



4-day entrepreneurship workshop for recognized refugees of the HELIOS project

Within the framework of the HELIOS integration project, funded by the Ministry of Migration and Asylum and implemented throughout Greece by IOM, a four-day entrepreneurship workshop took place in April. The workshop was organized in collaboration with the Impact Hub Athens and the Kypseli Municipal Market.

This initiative was part of a series of events where the participants had the opportunity to attend workshops focusing on the Greek economy, business plan development tools and were informed about the consumer behavior and trends. Finally, they were informed about the procedures of setting up a company in Greece and the responsibilities arising from it.



Humanitarian aid to Ukraine

IOM Greece scaled up its delivery of humanitarian aid to Ukraine. Our team prepared more than 15,000 hygiene kits for people fleeing the war that were delivered to neighbouring countries.

International Organization for Migration and Airbnb.org partner to support those fleeing Ukraine

Airbnb.org and the International Organization for Migration (IOM) announced in April their partnership to connect people fleeing from Ukraine to free, short-term housing in Poland, Moldova, Romania, Hungary and Slovakia. IOM provides vital support to migrants across the world, responding to emergency events and providing advice on migration policy and practice. Through this partnership with Airbnb.org, IOM will help provide temporary housing over the coming weeks and months for all those fleeing the conflict in Ukraine. These stays are free and are funded by Airbnb, Inc., donors to the Airbnb.org Refugee Fund, and the generosity of Hosts through Airbnb.org. All Airbnb fees are waived for Airbnb.org refugee stays.



AVRR information visit to Evros



IOM Greece, accompanied by Ministry of Migration and Asylum representatives conducted an information visit to Evros Region and met with the Director of RIC Fylakio, Mr. Konstantinos Dimitriadis, in order to discuss the current migration situation in the area and the implementation of the AVRR project. IOM Greece is informing about voluntary returns and reintegration in various locations in Greece, in order to strengthen its rapport with various agents and maximize the dissemination of information on the project's procedures and benefits. The total number of migrants who have been assisted to return

to their home countries since the beginning of the project (September 2019 -April 2022) accounts to 7,152, while 2,242 migrants have received reintegration assistance. 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. *IOM does not support voluntary returns to the Syrian Arab Republic, Afghanistan and Ukraine at this stage.

Relocation continues

From the beginning of the project up until the end of April 4,808 people relocated from Greece to European countries through the “Voluntary relocation scheme from Greece to other European Countries”. 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.



Blood donation

Expressing their gratitude for the local society, migrants from Serres facility participated in a blood donation at the General Hospital of Serres. “Voluntary blood donation is an act of solidarity and is required all over the world,” said one of the IOM staff who coordinated the initiative. IOM operates in the facility with the support of the European Commission – DG Home.



A special visit with special hostesses

On International Women's Day, the Alternate Minister of the Ministry of Migration & Asylum, Sofia Voultepsi, the Special Secretary for the protection of UMC, Heracles Moskoff and IOM Greece Chief of Mission, Gianluca Rocco, visited an IOM shelter for unaccompanied girls. They discussed with the girls about equality, collaboration and dignity, while the girls expressed their thoughts on the day. IOM operates in the shelters with the support of AMIF.



Thematic Workshops on Alternative Care for Unaccompanied Children

Under the U – CARE project, IOM Belgium and Luxembourg with the participation of IOM Greece, IOM Germany, Pleegzorg Vlaanderen and ARSIS - Association for the Social Support of Youth organized thematic workshops on Foster Care. The project is funded by European Commission – DG Home.

Representatives of the German Federal State of Hesse in IOM Greece

IOM welcomed the Petitions Committee of the State Parliament of the German Federal State of Hesse and had an interesting discussion on effective policies on migration management.

