



## Exploring effective synergies towards sustainable migration management

IOM participated in a series of fruitful meetings that took place in Athens between high-level representatives from Serbia and Greece, where potential good practices on migration management were exchanged. Managing mixed migration, countering smuggling and human trafficking, protecting victims of trafficking, and border management were at the epicenter of the discussions. The visit occurred under the Switzerland - Serbia Migration Partnership 2020 - 2023.



## Providing housing and protection to more than 3,000 unaccompanied children

The IOM Greece and the General Secretariat for Vulnerable Persons & Institutional Protection announced that 3,173 unaccompanied children living in precarious conditions in Greece received protection and housing services from the beginning of 2022 until October 31, 2023.

IOM in collaboration with NERM of the Ministry of Migration and Asylum has secured sustainable solutions for a total of 2,328 children up to November 2023. 1,994 were referred to long-term accommodation facilities, 131 reached adulthood, 107 lived in semi-independent living facilities and 89 were reunited with their families in Greece.

From March 2023 until today, the emergency accommodation facilities are funded by the Swiss Government and the Ministry of Migration and Asylum within the framework of the Swiss-Greek Cooperation Programme. From December 2021 until February 2023 the programme was funded through a grant from the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs.



# Breast cancer awareness and early diagnosis program

**We respect breast cancer, but we don't fear it**

The mobile mammography unit of the Hellenic Cancer Society (HCS) visited the IOM Greece premises for free preventive mammographic Screenings. Following the screenings, representatives from HCS conducted an info session on breast cancer awareness, prevention, and treatment of the disease.



## Visit at the Open Center for voluntary returns

The Chief of IOM Mission in Greece, Gianluca Rocco welcomed the Minister of Interior of the Republic of Cyprus, Constantinos Ioannou. They visited the Open Center for voluntary return applicants in Athens and had a very interesting discussion on sustainable solutions, which contribute to effective migration management.



## Cultural event supported by the HELIOS Project

A cultural event has been organized in Athens by the Look Deeper artistic group, co-organized by Ukrainian Women in Greece, presenting an interactive comedy performance for the winter holidays. The participants enjoyed a traditional music-theater piece performed by artists from Ukraine, highlighting the common features in the two cultures - songs, embroidery, costumes. HELIOS project is implemented by IOM Greece and is funded by the Ministry of Migration & Asylum.





## Successful completion of the EU integration project

IOM and the Ministry of Migration and Asylum celebrated the successful completion of the EU integration project, under which 400 refugees from 22 different nationalities were trained to respond to emergencies and natural disasters. IOM is grateful for the Hellenic Fire Service's contribution and the excellent collaboration,

which was sealed with the donation of fire and training equipment, purchased under RRF project.

The action is implemented in the framework of National Recovery and Resilience Greece 2.0 with the funding of the European Union - NextGenerationEU.



## Strengthening the protection of fundamental rights in Greece & Cyprus

The Chief of the IOM mission in Greece, Gianluca Rocco hosted a very productive meeting with the Fundamental Rights officer of the Ministry of Migration and Asylum, officers of the European Commission & Cypriot Police to discuss cooperation in strengthening and streamlining the protection of fundamental rights in Greece and Cyprus under a forthcoming EU-funded project.



# AVRR figures up until December

During the reporting period, 480 migrants were assisted to return to their home countries under the project “Implementation of Assisted Voluntary Returns and Reintegration Measures as well as Operation of Accommodation Center for Applicants of Voluntary Return”. Amongst them, 82 % were from Georgia, following 4% from Pakistan, 2% from Iraq, 2% from India, and 10% from various other countries. The project,

which began in September 2023, is expected to assist in the voluntary return of 17,000 third-country nationals to their countries of origin, to provide in kind reintegration assistance to 1,700 returnees and to accommodate 1,700 assisted voluntary return applicants in the Open Centre. The project is being implemented through the Home Affairs Funds with the co-funding by the European Union.



## Educational activities for unaccompanied children

IOM staff together with Zeuxis organized art and physical activities for the unaccompanied children staying in the Safe Areas of Chios, Kos, Leros, Lesvos, and Samos.

The activities aim to develop essential skills and realize their potential! The project “Supporting Unaccompanied Migrant Children at the Greek Borders” project, is funded by Switzerland, the Czech Republic, and the Kingdom of the Netherlands.



## Field visit in Cyprus

Representatives of the European Commission and the Ministry of the Interior of the Republic of Cyprus conducted an official visit at Pournara First Reception Center to monitor the progress of interventions made by IOM, which aim at the upgrade of the Center. The action is funded by the EU – DG HOME.



# Practice as an orchestra musician for a day

Unaccompanied children from IOM shelters participated in the music event organized by the President of the Republic in collaboration with the intercultural orchestra El Sistema Greece and The General Secretary for Vulnerable Persons and Institutional Protection of the Ministry of Migration & Asylum.

Through an open rehearsal and interactive games with the musicians of the orchestra, the children had the opportunity to get in touch with the musical instruments and be introduced to the world of music! IOM shelters operate under TAMEY - with the co-funding by the European Union.



## Child Protection trainings across Greece

IOM training teams conducted in Pyrgos, Serres, Alexandria, and Veria trainings on Child Protection, focused on raising awareness and case management for Asylum Seekers.

The training courses targeted frontline field staff in everyday contact with vulnerable populations. They are implemented in coordination with RIS, in the framework of the "HARP 2022-2023: Harmonizing Protection Practices in Greece" project. The project is co-funded by the European Union.



## End inequalities! End AIDS!

IOM Greece responding to World AIDS Day organized at its premises HIV/AIDS information sessions and performed free testing for the IOM staff and migrant population.

IOM is working to bridge the gap in access to HIV/AIDS prevention, testing, and treatment in over 100 countries.