

# THE RELOCATION PROGRAMME FROM GREECE TO OTHER EU MEMBER STATES FOR BENEFICIARIES IN CLEAR NEED OF INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION



Funded by the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund of the  
European Union Emergency Funds



# Description



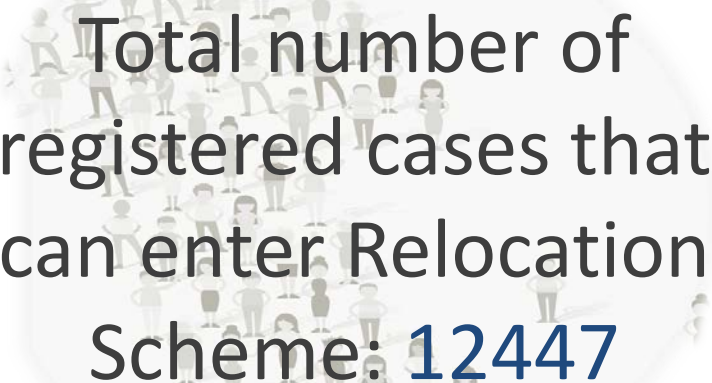
Through the Relocation Program, the International Organization for Migration in Greece (IOM) is supporting the Government of Greece in relocating in safety and dignity more than 65.000 asylum seekers to other EU Member States of Relocation (MSR).

# Eligibility criteria

- Beneficiaries to the Program are applicants in prima facie need of international protection for whom the EU average recognition rate is above 75% according to EUROSTAT's figures of the latest three months.
- The applicant should have arrived on the territory of Greece between 16/09/2015 and 20/03/2016, when the agreement between EU and Turkey was signed.
- The majority of beneficiaries come from Syria, Iraq and Eritrea.
- Special care is provided to asylum seeking unaccompanied children. All stakeholders work towards ensuring that relocation is always in the child's best interest.

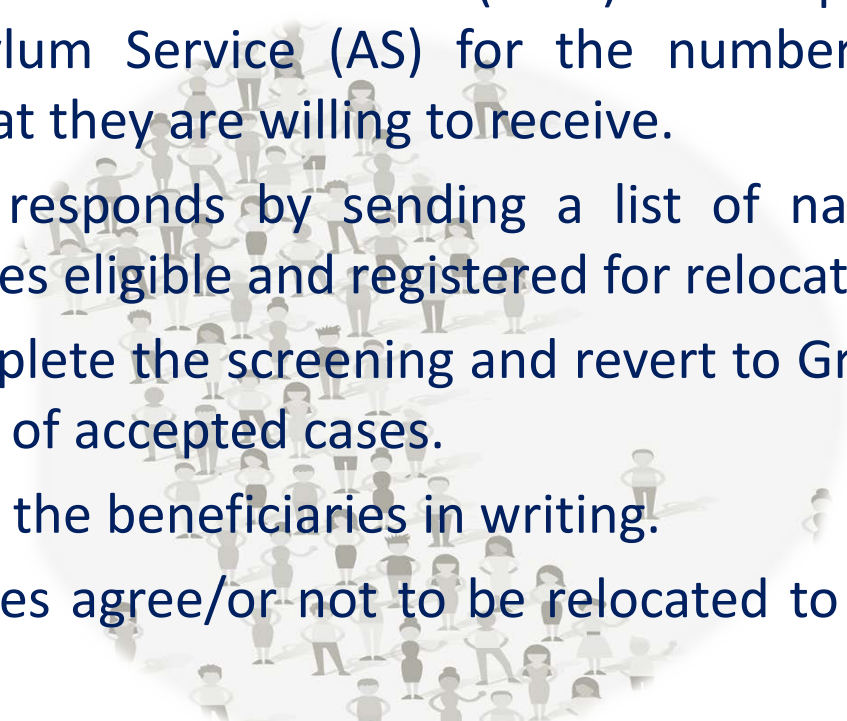
# State of play (19/09/2016)

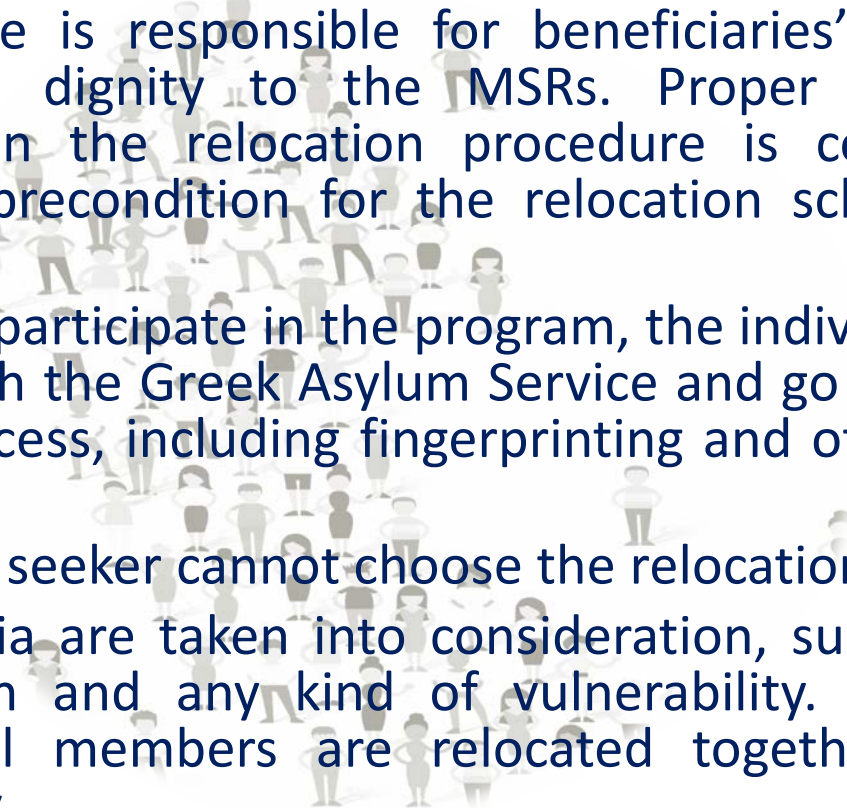
Member State	Departed	UMCs Departed
Austria		
Belgium	153	
Bulgaria	6	
Croatia	10	
Cyprus	42	
Czech Republic	12	
Estonia	49	
Finland	430	38
France	1431	
Germany	195	3
Hungary		
Ireland	69	1
Latvia	55	
Lichtenstein		
Lithuania	77	
Luxemburg	104	9
Malta	24	
Netherlands	439	1
Norway		
Poland		
Portugal	351	2
Romania	165	
Slovakia	3	
Slovenia	60	
Spain	187	
Sweden		
Switzerland		
<b>Total</b>	<b>3862</b>	<b>54</b>



Total number of  
registered cases that  
can enter Relocation  
Scheme: **12447**

# The Procedure

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- Members States of Relocation (MSR) make a pledge to the Greek Asylum Service (AS) for the number of asylum seekers that they are willing to receive.
  - Greek AS responds by sending a list of names of the beneficiaries eligible and registered for relocation.
  - MSRs complete the screening and revert to Greek AS with the names of accepted cases.
  - AS notifies the beneficiaries in writing.
  - Beneficiaries agree/or not to be relocated to the specific MSR.
  - Greek AS sends the list of accepted cases to IOM.

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- IOM Greece is responsible for beneficiaries' transfer in safety and dignity to the MSRs. Proper information provided on the relocation procedure is considered a necessary precondition for the relocation scheme to be successful.
  - In order to participate in the program, the individual should register with the Greek Asylum Service and go through the asylum process, including fingerprinting and other biometric data collection.
  - The asylum seeker cannot choose the relocation country.
  - Basic criteria are taken into consideration, such as family composition and any kind of vulnerability. In cases of families, all members are relocated together ensuring family unity.

# Pre-departure preparation





# Pre-departure preparation

## *Health Assessments*

- Each beneficiary of the relocation programme undergoes a basic health assessment aimed at ensuring a safe travel;
- Physical examination, urine test, X-ray;
- Health assessments take place in Athens by licensed, qualified doctors and nurses, trained by IOM in carrying out such assessments;
- If a significant health condition is identified, IOM makes sure that the necessary care is provided before departure to the MSR;
- A consent form that explains what the health assessment entails is signed by all beneficiaries. An IOM interpreter assists in reading the form and answering any questions the beneficiaries may have.
- A final 'fit-to-travel' check 24-48 hours before the departure is carried out for each beneficiary by IOM Greece.





# Pre-departure preparation

## *Pre-departure orientation sessions*

IOM Greece organizes a **pre-departure orientation** session a few days prior to departure. With the assistance of cultural mediators the sessions provide information about:

- The country and the town or city in which the beneficiaries will be relocated;
- What they should expect upon arrival, including accommodation facilities and information on the asylum application procedures;
- The beneficiaries' rights and obligations such as access to health care, language lessons, education, freedom of religion and other essential issues;
- Flight and travel details.



# Pre-departure preparation

## *Movement*



- Ticketing process;
- On the date of travel, IOM staff is present at the airport to assist with check-in and any other airport procedures. IOM staff stay with the beneficiaries until they board the flight;
- When necessary, IOM representatives escort individuals or groups of beneficiaries through their transit points and/or final destinations;
- IOM staff are also present at the airport of the destination country providing first reception assistance.

# Additional procedures for Unaccompanied Minor Children

## Best Interest Assessment of the child



### 1. Interview with the social worker:

- Personal and family history;
- Information about their travel to Greece;
- Current living conditions;
- Social integration/adaptation in Greece.

### 2. Interview with the psychologist:

- Psychological assessment of the child, psychiatric symptoms, indications for trafficking;
- Confirmation of the child's consent about the relocation decision;
- Identification of the child's needs;
- Information about the relocation country.

### 3. Best Interest Assessment report to the Prosecutor for Minors

### 4. Travel preparation:

- Meeting with all UMCs and contact with their escort;
- Escorting during the flight until the final destination.

# Challenges

- Lack of a dedicated Relocation Centre in the Attica region.
- Contacting the beneficiaries for the pre-departure preparation activities – often no contact details, wrong phone numbers etc.
- Meeting special requirements of most MSRs on departure dates/times, depending on their reception/accommodation capacities.
- Peaks and lows of the pledging pace – many namelists arrive at the same time, with pressure of departure within a short time period.

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*Thank you*