**LEGAL CERTIFICATION OF FOREIGN DOCUMENTS**

To make a foreign public document acceptable to Greek public services, it must first undergo the necessary legalisation process. Legalisation must be done on a case-by-case basis. The legalisation process precedes the official translation of the document by the Translation Service of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Specifically:

1. If the foreign public document has been issued by an authority from a contracting country of the 1961 Hague Convention, which has been ratified by Greece through Law 1497/1984 (Official Government Gazette 108A), it must bear the **apostille** annotation, in accordance with the existing treaty obligation.
For the list of countries that are contracting parties to the 1961 Hague Convention, please see <https://www.hcch.net/en/instruments/conventions/status-table/?cid=41>.

To find the competent authorities of each country, including Greece, to affix the apostille stamp, please see <https://www.hcch.net/en/instruments/conventions/authorities1/?cid=41>.

1. If the foreign public document has been issued by authorities in countries that have acceded to the Hague Convention, but Greece has expressed objections to their accession, such as Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Uzbekistan, Peru, and Tunisia**, the document can be legalised only by the competent Greek consular authority**. The competent Consulates are as follows:
	1. Kyrgyzstan - Consular Office of the Embassy in Astana (Kazakhstan).
	2. Mongolia - Consular Office of the Embassy in Beijing.
	3. Uzbekistan - General Consulate in Moscow.
	4. Peru - Consular Office of the Embassy in Lima.
	5. Tunisia - Consular Office of the Embassy in Tunis.
2. If the foreign public document has been issued by authorities in a country that is not a contracting party to the Hague Convention or if it is a public document explicitly excluded from the apostille annotation according to the provisions of the Convention (e.g., documents issued by Diplomatic or Consular agents, administrative documents directly related to commercial or customs transactions), **it requires consular legalisation in order to be accepted by Greek public services**.

Specifically:

* 1. Consular legalization can be affixed to a foreign public document issued by authorities of a country that is not a contracting party to the Hague Convention by the respective Greek consular authority in the country of origin, provided that it has been previously legalized by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the country of origin. Alternatively, the foreign public document can be legalized by the Authentication Department of the Hellenic Ministry of Foreign Affairs (KEPPAΕ) if, after being legalised by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the respective country, it is further legalised by the Consular Authority of that country in Greece.
	Exception: For documents originating from Ethiopia, Algeria, Afghanistan, Ghana, Eritrea, Indonesia, Iraq, Iran, Kenya, DR Congo, Libya, Mali, Bangladesh, Nigeria, Pakistan, Senegal, Sudan, Sri Lanka, and the Philippines, the legalisation is possible **only** through the competent Greek consular authority.
	2. Document issued by a Diplomatic or Consular Authority accredited in Greece, in the course of exercising their consular duties, must be legalized by the **Authentication** **Department of the Hellenic Ministry of Foreign Affairs (KEPPAE)** or, due to territorial jurisdiction, by the respective Authentication Office at the International Relations Service (Y.DI.S.) in Thessaloniki (Prefecture), except in cases where the document is exempt from legalisation due to bilateral or multilateral treaty obligations of Greece (e.g., the London Convention of 1968, which was ratified [Law 844/1978](https://www.mfa.gr/images/docs/ypiresies/1978.doc)).

**SERVICES AND ENTITIES ISSUING OFFICIAL TRANSLATIONS**

1. **The Translation Service of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs** (Article 22 of Law 3566/2007 - Government Gazette A' 117 and Article 6 of Law 3712/2008 - Government Gazette A' 225).
2. **Sworn translators of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs** (following the decision by the Minister of Foreign Affairs for the implementation of the new translation system, according to paragraph 2 of Article 47 of Law 3712/2008).
3. **Lawyers** (Lawyers' Code, Article 36/par.γ of Law 4194/2013).
4. **Consular Posts under Salary** (Article 52/par.1ε of Law 3566/2007). Consular posts are divided into salaried posts, managed by officials of the Diplomatic Corps, and honorary posts, managed by honorary consuls (Article 50/par.3 of Law 3566/2007).
5. **Graduate Translators of the Ionian University**(a. Law of the Legal Council of the State 495/2004 - The translations of graduate translators of the Ionian University are not mandatorily accepted by Public Administration and do not constitute documents originating from an Administrative Authority, and b. Ref. No ΔΙΣΚΠΟ/Φ22/5583/22.3.2005 circular of the Deputy Minister of Interior - It is at the discretion of the Administration to accept or not accept these translations. The criteria adopted by the Administrative Authorities in exercising their discretion are determined by themselves since each Administrative Authority has set its own priorities within its competencies.)