Asylum policies and practices impairing the access to international protection in Greece
[Cover photo by Andrew George (ABC news)
Idomeni camp, May 2016]
ASYLUM SERVICE DOES NOT ANSWER.
SKYPE CALL AGAIN IN NEXT LIFE?
...BEEEEEEEP!
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INTRODUCTION

“[A] person does not become a refugee because of recognition, but is recognized because he or she is a refugee”\(^1\).

The act of legal recognition is what changes people’s lives, enabling them to beneficiate from international protection. Thus, the whole procedure concerns an administrative acknowledgement for those in need of international protection and, as a consequence, it shall be effectively implemented in a timely and fair manner.

The 1951 Geneva Convention and its 1967 Protocol Relating to the Status of Refugees defines the criteria for granting refugee status as the means to attribute international protection to victims of persecution. They build on the 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights, according to which “Everyone has the right to seek and to enjoy in other countries asylum from persecution”\(^2\).

The European Union mainly applies the Convention by means of several directives addressed to all Member States, aiming at the definition of common standards in terms of asylum procedures, as well as reception conditions and qualification criteria. According to the main legal framework, all Member States shall allow and facilitate access to international protection, in full compliance with human rights principles and international commitments.

To beneficiate from international protection means first of all receiving official recognition; nonetheless, many other crucial issues are at stake. The documents related to protection recognition allow for access to the work and health systems, the continuation of studies and the provision of social allowance when needed. Therefore, the access to international protection is not just the symbolic legalization of a situation but the outright recognition of a person as part of the society, enabling him/her to continue his/her life.

As a result of regular interactions with refugee communities, GFR has continuously observed a number of obstacles preventing asylum seekers in the country from accessing the asylum procedures and receiving the international protection they are entitled to, according to international law.

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Drawing on the implementation of the law and the practices adopted by the authorities, the present report mainly aims at pointing out the gap between the *de jure* situation, as it is defined by international law, and the *de facto* situation in Greece, as up to the EU-Turkey deal of 18 March 2016. In doing so, the privileged point of view and focus of research are represented by the series of testimonies provided by asylum seekers, refugees and communities and collected by GFR over 2015.

Always taking into consideration the fast changing nature of the Greek scenario, the report was edited and updated during the first five months of 2016, in the light of fundamental events such as the entry into force of the aforementioned EU-Turkey deal as well as the adoption of the new law 4375/2016 (on “Common procedures for granting and withdrawing international protection”), on 1st April 2016. Particular emphasis has been put on the difficulties stemming from the accumulation of old and new cases.

The present work is based on a non-exhaustive list of system failures and consists of two major parts. The first part outlines the problems faced by asylum seekers who are still waiting for a decision under the backlog procedure. The second part provides a brief overview of how access to the asylum procedure under the new Regional Asylum Offices takes place.

The analysis highlights the challenges concerning access to asylum before and after the so-called refugees crisis and the application of the EU-Turkey agreement. The overall outlook resulting from the data collected during the past months doesn’t seem to have improved, compared with the 2012 one. According to the findings of the Campaign for the Access to Asylum, the problems in this regard have now reached an alarming level.

The Skype programme in particular has been exposing people to unbearable waits, during which police notes (the only legal document allowing asylum seekers to reside in Greece) usually expire, thus increasing the risk of arrest, detention and deportation.

On the other hand, although the new pre-registration programme due to start in the first week of June is expected to work more swiftly and result in full registration within six months, this time-frame is not deemed sufficient to avoid “another backlog of pending cases which will

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3 The EU-Turkey deal’s key provision mainly allows for the return to Turkey of all irregular migrants and asylum seekers whose asylum applications have been declared inadmissible and who entered Greece through Turkey after the 20th of March 2016.
worsen the situation and feed social tensions”⁴.

1. BACKLOG ASYLUM PROCEDURE: ENDLESS WAITING AND UNCERTAIN SITUATION FOR ASYLUM SEEKERS

Under the backlog procedure, “the relevant legislation was not being applied in practice and [...] the asylum procedure was marked by major structural deficiencies. [These included] insufficient information about the procedures to be followed, the lack of a reliable system of communication between authorities and asylum seekers, the lack of training of the staff responsible for conducting interviews with them, a shortage of interpreters and a lack of legal aid effectively depriving asylum seekers of legal counsel”.  

“The ongoing shortcomings of Greek asylum system regarding access to the asylum process have been especially reported and criticized by international bodies, organizations and jurisprudence of international courts for more than a decade”.  

Following many complaints and condemnations concerning the procedure as well as various statements, the Greek authorities decided to implement a new asylum procedure in Greece.  

In order not to overload the new asylum services provided for by Law 3907/2011, the applications lodged before 7 June 2013 continue to fall within the scope of PD 114/2010. This means that the reformed backlog procedure commonly known under the appellation ‘Allodapon’ is still working for people who applied before this date. It is also important to point out that under this so-called ‘old procedure’, the responsible authority for examining asylum applications is represented by the Services of Greek Police. Data displayed in this paragraph were drawn from asylum seekers’ testimonies, whose applications fall under the Attica Aliens Directorate (Petrou Ralli) authority. Despite the fact that this procedure was reformed to allow the authorities to finish the examination of all pending cases, there are several ongoing deficiencies which are preventing asylum seekers from benefiting from an effective examination of their applications.  

“It’s cause for serious concern that the tens of thousands of outstanding

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6 The Campaign for the access to Asylum in Attica Area, last modified 20 June 2013, http://www.aitima.gr/aitima_files/REPORT_Campaign_on_access_to_asylum_in_Attica_ENG.pdf.
7 See ECHR Decision RU v. Greece, 7 June 2011 (Application no. 2237/08).
8 Presidential Decree no. 113/2013, art. 34, 14 June 2013.
applications remain under the jurisdiction of Police [...] these gaps give rise to legitimate concerns as regards the access to the asylum procedure in the other areas of the country as well as in places of detention”.

According to the words of N. from Afghanistan “people have been waiting for 10/15 years for a decision under the old system. Today, we still have people in the Afghan community with a pink card issued in the 2000s”.

1.1 Lack of information about ongoing asylum applications

The contact between asylum seekers and police authorities is at the origin of several serious problems. The applicants under ‘Allodapon’ should in theory keep in contact with the police authorities both to renew their asylum applicant’s card and to receive any kind of information concerning the pending procedure. In fact, it seems difficult to perform these tasks, which are generally approached in a rather arbitrary way.

“So I took the three months and I went there and the work permit I didn’t. That’s the history how I got the three months. Before that, I got one month, sometimes four weeks, sometimes two weeks, and sometimes four days. I went, I took the card, I gave them the card and they said: “Come in four days.” I came after four days and they gave me two days or weeks (...) It was changing all the time according to the persons.”

[A. from Soudan]

The problem highlighted is even amplified if we take into consideration that a significant number of applicants have been waiting for around 10 years now to get a final decision on their applications. Unfortunately, the continuation of the backlog procedure has not resolved the issue of the limitless


10 Declaration rendered by the Office of the Greek Ombudsman Excerpt from an interview by Alice Fevre for GFR. Tape recording. Athens, 20 April 2015.
period of waiting that as a consequence has been putting people's lives on hold.

“We have quite a lot of complaints regarding the old procedure, about the delay of the examination for the people who have been waiting for a decision for more than 5, 6, 7 years.”

[T. from Afghanistan]

“I am waiting for the decision of my appeal interview since December 2014, when I go to Allodapon they tell me they cannot find my file, I went at the appeal committee at Galatsi and they told me that Allodapon has my file.”

[A. from Soudan]

1.2 Appeal Committees: inactive for too long

In 2012, 20 Appeals Committees were created under Allodapon to preside over close to 40,000 appeal pending cases. All applications in the first instance have been examined and only second instance applications\(^\text{12}\) are still pending under the backlog procedure. Notwithstanding such measures, the number of Appeal Committees is unbalanced vis-à-vis the amount of pending cases. Therefore, despite the effectiveness of the Appeal Committees, the applicants still need to wait for a long time in order to get a final decision.

“The ministry created 20 Appeal Committees, that is a lot. They were operative until December 2014 but their effectiveness can be considered limited because of the huge number of applications pending.”\(^\text{13}\)

The Appeal Committees for the pending appeals have not been working since December 2014 and no Decree were still around 20 000 appeals awaiting settlement, appeal committees' members hadn't been appointed and the cases not yet examined were still pending.\(^\text{14}\)

\(^{11}\) Ibid.

\(^{12}\) First instance applications are the applications that have been submitted for the first time (the first interview stage). Second instance applications refer to the applications that were rejected at the first interview and have thus become appeal cases.

\(^{13}\) Declaration rendered by the Office of the Greek Ombudsman Excerpt from an interview by Alice Fevre for GFR. Tape recording. Athens, 20 April 2015.

\(^{14}\) Ibid.
This situation left in a sort of limbo people who had already been waiting for years:

“The actual situation is that I got rejected from the police after the first interview. And they are supposed to send me to the committee. There is a committee there, to meet with me and do another interview. So three years now I am waiting for them.”
[A.from Soudan]

The suspension of the appeal committees' work was then rectified and they became operative again in May 2015. However, this lack of punctuality and stability slowed down the procedure even further and affected once again applicants who have been stuck in the old procedure for many years.

“I am waiting to have an interview for my appeal since a long time, but I know a lot of people that are waiting so I know I have to be patient even if I worry about the decision, if they will say yes or no.”
[K. from Guinea]

1.2 The legal gap between backlog procedure and new asylum services

“Subsequent application is any application for international protection submitted after a final negative decision.”
Article 2, par. (u), of the Presidential Decree n.114 of November 22, 2010

“An international protection applicant who lodges a subsequent application must present the final decision of his/her previous application. The competent examination authorities shall examine the details of the subsequent application in conjunction with the data of the initial application and/or the appeal.”
Article 23, par. 1, of the Presidential Decree n.113 of June 14, 2013

“Subsequent applications submitted after 7 June 2013, shall be examined by the authorities foreseen in Part A of this P.D. and in accordance with the procedure provided in this Part.”
Article 34 of the Presidential Decree n.113 of June 14, 2013
“This system is really unfair, some have decision in 4 months at the new asylum service and some are more than 10 years here without document, why these people cannot go to the new services and have a decision in 4 months?” [A. from Afghanistan]

In case an application has been rejected by the ‘Allodapon’ authority and/or the procedure has been interrupted, the applicant is authorized by the mentioned Presidential Decrees (n.114 of November 22, 2010 and n.113 of June 14, 2014) to access the new asylum procedure by applying for a “subsequent application”.

This development was welcomed as it was seen as “equalizing” the rights of asylum seekers as well as providing a solution to the problems of the old procedure. However, access to the new asylum procedure remains rare and does not happen automatically; the applicants do not choose and have to wait until their application is examined, rejected, suspended or interrupted by the Allodapon authority.

“If you are still in this procedure there is no way out, to choose the one or the other. I mean, you should wait till your application is gonna be examined, rejected, suspended or interrupted in order to go to the other procedure system.”\(^\text{15}\)

The lapse of time between the two procedures can be considered as a ‘legal

\(^{15}\) Declaration rendered by the Office of the Greek Ombudsman Excerpt from an interview by Alice Fevre for GFR. Tape recording. Athens, 20 April 2015.
gap’ because the people who have already been waiting for a decision for several years under the Allodapon procedure need to apply to the new asylum services as a first asylum application. Instead of having priority in accessing the new asylum procedure, those concerned have to wait in queue and follow the procedure as if it was the first time they wanted to apply for international protection. No priority could be given to subsequent applications because this would imply that the same problems occurring under Allopon would recur within the new asylum service. All the rejected cases would apply to the new services thus recreating the same problems highlighted under the backlog procedure.

The gap between the two procedures forces those that were subjected to the previous one to wait again for an unlimited period of time in order to access the fairest procedure and exposes people to arrest and return, since they do not possess an asylum seeker card in the meantime.

Moreover, when these people finally access the new asylum offices, they have to wait for them to examine whether they are entitled to apply for the new procedure. Afterwards, the applicants get an asylum seeker card and they have to wait for the examination of their application.

“There are some problems for that procedure because if you apply for this late application, you should wait that the new asylum service is gonna examine if you can apply for this procedure and after that, you’re going to get your application card and you are going to wait for the examination.”16

“One year ago I went to Katehaki and tried to apply. The people told me I am supposed to have the file closed in Allodapon, but Allodapon is not closing the file.”

[B. from Soudan]

“And you know everybody who left Allopon and is going to the new asylum service; it takes like one year until Allopon they say ‘yes we closed the file.’”

[A. from Soudan]

“We cannot transfer our files to Katehaki… It is like they want to punish us.”

[A. from Ethiopia]

GFR is even more concerned due to the fact that some applicants whose applications were rejected under the backlog procedure were subsequently recognized as refugees by the new

16 Ibid.
asylum services. This strongly suggests that there are people in need of international protection who applied with the old procedure and are still waiting to be recognized.

According to the General Secretary of Population and Social Cohesion, Ministry of Interior and Administrative Reconstruction, only the new procedure should be operational for asylum applications\(^\text{17}\). During an interview given on 7 July 2015, he informed us that a presidential decree drafted by the government would be issued in order to create the possibility for Alloodapon applicants whose request is pending for over five years to have their application for asylum archived and to be granted a residence permit on humanitarian grounds.

Nonetheless, the political events of July 2015 and the resignation of the government on 20 August 2015 have put the presidential decree on hold. By its opinion number 120/2015, the State Council declared the draft of the Presidential Decree not legal arguing that the Law 3907/2011 does not provide the responsible government agencies to adopt "provisions which accord the possibility of providing a massive and indeterminate number of persons with residence status on humanitarian grounds without defining criteria and conditions related to the scheme"\(^\text{18}\).

The provision regarding the granting of a residence permit on humanitarian grounds is now envisaged in the new law \textit{4375/2016}. More precisely, according to article 22, applicants for international protection who have lodged a claim for over five years, have a pending appeal and possess a valid asylum seeker permit, are entitled to the aforementioned residence permit unless they pose a threat to national security or society, arising from a final conviction for a serious crime. The permit is granted for a two-year period and can be renewed. Currently, the number of cases which can be automatically eligible stands at 7,800, out of the 18,500\(^\text{19}\) making up the backlog of appeals under the "old procedure"\(^\text{20}\).

\(^{17}\) Excerpt from an interview by Alice Fevre for GFR. Athens, July 7, 2015.


2. SEEKING ASYLUM: AN EFFECTIVE RIGHT IN GREECE?

“It is hereby established an autonomous Service within the Ministry of Citizen Protection, entitled ‘Asylum Service’, directly dependent on the Minister and with a territorial competence over the entire country. This Service operates as a Directorate and has the mission of applying the legislation on asylum and other forms of international protection for aliens and stateless persons, as well as contributing to the development and formulation of the national asylum policy.”

Article 1 (1) of Law 3907/2011 of January 26, 2011

“Purpose of this Presidential Decree is to adjust the procedure for granting either the status of refugee or subsidiary protection to aliens or stateless individuals, as applied in conformity with the Council Directive 2005/85/EC ‘on minimum standards on procedures in Member States for granting and withdrawing refugee status’ (L326/13.12.2005) [repealed by Council Directive 2013/32/EU of June 26, 2013], in the framework applied by Law 3907/2011.”

Article 1, Presidential Decree number 113 of June 14, 2013

In light of all the aforementioned deficiencies under the old procedure handled by Allodapone, law 3907/2011 providing for the establishment of a new asylum service in Greece, along with Presidential Decree 113/2013, serve as building blocks of what is referred to as ‘the new asylum procedure’. This new system has been created in order to guarantee the proper application of international obligations arising from the 1951 Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees and to ensure Greece’s compliance with European refugee law and human rights standards.

Although according to the findings of research conducted in 2015 by GFR the new asylum procedure seemed to be much better suited to address the needs of asylum seekers, it was clear there would still be a large amount of structural changes to be urgently undertaken.

“The Greek state should take measures to guarantee the rights of people that need international protection and the asylum procedure regarding the reception conditions and regarding basic
rights of people that are entering Greece.\textsuperscript{21}

“I feel alone, isolated and I feel less loved in the world. If my country did not have all these political problems, I would never leave Congo by saying I will go at someone else’s country because it is better... my biggest problem is to find back my quietness, a status that I lost because of them. Because me I am asking for an international protection, I want someone to protect me. Where should I go for that? I don’t know.”

[O. Asylum seeker from Congo].

In July 2015, the European Commission also expressed its concerns on “serious deficiencies in the Greek asylum system, notably with regard to the material reception conditions to applicants for international protection, particularly those with special reception needs and vulnerable persons, and structural flaws in the functioning of the guardianship system or legal representation of all unaccompanied minors during the asylum procedure (...) While progress has been made, there is still a structural and persistent lack of reception capacity, independent of the large and unexpected influxes which have recently been observed.”\textsuperscript{22}

\textsuperscript{21} Declaration rendered by the Office of the Greek Ombudsman Excerpt from an interview by Alice Fevre for GFR. Tape recording. Athens, 20 April 2015.

2.1 Ineffective operationalization of Regional Asylum Offices

“The Asylum Service is composed of the Central Service and the Regional Asylum Offices. (...) When the present law enters into force, Regional Asylum Offices will be set up in Attica, Thessaloniki, Alexandroupolis, Orestiada, Ioannina, Volos, Patras, Heraklion, Lesvos, Chios, Samos, Leros and Rhodes...”

Article 1, par. 3, Law 3907/2011 of January 26, 2011

“The permanent posts of the Asylum Service staff, by category and grade, shall be as follows:

a. 235 posts for the grade of specialized scientific personnel or University degree in category Administration [...] 

b. 74 posts in category Administration-Finance for university degree grade 

c. 1 post in category Communication and Media for university degree grade 

d. 4 posts in category IT for university degree grade 

e. 20 posts in category Administration-Accounting for university degree grade 

f. 4 posts in category IT for technical university degree grade 

g. 182 posts in category Administration-Accounting for secondary education degree grade.”

Article 2, par. 3, Law 4375/2016 of April 1, 2016

By creating a new asylum procedure, Law 3907/2011 provides for the operationalization of asylum services and offices in 13 strategic geographical places in Greece. However, 5 years after the entry into force of the Law, these offices had not yet been fully established. There are currently 7 regional asylum offices open in Greece, having the capacity to register the asylum applications from asylum seekers from both in and outside detention facilities. The offices which started operating in 2013 are located in the Attica region (Athens), North Evros (Filakio), South Evros (Alexandroupoli), and on the island of Lesvos. The regional asylum office on Rhodes island opened in 2014, the office in Thessaloniki during the summer of 2015 and the one on Samos island at the beginning of 2016. 3 asylum units operating to register asylum applications were also established in the areas of Amygdaleza, Xanthi and Patras but they
are responsible for registering, examining and delivering decisions on applications submitted by third country nationals or stateless persons in detention centers and other custodial facilities only. In addition, 2 asylum units have been set up on Chios and Leros during the first months of 2016, dealing with applications from the identification and reception centers on the islands.

The failure to establish regional asylum offices has affected third country nationals attempting to access the asylum system in a double way. First of all, strategic geographical regions have been practically neglected. Third country nationals as well as unaccompanied minors living all over Greece, either in their own homes or in shelters, are obliged to travel sometimes extremely long distances in order to reach the asylum system in a double way. First of all, strategic geographical regions have been practically neglected. Third country nationals as well as unaccompanied minors living all over Greece, either in their own homes or in shelters, are obliged to travel sometimes extremely long distances in order to reach a regional asylum office and lodge their application. Not only do these trips come at a huge cost, but they also need to be undertaken several times: once for the registration; later on for the interview; and finally for the delivery of the decision. Individuals and organizations in charge of shelters have been struggling to cover the cost of trips for all hosted people who need to travel to apply for asylum.

Nevertheless, unaffordable costs oblige some of the asylum seekers to give up their right to seek asylum despite the fact that they are entitled to it under international and European law.

“The priority should be taken in order to establish effective regional offices in order to cover the need for asylum procedure because if the applicants should be transferred to or should travel to Athens in order to apply for asylum, it is difficult (...) it would be essential to have regional offices everywhere in Greece.”

“You need to have asylum services all over Greece in order for all to have the possibility and the opportunity to apply for Asylum wherever they are.”

Second, the failure to open and maintain functional regional asylum offices represents an incomplete implementation of the law, forcing the majority of refugees to stay in Athens and apply at the regional asylum office. This has created an excessive workload for the office of Attica, to which the majority of people in need of international protection are referred. There is simply not enough staff to receive everybody and register their claims within a

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24 Kaldani, Maria. Excerpt from an interview by Alice Fevre for GFR. Tape recording. Athens, 22 April 2015.
reasonable amount of time. The opening of all the expected offices would relieve the Attica regional asylum office and make access easier for applicants. Article 2 of the new law 4375/2016 took into account the serious lack of people working for the Asylum Service and established that the number of staff would be raised to 520, in order to meet the current needs.

2.2 An overview of the critical issues detected at the Attica Regional Asylum Office

At the end of July 2014, the Asylum Service inaugurated a new system to fix appointments for registration of asylum applications through Skype, in an effort to improve the access to the procedure by minimising queues outside the Regional Asylum Office (RAO) of Attica. Applications were first made available in English and French and were later extended to Arabic in September 2014 and Farsi/Dari in November 2014. However, as of the beginning of May 2015, approximately 300 people in need of international protection were waiting every day in front of the RAO to lodge their claim, renew their asylum seeker card, or receive the decision on their application. This meant that only 30 people could be received every day, in addition to 10 Syrian nationals under the fast-track procedure.²⁵ Besides being undignified, the exhausting queue outside the office was likely to expose people to detention and even deportation. What is more, it should be noted that this situation already existed under the old procedure and the new one was meant to avoid it.

“I went many times at Katehaki. I was waiting in the line and I was never selected. I was going again there and they were saying me: next week, next week.”

[N. from Pakistan]

“There are many people who wait for days, weeks, or even months to be recorded, arriving the evening and several vulnerable ones among them, as minors, sick, single parents, victims of torture etc. The lack of an adequate mechanism to identify vulnerable cases,

²⁵ Petraki, Eleni. Excerpt from an interview by Alice Fevre for GFR. Athens, May 12, 2015.
lack of adequate interpretation in all languages are major obstacles for the request.”

“When we came in Athens, we tried to leave the country but unfortunately only my wife managed to leave the country. Now she is in Germany, she’s an asylum seeker there. Me I am here with the children, she has sent all the papers to us. It is now four months that I am almost every day in front of the Asylum office but it’s impossible to enter, so still now I do not have a card. It is a very bad situation; the children are asking for their mum, it is really difficult… Mostly even at 3 or 4 AM I am going to the queue with my children but they never took us.”

[I. from Afghanistan]

Besides the obvious staff deficiency and the imbalances between capacity and needs characterising the RAO of Attica, another serious issue concerned the criteria according to which people were granted access. Since the language spoken was the only official and objective criteria defined by the authorities, asylum seekers were allowed to visit the offices on the basis of a schedule drawn up according to the availability of interpreters in each given day. Furthermore, priority had to be given to vulnerable people, in accordance with the definition provided by art.11, par. 2 of the law 3907/2011. It must be recalled that these measures and the lack of official policies in this regard led to the adoption of a considerable degree of arbitrariness resulting in a highly unfavourable and unfair environment.

On 25 May 2015 the Asylum Service announced that, due mainly to staff shortage and until further notice, the RAO of Attica would be only capable to register and process applications already scheduled via Skype. As a result, asylum seekers could not have their applications registered in Athens for a while and were thus exposed to a serious risk of detention and deportation. Since then, new schedules for registration appointments through Skype were communicated by the Asylum Service periodically, concerning English, French, persons, (d.) women in pregnancy or having recently given birth, (e.) single parents with minor children, (f.) victims of torture, rape or other serious forms of psychological, physical or sexual violence or exploitation and, (g.) victims of trafficking”. Article 14§8 of the new law 4375/2016 allowed for the addition to this category of “persons with a post-traumatic disorder, in particular survivors and relatives of victims of ship-wrecks”.

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27 “(…) For the purposes of the present, vulnerable groups are: (a.) unaccompanied minors, (b.) people with disabilities or suffering from incurable diseases, (c.) elderly
Farsi/Dari, Arabic, Urdu/Panjabi, Bangla and Kurdish speakers, whilst a separate schedule was set for Syrians under the recalled fast-track procedure. From that time on, asylum seekers speaking the aforementioned languages could register their application through an appointment set via Skype only, while speakers of other languages had to present themselves directly at the premises of the Asylum Service for registration.

2.3 Skype Programme: An Insufficient Measure to Improve Access to Katehaki Asylum Offices

“d. i) Immediately after the completion of the registration procedures as per article 36 paragraph 1 above, they shall be provided, free of charge, by the competent Receiving Authority, with the International Protection Applicant Card, which shall bear their photograph.

ii) The international Protection Applicant Card forms a temporary title, it does not constitute an entitlement to issue a residence permit, it ensures the enjoyment of the applicants’right, where these are foreseen by applicable provisions, it assures the necessary transactions during its validity period and allows them the residence in the Greek territory.

[...] iv) The Card should be valid up to one year and shall be renewed until the conclusion of the administrative procedure of the examination of the application for international protection [...]”.


28 As shown in appendix, there are different line operation schedules applying to Attica Regional Asylum Office and the rest of Greece.
As already mentioned in the previous paragraph, in an attempt to find a sustainable solution to the problem of accessing the Asylum Office, the latter established a Skype programme allowing refugees to book appointments with the competent RAO online. A schedule was developed on the basis of the availability of interpreters in charge of answering calls and according to the specific requests of people (asylum, relocation). Third country nationals can book their first appointment for registration by providing their name and a photo. The awareness of the difficulties in finding access to a computer, and particularly to Internet connection, has urged civil society organisations to offer asylum seekers the opportunity to use the devices in their offices. Initially, the Skype programme was regarded as a feasible solution to the unacceptable queue of people outside the offices in Katehaki. In addition, it appeared to be a fair method, since the answer to the call remain neutral and random. It was also considered likely to reduce the risk of people lacking papers being arrested while going to the Asylum offices: by getting their appointment through Skype, indeed, people would not need to go to the asylum office every day and would only have to visit it once.

Last but not least, this initiative could be seen as a partial solution for those living far from Athens, wishing to apply for international protection.

“‘The people will know ‘I have this appointment, I will not need to go again and again, I have this appointment and I will wait for this appointment and I will do it’. It will be easier for them also; it will be less stress […]’”\(^{30}\)

Nonetheless, the Skype programme has gradually turned out to be very dysfunctional. Users and CSOs have condemned several failures in the implementation of this programme which make it almost inaccessible. The Campaign for the Access to Asylum states:

“‘There is a highly problematic access to asylum in Attica since the system by Skype serves an infinitesimal percentage of the persons concerned and the needs are dramatic and are constantly increasing due to increased refugee flows in Greece.’”\(^{31}\)

The Skype programme is working just on certain days of the week and for a few

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\(^{30}\) Kaldani, Maria. Excerpt from an interview by Alice Fevre for GFR. Tape recording. Athens, 22 April 2015.

hours only, in accordance with the availability of interpreters. The schedule is limited and does not offer an immediate opportunity to third country nationals to contact an operator in order to get an appointment. Despite all the attempts to provide an adequate response to the situation, the lack of Skype operators available for long periods of time means that the programme does not respond effectively to the access problem. The number of requests far exceeds the capacities of the system and creates once again a “lottery” whose winners, those people getting a response by the asylum services, are uncertain.

“It is just mathematics, it is a lottery and again you should try again and again since you have one operator, you need at least several operators behind one Skype address to take the list.”32

On 14th May 2016, the Greek Asylum Service in cooperation with EASO and UNHCR announced in a joint press release the beginning of a pre-registration exercise initially taking place in the camps located on mainland and due to last 72 days (from the end of May 2016 until July)33. This new procedure is going to involve all those who arrived in Greece before 20 March who wish to apply for international protection and are currently residing on the mainland. It represents a preliminary and necessary step to obtain access to the full claim for international protection, family reunification and relocation and it is going to result in the issuance of an asylum seeker card valid for one year (endowing refugees with all the rights except for admission to labour market).

It is important to highlight that the Skype programme is not meant to be replaced and people who are not immediately involved in the first phase of the exercise will keep on using it. As UNHCR clarified, the intended aim is to relieve the congestion which has been affecting the service for a long time.

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32 Kaldani, Maria. Excerpt from an interview by Alice Fevre for GFR. Tape recording. Athens, 22 April 2015.
2.4 Ineffective Remedy against Rejected Asylum Applications

“The law provides for legal action as a last remedy after a rejection by the appeal authority or the assignation of a status that the person does not agree with. This remedy takes place before an administrative court, contrary to the asylum procedure, which is taken in charge by the asylum offices. Nonetheless, asylum seekers wishing to use this service need to be able to undertake substantial financial commitments, since the cost of the third remedy is extremely high. This makes access to remedy almost impossible, preventing asylum seekers from using all services and procedures to which they have a legal right.

“I will never go because I do not have money neither my lawyer, so I will never be able to go on court, I need a small voithia[^34], I need help as a refugee.”

[O. from Congo]

In order to access the third remedy and present their own files, asylum seekers need to be represented by a lawyer and pay for the judicial fees. However, most of the asylum seekers live in great precarity and, unable to meet the costs, they cannot exercise the right to have their application reviewed by the administrative court.

“You can't ask from people that are living in the street or really poor, even if they

[^34]: Greek word for 'help'. The interviewee used the Greek word.
are not, the amount of money you need in order to fight against this decision. It is so huge. So I don’t think that this is an effective remedy.”

In the past, some CSOs implemented programs which helped asylum seekers covering all the costs that had to be met in order to access the procedure. However, despite their efforts, the CSOs could not bring all cases before the courts due to the high cost of the procedure and the consequent financial restrictions they face, as their budgets cannot cover all cases. As a consequence, the access to the judicial action is limited and only a few asylum seekers could access it, depending on the budget that CSOs could afford.

“You need to go for the cases that you are sure they are going to work, you need to make a choice; you don’t have a budget for all.”

Currently, due to the high cost of this procedure, no CSOs have the financial capacity to run a programme supporting access to remedy. “Most of the people stay with the appeal decision”, meaning that for the majority of the asylum seekers who received a negative answer from the appeal committee, the procedure stopped there.

“They asked me to go on court but to go on court you need a lawyer, you cannot go alone, lawyers need to be with you in order to defend you. I took my final decision to go in front of the court with my lawyer, she told me that still she cannot help because her organization did not have the money.” [O. from Congo]

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36 Kaldani, Maria. Excerpt from an interview by Alice Fevre for GFR. Tape recording. Athens, 22 April 2015.
37 Giannakaki, Eva. Excerpt from an interview by Alice Fevre for GFR. Tape recording. Athens, 15 April 2015.
Nonetheless, an alternative exists to help asylum seekers access remedy in the form of free legal assistance which allows people to apply for financial support for judicial procedures. The application should first be accepted by the competent court in order for an applicant to benefit from the support of a lawyer and be helped with judicial fees. An important factor to be considered is that the legal aid program is open to all people in need of financial support in order to access the courts in Greece. Consequently, there is no distinction or differentiation of funding, just one fund for every type of judicial cases. As a result, the available funds are severely limited and it is quite difficult to actually benefit from the programme: the requirements are strict and very few among those who qualify and apply are successful.

Access to the third remedy is ineffective: asylum seekers who would like to bring their case to a court of justice do not find the necessary means to access the procedure, which therefore prevents asylum seekers to exercise their rights to a full extent.

“If you make a research to the decision from Greek court, you can see few cases with asylum seekers, because there are not quite a lot of people that they can afford a legal procedure before the court and the cases that have been before the court by NGOs is really few.”

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38 Declaration rendered by the Office of the Greek Ombudsman Excerpt from an interview by Alice Fevre for GFR. Tape recording. Athens, 20 April 2015.
After receiving a negative decision from the appeal authority, the person whose application has been dismissed receives the order to leave the Greek territory. This order is accompanied by information regarding the remedy procedure and the procedure that should be followed by those wishing to access it. Despite the provisions contained in Council Directive 2013/32/EU and recently transposed to law 4375/2016, what happens in practice is that the order to leave the Greek territory is not suspended during the judicial procedure. This means that even if someone resorts to this measure, he/she still risks being deported as a result of the decision he/she previously received.

In order to avoid deportation, there is still the opportunity for the applicant to make a request before the court concerning the suspension of the “order to leave the Greek territory”. Nevertheless, GFR was informed about several cases of people deported while the decision on their appeal was still pending.

“There is no suspension; you should ask for suspension of the decision otherwise there is the risk that the applicant could be arrested and deported/returned.”  

“There were annulation applications still pending but the application of suspension has been rejected so there were people that were deported.”

People who cannot afford the costs of access to remedy are left without papers and exposed to the risk of arrest and deportation, without benefiting from the whole range of legal options provided by refugee legislation, to which they are inarguably entitled.

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39 Ibid.
40 Ibid.
“My life is also at risk here because I am without papers, I still want to find a help in order to continue the procedure and my folder to be examined again to be recognized as refugee.” [O. from Congo]
Acknowledgements

This report was written by Alice Fevre, jurist at the Greek Forum of Refugees, Athens, drawing on her seven-month research work. Elena Iusso, political scientist interning at the Greek Forum of Refugees and the project team of the School of Public Policy of Central European University in Budapest (Mariyana Petrova, Zoe Kostitsi-Papastathopoulos, Chia-You Kuo) also dedicated themselves to the realization of this project.

We herein acknowledge the commitment of GFR Board members, staff and volunteers. Yonous Muhammadi, Dora Chantzi, Ismini Karydopoulou, Andrea Borja Gonzalo, and Kate Suttlegave generously dedicated their time and provided their constant support, without which this research would not have been possible. Mantas Kvedaravicius supported us with methodology and the construction of our interview questions, while Anwar Nillufary provided invaluable assistance with translations and Viola Ternenyova and Inas Khalill with the conduction of interviews.

We would also like to acknowledge the willingness to meet with us and answer our questions shown by all the interviewees from the Greek authorities, national and international agencies, and non-governmental organizations.

Last but not least, we would like to express our enormous gratitude to the asylum seekers, refugees, the Sudanese Refugees Association in Greece, the Community of Afghan Immigrants and Refugees in Greece, and the organization Umbrella, which has agreed to share the reality of its situation and allowed us to use its testimonies for the purposes of this report.
APPENDIX

Annex I - Line operation schedule
Skype

Annex II - Statistical Data from the Greek Asylum Service
Starting Tuesday, June 21st 2016, appointments for lodging international protection applications will be booked through Skype calls according to the following schedule:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Language</th>
<th>Monday</th>
<th>Tuesday</th>
<th>Wednesday</th>
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<td>13:00-14:30</td>
<td>14:00-15:30</td>
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Skype user ID: asylum.service
asylum.service.farsi.dari
asylum.service.arabic
asylum.service.syria
asylum.service.urdu
asylum.service.bangla
asylum.service.shqip
asylum.service.relocation
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</thead>
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<td>1300-1400</td>
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<td>اردو / عربی</td>
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<td>asylum.service.bangla</td>
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<tr>
<td>Προφίλ Skype user ID</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

受益者必须在确定的日期和时间到相应的地区庇护办公室登记他们的庇护申请。
متقاضیان ملزم‌اند در روزی که برای ثبت درخواست پناهندگی تعیین می‌گردد به اداره پناهندگی مراجعه نمایند.

(Albanian) Përfituesit në ditën e caktuar për realizimin e regjistrimit të kërkesës për azil detyrohen të paraqiten në Zyrën përkatëse Periferike të Azilit në orën që do tju caktohet nga punonjësi i SKYPE.

(Bengali) আবেদনকারীদের নির্ধারিত তারিখ ও কর্মচারীর দিকে নির্দিষ্ট সময় অনুযায়ী উল্লিখিত আফসিক আড়ের কার্যালয়ে উপস্থিত থাকতে অনুমতি করা হচ্ছে।

(English) The Regional Asylum Office of Attica will be admitting asylum applications based on the weekly schedule below. The beneficiaries have to be at the Asylum Office at 07:00 am.

(Français) Le Bureau Régional d’Asile d’Attique recevra des demandes d’asile selon le programme hebdomadaire suivant. Les demandeurs devront se présenter à la oficin à 07:00 am.

(Arabic) المكتب الإقليمي للجوء في أتيكي (أثينا) برنامج طلبات اللجوء حسب البرنامج الإسبوعي التالي وعلى

المستفيدين يأتون إلى المكتب الساعة 7 صباحاً.

(Urdu) اتیکی میں پناہ کا ضمیر دفتر پر نیا گئی کر دیکھنے کے لئے نئی طرح کے مویشین کے ذریعے وصول کریں گا اس

سیٹی سے فاصلہ نیا گئی کے دفتر تشریف لایچ کے 07:00 بجے اداراتی منطقہ ای امزر پناهندگی اتیکی دفتر

نماکسانی معاونین همی، نمو روزی کی دیکھنے کے دیواری نمونوں کی دوبارہ

پناہبری گام جیکمیں کچکتری، دھیلت بینے حمایت اوسیسی میں پناہبری گام کا کا کا کار مکاپا

سکیپ بینی شامل۔

(Español) La Oficina regional de Atenas recibirá las solicitudes de asilo según el programa semanal siguiente. Los solicitantes tendrán que acudir a la oficina a las 07:00 am.

(Russian) Региональный Офис Службы Убежища провинции Аттика будет принимать прошения

на предмет предоставления убежища согласно следующей недельной программы. Заинтересованные лица должны приходить в Офис в 07:00.

(Sinhala) එය අමුණ රූමන් ලකුණු ද අමුණ කොටස් සැපෙන්නේමී කොටස් දෙවන ප්‍රශ්තිරාඝය ගොඩන්නේ නියමත්තුව බොහෝ.

(Mandarin/Chinese) 本区域难民办公室根据以下每周时间表接收你的难民申请。申请者应该到我们的办公室早上7:00点钟。
داواکردنی پهنابرته‌ی له نووسینگهی پهنابرته‌ی ناوچه‌یی ئهتیکی(ئهسینا) به پێی ئهم خشته ههفتانهیی خوارەوە دەبێت. ئهوانهی مەهعیدیان هەهیه دەبێت بێن بۆ نووسینگه سەهەوت 7:00ی بهیانی.

(Somali) Xafiis goboleedka magangalyada ee Attikis waxaa u qaadanayaa codsiga magangalyada sida hoo ku qoran ee programka isbuclaha ahi. Waan in ay imadaan xafiiska saacada 7am ee subaxnimo.

(Swahili) Bureau regional ya asile ekomboteba ba demandes ya asile sur base ya programme ya semaine oyo na ndenge elandi nase. Ba demandeurs esengeli ba komaka na bureau na 7H.00.

(Albanian) Zyra Periferike e Azilit të Athinës do të marrë ne dorëzim kërkesa për azil në bazë të programit të mëposhtëm javor. Përfituesit do të duhet të paragonët në Zyrë në orën 7:00 në mëngjes.

(Armenian) Հայցելու տարածարջանային գրասենյակը կընդունի ապաստան հայցելու վերաբերյալ հարցումային դիմումները հետևյալ շաբաթական ծրագրի կարգով:

(English) In order to submit an asylum application in the languages: English, Albanian, Arabic, French, Farsi, Dari, Urdu, Punjabi and Bengali, those who are interested will have to schedule their date of registration by calling on the days and time slots when the appropriate skype line is in operation, otherwise it may not be possible for them to register their application on the same day.
(Français) Pour la soumission des demandes d’asile dans les langues, Anglais, Albanais, Arabe, Français, Farsi, Ourdou, Punjabi et Bengali les intéressés devront programmer la date de leur enregistrement en appelant aux dates et heures de fonctionnement de la ligne Skype. Dans le cas contraire l’enregistrement de leur demande risquerait de ne pas être effectué le même jour.

(Arabic) على الراغبين بتقديم طلب اللجوء بهجت اللغات التالية : الإنجليزية، الألبانية، العربية، الفرنسية، الفارسية،Pagani، أوردو، بنجابي و البنغالية، أن يستلموا حجز موعد تسجيل طلبيهم من خلال الاتصال على سكايب في الأوقات المحددة للغتهم (اليوم والساعة) ولا يتم تسجيل طلبيهم بنفس اليوم.

(Urdu) یا آرائے رداں درخواست پناہگاہ پر زبانیں : انگریزی، البانی، عربی، فرانسیسی، فارسی، داری، اردو، پنجابی و بنگالی سے متعلق متقاضیین پہلی تاریخ انجام ثبت مشخصات را مشخص نمایندگی در روز اور ساعت مخصوص معینہ کے حسب اسکیپ کے مطابق اپنی درخواست جمع کریں تاکہ روات درخواست شان در همان روز انجام دیری گردد.

(Albanian) Për paraqitjen e kërkesës e kërkohja, arrë më shumë gjuhët, Anglisht, Shqip, Arabisht, Frëngjisht, Farsi, Dari, Urdu, Panxhabi dhe Bengali të interresuarët do të do tregonet e kërkohja, së bashku me dënën e programimit për të regjistruar në ditën e kërkohjes. Në këtë aspekt mund të mos jetë i mundur regjistrimi i kërkohje së tyre brenda ditës.

(Bengali) যারা ইংরেজি, থেঞ্চ, ফারসি, দাতর, উদুজ, পাঞ্জাবি এবং বাংলা ভাষায় আশ্রয়ের আগ্রহী িায়দর তনতদজষ্ট তনয়ি (përfituesit) do të duhet të programojë të regjistrimit të tyre duke thirrur në ditët dhe orët në të cilat funksionon linja perkatëse nëpërmjet Skype.përndryshe mund të mos jetë i mundur regjistrimi i kërkohjes së tyre brenda ditës.

(Farsi) برای ارائه درخواست پناهگاہ به زبان‌های: انگلیسی، آلبانی، عربی، فرانسوی، فارسی، دری، اردو، پنجابی و بنگالی مقاضیان باید تاریخ انجام ثبت مشخصات را مشخص نمایندگی در روز و ساعت مخصوص معینه که خط اسکایپ قطعی است و تاریخ ثبت درخواست را در همان روز انجام دیری گردد.

(French) (ΕΒΔΟΜΑΔΙΑΙΟ ΠΡΟΓΡΑΜΜΑ ΕΞΥΠΗΡΕΤΟΥΜΕΝΩΝ ΓΛΩΣΣΩΝ ΣΤΟ ΠΓΑ ΘΕΣΣΑΛΟΝΙΚΗΣ)

(Languages attended to at the Regional Asylum Office of Thessaloniki - Weekly Schedule)

(A) The Regional Asylum Office of Thessaloniki will be admitting asylum applications based on the weekly schedule below.

(B) The Regionnal Asylum Office of Thessaloniki recevra des demandes d’asile selon le programme hebdomadaire suivant.

(Ε) Η Περιφερειακή Γραφείο Ασύλου Θεσσαλονίκης θα παραλαμβάνει αιτήματα ασύλου με βάση το παρακάτω εβδομαδιαίο πρόγραμμα.

(Pashto) ادارۂ منطقی امور پناهندگی سالونکی د درخواستهای پناهندگی را نظر به برنامه هفتگی زبانهای موجوده اداره منطقه ای امور پناهندگی سالونکی،بتدریکه پناه دویل مالیاتی درخواست ته بروت و پلار."
La Oficina Regional de Thessaloniki recibirá las solicitudes de asilo según el programa semanal siguiente. Los solicitantes tendrán que acudir a la oficina a las 07.00 am.

Региональная Служба Убежища Саллоники будет принимать прошения об убежище согласно следующей недельной программе. Зaintересованные лица должны приходить в Офис в 07:00.

本区域难民办公室将根据以下每周制时间表接收难民证申请。申请者应该到我们的办公室 早上 7:00 点钟。

(አማርኛ) በተሰላ vời ከእረስ ብርሃን ይታበር ከወርቃ ሰለወርቅ የእርት የሚስጠ ያስፈተር ከወርቀ ከ7:00 ይታበር።

Dawelkanxi Xafiis gobooleedka megangalyada ee Thesaloniki waxaa uu qaadanayaa coidsiga megangalyada sida hoo ku qoran ee programka isbuuclahaahi. Waan in ay maadaan xafiiska saacada 7am ee subaxnimo.

Bureau régional ya asile ekoyamba ba demandes ya asile sur base ya programme semaine oyo na ndenge ela ndi nase. Ba demanerues esengeli ba komaka na bureau na 7H.00.

Zyra Periferike e Azilit në Selanik do të marre në dorëzim kërkesa për azil në bazë të programit javor të mëposhtëm. Përësuesit do të duhet të paraqiten në Zyrrë në orën 7:00 në mëngjes.

Hայցելու տարածարջանային գրասենյակը կընդունի ապաստան հայցելու վերաբերյալ -դիմումները ըստ հետևյալ շաբաթական ծրագրի:

Օգտուողները անհրաժեշտ է ներկայանան Գրասենյակ, ժամը 7-ին առավոտ։

আঞ্চলিক আশ্রয়ের কায়জালে থেসালতনক তনম্নতলতিি সাপ্তাতহক কর্জসূচী অনুযােী আয়েদন গ্রহন হয়ে । আয়েদয়নআগ্রহীয়দরসকাল 7:00 র্ােকাযজালয়ে উপতিিোকয়িহয়ে।

### Language Table

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</tbody>
</table>
(English) In order to submit an asylum application in the languages: English, Albanian, Arabic, French, Farsi, Dari, Urdu, Punjabi and Bengali, those who are interested will have to schedule their date of registration by calling on the days and time slots when the appropriate Skype line is in operation, otherwise it may not be possible for them to register their application on the same day.

(Bengali) যারা ইংরেজী, অলবানী, আরবী, ফ্রান্সীয়, ফার্সি, দারি, উর্দু, পাঞ্জাবী এবং বাংলা ভাষায় আশ্রয়ের আদেশ করছে, আপনাদের জন্য মুদ্রিত কোন ব্যক্তি সামনে আসা বা সেখানে আসা পূর্বে সময় ব্যবহার করতে হবে।

(French) Les bénéficiaires ne disposant pas l’équipement nécessaire pour se connecter à travers l’application SKYPE qui désirent fixer un rendez-vous, pourront s’adresser aux organisations mentionnées à la page suivante:

(Arabic) على الراغبين بحجز موعد عبر السكاي، ولكن ليس لديهم التجهيزات (المعدات) اللازمة للاتصال بالبرنامج.
Afadhe Aftahai wailei hasarat jo bdiri yeska kandragi ki tariq mukra korno chaat bi aor an ko probleemi saman (Urdu)


(Farsi)

Montaghiyai ko tamail ko baestn qar ko eskhali ko raasedi ko paisjes ko demosdoshme ko menyrey ko te ken ko mundesine ko lidhjes ko instakim ko nevoshem mund ko dretohen ko n组织at ko meposhtme:

(Albanian) Të interesuarit që dëshirojnë të mbështetin takim nëpërmjet Skype por nuk kanë mundësine e paisjes së domosdoshme në mënyrë që të kenë mundësine e lidhjes me instalimin e nevojshëm mund të drejtohen në organizatat e mëposhtme:

(Tigrinya) ኦመዝገብቲ በመንገዲስናይብመንገዲስናይብmonger-fa��e ngurun ኢንናትንግ ከምንስተር ለማጤትን ከስጠቃቸው ከሚያስጥ ከተጠቀም ከሚያስጥ ከሚያስጥ ከሚያስጥ ከሚያስጥ ከሚያስጥ ከሚያስጥ ከሚያስጥ ከሚያስጥ ከሚያስጥ ከሚያስጥ ከሚያስጥ ከሚያስጥ ከሚያስጥ ከሚያስጥ ከሚያስጥ ከሚያስጥ ከሚያስጥ ከሚያስጥ ከሚያስጥ ከሚያስጥ ከሚያስጥ ከሚያስጥ ከሚያስጥ ከሚያስጥ ከሚያስጥ ከሚያስጥ ከሚያስጥ ከሚያስሆች ከሚያስጥ ከሚያስጥ ከሚያስጥ ከሚያስን ከሚያስን ከሚያስን ከሚያስን ከሚያስን ከሚያስን ከሚያስን ከሚያስን ከሚያስን ከሚያስን ከሚያስን ከሚያስን ከሚያስን ከሚያስን ከሚያስን ከሚያስን ከሚያስን ከሚያስን ከሚያስን ከሚያስን ከሚያስን ከሚያስን ከሚያስን ከሚያስን ከሚያስን ከሚያስን ከሚያስን ከሚያስን ከሚያስን ከሚያስን ከሚያስን ከሚያስን ከሚያስን ከሚያስን ከሚያስን ከሚያስን ከሚያስን ከሚያስን ከሚያስን ከሚያስን ከሚያስን ከሚያስን ከሚያስን ከሚያስን ከሚያስን ከሚያስን ከሚያስን ከሚያስን ከሚያስን ከሚያስን ከሚያስን ከሚያስን ከሚያስን ከሚያስን ከሚያስን ከሚያስን ከሚያስን ከሚያስን ከሚያስን ከሚያስን ከሚያስን ከሚያስን ከሚያስን ከሚያስን ከሚያስን ከሚያስን ከሚያስን ከሚያስን ከሚያስን ከሚያስን ከሚያስን ከሚያስን ከሚያስን ከሚያስን ከሚያስን ከሚያስን ከሚያስን ከሚያስን ከሚያስን ከሚያስን ከሚያስን ከሚያስን ከሚያስን ከሚያስን ከሚያስን ከሚያስን ከሚያስን ከሚያስን ከሚያስን ከሚያስን ከሚያስን ከሚያስን ከሚያስን ከሚያስን ከሚያስን ከሚያስን ከሚያስን ከሚያስን ከሚያስን ከሚያስን ከሚያስን ከሚያስን ከሚያስን ከሚያስን ከሚያስን ከሚያስን ከሚያስን ከሚያስን ከሚያስን ከሚያስን ከሚያስን ከሚያስን ከሚያስን ከሚያስን ከሚያስን ከሚያስን ከሚያስን ከሚያስን ከሚያስን ከሚያስን ከميزا

Organizations/ Contact Information
Οργανώσεις / Στοιχεία επικοινωνίας

METAdrasi
8 Thesprotias str., 10433 Athens
metadrasi@gmail.com

FAROS
Support for Underage/Minor Refugees
Υποστήριξη Ανηλίκων Προσφύγων
13 Botasi str.- Exarcheia, Athens 10682
hansen@faros.org.gr

Greek Council for Refugees
25 Solomou str.- Exarcheia, 10682 Athens
gcr1@gcr.gr

ANASA- Cultural Center of African Art and Cultures
24 Plataion & Sfaktirias str. , 10435 Kerameikos
natasa.chanta.martin@gmail.com

COMMUNITY OF AFGHAN IMMIGRANTS AND REFUGEES
35 Chalkokondyli str. Athens
taher.alizadah@yahoo.com

SUDANESE REFUGEES LEAGUE
2 Astypalaias str. and 224 Patission 224
11256 Athens
amiralnour@gmail.com

BABEL-Accommodation Center
72 I Drosopoulou str.
# Statistical Data of the Greek Asylum Service (1.1.2016 - 31.5.2016)

## Asylum Applications

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>May 2016</th>
<th>Monthly Average (2015)</th>
<th>Difference (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Men</strong></td>
<td>2405</td>
<td>822</td>
<td>192,6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Women</strong></td>
<td>1883</td>
<td>278</td>
<td>577,3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>4288</td>
<td>1100</td>
<td>289,8%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(For Unaccompanied Minors: 181, 36, 402,8%)

## Region of registration

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
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<th></th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Attica</td>
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<td>905</td>
<td>1356</td>
<td>1337</td>
<td>1498</td>
<td>5731</td>
<td>653</td>
<td>129,4%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Amygdaleza</td>
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<td>27</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>175</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>-22,4%</td>
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<tr>
<td>North Evros</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>99</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>-14,7%</td>
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<tr>
<td>South Evros</td>
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<td>73</td>
<td>157</td>
<td>387</td>
<td>469</td>
<td>1222</td>
<td>118</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lesvos</td>
<td>196</td>
<td>206</td>
<td>370</td>
<td>411</td>
<td>735</td>
<td>1918</td>
<td>58</td>
<td>1167,2%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rhodes</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>120</td>
<td>88</td>
<td>112</td>
<td>431</td>
<td>67</td>
<td>67,2%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thessaloniki</td>
<td>107</td>
<td>118</td>
<td>646</td>
<td>1080</td>
<td>1056</td>
<td>3007</td>
<td>99</td>
<td>966,7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Patra</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>134</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>127,3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Samos</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>182</td>
<td>176</td>
<td>117</td>
<td>526</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chios</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>109</td>
<td>210</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leros</td>
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<td>55</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>130</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>1170</td>
<td>1469</td>
<td>2956</td>
<td>3700</td>
<td>4288</td>
<td>13583</td>
<td>1100</td>
<td>289,8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---------------------</td>
<td>---------</td>
<td>----------</td>
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<td>-------</td>
<td>-----</td>
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<td>------------------------</td>
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<tr>
<td>1) Syria</td>
<td>227</td>
<td>271</td>
<td>1398</td>
<td>2226</td>
<td>2910</td>
<td>7032</td>
<td>291</td>
<td>900,0% ↑</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2) Iraq</td>
<td>66</td>
<td>105</td>
<td>325</td>
<td>442</td>
<td>310</td>
<td>1248</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>463,6% ↑</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3) Pakistan</td>
<td>221</td>
<td>226</td>
<td>191</td>
<td>198</td>
<td>194</td>
<td>1030</td>
<td>152</td>
<td>27,6% ↑</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4) Afghanistan</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>101</td>
<td>186</td>
<td>209</td>
<td>568</td>
<td>143</td>
<td>46,2% ↑</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5) Albania</td>
<td>78</td>
<td>131</td>
<td>133</td>
<td>105</td>
<td>97</td>
<td>544</td>
<td>84</td>
<td>15,5% ↑</td>
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<td>43</td>
<td>106</td>
<td>144</td>
<td>113</td>
<td>112</td>
<td>518</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>460,0% ↑</td>
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<tr>
<td>7) Bangladesh</td>
<td>73</td>
<td>79</td>
<td>85</td>
<td>71</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>372</td>
<td>62</td>
<td>3,2% ↑</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8) Georgia</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>69</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>257</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>34,4% ↑</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9) Morocco</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>74</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>212</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>228,6% ↑</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10) Palestine</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>51</td>
<td>97</td>
<td>163</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>1840,0% ↑</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
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<td>379</td>
<td>431</td>
<td>258</td>
<td>229</td>
<td>1639</td>
<td>249</td>
<td>-7,3% ↓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>1170</td>
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<td>2956</td>
<td>3700</td>
<td>4288</td>
<td>13583</td>
<td>1100</td>
<td>289,8% ↑</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Statistical Data of 1st Instance Procedures

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
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<th></th>
<th></th>
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<th></th>
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<td>3051</td>
<td>2910</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>78</td>
<td>97,4%</td>
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<tr>
<td>2) Iraq</td>
<td>810</td>
<td>310</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>61,5%</td>
<td>210</td>
<td>901</td>
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<tr>
<td>3) Pakistan</td>
<td>828</td>
<td>194</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>95</td>
<td>101</td>
<td>3,0%</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>876</td>
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<td>4) Afghanistan</td>
<td>611</td>
<td>209</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>49,5%</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>756</td>
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<td>5) Albania</td>
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<td>0</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>76</td>
<td>79</td>
<td>0,7%</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>404</td>
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<tr>
<td>6) Iran</td>
<td>376</td>
<td>112</td>
<td>13</td>
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<td>26</td>
<td>52,3%</td>
<td>26</td>
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<td>354</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>2,0%</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>366</td>
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<tr>
<td>8) Georgia</td>
<td>128</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>1,0%</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>123</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9) Morocco</td>
<td>117</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>10,6%</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>117</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10) Palestine</td>
<td>61</td>
<td>97</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>85,7%</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>153</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>1202</td>
<td>229</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>130</td>
<td>165</td>
<td>15,1%</td>
<td>119</td>
<td>1147</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>7945</td>
<td>4288</td>
<td>146</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>410</td>
<td>588</td>
<td>23,0%</td>
<td>1428</td>
<td>10217</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

- Inadmissible decisions are included: a) Due to acceptance by another Member State (Relocation and Dublin Regulation procedures), b) Due to eligibility to return to a Safe Third Country (Readmission Procedures)
### Second Instance - Appeals

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Countries of Origin</th>
<th>January</th>
<th>February</th>
<th>March</th>
<th>April</th>
<th>May</th>
<th>Total (2016)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1) Pakistan</td>
<td>97</td>
<td>122</td>
<td>120</td>
<td>83</td>
<td>120</td>
<td>542</td>
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<tr>
<td>2) Albania</td>
<td>103</td>
<td>133</td>
<td>110</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>77</td>
<td>488</td>
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