

All of the rumours are collected among refugees passing through Europe. By identifying misinformation and hearsay and responding to it with relevant, factual information, **NewsThatMoves** aims to keep the refugee population at the forefront of our communication response.

Rumour #1

“I hear from my friends that either you accept asylum in Greece or you will be deported back to the country of origin.”

Answer

Asylum seekers refusing asylum in Greece or withdrawing their application for asylum may be removed from the country or deported to their country of origin, if it is safe to do so. People who do not want to proceed with the examination of their asylum claims should submit a request for withdrawal. The application will not be examined and you may be removed from Greece or will have to leave the country if you do not hold a valid residence permit.

For more information:

<https://newsthatmoves.org/en/qa-refusing-asylum-in-greece/>

Rumour #2

“Afghans are going to be relocated or transferred in November and the relocation program has been done for the Syrians.”

Answer

People from Afghanistan are not eligible for the European Union relocation program. Syrians are eligible to relocate to another European country from Greece and Italy. Decisions on which nationalities are eligible for relocation depend on how many asylum applications are approved for each nationality. Every three months, EUROSTAT releases figures; nationalities that fall below a 75% success rate are no longer eligible for relocation. If you are from Syria, Eritrea, Burundi, Mozambique, Bahrain, Bhutan, Qatar, Yemen or you are a stateless person who lived in one of those countries, you may be eligible for relocation.

For more information:

<https://newsthatmoves.org/en/qa-why-are-afghans-excluded-from-relocation/?pdf>

Rumour #3

“FYROM decided to never open its borders again.”

Answer

In March FYROM, Serbia and other countries along the ‘Balkan Route’ closed their borders, which prevented people from traveling irregularly to northern Europe. Since that time, political leaders from the EU and the Balkans have stressed on many occasions that the borders will not reopen. If you arrived before March 20, you may be eligible for legal transfer from Greece to another European country under the EU Relocation Program or through family reunification.

For more information:

<https://newsthatmoves.org/en/qa-balkan-route-will-remain-closed/>

Rumour #4

“Norway was not included in the relocation program, but it will soon join after it specifies the number of refugees it will receive.”

Answer

Non-European Union countries such as Norway, Switzerland and Iceland have voluntarily joined the EU Relocation Program. As of September 30, Norway has made 170 places available for relocation, Switzerland has made 460, available, and Iceland has made none. However, Norway did not relocate any asylum seekers from Greece and Italy, while Switzerland relocated 112 people from Italy. Recently, some organisations in Norway have encouraged the prime minister to accept and relocate more refugees. Countries relocating refugees are Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Ireland, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden.

For more information:

<http://norwaytoday.info/news/norway-must-allow-refugees/>

Rumour #5

“There is a huge possibility that the relocation program will fail...and all the refugees will be asked to leave Greece and choose where they want to go and live.”

Answer

The EU Relocation Program has been moving slowly but continues to function. As of September 3, more than 5,800 people have been relocated from Greece and Italy out of an initial target of 106,000. Authorities in Europe repeatedly have said that the borders will remain closed. Relocation and family reunification remain the only legal methods to leave Greece to go to another EU country.

For more information:

<https://www.easo.europa.eu/questions-and-answers-relocation>



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