



Assisted Voluntary Returns

If you do not wish to or cannot stay legally in Greece, but want to return to your country, you can contact the International Organization for Migration (IOM) - Mission in Greece.

General information about AVVR (Assisted Voluntary Return)

You can choose to return to your country if:

- You do not fulfil the conditions for entry and stay in Greece.
- Your request for asylum is still pending or has been rejected.
- You have been granted international protection, but nonetheless wish to return to your country.

It is your decision whether to opt into the assisted voluntary return scheme, but we believe that for your choice to be truly 'voluntary', you have to understand first what the option means for you in the long-term.

Please make sure you are clear in your own mind before you request or are coerced into voluntary return that you are not just deciding this out of frustration or despair about how you have been treated the last few months or because, for people on the Islands, (see below) the IOM are currently incentivising people with cash under a [new package](#) to return and shortening the deadlines to five days for accepting voluntary return.

AVVR INFORMATION FOR PEOPLE WHO ARE ON THE GREEK ISLANDS:

Cash assistance for voluntary returns

IOM has launched a [new reintegration package](#) within the [AVRR programme](#).

The new package **applies only** to people who have entered Greece **after March 20th, 2016** and are non-vulnerable and are currently on the islands of **Lesvos, Chios, Samos, Leros and Kos**. It applies to people that:

- do not have the legal status to remain in Greece or
- do not desire to stay in Greece,
- rejected asylum seekers and
- people who have withdrawn their asylum claim.

You will be provided:

- As part of the new reintegration package, beneficiaries will receive the usual cash grant (**500 euros**) provided to people selected for the AVRR in Greece;
- Beneficiaries will also get an additional amount of **500 euros** per person in cash. In total, non-vulnerable returnees who register for the project on one of the islands listed above will get **1,000 euros**.

People hosted on the Greek islands of **Lesvos, Chios, Samos, Leros and Kos**, who have entered Greece **after March 20th, 2016** and whose asylum request has been rejected, have **five days** to either:

- **Appeal** against the rejection decision;*
- Or, ask for assistance from IOM for [voluntary return](#) to their home country, if eligible.

*5 days is not enough time to appeal against a negative decision. Think carefully before giving up your [right to appeal](#)

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The above conditions do not apply to **vulnerable** cases.

Vulnerable people selected for the program will **not receive the reintegration assistance** in cash, but a reintegration assistance 'package' with a value of 1,500 EUR, which will be given **in kind** (help in establishing small businesses in their country of origin, vocational training programmes, medical or psychological support, etc.).

For safety reasons, countries and regions in the war zone, such as **Syria, Yemen, Palestine, Libya** and **Gaza** currently are **not included** among countries and regions of voluntary return. This list is updated according to the security conditions of each country.

Turkey is currently recognized as a safe country, but the IOM does not provide assisted voluntary returns to Turkey. If you don't appeal, or you don't apply for voluntary return, you may be returned to Turkey.

For more information you can contact the IOM Office in Greece or on the islands on the following phone numbers:

- **Athens:** +30 210 9919040;
- **Lesvos:** +30 69 58475878;
- **Samos:** +30 69 72331440;
- **Chios:** +30 69 55466613;
- **Kos:** +30 69 44864986;
- **Leros:** +30 69 41580330.

For general information on voluntary returns and addresses of IOM offices in Greek, English, Arabic, Farsi, Urdu, Pashto, Russian and French see [here](#).