FAQ – Appointment for registration (and pre-registration)

What is the procedure if I pre-registered via Skype?
If you pre-registered via Skype, you are informed about your full registration date and you can pick up the pre-registration asylum seeker card from the asylum office where you have your full registration appointment the day after pre-registration through Skype.

What happens if I miss my appointment?
If you miss or skip the appointment, your application will be suspended and you will have to start the whole process again from the beginning. You will have to call the Asylum Service via Skype and arrange for a new pre-registration appointment. This would take place after March 2017.

Do I keep my pre-registration Asylum Seeker Card after full registration?
No. The pre-registration Asylum Seeker Card is replaced with a full registration card by the Asylum Service. It is issued for each fully registered individual, and is the International Protection Applicant Card, indicating your case number, not your registration number. This card will also include the date of appointment for the examination interview of the asylum application.

My neighbor, who came later than me, got an appointment in much earlier. Why? What are the priority criteria?
The appointments have been scheduled automatically, by computer, where four criteria have been taken into consideration: a) vulnerability c) availability of interpreter, d) availability of registration officer.

Myself and members of my family got appointments for the full registration on different dates. What does it mean? Shall I refuse the registration in order to get fully registered at the same day with my whole family?
Every effort has been made to ensure that the whole family will be registered on the same day. However, this may not always be possible, due to a number of factors, for instance, the availability of interpreters.
Having been fully registered on different dates does NOT mean that your applications will be examined separately. The fact that you got appointments for different dates with family members means only that you have to show up for the full registration on different dates, and it will require additional travel.
If you got appointments for different dates with members of your family, please make sure that you accompany any of your minor children to the Asylum Service. The members of your family who will get fully registered at a later date need to inform the registration officers of the CASE NUMBER of the rest of the family.
If you miss/skip the appointment, you will have to re-start the whole process again, calling Skype for pre-registration. This is because all registration appointments have been booked already by other pre-registered asylum seekers.
Can I present myself to the Asylum Service on a different date than the one assigned to my registration number?

You must come to the Asylum Service on the date assigned to your registration number. Only if you are contacted by the Asylum Service and informed to do so, should you present yourself at a different date.

How can people who have developed health problems or vulnerabilities since pre-registration inform the Asylum Service for prioritization?

During the scheduling of appointments, four factors were taken into consideration – a) Vulnerability, b) Date of arrival in Greece; c) Language/availability of interpreter; d) Availability of registration officer in a particular asylum office. Thus vulnerability already was taken as a first priority during the scheduling of the appointments.

If there are extreme circumstances (such as health related issues) that have significantly affected your vulnerability status since the pre-registration procedure, you should consult the most appropriate actors providing humanitarian assistance in your site or area. You should inform the Asylum Service at your full registration appointment if you are experiencing increased vulnerability. However, every case will be considered strictly on individual basis. Generally there will be no rescheduling.

What is the Registration Number and what is the Case Number?

The Registration Number is the number that is printed on the asylum seeker card you were given when you were pre-registered.

The Case Number is the number that is printed on the asylum seeker’s card you were given after you were fully registered.
Can I leave to another country after being pre-registered in Greece? Will I be fully registered upon my return, in case the third country sends me back?

After you are pre-registered, and until your application has been fully examined and processed, you must remain in Greece. You are considered an asylum seeker, and as such you have the same rights and obligations regarding travel as a fully registered asylum seeker.

What happens if my pre-registration card is damaged?

You may attend your appointment for full registration with a damaged pre-registration card. You will still be fully registered and get the full registration International Protection Applicant Card. Those with a damaged pre-registration Asylum Seeker Card may also approach the Asylum Service before the appointment date, with the damaged card and request to have it replaced.

If you miss or skip the appointment, you will have to start the whole process again from the beginning. You will have to call the Asylum Service via Skype and arrange a new pre-registration appointment. This would take place after March 2017.

What can I do if I lose my International Protection Applicant Card (asylum seeker card)?

If you lose your card, you need to go to the Asylum Office that issued the card and inform the Asylum Service personnel that you have lost your card. This refers to the mainland only. You will be given an attestation letter in order for you to go to the Police and declare that you lost the card or it was stolen. The police will provide you with a notice, which you will have to take to the Asylum Service that will issue a replacement card. The process for issuing the new card will take at least at least two months. In the meantime you will need to keep in your possession both documents -- the notice provided by the Police and the attestation provided by the Asylum Service.

My family composition has changed since the day of pre-registration (we have a newborn/someone left, etc)? How can I inform the Asylum Service about it?

If your child has been born after you were pre-registered, you must bring the newborn together with the birth certificate to your appointment for full registration. The child will then be fully registered and given an International Protection Applicant’s Card (asylum seeker card).

I was registered as a minor during the pre-registration, but I became an adult in the meantime, will I have the same rights?

Your age will not directly determine or change your rights or status in relation to your eligibility for asylum or for the relocation scheme (if you are already eligible). It will affect your status if you wish to apply for family reunification and you are no longer a minor at the time of full registration. However it remains at the discretion of the other country that is considering your family reunification case.

I am a minor, so will I go through a detailed examination to establish my age during the full registration procedure?

At the full registration you will be asked to state and verify your date of birth. If you state a false date of birth, this may affect the credibility of your application. You may also be requested to undergo an age assessment examination. Thus, you must always be truthful about your age.
If a person is 65 years of age or older can he/she be included in the same case as his/her adult children?
Only nuclear family members (father, mother and minor children) can be included in the same asylum case. The elderly extended family members as well as any adult child will be getting their own asylum case which will be connected to the case of their relatives.

Will they take my fingerprints during the full registration? What will happen with the fingerprints, if I try to go to another country?
If you have already been fingerprinted when you entered Greece, your fingerprints are already in the Eurodac Database, so it makes no difference if you provide them again during the full registration appointment.
If you do not provide your fingerprints as you are obliged to, the full registration of your application will not take place, therefore the examination of your application will be interrupted and you will no longer be entitled to have an International Protection Applicant Card. You will also not be able to be considered for relocation, family reunification, or receive international protection in Greece.

Why am I being asked for my fingerprints?
Fingerprinting is a mandatory step in asylum procedures in every European Union country. It will allow all countries to know which country you first entered in the EU.

Who can apply for family reunification?
Adults (over 18 years old) who have a nuclear family member, legally living in another European country (nuclear family consists of husband, wife and minor children). In this case you can ask to live with your spouse or your child who is not yet an adult if they are living legally in another European country. If you are a child and you are travelling without your parents or a legal guardian, you can ask to join your mother/father, sister/brother, aunt/aunt, or grandmother/grandfather.

What are the next steps after full registration for relocation cases?
The Asylum Service will examine your application, and if you are eligible for the EU relocation program, your application will be sent to another EU Member State for consideration. If you are accepted for relocation you will be notified about the destination, accommodation and transportation details. Those who qualify for the EU relocation program will be offered temporary accommodation before leaving Greece after the full registration process.

What are the differences between the Family Reunification (Dublin) cases and those of nationals eligible for Relocation?
Family Reunification is available only for members of a nuclear family (spouse and minor children), where all family members’ asylum applications will be examined by the same member state. Relocation candidates are transferred to another member state for the examination of their asylum application, but do not have the chance to choose to which country they will be relocated.

What is the Syria Fast Track?
Syria Fast Track concerns only Syrian nationals and Palestinians from Syria who want to seek asylum in Greece. If you have not been pre-registered and you wish to seek asylum in Greece you have to book an appointment via skype for Fast-Track Syria. In order to book an appointment via Skype you have to have a Syrian passport (if you are Palestinian from Syria you must have a Travel Document for Palestinian Refugees issued by Syria).
Some Syrians who have pre-registered through the pre-registration exercise in June and July and are not eligible for relocation, because they entered Greece after the 20th of March 2016, will be channelled to the fast-track procedure, which means that normally they will receive international protection in Greece very quickly.

What documents will I be given after being granted asylum in Greece? What are my rights?
After being granted international protection in Greece you will be provided with a Residence Permit valid for three years which may be renewed. You have the right to apply for travel documents. More information on all the rights of beneficiaries of international protection can be found on the Asylum Service’s website: http://asylo.gov.gr/en/?page_id=471

What happens if my request for family reunification is rejected by the country where my family member lives?
If the destination country refuses your request for family reunification, you will be able to remain in Greece while your asylum application is examined in Greece.

How long will I stay in Greece between registration and family reunification?
The length of time depends on the individual case as well as on the authorities in the destination country. It will take several months.

How long will I stay in Greece between full registration and relocation to another European country?
The amount of time depends on the individual case as well as on the authorities in the destination country. It will certainly take some months.

More details:

For information on the asylum procedure in Greece, see here http://asylo.gov.gr/en/?page_id=62
For information on family reunification according to the Dublin III Regulation, see here http://asylo.gov.gr/en/?page_id=81
For information for those granted asylum / international protection in Greece, see here http://asylo.gov.gr/en/?page_id=471