

Greece: Information for stateless people and those at risk of statelessness fleeing Ukraine



European
Network on
Statelessness

ENS Focal Point: [Greek Council for Refugees](#)

Last updated: 23 April 2024

This briefing provides country-specific information for stateless people and those at risk of statelessness fleeing Ukraine. It is intended as a source of information for refugee response actors and affected individuals. The focus is on stateless people and people at risk of statelessness, including those who are undocumented. Links to more general information for refugees from Ukraine are provided throughout. We will endeavour to keep this information updated. Please contact Ukraine.crisis@statelessness.eu if you have relevant updates. Unless otherwise shown, the source of information provided is the ENS Focal Point.

1. ENTRY REQUIREMENTS & REGISTRATION

According to the [Ministry of Asylum and Migration \(MoMA\)](#), by 25 May 2022 more than 30,000 people fleeing Ukraine had arrived in Greece. The main entry points are the Bulgarian land border and the international airports of Athens and Thessaloniki. As per data published by the MoMA, by [February 2024](#), a total of 28,024 temporary protection applications had been registered in Greece and 27,293 beneficiaries had received temporary protection cards. At the northern border, UNHCR staff and interpreters are present to assist the authorities and inform refugees about temporary protection and asylum procedures in Greece, as well as where to find help and accommodation.

All those fleeing Ukraine may enter Greece. A lack of travel documents is not an obstacle to entering Greece, although it is difficult to enter Greece in the absence of any documents proving identity. The [European Commission](#) confirms that a lack of travel documents or medical documents (certificate of vaccination, COVID-19 test) should not be an obstacle to entering the EU throughout the Ukraine crisis.

For more information on entry requirements, registration, and reception, see the [FAQs](#) of the Ministry of Migration and Asylum and the [UNHCR Greece Update on the Ukraine Situation](#).

Documents required	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Adults: biometric passport or transit visa issued by the Police for holders of non-biometric passports (Police will stamp all passports); Ukrainian nationals without travel documents or with expired passports require a document issued by the Ukrainian Embassy in Greece at the Promachonas Border Station (Greece-Bulgaria)• Children: same as for adults; accompanying parent's passport and certificate of marital status, or child's birth certificate, or parent's declaration stating number of children, name, gender, date of birth (Police will stamp parent's passport with number of accompanied minor children)• Stateless and undocumented people: any documents to enter Greece; proof of international or equivalent national protection and residence in Ukraine before 24 February 2022 to apply for temporary protection; to apply for asylum documents proving nationality status or residence are recommended but not required
Entry and registration	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• All people fleeing Ukraine may enter Greece; a lack of travel documents is not an obstacle to entering Greece• People not eligible for temporary protection, including stateless and undocumented people: may enter Greece; must apply for international protection at the border to stay in the country (may have to stay at a Reception and Identification Centre for 25 days); see Section 2 below• Unaccompanied children: may cross the border; the National Mechanism for Detection & Protection of Unaccompanied Minors is responsible for identifying and transferring unaccompanied minors to safe accommodation, and provide support, interpreting, and representation (contact +30 213 212 8888 / +30 694 277 3030 / WhatsApp / Viber)

	/ ssuam.tracing@migration.gov.gr). Due to ongoing gaps and practices, the Mechanism is still not able to identify all unaccompanied minors
Documents issued	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stamp in passport or airline tickets (for those who arrived in Greece through the airport from a Schengen Area country from 24 February) with entry date as proof of entry; transit visa (for those without biometric passports) <u>Undocumented Ukrainian nationals</u>: document issued by the Ukrainian Embassy in Greece at the Promachonas Border Station (for people without travel documents or with expired passports but with documentary proof of Ukrainian nationality) <u>Asylum seekers</u>: International Protection Applicant's Card (IPAP) issued upon full registration, valid for 30 days to 1 year, permits stay in Greece until asylum claim decided; some Asylum Offices issue a temporary card to people who applied via Skype pending full registration <u>People eligible for temporary protection</u>: proof of temporary protection status
Entry status	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Asylum seeker, beneficiary of temporary protection

2. ROUTES TO INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION

Three forms of protection are available to people fleeing Ukraine: refugee status, subsidiary protection, and temporary protection. Temporary protection is only available to stateless and/or undocumented people who were 'legally residing' in Ukraine before 24 February 2022 as beneficiaries of international protection or other equivalent national protection, and their family members. Stateless and undocumented people from Ukraine who do not meet the eligibility criteria may apply for international protection under the general rules. These routes to protection are summarised in the table below.

	Refugee Status	Subsidiary Protection	Temporary Protection
What is it?	Protection under 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees	Protection for people who do not meet the 1951 Convention but would be subject to serious risk of harm upon return	Temporary protection for eligible people displaced from Ukraine
Can stateless and/or undocumented persons apply?	Yes; stateless people transferred to Greece under Dublin III Regulation may also apply	Yes	Yes, if they meet eligibility criteria (i.e., beneficiaries of international protection or equivalent national protection 'legally residing' in Ukraine, and family members); unclear if equivalent national protection includes recognised statelessness status in Ukraine
Where to apply?	Reception and Identification Centres (RICs) at the borders (Lesvos, Chios, Samos, Leros, Kos and Evros) or in transit zone of ports or airports. For the Greek mainland (RICs of Malakasa and Diavata), via online booking of registration appointment . For	Same as Refugee Status	Online (in Ukrainian or English) and then at Regional Asylum Offices (i.e., in Thessaloniki, Patra, and Crete).

	unaccompanied minors Regional Asylum Offices and Autonomous Asylum Units throughout the territory.		
Procedure & rights	<p><u>Identification</u> (if in Greece irregularly): registration and medical examination; free interpreters.</p> <p><u>Registration of the application</u>: initial interview about identity and circumstances; free interpreters; fingerprints and pictures; handover of travel and other relevant documents.</p> <p><u>After registration</u>: issued International Protection Applicant's Card (valid up to one year); right to stay in Greece; Tax Identification Number; Provisional Insurance and Healthcare Number.</p> <p><u>Interview at the Asylum Office</u>: confirm identity and circumstances of journey; may submit evidence; right to contact UNHCR & receive legal, medical, psychological support; right to legal assistance & interpreting; decision within 6 months; right to appeal</p>	Same as Refugee Status	Pre-registration available online to schedule an appointment for registration (email tp-support@migration.gov.gr if any issues); full registration in person at one of the 5 Asylum Offices in Greece (Athens, Thessaloniki, Alimou, of Patra, Crete); biometric data taken; free interpreters; must present application number, identity documents presented upon entry in Greece, any documents issued upon entry; documents establishing family links; applicants are advised to request a receipt when submitting application
Rights upon recognition	Upon request, residence permit for three years renewable for three years; five-year travel document upon request; social security number (AMKA); right to medical care and social welfare; right to work; right to apply for family reunification (conditions apply); right to education for children	Residence permit upon request for one year, renewable for two years after re-examination; travel document upon request (conditions apply).	Temporary protection card with residence permit for at least one year with validity extended until 4 March 2025; social security number (AMKA) and tax identification number (AFM); automatic access to national healthcare system (including COVID vaccination) and labour market

For more information, see:

- Ministry of Migration and Asylum, [Information for displaced people from Ukraine](#), [Reception and Identification Procedures](#), and [Applying for Asylum](#)

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- UNHCR Greece, [Information for displaced people from Ukraine, Help for refugees and asylum-seekers](#)
- European Commission, [Information for people fleeing the war in Ukraine](#)
- European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights, [Fleeing Ukraine: Implementing temporary protection at local levels](#) (December 2023)
- European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights, [Report on Fleeing Ukraine - Fleeing Ukraine: Displaced people's experiences in the EU](#)
- European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights, [Fundamental Rights Implications for the EU of the War in Ukraine](#)
- European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights, [The Russian aggression against Ukraine – Displaced children finding protection in the EU - Bulletin 3](#)
- European Union Asylum Agency, [Providing Temporary Protection to Displaced Persons from Ukraine: A Year in Review](#) (March 2023)
- European Union Asylum Agency, [Who is Who in International Protection, Temporary Protection overview](#)
- European Union Asylum Agency (formerly EASO), [Guidance on reception conditions for unaccompanied children](#) (December 2018)
- European Migration Network (EMN), [Annual Report on Migration and Asylum 2022](#) (July 2023) (Chapter 2, Response to the influx of persons fleeing the war in Ukraine)
- European Council of Refugees and Exiles, [The EU's Response to Displacement from Ukraine: ECRE's Recommendations](#) (October 2023)
- European Council of Refugees and Exiles, [Information Sheet – Measures in response to the arrival of displaced people fleeing the war in Ukraine](#) (March 2023)
- European Council of Refugees and Exiles, Asylum Information Database, Greece country report, [annex on temporary protection](#)
- Right to Protection, [Who are stateless persons who fled Ukraine after the Russian invasion on 24 of February, 2022](#)
- Caritas Europa, [Europe's welcome of refugees from Ukraine and lessons learnt](#) (June 2023)
- KIND & Child Circle, [Note on unaccompanied children fleeing Ukraine](#)

3. STATELESSNESS DETERMINATION AND PROTECTION STATUS

For stateless people, it is important to determine both a claim for international protection and their statelessness. Each application should be assessed, and both types of status should be explicitly recognised so that even if international protection ceases, the person remains entitled to protection as a stateless person. Statelessness determination should be conducted either in parallel with or following the refugee status determination, with due regard to the primacy of the asylum claim and the principle of confidentiality for refugees in statelessness determination procedures. For more information, see: [ENS briefing on statelessness determination & protection in Europe](#).

Greece does not have a dedicated Statelessness Determination Procedure or statelessness protection status. Greek law defines stateless people in line with the 1954 Convention and provides a facilitated route to naturalisation. Other administrative procedures allow some stateless people in Greece to have their legal stay assured or status determined, for example, if they are refugees or migrants applying for a permit to enter or stay in Greece but cannot meet the requirement to present a travel document. However, these routes are accessible only to specific groups and do not lead to any statelessness status or rights under the 1954 Convention. For more information, see: [ENS Statelessness Index \(Greece\)](#).

4. REQUIREMENTS FOR ONWARD TRAVEL TO THIRD COUNTRIES

Asylum seekers may not leave Greece during the application. Beneficiaries of refugee status and subsidiary protection [may travel to other EU countries for up to 90 days every 6 months, after which they need to return](#)

to Greece. Refugees and beneficiaries of subsidiary protection may travel to third countries (except the country of persecution) depending on the requirements of the destination country.

5. ORGANISATIONS ASSISTING STATELESS PEOPLE

<p>Greek Council for Refugees https://www.gcr.gr/en/ +20 210 3800 990-1 (Athens); +30 231 02 500 45, +30 2311 821 677 (Thessaloniki) gcr1@gcr.gr</p>	<p>Hellenic Red Cross https://migration.gov.gr/redcross-ukraine/ +30 210 51 26 300, +30 210 51 40 440 (Athens) +30 2130 270 914, +30 2130 270 496 (Thessaloniki) +30 6934 724 893 (WhatsApp/Viber) mf@redcross.gr mfc-thess@redcross.gr</p>
<p>Greek Forum of Refugees https://refugees.gr/ +30 213 028 2976 / info@refugees.gr</p>	<p>UNHCR https://www.unhcr.org/gr/ +20 216 200 7800 / great@unhcr.org</p>
<p>Fenix Humanitarian Legal Aid https://www.fenixaid.org/ info@fenixaid.org</p>	<p>METAdrasi https://metadrasi.org/en/support-ukrainians-in-greece/ / +30 690 809 1400 (also WhatsApp/Viber)</p>
<p>Government help page for people displaced from Ukraine https://migration.gov.gr/en/ukraine/ +30 213 212 8400 / ukraine@migration.gov.gr</p>	