

RELOCATION

Sharing responsibility

September 2017

Europe has consistently shown generosity and true solidarity towards those in need of protection during the migration crisis. Over the past year alone, we have opened our doors to more than 720,000 persons in need of protection. The relocation scheme has contributed to ensuring that responsibility is shared fairly between Member States.

RELOCATION – SHARING RESPONSIBILITY WITHIN THE EU



*«We have made enormous progress on relocation over the past two years. The success of the scheme must be assessed against its capability **to relocate all those present and eligible – a perfectly feasible objective** if Member States continue their efforts during the last stage of the scheme.»*

EU Migration Commissioner **Avramopoulos**

In September 2015, based on a proposal by the Commission, Member States decided to set up an Emergency Relocation System to support Italy and Greece who were faced with an unprecedented increase in arrivals. Two years on, almost all persons registered for relocation in Greece and Italy have been successfully relocated – a total of over 29,000 persons in need of international protection. The results achieved so far show that relocation works – helping refugees start a new life and ensuring that responsibility is shared amongst Member States.

FACTS AND FIGURES:

How many in total?

The relocation scheme applies to eligible asylum seekers arriving in Greece and Italy between September 2015 and September 2017. Based on the arrival figures at the time and the expectation that they would continue at the same rate, Member States agreed to support Greece with the relocation of 63,302 persons in need of international protection and Italy with 34,953 – a total of **around 98,000**. But with the EU-Turkey Statement reducing irregular flows to Greece by 97 % and the majority of migrants arriving in Italy not being eligible, the **number of persons to be relocated turned out to be much lower**.

Who is eligible?

Nationalities with an overall asylum recognition rate of **75% or higher** in EU Member States. Currently: Eritrea, Syria, Yemen, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bhutan, Qatar, United Arab Emirates.

How many relocations so far?

Total: **29,144**
From **Greece**: 20,066
From **Italy**: 9,078

How many still to be relocated?

At the moment, there are around **2,000 persons in Greece** awaiting relocation with another up to 2,000 that might still be registered. In **Italy, 7,200 eligible** persons have arrived in 2017 so far – but only 4,000 have been registered. Italy therefore needs to step up efforts to swiftly identify and register all remaining applicants eligible for relocation.

All have to contribute

Setting up the relocation mechanism was decided by Member States in legally binding Council decisions. Almost all Member States have respected their legal obligations with regular pledges and relocations. The Czech Republic, Hungary and Poland are the only exceptions and the Commission has therefore launched **infringement procedures** against them.

For how long?

The Council Decisions of 2015 apply to eligible persons in clear need of international protection arriving in the territory of Italy and Greece until 26 September 2017. Member States should therefore step up their efforts and ensure that those eligible are relocated quickly thereafter.