

BIMONTHLY UPDATE

# GREECE:

## Children on the move



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JANUARY - MARCH 2022

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# AT A GLANCE

- Approximately 14,000 people fleeing the conflict in Ukraine had arrived in Greece by 21 March, of which approximately 4,275 are children. Ukrainian refugees are entitled to a one-year residence permit, access to the labour market, medical care and the provision of temporary accommodation, in line with the EU Temporary Protection Directive.
- The Minister for Migration stated that there is accommodation capacity for up to 30,000 arrivals, and the Minister for Tourism announced up to 50,000 jobs would be available for Ukrainians in the tourism sector.
- There were further significant drops in the number of refugees and migrants residing in the Eastern Aegean islands, with the only exception being an increase in Chios. Unaccompanied children were resident in three of the camps, with the highest number (154) in Lesvos.
- In a welcome development, the cash assistance programme for asylum-seekers in Greece has been restarted. However, significant numbers of eligible asylum-seekers reported to NGOs that they are not receiving cash or backdated payments.
- A new regulation requires asylum seekers submitting second and following subsequent asylum applications to pay a fee of 100 euros. The fee is imposed on every person, including children (for example, a family of five would have to pay 500 Euros). For individuals and families with no right to work and very limited assistance, this fee is effectively denying them their right to access asylum.
- The Greek Government published a National Strategy for the Protection of Unaccompanied Minors for public consultation. The strategy acknowledges existing gaps and makes propositions for improvements in various areas of child protection, such as for children not entitled to international protection and also for young adults and their smooth transition to adulthood.
- Over seventeen thousand refugee and asylum seeker children have been enrolled in public schools and 12,285 are attending school up to 22 February, a significant improvement compared to last year.

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# 1. OVERVIEW

As of January 2022, Greece is hosting approximately 31,508 asylum seekers according to the official data provided by the Ministry of Migration and Asylum (MoMA), and approximately 58.339 recognized refugees<sup>1</sup>. Only 10% of the asylum seekers live in the Eastern Aegean Islands and the vast majority (90%) are hosted in the mainland. Total land and sea arrivals in January 2022 amounted to 440 people, 51% higher than the same month in 2021<sup>2</sup>. These numbers were published before the recent arrivals of refugees from Ukraine (see below).

# 2. KEY DEVELOPMENTS

## Refugees from Ukraine arrive in Greece

Approximately 14,000 people fleeing the conflict in Ukraine had arrived in Greece by 21 March, of which approximately 4,275 are children.<sup>3</sup> Most have arrived through the Promachonas land border crossing with Bulgaria.

In Greece, Ukrainian refugees are now entitled to a one-year residence permit with immediate access to the labor market and medical care and the provision of temporary accommodation, in line with the EU Temporary Protection Directive.

Registration centres for refugees from Ukraine will operate at the regional asylum offices in Patras, Thessaloniki, Heraklion and Athens. They will go to the centres after a pre-registration that will be done digitally to receive their 12-month permit identity card and, at the same time, receive their Social Security Number (AMKA) and the Tax Registration Number (AFM) to make it easy for them to work and access to medical care.

There are 34 accommodation sites across the country and 4,500 apartments, with a total of 60,000 accommodation places available. Of these, 30,000 are already used by people who have arrived during the migration crisis in recent years. 200 Ukrainians have already been hosted in the facility of Sintiki. Koutsochero site in Larissa is being prepared by local authorities as a solution of last resort, depending on the numbers of arrivals.

The Ministry of Education has started preparations to ensure children who know the Greek language attend classes in schools. For children who are not related to the Greek community of Ukraine and do not speak Greek, the government has taken a number of initiatives, including: translating a guide to the Greek education system into Ukrainian; cooperating with UNICEF and NGOs to arrange telephone and

<sup>1</sup> Ministry of Migration and Asylum, [bit.ly/3vE5I0X](https://bit.ly/3vE5I0X)

<sup>2</sup> Migration and Asylum Ministry, *Informative Note A – January 2022 / Asylum and Integration Reception Procedures*, p. 1, [bit.ly/3hBMHEm](https://bit.ly/3hBMHEm)

<sup>3</sup> See for example, “Πάνω από 10.000 Ουκρανοί πρόσφυγες έφτασαν στην Ελλάδα - Στοχευμένες ενέργειες για τη στήριξή τους”, ERTnews, 16 March 2022, [bit.ly/3Jgx15v](https://bit.ly/3Jgx15v) and Kathimerini, “Πόλεμος στην Ουκρανία: Σχεδόν 10.000 πρόσφυγες έχουν φθάσει στην Ελλάδα”, 15 March 2022, [bit.ly/3u54MQN](https://bit.ly/3u54MQN)

live interpretation into Ukrainian, so that language is not an obstacle to the enrolment of students; and the inclusion of Ukrainian children in Reception Classes, where students with little or no knowledge of Greek attend a 15 hours per week intensive language program.

Separately, the Minister for Tourism announced up to 50,000 jobs would be available for Ukrainians in the tourism sector.<sup>4</sup>

### Further drop in refugee/migrant numbers on the Aegean Islands

There were further significant drops in the refugee and migrant population residing in Reception and Identification Centres (RICs) and Closed Controlled Access Centers (CCACs) in the Eastern Aegean islands<sup>5</sup>, with the only exception being an increase in numbers of people in the Chios RIC. Unaccompanied children were resident in three of the camps, with the highest number (154) in Lesvos. The reduction in residents is likely the result of continued low numbers of arrivals, detention-like conditions in the centres and onward movement to the mainland and other countries.

	Lesvos	Chios	Samos	Leros	Kos	TOTAL
RIC or CCAC / Capacity	<b>8.520</b>	<b>1.032</b>	<b>2.057</b>	<b>1.780</b>	<b>2.356</b>	<b>15.745</b>
December population	<b>2.210</b>	<b>264</b>	<b>430</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>540</b>	<b>3.491</b>
February population in RICs / CCAC	<b>1.885</b>	<b>398</b>	<b>340</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>279</b>	<b>2.918</b>
March: unaccompanied children	<b>154</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>187</b>

### Access to asylum

#### Restrictions on access to asylum on the mainland

New regulations instituted in November 2021 require asylum seekers in mainland Greece to present themselves at closed Reception and Identification Centres (RICs) to register their claim for asylum for the first time.<sup>6</sup> However, the Ministry has not defined where exactly they can lodge an asylum, and asylum seekers may be at risk of detention or being illegally returned to Turkey if they go to the RICs on the mainland<sup>7</sup>.

<sup>4</sup> Ministry of Tourism, Press Release, 2 March 2022 <https://mintour.gov.gr/v-kikilias-dinoyme-ti-dynatotita-stoys-prosfyges-ellines-tis-diasporas-pontioys-kai-oykranoy-s-na-ergastoyn-ston-xenodocheiako-klado/>

<sup>5</sup> Statistics from the Ministry of Citizen Protection / National Coordination Centre of Border Control, Migration and Asylum (Ε.Σ.Κ.Ε.Σ.Μ.Α.), [bit.ly/3Mco92C](http://bit.ly/3Mco92C)

<sup>6</sup> See relevant circular of Ministry of Migration and Asylum, [bit.ly/3qf7Ad0](http://bit.ly/3qf7Ad0). See also *Control and Containment. Changes in access to asylum on mainland Greece, Crete and Rhodes*, Mobile Info Team, January 2022 <https://static1.squarespace.com/static/597473fe9de4bb2cc35c376a/t/61e7e01f33b3024d5c3f9d0c/1642586165790/Control+and+Containment.pdf> and *The Fallacy of control: Tightened asylum and reception policies undermine protection in Greece*, Refugees International, 24 February 2022, <https://www.refugeesinternational.org/reports/2022/2/22/the-fallacy-of-control-tightened-asylum-and-reception-policies-undermine-protection-in-greece>

<sup>7</sup> Amnesty International has concluded that Greece has a “de facto policy of pushbacks” and documented patterns of violations, particularly in Evros, including of individuals who had arrived at Reception and Identification Centres. For more see, *Violence, lies, and pushbacks – Refugees and migrants still denied safety and asylum at Europe’s borders* pages 5-6 and page 18 <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/eur25/4307/2021/en/>

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Although children are exempted from the regulation, families are less likely to take these steps to register asylum claims and are at greater risk of remaining without legal protections.

### **New, prohibitive cost of applying for asylum: 100 euro for second and following subsequent applications**

A new regulation requires people submitting second and following subsequent asylum applications to pay a fee of 100 euros. In the case of families, this fee applies to each family member, including children. A family of five, for example, would have to pay 500 Euros. There are no exceptions for vulnerability or destitution reasons. For individuals and families with no right to work and very limited assistance, this fee is effectively denying them their right to access asylum procedures.

Of particular concern is the impact of the fee on asylum seekers from the five countries (Syria, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Somalia) for whom the Greek government defines Turkey as a “safe third country”. These individual claims are assessed on admissibility grounds and if they are rejected without ever having been examined on the merits, they are obliged to pay this fee when submitting a second subsequent asylum application.<sup>8</sup> Also, even if their case is considered admissible, and then examined on the merits, this fee will not be returned

### **Assistance for refugee and migrant children**

#### **Closure of accommodation programme (ESTIA)**

The Ministry of Migration confirmed on 22 February 2022 that the Emergency Support to Integration and Accommodation (ESTIA) programme will close by the end of 2022 and that from 16 April there the housing programme (ESTIA II) will be limited to 10,000 places, in comparison to the 27,000 available in 2021. ESTIA II houses vulnerable persons, including families with many children and people with severe health conditions, who will no longer be provided accommodation when the programme ends.

The Ministry justified the reduction of accommodation places as there are less arrivals in the country, the result of “improved immigration management”.<sup>9</sup> It is unclear whether the Greek government will revise this decision in light of the significant number of arrivals of refugees from Ukraine.

#### **Resumption of cash assistance, gaps remain**

In a welcome development, the cash assistance programme for asylum-seekers in Greece has been restarted (see November-December update). Asylum seekers have been receiving ‘cash cards’ since December, and overdue payments for October and November were made in January, with the expectation that disbursements will resume functioning normally in March.

However, significant numbers of eligible asylum seekers on the islands of Lesbos, Samos, and elsewhere reported to NGOs that they are not receiving cash, or backdated payments, as a result of changes in their legal status or because they were not present for the cash card distribution.<sup>10</sup>

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<sup>8</sup> Imposition of a fee of 100 euros for access to asylum from the 2nd and every following subsequent application to applicants for international protection, including minors!, Press release co-signed by 10 NGOs 2 March 2022, <https://www.gcr.gr/en/news/press-releases-announcements>

<sup>9</sup> Available at the site of Migration and Asylum Ministry: <https://migration.gov.gr/en/oloklironetai-to-programma-stegasis-estia-ii-to-2022/>

<sup>10</sup> NGOs welcome the resumption of cash assistance for asylum seekers in Greece, call for gaps to be urgently filled <https://www.refugeesinternational.org/reports/2022/3/8/ngos-welcome-the-resumption-of-cash-assistance-for-asylum-seekers-in-greece-call-for-gaps-to-be-urgently-filled>

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## Legislative and policy developments

### National Strategy on Integration

Public consultation on a new National Integration Strategy took place in January 2022<sup>11</sup>. There are positive aspects of the strategy, such as the inclusion of a pre-accession period that can help the process of integration for refugees. The Strategy mentions the need for use of child-friendly information regarding legal rights, education, and protection from sexual exploitation and abuse. It also includes access to education for children and young adults, with special mention to the strengthening of the institution of “second opportunity schools” and free Greek language courses.

However, the draft strategy fails to address the needs of refugees and migrants holistically. The strategy emphasises the need to reduce the number of arrivals and it does not acknowledge that asylum seekers and refugees - including children – are active contributors to the development of their host society. It also doesn't make any mention of special measures to facilitate family reunification of refugees. Importantly, it does not address the increasing exclusion of asylum seekers in Closed Controlled Structures: these centres undermine integration, stigmatise and severely impact the mental health of asylum seekers, with particularly negative effects on children.<sup>12</sup>

### Pushbacks

#### Increased scrutiny and calls for investigations of human rights violations by Greek authorities at EU borders

The European Commission has proposed a Council Implementing Decision which would call for Greece should carry out independent investigations regarding all serious allegations of ill-treatment at external EU borders by the Hellenic Police and Hellenic Coast Guard, following an evaluation visit carried out in Greece between 30 May and 7 June 2021.<sup>13</sup>

Separately, the Dutch Advisory Committee on Migration published a policy brief regarding Member States' responsibility for the protection of human rights at the EU's external borders, which the Dutch government is legally required to respond to within three months. The council recommends member states take measures to avoid direct or indirect responsibility for human rights violations, improve access to courts for victims of human rights violations in the field of EU asylum and migration policy, improve internal complaints procedures of EU agencies and establish effective national complaints procedures<sup>14</sup>. The Dutch Advisory Committee called for the government to stop any support to Greece for refugees to avoid complicity in the illegal actions of the Greek authorities at the common EU borders<sup>15</sup>.

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11 The text of the National Integration Strategy put under consultation: <http://www.opengov.gr/immigration/?p=1600>

12 For a full analysis, in Greek, see GCR comments submitted for the National Integration Strategy : <https://www.gcr.gr/el/ekdoseis-media/reports/item/1885-sxolia-tou-esp-gia-tin-stratigiki-entaksis-ianouarios-2022> and relevant press release: <https://www.gcr.gr/el/news/press-releases-announcements/item/1884-deltio-typou-to-elliniko-symvoyljo-gia-tous-prosfyges-gia-ti-nea-ethniki-stratigiki-gia-tin-entaksi>

13 For more information, see Pushbacks in Greece: Commission calls for investigations and more border surveillance <https://www.statewatch.org/news/2022/march/pushbacks-in-greece-commission-calls-for-investigations-and-more-border-surveillance/>

14 Dutch Advisory Council on Migration, *EU Borders are common borders / Member States' responsibility for human rights protection at the EU's external borders*, 14 February 2022, <https://www.adviescommissievoorvreemdelingenzaken.nl/publicaties/publicaties/2022/02/14/eu-borders-are-common-borders>

15 Δημήτρης Αγγελίδης, «Ολλανδικό χαστούκι για τις παράνομες επαναπροωθήσεις», 17 January 2022, Εφημερίδα των Συντακτών, [https://www.efsyn.gr/ellada/dikaiomata/327905\\_ollandiko-hastoyki-gia-tis-paranomes-epanaproothiseis](https://www.efsyn.gr/ellada/dikaiomata/327905_ollandiko-hastoyki-gia-tis-paranomes-epanaproothiseis)

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## BARRIERS TO INTEGRATION: OMAR AND ROSE'S CONTRASTING STORIES

### Omar

Omar arrived in Greece from Somalia when he was 13 years old together with his three older brothers, to be reunited with their mother who is a recognized refugee in Greece. He had not seen his mother since he was three years old, when she had to flee their country due to fear of persecution. The family have since lived in Athens, where Omar attends school.

*Omar said "I arrived in Greece at 13 years old. My best memory from Greece is the first time I met my mother again. It was at the airport. I was so happy to see her again after so many years. We started a new life here in Athens. One of the toughest memories I have from Greece is when I went to school for the first time. [Eventually] I adjusted and now I really like it a lot. I made friends at school, good friends. After finishing school, I would like to study computer science at university and find a job."*

However, Omar's residence permit expired when he turned 18 and according to Greek law he is not entitled to another renewal. This meant that as he was not in possession of valid documents and fell into a "legal gap" until he applied for asylum. He now has a temporary asylum seeker card, with far more restricted rights than when he had a residence permit. His asylum interview is not scheduled to take place until May 2024.

*"I was informed by the authorities that my documents could not be renewed because I turned 18. I have to start my life from the beginning. At that time, I felt a burden inside me. A feeling that I was nothing. Nobody."*

Omar's mother says the uncertainty and delays have had a major impact on her family. She said *"When my children arrived in Greece, they came in a regular way. But every renewal of their residence permit was delayed and during this delay all rights ceased. Now, the refusal of the police authorities to renew my children's documents has put their life on hold."*

### Rose

Rose arrived in Greece as a 17 ½ year old to be reunited with her mother, a refugee from Kenya, and faced similar problems to Omar: *"I was granted a 6-month residence permit as a member of refugee family, which expired one day before my birthday. This is when I was informed by the Police that my documents cannot be renewed because I turned 18. I was left 5 months without documents and with no prospect of renewal. I felt bad and I also felt afraid to be sent back"*

In Rose's case, however, with the assistance of GCR and following the intervention of the Ombudsman, the authorities acknowledged the fact that she was at risk and gave her documentation despite the fact she had turned 18.

Rose can now look to the future. She says *"I would like to be successful when I grow up. To be independent. Be in a position where I can meet my needs without having anyone making decisions for me."*

# 3. UNACCOMPANIED AND SEPARATED CHILDREN

As of 1 March 2022, 2,079 unaccompanied and separated children (UASC) are estimated to be in Greece. Of this number, 90% are boys and 10% are girls, with 7% children below the age of 14 years old. The majority of unaccompanied and separated children in Greece are from Pakistan (26%) and Afghanistan (22%), followed by Syrians (11%). 42% of the children come from other countries<sup>16</sup>.

Below are the total numbers of accommodation facilities for unaccompanied and separated children<sup>17</sup>:

In long-term accomodation	In relocation hubs	In emergency accomodtion	In RICs	In open temporary accomodation facilities (camps)	In protective custody/ detention
1.909 (1.626 in shelters / 283 in SIL)	0	78	73	19	9 <sup>18</sup>

## National Strategy for the Protection of unaccompanied minors

A National Strategy for the Protection of Unaccompanied Minors, prepared by the Special Secretariat (SSPUAM), was published for public consultation in January<sup>19</sup>. If adopted and implemented the Strategy would fill an important gap in the protection of unaccompanied and separated children. The recognition of the weaknesses of the national system for unaccompanied children is an important step towards the adoption of a holistic approach to their needs, the guarantee of their protection, and the full respect of their best interest. Also, of great importance is the recognition in the text of the strategy of the role of civil society actors in child protection.

16 National Centre for Social Solidarity (E.K.K.A.), *Situation update: Unaccompanied Children (UAC) in Greece*, 1 March 2022 available at [https://www.ekka.org.gr/images/%CE%A3%CE%A4%CE%91%CE%A4%CE%99%CE%A3%CE%A4%CE%99%CE%9A%CE%91\\_2022/GR\\_EKKA\\_Dashboard\\_20220301.pdf](https://www.ekka.org.gr/images/%CE%A3%CE%A4%CE%91%CE%A4%CE%99%CE%A3%CE%A4%CE%99%CE%9A%CE%91_2022/GR_EKKA_Dashboard_20220301.pdf)

17 National Centre for Social Solidarity (E.K.K.A.), *ibid*.

18 E.K.K.A.'s statistics of 1 March 2022 do not refer to children in detention. Information was provided to GCR by its field lawyers, concerning the situation on detention facilities in the mainland on the end of January 2022. More specifically, 8 unaccompanied or separated children are detained in Athens and one is detained in Thessaloniki.

19 The text of the draft National Strategy for Unaccompanied Minors is available here: <http://www.opengov.gr/immigration/?p=1608>. For GCR's comments on the strategy (in Greek), see [https://www.gcr.gr/media/k2/attachments/GCR\\_Comments\\_01\\_02\\_2022.pdf](https://www.gcr.gr/media/k2/attachments/GCR_Comments_01_02_2022.pdf)

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Key aspects of the strategy include:

**Age assessments:** the strategy correctly emphasises that children among adults need to be identified so that they can receive the protection they need. It should, however, stress the importance of conducting the three stages assessment (evaluation of physical development, psychosocial evaluation, medical examination) to reach a conclusion on age in a manner respecting the rights of children and their best interest.

**Access to health:** A problematic area in the strategy is that it restricts the access of children without legal status to the health care system only in emergency cases. This introduces unfair and unjustified discrimination in the access of children to health services and violates their fundamental right to health.

**Education:** the strategy plans to establish a process for the comprehensive assessment of the child's level of education and skills and a "pool" of professionals to teach multilingual classes. It also seeks to ensure unaccompanied children are prepared and feel confident and safe in school with the provision of remedial courses, with provisions for children with special needs. This aspect of the strategy would be strengthened by the establishment of a mechanism for monitoring school dropout, which should be a priority for the Ministry, so that preventive and countermeasures can be taken.

**Children not entitled to international protection:** the strategy proposes the creation of 'tolerated' residence for unaccompanied children who are not entitled to any type of residence permit, but whose return is postponed at least until they reach adulthood. This aspect of the strategy is of concern as no child should be merely "tolerated", which risks undermining both their legal protections and prospects for integration in Greek society.

### **National priorities for unaccompanied children in 2022**

On 12 January, the Ministry of Migration and Asylum presented the government's priorities for unaccompanied children in 2022, including the implementation of the Helios Junior programme, which targets unaccompanied children who turn 18, the forthcoming adoption of a new legislative framework on guardianship and the creation of 200 emergency accommodation places. The new Special Secretary for Unaccompanied Minors Iraklis Moskof, appointed in January, announced that the operational framework for shelters will be formalized in 2022, including an evaluation process for the services provided, while in cooperation with UNHCR and EASO, a standard best interest assessment model will be adopted.<sup>20</sup>

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20 Οι προτεραιότητες του υπουργείου μετανάστευσης για τα ασυνόδευτα παιδιά, Reporter 12 January 2022, <https://www.reporter.gr/Eidhseis/Politikh/508680-Oi-proteraiotites-toy-yπουργeioy-metanasteysis-gia-ta-asynodeyta-paidia>. Υπ. Μετανάστευσης: Προτεραιότητα για το 2022 η ένταξη των ασυνόδευτων παιδιών, ΗΜΕΡΗΣΙΑ, 12 January 2022, [https://www.imerisia.gr/politiki/32288\\_yp-metanasteysis-proteraiotita-gia-2022-i-entaxi-ton-asynodeyton-paidion](https://www.imerisia.gr/politiki/32288_yp-metanasteysis-proteraiotita-gia-2022-i-entaxi-ton-asynodeyton-paidion).

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# 4. ACCESS TO EDUCATION

According to the Ministry of Education,<sup>21</sup> 17,135 refugee and asylum seeker children have been enrolled in public schools and 12,285 are attending school up to 22 February, a significant improvement compared to last year<sup>22</sup>.

Issues remain, however, including:

1. **Problems with transportation** of children to school remain in some areas, such as in Ritsona camp where 238 children cannot attend school. There are also problems with transportation to school in Polikastro Dramas, affecting 248 children, in Lesvos for 39 children and in Perigiali Kavala for 7 children.
2. **Problems with registration** mostly appear in the center of Athens and Thessaloniki, due mostly to the lack of capacity in schools. Lack of capacity may be exacerbated with the integration of an increasing number of Ukrainian children in the public school system.
3. **School dropout** is increasingly due to the difficult living conditions of refugee families, especially with the cut of cash for the recognized refugees and the long halt to cash assistance for asylum seekers (see above). Many children, especially those in secondary school, drop out of school to find work (mostly in agriculture) and support their families, or they had to take care of their younger siblings for the parents to be able to find work. In addition, rejections of asylum applications are creating despair and a lack of hope for a better future, leading to families deprioritizing schooling.
4. **Delays to reception classes**, with many of them starting later than the beginning of the school year. Reception classes are crucial for the support of refugee students to remain in school and to prevent dropouts.
5. Finally, the **closure of Eleonas camp** will take place at the end of May 2022. This means that the children in the camp will miss the last month of the school year, and thus the opportunity to finish school with their schoolmates and to receive their certificate of completion of their class.

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21 Information given during a meeting of Child's Rights Advocacy Network with the Ministry of Education, 17 March 2022.

22 For the school year 2020-2021, the number of refugee and migrant children enrolled according to estimates provided by the Ministry of Education ranged from 8,637 to 14,423 children out of an estimated 20,000 eligible children. See *Back to School? Refugee children in Greece denied right to education*, Greek Council for Refugees and Save the Children, September 2021, p. 3 <https://www.gcr.gr/en/ekdoseis-media/reports/reports/item/1808-back-to-school-refugee-children-in-greece-denied-right-to-education-thematic-report-on-refugee-education-in-greece-by-greek-council-for-refugees-and-save-the-children-international>

# 5. RECOMMENDATIONS

## The European Union and its Member States should:

1. Insist that **human rights are protected** the EU borders, including through independent monitoring and investigations of all allegations of ill-treatment
2. Request that **Greece immediately discontinue the 100 euros fee** for second and following subsequent asylum applications as it is incompatible with Directive 2013/32/EU

## The Greek Government should:

1. **Reconsider the closure of the ESTIA programme** in light of the increased number of refugee arrivals from Ukraine
2. **Reaffirm its commitment to the principle of non-refoulement** and stop illegal “pushbacks” at land and sea
3. **Revoke the Joint Ministerial Decision designating Turkey** a safe third country for five nationalities
4. **Immediately discontinue the 100 euros fee** for second and following subsequent asylum applications, and reimburse asylum seekers who have already paid the fee
5. Swiftly adopt and ensure the **effective operationalization and implementation of the National Strategy for the Protection of UAM.**
6. **End the practice of closing camps during school years** to avoid disruption to children’s education

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This paper was written by Eleni Pasia and edited by Daniel Gorevan.

Cover photo by Jamal, Omar's brother, December 2019.

\*The names of the young boy and young girl have been changed for protection reasons.