

Country: Greece

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No. Asylum seekers 2007	No. of persons granted protection	No. of Ngos'/ GOs'/ projects offering mental health services	No. of NGOs'/ GOs'/ projects working with persons with broken family links	No. of NGOs'/ GOs'/ projects working with survivors of torture	No. of NGOs'/ GOs'/ projects working with the elderly and frail
25 113	163	3	1 Hellenic Red Cross	1	Hellenic Red Cross and CARITAS + Several other NGOs

Access to health system: Public hospitals accept asylum seekers and offer them free of charge medical care and medicines.

Legal Access to mental health care: The asylum seekers and the persons that have been granted protection have legal right to access mental health care.

Ministry of Health and Social Solidarity is funding various NGOs to operate programs offering mental health services.

Systematic assessment of mental health needs: There is no systematic assessment of the mental health of the asylum seekers at any stage of the asylum process. The needs are identified by the records of the NGOs and the reports they sent to the Ministry of Health and Social Solidarity.

Main stakeholders in the asylum system: Greek Police – directorate of Foreigners, Greek Council for Refugees, Greek Red Cross, CARITAS, Asylum Departments of the Directorate of Foreigners

Country specific features: What drew my attention? Large number of asylum seekers, state funds allocated for NGOs to operate health programs for as. seekers and refugees, incl. mental health care. In serious medical cases the hospitals offer care even to persons without documents. All the public hospitals that operate psychiatric clinics offer services to asylum seekers who need it. Asylum procedure is conducted by the Greek police.

Difficulties: Large numbers of asylum seekers and migrants, especially without documents.