



Please cite as: EUAA, '[4.1.2.3. Online appointment systems for the registration of applications for international protection](#)' in *Asylum Report 2023*, May 2023.

4.1.2.3. Online appointment systems for the registration of applications for international protection

4.1.2.3. Online appointment systems for the registration of applications for international protection

icon showing a person online in a computer screen

Circular 5049/2022 introduced a new registration procedure for first-time applicants in Greece. The Skype service was discontinued, and instead applicants could make an appointment through an online platform either in Thessaloniki or Attica. Applicants undergo a reception and identification procedure in a Reception and Identification Centre (RIC) or a Closed Controlled Access Centre (CCAC), and they are required to stay in the facility throughout this process, for a maximum of 25 days.³⁰⁸ Civil society organisations observed that this period was often longer in practice as a 5-day quarantine period applied (see [Section 4.7](#)) and noted that this practice was de facto detention (see [Section 4.8](#)).³⁰⁹ Civil society organisations also observed several barriers in accessing the asylum procedure for subsequent applicants or for applicants coming from a safe third country (see [Sections 2 and 4.3](#)).³¹⁰³¹¹

The Spanish Jesuit Refugee Service,³¹² Convive-Fundación Cepaim³¹³ and CEAR³¹⁴ in Spain observed issues in accessing the asylum procedure since the establishment of an online appointment system for the registration of applications. Appointments were often available only after several weeks, and many applicants had difficulties in navigating the website, which was available only in Spanish.³¹⁵ SOS Racism reported on a technical failure which resulted in appointment requests getting lost.³¹⁶ UNHCR reiterated its concern about accessing the asylum procedure.³¹⁷ The Spanish Ombudsperson underlined the impact these delays had on associated rights for applicants, such as access to housing, medical care, psychosocial support and other social benefits.³¹⁸

- ³⁰⁸Υπουργείο Μετανάστευσης και Ασύλου, Εγκύκλιος με θέμα «Καταγραφή αιτημάτων διεθνούς προστασίας από τα ΠΓΑ/ΑΚΑ της Υπηρεσίας Ασύλου» [Ministry of Migration and Asylum, Circular on registration of applications for international protection by the Regional Asylum Offices/ Independent Asylum Units of the Asylum Service], August 31, 2022. <https://migration.gov.gr/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/Εγκύκλιος-καταγραφή-αιτημάτων->

ΠΓΑ_AKA-3.pdf

- [309](https://euaa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/2023-02/greek_council_for_refugees.pdf)Greek Council for Refugees | Ελληνικό Συμβούλιο για τους Πρόσφυγες. (2023). Input to the Asylum Report 2023. https://euaa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/2023-02/greek_council_for_refugees.pdf; Network for Children's Rights | Δίκτυο για τα Δικαιώματα του Παιδιού. (2023). Input to the Asylum Report 2023. https://euaa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/2023-02/network_for_children_rights.pdf
- [310](https://rsaegean.org/en/border-procedure-greek-islands)Refugee Support Aegean (2022, November 10). The state of the border procedure on the Greek islands. Refugee Support Aegean. <https://rsaegean.org/en/border-procedure-greek-islands>; Refugee Support Aegean. (2022). Briefing. Systematic breaches of the rule of law and of the EU asylum acquis at Greece's land and sea borders. https://rsaegean.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/Greece_CSO_Briefing_LIBE-1.pdf
- [311](https://asylumineurope.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/06/AIDA-GR_2022-Update.pdf)AIDA Greece. (2023). Country Report: Greece - 2022 Update. Edited by ECRE. Written by the Greek Council for Refugees. https://asylumineurope.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/06/AIDA-GR_2022-Update.pdf
- [312](https://euaa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/2023-02/servicio_jesuita_a_migrantes_espana_sjm.pdf)Jesuit Migrant Service Spain | Servicio Jesuita a Migrantes. (2023). Input to Asylum Report 2023. https://euaa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/2023-02/servicio_jesuita_a_migrantes_espana_sjm.pdf
- [313](https://euaa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/2023-02/convive_fundacion_cepaim.pdf)Cepaim Foundation | Fundación Cepaim. (2023). Input to the Asylum Report 2023. https://euaa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/2023-02/convive_fundacion_cepaim.pdf
- [314](https://euaa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/2023-02/cear_spanish_commission_for_refugees.pdf)Spanish Commission for Refugee Aid | Comisión Española de Ayuda al Refugiado. (2023). Input to the Asylum Report 2023. https://euaa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/2023-02/cear_spanish_commission_for_refugees.pdf;
- [315](https://euaa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/2023-02/convive_fundacion_cepaim.pdf)Cepaim Foundation | Fundación Cepaim. (2023). Input to the Asylum Report 2023. https://euaa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/2023-02/convive_fundacion_cepaim.pdf
- [316](https://www.levante-emv.com/comunitat-valenciana/2022/11/02/asilo-citas-valencia-denuncian-fiscalia-colapso-78030018.html)Levante. El mercantil valenciano (2022, February 11). Denuncian ante fiscalía el colapso de las citas de asilo en València [Complaints to the Prosecutor's Office regarding the collapse of asylum appointments in Valencia]. <https://www.levante-emv.com/comunitat-valenciana/2022/11/02/asilo-citas-valencia-denuncian-fiscalia-colapso-78030018.html>
- [317](https://elpais.com/espana/2022-05-16/la-representante-de-acnur-en-espana-los-recursos-para-pedir-asilo-no-estan-a-la-altura.html)El País (2022, May 16). La representante de Acnur en España: “Los recursos para pedir asilo no están a la altura” [UNHCR's Representative in Spain "The resources to request asylum are not up to the task]. <https://elpais.com/espana/2022-05-16/la-representante-de-acnur-en-espana-los-recursos-para-pedir-asilo-no-estan-a-la-altura.html>
- [318](https://www.defensordelpueblo.es/resoluciones/dificultades-para-concertar-cita-previa-para-solicitar-asilo/)Spanish Ombudsperson | Defensor Del Pueblo. (2022, August 3). Dificultades para concertar cita previa a fin de solicitar asilo [Difficulties to book appointments to apply for asylum]. <https://www.defensordelpueblo.es/resoluciones/dificultades-para-concertar-cita-previa-para-solicitar-asilo/>