



Greece

National developments in 2025



Work continued in 2025 to prepare for the implementation of the Pact, while the asylum and reception systems faced persisting pressure. Despite a moderate decrease in the number of applications for international protection, Greece had the highest number of applications per capita in the EU and qualified as a country under migratory pressure in the European Commission's first EAAMR.¹ Throughout the year, the Ministry of Immigration and Asylum emphasised that key priorities were to prevent irregular migration, effectively protect European borders and intensify returns.²

On 9 July 2025, the Minister of Migration and Asylum announced the [suspension of the submission and examination of asylum applications](#) for arrivals from the North African route and their deportation without registration, as a result of a high number of arrivals in Crete. A wide majority in the [Greek Parliament](#) approved this proposal, and a legal provision to this effect entered into force for 3 months. The UNHCR expressed [serious concern](#) over the legislative amendment, while the Council of Europe's Commissioner for Human Rights [urged](#) the Parliament to refrain from suspending the registration of asylum applications. Similarly, the amendment spurred reactions from the Greek Ombudsperson and a number of civil society organisations.³ Later in July, the ministry issued a circular that certain categories of vulnerable persons were exempted from the suspension and subsequently transferred by the Hellenic Police to the closest RIC for identification. In September 2025, a supplementary circular was issued to exempt applicants from Eritrea and Sudan from the suspension. The question of effective access to the territory and the asylum procedure remained a topic of interest -and scrutiny- among various stakeholders, including the Greek Ombudsperson and the ECtHR, which issued a number of related judgments.⁴

In September 2025, the Parliament approved a new bill (Law No 5226/2025) addressing irregular migration, preventing the abuse of the asylum system and facilitating the return of third-country nationals.⁵ Incorporating provisions of the proposed EU regulation on returns, the new bill expanded the concept of country of return; provided stricter definitions for the risk of absconding; reduced timelines for voluntary departures; introduced a stricter framework for prohibition of entry into the country; extended the duration of entry bans; criminalised illegal residence in the country after the end of the administrative procedure; and introduced a stricter framework for asylum detention. Following its publication, UNHCR and a number of civil society organisations reacted to the restrictive changes introduced by the law.⁶ As part of this series of reforms, in February 2026 a new law was approved on the promotion of legal migration policies, which also touches upon the role of NGOs in a number of asylum-related areas.⁷ UNHCR expressed concerns about several provisions that may hinder the work of civil society organisations in providing assistance to applicants and beneficiaries of international protection.⁸

On average, reception facilities had moderate occupancy in 2025, with some reaching high occupancy rates at different times during the year. The increased influx in Crete placed significant pressure on reception and registration capacities, particularly in RIC Malakasa, Diavata and Fylakio. Three reception facilities were set to close in 2025,⁹ while initiatives were introduced to reduce expenses and limit benefits in reception.¹⁰ Reception conditions remained under scrutiny throughout the year, with civil society organisations expressing concerns about the quality of reception.¹¹ In addition, limitations and disruptions in interpretation services persisted, both on the islands and the mainland,¹² resulting in delays in the asylum and reception procedures. Through its operations, the EUAA helped Greek authorities maintain sufficient, quality interpretation.

A number of initiatives focused on increasing protection or optimising processes related to children and other vulnerable applicants.¹³ A new Child Protection Policy was developed by RIS to safeguard the rights of minors residing in RIS facilities. The policy includes prevention strategies, protocols for the identification and management of incidents, and a programme for specialised training for staff, with the goal of the best interests of the child.¹⁴ Since January 2025, the Reception and Identification Service (RIS) can undertake the full registration of unaccompanied minors in the RICs of Malakasa and Diavata, without having to refer them for this purpose to the competent asylum offices. Nevertheless, the continued increase in the arrival of unaccompanied minors, the limited capacity of guardians and delays in their assignment by the Public Prosecutor's offices caused delays in processing their cases. As of September 2025, the identification of vulnerabilities was enhanced through the Hippocrates programme throughout the stay in a mainland RIS facility. Nonetheless, gaps in staffing may hinder thorough screening, and thus the provision of special procedural guarantees.

More input from civil society:

- [Border Violence Monitoring Network](#)
- [Equal Legal Aid](#)
- [European Network on Statelessness](#)
- [Mobile Info Team](#)
- [Network for Children's Rights | Δίκτυο για τα Δικαιώματα του Παιδιού](#)
- [Save the Children](#)

Greece

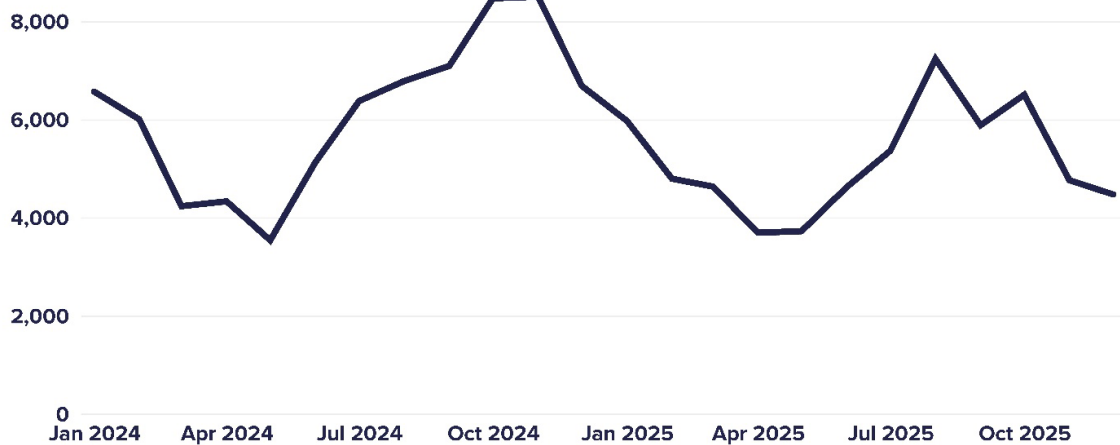
Key indicators for 2025



| | | | |
|---------------------------------------|---|------------------------------|------------------|
| Rank by number of asylum applications | Rank per capita (applications per 1M inhabitants) | Share of applications in EU+ | Recognition rate |
| 5 | 2 | 7.5% | 58% |

| Indicator | 2025 | 2024 | % change | Top 3 countries of origin |
|--------------------------|--------|----------|----------|--|
| Asylum applications | 61,631 | 73,684 ↓ | -16% | Afghanistan (25%), Egypt (15%), Sudan (13%) |
| Pending cases (Dec '25) | 28,317 | 26,623 ↑ | 6% | Sudan (22%), Egypt (17%), Afghanistan (9%) |
| First instance decisions | 45,933 | 55,392 ↓ | -17% | Afghanistan (35%), Egypt (14%), Syria (9%) |
| Refugee status | 24,362 | 39,303 ↓ | -38% | Afghanistan (64%), Sudan (8%), Syria (7%) |
| Subsidiary protection | 2,385 | 296 ↑ | 706% | Syria (72%), Sudan (13%), Yemen (5%) |
| Negative | 19,186 | 15,793 ↑ | 21% | Egypt (34%), Bangladesh (11%), Pakistan (6%) |

Evolution of asylum applications, 2024-2025



For more developments, please consult the [Asylum Report 2026](#) and the [National Asylum Developments Database](#).





Sources

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