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Follow-up to Collective Complaint No. 173/2018
International Commission of Jurists (ICJ) and the European
Council for Refugees and Exiles (ECRE) v. Greece

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THE GOVERNMENT OF GREECE

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HELLENIC REPUBLIC

Ministry of Labour
and Social Security

7th Greek report on the Revised European Social Charter

*Follow-up to Collective Complaint
173/2018 - “International Commission
of Jurists (ICJ) v. Greece”*

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A. The protective framework for unaccompanied minors in Greece

Designated agency competent for the comprehensive protection of unaccompanied minors

The General Secretariat for Vulnerable Persons and Institutional Protection (GSVPIP) was established on 27 June 2023 by virtue of Presidential Decree 77/2023. GSVPIP supersedes the Special Secretariat for the Protection of Unaccompanied Minors (SSPUAM), which was initially established in February 2020 by P.D. 106/2022, taking over its competencies. The GSVPIP is the competent authority for all the issues regarding the unaccompanied minors (hereafter UAMs) in the country. Its strategic objective is the planning, implementation and supervision of the National Strategy for the protection of unaccompanied minors, as well as other policies and interventions to ensure the protection of unaccompanied and separated children, third-country nationals or stateless persons who are in Greece. Its responsibilities regarding unaccompanied minors include the management of accommodation and relocation requests for unaccompanied minors, the evaluation of hosting facilities and supervised apartments for minors, the support with regards to social integration of unaccompanied minors and the safeguard of the institutional protection of unaccompanied minors.

The “National Strategy regarding the Protection of Unaccompanied Minors”, has been developed by the Secretariat with the aim of safeguarding the rights of minors through actions, programmes and initiatives. The Strategy is based on four pillars of action: a) enhancing reception capacity and protection of rights; b) identifying and implementing durable solutions; c) ensuring protection from violence and exploitation; and d) improving data collection on minors and the accommodation system.

In its four years of service, since 2020, the General Secretariat played a crucial role to the creation of a comprehensive and effective protection framework for unaccompanied minors in Greece, by designing, developing and implementing innovative child-protection policies and initiatives, that are based on effective coordination and close collaboration between the competent authorities and the synergy between state actors and the civil society.

Estimated number of UAMs in Greece

According to the statistical data issued by the General Secretariat for Vulnerable Persons & Institutional Protection (GSVPIP)¹, the estimated number of unaccompanied minors in Greece is 1,973 (data as of 01.10.2024) out of which: 91% are boys, 9% are girls, while 16% are below 15 years old.

UAMs, as of 01.10.2024, are located as following:

- 1,242 reside in long- terms accommodation centers for unaccompanied minors,
- 166 reside in supported semi- autonomous living (SIL) apartments,
- 154 in emergency accommodation facilities,

¹ Numbers depicted are the snapshot of the day. The data is dynamic and adjusts accordingly due to the daily mass arrivals.

- 334 are hosted in safe areas in Reception and Identification Centers & Closed Controlled Access Centers at entry points,
- 77 are living in Controlled Access Facilities for Temporary Accommodation of Asylum Seekers (separated; accompanied by relatives).

Effective guardianship system for unaccompanied and separated migrant children

The guardianship of minors deprived of parental care is primarily regulated by Articles 1589 to 1654 of the Greek Civil Code. It is stipulated that if neither parent can fulfil their parental duties - either because both parents are unknown to public authorities, are absent or deceased, have had their parental rights revoked by court order, or are incapable of exercising their parental responsibilities - the competent authorities or relatives of the minor must immediately inform the court, or the court may act ex officio to appoint a guardian for the minor through a judicial decision. However, the procedure for appointing a guardian, as provided by the Civil Code, has rarely been applied in cases involving unaccompanied minors, because of delays or because of children's mobility. To address this need, a law on guardianship solely for unaccompanied children was adopted in 2018, which eventually could not be enforced due to the transfer of the relevant responsibilities to a different body. Subsequently, in September 2021 the competence to design, implement and monitor the guardianship of unaccompanied children was transferred to the Ministry of Migration and Asylum. In June 2022, the Hellenic Parliament adopted a new law on guardianship, Law 4960/2022, which amended and complemented Law 4939/2022. On July 22, 2022, the National Guardianship System and the Framework for the Accommodation of Unaccompanied Minors (UAMs) came into effect. As a result, the implementation of the National Guardianship System for Unaccompanied Minors officially began on January 1, 2024.

The National Guardianship System aims to ensure that every unaccompanied child has a designated guardian, receives care tailored to their age and needs, and has their rights protected both institutionally and in daily life. *This system was designed and legislated according to the standards of advanced and effective guardianship systems in other European states, international and European legislation focused on safeguarding the rights of children, particularly unaccompanied and separated minors in the context of reception and procedures, following consultation with the European Commission.* Thus, every unaccompanied and separated minor is foreseen to be represented and assisted in all procedures, including asylum procedures, enrollment in formal education, interactions with institutions and services, to ensure that their best interests are upheld. **The General Secretariat for Vulnerable Persons and Institutional Protection of the Ministry of Migration and Asylum is responsible for the planning, monitoring and coordination of the guardianship system.** In this context, the General Secretariat is now a member of the European Guardianship Network (EGN), which is funded by the European Commission, with the contribution of the Dutch child protection organisation Nidos. Through EGN, all bodies involved in the guardianship of unaccompanied children are brought together to exchange good practices, resolve any issues and stay fine-tuned with European legislation.

Under the National System, the State, through the General Secretariat for Vulnerable Persons and Institutional Protection, plays a coordinating, guiding and supervisory role, while the prosecuting authorities now constitute the impartial institutional guarantee for the appointment of non-profit legal entities specialising in child protection as guardians. According to the law, a

guardian can only be a legal entity of public or private law, a municipality, or an international organization that meets the specific requirements. The guardians exercise their duties through appropriate natural persons, professionals employed by them, known as “guardianship mandated persons”. Each professional can be responsible for up to 15 children. To better coordinate and support the guardianship mandated persons with the management of children's cases, the role of coordinator is also introduced, creating a system with more accountability and oversight.

Noteworthy that by law **the definition of an unaccompanied minor includes** not only those who arrive alone in the country without their parents or legal guardians, but also minors who are abandoned during their stay, minors (separated) who are accompanied by relatives who do not legally hold custody but have informally taken care of them, as well as minors who are in the country with their parents but, due to legal or practical reasons, these parents cannot exercise parental care. For each individual, third-country national or stateless person, who is identified as an unaccompanied minor upon arrival or later on in Greece, a guardian must be appointed by the regional Public Prosecutor for Minors. To ensure immediate representation in all initial reception and identification procedures, while waiting for the official order of appointment, the employees of the designated Guardianship Service Providers act as authorised guardianship mandated persons for children.

The functions of guardianship are threefold: a) Representation in matters of personal status (due to limited legal capacity, the guardian represents the minor in all administrative or judicial proceedings), b) Care (the guardian is responsible for housing, medical care, education, and daily care issues, ensuring that these services are provided and that the overall welfare of the minor is secured, without personally providing the services), and c) Assistance with property matters (the guardian assists the minor in accessing benefits, employment opportunities in accordance with labor legislation, and other property-related matters).

For 2024, following a special tender process, two civil society organizations have been selected to implement an annual nation-wide guardianship project (the Non-Profit Organisation “METAdrasi, and the non-profit Association PRAKSIS). The guardianship Project is funded by the Ministry of Migration and Asylum through the National Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund 2021-2027. Under its agreed terms and conditions of implementation, the total number of appointed guardians can reach 180 with the capacity to cover the needs of 2,700 unaccompanied children. There are currently 137 appointed guardians active in the field. Of these, 22 are at the entry points (Orestiada, Lesvos, Chios, Samos, Kos, Leros), while the remaining 115 are at locations in the mainland, with the majority located in Attica. Additionally, there are currently 1,513 active cases of minors under guardianship, and from the beginning of the year to date more than 3,135 unaccompanied minors have received guardianship services.

Accommodation modalities for UAMs

After the first reception procedures or after the emergency accommodation is completed, unaccompanied minors are referred to the General Secretariat for Vulnerable Persons and Institutional Protection, to place them in **long-term accommodation facilities**, according to their needs and age.

The national accommodation system for unaccompanied minors is regulated by Articles 66KE to 66LD of Law 4939/2022, as supplemented by Articles 31 to 40 of Law 4960/2022. The

long-term accommodation facilities are specialized shelters that accommodate minors and are divided into:

a) accommodation centers with a capacity up to 30 places for children aged 0-12 years, or for girls of all ages, or for boys and girls separately aged 12 to 18 years. *Along with accommodation, services such as food, psychosocial support, legal support, support to education, healthcare, clothing etc are guaranteed.*

b) supervised apartments for semi-independent living (hereafter SIL) with a capacity of 4 places each, intended for minors aged 16 and older (with girls accommodated separately from boys). It is an alternative housing arrangement launched in 2018 that includes the provision *of a range of social services (such as education and healthcare) aimed at empowering and facilitating the social integration of unaccompanied minors transitioning to adulthood.*

All accommodation facilities (60 centres and the 58 SIL apartments) are funded by EU and national funds and operated by child protection NGOs, International Organisation for Migration or, in one case, a municipality. The services provided are foreseen in the legal framework, i.e. Article 66KST of Law 4939/2022 and subsequent provisions, and include: housing, nutrition, education support, psychosocial support, legal aid, primary healthcare, interpretation, recreational activities.

Each type of accommodation facility operates based on a comprehensive institutional framework² of standard rules that regulate, among other things, building specifications, material and technical equipment, licensing procedures, staffing methods, organization and operation, as well as their oversight and evaluation. The services provided include housing, food, personal hygiene, clothing/footwear, psychosocial support, legal support. A complaint mechanism is also foreseen. Professionals working with unaccompanied minors must by law undergo and continuously receive appropriate training and adhere to a code of conduct.

Enhanced national accommodation capacity for UAMs

The capacity of long-term accommodation facilities for unaccompanied minors, which operate with a high occupancy rate, has been strengthened to cover the care arrangement needs of unaccompanied children staying in Greece. Today, there are in total 1,767 long-term accommodation places in 60 Accommodation Centers for Unaccompanied Minors and 58 Supervised Apartments for Semi-Independent Living. Also, there are 155 places in Emergency Accommodation Facilities, where minors identified via the National Emergency Response Mechanism are placed.

² [Joint Ministerial Decision no. 187634/31.03.2023](#) [Ministers of Labour and Social Security, Health, Environment and Energy, Interior, Migration and Asylum, Climate Crisis and Civil Protection] titled "Framework of Standard Operating Rules and Licensing of Accommodation Centers for Unaccompanied Minors", (B' 2125), as amended, and [Decision no. 138529/17.03.2023](#) of the Deputy Minister of Migration and Asylum on the topic "Framework of Standard Operating Rules for Supervised Apartments for Semi Independent Living of Unaccompanied Minors" (B' 1615).

Accompaniment services and transfers of UAMs from the entry points to the mainland

In 2022, the framework for the organized and safe transfers of unaccompanied minors, accompanied by persons who have been adequately trained in child protection issues, from the reception points in the mainland and from other areas to a safe hosting environment was established by law. Since 2021, the Ministry of Migration and Asylum has been in contract with a local child protection NGO, who was previously in contract with UNHCR, for the provision of accompaniment services and transfer of unaccompanied children to accommodation facilities.

Integration of unaccompanied minors in the national foster care system

Law no 4538/2018 introduced a series of provisions regarding foster care and the de-institutionalization of child protection and care through: (a) systematization of the registering of minors in need and foster parents, (b) rationalization and faster assessment of applications, and (c) comprehensive training and support framework for foster parents via public bodies or/and private actors.

In 2021, under the above framework, the competent services of the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs (currently transferred to the Ministry of Social Cohesion and Family Affairs) introduced the initiative to integrate unaccompanied minors in the national foster care system based on the state's obligation to promote alternative forms of care for all children who are deprived of parental care as long as placement in a foster family serves their best interest.

Many challenges had to be considered and overcome concerning procedures; preconditions; educational needs (professionals, potential foster parents); assurance that supportive services are available (interpretation, legal support) while the child is under foster care; supervision of the foster care case; approach of potential foster parents who respect and embrace the importance of otherness.

Since then, there has been an ongoing effort for the gradual integration of all the unaccompanied minors in the national foster care system. In particular the agreed planning foresees the integration of unaccompanied minors to the foster care system aged up to 12 years old, then the integration of age group 13 up to 15 years old and finally the integration of the age group 16 up to 18 years old.

It is noted that Semi-Independent Living scheme for UAMs from 16 years old and over is applicable in Greece.

In this framework the Ministry of Social Cohesion and Family Affairs cooperates closely with the competent services of the Ministry of Migration and Asylum, with international organizations and non-Governmental organizations in the field and has signed for two consecutive periods (2021-2022, 2022-2023) a Memorandum of Cooperation with UNHCR for reinforcing the inclusion of UAMs in the national foster care system.

Indicative actions:

- a. Training of front-line professionals in the public social services who coordinate and supervise foster care (i.e. prefectures, social welfare centres, National Centre for Social Solidarity). The scope of the training is to present the profile of unaccompanied minors

(country of origin information, legal status, intercultural communication and use of interpretation, cultural differences);

- b. Reviewing the training for foster families in relation to unaccompanied and separated children;
- c. Training foster families in cooperation with the supervising authorities for foster care upon request by the relevant authorities;
- d. Provision of psychosocial support, in collaboration with the supervising authorities for foster care, for as long as unaccompanied children are in foster care;
- e. Provision of additional support services, specifically interpretation and legal support, to unaccompanied children in foster care;
- f. Regular awareness-raising actions to the public on the foster care of unaccompanied and separated children, targeting refugee communities as well as the wider public, and sensitization of potential refugee foster parents;

To date all the shelters for unaccompanied minors up to 12 years old are registered in the relevant IT system (<https://www.anynet.gr/>). The decision to take the next step by integrating all UAMs in the national foster care system is under process.

According to available data for unaccompanied minors, published since the 4th quarter of 2021 onwards, the average unaccompanied minors (up to 12 years old) registered in the relevant registry (National Registry for Minors) is 70 while for 50% of the cases foster care is the best option.

B. Enhanced capacity in first response

First reception procedures

Unaccompanied minors entering Greece without the necessary legal documents are subject to immigration laws, while protection measures are taken to ensure the best possible reception and care conditions for them. According to Law 4939/2022, which regulates reception conditions, asylum procedures, and the criteria for granting international protection status since June 2022, minors are considered a vulnerable group, whether unaccompanied or not. The physical, emotional, cognitive, moral, and social development of children is of utmost importance, and their best interests remain a priority for all relevant authorities.

Unaccompanied minors arriving at the designated entry points are placed in the Closed Controlled Access Centres on the islands (hereafter CCACs) or the Reception and Identification Centre (hereafter RIC). There they remain for a limited time until all reception and identification procedures have been completed and they are transferred to accommodation facilities for UAMs. A medical and psychosocial assessment takes place during the stage of first reception procedures; if they are separated from their families but accompanied by a relative or other family-like person, their link is further assessed to examine whether their daily care will be assigned to the adult person. For as long as unaccompanied children reside in these facilities, they remain in designated areas called **Safe Areas**, which are specifically intended for the reception of UAMs. Comprehensive care and targeted assistance are provided at all hours therein, with the exception of Malakasa RIC, where support from specialized staff is provided in two shifts. They are run by child protection personnel from Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) or the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and funded by partner countries donations.

Comprehensive care in the safe areas encompasses psychosocial and legal support, assessment of individual needs, medical conditions, and any additional vulnerabilities; provision of tailored information to children regarding their legal status, rights, and responsibilities; non-formal education activities; recreational activities; interpretation; and provision of support in accessing essential items and services, as well as any other necessary assistance complementary to the mainstream system, such as full coverage for medical exams, non-food items, and snacks. The protection services primarily consist of: a) case managers (social workers or psychologists) who are responsible for managing each minor's case, taking a brief personal social history, and proceeding with any further necessary actions. They also collaborate with a lawyer, if needed, to facilitate the handling of any legal issues; b) caregivers, who work in shifts around the clock to ensure safety and 24-hour presence, support with daily activities in the safe zones, organize group activities, and accompany minors to activities or appointments (e.g., medical exams) outside the safe area; c) group activities for education/recreation are organized with the involvement of all staff members under the guidance of the case manager or educator.

Unaccompanied minors identified in the mainland without having been subjected to the identification and reception procedures of the Reception and Identification Service of the Ministry of Migration and Asylum are referred to the National Emergency Response Mechanism of the General Secretariat for Vulnerable Persons and Institutional Protection of the Ministry of Asylum and Migration and are placed in **emergency accommodation facilities** for UAMs. There, they receive specialized services and support, while their best interest is assessed and further referral to long-term accommodation facilities takes place.

Strengthened framework for accommodation centers for unaccompanied minors

In 2022, the operating framework of accommodation facilities for unaccompanied minors was established, by Law 4960/2022, as incorporated in Law 4939/2022. Following the institutionalization of this framework, the Standard Operating Procedures and Licensing Framework of the Accommodation Centers for Unaccompanied Minors, of the Supervised Apartments for Semi-Independent Living of Unaccompanied Minors and of the Emergency Accommodation Facilities were defined and adopted by virtue of Ministerial Decisions³.

In parallel, the procedure for the supervision and evaluation of long-term accommodation facilities was established. In 2023, the Monitoring and Evaluation Unit of Accommodation Centres of the General Secretariat, responsible for overseeing the implementation of the Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) of Accommodation Facilities for Unaccompanied Minors, conducted on-site audits across long-term accommodation facilities throughout Greece. These inspections aimed to assess the implementation of operational standards and to evaluate the quality of services provided by these facilities. The audit teams, composed of trained staff from the General Secretariat, continuously enhance their expertise to ensure thorough and accurate evaluations through technical assistance provided by Norway (UDI) and EUAA. Specialized tools and methodologies have been developed to carry out these inspections, enabling effective verification of compliance with the institutional framework and early identification of any deviations. During 2023 and 2024 (April 2023 – March 2024) the inspection teams of the competent Unit of the

³ See footnote above. Also, [Decision no. 193953/18.07.2024](#) of the Deputy Minister of Migration and Asylum on the topic "Standard Operating Rules for Emergency Accommodation Facilities for Unaccompanied Minors" (B' 4214).

General Secretariat carried out eighty (80) on-site inspections throughout Greece in long-term accommodation facilities where unaccompanied minors reside in order to assess their living conditions and the services offered, all aimed at ensuring the best interests of the minors through high-quality service provision.

Voluntary Relocation Programme

The Voluntary Relocation Programme was successfully completed on March 31, 2023, after three years of operation, during which a total of 1,368 unaccompanied children were safely transferred from Greece to other European Union countries. At the same time, the programme was expanded to adults and families and most significantly to minors facing severe medical conditions and other vulnerabilities, accompanied by their family members. The programme operated in the spirit of solidarity and burden sharing among EU member states, was funded and supported by the European Commission, coordinated by the Special Secretariat for the Protection of Unaccompanied Minors (SSPUAM, now GSVPIP) of MoMA, in collaboration with the competent Greek authorities (Asylum Service, Reception and Identification Service and Hellenic Police), EASO (now EUAA), IOM, UNHCR and UNICEF.

From the beginning of the Programme, priority was given to all unaccompanied minors living in RICs and to minors identified in precarious conditions. Children were relocated from Greece to thirteen European Union countries - Belgium, Bulgaria, France, Germany, Switzerland, Ireland, Italy, Croatia, Lithuania, Luxemburg, Holland, Portugal and Finland.

C. Children's rights and child protection mechanisms

Abolition of “protective custody” and the establishment of the National Emergency Response Mechanism

Following the initiative of the Special Secretariat for the Protection of Unaccompanied Minors of Ministry of Migration and Asylum and the Ministry of Citizen Protection, in 2020 the protective custody for unaccompanied minors was abolished under Article 43 of Law 4760/2020. As a result, and according to the current legislation, third country nationals or stateless unaccompanied minors are not placed under protective custody just because they lack safe and known accommodation. Instead, the Prosecutor and the General Secretariat are immediately informed to take the necessary steps for the transfer and placement of the minor in an emergency accommodation facility or another appropriate structure for minors and for a guardian to be appointed.

The abolition of protective custody was further accompanied by the **implementation of an alternative care model** for the identification, tracing and emergency accommodation of unaccompanied children, identified as homeless or living in precarious conditions: long-term accommodation facilities for unaccompanied minors were increased, and the National Emergency Response Mechanism was designed and put in place. As a result of these actions, the supervision of Greece in the cases before the European Court of Human Rights, *Rahimi v. Greece* and *M.S.S. v. Greece*, was completed and lifted (Decision of Ministers of the Council of Europe, 1475th Meeting, 19-21 September 2023 (DH), CM/Del/Dec(2023)1475/H46-15, they decided to close their supervision of the *Rahimi* case and adopted Final Resolution CM/ResDH(2023)259).

The **National Emergency Response Mechanism** (hereinafter NERM) was designed by the Special Secretariat for the Protection of Unaccompanied Minors (hereinafter General Secretariat for Vulnerable Persons and Institutional Protection, according to Presidential Decree 77/2023) and the UN High Commissioner for Refugees in 2020 and was implemented in 2021, following the legislative repeal of the long-standing exceptional practice of protective custody of unaccompanied minors. It affirms the GSVPIP's central priority to offer effective protection to the most vulnerable of unaccompanied minors, i.e. those who are homeless or in precarious living conditions, such as children temporarily accommodated by unrelated adults, living in squats or in makeshift constructions. NERM takes preventive action by actively tracing and identifying unaccompanied children in need or at risk and ensures immediate intervention and protection. In July 2022, the Mechanism was further regulated by article 39 of law 4960/2022 (Article 66LG of Law 4939/2022).

The National Mechanism has three main components:

- a) the Tracing Telephone Line, operated centrally at the GSVPIP, staffed by child protection case workers and supported by qualified interpreters (in six languages) for identifying and tracing children in need of protection and immediate accommodation;
- b) the mobile units, operated by two local civil society organisations, the NGO Arsis in Thessaloniki and the Network for Children's Rights (NCR) in Athens, which conduct streetwork activities in order to proactively trace homeless UAM, and the information centers, which unaccompanied children can visit daily to receive information and ask for help, guidance, accommodation, legal or psychosocial support; social workers and psychologists assess the children's best interests, with the support of interpreters;
- c) and the Emergency Accommodation Facilities, currently with a total capacity of up to 155 places, operated by the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and all located in the mainland - three in the Attica Region and one in the Central Macedonia region.

Upon tracing of an unaccompanied child in need, or a referral to the telephone line, NERM coordinates the Mobile Units to undertake the accompaniment of unaccompanied children to the Police Departments of Reference for their identification, to healthcare facilities for medical examinations when required, and finally to emergency accommodation facilities. The Police Departments of Reference are police stations for which an agreement has been made between the General Secretariat of Vulnerable Persons and Institutional Protection and the Ministry of Citizen Protection that they will always be able to receive unaccompanied children who need to be initially registered by the Greek Police. In the emergency accommodation facilities, the children are provided with housing, food, educational and recreational activities, psychosocial and legal support. Following a short stay and a best interest assessment, they are subsequently placed in long-term accommodation.

Since its inauguration on 5 April 2021 and up until today (01.10.2024), the Mechanism has received 12,821 calls, addressing 9,391 unique cases of UAMs, concerning accommodation requests (7,772), legal aid (961) and other types of assistance (658). The number of unaccompanied children who have been accommodated by NERM in emergency accommodation facilities is 5,688 (from start until 30.09.2024). During its three and a half years of operation, NERM has managed to establish a highly effective reception system, for vulnerable unaccompanied minors who are traced to be homeless or living in precarious conditions and serve as a best practice in the EU.

Mainstreaming best interests' assessment procedures

The General Secretariat for Vulnerable Persons and Institutional Protection of the Ministry of Migration and Asylum (MoMA), in cooperation with UNHCR and the Organisation of the EU for Asylum (EUAA), is implementing a project to establish a National Best Interest Procedures (BIPs) System for all unaccompanied children in Greece. The goal is to use standardized tools, train, and certify child protection professionals in applying BIPs, as the designated case management tool. This initiative includes the creation of a toolkit designed to standardize and harmonize procedures for assessing the best interests of the child (short/rapid Best Interest Assessment and Analytical BIA, Guidelines for the use, Legal and other background knowledge, Training material). The core target groups are professionals engaged in the field of accommodation, protection service provision and guardianship of UAMs. Under this framework, all tools, guidelines, supporting material, and training material have been piloted. Trainings of professionals are periodically taking place. An accreditation system is also in process with the support of West Attica University and EUAA. The ultimate goal of the BIP accreditation system is the establishment and mainstreaming of harmonized Best Interests Procedures in Greece, undertaken only by certified practitioners. The establishment of a National BIP Accreditation system and clear case management system by the General Secretariat for Vulnerable Persons and Institutional Protection will eventually contribute as a best practice to the adoption of a harmonized national child protection case management system for all children in Greece by the competent authorities.

Code of Conduct for professionals working with children

All professionals working with and for unaccompanied children must adhere to a Code of Conduct. The General Secretariat for Vulnerable Persons and Institutional Protection in order to ensure that professionals adhere to a code of conduct that is relevant to unaccompanied children (regardless of other code of ethics that bind professionals or employees of specific specialties) is currently developing one for those with unaccompanied children. Moreover, by law, all actors involved in child protection must develop and implement a Child Protection Policy. The Ministry of Migration and Asylum, along with the Ministry of Social Cohesion and Family, shall develop a single Child Protection Policy for all involved entities to ensure that the minimum basic standards and safeguards are uniform and are followed. Lastly, all actors involved in the protection of unaccompanied children must be trained regularly on several matters, already foreseen in the law, including guidelines on working and communicating with children, and their protection from violence, abuse and exploitation - in terms of early identification, prevention and intervention.

D. The right to health and the promotion of children's well-being

Access to healthcare

Article 33 of Law 4368/2016 (A' 21), provides free access to national health services and pharmaceutical treatment for persons without social insurance and vulnerable groups, including all minors. This care is delivered through a network of public hospitals, health centers, nursing institutions, legal entities of private law, primary healthcare units, municipal clinics, and rehabilitation and social care institutions under the supervision of the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, from 2023 onwards under the supervision of the Ministry of Social Cohesion and

Family Affairs. The healthcare personnel are comprised of accredited and trained professionals. Pharmaceutical services are available through private pharmacies contracted with the National Organization for the Provision of Health Services (EOPYY), while high-cost drugs, can be distributed by hospitals' pharmacies, EOPYY pharmacies, and private ones.

Minors with residence permits - whether temporary or permanent - can access health services using their Social Security Registration Number (A.M.K.A) for those with an international protection status, and their Temporary Insurance and Healthcare Number for Foreigners (P.A.A.Y.P.A.) for those with an asylum-seeker status. Furthermore, minors whose applications for international protection have been definitively rejected retain their P.A.A.Y.P.A. from their previous asylum-seeking status, ensuring they continue to have uninterrupted access to the national health system until they reach adulthood. Minors, irrespective of their legal status, have access to the National Health System (ESY) for emergency cases, and constant access to social clinics. Specifically for vaccinations and diagnostic tests against COVID-19, third country nationals may obtain a Temporary Social Security Number (P.A.M.K.A.).

The **Medical Screening and Psychosocial Support Unit** in the Reception and Identification Centers, Close Controlled Access Centers and Controlled Temporary Accommodation Facilities for Asylum Seekers is responsible for the medical screening and medical examination of the residents, their psychological assessment, their vulnerability assessment, and their psychosocial support, their referrals to other services and the hospital, if needed. Currently the EU funded programme Hippocrates is running, where the Ministry of Migration and Asylum is in contract with the International Organisation for Migration to staff the aforementioned Units of the Reception and Identification Service.

Access to specialised mental health services

Given that mental health is another priority according to the National Strategy for the Protection of Unaccompanied Minors in Greece, the General Secretariat for Vulnerable Persons and Institutional Protection of MoMA has developed together with the academia, mental health professionals and the Greek SOS Children's Villages, a project called "Mental Health Hub" for supporting professionals working in the accommodation facilities for minors, providing clinical supervisions, and counselling to them when necessary (guiding them on case management) and preventing their burnout. In parallel, under the same project, professionals are trained in mental health issues of UAMs and crisis management during children's stay in the accommodation facility. At the third level of intervention, mental health professionals provide specialized psychological support to minors upon request. Furthermore, in line with the National strategy, the UNHCR has developed a project with the local NGO "Praksis" for the holistic support of girls who have been victims of violence. The project takes place in Athens and Thessaloniki and primarily focuses on enhancing resilience and treating the trauma, through specialized psychological support. At the same time, social and legal support is also provided.

E. The Right to Education

Access to education

A general overview

Minors who are citizens of third countries or stateless persons have the right to access to public education. By law, they must be enrolled in a public school within three months of their identification. Notably, unaccompanied minor asylum seekers can enroll in school with incomplete documentation across all grades of kindergarten, primary school, junior high, and exclusively in the first year of high school, at any time during the academic year.

In 2016, regulations were established to promote Greek language and intercultural education, ensuring children's right to a non-discriminatory and inclusive education that fosters human rights and harmonious coexistence among all cultural groups. As part of this framework, since 2016, Refugee Education Support Structures (R.E.S.S.) have operated within the school units of the Regional Directorates of Primary and Secondary Education, where temporary reception centers or shelters for asylum seekers are located, based on recommendations from the regional education directors. These structures can also be established within open accommodation facilities, functioning as branches of public kindergartens, primary schools, junior high schools, and high schools. Furthermore, within or near the temporary reception centers or shelters where a R.E.S.S. operates, Refugee Education Coordinators are appointed. These coordinators are educators, seconded by other schools or services, who oversee educational activities and address the specific needs of minors residing in the facilities. They act as mediators, helping minors become familiar with the Greek educational system and fostering connections between schools and local communities.

In conjunction with R.E.S.S. activities, morning education is also provided in schools with reception classes, depending on the number of enrolled students. This program emphasizes the integration of children into the daily educational schedule through reception classes, offering intensive Greek language instruction to facilitate their swift adaptation to the morning programs. Regional Directorates of Primary and Secondary Education hosting reception classes are designated as Educational Priority Zones (E.P.Z.).

Actively supporting the education of unaccompanied minors, the General Secretariat for Vulnerable Persons and Institutional Protection (GSVIP) has established stable cooperation with the Independent Department for the Coordination and Monitoring of Refugee Education of the Ministry of Education, Religious Affairs and Sports and the local Refugee Education Coordinators. In the islands specifically, all unaccompanied children residing in long-term accommodation centers (Samos, Chios, Lesbos) register and attend normally, including children who don't know how to read and write in their native language. At the same time, the mapping at local level of non-formal education service providers was completed during the year 2024, which contributed positively to informing and linking the accommodation facilities for unaccompanied minors with local institutions. In the same context, meetings with the educators working in accommodation facilities for unaccompanied minors are taking place to support them on issues related to both formal and non-formal education for minors and their further education in various topics.

Children are recognized as holders of rights. The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (hereinafter CRC), as the most important global document on children's rights, was ratified by Greece by Law 2101/92. According to the provisions of the Constitution, it constitutes an integral part of Greek law with supra-legislative force. In this context, social integration through

education and knowledge of the language of the host country are issues of legal protection for foreigners, and therefore for refugees.

Education is therefore one of the guaranteed rights, which the Greek state should provide and ensure for all children, regardless of their origin or any form of discrimination⁴. In accordance with these provisions of increased force, specific provisions have been established to ensure that every child, including those who may face practical or other difficulties or are in a more vulnerable position, is not deprived of the right to education.

The educational policy of the Ministry of Education, Religious Affairs and Sports consists, on the one hand, in ensuring the right of every student to have unhindered and free access to knowledge and, on the other hand, in promoting education as a good that everyone can enjoy. The measures and actions promoted by the Ministry of Education, Religious Affairs and Sports aim primarily to promote and encourage respect for human rights, without discrimination based on gender, race, language, or religion. In this context, the main legislative provisions governing the enrollment of students in primary education schools in the country ensure equal and unhindered access for all to the Greek educational system.

Since the school year 2016-2017, the Ministry of Education, Religious Affairs and Sports has introduced the following educational policies for the integration of refugee children:

- development of pre-primary education programs within the camps,
- establishment of Reception School Facilities for Refugee Education (DYEP) for refugee children residing in the camps,
- inclusion of refugee children in the mainstream schools with the support of the pre-existing since 1980 Reception Classes (RCs) for the refugee children who live in urban areas. The Institute of Educational Policy (IEP) is responsible for suggesting the textbooks to be printed and distributed every year for the DYEP and the RCs.

More specifically, according to Article 1 of Law 1566/1985 (Government Gazette A' 167): "The purpose of primary and secondary education is to contribute to the comprehensive, harmonious, and balanced development of the intellectual and psychosomatic abilities of students, so that, regardless of gender and origin, they have the opportunity to develop into well-rounded individuals and live creatively."

Regarding the education of all refugee children, the following regulatory framework is set forth in the Greek legal system (regardless of their residency status). Article 18, Law 5038/23 (A' 81) provides for the possibility of their enrollment even with incomplete documents, while for children covered by the protective provisions of refugee law, there is an obligation to provide them additional support. Similarly, in articles 71-80 of [Law 4547/18](#) and in articles 27, 28, 55, 56, 57, 58, 130 of [Law 4939/22](#), "Ratification of the Code of Legislation for the reception, international protection of third-country nationals and stateless persons, and temporary protection in case of mass influx of displaced foreigners."

Two circulars of the Ministry of Education, Religious Affairs and Sports concerning the enrollment of students from vulnerable social groups are in effect. The one is titled "[Enrollment of students in Kindergartens for the school year 2024-25](#)" and the other is titled "[Enrollment of](#)

⁴ Relevant articles: art.16, 28 of the Constitution and art. 28, 29 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child

[students in Primary Schools for the school year 2024-2025](#)". In particular, students from vulnerable social groups are encouraged to enroll and attend school, as provided for in the relevant provisions on compulsory education. Children from vulnerable social groups are accepted regardless of whether they are registered or not on a municipal register. Additionally, their enrollment is not hindered by the lack of a permanent residence certificate. Any document that shows the student's address is accepted; When there is an inability to enroll due to lack of vaccination, collaboration of all related actors (local entities, municipal authorities, Support Centers for Vulnerable Groups, Social Welfare Directorates, hospitals, medical centers, and social support organizations, as well as the National Public Health Organization [EODY]) is necessary. In any case, communication between the school and the entity that will carry out the vaccination must take place beforehand. Respectively, cooperation with the aforementioned entities is essential for conducting the necessary medical examinations related to the issuance of the Student Health Card. Finally, the enrollment of students from vulnerable social groups in the Optional All-Day Program takes place without any preconditions.

According to the aforementioned circulars on the enrollment of minor applicants or minor children of applicants for international protection in both the Reception School Facilities for Refugee Education (DYEP) and in the regular classes of school units, it is stipulated that they have to be enrolled in Educational Institutions during their stay in the country. The competent authorities should provide the necessary and adequate means to support and facilitate the process. Integration is subject to conditions, similar to those applicable to Greek citizens and with facilitations concerning the enrollment in case of difficulties in submitting the required documents and for as long as no removal measure is pending against them or their parents/guardians [[H.A. 2099/GD4/2020 \(B'208\)](#)].

The establishment of Educational Priority Zones (ZEPs) aims to provide equal opportunities in education and to eliminate social and economic barriers to students' progress. The general objective of the implementation of the Z.E.P. program is to formulate and test in real classroom conditions alternative and flexible educational approaches to differentiated teaching. In accordance with the Ministerial Decisions Φ1/63691/Δ1/13-04-2017 and Φ1/169735/ΓΔ4/23-10-2017 "Regulations for Educational Priority Zones (ZEPs) – Establishment of ZEP Reception classes in Primary and Secondary Education school units", Reception classes of Educational Priority Zones (ZEP) operate at Regional Directorates of Primary and Secondary Education. These classes aim at the participatory, active, and effective education of primary and secondary school students who do not have the required knowledge of the Greek language (Roma, foreigners, repatriates, refugees, vulnerable social groups, etc.), so that they can subsequently integrate into the Greek Educational System.

By exception, students who attended lessons within the Reception School Facilities for Refugee Education (DYEP) and obtained the certificate of attendance provided in Article 73, paragraph 4 of Law 4547/2018, are exempt from the assessment tests required for their enrollment in ZEP Reception Classes of Primary and Secondary Education. The Teachers' Board decides on their placement in either Type I ZEP or Type II ZEP Reception Classes⁵.

Reception School Facilities for the Education of Refugee Children (DYEP) are established taking into account the specific characteristics of the refugee population, as indicated by mobility, arrival time, and the duration of stay in the Accommodation Centers. These operate within the framework of the formal educational system and implement specialized short-term curricula.

⁵ See under [Ministerial Decision Φ1/143929/Δ1/5-9-2018 \(B' 3900\)](#).

The program of the Reception School Facilities for the Education of Refugee Children (DYEP) aims at familiarizing students with the rules of school life and schoolwork, taking into account their specific educational needs. Some of these needs are their adjustment to school life, the acquaintance with Greek and European culture, and their prior literacy⁶.

In order to ensure unhindered access to education of all students with a refugee or migrant background, permanent teachers are seconded each year by the Ministry of Education, Religious Affairs and Sports to the Regional Directorates of Education, with the purpose of appointing them as Refugee Education Coordinators (SEP) in Refugee Accommodation Centers (Law 4547/2018, 102A').

In addition to all the above, the Institute of Educational Policy implements various programs and actions such as the following:

- a. The Ministry of Education, Religious Affairs and Sports in cooperation with the Institute of Educational Policy based on the recommendations of the Commission for the Support of Children of Refugees (CSCR) and Scientific Assistance, launched and implemented a co-financed program with the title "Training Interventions for the support of school structures of the educational system" - Action 4 "Training Actions for the support of the education of refugee children"⁷. This program is aimed at carrying out:
 - The initial training of the Coordinators for refugee education and other education executives who were going to support refugee education.
 - The training of teachers who were going to staff the Reception School Facilities for Refugee Education (DYEP) and/or Reception Classes (RCs).
 - The development of supportive educational material.
- b. **"Accelerated Learning Program" (since 2018)**⁸: The Institute of Educational Policy (IEP) established an "Advisory Committee for the Reception and Education of Refugee and Immigrant Children in Secondary School" (based on art. 64 of Law 4547/2018) and a tripartite synergy with the University of Thessaly, the Institute of Intercultural Methodology and Languages, and UNICEF. The aim was to produce teaching and learning material to support pupils with different cultural and language backgrounds, which classroom or reception teachers were going to use in secondary schools. Within a "Framework of Cooperation Plan", the Institute has developed the scientific and educational specifications of an "Accelerated Learning Program" for Greek language and the basic educational material for Language, Mathematics and Science, in order to determine the level of skills and advance refugee students' integration in Secondary Education. This material includes a curriculum, an e-platform, six teaching textbooks and teachers' guides, all in 10 different languages.
- c. **"Training in student support practices in the context of Differentiated Teaching (DT)"** (01/03/2019 – 30/10/2023): This program includes synchronous training sessions and an asynchronous part and aims to educate teachers in a variety of teaching techniques that adhere to the principles of differentiated Teaching and Learning, in order to promote inclusive education and learning equality. Teachers are encouraged to implement these teaching techniques at all types of schools - mainstream schools (with

⁶ Article 72 of Law 4547/2018 (A' 111), as amended by Article 66 of Law 4559/2018 (A' 142).

⁷ <http://iep.edu.gr/el/component/k2/content/50-ekpaidefsi-prosfygon>

⁸ <https://www.unhcr.org/accelerated-education-working-group.html>

or without inclusive classes) and special schools (pre-primary, elementary and secondary education).

- d. The Institute of Educational Policy (IEP) participated as a partner in the European Erasmus + KA3 Program entitled: "**Assessing Newly Arrived Migrants' Knowledge in Science and Math using Augmented Teaching Material - Augmented Assessment**"⁹ that started on 01/11/2020 and ended on 31/10/2023. The object of the project was the development of material, the training and the pilot application for the evaluation of pre-existing knowledge in Mathematics and Natural Sciences of the newly arrived refugees. The Aristotle University of Thessaloniki coordinated this project and it lasted 36 months. The other partners were Athens Lifelong Learning Institute, the University of Helsinki, the European University of Cyprus, the University of Pompeu Fabra, the Polytechnic University of Porto, the Pedagogical Institutes of Cyprus and the Portugal National Educational Council.
- e. Moreover, from September 2021 to February 2024, the 'All Children in Education' (ACE) programme was implemented, providing formal and/or non-formal education opportunities to refugee and migrant children in Greece and facilitating their integration into the public education system¹⁰. This initiative, led by the Ministry of Migration and Asylum, was co-funded by the European Union and implemented by UNICEF in collaboration with various NGOs and academic partners. It assisted a total of 24,057 refugee and migrant children (14,518 boys and 9,539 girls), aged between 4 and 17 years old, to access non-formal education, including Greek and English language classes, through Homework and Creative Activities Centres (HCACs), prepare for formal education and enroll in formal schools. Children were also supported in completing their homework and accelerating their learning to catch up with their peers and improve their communication with teachers and other students at school and, in addition, they received psychosocial support from trained educators and inter-disciplinary teams. The ACE II programme is currently under development. The "**All Children in Education**" program has covered three school years, starting in September 2021, and aims not only to increase access to public schools, but also to provide the necessary post-enrollment support, to achieve better learning outcomes and integration into the Greek society. At the same time, the All Children in Education (ACE) program continues a series of previous and ongoing joint efforts and programs. Specifically, ACE has provided:
 - A new round of training activities in the framework of **Teach4Integration I & II** which was supported in the framework of a memorandum of cooperation between UNICEF, the Ministry of Education, the Institute of Educational Policy and a number of Greek universities, in order to continue the implementation of a training program for teachers of all levels. This training program aims at the educational and learning integration of students with a refugee background.
 - Planning of the second phase of the pilot implementation of the **Accelerated Learning Program - ALP (Intensive Learning Program)** which aims to support students who have lost several years of schooling due to refugee experience and to facilitate their integration into the Greek education system. This action could reduce

⁹ Grant Agreement No: 621517-EPP-1-2020- 1-EL-EPPKA3-IPI-SOC-IN

<http://www.iep.edu.gr/el/europaika-se-ekseliksi/assessing-newly-arrived-migrants-knowledge-in-science-and-math-using-augmented-teaching-material-augmented-assessment>

¹⁰<https://www.unicef.org/greece/en/reports/programme-brief-all-children-education-september2021-february-2024>

early school dropout. The program also incorporates a structured feedback process that may lead to further improvements.

- The allocation of the resources of the **Accelerated Learning Program - ALP (Intensive Learning Program)**, based on Act no. 18/15-04-2021 of the Board of the Institute of Educational Policy, including teacher training. It is noted that ALP includes textbooks for students for six (6) courses in the three classes of Lower Secondary High school (ages 11-15), Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry, Biology, History, Social and Political Education, as well as teacher guides, diagnostic tests, glossaries in eight (8) languages and fully translated core modules.
 - Teacher Training Activities in the framework of a holistic approach for the development of teachers' professional skills for inclusive and intercultural education, the teaching of Greek as a second language, digital education and the use of the **Accelerated Learning Program – ALP (Intensive Learning Program)**.
- f. In the framework of “**Skills Labs**” (<http://iep.edu.gr/el/psifiako-apothetirio/skill-labs>), which are implemented in compulsory education (pre-primary, primary and lower secondary education), the Institute of Educational Policy is responsible for the educational material used at schools, organized in Thematic Cycles relating to well-being, equality, equal opportunity, human rights, climate change, entrepreneurship.

Challenges in providing education

The inclusion of refugee children in the Greek educational system faces several challenges, which stem from two main factors:

- Unstable population in terms of numbers, location and conditions of living in the country.
- Differentiation in terms of legal status and prospects for their departure to other countries. A large number of refugees/migrants remaining in the country are awaiting responses to their applications for family reunification, asylum, or relocation, without knowing if/when they will depart.

Both on islands and in the mainland, the reasons for the non-universal integration of children into the education system can be summarized in the following factors:

- Population in constant mobility (either within the country or due to departures),
- families' expectations of going abroad,
- parents' attitude towards their child's school attendance,
- children's traumatic experiences,
- difficulties in adapting to the school environment due to the absence, in many cases, of prior schooling,
- issues of training of civil servants/employees of local authorities regarding the provision of services to third country nationals, avoiding discrimination and the reproduction of xenophobic attitudes,
- lack of interpreters, in order to overcome, in the capacity of intercultural mediator, the language barrier that hampers the process of enrollment and smooth integration of children in the educational system, as well as the contact between parents and teachers in the children's classroom,
- living conditions in the Refugee structures/facilities.

Thanks to the organization of seminars and training programs and the presence of Refugee Education Coordinators in schools and Refugee facilities, the issues of insufficient training of teachers and educational staff were addressed.

The Ministry of Education, Religious Affairs and Sports, in collaboration with the Ministry of Interior, which is responsible for student transport, undertake and resolve issues related to the transportation of refugee children to and from school units each year.

However, the fluidity of the student population mobility, with sudden arrivals or departures during the school year, creates many problems to children's inclusion in the student transportation program of the selected regions. As a result, many children, especially those living in Refugee Accommodation Centers and not in urban areas, have difficulty in accessing the schools they attend.

Collaboration with international and national bodies

Over the years, collaboration - actions with international and national bodies have been carried out to promote the education of children with refugee/migrant background, many of which have already been completed.

In addition to the collaboration actions previously mentioned, the following are also being reported:

- **Memorandum of Cooperation between UNICEF and the Ministry of Education, Religious Affairs and Sports**

The memorandum of cooperation between UNICEF and the Ministry of Education, Religious Affairs and Sports (All Children in Education) has been implemented to support formal education through programs for creative engagement, teacher training, the development of educational material, and awareness-raising campaigns. More specifically:

- **Teach for Integration:** This educational program continues for the 6th year in collaboration with the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, the University of Thessaly, and the Institute of Educational Policy (IEP).
 - **AKELIUS program:** a digital program that promotes the learning of Greek and English language to refugee and migrant children. UNICEF provides electronic equipment. It is implemented in formal and non-formal education classrooms at 76 locations across Greece.
- **Interpretation services by METAdrasi**

Facilitation of the integration process of children and the active involvement of parents/guardians. Certified translators provided interpretation services at schools until the school year 2023-2024.

- **Organization of workshops and training**

Main objective: the establishment of a common framework for addressing issues related to the attendance and smooth integration of students with a refugee/migrant background with a focus on the inclusive education of students with a refugee/migrant background and disabilities and/or special educational needs. Awareness raising and information for the educational community and local societies. The primary aim of the training sessions was to promote the principles of inclusive, intercultural education, which educators and schools will disseminate to the wider community.

- **ACCMR (Athens Coordination Center for Migrant and Refugee issues)**

Collaboration of the Independent Department for the Coordination and Monitoring of Refugee Education with Athens Coordination Center for Migrant and Refugee issues. Participation in the digital platform of the Athens Coordination Center for Migrant and Refugee issues and establishment of a working group aimed at social integration through the educational process.

- **Hellenic Parliament**

It funds school units where the DYEP (Reception Classes for Refugee Students) operate for additional expenses regarding heating and cleaning.

- **Urban Cultural Company «PYRNA»**

It continuously supports Refugee Accommodation Structures by sending logistical equipment for children attending kindergarten.

- **Institute of Computer Technology and Publishing ITYE Diophantus**

Activation of network lines (Panhellenic School Network) within the Refugee Accommodation Structures in order to ensure a stable telephone line and Wi-Fi network for the needs of kindergartens and the Refugee Education Coordinators, who are active within the Facilities.

- **European Centre "Wergerland" (EWC)**

Implementation of the "Schools for All" project under the auspices of the Ministry of Education, Religious Affairs and Sports, with the support of the Institute of Educational Policy (IEP). Training program for the inclusion of refugee children in Greek schools.

- **United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)**

Donation of digital equipment to schools. Collaboration to support the attendance and psychosocial empowerment of refugee students.

- **Greek Safer Internet Center under the auspices of the Foundation for Research and Technology – Hellas**

Informing and training students, refugees' parents and educators on the safe use of Internet.

- **SOLIDARITY NOW**

Collaboration of the Independent Department for the Coordination and Monitoring of Refugee Education with the non-governmental organization *Solidarity Now* for a program addressing violence and intolerance at schools.

- **Together in Sports**

Program for free participation of refugee students in high-standard Olympic sports trainings, as well as in quality cultural activities.

- **Greater Good Charities**

Provision of school supplies (backpacks, notebooks, and stationery).

- **National Theatre**

Collaboration with the youth stage of the National Theatre. Participation of refugees in workshops/seminars and performances.

This school year, refugee students attend school from the beginning of the school year both on the islands and in the mainland with the operation of Reception Classes in primary and secondary education school units.

Residence permits to former unaccompanied minors

The necessity of continuous and steady support of the school attendance of unaccompanied minors was also evident in the important integration legislative initiative for granting a ten-year residence permit, that is provided under the new Immigration Code (article 161 of Law 5038/2023, “Migration Code”), for those successfully completing three classes of secondary education of a school in Greece.

Specifically, it applies to adult third-country nationals or stateless individuals who entered Greece as unaccompanied minors, successfully completed at least three years of Greek schooling before turning 23. This permit provides full access to the labour market and upon expiration, it is automatically converted into a long-term residence permit.