



Ahmed Tarzalakis and his wife Tsasmin, with their daughter Fatima, in the balcony of their apartment in Chania, Crete © UNHCR/Χρήστος Τόλης

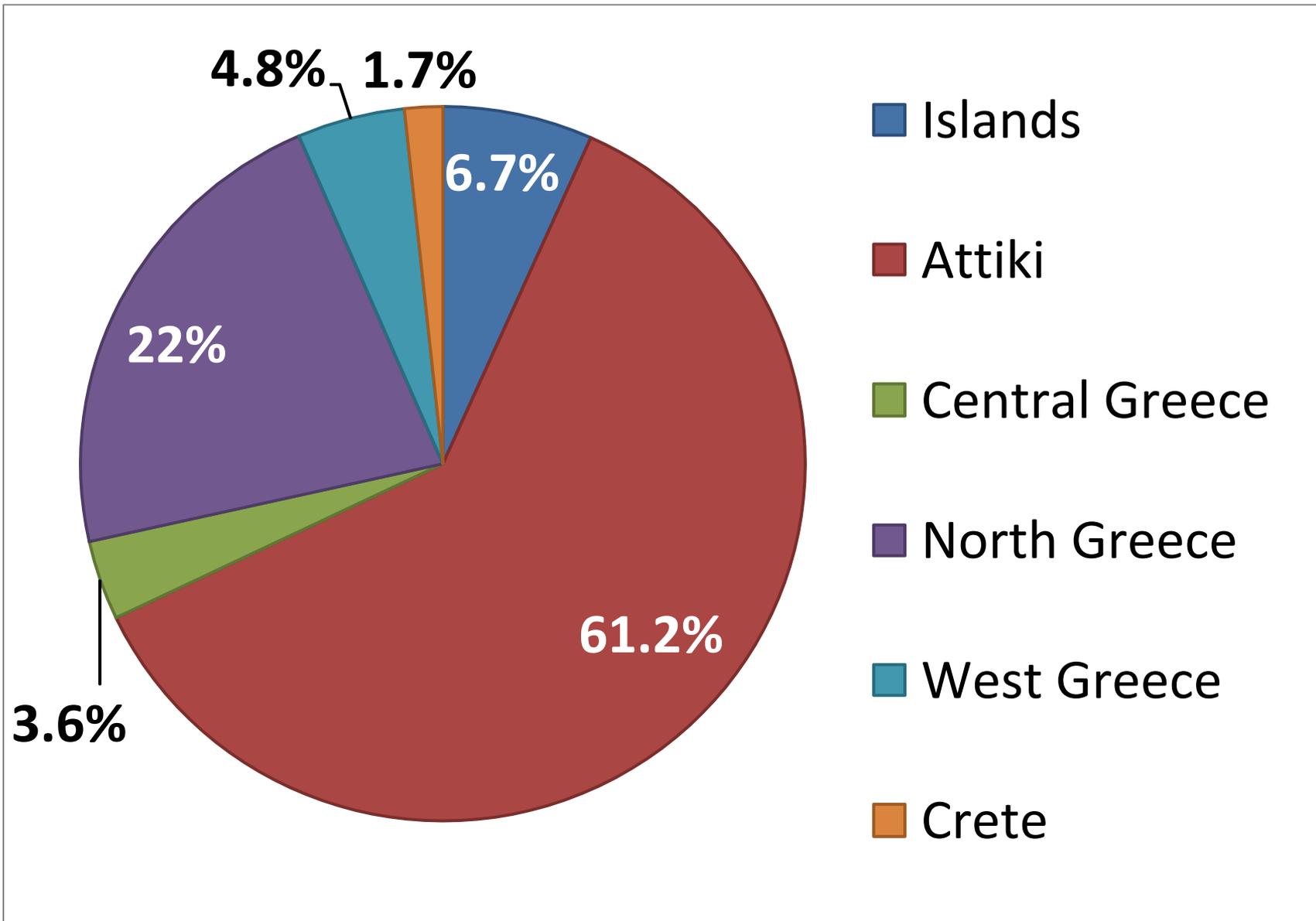


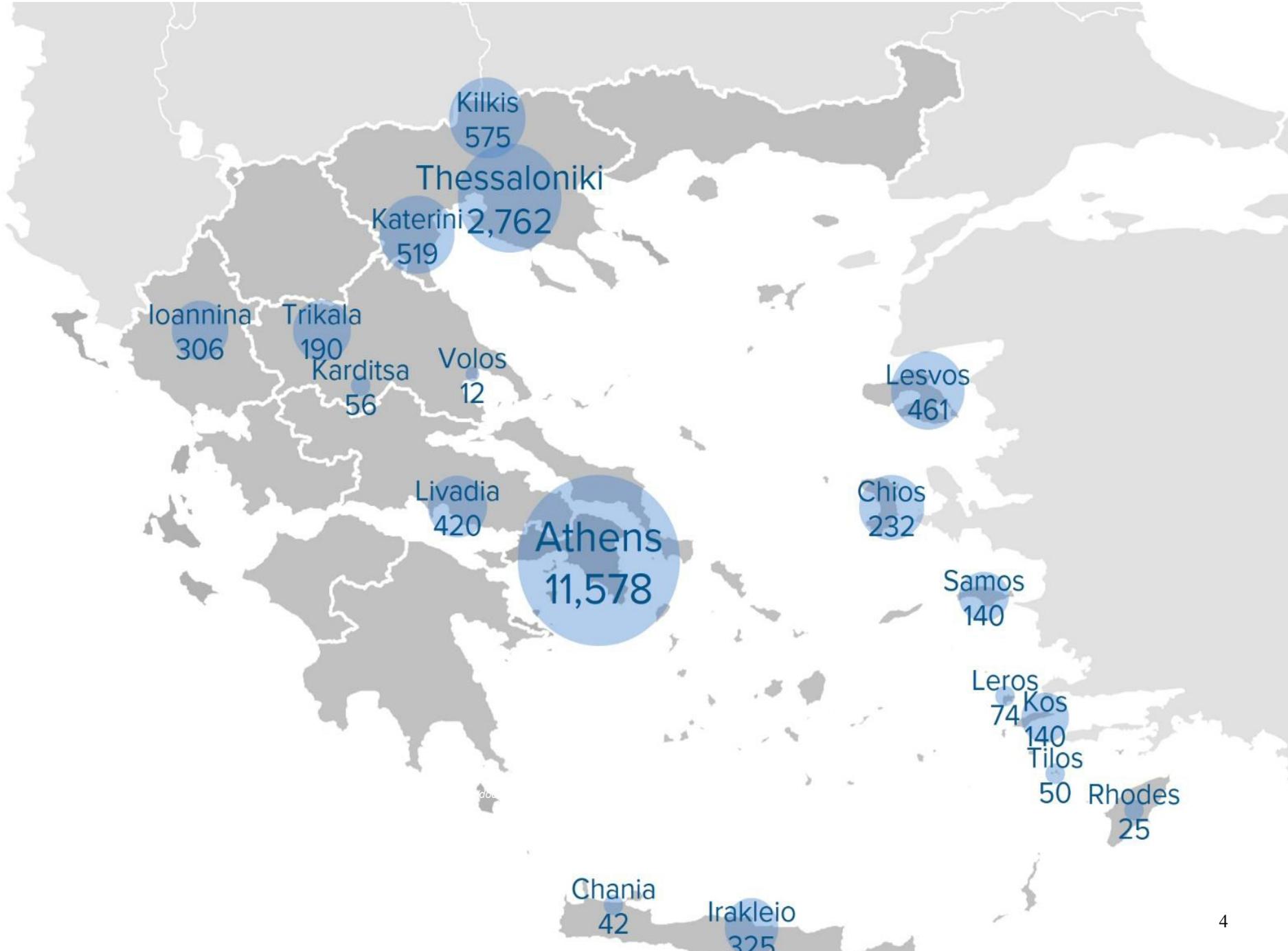
UNHCR
The UN Refugee Agency

GREECE

By 31st January 2018

- UNHCR estimation: 50,370 refugees
 - 39,100 in the mainland
 - 11,270 on the islands
- 78% of arrivals in 2018 are from Syria, Iraq, DRC and Afghanistan





GREECE Accommodation Update

(February 2018)

Emergency Support to Integration and Accommodation (ESTIA)

22,049 accommodation places

- In 3,629 separate buildings
- In 20 cities in Greece

The Accommodation Scheme provides:

- Rented housing to vulnerable asylum-seekers and refugees

Urban accommodation helps:

- Restore a sense of normalcy
- Provides better access to services, including education and health

Accommodation type:

Buildings 13.4%

Apartments 86.6 %

GREECE Cash Assistance



41,387 persons assisted

19,154 cards

4.1 M €

Recognition of qualifications and refugee policy in a broader context: a **UNHCR** perspective

UNHCR Greece, 2018

Note on the Integration of Refugees in the European Union

(May 2007)

Following Recognition: Integration Challenges Specific to Refugees and Beneficiaries of Subsidiary Protection

... refugees are unable to provide documentary evidence of previous studies

- They may have had to leave their personal belongings and papers behind
- There may be no way to communicate safely with the institution(s) where their qualifications were earned, or
- relevant files and archives may have been destroyed in acts of war or violence
- Information may be withheld for political or other reasons

European institutions responsible for recognition of qualifications

acknowledged:
the specific problems of certifying previous studies by refugees and

highlighted:
the lack of documentary evidence as the main challenge

Qualifications are linked with:

Access to labour market

UNHCR welcomes initiatives facilitating assessment or certification, through competency tests or other appropriate methods

Access to higher education

Art. VII of the Lisbon Convention obliges State Parties 'to take all feasible and reasonable steps [...] to develop procedures designed to assess fairly and expeditiously whether refugees,fulfil the relevant requirements **for access to higher education**, further **higher education programmes or employment activities**, even in cases in which the qualifications obtained in one of the Parties cannot be proven through documentary evidence'.

UNHCR encourages EU Member States to extend the use of **flexible assessment measures** to refugee qualifications

UNHCR comments on the European Commission's proposal for the Qualification Directive

July 2010

All beneficiaries of international protection should in principle have the same rights

Recast article 28

This includes: Giving refugees and subsidiary protection beneficiaries equal access to new, specific procedures for recognition of qualifications.

Recommendation: UNHCR welcomes recast Article 28 facilitating recognition of qualifications, which can also enhance integration

UNHCR welcomes proposed recast Article 28, on access to procedures for recognition of qualifications.

Recognition of qualifications for beneficiaries of international protection is a significant element in ensuring their equal employment opportunities and integration.

...., special measures are needed effectively to address the practical difficulties encountered by beneficiaries of international protection such as authentication of evidence of formal qualifications and difficulty meeting the costs related to the recognition procedures.

Colloquium on the right to work for refugees (Strasbourg 2012)

Refugees often face discrimination, obstacles to recognise their diplomas and skills, administrative hurdles and language barriers; they often experience severe hardship, poverty and deprivation

Key Question:

How can we promote access to work in ways that are not perceived as a threat, but as an opportunity?

Five concrete steps:

- » Include refugees in state funded integration programmes
- » Involve refugees in the design, development and rolling out of the programmes
- » Facilitate contacts between employers and refugees, between refugees and local communities
- » Promote vocational training and language courses
- » **Encourage the recognition of diplomas and qualifications of refugees**

P. D. 141/2013

Article 29 (Article 28 of the Directive) Access to procedures for recognition of qualifications

- Beneficiaries of international protection shall enjoy **equal treatment to Greek nationals** in the context of the existing recognition procedures for foreign diplomas, certificates and other evidence of formal qualifications.
- Beneficiaries of international protection **who cannot provide documentary evidence of their qualifications shall be facilitated** as regards their full access to appropriate schemes for the assessment, validation and accreditation of their prior learning.

Higher Education considerations for refugees in countries affected by the Syria and Iraq Crises (UNHCR Geneva - July 2015)

UNESCO Institute for Statistics

» 26% of Syria's population were enrolled in higher education in 2011, prior to displacement

» Protracted character of the Iraq crisis has similarly led to a substantive demand for higher education among Iraqi students

» Higher education is an essential part of the education continuum

» Access to higher education serves a strong incentive for students to continue and complete their studies at the primary and secondary levels

» Higher education contributes to solutions and post-conflict reconstruction, promotes social, economic and gender equality, and empowers refugee communities

UNHCR perspective – Refugees' voices

We work hard to protect and assist refugees, but our ultimate goal is to find solutions that allow them to rebuild their lives

- Refugees in Greece are confident for their skills /their qualifications
- Some are ready to contribute in the local society

Recognition of their qualifications/diplomas

A step forward:

- In the integration process
 - In refugees' inclusion
- In refugees' empowerment

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1 person forced to flee
is too many.