



**Erasmus+ KA229**

# **Refugees & Migrants: The Past, The Present and The Future**

## **Job and Education Possibilities for Refugees and Migrants in Greece**

**4th International Meeting  
Bitonto, Italy  
April 2022**



# Access to Education

According to the **International Protection Agency**, asylum-seeking children are required to attend primary and secondary school under the public education system within similar conditions as Greek nationals.

Children aged between 6-17 years, living in dispersed urban settings (such as ESTIA accommodation, squats, apartments, hotels, and reception centers for asylum seekers and unaccompanied children), may go to schools near their place of residence, to enroll in the morning classes alongside Greek children.

# Access to Education

**However the school attendance rate is not the ideal.**

**At the end of 2020 it is estimated that a total of 44,000 refugee and immigrant children were in Greece, of which only one third enrolled in education.**



# Access to Education

**Children's access to education is challenged by a number of factors such as:**

- **Covid-19 pandemic, which led to record levels of exclusion of refugee children from the Greek system of education**
- **The lack of transportation**
- **Understaffing of reception classes**
- **Negativity or reluctance by some local communities as well as refugee families**

# Access to Education

According to the Greek Ombudsman in March 2021:

- Even though slightly more than 62% of school-aged children **living in the camps** were formally enrolled to education, only 14.2% were actually able to attend.
- Things are worse for the vast majority of children **in the Eastern Aegean islands**, who have to stay for extended periods under geographical restriction with their parents or until a place of accommodation is found in the case of unaccompanied children.

# Adult Education

There are several educational programs for adults organized by state or private agencies, NGOs, Universities and Centres for Vocational Training.

- ❖ **Schools of Second Chance** are for adults who have not completed mandatory education.
- ❖ **Centres for Lifelong Learning**
- ❖ **Greek language courses**



# Job Opportunities

Work opportunities for immigrants and refugees are essential for successful **integration** into society and becoming part of the host country's economic potential.

Within the framework of NGO's there are programs that focus on supporting refugees and migrants to integrate into the Greek labour market.



# Job Opportunities

## WHO HAS THE RIGHT TO WORK

**Refugees who possess a valid “applicant for international protection card” or “asylum seeker’s card”, have the right to access employment with a salary or with provision of services or work.**

**To work legally, you must have a tax number (AFM) and a social security number (AMKA).**

# Best Work Opportunities for Immigrants and Refugees in Greece

1. Interpreters and cultural mediators
2. Researcher for migration issues
3. Agricultural workers
4. Construction workers
5. Housekeepers
6. Tourism workers



**Welcome**  
HOSPITALITY  
CAREER WEEK



# Job Opportunities # Difficulties

Finding work for refugees and migrants can be difficult at the best of times, but in Greece, that was hit hard by the economic crisis, that challenge can be even greater.

**In theory**, as soon as they have filed their asylum application, refugees and migrants are allowed to work in Greece.

**In practice**, according to the Greek Council for Refugees, it is not always easy to gain acceptance on the job market.

# Job Opportunities # Difficulties

**For the foreign-born** population of Greece, unemployment between 2014-17 was significantly higher than all other developed countries and stood at **29,9%** overall. It was even higher for women than men.

In a country of just over 11 million people, around 70,000 **migrants and refugees** live in Greece. Of them, only about **10%** have jobs.

# Barriers to find a job

1. **Language** is the greatest barrier to most migrants and refugees.
2. **Lack of access to financial services**
  - for example they cannot open a bank account or
  - obtain a Greek Tax Registration Number.
3. **When applying for vocational training, refugees and asylum seekers face similar difficulties. Although legally they have the same rights as any other Greek citizen to apply, their application is often rejected if they don't possess, or have access to the correct documents.**
4. **Difficulties in gaining acceptance on the job market.**

# Refugees talk...

**Mokhtar Rezai from Afghanistan, arrived alone in Greece in 2001 as a 15-year-old and received his refugee status some nine years later**



**He has attended Greek school  
and was the first Afghan  
who sat and succeeded in the nationwide  
university entrance exams. Since then, he has  
become President of the Afghan community in Greece,  
the Vice-President of the Greek Refugee Forum.**

# Refugees talk...

**“The road towards integration is not easy, it requires significant effort, persistence and resolve. On my way, I faced many obstacles, but I was determined to overcome them, to focus on the solution”.**

**Through these discussions, I hope to share my experience, actually a part of myself, with other refugees. And I want to pass on the message that:**

**Integration needs the society's support to be successful**

**but also,**

**A successful society needs to invest in integration”**



Migrants

Natives