



Greece

National developments in 2024



In 2024, Greece continued to experience pressure on its asylum and reception systems, receiving the highest number of applicants for international protection (74,000) in 5 years and having the second-highest number of applications per capita among EU+ countries (7,080 per 1 million inhabitants). With the Eastern Mediterranean route experiencing an increase of 14% in the detection of irregular border-crossings,¹ border management was a pressing issue.² At times effective access to territory and the asylum procedure was put into question.³ The ECtHR issued a number of decisions on cases from previous years when effective access to territory was inhibited.⁴ Disruptions in interpretation services both on the islands and in the mainland, as well as a 2-month abstention from duties by lawyers under the state-funded legal aid scheme at the appeal stage, caused delays in asylum procedures, overall affecting access to other services as well.⁵

Greece invested in the professional development of asylum and reception personnel, with almost 4,000 registered participants in EUAA training and over 350 trainees registered in sessions conducted by the National Centre for Public Administration and Local Government. Efforts to improve reception conditions continued, often in cooperation with civil society organisations.⁶ The Reception and Identification Service (RIS) issued guidance on the identification and management of cases of human trafficking, as well as the management of cases of reception residents who seek employment or are already employed. At the same time, concerns were voiced about sufficient reception conditions in some facilities, reportedly with certain services being suspended for a short period of time, such as the provision of cash and transportation to asylum offices and hospitals.⁷

With regard to the Dublin system, a substantial increase was noted in 2024 in both take back requests and incoming information requests, which virtually doubled compared to the previous year. This was the result of the [CJEU ruling C-753/22](#), according to which Member States are not required to automatically recognise refugee status granted in another Member State when the competent authority cannot reject the asylum request as inadmissible of an applicant to whom another Member State granted protection. Instead, they must carry out a new, individual, full and up-to-date examination of the case.

A number of initiatives were undertaken to increase access to information for applicants and beneficiaries, including on accessing the public service system, enrolment in school, submission of tax returns, personal hygiene and monthly budgeting.⁸ Significant advances were reported in the area of child protection with the launch of a new national guardianship system in 2024 and the adoption of harmonised procedures on best interests which offer more individualised care to unaccompanied minors. Collaborative, multi-stakeholder efforts aimed to improve the well-being of asylum-seeking and migrant children.⁹ Some concerns in the area of child protection were reported by civil society organisations, citing poor conditions in reception facilities,¹⁰ while the ECtHR issued a number of decisions on incidents from past years when Greece was found in violation of several articles of the European Convention in cases of unaccompanied minors and other applicants with vulnerabilities (e.g. [T.K. v Greece](#), [A.I. v Greece](#), [O.R. v Greece](#) and [W.S. v Greece](#)).

Efforts were made in 2024 to improve care for persons with vulnerabilities, including establishing asylum units for vulnerable groups in Attica and Thessaloniki.¹¹ Significant resources were allocated to projects facilitating the integration of refugees and migrants into the Greek society, including the establishment of a Task Force on Integration following a proposal by the European Commission.¹² With regard to second instance procedures, the setting and composition of the Independent Appeals Committees were reformed, and additional resources were allocated to increase expertise among members in assessing international protection cases.¹³

To plan and support the implementation of the Pact on Migration and Asylum, a working group was established to coordinate action among relevant authorities.

More input from civil society:

- [Equal Legal Aid](#)
- [European Council on Refugees and Exiles](#)
- [FENIX Humanitarian Legal Aid](#)
- [Greek Council for Refugees | Ελληνικό Συμβούλιο για τους Πρόσφυγες](#)
- [International Rescue Committee](#)
- [Mobile Info Team](#)
- [Network for Children's Rights | Δίκτυο για τα Δικαιώματα του Παιδιού](#)
- [Save the Children](#)

Greece

Key indicators for 2024



Rank by number of asylum applications	Rank per capita (applications per 1M inhabitants)	Share of applications in EU+	Recognition rate
5	2	7.3%	71%

Indicator	2024	2023	% change	Top 3 countries of origin
Asylum applications	73,688	64,084	↑ 15%	Syria (30%), Afghanistan (21%), Egypt (10%)
Pending cases (Dec '24)	26,623	29,885	↓ -11%	Syria (28%), Afghanistan (16%), Egypt (15%)
First instance decisions	55,392	40,181	↑ 38%	Syria (26%), Afghanistan (25%), Egypt (8%)
Refugee status	39,303	24,332	↑ 62%	Afghanistan (35%), Syria (33%), Palestine (8%)
Subsidiary protection	296	590	↓ -50%	Ukraine (22%), Somalia (18%), Mali (12%)
Negative	15,793	15,259	⇒ 3%	Egypt (27%), Pakistan (11%), Syria (9%)

Evolution of asylum applications, 2023-2024



For more developments, please consult the [Asylum Report 2025](#) and the [National Asylum Developments Database](#).





Sources

¹ European Border and Coast Guard Agency. (2025, January 14). [Irregular border crossings into EU drop sharply in 2024](#).

² Ministry of Migration and Asylum | Υπουργείο Μετανάστευσης και Ασύλου. (2024, March 14). [Ελληνο-γερμανική συνάντηση στον Έβρο: Τα σύνορα της Ελλάδας είναι σύνορα της Ευρώπης](#) [Greek-German meeting in Evros: Greece's borders are Europe's borders].

³ Council of Europe, European Committee for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment. (2024, June 12). [Council of Europe anti-torture Committee \(CPT\) again calls on Greece to reform its immigration detention system and stop pushbacks](#). International Rescue Committee. (2024). [Input to the Asylum Report 2025](#). Greek Council for Refugees | Ελληνικό Συμβούλιο για τους Πρόσφυγες. (2025, February 18). [GCR's Information Note on interventions and on interim measures granted by the ECtHR in cases regarding pushbacks](#).

⁴ Council of Europe, European Court of Human Rights [ECtHR], [Alkhatib and others v Greece](#), No 3566/16, ECLI:CE:ECHR:2024:0116JUD000356616, 16 January 2024. Link redirects to the English summary in the EUAA Case Law Database. Council of Europe, European Court of Human Rights [ECtHR], [A.R.E. v Greece](#), No 15783/21, 7 January 2025. Link redirects to the English summary in the EUAA Case Law Database. Council of Europe, European Court of Human Rights [ECtHR], [Almukhlis and Al-Maliki v Greece](#), No 22776/18, ECLI:CE:ECHR:2025:0325JUD002277618, 25 March 2025. Link redirects to the English summary in the EUAA Case Law Database.

⁵ Mobile Info Team. (2024, November 7). [Asylum seekers hold peaceful protests calling on government to reinstate interpretation services](#). Mobile Info Team et al. (2024, November 1). [Open Letter: Put an end to the disruption of interpretation services still undermining asylum seekers' rights in Greece](#). Refugee Support Aegean. (2024, November 5). [Major deficiencies in the provision of interpretation services in Greece](#). Athens Bar Association | Δικηγορικός Σύλλογος Αθηνών. (2024, November 8). ΔΣΑ: [Αποχή των δικηγόρων του Μητρώου Ασύλου από τα καθήκοντά τους](#) [ABA: Abstention of Asylum Registry lawyers from their duties]. Athens Bar Association | Δικηγορικός Σύλλογος Αθηνών. (2025, January 25). [ΟΛΟΜΕΛΕΙΑ: Πρόταση για μη συνέχιση της αποχής δικηγόρων από τις Υπηρεσίες Ασύλου](#) [Plenary meeting: Proposal to discontinue the abstention of lawyers from the Asylum Services].

⁶ Ministry of Migration and Asylum | Υπουργείο Μετανάστευσης και Ασύλου. (2024, May 29). [Πρόγραμμα «Ιπποκράτης» για την αναβάθμιση της υγειονομικής κάλυψης των αιτούντων άσυλο στην Ελλάδα](#) ["Hippocrates" programme to improve the health coverage of asylum seekers in Greece]. METAdrasi - Action for Migration and Development | ΜΕΤΑδραση – Δράση για τη Μετανάστευση και την Ανάπτυξη. (2024, July 26). [Η ΜΕΤΑδραση αναλαμβάνει τη λειτουργία του κεντρου κοινοτητας στη Δομη Πολυκαστρου](#) [METAdrasi undertakes the operation of the community centre at the Polykastro structure]. METAdrasi - Action for Migration and Development | ΜΕΤΑδραση – Δράση για τη Μετανάστευση και την Ανάπτυξη. (2024, February 27). [Εκμάθηση ελληνικής γλώσσας στις δομές της Βορειου Ελλάδας](#) [Learning Greek language in reception facilities of northern Greece].

⁷ Mobile Info Team, & Refugee Legal Support. (July 2024). [Voices from the Camps: Living Conditions and Access to Services in Refugee Camps on the Greek Mainland](#). Amnesty International. (2024, July 30). ["We feel in prison on the island": Unlawful detention and sub-standard conditions in an EU-funded refugee centre](#)". FENIX Humanitarian Legal Aid. (2024, November 27). [A Blanket Violation of Rights: The Lack of Winterisation of the Mavrovouni C.C.A.C.](#) Mobile Info Team et al. (2024, September 17). [Joint Statement: Provision of cash assistance to asylum seekers in Greece must resume immediately](#). Refugee Support Aegean. (June 2024). [Refugee camps in mainland Greece](#).

⁸ Ministry of Migration and Asylum | Υπουργείο Μετανάστευσης και Ασύλου. (2024, January 11). [Mentors Explained - Personal Hygiene](#). Ministry of Migration and Asylum | Υπουργείο Μετανάστευσης και Ασύλου. (2024, August 2). [Mentors Explained – Monthly Budget Planning](#). Greek Forum of Refugees | Ελληνικό Φόρουμ Προσφύγων. (2024, February 29). [Public Service System: How does it function for refugees and migrants in Greece?](#) Greek Forum of Refugees | Ελληνικό Φόρουμ Προσφύγων. (2024, February 29). [Useful information for refugees and migrants in Greece who want to enroll their children in school](#). Solidarity Now. (2024, February 1). [A Tax Guide for Everyone \(in 7 languages\)](#).

⁹ United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). (2024, April 11). [Τριμερές Μνημόνιο Συνεργασίας στον τομέα της παιδικής προστασίας](#) [Tripartite Memorandum of Cooperation in the field of child protection]. Ministry of Migration and Asylum | Υπουργείο Μετανάστευσης και Ασύλου. (2024, September 27). [Ο Υπουργός Μετανάστευσης και Ασύλου, κ. Ν. Παναγιωτόπουλος και η Υφυπουργός Μετανάστευσης και Ασύλου, κ. Σ. Βούλτεψη στην εκδήλωση για την ειδική δράση «Πυξίδα»](#) [The Minister of Immigration and Asylum, Mr. N. Panagiotopoulos and the Deputy Minister of Immigration and Asylum, Mr. S. Voultepsi at the event for the special action "Compass"]. Ministry of Migration and Asylum | Υπουργείο Μετανάστευσης και Ασύλου. (February 2024). [Harmonization, Establishment and Certification of Best Interests Procedures](#). Ministry of Migration and Asylum | Υπουργείο Μετανάστευσης και Ασύλου. (2024, September 30). [Υπουργείο Μετανάστευσης και Ασύλου: Ένα βήμα μπροστά στη μάχη κατά της νεανικής βίας](#) [Department of Immigration and Asylum: A step forward in the fight

against youth violence]. Ministry of Migration and Asylum | Υπουργείο Μετανάστευσης και Ασύλου. (2024, July 24). [Bulgaria and Greece collaborate to strengthen the two countries' child protection systems](#). European Commission. (2024, April 19). [An EU-backed project keeps thousands of migrant children safe and off the streets](#).

¹⁰ International Rescue Committee. (2024). [Input to the Asylum Report 2025](#). Greek Council for Refugees | Ελληνικό Συμβούλιο για τους Πρόσφυγες, & Save the Children. (October 2024). ["It does not feel like real life": children's everyday life in Greek refugee camps](#).

¹¹ [Έναρξη λειτουργίας του Αυτοτελούς Κλιμακίου Ασύλου Ευάλωτων Ομάδων Αττικής και του Αυτοτελούς Κλιμακίου Ασύλου Ευάλωτων Ομάδων Θεσσαλονίκης](#). Απόφαση αριθμ. 23576 του Διοικητή της Υπηρεσίας Ασύλου του Υπουργείου Μετανάστευσης και Ασύλου, Εφημερίδα της Κυβέρνησης, Αριθμός Φύλλου 600, Τεύχος Δεύτερο [Opening of operations for the Independent Asylum Centre for Vulnerable Groups in Attica and of the Independent Centre for Vulnerable Groups in Thessaloniki. Decision number 23576 of the Director of the Asylum Service, Ministry of Migration and Asylum, Government Gazette, Number 600, Second Issue], 26 January 2024. Ministry of Migration and Asylum | Υπουργείο Μετανάστευσης και Ασύλου. (2024, October 7). [Σοφία Βούλτεψη: 12 θύματα εμπορίας ανθρώπων σώθηκαν χάρη στον ΕΜΕΑ που έφερε την επέμβαση της Αστυνομίας](#) [Sofia Vultepsi: 12 victims of human trafficking were saved thanks to the EMEA that brought the intervention of the Police]. Ministry of Migration and Asylum | Υπουργείο Μετανάστευσης και Ασύλου. (2024, May 15). [Εγκαίνια Κέντρου Ευάλωτων, με Νορβηγική και Ελβετική Χρηματοδότηση](#) [Inauguration of a center for the vulnerable, with Norwegian and Swiss funding]. Ministry of Migration and Asylum | Υπουργείο Μετανάστευσης και Ασύλου. (2024, June 26). [Συνεργασία Ελλάδας-Ελβετίας-Γιατρών του Κόσμου – Ένα ακόμη βήμα μπροστά, άλλη μια απάντηση στους συκοφάντες της Ελλάδας](#) [Greece-Switzerland-Doctors of the World cooperation – Another step forward, another response to the defamers of Greece].

¹² European Commission. (2024, May 28). [Task Force on migrant integration launched in Greece](#). Ministry of Migration and Asylum | Υπουργείο Μετανάστευσης και Ασύλου. (2024, March 11). [Δ. Καιρίδης: Ευρωπαϊκή χρηματοδότηση προς τους Δήμους για την κοινωνική ένταξη](#) [D. Kairidis: European funding to municipalities for social inclusion]. METAdrasi - Action for Migration and Development | METAδραση – Δράση για τη Μετανάστευση και την Ανάπτυξη. (2024, September 25). [Σεμινάρια του προγράμματος εργασιακής συμβουλευτικής Stepping Stone σε Σαμο και Λεσβο](#) [Seminars of the Stepping Stone Career Counselling Program in Samos and Lesvos].

¹³ [Ορισμός του αριθμού των Ανεξάρτητων Επιτροπών Προσφυγών της Αρχής Προσφυγών του Υπουργείου Μετανάστευσης και Ασύλου](#). Απόφαση αριθμ. 109288, οι Υπουργοί Οικονομίας και Οικονομικών, Δικαιοσύνης, και Μετανάστευσης και Ασύλου, Εφημερίδα της Κυβέρνησης, Αριθμός Φύλλου 2602, Τεύχος Δεύτερο [Definition of the number of Independent Appeals Committees of the Appeals Authority of the Ministry of Migration and Asylum, Decision number 109288, Minister of Economy and Finance, Minister of Justice, and Minister of Migration and Asylum, Government Gazette, Number 2602, Second Issue], 1 May 2024. [Διαδικασία και κριτήρια επιλογής και ανανέωσης της θητείας των μελών των Ανεξάρτητων Επιτροπών Προσφυγών του άρθρου 4 του ν. 4375/2016 \(Α' 51\)](#). Απόφαση αριθμ. 139974, οι Υπουργοί Δικαιοσύνης, και Μετανάστευσης και Ασύλου, Εφημερίδα της Κυβέρνησης, Αριθμός Φύλλου 2756, Τεύχος Δεύτερο [Process and criteria for the selection and renewal of term for members of Independent Appeals Committees of Article 4, Law 4375/2016 (A' 51), Decision number 139974, Minister of Justice, and Minister of Migration and Asylum, Government Gazette, Number 2756, Second Issue], 15 May 2024. [Συγκρότηση, ανασυγκρότηση και σύνθεση των Ανεξάρτητων Επιτροπών Προσφυγών του άρθρου 4 του ν. 4375/2016 \(Α' 51\)](#). Απόφαση αριθμ. 205912, οι Υπουργοί Οικονομίας και Οικονομικών, Δικαιοσύνης, και Μετανάστευσης και Ασύλου, Εφημερίδα της Κυβέρνησης, Αριθμός Φύλλου 870, Τεύχος Υ.Ο.Δ.Δ [Establishment, reconstitution and composition of Independent Appeals Committees of Article 4, Law 4375/2016 (A' 51), Decision number 205912, Minister of Economy and Finance, Minister of Justice, and Minister of Migration and Asylum, Government Gazette, Number 870], 12 August 2024. Ministry of Migration and Asylum | Υπουργείο Μετανάστευσης και Ασύλου. (2024, July 25). [Λειτουργία Βιβλιοθήκης Αρχής Προσφυγών](#) [Functioning of the Appeals Authority Library]. Ministry of Migration and Asylum | Υπουργείο Μετανάστευσης και Ασύλου. (2024, June 17). [Διήμερο πιλοτικό σεμινάριο για τα μέλη των Ανεξάρτητων Επιτροπών Προσφυγών](#) [Two-day pilot seminar for the members of the Independent Appeal Committees].

