



Launching the “Rightlines: Drawing fundamental rights policies and actions at the Greek and Cypriot borders”

The International Organization for Migration, the Greek Ministry of Migration and Asylum, through the Fundamental Rights Officer, and the Cyprus Police, launched the EU-funded project “Rightlines: Drawing fundamental rights policies and Actions at the Greek and Cypriot borders”.

The project ensures that migration flows and cross-border mobility are in full compliance with fundamental rights and are well managed with dignity, safety, and security of all people on the move, including children and vulnerable migrants.

Saving lives and protecting people on the move is at the heart of IOM’s new strategic plan, combined with driving solutions to displacement and facilitating pathways for regular migration, which will help migration become safer and more orderly and dismantle the incentives for smuggling, trafficking, exploitation, and abuse.



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Evacuation exercise in Thiva accommodation facility

One of the biggest evacuation exercises was organized at the Thiva accommodation facility, where more than 200 asylum seekers and refugees participated. Under the valuable guidance of the Hellenic Fire Service, the population received training to deal with emergencies related to firefighting and environmental protection.

Within the framework of the RRF-funded projects, a series of thematic vocational trainings were delivered in the areas of Emergency Management, Home Care, Awareness raising on Trafficking in Human Beings, and Environment Protection aiming at strengthening the skills of the refugee population in Greece. The trainings enabled a total of 768 beneficiaries from over 30 countries to complete the tailored training programs, through which 337 women completed the vocational trainings across all thematic areas. A total of 322 expert trainers delivered the vocational trainings.

The trainings are delivered by IOM in partnership with the Ministry of Migration and Asylum. The action is implemented in the framework of National Recovery and Resilience Greece 2.0 with the funding of the European Union – NextGenerationEU.

Job opportunities for all

IOM welcomed the participants who joined the two-day job fair on Lesbos Island and had the chance to explore job opportunities, meet representatives of employers, and receive information on how to get further support for their integration journey in Greece.

The two-day job fair was organized by the Reception and Identification Service of the CCAC on Lesbos with the UNHCR GREECE, IOM via the HELIOS Project funded by the Ministry of Migration & Asylum and multiple NGOs of the Integration Working Group of Lesbos.



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Visit to Pournara 1st Reception Center

The Chief of IOM Mission in Greece together with the Acting Director-General of DG HOME, European Commission, Beate Gminder and the IOM Regional Director, Ola Henrikson visited Pournara 1st Reception Center in Cyprus.

The strong collaboration between IOM, the DG Home, and the Cypriot Ministry of Interior aims at upgrading the living conditions for migrants in Cyprus.



Working for the benefit of unaccompanied children

IOM welcomed the Swiss Delegation and representatives of the Ministry of Migration and Asylum to an emergency accommodation facility for unaccompanied children in Athens.

Together with IOM staff working in the shelters, they discussed challenges, lessons, good practices, and future steps for the children's best interests.

The meeting sealed the good collaboration and marked the beginning of new effective synergies for the benefit of migrants. The project is supported by the Swiss contribution to reducing economic and social disparities in the EU and by the Ministry of Migration and Asylum. the European Union – NextGenerationEU.



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Lesvos information campaign - AVR

IOM Greece along with representatives of the Ministry of Migration and Asylum conducted an information visit to Lesvos and met with various entities in order to discuss the current migration situation and the implementation of the project "Implementation of Assisted Voluntary Returns and Reintegration Measures as well as Operation of Accommodation Center for Applicants of Voluntary Return" which began in September 2023.

IOM Greece is informing about voluntary returns and reintegration in locations all around Greece, aiming at expanding the network of collaboration with various agents and to maximize the dissemination of information on the project's procedures and benefits. Since September 2023, IOM has assisted more than 1,225 beneficiaries to return back to their home country. The current project is being implemented through the Home Affairs Funds with co-funding by the European Union (TAMEY).



Discovering the Greek culture

Unaccompanied children from IOM shelters visited the Stavros Niarchos Foundation Cultural Center and the Planetarium! The group enjoyed a guided tour of the museum where they had the opportunity to admire the exhibits, learn more about the Greek culture, and watch a documentary in the Planetarium. IOM shelters operate under the Home Affairs Funds with co-funding by the European Union (TAMEY).

Virtual Feedback Box: engaging with migrants, building trust

IOM Greece launched the Virtual Feedback Box application, a simple, mobile-friendly tool, which facilitates communication between IOM and migrants. Users have the option to submit anonymous feedback, simply by scanning the following QR code. The application is available in 11 languages, the information is confidential and enables IOM to monitor the quality of the organization's services in real-time.



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4,000 relocations under Voluntary Solidarity Mechanism

During the reporting period, the EU-funded Voluntary Solidarity Mechanism achieved the milestone of 4,000 relocations. Under the Voluntary Solidarity Mechanism relocations from the five first-line Mediterranean countries, Cyprus, Greece, Italy, Malta, and Spain, to European Union Member States and associated countries are taking place. The project is a remarkable testament that cooperation among partners, EU, and associated countries can be transformative for adults, families, children, and people in vulnerable situations.

MiNetwork project reached its first milestone

IOM issued the Services Guide for Ukrainians and Third Country Nationals fleeing Ukraine in the framework of the Action “MiNetwork: Facilitating Third Country Nationals’ access to social services and the Greek labor market”. The guide is available in three languages: Greek, English, and Ukrainian and its purpose is to help the above-mentioned citizens during their stay in Greece, providing information on services they can use according to their needs. The project is supported by the DG Reform.



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