ENE-001357/2021Answer given by Ms Gabrielon behalf of the European Commission(28.6.2021)

In the school year 2020-2021, 11 830 migrant children are enrolled in Greek schools. Of these: 3 142 are enrolled in classes under the Reception Facilities for Refugee Education scheme; 7 535 are enrolled in schools without reception classes; and 1 153 are enrolled in schools with reception classes.

The Reception Conditions Directive[[1]](#footnote-1) provides that minor children who apply for international protection must be ensured access to education under similar conditions as nationals within three months from the date of lodging their application[[2]](#footnote-2). Moreover, based on the Qualifications Directive[[3]](#footnote-3), Member States must grant full access to the education system to all minors granted international protection, under the same conditions as nationals. In applying these Directives, Member States must ensure compliance with fundamental rights, including the right to education enshrined in Article 14 of the Charter of Fundamental Rights.

The Commission has underlined on several occasions[[4]](#footnote-4), including in the recently adopted EU Strategy on the Rights of the Child, that additional and targeted protection and support is required for migrant children, including in education. The Action Plan on Integration and Inclusion[[5]](#footnote-5) also includes measures to ensure that more migrant children participate in high quality and inclusive early childhood education and care. Member States are also encouraged to make full use of EU funding to support programmes and measures related to education.

The Commission has been monitoring the situation and works closely with the Greek authorities. The recently established European Taskforce for Migration Management in Greece meets regularly to facilitate access to formal and non-formal education for all refugee and migrant children.

1. Article 14 of Directive 2013/33/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 26 June 2013. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=celex%3A32013L0033>; The recast of the Reception Conditions Directive currently under discussion by the co-legislators since 2016 would bring more harmonised rules and improved reception conditions for asylum applicants, including better access to education for child migrants. In line with the New Pact on Migration and Asylum, the Commission calls on the co-legislators to adopt this proposal without further delay. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Article 27 of Directive 2011/95/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 13 December 2011. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament and the Council on the protection of children in migration [COM(2017) 211 final](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A52017DC0211); Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, The Council, The European Economic And Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions on the EU strategy on the rights of the child [COM/2021/142 final](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A52021DC0142&qid=1620044665816) [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/ALL/?uri=COM:2020:758:FIN> [↑](#footnote-ref-5)