

European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA), selection of relevant and recent passages from published reports related to Greece

fra.europa.eu

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References to Greece marked in **bold**. NB: any footnotes in the original texts have been omitted from this overview. Furthermore, many reports contain relevant graphs and figures, which haven't been included in this document.

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Data Explorers and Tools

In addition to the relevant passages from recent FRA publications that are presented in this submission, valuable information can be found in the **data explorers** on FRA's website (available at <https://fra.europa.eu/en/publications-and-resources/data-and-maps>), which allows the comparison of results from some of FRA's research for all EU Member States, including **Greece**.

- [Fundamental Rights Survey](#) (last updated December 2020)
- [Forced return monitoring systems – State of play in EU Member States](#) (last updated July 2020)
- [EU LGBTI Survey data explorer](#) (last updated May 2020)
- [Minimum age requirements related to rights of the child in the EU](#) (last updated October 2018)
- [Second European Union Minorities and Discrimination Survey \(EU MIDIS II\) data explorer](#) (last updated December 2017)
- [Mapping child protection systems in the EU](#) (last updated August 2015)
- [Indicators on the right to political participation of people with disabilities](#) (last updated April 2015)
- [Mapping victims' rights and support in the EU](#) (last updated April 2014)
- [Violence against women survey data explorer](#) (last updated March 2014)

In addition to the data explorers, the FRA website also offers the [European Union Fundamental Rights Information System \(EFRIS\)](#). EFRIS is a Human Rights Gateway, bringing together data and information from existing human rights databases, and enables viewing and analysis of relevant assessments of fundamental rights in the EU.

Finally, the FRA website also includes the following **databases**:

- The [Criminal Detention Database 2015-2019](#), which combines in one place information on detention conditions in all EU Member States;
- [Anti-Muslim hatred Database 2012-2019](#), which provides information on significant international, European and national case law and rulings, UN human rights body decisions, reports, findings by human rights and equality bodies and organisations relating to hate crime, hate speech and discrimination against Muslims, as well as relevant research, reports, studies, data and statistics on these issues.

Annual Reports

Fundamental Rights Report 2020 (June 2020)

<https://fra.europa.eu/en/publication/2020/fundamental-rights-report-2020>

2. Equality and non-discrimination

“As outlined in this section, the rights of LGBTI persons did advance in several Member States in 2019, namely Belgium, Finland, **Greece**, Ireland, Malta, the Netherlands, Spain, and Sweden.” (p. 46)

“**Greece** has a new law on gender equality and combating gender-based violence, Law 4604/2019. It introduced a national mechanism for gender equality, which will also address discrimination based on gender identity and sexual orientation.” (p. 46)

3. Racism, xenophobia and related intolerance

“By November 2019, 14 States had adopted or endorsed the [non-legally binding working definition of antisemitism adopted by the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance]: Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Czechia, France, Germany, **Greece**, Hungary, Lithuania, the Netherlands, Romania, Slovakia, Sweden and the United Kingdom.” (p. 62)

“A number of Member States – including Belgium, **Greece** and the Netherlands – amended their criminal codes in 2019. For example, **Greece** introduced a new provision. It punishes incitement to commit crimes or violence against groups or individuals based on their race, colour, ethnic origin and religion, among other grounds.” (p.63)

“In **Greece**, the Racist Violence Recording Network documented 117 incidents of alleged racist violence in 2018. In 22, the perpetrators were allegedly law enforcement officials. Between June 2017 and December 2018 the National Investigation Mechanism for Arbitrary Incidents dealt with 321 cases, the Greek Ombudsman found. It investigated a potential racist motive of law enforcement officers in 21 of them.” (p.68)

“Promising practice: In 2019, several EU projects funded by the Rights, Equality and Citizenship Programme 2014-2020 developed multilingual tools and guidance for policymakers at national, regional and local level to address hate crime. These include:

- Network of Cooperation against Hate (NEw CHapter) – Denmark, **Greece**, Italy and the United Kingdom
 - o *A manual of good practices against hate*, with focus on youth
 - o NEw CHapter platform, listing tools to combat hate speech
- Facing All The Facts, with partners in **Greece**, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Spain and the United Kingdom
 - o European report – Connecting on hate crime: Recording and data collection – Emerging themes
 - o national reports
 - o bias indicator courses” (p.69)

4. Roma integration

“New policy initiatives in 2019 were limited, but Member States continued their efforts to improve Roma integration under existing policies following the Council Recommendation of 9 December 2013. For example, Croatia and **Greece** adopted their Roma integration strategies and action plans.” (p. 84)

“There were two positive developments on statelessness and lack of official documents. [...] Article 46 of **Greece’s** Law 4604/2019 allows stateless Roma with long historical presence in the country to apply for citizenship.” (p. 84)

“Another form of segregation that can amount to discrimination concerns placing Roma children in so-called special needs schools. Such practices affect Roma children and young people in the nine Member States that EU-MIDIS II covered, including **Greece**. For example, the percentage of Roma children attending schools where “all or most of schoolmates are Roma” is more than three times as high in places with mainly Roma populations as in mixed neighbourhoods. The figure also shows that, on average, out of those Roma children living in neighbourhoods where only some or none are Roma, 16 % still attend a class where most or all children are of Roma origin. This proportion is much higher in Bulgaria, **Greece** and Slovakia.” (p.85)

“A number of countries updated the action plans for the implementation of their national Roma integration strategies (Croatia, **Greece**, Lithuania, and Slovakia).” (p.87)

5. Asylum, visas, migration, borders and integration

“**Greece** adopted a new guardianship law and related ministerial decisions, but had not yet started to implement them by year-end. A civil society guardianship project created to fill the gap had 43 guardians at year-end, while there were 5,300 unaccompanied children in the country.” (p.119)

“Many irregular migrant, asylum-seeking and refugee women experience a continuum of gender-based violence, research by the European Institute for Crime Prevention and Control (HEUNI) shows. HEUNI collected data over a 12-month period from over 4,200 women, through 600 weekly reports by 30 counsellors across six EU Member States (Croatia, Cyprus, Germany, **Greece**, Finland and Italy). Victims had suffered multiple forms of gender-based violence during their lifetime, in different locations and by a variety of perpetrators. After their arrival in Europe, their distressed mental and physical state exposed them to further abuse and secondary victimisation.” (p.121)

“The UN Global Study on Children Deprived of Liberty found no reliable statistics on the number of children in immigration detention. Nevertheless, a comparison between 2018 and 2019 in those EU Member States that tend to detain children more often (France, **Greece**, Malta, Poland and Slovenia) suggests that child detention is increasing. France and Slovenia held most children for less than 48 hours before removing them or transferring them under the Dublin Regulation, but in **Greece** and Malta deprivation of liberty could last for months. More specifically, **Greece** holds a significant number of unaccompanied children in police cells and immigration detention facilities, as a discretionary measure to protect them pending transfer to a specialised accommodation facility. The ECtHR ruled that this practice contradicts the ECHR. From August 2019 onwards, there were on average over 200 children in such police custody, compared with fewer than 100 children per month between September and December 2018.” (p.122)

“Housing experts in **Greece**, Italy and Sweden noted that some young asylum applicants refuse to move to the adult reception facility assigned to them, anticipating that reception arrangements for

adults will not offer them sufficient protection and assistance. Thus, some become homeless upon turning 18.” (p. 132)

7. Rights of the Child

“Overall, the number of countries with very high levels of children at risk of poverty or social exclusion decreased in 2018 compared to 2017. However, the rates remained above 30 % in Romania (38.1 %), Bulgaria (33.7 %), **Greece** (33.3 %) and Italy (30.6 %).” (p.166)

“The European Semester paid more attention to issues related to child poverty in 2019 than in previous years. Specific references to child poverty appeared in the recitals to the country-specific recommendations (CSRs) to seven Member States: Germany, **Greece**, Italy, Lithuania, Poland, Romania and Spain.” (p. 169)

“Only 13 Member States notified the European Commission that they had completed the transposition of the [Procedural Safeguards Directive] into national law by the deadline [of 11 June 2019]. In July 2019, the Commission opened infringement procedures (formal notice under Article 258 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union) against Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Germany, **Greece** and Malta.” (p. 170)

“The General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) became applicable in May 2018. It identifies children as “vulnerable natural persons” and underlines that processing children’s data may result in risk “of varying likelihood and severity”. Bulgaria, Czechia, Estonia, **Greece** and Portugal updated their national data protection laws during 2019.” (p.175)

8. Access to Justice

“The European Commission urged nine Member States (Czechia, Estonia, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Malta, Poland, Portugal and Sweden) to finish incorporating the Victims’ Rights Directive into national law. [...] The Commission also sent Reasoned Opinions to thirteen other Member States, namely Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Finland, France, **Greece**, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, the Netherlands and Slovakia.” (p. 188)

“In 2019, several Member States aligned the definition of the criminalisation of rape with the Istanbul Convention requirements, which includes acts committed against former or current spouses or partners. **Greece** reformed its legal framework on rape to bring it in line with Article 36 of the convention.” (p.195)

Fundamental Rights Report 2019 (June 2019)

<https://fra.europa.eu/en/publication/2019/fundamental-rights-report-2019>

3. Equality and non-discrimination

“In **Greece**, the constitutionality of Law 4356/2015, which allows homosexual couples to enter a civil union, was challenged before the highest administrative court, the Council of State. It was argued that it offended morals and the institutions of marriage and family. The court held that a civil union does not compete with the institution of marriage, and does not in any way affect the constitutionally protected family. The court pointed out that the concept of ‘family’ changes as society evolves and the concept of ‘morals’ protected by the Constitution does not coincide with the teachings of the Church.” (p.67)

“Several Member States strengthened parental rights of same-sex couples. In **Greece**, Law 4538/2018 introduced a provision that allows same-sex couples in a civil partnership to become foster parents.” (p.68)

“Furthermore, **Greece** amended the law on domestic violence because it had implemented the Istanbul Convention. The amendment extends the prohibition of domestic abuse beyond married couples to cover civil partnerships and couples living in a long-term relationship, including same-sex couples.” (p.68)

4. Racism, xenophobia and related intolerance

“In **Greece**, Racist Crimes Watch recorded 315 [racist] incidents in 2017, using open sources, and reported them to the Prosecutor for Racist Crimes in Athens.” (p.91)

“Besides action plans [against racism], in 2018 only a few Member States developed policies to counter hate crime more effectively. They include **Greece**, where the Ministry of Justice signed an inter-agency agreement in June 2018 among the relevant ministries (Citizens’ Protection, Immigration Policy and Health) and the NGO Racist Violence Recording Network for a coordinated and holistic approach to combat racist crime.” (p.93)

5. Roma integration

“In **Greece**, the Special Secretariat on Roma Inclusion reported to the national Council against Racism and Intolerance, and it is expected that Roma will be included in the forthcoming action plan.” (p.115)

“Promising practice: Recognising and commemorating the Roma genocide can help fight anti-Gypsyism. In **Greece**, the General Secretariat for Religious Affairs began implementing actions to develop educational material on the holocaust and teacher training in primary and secondary schools.” (p. 116)

“Over several years, FRA conducted a project on Local Engagement for Roma Inclusion (LERI). [...] In several localities where the project focused on community development activities as a way to improve inter-community relations, these in effect also worked to counter anti-Gypsyism and discrimination. This was the case, for example, in Aghia Varvara in **Greece**, Mátraverebély in Hungary, and Rakytník and Hrabušice in Slovakia.” (p.117)

6. Asylum, visas, migration, borders and integration

“Some 57,000 people crossed into Spain (twice as many as 2017) – it replaced Italy and **Greece** as the main country of arrival on the EU’s external borders last year; and some 56,500 people entered through the Eastern Mediterranean route, mainly to **Greece** (a third more than last year).” (p.129)

“In 2018, international organisations, national human rights institutions and civil society organisations reported allegations of violations of the principle of *non-refoulement* from different sections of the EU’s external land and sea border. In Bulgaria, Croatia and **Greece**, cases relate to migrants and refugees apprehended after having crossed the border outside official border crossing points.” (p.131)

“**Greece**, Hungary, and recently Italy enacted legislation to enable the authorities to examine asylum applications at the border while asylum applicants are obliged to remain there (either restricted to a geographical area as in **Greece** or confined to the transit zone, as in Hungary). [...] Such approach

could under certain conditions be an effective way to deal with abusive, manifestly unfounded or manifestly well-founded applications. However, the practices in **Greece** and Hungary show that it is very challenging to set up processing centres at land or sea borders that respect the rights protected by the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights.” (p.132)

“Assisted by the European Asylum Support Office, the **Greek** Asylum Services continued to process certain categories of asylum applications in the “hotspots” established on the Eastern Aegean islands. This practice started in 2016, after the EU-Turkey statement. In 2018, four of the five **Greek** hotspots were overcrowded, particularly in the second half of the year. The reception conditions in the severely overcrowded hotspots on the islands of Samos and Lesbos were well below the minimum standards required by the Reception Conditions Directive (2013/33/EU). This made a fundamental rights-compliant treatment of asylum applicants very challenging. One of the reasons for the overcrowding is asylum applicants’ extended stay on the islands while they wait for their cases to be reviewed.” (p.133)

“Last year, FRA reported an increase in alleged mistreatment of migrants and refugees who crossed borders by circumventing border controls. This trend continued in 2018. Allegations of abusive behaviour by police or border guards concerned, in particular, Belgium, Croatia, France, **Greece**, and Italy. In Croatia and **Greece**, allegations involved persons who crossed the EU’s external border, and were mistreated and pushed back across the borders. [...] “In **Greece**, the Committee for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CPT) reported credible allegations of summary returns to Turkey via the Evros river, sometimes involving violence. Civil society organisations published testimonies of people who entered **Greece** by land from Turkey in the Evros Region, several of whom said they were beaten and forced back to Turkey across the river in underwear after being stripped of their clothes.” (p. 133)

“Over 1.9 million persons applied for asylum in 2015 and 2016 in just six EU Member States: Austria, France, Germany, **Greece**, Italy and Sweden. Applicants included a large number of children and young people. Between 2015 and 2017, more than 1.4 million persons received international protection, almost 90 % of them (1.2 million) in the above-mentioned six EU Member States”. (p.138)

“In France, Germany, **Greece** and Italy, once persons are granted international protection, they also need to obtain a residence permit to enjoy some of their rights. Delays in processing asylum applications mainly resulted from the increased number of applications, complicated or lengthy procedures, and the lack of trained staff. Lengthy asylum procedures affect refugees’ daily life in different ways. Effects for young people include limited possibilities to work and enrol in education beyond compulsory schooling. Examples of other consequences include [...] difficulties to open a bank account (Germany, **Greece**)”. (p.139)

“In the experience of experts as well as beneficiaries of international protection FRA interviewed, family reunification procedures are lengthy and cumbersome. Only few of the persons who arrived in 2015-2016 managed to bring their families to France, Germany, **Greece**, and Italy. They attribute this mainly to legal and practical obstacles. [...] In **Greece**, lawyers FRA interviewed said that few refugee families were reunified on the basis of the Family Reunification Directive between January 2017 and mid-2018.” (p.140)

8. Rights of the child

“In 2012, 28.1 % of children in the EU-28 were at risk of poverty or social exclusion; the rate dropped to 24.9 % by 2017. There are substantial differences between Member States. The AROPE

(percentage of children at risk of poverty or social exclusion) rate in 2017 ranges from around 15 % for children in Czechia, Denmark, Finland and Slovenia to more than 30 % in Spain, Lithuania, Hungary and Italy, 36 % in **Greece**, and almost 42 % in Bulgaria and Romania.” (p.179)

“The number of children applying for asylum in the EU continued to decrease during 2018. [...] Germany received the highest number of applications from children in 2018: 80,550, representing almost one half of the total applications filed by children in the EU. These were followed by **Greece**, France, and Spain. (p. 183)

“Arrivals through the Mediterranean routes – **Greece**, Italy and Spain – also decreased. [...] **Greece** registered 32,497 sea arrivals (almost 37 % of them children. [...] In **Greece**, the National Center for Social Solidarity estimates that, by 31 December 2018, there were 3,741 unaccompanied children, 94 % boys and 6 % girls. Of them, 30 % came from Pakistan, 32 % from Afghanistan and 11 % from Syria.” (p. 183)

“Reception conditions in **Greece**, especially in the ‘hotspots’, continued to be very poor. Some of the children lived in tents or in overcrowded containers, taking turns to sleep. As well as access to decent accommodation, they lack water, sanitation facilities or heating. The lack of long-term accommodation for unaccompanied children continues unresolved. More than half of the 3,741 unaccompanied children in **Greece** (1,983 children) do not have appropriate long-term accommodation. In July, after years of discussions, **Greek** authorities adopted a new guardianship law, which aims to improve the existing system through professional guardians for unaccompanied children. Implementing acts are still to be adopted.” (p.184)

“The Reception Conditions Directive regulates access to education, training and employment (Articles 14 to 16). Accessing them is critical for successful integration. However, many migrant children and young people still face difficulties accessing them. In **Greece**, a group of parents and guardians applied to the Council of State for the annulment of a decision of the Minister of Education, Research and Religious Affairs that allowed the registration of migrant children in public primary and secondary schools. The Council of State rejected the application of parents and guardians against the integration of children from refugee camps into public educational structures. It asserted that their attendance in no way affects the interests of the other pupils and their parents.” (p. 186)

9. Access to justice

“At the national level, during 2018, legislative measures were adopted or entered into force in almost two thirds of the Member States. They were largely to better implement and reflect the Victims’ Rights Directive (2012/29/EU). These Member States are Belgium, Croatia, Czechia, Estonia, **Greece**, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Lithuania, Malta, the Netherlands, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain and Sweden. Advances and developments include, among others, improving the rights of crime victims to participate in proceedings (e.g. the victim’s right to be heard); enhancing victims’ rights to financial compensation (e.g. by enlarging the scope of crimes for which financial compensation is available); and facilitating victims’ rights to information (e.g. through awareness-raising initiatives and training).” (p. 206)

“In 2018, several Member States took particular steps to enhance victims’ rights to financial compensation, including enlarging the scope of crimes for which, or the scope of persons to whom, compensation is available. **Greece** also took measures to adapt its national legislation regarding compensation of victims of criminal acts. The legislative framework stipulating that victims of violent crimes committed with intent as well as victims of human trafficking and related crimes might be

awarded compensation, if they submit an application to the Hellenic Compensation Authority, was amended. Most importantly, the amendment extends the expenses that compensation covers to include mental and psychological support of the victim if they reside in an area with no public access to such services, or expenses for relocation to a safe environment away from the perpetrator. Pursuant to the amendment, the Compensation Authority shall decide within six months from the submission of application whether or not to award compensation. The decision of the Compensation Authority is appealable.” (p.206)

“In 2018, Croatia, **Greece** and Luxembourg ratified the Istanbul Convention, bringing to 20 the number of EU Member States that had ratified it by the end of 2018. The convention entered into force in Croatia, Germany, **Greece** and Luxembourg.” (p. 209)

“**Greece** has begun a legislative initiative to incorporate the [Istanbul] convention into national law by criminalizing forced marriages as an emerging type of human trafficking.” (p.210)

10. Developments in the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

“The law transposing the [Web Accessibility Directive] in **Greece** also provides for regular reporting. It requires the Minister of Digital Policy, Telecommunications and Media to submit to parliament an annual report setting out the compliance of public sector bodies with the directive. Before its submission, the report must be open for public consultation for at least 15 days.” (p. 228).

Thematic Reports

Crime, safety and victims' rights – Fundamental Rights Survey (February 2021)

<https://fra.europa.eu/en/publication/2021/fundamental-rights-survey-crime>

“Overall, 8 % of people in the EU-27 experienced online banking or payment card (credit or debit card) fraud in the five years before the survey, and 3 % experienced it in the 12 months before the survey. Results range from 19 % in France, 15 % in Denmark and 14 % in Ireland experiencing online banking or payment card fraud in the five years before the survey, to 1 % in **Greece**, Lithuania, Poland, Portugal and Romania.” (p.67)

“Reporting rates of [experiences of violence] vary from 40 % in France and 37 % in Germany to 9 % in Finland, 12 % in **Greece** and 13 % in Estonia, Ireland and Romania.” (p.77)

“The lowest rates of harassment experiences reported to any authority (including the police) are in Portugal (5 %), Austria (6 %), **Greece** (10 %) and Estonia (11 %).” (p.84)

“Consumer fraud was the least often reported of the three property crimes. At least 60 % reported the most recent incident in Portugal (69 %), France (65 %) and Germany (60 %), while reporting rates are lower in **Greece** (25 %), Croatia (28 %), Slovenia (29 %) and Sweden (30 %).” (p.89)

“In Bulgaria, **Greece** and North Macedonia, people are more willing to intervene in person than call the police. Here, as for some other survey results, culture can play a factor in how people respond, as can trust in the police’s ability to respond effectively to an incident.” (p.91)

“In all countries in the survey, people would be more willing to intervene if they saw a man hitting a woman than a woman hitting a man. The difference in results between the two situations ranges

from 30 percentage points or more in **Greece**, Latvia and Lithuania to 10 percentage points or less in Belgium, Cyprus and Hungary.” (98)

Business and human rights – access to remedy (October 2020)

<https://fra.europa.eu/en/publication/2020/business-human-rights-remedies>

“Across the EU-27, 54 % of the respondents indicate that the last time they experienced consumer fraud was when ordering online, over the internet or by email, while 28 % have experienced consumer fraud in a shop. The results vary significantly among EU countries – for instance, in Denmark, France and Germany, at least two thirds of instances of consumer fraud happen when ordering online, while in Bulgaria and **Greece** more than 60 % happen when buying something in a shop. These results could reflect differences in online penetration and consumer habits in EU countries, but the research methodology could also influence them, as in 10 Member States respondents were asked to fill out the questionnaire online.” (p.32)

“Since 2013, 15 of the 27 EU Member States have adopted [National Action Plans] on business and human rights [...]. Other Member States, such as **Greece**, Latvia and Portugal, are in the process of adopting one or have committed to doing so.” (p. 88)

Antisemitism: Overview of anti-Semitic incidents recorded in the European union 2009-2019 (September 2020)

<https://fra.europa.eu/en/publication/2020/antisemitism-overview-2009-2019>

This annual overview provides an update of the most recent figures on antisemitic incidents, covering the period 1 January 2009 – 31 December 2019, across the EU Member States, where data are available. Data for **Greece** can be found on p. 50.

“In 2019, the governments of Cyprus, Czechia, France, **Greece**, Hungary and Luxembourg adopted or endorsed the [International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) working definition of antisemitism]. In **Greece**, an inter-ministerial committee is being set up to propose a legal framework for using the IHRA definition in education, justice and public administration.” (p.93)

Strong and effective National Human Rights Institutions – challenges, promising practices and opportunities (September 2020)

<https://fra.europa.eu/en/publication/2020/strong-effective-nhris>

“FRA’s research shows that five Member States (Bulgaria, Cyprus, **Greece**, Latvia and Spain) rely on their NHRIs to monitor the return of migrants.” (p.30)

“In 15 countries covered by this report, institutional leaderships enjoy such [functional] immunity (Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, **Greece**, Hungary, Ireland, Latvia, Netherlands, North Macedonia, Poland, Portugal, Romania (ombuds institution), Serbia, Slovenia and Spain). Such immunity also extends to the management board in four cases (**Greece**, Ireland, Romania (ombuds institution) and Spain).” (p.48)

“FRA’s analysis of the data collected for this report from 33 institutions (34 were addressed) is based on a questionnaire and shows that the general trend between 2011 and 2019 seems to be that of a

slight increase in the overall budgets of the NHRIs, at least nominally. The data from the NHRIs show, however, that in a number of countries, including Cyprus, **Greece**, Hungary, Spain and the United Kingdom, there were budget cuts. In most cases these were moderate and due to economic circumstances.” (p.51)

“Exceptions to the rule of employing staff with mainly permanent contracts are the NHRIs in Germany and **Greece**.” (p.52)

“There are also NHRIs that have very few staff. In particular, the NHRIs with a predominantly promotional mandate and a large membership of the decision-making body, such as the NHRIs in France and **Greece**, have fewer staff than NHRIs that are also assigned tasks as ombuds institutions or equality bodies.” (P.52)

“The findings of FRA’s questionnaire sent to NHRIs show that almost all institutions address their annual reports to parliaments; however, these reports are not always subject to parliamentary discussion, which limits their visibility and impact. Such a discussion is obligatory only in the case of 12 NHRIs (Austria, Croatia, Finland’s Parliamentary Ombudsman and Human Rights Centre, **Greece**, Hungary, Lithuania, Malta – according to its proposed founding regulation, North Macedonia, Portugal, Romania’s ombuds institution, Serbia, Slovenia and Spain). (p. 56)

“In 2011 the NHRI in **Greece**, the Greek National Commission for Human Rights (GNCHR), in partnership with the UN Refugee Agency UNHCR, established the Racist Violence Recording Network (RVRN). The RVRN, which today counts 46 representatives of civil society organisations among its members, focuses primarily on monitoring and recording racist attacks against refugees and migrants in **Greece**. The resulting qualitative and quantitative data analysis is used to alert authorities to changing trends or escalations in hate crime, while also allowing the RVRN to raise awareness of hate crime and how to adequately combat it. The RVRN also supports victims in reporting incidents and obtaining legal aid. Through the RVRN the GNCHR also organises training for civil society and institutional bodies on identifying, recording and countering hate crime. The network also produces a yearly report containing insights on trends in hate crimes in **Greece**, attempts by national institutions to deal with racist violence, and recommendations to the institutions to tackle hate crime (FRA, Racist Violence Recording Network).” (P.60)

“NHRIs covered by this report publish data and information on the acceptance of their recommendations by relevant authorities, for instance through follow-up on opinions (France), projects (the Netherlands) or special reports (North Macedonia). More frequently, this information is included in annual reports or other communication tools, for example in Austria, Cyprus, Denmark, Finland, **Greece**, Lithuania, Poland, Portugal, Slovakia and Slovenia.” (p. 67)

[A long way to go for LGBTI equality \(May 2020\)](https://fra.europa.eu/en/publication/2020/eu-lgbti-survey-results)

<https://fra.europa.eu/en/publication/2020/eu-lgbti-survey-results>

A country sheet with the results for **Greece** is available at:

https://fra.europa.eu/sites/default/files/fra_uploads/lgbti-survey-country-data_greece.pdf

(also annexed to this submission)

“On average, LGBTI people across the EU are only slightly less satisfied with their lives (6.5) than the general population (6.8). However, there are some country differences. For example, in Poland, LGBTI respondents are less satisfied with their lives than the general population by 1.7 points. By contrast, LGBTI respondents in – for example – **Greece**, Bulgaria or Czechia are more satisfied with

life than the general population is.” (p.28)

“The share of respondents who felt discriminated against when looking for work differs between countries. In the EU, the shares of respondents who felt discriminated against were highest in **Greece** (19 %), Cyprus (18 %) and Bulgaria (17 %). [...] In the EU, the highest proportions of respondents felt discriminated against at work in Lithuania (32 %), **Greece** (31 %), Cyprus (30 %) and Bulgaria (29 %). (p.32)

“Across all LGBTI groups, the majority (53%) of young adolescents who participated in the survey (aged 15 to 17) felt discriminated against in at least one area of life in the 12 months before the survey. [...] [Trans and intersex respondents aged 15 to 17] say they felt discriminated against at the highest rates in **Greece** (71 %), Croatia (68 %) and Bulgaria (67 %). They do so at the lowest rates in Finland (25 %) and Sweden (31 %).” (p.33)

Criminal detention conditions in the European Union: rules and reality (December 2019)

<https://fra.europa.eu/en/publication/2019/criminal-detention-conditions-european-union-rules-and-reality>

“Sixteen EU Member States have laws or regulations in place specifying national standards of minimum cell space per prisoner or detainee. Of these 16, minimum cell space standards range from about 3 m² per person in individual cells (in Estonia, Poland and Lithuania) to around 10 m² (in **Greece**, Latvia and Slovenia). National standards for cell space per prisoner in multi-occupancy cells range from about 3 m² to 6 m² per prisoner.” (p. 17)

“In addition, while most Member States have legislation in place ensuring access to hot showers, such legislation does not always specify the frequency of the access that should be provided. [...] In contrast, some EU Member States have provisions in national legislation that exceed the minimum requirements of frequency as established by the European Prison Rules, and stipulate that detainees should have access to hot showers at least three or four times a week, or even on a daily basis (e.g. Finland, France, **Greece**, Hungary and Portugal).” (p. 24)

“The insufficient protection of privacy with regard to sanitary facilities is repeatedly highlighted by NPMs. They indicate serious problems regarding the proper separation of sanitary areas in at least 14 EU Member States (including Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Estonia, France, Germany, **Greece**, Lithuania, Hungary, Italy, Latvia, Poland and Spain).” (p. 25)

“Some Member States also have special programmes in place for prisoners addicted to drugs. For example, in **Greece**, France and Poland, prisoners with addictions, mental disabilities or physical disabilities requiring specialist treatment, in particular psychological care, medical care or rehabilitation, can serve their sentences in so-called therapeutic systems.” (p. 35)

“In its 2017 annual report, the NPM in **Greece** notes the complete lack, in the vast majority of detention facilities, of any permanent in-house medical personnel, and that a member of the non-medical staff undertakes the administrative aspects of nurse duties, such as registering medical information.” (p. 37)

“Half of the EU Member States have very detailed provisions for a variety of measures to protect prisoners from inter-prisoner violence (Austria, Germany, **Greece**, Finland, France, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Poland, Romania, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden and the United Kingdom).” (p.40)

“Some Member States (e.g. Belgium, **Greece** and Ireland) are currently in the process of legislating or drafting official guidelines on specific measures for the protection and treatment of LGBTI prisoners.” (p. 41)

“Member States apply quite different rules to determine which young offenders over the age of 18 are entitled to the same prison regime as children. Some Member States – for example, Croatia, Germany, **Greece** and Malta – detain offenders who are older than 18 (up to the age of 25 in some Member States) in special juvenile detention facilities under the same regime as children, regardless of whether or not they committed the crime before or after they were 18 years old.” (p. 41)

“Inter-prisoner violence was also highlighted in the interviews with monitoring bodies conducted as part of FRA’s research published in the report *Rights in practice: access to a lawyer and procedural rights in criminal and European Arrest Warrant proceedings*. For example, two members of monitoring bodies from **Greece** reported that many prisoners are in a state of terror, are being victimised by prison gangs and will think twice before attempting to file a complaint. One of the representatives of a monitoring body described the peril of serious physical abuse, or even death, as being omnipresent. Both interviewees mentioned that prisons are understaffed and are frequently controlled by groups affiliated with organised crime groups that victimise weak prisoners and undermine their safety. [...] Assessments such as those by monitoring bodies in **Greece**, France and Romania indicate that there is possibly a significant ‘dark’ or unreported figure of incidents of violence between prisoners.” (p.43)

Integration of young refugees in the EU: good practices and challenges (November 2019)

<https://fra.europa.eu/en/publication/2019/integration-young-refugees-eu-good-practices-and-challenges>

The number of references to **Greece** in this report was too large to include in this document. A summary of the information collected on **Greece** during the field work for this report (October 2017 – June 2018) about unaccompanied children turning 18 and the change in people’s legal status once international protection is granted can be found at:

<https://fra.europa.eu/en/publication/2020/integrating-young-refugees-eu-country-information#Greece4>

Second European Union Minorities and Discrimination Survey - Migrant women - selected findings (September 2019)

<https://fra.europa.eu/en/publication/2019/second-european-union-minorities-and-discrimination-survey-migrant-women-selected>

“The data, which are not disaggregated by gender, show that an important share of immigrants considered their lack of language skills as an obstacle to getting a suitable job in several countries, e.g. Finland (29 %); Estonia (25.9 %); Belgium (19.6 %); Austria (19.7 %); Italy (12.1 %); **Greece** (11.5 %); and Germany (9.8 %).” (p.15)

“The large majority (more than 80 %) of women and men attended language courses in Sweden and Finland. The majority (more than 50 %) did so in Denmark, the Netherlands and Austria. However,

only a minority did so in the other EU countries surveyed (for example, in Spain, Italy and Cyprus). The lowest participation rates are found in **Greece** (18 %) and in Portugal (9 %), similarly for both women and men.”(p.18)

“Some Member States, a proportion of respondents said that they did not attend a language course because they did not know where to go. The highest rates of men selecting this reason was in Malta (50 %), **Greece** (30 %), Slovenia (20 %), and Austria (19 %), while the highest rates for women were in Cyprus (22 %), Spain (13 %, almost double than men), Italy (17 %) and Portugal (10 %). [...] In **Greece**, one in five men respondents (22 %) gave “lack of papers” as reason, and an equally important share of men also selected this reason in Italy (17 %).” (p.19)

“Low rights awareness levels are also found in Spain among women (29 %) and men (31 %) of North African descent, as well as in **Greece** among men of south Asian origin (31 %).” (p.38)

“The results show that, on average, most women (81 %) and men (87 %) said that they have friends without any minority background (Figure 14). A very similar proportion, 79 % of women and 82 % of men, said that they have friends among people with different ethnic minority backgrounds. [...] The lowest proportions among men are observed in Malta for persons of African descent (51 %), in **Greece** for respondents of (South) Asian descent (59 %), and in Poland for recent immigrants (59 %).” (p.43)

“The majority of women and men respondents, except in **Greece** and Malta, agreed or strongly agreed with the statement that “both husband and wife should contribute to household income” (Figure 15). Gender differences can be observed in a number of countries between women and men among the different groups. The lowest overall proportion among all respondents who agree or strongly agree with this statement is found for men in **Greece** (39 %) and women in Malta (38 %).” (p.45)

Roma women in nine EU Member States (April 2019)

<https://fra.europa.eu/en/publication/2019/roma-women-nine-eu-member-states>

“The share of young Roma under the age of 15 is particularly high in Croatia (37.4 % of the Roma surveyed compared to 15.2 % for the general population), **Greece** (31.4 % compared to 14.5 %), Portugal (27 % compared to 14.9 %) and Slovakia (27.4 % compared to 15.32 %).” (p.7)

“The results show that the overwhelming majority of all Roma men (81 %) and women (83 %) surveyed, agree or strongly agree that “both girls and boys should stay in school for the same length of time”. The lowest levels of agreement are found in **Greece** among Roma men (72 %), the country which also has the lowest levels of educational participation and attainment, Czechia among men (75 %) and Slovakia among both men (74 %) and women (75 %).” (p.8)

“In four of the nine Member States surveyed, Bulgaria, **Greece**, Croatia and Slovakia, the majority of respondents speak Romani as their first main language at home, more men than women, except in **Greece**.” (p.11)

“More detailed country comparison reveals that across all age groups more men than women have good to excellent reading and writing skills [in the respective national language] in Bulgaria, **Greece**, Spain, Croatia and, particularly, in Portugal. However, in the younger age group 16-24 the situation is different. For instance, in Bulgaria or in **Greece** the proportion of young women aged between 16-24 with good or excellent writing skills is clearly higher than that of men (65 % compared to 50 % in

Bulgaria, 55 % compared to 45 % in **Greece**". (p.14)

"The results show that in all countries, except **Greece** (69 %) and Romania (77 %), more than 90 % of Roma children attend school during compulsory school age. However, as FRA reported in 2016, large shares of Roma children attend lower levels of education than appropriate for their age." (p.17)

"Given the decisive role of inclusive early childhood education in improving educational outcomes, it is not surprising that on average 16 % of Roma women and 12 % of Roma men surveyed never attended formal education. Gender differences are more visible among the older generation (45+) and are highest in **Greece**, Portugal, Spain and Croatia. In particular, in **Greece** 88 % of the Roma women aged 45 years and older said that they never received any formal education. In **Greece**, the majority of all Roma respondents never received formal education." (p.17)

"Gender differences in [not in employment, education or training (NEET)] rates among the general population for the 15-24 age group in the EU-28 are relatively small, but increase with age when women have children and leave school and the labour market. In the case of Roma, especially in those countries such as Bulgaria, **Greece** or Romania, where they tend to marry at much younger ages, significant gender differences can be observed. [...] The gender gap is the highest in **Greece**, where 81 % of Roma women are not employed, in education or training, compared to 38 % for men." (p.18)

"In some countries, the share of women who married before the age of 18 is particularly high, for example in **Greece** (49 %), Portugal (45 %), Romania (39 %), Bulgaria and Croatia (both, 37 %) and Spain (36 %)." (p. 23)

"In Czechia, **Greece** and Hungary, there is little or no difference in [the experiences of long-term activity limitations] between Roma women and men. "(p.25)

"Overall, while employment rates for both Roma women and men are far lower than those of the general population, more than twice as many Roma men are in employment than Roma women, 34 % and 16 % respectively. The largest gender gap is in **Greece**, where only 20 % of Roma women declare themselves as employed compared to 67 % for men." (p.27)

"Overall the share of those Roma surveyed who are in paid work (43 %) is well below the average EU-28 employment rate (70 % in 2015). There is also a substantial gender gap in all countries surveyed, highest in **Greece** (where only 22 % of Roma women are in paid work compared with 82 % of Roma men). At the same time, more than a quarter (28 %) of Roma women are engaged in domestic work compared to 6 % for men. There are important country differences, which governments should take into account when designing gender specific Roma integration measures in employment. For instance, the majority of Roma women in Romania (59 %), **Greece** (48 %), Portugal (46 %) and Croatia (34 %) declare as their main activity 'domestic work'." (p.28)

"Women's low employment rates could also be affected by traditional attitudes on gender roles. The survey asked respondents if they agree that 'men should take as much responsibility as women for the home and children'. In every country, the majority of both Roma women and men agree, or strongly agree, with this statement. In some countries, the proportion of women who agree is higher than that of men. For instance, in Czechia there is a difference of 20 percentage points, in **Greece** and Romania 10." (p.31)

"The survey also asked respondents if they agree that "having a job is the best way for a woman to be an independent person". Overall, more women (76 %) than men (70 %) agreed, or strongly agreed, to this statement. The proportion of men who agree, or strongly agree, to this is higher in

Spain, Portugal and Bulgaria, and lower in Romania, **Greece** and Czechia. The most pronounced difference in the attitudes of women and men on this issue can be found in **Greece** (18 percentage points more women agree, or strongly agree, than men).” (p.32)

“More women than men said that they had experienced discrimination in Czechia, Spain and Portugal. In **Greece**, the share of men (70 %) reporting such incidents far exceeds that of women (55 %).” (p.35)

“On average, the survey finds that only slightly more than one in three Roma women (34 %) and men (38 %) are aware of the existence of such anti-discrimination legislation in their country. Gender differences are more pronounced in **Greece** (9 percentage point difference), as well as in Bulgaria and Romania (8 percentage point difference, respectively)”. (p.37)

“The highest rate of those who did experience [violence motivated by hate crime] is in Slovakia (19 % men, 13 % women). Other instances of higher victimisation rates can be found among Roma men in Czechia (16 %), Croatia (16 %) and **Greece** (14 %). (p.39)

[Hate crime recording and data collection practice across the EU \(June 2018\)](https://fra.europa.eu/en/publication/2018/hate-crime-recording-and-data-collection-practice-across-eu)

<https://fra.europa.eu/en/publication/2018/hate-crime-recording-and-data-collection-practice-across-eu>

This report provides detailed information on hate crime recording and data collection systems across the EU, including any systemic cooperation with civil society. Data for **Greece** can be found on pages 55-56.

“The comparative analysis of the legal framework shows that 13 Member States [...], treat bias motivation as a general aggravating circumstance; 7 provide for specific aggravating circumstances regarding certain substantive offences (Belgium, Bulgaria, **Greece**, Luxembourg, Portugal, Slovakia, Slovenia); 3 have a combination of both general and specific [...]; and 5 have no such provision [...].” (p. 103)

“Twenty-two Member States have included “sexual orientation” as a protected characteristic: Austria, Belgium, Croatia, Cyprus, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, **Greece**, Hungary, Ireland, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, the Netherlands, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden and United Kingdom.” (p. 103)

“Sixteen Member States include “disability” as a protected characteristic: Austria, Belgium, Croatia, Finland, France, **Greece**, Hungary, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Latvia, the Netherlands, Portugal, Romania, Slovenia, Spain and the United Kingdom.” (p. 104)

“Thirteen Member States have included “gender identity” as a protected ground: Austria, Croatia, Cyprus, France, **Greece**, Hungary, Malta, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain and the United Kingdom. [...] **Greece** also includes gender characteristics as a protected characteristic.” (p.104)

[Under watchful eyes: biometrics, EU IT systems and fundamental rights \(March 2018\)](https://fra.europa.eu/en/publication/2018/under-watchful-eyes-biometrics-eu-it-systems-and-fundamental-rights)

<https://fra.europa.eu/en/publication/2018/under-watchful-eyes-biometrics-eu-it-systems-and-fundamental-rights>

“EU Member States are also obliged to include facial image and fingerprints in a chip in residence permits and passports. Regarding the latter, in 15 Member States [including **Greece**] the fingerprints are stored in a database and in 13 Member States in a chip in the passport only.” (p.26)

“Incomplete information appeared to be more frequent when authorities registered individuals as persons who irregularly crossed the EU external border but who were not immediately registered as asylum applicants. This was either because the person did not apply or because according to national procedures, the formal registration of an asylum application happens at a later stage. Testimonies collected from Germany, **Greece**, Hungary, Italy and Spain indicate that at this first stage, the person may be told that fingerprints will be used for purposes of public security and identification. Furthermore, they indicate that there is no mentioning that fingerprints included in Eurodac for a person apprehended as a migrant in an irregular situation are of relevance for the Dublin procedure. [...] Migrants who transited through **Greece** explained that they were not provided information about the fingerprinting procedure, or at least not in an understandable way.” (pp. 33-34)

“In some cases, the misinformation appears to originate from the interpreter. Some migrants who transited through **Greece** were orally informed by the interpreter that the purpose of collecting fingerprints was related to security or law enforcement. [...] Language barriers are another important reason preventing a proper understanding of information. Some migrants and asylum seekers, having transited **Greece** in 2015, explained that there was a lack of interpreters.”(p.35)

“A person who is apprehended within the territory may, for immigration control purposes and within police checks, be checked against data stored in Eurodac, VIS, SIS II and, in future, the EES. Almost half of the Schengen Member States have information leaflets on SIS II [including **Greece**].” (p.40)

“If it is physically impossible for the person to provide fingerprints, it is relatively rare that it is a case of deliberately damaged fingerprints, according to officers interviewed during the field research. Officers interviewed in Poland noted that there have been some cases involving persons arriving through **Greece**. (p.48)

“Allegations or reports of incidents involving the use of force to take fingerprints for Eurodac emerged from several EU Member States in FRA’s research. Experts consulted were concerned about the risk of re-traumatisation because of forced fingerprinting, particularly in the case of children. Several asylum seekers interviewed told that they had been subject to the use of force along the route, or that they had witnessed this happening to others in Austria, Bulgaria, Hungary, **Greece**, Italy and Poland, as the following examples show. (p.53)

“In **Greece** an interviewee reported witnessing how a woman was beaten because she refused to take her veil off when having her photo taken. An Iranian interviewee pretended to be deaf when he was being registered in **Greece**. When the interviewee had his fingerprints taken, he explained that the police beat him for one or two hours, because he did not speak or hear and because he did not follow the correct procedure for having his fingerprints taken. He assumed that the police tried to see if he was indeed deaf by shouting loudly into his ears and by beating him. Even after they believed that he was deaf, they did not treat him in a better way. (p.54)

“Croatia, **Greece**, Italy, Ireland, Portugal and the United Kingdom had not implemented the [Prüm] mechanism [for fingerprint exchange].” (p.67)

“A visa applicant who has an entry ban can still be issued a visa with limited territorial validity. Such a visa is only valid in the Member State that issued the visa. More than half of EU Member States

refuse a visa application without further investigation, if the person has an entry ban (Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, Germany, **Greece**, Hungary, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Poland, Portugal and Spain).” (pp 79-80)

“If EU Member States with a system of direct access deny the right of access, correction and deletion, the national data protection authorities function as appeals bodies for rejected SIS II [which is the case for DPAs from **Greece**, among other countries] as well as VIS requests.” (p.104)

Migration to the EU: five persistent challenges (February 2018)

<https://fra.europa.eu/en/publication/2018/five-persistent-migration-challenges>

“While fewer people arrived and applied for asylum in the EU overall, this was not the case in all EU Member States. The number of asylum applications fell in some countries and increased in others. [...] At the same time, applications for international protection increased in France, **Greece**, Italy and Spain. (p.2)

“In EU Member States that faced significant numbers of arrivals in 2017 – France, **Greece**, Italy and Spain – reception facilities remained overcrowded. For example, the hotspots in Lesbos and Samos, **Greece**, were hosting almost three times more people in October 2017 than there were available places. [...] Insufficient reception capacities led to the establishment of informal camps in France, **Greece** and Italy. Living conditions were sometimes critical, with limited access to water, sanitary facilities and food.”(p.8)

“Ombuds institutions, NGOs and other stakeholders reported that reception conditions were inadequate in at least some facilities in France, **Greece**, Hungary, Italy and Spain. For example, in the **Greek** hotspots, facilities often did not provide shelter from bad weather. Together with overcrowding, this exacerbated tensions and safety risks.” (p.9)

“Protests against reception conditions took place in **Greece**, including a general strike in the Municipality of Lesbos.” (p.9)

“Vulnerable persons faced difficulties in accessing special care in some EU Member States. [...] The lack of specialised staff to respond to the needs of torture survivors often led to long waiting periods. In **Greece**, access was difficult because referrals to mainland facilities took a long time.” (p.10)

“The Reception Conditions Directive (2013/33/EU) requires EU Member States to take appropriate measures to prevent assault and gender-based violence at reception facilities. Nevertheless, in some EU Member States, sexual and gender-based violence remained an issue – this was reported, for example, in **Greece** and Italy. The lack of certain basics at reception centres – such as adequate lighting, sufficient police patrols and overcrowding– increased these risks.” (p.11)

“Issues regarding identification and/or registration procedures were observed in some EU Member States (France, **Greece**, Italy and Spain). [...] In mainland **Greece**, asylum seekers were asked to make Skype appointments to lodge their applications, because submitting an asylum application to the Regional Asylum Offices or the Asylum Units in person was almost impossible. At the same time, **Greek** authorities applied a pre-registration procedure (instead of immediate full registration), which led to long delays of up to 10 months before individual asylum applications could be lodged.” (p.12)

“Issues regarding lengthy asylum procedures were reported in EU Member States such as Austria, Finland, Germany, **Greece**, Spain and Sweden.” (p.13)

“There was a lack of provision of legal information to asylum seekers in **Greece**, in particular on the islands. Legal assistance at first instance examinations of asylum requests was limited and exclusively provided by civil society organisations.” (p.13)

“In France, **Greece**, Italy and Spain, high numbers of unaccompanied children continued to arrive, leading to insufficient capacity and reception conditions. [...] Throughout 2017, between 900 and 3,300 unaccompanied children were waiting for appropriate shelter in **Greece**. Unaccompanied children were often registered as adults and left in overcrowded and unsafe camps on the Aegean islands or at police stations for several weeks, without specific services or protection, adequate sanitary conditions or basic resources.” (p.14)

“Asylum-seeking children in the hotspots in **Greece** and in parts of France, Hungary and Spain had no or limited access to education.” (p.15)

“In **Greece**, no functioning guardianship system was established and no progress occurred regarding adoption of the draft guardianship law. (p.15)

“Applicants in **Greece** – including many unaccompanied children – faced significant delays in joining their family members in Germany. As of mid-August 2017, some 4,339 applicants had been accepted by Germany but were not yet transferred. Over 60 % were children, some unaccompanied.” (p.17)

“Inadequate conditions were observed in certain detention and/or pre-removal facilities in Bulgaria, Denmark, France, Germany, **Greece**, Hungary, Italy and Spain. [...] Conditions in the pre-removal detention facilities located in Western **Greece** were inadequate, including – among others – serious overcrowding, a lack of natural light, substandard hygiene conditions, and limits on time detainees can spend outdoors. (p.19)

“EU Member States efforts to speed up asylum processing and make returns more effective may prompt an increased use of immigration detention, possibly also affecting children. [...] According to FRA research in 2016, high numbers of children were detained in Bulgaria, **Greece**, Hungary, Poland and Slovakia.” (p.20)

“Persistent key fundamental rights concerns in **Greece** include: delays in the asylum procedure and family reunification transfers from Greece to other EU Member States under the Dublin Regulation; overcrowding and living conditions in the hotspots; push-backs at the Greek-Turkish border.” (p.23)

Challenges facing civil society organisations working on human rights in the EU (January 2018)

<https://fra.europa.eu/en/publication/2018/challenges-facing-civil-society-organisations-working-human-rights-eu>

“In **Greece**, in January 2016, a Ministerial Decision put all NGOs in Lesbos directly under state control and refused to recognise the operations of independent and unregistered NGOs, effectively criminalising them. NGOs and volunteers helping refugees were asked, starting in February 2016, to fill out forms providing personal details of all their members to the government.” (p.22)

“An international NGO has claimed that in a number of cases, **Greece** denied entry to activists from Albania, [North Macedonia] and Turkey, allegedly working on minority rights, without providing specific explanations as to why such restrictions were imposed.” (p.23)

“Criminal laws prohibiting the insult of state symbols exist in Bulgaria, **Greece**, Poland, Portugal and Spain. Austria, Belgium, Cyprus, Germany, **Greece**, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal and Spain criminalise defaming or disparaging various state institutions, such as governments, parliaments, courts, the armed forces and public bodies or authorities in general. Cyprus, Denmark, Estonia, Germany, **Greece**, the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Slovenia and Sweden criminalise defamation of foreign heads of state.” (p. 24)

“In **Greece**, in January 2016, police issued a statement forbidding public gatherings in central Athens for a single 12-hour period from 6 am until midnight, citing reasons of public order.” (p.25)

“Although overall comparisons are not possible, available figures do show reductions in funding [to NGOs] in some EU Member States. In **Greece**, Ireland and the United Kingdom, public funding has dropped significantly. [...] Decreasing budgets have in some cases been the result of public spending cuts that form a part of broader austerity measures resulting from the economic crisis. For example, in **Greece**, according to Greek CSO representatives, NGOs receive no government funding from the state budget and their main source of funding comes from international and European private and public sources.” (pp 29-30)

“A number of EU Member States, including Bulgaria, Finland, **Greece**, Malta, Romania and Slovenia, as well as the European Commission, have created special websites as one-stop-shops for information on upcoming and ongoing consultations.” (p.43)

Second European Union Minorities and Discrimination Survey - Main results (December 2017)

<https://fra.europa.eu/en/publication/2017/second-european-union-minorities-and-discrimination-survey-main-results>

A country sheet with the results for **Greece** is available at:

https://fra.europa.eu/sites/default/files/fra_uploads/fra-2019-eu-midis-ii-summary-results-country-sheet-greece_en.pdf (also annexed to this submission)