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HELIOS Project

Pillar for the national migration policy



The national sensitization campaign and the results of [HELIOS integration project](#) were presented on 14 October at a joint press conference of the Ministry of Migration and Asylum, the European Commission and the International Organization for Migration. Having as a key message "We can give a lot to each other, especially our best selves", the goal of the campaign is to empower the messages of smooth integration and coexistence between recognized refugees and the Greek society, for the benefit of both sides. From July 2019 up to 30 October, 20,754 recognized refugees have enrolled in the HELIOS project, while 7,178 of them have signed new lease agreements for apartments rented in their own name. The project is implemented with the support of the Ministry of Migration and Asylum and the funding of the European Commission.

Read the Press Release [here](#).

Learn more about the campaign [here](#).



The project's factsheet is available [here](#).

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MERIMNA PROJECT



IOM organized for children on Lesbos island, currently residing in TAPOUAT center, educational activities with the collective support of UNICEF and Iliaktida Amke staff. The International Organization for Migration (IOM), with the funding of the European Commission and in collaboration with NGO Iliaktida AMKE, through [MERIMNA](#) project is assisting the Greek Authorities through the improvement of living conditions of unaccompanied children hosted in the safe areas of RICs on the Greek islands.

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IOM's assistance on Lesbos after the fire in Moria



On 8 September 2020, the largest Reception and Identification Center (RIC) in Greece, located in Moria on the island of Lesbos, was destroyed by a large fire. Around 12,600 people were staying in the RIC, among them vulnerable migrants such as families, women and Unaccompanied Migrant Children (UMC).

The Greek Government called upon the support of the UN organizations, including IOM, to establish and assist operations in the new temporary RIC, located in a former military camp, in Mavrovouni area.

IOM Greece with funding from the Directorate-General for Migration and Home Affairs (DG HOME) of the European Commission, responded immediately with emergency shelter solutions and increased its presence by deploying experienced staff.

Within 24 hours after the fire, IOM under the leadership of the Greek Authorities, through the office of Special Secretary for the Protection of UMC and in collaboration with UNHCR and UNICEF, transferred 406 UMCs from Moria to specialized IOM transit hubs in the mainland, which operate under the EU funded Relocation project.

More than 1,800 refugees were transferred from the islands to the mainland, as part of the ongoing efforts by the Greek government to reduce the overcrowding on the islands. IOM supported with the transfers of people to temporary accommodation facilities

An AVRR/OCAVRR team performed an information campaign reaching out to more than 4,000 migrants. Following the fire in Moria, IOM Greece conducted a 4-day information visit to Lesbos to provide information and options to migrants who wanted to voluntarily return to their home countries.

Read the Press Release [here](#).

Read the Press Release [here](#).

[Video](#)

ASSISTED VOLUNTARY RETURNS, REINTEGRATION AND OPEN CENTER IN ATTICA (AVRR/OCAVRR)



During the reporting period, **583** migrants returned voluntarily to their home countries. The majority of them were from Pakistan (**223**) and from Georgia (**146**). At the same time, **172** of them, received in-kind reintegration assistance; among them **97** in Pakistan, **21** in Georgia and **25** in Iraq.

Read more about AVRR/OCAVRR [here](#).

A blue poster with white text. At the top, it says "Online Scheduling Appointment (OSA)". Below that, it asks "Thinking about returning home?" with a house icon inside the word "home?". At the bottom, it says "Learn your options, book an appointment online with AVRR/OCAVRR staff in Athens" and "avrr-iom.gr".

IOM Greece developed an Online Scheduling Appointment (OSA) platform for those who want to book their visit at IOM premises in Athens and learn more about the AVRR/OCAVRR project. They can schedule, reschedule and cancel their appointments online.

OSA is available in 11 languages/dialects: Arabic, Greek, Bamla, Georgian, Urdu, Farsi, Dari, Russian, Sorani, Pashto and French. Find more: www.iom-avrr.gr.

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Memorandum of Cooperation for Unaccompanied Children



The Mayor of Athens, Kostas Bakoyannis, and the Chief of IOM Greece, Gianluca Rocco, joined forces for the provision of accommodation and targeted services to unaccompanied minors in Agios Andreas temporary facility. The synergy is implemented under the framework of the EU Relocation project and upon the initiative of the Greek authorities and the Special Secretary for the protection of Unaccompanied Children to transfer all minors from the islands to the mainland. The facility has the capacity to accommodate up to 200 children and operates with the funding of the European Commission and in partnership with UNHCR and UNICEF.

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1,451 people relocated from Greece to other European states



Through the “Voluntary relocation scheme from Greece to other European Countries” this year and until the end of October 2020, 1,451 people have been relocated to other European states, including 362 unaccompanied children. The action is implemented 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. In partnership with European Asylum Support Office - EASO, UNHCR and UNICEF.

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Responding to COVID – 19 for the protection of unaccompanied children

IOM distributed personal protection equipment (masks, sanitizers, gloves, isolation suits, thermometers) in shelters for unaccompanied children all over Greece, ensuring the protection and well-being of migrant population affected by COVID – 19. IOM implements the action with the support of U.S. Department of State: Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration in coordination with U.S. Embassy in Athens and the Greek authorities.



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Computer Lessons in Kavala



IOM and the International Hellenic University signed a [cooperation agreement](#), aiming at training beneficiaries residing at the Kavala open accommodation site. The first programme is addressed to beginners and aims at familiarizing them with the use of computers, through the teaching of skills in word processing software and internet services. In November, the second programme will be launched, and will be addressed to more experienced users who will be trained in the use of spreadsheets, presentations and specialized internet applications. The open accommodation site of Kavala operates under the project “Supporting the Greek Authorities in Managing the National Reception System for Asylum Seekers and Vulnerable Migrants (SMS)”, in coordination with the Greek authorities and the funding of the European Commission – DG HOME.

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