

Migration in Greece: A Country Profile 2008



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IOM is committed to the principle that humane and orderly migration benefits migrants and society. As an intergovernmental organization, IOM acts with its partners in the international community to: assist in meeting the operational challenges of migration; advance understanding of migration issues; encourage social and economic development through migration; and uphold the human dignity and well-being of migrants.

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A Country Profile

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ACRONYM LIST

BSEC	Organization of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation
GDP	Gross domestic product
GSGA	General Secretariat for Greeks Abroad
IMEPO	Migration Policy Institute
IOM	International Organization for Migration
KEMO	Research Centre for Minority Groups
MFA	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
NGO	Non-governmental organization
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
RCP	Regional Consultative Process
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
WGCC	Working Group on Combating Crime

FOREWORD

International migration is a prominent feature of globalization and one of the defining issues of this century. Increasingly, migration entails economic, social, demographic, cultural, security and environmental effects on both sending and receiving societies. The task of formulating effective and coherent approaches for the management of international migration poses formidable challenges and frequently has led to regional initiatives such as Regional Consultative Processes (RCPs).¹ These initiatives – which address a wide range of migration issues including migration and development, integration of migrants, smuggling of and trafficking in persons, irregular migration and so on – often reflect the different migration agendas of governments even though the challenges they face may be similar in nature.

Within this context and considering its proactive role in various RCPs, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Organization of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (BSEC) in 2006. One of the main aims of this agreement is to enhance cooperation in addressing irregular migration and combating trafficking in persons in the Black Sea region, an area that experiences significant migration challenges as a transit, origin, and destination hub for migrants. Consequently, in 2007, IOM launched the “Black Sea Consultative Process on Migration Management”, a joint project with the BSEC’s Working Group on Combating Crime (WGCC) (Particularly its Organized Forms).

The project aimed to contribute to effective migration management in the Black Sea region as well as combating irregular migration through strengthened regional cooperation and capacity building of relevant authorities in all twelve member states of the BSEC.² Specifically, IOM has drafted national **Migration Profiles** for those countries where such documents did not exist, and has reviewed and updated existing Profiles.³

Why country Migration Profiles? A concept and tool promoted by the European Commission (EC), the Profiles are an evidence-based approach to assess the migration situation in a country. IOM has adopted and further developed this

¹ Regional Consultative Processes bring together representatives of states, international organizations and, in some cases, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) for informal and non-binding dialogue and information exchange on migration-related issues of common interest and concern.

² Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bulgaria, Georgia, Greece, Moldova, Romania, the Russian Federation, Serbia, Turkey and Ukraine.

³ Within the framework of the Slovenian presidency of the EU, IOM prepared Migration Profiles for the Western Balkan Countries including BSEC members Albania, Serbia and Turkey.

concept and has since implemented it in various regions such as the Balkans, Western and Central Africa, and Latin America. The intention is to contribute towards greater coherence of national migration policies and enhanced regional cooperation. This requires appropriate compilation of internationally comparable data among other features such as national coordination and cooperation among involved authorities and pursuit of an active international cooperation at bilateral, regional and global levels. The Profiles, using a common template, allow for comparability despite data limitations⁴ and different national contexts.

Furthermore, to ensure the legitimacy and recognized value of the Profiles, the BSEC member states and the BSEC WGCC provided substantial feedback on the Profiles. Drafted in IOM's office in Budapest and coordinated with IOM's Research Unit at IOM Headquarters in Geneva and the respective IOM office in each of the BSEC countries – to ensure high-quality – the Profiles also offer a set of policy recommendations for effective migration management in the region. These were thoroughly discussed during an expert meeting of the BSEC's WGCC in Istanbul on 10 September 2008. Subsequently, the recommendations were approved by the BSEC's Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs that convened in Tirana on 23 October 2008.

This set of Profiles is the result of intensive cooperation between many individuals within IOM and among IOM and other stakeholders. The input of the following people is highly appreciated: Christine Aghazarm and Verónica Escudero, Research Unit in IOM Geneva, as authors of the regional overview and for their extensive review of all the Profiles, Frank Laczko, head of the Research and Publications in IOM Geneva, for his supervision throughout the project, IOM staff in IOM offices in all the BSEC countries, and the dedicated finance and administrative colleagues in IOM Budapest. Special thanks to IOM's 1035 Facility who funded this project. Moreover, particular gratitude is warmly given to the Organization of the Black Sea Economic Organization as the associate organization in this project, especially the Permanent International Secretariat who kindly arranged the meetings related to the implementation of the project. Not least, IOM gratefully acknowledges the support of the BSEC Member States in the production of the Profiles, above all for their input to their specific country profile and the endorsement of the regional migration policy recommendations.

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⁴ For a discussion on the quality and limitations migration data, see the regional overview.



Greece – Basic facts	
Population (2005)	11,100,000
Total Area	131,940 sq. km
Gross domestic product (GDP) per Capita PPP	USD 22,205
Human Development Index (HDI) Rank	24 of 177
Net Migration Rate	3.2 migrants/1,000 population
Sources: United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division's World Population Prospects: The 2006 Revision Population Database; UN Development Programme Human Development Report, 2006.	

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY: GENERAL ASSESSMENT OF MIGRATION ISSUES

Greece has traditionally been one of the most important emigration countries. Much of the recent outflows occurred after the Second World War motivated by both economic circumstances and political reasons. The main countries of destination at that time were the United States, Canada, Australia, and industrialized countries of Northern and Western Europe. In the period 1955-1973, Germany received approximately 600,000 Greek immigrants; Australia, 170,000, the United States, 124,000; and Canada, 80,000.¹ In the period 1952-1984, 141,945 Greeks emigrated under the auspices of the International Committee for European Migration (ICEM), later known as IOM, to Australia, South Africa, the United States, and Canada.² As the receiving countries increasingly adopted more restrictive immigration policies following the oil crisis of 1973, the emigration flows decreased and return migration to Greece started. The fall of the junta and the restoration of democracy in Greece in 1974, as well as the improved economic prospects and the accession of Greece to the European Economic Community (EEC) in 1982, have also contributed to the return of Greek emigrants in the 1980s.³

Immigration to Greece started in 1980s with immigrants coming mainly from Africa and Asia, but it was limited in scope and legal in character. It was only in the 1990s that Greece started receiving large inflows of immigrants from the Central and Eastern Europe following the collapse of the communist regimes. Much of that immigration was irregular in nature. The first immigrants came from Poland, Bulgaria, and Romania, with large numbers of Albanians following soon. During this decade, Greece had the highest proportion of migrants in relation to its labour force in the European Union (EU). The pull factors included Greece's geographical location, porous borders, improved economic situation, large size of informal economy, and seasonal nature of its many industries, such as tourism, construction, and agriculture.⁴

In the last 15 years, the number of immigrants has quadrupled, making Greece the country with the highest proportional increase in immigration in the

¹ Kasimis, C., and C. Kassimi (2004) *Greece: A History of Migration*, Migration Information Source.

² The archives of the IOM mission in Athens.

³ Kasimis, C., and C. Kassimi (2004) *Greece: A History of Migration*, Migration Information Source.

⁴ Cavounidis, J. (2002) *Migration in South-Eastern Europe and the Case of Greece*, *International Migration*, 40(1).

EU over this time.⁵ The most recent statistics from Eurostat indicate that in 2006, 884,000 immigrants were present in the country.⁶ Currently, the main countries of origin are Albania, Bulgaria, Ukraine, Romania, and Georgia, with Albania constituting a large proportion (62%) of immigrants. Majority of immigrants come to Greece for work and are mainly employed in construction, domestic care, and manufacturing. Of the migrant population covered by the census, 45 per cent were women. However, there were considerable differences within specific nationalities, with men accounting for 93 per cent of the Indians, 79 per cent of the Syrians, and 76 per cent of the Egyptian men, and women making up 76 per cent of the Filipinos, 75 per cent of the Ukrainians, and 70 per cent of the Moldovans.⁷

Much of the immigration to Greece is irregular in character with some estimates as high as 400,000 persons present illegally. The preparations for the Olympic Games in 2004 have also absorbed a large amount of irregular migrants, particularly in the construction sector. In response to large irregular migration flows, the Greek government responded with a series of expulsions, technical improvements to the country's borders, and a number of regularization programmes. The first regularization programme took place in 1998 with 370,000 migrants participating in the registration or the so-called "white card" part of the programme. In this first programme, Albanians constituted the majority of applicants. The second stage of the regularization programme ("green card"), which required a proof of social security contributions, attracted a much smaller number of applicants (228,211). Since then, two more regularization programmes have been implemented in Greece. Major administrative and organizational deficiencies plagued all regularization programmes and reduced the effectiveness of this policy as a tool for reducing irregular migration.⁸ In addition, readmissions agreements were signed with Bulgaria, France, Italy, Croatia, Lithuania, Latvia, Hungary, Poland, Romania, and Slovenia, as well as bilateral seasonal work agreements with Albania and Bulgaria.

The number of irregular migrants and asylum seekers arriving in Greece by boat through the Aegean Sea has increased significantly in 2007. In 2006, at least nine people died and ten were missing at sea, but up until late September 2007, there had been 44 deaths and 54 missing in the Aegean Sea. The average number

⁵ Pavlou, M., I. Avramopoulou, and L. Karakatsanis (2005) *Current Immigration Debates in Europe*: Greece, Migration Policy Group.

⁶ Eurostat database, <http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu>

⁷ Cavounidis, J. (2006) *New Elements of Greek Policies Concerning Irregular Migrants: The Policy of Regularisation of Unauthorised Migrants*, Council of Europe, Ad hoc meeting of CDMG experts on policies on irregular migrants, Strasbourg, 12 October 2006.

⁸ Cavounidis, J. (2006) *New Elements of Greek Policies concerning Irregular Migrants: The Policy of Regularization of Unauthorised Migrants*, Council of Europe, Ad hoc meeting of CDMG experts on policies on irregular migrants, Strasbourg, 12 October 2006.

of people arrested, intercepted, or rescued by the Greek Coast Guard every year since 2002 has been around 3,000. But during 2007, almost 8,018 “boat people” were arrested by the Coast Guard.⁹

In 2007, in spite of falling trends elsewhere in Europe, Greece has become one of the most important industrialized countries of destination for asylum seekers. The number of applications has been rising steadily since 2005 and has reached 14,600 between January and June 2007.¹⁰ Majority of applicants come from Pakistan, Bangladesh, Iraq, Georgia, and Afghanistan; however, the recognition rates in Greece remain one of the lowest in Europe reaching only one per cent of positive decisions.¹¹

Greece remains a country of destination for trafficked victims, mainly from the Russian Federation, Romania, Bulgaria, Ukraine, and Albania.¹² Majority of victims are female and are trafficked for sexual exploitation, but cases of Albanian children trafficking for begging and delinquency have also been observed in recent years.¹³

⁹ United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) (2007) UNHCR Briefing Notes, 5 October 2007, <http://www.unhcr.org/news/NEWS/47060794d.html>; UNHCR (2007) UNHCR News Stories, 22 October 2007, <http://www.unhcr.org/news/NEWS/471cbeb12.html>

¹⁰ UNHCR (2006) *Asylum Levels and Trends in Industrialised Countries, Second Quarter of 2007*.

¹¹ Kanellopoulos, C., and M. Gregou (2006) *Policy Report on Migration, Asylum And Return in Greece (Reference Period July 2004 - Dec 2005)*, European Migration Network, Athens.

¹² Ministry of Public Order, Greece.

¹³ Terre des Hommes (2003) *The Trafficking of Albanian Children in Greece*, Tirana.

1. IMMIGRANTS

1.1. Number of immigrants

.....	973,677 (UNPD, 2005) ¹⁴
.....	884,000 (Eurostat, 2006) ¹⁵
As percentage of total population.....	-7.9% (2006) ¹⁶
Gender ratio.....	55.6% female (2005) ¹⁷

In general, the gender ratio of immigrants is well balanced with some nationalities showing a stronger tendency towards one sex: Pakistan, Bangladesh, and India have almost exclusively male immigrants in Greece; Syria and Egypt have 80 per cent male presence in Greece. Other nationalities have a predominantly female presence, such as Ukraine, Philippines, and Moldova with around 70 per cent.¹⁸

¹⁴ United Nations Secretariat, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (2005) Trends in Total Migrant Stock: The 2005 Revision. The figure refers to estimated number of foreign-born at mid-year.

¹⁵ Eurostat database, 2006, <http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu>

¹⁶ Eurostat, 2006; own calculation.

¹⁷ United Nations Secretariat, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (2005) Trends in Total Migrant Stock: The 2005 Revision. The number of international migrants generally represents the number of persons born in a country other than that in which they live.

¹⁸ Mediterranean Migration Observatory (2004) Statistical Data on Immigrants in Greece: An Analytic Study of Available Data and Recommendations for Conformity with European Union Standards. For Migration Policy Institute IMEPO.

Table 1. Foreign population usually resident in Greece¹⁹

Year	No.
1990	142,367
1991	146,162
1992	149,482
1993	148,770
1994	150,593
1995	153,753
1996	155,453
1997	157,931
1998	165,528
1999	n/a
2000	762,191
2001	n/a
2002	n/a
2003	n/a
2004	586,044
2005	604,215
2006	695,979

Source: National Statistical Service.

1.2. Status of immigrants

Refugees/asylum seekers

..... 15,793 (2,289 refugees, 13,504 asylum seekers) (UNHCR, 2006)²⁰

As percentage of total *migrant* population:

..... 1.46% (UNHCR, 2005; UNDP, 2005)²¹

¹⁹ National Statistical Service of Greece, www.statistics.gr. Data produced by annual estimates except for 2001, for which data were taken from the Census. "Usually resident population" here refers to foreign persons who have their usual residence in Greece for more than 12 months, including migrants with permanent and temporary residence permit and undocumented migrants, but excluding refugees, asylum seekers, and persons in need of international protection.

²⁰ UNHCR (2006) *Statistical Yearbook: 2006 Global Trends: Refugees, Asylum-seekers, Returnees, Internally Displaced and Stateless Persons*.

²¹ United Nations Secretariat, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (2005) *Trends in Total Migrant Stock: The 2005 Revision*; UNHCR (2005) *Statistical Yearbook: 2005*. Own calculation based on these two sources.

Table 2. Asylum applications in Greece, 2005-2007²²

2005		2006		2007 (1st half)	
Country	No.	Country	No.	Country	No.
Georgia	1,897	Bangladesh	3,750	Iraq	2,229
Pakistan	1,154	Pakistan	2,378	Pakistan	2,045
Iraq	971	Iraq	1,415	Georgia	660
Bangladesh	550	Afghanistan	1,087	Bangladesh	557
Afghanistan	458	Iran (Islamic Republic of)	528	Syrian Arab Republic	441
Total (all countries)	9,050		13,504		14,559

Source: UNHCR.

Labour migrants

Table 3. Residence permits issued in Greece as of 13 December 2007 by main countries of origin

Country	No. of permits
Albania	318,766
Bulgaria	24,987
Ukraine	19,538
Romania	15,205
Georgia	13,791
Pakistan	12,898
Russian Federation	10,955
Egypt	11,285
Total (all countries)	499,971

Source: Ministry of Interior, Greece, 2007.

²² UNHCR (2006) Asylum Levels and Trends in Industrialised Countries, Second Quarter of 2007; UNHCR (2006) Asylum Levels and Trends in Industrialised Countries, 2006; UNHCR (2005) Statistical Yearbook.

1.3. Main countries of origin of immigrants

Table 4. Estimates of migrant stocks in Greece: Top ten countries of origin, 2005.²³

Country	No.
Albania	350,265
Germany	87,967
Turkey	66,402
Russian Federation	63,036
Georgia	62,174
Bulgaria	33,721
Egypt	28,350
Romania	23,025
Kazakhstan	21,161
United States	20,027

Source: World Bank, 2007.

1.4. Main sectors of activity of immigrants

About 32 per cent of all migrants work in construction, 20.5 per cent as household help, 12.8 per cent in manufacturing, 11.6 per cent in commerce and repair work, 8.2 per cent in hospitality, and 6 per cent in agriculture. About 13.4 per cent have tertiary education.²⁴

²³ World Bank, Development Prospects Group (2008) Migration and Remittances Factbook 2008. Data taken from Ratha and Shaw (2007) Bilateral Estimates of Migrants Stocks Database, South-South Migration and Remittances, World Bank Working Paper No. 102, <http://go.worldbank.org/ON5YV3Y480>

²⁴ Ministry of Interior, Greece, 2007, data for 15 October 2007.

2. EMIGRANTS

2.1. Number of emigrants/people in diaspora

..... 1,218,233 (2005)²⁵
 As percentage of total population..... 11% (2005)²⁶

2.2. Status of emigrants

Emigration rate of tertiary educated: 14%²⁷
 Expatriation rate of doctors: 5.6%²⁸

2.3. Main countries of destination

Table 5. Estimates of Greek emigrants: Top ten countries of destination, 2005.²⁹

Country	No.
Germany	503,903
United States	197,290
Australia	117,117
Canada	82,129
Albania	74,941
Turkey	62,463
United Kingdom	39,091
Italy	18,033
Israel	18,025
Cyprus	15,764

Source: World Bank, 2007

²⁵ World Bank, Development Prospects Group (2008) *Migration and Remittances Factbook*

²⁶ Ibid.

²⁷ World Bank, Development Prospects Group (2008) *Migration and Remittances Factbook*, after Docquier and Marfouk (2004) and Docquier and Bhargava (2006).

²⁸ OECD (2007) *International Migration Outlook: SOPEMI 2007 Edition*, Paris.

²⁹ World Bank, Development Prospects Group (2008), *Migration and Remittances Factbook 2008*. Data taken from Ratha and Shaw (2007) Bilateral Estimates of Migrants Stocks Database, *South-South Migration and Remittances*, World Bank Working Paper No. 102, <http://go.worldbank.org/ON5YV3Y480>

Table 6. Selected countries of destination of Greek emigrants

Country	No.	Year	Source
Germany	303,800	2006	Stocks of foreign population by nationality, Federal Statistical Office, Germany, 2006 ¹
United States	165,750	2000	Stocks of Greece-born (including naturalized US citizens), US Census 2000 ²
Australia	109,988	2006	Stocks of foreign-born population, Australian Bureau of Statistics ³
Canada	73,125	2006	Statistics Canada, 2006 Census, 2006 ⁴
Belgium	15,524	2007	Foreign persons registered in the national register, SPF Interieur, L'Office des Etrangers ⁵
Italy	6,831	2007	Residence permits, ISTAT Italian Statistical Office, 2007 ⁶
Spain	2,115	2006	Residence permits, Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, Spain, 2006. ⁷
Turkey	2,011	2000	Population who immigrated to Turkey between 1995 Census and 2000 Census, Turkish Statistical Institute ⁸

¹ Statistisches Bundesamt, Statistisches Jahrbuch, 2007, <http://www.destatis.de>

² <http://www.census.gov/population/www/socdemo/foreign/datatbls.html>

³ Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2006.

⁴ Statistics Canada (2006) <http://www12.statcan.ca/english/census06/release/immigrationcitizenship.cfm>

⁵ http://www.dofi.fgov.be/fr/statistieken/statistiques_etrangers/Stat_ETRANGERS.htm

⁶ ISTAT (Italian Statistical Office) (2007) *Popolazione straniera residente per area geografica e principali paesi di cittadinanza, al 1 Gennaio 2007*.

⁷ Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, Spain, Permanent Observatory on Immigration (2006) *Annual Statistical Report 2006*. Madrid.

⁸ <http://www.turkstat.gov.tr/VeriBilgi.do>

3. REMITTANCES

3.1. Quantitative aspects of remittances

Table 7. Amount of incoming migrant remittances in million USD³⁰

Year	Amount
2002	1,659
2003	1,564
2004	1,242
2005	1,220
2006	1,543
2007	1,543 (estimate)

Source: World Bank.

Table 8. Incoming remittances as a percentage of GDP³¹

Year	Percentage
2002	1.2
2003	0.89
2004	0.59
2005	0.54
2006	0.63
2007	n/a

Source: World Bank.

³⁰ World Bank, Development Prospects Group (2008) *Migration and Remittances Factbook*.

³¹ World Bank, Development Prospects Group (2008) *Migration and Remittances Factbook*. Own calculations based on World Bank data.

Table 9. Amount of outgoing migrant remittances in USD³²

Year	World Bank	Bank of Greece
2002	412	207
2003	380	209
2004	497	286
2005	903	907
2006	982	675
2007	n/a	n/a

Source: World Bank, Bank of Greece. Original data supplied by the Bank of Greece in EUR and converted using end-of-year exchange rate of the European Central Bank for the relevant year.

Table 10. Remittances from Greece: Main recipient countries in 2004³³

Country	Remittances in million USD in 2004	As % of total remittances
Albania	115	56.03
The United States	22.3	10.88
Georgia	15.2	7.43
Romania	11.3	5.50
Bulgaria	9.5	4.64
Cyprus	6.4	3.12
Ukraine	5.1	2.52
Poland	3.2	1.59
Turkey	2.1	1.06
Pakistan	1.5	0.73

Source: Eurostat. Original data in EUR converted to USD using end-of-year exchange rate of the European Central Bank for 2004.

³² World Bank, Development Prospects Group (2008) *Migration and Remittances Factbook*, The Bank of Greece. The World Bank calculates remittances as follows: “Migrant remittances” are defined as the sum of workers’ remittances, compensation of employees, and migrants’ transfers. “Workers’ remittances”, as defined in the IMF Balance of Payments manual, are current private transfers from migrant workers who are considered residents of the host country to recipients in their country of origin. If the migrants live in the host country for a year or longer, they are considered residents, regardless of their immigration status. If the migrants have lived in the host country for less than a year, their entire income in the host country should be classified as “compensation of employees”. <http://siteresources.worldbank.org/EXTDECPROSPECTS/Resources/476882-1157133580628/FactbookDataNotes.pdf>

For detailed explanation of different methods of calculating remittances, refer to 2006 SOPEMI *International Migration Outlook*, p. 140-141.

³³ Jimenez-Martin, S., N. Jorgensen, and J. Labeaga (2007) *The Volume and Geography of Remittances from the EU*, European Commission.

3.2. Qualitative aspects of remittances

Greece has traditionally been a recipient country for workers' remittances, and has benefited greatly from these remittances' contribution to development. Until the 1940s, the United States has been the most important destination of Greek emigrants, with European countries taking this role after the 1960s. Growth of remittances to Greece was particularly strong in the 1970s (reaching 1,168 million US dollars in 1979) and later in 1986-1994 (with a peak in 1994 of 2,657 million US dollars).³⁴ The United States and Germany were the two principal countries of origin of remittances to Greece at that time (since the end of the 1960s, 80% of remittances originated from these countries). Canada, Belgium, Sweden, and Australia were also important sources of remittances flows. Greek banks had established their branches abroad to cater specifically to the needs of Greek immigrants and facilitate the flow of remittances. This move, in turn, had a positive impact on the level of remittances transmitted.³⁵

However, in recent years, Greece has transformed into an immigrant-receiving country and a source of outgoing remittances, particularly to Albania and other post-Communists countries, such as Georgia, Romania, Bulgaria, and Ukraine.

Part of the income that immigrants earn is remitted to family members back home. It is estimated that the proportion of income that is remitted by immigrants in Greece is approximately 25 per cent (Lianos and Cavounidis, 2004a, 2004b). The proportion of income remitted differs across nationalities (e.g., 19% for Albanian immigrants and 31% for the rest). On the average, men remit approximately 22 per cent of their income and women 35 per cent. Immigrants who have been staying in Greece for more than five years remit 22 per cent of their income, whereas those with less than five years remit 30 per cent.³⁶

³⁴ Karafolas, S. (1998) *Migrant Remittances in Greece and Portugal*, International Migration, Vol. 36, No. 3.

³⁵ *Ibid.*

³⁶ Lianos, T., and J. Cavounidis (2004a) *The Impact of Immigration on Greece's Society*, Centre for Planning and Economic Research, Greek National Point for European Migration Network, Athens; Lianos, T., and J. Cavounidis (2004b) "Immigrant remittances, stability of employment and relative deprivation", Paper presented at the International Conference on New Perspectives on Albanian Migration and Development, Albania, 16-17 September 2004.

4. MIGRANT COMMUNITIES/DIASPORAS

4.1. Description of the relationship between the diasporas and the country of origin

The General Secretariat for Greeks Abroad (GSGA) (<http://www.ggae.gr/default.en.asp>) was established in 1983 and is the Greek government body responsible for the planning, coordination, and implementation of policies regarding the Greek diaspora. The GSGA is supervised by the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs or the Undersecretary. It is responsible for:

- the maintenance of the national and cultural identity of Greeks in the world
- the maintenance and reinforcement of the relations of emigrant Greeks with their home country and among themselves
- the improvement of terms of work, conditions of life, as well as the protection of the rights of the emigrants
- integration of returnees in the Greek society.

In the early 1990s, a programme was launched to assist returning and ethnic Greeks. The programme led to the establishment of the National Foundation for the Reception and Settlement of Repatriated Greeks to assist with housing and economic integration. The Foundation was deemed inadequate, however, given the high number of returning and ethnic Greeks. Consequently, a new Act was passed in 2000 to step up the scheme and provide more accommodation, vocational training and job opportunities, social and cultural integration, and jobs in the public sector. Subsidies have also been granted to host regions. In addition, Greek culture has been promoted actively by setting up cultural schemes and cultural centres in other countries, signing employment agreements, setting up Greek chambers of commerce abroad to strengthen economic ties with Greece, and providing assistance to Greek citizens abroad.³⁷

4.2. Migrant communities/diasporas' organizations by country of destination and origin

(Please note the lists below do not purport to be exhaustive or representative. IOM does not take responsibility for the accuracy of the contact details.)

³⁷ OECD (2002) *Trends in International Migration: SOPEMI 2002 edition*, Paris.

Migrant communities/diasporas' organizations of Greek origin in destination countries

(The list has been supplied by the GSGA)

Australia

- 3XY «RADIO HELLAS»
<http://www.greekmediagroup.com>
- AHEPA Australia
<http://www.ahepa.org.au>
- Antipodes Festival
<http://www.antipodesfestival.com.au>
- Australian Greek Welfare Society
<http://www.agws.com.au>
- Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of Australia <http://home.it.net.au/%7Ejgrapsas/pages/main.htm>
- Greek Orthodox Community Of Melbourne and Victoria <http://www.greek-community.com.au/>
- Greek Orthodox Community of New South Wales <http://www.goc.com.au/gocweb/>
- Hellenic Writers' Association of Australia
<http://home.vicnet.net.au/%7Ehwaa/>
- Ithacan Philanthropic Society «Ulysses»
<http://www.ithaca.org.au/>
- Neos Kosmos
<http://www.neoskosmos.com.au/>
- North Queensland Greek Festival
<http://www.greekfest.com.au/>
- Pallaconian Society of South Australia «Leonidas» Inc. <http://members.tripod.com/pallaconian/index.html>
- Rethimnian Association of Melbourne «Arkadi» <http://www.rethimnian.com/home.html>
- TGA News Press Agency
<http://www.tganews.com/>
- The Greek Festival Of Sydney <http://www.greekfestivalofsydney.com.au/festival08/>
- Thessaloniki Association THE WHITE TOWER Australia
<http://thessaloniki-melb40au.freesevers.com/>

Austria

- Greek Students and Scientists Association of Graz
<http://go.to/vgsag>

- Griechische Orthodoxe Kirchliche Gemeinde zum Heiligen Georg in Wien
<http://www.agiosgeorgios.at/>
- Society of Greek students and scientists
<http://www.sefev.at/>

Belgium

- Greek community of Charleroi
<http://homeusers.brutele.be/hellas/indexfr.htm>

Brazil

- Coletividade Helenica De Sao Jose Dos Campos http://www.sociedadehelenica.org.br/index_site.html

Bulgaria

- Sofia Times Magazine
<http://www.sofiatimes.com/>

Canada

- Greek Canadian Vima
<http://www.bhma.net/>
- Greek Community of Metropolitan Toronto <http://www.greekcommunity.org/english/news.taf>
- Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Toronto
<http://www.gocanada.org/>
- Hellenic Canadian Academics Association of Ontario <http://www.greekvillage.com/hcaao/>
- Hellenic Canadian Congress of British Columbia <http://www.neapolis.com/bccongress/>
- Hellenic Community of Calgary
<http://www.calgaryhellenic.com/>
- Hellenic Community of Ottawa
<http://www.helleniccommunity.com/>
- Holly Trinity Greek Orthodox Community of London and vicinity <http://londongreekcommunity.org/>
- The Greek Village Cafe
<http://www.greekvillage.com/villcafe/gvcafe.htm>
- The Greek Village On-line
<http://www.greekvillage.com/>
- Thessalonikeans Society of Metropolitan Toronto, Inc
<http://www.thesoc.org/>

Egypt

- Greek Orthodox Patriarchate of Alexandria and All Africa <http://www.greekorthodox-alexandria.org/index.php?lang=en>
- The Hellenic Community Of Alexandria <http://greece.org/alexandria/eka2/>

France

- Communauté Hellenique de Paris et des Environs <http://membres.lycos.fr/chellen/default.htm>
- Diaspora Grecque en France <http://diaspora-grecque.com/modules/altern8news/>

Germany

- Greek Community of Goetersloh <http://www.gr-gemeinde-gt.com/>
- Griechische Gemeinde in Nuernberg <http://www.griechische-gemeinde.de/>
- Griechische Gemeinde Munchen <http://www.kinotita.de/>
- Neafon Verlag <http://www.neafon.com/magazin/index.php>
- Society of Youth Wiesbadens
- Verband griechischer Gemeinden in der Bundesrepublik Deutschland <http://www.oek-germany.de/>

Italy

- Comunità Ellenica di Roma e Lazio <http://www.elines-rl.it/>
- Comunità Ellenica dell' Emilia-Romagna <http://www.elines.it/>

Luxembourg

- Greek community of Luxembourg <http://webplaza.pt.lu/sel/>

New Zealand

- Greek Community of Wellington and Hutt Valley <http://www.greek.org.nz/>

Russia

- Greek community of Pyatigorsk
<http://www.greeks.ru/>

South Africa

- National Association of Hellenic Youth and Student Organizations of South Africa
<http://www.nahysosa.co.za/>

Sweden

- Greek Cultural Centre
<http://www.greekculturalcentre.org/>
- Greek-Swedish Portal
<http://greek.swedishportal.net/>

Switzerland

- AKROTHEMA - GRIECHISCHE KULTUR-GRUPPE
<http://www.akrotheama.ch/>
- Hellenic Students Association of Zurich
<http://www.efs.z.ethz.ch/>

United Kingdom

- Hellenic Society Of Lancaster University
<http://www.lancs.ac.uk/socs/hellenic/>
- The Hellenic Centre
<http://www.helleniccentre.org/>
- World Hellenic Bio-Medical Association
<http://www.hri.org/whba/>

United States

- American Hellenic Educational Progressive Association (AHEPA) <http://www.ahepa.org/>
- American Hellenic Institute Public Affairs Committee (AHIPAC) <http://www.ahiworld.com/>
- American Hellenic Media Project
<http://www.hri.org/ahmp/>
- Boston Lykeion Ellinidon
<http://www.bostonlykeion.org/>
- Chian Federation
<http://www.chianfed.org/mos/index.php>

- Federation of Hellenic Societies of New England
<http://www.fhasne.com/>
- Foundation For Hellenic Studies
<http://www.hri.org/FHS/>
- Greek American Educational Public Information System (GAEPIS) <http://www.gaepis.org/>
- Greek Institute
<http://www.thegreekinstitute.org/>
- Greek Orthodox Church of America
<http://www.goarch.org/>
- Greek Voice on line
<http://www.wpsoc.com/>
- Greek-American Culture Association of Colorado
<http://www.hacac.org/>
- Greek-American Weekly Newspaper
<http://www.greeknewsonline.com/>
- Harvard Hellenic Society
<http://www.hcs.harvard.edu/%7Ehhs/>
- Hellenic Communication Service
<http://www.helleniccomserve.com/>
- Hellenic Electronic Center
<http://www.greece.org/>
- Hellenic News of America
<http://www.hellenicnews.com/>
- Hellenic Professional Society of Texas
<http://www.hpst.org/index.html>
- Hellenic Resources Institute
<http://www.hri.org/hri/>
- Hellenic Students Association of Brown University
- Icarian Brotherhood of America http://www.brown.edu/Students/Hellenic_Students_Association/
- Kosmos Hellenic Club of the George Washington University <http://www.gwu.edu/%7Ekosmos/>
- Onassis Center for Hellenic Studies <http://www.nyu.edu/pages/onassis/index.html#gen-info>
- Othoni Society of USA Inc.
<http://www.omogenia.com/othoni/>
- Pancretan Association of America
<http://www.pancretan.org/>
- Pan-Lemnian Philanthropic Association «Hephaestus» <http://www.hri.org/lemnian/>

- Phantis - Search Engine
<http://www.phantis.com/>
- St. Irene Chrysovalantou Monastery
<http://www.stirene.org/>
- The Greek Community of Lowell Massachusetts <http://floweringcity.org/intro.htm>
- The Hellenic Cultural Society of San Diego
<http://www.hellenic-culture.org/>
- The Hellenic Medical Society of New York
<http://www.hmsny.org/>
- The Yale Greek Society
<http://www.yale.edu/hellenic/>

Foreign migrant communities/diasporas' organizations in Greece by origin

Albanian Communities

- Albanian Migrants' Cultural Club
121 Irakleous St., 176 72 Kallithea
Tel.: +30 210 9571224, +30 210 5202536
- Forum of Albanian Migrants
35 Valtetsiou St., 106 81 Exarheia
Tel.: +30 210 3304901, +30 210 3813928
- Albanian Association in Thessaloniki
24 Aisopou St., 546 27 Thessalonica
Tel.: +30 2310 624191, +30 2310 556349
- Albanian Migrant Writers' Club "DRITA"
52 Athinas St., 176 73 Kallithea
Tel.: +30 210 9582538
- Albanian Migrants Association "VELAZERIMI"
Tel.: +30 210 5228911
- Albanian Community in Athens
1 Veranterou St.
Tel.: +30 210 3827496
- Greek-Albanian Philological Union
4 Ag. Konstantinou St., 104 31 Omonoia
Tel.: +30 210 5228911

- Greek-Albanian Friendship Association “Socrates”
38 Kapodistriou St. Athens
Tel.: +30 210 5245106

African Communities

- Ethiopian Community in Athens
16 Imvrou St., 113 61, Pl. Amerikis
Tel.: +30 693 4168755, +30 693 8789513
- Greek-Ethiopian Friendship Association
4 Parou St., Kypseli
Tel.: +30 210 9941048
- Gambian Community of Greece
19 Maurogenous St., Athens
Tel.: +30 210 8811719
- Ghana Community of Greece
65 Sp. Trikoupi St., Exarcheia
Tel.: +30 210 8840039
- Guinean Community of Greece
44 Rodou St., 104 46 Patisia
Tel.: + 30210 8675355, +30 210 4291128
- Kenyan Community of Greece
3 Mithimnis St., 112 10 Athens
Tel.: +30 693 7828981
- Congo Community of Greece
314 Patision St., Athens
Tel.: +30 210 8640005, +30 210 2023713
- Nigerian Community of Greece
14 Geraniou St., 105 52 Athens
Tel. +30 210 5247598, +30 210 9244746
- Senegal Community of Greece
13 Assima Fotila St., Athens
Tel.: +30 210 8254358

- Sierra Leone Community of Greece
32 Rodou St., Patisia
Tel.: +30 210 8643280, +30 210 8672394

European Communities

- Greek – Georgian Cultural Association “Caucasus”
40 V. Konstantinou St., 116 35 Athens
Tel.: +30 210 7231772, +30 210 7211226
- Bulgarian Community of Greece
37 Halkokondili St.
Tel.: +30 6938249053
- Greek – Moldavia Community of Greece
24 Pl. Kanigos, 106 77 Athens
Tel.: +30 2103304762
- Greek – Ukraine Community of Greece
1 Verantzerou St., Athens
Tel.: +30 210 5061406
- Solidarity of Polish Workers of Greece
42 Menagia St, 115 24 Athens
Tel.: +30 210 8223393
- Greek – Polish Friendship and Cooperation Association
131 Kifissias St., 115 24 Athens
Tel.: +30 210 6921916, +30 210 7293940
- Independent Community of Poland
51 Akominatou St., 104 38 Pl. Vathis
Tel.: +30 210 8817804, + 30 210 5245197
- Romania Community of Greece
6 Tzortz St., 106 77 Athens
Tel.: +30 210 6892828, +30 210 6892828
- Russia Centre
50 Pandoras St., Glyfada
Tel.: +30 210 8947196

- Russia Community of Greece
19A Septemvriou St., Athens
Tel.: +30 210 5226455, +30 6942 935320
- Greek – Slovenia Friendship Association
9 Kanari St., 151 26 Marousi
Tel.: +30 210 8029095, +30 210 6123354

Latin American Communities

- Asclaye – Alianza Socio – Cultural Latinoamericana
47A Falirou St., 117 42 Koukaki
Tel.: +30 210 9232204, +30 210 9640295
- Cultural Centre “Martin Fierro”
83 Spetson St., Athens
Tel.: +30 210 8220438, +30 210 3226852
- Community “El Sol De Cuba”
29 Kekropos St., 16 675 Glyfada
Tel.: +30 210 9641319, +30 6944 507620
- Greek – Colombia Community
8 Dioharous St., Ilisia
Tel.: +30 210 7238754, +30 6937 450827, +30 6932 248760
- Greek – Panama Cultural Union
273 Kallergi St., 185 46 Piraeus
Tel.: +30 210 8218710, +30 6944 629947

Middle East and North African Communities

- Community of Palestinian Workers of Greece
78 Kousidi Gr. St., Zografou
Tel.: +30 210 7488093, +30 6937 537461
- “El Rabta” Egyptian Community of Greece
37 Halkondilli St., 104 32 Athens
Tel.: +30 210 8659613
- Egyptian Community in Greece
69 Konitsis St., 152 35 Vrilissia
Tel.: +30 210 9401123, +30 6945 045266

- Libyan Community of Greece
3 Sporadon St., 113 62 Kipseli
Tel.: +30 2108235810
- Assyrian Community of Greece
114 Miriofitou St., 122 42 Aigaleo
Tel.: +30 210 5317571, +30 210 5983477

South Asia Communities

- Bangladesh Community of Greece
3 Mauromateon St., Athens
Tel.: +30 210 3212132, +30 210 8222074
- Community of Bangladeshi Workers of Greece
85 Z. Pigis St., Athens
Tel.: +30 210 3303566, +30 6938 563626
- Pakistani Community of Greece
15-17 Menandrou St., Athens
Tel.: +30 210 3319111, +30 6974 961406
- United Indian Community of Greece
12 Deligiorgi St., Athens
Tel.: +30 210 5233366, +30 6937 571616

5. IRREGULAR MIGRATION

5.1. Figures and information on irregular movements to Greece

Table 11. Aliens apprehended in Greece³⁸

Year	No.
1997	199,500
1998	148,750
1999	182,118
2000	259,403
2001	219,598
2002	43,742
2003	47,915
2004	44,985
2005	66,351
Total	1,212,362

Source: EC, 2003, 2006.

³⁸ European Commission (2006) *Annual Report on Statistics on Migration, Asylum and Return in Greece: 2003*; European Commission (2006) *Second Annual Report on the Development of a Common Policy on Illegal Immigration, Smuggling and Trafficking of Human Beings, External Border Controls, and the Return of Illegal Residents*.

Table 12. Aliens apprehended by citizenship, 2004³⁹

Country	No.
Albania	31,637
Afghanistan	1,802
Bulgaria	1,553
Iraq	988
Romania	951
Egypt	801
The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	711
Pakistan	687
Georgia	527
Turkey	471
Somalia	436
Bangladesh	418
India	416
Iran, Islamic Republic of	321
Sudan	299
Russian Federation	293
Cote d'Ivoire	238
Ukraine	233
Syria	137
Moldova	133
Yugoslavia, Federal Republic of	128
Other	800
Stateless	740
Unknown	265
Total	44,985

Source: Ministry of Public Order, Greece, 2004.

³⁹ Kanellopoulos, C. (2005) *Illegally Resident Third Country Nationals in Greece: State Approaches Towards Them, Their Profile and Social Situation*, Centre for Planning and Economic Research, Greek National Point for the European Migration Network, Athens.

Table 13. Applicants to the regularization programme of 1998 by citizenship⁴⁰

Citizenship	Number of aliens	%	Men	%	Women	%
Albania	241,342	64.94%	195,108	72.51%	46,234	45.08%
Bulgaria	25,121	6.76%	10,472	3.89%	14,649	14.28%
Romania	16,901	4.55%	11,401	4.24%	5,500	5.36%
Pakistan	10,861	2.92%	10,367	3.85%	494	0.48%
Ukraine	9,807	2.64%	1,878	0.70%	7,929	7.73%
Poland	8,628	2.32%	4,762	1.77%	3,866	3.77%
Georgia	7,541	2.03%	2,738	1.02%	4,803	4.68%
India	6,388	1.72%	6,053	2.25%	335	0.33%
Egypt	6,202	1.67%	5,682	2.11%	520	0.51%
Philippines	5,379	1.45%	904	0.34%	4,475	4.36%
Moldova	4,386	1.18%	1,132	0.42%	3,254	3.17%
Syria	3,428	0.92%	3,142	1.17%	286	0.28%
Russian Federation	3,089	0.83%	737	0.27%	2,352	2.29%
Bangladesh	3,006	0.81%	2,874	1.07%	132	0.13%
Iraq	2,818	0.76%	2,352	0.87%	466	0.45%
Armenia	2,730	0.73%	1,351	0.50%	1,379	1.34%
Nigeria	1,742	0.47%	1,354	0.50%	388	0.38%
Yugoslavia, Federal Republic of	1,493	0.40%	818	0.30%	675	0.66%
Not declared	1,484	0.40%	953	0.35%	531	0.52%
Other	9,295	2.50%	4,997	1.86%	4,298	4.19%
Total	371,641	100%	269,075	100%	102,566	100%

Source: Manpower Employment Agency (OAED).

Greek borders are notoriously difficult to control as they include a vast line of seashore (18,400 km) and 9,837 islands (including islets, rocky islets and low-tide elevations), the majority of which are located close to the Turkish coasts, such that they serve as the “gate of entrance” for the thousands of immigrants and refugees fleeing into Europe yearly. Furthermore, inaccessible mountains are located along Greece’s land borders in the northern part of the country. As a result, policing of such borders requires a large amount of specialist equipment, human resources, and technical skills. Regarding smuggling, the most common route is

⁴⁰ Kanellopoulos, C. (2005) *Illegally Resident Third Country Nationals in Greece: State Approaches Towards Them, Their Profile and Social Situation*, Centre for Planning and Economic Research, Greek National Point for the European Migration Network, Athens.

through the Turkish border. The individual entries take place mainly through the mountainous border with Albania as well as the sea borders.⁴¹

According to a 2004 report of the Ministry of Public Order, a large proportion of illegal immigrants originates from the neighbouring Balkan countries (Albania, Bulgaria, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, and Romania), as well as countries of Africa and Asia. In 2004, the vast proportion of illegal immigrants came from Albania, Afghanistan, Bulgaria, Iraq, Romania, Egypt, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Pakistan, and Georgia. The smuggling networks originated from Greece, Albania, Turkey, Bulgaria, Georgia, Iraq, and Egypt. In 2004, the most active of these networks were Turkish and Egyptians.⁴²

The main illegal migration routes used in 2004 were the sea and land Greek-Albanian borders as well as via the borders between Greece and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. Nationals of countries of Central and Eastern Europe entered through the borders between Greece, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Bulgaria, and Turkey (River Evros). Nationals of African and Asian countries entered mainly via Turkey and also Bulgaria. A large proportion of them entered Greece through the eastern land and sea borders of the country to get to Italy and then to other European countries via the ports of Patras and Igoumenitsas.⁴³

The number of irregular migrants and asylum seekers arriving in Greece by boat from Turkey has increased significantly in 2007. Among those arriving by boat are Iraqis, Afghans, and Somalis. In 2006, at least nine people died and ten were missing at sea, but up until late September 2007, there had been 44 deaths and 54 missing in the Aegean Sea. In 2007, almost a ten-fold increase was observed compared to previous years in the number of migrants arriving by boat (with 8,018 boat people arrested by the Coast Guard). As a result of the increase in the number of arrivals, detention centres in Samos, Chios, and Lesbos are experiencing serious problems of overcrowding.⁴⁴

⁴¹ Kanellopoulos, C. (2005) *Illegally Resident Third Country Nationals in Greece: State Approaches Towards Them, Their Profile and Social Situation*, Centre for Planning and Economic Research, Greek National Point for the European Migration Network, Athens.

⁴² Ibid.

⁴³ Ministry of Foreign Affairs (2008) Note Verbale to the Permanent International Secretariat of the Organization of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation AP 35345/OSEP/AS 1508.

⁴⁴ UNHCR (2007) UNHCR Briefing Notes, 5 October 2007, <http://www.unhcr.org/news/NEWS/47060794d.html>; UNHCR (2007) UNHCR News Stories, 22 October 2007, <http://www.unhcr.org/news/NEWS/471cbeb12.html>

5.2. Figures and information on return migration flows

Table 14. Number of return decisions made in Greece⁴⁵

Year	No.
2002	29,602
2003	29,542
2004	29,776
Total	88,920

Source: EC, 2006.

Table 15. Number of forced return⁴⁶

Year	No.
2002	11,628
2003	14,518
2004	14,884
Total	41,030

Source: EC, 2006.

⁴⁵ European Commission (2006) *Second Annual Report on the Development of a Common Policy on Illegal Immigration, Smuggling and Trafficking of Human Beings, External Border Controls, and the Return of Illegal Residents*. Following the return decision, a removal order is made or the person chooses to voluntarily return home. To date, no definition of a return decision exists in EC law.

⁴⁶ Ibid.

Table 16. Apprehended aliens subject to an expulsion decision and removed aliens by country of citizenship, 2000-2005⁴⁷

Country of Citizenship	2000			2001			2002			2003			2004			2005		
	Subject to Expulsion	%	Removed	Subject to Expulsion	%	Removed	Subject to Expulsion	%	Removed	Subject to Expulsion	%	Removed	Subject to Expulsion	%	Removed	Subject to Expulsion	%	Removed
Total	27,942	86.70	63.90	20,734	63.90	29,598	29,598	39.70	50.50	29,542	29,542	50.50	29,779	29,779	52.80	40,649	40,649	52.20
Albania	4,208	94.50	84.10	5,296	84.10	5,949	5,949	75.40	73.80	8,639	8,639	73.80	11,096	11,096	75.50	17,937	17,937	77.70
Bulgaria	4,567	94.30	84.60	1,912	84.60	2,700	2,700	84.60	70.60	3,752	3,752	70.60	2,773	2,773	72.10	2,757	2,757	68.50
Romania	7,710	97.20	81.90	3,550	81.90	1,153	1,153	76.60	68.50	2,169	2,169	68.50	2,091	2,091	66.70	2,452	2,452	65.40
Iraq	1,340	2.50	3.20	2,506	3.20	7,812	7,812	7.70	6.00	1,855	1,855	6.00	1,448	1,448	1.80	2,296	2,296	14.50
Pakistan	731	80.70	23.20	487	23.20	1,134	1,134	7.30	11.00	803	803	11.00	821	821	9.30	1,938	1,938	2.40
Afghanistan	155	30.30	9.10	584	9.10	1,819	1,819	0.60	0.50	1,080	1,080	0.50	1,700	1,700	0.40	1,920	1,920	0.20
Georgia	626	83.50	62.40	542	62.40	694	694	39.20	38.20	986	986	38.20	892	892	36.90	1,446	1,446	31.90
Palestine	17	5.90	8.00	25	8.00	334	334	2.40	3.20	651	651	3.20	727	727	14.40	1,081	1,081	10.50
Egypt	185	86.50	57.30	110	57.30	123	123	52.00	30.90	207	207	30.90	1,030	1,030	81.20	975	975	81.70
Somalia	12	0.00	11.10	9	11.10	204	204	1.00	0.40	787	787	0.40	422	422	0.70	827	827	0.20
Russian Federation	926	88.80	70.60	589	70.60	742	742	65.80	63.00	993	993	63.00	711	711	56.70	688	688	56.80
Bangladesh	294	86.70	41.40	140	41.40	431	431	7.90	10.60	216	216	10.60	475	475	5.90	672	672	4.60
Algeria	46	67.40	69.60	23	69.60	102	102	20.60	13.30	150	150	13.30	76	76	17.10	580	580	3.80
Turkey	261	83.90	64.30	546	64.30	437	437	74.40	78.30	612	612	78.30	513	513	87.90	499	499	82.60
Moldova	1,585	95.30	76.70	712	76.70	363	363	79.60	56.60	479	479	56.60	329	329	44.70	488	488	42.00

⁴⁷ Kanellopoulos, C., and M. Gregou (2006) *Greek Contribution to EMN Study III: Return, Centre for Planning and Economic Research, Greek National Point for the European Migration Network, Athens.*

Ukraine	1,598	90.70	881	69.60	551	66.20	988	52.10	661	48.10	475	40.80
Iran, Islamic Republic of	110	43.60	159	30.80	988	13.10	622	20.60	437	13.50	449	19.40
India	368	39.40	149	17.40	638	3.10	417	8.60	464	3.70	358	6.70
Sudan	12	0.00	23	26.10	197	1.50	311	0.30	299	1.30	269	0.40
Syria	180	88.90	128	56.30	118	45.80	124	37.10	206	24.80	242	21.50
The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	347	96.00	247	94.70	304	93.80	215	92.60	178	91.00	191	91.10
China	116	89.70	87	42.50	290	7.60	228	4.40	141	29.80	188	12.80
Nigeria	67	20.90	93	20.40	265	10.90	177	14.70	155	11.00	186	8.10
Armenia	164	82.30	111	51.40	87	28.70	130	37.70	124	35.50	145	34.50
Yugoslavia	502	90.20	302	83.10	258	84.90	164	84.10	113	75.20	92	62.00
Belarus	122	95.10	75	56.00	61	77.00	165	63.60	100	61.00	89	47.20
Poland	728	92.30	365	75.30	328	83.80	921	66.80	257	49.80	17	64.70
Other	965	70.50	1083	55.40	1516	28.80	1701	27.30	1540	35.50	1392	18.80

Source: Ministry of Public Order, 13 June 2006.

Between 2003 and 2007, 276 individuals returned from Greece through IOM voluntary assisted return programmes with the largest groups returning to Afghanistan.⁴⁸

⁴⁸ IOM Athens.

5.3. Figures and information on trafficking

Greece is a transit and destination country in South Eastern Europe. Women and children are trafficked for the purpose of sexual exploitation and forced labour. In 2006, Greece was a destination country for women coming mainly from the Russian Federation, Romania, Bulgaria, Ukraine, Moldova, and Albania.

Table 17. Victims of human trafficking identified in Greece in 2005-2006 by country of origin⁴⁹

Country	2005	Country	2006
Romania	53	Russian Federation	25
Russian Federation	28	Romania	20
Ukraine	12	Bulgaria	10
Bulgaria	9	Ukraine	5
Nigeria	8	Moldova	5
Moldova	7	Albania	4
Total (all countries)	137	Total (all countries)	83

Source: Ministry of Public Order.

Table 18. Perpetrators of human trafficking identified in Greece in 2005-2006 by country of origin⁵⁰

Country	2005	Country	2006
Greece	133	Greece	142
Romania	28	Albania	28
Albania	13	Bulgaria	12
Bulgaria	12	Romania	9
Nigeria	5	Nigeria	4
Total (all countries)	202	Total (all countries)	206

Source: Ministry of Public Order.

⁴⁹ Ministry of Public Order, Greece, 2005, 2006, <http://www.ydt.gr/main/Section.jsp?SectionID=13440>

⁵⁰ Ibid.

Table 19. Victims of trafficking assisted by IOM during 2002-2007 by nationality⁵¹

Nationality	No.
Ukrainian	11
Albanian	1
Romanian	41
Russian	19
Lithuanian	5
Bulgarian	18
Moldovan	15
Serbian	1
Total	111

Source: IOM.

Table 20. Victims of trafficking assisted by IOM during 2002-2007 by type of exploitation⁵²

Type of exploitation	No.
Sexual exploitation	76
Forced labour	17
Sexual exploitation and forced labour	16
Other exploitation	2
Total	111

Source: IOM.

Table 21. Victims of trafficking assisted by IOM during 2002-2007 by recruitment method⁵³

Recruitment method	No.
Personal contact	63
Newspaper advertisement	19
n/a	15
Other	9
Internet advertisement	4
Sold by family members	1
Total	111

Source: IOM

The majority of victims assisted by IOM are female, 18-30 years old, single, from poor economic background, and were recruited by personal contact.

⁵¹ IOM Athens.

⁵² Ibid.

⁵³ Ibid.

Majority were referred to IOM through non-governmental organizations (NGOs) or law enforcement agencies. Trafficking of Albanian children to Greece remains a serious and unresolved issue.

6. ASSESSMENT AND ANALYSIS OF MIGRATION ISSUES

6.1. Government institutions responsible for migration policy

The **Ministry of Interior** (Ministry of Home Affairs, Public Administration and Decentralization) is responsible for the orientation, planning, and implementation of immigration policy issues since the introduction of the new Immigration Law 2910/2001. It is in charge of the residence permits issuing system, which is previously within the purview of the Ministry of Public Order.⁵⁴

Until 2007, the **Ministry of Public Order** was responsible for illegal immigration, border control, apprehension, expulsion, and removal of illegal immigrants. In terms of asylum issues, the Ministry of Public Order was the competent authority for examining asylum applications, along with the handling of the appeal process. Since 2007, it has been incorporated into the Ministry of Interior and the joint unit is now known by the latter title.

The Ministry of Interior (<http://www.ypes.gr>) supervises a central **Aliens and Immigration Directorate** and several regional Directorates that are being created in every prefecture and are responsible for the issuance and renewal of residence and work permits. The Directorates include up to two Immigration Committees that are in charge of responding to requests for residence permits. The Ministry of Interior also supervises the Immigration Policy Institute (IMEPO), the main government think tank for migration policy.

The **Ministry for Foreign Affairs (MFA)** (<http://www.mfa.gr>) is in charge of admissions and visa issues, and it has the authority over bilateral and multilateral conventions related to migration

6.2. International legal framework in place relevant to migration

Status of International Treaties as ratified by Greece

- C97 Migration for Employment Convention 1949, not ratified

⁵⁴ Avramopoulou, I., L. Karakatsanis, and M. Pavlou (2005) *Current Immigration Debates in Europe: Greece*, European Migration Dialogue, Migration Policy Group.

- Convention relating to the Status of Refugees 1951, acceded to on 7 August 1968
- International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination 1965, ratified on 18 June 1970
- International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights 1966, acceded to on 5 May 1997
- International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights 1966, acceded to on 16 May 1985
- C143 Migrant Workers (Supplementary Provisions) Convention 1975, not ratified
- Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women 1979, not ratified
- Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment 1984, ratified on 6 October 1988
- Convention on the Rights of the Child 1989, ratified on 11 May 1993
- International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families, not ratified
- Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime 2000, signed on 13 December 2000, not ratified
- Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime 2000, signed on 12 December 2000, not ratified

Council of Europe Conventions

- European Convention on Human Rights, ratified on 28 November 1974
- Council of Europe Convention on Action Against Trafficking in Human Beings, 2005, signed on 17 November 2005, not ratified

Bilateral Labour Agreements

- Albania

International agreement between Greece and Albania on seasonal employment, ratified by Law 2482/1997 in Athens on 17 May 1996.

- Bulgaria

International agreement between Greece and Bulgaria on seasonal employment, ratified in Athens on 15 December 1995.

- Slovenia

Agreement on labour policy (Text No. 74) between the Ministry of Labour, Family and Social Affairs of Slovenia and the Ministry of Labour and Social Security of Greece, ratified in Athens on 2 March 2001.

Readmission Agreements

Greece has signed readmission agreements with Albania (1995), Bulgaria (1995), China (1996), Croatia (1996), Egypt (2000), France (2004), Italy (2001), Latvia (1999), Lithuania (1999), Pakistan (2005), Poland (1996), Romania (1994), Russian Federation (2004), Slovenia (1994), Switzerland (2006), and Ukraine (2001).⁵⁵

It has also signed a Protocol for the implementation of the readmission clause of the police cooperation agreement with Turkey (2001).

As an EU member state, Greece is also party to the European Community readmissions agreements signed so far with Hong Kong (27 November 2002), Macao (13 October 2003), Sri Lanka (4 June 2004), Albania (14 April 2005), Russian Federation (12 October 2005), Ukraine (18 June 2007), Bosnia and Herzegovina, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia (all on 18 September 2007), and Moldova (10 October 2007).

6.3. Migration policies in place

Until 2005, migration issues were covered in the law by **Act 2910/L2-5-2001**. This Act was introduced during the second regularization programme and aimed to legitimize as many irregular immigrants as possible by means of regularization and to restrict the irregular flows of immigrants by establishing stronger external and internal controls. The law maintained the division between work and residence permits as well as cumbersome procedures for hiring foreign workers and applying for work permits. It also transferred the responsibility for migration issues from the Ministry of Public Order to the Ministry of Interior. This administrative change resulted in certain amounts of administrative delays and gaps in immigration data collection.⁵⁶

⁵⁵ MIREM, European University Institute, <http://www.mirem.eu/datasets/agreements/greece/#legend>

⁵⁶ Kanellopoulos, C., and M. Gregou (2006) *Policy Report on Migration, Asylum and Return in Greece. (Reference Period July 2004 - Dec 2005)*, Centre for Planning and Economic Research, Greek National Point for the European Migration Network, Athens.

In 2005, **Law 3386/2005** was introduced, which provided for the regularization of irregular migrants (third regularization programme). This Law also incorporates EU Directive 2003/109/EC regarding the status of long-term residents, allowing applicants to include years since 2001 to their five-year residency requirement. It incorporates Directive 2003/86/EC regarding family reunification; forbids expulsion in the case of pregnant women up until six months after labour; raises the income requirements for family reunification; deals with integration of immigrants; and unifies the work and residence permits into a single residence permit, with a two-year minimum duration, issued by the regional authorities.

Law 3386/2005 introduces the right to long-term residence for third-country nationals, which they can apply for from August 2006, provided that they have been legally residing in the country for at least five consecutive years. To be eligible, migrants should possess "stable and regular resources", medical insurance, and accommodation that "meets the required hygiene specifications". They must be fluent in Greek language and possess knowledge of Greek history and culture. This requirement is fulfilled upon the completion of a 150-hour Greek language course and a 25-hour course in Greek history and culture, organized by the General Secretariat of Adult Education (Ministry of Education).⁵⁷ The content of the test is currently under revision to make it simpler and more practical, however, the application fees remain high (currently EUR 900), making it inaccessible to many potential applicants.⁵⁸

In 2007, Law 3386/2005 has been revised under Law 3536/2007, with migration policy and other issues falling into the competence of the Ministry of Interior, Public Administration and Decentralization. Under this new Law, a national Committee for the Social Integration of Migrants was established. Clarifications were also made to the eligibility criteria for the legalization of migrants residing in the country prior to 2004.

As to workers from the EU-8, Greece maintained in 2004 its requirement of a work and residence permit for new immigrants for one year only. Since 1 May 2006, access to the Greek labour market of migrant workers from new member states has been fully opened.

⁵⁷ Kanellopoulos, C., and M. Gregou (2007) *Policy Report on Migration, Asylum and Return in Greece (Reference Period Jan-Dec 2006- 1st draft)*, Centre for Planning and Economic Research, Greek National Point for the European Migration Network, Athens.

⁵⁸ Tzilivakis, K., *Greece Rethinks History Test*, Athens News, 11 January 2007, http://www.athensnews.gr/athweb/nathens.pnrt_article?e=C&f=13269&t=11&m=A15&aa=1

6.4. Labour market characteristics and immigration

Table 22. Selected labour market indicators for Greece (for persons aged 15-64)⁵⁹

Year	2003	2004	2005	2006
Employment/population ratio	58.9	59.6	60.3	61.0
Labour force participation rate	65.1	66.5	66.8	67.0
Unemployment rate	9.5	10.4	9.8	8.9

Source: OECD database, 2008.

Table 23. Incidence of long-term unemployment as a percentage of total unemployment⁶⁰

2006	6 months and over	12 months and over
Greece	75.2	55.6
EU-15	60.9	44.2
OECD	45.9	32.2

Source: OECD database, 2008.

The unemployment rate in Greece has fallen from a peak of 12 per cent of the labour force in 1999 to around 9 per cent in 2006, but still remains among the highest in the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and the EU-15. High unemployment is particularly prevalent among first-time job seekers and labour market re-entrants, mainly women. Labour mobility remains relatively low. The Greek labour market is characterized by high incidence of long-term unemployment, long average job tenure, and high unemployment among young people. There is a need to improve labour market flexibility through reduction of minimum labour costs and easing the relatively strict employment protection legislation.⁶¹

Tertiary education outcomes in Greece are characterized by low graduation rates, high number of students that study abroad, and poor performance in terms of academic publications. A reform has been recently enacted, which includes a series of measures that should improve the governance of universities, ensure independent evaluation, limit the duration of academic study, and raise the provision of student loans.⁶²

Labour market with regards to immigration is highly flexible and of mainly informal character. There is a strong demand for low-skilled, low-wage labour

⁵⁹ OECD Statistical Databases, www.oecd.org

⁶⁰ OECD (2007) *Employment Outlook 2007- Statistical Annex*, Paris, <http://www.oecd.org/dataoecd/29/27/38749309.pdf>

⁶¹ OECD (2007) *Economic Survey of Greece 2007*, Paris.

⁶² Ibid.

that cannot be easily satisfied by legal means due to cumbersome procedures of employing unskilled labour. This is most prominent in agriculture, construction, and household services, where immigrants fill the labour market gaps vacated by native Greeks (58.5% of immigrants in Greece work in the three aforementioned sectors).⁶³

6.5. Policies to address irregular migration

Due to the massive inflow of immigrants to Greece since the beginning of the 1990s and the specific character of its borders located in a terrain difficult to control, Greece has undertaken a series of measures to enhance its external border control. Many new border guard departments were set up and the cooperation with police established. Readmissions agreements were signed with Bulgaria, France, Italy, Croatia, Lithuania, Latvia, Hungary, Poland, Romania, and Slovenia, as well as bilateral seasonal work agreements with Albania and Bulgaria. In 2001, the Agreement on Combating Crime, Terrorism, Organized Crime, Illicit Drug Trafficking and Illegal Immigration between Greece and Turkey came into force. To implement this Agreement, a Readmission Protocol was signed.

As mentioned before, three regularization programmes have taken place for irregular migrants: in 1998, 2001, and 2005.

The first programme attracted 370,000 migrants who participated in the registration (“white card”) part of the programme, majority of them from Albania. The second stage of the regularization programme (the so-called “green card”), which required a proof of social security contributions, attracted a much smaller number of applicants (228,211). The second programme was carried out in 2001 and attracted 360,000 applications and a third programme was carried out in 2005-2006 with approximately 145,000 applications.

These programmes have been criticized for the heavy administrative burden resulting in considerable delays and smaller than expected take-up. Nevertheless, they have provided an opportunity for many irregular migrants to improve their status and living conditions and provided the authorities with information regarding the number and profile of the irregular migrant population.

On the basis of Law 2910/2001, the sanctions applied to those employing, carrying, or providing any sort of service to illegal immigrants were increased.

⁶³ OECD (2005) *Economic Survey of Greece 2005*, Paris; Ministry of Interior, Greece (2007) Statistical data for 15 October 2007.

The state authority in charge of apprehending and removing illegal immigrants is the Greek police. The Coast Guard Patrol, a part of the Ministry of Mercantile Marine, is responsible for the inspection and control of the sea borders.

Despite the legal provisions concerning forced return, which have been harmonized with those of the EU, there is a significant lack of legal provisions to encourage voluntary return. Voluntary returns assistance is, however, provided by IOM.

6.6. Policies to address trafficking in human beings

Greece signed but did not ratify the 2000 UN Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, which supplements the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime.⁶⁴

Law 3064, adopted in 2002, prohibits trafficking for both forced labour and sexual exploitation. Law 3386/2005 contains provisions for victims of human trafficking, such as the right to obtain residence permits, right to accede to the labour market, vocational training, education, and healthcare.⁶⁵ Greek authorities have incorporated Directive 2004/81/EC on residence permits issued to third-country nationals who are victims of human trafficking in the national legislation.

In November 2005, the government signed a Memorandum of Cooperation with 12 NGOs and IOM to improve government-NGO coordination in the screening and referral process for trafficking victims.

A committee of the General Secretaries of 11 ministries has been established to examine ways to improve anti-trafficking legislation and relevant provisions and improve the country's response to the phenomenon of trafficking in human beings, as well as to improve practices on victims' assistance. A law preparatory committee has been established under the Ministry of Justice, with the task to propose to the Committee of General Services ways to improve the legislative framework as well as capacity-building initiatives for law enforcement and judiciary officials.

⁶⁴ Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (2000)

⁶⁵ UN General Assembly (2007) *Protection of Migrants: Report of the Secretary-General*, 24 August 2007, A/62/299, p. 8, UNHCR Refworld, <http://www.unhcr.org/cgi-bin/texis/vtx/refworld/rwmain?docid=473194932>

In 2006, Greece has been removed from the Tier 2 Watch List of the US Department of State Trafficking in Persons Report⁶⁶ and was categorized as Tier 2 as a result of the serious law enforcement efforts in the field of human trafficking.⁶⁷ In the same year, 206 suspected traffickers have been arrested and 78 were convicted (compared to only nine in 2005), but the imposition of sentences has remained weak.⁶⁸

Over the past ten years or more, thousands of Albanian children have been trafficked to Greece, where they are economically or sexually exploited. Since the early 2000s, under pressures from NGOs and other actors, Albania and Greece have undertaken measures to reduce this phenomenon, such as by implementing better border control and awareness raising initiatives.⁶⁹ An agreement for the protection and assistance to children victims of trafficking was signed with Albania in 2006. However, the problem of child trafficking from Albania to Greece still persists.⁷⁰

Although several shelters exist throughout the country, they remained underutilized and identification of victims also needs to be improved.⁷¹

6.7. Refugees and asylum seekers in the country and relevant policies in place

Since 2005, the number of asylum applications in Greece has steadily increased reaching a record high of 14,600 new asylum applications during the first half of 2007. Greece is currently the third most important destination of asylum seekers among the 36 industrialized countries, receiving on average one out of ten applications.⁷²

However, it should be noted that this trend does not actually signify a dramatic increase in new asylum applications. The increase is in part an outcome of the special procedures taken up recently by the Greek authorities to clear the backlog of asylum seekers wanting to register. As a consequence, during the last three months of 2006 alone, some 6,900 asylum claims were registered compared

⁶⁶ US Department of State (2006) Trafficking in Persons Report 2006.

⁶⁷ Declaration of M. Stylianidis (Deputy Foreign Minister of Greece) on the trafficking of human beings, 6 June 2006, http://www.mfa.gr/www.mfa.gr/Articles/fr-FR/070606_E1143.htm

⁶⁸ Apap, Joanna, Peter Cullen, and Felicitia Medved (2005) *Counteracting Human Trafficking – Protecting the Victims of Trafficking*, IOM Brussels Conference Papers, p. 28, <http://www.belgium.iom.int/STOPConference/Conference%20Papers/01.%20Apap,%20J.-%20IOM%20final%20paper.pdf>

⁶⁹ Terre des Hommes (2003) *The Trafficking of Albanian Children in Greece*, Tirana.

⁷⁰ Ibid.

⁷¹ US Department of State (2007) Trafficking in Persons Report 2007.

⁷² UNHCR (2006) *Asylum Levels and Trends in Industrialised Countries, Second Quarter of 2007*.

to 5,400 claims in the first nine months of the year.⁷³ The number of asylum application in 2005 was double the number of applications received in 2004.

Main countries of origin in recent years have included Pakistan, Bangladesh, Iraq, Georgia, and Afghanistan.

A large proportion of asylum seekers arrive in Greece by boat, with many of them risking their lives and dying at sea. Among those arriving by boat are Iraqis, Afghans, and Somalis. The number of sea arrivals in 2007 has exceeded greatly that in the previous years and many deaths have been recorded. With the increase in the number of arrivals, detention centres in Samos, Chios, and Lesbos are experiencing serious problems of overcrowding.⁷⁴

Greece is a signatory party to the Geneva Convention of 1951 and the New York Protocol of 1967. Two Presidential Decrees, 189/1998 and 61/1999, have been issued to deal with refugee and asylum issues. Presidential Decree 189/1998 refers to the conditions and procedures for the granting of a work permit or any other assistance for occupational rehabilitation to refugees recognized by the state, to asylum seekers, and to persons granted temporary residence on humanitarian grounds. Presidential Decree 61/1999 regulates the procedure of application for asylum.⁷⁵

The current asylum legislation provides that "an alien who is in any way on Greek territory shall be recognized as a refugee and shall be granted asylum if the conditions of Article 1A of the Geneva Convention relating to the Status of Refugee are fulfilled." Asylum seekers have the right to work (with a work permit), to participate in vocational training programmes, and to get free medical care through the National Health System. Asylum seekers whose applications have been rejected by a final decision are given a fixed time limit, usually three months, within which they are requested to leave the country voluntarily. After the expiry of this time limit, rejected asylum seekers will be considered illegal residents in Greece and can be arrested.⁷⁶

The percentage of positive decisions in Greece remains very low (around 1%). This low percentage differentiates between first instance decisions and first

⁷³ UNHCR (2006) *Asylum Levels and Trends in Industrialised Countries, 2006*; UNHCR (2006) *Statistical Yearbook: 2006 Global Trends: Refugees, Asylum-seekers, Returnees, Internally Displaced and Stateless Persons*.

⁷⁴ UNHCR (2007) UNHCR Briefing Notes, 5 October 2007, <http://www.unhcr.org/news/NEWS/47060794d.html>; UNHCR (2007) UNHCR News Stories, 22 October 2007, <http://www.unhcr.org/news/NEWS/471cbeb12.html>

⁷⁵ Kanellopoulos, C., and M. Gregou (2006) *Policy Report on Migration, Asylum and Return in Greece (Reference Period July 2004 - Dec 2005)*, European Migration Network, Athens.

⁷⁶ Kanellopoulos, C. (2005) *Illegally Resident Third Country Nationals in Greece: State Approaches Towards Them, Their Profile and Social Situation*, European Migration Network, Athens.

appeal, the latter being almost double than the former.⁷⁷ In addition, there is a substantial backlog of cases due to lack of specialized personnel and delays in registration of applications. In 2006, Greece introduced improved registration procedures to reduce the backlog of applications (the number of examined applications in 2006 rose to 10,468 from 4,624 in 2005). This development can be attributed to the employment of additional staff in the Asylum Department of the Aliens Sub-directorate of Athens as well as to the online computerized link to the Asylum Department of the Police headquarters.⁷⁸

6.8. Other important migration actors within the country

(Please note the list below does not purport to be exhaustive or representative. IOM does not take responsibility for the accuracy of the contact details.)

International actors

The **International Organization for Migration (IOM)** in Greece implements programmes aimed at the voluntary return of refugees and asylum seekers, and victims of trafficking. It also implements activities for combating discriminations suffered by victims of trafficking, protecting and claiming for their fundamental rights, and creating appropriate conditions for their social and labour integration. Integration programmes for migrants, refugees, and returnees are also implemented. Furthermore, IOM in Greece is active in the implementation of awareness raising and sensitization activities targeting the general population, as well as capacity building activities addressed to public entities and the local administration.

Dodekanissou Street 6, Agios Panteleimon, Ano Kalamaki, Alimos, Athens

Tel: +30 2 10 99 19 040

Fax: +30 2 10 99 10 914

Email: iomathens@iom.int

The **United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)** in Greece works in the following areas: improving the national asylum system; advancing Greek asylum and migration law; facilitating durable solutions for refugees and other persons of concern to UNHCR; and supporting asylum in Greece and UNHCR work for refugees in other parts of the world. In particular, UNHCR

⁷⁷ Kanellopoulos, C., and M. Gregou (2006) *Policy Report on Migration, Asylum and Return in Greece (Reference Period July 2004 - Dec 2005)*, European Migration Network, Athens.

⁷⁸ Kanellopoulos, C., and M. Gregou (2006) *Policy Report on Migration, Asylum and Return in Greece (Reference Period Jan - Dec 2006, 1st draft)*, European Migration Network, Athens.

Athens monitors access to asylum procedure and seeks to ensure that proper information on asylum procedure is made accessible to persons who wish to apply for asylum in Greece. UNHCR also seeks to positively influence the refugee eligibility process through its continued participation in the Appeals Board. UNHCR continues to promote local integration as a key durable solution and works at raising public awareness on asylum issues.

23 Taygetou Street, Paleo Psychico, 15452 Athens

Tel: +30 210 6726462/3

Fax: +30 210 672 6417

<http://www.unhcr.gr>

Local Actors

Since 1995, the **Information and Documentation Centre on Racism, Ecology, Peace and Non Violence (ANTIGONE)** has been active on issues concerning human rights, ecology, peace, and non-violent conflict resolution, in close cooperation with the Ecological Movement of Thessaloniki. ANTIGONE is the national focal point of the European Monitoring Centre on Racism, Xenophobia and Anti-Semitism (EUMC), an independent body of the EU funded by the European Parliament as part of its RAXEN network.

Tel: +30 210 67 11 349

Fax: +30 210 67 11 343

Email: info@antigone.gr

The **Hellenic League for Human Rights (EEDAP)** is the oldest NGO for human rights protection and promotion in Greece. It was founded in 1953. The prevention of violations of human and civil rights and protection of human rights is the League's fundamental intervention pillar. The League actualizes its goals through research into human rights protection, submission of proposals to the state for the solution of such problems, provision of legal aid to victims of human rights violations, awareness-raising activities to the general public, consolidation of public dialogue on human rights through the organization of press conferences, publications, active interventions, and other necessary actions.

Valaoritou 12, Athens, 10671

Tel: +30 2103618966

Fax: +30 2103634437

Email: hlhr@hlhr.gr

<http://www.hlhr.gr/index-en.htm>

The **Greek Council for Refugees (GCR)** is an NGO founded in 1989 to support refugees and asylum seekers in Greece. Through various psychosocial and legal services, it helps them integrate harmoniously in Greece. It is an implementing partner of the UNHCR and has a special advisory status in the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC).

25 Solomou Street, 106 82, Exarcheia

Tel: +30 210 3320000

Fax: +30 210-3803774

Email: gcr1@gcr.gr

<http://www.gcr.gr>

Greek Helsinki Monitor

Kostantinoupolis 82, Athens, P.O.BOX 60820, Glika Nera

Tel.: +30 210 3472259, +30 210 6200120 106

Fax: +30 210 3426267

Email: office@greekhelsinki.gr

The **Greek Forum of Migrants** (<http://www.migrant.gr>) is a coalition of immigrant communities and associations. It aims to support migrants' rights, lobby members of Parliament, pursue close relationships and solidarity with NGOs and unions, and liaise with relevant Ministries, such as Public Order, Interior, Foreign Affairs, and Labour, as well as town authorities.

The **Hellenic Red Cross** provides psycho-social support services, Greek language programmes for adults, and additional intensive Greek language courses for children. It also operates a refugee day centre and a hotline for support and information of refugees and asylum seekers.

Likavitou 1, Athens

Tel: +30 210 3629842, +30 210-3639538

Fax: +30 210-3629842

Email: h.r.c.@netmade.ntua.gr

The **Migration Policy Institute (IMEPO)** conducts migration research for a better understanding of the migration phenomenon and to contribute to the design and implementation of a viable and realistic immigration policy within the EU's framework. In addition, it acts as the advisor of the Greek government on migration policy issues.

46 B Haritos Street, 10676 Athens
Tel: +30 210 72553858
Fax: +30 210 7255389
E-mail: info@imepo.gr
<http://www.imepo.gr/>

The **Mediterranean Migration Observatory (MMO)** was created in 1998 by Martin Baldwin-Edwards (formerly of Queens University Belfast) and Prof. Xanthi Petrinioti of Panteion University. In 1999, it was established as a research unit of the Research Institute of Urban Environment and Human Resources (UEHR), Panteion University of Athens. It aims to come up with a co-ordinated observation of migration flows in the Mediterranean and South-East European regions; provide a comparative analysis of the migration phenomena, as they appear in both the receiving and sending countries, including a comparative research on the social, economic, and political aspects of the location of immigrants and employment in the receiving countries; support theoretical analysis of empirical data and formulation of policy suggestions; promote exchange of information and ideas with collaborating foreign institutions and individual researchers concerning migration phenomena; establish a documentation centre on migration consisting of printed material and electronic databases; and give educational support to Panteion University in the form of educational materials and student training in research programmes.

Email: mmo@panteion.gr; mbe@mmo.gr; petrxan@panteion.gr
<http://www.mmo.gr/index.htm>

The **Network for the Social Support of Immigrants and Refugees** aims to raise awareness of the general public on migration issues and to highlight the problems that migrants and refugees face. The campaign for the legalization of illegal immigrants constitutes the main path of action.

13 Tsamadou Street, 106 81 Athens
Tel: +30 210 3221335
Fax: +30 210 3210561
E-mail: diktio@diktio.org

Praksis (<http://www.praksis.gr/>) is an independent NGO involved in the creation, application, and implementation of social and medical programmes. Beneficiaries of Praksis activities include economic immigrants, asylum seekers/refugees, and other socially excluded groups.

The **Rehabilitation Centre for Victims of Torture and Other Forms of Abuse (CRTV)**, an NGO, aims to provide expert assessment note of attested indications of torture (certificate of torture) to those who have been subjected to torture in order to assist asylum seekers acquire official recognition by the Greek authorities of their status as political refugees and to facilitate their claim to be granted asylum.

10 Piniou Street
54630 Thessaloniki
Tel./Fax: +30 2310 555378
E-mail: crtv@hol.gr

The **Research Centre for Minority Groups (KEMO)** (<http://www.kemo.gr>) is the first research centre in Greece that deals with the systematic study of the minority phenomenon. Set up in 1996, KEMO aims at the multidimensional study of minority groups, minority languages, and every form of cultural diversity at a general theoretical level as well as with regards to specific minority groups in Greece and elsewhere in the world.

The **Research and Support Centre for Victims of Maltreatment and Social Exclusion (CVME)** is a civic, non-profit organization founded in Ioannina and aims at protecting human rights and supporting victims of maltreatment and social exclusion. It operates as a centre that offers social, psychological, medical, and legal support to people who have been subjected to any form of violence or/and maltreatment, and/or social exclusion as a result of human rights violations.

2 G. Papandreou Street
45444 Ioannina
Tel.: +30 26510 78810, Fax: +30 26510 72378
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Solidarity is an NGO of the Church of Greece, founded in May 2002, to respond to the necessity for effective support to suffering persons. Particularly for victims of trafficking and domestic violence, Solidarity undertakes initiatives intended to provide a full range of services in collaboration with professionals and trained volunteers.

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