



# AUTh IO5

## Supporting Refugees on Legal and Health Care Issues S.U.C.R.E.

Anna-Maria Konsta  
School of Law  
Aristotle University of Thessaloniki



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Co-funded by the  
Erasmus+ Programme  
of the European Union



# IO5-Deliverables and Objective

- D9: A digital/online module and monitoring/recommendations guidelines for trainers regarding health support of refugees
- D10: A digital/online module and monitoring/recommendations guidelines for trainers regarding legal support of refugees
- The main objective for IO5 is: Health and legal training on immigration and asylum addressed to persons and organizations (governmental, NGOs, local) involved in the reception of migrants/asylum seekers.

# IO5 – Project Activities

- Activity 1: Developing training modules on issues related to Legal services
- Activity 2: Developing training modules on issues related to health care services
- Activity 3: Developing training modules on issues related to health care and legal services
- Activity 4: Monitoring and evaluation of the health/legal support

# IO5-Activity 1

- Developing training modules on issues related to Legal services. This activity deals with legal training on the current EU and national legal framework on immigration and asylum addressed to persons and organizations (governmental, NGOs, local) involved in the reception of migrants/asylum seekers.

# Activity 2

- Developing training modules on issues related to health care services. This activity has as its main objective to develop a training module on issues related to health services/support in the country reception and/or at reception places of immigrants/refugees as well as on providing counseling and basic information to newcomers.

# Activity 3

- Developing training modules on issues related to health care and legal services. This activity deals more specifically with health insurance and social protection of the refugees/immigrants, specifying their relevant rights and assessing the available resources on these issues.

# Activity 4

- Monitoring and evaluation of the health/legal support. This activity monitors how the respective module is implemented as well as listening to feedback from project recipients, in order to produce a final report with guidelines/recommendations on legal support.

# Activities 1-3

- For Activities 1-3, AUTh and GCR had to:
  - Identify potential participants (organizations and people)
  - Mobilize participants and construct 1 focus group
  - contribute to the bibliography, study material and session plans for the development of the online module
  - Conduct training workshops

# Activities 1-3

- VU Amsterdam and University of Cologne had to:
- Distribute questionnaires and/or conduct interviews with individual refugee students in their respective Universities in an attempt to identify refugee specific legal needs both in educational and community contexts.
- Contribute to the bibliography for the online courses.

# Activity 4

- AUTh and the GCR had to:
- contribute to a final report on monitoring/recommendations guidelines for trainers regarding legal and health support for refugees, which also includes the results of the focus group for each activity, and questionnaires/interviews.

# AUTh

- collected the bibliography,
- prepared, after request by the partners, the questionnaires for activities 1-3 to be handed out to refugee students by VU Amsterdam and University of Cologne. Both partner Universities edited the questions and prepared the final questionnaires,
- organized the material for the online module,
- identified and mobilized participants for the focus group for each activity,
- organized the focus group for activities 1-3,
- produced the final educational material,
- produced the final report on monitoring/recommendations guidelines for trainers regarding legal and health support for refugees.

# GCR

- GCR contributed mainly on the legal aspects of IO5, i.e. activities 1,3 and 4 at all stages of its involvement in the project. In the case of activity 2 related to support of refugees on health issues, GCR provided support on the identification and mobilization on potential participants.

# Focus group for activities 1-3

- Organized by AUTh on 10.03.2017 took place at the Building of Basic Sciences of the Medical School
- Participants: GCR (members of social and economic services), members of Doctors of the World (doctors and social workers) and lawyers - members of NGOs (13 participants in total).
- The same group convened separately for each activity.

- During the focus groups for each separate activity (activities 1-3), the practical problems (legal and medical) that refugees/migrants face daily in refugee camps, and in places of more permanent accommodation, as well as issues of social protection, were discussed. In particular, proposals were made regarding the better integration of refugees/migrants in higher education.
- After processing the results of the focus group in relation to the first three activities of IO5, the AUTh team research team in cooperation with the GCR team has produced the digital educational/training material in September 2017.



# Training Workshops on Legal and Health Issues

- The material was tested and evaluated by participants during training workshops that were organized at AUTH from 15-19 March 2018.
- The participants were mainly persons involved in the protection of refugees from NGOs, local public authorities and lawyers.
- Overall, there was positive assessment of the workshops' evaluation on legal support.
- Also the digital material was updated in June 2018 to meet new legal developments in Greece.



# Training Material – Activity 1

The educational material concerning law issues consists of five parts:

- Part I: useful definitions on refugee law matters.
- Part II: the refugee status determination (RSD) according to the UNHCR Refugees' Determination status handbook.
- Part III: normal and special asylum procedures, according to Directive 2013/32/EU.
- Part IV: the minimum standards of reception conditions according to Directive 2013/33/EU and the Greek Presidential Decree 220/2007 in combination with the Greek Laws 4375/2016, 4368/2016 and 4540/2018.
- Part V: the administrative detention of asylum seekers according to Greek Laws 4540/2018, 4375/2016, 3907/2011 and 3386/2005.
- Moreover, the bibliography of the theoretical basis concerning refugee protection law, and useful educational material, such as relevant case-law and legislative texts are to be found attached in this part of the course.



# Training Material – Activity 3

- It consists of the following parts:
- Part I: Access to Health
- PART II: Pension for uninsured adults - Requirements & Supporting Documents
- PART III: Recognized refugees rights
- PART IV: Benefits and allowances in Greece
- Relevant legislative texts are attached to this material.
- Additionally, we have included attached to the overall material leading cases of the ECtHR and CJEU, selected international and EU law provisions, and useful links.

# IO5-Recommendations I

- Taking into account the results of the focus groups, the interviews and the training workshops, SUCRE - IO5 on legal support has identified certain issues and made the following recommendations:
- Regarding asylum procedures, fast-track border procedure should not apply because it does not provide adequate safeguards. The composition of the Appeal Committees should guarantee the right to effective remedy.

# I05-Recommendations II

- Alternative to detention measures should be used instead of detention, especially for vulnerable groups, such as victims of torture, unaccompanied children, families with children and single parent families. Children should never be detained.
- Camp life should be organized on the basis of professional expertise. There should be : a) Decentralization of the camp life. Bodies should be formed according to the expertise of the camp residents, through supply of voluntary work. In order though for the residents to be allocated to several posts, they should be evaluated by relevant experts. b) The tasks of each team should be documented c) A Code of conduct should be followed according to central guidelines, for example it is deemed appropriate that any entity sent to the camp should be trained.

# IO5-Recommendations III

- Gender and Sexuality issues pertaining to the refugees and immigrants, should be brought forth and addressed. In the training material relevant CJEU cases for homosexual immigrants/refugees are included.
- There are problematic issues in document translation, which is often made by private individuals. Validation of these documents is needed. It is of prime importance that any refugee document submitted to public authorities should be certified by a central body, such as the university for example, in order for a refugee or an asylum seeker to acquire the student status.

# IO5-Recommendations IV

- Regarding social protection of asylum seekers:
- Applying for a Tax Registration Number is necessary for their access to accommodation and more benefits. The main problem is that asylum seekers have to bring to the competent tax authority proof of accommodation.
- According to Greek law, asylum seekers have the right to free public health care without having to apply for a Social Security Number. The main problem is that most of them cannot communicate in Greek or English and the hospitals do not have interpreters.
- Finally, asylum seekers do not have the right to apply for social benefits, such as social allowances.

# IO5-Recommendations V

- Regarding recognized refugees:
- they need to have proof of accommodation, in order to have access to public health and medical insurance.
- Due to language communication barriers, and difficulties in accessing information, refugees need support from social services. The refugee population has rapidly increased in Greece in the last few years, and thus it faces the main problem of lack of accommodation. With no accommodation refugees cannot integrate into the society and have access to social benefits.

# IO5-Recommendations VI

- There is a need for special training of trainers or anyone involved in refugee/immigrant issues. It is very important both for trainers and trainees to know the refugee status as described by the manual of the UNHCR . In this respect simplification of this manual is needed for training purposes.
- Any teaching and complementary educational material addressed to trainers and/or trainees could be in a mobile/smartphone friendly form.
- The case of being accepted for studying in another member state's higher education institution: Up to now individual universities decide, but there is no best practice so far. The refusal of academic admittance in another member state could violate the freedom of the immigrant/refugee's mobility.

# Impact of project

- The first impact of the project in the context of the focus groups and training workshops organized for activities 1 and 3 of IO5 has been positive. There was a consensus among the participants that there is generally a lack of organized training material and courses on supporting refugees on health and legal issues.

# Concluding Remarks

- There is a need for special training of trainers or anyone involved in refugee/immigrant issues. The Universities could be the responsible bodies for organizing these training courses.
- There is a need for the IO5 training material on legal issues to be used in the future, in order to produce more trainers. In this way, the service quality given to immigrants/refugees may be upgraded.