

Recognised refugee statistics in Greece in 2025

MARCH 2026

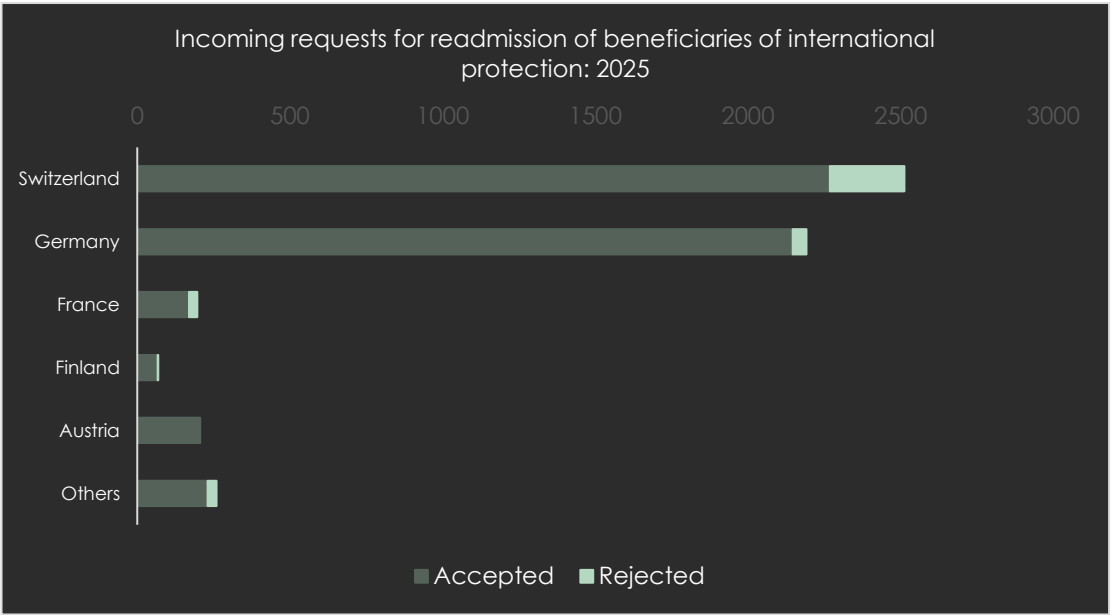
Deportations from EU Countries,
constant barriers to integration

European countries are ramping up deportations of recognised refugees to Greece according to latest official statistics for 2025, processed and published today by Refugee Support Aegean (RSA).¹ This rise occurs against the backdrop of persisting legal and practical barriers to people's access to documents and to dignified living conditions in the country.

Deportations of recognised refugees

The latest data supplied by the Hellenic Police in response to parliamentary questions refer to 9,179 requests for readmission of recognised refugees from other European states in 2025. This is more than a fourfold increase from 2,468 requests in 2024. The overwhelming majority of requests came from Germany (7,467), whose requests rose by 555% from 2024 to 2025 according to the Hellenic Police. Most requests for readmission of recognised refugees from Germany (5,469) had not been processed yet by the Hellenic Police at the end of last year.

Throughout 2025, the Hellenic Police examined 3,710 readmission requests, corresponding to a total of 5,437 people. More than 4/5 of those cases came from two countries alone: Switzerland (2,513) and Germany (2,192).

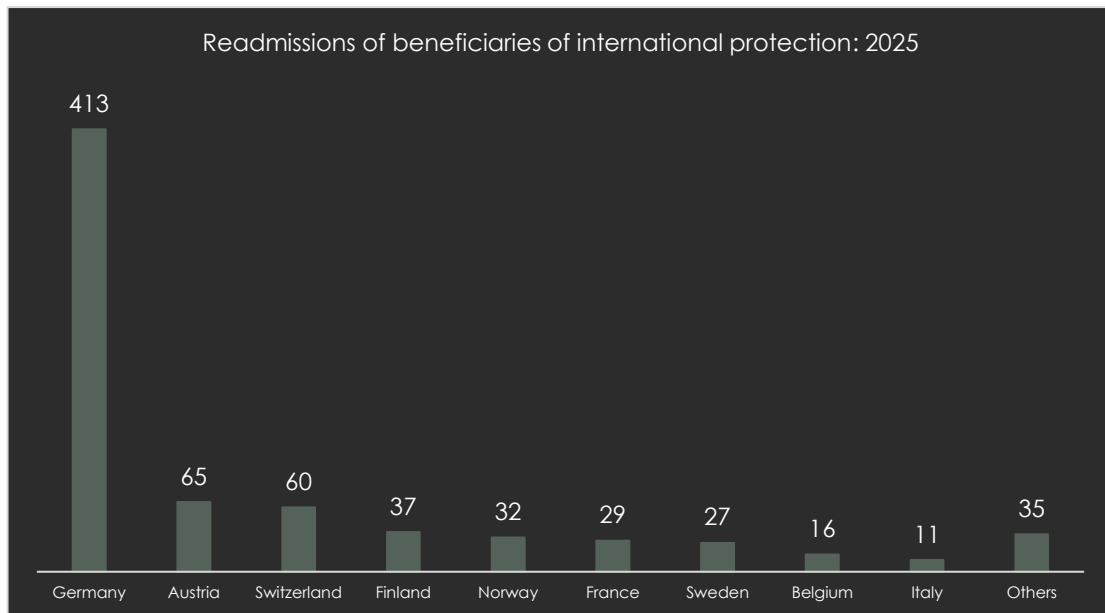


Source: Ministry of Citizen Protection, Reply to parliamentary question, 27 Jan 2026

Out of 5,437 cases of requests for readmission of recognised refugees back to Greece, 5,088 were granted (94%).

As for actual deportations to Greece, the number of people (forcibly) readmitted in 2025 reached 725, a marked increase compared to 390 in 2024. These readmissions exclude cases of people who voluntarily departed from other countries and returned to Greece after receiving a negative asylum decision and/or a return decision in those countries.

¹ Hellenic Parliament, *Λειτουργία διαδικασίας ασύλου*, available [here](#).



Source: Ministry of Citizen Protection, Reply to parliamentary question, 27 Jan 2026

Returns of recognised refugees to Greece are therefore steadily increasing, in spite of chronic, unresolved legal and practical barriers to people's access to essential documents and to core socio-economic rights,² not least housing and health care.³ We provide indicative examples of such issues, drawn from up-to-date statistics of the Greek authorities.

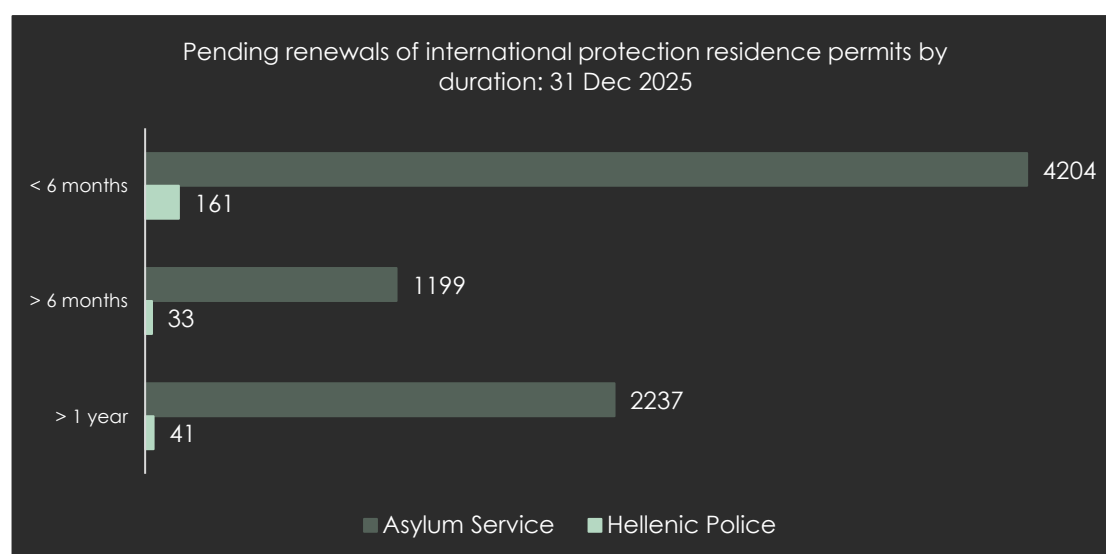
Constant delays in renewal of documents

Protracted delays in renewal of identity documents of beneficiaries of international protection risk becoming the norm in Greece. As a result, a large number of refugees face increasing precarity and prolonged periods without a valid residence permit and without access to essential rights and services.

The number of pending applications for renewal of refugee and subsidiary protection residence permits stood at 7,875 at the end of 2025. The overwhelming majority of those concerned the Autonomous Asylum Unit (AAU) for Beneficiaries of International Protection, the sole office responsible for renewals of residence permits issued by the Asylum Service. The remaining 235 concerned residence permits of people granted a protection status by the Hellenic Police prior to 2013.

² RSA & Stiftung PRO ASYL, *Recognised Refugees in Greece- 2025: Beneficiaries of international protection in Greece. Access to documents and socio-economic rights*, March 2025, available [here](#).

³ RSA, 'ECTHR interim measures secure access to medication for recognised refugee with serious health condition and inactive AMKA in Greece', 20 February 2026, available [here](#).

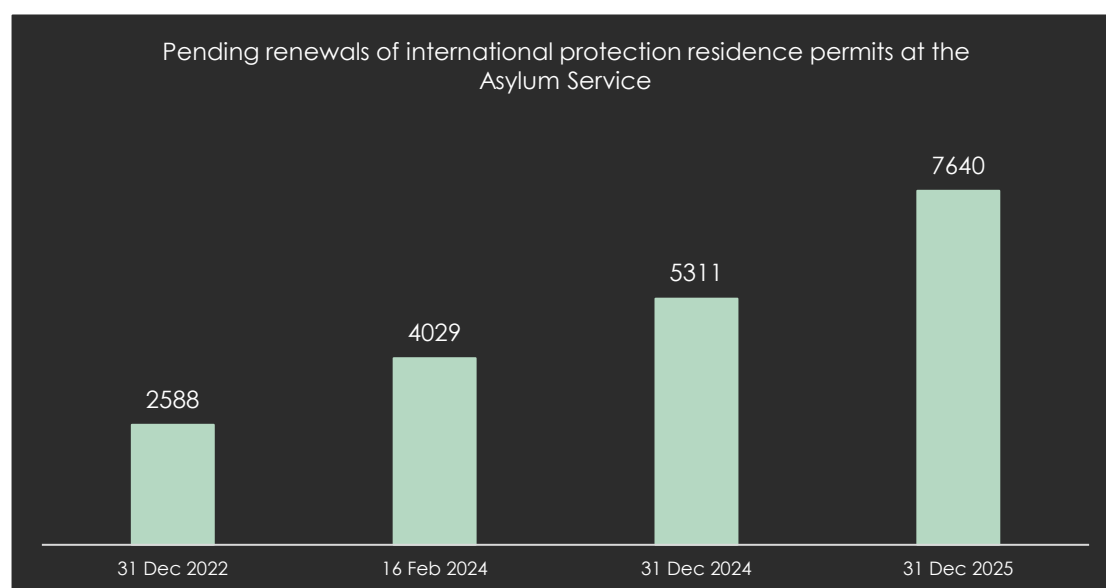


Source: Ministry of Migration and Asylum, Reply to parliamentary question, 6 Feb 2026; Ministry of Citizen Protection, Reply to parliamentary question, 27 Jan 2026

Over 2,200 residence permit renewal applications were pending for more than one year at the end of 2025. This reaffirms our constant observations regarding the inability of the Asylum Service to process renewal applications within due time.

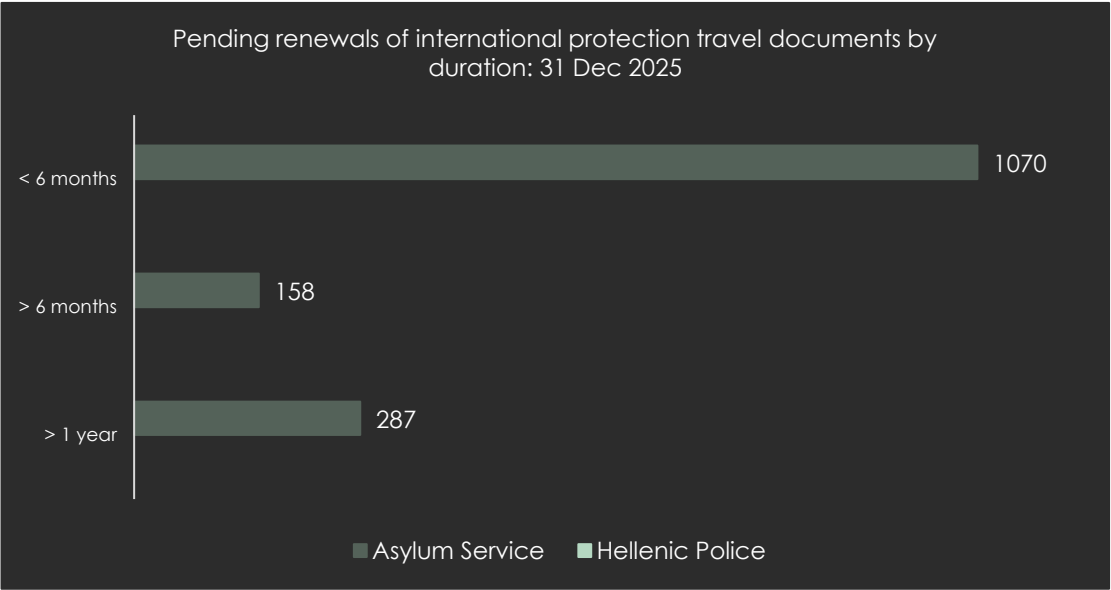
We recall that, throughout these lengthy waiting periods, beneficiaries are not regularly informed of the status of their request and may only obtain a "certificate of asylum status" from the Asylum Service upon request. This document does not carry a photograph or other means of verification and is not accepted by other services as valid identity documentation.

Delays in renewal of Asylum Service residence permits are not an isolated issue. On the contrary, they appear to be steadily deteriorating according to official data:



Source: Ministry of Migration and Asylum, Reply to parliamentary question, 6 Feb 2026, RSA, Recognised refugees 2025

As for travel documents, 1,515 renewal applications were pending at the end of 2025, exclusively at the AAU for Beneficiaries of International Protection of the Asylum Service.

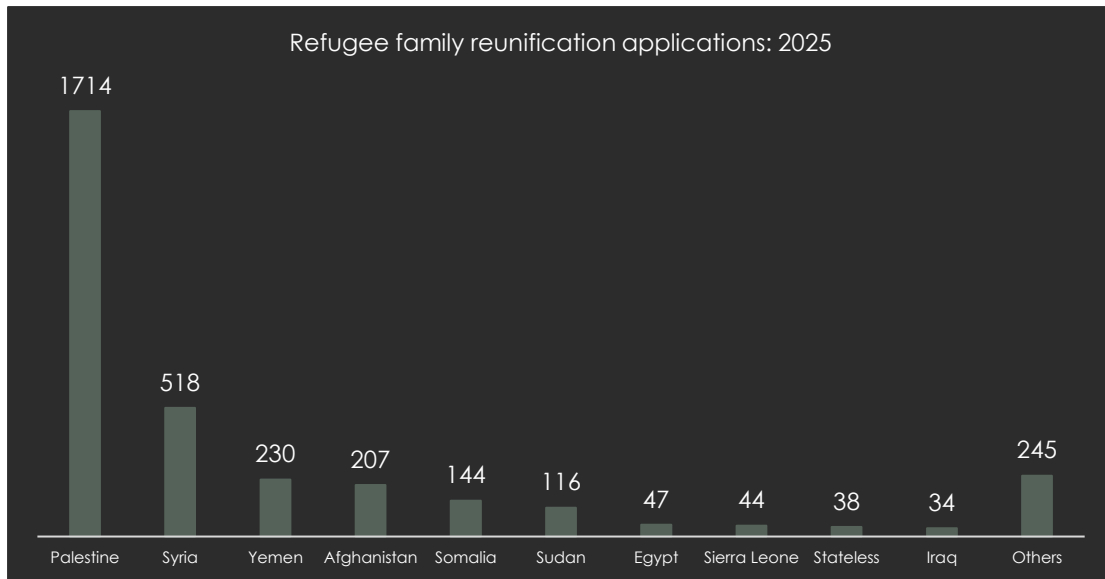


Source: Ministry of Migration and Asylum, Reply to parliamentary question, 6 Feb 2026; Ministry of Citizen Protection, Reply to parliamentary question, 27 Jan 2026

Family reunification of refugees

Greek law sets out a right to family reunification only to persons recognised as refugees. Beneficiaries of subsidiary protection are completely excluded from the possibility to reunite with family members in Greece.

24,672 people were granted refugee status in Greece in 2025. Of those, almost $\frac{2}{3}$ originated from Afghanistan (15,656). That same year, the Asylum Service registered a total of 3,337 family reunification applications. Yet, only 207 of those concerned refugees from Afghanistan:



Source: Ministry of Migration and Asylum, Reply to parliamentary question, 6 Feb 2026

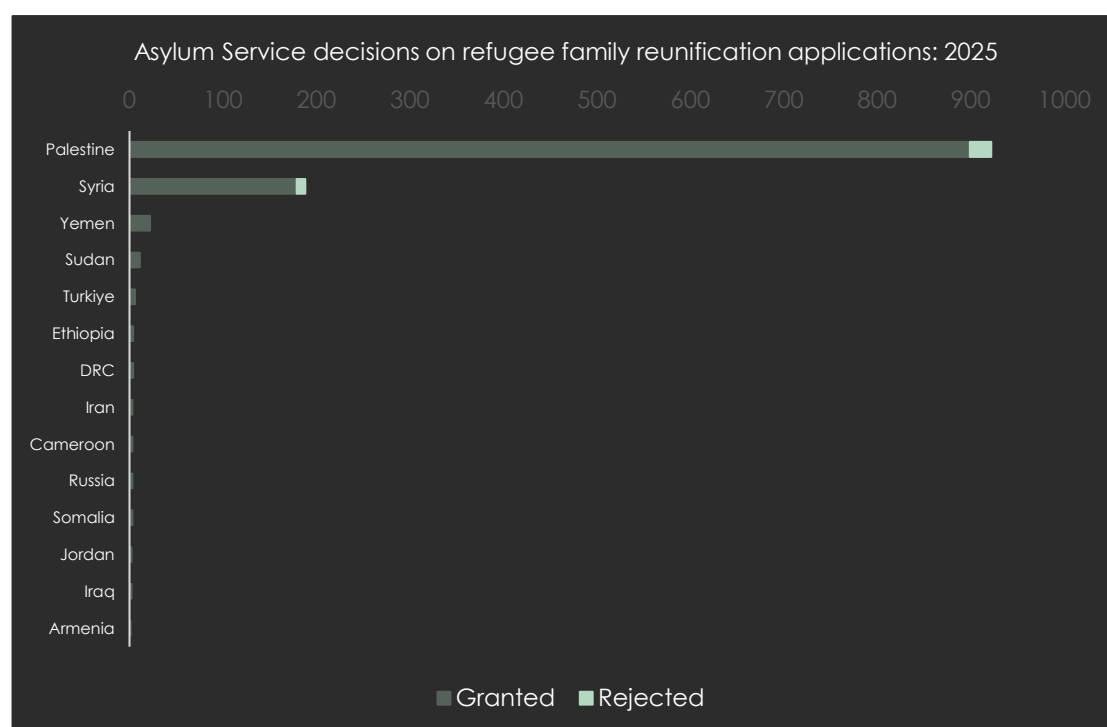
Family reunification of recognised refugees in Greece is also marred by chronic deficiencies across the different steps of the process,⁴ from access to Greek consulates and recognition and certification of family members' documents,⁵ to the issuance of visas to allow travel to Greece upon acceptance of the application. These barriers are under review by the European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR) in the context of pending cases such as *Dotani v. Greece* and *T.N. v. Greece*.⁶

Official data of the Asylum Service seem to corroborate the obstacles faced by refugees in family reunification procedures. A total of 1,142 decisions were issued on family reunification applications throughout 2025. None concerned refugees from Afghanistan:

⁴ Greek Council for Refugees, *Family reunification of recognised refugees in Greece*, July 2025, available [here](#).

⁵ UNHCR, *Submission by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees in the case of Abdul Habib Dotani v. Greece (Application No. 31077/23) before the European Court of Human Rights*, 23 February 2024, available [here](#).

⁶ ECtHR, *Dotani v. Greece*, App No 31077/23, Communicated 20 September 2023, available [here](#); *T.N. v. Greece*, App No 41855/23, Communicated 28 March 2024, available [here](#).



Source: Ministry of Migration and Asylum, Reply to parliamentary question, 6 Feb 2026

Withdrawal of protection status

Throughout 2025, the Asylum Service withdrew international protection from 199 people. The main ground for withdrawal related to “danger for the community” findings following a final conviction for a serious criminal offence.

The second main ground was “threat to national security”. Here, cases include status withdrawals based on classified documents that were not disclosed to the persons concerned. The issue of access to such classified documents forms the subject matter of a pilot procedure before the Council of State, heard in February 2025 and yet to be decided.

First instance decisions on withdrawal of international protection: 2025								
	Cessation	Exclusion	False	National security		Danger community		Total
				Ref.	Subs.	Ref.	Subs.	
Afghanistan		1	1			21	30	53
Türkiye		3		34	1	2		40
Palestine				12		16	1	29
Syria	3			1		25		29
Iraq	6			2	2	5	6	21
Iran	1	1				6		8
Stateless		1		1		1		3
Pakistan	1					2		3
Somalia						1	2	3
Sudan						2	1	3
Eritrea			1			1		2
Libya							2	2

Nigeria						1		1
South Sudan							1	1
Yemen				1				1
Total	11	6	2	51	3	83	43	199

Source: Ministry of Migration and Asylum, Reply to parliamentary question, 6 Feb 2026

In 2025, the Appeals Committees of the Appeals Authority took 61 decisions on appeals against status withdrawal decisions of the Asylum Service. Most of those dismissed the appeal and upheld the withdrawal of status.

Second instance decisions on withdrawal of international protection: 2025		
	Decision quashed	Decision upheld
Afghanistan	1	21
Palestine	2	8
Syria	4	7
Türkiye	2	4
Iraq		3
Iran	2	2
Egypt		1
Morocco		1
Mauritania		1
Somalia		1
Kenya	1	
Total	12	49

Source: Ministry of Migration and Asylum, Reply to parliamentary question, 6 Feb 2026



<https://rsaegean.org/en/recognised-refugee-statistics-in-greece-in-2025/>



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