

ENGLISH

Infosheet 7. Travelling outside Greece

**KNOW YOUR RIGHTS**

**TRAVELLING OUTSIDE  
GREECE**



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The purpose of this infosheet is to provide general information about the rules applicable and options available to you if you leave Greece to travel to another country during or after your asylum procedure.

Please note that this information is general and can be different in your specific situation. **It is based on EU and Greek law provisions and accurate as of July 2024. The infosheet is not exhaustive and is subject to changes.**

Basic information about the rules of different EU countries is available on the [Welcome to Europe infopage](#). As rules are changing constantly, please ensure that the information provided is updated or that **you seek legal advice directly from the EU country you seek to visit.**

**We recommend that you consult a lawyer or an NGO providing legal support in the EU country that you wish to travel to about your specific case in any event.**

**Travelling to another EU  
country after receiving  
international protection in  
Greece**

If you were granted refugee status or subsidiary protection in Greece, **you are allowed to travel to the other EU member states** with your Greek ID card and a travel document:

- If you were **granted refugee status** (three years residence permit) you can travel with your Greek ID card and a travel document or 'blue passport'.
- If you were **granted subsidiary protection** (one year residence permit) you can travel with your Greek ID card and the passport of your country of origin.
  - If you do not have a passport, you can apply for one at the embassy of your country of origin in Greece.
  - If you are unable to obtain a passport from your country of origin you may be able to obtain a travel document from Greece if you can show that the embassy of your country of origin cannot or will not issue you a passport.

- You can stay outside Greece for 3 months, every 6 months.
- **You are however not allowed to settle outside Greece without authorization.** The rules for obtaining authorization to stay for work, study or otherwise differ depending on the country you travel to, and it is recommended to consult a lawyer in that country for more information.

Greece is part of the **Common European Asylum System**, therefore Greece will be considered your first country of asylum. If you intend to apply for asylum in another EU member state:

- **we recommend that you seek legal advice in that member state before applying.**
- your application can be rejected as inadmissible on the grounds that you already have gained international protection in Greece.
- It is possible that you will be returned to Greece.
- You can appeal the rejection of your second asylum application, but it is important to know that the outcome of this appeal can vary from case to case and from member state to member state.

**Please note that you will be subject to border checks and controls in *every country* you travel through.**

Every border you cross, and every stop of your flight, you will have to go through a **separate border check.**

**If you have a valid ID and travel document issued by Greece or a valid passport you have the right to travel to other EU countries!**

Some EU countries have put in place stricter border controls and might request you to show them that you reserved a return ticket back to Greece (within the three month deadline) as well as proof that you have sufficient money available to sustain yourself during the length of your stay.

**Travelling to another EU  
country as an asylum seeker  
in Greece**



As an asylum seeker in Greece **you do not have the right to travel to another EU member state.**

**This means that if you decide to travel to another EU country and encounter police or border guards, you might face detention, criminal charges, and/or deportation back to Greece.**

As a registered asylum seeker in Greece your fingerprints have been added to the EURODAC database of fingerprints, where they will be saved for ten years.

If you wish to apply for asylum in that country, you need to **make it clear to the authorities of that country upon arrival.**

If you apply for asylum in another member state it can be rejected as **inadmissible** on the grounds that you have entered the EU through another EU member state. According to the **Dublin Regulation** you can be deported back to Greece if your application is found inadmissible.

You can **appeal the rejection** of your asylum application, but it is important to know that the outcome of this appeal can vary from case to case and from member state to member state.

**If you apply for asylum in another member state, we recommend that you seek legal advice and support in that member state!**

If you leave Greece during your asylum procedure, your asylum procedure in Greece will be **discontinued.**

## **Important to note:**

If you have close family members with whom you want to reunite in another EU member state you may be able to apply for family reunification through the Dublin regulation. Make sure to mention that you have close family members in another EU state at your registration in Greece or, at the latest, during your asylum interview.

For more information about your rights to Family Reunification, consult our infosheet **KNOW YOUR RIGHTS - TO REUNIFY WITH YOUR FAMILY.**

**Travelling to your country of  
origin**

If you received **refugee protection** (three years residence permit) in Greece, travelling to your country of origin can **potentially lead to the termination of your refugee status.**

If you received **subsidiary protection** in Greece, travelling to your country of origin **is possible** if you have a valid passport.

If you are an **asylum seeker** in Greece, travelling back to your country of origin will lead to the **discontinuation of the procedure in Greece.**

**Travelling to a non-EU  
country to visit friends and  
family**

To be able to travel outside of the EU you need to have a **valid ID** and a **travel document from Greece or a valid passport from your country**. In addition to that you will also need to have a **visa** to enter the country.

Every country has its own visa regulations, you need to carefully **check the visa regulations** to the country you want to travel to **before you apply for a visa**.

Usually you apply for a visa in the embassy of the state where you want to travel to. Most embassies in Greece are in Athens.



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