

A photograph of several children, likely refugees, looking through a metal grid fence. The children are wearing winter clothing, including hats and jackets. The image is used as a background for the text.

Challenges for Studying - and after Studying in Greece for refugees

Inspireurope Outreach Workshop

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- Born in Kabul, Afghanistan.
- Lived 12 years in Greece.
- Bachelor of Informatics and Telematics Harokopio University, Athens, Greece 2010-2014.
- Founder of Study in Greece 2014.
- I worked with many refugees and collaborate with NGOs during the period 2014-2019.
- Currently working in Volvo as a Sustainability Coordinator.



Main pillars of presentation

- Frustration for refugees to attend primary/secondary.
- Difficulties for refugees to register on a Greek University.
- Challenges after graduation from the Greek Institute.



Refugee and migration childrens between age 5 to 19

Childrens between age 5 to 19 years old
Almost 4 million were born outside the EU.

Number of foreign-born in school-age
children (5-19)in greece is About 84 000.

A quarter of children's had not completed
any formal level of education,

77% of refugee children's listed going to
school as one of their top priorities.

Key facts & figures (1/2)

- There are 118,000 refugees and asylum seekers in Greece, the majority of whom are children and youth.
- Over 60% of refugees are under the age of 30, more than 5,000 are unaccompanied minors.
- More than 76,000 refugees are on the mainland, more than 42,000 are residing on the Greek Aegean islands.



Key facts & figures (2/2)

- As of January 2020, the refugee enrolment rate in public schools on the Greek islands was only 6%.
- From 31,000 school-aged refugee children, only 13,000 were enrolled in formal schools in 2019–2020.
- The combined efforts of UN agencies and Greek NGOs delivering non-formal education on the Greek islands had only reached 1,472 students till now.



Key challenges for refugee on (primary/secondary) education in Greece

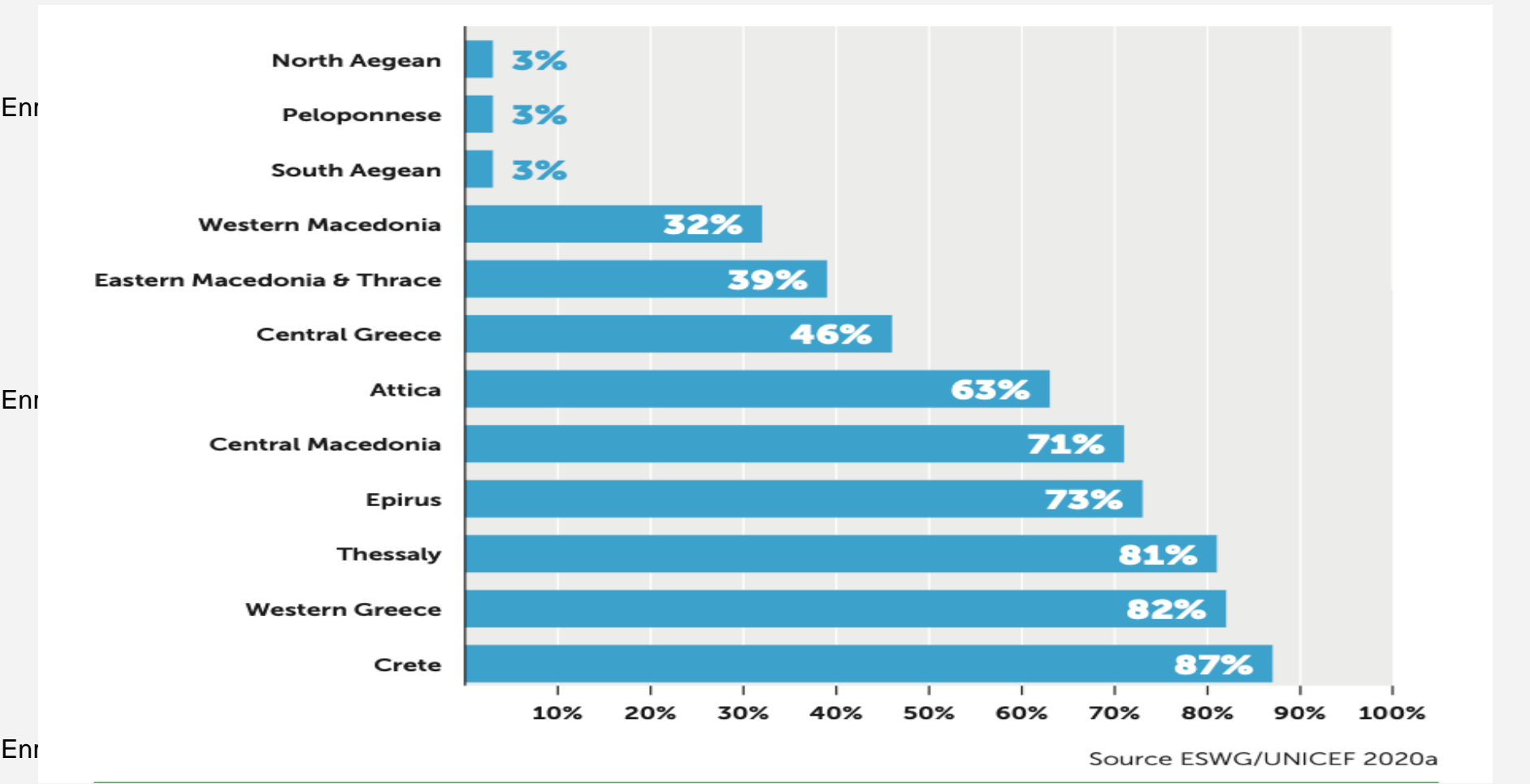
1. Refugee children's access to education is dependent on their location and housing arrangements.
1. Refugee children have poor levels of education prior to arriving to Greece.
1. Refugee children lack the Greek language skills necessary for them to benefit from formal education.
1. Refugee children lack an interpreter in primary schools, as it exists in Sweden and other EU countries.
1. Lots of parents consider Greece as a transit country and they don't send their children to school.

Main frustration in Schools

- Some local communities have been resistant to the integration of refugee children in public schools.
- The majority of teachers are not trained to receive refugee students in their classrooms and schools are not well equipped to support teachers.
- Schools do not engage refugee parents in supporting the integration of their children.



The enrolment rate in the formal education of children 4–17 years old, per region



Non-formal education coverage on the islands

	Number of children 3–17 years old	Number of children participating in NFE	Percentage of children participating in NFE
Lesvos	3,086	701	23%
Chios	402	279	69%
Samos	1,059	405	38%
Kos	428	87	20%
Leros	314	0	0%
Rhodos	7	0	0%
Total	5,296	1,472	28%

Source UNICEF, 2019

Requirements to attend to a Greek University

- Certificate of Attainment in Modern Greek.
- Validated refugee documents given from Greek embassy on their country.
- Stamp on the documents from their embassy in Greece.
- Needed to be translated to the Greek language.
- Δ.Ο.Α.Τ.Α.Π. verify the documents and annotate each candidate to University depending on their grade level.



Difficulties to attend to a Greek University

- Refugees lose their documents on their journey to come to EU.
- In case of having political residence permit not able to get the stamp from their embassy in Greece.
- Difficulties to learn the Greek language on the duration of 8 months.
- Cost of 600 euros to attend to course to learn the language.

Challenges after Graduations

- Impossible to work as civil servant till they get the Greek citizenship.
- Difficulty to update the residence permit after the graduations.
- Big effect of economic crisis due to the 40.4% of youth unemployment.



Improvement of integration process

- Assign teacher assistants that speaking Farsi, Arabic to each school.
- Might be a volunteer help as teacher assistant of a refugee that studying in University.
- Mandatory for all refugee children to attend to primary school.
- On each refugee camp should exist an obligatory Greek language course.
- Should exist courses to learn the culture and the laws of Greece.

Questions / Ερωτήσεις

