

RSA ANNUAL REPORT 2024

Approved at the Extraordinary General Assembly of 28.02.2025

Active RSA cases by location: 2024

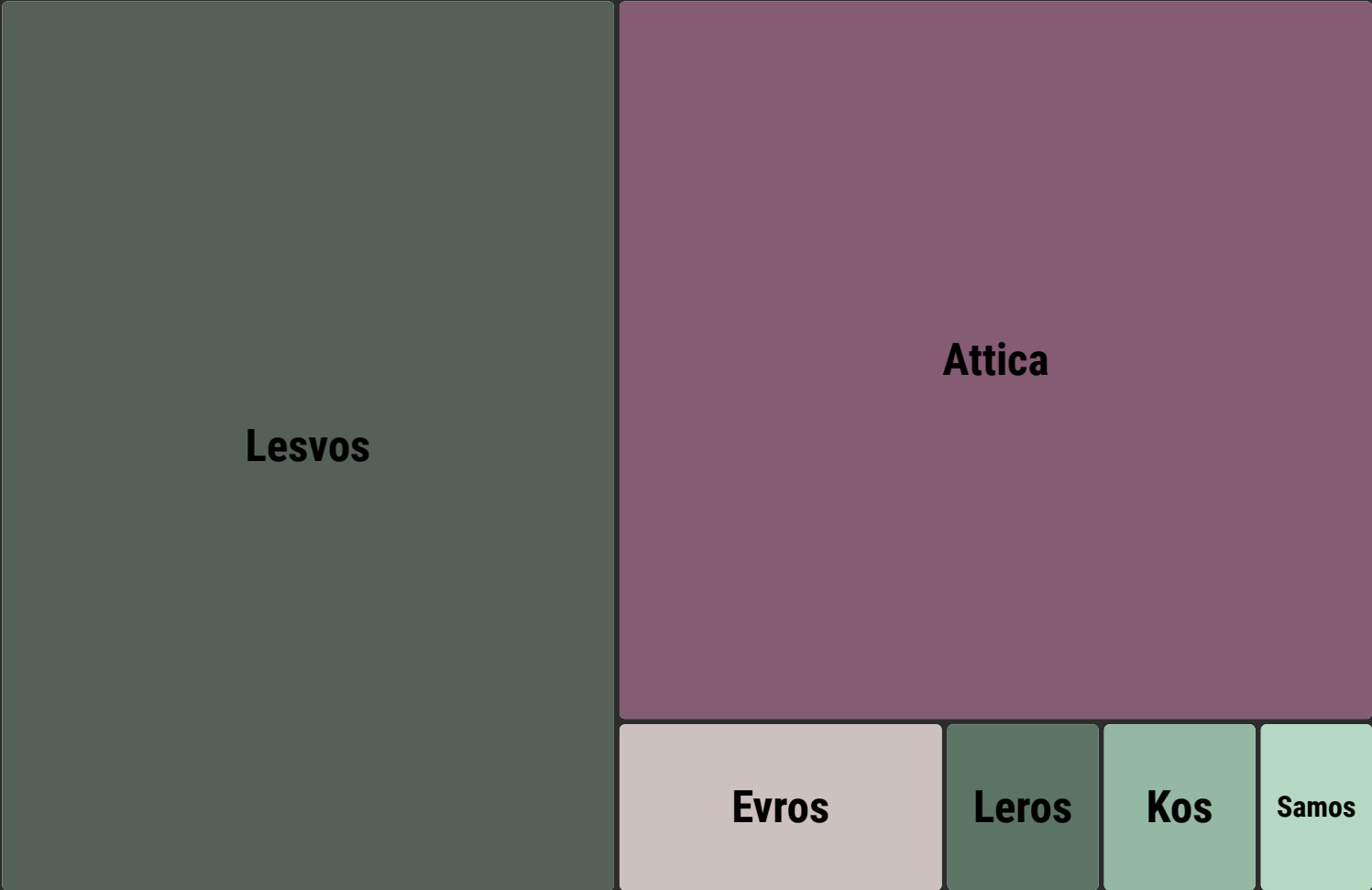


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Refugee Support Aegean (RSA) in figures



Legal & Psychosocial Support

- 528 assisted asylum seekers and recognised refugees
- 35 new applications before Greek courts
- 8 new applications and interim measures requests before the ECtHR



Research & Advocacy

- 13 analyses of legislation and reports on the Greek asylum
- 18 interventions in conferences, seminars and hearings



Communications

- 51 interviews with domestic and international media
- 470+ citations of RSA materials by courts, institutions, organisations and media
- 90 entries on the RSA website and social media accounts in Greek and English
- 2,921 posts on RSA social media accounts
- 2.3m social media & website impressions of RSA accounts



Organisation

- 3 areas of activity in Greece: Chios, Lesbos, Athens
- 4 teams: Legal Support, Research & Advocacy, Communications, Finance & Administration

Introduction

The year 2024 was marked by a series of developments in refugee protection in Greece and Europe, with direct impact on Refugee Support Aegean (RSA) activities and objectives.

At the start of the year, **the European Court of Human Rights condemned Greece for the lethal shooting of a refugee by Coast Guard fire** off the coast of Pserimos in 2024. The *Alkhatib v. Greece* case, represented by RSA and PRO ASYL, demonstrated yet again the systemic gaps in planning of Coast Guard operations and in investigations and delivery of justice for human rights violations at sea.

In mid-May, **the reform of the Common European Asylum System (CEAS) was adopted** as part of the New Pact on Migration and Asylum ahead of the **European elections**. CEAS came as a **dismantling** of EU rules and of core safeguards in refugee protection, coupled with the entrenchment of broad derogations and breaches of the rule of law in European asylum systems. The new rules will take effect in Greece and other European Union (EU) Member States as of June 2026. However, countries were required to present CEAS implementation plans within the year.

In early June, **the ECtHR held oral hearings on the first two cases of push backs of refugees by Greek authorities examined by the Court**. The first, *A.R.E. v. Greece*, represented by the Greek Council for Refugees, led in early January 2025 to the first **condemnation** of Greece for its unlawful “systematic practice of push backs” and for ineffective investigations into the incidents. The Greek criminal justice system has not initiated any criminal proceedings against state officials for push backs so far.

Later, in early October, the **Court of Justice of the European Union (CJEU) delivered its ruling on the “safe third country” concept**. Case C-134/23, the first **preliminary** reference by a Greek court to the Luxembourg on asylum matters, was represented by RSA and GCR and orally heard in mid-March 2024. The CJEU **held** that EU Member States may not dismiss asylum applications as inadmissible based on the “safe third country” concept and refrain from examining their merits where they have established that the asylum seekers will not be allowed entry into the country designated as safe. The Court thereby put an end to the Greek authorities' yearlong, arbitrary and abusive practice of massive dismissal of asylum claims as inadmissible on the ground that Türkiye is a “safe third country”. The case returned to the Plenary of the Council of State in early February 2025.

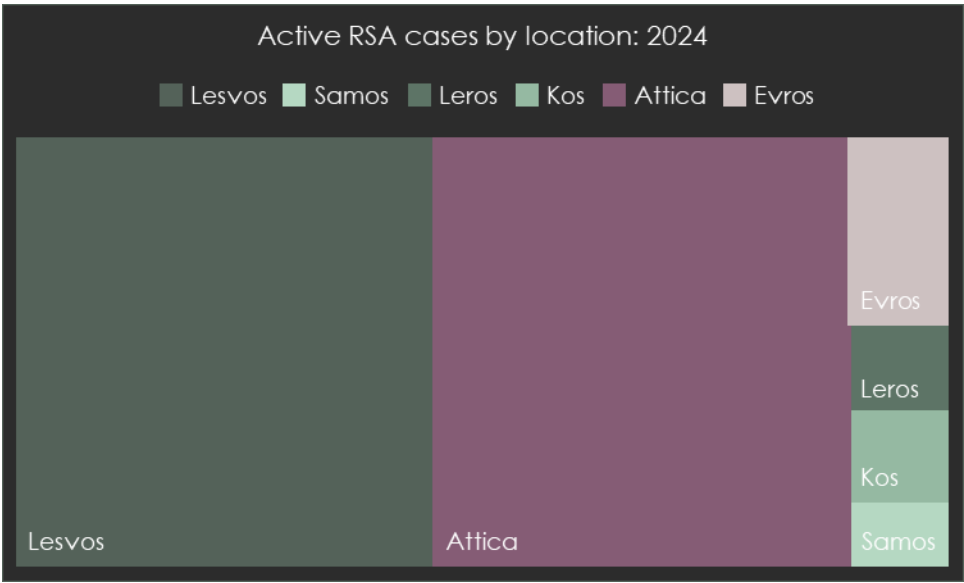
The fall of 2024 saw a peak of the persisting issue of **suspension of interpretation and other basic services for refugees** such as **health care**, monthly **cash assistance** for expenses or free legal assistance in asylum appeals. This demonstrated severe **deficiencies** in the Greek reception and asylum system and systemic, chronic issues in funding and programme management on the part of the Ministry of Migration and Asylum, with daily repercussions on people seeking protection in the country.

Before the end of the year came – worrying – developments in the **criminal investigation into the deadly Pylos shipwreck** of 14 June 2023. The Piraeus Naval Court Prosecutor **concluded** the preliminary examination of the case, without assessing responsibility on the part of Coast Guard leadership or of the Search and Rescue Coordination Centre and Operations Centre officers for the shipwreck. Lawyers of RSA and other organisations and collectives representing the survivors and victims of the shipwreck have already requested the necessary investigation and attribution of responsibility to those officials through a request for transparency and thorough examination of all possible evidence to ensure delivery of justice.

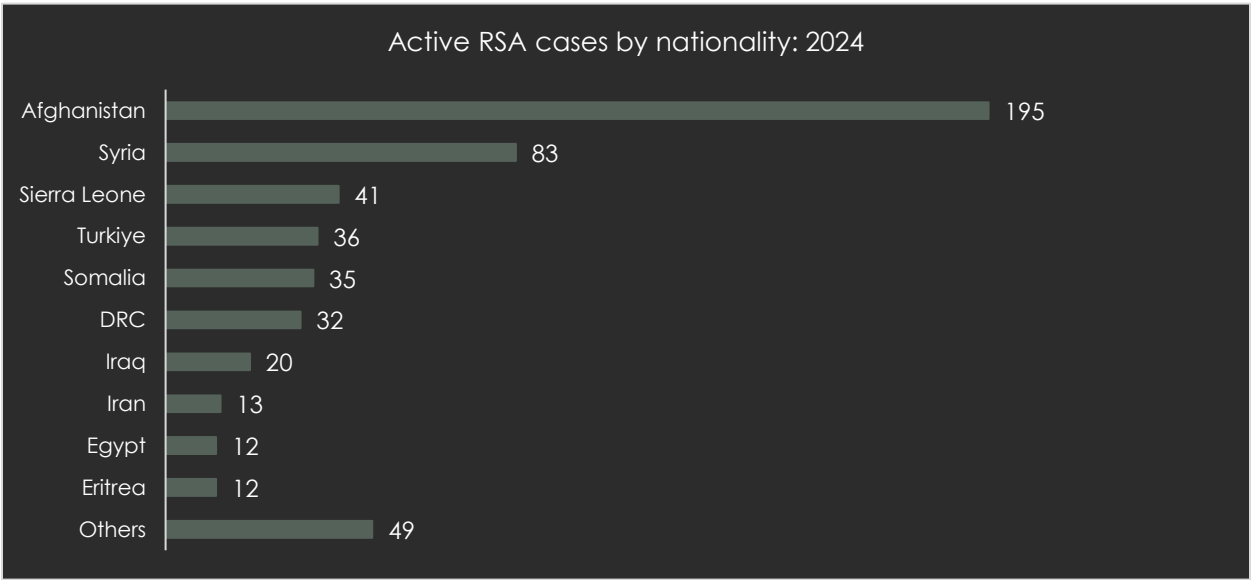
A total of 62,119 refugees and asylum seekers arrived in Greece in 2024 – 54,417 via sea and 7,702 through the land border. There was an **increase in arrivals in the Dodecanese islands, as well as Crete and Gavdos**, where arrivals were six times higher compared to the previous year with 5,161 people arriving in 103 different incidents, according to data **collected** by RSA. Arrivals in the latter two islands from African coasts are now a reality, yet to be structurally addressed through the creation of appropriate reception and accommodation conditions.

Legal Support

Throughout 2024, the RSA Legal Support Team offered free legal support to **528 recipients with active cases**. Most cases were initially undertaken on the Aegean islands, namely Lesvos:



Recipients in active cases of the Legal Support Team still originate mainly from Afghanistan and Syria. Breakdown by nationality is available as follows:



The Legal Support Team provides legal assistance and representation at all instances before the competent administrative authorities (e.g. Asylum Service, Appeals Authority, Hellenic Police, Reception and Identification Service), independent authorities (Ombudsman), Greek

administrative courts, the European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR), EU Agencies (EUAA, Frontex) and United Nations Committees competent on human rights issues.

As regards refugees' access to judicial protection in particular, throughout the past year the RSA Legal Support Team:

- ❖ Submitted **35 applications before Greek courts** on behalf of clients of the organisation. These include 11 applications for judicial review and 10 suspension applications of individual asylum and deportation decisions at the administrative courts, 10 objections against detention at the administrative courts, 2 appeals against first-instance judgments of the administrative courts concerning compensation claims by refugees against the Greek state, 2 family law claim at the civil courts concerning single-parent refugee families;
- ❖ Lodged **2 applications and 6 interim measures requests before the ECtHR** in cases of RSA clients;
- ❖ Supported the **first case** of a Greek **preliminary question to the CJEU** in the area of asylum, together with GCR.

Selected areas of legal activity over the past year are provided below:

Shipwrecks & border deaths

2024 was marked by a series of **shipwrecks**, with a total of 61 dead and 59 missing refugees mainly in the Aegean and in Crete. Several shipwrecks are connected to reported border violence incidents. RSA offered support to shipwreck survivors and to families of deceased and missing persons in a total of seven incidents on Lesbos, Chios, Farmakonisi, Kos and Rhodes. Support covered initial information and representation before the authorities, in criminal proceedings where initiated, as well as in the asylum procedure and identification and/or burial processes. Serious deficiencies in the treatment of victims persist and warrant systematic documentation and response.

The case of the November 2024 shipwreck in Farmakonisi is illustrative. The mother of a single-parent family was missing, two of her children – including one minor – survived and the rest of the family had been separated prior to their departure from Türkiye. The body of the missing mother was retrieved and subsequently identified following a painstaking process. RSA supported the family members at all stages of the asylum process, the custody of the child survivor, and identification of the missing person.

The ECtHR judgment of 16 January 2024 in the **Alkhatib v. Greece** case was a major victory for RSA. The ECtHR **condemned** Greece for breach of the right to life in the case of a lethal injury of a refugee by Coast Guard fire off the coast of Pserimos in 2014, represented by RSA and PRO ASYL. On the one hand, the Court found that the Greek authorities lacked clear rules on the use of firearms in Coast Guard operations, as Coast Guard officers invoked unpublished, out-of-date, inadequate “rules of engagement” dating back to 1992 concerning the use of firearms against the boat carrying refugees. It deemed that the firing of thirteen shots on the boat engine

was “extremely dangerous” and disproportionate. The Court also condemned Greece on account of the ineffective criminal investigation into the incident, where the Piraeus Naval Court Prosecutor and Reviewing Court Prosecutor had shelved the case following a deficient assessment of evidence. The case was thoroughly supported at all stages of the process, from the start of the incident until Greece's final condemnation by the ECtHR.

The Pylos shipwreck brought to criminal justice: The criminal investigation into the deadly Pylos shipwreck was primordial in RSA's legal activity throughout the past year. Parallel to the criminal process against nine survivors, acquitted by the Felony Court of Kalamata in May 2024, the Piraeus Naval Court Prosecutor initiated a preliminary examination of the circumstances of the shipwreck to investigate responsibility on the part of the Coast Guard.

At the end of December 2024, the Piraeus Naval Court Prosecutor concluded the preliminary examination into the Pylos shipwreck, without summoning officers Search and Rescue Coordination Centre and Operations Centre officers or Coast Guard leadership for written explanations, despite evidence in the case clearly pointing to their responsibility. The Prosecutor only requested written explanations from the crew of the PPLS 920 Coast Guard vessel and the Special Operations Unit officers also on board.

Lawyers of RSA and other organisations and collectives representing the survivors and victims of the shipwreck urged the Prosecutor to launch criminal proceedings and proceed to the necessary investigation and attribution of responsibility to the competent Search and Rescue Coordination Centre and Operations Centre officers and their superiors for the alleged acts and omissions leading to the shipwreck and to the death of 600 people.

Meanwhile, the Legal Support Team made continuous efforts to support a total of 26 survivors in the asylum procedure and in accessing a secure protection status in Greece. In the summer of 2024, the Asylum Service rejected all asylum claims by survivors originating from Pakistan and Egypt as “manifestly unfounded” under an “accelerated procedure”, even though the applications had been pending before it for one year. RSA lawyers supported appeals for 10 survivors before the Appeals Authority. Before the end of the year, the Appeals Authority granted them refugee status, acknowledging their risk of persecution on account of the special circumstances of the present shipwreck and of its investigation.

Access to the asylum procedure

Informal forced return operations (push backs) putting lives at risk at Greek land and sea borders continued in 2024. These are illegal practices violating the principle of *non-refoulement* and the right to asylum, national and international law, and the rights of refugees. The incidents documented by RSA still contain accounts of inhuman or degrading treatment, deprivation of liberty through informal detention under degrading conditions, separation of families, physical and verbal violence, endangerment. One refugee reported seven such incidents in his attempt to cross the land border.

Access of refugees to the asylum procedure remained highly problematic due to chronic delays in registration and to critical gaps in services such as interpretation. In 2024, these issues affected both island camps such as the Closed Controlled Access Centre (CCAC) of Leros and the Reception and Identification Centre (RIC) of Malakasa on the mainland. RSA clients in RIC Malakasa reported remaining in *de facto* detention for protracted periods, in severely damaged, leaking containers infested by insects and rats, without being offered cleaning and

hygiene materials such as soap, detergent or even bed linen, without having been examined by a doctor, psychologist or social worker with a view to identifying their needs. For their part, the Greek authorities do not allow them to certify their signature so as to authorise a lawyer. As a result, people are unable to claim basic rights.

Judicial protection against violations of rights in RIC Malakasa: In mid-November 2024, the Administrative Court of Athens ruled that the detention of a family of refugees in the form of "restriction on freedom" inside RIC Malakasa for over two weeks pending their registration was unlawful. The **AP2200/2024** ruling is the first known judgment of a Greek court declaring that the "restriction on freedom" imposed pending registration in RIC constitutes arbitrary deprivation of liberty. The Court also held that the authorities' refusal to certify the refugees' signature was "unjustified" and highlighted poor living conditions prevailing inside the RIC.

In the case of another family of refugees who remained in detention in RIC Malakasa for two months, awaiting their registration, RSA has lodged an application to the ECtHR for breach of the right to liberty and the right to an effective remedy.

Safe third country

Case **C-134/23 *Elliniko Symvoulío gia tous Prosfyges*** before the CJEU was concluded in 2024. The case concerned the interpretation of the "safe third country" concept in the first preliminary reference by a Greek court in the area of asylum, represented by RSA and GCR. Following an oral hearing of the case in mid-March 2024, the CJEU delivered its judgment on 4 October 2024. It **held** that asylum applications may not be dismissed as inadmissible based on the "safe third country" concept without an assessment on the merits where states have established that asylum seekers will not be allowed entry into the country designated as safe.

The Court thereby overturned the yearlong, abusive practice of the Greek authorities, which massively dismissed of asylum claims as inadmissible on the basis that Türkiye is a "safe third country", knowing that no return thereto is feasible. After the CJEU ruling, the case returned to the Plenary of the Council of State and was heard in early February 2025. The authorities, however, maintained their practice throughout 2024 and dismissed over 2,000 asylum applications as inadmissible, even after the CJEU judgment.

At the same time, RSA continued to contribute to strengthening case law on the "safe third country" concept through support of individual cases. This led to important judicial review rulings of Greek administrative courts in 2024 too. The **AΔ499/2024** ruling of the Administrative Court of Athens, for instance, annulled an Appeals Committee decision for failing to take account of the personal characteristics of the applicant, namely his Kurdish origin, and for relying on outdated sources of information dating four years back.

Vulnerable groups

The RSA programme with Médecins Sans Frontières for support of victims of torture and serious forms of violence on Lesbos island continued for a fifth year. In 2024, **114 people** were referred and supported with free legal assistance at all stages of the asylum process. A total of 209 asylum seekers were assisted at first instance. Of those, 68 have already received a protection status.

The team's legal activity under the programme secured important Appeals Committee decisions that reinforce jurisprudential standards on international protection of victims of violence, in particular survivors of female genital mutilation from countries such as Sierra Leone. In one case supported by the Legal Support Team, the Appeals Authority ruled that female genital mutilation sustained by a woman in Sierra Leone amounts to "enduring harm", given its "permanent and irreversible nature... in conjunction with the particularly durable consequences it has caused to her physical and mental health". It concluded that the woman faces persecution from both state and non-state actors, against which she may not be protected.

Psychosocial support

Through its social worker in Athens, RSA continued to identify the psychosocial needs of its clients, in parallel to legal proceedings. A series of actions such as meetings, documentation, escorts, referrals, social reports were performed with a view to promoting autonomy and support of the persons or families concerned and to strengthening legal cases where necessary. Activities of the social worker throughout 2024 included:

- 10 Escorts for medical and paramedical purposes
- 25 Escorts to services
- 41 Referrals to services
- 71 Connections to services
- 11 Social records
- 29 Needs records / humanitarian assistance requests
- 83 Meetings with clients
- 59 Actions to strengthen the social service

Interpretation

Following a brief interruption, RSA resumed in May 2024 the provision of free Farsi interpretation at the "Vostanio" General Hospital of Lesvos through daily presence in weekdays and telephone service on weekends. This is the only available such service at that hospital following the departure of other actors. The presence of an interpreter is necessary to support the necessary communication between refugees and medical and hospital personnel, to facilitate both sides and to overcome the language barriers. The RSA interpreter, also certified in cultural mediation, also provides information to refugees on matters relating to their medical issues and on available services. The interpreter's presence also contributes to supporting refugee patients who face serious conditions such as advanced pregnancy or childbirth in the absence of a familiar environment.

Support to pharmacies

RSA continued its support to local pharmacies on two Aegean islands that host Closed Controlled Access Centres (Lesvos and Samos) through coverage of costs of medication for asylum seekers and recognised refugees who lacked funds to purchase medication. Coverage of costs totalling over 2,500 € offered respite for hundreds of people who would otherwise not have access to medication for chronic or urgent conditions.

Humanitarian assistance

Throughout the past year, RSA provided monthly in-kind humanitarian assistance to at least **210 cases** facing serious subsistence issues in Attica, Lesvos, Chios and Samos. Assistance was mainly provided via monthly supermarket vouchers, as well as costs of necessary transport from and to the camps, and one-off medical and paramedical costs that could not be covered through other sources.

RSA continued to cover rental costs for two cases: one single-parent family and a young adult enrolled in Greek school parallel to his employment.

Research & Advocacy

Publications

In the course of 2024, the RSA Research & Advocacy Team published – as a rule in two languages (Greek and English) – 13 analysis and comments papers on areas of RSA work.

Comments on legislative proposals

- ❖ New Pact on Migration and Asylum: Impermissible regression of standards for asylum seekers, Jul 2024

Analysis of the Greek asylum system

- ❖ Greek Asylum Case Law Report, Issue 2/2024, Dec 2024 (with GCR, HIAS Greece)
- ❖ Refugee facilities on the Aegean islands, Dec 2024
- ❖ Immigration detention in Greece in the first half of 2024, Oct 2024
- ❖ Greek Asylum Case Law Report, Issue 1/2024, Jun 2024 (with GCR, HIAS Greece)
- ❖ The Greek asylum procedure in figures in 2023, Jun 2024
- ❖ Refugee camps in mainland Greece, Jun 2024
- ❖ Immigration detention in Greece in 2023, May 2024
- ❖ Beneficiaries of international protection: Access to documents and socio-economic rights, Mar 2024 (with Stiftung PRO ASYL)
- ❖ The Concept of "Safe Third Country" – Legal Standards & Implementation in the Greek Asylum System, Feb 2024 (with PRO ASYL)

Submissions to national, European and international bodies

- ❖ Systemic deficiencies persist in immigration detention in Greece, Oct 2024 (submission to the Council of Europe Committee of Ministers)
- ❖ Greece in Institutional Decline – 60-day update, Mar 2024 (submission to the European Commission Rule of Law Report, with Vouliwatch et al.)
- ❖ Greece in Institutional Decline, Jan 2024 (submission to the European Commission Rule of Law Report, with Vouliwatch et al.)

Interventions & collective action

The RSA Research & Advocacy Team uses research and advocacy to highlight issues and to contribute to the work of national and international bodies responsible for monitoring international and European law through a holistic approach combining liaison with monitoring institutions and procedures with legal action, research and communications. Selected areas of RSA advocacy were as follows:

Reform of the Common European Asylum System (CEAS)

The dismantling of the Common European Asylum System (CEAS) and of core safeguards for the protection of the rights of refugees has been a consistent concern for RSA from the presentation of the New Pact on Migration and Asylum in 202 until its adoption in mid-May 2024. RSA has analysed the risks attached to the initial European Commission [proposals](#), the [amendments](#) introduced in Council negotiations, and their near-total [approval](#) by the European Parliament. RSA also contributed to the active, systematic involvement of Greek civil society in the New Pact by coordinating the dedicated CEAS Sub-Working Group of the Legal Aid Working Group. Under the auspices of that group, RSA chairs monthly meetings of civil society organisations and the Directorate-General for Migration and Home Affairs (DG HOME) of the European Commission.

Two months following the adoption of the new legislative instruments, RSA released the first available [detailed analysis](#) at Greek level, tracking the changes brought about by the CEAS reform and their worrying repercussions on refugee protection in Greece and the EU. RSA submitted its analysis to the authorities responsible for preparing the Greek “national implementation plan” of the new rules, to be submitted to the European Commission.

RSA undertook an active, coordinating role in the ensuing civil society response to the Greek authorities. In September 2024, civil society requested a consultation for the purpose of thoroughly reviewing the measures planned by the government for the implementation of the New Pact on Migration and Asylum. A consultation was also held in October between civil society organisations and the responsible European Commission team overseeing Pact implementation in Greece.

RSA presented again its comments and recommendations to the Greek authorities in early December 2024, following a Ministry of Migration and Asylum request for comments on the New Pact on Migration and Asylum upon expiry of the deadline for submission of the “national implementation plan” to the European Commission.

Public access to information

Transparency and access to information remain an RSA priority and an integral part of our research and advocacy activities. In 2024, the Research & Advocacy Team continued to support parliamentary initiatives aimed at regular disclosure of data of the Greek state on asylum procedures, the reception system, immigration detention and deportations, through a

constant request for stronger transparency and openness of the asylum system. RSA processed these figures and depicted and analysed them in an accessible manner.

The team also submitted a series of requests to European Commission services for access to documents of direct interest to the Greek asylum system, namely:

- ❖ Complaint to the European Ombudsman in February against the refusal of the Directorate-General for Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations (DG NEAR) of the European Commission to disclose any of the documents in its possession regarding **deportations of refugees and migrants by Turkish authorities**. These documents are likely to contain important evidence relevant to the legality of the designation of Türkiye as a “safe third country” by the Greek authorities.
- ❖ Request to the Directorate-General for Justice and Consumers (DG JUST) of the European Commission for access to DG JUST documents concerning **Greek legislation on the NGO Registry** of the Ministry of Migration and Asylum. The response received in January 2025 reveals that DG JUST has not drafted any such document, meaning that the European Commission has not evaluated the compatibility of the legal framework with EU law, despite its commitment to perform such a review since early 2021.
- ❖ Quarterly requests to the Directorate-General for Migration and Home Affairs (DG HOME) of the European Commission for access to Task Force Migration Management documents on the **transposition and implementation of EU asylum rules in Greece**. In all requests, the Commission failed to respond within the deadlines set out in EU law.

State of the rule of law

In 2024 too, RSA teamed up with independent organisations Vouliwatch, GCR, HIAS Greece, Hellenic League for Human Rights (HLHR) and Reporters United to submit a joint [report](#) to the European Commission on the state of the rule of law in Greece. The report focused on a number of rule of law breaches, ranging from push backs of refugees, police violence and criminalisation of human rights defenders, to poor law-making, surveillance of journalists and politicians through National Intelligence Service wiretapping and Predator spyware, to SLAPPs against journalists. The coalition presented the report in a press conference and contributed to mounting civil society pressure on the European Commission to closely scrutinise the actual situation of the rule of law in the country.

Following the change of leadership of the EU institutions after the 2024 European elections, the coalition [wrote](#) to the new European Commissioner for Justice at the end of the year, conveying a number of observations and recommendations to improve the rule of law mechanism in Greece and the EU.

Greek Asylum Case Law Report

2024 marked the fourth year of the [Greek Asylum Case Law Report](#), an initiative of RSA in collaboration with GCR and HIAS Greece for a biannual collection of decisions from courts, Appeals Committees and the Asylum Service in the area of refugee protection.

Last year, the Greek Asylum Case Law Report released 141 excerpts of decisions collected mainly from legal organisations and lawyers of the Asylum Service Registry of Lawyers. Since its launch, the Greek Asylum Case Law Report has published more than **630 excerpts of decisions** issued from 2020 to 2024 from Greek administrative, civil and criminal courts, as well as the Appeals Committees and the Asylum Service. Decisions of the Greek Asylum Case Law Report are also published on reputable databases such as the ISOKRATIS database of the Bar Association of Athens and the Case Law Database of the European Union Agency for Asylum (EUAA).

Communications

RSA members gave at least 51 interviews with domestic and international media such as ABC Australia, Suddeutsche Zeitung, Die Zeit, EU Observer, Woz, Reuters and others. RSA members also participated in at least 17 events hosted by organisations, institutions etc.

RSA published a total of 90 entries, including 47 published on both the RSA website and social media accounts and 43 solely on social media. All entries on the website, social media, newsletters and press releases are always available in two languages (Greek and English). RSA social media accounts also made 2,921 posts.

Social media

The year 2024 saw significant developments in RSA's work in digital and social media.

On social media, an impressive increase was particularly reported on Instagram, with a 507% increase in impressions (200,874 impressions) and a doubling of account followers. The strategy of use of audiovisual material, daily dissemination of news from the field and journalism, coupled with collaborations with other organisations and actors, decisively contributed to RSA's dynamic presence on social media. We recorded: a total of **2,132,847 impressions** on social media, the RSA website and google search; a 10.33% increase (1,066 followers) in overall followers to 11,381; an increase in overall publications (3,011) compared to 2023; and maintenance of a high engagement rate of 4.8%.

Main publications such as the reports on refugee camps on the islands and mainland, developments in the Pylos shipwreck, tributes and breaking news particularly increased engagement. At the end of 2024, RSA decided and announced its **departure** from Twitter and strengthening of its Bluesky account, where we have transferred the daily activity formerly done on Twitter in the form of dissemination of news from the field and communication of our work. Still in 2024, RSA had strong performance on Twitter, with nearly 456,421 impressions – a drop compared to 2023, linked to algorithm changes and mass departure from the platform. As regards data, we note that there were additional technical difficulties in recording of data from social media in 2024, namely absence of analytics on Bsky, closure of the crowd tangle platform for Facebook / Instagram data, closure of analytics access in the free version of Twitter etc.

RSA also recorded an impressive increase in unique searches of the organisation via Google (google search), with over 1.6 million clicks in searches. This points to a 45.45% increase on 2023 and shows both a cementing of the RSA identity and a need among the public for reliable information on issues pertaining to refugees in Greece. In addition, RSA reactivated its Newsletter in 2024 through emails in Greek and English, with the aim of strengthening its communications identity beyond social media.

Citations of RSA material

RSA material was cited or used as a **reference in at least 270 publications** in 2024, including media articles, reports by stakeholders, institutions and organisations, as well as academic research. Media that cited RSA include major international outlets such as The Guardian, Washington Post, Le Monde, Frankfurter Rundschau, Associated Press, Süddeutsche Zeitung, Reuters, Swiss Info, Al Jazeera and others.

In addition, at least **200 judgments of foreign jurisdictions**, namely Belgium, Germany, Austria, Switzerland, the Netherlands and Iceland, cited RSA material on the living conditions of refugees in Greece.

Organisation & Transparency

RSA counts 15 staff members, including 7 lawyers, active on Chios, Lesbos, Athens and Crete. The [organisational structure](#) of the organisation, available on its website, comprises of the following teams: Legal Support, Research & Advocacy, Communications, Finance & Administration.

In addition to its Chios headquarters, RSA operates branch offices in Athens and Lesbos.

Registration

Ministry of Migration and Asylum Registry of Greek and Foreign NGOs
Registry Number 3142

General Commercial Registry
Registry Number 164523759000

European Union Transparency Register
Registry Number 583270644066-47

Cooperation with the PRO ASYL Foundation: Since its establishment, RSA has been supported by the **PRO ASYL Foundation**, a leading human rights organisation in Germany, has RSA as its exclusive partners in Greece, and has continued to undertake joint actions in 2024 at national and European level.

Synergies & networks

RSA continued to receive referrals of particularly vulnerable patients of Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) on Lesbos, under a memorandum of understanding launched in 2019. Cases were also undertaken on Kos following start of MSF operations. Free legal assistance was provided at all levels of the asylum procedure and on matters relating to reception conditions, focusing on the vulnerability of recipients such as victims of trafficking and people with mental conditions.

RSA is a founding member of the [Recording Mechanism of Incidents of Informal Forced Returns](#) of the Greek National Commission for Human Rights (GNCHR). The 2023 report of the mechanism was published last year. RSA presented at the launch of the report with a focus on separation of families in the course of informal forced returns incidents. RSA contributed to the Recording Mechanism with a total of 9 records for the year 2024.

RSA is an active member of the **Racist Violence Recording Network** of the GNCHR and consistently records racially motivated violence on the islands of Lesbos and Chios, as well as the mainland. RSA contributed to the annual report with 4 records.

As of July 2024, RSA chairs the Legal Aid Working Group operating under UNHCR and its CEAS Sub-Working Group where monthly meetings are held with the Directorate-General for Migration and Home Affairs (DG HOME) of the European Commission.

In 2024, RSA became a member of the **European Council on Refugees and Exiles (ECRE)**, an alliance of 127 civil society organisations across 40 European countries working on protecting the rights of refugees, asylum seekers and other displaced persons.



<https://rsaegean.org/en/annual-reports/>



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