



European and Development
Programs Division
MINISTRY OF INTERIOR & ADMINISTRATIVE
RECONSTRUCTION



IOM International Organization for Migration
ΔΟΜ Διεθνής Οργανισμός Μετανάστευσης
Office in Greece · Γραφείο Ελλάδας
<http://greece.iom.int>

Press Release

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The **European and Development Programs Division of the Ministry of Interior & Administrative Reconstruction** and the **International Organization for Migration-Office in Greece** have successfully organized a three day exchange of expertise meeting with Norwegian Authorities within the field of Assisted voluntary return as a comprehensive approach part of the Greek Migration Management.

The activity was funded **as a complementary action of the the Programme GR06 Capacity Building of National Asylum and Migration Management Systems within the framework of the European Economic Area Grants**, which is being implemented by the Ministry of Interior and Administrative Reconstruction.

During the three day event greetings were addressed by the Alternate Secretary General of the Ministry of Interior and Administrative Reconstruction Mr. Tzanetos Filippakos, HE the Ambassador of Kingdom of Norway to Greece Sjur Larsen, Ambassador Stavros Tsiepas, Police Lieutenant General Emmanouil Katriadakis, Police Colonel Panagiotis Marketakis Chair of The European and Development Programs Division, the representative from the Alternate Minister of Migration Policy Mrs Eleni Takou, the Secretary General of Information and Communication Mr. Eleftherios Kretsos, the Chief of Mission in Greece Mr Daniel Esdras and the Head of the Norwegian Directorate of Immigration Mr Tor Magne Hovland. Services which play a vital role in the Greek migration management system such as the First Reception Service and Asylum Service have been represented by their Directors Mr. Panagiotis Nikas and Ms. Maria Stavropoulou.

Key institutions from Norway including the Royal Norwegian Embassy in Athens, the Norwegian Directorate of Immigration (UDI), the Norwegian Police Immigration Service, the Norwegian Crime Investigation Service and International Organisation of Migration Norway honoured by their presence the three day event and shared their experience in the field of migration management.

Participants highlighted the need for a holistic approach in managing migration as well as the necessity to create legal channels for people who wish to migrate. Moreover, they emphasized their commitment to provide alternatives to moving populations, to enhance assisted voluntary return and reintegration programmes for people who wish to return and most of all to safeguard the right of people to move including the right to return to their country of origin.

The meetings enabled all participants to gain valuable insight into the topics discussed and the challenges faced in Norway and Greece and particularly in procedures of assisted return and cooperation with Consular Authorities.





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*Strengthening bilateral relations is a primary objective of the
Norway and EEA Grants.*

*Strengthening ties between European countries brings mutual benefits for
institutions and organizations in both the donor and beneficiary countries.*





ΥΠΟΥΡΓΕΙΟ ΕΣΩΤΕΡΙΚΩΝ
& ΑΝΑΤΙΤΕΛΙΚΩΝ ΠΡΟΓΡΑΜΜΑΤΩΝ

ΥΠΗΡΕΣΙΑ ΔΙΑΧΕΙΡΙΣΗΣ
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