

## HELIOS Together Campaign

IOM Greece under the HELIOS National Campaign launched a digital campaign, highlighting the importance of integration of recognized refugees into the Greek society and the smooth coexistence with local population.

Up to date, more than 15,000 recognized refugees have received rental subsidies upon achieving independent living.



[Download here HELIOS factsheet.](#)

## AVRR/OCAVRR project

Abdelmonaam met his family after twenty years. He has lost his vision and at the hearing of his beloved ones, he burst into tears. He left his home in Tunisia in 2001 to find a job that would allow him to support his parents and siblings in Tunisia.

"I am grateful to IOM Greece for assisting me to return home with dignity," Abdelmonaam said at the airport surrounded by his family.

He is one of the returnees via voluntary return & reintegration project (AVRR).

During July and August 2021, 456 migrants were assisted to return to their home countries. Meanwhile, the total number since the beginning of the project (September 2019 -August 2021) accounts to 5,246 voluntary returns. Amongst them, 28 % were from Pakistan, following 22% from Georgia, 19% from Iraq, 5% from Iran and 26% from various other countries.

\* IOM does not support voluntary returns to Syria and Afghanistan at this stage.

The implementation of assisted voluntary returns including reintegration measures and operation of Open Center in the Prefecture of Attica for applicants of voluntary return (AVRR/OCAVRR) is funded 75% by the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund of the European Union (AMIF) and 25% by National Funds.







## Weaves of tradition A collective activity in Nea Kavala site

**T**he IOM Community Engagement Team, with the help of “A Drop in the Ocean” organization, distributed fabrics and sewing machines to residents of the facility in order to create clothes inspired by their tradition. The result was the formation of 40 separate costumes for men, women and children.

IOM operates in Nea Kavala camp as the official Site Management Support Agency (SMS) with the support of the European Commission – DG HOME, under the “Supporting the Greek Authorities in Managing the National Reception System for Asylum Seekers and Vulnerable Migrants (SMS)” project.

[Read more here](#)

## Exploring our cities

**T**he international Organization for Migration (IOM) under EU – funded HELIOS project, launched the collective photo exhibition “Exploring our cities”, with works of 38 amateur photographers, both local Greeks and refugees who found a new home in Greece. During July and August 2021, IOM Greece under the framework of the project, collaborated with the Municipalities of Chania, Heraklion, Katerini, Ioannina and Thessaloniki organizing five (5) events, with free admission. In total more than 2,600 people visited the exhibitions.

[Read more here](#)



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03 – 07 July | Chania (Crete)  
10 – 14 July | Heraklion (Crete)  
22 – 25 July | Livadia

31 July – 08 August | Katerini  
27 August – 02 September | Ioannina

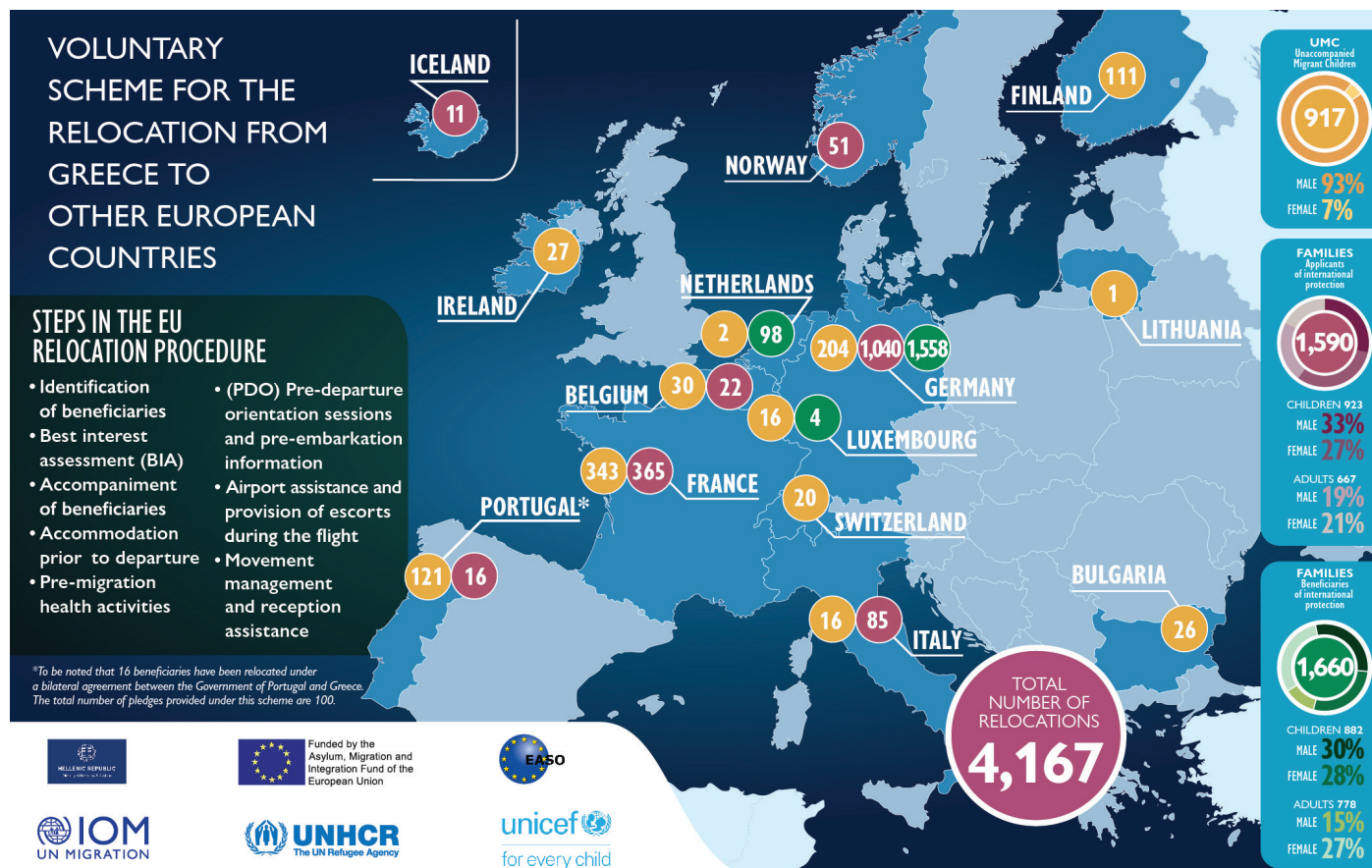


# Voluntary relocation scheme

More than 4,100 people were relocated from Greece to 13 European countries, carrying hopes and dreams of a better future, since April 2020. Among them some 900 unaccompanied minors and

families with vulnerabilities. The action is implemented by IOM with the funding of the European Commission & the support of the Greek Government, the Ministry of Migration

and Asylum, the Special Secretary for the protection of UMC and the General Secretary of Migration Policy. In partnership with European Asylum Support Office - EASO, UNHCR and UNICEF.



## IOM Brief: Deaths on Maritime Migration Routes to Europe Soar in First Half of 2021

IOM released a brief which sheds light on the ongoing situation along some of the most dangerous maritime migration routes worldwide. While the number of people attempting to cross to Europe via the Mediterranean increased by 58 per cent between January and June this year compared to the same period in 2020, more than twice as many people have lost their lives. [Read more here](#)