



PERMANENT MISSION OF GREECE
GENEVA

Ref. No. 6171.2/157/1920

NOTE VERBALE

The Permanent Mission of Greece to the United Nations Office at Geneva and other International Organizations in Switzerland presents its compliments to the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and with reference to the questionnaire of the Special Rapporteur on adequate housing dated 29 October 2015, has the honour to attach herewith the responses of the Ministry of Labour, Social Security and Social Solidarity.

The Permanent Mission of Greece to the United Nations Office at Geneva and other International Organizations in Switzerland avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights the assurances of its highest consideration.



Geneva, 2 December 2015

To: The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights
Special Procedures Branch
Special Rapporteur on adequate housing

srhousing@ohchr.org

Att.: 7 pages

ΕΠΙΣΗΜΗ ΜΕΤΑΦΡΑΣΗ OFFICIAL TRANSLATION TRADUCTION OFFICIELLE
No. F 092.22/7312

HELLENIC REPUBLIC

MINISTRY OF LABOUR, SOCIAL SECURITY AND SOCIAL SOLIDARITY

DIRECTORATE-GENERAL: LABOUR AND INTEGRATION INTO
EMPLOYMENT

DIRECTORATE: SOCIAL PROTECTION AND SOCIAL COHESION

SECTION I

Contact: Ms. K. Vatsi

Phone: 2131516308

Postal Address: 29, Stadiou St. - Athens

Postal Code: 101 10

Email: kvatsi@ypakp.gr

Athens, November 11, 2015

Reference number: N/A

To: International Relations Directorate

Section I

In our Service

Subject: Questionnaire of the UN Special Rapporteur on the right to adequate housing,
in line with the right to non-discrimination and adequate living conditions.

Re: 1. The document of your Service under reference no. 49882/1119 / 5.11.2015.

2. The document of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs under reference no. AS 46564 /
3.11.2015

In response to the above and as regards question no. 8, dealing with our competence and
involving the provision of information on our strategies at national, sub-national and
local levels, aimed at reducing homelessness, we inform you of the following :

A. National Strategic Framework for Social Inclusion

In December 2014, we submitted to the European Commission the National Strategic
Framework for Social Inclusion, which lays the foundations for the reform of policies to
tackle poverty, social exclusion and discrimination. It also attempts to rank the priorities
to reform the social protection system and introduce a common framework for
coordinating, monitoring and evaluating all relevant interventions.

Ελληνική Δημοκρατία, Υπουργείο Εξωτερικών, Μεταφραστική Υπηρεσία
Hellenic Republic, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Translation Service
République Hellénique, Ministère des Affaires Etrangères, Service de Traduction

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The National Social Inclusion Strategy specializes in Regional Social Inclusion Strategies from the respective Regions. In implementing Regional Strategies, a key funding tool is the financing, from the European Social Fund (ESF) and the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), of the 13 Regional Operational Programmes for the 2014-2020 Programming Period.

In this light, the needs in the field of poverty and social exclusion will be addressed under all three pillars of the adopted National Strategic Framework for Social Inclusion.

B. The specificity of the National Social Inclusion Strategy

The National Strategic Framework was specified and submitted to the European Commission on 30-6-2015, now becoming the Specific National Social Inclusion Strategy (ESKE). By a joint letter, the Operational Action Plan for the Permanent Social Inclusion Facility was also submitted for approval.

The National Social Inclusion Strategy is structured on Operational Axes, each of which specializes in Policy Priorities which, in turn, are further broken down into Measures either already implemented by the Greek State or to be implemented during the reference period.

In particular, access to adequate housing is provided in Operational Axis 1, "Addressing Extreme Poverty", in Measure 1.1.4. of Policy Priority 1.1.

The Measure is structured in four axes, under which existing and planned actions are grouped:

- Axis 1. Mapping and governance of the homelessness field.
- Targeted prevention of homelessness.
- Housing and reintegration.
- Improvement of living conditions for populations living under inadequate conditions.

The high priority groups are defined as follows:

- people living in the streets,
- people living for a long time in transitional / temporary accommodation facilities for homeless people, in welfare facilities and institutions,
- people at risk of losing their homes,
- people living in substandard housing.

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III. Action Plan for the Permanent Social Inclusion Facility

At operational level, the establishment of a Facility for monitoring and implementing social inclusion, social protection and cohesion policies is required.

The Facility's Action Plan submitted is intended to describe, at operational level, the establishment of the Facility, aimed at coordinating, recording, monitoring and evaluating the relevant policies and exploiting the findings to constantly update the strategic planning and prepare interventions and social inclusion policies.

The Facility is based on a single organization aimed at eliminating duplications and highlighting the complementarity of responsibilities, where necessary.

THE HEAD OF THE DEPARTMENT

Ms. K. KASTANI

Internal distribution:

1. Office of the Director of Labour & Integration into Employment
2. D5 / Department 1
3. D5 / K.F.

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HELLENIC REPUBLIC
MINISTRY OF INTERIOR & ADMINISTRATIVE RECONSTRUCTION
GENERAL SECRETARIAT FOR GENDER EQUALITY
DIRECTORATE: SERVICES FOR CITIZENS AND INSTITUTIONS
DEPARTMENT: EUROPEAN AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION
Postal Address: 8, Dragatsaniou St.

Athens, 10559

Contact: Mr. G. Papageorgiou

Phone: 2131511156

Fax: 2103231316

e-mail: geopapag@isotita.gr

Athens, 11/11/2015

Reference number: D2 / DIETH / F. 10/1833

TO: The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Directorate D4 for Human Rights

CC: Ministry of Interior and Administrative Reconstruction, Independent Office for International and European Relations

Subject: "Questionnaire of the UN Special Rapporteur on the right to adequate housing, in connection with the right to non-discrimination and adequate living conditions".

Re: Your document under reference no. AS46564 / 3.11.2015 and the relevant official memo prepared by the Ministry of Interior and Administrative Reconstruction.

In response to your above document, please be advised of the following:

- The General Secretariat for Gender Equality, in implementing the National Programme for Preventing and Combating Violence against Women, has created a wide network of facilities, among which 21 accommodation hostels for women - gender violence victims. Women victims of violence facing housing problems may be accommodated in these facilities and receive psychosocial support and counselling.
- Regarding the third question of the questionnaire: The phenomenon of homelessness, which in recent years seems to be intensifying, is a form of extreme poverty, which disproportionately affects women. From the results of the last Report on the Living Conditions in Greece, prepared by the Hellenic Statistical Authority (November 2015).

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it seems that the risk of poverty and social exclusion in Greece, from 31% of the total population in 2011, has risen to 36% in 2014 (EU-28 average 24,4%), with a percentage of 42,5% for men and 42,9% for women. These rates are on the rise from 2010 onwards, due to the economic crisis. The fact that women are more vulnerable to the risk of poverty (and possibly the risk of homelessness) is due to several factors, including unequal access to paid employment, lower incomes, lack of social protection and limited access to assets, including land and real estate.

• While preparing the new National Action Plan on Gender Equality which is being drafted by the General Secretariat for Gender Equality, we will consider the issue of poverty spread, specifically for women, and will design policies and actions aimed at tackling it.

We remain at your disposal for any further cooperation.

THE HEAD OF THE DIRECTORATE

Ms. THEODORA KATSIVARDAKOU

Internal distribution:

- Office of the Secretary General, Mrs. F. Kouvela
- Directorate: Development and Support of Gender Equality Policies

ΥΠΟΥΡΓΕΙΟ ΕΡΓΑΣΙΑΣ ΚΟΙΝΩΝΙΚΗΣ ΑΣΦΑΛΙΣΗΣ ΚΑΙ ΚΟΙΝΩΝΙΚΗΣ ΑΛΛΗΛΕΓΓΥΗΣ

ΕΘΝΙΚΟ ΚΕΝΤΡΟ ΚΟΙΝΩΝΙΚΗΣ ΑΛΛΗΛΕΓΓΥΗΣ-NATIONAL CENTRE OF SOCIAL SOLIDARITY

ΔΙΕΥΘΥΝΣΗ ΚΟΙΝΩΝΙΚΩΝ ΠΑΡΕΜΒΑΣΕΩΝ

1. There is Law 4052 which refers to the "Definition of the homeless" (Governmental Gazette 41, Issue A', article 29). Based on this law, the homeless are recognized as a vulnerable social group in which social protection is provided. Defined as homeless are all persons legally residing in the country, which have no access, or have unsafe access to adequate owned, rented or granted housing that meets the necessary technical requirements and offers of basic water and electricity services. Homeless people are especially considered those living on the street, in shelters, those who are hosted temporarily in institutions or other structures, as well as those living in inadequate accommodation.

There is also the Ministerial Decision no. D28oik.37401/3462, which sets the Framework setting of minimum operational standards for Social Shelters of short-term hospitality and it is issued in Governmental Gazette 297, Issue II /02.11.2014

2. Homelessness is measured occasionally and relatively informally. In the National Center of Social Solidarity, we measure the requests for sheltering, based on the ETHOS criteria.
3. Homelessness seems to affect mainly men, between the ages of 45-65, and also mainly refugees or asylum seekers. This observation comes from experience and cooperation with the social welfare institutions.
4. Mainly the financial crisis in Greece which has brought vast unemployment in recent years.
5. There is no stigmatization or discrimination of any kind of the homeless. On the contrary, there are actions by organizations through street work helping the homeless even when they want to remain on the street, offering them food, clothing and the opportunity to go if they want to special places (dormitories, day care centers etc.) where they can stay for a while and get back on the street, if they wish.
6. Homelessness has not yet been identified through courts or laws as a violation of human rights in our country.
7. -----
8. There is the Operational Programme "Human resources Development", Thematic axis 4: "Complete integration of all the human resources in a society of equal

opportunities", financed by the European Social Fund. The aim of the Programme as far as poverty is concerned is the reduction of the number of people at risk of poverty or/and people who suffer material deprivation or/and people living in households without working members, at 450,000 by 2020.

- **Social Grocery:** Shop that distributes to people in need, on a regular basis, food, groceries, personal hygiene items, frozen products, clothing and footwear, books, games, cd etc.
- **Open center for the daily reception of the homeless:** It offers temporary daily stay of the homeless with specific minimum capacity, which operates at a fixed time, with the aim of providing primary health care, personal hygiene, psychosocial support and information to empower the homeless and promote the social integration of the beneficiaries.
- **Dormitory:** Structure offering the possibility of overnight to the homeless, which operates at a fixed time, with a specific minimum capacity of beds. It also provides psychosocial support services, information and counseling aimed at empowerment and social integration of the beneficiaries.
- **Structure providing common meals,** which operates at a fixed time, fulfills the applicable health provisions and has specific capacity for offering meals.
- **Social pharmacy:** providing free medicines, medical supplies and pharmaceutical products, which are ensured through specific collaborations with pharmaceutical companies and local pharmaceutical associations.
- **Municipal Vegetable garden:** Structure consisting of a single area of a fenced farm, which is distributed to the homeless on isomeric cuts, in order to be cultivated, having as a sole purpose their feeding.
- **Time Bank:** A structure that enables people to have dealings in a specific geographical unit, for exchanging goods and services with alternative system units.
- **Mediation Offices:** A structure that provides information and facilitation services to the people regarding services who are offered by the Social Structures of the Urgent Confrontation of Poverty and their referral to the corresponding structures based on their particular needs. It also provides facility services in their communication with governmental agencies on issues related to their health and work. They are also provided of psychosocial support and information services aiming at their strengthening and their social integration.