

Total Population

There are no public figures on refugee and migrant children currently in Greece. Based on UNICEF estimates, by the end of September 2017, the **total population of refugee and migrant children** in Greece was **19.000**. Of those, 4.200 were estimated to be located on the islands and 14.800 on the mainland.

Unaccompanied children

Based on data from E.K.K.A., by the end of October 2017, **3.150 unaccompanied children** were in Greece, **1.098** of whom were living in shelters for unaccompanied children. Out of the remaining children who have been referred or are pending referral to E.K.K.A., for shelter placement : **546** were located in **Reception and Identification centers**, **183** were located in **temporary accommodation facilities**, **253** were in **safe zones** within temporary accommodation facilities, while **107** unaccompanied children were under **deprivation of liberty**.

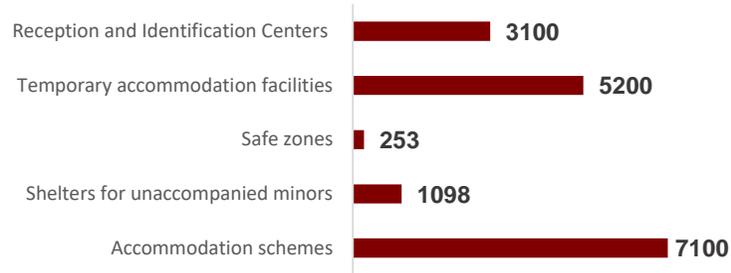
International Protection and Asylum Applications

16.684 of the total asylum applications, from January to October 2017, concerned children, according to the Greek Asylum Service. **2.233** of which concerned unaccompanied children. During the same period, **3.252 children** received international protection in Greece (refugee status and subsidiary protection) at first instance, **226** of whom were **unaccompanied children**.

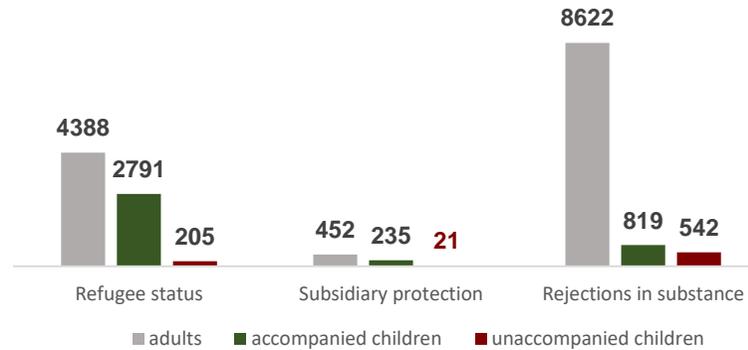
Relocation

9.238 children were relocated from Greece to other EU member states by the end of October 2017. **345** of those were unaccompanied children, most of whom were relocated to Finland, the Netherlands and Spain.

Estimated number of children per type of reception/accommodation facility based on available information



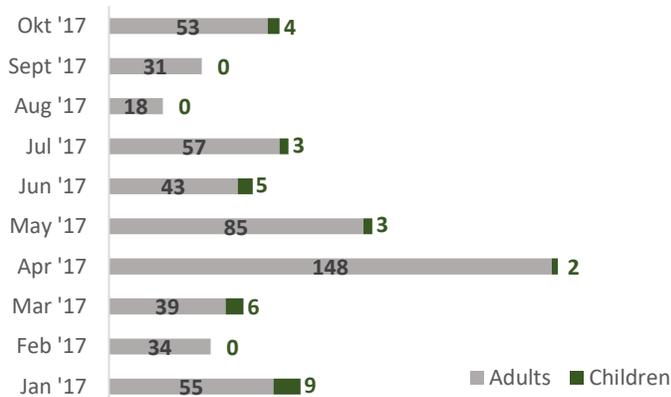
First instance asylum procedure decisions on international protection in Greece by the Asylum Service (Jan-Oct 2017)



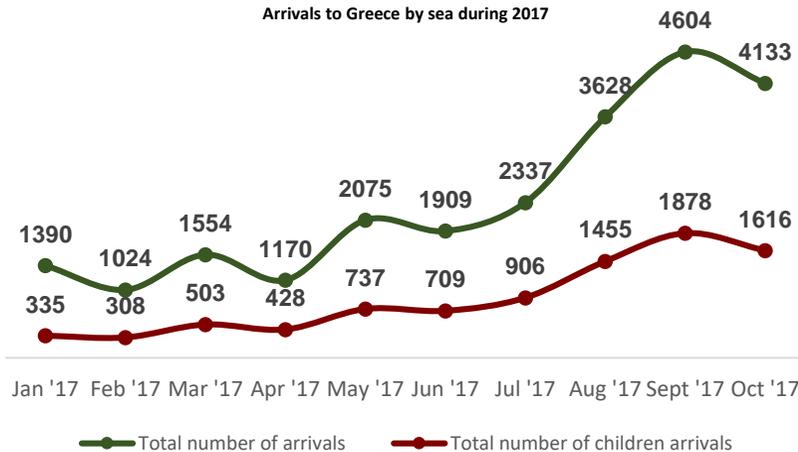
Family reunification

Based on Asylum Service data, from January to September 2017, out of the **9.381** outgoing applications for family reunification within the framework of "Dublin III" Regulation, **848** concerned **unaccompanied children**. During the same period, 2.549 transfers to E.U Member States had taken place. There is no public data available on the number of children included in the aforementioned transfers.

Readmissions of accompanied children from the Greek islands during 2017, based on the EU - Turkey statement of 18th of March 2016



Arrivals to Greece by sea during 2017



Arrivals by sea

In total, from January to October 2017, **8.875** children arrived in Greece by sea, accounting for **37%** of the total sea arrivals.

Education

According to the Ministry of Education, by the end of October 2017, approximately **5.300** children were in the process of enrolling or have already enrolled in formal education, while more enrollments are expected to take place with the establishment of new reception classes. **2.593** are the estimated children 6-16 years old living in temporary accommodation facilities, being already in the process of enrolling in Greek schools. More than **2.700** children living in urban areas (apartments and shelters for unaccompanied children) are estimated to have enrolled in schools throughout Greece both in primary and secondary education. Out of these, **300** are estimated to be living on the islands.

Operational since January 2017, this Network is informal by design and coordinated by the Deputy Ombudsman for Children's Rights. The main objectives of the Network for the rights of children on the move are the systematic monitoring of crucial issues and evidence-based advocacy for children on the move as well as contributing to the strategic planning for the protection of children.

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Working meeting of the Greek Ombudsman and members of the Network with representatives of the Asylum Service and other relevant authorities, Athens, 23 of June 2017



21 members, including 3 UN agencies (UNICEF, UNHCR and IOM), 18 civil society organizations and the Municipality of Athens as a cooperating member.



90 issues related to the protection of the rights of children on the move have been given prominence by the members of the Network, following the established information exchange process from the beginning of its operation to October 2017.



Key issues given prominence by the abovementioned information exchange process: Access to education, access to mental and physical health care, living conditions, international protection (asylum - family reunification), age assessment and deprivation of liberty of unaccompanied children.

Key activities and advocacy areas focusing on:

- 1. Strengthening access to formal education for accompanied and unaccompanied children:** An assessment examining the levels of access to education for unaccompanied children living in shelters has been carried out, among others. The findings and recommendations of the assessment were shared with the Ministry of Education and were taken into consideration for the planning of the 2017-2018 school year (you can read the assessment [here](#) and the summary of findings in English [here](#)).
- 2. Effective promotion of family reunification and relocation procedures for accompanied and unaccompanied children:** Following an open letter to the Asylum Service and relevant authorities, a closed meeting was held in June 2017, with participation from public stakeholders. In October 2017, another intervention took place, followed by a respective letter to competent authorities. This intervention is still ongoing and is focused on the promotion of transfers of the families and the unaccompanied children to other EU countries (please read [here](#) for more details).
- 3. The issue of detention and deprivation of liberty of unaccompanied children and the age assessment:** The feedback and information collected by the members of the Network were taken into consideration in the planning of targeted visits in facilities where unaccompanied children are being detained. In September 2017, a task force was established within the Network, focusing on the promotion of recommendations and requests towards relevant institutional bodies (you can read more information [here](#) and [here](#)).

Thematic areas of indicators for monitoring the situation of children on the move

- 1. Access to basic good and services**
 - Facilities- temporary accommodation facilities and shelters for unaccompanied children (capacity, establishment, operation, supervision, standards, management issues)
 - Living conditions (nutrition- clothing-adequate and safe housing – hygiene conditions)
 - Health (physical and mental health)
 - Education
 - Entertainment
 - Social benefits
 - Access to international protection/ asylum (family reunification, relocation)
 - Civil registration services and issues related to civil status
 - Interpretation
 - Legal information and legal aid
- 2. Violations of children's rights**
 - ❖ Severe violations or risk of violations of children's rights (such as violence, abuse, exploitation, neglect, illegal / criminal acts against children)
 - ❖ Incidents, actions or practices that victimize or pose a serious risk of child victimization (such as child marriages, participation/ exploitation of children to illegal acts, racist behavior)
 - ❖ Issues related to procedures of voluntary or forced return (deportation, return/readmission) as well as procedures of safeguarding the residence status
 - ❖ Issues related to the (administrative) detention of children – the case of deprivation of liberty and protective custody – illegal detention

The Ombudsman's interventions for refugee and migrant children in Greece

January – October 2017

- ❖ Visits to refugee and migrant accommodation facilities and facilities of protective custody for unaccompanied children in northern Greece. See [here](#) for more information.
- ❖ The rights of children on the move: Report and network with the initiative of the Ombudsman. You can read the six months' report on the activities and findings in the context of the Ombudsman's monitoring mechanism for the situation of children on the move in Greece [here](#).
- ❖ Recommendations by the Ombudsman for the education of refugee children in Lesbos. Report on the activities, findings and recommendations [here](#).
- ❖ Promotion of the radio message "TOGETHER WE CAN" from Lesbos, in the context of the international day for the elimination of racial discrimination. You can find more details and listen to the message [here](#).
- ❖ Video-interview on the right to protection of the health of children in schools, including frequently asked questions and answers on contagious diseases and main prevention measures. You can watch the video [here](#) and read the frequently asked questions and answers [here](#).
- ❖ Initiative for the establishment of the Network for the rights of children on the move. More information [here](#).

Working Meetings

January – October 2017

Meetings and cooperation with institutional bodies in Greece :

- ❑ Hellenic Ministry of Education, Research and Religious Affairs
- ❑ Ministry of Migration Policy
- ❑ Ministry of Labour, Social Security and Social Solidarity & National Center for Social Solidarity (EKKA)
- ❑ Ministry of Justice, Transparency and Human Rights
- ❑ Ministry of Health
- ❑ Institute of Child Health
- ❑ Supreme Court's Public Prosecution Office

Participation in international meetings and cooperation with:

- ❑ European Network of Ombudspersons for Children (ENOC)
- ❑ Council of Europe
- ❑ European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA)
- ❑ European Commission Coordinator on the Rights of the Child, Directorate-General for Justice and Consumers (DG JUST)
- ❑ Relevant Institutions



Serres temporary accommodation facility, July 2017

Visits within the framework of monitoring the situation of children on the move under the supervision of the **Deputy Ombudsman for Children's Rights** from the beginning of 2017 until end of October 2017

12 visits to temporary accommodation facilities in Attica (2), Central Macedonia (3), Eastern Macedonia and Thrace (2) and islands (2).

12 visits to shelters for unaccompanied minors in Attica (3), the Peloponnese (1) and Lesbos (7).

6 visits to safe zones within the temporary accommodation facilities in Attica (1), Central Macedonia (3) and Eastern Macedonia and Thrace (2).

5 inspection visits to detention facilities where children were under deprivation of liberty in Attica (1), Central Macedonia (2) and the islands (2).

1 visits to an informal facility in the Peloponnese.

3 visits to other accommodation arrangements for children and their families (accommodation scheme by UNHCR and other INGOs/ NGOs) in Attica (1), in Central Macedonia (1) and Lesbos (1).

1 visit to other facilities in the Peloponnese

17 visits to education facilities for informal, formal and non-formal education in Attica (7), Central Macedonia (3) and the islands (7).