ACCOMMODATION FACILITIES FOR ASYLUM SEEKERS IN MAINLAND GREECE
This publication was edited by the Ministry for Migration Policy and the Special Secretariat for Crisis Management Communication of the Ministry of Digital Policy, Telecommunications and Media and completed in November 2018.
FOREWORD BY THE MINISTER FOR MIGRATION POLICY D. VITSAS ................................................................. 4
GREETING BY THE SPECIAL SECRETARY FOR CRISIS MANAGEMENT COMMUNICATION .................... F. PANTIORA ...................................................................................................................................................... 6
MAP OF THE ACCOMMODATION FACILITIES FOR ASYLUM SEEKERS IN MAINLAND GREECE ..... 7
ACCOMMODATION FACILITIES IN THE ATTICA REGION ............................................................................. 8
ACCOMMODATION FACILITIES IN THE WESTERN GREECE REGION ...................................................... 22
ACCOMMODATION FACILITIES IN THE STEREA HELLAS (CENTRAL GREECE) REGION ................. 26
ACCOMMODATION FACILITIES IN THE THESSALY REGION ..................................................................... 34
ACCOMMODATION FACILITIES IN THE EPIRUS REGION ......................................................................... 40
ACCOMMODATION FACILITIES IN THE CENTRAL MACEDONIA REGION ................................................. 50
ACCOMMODATION FACILITIES IN THE EASTERN MACEDONIA AND THRACE REGION .................. 66
RENTED ROOMS ............................................................................................................................................. 72
EMERGENCY SUPPORT TO INTEGRATION AND ACCOMMODATION – ESTIA PROGRAMME .......... 73
EDUCATION .................................................................................................................................................... 74
HEALTH ........................................................................................................................................................ 75
SPECIAL THANKS ......................................................................................................................................... 76
Since 2015, when more than one million people crossed the Aegean Sea to mainland Greece in order to get to Central and Northern Europe, more than three years have passed by with constant struggle, unrelenting efforts, difficulties, problems and yet remarkable achievements. Above all, with great concern for the fate of all these people and the level of our response to this immense challenge for humanism and mankind.

Today, we can say that the Greek people and the Greek government respond to this historic challenge, employing above all the solidarity reserves that seem to be innate and inexhaustible within the very nature and soul of Greeks.

In the following pages, we present you with a detailed photographic map of the current situation (with recent photographs taken from October 5th to October 16th, 2018) in the Open Accommodation Facilities for Asylum Seekers across mainland Greece.

Through this photographic journey we present with clarity the distance covered and the achievements of the implemented policy, along with the efforts of the people who have struggled so that Greece has a modern reception system with Accommodation Facilities that provide at a very good level, meals, healthcare, education, training and recreation spaces to asylum seekers.

Of course, there are still a series of issues to be solved and in need of improvement, we have not reached the desired level, but tangible results have been produced that are recognized by those with good faith, both in Greece and in Europe, despite the particularly adverse conditions.

While we still face a number of difficulties on the islands, mainly due to the continuing inflows of people and the lack of a relocation programme or an allocation mechanism to the rest of the European Union, we have managed to achieve a level of hospitality in the mainland, which in many cases is in line with high international standards.

However, we must reiterate that a durable and sustainable solution to the refugee-migration issue can only be found in the context of the implementation of a coherent Common European Policy on Migration and Asylum. A key element of this European policy must necessarily be the fair sharing of responsibility across all EU Member States via the establishment and implementation of a mandatory allocation mechanism among all Member States of the EU, for the people who arrive at the European borders. To achieve this goal, the Greek Government and the Ministry for Migration Policy work tirelessly.

In mainland Greece, the current situation is as follows:

26 Accommodation Facilities
Attica: Eleonas, Schisto, Skaramangas, Malakasa, Lavrio, Elefsina.
Sterea Hellas: Oinofyta, Thiva, Thermopyles, Ritsona.
Western Greece: Andraida.
Thessaly: Koutsohero, Volos.
Eastern Macedonia: Kavala, Drama.
Epirus: Doliama, Filippiada, Katsikas, Agia Eleni.
The ESTIA Programme:

22,000 people are hosted in rented apartments through the ESTIA programme, managed by UNHCR and funded by the European Commission.

Additionally, about 2,000 people are hosted by the Ministry for Migration Policy in rented rooms and hotels in the areas of Grevena and Volvi.

A programme of hosting 6,000 people in hotels and other structures for a 6-month period is under way. This programme is managed by the International Organization for Migration and funded by the European Commission.

It is also worth noting that all asylum seekers are provided with full access to healthcare in cooperation with the Ministry of Health, both within the Accommodation Facilities and Health Centres and Hospitals which belong to the National Health System. It is known that there was zero occurrence of epidemics or any other threat for Public Health, whereas from the very beginning, all children entering Greece are vaccinated according to the Greek vaccination system.

Also, in cooperation with the Ministry of Education, access to education is provided for all children of school-age asylum seekers either within the Accommodation Facilities, in special Reception Structures for Refugee Children Education (RSRCE) or in regular classes within the Greek educational system. In the 2018 – 2019 school year, approximately 12,000 children attend special or regular classes.

Perusing the following pages, there is a naturally drawn conclusion which is also a clear message:

Much has already been done, perhaps even more remains for Greece to do. We firmly continue in the same spirit that motivates us and gives us strength from the first moment. Devoted to the international and European obligations of the country, but above all to the humane sentiments of our people, we respond to our dual duty: to care for asylum seekers and support those who are there to welcome them.

Dimitris Vitsas
Minister for Migration Policy
From the first moment the Greek Government was called to manage the refugee-migration issue, they had pointed out that it is regarded as a matter of respect of primarily fundamental human rights. Rights that are established and protected under both international and European legal order.

The protection of these rights, especially when it comes to people persecuted and desperate, is the utmost duty of any civilized society and a primary expression of social solidarity in every democratic, lawful state.

The discriminative, unequal and inhuman treatment towards those seeking a safe haven, a refuge from war, hardship and hunger, in the name of other supposedly higher needs, violates the fundamental principles on which the European establishment is based, while paving the way for racist and xenophobic attitudes that directly threaten our social and democratic legacy.

The respect for the rules commanding the protection of refugees, as provided in the Geneva Convention regarding asylum, the respect for human dignity and the subsequent guarantees of essential living conditions, health and education to asylum seekers, the practical demonstration of solidarity and humanitarianism to the persecuted have never been called into question by the Greek Government.

When in 2015 more than one million refugees and migrants were crossing the Greek territory on their way to other European destinations, the Greek Government and society did their best to deal with the issue with solidarity and in a humanitarian way, while others shut borders and raised barricades.

In the midst of severe financial crisis, Greece took a stand, chose to stand by the human being and the open society. Not to give in to fear and hatred. Manifesting at the same time the European dimension of the issue, insisting from the first minute that the refugee-migration issue it is not exclusively affecting the countries of Southern Europe that receive the refugee inflows, but a matter to be resolved at European level, with solidarity and commitment of all the EU member states.

The Greek Government has made a great effort and is still striving to provide humane living conditions to the asylum seekers remaining in our country.

Ever since 2015 hosting infrastructure has undergone thorough improvement both in Reception and Identification Centers on the islands and in the hosting facilities for asylum seekers in the mainland. The centers’ upgrading projects are continuing, while at the same time an important initiative by the Ministry for Migration Policy towards the decongestion of the islands is underway.

The present photographic album attempts to highlight the actual current living conditions in the mainland accommodation facilities for asylum seekers. Conditions that should be decent, that should respect the human dignity as well as their basic needs.

The efforts made by the Greek Government and the Ministry for Migration Policy to improve the living conditions for refugees and migrants who reside in all our country's structures continue unabated.

Fotini Pantiora
Special Secretary for Crisis Management Communication
Ministry of Digital Policy, Telecommunications and Media
Map of Accommodation Facilities for Asylum Seekers in mainland Greece
Accommodation Facilities in the Attica Region

• Eleonas
• Lavrio
• Schisto
• Malakasa
• Skaramangas
• Elefsina
ATTICA REGION

ACCOMMODATION

FACILITIES
| ELEONAS |

Maximum capacity:  1680 persons
LAVRIO

Maximum capacity: 269 persons
| SCHISTO |
Maximum capacity: 1000 persons
MALAKASA

Maximum capacity: 1140 persons
| SKARAMANGAS |

Maximum capacity: 3224 persons
ELEFSINA

Maximum capacity: 180 persons
Accommodation Facilities in the Western Greece Region

- Mirsini / Andravida / Ilia
WESTERN GREECE REGION

ACCOMMODATION FACILITIES
MIRSINI / ANDRAVIDA / ILIA

Maximum capacity: 248 persons
Accommodation Facilities in the Sterea Hellas (Central Greece) Region

- Thermopyles / Fthiotida
- Thiva / Viotia
- Oinofyta / Viotia
- Ritsona / Evia
STEREA HELLAS (CENTRAL GREECE) REGION

ACCOMMODATION FACILITIES
| THERMOPYLES / FTHIOTIDA

Maximum capacity: 550 persons
THIVA/ VIOTIA

Maximum capacity: 992 persons

STEREA HELLAS
(CENTRAL GREECE)
REGION
| OINOFLTA / VIOTIA

Maximum capacity: 565 persons
Maximum capacity: 900 persons
Accommodation Facilities in the Thessaly Region

- Koutsohero/ Larisa
- Mozas Building/ Volos
THESSALY REGION

ACCOMMODATION FACILITIES
| KOUTSOHERO/ LARISA |

Maximum capacity: 1618 persons
MOZAS BUILDING/ VOLOS

Maximum capacity: 150 persons
Accommodation Facilities in the Epirus Region

- Agia Eleni/ Ioannina
- Doliana/ Pogoni/ Ioannina
- Katsikas/ Ioannina
- Filippiada/ Preveza
EPIRUS
REGION

ACCOMMODATION FACILITIES
AGIA ELENI/ IOANNINA

Maximum capacity: 504 persons
EPIRUS REGION
| DOLIANA/ POGONI/ IOANNINA |

Maximum capacity:  129 persons
KATSIKAS/ IOANNINA

Maximum capacity: 1029 persons
EPIRUS REGION
FILIPIADA/ PREVEZA

Maximum capacity: 625 persons
Accommodation Facilities in the Central Macedonia Region

- Diavata/ Thessaloniki
- Lagadikia/ Thessaloniki
- Alexandria/ Imathia
- Veria/ Imathia
- Nea Kavala/ Kilkis
- Kato Milia/ Pieria
- Serres
CENTRAL MACEDONIA REGION

ACCOMMODATION FACILITIES
DIAVATA/ THESSALONIKI

Maximum capacity: 936 persons
LAGADIKIA/ THESSALONIKI

Maximum capacity: 456 persons
| ALEXANDRIA/ IMATHIA |

Maximum capacity: 868 persons
CENTRAL MACEDONIA REGION
VERIA/ IMATHIA

Maximum capacity: 335 persons
| NEA KAVALA/ KILKIS

Maximum capacity: 1062 persons
| KATO MILIA/ PIERIA |

Maximum capacity: 340 persons
CENTRAL MACEDONIA REGION
| SERRES |

Maximum capacity: 652 persons
Accommodation Facilities in the Eastern Macedonia and Thrace Region

• Drama
• Kavala
EASTERN MACEDONIA AND THRACE REGION

ACCOMMODATION FACILITIES
| DRAMA |

Maximum capacity: 420 persons

EASTERN MACEDONIA AND THRACE REGION
KAVALA

Maximum capacity: 546 persons

EASTERN MACEDONIA
AND THRACE REGION
RENTED ROOMS | VOLVI/ THESSALONIKI

Maximum capacity: 1000 persons
EMERGENCY SUPPORT TO INTEGRATION AND ACCOMMODATION – ESTIA PROGRAMME

According to the latest data of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, 25,632 places in apartments and buildings across the country were available for vulnerable asylum seekers and refugees.
Main objective of the Ministry of Education, Research and Religious Affairs, for the third consecutive year, remains the integration of all refugee children into the school system. Approximately 12,000 refugee children between 5-15 years of age were enrolled during the current school year 2018-19 in all levels of education classes in the entire Greek territory and this number keeps rising. School constitutes a fundamental institution of integration in the Greek society and, therefore, aim of the Ministry is that refugee children attend regularly the morning classes of the elementary school with the support of the Reception Classes. At the same time, where this is not feasible, a smaller number of refugee children attend afternoon RSRCE classes (Reception Structures for Refugee Children Education) of the public school system – these are pre-integration classes with a preparatory role for morning schools also providing psycho-social support. The educational community responded in a warm and substantial manner. The Greek society, overcoming difficulties and fears, embraced this undertaking as well, contributing substantially to the harmonic integration of the refugee children in the school system.
Since the beginning of the Programme Philos, more than 100,000 vaccinations have been carried out (including MMR, PCV, Var, HepB, Hib, IPV, TETRA, HEXA, HepA, DTaP) in refugee sites. Epidemiological surveillance operates in its present form since May 2016, and consists of daily collection of epidemiological data in points of care for refugees for selected syndromes/health conditions that are important in terms of public health. According to national legislation and pursuant to the Article 33 of the law 4368/2016, free access applies to public health services and facilities for uninsured and vulnerable social groups, such as asylum seekers and members of their families.
Special thanks for providing info and photo material to:

- Ministry of Education, Research and Religious Affairs
- Ministry of Health
- United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)
- International Organization for Migration/ Greece (IOM)
- Athens News Agency – Macedonian Press Agency (ANA-MPA)
- Doctors of the World, Greece/ Medecins du Monde, Grece
- Doctors without Borders