

Amy Pope on her visit to Greece

IOM's Deputy Director General for Management and Reform, Amy Pope, visited Greece for the first time during October 2021.

During her visit, she had the chance to meet IOM's Chief of Mission in

Greece, Gianluca Rocco, the Alternate Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Hellenic Republic, Miltiadis Varvitsiotis, and the Deputy Minister of Migration and Asylum, Sophia Voultepsi. She realized field visits to Malakasa open

accommodation facility, an Integration Learning Center in Athens and an IOM shelter for unaccompanied children, where she had the chance to meet and speak with migrants about current migration situation and challenges.



Career Day in Thessaloniki Seeking job opportunities in Northern Greece

During September the "Career4all" job fair for refugees and asylum seekers took place at the City Hall of Thessaloniki. More than 300 recognized refugees participated in the event which aimed at bringing together refugees with the Greek labor market.

Participants, through IOM HELIOS integration project and employability component, had the opportunity to attend a series of presentations where job counselors presented job search techniques and talked about labor relations and labor market rights.

The initiative was organized by the Council for the Integration of Immigrants and Refugees of the Municipality of Thessaloniki and the Working Group for the integration of migrants and refugees, with the support of the EU - funded HELIOS project, implemented by the International Organization for Migration.





Exploring our cities Art is a mechanism that brings people from different backgrounds together

The international Organization for Migration 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. From July till October 2021, IOM Greece collaborated with the Municipalities of Chania, Heraklion, Katerini, Ioannina, Thessaloniki, Piraeus and Athens organizing seven events with free admission. In total more than 3,000 people visited the exhibitions. The last event in Athens was attended by the Deputy Minister of Migration & Asylum, Sophia Voultepsi, the Executive Advisor for Migrants & Refugees, Melina Daskalaki, and the IOM Greece Chief of Mission, Gianluca Rocco.

[Read more here](#)






Voluntary relocation scheme

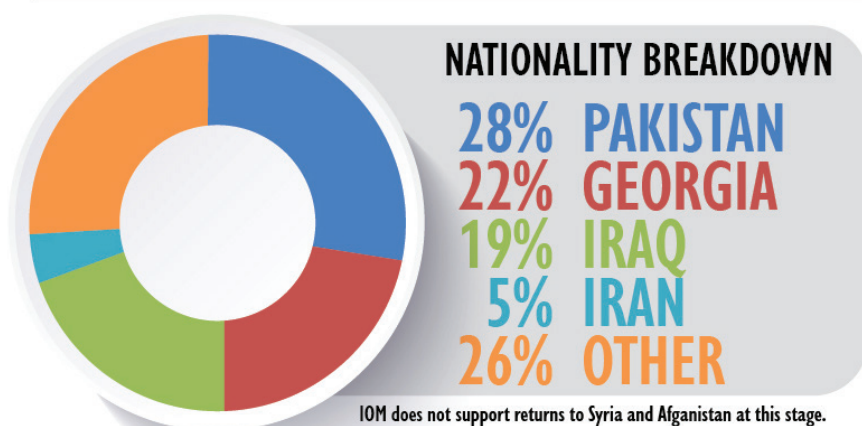
During October Ali Naser Eftekhari, a father of five from Afghanistan, flew with his family from Greece to Portugal under the EU Relocation project.

"I want my children to go to school and if possible, to university. I want them to be able to offer to society. Back in Afghanistan, I was a photographer. The current situation in my country is very difficult and I am very happy that my family and I are going to live in a safe country," he said.

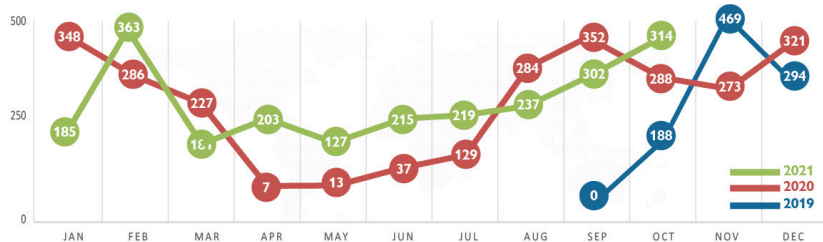
Since April 2020 and up to the end of October 2021, 4,463 people have been safely relocated from Greece to 14 European countries.

AVRR/OCAVRR - The implementation of assisted voluntary returns including reintegration measures and operation of Open Center in the Prefecture of Attica for applicants of voluntary return   

5,731 migrants returned to their home countries from September 2019 to October 2021



ASSISTED VOLUNTARY RETURNS PER MONTH



1,876 IN-KIND REINTEGRATION ACTIVITIES



The project is co-funded 75% by European Funds (Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund) and 25% by National Funds



During the reporting period 616 migrants were assisted to return to their home countries. Meanwhile, the total number since the beginning of the project (September 2019 - October 2021) accounts to 5,731 voluntary returns. Amongst them, 28 % were from Pakistan, following 22% from Georgia, 19% from Iraq, 5% from Iran and 26% from various other countries. 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.

[Read more here](#)

Movies that unite us!

Young citizens and teenagers of Kavala city along with migrant children residing in the local accommodation facility, watched movies together and enjoyed the magic of the big screen.

An initiative towards the creative coexistence and the power of inclusion through art.

IOM operates in the facility 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.

