find themselves in a situation where one person went first to a specific country, and his/her family-member has remained behind in another European country. In that case, you have the possibility to ask for family reunification. You apply in the country where you are, in order to go where your relative is.

? HOW DO I APPLY FOR FAMILY REUNIFICATION IF MY RELATIVE IS STILL IN THE ASYLUM PROCEDURE OR HAS RECEIVED POLITICAL ASYLUM OR SUBSIDIARY PROTECTION STATUS?

- ▶ The family member in the country where you want to be reunited to has to get registered for asylum.

ATTENTION: The date of arrival is not necessarily the same like the date of registration. Due to a work overload, authorities in many countries register asylum seeking refugees after days, weeks or even months. Tell your relative to send you a copy of the newest identity document he/she received from the authorities in the country he/she arrived and applied for asylum in order to cross check with an NGO in which stage of registration he/she is.

- ▶ Before applying for family reunification, check what your relative has stated to the authorities concerning his/her family.

ATTENTION: It is crucial that **he/she has mentioned to have relatives**, in the best case he /she mentioned specifically you with your correct name, family name and date of birth (age). It is not possible to apply for family reunification if your relative has declared not to have any relatives alive.

ATTENTION: Get the exact information on your age he/she stated (if necessary get a copy from their asylum interview) and take care to write your and his/her name exactly as written already by him/her in the country where he/she already is and you plan to go.

- ▶ Get an **appointment at the Asylum Service** in Athens, Thessaloniki or elsewhere in order to ask for family reunification.

ATTENTION: You will go typically through asylum procedure but apply for family reunification. In this process you can also apply for accommodation in a refugee camp, but currently there is a huge lack of available places, so only unaccompanied minors can access a camp after a currently unclear waiting period, depending on the availability of places, the urgency and vulnerability.

ATTENTION: The biggest problem is to get access to the Asylum Service in order to make an appointment.

- ▶ **Print a copy of the identification document of your relative.** Take also any contact (phone number and address) of your relative and his/her lawyer or other supporters with you. Visit an NGO that can assist you in the procedure to make sure everything is going well.
- ▶ If you are an **unaccompanied minor** it is highly crucial to state that your relative has been already your legal guardian in the past when you were still living al-together in your home country or while travelling together.

IF YOU ARE 1 – 17 YEARS OLD AT THE TIME YOU APPLY FOR FAMILY REUNIFICATION AND YOU ARE WITHOUT ANY CLOSE FAMILY MEMBER IN GREECE YOU CAN APPLY FOR FAMILY REUNIFICATION WITH:

- ▶ **A. Most efficient**
Parents – one parent – brother/sister or persons who were the responsible adults in place of the parents already before leaving the home country
- ▶ **B. Working well**
Uncle – aunt – grandparent(s) who can take care of you
- ▶ **C. Possible**
Other relatives

**IF YOU ARE AN ADULT CAN
APPLY FOR FAMILY
REUNIFICATION WITH:**

▶ **A. Most efficient**

Spouse or your child, if they have refugee status/subsidiary protection

▶ **B. Working well**

Spouse or your child, if they are in the asylum procedure (marriage must have been already in the country of origin)

▶ **C. Possible**

Have another right to stay

**IF YOU ARE AN ADULT AND
YOUR RELATIVE IS ALSO AN
ADULT BUT NOT YOUR
SPOUSE, YOU CAN APPLY
BASED ON HUMANITARIAN
GROUNDS TO**

▶ **A. Effectively but difficult**

to your adult children, siblings, parent if you are pregnant or suffer a heavy disease or psychological problems, if you have a newborn child, if you are severely disabled, and in need of

the support of your child which you should be able to prove by medical certificates

▶ **B. Very difficult**

to other relatives

**? HOW CAN I PROVE
MY FAMILY
RELATIONSHIP?**

▶ **Pages of your family-book**, a marriage certificate, birth certificates, papers from your country of origin with the same family names, places of birth etc.

▶ **Family photos**

ATTENTION: Authorities can ask for a DNA-test if you lack other proofs. You will be asked to cover the costs by yourselves. On the other side sometimes the procedure gets faster if you give the results of a DNA test.

ATTENTION Names, dates and places of birth have to be the same as in the official papers.

? HOW LONG WILL THE PROCEDURE TAKE?

From the day your application for family reunification gets registered:

- ▶ **1. Greece has three months** to ask the other EU country for the family reunification. Attention! After three months from the moment you apply for asylum, you cannot anymore apply for family reunification!
- ▶ **2. The other country** has another two months to send its answer back to the Dublin office in Greece.
- ▶ **3. After a positive decision,** Greece has six months to “send” you to the country you applied to go.

In total, the maximum time according to law from the day of the registration of your application in Greece, is 11 months.

! ATTENTION: There are right now a lot of people asking for asylum registration. So nobody knows how long it will actually take until one can apply for family reunification. Delays are certain. But in urgent cases the procedure might go also much faster.

? UNDER WHICH CIRCUMSTANCES WILL THE PROCEDURE BE FAST TRACKED?

- ▶ **A.** Unaccompanied minors applying for family reunification from within detention can ask for a fast track procedure, where the answer has to be submitted within one month.
- ▶ **B.** If you or your relatives are seriously sick (physically or mentally), get a doctor’s certificate and hand it to the authorities.

? WHAT RIGHTS DO I HAVE IN GREECE AFTER I APPLY FOR FAMILY REUNIFICATION?

You get the same rights as an asylum applicant.

- ▶ You can **apply for housing** in an open reception centre. Attention! Currently only unaccompanied minors can get a place. The open reception centres are no prisons. You can freely move in and out during opening hours. You will have the support of social workers and lawyers, you can learn languages and you have a bed in a shared room and food. It will take some weeks until a place is found currently.
- ▶ You have **access to the public health system** and get free medical aid in hospitals. Children can **go to school**.
- ▶ You are also **allowed to rent a room, flat, house**. You are **allowed to marry**.

? IF IT TAKES LONG, WILL I NOT HAVE TOO MANY EXPENSES?

Renting a flat and getting food supplies if needed will cause expenses. But consider the expenses in money and the risks of leaving Greece clandestinely in comparison.

? IF I APPLY FOR FAMILY REUNIFICATION AND THE BORDER OPENS SUDDENLY CAN I STILL GO?

Yes. Applying for family reunification does not hinder you from moving on by yourself.

? IF I HAVE REGISTERED MYSELF AT THE AUTHORITIES, ORIGINALLY GIVING A WRONG AGE. CAN I STILL CORRECT IT?

You can correct your age during the family reunification application.

! ATTENTION: If you register as an unaccompanied minor, be aware that the Greek authorities have an obligation to protect you and put

you in an open camp for minors. If no such place is available they can put you alternatively in detention until a place is found in an open camp (protective custody). Currently this has been reported to happen only in Idomeni and in some occasions in Thessaloniki region. Unaccompanied minors in the area of greater Athens do not have this problem at the moment.

IN WHICH DIRECTION WILL THE FAMILY REUNIFICATION BE GENERALLY COMPLETED?

Since 2011, when Dublin returns to Greece were halted temporarily, family reunification always goes out of Greece! BUT, normally a family reunification should be carried out to the country where most of the family currently is, for example if you are in Hungary, Italy, Slovakia, Croatia, Austria etc.

ATTENTION: Macedonia, Albania, Montenegro, Serbia and Bosnia are not included in the Dublin Regulation.

WILL A FAMILY REUNIFICATION HARM MY RELATIVES?

A. Asylum case?

No, as long as you inform him/ her before applying and check exactly what he/ she said in his/ her asylum case in order not to say something contradictory and in order to write all your personal data correctly.

B. Living conditions?

No, as long as you can still apply to stay in a separate place, in case things don't work out with staying together after reuniting.

ATTENTION: If your relative feels nervous about the idea to apply for family reunification, give him/her a contact to someone who can explain him/her the whole procedure so he/she knows exactly what would happen.

? WHO CANNOT APPLY UNDER THIS PROCEDURE?

Persons who applied for asylum and received another status than political asylum or subsidiary protection and persons who already have a national passport from the country of residence.

ATTENTION: In the latter case you have to ask the embassy of the country where your relative lives for family reunification.

? WHAT SHOULD I KNOW FOR THE PERIOD AFTER I HAVE REUNITED WITH MY FAMILY?

When you arrive make sure you show every authority your family reunification paper. Go together with your relatives to present yourself to the authorities of the city where your relative resides. This is very important so that you won't get in danger to be transferred to a different area of the country.

When you arrive in the receiving country, you will only then start your asylum application from the beginning, equal to all other newcomers. Only if your relative has already been granted asylum or another status, it is very likely that you will get the same status.

ATTENTION: Even after the successful family reunification process it is possible that following minors will be age-tested by the authorities of the country where he/she finally arrived at, as it is not considered sufficient proof of age if the minor was age-tested in Greece where methods might differ from the ones applied by authorities in the receiving country. In such a case, immediately consult a lawyer.

▶ 3B. Relocation

? WHAT IS RELOCATION?

Relocation is the legal transfer of persons who are considered to require international protection (asylum and subsidiary protection) from one member state of the European Union to another member state, after having been found eligible by the authorities of Greece. Until today, relocation has been completed for very few persons, although the EU had announced high numbers already in 2015. **Out of 66,400 refugees that the EU had planned to relocate from Greece to other European countries within two years, only 1.849 refugees were relocated** from November 2015 until end of June 2016. At the moment, in the beginning of July 2016, around 42,000 refugees are stuck at the Greek mainland. 7833 applied so far for relocation. Germany (where many people want to go) has only relocated 37 people so far.

? WHAT DO I NEED TO KNOW ABOUT RELOCATION BEFORE I APPLY?

- ▶ You will **not be able to choose the country of destination**; this can be problematic as some of the receiving countries are not first choice if you want to build up a future.
- ▶ After being relocated to another EU country **you are obliged to stay and live there** – which can in some cases be quite problematic concerning the possibilities of building your life there.
- ▶ If you **leave the country** you were relocated to and try to live in another European country you will face problems concerning your legal status there and you can be deported there.
- ▶ The relocation is **free of charge**.
- ▶ Another possibility to legally reach another European country is via Dublin III family

reunification. This is only possible if you have relatives of your close family there who have not yet received citizenship of this country. In case you have relatives with citizenship of a European country you can apply for family reunification at the embassy of that country. Find more info about family reunification in the chapter on Family Reunification (see page 40) or here:

 [HTTP://BIT.LY/2dAevbe](http://bit.ly/2dAevbe)

WHO CAN APPLY FOR RELOCATION?

The Relocation Program concerns citizens of countries for which the rate of granting international protection is over 75%, based on the European average recognition rates. At the moment, the Relocation Program concerns **Syrians, Eritreans, nationals of the Central African Republic, Seychelles, Dominica, Laos, Saudi-Arabia, Bahrain and stateless persons** whose former habitual residence was one

of these countries. The large majority of beneficiaries until now are Syrians. **Iraqis are no longer on the list** of eligible nationalities for relocation since the beginning of July. However, those who registered before and applied to be relocated will still be processed.

! ATTENTION: In order to benefit from relocation:

- ▶ you have to **first apply for international protection**;
- ▶ you must go through the **identification, registration and fingerprinting procedure** carried out by the Greek authorities;
- ▶ you must prove that you are an asylum seeker and have arrived in Greece after the 16th of September 2015.

? ARE PEOPLE WITH SPECIAL NEEDS PRIORITIZED?

Yes, vulnerable persons are prioritized. This includes in particular: minors, unaccompanied minors, disabled people, elderly people, pregnant women, single parents with minor children, victims of human trafficking, persons with serious illnesses, persons with mental disorders and persons who have been subjected to torture, rape or other serious forms of psychological, physical or sexual violence, such as victims of female genital mutilation.

? WHERE AM I SENT IN CASE I AM ACCEPTED FOR RELOCATION?

The following countries have so far accepted to take relocations from Greece: Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Cyprus, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Ireland, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Spain, Sweden and Switzerland.

? HOW LONG DOES THE PROCEDURE TAKE?

It is unclear how long this procedure will take as not many countries are willing to receive refugees via relocation so far.

Only one fact is clear: your relocation procedure will be completed within two months from the moment a country accepts you as an applicant. On average, a relocation procedure should be completed within 3 months – but this is so far mainly a declaration on paper – up to now only few people have been relocated.

! ATTENTION: Applicants can and should be accommodated in reception centers, hotels and apartments during their waiting period. But also this is so far only a declaration on paper and we have not really seen it much in practice.

? CAN I INFLUENCE THE CHOICE OF THE COUNTRY I WILL BE SENT TO?

You cannot choose the country you will be sent to. The only choice is to leave the program in case you do not want to get transferred to the country that was chosen for you. In order to decide the member state to which the relocation will take place, the Asylum Service will take into account 4 criteria after conducting an interview with you:

- ▶ your vulnerability (see criteria above),
- ▶ the existence of relatives in a particular member state,
- ▶ your language skills,
- ▶ relocation to the same member state in order to preserve family unity.

? WHAT FACTORS MIGHT BE IMPORTANT FOR MY DECISION IF I REALLY WANT TO BE RELOCATED TO A CERTAIN COUNTRY OR NOT?

It is good,

- ▶ if you have family or friends there and
- ▶ if there is an existing migrant communities

It is very difficult

- ▶ if the economic situation of the country is bad, a social welfare system is inexistent and the unemployment rate is high and/or
- ▶ if the country is ruled by a right wing government.

ATTENTION: Countries described often as very difficult to live in for refugees are for example: Bulgaria, Rumania, Poland, Malta, Croatia, Slovakia and Czech Republic.

? UNTIL WHAT MOMENT CAN I WITHDRAW MY APPLICATION WITHOUT ANY FURTHER CONSEQUENCES LIKE A DEPORTATION TO THE COUNTRY THAT ACCEPTED ME?

It might be decided to relocate you to a country where you do not want to go for various reasons. One important question is therefore what consequences it has if you withdraw your relocation-application. In some leaflets the authorities state that you can be returned to Greece in case you go to another country than the one decided for you, based on the Dublin III-regulation, either during your relocation procedure or after a decision for a certain country has been taken. Almost all European countries have decided not to return any people to Greece at the moment, even if they were first fingerprinted in Greece, including asylum seekers. So far it is unclear how they would be able to find out if you have lodged a relocation application or not. However, if you move to a third

EU-country and apply for asylum there after you have been relocated to another EU-country there will for sure be an attempt to return you to the country you were relocated to originally.

? WHICH ORGANIZATION IS RESPONSIBLE FOR RELOCATION?

The Asylum Service is responsible for the application and the procedure in Greece. The International Organization for Migration (IOM) conducts your relocation.

? HOW DOES THE PROCEDURE WORK?

How to apply

- ▶ Notify a UNHCR or EASO representative about your interest in the relocation program, or
- ▶ Go to a Regional Asylum Office of the Asylum Service (if you have a choice, check with

UNHCR-or EASO-staff and/or activists where to go to have quicker and easier access), or

- ▶ Call through Skype, see page 74 – 75.

The application

- ▶ The Asylum Service registers your application and examines it by conducting an interview with you.

After a positive decision

- ▶ Once you receive a positive relocation decision, you will be provided with information about the transfer.
- ▶ IOM is responsible for pre-departure assistance and travel of the beneficiaries once they have been accepted by an EU Member State of Relocation.
- ▶ In the case of relocation, the application will be examined by the responsible authorities of the member state where you will be relocated to.
- ▶ Consequently, in the event of international protection status being granted, you will receive

your residence permit from the member state where you have been relocated to.

After a negative decision

- ▶ If your relocation application is rejected, your asylum application will be examined by Greece.

 **ADDRESSES OF ASYLUM SERVICES IN GREECE WHERE YOU CAN APPLY FOR RELOCATION CAN BE FOUND IN THE LIST OF CONTACTS IN THE LAST PART OF THIS GUIDE.**

 **WHERE CAN I FIND THE CASE NUMBERS WHO HAVE RECEIVED AN ANSWER ON THE INTERNET?**

 [HTTP://BIT.LY/2CZPBZ8](http://bit.ly/2cZPBZ8)

? WHERE CAN I FIND STATISTICS ON RELOCATION ON THE INTERNET?

 [HTTP://BIT.LY/2DY5jvD](http://bit.ly/2DY5jvD)

? WHERE CAN I FIND OFFICIAL INFORMATION BY THE ASYLUM OFFICE?

 [WWW.ASYLO.GOV.GR/EN/](http://www.asylo.gov.gr/en/)

 [HTTP://BIT.LY/2DYTYvI](http://bit.ly/2DYTYvI)

▶ 3C. What does it mean to apply for asylum in Greece?

? WHEN CAN I APPLY FOR POLITICAL ASYLUM?

There is not a deadline for presenting an asylum application. It is known also to the Greek authorities that access to the asylum procedure is not always easy and sometimes you have to wait for days or for months until you manage to have access to the Asylum Office.

? WHERE CAN I MAKE THIS APPLICATION?

You have to personally lodge an asylum application before the competent authority, which is the Asylum Office (in Athens, Lesvos Island, Samos island, Chios island, Rhodes Island,

South and North Evros Region, in Thessaloniki, as well as in the detention centres: Amygdaleza, Xanthi and in Corinth). If you are detained or in a First Reception Center, the detention authorities (police) and also the First Reception authorities will register your wish to seek international protection and refer you to the competent examination authority.

WHAT IS THE PROCESS OF APPLYING FOR POLITICAL ASYLUM?

At the central offices in Athens, first you have to get an appointment or enter the Asylum Office. Currently people speaking certain languages can only make the application for a registration date online through Skype (Arabic, Farsi/Dari, English, French). The others have to queue at least some weeks to obtain the possibility and enter the building. The addresses can be found in the list of contacts here:

 [HTTP://BIT.LY/2DYSQSK](http://bit.ly/2DYSQSK)

Once you manage to have access to an Asylum Office, an employee will register your personal data and ask you some questions about your origin, the journey you undertook, the reasons for leaving your country etc. A white card, which is called “International protection seeker’s card” will be issued, with your personal details, the day of its issuance and the day of its expiration (a few years ago it used to be a pink card). On that card, also the day of your interview before the competent committee is stated. The “white card” according to the Greek law, is valid for 6 months, until the completion of your asylum procedure (if the procedure takes longer it will be renewed). Sometimes it is issued also for shorter periods.

! ATTENTION: Be aware that if you don’t present yourself on the day fixed for your interview to the asylum office where you put your claim, the asylum procedure is concluded. You have to have valid reasons for not presenting yourself (example: a paper from a public hospital that you were sick or if the police stopped you in order to

check the validity of the document and you couldn't be on time at the fixed appointment with the authorities). Example: If you apply for asylum on the island of Lesbos, you should renew your card there, you should be interviewed there etc. Only a change of address, which you report to the Asylum Service would change the local responsibilities.

ATTENTION: When you are given the “white card” and you know the day of your interview, you should go to one of the Greek NGOs working with asylum seekers (see page 64-66) where you can be properly and timely prepared for your interview.

ATTENTION: For those coming from Pakistan, Bangladesh, Georgia, or Egypt, the decision should be issued within 45 days, and for the other nationalities within four months, according to a decision published by the Head of the Asylum Office.

ATTENTION: If your asylum claim is rejected in the first instance, you have the right to appeal against the rejection. Make sure you refer promptly to an NGO in order to get help. According to the law, if your asylum claim is examined with the normal procedure, you have 30 days to appeal against the rejection. If it is examined with the accelerated procedure (which means that your asylum is considered unfounded), you have 15 days to appeal against the rejection. If you are in prison or detained in a detention center, you have 10 days to appeal against the rejection. If you are in a First Reception Center, the deadline is 3 days. The appeals procedure for the ones who applied before the Asylum Service is generally only possible in written form. Ask an NGO for support to formulate it!

ATTENTION: If your appeal is also rejected (second instance rejection), you can only appeal before the Appeal Administrative Court and also request a

suspension of your removal, which is a long and expensive procedure. Most probably you'll have to hire a private lawyer, as Greek NGOs do not have the money or can only partially cover court expenses.

ATTENTION: The application before the Appeal Administrative Court does not automatically stop the removal decision, issued with the second instance rejection. In order to do so, your lawyer or the NGO has to ask for the suspension of your removal, pending the examination of your case by the court.

ATTENTION: Be aware that in case you change your address or your mobile phone after you have asked for asylum, you have to immediately inform the authorities and give them your new address and/or mobile phone number, so that they can find you

ATTENTION: Keep copies of all relevant documents (printed and in your email account): For example, any pieces of evidence for your asylum case, the “white pa-

per” (official note) you receive from the Greek authorities upon release or your asylum seekers card, anything you receive from a doctor or hospital etc.

WHO IS A POLITICAL REFUGEE?

A political refugee is a person who has left his country because he/she was afraid that his/her life was in danger for the following reasons:

- ▶ because of his/her **religion** or of his/her ethnic group
- ▶ because of his/her **nationality**
- ▶ because of his/her social group, his/her **gender** or sexual orientation identity (homosexual)
- ▶ because of his/her **political views**

? WHO IS A PERSON IN NEED OF SUBSIDIARY PROTECTION?

A person eligible for subsidiary protection is a third-country national or a stateless person who does not qualify as a refugee but for whom substantial grounds exist for believing that, if returned to his/her country of origin, or in the case of a stateless person, to his or her country of former habitual residence, he would face a real risk of suffering serious harm, i.e.

- ▶ the **death penalty** or execution; or
- ▶ **torture** or inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment in the country of origin; or
- ▶ serious and individual threat to a **civilian's life** or person by reason of indiscriminate violence in situations of international or internal armed conflict

ATTENTION: If you have left your country in order to find

a job or a better life, you cannot be classified as a refugee and you cannot receive subsidiary protection according to international law.

? IF I APPLY FOR POLITICAL ASYLUM, IS IT CERTAIN THAT I WILL BE RECOGNIZED AS A REFUGEE?

No, it is not. During the asylum procedure, the committee has to examine your personal situation and the individual reasons why you left your country of origin, as well as the general situation in your own country. Be careful about what you say, try to be as clear and precise as you can. Be prepared to say everything that is important, as you might not get asked everything. It is always good to prepare for the asylum interview. A few hints might help to get a better result:

- ▶ a) Everyone understands that, when you arrive in a country, you need to find a job in order

to survive. For asylum this does not count as a sufficient reason. So during your asylum examination, the priority is to explain **why your life was in danger** at home and why you had to escape.

- ▶ b) Don't use a "case" in the interview, which is far away from your own reality. Mostly these supposedly "strong cases" are told to the Asylum Service employees who will conduct your interview dozen times a day. If you get **accused of lying**, it is very complicated to correct the stance of the authorities towards a positive outcome for you in the aftermath!
- ▶ c) It is always good to first talk with **someone experienced** in legal advice before going to the interview. This person should go through your real case with you – most of you have had bad experiences in your life back home and on your escape route to Europe that can at least lead to a humanitarian protection status!
- ▶ d) Concerning **family members** back home: for young and healthy men and also for unaccompanied minors who will turn 18 soon, family members in areas that are considered to be safer than others (for example Kabul or other "safer" regions of Afghanistan) and who you are regularly in contact with, can be seen as people who could have enough money to support you after a possible return. Persons who do not have any connections, to the home country and who therefore would lack any support structures, are more difficult to be returned.
- ▶ e) It is very important, from the very beginning, **to document health problems** by taking certificates from doctors. This concerns especially all kinds of psychological problems that can be a result of bad memories from your home countries or also from your journey to get out of there. Many of you know the symptoms: sleeplessness, bad dreams, headache-attacks, problems to concen-

trate etc. This is called “traumatisation” or “posttraumatic stress disorder” and it can help you in your asylum procedure, if you get medical/psychological certificates about this form of suffering/medical condition.

? WHAT ARE MY RIGHTS IF I APPLY FOR POLITICAL ASYLUM IN GREECE?

Unfortunately, the “white card” does not practically correspond to any right. It means that while you are in the asylum procedure, you cannot be deported until the completion of the administrative procedure and until you get a negative answer.

You have the right to have access to medical care and treatment at Greek public hospitals.

Due to the financial crisis, the Prefecture does not easily issue a work permit. In case you have found a job, make sure you get help from an NGO for the issu-

ance of a work permit. Keep in mind that working without a proper work permit is illegal, according to the Greek law.

In case you are a torture victim or you have suffered from other forms of violence, you have to tell this to the authorities or the NGO, so that you are timely referred to Babel, Medicines sans Frontieres and the Greek Refugee Council, which are specialized NGOs that can confirm that you are a torture victim by issuing a certificate which is important for your asylum claim.

? IS THERE A SAFE WAY TO LEGALLY LEAVE GREECE AS A RECOGNIZED REFUGEE AND GO TO ANOTHER EUROPEAN COUNTRY?

As an asylum seeker, awaiting your interview or the decision, you cannot travel because you do not have a travel document. If you are recognized as a political refugee, you can apply for a TDV, a travel document, and travel in all countries except your country of origin. If you have been issued subsidiary

protection, you can apply for a TDV in case you cannot get a passport at your own embassy (you need to explain the reasons for that, e.g. if your country of origin does not have an embassy in Greece). You can travel in all countries including your country of origin. In both cases, you can stay abroad for a maximum period of up to three months.

ATTENTION: Currently, some European countries ask for a visa, even for those who are recognized as political refugees in another country. Also countries outside of Europe might ask for a visa.

ATTENTION: In some very exceptional cases, when you have a very serious health problem, which cannot be treated in Greece, you can apply for a travel document, even while you are still in the asylum procedure. Keep in mind though that this is extremely difficult and you need to bring evidence documenting the sickness.

ATTENTION: Keep in mind that if you try to leave from Greece with a forged or false passport and you are arrested, you might be

brought to the Court, sentenced and detained. If you have close family members in another European country, you can apply for family reunification under the Dublin Regulation. This application is also made before the Asylum Service. Check the chapter on family reunification, page 40.

ATTENTION: Keep in mind that before applying for asylum in Greece you need to know if your parents/underage brothers/sisters are in another European country and mention this to the competent authorities. If you ask for asylum, you have only three months to state that you want to apply for family reunification!

? IF I LEFT MY COUNTRY TO FIND A JOB, CAN I OBTAIN A “GREEN CARD” WHEN I AM RELEASED?

It is very difficult to obtain a residence permit as a migrant. For further information, please go to the “Group of Lawyers for the Rights of Migrants and Refugees” or ask at “Diktyo” (see page 65 - 66).

? WHAT HAPPENS IF THERE ARE MISTAKES ABOUT MY AGE, NAME OR NATIONALITY ON MY DEPORTATION ORDER?

Make sure that you declare them correctly (spelling mistakes or others) during the registration of your asylum claim before the “Asylum Office”. The “white paper” (removal note) is not a proper identity document, so if you apply for asylum, you can carefully examine it and clearly state to the person registering your correct data.

? WHAT IF I HAVE ALREADY FINGERPRINTS IN A EUROPEAN COUNTRY WHEN I ARRIVE IN GREECE?

If you have already given fingerprints in another EU country before arriving in Greece and if your fingerprints are found, then Greece will make a request to this other EU-country to see if they take you back or not. You should think before if you want

to be sent to that country or not. If not, and if Greek authorities inform you that they will request you to go back, you should ask advice of a lawyer to help you stay. If you want to be sent back because you have your old “first” fingerprints in – for example – the UK or some other better country, you can inform the authorities yourself about your fingerprints there and provide them with evidence. Yet it depends on the way you left the country (deported, why deported? voluntary return...) and on other factors if they will take you back or not. Ask a lawyer about your individual case to be sure. In general, if you have left Greece/or another European country (by deportation or voluntarily) and if your fingerprints are found, you will most probably have to explain additionally to your old reason of escape from your home, new reasons of persecution that occurred after your return. You are allowed to make a new claim for asylum if there are new grounds for it, as your old claim closes after a certain period of time, when you do not appear to be in the country.

**SOME
LAST**

● GENERAL ADVICE

- ▶ *Always be sure to **whom you talk**, check for whom he/she works, and keep names documented. If you consult a lawyer, always ask for a business card (or hand written contact details).*
- ▶ *Try to be **well-informed and updated** by seeking advice from organisations and activists who are there to help you. Cross-check information.*
- ▶ ***Don't trust people only because they come from the same country** like you. Everybody is in a difficult situation and not all people turn out to be nice and trustworthy.*
- ▶ ***Never give up!***

4 HELPFUL ADDRESSES

THE FOLLOWING ORGANIZATIONS ARE IN ATHENS AND OFFER SERVICES FREE OF CHARGE! DO NOT BE AFRAID TO GO AND ASK FOR INFORMATION EVEN IF YOU DON'T HAVE A RESIDENCE PERMIT.

Legal Services

1. Greek Council for Refugees

GCR is a Greek Non Governmental Organization that supports refugees in Greece. Free of charge legal counselling & social assistance.

-  every morning from Monday to Friday before 9 am for an appointment
-  Solomou 25, Exarheia (near Omonia)
-  210-38.00.990
-  www.gcr.gr

2. Ecumenical Refugee Programme

Legal assistance to refugees

-  Iridanou 20, first floor (close to train station Megaro Mousikis)
-  210-72.95.926
-  Mondays 11 – 16 hrs
Wed. to Fri. 10 – 14 hrs

3. Aitimia

Legal & social support

-  Tripou 4-6, corner to Gennaiou Kolokotroni, (near Singrou Fix metro station, yellow bus 5 or 15 to Paidiki Chara)
-  10 – 13 hrs,
Tue. and Wed.
-  210-92.41.677
-  aitima@freemail.gr
www.aitima.gr/en

4. Arsis – Legal aid and social counselling for young people

-  Derigni 28-30, (around the corner at Victoria Square)
-  210-82.59.880
-  info@arsis.gr

5. Group of Lawyers for the rights of Migrants and refugees

Legal counselling in matters relating to legal status. For people who have or don't have papers.

- 📍 Ioulianou 11 & Rethymnou str, Exarheia (near Alexander park)
- 🕒 Mon. & Wed. 17 –19 h
- 🌐 www.omadadikigorwn.english.blogspot.com

Medical service, even if You are undocumented in Greece

6. Doctors of the World

- 📍 Sappous Str. 12 (near Omonia)
- 🕒 210-32.13.485
- 🌐 info@mdmgreece.gr
www.mdmgreece.gr/en

7. Praksis

Polyclinic & social service. Support to apply for housing.

- 📍 Peoniou Street 5 & Aharnon Str. (near by Victoria Square)
- 🕒 210-82.13.704 / 210-88.22.066
- 🕒 Monday to Friday 9 – 17 hrs
- 🌐 info@praksis.gr
www.praksis.gr

8. Solidarity Center

Psychological & psychiatric support for migrants and refugees with interpreters

- 🕒 Monday-Friday 9– 17 hrs
- 📍 Frourarxio (near Larisis railway station)
Domokou 2/Filadelphias
- 🕒 210-82.10.552/210-82.10.551
- 🌐 <http://bit.ly/2dKGIO9>

Applying for housing

9. Praksis

- 📍 Zosimadon 45
- 🕒 210-52.05.200

10. Praksis Daycare Center

- 📍 Deligiorgi 26-28
Metaxouorgio

11. Arsis

Legal aid for unaccompanied minors and other vulnerable groups, for asylum application or family reunification and applications for housing for these groups. Also supportive for applying for housing.

-  Tenedou 21B
(Amerikis square)
-  Monday to Friday
10 – 17 hrs
-  info@arsis.gr

Free Greek language courses**12. DIKTIO – Social Support to Immigrants and Refugees**

Information on legal/ social needs (Mo-Fri from 17 – 20 hrs), free courses of Greek language (Mo – Fr 18 – 20 hrs) and computer.

For people who have or don't have papers.

-  Tsamadou 13, Exarheia
-  210-38.13.928
-  <http://migrant.diktio.org>

13. Metadrası

-  Thesprotias 8, close to the railway station Larisis
-  210.52.01.792,
210.52.01.794
210.51.26.456

14. PYXIDA/Multicultural Centre for the Integration of Refugees

-  Solomou 25, Exarheia
(near Omonia)
-  210-38.00.990

15. Kyriakatiko Sxoleio Metanason

-  Argous Street 145, Kolonos
(central Athens)
-  Weekends: 210-5130373
Mo. to Fr.: 210-8842151,
210-3306286,
694-5237837
-  kyriakatiko@yahoo.gr

Other help for families

16. Jesuit Refugee Service

Daycare Center

☰ Smyrnis 27

🕒 10:00 – 17:00
(Monday - Friday)

📞 Daphne at
210-822.38.27, ext. 141

Help for single women and single mothers

17. Shelter of Mother Theresa of Calcutta

Temporary shelter for women and
single mothers with children

☰ Ithakis 97 (Axarnon street
near Aghios Panteleimonas)

📞 210-825.47.70

18. Faros Family Center for Women and Children

🕒 9:30 – 14:30 (Mo – Fr)

☰ Elpidos 7

📞 210 882 6661

Help for unaccompanied minors

19. Faros Family Center for Unaccompanied Children and Teenagers

🕒 9:30-18:00
(Monday to Friday)

☰ Ioulianou 18 (between
Victoria Square and Exarhia)

📞 210-381.85.72

Psychological Assistance

20. Babel Day Care Center

Psychological & psychiatric sup-
port for migrants and refugees
with interpreters

🕒 daily from 9 am to 5 pm – on
Tuesdays and Thursdays it
remains open until 8 pm.

☰ Ioannou Drosopoulou 72
(near Platia Amerikis)

📞 210.86.16.280,
210-86.16.102
210-86.16.266

✉️ babel@syneirmos.gr

Help for victims of torture

Please go to Babel for your psychological support, Medicines sans Frontières for the medical aid and the Greek Council for Refugees for legal assistance.

21. Medecins Sans Frontières

☎ +30 21 0520 0500

Help for persons who have problems using drugs

22. Kethea Mosaic

📍 Magnisias 28 & Zolioti 2, Athens

☎ 210-825.69.44,
210-825.71.64,
210-825.62.37

If you lost family members and want to trace them

23. Red Cross

Sector of Tracing People, Sector of Tracing People, for searching lost family mem

📍 3rd September Street 21, Athens

☎ 210-52.42.194,
210-52.30.043

✉ tracingstaff@redcross.gr

Showering, washing machines, clothes and hygiene kits

24. Caritas

📍 Kapodistriou 52, Athens, near Vathis Square

☎ 210-524.66.37

✉ caritashellas@caritas.gr

<http://www.caritas.gr>

🕒 Hot Food Services
10:30 to 13:00
(Monday to Friday)

Showers and Toilets
10:00 to 14:00
(Monday to Friday)

25. Caritas Athens Day Center (for Families)

- 🕒 Operating Hours: 10:00 to 16:00 (Monday to Friday)
- 📍 Enianos 8, Central Athens (near Victoria Station)
- ☎️ 210-822.09.43

26. Praksis

Shower facilities and laundry facilities to wash clothes (need to pre-book laundry) Day Center for the Homeless (Athens)

- 📍 Deligiorgi Str. 26-28
- ☎️ +30/210-524.45.74

27. Day Center for the Homeless (Piraeus)

- 📍 Zosimadon Str. 44 Piraeus,
- ☎️ +30/698.58.66.432

28. Helping hands

- 🕒 09:00 - 14:00 (Tuesday to Friday)
- 📍 Sofokleous 53
- ☎️ 210-322.42.16

29. Missionaries of Charity

- 🕒 09:00 - 14:00 and 16:30 - 19:00
- 📍 Ithakis 97
- ☎️ 210-825.47.70

30. Salvation Army

For Clothing and hygiene products

- 🕒 10:00 – 18:00
- 📍 Aristotelous St. 99
- ☎️ 211-411.23.57

If you look for people from your community

31. Afghans United Association

- 📍 Arahovis 45-47, Exarhia, Athens
- ☎️ 0030-21.11.83.08.10
6947.39.78.64
6944.61.47.20
6947.01.54.66
- ✉️ afg.u.gr@gmail.com

32. Afghan Community in Greece

- 📍 Chalkokondyli Str. 16, Athens
- ✉️ afghansingreece@gmail.com
Representative: M. Yonous
- ☎️ 210-88.14.900
6948.40.89.28
- ✉️ myonous@gmail.com or gionas1973@yahoo.com
www.afghangr.com

33. Workers Union of Bangladeshi Immigrants in Greece

- Representative: Elias Ahmed
- 📍 Agias Filotheis 5B, Athens
- ☎️ 210-33.18.812,
210-82-22-509
6938.67.65.23
- ✉️ sramikjote@yahoo.com & eliaselisa@yahoo.com

34. Egyptian-Greek Union

- ☎️ Midou 6995.17.25.13

35. Ethiopian Community

- 📍 Imbrou 16
- ☎️ 6944.71.17.81

36. Union of Palestinian Workers in Greece/Athens

- 📍 3rd of September Str. 48B,
- ☎️ 210-82.21.124
6937.53.74.61
6932.47.14.39
- ✉️ palwoun@yahoo.gr

37. Greek-Pakistani Association

- Representative: Anwar Iqbal
- 📍 Kosma Aitolou 2, Athens
- ☎️ 6944.95.18.03
- ✉️ annou1970@yahoo.co.uk

38. Somali Community

- 📍 Kaningos 27, Athens
- ☎️ 6994.31.67.08;
210-52.40.060,
Abdalla Yousef
6999.48.84.41
- ✉️ scomgr@gmail.com

39. Sudanese Refugee Association

- ☰ Astipalias 2, at the corner to Patission street 224 (near Amerikis Square), 11256 Athens
- 📞 0211.18.39.13

40. Kurdish Syrian Educational Association

- ☰ Promitheos 71/ Aharnon, Athens
- 📞 210-22.83.746

41. United African Women Organisation in Greece

Representatives: Lauretta Macauley; Hawa Sankoh

- ☰ Kosma Aitolou 2, Athens
- 📞 210-36.17.065
210-88.30.381
- 📧 africanwomen@yahoo.com
www.africanwomen.gr

Contacts in Thessaloniki

42. Social Centre for Migrants and Refugees

Antiracist Group Thessaloniki
Lawyers group for the rights of migrants and refugees

- ☰ Ermou 23, Thessaloniki
- 🌐 <http://socialcenter.espivblogs.net/>
<https://www.facebook.com/socialcenterthess>

The migration and refugee legal support group, operates since 2004 in the Migrant's Place (Steki) in Thessaloniki.

43. Greek Refugee Council Thessaloniki

- ☰ Mitsaion 7, 54631 Thessaloniki
- 📞 2310-250045, F: 2310-250045

44. ARSIS

- ☰ Prtolemaion 35, 54630 Thessaloniki
- 📞 2310-526150,
Fax: 2310-552813
- 📧 infothes@arsis.gr

45. Praksis

Day Centre for Homeless

☒ Monastiriou 62,
Thessaloniki

☎ 2310 527938

46. Doctors of the World

☒ Ptolemaion 29 (in the
mall), 54630 Thessaloniki

☎ +30-2310 566 641

✉ thessaloniki@
mdmgreece.gr

47. Solidarity Now Center

☒ Leontos Sofou/Egnatia Str

☎ (+30) 2310 501030,
(+30) 2310 501 040,
Fax: (+30) 2310 527 518

✉ thessaloniki@
solidaritynow.org

48. Praksis Polyclinic

☒ Arkadioupoleos str. & Ag.
Dimitriou str., 54632
Thessaloniki

☎ +30 23 10 55 61 45,
Fax: +30 23 10 55 17 30

✉ info@praksis.gr
[http://www.praksis.gr/
en/contact](http://www.praksis.gr/en/contact)

Contacts for reporting push-backs or other human rights violations you experienced in Greece or at the Greek borders

You can report human rights violations in any country you are. Human rights violations might be a push back from Greece to Turkey, but also any form of violence by the authorities, inhuman and degrading detention etc.

It might make sense to register the human rights violations you experienced with big and known organisation, such as the following in order to have some evidence for your asylum case. The following organisations are a selection of independent institutions (There are also many other organisations you can refer to in Athens. See contact list above!).

Your data (name) will not be published if you don't want it to. There are also possibilities to report human rights violations that were done by the Greeks to a national court with the help of a lawyer. Please seek legal advice for this in order to get detailed information on procedures, possibilities and limitations. If you lose your case before a Greek court and you have tried all legal national remedies without success, your lawyer can go to the European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR) against the Greek state. You can go before this Court also if you have reached another EU-country, but there are deadlines. Please seek legal advice soon enough.

49. United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

 Tagiapiera Str. 12,
115 25 Athens

 0030-210.67.26.462/3

 great@unhcr.org

50. PRO ASYL (Germany)

 Postfach 16 06 24
60069 Frankfurt/M.

 +49 (0)69.24.23.14.20

 Mo to Fr: 10 – 12 & 14 – 16 hrs

 proasyl@proasyl.de

51. Amnesty International Greece

 Sina Street 30, 10672 Athens,

 Mo to Fr 10 – 15 hrs

 210.36.00.628
Fax: 210.36.38.016

 athens@amnesty.org.gr

52. Multeci Der (Izmir, Turkey)

 Anafartalar Cad. Salepçio lu
Vakıf hanı No: 96/511

 Kemeraltı 35250, ZM R

 0232.483.54.21
0549.483.54.22

 bilgi@multeci.org.tr

State services: Applying for relocation, asylum and family reunification

53. Asylum Service Athens

-  P. Kanellopoulou 2,
10177 Athens
-  +30 210 698 8500
-  asylo@asylo.gov.gr

54. Regional Asylum Office of Thessaloniki

-  Building of former «B KTEO» Pontou Street – Lahanagora District, 540 01 Kalochori Thessalonikis, (The Office is served by bus line No.9, Stop «Anapsyktirio»)
-  +30 2310-751775/
Fax: +30 2310-267722
-  pga.thessalonikis@asylo.gov.gr

Skype access to the asylum service:

Attiki (region around Athens):

-  **FARSI/DARI:**
Monday 13 – 14, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday 9 – 10. (Skype-ID: asylum.service.farsi.dari)
-  **ARABIC:** Monday 10 – 12, Thursday 14 – 15 (Skype-ID: asylum.service.arabic)
-  **ENGLISH, FRENCH:**
Wednesday 14– 15 (Skype-ID: asylum.service)
-  **URDU/PANJABI:**
Wednesday 10 – 12 (Skype-ID: asylum.service.urdu)
-  **BENGALI:**
Tuesday 12 – 13, Friday 11 – 12 (Skype-ID: asylum.service.bangla)
-  **RELOCATION:**
Monday 9 – 10 (Skype ID: asylum.service.relocation)
-  **RELOCATION SORANI:**
Mondayay 14 – 15 (Skype ID: asylum.service.relocation)

- 🕒 **RELOCATION KURMANCI:** Friday 10 – 11 (Skype ID: asylum.service.relocation)

Rest of Greece:

- 🕒 **FARSI/DARI:** Monday 13 – 14. (Skype-ID: asylum.service.farsi.dari)
- 🕒 **ARABIC:** Friday 12 – 14 (Skype-ID: asylum.service.arabic)
- 🕒 **ENGLISH, FRENCH:** Wednesday 14 – 15 (Skype-ID: asylum.service)
- 🕒 **URDU/PANJABI:** Thursday 10 – 11 (Skype-ID: asylum.service.urdu)
- 🕒 **BENGALI:** Thursday 13 – 14 (Skype-ID: asylum.service.bangla)
- 🕒 **RELOCATION:** Monday 9 – 10 (Skype ID: asylum.service.relocation)
- 🕒 **SORANI:** Monday 14 – 15 (Skype ID: asylum.service.relocation)
- 🕒 **KURMANCI:** Friday 10 – 11 (Skype ID: asylum.service.relocation)

Weekly access to the Asylum Service for other language speakers (directly at the Asylum Service in Athens and Thessaloniki, not via Skype!):

CHECK THE TIME TABLE HERE:

- 🔗 [HTTP://BIT.LY/2D0LS7L](http://bit.ly/2d0ls7l) (valid since October 10th) and
- 🔗 [HTTP://ASYLO.GOV.GR](http://asylum.gov.gr)

Telephone Numbers:

- 122 – MEDICAL EMERGENCY**
- 166 – AMBULANCE**
- 100 – POLICE**
- 14944 – PHARMACY ON DUTY**
- 171 – FIND HOSPITAL ON DUTY**

5 HELPFUL GREEK PHRASES

ΚΑΛΗΜΕΡΑ	<i>KALIMERA</i>	Good morning
ΚΑΛΗΣΠΕΡΑ	<i>KALISPERA</i>	Good evening
ΚΑΛΗΝΥΧΤΑ	<i>E LENE</i>	My name is ...
ΠΩΣ ΣΑΣ ΛΕΝΕ?	<i>POS SAS LENE</i>	What is your name?
ΧΑΙΡΩ ΠΟΛΥ	<i>HERO POLI</i>	Nice to meet you
ΤΙ ΚΑΝΕΤΕ	<i>TI KANETE?</i>	How are you?
ΕΙΜΑΙ ΚΑΛ	<i>IME KALA</i>	I am fine
ΠΛΟΙΟ	<i>PLIO</i>	Ship
ΕΓΩ ΕΙΜΑΙ	<i>EGO IME</i>	I am
ΕΣΥ ΕΙΣΑΙ	<i>ESI ISE</i>	You are
ΑΥΤΟΣ/ΑΥΤΗ/ ΑΥΤΟ ΕΙΝΑΙ	<i>AFTOS /AFTI/ AFTO INE</i>	He/She/It is
ΕΜΕΙΣ ΕΙΜΑΣΤΕ	<i>EMIS IMASTE</i>	We are
ΕΣΕΙΣ ΕΙΣΑΣΤΕ	<i>ESIS ISASTE</i>	You are
ΑΥΤΟΙ/ΑΥΤΕΣ ΑΥΤΑ/ΕΙΝΑΙ	<i>AFTI/AFTES/ AFTA/INE</i>	They are
ΕΓΩ ΘΕΛΩ	<i>EGO THELO</i>	I'm sick
ΕΙΣΙΤΗΡΙΟ	<i>ISITIRIO</i>	Ticket

WELCOME TO GREECE!

ΤΡΑΙΝΟ	<i>TRENO</i>	Train
ΛΕΩΦΟΡΕΙΟ	<i>LEOFORIO</i>	Bus
ΣΤΑΣΗ	<i>STASI</i>	Station
ΠΟΣΟ ΚΑΝΕΙ?	<i>POSO KANI?</i>	How much does it cost?
ΕΥΧΑΡΙΣΤΩ	<i>EFHARISTO</i>	Thank you
ΠΑΡΑΚΑΛΩ	<i>PARAKALO</i>	Please
ΝΕΡΟ	<i>NERO</i>	Water
ΦΑΓΗΤΟ	<i>FAGITO</i>	Food
ΦΑΡΜΑΚΕΙΟ	<i>FARMAKIO</i>	Pharmacy
ΝΟΣΟΚΟΜΕΙΟ	<i>NOSOKOMIO</i>	Hospital
ΓΙΑΤΡΟΣ	<i>GIATROS</i>	Doctor
ΑΣΤΥΝΟΜΙΑ	<i>ASTINOMIA</i>	Police
ΘΕΛΩ ΕΙΣΙΤΗΡΙΟ	<i>THELO ISITIRIO</i>	I want a ticket
ΘΕΛΩ ΦΑΓΗΤΟ	<i>THELO FAGITO</i>	I want food
ΘΕΛΩ ΝΕΡΟ	<i>THELO NERO</i>	I want water
ΘΕΛΩ ΓΙΑΤΡΟ	<i>THELO YIATRO</i>	I want a doctor
ΘΕΛΩ ΒΟΗΘΕΙΑ	<i>THELO VOITHIA</i>	I want help
ΘΕΛΩ ΔΟΥΛΕΙΑ	<i>THELO DOULIA</i>	I need job
ΘΕΛΩ ΝΑ ΠΑΩ ΣΤΟ	<i>THELO NA PAO STO</i>	I want to go to ...
ΕΝΤΑΞΕΙ	<i>ENTAKSI →</i>	O.K
ΔΕΝ ΚΑΤΑΛΑΒΑΙΝΩ	<i>DEN KATALAVENO</i>	I don't understand

ΔΕΝ ΜΙΛΩ ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΑ	DEN MILO ELINIKA	I don't speak Greek
ΝΑΙ/ΟΧΙ	NE/OHI	Yes/No
ΠΟΥ ΕΙΝΑΙ?	ΠΟΥ ΕΙΝΑΙ?	Where is....?
ΣΗΜΕΡΑ/ΑΥΡΙΟ	SIMERA/AVRIO	Today/Tomorrow
ΜΗΤΕΡΑ/ΠΑΤΕΡΑΣ	MITERA/PATERAS	Mother/Father
ΑΔΕΛΦΟΣ/ΑΔΕΛΦΗ	ADELFI/AELFOS	Brother/Sister
ΓΥΝΑΙΚΑ/ ΑΝΔΡΑΣ	GINEKA/ANDRAS	Woman/Man
ΟΙΚΟΓΕΝΕΙΑ	IKOGENIA	Family
ΠΡΟΣΦΥΓΑΣ	PROSFIGAS	Refugee
ΑΛΛΟΔΑΠΟΣ	ALODAPOS	Foreigner
ΑΙΤΗΣΗ	ETISI	Application
ΠΡΟΣΦΥΓΗ	PROSFIGI	Appeal
ΕΙΜΑΙ ΑΡΡΩΣΤΟΣ	IMEAROSTOS	I am sick
ΤΟΕΙΣΠΗΡΙΟΣΟΥ	TO ISITIRIO SOU	Your ticket
ΔΙΑΒΑΤΗΡΙΟ	DIAVATIRIO	Passport
ΤΑΥΤΟΤΗΤΑ	TAFTOTITA	Identification card
ΕΙΜΑΙ ΑΠΟ ΤΟ ΙΡΑΚ	IME APO TO IRAK	I am from Iraq

**IF YOU HAVE RELATIVES AND FRIENDS WHO ARE GOING
THE DANGEROUS WAY WITH THE BOATS THIS NUMBER
● CAN BE USEFUL FOR THEM:**



**WATCH THE MED ALARM PHONE
+ 334 86 51 71 61**

ALARMPHONE

WWW.WATCHTHEMED.NET

THIS IS NOT A RESCUE NUMBER! But an ALARM NUMBER to support rescue!

DISTRESS AT SEA

- 1.** Call coast guard for rescue.
- 2.** Call our Alarm Phone.
We inform & watch the coast guard.
- 3.** If you are not quickly rescued, we inform media & politics to make pressure.

(DANGER OF) PUSHBACK

- 1.** Call our Alarm Phone.
- 2.** We try to intervene, we witness & document.
- 3.** We inform media & politics to make pressure.

If possible, call in English or French | wtm-alarm-phone01@antira.info