

# **Information on the procedure for issuing a European Certificate of Succession in Greece**

This leaflet shall provide you with a brief overview of the procedure for issuing a European Certificate of Succession in Greece, including information on the competent court and the required documents, the services provided by our law firm and the costs of the entire procedure.

## **I. Procedure for issuing a European Certificate of Succession**

If a beneficiary wishes to enhance the probative value of their inheritance in any Member State of the European Union (*provided that the death of the deceased occurred after 17.8.2015*), they may apply for a **European Certificate of Succession**. In particular, according to Article 4 of Regulation 650/2012 on international jurisdiction, if the deceased had his habitual residence in Greece at the time of his death, the Greek courts have full jurisdiction to hear the succession case.

For the issuance of a European Certificate of Succession, the following documents are required as a minimum:

- official copy of the Death Certificate (if the certificate has been issued by a foreign authority, it must be certified with an Apostille)
- an official document proving next of kin status
- if the deceased had drawn up a valid Will, a certified copy of it shall be required. If the Will was executed abroad, it too must be certified with an Apostille
- a certificate attesting that no will has been published (if there is not a will)
- a certificate attesting that the inheritance has not been renounced
- a certificate attesting that no court proceedings are pending in connection with the inheritance
- evidence of inherited assets abroad (i.e. immovable property, bank accounts, etc.)

## **II. Use and time period of validity of the European Certificate of Succession**

### **1. Use of the European Certificate of Succession**

The European Certificate of Succession is issued by the authority responsible for the succession and may be used by heirs, legatees, executors of wills or administrators of property to prove their status

and to exercise their rights or powers in other Member States. Once issued, the European Certificate of Succession shall be recognized in all Member States without any special procedure being required.

## **2. Time period of validity of the European Certificate of Succession**

The authority which issues the European Certificate of Succession shall keep the original certificate of succession and issue one or more certified copies to the person who applied for the European Certificate of Succession and to any other person who can prove that he or she has a legitimate interest. Certified copies of the European Certificate of Succession shall be valid for **six months**; however, their period of validity may be extended on request.

## **III. Legal services provided by our law firm**

To assist you in issuing a European Certificate of Succession, our law firm provides a complete service and will take care of all the necessary procedures, including the issuance of the required certificates, the filing of the application for a European Certificate of Succession to the competent court, determined by the last residence of the deceased (according to Greek Law, articles 810, 819 of Code of Civil Procedure), etc.

The procedure for issuing a European Certificate of Succession does not require the physical presence of the heir and may be carried out by simply signing an agreement of mandate - delegation to our law firm. This Agreement will be prepared by our law firm in accordance with the provisions of Greek law (upon request, in both Greek and English) and will be signed by both the mandator (i.e. our client) and the mandatary (i.e. our law firm).

Usually, the procedure for issuing a European Certificate of Succession can be completed within **1-2 months**, depending on the particular circumstances.

## **IV. Our fees and costs**

To provide you with the clearest possible picture, we list below the various costs that may arise during the procedure for the issuance of a European Certificate of Succession, although some depend on particular circumstances and in certain cases may not apply.

- Legal fees: Our fee is calculated on an hourly basis. Generally, the procedure for the issuance of a European Certificate of Succession requires **6-10** hours of work until completion.
- Cost of issuing certificates
- Costs related to the issuance of the *“Notification of Payment of Contributions and Stamps”* (ΓΡΑΜΜΑΤΙΟ ΠΡΟΚΑΤΑΒΟΛΗΣ ΕΙΣΦΟΡΩΝ & ΕΝΣΗΜΩΝ) in connection with the application for the European Certificate of Succession to the competent court
- Translation costs: € 35 per page plus VAT
- In case the competent Small Claims Court is located far from Athens fees for a local lawyer (usually around 400 Euro plus VAT)

**AP**  
**GENERALIS**  
LAW FIRM

**Chr. Lada 1 – GR 10561 Athens – Greece**  
**Tel. +30 210 32 39 800 – mail@apgp.eu – www.apgp.eu**  
**Members of EUCONNEX and DIRO**