



**PRESS RELEASE**

**Reduction of migratory flows by 97.26% in April 2020 compared to April 2019, and by 97.95% compared to January 2020.**

**Reduction of residents in the RICs of the islands by 10.64% compared to the beginning of the year.**

**129.62% increase of asylum decisions for April 2020.**

**Reduction of pending applications to the Appeals Authority by 21.77%.**

The Ministry of Immigration and Asylum publishes the April 2020 newsletter, with data on immigration flows, the total number of people staying at the Reception and Identification Centers (RIC), transportation to the mainland, and data related to the examination of asylum applications and appeals.

**General Conclusions**

- **Flow reduction:** Impressive was the continued decrease in flows - in the islands and Evros - in April 2020, compared to April 2019 (-97.26%) and to March 2020 (-97%). From the beginning of the year, the decrease was of the order of 97.95%.
- **Reduction of residents:** In the structures of the islands' RICs, a **10.64% decrease of residents was recorded in April 2020 compared to January 2020. The decrease of the total residents compared to January 2020 is -8.86%.**
- **Transportation** from the islands to the mainland during the first four months of 2020 amounted to **11,825**, almost doubling the number for the corresponding four months of 2019.
- **Increase in application decisions:** In April 2020, 15,853 asylum decisions were issued compared to 6,904 decisions in March (an **increase of 129.62%**).
- **Reduction of pending applications:** Pending asylum claims were reduced by 12.2% in April 2020 compared to March 2020.
- **Appeals:** In April 2020, the reduction of pending cases in the Appeals Authority continued. **The decrease was of the scale of -21.77%, compared to March 2020.**

## **DETAILED DATA**

### **I. Arrival Flows**

Despite the increased inflows recorded in February 2020 (+15% compared to February 2019), there were very significant reductions in March (-15.85%) and -especially- in April (-97.26%), compared to the corresponding months of 2019.

In April, flows in the islands and Evros decreased by 97% compared to March 2020 and 97.95% since the beginning of the year.

	<b>RIC KOS</b>	<b>RIC LESBOS</b>	<b>RIC SAMOS</b>	<b>RIC CHIOS</b>	<b>RIC LEROS</b>	<b>TOTAL*</b>
<b>Jan-2020</b>	<b>209</b>	<b>1,751</b>	<b>596</b>	<b>176</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3,713</b>
<b>Feb-2020</b>	<b>209</b>	<b>521</b>	<b>454</b>	<b>306</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>2,767</b>
<b>Mar-2020</b>	<b>262</b>	<b>854</b>	<b>178</b>	<b>336</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2,581</b>
<b>Apr-2020</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>76</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>680</b>	<b>3,165</b>	<b>1,228</b>	<b>818</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>9,137</b>

\* including small islands and Evros.

### **II. Returns**

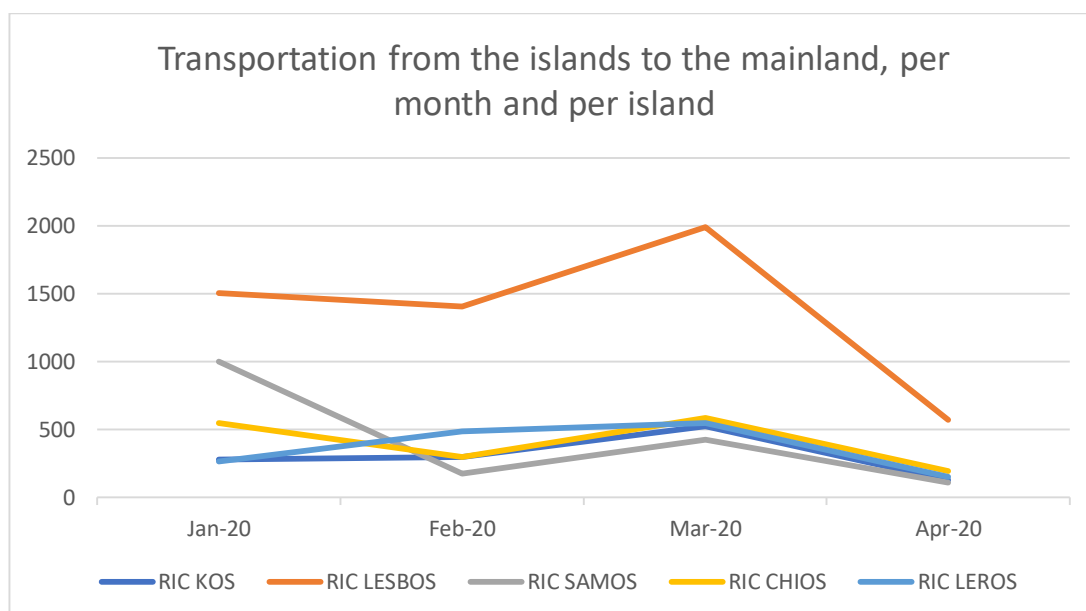
In April 2020, there were 3 voluntary departures via IOM (compared to 26 in March and 286 in February). Returns to Turkey have been suspended for to public health reasons.

### **III. Transportation to Mainland**

Transportation from the islands to the mainland in the first four months of 2020 amounted to 11,825. Transportation throughout 2019 rose to 19,346. Compared to March 2020, however, transportation for April 2020 were reduced due to COVID-19.

	RIC KOS	RIC LESBOS	RIC SAMOS	RIC CHIOS	RIC LEROS	TOTAL*
Jan-2020	276	1,502	1,001	545	262	3,600
Feb-2020	297	1,403	174	296	486	2,743
Mar-2020	524	1,992	424	582	546	4,344
Apr-2020	124	569	106	190	148	1,138
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,221</b>	<b>5,466</b>	<b>1,759</b>	<b>1,613</b>	<b>1,442</b>	<b>11,825</b>

\* including small islands and Evros.



#### IV. Residents on the islands and the mainland

On 30/04/2020 there were 34,544 residents in the islands RICs, compared to 36,387 on 31/03/2020 and 38,423 on 31/12/2019. The difference between the end of April 2020 and the beginning of January 2020 was -10.64%.

RIC	Residents 31/12/19	Residents 01/01/2020	Residents 31/03/2020	Residents 30/04/2020	Difference 2020
<b>LESBOS</b>	18,615	18,698	18,966	<b>18,365</b>	<b>-1.78%</b>
<b>CHIOS</b>	5,782	5,785	5,313	<b>5,036</b>	<b>-12.95%</b>
<b>SAMOS</b>	7,765	7,764	7,154	<b>6,850</b>	<b>11.77%</b>
<b>COS</b>	3,765	3,791	2,838	<b>2,395</b>	<b>-36.82%</b>
<b>LEROS</b>	2,496	2,496	2,116	<b>1,898</b>	<b>-23.96%</b>

<b>ISLAND RIC Total</b>	<b>38,423</b>	<b>38,534</b>	<b>36,387</b>	<b>34,544</b>	<b>-10.35%</b>
Fylakio	391	391	241	<b>240</b>	<b>-38.62%</b>
<b>RIC Total</b>	<b>38,814</b>	<b>38,925</b>	<b>36,628</b>	<b>34,785</b>	<b>-10.64%</b>

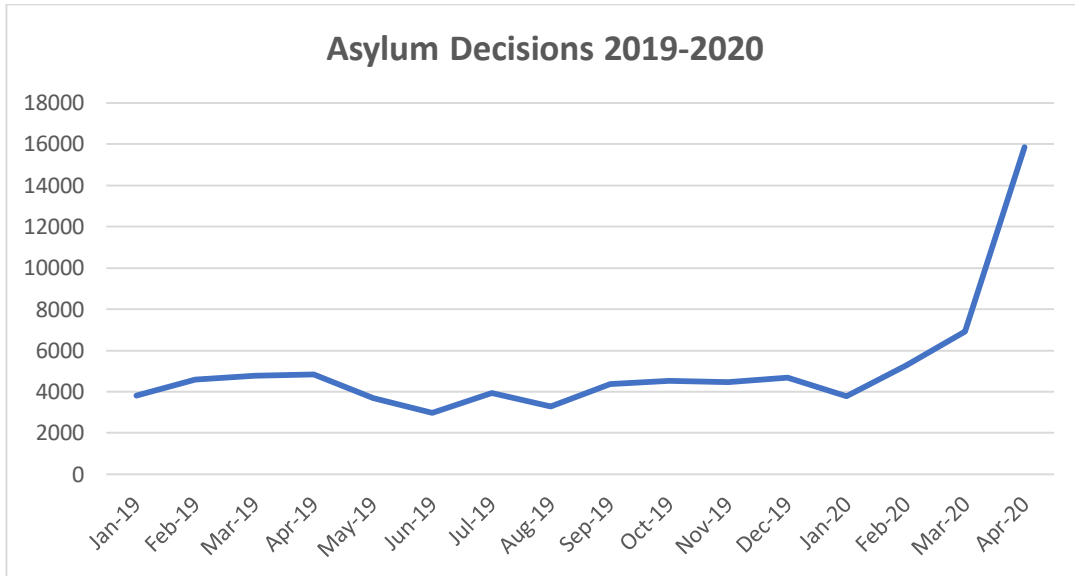
TOTAL RESIDENTS	Residents 31/12/2019	Residents 01/01/2020	Residents 31/03/2020	Residents 30/04/2020	Difference 2020
<b>LESBOS</b>	20,785	20,868	21,147	20,532	<b>-1.61%</b>
<b>CHIOS</b>	6,078	6,081	5,593	5,333	<b>-12.3%</b>
<b>SAMOS</b>	8,064	8,063	7,505	7,195	<b>-10.77%</b>
<b>COS</b>	4,119	4,146	3,472	3,033	<b>-26.85%</b>
<b>LEROS</b>	2,757	2,754	2,330	2,095	<b>23.93%</b>
<b>OTHER ISLANDS</b>	96	95	92	96	<b>+1.05%</b>
<b>ISLAND TOTAL</b>	<b>41,899</b>	<b>42,007</b>	<b>40,139</b>	<b>38,284</b>	<b>-8.86%</b>

## V. Pending and new Asylum & Appeals applications

Outstanding asylum claims were reduced by 12.2% in April. 105,501 decisions are pending today, compared to 120,165 in March and 126,083 in February.

ASYLUM SERVICE				
MONTH	PENDING DECISIONS	CHANGE (%)	DECISIONS	CHANGE (%)
<b>Dec-19</b>	123,515		4,671	
<b>Jan-20</b>	126,181	2.20%	3,783	-19%
<b>Feb-20</b>	126,083	-0.10%	5,273	+39%
<b>Mar-20</b>	120,165	-4.70%	6,904	+31%
<b>Apr-20</b>	105,501	-12.2%	15,853	+129.62%

In April 2020, 15,853 asylum decisions were issued, compared to 6,904 in March (an increase of 129.62%), 5,273 decisions issued in February and 3,783 issued in January 2020.



Finally, the reduction of pending cases in the Appeals Authority (where asylum applications of the Second Degree are examined) continued as a total of 1,857 cases were examined against 2,477 cases in March, 2,184 in February and 1,927 in January. The pending cases amounted to 8,182 on 31/4/2020.

APPEALS AUTHORITY		
MONTH	PENDING CASES	CHANGE (%)
<b>Dec-19</b>	14,610	
<b>Jan-20</b>	13,311	-8.89%
<b>Feb-20</b>	11,216	-15.74%
<b>Mar-20</b>	10,459	-6.75%
<b>Apr-20</b>	8,182	-21.77%