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| **RATIFICATION OF INTERNATIONAL INSTRUMENTS** |

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| 134.1 Ratify the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (Montenegro) (Italy) (Portugal);  134.2 Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure (Montenegro) (Portugal);  134.3 Ratify and domesticate the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure (Kenya); | Ratification of both Optional Protocols is still under consideration. We are following closely the Views and decisions adopted by the respective Committees under the new communications procedures and we are looking forward to further indications as to how the Committees will implement the respective Conventions (and the CRC’s other two Optional Protocols) under the abovementioned procedures. |
| 134.4 Ratify the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness (Ghana); | Ratification of the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness is still under consideration. We are still examining the impact on our domestic legal order of a potential ratification of the above instrument. |
| 134.5 Consider ratifying the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (Georgia);  134.6 Ratify the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (Istanbul Convention) (Belgium) (Bosnia and Herzegovina) (Bulgaria) (Italy) (Netherlands) (Portugal) (Slovenia) (Thailand) (Turkey);  134.7 Intensify efforts to combat violence against women and domestic violence and ratify the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (Istanbul Convention) (Austria); | The Greek Parliament ratified the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence by Law 4531/2018. The law ratifying the Convention also adjusts domestic legislation, in particular in the field of criminal law, with the provisions of the latter. The new law, among others, strengthens the criminal provisions punishing female genital mutilation, criminalizes stalking, enhances the rights of victims of domestic violence, facilitates the implementation of the Convention and designates as “co-ordinating body”, in accordance with Article 10 of the Convention, the General Secretariat for Gender Equality of the Ministry of the Interior. For more details, see *infra*, in particular the information with regard to the recommendations on gender equality. |
| 136.1 Consider ratification of ILO Convention 189 (Philippines);  136.2 Ratify and domesticate ILO Convention on Domestic Workers No. 189 (Kenya); | The Greek government is still considering initiating the examination procedure to possibly ratify ILO Convention No. 189. |

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| **NATIONAL ACTION PLANS-HUMAN RIGHTS INDICATORS** |

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| 134.8 Develop national human rights indicators, as suggested by OHCHR, as an instrument that allows for a more precise and coherent evaluation of its national human rights policies (Portugal); | Human rights indicators and benchmarks are generally taken into account in the context of designing and monitoring the implementation of national human rights action plans. In its comments (November 2018) on the draft National Action Plan on the Rights of the Child (see below), the National Commission for Human Rights (NCHR) focused on the development of indicators for the assessment of the positive or negative impact of public or private policies and practices on the rights of the child, based on the work undertaken in this field by the OHCHR. |
| 134.9 Ensure the adequate financial resources for the national human rights institutions (Poland); | Recent legislative amendments have further strengthened the NCHRin the discharge of its mandate, including with regard to the state financing of its operation. It is to be noted that in March 2017, the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions (GANHRI) granted once more Status A accreditation to the NCHR, with regard to the Commission’s compliance with the Paris principles. |
| 134.10 Develop, in collaboration with the National Commission for Human Rights, an operational and comprehensive human rights strategy (Ukraine);  134.11 Finalise and implement a National Action Plan on the Rights of the Child as a matter of priority; in the meantime, put measures in place to protect those who are vulnerable such as unaccompanied children and children with disabilities (Botswana);  134.12 Finalize, as soon as possible, the National Action Plan on the Rights of the Child and address, as a matter of priority, the issue of unaccompanied children (China);  134.13 Complete the elaboration of the National Action Plan on the Rights of the Child and address, as a matter of priority, the issue of unaccompanied children (Cyprus);  134.14 Adopt and effectively implement a national action plan on the rights of the child with special attention to protection of the rights of children in institutional care and children with disabilities (Czech Republic);  134.15 Expedite the process of finalization of the National Action Plan on the Rights of the Child (Georgia);  134.16 Expedite the adoption of a National Action Plan to protect the rights of children (Maldives);  134.17 Prioritise the review and reform of the legislative framework to fully safeguard the rights of unaccompanied minors, including through finalisation of its National Action Plan on the Rights of the Child (Jamaica);  134.18 Finalize the National Action Plan on the Rights of the Child, attaching the necessary importance to the issue of unaccompanied children (Romania);  134.19 Finalise the National Action Plan on the Rights of the Child and address, as a matter of priority, the issue of unaccompanied children (South Africa) | A National Action Plan on the Rights of the Child is being elaborated, under the coordination of the General Secretariat for Human Rights of the Ministry of Justice, Transparency and Human Rights, with the participation of all sectors of the Administration involved, while independent bodies, such as the NCHR and the Children’s Ombudsman, play an important role in this respect. The Action Plan focuses on the following priorities: (1) combating child poverty and alleviating the negative impact of the economic crisis on children, (2) protecting children in the context of the refugee - migration crisis, (3) ensuring children's health, (4) safeguarding children's rights in education, (5) strengthening community child protection mechanisms and institutions, (6) child - friendly justice, (7) horizontal actions for the rights of children with disabilities. In November 2018, the draft Action Plan was approved by the Government Council for Social Policy and is currently being finalized.The NCHR adopted, in November 2018, detailed comments on the draft Action Plan.  Law 4491/2017, adopted in October 2017, provides for the establishment of a “National Mechanism for the Elaboration, Monitoring and Assessment of Action Plans on the Rights of the Child”, attached to the General Secretariat for Human Rights of the Ministry of Justice, Transparency and Human Rights. The National Mechanism will be composed by representatives of different Ministries, the Institute of Child Health and the General Secretariat for Governmental Coordination. With regard to independent authorities / national human rights institutions, the National Commission for Human Rights will participate with one representative in the Mechanism, while the Greek Ombudsman will be entitled to participate in the meetings of the Mechanism without the right to vote, but with the option to decide to become a full member of the Mechanism (with the right to vote).  As far as the tasks of the Mechanism are concerned, it is to be noted that, according to the Law, all agencies involved in the elaboration of the Action Plan are bound to take into consideration the relevant decisions and recommendations of national and international human rights and children’s rights bodies, while specific benchmarks for the implementation of the Action Plan will be developed. It is thus expected that issues such as unaccompanied children, children in institutional care and children with disabilities will also be addressed.  At the same time, the Mechanism will ensure children’s participation in the consultation process with civil society on the elaboration of the Action Plan. Furthermore, the Mechanism will monitor the implementation of the Action Plans and will elaborate, in this respect, interim reports, on the basis of updated information and data, which will be submitted to the Ombudsman and will be publicly available. |

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| **HUMAN RIGHTS EDUCATION, TRAINING AND AWARENESS-RAISING** |

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| 134.20 Strengthen human rights education and training (Morocco);  134.21 Take appropriate measures to improve inclusion and social diversity, by conducting public campaigns on racism and xenophobia and include awareness-raising and education in the field of human rights in the curriculum of public schools (Honduras);  134.22 Undertake further initiatives to address hate speech directed against members of vulnerable groups, and ensure sufficient focus on this topic in the education system (Norway)  134.23 Conduct public campaigns on racism and xenophobia; and include human rights education in the educational curriculum of public schools (Nigeria); | The Hellenic Education Ministry has been adjusting its curricula, action frameworks, educational programmes, school textbooks and in-class practice standards to disseminate the values and principles of democratic citizenship and inalienable human rights. The values of human rights, democratic and responsible citizenship and intercultural / interreligious respect are disseminated across the entire spectrum of subjects, modules, projects and programmes.  The Ministry of Education develops and participates in many educational programmes, through primary and secondary schools, aiming, among others, at raising human rights awareness, preventing all forms of discrimination and eliminating negative attitudes, school violence, prejudice and inequalities.Some examples of programmes on Human Rights, Democracy and Active Citizenship for teachers of primary and secondary education, are: the “Act” Programme on active citizenship (E.U.), the Summer Academy on Education for democratic citizenship, Human Rights Education — EDC/HRE (Wergeland Center — CoE), national dissemination events on the values of the CoE in the context of the Pestalozzi Programme (CoE) for primary and secondary school teachers, etc.  The Institute of Educational Policy(IEP), in cooperation with the Ministry of Education, is coordinating the implementation of the “Τhematic Week” in schools to enhance human rights education, promote democracy, facilitate non-formal and formal cooperation in schools for active participation in defending children's rights, empower vulnerable children through education etc. The 2019 Thematic Week is focusing on «Education in Democracy and Human Rights in School» through the provision of specific educational tools and material to promote school autonomy and democracy.  Moreover, the new school curricula aim to promote respect and acceptance of diversity through diversified educational actions. At the same time, the values of cultural diversity, rights of the child and rights of persons belonging to vulnerable social groups have been incorporated and promoted through subject modules that are diffused throughout primary and secondary education. The said values are embedded into the subjects of Greek Language, Literature, Foreign Languages, History and Religious Education. They are further specialized and reinforced through various cross-thematic activities and school projects and are widely disseminated in the context of cross-disciplinary modules / projects,such as “Social and Political Education”, “Elements of Social and Political Sciences”, “Environment and Education for Sustainable development”, “School life and Social life”.  As regards training of judges and prosecutors, the National School of Judges’ initial education curriculum for judges and prosecutors includes courses on human rights issues, as well as specialized courses on racism and xenophobia and foreigners’ law. Furthermore, the National School of Judges organizes or includes in the annual curriculum several seminars aimed at human rights education of judges on issues such as refugees’ and migrants’ rights, racism and hate crimes, minors, disabilities and discrimination.Training activities and workshops have been organized, in cooperation with the Council of Europe and the OSCE, on hate speech, hate crimes and trafficking in human beings, addressed mainly to the country’s Public Prosecutors and members of the judiciary.  Training of professionals on first-level identification is an essential part of Greece’s anti-trafficking policy. The Office of the National Rapporteur (ONR) on Trafficking in Human Beings 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 (labour inspectors, medical personnel, local administration, school teachers, public mass media, border police, Asylum Service, Identification and Screening Service, customs officers, school teachers, judges, protection services). At the same time, cooperation with leading international organizations (OSCE, IOM, UNHCR and UNODC) is under way for carrying out a number of specialized trainings for law enforcement, prosecutors and front line professionals. The ONR, in collaboration with the National Centre for Social Solidarity (EKKA) and FRA currently deliver training sessions to front-line professionals at the First Reception and Identification Centres located in 5 Aegean islands.  The National Council against Racism and Intolerance has prepared television spots on the integration of refugee children in the education system and the World Refugee Day.  Training on the rights of healthcare recipients, medical confidentiality and data protection, as well as any other relevant issues, is foreseen for the staff of the Office for the Protection of Rights of Healthcare Recipients of the National Health System (NHS) Hospitals, as stated in a 2017 Ministerial Decision (Government Gazette 662/B/2.3.2017). |
| 134.24 Provide human rights training to law enforcement officials to end incidents of police brutality and excessive use of force (Sierra Leone);  134.25 Include the issue of domestic violence in regular education and training courses for police officers, prosecutors and judges (Slovenia); | At the level of basic training, the students of the Schools of the Police Academy are taught the thematic unit “Human Rights”, as an independent field of study, in the context of the subjects “Constitutional Law-Human Rights” and “Elements of Constitutional Law-Human Rights and elements of Administrative Law” from well-known University professors and specialized scientific personnel. Moreover, lectures are conducted on topics such as: racism and xenophobia, migration in the 21st Century: political identities, integration models, borders and boundaries, sensitization on topics regarding drug addicts and HIV/AIDS, trafficking in human beings, fight against discrimination, rights of LGBTI individuals.Furthermore, at the level of higher training, seminars, online seminars and lectures are conducted, in Greece and abroad, on topics regarding human rights, such as: fundamental rights and police ethics, management of diversity, hate crimes, racist violence in general, racist violence against members of the LGBT community, fight against discrimination with emphasis on issues affecting the Roma, refugee Law and legal protection of refugees in Greece, comprehensive management of external borders, racism, hate speech, etc.  In order to increase the Hellenic Police personnel’s awareness of the principles of fundamental rights protection in border and migration management duties, the Hellenic Police HQ pays special attention to training activities. In this framework, the following activities can be mentioned:  -Introduction to the principles of fundamental rights at the borders, addressed to the cadets attending the 3rd year of the Hellenic Police Officers Academy, under the subject “Common European Standards in Border Management”, which is included in the curricula of basic training;  -participation of police officers in workshops organized by Frontex and CEPOL, among others, on topics such as management of diversity, police ethics, anti-trafficking and children protection;  -organization of further/periodic trainings in the field on “Human-Fundamental Rights and Border Protection”. These activities are implemented under the National Program of the EU Internal Security Fund/Borders and Visa Domain 2014 – 2020.  With regard to **domestic violence**, the public awareness campaign organized by the General Secretariat for Gender Equality(GCGE)included relevant seminars, a thematic conference, informational material in several languages (Greek, English, French, Albanian), TV and radio spots, cultural events, publicity on public transport, entries in the Press, a webpage (www.womensos.gr) and a Facebook page as well as banners in web pages. The campaign is organized every year with the goal to promote a zero-tolerance attitude towards violence against women and to widely disseminate information on existing structures and measures regarding the protection of women victims. A similar awareness campaign will be organized during the new programming period (2016–2020).  In the same field, the Hellenic Police has issued a relevant handbook, so that victims are fully informed on the options regarding their protection, the restraining orders that could be imposed against a perpetrator and the criminal penalties provided for. At the same time, in order to effectively address domestic violence, Police authorities are collaborating with the National Centre for Social Solidarity (EKKA), which is the national coordination body to grant assistance and protection to victims of violence in the entire country, the General Secretariat for Gender Equality and the social services of Local Government Organizations. Furthermore, the Hellenic Police Headquarters is making an effort to have police personnel constantly participating in educational seminars and events organized by relevant Government agencies or NGOs, on sensitization and information on matters of violence against women. A circular order of the Hellenic Police Headquarters, elaborated in coordination with competent authorities dealing with violence against women and domestic violence, was last issued in 31 May 2018.  Furthermore, the Hellenic Police website contains instructions and guidelines for citizens and police officers on reporting and handling cases of violence against women and domestic violence. |

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| **GENDER EQUALITY-RIGHTS OF WOMEN** |

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| 134.26 Continue the promotion and the protection of human rights, particularly for women, children and vulnerable groups in the society (Bahrain);  134.27 Continue to take measures to protect the rights of children, women and refugees (Pakistan);  134.28 Continue efforts aimed at promoting rights of children, women, persons with disabilities (Ukraine);  134.29 Accelerate the adoption of a new comprehensive plan of action on gender equality and ensure its effective implementation (Belarus);  134.30 Adopt and fully implement a new action plan on the gender equality for the next period lasting till 2020 (Slovakia);  134.31 Undertake further measures to realize its policies in relation to gender equality (Tajikistan);  134.63 Adopt a national plan to combat social exclusion and vulnerability of women belonging to Muslim communities, Roma women, migrants and women living in rural areas (Algeria); | In March 2019, Parliament adopted law 4604/2019, on “Promotion of substantive gender equality, prevention and combating of gender-based violence”. The new law introduces a comprehensive legal framework on gender equality and the elimination of discrimination against women, which applies horizontally to all sectors of life and covers legal relations of both public and private law. More specifically, the law:  -provides for the operation of an integrated network of structures and services for women victims of gender violence (counseling centers, shelters, a special hotline);  -encourages public and private enterprises to draft and implement “Equality Plans” with specific targets, strategies and practices and foresees the award by the General Secretariat for Gender Equality (GSGE) of “Equality Labels” to the abovementioned enterprises as a reward;  -introduces “gender budgeting”;  -provides for the use of gender-neutral language in official documents;  -establishes as disciplinary offences the violation of equality, equal opportunities and equal treatment between men and women in work and employment, as well as the use of gender discriminatory language;  -introduces a quota of 40% for the lists of candidates to parliamentary elections at the level of electoral circumscription, which represents a significant increase from the current 33% quota. It is to be noted that the 40% quota already applies to local government elections;  -establishes an Autonomous Equality Office in each of the 13 Regions of the country, the Central Union of Greek Municipalities and the Union of Greek Regions, while the Municipal and the Regional Equality Committees are upgraded;  -mainstreams gender in the fields of education, health and social solidarity, mass media and advertising;  -creates a national mechanism for gender equality, comprising mechanisms and bodies at the central, regional and local level for the realization of substantive gender equality; more generally, the new law mainstreams gender across the public administration, by assigning all Ministries the task to present annually relevant actions, programs and progress reports, to adopt qualitative and quantitative gender indicators and gender impact assessments and to collect gender-disaggregated data;  -encourages the involvement of civil society actors and women organizations.  The new National Action Plan on Gender Equality 2016-2020 (NAPGE) was prepared by the General Secretariat for Gender Equality/Ministry of Interior (GSGE), in cooperation with other public bodies, civil society and academia, and in alignment with the priorities of the European Union and the United Nations on Gender Equality.  The NAPGE is of national scope and the strategic objectives set for the new period 2016-2020 are as follows:  - Social inclusion and equal treatment of women facing multiple discrimination;  - combating violence against women;  - labor market, work-family reconciliation;  - education, training, media, culture, sports;  - health;  - equal participation of women in decision-making positions  The NAPGE includes a variety of horizontal interventions in public policy and vertical specialized policies aimed at women and men in areas where inequalities are identified.  Data collection and impact assessments are foreseen during the implementation of all the objectives, through a Monitoring Mechanism (Observatory). The Mechanism, apart from constituting the monitoring system of relevant policies of all agencies of the Government, as well as of local authorities and Regions, has also a rating system of policy results regarding gender (gender impact assessment). The follow-up and evaluation of the policies is based on statistical data and the development of gender indicators according to UN (12 critical areas of the Beijing Platform for Action) and EU criteria.  The GSGE, in cooperation with the Hellenic Statistical Authority, publishes monthly newsletters on issues relating to the abovementioned 12 thematic areas and raises awareness about the existing gender gaps in all fields of life.  The Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Department of Human Rights) is elaborating a National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security, in implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1325/2000, in cooperation with all competent Ministries and agencies. |
| 134.32 Continue to strengthen measures to promote the economic empowerment of women particularly in the time of the financial crisis (United Arab Emirates);  134.33 Continue the efforts to promote gender equality, with regard to the high female unemployment rates (Bulgaria);  134.34 Take additional measures in order to fully implement the national legislation securing gender equality (Iraq); | In the National Action Plan on Gender Equality 2016-2020, there is a clear reference to the economic crisis affecting some EU countries, including Greece, and consequently to the austerity and fiscal adjustment policies applied, which exacerbate the risk of multiple discrimination against women. In Greece, the gender impact of the economic crisis is closely linked to cuts in the public sector, difficulties in reconciliation of family and working life, rising of precarious work and deregulation of labor relations. Particular attention and care should also be given to working poor women. At the same time, the 'target' group is widening, with higher rates of women becoming poor mainly in younger ages. In addition, the refugee crisis and the increase in refugee flows form a new landscape for refugee women and their children, which account for 60% of the refugee population.  Based on the above situation, the General Secretariat for Gender Equality focuses its policies on women who belong to vulnerable social groups or suffer multiple discrimination, including, but not limited to: women at the poverty line; women-head of single parent families; homeless women; Roma women; migrant women; women refugees or asylum seekers; women victims of violence, torture or trafficking in human beings; women with disabilities / chronic diseases; drug-addicted women; prisonersorreleasedfrom prison; olderwomen; long-termunemployedwomen  The GSGE has established an organizational unit for women who suffer multiple discrimination, the Department of Social Protection and Combating Multiple Discrimination (Directorate of Social Protection and Counseling Services), which is responsible for:  -elaborating and promoting measures to tackle gender discrimination against persons belonging to vulnerable social groups (migrant women, refugee women, single parent families, Roma women, etc.) with a view to their social integration and the strengthening of social cohesion;  -working and networking with all relevant stakeholders to mainstream gender in the context of national, regional and local social policy planning for vulnerable social groups;  -designing, coordinating and implementing social networking and co-operation actions with supranational institutions and international organizations, as well as with national actors, on issues of multiple discrimination;  -providing first-line services and counseling services on psychosocial support and legal counseling to women who face multiple discrimination (e.g migrant women, refugees, single parents, persons with disabilities, etc). |
| 134.95 Continue its efforts to increase the participation of women in political life and in decision-making positions (Cuba);  134.96 Adopt and implement necessary legislative and administrative measures to promote the effective participation of women in the public and political life of the country (Mexico);  136.20 Set appropriate quotas to accelerate the equal representation of women in all areas of public life (Costa Rica);  134.109 Ensure equal access for girls and women to all levels of education in all regions (Republic of Korea); | The National Action Plan on Gender Equality 2016-2020, has devoted a separate axis to the balanced participation of women in all areas of public and professional life. The objectives as described in the National Action Plan are the following:  - accelerate the equal participation of women in all areas of public and professional life, particularly in decision-making positions in parliament and in local/regional government;  - eliminate discrimination against women and ensuring gender equality in political and public life;  - develop policies for the balanced participation of women in elections;  - strengthen and develop the capacity and skills of women to actively participate in decision-making processes and in leadership positions;  -strengthen women's autonomy and improve their social, economic and political status, as essential prerequisites for achieving sustainable development in all areas of life.  Law 4555/2018 on the Reform of the Local Government Institutional Framework finally adopted the GSGE proposal on a 40% gender quota on the total number of candidate regional, municipal and community counselors. The former respective quota was 1/3.  More recently, the abovementioned Law 4604/2019on substantive gender equalityintroduced the increase of the existing gender quota for parliamentary elections from at least 33% to at least 40% of the total number of candidates, in a further attempt to strengthen the position of women candidates in the National Elections. |

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| **COMBATING RACISM, RACIAL DISCRIMINATION, XENOPHOBIA AND RELATED INTOLERANCE** |

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| 134.36 Take further actions to combat incitement to hatred and racist crimes against foreign nationals, including by promoting a positive narration on international migration and pursuing the National Action Plan against Racism and Intolerance (Malaysia);  134.37 Ensure that all crimes committed with a discriminatory motive are fully and effectively investigated and prosecuted (Australia);  134.38 Effectively investigate hate crimes and violent attacks against individuals from vulnerable and marginalized groups, including ethnic and religious minorities; prosecute perpetrators as well (Canada);  134.39 Continue to fight against racist crimes and hate speech (China);  134.40 Investigate all cases of xenophobia, violence and attacks against migrants, including the involvement of law enforcement officers in such crimes (Ghana);  134.43 Investigate all cases of xenophobic violence (Iceland);  134.44 Fully implement the already existing and recently amended legislation to combat racism and xenophobia (Israel);  134.45 Continue efforts to address hate speech against refugees and migrants (Lebanon);  134.46 Investigate all cases of xenophobic violence and attacks against migrants (Nigeria);  134.47 Implement stricter policies aimed at ending racial violence as perpetuated against migrants and foreigners (Sierra Leone);  134.48 Take additional measures to combat violence related to racial discrimination (France);  134.49 Increase the measures for combatting intolerance and xenophobic and racist violence (Peru);  134.50 Extend measures to address the problem of hate speech, especially by ensuring effective investigations (Germany);  134.51 Continue to deepen awareness-raising measures on discrimination against asylum seekers and refugees, in particular through the investigation of cases of violence and xenophobic attacks against migrants (Argentina);  134.55 Take additional measures in combating racism, racial discrimination and xenophobia and fully implement the applicable law (Armenia);  134.56 Continue its efforts to eliminate all forms of racial discrimination, xenophobia and intolerance (Holy See);  134.57 Promote and develop laws to combat all forms of discrimination, racism and xenophobia (Lebanon);  134.58 Continue efforts to fight against racism and racial discrimination (Morocco);  134.59 Continue the efforts to combat racism, racial discrimination and xenophobia (Poland);  134.60 Continue to take further steps, with a view to combatting racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, and to implement the existing and newly adopted legislation (Romania);  134.61 Ensure full implementation of legislation aimed at combating racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance (South Africa);  134.62 Work on increasing racial, ethnic and religious tolerance (Tajikistan);  136.8 Take legislative measures to curtail hate speech, not only by extremists but also by the mainstream media and public figures, as there has been an increase in hate-motivated crimes against refugees, migrants and minorities, including hate crimes affecting religious and ethnic minorities (Pakistan);  136.22 Review its legislation to ensure all forms of hatred against minorities are prohibited by law (Republic of Korea); | Greece ratified, in 2016, the Council of Europe Cybercrime Convention and its Additional Protocol concerning the criminalization of acts of a racist and xenophobic nature committed through computer systems.  The Greek authorities continued to implement Law 4285/2014, which punishes, *inter alia*, public incitement toactsoractivitieswhichmayresulttodiscrimination, hatredorviolence against individuals or groups of individuals defined by reference to race, colour, religion, descent, national or ethnic origin, sexual orientation, gender identity or disability, in a manner which endangers public order or threatens life, liberty or physical integrity of the abovementioned persons.  Among the measures which are currently implemented to increase the effectiveness of the investigation of racist crimes are the following: prosecution *ex officio* of the crimes punished under the anti-racism legislation; exemption of victims of such offenses from the payment of a fee when submitting a criminal complaint or participating as a civil party in a criminal procedure; provision of free legal aid for all victims with low income; granting of a residence permit on humanitarian grounds to third-country nationals who are victims or material witnesses of racist acts until a judgment has been delivered or the case has been closed; exemption from return procedures of undocumented migrants, who are victims or substantial witnesses of racist criminal acts (articles 81A of the Criminal Code and 1 and 2 of Law 927/1979) and submit a complaint or report of the incident to the competent police authorities, until the competent prosecutor has issued an act (designating the foreigners concerned as victims).  Data collection with regard to racist crimes has significantly improved and is expected to further improve following the operation of the new computerization system of the courts. Furthermore, the Supreme Court Prosecutor and the Courts of all instances, following recent circulars issued by the Supreme Court Prosecutor and the President of the Supreme Court respectively, provide the Ministry of Justice, Transparency and Human Rights with data on all cases indicted as racist crimes every 6 months. The Police also provide the Ministry every 6 months with data on all racist crimes with a potential racist motive.  In 2018, the competent agencies of the Hellenic Police Force nationwide recorded in total 226 incidents potentially involving racist motives, in 170 of which the police authorities conducted preliminary investigations either *ex officio* or following a complaint, whereas the remaining 56 incidents were handled by the police authorities upon instructions by the prosecution authorities ordering a preliminary investigation.  The Racist Violence Recording Network (RVRN), which consists of 46 non-governmental organizations and civil society actors, documented, from January to December 2018**,** through interviews with victims, 117 incidentsof racist violence, with more than 130 victims.  The most important measures taken in the field of law enforcement are:  - the establishment of two specialized Departments and 68 Offices throughout the country and the operation of a special hotline (“11414”, with normal calling rate for mobile phones and for all parts of Greece), whilea special form for complaints is available on the Hellenic Police website (www.astynomia.gr), so that those concerned may anonymously and with full respect for the privacy of their communication, complain or notify the Hellenic Police, 24h/day, about any unlawful act committed with racist characteristics or motives.On the same webpage, information has been posted on Police Services against Racist Violence in the Greek and English languages;  -the obligation for police officers to ascertain whether a criminal act has been racially motivated (the same applies to the disciplinary investigation of cases involving inappropriate behaviour of police officers against persons belonging to vulnerable groups or foreign nationals; relevant instructions have been addressed by the Hellenic Police Headquarters to all police services).  -obligation for police officers to immediately inform the competent Prosecutoron every case of racist violence under investigation;  -co-ordination with local and non-governmental organizations and training of police staff;  -training and retraining of the Hellenic Police personnel both within the country, in particular in the Schools of the Police Academy, and abroad on issues of human rights, racism and discrimination. In addition, police personnel participate in seminars on such topics co-organized with the Council of Europe, the OSCE, other national bodies (such as the Ministry of Education, Research and Religious Affairs) and NGOs.  Furthermore, 24 special prosecutors have been appointed for the investigation of racist crimes.  The Program “Building a Comprehensive Criminal Justice Response to Hate Crime” by OSCE/ODIHR and the Hellenic Ministry of Justice, Transparency and Human Rights as a partner, is currently being implemented. The program started in February 2017, for a duration of two years. The project is being funded by the European Commission and provides for the improvement of the common database on hate crimes maintained by the Ministry of Justice and the Hellenic Police, the identification of the main elements of a national policy against hate crimes and the drafting of a cross-government protocol for preventing and combatting hate crimes as well as of a supplementary protocol on criminal justice system response to hate crimes.  In this context, and in view of developing anti-racist policies which could have a horizontal effect to government policy and public administration, an “Agreement on inter-agency cooperation on addressing racist crimes in Greece was signed in 6 June 2018 by the Minister of Justice, Transparency and Human Rights, the Minister for Migration Policy, the Minister of Health, the Alternate Minister of Interior (in charge of Citizen’s Protection), the President of the Supreme Civil and Criminal Court, the Public Prosecutor at the Supreme Civil and Criminal Court, the Director General of the National School of Judges, the President of the National Commission for Human Rights and the UNHCR Representative in Greece on behalf of the Racist Violence Recording Network and the National Point of Contact (for the OSCE) on Combating Hate Crimes. The project aims also at strengthening criminal justice response to hate crimes, as well as at improving the hate crime recording database of the Ministry of Justice and the Hellenic Police.  Moreover, the Ministry of Justice, Transparency and Human Rights actively participates in the European Commission’s Sub – Group on countering Hate Speech On Line and takes into consideration all new developments and initiatives in this field.  Concerning support to victims, the recent Law 4478/2017 incorporated Directive 2012/29/EU, establishing minimum standards on the rights, support and protection of victims of crime (among which, hate crimes).  A number of educational programmes, student competitions and information activities, encouraging mutual respect and freedom of expression in Primary and Secondary Education, are being carried out or approved by the Ministry of Education. Many of the aforementioned activities involve sensitization campaigns and projects focusing on attitudes, skills and knowledge with regard to the refugees’ issue, in several cases in cooperation with entities such as IOM, UNHCR, UNICEF, ActionAid,etc. |
| 134.35 Continue to strengthen measures to promote tolerance and respect for cultural diversity and to counter prejudice, stereotypes, discrimination, racism, and Islamophobia (United Arab Emirates); | The Hellenic Education Ministry has been adjusting its curricula, action frameworks, educational programmes, school textbooks and in-class practice standards in accordance with the necessity to disseminate the values and principles of democratic citizenship and respect for human rights. With this aim in mind, and in cooperation with relevant international organizations, the Ministry has taken various steps to ensure that a genuinely inclusive and democratic education is offered to all pupils and students. The citizenship and intercultural components feature prominently in all curricular and extra-curricular contexts. At the same time, the Ministry keeps responding positively to the challenges ahead by disseminating the values of human rights, democratic and responsible citizenship, and intercultural / interreligious respect across the entire spectrum of subjects, modules, projects and programmes.  Thus, measures have been taken to enhance dialogue and broaden understanding among civilizations, in an effort to prevent the indiscriminate targeting of different religions and cultures.  Furthermore, in the new school curricula, the values of cultural diversity, children’s rights and vulnerable social groups’ rights have been incorporated and promoted through subject modules that are diffused throughout primary and secondary education.In the Institute of Educational Policy’s platform, a special section has been created to include specific material on Refugee Education (<http://iep.edu.gr/el/component/k2/content/50-ekpaidefsi-prosfygon>, addressed to both teachers and students)  Freedom of religion of persons of Muslim faith is fully protected, as is the case for all followers of known religions. As far as Muslim houses of prayer are concerned, there have not been any administrative obstacles or other problems whatsoever, concerning the licensing of locations which conform to all applicable urban-planning, security (e.g. against fire, earthquake etc.) and health regulations. Thus, all Muslim communities who have applied, as early as 2013, for the licensing of such locations, have already been granted house of prayer permits, except for some applications lacking the documentation related to the above mentioned regulations. So far, 8 Muslim houses of prayer have been licensed. For the establishment of the Athens’ Mosque, see *infra*. It is also noteworthy that the Greek Government has been providing sheltered sport facilities, such as the Olympic Stadium of Athens as well as other municipal facilities, free of charge, so that Muslims may perform their religious duties during Ramadan and other religious occasions. |
| 136.10 Actively investigate and condemn instances of discrimination against non-citizens and members of religious and ethnic minority groups, and condemn anti-Semitic statements made by public officials (United States of America); | The Code of Ethics for Members of the Greek Parliament (articles 2 and 8 par.1) provides for the prevention of hate speech against persons on the grounds of their racial or ethnic origin, religious or political beliefs, sex, age, disability or sexual orientation (Government Gazette, A67/18.4.2016). Anti-Semitic statements made by public officials are unequivocally condemned.  Greece is among the countries with the lowest number of anti-Semitic incidents, which, moreover, do not involve the use of violence. The General Secretariat for Religious Affairs of the Ministry for Education, Research and Religious Affairs is planning and implementing policies, especially for students and teachers, countering, inter alia, anti-Semitism, racism and religious intolerance. To this effect, a plethora of actions have been undertaken so far, such as: cooperation with Jewish cultural and historical Institutions both in Greece and abroad, students’ contests on the topic of the Holocaust, teachers’ Seminars on Holocaust education, etc. On 2 July 2018, the General Secretariat, along with OSCE/ODIHR, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Jewish Museum of Greece and the Central Board of Jewish Communities in Greece, held a Consultative Meeting titled: *“Responding to anti-Semitic hate crimes and addressing the security needs of Jewish Communities in Greece”*, which brought together law-enforcement officials and Jewish community members from around Greece, in order to discuss issues concerning the security needs of Jewish communities and related heritage sites. |
| 134.54 Continue its endeavours to combat racism, including through establishing a national board against racism and intolerance (Egypt); | Law 4356/2015 (art. 15 - 19) established the “National Council against Racism and Intolerance”, an advisory body which is chaired by the Secretary General for Human Rights of the Ministry of Justice, Transparency and Human Rights. The Council consists of representatives of the competent Ministries, as well as the Migrants Integration Council, the National Council for Radio and Television, the National Commission for Human Rights, the Racist Violence Recording Network (where 46 NGOs participate), the UNHCR, the National Confederation of Disabled People, the Union of Athens Daily Press Editors, the Research Center for Gender Equality (K.E.TH.I.), the General Confederation of Greek Workers and the Civil Servants Union Federation (A.D.E.D.Y.). The Greek Ombudsman, a constitutionally protected independent authority, participates, at its own request, without the right to vote, but has the right to notify at any time the President of the Council of its wish to become a full member of the Council with a right to vote.  For the accomplishment of its tasks, the Council may (a) elaborate studies, issue guidelines and recommendations and propose relevant measures, (b) develop and propose policies which could have a horizontal application and take initiatives for the promotion of corporate social responsibility, (c) develop actions for the promotion of human rights through education, (d) take initiatives for the training of judges and public prosecutors, law enforcement officials and civil servants, (e) collect statistical data on racism and intolerance, (f) promote the prevention of and the fight against racist violence, as well as the reinforcement of recording mechanisms, (g) take initiatives to raise public awareness through the media and to record and combat hate speech in public life, (h) elaborate a National Action Plan against Racism, monitor its application in a systematic way and provide for its regular update.  The Council meets on a regular basis not only in plenary, but also in working groups. The Council has started planning its work towards the identification of gaps and actions required to better combat racism and intolerance, as well as hate crimes and hate speech. For instance, the Council has identified the need for awareness raising activities, public information and pro-active measures against racism and intolerance. To this end, asocial message of the Council on the integration of refugee children into the education system was issued, along with a brochure to inform civil servants about racist crimes. |
| 134.52 Adopt a comprehensive strategy to fight against all forms of racism and xenophobia (Algeria); | Among the tasks of the National Council against Racism and Intolerance is the drafting of a National Action Plan against Racism and Intolerance, which is currently being elaborated. |
| 134.41 Investigate all cases of violence and xenophobic attacks, including any type of participation in these crimes by the forces of public order and of the staff of detention centres (Guatemala);  134.42 Investigate all cases of xenophobic violence and attacks against migrants, including any law enforcement involvement in those crimes (Namibia); | Article 56 of Law 4443/2016 designated the Greek Ombudsman as the National Investigation Mechanism of incidents of arbitrariness by law enforcement personnel and prison officers, with the main responsibility of collecting, recording, evaluating, investigating and forwarding to the competent disciplinary authorities complaints relating, inter alia, to unlawful behavior for which there is evidence of racist motivation or other discriminatory treatment on the grounds of race, color, national or ethnic origin, descent, religion, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity or characteristics.  The Greek Ombudsman may investigate a case (a) following the filing of a complaint, (b*) ex officio*, (c)following the referral of a case from the competent Minister or Secretary General (d) following a judgment of the European Court of Human Rights against Greece, in which gaps were found in the disciplinary examination of a case or new elements, which were not assessed during the disciplinary procedure.  In all cases of investigations conducted by the Ombudsman, the competent disciplinary bodies shall suspend their decision until a report has been issued by the Ombudsman. In case the Ombudsman refers a complaint or a case to the competent authorities, the latter shall take the necessary steps to process and investigate the abovementioned cases and, thereafter, transmit a copy of the relevant file to the Ombudsman while suspending their decision on the matter until the Ombudsman’s report has been issued. |
| 134.53 Continue maximum efforts to ensure freedom from discrimination for certain minorities, especially school age children and women (Uruguay);  136.9 Take additional effective measures to combat racist crimes targeting migrants and Roma especially in the areas of employment, education, health and housing (Qatar); | Law 4443/2016 established a single and comprehensive regulatory framework for the implementation of the principle of non-discrimination and defined the bodies responsible for protecting, promoting and monitoring compliance with the abovementioned principle, expanding, in this regard, the tasks assigned to the Greek Ombudsman.The prohibited grounds of discrimination are the following: race, color, national or ethnic origin, descent, religious or other beliefs, disability or chronic condition, age, family or social status, sexual orientation, gender identity or characteristics.As authorities and Services responsible for monitoring and promoting the principle of equal treatment have been designated all the independent authorities, in the framework of exercising their main responsibilities, the General Secretariat for Human Rights of the Ministry of Justice, Transparency and Human Rights, the Department of Social Protection and Social Cohesion of the Ministry of Labor, Social Security and Social Solidarity, as well as a number of other Departments within the Administration, in the exercise of their main tasks (Article 15).  The scope of the Law extends, as far as discrimination on the grounds of race, colour, national or ethnic origin and descent is concerned, to the following fields:conditions of access to employment and to occupation in general, including selection criteria and recruitment conditions, in all branches of activity and levels of the professional hierarchy, as well as the terms and conditions of hierarchical and professional advancement;access to all types and levels of vocational guidance, training, retraining and practical work experience;employment and working conditions, including dismissals, remuneration, health and safety at work, reinstatement and re-employment of those that had become unemployed;membership of and participation to an organization of workers or employers or any other professional organization; social protection, including social security and health care;social and tax advantages; education; access to and supply of goods and services which are made available to the public, including housing.  A 2017 Ministerial Decision (Government Bulletin 662/ B ​​/ 2.3. 2017) states, in Article, 4 that: "The Offices for the Protection of Healthcare Services Recipients of the National Health System (NHS) Hospitals shall in particular aim at safeguarding, protecting and promoting the rights of Healthcare Services Recipients as defined by the relevant provisions, and in particular: ... (para. (h)), as regards the provision of health services based on diagnostic and therapeutic protocols, promoting equal or universal access, irrespective of race, color, ethnic origin, descent, religion or other belief, disability or chronic illness, age, family or social status, sexual orientation, gender and regardless of any illness or the health status of the recipient / s. " |

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| **DISCRIMINATION ON THE GROUNDS OF SEXUAL ORIENTATION** |

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| 134.64 Combat more actively the stereotypes and prejudices to which lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons are subject, organizing public awareness campaigns and ensuring that the perpetrators of acts of violence on the grounds of sexual orientation are prosecuted and punished (Chile);  134.65 Adopt measures to fight against discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity (Israel);  134.66 Actively investigate instances of discrimination in employment, including against lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons (United States of America);  136.11 Take steps towards full legal recognition of same-sex relationships; this includes registered partnership, fiscal partnership, and marriage and the possibility to adopt children (Netherlands); | Greece has continued to implement the legislative provisions of the anti-racism legislation punishing hate crimes and hate speech on the grounds, inter alia, of sexual orientation and gender identity, to which gender characteristics were added by Law 4491/2017, as well as the exclusion, out of contempt, on the abovementioned grounds, from the provision of goods and services.  Greece cooperates with the Council of Europe and the OSCE on the training of police officers, judges and public prosecutors on hate-motivated crimes, based, inter alia, on sexual orientation and gender identity.  The anti-discrimination Law 4443/2016 expanded the scope of the principle of non-discrimination to gender identity and gender characteristics (in addition to sexual orientation) and strengthened the role of the Greek Ombudsman as Equality Body.  The application of Law 4356/2015, which opened the civil partnership pact to same-sex couples, recognizing family ties between the parties and conferring rights similar to those deriving from marriage, has contributed to the elimination of stereotypes and prejudices.  An important development is the adoption of Law 4491/2017 on the legal recognition of gender identity, which, inter alia, allows for the change of the registered gender information through the same procedure that applies to all cases of change of identity information, such as the name, with no requirement to undergo a medical procedure, examination or treatment. This also applies to minors aged 15 to 17 years, provided they have their parents’ or legal guardians’ consent and the approval of a medical board.  Finally, Law 4538/2018 allows persons who have entered a civil partnership pact, including same-sex couples, to become foster parents.  With regard to combating discrimination in the provision of healthcare, see *supra*. |

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| **ACCOUNTABILITY OF LAW ENFORCEMENT PERSONNEL** |

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| 134.67 Improve the treatment of migrants, asylum seekers, Roma population and other marginalized groups by law enforcement officials (Albania);  134.68 Ensure in practice the accountability of law enforcement officers in cases of abuse (Belarus);  134.69 Prosecute and punish perpetrators of acts of torture in accordance with the law (Togo); | In case of allegations of human rights violations, the Hellenic Police personnel are held accountable by the criminal justice system, and are subject, in case a complaint has been submitted, to disciplinary control, which is ensured by the particularly strict disciplinary legislation (Presidential Decree 120/2008), while punishment for unlawful behavior is carried out as soon as possible. The investigation is assigned to police officers with no administrative relation whatsoever with the police officer or the Police Department allegedly involved in the case under examination, that is to say, to police officers serving in another Department. In case the commission of a disciplinary offence has been established, the appropriate disciplinary measure is imposed to the perpetrator.  According to the provisions of the above mentioned Presidential Decree, acts that constitute torture and other violations of human dignity, in the sense of article 137A P.C. (Penal Code), or present undignified aspects or any behavior unworthy for a police officer, are punished with the highest disciplinary penalty of dismissal, while other acts, which constitute cruel behavior against citizens or a conduct that is incompatible with the status of a police officer, are punishable with a severe disciplinary penalty (suspension with dismissal). |
| 134.70 Continue with its efforts to avoid excessive use of force by law enforcement officials, in particular related to the policing of demonstrations and crowd control (Holy See); | Police action is guided by the principles of necessity, appropriateness and proportionality (article 25 of the Constitution, article 2, Presidential Decree (P.D.) 254/2004, “Code of Ethics for Police Officers”). Within this framework, crowd control measures, such as the use of tear gas, are resorted to in open spaces, when they are considered absolutely necessary, in order, on the one hand, to protect the physical integrity of police personnel, and, on the other hand, to restore public order, when it is endangered during large scale incidents. |
| 34.71 Staff and operationalize the office established for handling alleged instances of abuses of law enforcers in order to address all alleged attacks and reports of ill treatment (Botswana);  134.72 Strengthen efforts to prevent torture, including through ensuring that the Office responsible for handling alleged instances of abuses as foreseen by Law 3938/2011 functions effectively and independently and with sufficient funding and staff (Czech Republic);  134.73 Ensure the mechanism for handling allegations of ill-treatment by law enforcement officials of members of marginalised groups, such as migrants, asylum-seekers and Roma, is made operational as soon as possible, and that its investigations are carried out in a prompt, thorough and impartial manner (Ireland);  134.74 Establish an effective and independent mechanism to register complaints filed against the Greek authorities and investigate the alleged violations (Switzerland);  136.12 Establish an independent mechanism for the investigation of allegations of torture by police officers  … (Albania); | As already mentioned, Article 56 of Law 4443/2016 designatedthe Greek Ombudsman as the National Investigation Mechanism of incidents of arbitrariness by law enforcement personnel and prison officers, a mechanism additional to the judicial system and the internal (disciplinary) procedures of the respective authorities, with the responsibility of collecting, recording, evaluating, investigating and forwarding to the competent disciplinary authorities complaints about acts of uniformed personnel of the Hellenic Police, the Hellenic Coast Guard, the Fire Service and detention facility agents.  The law abolished the “Office for the investigation of incidents of ill-treatment”, which had been established by Law 3938/2011, but had remained inoperative.  The National Mechanism will further guarantee that such incidents are fully and effectively investigated by an independent authority with full powers of investigation which is also the National Preventive Mechanism under the Optional Protocol to the UN Convention against Torture. |

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| **CONDITIONS OF DETENTION** |

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| 134.75 Reduce overcrowding and ensure that prison conditions in Greece meet international human rights standards (Austria);  134.76 Take all necessary measures to improve the conditions in prisons and resolve the issue of prison overcrowding (France);  134.77 Extend the use of alternative detention measures as a step towards compliance with international standards of custody (Germany);  134.78 Continue to improve conditions of detention, including through appropriate assistance from regional and international partners (Jamaica); | Laws adopted in 2015 and 2016 have resulted to a considerable decline in prison population through early release provisions and special release measures for prisoners with disabilities or serious illness. Prison density fell from 121.4 inmates to 97.6 according to recent European statistical data. More specifically the number of prisoners has dropped by 19% (from 11,798 in 1 Jan 2015 to 9,573 in 2 May 2017). This stabilization is considered particularly important for further interventions to improve living standards in prisons and for ensuring the necessary conditions for the proper administration of the prison system. The decongestion of prisons is expected to continue through the implementation of Laws 4489/2017 and 4571/2018.  Furthermore, since 2012, a number of legislative enactments promoted the use of non-custodial measures such as electronic monitoring and the increase in the use of suspension and conversion of prison sentences into pecuniary penalties and community service.  The reduction in prison overcrowding has led to a considerable relief and subsequent improvement of living conditions in prisons. Moreover, overcrowding relief measures were combined with initiatives for improving living conditions and supporting rehabilitation.  The General Secretariat for Crime Policy has recently completed a study on assessing the capacity of prisons, in relation to the particular groups of prisoners, a task that is being done for the first time. The result of this studyhas been published on the website of the Ministry of Justice, which is updated on the 1st and 16th of each month, with the current data, on the number of prisoners and on any increase of the available space. In addition, in a separate column, any excess space, as well as overcrowding, are indicated. For the calculation of the maximum prison capacity, among others, the minimum criteria of the European Committee for the Prevention of Torture are taken into consideration. In this way, it is immediately possible, for all parties involved (Public Prosecutors, Central Committee of Transfers etc.) to check the available space at each establishment, by detainee category, in order to achieve a more rational distribution of prisoners according to prison capacity. |

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| **COMBATING DOMESTIC VIOLENCE** |

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| 134.79 Initiate a long-term awareness-raising campaign against domestic violence and its root causes among the general public as well as professionals such as medical doctors, judges and the police and monitor and evaluate regularly the implementation of the domestic violence law and policies in order to strengthen the remedies and legal protection available to victims of domestic violence (Czech Republic);  134.80 Accelerate the amendments to the relevant legal texts necessary to bring them into conformity with the National Programme on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women (Spain);  134.81 Place greater emphasis on sensitization and gather data disaggregated by age, gender and the relationship between victims and offenders in relation to gender-based violence (Spain);  134.82 Further strengthen measures aimed at preventing and combating domestic violence (Israel);  134.83 Establish systems for monitoring and gathering information with the view to prevent abuse and ill-treatment of children, as well as other situations of negligence or lack of adequate care (Mexico); | As already mentioned, Greece ratified the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence by Law 4531/2018. The law ratifying the Convention also adjusts domestic legislation, in particular in the field of criminal law, with the provisions of the latter. The new law, among others, strengthens the criminal provisions punishing female genital mutilation, criminalizes stalking, enhances the rights of victims of domestic violence, facilitates the implementation of the Convention and designates as “co-ordinating body”, in accordance with Article 10 of the Convention, the General Secretariat for Gender Equality (GSGE) of the Ministry of the Interior.  The GSGE, as the competent governmental body for preventing and combating violence against women, continues to implement the "National Programme for the Prevention and Combating of Violence against Women", initiated in 2010, which is the first comprehensive and coherent action plan at the national level to combat gender-based violence (domestic violence, rape, trafficking, sexual harassment).  For the first time, an integrated network of 62 structures has been set up and operates across the country for the prevention and treatment of all of the abovementioned forms of violence against women. The Network includes a 24-hour SOS 15900 helpline, 40 Counseling Centers and 21 Shelters for Women Victims of Violence.  The purpose of these services, provided free of charge, is to empower women victims of violence and to help them regain their self-esteem, so that they can take responsibility for their professional, personal and family life and make the best decisions for their own future.  In the new programming period (2016-2020), services have been expanded to provide labor counseling and the target group has been expanded to women victims of multiple discrimination (refugees, single parents, Roma etc.).  In order to inform the public on violence against women, a major nationwide campaign was designed and implemented with the slogan: "You're not the only one, you're not alone" including relevant seminars, informational material in several languages (Greek, English, French, Albanian, Arabic, Kurdish, Farsi, Sorani Kurdish, Urdu), TV and radio spots, cultural events, publicity on public transport, entries in the press, a webpage (www.womensos.gr) and a Facebook page, as well as banners in web pages. A new awareness-raising campaign is planned to take place for the next three years under the new National Action Plan for Gender Equality.  In 2017, four TV spots on sexual harassment in public places were created and presented in the context of the celebration of the World Day against Violence against Women (25 November 2017).  The GSGE, in collaboration with the Ministry of Education, has implemented a pilot awareness program at schools for different groups of students, teachers and parents on violence against women.  Also, as already mentioned, Parliament adopted recently Law 4604/2019, on “Promotion of substantive gender equality, prevention and combating of gender-based violence”.  As far as the Hellenic Police is concerned, relevant circular orders of the Hellenic Police Headquarters were issued in 2016 and in May 2018, in coordination with authorities involved in combating violence against women and domestic violence.  Furthermore, the Hellenic Police website contains instructions and guidelines for the citizens and police officers on reporting and handling cases of violence against women and domestic violence.  The Hellenic Police Services during the year 2017 dealtwith 3930 cases concerning Domestic Violence, involving 4212 perpetrators (3521 Greek nationals and 691 foreign citizens) and 4243 victims (3507 Greek nationals and 736 foreign citizens), the proportion of women victims being approximately 75.32%. |

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| **TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS** |

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| 134.84 Take necessary steps for the implementation of the relevant legal and policy framework, with a view to combat effectively trafficking in persons, identifying victims, providing them with all the necessary assistance and support, and prosecuting traffickers (Islamic Republic of Iran);  134.85 Take necessary measures to strengthen identification, rehabilitation and social integration of victims of trafficking in human beings, including by providing them with shelter and assistance (Republic of Moldova);  134.86 Take necessary steps for the implementation of the relevant legal and policy framework to combat trafficking in persons, identifying victims and providing them with all necessary assistance and support (South Africa);  134.87 Continue the implementation of the appropriate legal and policy frameworks for the effective combatting of trafficking in persons (Tajikistan); | Greece has developed a comprehensive law enforcement and victim-centered framework to prevent and combat human trafficking. Top priorities include protecting and reintegrating the victims,on the basis of a human rights approach, and developing a gender and age-specific identification regime. During 2017 and 2018, Greek anti-trafficking activities focused on the operational procedures of the National Referral Mechanism, on enhancing the identification of victims in mixed migration flows, on the protection of persons belonging to vulnerable groups, on the protection of minors, including unaccompanied minors and children on the move, on tackling human trafficking for forced labor purposes, especially through promoting public-private partnerships for the promotion of exploitation-free supply chains, on capacity building of a broad range of competent professionals and on promoting collaboration with international partners, locally, regionally and internationally.  The National Referral Mechanism (a formal national identification and referral system for inter-agency cooperation on issues of first level identification and support of victims, and presumed/potential victims, of trafficking in Greece) was officially launched on January 1st 2019 and is fully functional. Its Manual has been disseminated to all relevant stakeholders, and training based on the Manual and the Standard Operating Procedures has started and is ongoing, addressing a broad range of professionals (e.g. Asylum Services, First Reception Services, Labor Inspectors, Medical Doctors, Law Enforcement, the Judiciary and others). The attempt to further increase the number of “referral agencies and organizations” collaborating with the NRM is ongoing.  There are sufficient places in safe shelters for women victims of human trafficking. The establishment of a sufficient number of safe shelters for young boys and men victims of human trafficking has been planned. Legal, health and psychosocial assistance is provided free of charge to all victims of human trafficking.  Combating child traffickingremains a priority for the Greek State. Specific measures have been taken to protect children on the move, accompanied or unaccompanied and separated children, temporarily residing in the Reception and Identification Centers, from human trafficking and other serious risks.  The Office of the National Rapporteur has established a stable collaboration with the Labor Inspectorate to combat forced labor. Training of all Labor Inspectors on the identification and investigation of human trafficking cases has been approved and planned for the period 2019 – 2020. In addition, the broadening of the Labor Inspectorate’s investigative competence at the agricultural field is currently being discussed, while the excellent results of the joint actions carried out by the Hellenic Police and the Labor Inspectorate in 2017-2018 have led to examining further possibilities for joint actions.  The decrease of demand for services and products coming from human trafficking constitutes a constant priority for the Greek State and the Office of the National Rapporteur. Towards this end, innovative projects supporting Public-Private Partnerships to combat human trafficking in supply chains are developed in collaboration with international organizations such as the OSCE. In addition, the 4th edition of the annual National Campaign “Break the Chain” was launched in October 2018, this year focusing on the prevention of child trafficking. The awareness-raising festival “Raise your Voice” which took place in November 2018 focused on combating forced labor.  Law 4351/2018 which ratified the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence added forced marriage among the forms of human trafficking criminalized by the Penal Code.  Finally, a National Action Plan for the period 2019-2023 has been drafted in cooperation with public agencies, NGOs, and civil society and is currently being budgeted. |

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| **RIGHT TO A FAIR TRIAL** |

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| 134.88 Implement measures to ensure more effective legal procedures and speedier resolution of legal cases (Norway);  134.89 Take the necessary measures to accelerate processing of court cases in respect of the right to access to justice and right to a fair trial (France); | Art. 226 A of the Code of Criminal Procedure provides that children who are victims or witnesses of crimes of sexual violence, trafficking etc. are examined under a special procedure during criminal proceedings. This provision has recently been improved by Law 4478/2017, which transposed into the Greek legal order Directive 2012/29/EU, establishing minimum standards on the rights, support and protection of victims of crime. The new provision stipulates that the aforementioned victims are examined in special offices called “Children’s Houses”. Moreover, it provides that the examination of the victim is conducted by the competent authority (Prosecutor, Investigative Judge etc.) through a specialized psychologist or psychiatrist, who has received appropriate training. Additionally, it stipulates that the testimony of the child is always recorded by audiovisual means, so that such recorded testimony may be used as evidence and the child doesn’t have to testify again in the ensuing proceedings.The "Children’s Houses" (articles 74, 75 and 77 of Law 4478/2017) are also competent for the individual assessment and the evaluation of the perceptual ability and the mental condition of under-age victims, the provision of general support services, the assistance to all competent authorities for the proper and child-friendly examination of the victim during criminal proceedings, as well as for the development of proper conditions and spaces for the examination of children and for the audiovisual recording of the child’s testimony. Law 4478/2017 also provides for an interdisciplinary approach to be applied to the “Children’s Houses”. Through this new procedure, secondary victimization of victims in judicial proceedings will be avoided, and the resolution of legal cases in a child-friendly manner will be ensured.  Concerning speedier resolution of legal cases, the **Integrated Civil and Penal Justice Case Management System” (ICPJCMS**)is developed and implemented, enriching the services offered to the public and assisting the supporting functions of the courts.**ICPJCMS**serves the civil and criminal courts and Prosecution offices in the Court of Appeal Districts of Athens, Piraeus, Thessaloniki and Chalkida as well as the *Areios Pagos*(Supreme Civil and Criminal Court) and its Prosecution Office. Subsequently, the project will be extended to the judicial authorities of the rest of the country. A similar Program, entitled “**Integrated Administrative Justice Case Management System**” (IAJCMS)”, has already been implemented in the ordinary administrative courts throughout the countryand the Council of State (Supreme Administrative Court).  Greece also ratified recently Additional Protocol No 16 to the European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms (Law 4596/2019). By the same law,Directive 2016/343 was transposed into Greek legislation. More specifically:  -Protocol No 16 extended the competence of the European Court of Human Rights to give advisory opinions following a request by the “highest courts or tribunals” of the High Contracting Parties. Through this advisory procedure, the dialogue between the ECtHR and the national courts will be encouraged and violations of the ECHR will be avoided. Thus, the right to a fair trial will be further ensured.  -Concerning the presumption of innocence (art. 3 of the Directive 2016/343), Law 4596/2019 provided for the addition of a new article (72A, Presumption of innocence) to the Code of Penal procedure, according to which: “ Suspected or accused persons are presumed innocent until their guilt has been established in accordance with the law". The presumption of innocence already existed in the Greek legal order as a general principle. Under the new provision, this right was explicitly stipulated in the Code of Penal Procedure.  Concerning access to justice, victims of domestic violence, slavery, trafficking, kidnapping and other serious crimes, children victims of rape, sexual exploitation, etc. are provided with free legal aid irrespective of their income. Moreover, victims of torture and other violations of human dignity, discrimination, crimes against life, freedom, sexual dignity, sexual exploitation, etc. with a low income have the right to a counsel appointed by the state for filing a criminal complaint and participating in the criminal proceedings against the perpetrators. Furthermore, victims of all crimes prosecuted *ex officio*, including victims of hate crimes, all beneficiaries of free legal aid, as well as victims of sexual exploitation, trafficking, domestic violence (art. 28 of L 4055/2012) and hate speech (art. 5 law 927/1979) are exempted from the obligation to pay a fee for the initiation of criminal proceedings. Finally, in civil law cases, victims with a low income may request an “indigence benefit”. In such a case, the person concerned is exempted of all fees and expenses. Through these benefits access to justice is further ensured.  Judicial protection fulfils its purpose when it is comprehensive, efficient and granted without delays. Greece has made significant efforts during the last years to rationalize, accelerate and improve the efficiency of judicial proceedings and a number of measures been adopted. Inter alia, provisions regarding the acceleration of administrative justice procedures were adopted under Law 4446/2016. |

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| **RIGHTS OF THE CHILD** |

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| 134.90 Continue to reform its domestic child protection system in order to end institutional residential care and move towards a community based model (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);  134.91 Continue the efforts deployed by the Greek government to start the implementation of the alternative care program for children (Iraq);  134.92 Move towards deinstitutionalisation of all children by investing in and promoting family-based care facilities for children in line with the Guidelines for the Alternative Care of Children (Slovakia); | During the last years, the Ministry of Labor has been preparing a National Strategy for the Deinstitutionalization of children, in cooperation with all the competent Services. A wide range of actionshave already been taken in order to promote deinstitutionalization and develop alternative, family-based care placements. The NCHR has made a number of concrete proposals to fill the remaining gaps and to further develop an open child protection system.  • A Program called "First Hug" was introduced in 2016 by the Social Welfare Centre of the Prefecture of Attica focusing on the most vulnerable children, young babies abandoned in hospitals. For the first time in years, all the babies concerned were put in foster families, without being institutionalized until the legal matters were solved; as a result, for the first time the institutions of the Welfare Centers for babies have vacancies. The program was accompanied by a big awareness campaign, aiming at attracting prospective foster parents.  •Many awareness-raising campaigns and training sessions were organized by all the stakeholders involved in the foster care system, public institutions, non-public entities /NGOs, Social Services of the 13 Regions, civil society etc.  •Foster care programs are conducted by the Social Services of the Regions, aiming at (a) developing foster care services, by preparing prospective foster parents as temporary caregivers and, in cooperation with the Prosecutor's Office, placing children in need in foster care and (b) providing guidance and help to NGOs that host children to proceed with deinstitutionalization and to place the children concerned in alternative family- based care placements.  • The first step for the development of community-based services has been made with the establishment of Community Centers, where everybody can go and have access to social services (provision of information, applications for benefits, etc.)  Law 4538/2018entitled "Measures for the Promotion of Guardianship and Adoption and other Provisions" was adopted, covering all minors living in Greece. The Law seeks to coordinate the institutions implementing foster care and adoptions, as it establishes the National Foster Care and Adoption Council (ESANY). It also aims at speeding up procedures, collecting valid national data, updating and enriching regulations concerning National Registers (of children in institutional care, foster care, adoption) and provides for sanctions for failure to take up actions to restore the family of children living in institutional care. Furthermore, it aims at controlling adoptions which take place through direct contact between the prospective adoptive parents and the biological parents of the child to be adopted through the creation of the National Register of Prospective Adoptive Parents.  Law 4540/2018 providesforthehousingunder supervision ofunaccompaniedchildrenofmorethan 16 yearsofage. TherelevantMinisterialDecisionsetting out the procedure forthedevelopmentofthisalternativecare form of hosting unaccompanied children is currently being prepared.  Ministerial Decision 60135/179/27.12.2017 initiated the program “Deinstitutionalization of persons with disabilities”, with the following priorities: organization and operation of structures, actions and programs on the deinstitutionalization of persons with disabilities, including children and young persons with disabilities; progressive relocation to a secure and supportive structure or to a family-like center or return to the family, while supporting at the same time persons hosted in the Social Welfare Center in Attica or in Western Greece (in particular in Lechaina). |
| 136.6 Make fully operational the National Observatory for the rights of children and clearly define its coordinating role (Togo); | See above under “National Action Plans – Human Rights Indicators” on the “National Mechanism for the Elaboration, Monitoring and Assessment of Action Plans on the Rights of the Child”. |

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| **FREEDOM OF RELIGION** |

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| 134.93 Ensure religious freedom and tolerance, by measures such as decriminalizing blasphemy and protecting the rights of religious minorities, atheists and agnostics (Brazil); | As stipulated in Article 13 of the Constitution,all known religions are free and their rites of worship are performed unhindered and under the protection of the law. The only Constitutional constraints regarding religious freedom are the ones against worship offending public order and morals, as well as against proselytism through improper/insidious means. Freedom of belief is also recognized, on an equal footing with the followers of any known religion, to atheists and agnostics.  By virtue of the provisions of Law 4301/2014 on the acquisition of legal personality by all eligible religious communities, seven (7) religious communities (other than the Orthodox Church) have obtained religious legal personality so far following a court decision, while 9 religious communities have obtained the status of Religious or Ecclesiastical Legal Person *ex lege*.  Furthermore, a new updated joint Circular was issued in July 2016 on the procedure of granting a permit to establish and operate places of worship of religious communities, other than the Orthodox Church.The Circular’s administrative prerequisites e.g. for public safety and hygiene are fully in conformity with international standards, as they aim at safeguarding both the safety and protection of the congregation, as well as the safety and quality of life of those residing nearby. |
| 136.14 Fulfil its long-standing pledge for constructing a mosque in Athens, and open one of the historical mosques in Thessaloniki to worship, as well as allocating a cemetery for Muslims in both cities (Turkey); | Proper legal adjustments addressing various administrative and urban planning matters have been made in order to expedite construction of the Athens Mosque, which has already begun and is nearing completion. The Mosque’s Board of Directors (comprised of seven members, among whom two representatives of the Muslims who live in Attica) was appointed in August 2017. Recently, the operating rules of the Management Board of the Mosque were adopted.  A Muslim Cemetery in Athens is under planning. It will be constructed as soon as an appropriate site is selected. |

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| **ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL RIGHTS-EFFECT OF AUSTERITY MEASURES** |

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| 134.97 Continue to promote the right to work for all including through providing technical and vocational training for young people (Egypt); | Τhe overall policy response to youth employment is illustrated in the **Youth Guarantee Action Plan** that was initially submitted in 2014 and is now revised, with an increased budget (€78 million equally matched by European Social Fund funding) and a series of new actions, extending the range of interventions for young people out of education, employment or training (NEETs) up to 29 years old.  On 30.1.2019, a decision of the Minister of Labor, Social Security and Social Solidarity was issued, determining the level of minimum wage in Greece. Specifically, the said Ministerial Decision stipulates that as from 1 February 2019:  -for employees, the minimum monthly wage is increased to 650€ per month [from 586,08€ (11% raise)];  -for workers, the minimum daily wage is increased to €29.04 per day [from 26,18€ (11% raise)];  -the subminimum monthly wage and the subminimum daily wage for young people up to 25 years of age are abolished;  -the minimum wage for young employees up to 25 is also increased to 650€/month [from 510,95€ (27% raise)];  -the minimum wage for young workers up to 25 is also increased to 29,04€/day [from 22,83€ (27% raise)].  In the field of active labor market policies (ALMP) reform, a **Strategic Framework for ALMPs** recently adopted by the Ministry of Labor, Social Security and Social Solidarity illustrates government’s policy that is moving from the implementation of programs upon specific calls towards the implementation of **open framework programs**, *inter alia*, programs available on a stable basis supported by empowered IT systems that contribute to the designing and the monitoring of the programs.  Significant and wide-ranging interventions are being carried out by the Manpower Employment Organization (OAED – the Greek Public Employment Service), in the field of non-formal and informal learning training aiming at, among others, the target group of unemployed young people up to 29 years old.  Last but not least, a **series of actions** are in progress in order to **strengthen the link between Vocational Education and Training (VET) and the labor market and economy,** to inform young people about vocational training, to improve quality and to create a more stable link between the initial and continuing vocational training. In the framework of Initial Vocational Education and Training, OAED runs Apprenticeship Schools (EPAS)-with a two year attendance- and Vocational Training Institutes (ΙΕΚ). OAED is also a member of the European Alliance for Apprenticeships and participates along with the Ministry of Education, Research and Religious Affairs in partnerships with the Central Union of Chambers, to attract businesses in order to generate more apprenticeships**.** |
| 134.98 Develop policies and programs to effectively implement the National Strategy for Social Inclusion (Indonesia); | ThepoliciesandprogramsdesignedandimplementedbytheMinistryofLabor, SocialSecurityandSocialSolidarityarebasedonthetargetssetoutintheNationalStrategyforSocialInclusion, whiletheirbeneficiaries correspond to the target and high priority groups identified in the Strategy. |
| 134.99 Step up measures to mitigate the negative impacts of economic measures, with an emphasis on improving social protection systems and eradicating poverty (Malaysia);  134.100 Continue to take appropriate measures to protect the most vulnerable sectors and to preserve social cohesion, in the face of the huge social inequalities and ensure the enjoyment of basic goods and services for families living in conditions of poverty (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela);  134.101 Continue implementing the plan endorsed by the government in November 2014 aiming to help families and individuals living in conditions of extreme poverty (Bahrain);  134.102 Make every effort within its capacity to implement Law 4320/2015 to give people living in poverty access to basic goods and services (Libya);  134.103 Continue its efforts to mitigate the negative results of the economic crisis and the austerity measures that primarily affect the most disadvantaged groups of the population (Cuba);  134.104 Continue its efforts to mitigate the negative impacts of the economic crisis and austerity measures on the most disadvantaged segments of the population (Nepal);  134.105 Take further steps to mitigate the impact of the economic crisis and austerity measures on the social and economic rights of the most vulnerable groups of the society (Poland);  134.106 Continue to highlight during its negotiations with international creditors, the necessity to protect economic, social and cultural rights in the context of financial aid programme, in accordance with the obligations undertaken by Greece in international human rights conventions (Armenia);  134.107 Continue its efforts to mitigate the negative impact of the economic crisis on human rights and to urge the international lenders to support the Government’s endeavours in this area (Egypt);  134.108 Continue to raise, in the negotiations with international lenders, the need to protect economic, social and cultural rights in the context of the national assistance program, bearing in mind that the institutions involved, including international financial institutions, should fully take into consideration Greece’s obligations under the relevant human rights treaties (Islamic Republic of Iran); | On 20.8.2018, Greece concluded the European Stability Mechanism (ESM) economic adjustment program and was integrated into the normal cycle of the European Semester framework (of economic and social policy coordination). Greece will also be subject to enhanced surveillance under the EU Regulations. In this new environment, the competent authorities are working to promote, inter alia, social cohesion, to upgrade and modernize the social security system and to ensure a minimum income for all, while the implementation of universal healthcare has been achieved.  In this context, Greece is currently following a new fiscal policy mix aiming at enhancing households’ disposable income, supporting sustainable growth and improving social protection, thus promoting economic, social and cultural rights, which have severely been affected during the economic crisis. The 2019 Budget includes a number of fiscal interventions, fully consistent with the agreed fiscal targets, such as the non-implementation of further pension reductions foreseen by the law, the introduction of a well-targeted housing allowance, a subsidy of young employees’ social security contributions and the strengthening of the Special Education and Help at Home programs.  Furthermore, the over-performance in terms of reaching the primary budget surplus to which Greece is committed has allowed the distribution, since 2016, of the so-called social dividend, a financial support scheme for economically weak and vulnerable households.  Greece endorsed in 2017 at the highest political level and through a wide social dialogue a set of eight overarching National Priorities for the SDGs, in line with the new National Growth Strategy adopted by the Greek government in 2018, which include promoting full employment and decent work for all, addressing poverty and social exclusion, providing universal access to quality health care services, reducing social and regional inequalities, ensuring equal opportunities for all and providing high-quality and inclusive education.  As regards, more specifically, measures against poverty, it should be mentioned that Greece fully implements, since 2017, the Social Solidarity Income (SSI) scheme, a welfare program addressed to households living in extreme poverty and complements the policies to combat poverty and social exclusion, including homelessness.  Furthermore, in order to protect vulnerable groups from homelessness or inadequate housing, legislation has been introduced on minimum standards for the homeless accommodation structures and the setting of the terms and conditions for the implementation of programs, with a view to providing the necessary social care and primary health care services to the homeless.  In addition, uninsured citizens and persons belonging to vulnerable social groups have the right to free access to the public health system as far as nursing and medical care are concerned. As regards the contribution in pharmaceutical spending, a new system of income criteria is introduced in order to relieve vulnerable social groups.  Furthermore, the Ministry of Education, Research and Religious Affairs launched, in collaboration with the Ministry of Labor, Social Security and Social Solidarity, an ambitious food distribution scheme, entitled “Brunch at school”, targeting primary schools throughout the country. Additionally, from the school year 2016-2017 up to the current one, a similar school feeding program entitled “School Lunch” is in place.  Finally, Law 4512/2018 introduced the Child Benefit as the main financial support for families, granted to all families with children that qualify according to the means test. The newly introduced benefit and the abolition of many other smaller benefits along with the Large Family Benefit previously granted, focuses more on children in need, by giving a greater weight to dependent children (especially those aged 18 to 24 who are more likely to live in poverty), improves equity and fairness, since it is provided to all families having at least one child, so that all poor children are treated similarly, and tackles fragmentation. It also simplifies the procedure since there is only one consolidated family benefit. |

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| **RIGHTS OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES** |

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| 134.110 Ensure sustainable and universal access to education for children, including children with disabilities and children living in remote areas (Malaysia);  134.111 Take concrete steps to end discrimination against persons with disabilities (Maldives);  134.112 Address the discrimination faced by persons with disabilities with regards to access to education, employment and healthcare (Ghana);  134.113 Further develop policies aiming for inclusive education and access to work for people with disabilities (Israel);  134.114 Intensify efforts to eliminate discrimination against persons with disabilities with a view to improving their access to employment, social services and education (Thailand);  134.115 Promote increased autonomy to persons with disabilities in the fields of health, employment and education as additional steps following the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (Spain); | In accordance with article 31 of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CPRD), the State Minister responsible for the coordination of the Government’s work has been designated, by Law 4488/2017, as the “coordination mechanism within government to facilitate related action in different sectors and at different levels”; the General Secretariat for Human Rights of the Ministry of Justice, Transparency and Human Rights has been designated as the central focal point for matters relating to the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with disabilities; the law also provides for the designation of focal points within each Ministry. Furthermore, the Greek Ombudsman, an independent authority, has been designated as the national framework for the promotion of the implementation of the abovementioned Convention, in cooperation with the National Confederation of Persons with Disabilities, an independent civil society organization.Finally, Focal Points have been created in each of the municipalities and regions of the country to monitor the implementation of the Convention at the local and regional levels.  As already mentioned, Law 4443/2016 establishes a single and comprehensive regulatory framework for the implementation of the principle of non-discriminationand defines the bodies responsible for protecting, promoting and monitoring compliance with the abovementioned principle, expanding, in this regard, the tasks assigned to the Greek Ombudsman. Among the prohibited grounds of discrimination are included disability and chronic condition.  The prohibited forms of discrimination are the following: direct discrimination, indirect discrimination, harassment, instruction to apply a discriminatory treatment against a person on the prohibited grounds, discrimination by association, discrimination by perception, multiple discrimination and refusal of reasonable accommodation of persons with disabilities or suffering from chronic disease.  The scope of the Law, in respect of all of the abovementioned prohibited grounds of discrimination includes:  - conditions of access to employment and to occupation in general, including selection criteria and recruitment conditions, in all branches of activity and levels of the professional hierarchy, as well as the terms and conditions of hierarchical and professional advancement;  - access to all types and levels of vocational guidance, training, retraining and practical work experience;  - employment and working conditions, including dismissals, remuneration, health and safety at work, reinstatement and re-employment of those that had become unemployed;  - membership of and participation to an organization of workers or employers or any other professional organization.  In order to strengthen the defence of victims of discrimination, it is foreseen that legal persons, whose aim is to ensure respect of the principle of equal treatment regardless of the grounds set out in the Law, may represent the aggrieved party before the competent court or any administrative authority or organ, provided that the interested person has previously given his or her written consent (Article 8 (3)). Such legal persons may also lodge a third party intervention (in favour of the alleged victim) before the competent civil and administrative courts and are exempted from the relevant fees.  When persons who consider themselves wronged establish before a court or a competent administrative authority facts from which it may be presumed that there has been direct or indirect discrimination, it shall be for the respondent to prove, or for the administrative authority to establish, that there have been no circumstances constituting a breach of the principle of equal treatment (Article 9 (1)). The shift of the burden of proof in civil cases does not apply to criminal procedures (Article 9 (2)).  In addition, the violation of the principle of the equal treatment at work and employment constitutes a violation of the labour law. For this reason, the Labour Inspectorate may, among others, conduct researches for the implementation of the labour law provisions, examine complaints filed by discrimination victims and inform the citizens regarding their rights prescribed in Law 4443/2016.  A 2017 Ministerial Decision (Government Bulletin 662/ B ​​/ 2.3. 2017) states, in Article, 4 that: "The Offices for the Protection of Healthcare Services Recipients of the National Health System (NHS) Hospitals shall in particular aim at safeguarding, protecting and promoting the rights of Healthcare Services Recipients as defined by the relevant provisions, and in particular: ... (para. (h)), as regards the provision of health services based on diagnostic and therapeutic protocols, promoting equal or universal access, irrespective of race, color, ethnic origin, descent, religion or other belief, disability or chronic illness, age, family or social status, sexual orientation, gender and regardless of any illness or the health status of the recipient / s. "  In parallel, in line with Article 24 CRPD, the Greek education policy fully supports the right of all students to equal access to educational advantages, including children with disabilities and special education needs, taking measures and adopting legislative initiatives to combat imbalances and discrimination. In such a context, the promotion of inclusion policies favouring students with disabilities constitutes a key component of the national education strategy.  According to Law 3699/2008, the state is obliged to provide special education to all children who are recognized as eligible for additional support, at all levels of the education system. Specifically, the law sets the goals of full and harmonious development of pupils’ personality, the development of their potential and skills so that they can be educated or re-educated in mainstream school settings, the improvement of their social acceptance and tolerance to ensure their full accessibility to all infrastructures (building, material, ICT) and the services they provide.  According to Article 6 (1) of Law 3699/2008, pupils with disabilities and/or special educational needs receive education primarily in the following mainstream settings:  -in mainstream class, supported by the class teacher;  -in mainstream class with individualized parallel support, provided by a special education teacher;  -by the inclusion teacher who may support one or more pupils in the mainstream class in co-operation with the class teacher (Law 4368/2016, article 82).  The Independent Department for Coordination and Monitoring of Refugee Education of the Ministry of Education, Research and Religious Affairs, in collaboration with the Department of special education, since the beginning of the current school year has been systematically monitoring and facilitating the integration of refugee children with disabilities in schools.  In the field of education, 518 special schools have been established so far in primary and secondary education which host 11,476 pupils. Furthermore, 5,946 pupils receive parallel support in mainstream settings, while 32,703 pupils with disabilities and/or special educational needs attend mainstream classes without support. It should be noted that the number of staff, in particular teachers, recruited has significantly increased. Furthermore, the accessibility of school buildings has been enhanced through financial support of the Ministry of Interior to the Municipalities concerned. Other actions concern the “development of accessible educational and support material for children with disabilities and/or special educational needs”. In this context, textbooks were further enriched and turned into easy-to-readformats for the First and Second Grade Students with several disabilities. All school books are also available to blind and visually impaired pupils of all grades in braille and “big-letter” format. The Institute of Educational Policy is supervising the process of transcription, in accordance with specified pedagogical criteria, to ensure the quality of books. The whole process is funded by the Ministry of Education.  In the field of Adult Learning, there are two OAED Structures for Special Education, one in Athens (persons with physical and mental disability) and another one in Lakkia-Thessaloniki (persons with mental disability), of approximately 400 trainees’ capacity in total, per year. These Schools aim at qualifying unemployed persons with disabilities, in order to enhance their employability in various economic sectors. Trainees also benefit from social support and guidance by experts in the field.  Article 60 of Law 4488/2017 introduces into national legislation a clear and comprehensive definition of the concept of disability, harmonized with the Preamble of the CRPD. The relevant articles of the Law set out guidelines, as well as organizational provisions for the implementation of the Convention. More specifically, the Law establishes general obligations of all natural and legal persons of private or public law with regard to persons with disabilities, provides for the mainstreaming of disability in all areas of public policy, regulates issues related to the universal design of public policies, administrative services, etc., reasonable accommodation, accessibility to physical, build and digital environment, communication with administrative authorities, information, awareness raising, education and training on the rights of persons with disabilities, prohibition of discrimination in the mass media and in audiovisual activities, consideration of the rights of persons with disabilities in the law-drafting process, impact assessment and collection of official statistical data.  Greek sign language has been recognized as equivalent to the Greek language, and Greek Braille as the way of writing of blind Greek citizens.  Other measures taken to promote the rights of persons with disabilities include:  -anew subsidy program addressed to employers and municipal enterprises, for the employment of persons with disabilities. The duration of the program is up to 36 months;  -a quota of 15% for the recruitment of persons with disabilities and chronic illnesses with a disability percentage of 50% in posts of indefinite duration in the public and the wider public sector, as well as allocation of bonus points to persons with disabilities or parents/spouses/siblings/children of persons with disabilities or chronic diseases for posts of temporary employment;  -measures to promote the integration into the economic life of persons with disabilities, including in the context of Social and Solidarity Economy;  -a pilot program of deinstitutionalization of persons with disabilities, aiming at operating or implementing relevant structures, actions and programs;  -the creation of a “digital disability file” to “cut the red tape” and to facilitate the communication of persons with disabilities with the administration, the submission of applications, etc.;  -the creation and operation of Supported Living Houses to provide individualized and high quality care in small and flexible facilities. Supported Living strengthens the fundamental right to autonomous living of persons with disabilities, while pursuing the development and maintenance of their skills and abilities in order for them to live safely and as autonomously and actively as possible in the social environment, aims at their social inclusion, including access to education and work, and provides care and support, in full respect for their rights, dignity, needs and wishes. Through Supported Living, the deinstitutionalization of persons with disabilities housed in closed care facilities is achieved,as well as the attainment of better quality of life, with more opportunities and greater control of their own choices. The participation in training and employment programs of persons in supported living who have the possibility to access the labor market is also promoted, in close cooperation with those responsible for such programs, so as to enhance opportunities for social and labor inclusion. Moreover, steps are taken to ensure, in cooperation with the employers, safe commuting between home and place of work. A Joint Ministerial Decision has recently updated the relevant framework;  -the operation of Camp Programs for persons with disabilities;  -adoption of a Ministerial Decision to ensure equal access of persons with disabilities to television services;  -drafting of a Law to transpose into national legislation the European Union Directive on the Accessibility of Websites and Mobile Applications ;  -tax exemptions for disability allowances;  -measures to ensure the participation of persons with disabilities to the elections to be held in 2019.  It is to be noted that, since 1.1.2019, the Organization of Welfare Benefits and Social Solidarity, as a single administrative agency, is responsible for granting cash welfare benefits to persons with disabilities throughout the country. |

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| **PROTECTION OF THE ROMA** |

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| 134.116 Take steps to fully integrate Roma children in its education system, including by ending discrimination and segregation of Roma children in schools (Australia);  134.117 Further improve the access of minority groups, specially Roma and, in particular, Roma children and adolescents, to education (Brazil);  134.118 Take steps to end discrimination and segregation suffered by Roma children in the school system in accordance with its international obligations (Switzerland);  136.23 Take measures to increase the attendance rates of Roma students and their retention in school by, inter alia, providing sufficient comprehensive measures to cover education-related expenses and raising awareness of the importance of education among Roma families (State of Palestine); | | Incomplete participation in the educational system is one of the major challenges Greek Roma are facing. The following programs are being implemented to address this challenge.  The **Program for vulnerable social groups’ inclusion in education**aims, through the creation of reception classes and training courses, to reduce early school leaving of pupils from vulnerable social groups and different cultural backgrounds, providing additional learning and psychological support in school units with a significant number of Roma students. Social and supportive serviceshave been envisaged, such as the possibility of employing special educational staff of psychologists and social workers in certain schools of general and vocational education (article 70 of Law 4485/2017), if there are special needs for the support of vulnerable social groups or if it is necessary to implement psychosocial and emotional support programs for pupils. A 2017 decision specified 42 primary school units with Roma student population, where 30 Social Officers have been placed for the school year 2017-2018. This action provides in particular for: a) the reduction of the number of pupils by 25 to 15 in 52 primary schools in the country, where pupils from families belonging to vulnerable social groups attend, b) the placement of social workers in these schools, c) the unconditional access to the all-day program in all schools in the country for pupils belonging to families of vulnerable social groups (e.g. Roma) and d) the pilot operation of Parent Schools in some schools.  **The Roma Children Education Program**, undertaken by Greek universities since 2010, aims at enhancing access to and attendance in preschool education; implementing interventions for school integration and support for regular attendance of Roma children in primary and secondary education, as well as educational actions for completing the primary education by Roma young and adults who dropped school; awareness raising among the educational staff and provision of support, with the collaboration of Roma mediators, in creating links and enhancing the communication between the school and the family environment of the target group.  It is to be noted that compulsory education of all children is enshrined in the Constitution (Article 16 (3)). The Headmasters of school units provide support to Roma children residing in the area and arrange for their enrollment and attendance. Roma children can attend both pre-schools and primary schools regardless of being registered in the municipal registers or the registries; their enrollment cannot be refused because of lack of a permanent residence certificate, as any document proving the home address of the pupil is accepted.  A wide range of supportive social measures have been introduced to promote school attendance, such as a) the Social Solidarity Income (SSI/KEA), which is granted on the condition of school attendance, b) the financial assistance/ allowance granted to families for children, c) the “Mid- morning snacks at school” and d) the “School meals”, all addressed to pupils belonging to vulnerable social groups such as the Roma pupils. | |
| 134.119 Fully implement the National Strategy for the Integration of the Roma to avoid discrimination against them and to increase their opportunity for education and employment (Honduras);  134.120 Continue to deepen the actions for the protection and promotion of the rights of the Roma (Argentina);  134.121 Intensify the actions which ensure the integration of the Roma community and their full enjoyment of human rights, in particular the rights to work and education (Peru);  134.122 Continue its work to safeguard full respect of human rights for, and non-discrimination of, the Roma population in Greece, in line with Greece’s international obligations, and in doing so fully and effectively implement adopted strategies at all levels (Sweden);  136.19 … and continue to improve the standards in housing, education and health care (Germany); | The Greek State, acknowledging that the Roma population face a number of problems and difficulties, as far as housing and living conditions, access to the labor market, participation in the educational system and healthcareare concerned, intervenes in all spheres of social life in order to end social exclusion of the Roma population, to improve their social and economic situation and promote their social, educational and professional inclusion.  The Special Secretariat for the Social Inclusion of Roma, under the authority of the Minister of Labor, Social Security and Social Solidarity, responsible for Social Solidarity issues, was established in October 2016 and has as main tasks: the configuration of guidelines for each policy area related to the social inclusion of Roma; close cooperation with other competent Ministries and stakeholders; establishment and development of a GIS system (“Geographic Information System”) for the documentation, monitoring and evaluation of policies and the parallel mapping of the characteristics of the Roma population living in camps and settlements cut off from the wider urban and social fabric; provision of guidance and technical support to stakeholders; carrying out field surveys and studies; collection of any information or element required for shaping a national policy. It has also taken up the role of the National Contact Point for the promotion ofthe National Strategy for the Social Integration of Roma – EU framework.  Within this context, and in order to establish the bases for achieving gradual but full social inclusion within a 5 year period (2017 – 2021), the Special Secretariat aims at: eliminating settlements of extremely degrading and poor living conditions, adopting an integrated- holistic approach towards Roma social inclusion, revealing innovative interventions that can be used as models and best practices, involving all administrative levels.  This strategic objective is to be served through the following general objectives: (a) ensure and guarantee housing, (b) developa system of social intervention support services (in the areas of employment, education, health and social integration), (c) develop social dialogue and consensus, through social empowerment and participation of the Roma themselves.  Since its establishment, the Special Secretariat has begun the drafting of an Action Plan specifying the National Strategy for Roma Social Inclusion, taking into account the existing situation and the main pillars of the Strategy.  Τhe Greek National Strategy for Social Inclusion of Roma 2012-2020, that was drafted following the EU Framework guidelines, has been specialized in 13 Regional Strategies for Social Inclusion.In this context, the Secretariat (pursuing a top-down process/approach) involves local and regional authorities, mainly municipalities, by giving them guidelines and support on the general operational planning via a Template of Local Action Plan, while the local and regional government organizations plan their interventions activating in parallel the local community and their services to contribute to the key sectoral actions / pillars of the strategy (bottom-up process/approach) that is to be implemented.  For the efficiency of the planning of interventions, the Special Secretariat proceeded in defining the current situation by mapping the settlements and camps and classifying them in the following three categories: highly degraded camps, mixed camps (houses together with short-term facilities), deprived and socially excluded neighborhoods. Targeted and prioritized actions are undertaken on the basis of the abovementioned classification, including relocation to suitable areas.  The four main pillars of the national strategy are: housing, health, employment, education, to which a set of horizontal actions have been added. | |

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| **RIGHTS OF PERSONS BELONGING TO MINORITIES** |

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| 134.94 Continue to implement policies which guarantee the effective right to freedom of religion for the Muslim minority of Thrace (Peru); | The Greek Government continues to ensure the free exercise of freedom of religion of members of the Muslim minority in Thrace. There are nearly 260 mosques operating in Thrace, as well as Muslim cemeteries. To promote the religious and spiritual cultivation of Muslims in Thrace, 240 positions of Islamic Religion teachers were allocated in the Muftiates of Thrace. Their primary task is to teach the Quran in the mosques of Thrace. Moreover, if they so desire and need arises, they may teach the Quran at public schools of primary and secondary education in Thrace, to pupils who are members of the Muslim minority and have been exempt from “Religious Education” classes. Thus, these pupils have the possibility, if they wish, to be taught the Quran at school, and be exonerated from having to do so at special classes. In addition, Islamic Religion teachers, if they so wish and provided that they have the necessary qualifications, may teach Religious Specialization coursesin the Muslim Religious Schools of Thrace.  The Ministry of Education, Research and Religious Affairs policies aim at promoting religious peace and mutual respect among different religious communities, protecting and highlighting the religious identity of the Muslim minority, the necessary modernization of the Muftiates and their operation, as well as emphasizing the principles of transparency and social accountability. Within this framework, Law 4559/2018 specified that the operating expenditures of the Muftiates areto be borne by the budget of the Ministry of Education, Research and Religious Affairs,sincethe Muftiates are public services.According to article 48 of the same Law, the Mufti, who, alongsidewith his religious duties, is a public officer carrying out judicialduties on certain cases of private law concerning members of the Muslim minority of hisprefecture (see infra) mustcompulsorily leave his post at the age of 67, in order for the State to program a smoothsuccession procedure. |
| 134.123 Continue efforts towards gender equality, including ensuring effective review and control by domestic civil courts of inheritance and family matters determined by religious bodies for Muslim minority women in Thrace (Australia); | The Greek legislation provides for the optional application of the Sharia law in specific family and inheritance law disputes of members of the Muslim minority in Thrace, laid down in the relevant legislation.Law 4511/2018 amended article 5 of Law No. 1920/1991 concerning the Muslim Religious Officers in Thrace and provided that Greek Muslims, members of the Muslim minority in Thrace, have the option between civil law (implemented by civil courts) and Sharia law, in matters of family and/or inheritance law**.**  More specifically, matters of family law of members of the Muslim minority in Thrace are regulated by the ordinary Civil Law provisions and only exceptionally may fall under the jurisdiction of the Muftis, provided that both parties agree to submit their case to the latter, in accordance with the Sharia Law.  Matters of inheritance are also ruled by the provisions of the Civil Code, unless the testator draws a declaration of last will, whose sole content would be the expression of his wish to submit his succession to the Sharia Law.  Furthermore, it is to be stressed that judgments of the Muftis are not enforceable unless they are declared so by local Civil Courts. The latter shall, first, examine whether the judgments fall within the jurisdiction of the Mufti and, second, whether the provisions applied violate the Greek Constitution, and especially Article 4 par. 2 (gender equality), as well as the European Convention on Human Rights (and other international human rights treaties).  The Grand Chamber of the European Court of Human Rights, in its judgment in the case of Molla Sali v. Greece delivered οn 19 December 2018, “notes with satisfaction that on 15 January 2018 the law abolishing the special regulations imposing recourse to Sharia law for the settlement of family-law cases within the Muslim minority came into force. Recourse to a mufti in matters of marriage, divorce or inheritance is now only possible with the agreement of those concerned…”. In that case, concerning the application of Sharia law to an inheritance dispute contrary to the will of the testator, a member of the Muslim minority in Thrace, the Court found a violation of Article 14 of the Convention (prohibition of discrimination), read in conjunction with Article 1 of Protocol No. 1 (protection of property). |
| 136.18 Undertake accurate measures to register associations of distinct communities, including those claiming minority group status (Republic of North Macedonia); | The Greek Government has been considering appropriate ways and means of implementing three judgments of the European Court of Human Rights finding a violation of Article 11 of the ECHR (freedom of association), including legislative amendments in order to make possible the reopening of the relevant domestic procedures.  In this respect, in October 2017, Parliament adopted a legislative provision which allows the reopening of non-contentious judicial procedures, including those related to the registration of associations, following a judgment of the European Court of Human Rights finding a violation of the Convention. Reference is made in the above provision to the conditions and restrictions set out in the relevant articles of the ECHR. In addition, a transitional provision covers cases in which a judgment of the European Court has already been delivered and makes reference to the conditions set out in Article 11 ECHR, to other provisions of the ECHR, as well as to international treaties.  Relevant cases under the new legislation have not yet been decided by the Supreme Court.  It is to be noted that the final decision on the registration of associations lies with the competent courts, and not with the administrative authorities.  It is also noteworthy that the European Court had previously dismissed all three new cases brought before it by the aforementioned three minority associations based on alleged new violations of the freedom of association, finding that Greece had not committed such further violations.  Finally, it should be clarified that the registration by the competent courts of an association does not imply the existence or official recognition by a State of a particular group as a “minority”. |

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| **RIGHTS OF MIGRANTS AND ASYLUM SEEKERS** |

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| 134.124 Continue the protection of the rights of migrants (Morocco);  134.125 Ensure full respect for the human rights of migrants (Nigeria);  134.126 Continue to protect the rights of migrants living in its territory (Senegal);  134.130 Ensure that the refugee flows across its territory continue to be managed in accordance with the obligations of Greece in respect of human rights (Spain);  134.134 Maintain addressing the emerging situation of refugee influx and migratory pressures while continuing to ensure the necessary respect for human rights (Egypt);  134.135 Take further measures, both in terms of legislation and implemented policies, in order to ensure the respect for human rights of all migrants (Poland);  134.136 Ensure that the human rights of migrants, and migration policy and practice are fully respected by national legislation, and strengthen all efforts to implement the National Action Plan and Migration Management (Holy See);  134.137 Ensure that domestic legislation fully respects the human rights or refugees and migrants (Iceland);  134.138 Ensure that the authority tasked with the management of European Union funds, such as the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund, commences operations as swiftly as possible (Iceland);  134.139 Accelerate efforts to provide effective structures for identification, care and accommodation to protect and support vulnerable migrant and refugee arrivals, including victims of torture, unaccompanied minors, and persons with disabilities (Ireland);  136.25 Redouble efforts to implement the National Plan of Action on the Management of Asylum and Migration …(Honduras) | Since 2016, Greece has continued to be confronted with the formidable challenge of managing an unprecedented influx of refugees and migrants heading to other European countries. The Greek Government has made every effort right from the start to respond adequately to extraordinary circumstances. Thousands of people were rescued in the Aegean Sea and Reception and Identification Centers and Hospitality Structures were established. Following the EU-Turkey Statement in March 2016, migration flows have significantly decreased. Still, more than 100.000 refugees and migrants have entered the country during that period.It is evident that Greece continues to be disproportionately pressured in relation to the country’s capabilities. It is clear that a long-term comprehensive strategy is needed to deal with all aspects of a problem, which also has a European and a global dimension. In this respect, planning and implementing a Common European Policy in the sectors of migration and asylum, has become a pressing need and the most important parameter for correctly managing challenges caused by the refugee-migration issue.  The competent authorities are taking all the necessary steps to address the challenges, in full respect of international human rights law and refugee law and the paramount values of humanity and solidarity, and within the framework of the EU acquis.  All third-country nationals and stateless persons who enter without complying with the legal formalities in the country are submitted to reception and identification procedures. Reception and identification procedures include special attention to those belonging to vulnerable groups, in order to guide them to the appropriate, in each case, procedure and to provide them with specialized care and protection. In addition, within reception and accommodation facilities, separate areas are set up for the accommodation of third-country nationals or stateless persons belonging to vulnerable groups.  There is a constant effort to improve living conditions in all reception and accommodation structures, in accordance with the reception standards, set out in Law 4540/2018. Tangible results have already been achieved, although challenges remain.  In January 2019, the Ministry for Migration Policy submitted to public consultation the “**National Integration Strategy**” for refugees and migrants. At the core of the Strategy is integration at the local level with the active involvement and participation of different institutional and local actors and, in particular, the Municipalities and the Regions. Thus, Local Government becomes a key actor in shaping and implementing integration activities. A necessary condition for the implementation of the Strategy is ensuring horizontal coordination and cohesion of integration policies pursued by different Ministries and other actors, as well as harmonization with the overall government policy on the establishment of national mechanisms for the development of social policies. The integration and not the assimilation of migrants in Greek society is ensured, as the values of social acceptance and cultural diversity are respected under the conditions of mutual recognition and creative co-existence in an environment of equal relations, opportunities and rights.The main axes of the Strategy are the following: cooperation with local government to promote integration at the local level; access to basic goods and services; promotion of integration in the field of education; promotion of integration in the labor market; interculturality; participation in the public life; fighting racism and xenophobia; targeted policies for vulnerable social groups; targeted policies for second-generation migrants.  In school year 2016-2017, an emergency Action Plan for the **education** of refugee and migrant children was set up by the Ministry of Education. Within that Ministry, a Special Office for refugee education has been established. The objective is to ensure the integration of refugee children in the Greek educational system, through psychosocial support after a preparatory, transitional period. In 2018, Education Law No. 4547/2018 was adopted, containing a Section on Refugee Education, which, inter alia, established an Independent Department for Coordination and Monitoring of Refugee Education within the Ministry of Education, Research and Religious Affairs.  As regards children living in refugee accommodation centers, starting from the school year 2016-2017, the Ministry of Education has established the Reception School Annexes for Refugee Education (RSARE), a preparatory transitional intervention scheme aiming to ensure the gradual integration of refugee children into the educational system, whether in Greece or in other countries. RSARE are run in school districts in which operate refugee accommodation centers and form part of existing primary (for children aged 6 to 12 years old) and secondary schools (for children aged 12 to 15 years old). Their curriculum includes Greek language courses, Mathematics, foreign language courses (English, etc.), Computer Science, Physical Education and Arts classes. For the teaching and learning of the Greek Language, textbooks are used that had been developed and used in the Schools of Intercultural Education for teaching Greek as a second language, after they have been duly amended.  Children living in “off-site” accommodations, (in flats, hotels etc.) are attending morning classes of mainstream Greek public schools close to their residence, in Reception Classes, where supplementary teaching and tutorial support is being provided. Refugee children also enroll to Schools of Intercultural Education, where special programmes are applied, emphasizing on intercultural communication and on the educational and cultural particularities of the students. Moreover, refugee children can be enrolled in All-Day Schools with no requirements. Special teacher training, curricula, textbooks and other material have been designed to support refugee education.  During the school year of 2017-2018, the total number of refugee children enrolled in all levels of the public educational system, was8.017 (2.026 pupils enrolled in RSAREs, 5.291 pupils enrolled in Reception Classes).  According to Law 4540/2018 transposing the EU Reception Directive into national law, **housing**of applicants for international protection can take the following forms: a) special accommodation structures for applicants during the examination of their application at border or transit zones, b) hospitality centers managed by public or private non-profit organizations or international organizations and c) private dwellings or apartments or hotels leased as part of housing programs for applicants. According to UNHCR data, by the end of September 2018, all over Greece 25,632 housing units (flats or buildings) were available for vulnerable asylum seekers and refugees, in cooperation with the Local Government, as part of the ESTIA Program. A total of 21,412 people were accommodated under this program.    According to Law 4368/2016, the most vulnerable groups of migrants and refugees living in Greece are provided with a direct access to the National **Health** System regardless of their legal status. Between March 2016 and May 2018, 109,846 refugees and migrants were treated in the NHS structures.  A 2017 Ministerial Decision (Government Gazette 662/ B / 2.3. 2017), states in Article 4 (2) that "Special care shall be taken by the Office for the Protection of Rights of Healthcare Recipients for the protection of minor healthcare recipients, detainees, mental patients, asylum seekers, refugees and migrants, as especially vulnerable social groups". |

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| 134.127 Supervise the working conditions of migrant workers effectively (Belarus); | The Labor Inspectorate (SEPE) is the main inspection mechanism of the Ministry of Labor, Social Security and Social Solidarity that supervises and monitors the application of labor law provisions and substantially contributes to the fight against undeclared work and the exploitation of foreign workers, particularly in the agricultural sector.  With the view to implementing International Labor Recommendation No 204 “On the transition from informal to formal economy”, adopted by the International Labor Conference in June 2015, the Ministry of Labor has undertaken certain initiatives in the area of undeclared work. More specifically, the Greek Government, in close collaboration with the social partners and the ILO, as part of a project funded by the European Commission, on “Supporting the transition from informal to formal economy and addressing undeclared work in Greece”, produced, through a participative and consultative process, a report on the Diagnosis of Undeclared Work in Greece. The Diagnostic Report was endorsed by the Greek Government and the social partners in a high level tripartite validation meeting held in July 2016. The validated report provided a set of 25 policy recommendations that reflect the constituents’ commitment to the ILO’s vision of a balanced approach combining incentives with compliance measures, as enshrined in ILO Recommendation no. 204.  Reaching a tripartite agreement on the main characteristics and drivers of informality in Greece led to the design and finally, through tripartite social dialogue, the endorsement of a 3-year Roadmap for addressing undeclared work, in October 2016. The Roadmap contains a balanced regulatory and policy framework for preventive and appropriate corrective measures that will facilitate the transition to the formal economy and tackle undeclared work. The Roadmap contains action tables with concrete timelines, grouped in five different sections: a) institutional reforms and actions, b) data interoperability, c) policy measures, d) information and awareness campaigns, e) miscellaneous actions.  The Ministry of Labor, Social Security and Social Solidarity, throughthe Labor Inspectorate (SEPE), is in the final stage of preparation for the ratification of ILO Convention 129 "On Inspection in Agriculture" (referred to in the abovementioned Roadmap), which is expected to create a new framework for carrying out inspections in agriculture, in order to identify and address phenomena of labor exploitation.  In addition, SEPE has committed itself to a series of actions that are expected to be implemented by 2023 and are part of the National Action Plan 2019-2023 on Combating Trafficking in Human Beings. The first action concerns the training of labor inspectors on trafficking in human beings.  It is also envisaged to optimize data collection and processing of SEPE statistical data on forced labor and to create an integrated institutional framework for cooperation with the Hellenic Police, the National Referral Mechanism and the National Center for Social Solidarity.  Finally, in the framework of the Operational Action Plan on Serious and Organized Transnational Crime, which was ratified by the EU Standing Committee on Operational Cooperation on Internal Security (COSI) on 14 December 2017 and is coordinated by Europol, SEPE carries out, since 2017, joint action days with the Hellenic Police, on combating organized criminal networks involved in human trafficking cases for the purpose of labor exploitation.  Following a fire that erupted in tents where farm laborers working in the region of Manolada were living, and taking into account the Fire Department report, as well as data on the farm laborers concerned from the Information System “Ergani”, SEPE filed a criminal report to the competent Public Prosecutor on the intentional employment of illegally staying third-country nationals, who are employed under particularly exploitative conditions. The Public Prosecutor issued an act recognizing the foreign farm laborers concerned as persons employed under particularly exploitative conditions, having hence the right to be granted a residence permit on humanitarian grounds. |
| 134.128 Urgently strengthen the capacities of the Asylum Service (Austria);  134.145 Continue to develop its national Asylum Service while paying special attention to human rights, to living conditions of reception facilities and to the needs of vulnerable groups (Finland);  134.133 Work for the amelioration of the situation of migrants, particularly with regard to access to, and quality of, the asylum procedure, as well as the conditions in detention centres, and to ensure that full respect for human rights of all migrants and protection is granted to refugees in line with Greece’s international obligations (Sweden); | Greece's intake of asylum seekers continues to be one of the highest in Europe, both in absolute figures and especially in terms of the ratio between asylum seekers and permanent residents. In 2018, a total of 66.968asylum applications were lodged (the 3rd highest number amongst EU Member States), compared to 58.642 applications submitted in 2017, an increase of 14, 2 %. Among them 2.639 applications were by unaccompanied minors (UAMs). Furthermore,30.747 decisions in substance were issued, of which 15.187 grant international protection status (refugee status and subsidiary protection). The recognition rate (taking into account applications examined as to their substance[[1]](#footnote-2)) amounted to 49,39%.  During the period January-September 2018, the total number of applications submitted on the five islands of Eastern Aegean (Lesvos, Chios, Kos, Leros, Samos) was 32.019, against 26.652 in the corresponding period of 2017, an increase of 83,24. Among the total applications processed, 1.185 were submitted by UAMs.  The Asylum Service operates twelve Regional Asylum Offices and eleven Asylum Units, which means that adequate regional coverage is provided. The Service's staff, consisting of 679 permanent and contracted employees, has tripled in size within four years and is being assisted by EASO's (European Asylum Support Office) deployments. Moreover, the work of the Asylum Service is assisted by 25 police officers.  Asylum seekers may register an international protection application at the Asylum Service by presenting themselves at the nearest Regional Asylum Office (RAO) or Asylum Unit. Nevertheless, the use of "Skype" for the registration of applications, despite occasional technical difficulties, has contributed significantly to facilitating access to the asylum procedure as well as to the breaking down of the exploitation rings asylum seekers used to resort to in order to access the asylum procedure before 2013.  Furthermore, by Law 4375/2016(art.44, para.3), the provision of legal assistance free of charge was instituted at the second instance, that is for cases being examined by the Appeal Committees. In this regard, a roster of lawyers has been constituted according to the Asylum Decision. In 2018, 31 lawyers provided free legal aid in 3.351 asylum cases.There is a plan to expand free legal aid at all stages of asylum procedures. In addition, legal aid free of charge has been provided to applicants through UNHCR, by virtue of a Memorandum of cooperation between the Ministry of Migration Policy and the UNHCR.  Law 4540/2018 incorporated European Directive 2013/33/ EU laying down standards for the reception of applicants for international protection and introduced provisions aimed, *inter alia*, at rationalizing and accelerating the examination procedure of asylum applications, ensuring greater care for minors and unaccompanied minors, improving examination capacities and vulnerability identification as well as harmonizing the Immigration and Social Integration Code with the legislation on the cohabitation pact. The Law contains provisions on education, vocational training, material conditions of reception and health care.  Law 4554/2018 introduced legal provisions and mechanisms for the protection of unaccompanied and separated minors in the national framework, ensuring the representation of children, the exercise of their rights, their access to public services as well as the assessment and determination of their best interests.  Furthermore, in 2018 an official registry for Non-Governmental Organizations active in refugee issues and/or cooperating with the Ministry of Migration Policy has been established by the said Ministry(Decision Nr. 7586/18/17-10-2018).  Regarding national legislation on victims of trafficking in human beings, the formal recognition of a victim of THB is done by the Public Prosecutor’s Office. The victim has first to lodge a formal complaint with the Hellenic Police, which has a special THB department. Following the establishment of the National Referral Mechanism (NRM, operating officially from 01/01/2019) any case of suspected THB is reported to the Public Prosecutor’s Office and EKKA (National Centre of Social Solidarity) even if the putative victim refuses to cooperate with the Hellenic Police. Greek Asylum Service will start to refer possible identified victims of trafficking to EKKA and the NRM.  Regarding the best interest of the child, Greek Asylum Service has developed in 2018a tool, Best Interests Assessment (BIA), for the assessment of the best interests of children in the context of family reunification or the Dublin Procedures.  In 2018, under the Joint Ministerial Decision n.47094/28-08-18, special procedures VISA-type B for family reunification purposes have been regulated. |
| 134.132 Ensure that the legislative and policy response to increases in irregular migration is consistent with international human rights and refugee law, particularly the principle of non-refoulement (Canada); | The Hellenic Police Headquarters has issued and transmitted to all competent Police Authorities instructions, regarding the protection of the human rights of irregular migrants arriving in Greece, with particular emphasis on ensuring the right to request an international protection status and to access all legal remedies provided. In this context, it is specified that no individual who is under detention and applies for international protection is returned, until the examination of their application, in accordance with the Geneva Convention, the procedures provided for in Directive 2013/32/ EU, which was transposed into our national legislation by Law 4375/2016, the case-law of the Council of State and the relevant provisions of domestic and international law.  Everyone who applies for asylum in Greece has his/her application treated on a caseby-case basis, in line with EU and international law requirements and the principle of non-refoulement. In each case there are individual interviews, individual assessments and the right of appeal. There are no blanket or automatic returns of migrants or asylum seekers. |
| 134.140 Continue to provide assistance and protect the rights of irregular migrants fleeing from conflict through partnerships at the regional and international level (Malaysia);  134.141 Ensure systematic provision of adequate information to all refugees and migrants arriving in Greece on asylum procedures, the European Union relocation scheme and family reunification possibilities (Namibia); | During the reception and identification procedures, the third country nationals or stateless persons arriving in the country are systematically informed about their rights and obligations, with regard, in particular, to the asylum procedure, the family reunification procedure under the regulation Dublin III and the Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration Programs (AVRR). Additionally, UNHCR and IOM may provide information to persons falling under reception and identification procedures, as well as any other form of assistance, in accordance with their respective mandate and competences.  There has been an effort from all authorities to improve the provision of information to applicants for international protection through the Asylum Service site. Moreover, Greek authorities try to provide information by all means (orally, by electronic means, in written form) to third country nationals and asylum applicants, especially at the borders and during their application process.  The Greek Asylum Service, in order to facilitate the applicants for International Protection and enhance the effectiveness of the Asylum Service, has created audiovisual information on the Asylum procedure translated into 8 languages and an application providing information for mobile phones free of charge. The application is available in Greek, English, French, Arabic, Farsi/Dari, Urdu, Amharic and Tigrinya.  In addition, the Greek Asylum Service distributes an information leaflet regarding the asylum procedures translated into 19 languages. |
| 134.129 Ensure adequate reception conditions so that asylum seekers receive support in line with the requirements of the European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms and of European Union law (Austria);  134.131 Pay particular priority for improving reception conditions for refugees and migrants and continue its efforts for a more efficient asylum procedure (Norway);  134.143 In cooperation with other European nations and international organizations, work to improve resources, living conditions, and safety at migrant processing centres (United States of America);  134.144 Redouble efforts to ensure decent living conditions for migrants and asylum seekers in the reception centres (Costa Rica);  134.150 Give necessary attention to the safety of migrants and international staff deployed in the reception centres on the Greek islands (Belgium); | During all the reception and identification procedures, the Head and the staff of the Reception and Identification Centers (RICs) are responsible to ensure: a) dignified reception conditions, b) family unity, c) access to necessary medical assistance and potential treatment or psychosocial support, d) provision of special care to vulnerable groups, e) provision of sufficient information on the concerned persons’ rights and obligations, f) access to legal aid, g) contact with actors of civil society involved in the field of migration and h) facilitation of contact with family and friends.The main objective is to provide humane conditions and respect for their dignity to all third country nationals who reside in the RICs, and especially to minors, with the support of specially trained staff and NGOs.  All necessary procedures take place at the “hotspots” in accordance with European and national legislation. Third-country nationals who are transferred there, are submitted to registration, identity and nationality identification and fingerprinting. They are provided with all the necessary information about their rights and obligations and all the conditions, under which they can apply for international protection. Medical treatment and psychosocial support are provided to those in need and there is special care for persons with specific needs or vulnerabilities.  In 2017-2018, all services involved in managing the RICshave made great steps to protect people from trafficking in human beings and identify victims of trafficking. For example: a) a common to all RICs Vulnerability Assessment is applied to migrants and asylum seekers that includes indicators for trafficking in human beings; b) professionals applying the Vulnerability Assessment have been trained on identifying human trafficking; c) trainings on human trafficking have been carried out to address professionals working at the Asylum Services and at First Reception Services; d) a child protection officer has been nominated in each RIC, receiving basic training on human trafficking; e) Safe Zones for unaccompanied minors have been delimited in all RICs; f) in some islands, the Network of Guardians coordinated by the NGO Metadrasi appoints a Guardian for every unaccompanied minor immediately after disembarkation; g) the Office of the National Rapporteur on Trafficking in Human Beings has consistently advocated for more women patrolling in RICs; h) concerning the referral pathways in RICs, the National Referral Mechanism has foreseen specific SOPs.  During the periodJanuary-September 2018, a total of 5.316referrals of vulnerable persons were made, compared to 4.398in the corresponding period of 2017. Such referrals have as a result the lifting of geographical restrictionson the movement of the asylum seekersconcerned, who are transferred to the mainland. The abovementioned transfers allow for the decongestion of overcrowded RICs; however, the number of new arrivals to the RICs, although significantly lower compared to the period before the EU-Turkey Statement, remains high. |
| 134.146 Continue to reinforce strategies to avoid the prolonged stay of migrants, particularly unaccompanied minors, in centres without the necessary care infrastructure (Mexico);  134.147 Take measures, together with her international partners, to increase shelter capacity for asylum-seekers and unaccompanied children (Namibia);  134.148 Continue efforts to ensure decent living conditions in all reception and detention centres for migrants and asylum seekers by providing adequate healthcare services, food, sanitary conditions and access to transportation (Timor-Leste);  134.151 Take measures to improve the monitoring, identification and care of unaccompanied minors who arrive in the country (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);  134.152 Establish and adequately resource a well-functioning guardianship and care system for unaccompanied minor refugees or asylum seekers (Norway);  134.153 Consider assigning full authority to a body to supervise issues relevant to the protection of unaccompanied immigrant minors in coordination with other agencies (Panama);  134.154 Undertake measures to improve the legislative base with the aim of increasing the effectiveness of institutions providing guardianship to unaccompanied children (Russian Federation).  136.26 Prohibit the detention of unaccompanied children in law and end it in practice, and increase shelter capacity for unaccompanied children seeking asylum (Belgium). | Law 4554/2018 was recently adopted to promote, on an organized basis, the implementation of the institution of guardianship of unaccompanied minors remaining in the country, to strengthen the cooperation and coordination of the actors involved and, in particular, to ensure the right of children and young people to social and legal protection, care and medical assistance, always in the light of the best interests of the child.Among other issues, the abovementioned law foresees the appointment of a guardianfor every unaccompanied minor within the Greek territory, defines the procedure for the evaluation of the best interests of the unaccompanied minors, gives unaccompanied children the option to be accommodated in semi-autonomous living facilities as foreseen in Law 4540/2018and provides that childcare of unaccompanied minors can be assigned to foster parents.  The fundamental principles underpinning the new legislative framework are the following: prohibition of discrimination; independence and impartiality, which are achieved by excluding organizations and foundations from undertaking duties of guardianship; ensuring quality by providing that guardians have in principle the appropriate professional qualifications, knowledge and skills and that they are adequately and continuously trained by the authorities in charge; sustainability, by allocating sufficient human and economic resources; ensuring unaccompanied minors’ participation to safeguard that children receive in a comprehensible manner the information needed regarding the operation of the guardianship system and all the available services that provide them assistance.  In addition it is stipulated that a Supervisory Board of Unaccompanied Minors shall be established, as well as Registers ofunaccompanied minors, professional guardians and accommodation centers for unaccompanied minors, and a Directorate for the Protection of Unaccompanied Minors in the framework of the National Center of Social Solidarity (EKKA). The latter is responsible, *inter alia*, for keeping the Registers, as well as for the procedure of selection of Professional Guardian, and their training, overseeing and support. The new Department for the Protection of Unaccompanied Minors will be responsible for managing temporary accommodation places (safe zones, hostels) and for monitoring the conditions for the operation of accommodation centers for unaccompanied minors and for the improvement of the latter’s quality and services.  Finally, EKKA’s institutional mission is revised to allow the Center to successfully respond to its new responsibilities such as the implementation of the law on fostering or adoption, the special Guardianship for unaccompanied minor refugees and the psycho-social support to vulnerable social groups.  On 28 February 2019, according to updated data from the National Centre for Social Solidarity, the estimated number of unaccompanied minors in Greece amounted to 3.770 of whom 93.8% were boys, 6,2% girls, while 7.2% were under 14 years old.  There are 47 Hospitality Structures for Unaccompanied Minors that operate both on the islands and in Greece’s mainland, with a total capacity of 1,057accommodation places. There are 7 supervised guest apartments for unaccompanied children of more than 16 years of age, with a total capacity of 28 places. There are also temporary accommodation places in 10 safe zones with a total capacity of 300 places and 17 hotels with a total capacity of 662 places.  OAED is now running, as Leader, a project of high importance on adult learning/skills strategy for young refugees: the project **"Innovative Response for Facilitating Young Refugees' Social Support - I.ReF.SoS"(2017-2019)**, under ERASMUS+ Strategic Partnership for Youth. The project focuses on early integration actions for young refugees/asylum seekers (age 16-24), aiming at producing impact and strengthening youth, educational and training policies in the field, through the involvement of different stakeholders, such as public bodies, social partner and private training organizations from three countries, facing great challenges in this field, such as Greece (OAED and Social Partner Organization-KANEP/GSEE), Turkey (Ministry of National Education) and Germany (Training Organization-DEKRA). In order to effectively use the time and duration of the refugees’ route, this strategic partnership aims at creating, testing, adopting and disseminating a coherent innovative process and package of linguistic and cultural support, counselling and vocational guidance, according to the individual needs of the target group. |
| 134.142 Ensure the most vulnerable asylum seekers and migrants — such as women who are pregnant or with young children, unaccompanied minors, and persons with disabilities — have access to basic services and safe, adequate living conditions, including by increasing shelter capacity (Canada); | In December 2016, the General Secretariat for Gender Equality (GSGE)/Ministry of Interior signed a Protocol of Cooperation with the following stakeholders:General Secretariat for Reception/Ministry of Migration Policy, General Secretariat for Public Health/Ministry of Health, Ministry of National Defense, Research Center for Gender Equality, Association of Greek Regions, Central Union of Greek Municipalities, National Center for Social Solidarity, Hellenic Agency for Local Development and Local Government.  The aim of the Protocol is to adopt a common framework of procedures for identifying, referring and hosting, as well as providing counseling services and actions to, women refugees, victims or potential victims of violence and to their children, as well as women refugees heads of single parent families, through the Network of Structures of the GSGE.  The GSGE provides additional protection to refugee women who belong –in accordance with the law (Law 4375/2016)- to extremely vulnerable groups, such as women who have been victims of gender-based violence or/and women exposed to serious risk of gender-based violence and single women with their children. More specifically, separate safe accommodation in the 21 shelters operating almost all over the country, psychosocial support and, if needed, legal counseling regarding issues such as asylum procedures, relocation etc., are offered to the aforementioned categories of women. The participation of NGOs to this work is essential, due to their presence and help in different stages of the procedure. Their opinions are also taken into consideration, as they are the key actors in the field.  This policy initiative has already resulted in giving care to 151 beneficiaries, 126 of whom have been sheltered in the Structures of the Network. 79 out of the 126 are refugee mothers; at the same time, 164 children have been sheltered and offered services in the Structures of the Mechanism.  The GSGE provides essential services to women refugees, victims or potential victims of violence and their children, in the framework of the Network of Structures for Preventing and Combating Violence Against Women, which includes:  -about 40 Counseling Centers for Refugees referred by Reception and Identification Centers, as well as open structures or NGOs that offer social support, information, psychological support, job and legal counseling, facilitation of access to health services and referral to hosting facilities;  -about 21 hosting structures which may receive refugee women referred by the Counseling Centers or the Municipal Social Services or EKKA and provide safe accommodation, feeding, psychosocial support, work and legal counseling, facilitation of access to health services and school enrollment for children;  -the bilingual (Greek and English) SOS help- line 15900, which provides support and counseling to women victims of all forms of gender-based violence;  Moreover, the GSGE keeps records of refugee women victims or potential victims of violence and their children hosted in the accommodation facilities network, in collaboration with the Hellenic Agency for Local Development and Local Government (E.E.T.A.A.). In addition, it ensures the adoption of joint actions with the UNHCR under a relevant Memorandum of Understanding, with the aim of eliminating the problems that women refugees and their children experience in Greece. |
| 134.149 Ensure decent living conditions in all reception and detention centres for migrants and asylum seekers by providing adequate services (Uganda);  136.24 Limit the use of detention of asylum seekers, refugees and stateless persons (Norway); | The detention of irregular migrants who enter or live in Greece is foreseen in specific legislative provisions, harmonized with the applicable EU law.  In order to ensure the correct implementation of EU Directive 2008/115/E.C, clear guidance has been given, and steps are taken, to ensure that third-country nationals under a return procedure, are not detained in police detention centers, but are transferred to pre-removal detention centers after their identification and the issuance of the necessary administrative decisions.  Detention may be imposed only for the strictly necessary period of time for the removal procedure with a maximum period of six (6) months, which may be extended for an additional twelve (12) months period in cases where, despite the reasonable efforts of the relevant Services, the removal procedure is likely to last longer, due to the fact that the third-country national refuses to cooperate or to other delays, such as with regard to the issuance of the necessary documents by third countries’ Authorities.  In any case, the imposition or extension of the detention measure is related with the availability of detention facilities and the possibility of securing appropriate living conditions for the detainees.  Among the measures taken as alternatives to detention is the stay in open or semi-open reception and identification centers (RICs) in the Eastern Aegean islands, with a parallel obligation to stay in a certain place and the additional obligation of non-departure from the island (geographical restriction).  In addition, as part of the measures taken for the management of the migrants hosted at the Reception and Identification Centers in the Eastern Aegean islands, the possibility of voluntary return was granted (through programs of the IOM), as an alternative option for irregular migrants who cannot continue their travel to central and northern Europe.  As regards the detention of asylum seekers,Law 4540/2018 incorporatesthe corresponding provisions of EU Directive 2013/33/ EU, with special attention being paid to vulnerable groups. In particular, communication is ensured between detained applicants and family members, their legal representatives as well as representatives of organizations acting on their behalf. Detention takes place in premises that respect human dignity and not in the same area as prisoners of criminal law. During the detention, the mental health of the detainees is of primary concern.  According to Law 4540/2018, and in accordance with relevant EU law, the detention of unaccompanied minors may be decided only as a last resort, and always in light of their best interest or if alternative or less restrictive measures could not be implemented. Detention of minors should be as short as possible and every effort must be made to refer the minors concerned to appropriate hospitality structures. Such period of time cannot exceed 25 days, but may exceptionally be extended for another 20 days, in case of a significant increase in the number of minors entering Greece, hampering the efforts of the authorities to refer the minors to an appropriate structure. |

1. This term includes decisions of applications on the merits, refugee status, subsidiary status and inadmissible. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)