

Reception of asylum seekers and unaccompanied minors

Seminar "Reception of asylum seekers in Norway and Greece: the role of local authorities"

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Presentation Diagram

- Legal framework
- The host framework in practice
- Reception Strategic Planning
- UNHCR's Work
- Conclusions

Reception as a pillar of migration and refugee policies

- First Reception (identifying needs and profiles) - Referral - Role of the Guardian of unaccompanied minors
- Asylum Procedures
- Reception Asylum Seekers and Unaccompanied Minors
- Transfer according to the Dublin Regulation/Return

Communicating Vessels

Reception of Asylum Seekers

Presidential Decree 220/2007 (EU Directive on Reception)

- Cover of basic needs (shelter and food)
- Access to employment
- Access to healthcare
- Access to education

Reception of Unaccompanied Minors (asylum seekers)

Presidential Decree 220/2007 (EU
Directive on Reception)

- Representation for all minors and definition of the Guardian (article 19)

Convention on the Rights of the Child

Civil Code on Guardianship

Reception Centres

- 10 Reception Centres for unaccompanied minors - 6 for families and adults
- 358 places for unaccompanied minors and 648 for families and adults
- Reception Services: legal, social, psychological assistance, interpreter

Features of the Reception Centres

- Run by non-state actors, typically NGOs
- Funded almost entirely by other funds, except for the state budget
- Lack of a regulated operational framework
- Some are remote from urban centres

Strategy and Reception Policies

- Approaching Reception by the State only through financing programs
- Increasing needs, inadequacy of Reception places, first attempt of a holistic approach through establishing the Department of Refugee in the Directorate of SC Welfare
- The sector on reception under welfare policies, both in the Department of Health and the Ministry of Labour, less prioritized.
- Need for a certification process, for performance control mechanisms and standard operating rules of procedures

New data: Decision MSS v. Belgium and Greece

Lack of adequate standards for reception conditions amounting to humiliating or degrading treatment (violation of Article 3 ECHR)

Ongoing infringement procedures from the EU for the reception of asylum seekers in Greece.

Actions of UNHCR on Reception

- Support of efforts to shape policy and tools in parallel with increase of Reception places
 - Suggestions for improving policies through the promotion and use of good practices (Program «Children on the move»)
 - Elaboration of rules of Standard Operating Procedures in cooperation with the competent Ministry Dpmt (Directorate of Welfare) and in consultation with the operators who run the reception centers
 - Material assistance to Reception Centers (improving buildings, provision of equipment)
 - Support to centers with educational seminars and Special Advisor for cooperation and consolidation of concerted practices
- Providing expertise through the participation in the Advisory Committee of the ERF

Conclusions

- Need for adopting a strategy for the reception of asylum seekers (identification of needs, action plan and costing)
- Involvement of local authorities (integration and acceptance)
- Use of financial recourses on the basis of the Action plan for Asylum and Migration Management of the Greek Government
- Interministerial Coordination of competent Departments
- Adoption of the rules of Standard Operating Procedures