



IOM participated in Medusa 2024 activity

Medusa 2024, one of the biggest exercises dedicated to counter trafficking took place in Athens, with the participation of Ministry of Migration and Asylum, Greek Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Health, the European Commission, the EU Agency for Asylum - EUAA and A21.

“The Medusa 2024 exercise is an important moment for Greece. IOM, as a world leading organization in counter trafficking, was part of this international initiative. We will continue supporting the Greek

authorities in responding to one of the most complex crimes of our era”, said Gianluca Rocco, Chief of IOM Mission in Greece.

The 5 - day exercise took place in 72 different areas, with 613 participants, refugees included, and 132 people from the Management team.

The action was implemented with the support of IOM in the framework of National Recovery and Resilience Greece 2.0 with the funding of the European Union - Next Generation EU.





Career Days “Welcome 2024”: Focusing on Inclusion and Understanding Diversity in the Workplace.

For the fourth consecutive year, Career Days were organized in Athens promoting integration and focusing on inclusion and understanding in the workplace. In a single day, 1,300 interviews were conducted, and valuable tools were provided to facilitate the effective integration of migrants and refugees into businesses.

With a focus on the need to connect with the private sector for more effective collaboration and integration of the workforce, this year’s Career Days were concluded at the Serafio City of Athens, with the participation of 33 businesses from various sectors, including tourism, catering, retail, supply and warehousing, construction, and shipping. The action was organized at the initiative of the Working Group “Professional skills & Job market” of the Athens Coordination Center for Migrant and Refugee issues (ACCMR) with the support of the International Organization for Migration (IOM Greece) under HELIOS Project funded by the Ministry of Migration and Asylum.

AVRR project continues to assist beneficiaries to their home countries

During the reporting period, 304 migrants were assisted to return to their home countries. Meanwhile, the total number since the beginning of the project (September 2023 -June 2024) accounts to 1,853 voluntary returns. Amongst them, 78 % were from Georgia, following 5% from Pakistan, 3% from Iraq, 2% from India and 13% from various other countries.



For media inquiries and other information, please contact the IOM Greece Media Department on iomathensmedia@iom.int



IOM joined Refugee Week Greece 2024 Festival

This year IOM joined the two-day Refugee Week Greece 2024 Festival with enriching cultural and artistic activities. IOM's team organized an inspiring narrative photography workshop themed "Home". Participants began by discussing ideas and words that the concept of "Home" evokes to them. Then, they combined these words with photographs, splitting into groups to explore the park and get inspired.

IOM participated in the framework of the HELIOS project funded by the Ministry of Migration and Asylum.

5,000 Relocations is the new important milestone under EU Solidarity Mechanism

Until June 2024, IOM has successfully supported the relocation of 5,000 asylum applicants and beneficiaries of international protection from Greece, Cyprus, Italy, and Spain to other European countries under the EU Voluntary Solidarity Mechanism. The project is implemented with the support of the European Commission and DG Home.



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MERIMNA III – Visit by the Czech Republic Delegation

A delegation from the Czech Republic Embassy in Athens along with officials from the General Secretariat for Vulnerable Citizens and Institutional Protection, visited the Safe Area of Lesvos, where the IOM operates, and unaccompanied children are hosted. The visit took place within the framework of “MERIMNA III-Protection”, funded by the Ministerstvo vnitra.

Supporting the Greek Authorities in Managing the National Reception System for Asylum Seekers and Vulnerable Migrants (SMS) organized a fire safety measures activity

To enhance the safety and reception conditions at Agia Eleni, IOM, in collaboration with the Hellenic Fire Service and the Ministry of Migration and Asylum, has implemented several crucial measures. These include small-scale construction interventions, installation of automatic fire detection and alarm systems, emergency lighting systems and firefighting equipment such as fire boxes and extinguishers.

These activities were carried out under the SMS project “Supporting the Greek Authorities in Managing the National Reception System for Asylum Seekers and Vulnerable Migrants (SMS)”, funded by the Directorate-General for Migration and Home Affairs of the European Commission (DG HOME).



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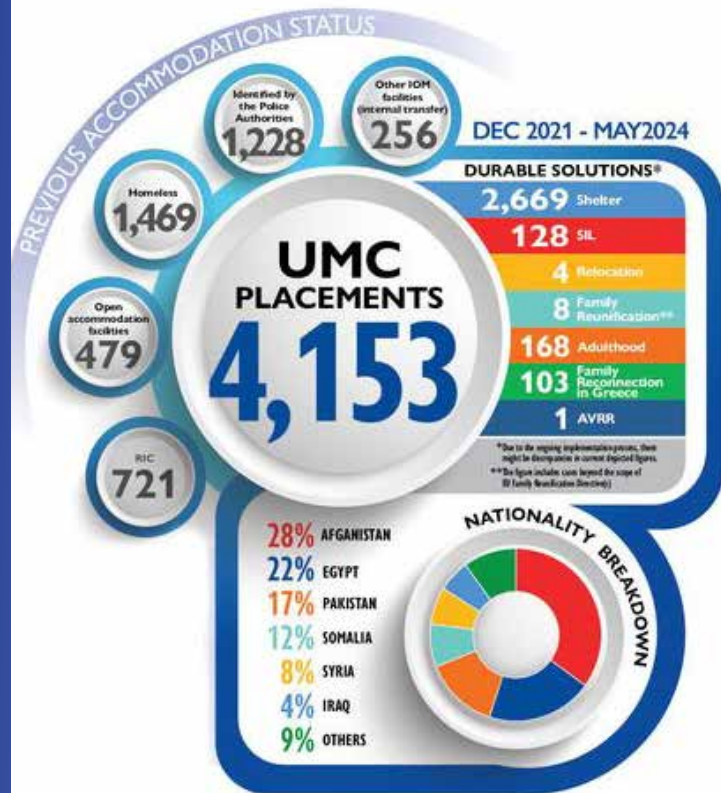


The “Rightlines” project continues Drawing Fundamental Rights Policies and Actions at the Borders

As part of the “Rightlines” project, field visits were organized in Cyprus and on the islands of Chios, Rhodes, Symi, and Kastelorizo. These visits have made significant strides in enhancing migration border management through capacity-building activities with local authorities. Effective communication with these authorities is crucial for efficient migration border management. The project's efforts are focused on strengthening and streamlining the respect, protection, and fulfillment of fundamental rights in border management practices. With the support of the European Commission and the Fundamental Rights Officer of the Ministry of Migration and Asylum.

The Emergency Accommodation Facilities project continues supporting unaccompanied minors.

Until June 2024 IOM teams have supported more than 4,100 unaccompanied children hosted in emergency facilities. The project is supported by the Embassy of Switzerland in Greece to reducing economic and social disparities in the EU and by the Ministry of Migration and Asylum.



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