



QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS ON RELOCATION

“What is relocation?”

Relocation is the transfer of asylum seekers who are in clear need of international protection from one EU Member State to another European state. Their asylum application will only be examined once the relocation has taken place. Currently, relocation is possible from Italy and Greece.

‘Does it apply to me?’

You will be eligible for relocation if you are in clear need of international protection and a national or a stateless resident of certain countries. Syria, Eritrea, Burundi, Mozambique, Bahrain, Qatar and Yemen or a stateless person previously residing in one of these countries.

Iraqi nationals who arrived after to 24th March 2015 and before the 20th March 2016. Can still apply for relocation. Even though they have been removed from the list of eligible nationalities PROVIDED they can prove their entry date with their police note (Kharti) and PROVIDED they pre-registered before the 16th June 2016.

However, Iraqis who entered Greece before 20 March 2016 and have been pre-registered after 16 June 2016 might be eligible for relocation based on the date of entry of their police note.

Iraqis who have entered Greece after June 16 will not be eligible for relocation.

This applies to other citizens of the following countries Central African Republic, Seychelles, Dominica Laos, Saudi Arabia, British overseas countries and Territories, Costa Rica, Maldives and St Vincent and the Grenadines.

It is advisable for everyone regardless of nationality to bring their Kharti to interview.

In addition, in order to benefit from relocation:

- you have to first apply for international protection in Greece or Italy;
- you must go through the identification, registration and fingerprinting procedure carried out by the Italian and Greek authorities;
- you must also show that you arrived in Italy or Greece after 24 March 2015.

‘Why will I be fingerprinted?’

All applicants will be fingerprinted, whether or not you apply for international protection and if you are 14 years of age or older.

Your fingerprints will be taken and stored in an EU-wide database called Eurodac.

You must cooperate with this procedure; you are obliged by law to have your fingerprints taken. You will not be eligible for relocation unless you are fingerprinted.



'I have special needs. Will I be given priority?'

Yes, vulnerable persons are given priority in the relocation process and the best interest of the child will be a primary consideration for the authorities.

Vulnerable persons include in particular:

- Minor children
- Unaccompanied minor children
- Disabled people
- Elderly people
- Pregnant women
- Single parents with minor children
- Victims of human trafficking
- Persons with serious illnesses
- Persons with mental disorders
- Persons who have been subjected to torture, rape or other serious forms of psychological, physical or sexual violence, such as victims of female genital mutilation.

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'To where can I be relocated?'

To one of the following European countries: Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Ireland, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden.

'Can I choose the country to which I will be relocated?'

No, it is not possible to choose the country to which you are relocated. However, in deciding the country of relocation, the competent authorities will take into consideration as much as possible your family links, language skills and any cultural or social ties you have to a country that is participating in the relocation scheme. Other factors are also taken into consideration, such as the number of places available in the different countries, and the profiles of other relocation candidates.

'How will I know where I will be relocated to?'

The relocation decision will be shared with you in writing.

"Can I be relocated with my family Member?"

If you want to be relocated together with people who are not your core family members ("core family" means your husband, wife or minor children), it is important to ask at your interview for your cases to be linked. You can even ask to be linked with someone who is not officially your family, such as your fiancée (religious marriages are not recognised by law), your partner or someone you are looking after.

When you finish your "full registration" interview with the Asylum Service, you will get a new white card with a CASE NUMBER, which will replace your registration number. If your interviews are on different dates, the person whose appointment is first should give their case number to the others who have later appointments; they must give the case number to the Asylum Service at their appointments. This is important even if you are core family. If possible, it is best to take printed copies of the other people's white cards. Do not take their original white cards, as this is not allowed and may cause problems.

If—after you have all been interviewed—you have the same case number as the others, then you should be processed together as one case and not be separated. If you have a different case number, it does not mean that your cases

are not linked. As long as you remember to ask to be linked AND give the correct case numbers, your cases should be linked.

Ask at every stage of the process to be linked.

“What is the process? How do I apply?”

To apply for relocation in and from Greece you must be fully registered.

Please see our website for information about full registration here:

www.refucomm.org

This information is also available as an audio for those who don't read:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCGxoiWtizRFBdJhInUeNllw>

“What happens at the Relocation Interview?”

You should mention any family ties, language ties or past study or work experience in other countries. These can be taken into consideration.

Questions you may be asked at the relocation interview are here:

http://refucomm.com/infopacks/greece-mainland/how-to-apply-for-asylum-relocation-or-family-reunion/full-registration-questions-you-may-be-asked/en/greece-mainland_how-to-apply-for-asylum-relocation-or-family-reunion_full-registration-questions-you-may-be-asked_EN.pdf

At the end of the relocation interview you will be provided with accommodation.

‘What will happen after I receive the relocation decision?’

At your interview you will be given a case number.

You can track the decision of your case on our website here:

http://asylo.gov.gr/en/?page_id=1031

There is no guarantee how long it will take but generally our research shows that the waiting time to be allocated and accepted by a country is on average 2-5 months

If you are accepted the Greek Asylum Service will contact you and you will be transported by UNHCR to Athens where the Greek Asylum Service will inform you about the country that has accepted you.

You will be asked to make an immediate decision so it is advisable to research the countries beforehand.

If you accept the country:

- You will undergo a full medical check by the Institute of Migration (IOM) shortly before departure.
- When you arrive at your destination you MAY need to undergo an asylum interview. Please make sure you prepare well for this using our 'Preparing for your Interview guides, films and audios on our website:
- www.refucomm.org

.... and on our YouTube channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCGxoiWtizRFBdJhInUeNllw>

- You will be provided with information about the transfer.
- After your arrival, the country of relocation will process your application for international protection.
- After been relocated to another country, you are obliged to stay and live there. If you decide to leave you will certainly be returned.
- Relocation is free of charge.

“What if I don't want to go the country that has accepted me?”

If you do not want to go to the country that has accepted you, you will need to apply for asylum in Greece. Check your registration card for the date of your 'lodging'. This will be the date for your full asylum interview.

If you are Syrian and you have a passport you can apply to be 'fast tracked' through the process.

See our guide to Syria Fast track here:

http://refucomm.com/infopacks/greece-mainland/how-to-apply-for-asylum-relocation-or-family-reunion/syria-fast-track/en/greece-mainland_how-to-apply-for-asylum-relocation-or-family-reunion_syria-fast-track_EN.pdf

What if the Country that has accepted me changes their mind?

If the country that has accepted you changes their mind then you will need to apply for asylum in Greece.

You can reach an EASO hotline for more information on relocation. If you are near Athens call +30 69 44 82 91 38. If you are near Thessaloniki, call +30 69 89 76 45 98. Hotlines are answering Monday to Friday, from 09:00 to 17:00

For more information on all process in Greece go to www.refucomm.org