



ASSOCIATION FOR THE SOCIAL SUPPORT OF YOUTH

Unaccompanied Refugee Minors Rights and Information

**Πρόγραμμα ΜΕΤΟΙΚΟΣ
Με τη συγχρηματοδότηση**



Ευρωπαϊκή Επιτροπή
Ευρωπαϊκό Ταμείο Προσφύγων



Υπουργείο Εργασίας,
Κοινωνικής Ασφάλισης & Πρόνοιας





Arsis is a non governmental organization which implements services and programmes for the support and the protection of the children and their rights. **Arsis** develops actions in order to help the young people who have to deal with serious problems and difficulties in their daily life and they do not have the necessary care and support from their family and social environment. The unaccompanied minor immigrants are considered to be a part of this youth population. For the youngsters under the age of 18 who came in Greece without legitimate documents, Arsis cooperates with the Ministry of Health and Solidarity, the public authorities (the police – the district attorney's office)

and other services or organizations whose purpose is the reception, the hospitality and the support of the young people.

How can I receive any kind of assistance from Arsis?

Arsis contacts you and other unaccompanied minors at the reservation centers with the aim of:

- Conducting interviews in order to collect the necessary information for the needs and the situation of every minor, so that with his or her cooperation he or she is going to be able to receive the necessary help.
- Informing the youngsters on their rights.
- Providing the essentials, like clothes, shoes, soap, toothbrush, toothpaste, etc.
- Cooperating with the authorities for the improvement of the detention conditions.
- Cooperating with other services for the completion of the necessary medical examinations.
- Ensuring hospitality places, in cooperation with the relevant Service of the Ministry of Health, at the Reception and Hospitality Centers which the organization holds at the cities of Alexandroupoli, Thessaloniki and Volos and also at Hospitality Centers of other social services.
- Informing and assisting the youngsters in their interface with other services which could prove useful in Athens, Thessaloniki or other cities where they may be transferred.
- Assuring protection in case someone reports that he or she is a victim of blackmailing, violence, and mistreatment or trafficking.

Arsis via its action at the Reservation Centers and its contact with the unaccompanied immigrant minors has created a register of some of their queries. We reply to some of them, which may probably be your own questions too.

I am a minor, without the company of my parents. What is the reason for my confinement and what are my rights?

In the case you are a minor and you have been arrested because you entered the country without any legitimate documents, the law protects you. The authorities are obligated to keep you until a secure place of hospitality to be found. This place of hospitality could be a hostel or a minor's protectory.

Who could be considered responsible for me?

When you are under the age of 18 and you are not accompanied by a responsible for your protection adult relative, the line of duty district attorney is being informed by the authorities and appointed as a temporary guardian responsible for you. Later a permanent guardian is going to be assigned. The temporary or the permanent guardian are responsible for your stay and security in the country as well as in charge of matters which may concern you, like housing, asylum, education etc.

What is the hostel or the minors' protectory where I am going to be placed afterwards?

The hostel or the minors' protectory is a place where you can get hospitality until you reach the age of 18 (until you become an adult). At the hostel you have your freedom and free food, a shelter, a cover of your basic needs, access to your rights in relation to education and medical support. Your stay at the Hostel is not obligatory; however, it is for the best to stay there until you can secure your residence somewhere else, without encountering any danger.

Why does my transfer to a hostel take so long?

In order your temporary guardian (line of duty district attorney) to allow your release from the Reservation Center, your medical examinations must first have been completed, so that you are able to access a more specialized center if you need any therapy. The temporary guardian should have first secured your stay in a hostel or a minors' hospitality center. The number of places at the hostel is often not enough to cover for all the minors who enter the country without legitimate documents. As a result you have to wait until an available place to be found in order you and the rest of the kept minors to be hosted.

I have undergone torture or violence in my country or during my journey to this country. How can I get some help?

This is something that you need to report immediately to the police or to the people who come in contact with you from Arsis or other Organizations, in order to receive suitable support. Specialized personnel can offer you the help and the support that you need. In addition, if you feel that you or a member of your family are in danger or receive any threats in relation to your personal safety and physical integrity, or feel that you are a victim of exploitation or a victim of compulsory work, you also have to report this, in order for us to be able to offer you suitable aid, according to your needs.



Queries concerning legal matters

What is the Deportation Service Note?

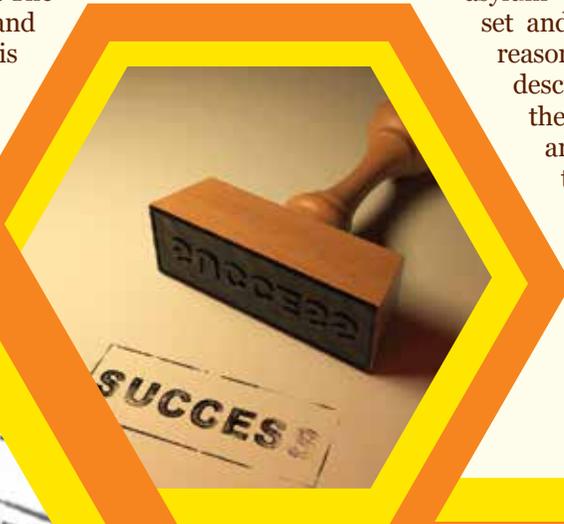
When an outlander crosses the borders of the country without the legitimate documents and is arrested, he or she is kept for a three months period of time. After the particular period of time he or she is left free and receives a document from the police, the Deportation Service Note. According to this document, he or she has to depart Greece in thirty (30) days and return to his or her country. **The deportation service note is not issued for people under the age of 18.**

What is the asylum process?

The asylum process is the one via which the refugee status is recognized and provided by the government to a person, and due to this status, protection as well as the possibility of legal stay in the country are also offered. It includes the initial application for an asylum and interviews with the aim of finding out whether he or she who is applying is a refugee or not.

In order for the refugee status to be recognized an asylum application has to be submitted. The asylum application is sent in the Foreigner's Department of the Greek Police and includes the completion of a document as well as an interview with the policemen. Via the internet a number of information is required as if you have been prosecuted in your country due to your beliefs (ideas), religion, origin or other reasons, if by staying or returning there your life is in danger or if you may be or have already been subjected to prosecution, mistreatment or torture. It is evaluated whether the existing conditions there, the facts, the general political and social situation, put your personal security in danger and do not guarantee the respect of human rights. The application is considered individually and authenticity is investigated. For this asylum applicants owe to full and honestly describe their case and if there is evidence which proves that they are in danger, they owe to adduce

asylum application and its author reason the describe in there is evidence are in danger them.



Am I entitled for asylum?

You are entitled for asylum if you have left your country for the following reasons:

- Justified fear of prosecution because of the race, the religion, the nationality, the social group or the political beliefs that you represent.
- You are in danger to endure serious harm at your country of origin or at your previous place of stay, especially because you are in danger of a death penalty or execution, torture or inhuman or humiliating treatment.
- Your life is in danger or your integrity because of international or civil war

You are not entitled for asylum if you have migrated for economic reasons or in order to look for better living conditions (employment, education, providence, health system) to the existing ones in your country.

Where do I submit the asylum application?

The asylum application is carried out at the relevant police department. If you are a minor under the age of 14, you can submit the application on your own, if the authorities regard that you are mature enough to acknowledge the importance of your action. After your application, you will be given a date for an interview. Immediately after that, you will be provided a Special Asylum Applicant Document which is going to be valid until the date of the interview. At the interview you are entitled to request a translator and you are eligible to attend in the presence of a lawyer or without one.

What is the Special Asylum Applicant Document (or else the pink card)?

The Special Asylum Applicant Document or else named as the Pink Card is a pink card which is given to those who orally or in written report that they apply for an asylum because they are prosecuted in their country or they cannot return because their life and their freedom are in danger. The Special Asylum Applicant Document is valid for 6 months and the expiry date is registered on it.

You can renew your card every 6 months.

When you have submitted an asylum application you are obligated to stay in the country. Your deportation, departure or repromotion is forbidden. It is important to cooperate with the police and to report your address change in case this occurs, because in this way they are going to be able to send you any decisions with regard to your application. In addition, it is very important to know that during the asylum application process you will be asked to give your fingerprints for the Central European Base Eurodoc. In case you have submitted the asylum application to another European country, you will be transferred there in order for your application to be examined there.

Provided that you have asked for asylum you are entitled to have access to Health (free medical and pharmaceutical care in the public health system), Employment (allowance for work license, employment in the private sector), Social Insurance (insurance coverage in the event of employment), Providence (granting for an AMEA allowance if you have a disability difficulty and an allowance for unprotected children), Education (access to all academic levels), Vocational Training (vocational training programmes), the Family Life Protection.

What is the Special Under Forbearance Residency Immigrant Document (Humanitarian Regime)?

This document is issued by the Greek authorities when the asylum application is rejected, the refugee status is not approved, but staying in Greece is approved. This paper is provided when there are serious problems and an objective difficulty in returning to your country, for example a serious health matter, international exclusion, civil conflict / war, massive human rights' violations or prohibition of repromotion. It is valid for one year.

Those people who live in the country for humanitarian reasons have access in Health (free medical and pharmaceutical care in the public health system), Employment (allowance of work license, employment in the private sector), Social Insurance (insurance coverage in the event of employment), Providence (granting for an AMEA allowance if you have a disability difficulty and an allowance for unprotected children), Education (access to all academic levels), Vocational Training (vocational training programmes), the Family Life Protection.

What is the Special Identity Document of a Political Foreigner Fugitive (Refugee Status)?

It is the document which is issued to you when your refugee status is recognized by the Greek authorities. It includes a refugee permission of stay for five years and travel documents. As a refugee you have access to Health (free medical and pharmaceutical care in the public health system), Employment (allowance of work license, employment in the private and public sector, permission to work as a freelancer), social insurance (insurance coverage according to the work sector), Provision (granting for an AMEA allowance if there is a disability difficulty, allowance for those without insurance and the elderly, allowance for the unprotected children), Education (access to all academic levels), Vocational Training (vocational training programmes), Family Life (political marriage, family reunification), Naturalization (Greek nationality).

What is the Family Reunification License?

If your parents or one of your parents are legally resident in Greece for at least two years they can ask for your entrance and your location in the country if:

- 1) there is the intention of moving in and living with the parents**
- 2) Your parent has an available stable personal income for his or her family's needs, a suitable place of stay and health coverage insurance, which could cover for you.**



Moreover, if one of your parents or some other first degree relative (brother and sister) is legally a resident of another country of the European Union, he or she can also ask for your transfer and residence in that country. In such case you have to apply for a political asylum to the Greek police and to report at the same time that you wish to relocate to the country where your relative is a resident.

In this case the government is going to ensure the way of your transfer to the country where your relative is. This process requires medical examinations, in order for your age and kinship to be determined.

I do not wish to apply for asylum in Greece. I wish to go over to another country and apply for asylum there. In which countries I am entitled for asylum?

Whether or not you are going to apply for asylum in Greece is your own choice, where you have to work out if you are in reality entitled to get asylum and if you have the proper documentary for it.

You can ask for political asylum in any European country. Each application is examined separately and the decision is reached by the relevant authorities of each country. You must however know that if you request asylum in a country of the European Union, you must stay in this one until a decision has been reached. In case you go over to another country and ask for asylum in that one, the authorities will attend your return to the country where you applied for asylum in the first time.

You must know that some countries of the European Union, for humanitarian reasons, do not permit the return of minor immigrants in Greece. If you have applied for political asylum in Greece, and for some reason you are in another country of the European Union, you have the right, with the help of a lawyer, to object during the act of deportation.

If I have to deal with a difficulty which services or organizations are available to assist me?

As an unaccompanied minor you can ask for help in any town from the Social Providence, the Municipalities' Social Service, the Minors' Servers Service, the District Attorney's Service, and the Police. You can also address any questions to the following Organizations and bodies:

Medecins Du Monde

Athens: Sappfous 12, tel: 210.32.13.150 & 210.32.13.850 - Ksenias 15, tel: 219 5200.500
Thessaloniki: Ionos Dragoumi 65, tel: 2310 56.66.41

Hellenic Council for the Refugees Athens: Solomou 25, tel: 210-3800990

Thessaloniki: Mitseon 7, tel: 2310 250045

Praksis Athens: Peoniou 5, Sq. Victorias, tel: 210 82 13 704

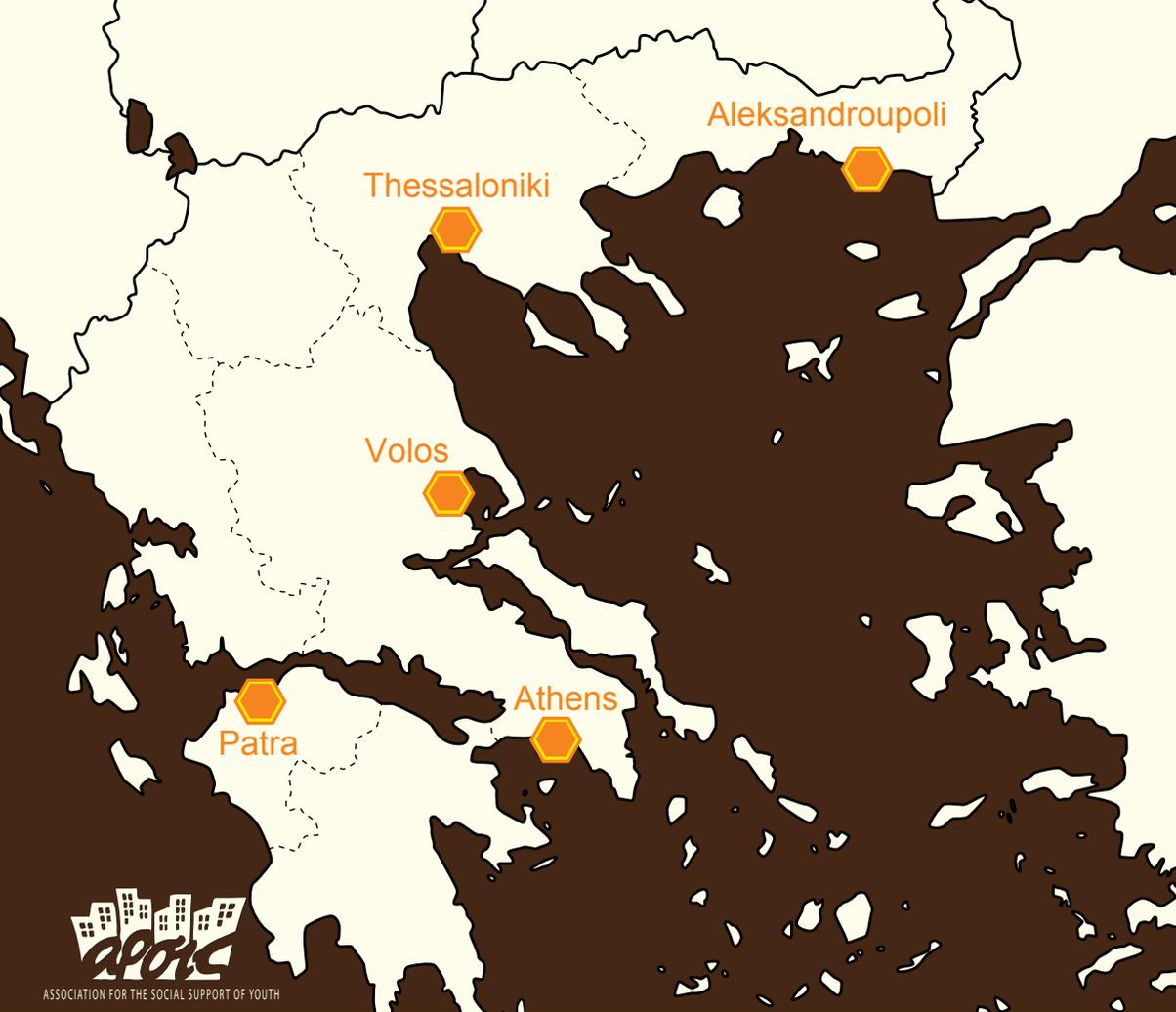
Thessaloniki: Arkadioupoleos 1 & Ag. Dimitriou, tel: 2310 55 61 45

High Commission for the Refugees Athens: 210 6756801

Citizen's Advocate Athens: Xatzigianni Meksi, 5, tel: 210 7289600

Ministry of Health and Social Provision Athens: tel: 210 5202074





ATHENS, Derigni 28, Tel: 210 8259880. Contact: 9:00 – 17:00

THESSALONIKI, Ptolemaion 36 Tel: 2310 526150 Contact: 9:00 – 17:00

VOLOS, Makrinita, Tel: 24280 99939 Contact: 9:00 – 17:00

ALEKSANDROUPOLI, Tel: 25515 50002 Voulgaroktonou 3, Contact: 9:00 – 17:00

Available guesthouses of ARSIS where you can be hosted:

Ar sis has available guesthouses in Thessaloniki and Volos for the hospitality of people under the age of 18. At the guesthouses you are free and you receive practical support for your rights.

At the guesthouses ARSIS can offer you:

- Residence, food and supply of first aid products.
- Legal Advice and help during the asylum application.
- Information in any matter of concern.
- Counseling and psychological support.
- Greek language teaching lessons.
- Health care.
- Participation in education.
- Creative Activities in your free time.
- Reinforcement of vocational rehabilitation.
- Preparation for independent living.
- In addition, **ARSIS** via its services is responsible for the post - monitoring and your interface with other services and integration programs.