**Greek contribution to the Resolution A/HRC/35/L.28 on the protection of the human rights of migrants:**

**The global compact on safe, orderly and regular migration**

***1. The promotion and protection of the human rights of all migrants, regardless of status, as well as ensuring social inclusion and cohesion and addressing all forms of discrimination, including racism,xenophobia and intolerance***

1. *The international cooperation regarding the border management in south Eastern Europe should be considered under two pillars:*

* Cooperation between neighboring countries.
* Cooperation with border management agencies.

Greece implements both dimensions of regional cooperation, in order to enhance migration management and border protection. Analyzing the framework of interstate cooperation, the Hellenic Police has set a frame of activities with all neighboring countries: Turkey, Bulgaria, FYRoM and Albania, both at bilateral and multilateral framework.

Cooperation between neighboring countries is set under the following pillars:

* Meetings of contact points and regional authorities.
* Exchange of information concerning migration flows and cross-border crime.
* Training activities about border management and protection of fundamental rights.
* Exchange of Liaison Officers.
* Common Center for Police and Customs Cooperation (Kapitan Andreevo Bulgaria), which includes exchange of information for land border surveillance purposes between Greece-Bulgaria-Turkey.
* “Common Contact Center” between Greece and Bulgaria (Promachonas, Greece) for the exchange of information regarding illegal migration and cross-border crime.

Moreover, cooperation is established between Greece and various border management Agencies, mainly the following:

* Frontex (Joint Border Management Operations, risk analysis, training activities, research and development, returns, etc.).
* Europol (combating illegal smuggling & trafficking of human-beings)
* OSCE (trainings and meetings of Focal Points)

b) *The international cooperation and governance regarding return and readmission in south Eastern Europe should be considered under the following two pillars:*

* Implementation of our National Return Policy as well as Readmission Operations to Turkey in regular basis,
* Fighting of all smuggling networks.

In the field of international cooperation, Greece cooperates with many European Services and Agencies as well as Non Governmental Organizations in order to handle the migration flows from the south East European Sea Borders with Turkey. For this reason, Greece cooperates with European Commission for the implementation of Readmission Agreements , EASO for Asylum issues, European Border and Coast Guard Agency – Frontex for Readmission Operations to Turkey as well as Joint Return Operations to Third Countries, IOM for voluntary Returns, UNHCR for refugees and ICRC.

In the framework of the E.U. – Turkey Statement of 18 March 2016, it has been decided:

* The establishment of Liaison Officers on both sides, Turkish Officers on the islands and Greek Officers in Dikeli, in order to monitor and facilitate the operations,
* Trilateral meetings of EU, Turkey and Greece in regular basis (almost every two months),
* Setting Contact Points on both sides for emergency situations,
* Deployment of Guest Officers from European Border and Coast Guard Agency – Frontex for Readmission Operations.

In addition, cooperation is established between Greece and European Border and Coast Guard Agency – Frontex in the field of Joint Return Operations.

European Border and Coast Guard Agency – Frontex contributes by providing airplanes to Greece for Organizing Joint Return Operations to Pakistan without any cost for our National Budget. It has been agreed also that it is possible to provide airplanes in case of an increase of irregular migrants and the need for organizing national charter flights is arisen. Finally, Greece can participate to Joint Returns Operations to other Third Countries organized by EU M-S.

By implementing the two pillars, a strong message is passed to both Third Countries and Smuggling Networks that irregular migration is not tolerated and another communication channel must be found between Third Countries and EU M-S for legal migration *(for e.x. students, work e.t.c.).*

In view of the promotion and protection of migrants rights, Greece has adopted and implements measures to ensure the protection of migrants’ rights and their specificities within a system based on social justice, with particular respect on minors’ rights. It should be here underlined, that the Migration and Social Integration Code (law 4251/2014), provides for transparent procedures on entry and residence of third country nationals (hereinafter TCNS) and guarantees migrants’ rights (eliminating of all forms of discrimination) with particular respect on vulnerable groups of migrants.

In particular, all persons legally residing in Greece, regardless of their residence status, enjoy:

- the right to education: migrants who legally reside in Greece, are subject to obligatory school attendance, such as Greek nationals are. Children and adolescent migrants, who attend all levels of education, have, without any restriction, access to school and educational community activities. These rights are not restricted for minors, who are under the refugee status or under the protection of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, or they have submitted an application for asylum or they live in Greece, even if their legal residence status is still pending (Art. 21 of the Law 4251/2014 - hereinafter “Code”).

- the right to health: migrants legally residing in Greece have access to national health system. Hospitals, health centres and clinics are bound to supply their services free of charge to migrants in case of emergency or to minors (Art. 26 of the Code).

- information on rights: migrants being detained shall be informed about their rights and obligations in a language they understand, directly after their entry in a penitentiary institution (Art. 21 of the Code).

- protection against discrimination: offences provided for in articles 1 to 3 of law 927/1979 (on punishing acts or activities aiming at racial discrimination) shall be prosecuted ex officio (Art. 21 of the Code).

Regarding migrants legally residing in Greece, they enjoy the same social security rights as Greek nationals, the right to social protection, equal access to public services and the right to be admitted in public hospitals and clinics. They also have the right of family reunification/protection of family life (Art. 69-87 of the Code). According to the Code, TCNS legally residing and working in Greece enjoy a common set of rights based on equal treatment with the nationals. The implementation of the principle of equal treatment is linked to the purpose of stay. Specifically:

- TCNS with long term residence status (meaning residing in Greece over 5 years) enjoy equal treatment across all sectors of social-economic life

- TCNS with access to employment enjoy equal treatment, in particular regarding working conditions freedom of association, education and vocational training, recognition of diplomas, branches of social security, tax benefits, access to goods and services and the supply of goods and services, advice services offered by employment offices.

Social Integration of migrants

One of the key policy priorities of the Greek state (Ministry of Migration Policy) is the successful integration of migrants and beneficiaries of international protection, keeping in mind that phenomena of exclusion and lack of protection of human rights might lead to fragmented societies and social unrest. Integration policies aim to promote inclusion and social cohesion. To promote social cohesion of the entire population of the country, the equal participation of all population groups (of migrants/refugees included) in the economic and social life of the country and their equal access to social goods and services is of high importance. Addressing the needs of third country nationals and their equal treatment in the fields of health, social welfare, education, security, labor, etc. consist some of the most important integration factors.

The Social Integration Division of of the Greek Ministry of Migration Policy as the Responsible Authority of the European Integration Fund 2007-2013 (EIF), for Greece has launched and funded many projects which promoted migrants’ integration and smooth adaptation into Greek society in a number of areas such as: a) information and administrative support to third country nationals, b) awareness raising of the host society and empowerment of third country nationals, c) programmes of the Greek language for immigrants, d) intercultural training of civil servants dealing with third country nationals or handling issues related to them, e) training programmes for Intercultural Mediators, f) intercultural projects, festivals, exhibitions, etc, g) intercultural mediation programs in hospitals and other health and social services, h) exchange of best practices between policy actors in the field of integration.

In particular, regarding the respect of human rights, some of the most succesful projects that were implemented in the framework of EIF were the following:

* Assistance to immigrant communities on how to get organized into associations and federations.
* Intercultural mediation program in selected hospitals of the country
* Greek language, history and culture courses addressed to the following categories of migrants: unemployed persons, mothers, disabled people, illiterate individuals.
* Information campaign aimed to sensitize public opinion as well as to inform female third country nationals about ways of coping with cases of trafficking, domestic violence and sexual harassment.
* Information and awareness raising of the host society through a campaign launched by the Media and the organization of a meeting with a view to avoid eventual anachronistic stereotypes, phenomena of racism and xenophobia and to promote diversity and the value of interculturalism in the Greek society.
* Workshop to sensitize journalists to address phenomena of racism and xenophobia.
* Offices providing support to third country nationals on discrimination incidents.
* Anti-discrimination awareness raising campaigns in schools.
* Development of cooperation network between Member States on issues of interreligious dialogue and the exercise of religious practices.

Currently, the Social Integration Division has planned a series of actions concerning migrants’ and refugees’ integration, building on the existing experience of previous years and taking into account the new situation and needs of the country. These actions will be funded under different EU Funds (e.g. Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF), National Strategic Reference Framework: Sectoral & Regional Operational Programmes, European Social Fund).

Specifically, two (2) actions have been planned and are going to be implemented in the near future:

1) Creation of Migrants/Refugees Integration Centres across the country, mainly through the Regional Operational Programmes (ROPs) (10 such centres are currently in the process of set-up) but also through AMIF (after 2018). The Migrants/Refugees Integration Centres will function as parts of Community Centres which will be established in the Municipalities of the country. The aims of their operation are the development of local information points for the integration of migrants/refugees, and the planning/implementation of integration activities, tailored made to the needs of these groups.

2) Training of Intercultural Mediators and provision of intercultural mediation services to Municipalities of the country (in which Integration Centres do not operate) and to One Stop Shops of the Decentralized Administration of the country. This project provides for a) the training of the employees of the afore-mentioned structures in intercultural mediation topics and b) the training of intercultural mediators and their employment in the above mentionned structures dealing with third country nationals.

Finally, the Greek State has recently elaborated a new draft of the National Strategy for integration (of migrants and refugees) according to EU principles and directives. This strategy emphasizes the importance of integration in local societies, proposes specific measures and actions and gives a list of interventions that all-together form part of an integrated approach. These measures mainly concern the fields of information and services, promotion of integration in the labour market and vocational training, language courses, facilitation of access to health services and social security, awareness-raising and combating discrimination campaigns, intercultural training and mediation.

***3. International cooperation and governance of migration at borders, in transit, at entry, and in relation to return, readmission, integration and reintegration.***

In accordance with international law and the Asylum Procedures Directive of the EU as transposed into national law, the Asylum Service is processing each international protection application individually and in light of the applicant’s particular circumstances. 51,092 international protection applications were submitted in 2016 and are being processed. By the end of the first half of 2017, another 27,853 thousands applications have been submitted.

Currently, the Asylum Service operates nine Regional Asylum Offices and thirteen Asylum Units nationwide (five Asylum Offices operating in the five Northeastern Aegean islands with hotspots) as well as in all pre-removal detention centers.

Despite delays that were noted in registering international protection applications during 2016 -mainly as a result of the fact that Greece’s intake of asylum applicants’ was one of the highest in Europe, both in absolute figures and especially in terms of the ratio between asylum applicants’ and permanent residents- the percentage of asylum claims fully registered and pending for examination for less than six months, is the highest in Europe (73% of asylum claims). It is also worth mentioning that during the first months of 2017, the recognition rate rose to 43% (being 35,8% mainly due to elibigility of Syrian nationals to be included in the relocation program).

The Asylum Service supported by the European Asylum Support Office and by experts of the Member States deployed by the European Asylum Support Office to the Asylum Service, has been implementing the EU-Turkey Common Statement on the islands, where 19,970 asylum claims were registered since 20 March 2016 and up to 11 June 2017. We note that, according to national legislation individuals falling under Articles 8 to 11 of EU Regulation 604/2013 of the Parliament and the Council as well as vulnerable persons as described in art. 14 par. 8 of Law 4375/2016 are always referred to regular procedure and are exempted from the accelerated asylum procedure at the borders (as per art.60, par.4 (f) of Law 4375/2016.)

Out of the total of 19,970 asylum claims, 881 persons received international protection from the hotspot locations, 8,409 persons were referred to the regular procedure due to some vulnerability or because it was decided that the applicants would not be safe in Turkey and thus the asylum procedure was continued on the mainland, 2,687 persons were referred to the Dublin procedure for family reunification, and finally 4,471 asylum claims were rejected as inadmissible or unfounded. Moreover, 1,686 cases resulted in a discontinuation of the procedure because of the applicants’ explicit or implicit withdrawal.

Additionally, the Asylum Service with the support provided by EASO, the International Organization for Migration and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees is implementing the so-called Relocation Decisions[[1]](#footnote-2). Since the start of the program (in the fall 2015) and by 12 June 2017, 14,709 asylum seekers had departed for other EU Member States. In the same reference period, 23,189 applications for relocation have been sent by the Greek authorities to other European states. The relocation of approximately 8,500 asylum seekers is still expected until the end of the program on 26 September 2017.

Finally, concerning the application of the Dublin Regulation, the Asylum Service has sent to other Member States 5,587 requests mostly for family reunification (including requests for the review of negative decisions). During the first six months of 2017 (1.1.2017-30.6.2017) the requests sent by the Asylum Service to other Member States reached 7,267 while a total of 1,866 transfers have been concluded.

Regarding asylum procedure for unaccompanied minors, we would like to note that 4,401 persons had applied for international protection up to May 2017 (since June 2013). Of these, 486 are girls and 3,915 are boys. In total, 374 unaccompanied minors have received international protection in Greece while several others have been included in the relocation program or in the family reunification procedure.

***5. Identification, protection and assistance in the context of smuggling of migrants, traffiking in persons and contemporary forms of slavery.***

Special protection is provided to migrants recognised as victims of trafficking in human beings or smuggling of migrants who cooperate with the competent authorities according to 2004/81/EU Directive (Art. 49-56 of the Migration Code). They are granted with a residence permit of one year duration and renewable, if one of the conditions provided by law are met. It grants the right to health care and permits access to the labour market, only for the period of its duration. It is worth mentioning that this residence permit may be renewed for one of the grounds of the Code by decision of the Minister of Interior or of the Decentralized Authorities of the State.

Regarding the protection of victims of trafficking in human beings who do not cooperate with the competent authorities, they are granted a residence permit for humanitarian reasons according to a decision of the Minister of Interior as provided by law 4332/2015 (which has integrated the provisions of a previous joint ministerial decision (30651/2014)

Legal Framework / Establishment of the Office of the National Rapporteur on Trafficing of Human Beings (hereinafter THB): Greece has intensified efforts to fight Trafficking in Human Beings, through the introduction of three pivotal legal instruments: 1) the ratification of the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its Protocol/the “Palermo Protocol” (2010), 2) the ratification of the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings (2013) and 3) the transposition of the anti-trafficking EU Directive (2013).

The Office of the National Rapporteur on Trafficking in Human Beings (NRO) was officially established in 2013, within the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, following the transposition of the EU anti-trafficking Directive. The Office is mandated to cooperate closely with all competent Ministries as well as with International Organizations and civil society stakeholders and is active in all four pillars of the strategy to combat trafficking (Prevention, Protection, Prosecution and Partnerships).

Furthermore, trafficking in Human Beings is defined by article 323A of Greek Penal and Trafficking in human beings for sexual exploitation is defined by article 351 of Greek Penal Code. Although Law no. 3064/2002, which added articles 323A and 351 to the Greek PC, deals with the contemporary and more repulsive forms of trafficking in human beings that are not covered by existing provisions, such as slave-trade of article 323 of Greek PC. As to the term “slave” and the provision of article 323, Greek PC, the legislator had in mind the definition of “slave” as the same is described in article 1 of the Geneva Convention, adopted by Greece through Law no. 4473/1930 (A 62). This convention is referred by the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings, as well as in article 2 of International Labour Convention no. 182 on the Worst Forms of Child Labour and the direct action for their elimination (adopted by Greece through Law no. 2918/2001 A 119).

The slave trade of article 323 par. 2 of the Greek PC provides for two groups of behaviors. The first one includes each act related to the acquisition of a slave with a view to sale or exchange him/her or any action in general related to the trade or transfer of slaves. The second group includes any act of capturing, acquiring and providing a person with a view to render such person as a slave. However, this provision, in combination with the provision of article 323A, covers the concepts included in the Convention.

The process of identifying a THB victim is currently provided for by article 1, Law no. 4251/2014 “Code of Immigration and Social Integration Code and other provisions” (A 80), which also gives the definition of the victim : “(xi) Victim of trafficking means both the person for whom there are substantial reasons to be considered victim of any of the crimes provided for in Articles 323, 323Α, 323Β, 339(1) and (4), 342(1) and (2), 348Α, 348Β, 349, 351 and 351Α of the Penal Code, before criminal prosecution, and the person against whom any of the above crimes were committed and for which proceedings were initiated, regardless whether the person has entered into the country legally or not. Under the previous indent, when the victim of the crime set out in Article 336 of the Penal Code is a minor, he/she is a victim of trafficking. The ‘victim of trafficking’ status is granted in a legal instrument by the competent Prosecutor of First Instance, both after the opening of proceedings against a crime provided for in Articles 323, 323Α, 323Β, 339(1) and (4), 342(1) and (2), 348Α, 348Β, 349, 351 and 351Α of the Penal Code and before criminal prosecution for any of these offences.

In the latter case, the issuing of the instrument requires the written opinion of two specialists, either psychiatrists, psychologists or social workers, employed in a protection or assistance service or unit referred to in Articles 2, 3 and 4 of Presidential Decree 233/2003, as in force, or the Initial Reception Service, NGOs, the IOM, International Organisations or other specialised and state-recognised protection and assistance bodies, pursuant to the provisions of Articles 2, 3 and 4 of Presidential Decree 233/2003. The status-granting instrument is issued regardless of whether the victim is cooperating with the criminal investigation authorities, in those of the above cases where the prosecutor deems appropriate, following the prosecutor-general’s assent that the conditions set out in Article 1 (2) of Presidential Decree 233/2003 are met or that the victim is not cooperating because of threats against members of his/her family who are in Greece, in his/her country of origin or elsewhere and that, if the victim is not protected or removed from the country, these persons face an imminent danger. This process also applies for granting a person the ‘illegal immigrant smuggling victim’ status, as defined in paragraph (xii) hereof.”

The measures for the protection of crucial witnesses against possible retaliation or intimidation for the actions of forming or participating in an organization of par. 1 article 187 of the Greek PC and for related actions, were established in compliance with the provisions of the Palermo Convention (2000) on transnational organized crime under article 9, Law no. 2928/2001. Especially for the victims of offences under article 323A and 351, Greek PC, article 9 par. 6 Law no. 2928/2001 provides that: “in criminal proceedings and as to THB offences under articles 323, 323A, 323B and 351 of the Greek PC, as well as for the offences of illicit trafficking of migrants under articles 87 par. 5, 6 and 88 of Law no. 3386/2005 (G.G. 212A), measures may be taken in accordance with the provisions of par. 2 and 4 for the effective protection against probable retaliation or intimidation of the victim of such acts, as defined in cases 10 and 11 of par. 1 , article 1, Law no. 3386/2005, the victim’s relatives or crucial witnesses, even if any of the aforementioned offences has not been committed within the framework of organized crime, pursuant to article 187 par. 1 of the Greek PC”.

As to whether victims may be examined as witness, supported by psychologists or psychiatrists and the form of their attestation, related regulations are included in article 226 A of the Greek Code of Penal Procedure on minor victims and 226B of the Greek Code of Penal Procedure on adult victims, also article 330 of the Greek Code of Penal Procedure (hearing behind closed doors) is protecting the victims during the procedure and avoiding their re-victimization. Presidential decree no. 233/2003 also stipulates for the protection of victims when they are provided with protection. Specifically, article 2 of the aforementioned decree states: “1. Protection and aid granted to a victim, given that criminal proceedings have been raised for the offences of article 1 par. 1, or regardless of criminal proceedings, since the victims has sought shelter to Protection and Aid Services and Units referred to the annex hereof. 2. Protection is granted for as long as there is risk for the victim’s life, integrity, personal and sexual freedom. Aid is provided as long as it deemed necessary by the Protection and Aid Services and Units, as referred to in the Annex hereof”.

Moreover, article 4, Presidential Decree no. 233/2003 stipulates: “1. Services and units providing protection and aid, as set forth in the annex hereof, must take the necessary measures for the safety of the victims and their premises. Related assistance may be requested by the competent Police Authorities. 2. In case there is absolute need to remove a victim out from his/her accommodation unit and there is serious risk against his/her life or integrity, or personal or sexual freedom, assistance shall be provided by the Police. 3. In cases mentioned above, Police Authorities shall provide their assistance according to the provisions of articles 159 and 161, Presidential Decree no. 141/199 (GG A58)”.

Legislative updates:

1) Formal Establishment of the National Referral Mechanism (NRM) for the protection and support of Victims of Trafficking (September 2016): Complying with the aforementioned national and international legislation, Greece has already put in place a formal national identification and referral system for victims and presumed victims of trafficking (Ministerial Decision 3003/20.9.2016). The Mechanism, supervised by the NRO, operates as a hub for coordinated action and partnership building, among all actors involved in combating human trafficking (state agencies, International Organizations, NGOs). It subscribes to a more inclusive identification regime that brings-in additional professionals and stakeholders into the screening and identification process of mixed migration/refugee flows (migration services, labor inspectors, health providers, local administration authorities).

2) Establishment of parliamentary committee against human trafficking (June 2016): The Hellenic Parliament has set up a sub-committee on human trafficking under the Special Permanent Committee for Equality, Youth & Human Rights issues. The Committee is responsible for monitoring developments, legislative updates and the overall implementation of counter-THB policies and measures.

3) Committee against Commercial Sexual Exploitation (April 2017): Ιn cooperation with the NRO, the General Secretariat for Gender Equality has set up a Committee of Experts to review the existing legal framework on prostitution and advocate against sexual exploitation and demand for commercial sex acts.

Trainings:

Training of professionals on first-level identification is an essential part of Greece’s anti-trafficking policy. The NRO is stepping up efforts to facilitate capacity-building activities through a strategic partnership with the State Institute of Training (National Center of Public Administration & Local Government) for the implementation of annual anti-trafficking seminars. More than 15 competent state agencies participate in the aforementioned and ongoing anti-trafficking training sessions (labor inspectors, medical personnel, local administration, school teachers, state TV and Radio, border police, Asylum Service, Identification and Screening Service, customs offices, school teachers, judges, protection services). A total number of 247 front-line professionals from the aforementioned state agencies have been trained so far (December 2016-May 2017).

At the same time, cooperation with leading international organizations (IOM, UNHCR and UNODC) is under way for carrying out a number of specialized trainings for law enforcement, prosecutors and front line professionals. Such training, co-organized by the UNODC (United Nations Office for Drugs and Organized Crime) and the NRO, took place recently (April 2017), in Athens and in Thessaloniki, with the participation of more than 80 professionals and NGOs field workers. A similar training took place in May 2017, at the International Airport of Athens, gathering the various stakeholders and professionals of the Airport responsible to identify and refer potential victims of THB.

Awareness Raising Campaigns: Greece, through various initiatives of the NRO, has embarked on large-scale campaigns to reduce ‘Demand’ for services or products extracted from THB victims. This concerns primarily Human Rights’ Education in schools; partnerships with the private sector for a zero tolerance consumer ethic; and synergies with the cultural sector.

“BREAK THE CHAIN- BtC” is an on-going awareness raising platform that brings in the private and the cultural sector into a strategic partnership with the anti-trafficking community in Greece. Part of the Campaign is the “Break the Chain Festival”, an international two-day multidisciplinary festival against Human Trafficking that takes place annually in October, on the occasion of the EU Anti-Trafficking Day. It involves the participation of artists and stakeholders from state authorities, International Organizations, NGOs, universities and the private sector.

The Office of the National Rapporteur, in accordance with international standards and best practices, works towards engaging key private sector stakeholders for the promotion and establishment of “slavery-free” supply chains. In this framework, the NRO has signed a Memorandum of Cooperation with the Corporate Social Responsibility Hellas Network (CSR Hellas), aiming at raising awareness and organizing trainings among businesses consumers and employees.

Last but not least, the Office of the National Rapporteur, as a permanent member of National Council against Racism and Intolerance of the Ministry of Justice, aims at promoting human rights education at schools, in collaboration with the Ministry of Education. The main objective is to educate students at a young age about fundamental rights, sexual and reproductive health.

ASSISTANCE TO VICTIMS OF TRAFFICKING PROVIDED BY STATE AGENCIES

1. The National Centre for Social Solidarity (EKKA) is a State Organization under the supervision and monitoring of the Ministry of Labor, Social Security & Social Solidarity. It is funded solely by the State. As a Social Service, its mandate is crisis intervention. In this framework, EKKA offers protection and psychosocial support also in victims of violence, mainly domestic violence and trafficking.

The services provided to victims, according to their individualized needs, are:

1. Shelter to women victims
2. Counselling/ Psychotherapy
3. Social Support
4. Material assistance
5. Mediation to Health care
6. Mediation to Legal Counselling
7. Mediation to Legal Representation
8. Mediation to Issuing of residence permit
9. Repatriation procedure
10. Translation services

EKKA operates one (1) emergency shelter in Attica for women and girls – victims of violence, as well as two (2) short – term shelters in Attica and Thessaloniki (part of which operates also as an emergency shelter for the region). The two latter are funded by the National Structural Fund, in cooperation with the Region of Attica and Central Macedonia, respectively, as well as the General Secretary of Equality of Sexes. In the shelters, integration actions are organized, such as Greek lessons and orientation in the Greek administrative system as well as tutorial lessons for the children who go to school. Additionally, a small nursery school with specialized nursery school teachers operates in the shelter.

2. The General Secretariat for Gender Equality (GSGE) of the Ministry of Interior, as the competent state entity regarding combating violence against women, is implementing the "National Program for the Prevention and Combating Violence against Women", which is the first comprehensive and coherent national program and was funded by the National Strategic Reference Framework (European Social Fund). The total project budget for the period 2010-2015 reached EUR 28,000,000 and it is allocated to combat all forms of gender based violence, including trafficking.

In the new programming period (2016-2020), the GSGE has secured funding so that the structures and actions of the above described program will continue to operate. Services will be expanded to provide labor counseling. The target group of the services will be both women victims of gender based violence and women victims of multiple discriminations (refugees, single parents, Roma etc).

The services provided to the victims by the structures (SOS helpline, Counseling Centers and Shelters) include psychosocial support, legal counseling as well as counseling in labor issues, emergency shelter and, where necessary, legal aid in cooperation with local Bar Associations. Networking with local agencies and relevant associations is also provided.

These services are provided by the 62 state structures of the network against violence that was established by the above mentioned program. This network includes the SOS telephone helpline 15900, forty Counseling Centers and twenty one Shelters in operation throughout the country.

These services are dedicated to all forms of gender based violence against women (domestic violence, sexual harassment, rape, trafficking in women for sexual exploitation, etc).

The number of women that had visited all the above mentioned structures from the beginning of their operation until 31/12/2016, is 53 women victims of trafficking and 12 victims of prostitution. All the structures provide help to victims regardless of whether they have been identified by the public prosecutor or not, only by their statement that they are victims of trafficking. The SOS telephone helpline 15900, since the beginning of its operation the 11th March 2011 until 11th January 2017, has received 13 calls from trafficking victims and 12 calls from victims of prostitution, taking for granted that GSGE considers prostitution a form of violence.

The above structures provide services only to adult women victims of gender based violence.

All structures (Counseling Centers, Shelters and the 15900 SOS Helpline) were established and formed under strict terms to support special needs of people with physical disabilities.

***6. Decent work, labour mobility, recognition of skills and qualifications and other relevant measures, as well as ensuring regular pathways for migration.***

The current immigration law (L. 4251/2014 - A’ 80) regulates migrants’ legal employment. The process of determining the number of citizens from non-EU countries having access to the labor market is regulated by Article 11. According to it a consultation is taking place between the main labor market stakeholders that is the employers, the public authorities in central or regional level (Public Employment Services/Greek Manpower Organization, Regional Authorities) and the Economic and Social Committee of Greece. The goal of this process is to reach a commonly accepted list, that contains the number of foreign workers and their specialties, taking into account the following criteria: The interest of the national economy, the feasibility of employment, the labor supply by nationals, European citizens or legally residing third country nationals by specialty and unemployment rates by sector of employment.

Once this process has been completed, a Joint Ministerial Decision is been issued by the co-competent Ministries in order to determine the maximum number of vacancies for third country nationals and their specialties in regional level for a two years period. This decision is sent to the Greek consulates abroad and published so that the citizens of countries outside the EU to express their interest for working in Greece.

Third countries nationals who enter Greece, as provided for in par. 1 of article 15 of L 4251/2014 are granted a visa for work or a residence permit for employment under the condition that they are paid with the minimum monthly salary of an unskilled worker, ensuring, in this way, the existence of an adequate standard of living for them and their families.  
Also, in Article 21 of the same law provided for that third-country nationals residing legally in Greece have the same labor and social security rights as Greek workers and, therefore, enjoy comparable benefits.

Finally, according to articles 68 to 71 of L.4375/2016 (A 51), beneficiaries of international protection (refugees and holders of subsidiary protection status), persons who have been granted residence status on humanitarian grounds as well as their family members have access to employment and supply of services with the same conditions as nationals, if they hold a residence permit in force.

In addition, international protection seekers have access to employment or the supply of services if they have a valid "applicant for international protection card" or "asylum seeker card" in effect.  
Finally, the beneficiaries of international protection (i.e. recognized refugees and foreigners under subsidiary protection) have the right to participate in educational/training programs for adults, related to employment and vocational training, including training courses for upgrading skills and working experience and counseling services, implemented by authorized institutions, under the same conditions as the Greek citizens.

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1. Referring to the: Council Decision (EU) 2015/1523 of 14 September 2015 and Council Decision of 2015/1601 of 22 September 2015 establishing provisional measures in the area of international protection for the benefit of Italy and of Greece. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)