

Annual Report 2024



HELLENIC REPUBLIC
Ministry of Migration & Asylum
General Secretariat for Vulnerable Persons &
Institutional Protection



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Greetings from the Minister of Migration and Asylum

"The protection of unaccompanied minors remained a central priority."

The establishment of the General Secretariat for Vulnerable Persons and Institutional Protection was a strategic decision of the government of Prime Minister, Kyriakos Mitsotakis, reflecting the importance placed on the protection of vulnerable third-country nationals. The year 2024 marked significant steps toward strengthening the security, care and integration of these fellow citizens, reaffirming our commitment to creating a functional and humane support system.

The protection of unaccompanied minors remained a central priority. Ensuring safe housing and adopting policies for immediate protection were key factors in establishing a stable care framework. Additionally, access to education and vocational training was expanded, ensuring that every child has the opportunity to build a sustainable future, equipped with knowledge and skills.

At the same time, the General Secretariat extended its initiatives to other vulnerable groups, offering targeted programmes for the social and economic integration of migrants and refugees. Enhancing access to the labour market, vocational training programmes and strategic partnerships with national and international actors demonstrate that legal migration, when managed responsibly, can serve as a driver of growth and social cohesion.

Greece remains committed to protecting fundamental rights, security and social cohesion, proving that effective migration management can be transformed into an opportunity. Guided by consistency, responsibility, and cooperation, we continue to work so that no vulnerable citizen is left without support and has the opportunity to shape a better future.



Greetings from the Deputy Minister of Migration and Asylum

New threats require new victories

As the years go by, the book of emblematic actions of the General Secretariat for Vulnerable Persons and Institutional Protection is enriched with new pages:

The National Guardianship System for Unaccompanied Minors, the strengthening and creation of new Safe Areas, the establishment of the five-digit emergency number 15107, with the kind sponsorship of OTE, for the enhancement of the award-winning National Emergency Response Mechanism, the numerous international distinctions, the strengthening of the Mentors' programme, the dissemination of Greece's good practices, the further support of our hosted individuals' mental health and social integration, the design of the National Strategy for the Protection of Vulnerable Persons, the accommodation programme for vulnerable women with children, the preparation for the implementation of the Pact for Migration and Asylum, prevention and protection from the dark crime of human trafficking, visits to facilities with staff from the Hellenic Police, so that minors know not only their rights but also their obligations towards Greece that hosts and cares for them.



All of these are integral parts of this large puzzle, which is continuously completed and acquires new "supporters" in a collective effort aiming at protecting vulnerable persons and the Greek society at the same time: the Swiss government, the EU, the planning of new actions through the European Economic Area and the increasing participation of the private sector, such as the Hellenic Bank Association, contributions from various Greek businesses.

2024 was a year shaken by more geopolitical shocks and wars, the peak of the climate crisis, an increase in violence, hate speech extreme voices advocating easy solutions to difficult problems and a dramatic increase in the number of minors.

This has also increased the demands in the field of our daily battle against organised crime and radicalisation, which are spreading throughout Europe, instrumentalising minors and threatening social peace.

The battle against new threats continues in 2025 and we are determined to emerge victorious once again.

Foreword by the Secretary General for Vulnerable Persons and Institutional Protection

“Security and protection for all”

The past year was of decisive importance for the design of the policies and actions of the General Secretariat for Vulnerable Persons and Institutional Protection (General Secretariat). Innovative ideas and holistic strategies were developed to create a comprehensive framework for the protection and support of both unaccompanied minors and other vulnerable individuals, aiming at the state's optimal response to their increased support needs.

A key factor in the design and implementation of our actions was the staffing of the Secretariat with specialised professionals through our collaboration with and support from the European Union Agency for Asylum (EUAA). At the same time, the International Organization for Migration (IOM), the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), and UNICEF continue to actively support our work.

January 2024 was a landmark year in terms of enhancing the protection and accommodation framework for unaccompanied children. The initiation of the implementation of the National Guardianship System for Unaccompanied Minors played a key role in ensuring that each unaccompanied minor has a designated guardian, receives age-appropriate care tailored to their needs and has their rights protected. Additionally, through the establishment of child protection teams in the Safe Areas of the Closed Controlled Access Centres (CCACs) of Kos, Leros, Samos, Chios, Lesvos and of the Reception and Identification Centre (RIC) in Fylakio, uninterrupted care was provided to unaccompanied minors. As for the accommodation framework, we successfully processed approximately 4.546 requests for the accommodation of unaccompanied minors during the year, completing all the necessary procedures for their safe transfer and placement in long-term accommodation facilities.

The substantial integration of unaccompanied minors into Greek society was also one of our fundamental goals. In this endeavor, we found support from both state and non-state actors, whose substantial support contributed to the implementation of integration actions that promote the inclusion of unaccompanied children into Greek society.

The National Emergency Response Mechanism (NERM) continued to play a prominent role in our effort to develop a holistic protection framework for every unaccompanied child. Through the Tracing Helpline, now available through the five-digit number 15107 and free of charge, direct referrals for the transfer and accommodation of unaccompanied children in a safe environment have become even more efficient. The forthcoming extension of the NERM to other vulnerable



third country nationals or stateless persons, in addition to unaccompanied minors, ensures immediate and coordinated intervention for the entire population living in precarious conditions.

Aiming to create a holistic protection system for vulnerable individuals, the National Strategy for the Protection of Vulnerable Persons was developed in 2024, setting the foundations for designing a cohesive and dynamic protection framework for vulnerable third country nationals or stateless persons. This strategy is in line with the European Union's priorities regarding vulnerable persons in need of enhanced procedural guarantees. Its design includes innovative actions and policies and sets medium- and long-term strategic objectives, aiming at implementing best practices recognised at European level. Through the National Strategy, the General Secretariat affirms its priority for the institutional protection of the rights of vulnerable persons, their accommodation, their linkage with services and organisations, as well as the specialised protection and care of victims of violence and trafficking in human beings.

Moreover, it is worth noting that the issue of the identification of vulnerable persons in particular and their support in general, has been placed at the centre of the overall European Union policy through the requirements and guarantees of the New Pact on Migration and Asylum, which is set to be implemented in 2026. The General Secretariat played an active role in drafting the National Implementation Plan for the New Pact submitted by the Ministry of Migration and Asylum, reaffirming the priority given to vulnerable individuals.

Regarding the overall implementation of our actions, the General Secretariat succeeded in strengthening the collaboration between public and private actors, focusing on sustainability and innovation, through the contribution of national and international partners. This year and through the systematic use of European financial instruments, such as the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF) and the European Social Fund+, we ensured the uninterrupted continuation of our key actions and the achievement of new initiatives and interventions. At the same time, the contribution of the government of Switzerland, Norway, the Netherlands, the EEA Grant through Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway, the Voluntary Solidarity Mechanism (VSM) with donor countries the Netherlands and the Czech Republic as well as the European Social Fund+ (ESF+), was crucial, further strengthening our efforts to develop a comprehensive and effective support framework.

The work of the General Secretariat demonstrates that the creation of a comprehensive framework for the protection of vulnerable persons is a central element of a fair and sustainable policy that places the increased protection needs of these individuals at its core. With faith in the power of cooperation and our commitment to the principles of solidarity and social justice, we continue with vision and determination in 2025.

Introduction

The General Secretariat, under the portfolio of the Deputy Minister of Migration and Asylum, is the responsible authority for the protection of unaccompanied minors and vulnerable third-country nationals or stateless persons, aiming to ensure their rights, protection, well-being and social integration.

In 2024, the General Secretariat through institutional interventions and its programmatic actions contributed to the further strengthening of the framework for immediate response, protection and support for unaccompanied minors, with a landmark being the commencement of the implementation of the National Guardianship System for Unaccompanied Minors, where each unaccompanied and separated minor is to be represented and supported in all procedures, including asylum procedures, enrollment in formal education and interaction with agencies and services, with the ultimate goal of safeguarding their best interests. This effort was also decisively supported by the harmonisation of best interests procedures, through the use of uniform standardised assessment forms and the conducting of the assessment procedure by experienced and trained professionals.

The National Emergency Response Mechanism (NERM) continues its successful operation since 2021, providing immediate support and care to unaccompanied minors living in homelessness and/or precarious conditions, through coordinated efforts and synergies for their swift integration into the child protection system. The accommodation of minors in long-term accommodation facilities specifically adapted to their needs, as well as ensuring the quality of services provided through the supervision of these accommodation facilities, remain key priorities for the General Secretariat. Finally, the steady and close cooperation developed with state and non-state entities, as well as local communities, has played a vital role in supporting the social integration of unaccompanied minors and raising awareness within local communities.

The year 2024 marked a milestone for the extension of the protection framework for unaccompanied children to include vulnerable persons. As part of the expanded responsibilities and pending the Presidential Decree amending the structure of the Ministry of Migration and Asylum, related actions and strategies were developed regarding the protection and support of vulnerable third-country nationals or stateless persons. In this work, the General Secretariat received enhanced support from staff of the European Union Agency for Asylum (EUAA), who contributed to the design of actions related to the specialised protection, holistic support and identification of long-term sustainable solutions for vulnerable individuals, with key pillars of these actions being:

- **the institutional protection of vulnerable persons** with the aim of safeguarding the rights of vulnerable third-country nationals or stateless persons, through the design of initiatives and interventions and coordination of actions, services and actors involved in their protection.
- **the protection of victims of violence and trafficking in human beings** through the development of tools and interventions for the identification, support and protection of victims, the prevention and response to these phenomena, public awareness-raising, the effective prosecution of perpetrators, as well as the **strengthening of collaborations** at national and international level to specialise accordingly the institutional and protective framework.

- **the accommodation, liaison and support** of vulnerable individuals through ensuring special reception conditions for asylum seekers, including linking them with healthcare services and their overall support until sustainable and long-term solutions are found.

In line with the above, the National Strategy for the Protection of Vulnerable Persons was developed and expected to be published in 2025, with an emphasis on the protection and support of vulnerable individuals, including victims of human trafficking, torture, or other serious forms of psychological, physical, or sexual violence. The aim of this strategic document is the strengthening of the support framework for vulnerable individuals, the collection and use of data on vulnerable persons, the provision of specialised support for victims of violence and human trafficking and the optimal cooperation of competent and involved actors on matters concerning vulnerable individuals.

Finally, in 2024, particular emphasis was placed on the Ministry of Migration and Asylum's operational planning regarding the "New Pact on Migration and Asylum", which is expected to be fully implemented by Member States by 2026. The General Secretariat, recognising the new safeguards put in place with regard to unaccompanied minors and vulnerable individuals, contributed to both the assessment of needs and the final drafting of the National Implementation Plan, which defines the key actions for the implementation of the new rules. In this context, necessary legislative and procedural changes were documented, in particular concerning issues of unaccompanied minors' protection, early identification and support of vulnerable individuals, as well as compliance with the established safeguards in order to ensure the smooth and effective implementation of the new Pact.

Landmark Actions Supported by the Greece Program - Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF)

The financial support of the "Greece Program - Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF) 2021-2027" and the Special Actions provided for within the framework of this programme has been crucial in strengthening and expanding the holistic protection framework for both unaccompanied minors and vulnerable adults. This support has enabled the implementation of landmark actions by the General Secretariat for Vulnerable Persons and Institutional Protection.

Taking into consideration the increased and specific needs for the reception, support, and representation of unaccompanied minors, and following the establishment of the National Guardianship System for Unaccompanied Minors through Law 4960/2022, the flagship project "National Guardianship System" was implemented with the financial backing of the "Greece Programme of the Asylum, Migration, and Integration Fund (AMIF). 2021-2027."



This action falls under Specific Objective 2: Legal Migration and Integration, with a budget of €11,694,712 (EU Contribution: 75% & National Contribution: 25%).

Regarding the housing of unaccompanied minors in long-term accommodation facilities tailored to their needs and ensuring the quality of services provided, the following actions were also implemented with the financial support of the "Greece Program - Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF) 2021-2027":

a. "Grant funding to organisations for the operation of Accommodation Centres for Unaccompanied Minors (Accommodation Centres) 2024-2025"

This action falls under Specific Objective 2: Legal Migration and Integration, with a budget of €54,000,000 (EU Contribution: 75% & National Contribution: 25%). It provides 1,750 places for the 2023-2024 period.

b. "Grant funding to organisations for the operation of Supervised Apartments for Semi-Independent Living for unaccompanied minors aged 16 and above (SILS)"

This action falls under Specific Objective 2: Legal Migration and Integration, with a budget of €4,500,000 (EU Contribution: 75% & National Contribution: 25%).

Additionally, following the guidelines of the National Strategy for the Protection of Unaccompa-

nied Minors and aiming to achieve its objectives, the project **"COMPASS- Complementary Support Mechanism of the National Strategy for the Protection of Unaccompanied Minors in Greece"** was designed. This project is funded by the European Union through the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF 2021-2027) and significantly enhances the child protection framework, extending its services to young adults aged 18-21.

This action falls under Specific Objective 1 - KESA, with a budget of €12,858,010.82 (EU Contribution: 90% & National Contribution: 10%).

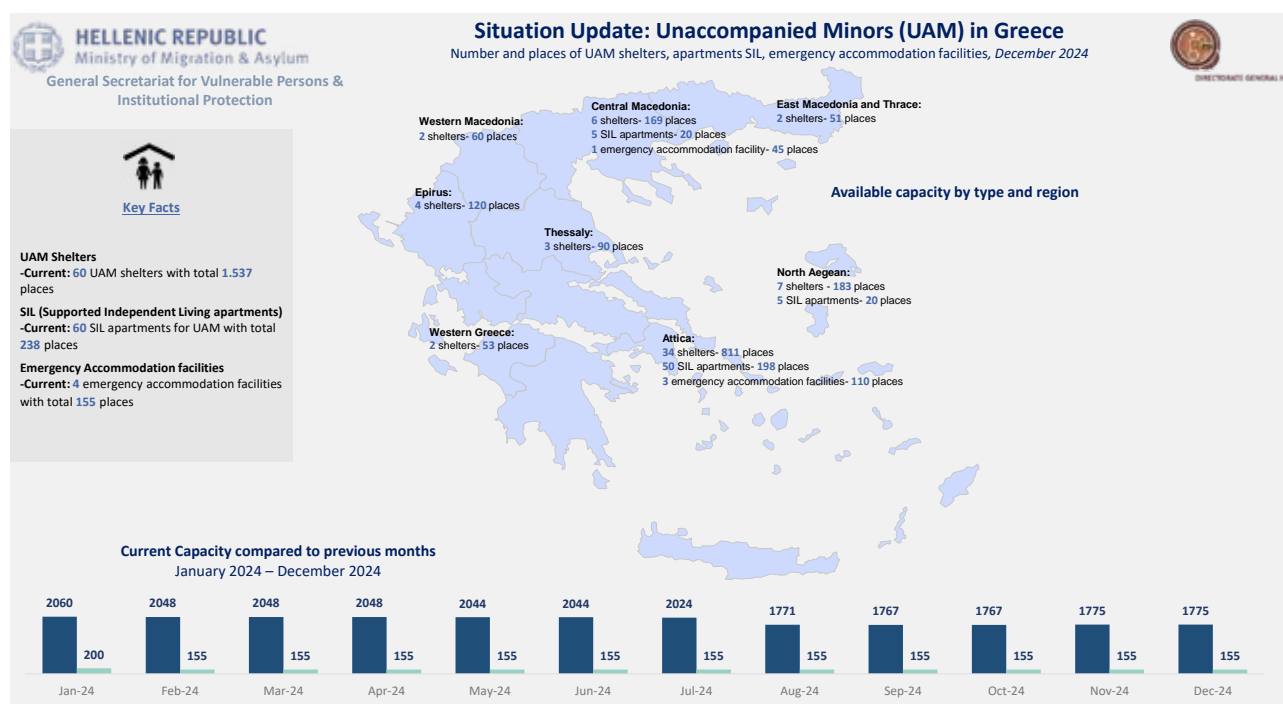
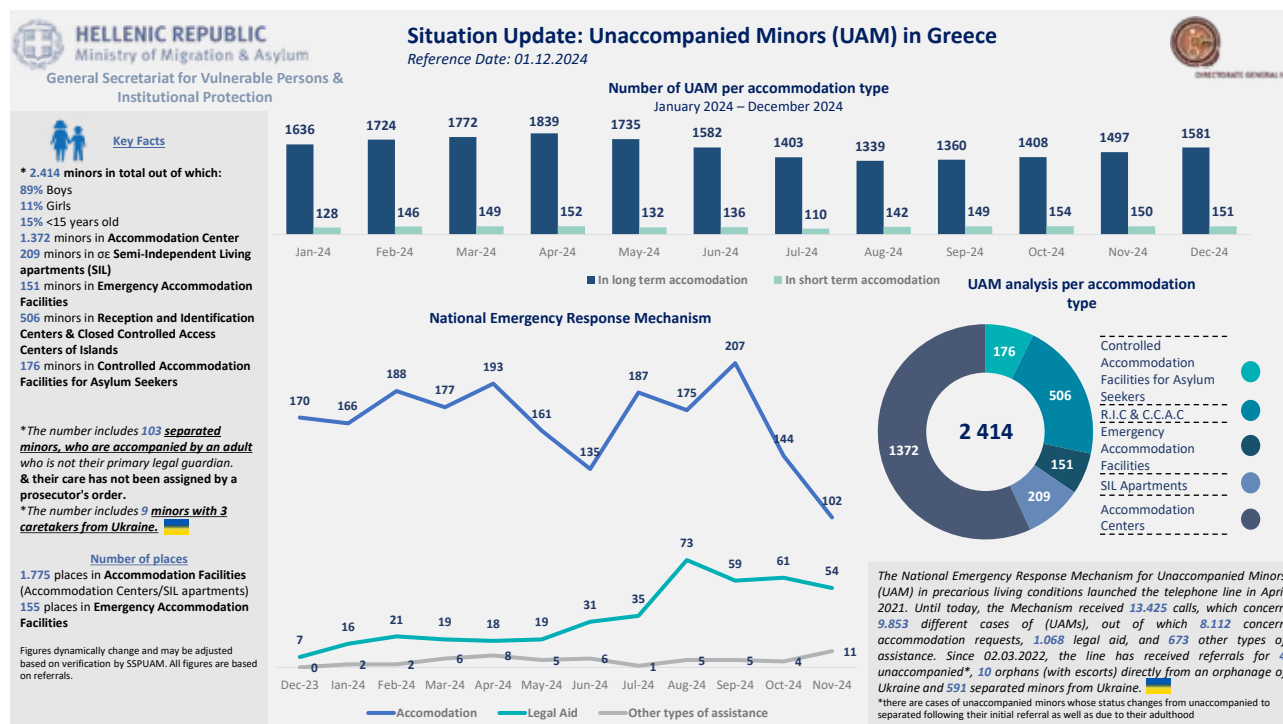


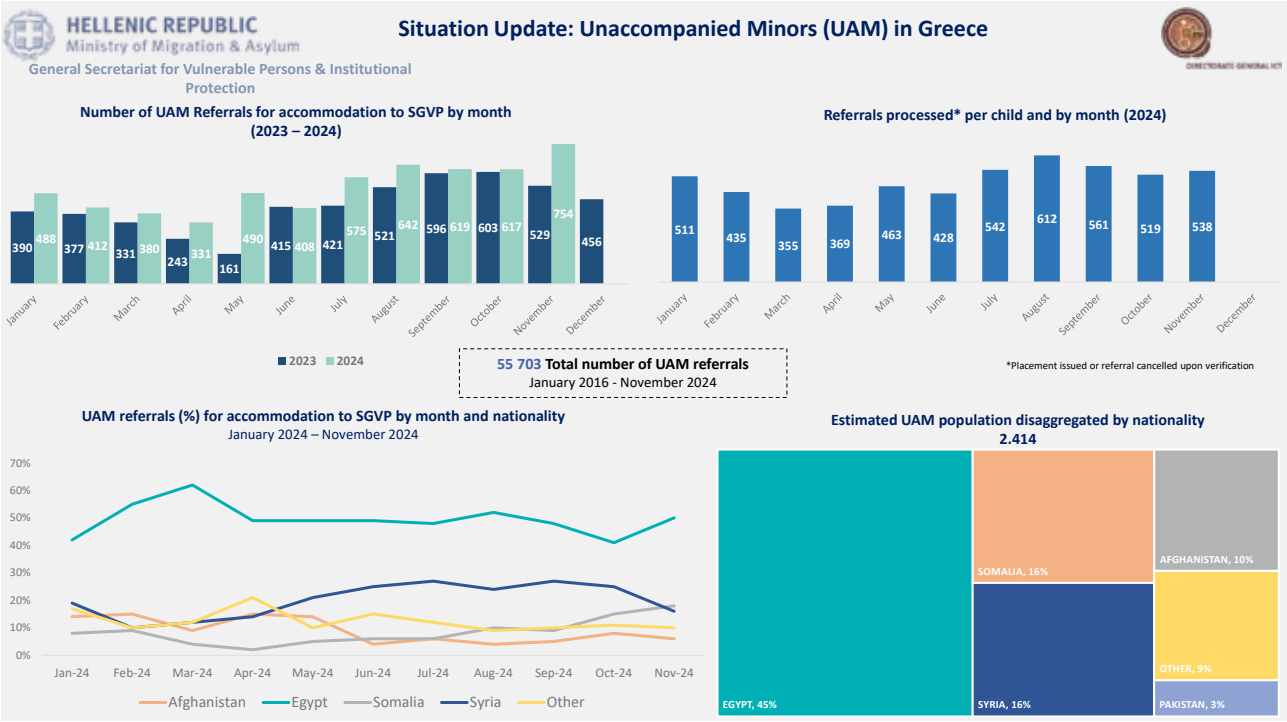
Finally, as part of the expanded responsibilities of the General Secretariat and its strategic planning for the protection of human trafficking victims, particular emphasis has been placed on building the necessary skills among field professionals, by equipping them with the appropriate tools for identifying, managing, and supporting cases of human trafficking through the programme **"Specific Action on the provision of services to victims of trafficking in human beings who are third-country nationals"**. The project is part of the "Greece Programme of the Asylum, Migration, and Integration Fund (AMIF). 2021-2027" and is co-financed by the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund.

This action falls under Specific Objective 1 - KESA, with a budget of €500,000 (EU Contribution: 90% & National Contribution: 10%).

I. Actions for the protection of unaccompanied minors

Data on unaccompanied minors





*Placement issued or referral cancelled upon verification



1. Institutional Protection of Unaccompanied Minors

The **institutional safeguarding and shielding of the rights** of unaccompanied minors is one of the fundamental objectives and fields of action of the General Secretariat. This purpose is served in particular by the Institutional Protection Unit (the Unit), whose responsibilities include the implementation of the institution of guardianship of unaccompanied minors, the coordination of the actions of services and agencies, both governmental and non-governmental, involved **in the protection of unaccompanied minors and relating to children's access to their rights**, such as guardianship, accommodation, health, education and intervention on issues of protection from violence and exploitation.

At the same time, through the broad oversight that is exercised and the continuous cooperation and feedback with institutions and services, it is possible to identify any gaps in procedures or in the institutional protection of unaccompanied minors and consequently to fill them by initiating appropriate actions and interventions. In this context, legislative proposals as well as the design and establishment of new procedures are inextricably linked to the institutional upholding of their best interests.

Finally, the Unit deals with individual cases of unaccompanied minors who require special attention and treatment through the provision of information and guidelines and liaison with the relevant competent bodies and services.



1.1 National Guardianship System for Unaccompanied Minors

The National Guardianship System for Unaccompanied Minors has been operational in Greece from 1st January 2024.

Unaccompanied minors have increased and specific reception, support and representation needs. For this reason, a rapid response system adapted to their needs, **the National Guardianship System for Unaccompanied Minors**, has been established. This was done on 22 July 2022 by **Law 4960/2022**, which amended and supplemented Law 4939/2022. The National Guardianship System aims to ensure that each unaccompanied minor has a designated guardian, that they receive care adapted to their age and needs and that their rights are protected. This system was designed and legislated in line with the standards of advanced and effective guardianship systems of other European countries, international and European legislation, as well as the practice that had been developed in Greece up to that time based on legislation and relevant experience.



The competent authority for the design, monitoring and coordination of the National Guardianship System is the Institutional Protection Unit of the General Secretariat, which has undertaken **a series of actions to prepare its implementation**. In particular, a detailed circular interpreting the institutional framework of guardianship article by article has been issued and draft ministerial decisions specify certain issues of the law, such as the operation of the mechanism for the submission and management of complaints of unaccompanied minors within the framework of guardianship and the Regulation on the Organisation and Operation of the Council for the Guardianship of Unaccompanied Minors. The actions also include the implementation of a nationwide guardianship programme funded by the Ministry of Migration and Asylum. For better operational

planning, the Unit first mapped the juvenile population and the specific needs of each region for the appropriate allocation of guardians. In addition, it developed tools, standard operating procedures and guidelines and participated in **trainings of the Guardianship Service Providers' staff** with the assistance of the European Union Agency for Asylum (EUAA). The trainings focused on issues related to guardianship and best interests assessment. In addition, an **online application** was developed for the operational implementation and monitoring of the Guardianship programme as well as tools for the National Guardianship System's evaluation, allowing continuous monitoring and feedback on each programme carried out under the system.



Meeting of a delegation from the Lithuanian government with members of the General Secretariat for knowledge exchange.

What is the guardianship system?

Guardianship of unaccompanied minors is a system that aims to protect minors and safeguard their interests and rights when they are not accompanied by a person exercising parental care or custody in accordance with Greek law. In line with European standards and national legislation, this is a quasi-family relationship, which replaces, without substituting, the family, with the aim of ensuring the overall well-being of the minor, supplementing their limited legal capacity by representing them before the competent authorities.

Thus, it is envisaged that every unaccompanied and separated minor will be represented and supported in all procedures, including asylum procedures, enrolment in formal education, interaction with institutions and services, to ensure that their best interests are safeguarded.

The functions of guardianship concern namely:

- **representation in matters of personal status** (the guardian represents the minor in any administrative or judicial proceedings),
- **custody** (the guardian takes care of housing, medical care, education, daily care matters) and
- **assistance in property matters** (the guardian assists in access to the labour market in accordance with labour legislation).

How does the National Guardianship System work?

Within the National Guardianship System, the state, through the General Secretariat, has a coordinating, guiding and supervisory role, while the public prosecution authorities are the institutional guarantee for the designation of non-profit legal entities specialising in child protection, - either public or private, local authorities or international organisations, as guardians. According to the law, a guardian can be a legal entity who meets certain prerequisites, who exercises their duties through appropriate natural persons, the so-called **"guardianship mandated persons"**, who can be responsible for up to 15 children.

The guardians act as points of reference for the child and at the same time cooperate with other actors involved in the child's care, such as the staff of accommodation facilities, or in the child's case in general, such as immigration and asylum services. To better coordinate and support the work of the guardianship mandated persons, the role of the **coordinator**

was also introduced, creating a system with more accountability and oversight. The Child Protection Policy, the Code of Conduct for those working with unaccompanied minors, the complaints mechanism for children under guardianship, which Guardianship Service Providers are obliged to comply with, the operation of the (five-member) Guardianship Council for Unaccompanied Minors, the established framework for the supervision and evaluation of the guardianship services provided to the minors, with the participation of the children themselves and of the institutions working with the guardians, the mandatory continuous training of the guardianship mandated persons by the institutions they work for and the possibility of dismissing a guardian or a guardianship mandated person if the guardianship rules are not respected contribute, inter alia, to this direction.

For the uniform and first implementation of the National Guardianship System for Unaccompanied Minors in Greece, the implementation of a nationwide guardianship programme was launched. For 2024, after a special benchmarking process, the following two legal entities specialised in child protection, were selected for the implementation of the national guardianship programme:



1. The Civil Non-Profit Company "METADRASI - ACTION FOR MIGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT" and
2. The Association "PRAKSIS – PROGRAMS OF DEVELOPMENT, SOCIAL SUPPORT AND MEDICAL COOPERATION."

The project "National Guardianship System" is being implemented with funding from the "Greece Programme of the Asylum, Migration, and Integration Fund (AMIF) 2021-2027," following Call AMIF_014 with reference number: 274730/24.05.2023, issued by the Special Service for Coordination and Management of Migration and Internal Affairs Programs, with a total budget of €6,000,000. The continuation of the programme's implementation has already been secured under the same funding conditions, from 01.01.2025 to 31.12.2025, according to the terms and conditions of the Decision of Inclusion of the Secretary General for Migration Policy, dated 31.12.2024.

According to the agreed terms and conditions of its implementation, the total number of guardianship mandated persons can reach up to 180, with the capacity to cover the needs of 2.700 unaccompanied minors. The number of designated guardians reached 168 during the year. Additionally, there are currently over 2.000 active cases of minors under guardianship, and since the beginning of 2024, more than 4.500 unaccompanied minors have received guardianship services.

For the better coordination of the implementation of the System and the Guardianship programme, as well as to document any challenges and good practices, the Unit collaborates daily with the Guardianship Service Providers. Additionally, in 2024, teams from the Unit conducted **working visits** at the country's entry points, where they met with the guardianship mandated persons' teams, child protection service providers, competent Authorities and Prosecutors' Offices. At the same time, as required by law, the Unit maintains ongoing cooperation with the local Prosecutor's Offices and the Prosecutor's Office of the Supreme Court to ensure better coordination for the smooth implementation of the National Guardianship System.

The "National Guardianship System" is co-financed by the Greece Programme of the Asylum, Migration, and Integration Fund (AMIF) 2021-2027 (Special Objective 2: Legal Migration and Integration. Budget: €11,694,712. EU Contribution: 75% & National Contribution: 25%).

1.2 Cooperation with the Dutch Government, with the support of the Nidos organisation

In June 2020, the Dutch Ministry of Justice and Security signed a Memorandum of Cooperation with the Ministry of Migration and Asylum and the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs for actions supporting unaccompanied minors. Under this agreement, and specifically through the Nidos Foundation, the Dutch Government has been consistently supporting the General Secretariat since 2021 on issues concerning the protection of unaccompanied minors, particularly guardianship.

Moreover, the Dutch Ministry of Justice and Security, in collaboration with the Nidos organisation, provided a person to assist the General Secretariat with technical support for the design and implementation of the National Guardianship System. Within the framework of the Memorandum of Cooperation, six action plans with specific timelines have been jointly developed and agreed upon, outlining technical expertise exchange actions and the development of tools to support Greece in the implementation of the Guardianship programme.

Two working visits to the Netherlands have been conducted, with more planned for the future, while teams from Nidos have visited Greece. As part of supporting the Guardianship Service Providers, a working group has been established, consisting of Nidos, the Guardians and the General Secretariat. This group holds regular meetings, both in-person and online, to develop guidelines, standard operating procedures, and identify training needs for the Guardians.

1.3 Cooperation with international and European organisations



A delegation from the General Secretariat participated in the 2nd meeting for 2024 of the European Guardianship Network in Dublin, where they presented the National Guardianship System as a new system designed according to the latest standards of European legislation and practice, as well as the Mentorship project, which was highlighted as a good practice for promoting the social integration of children, developed by the General Secretariat.

- The implementation of the National Guardianship System in Greece, as well as the development of tools and processes for the overall institutional protection of unaccompanied minors, is supported by EUAA, through technical support and staff provided to the General Secretariat.
- UNICEF, with its technical assistance, has supported the General Secretariat in developing the mechanism for the submission of complaints by unaccompanied minors within the Guardianship framework, as well as the monitoring and evaluation framework for the Guardianship programme, in accordance with legal requirements. UNICEF's contribution is particularly grounded in Article 19 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC), concerning the protection of minors from all forms of violence. Special design criteria have been taken into account to ensure accessible processes tailored to the needs and capacities of the children.
- In collaboration with the UNHCR and EUAA, a programme has been implemented for the "Harmonisation, Establishment, and Certification of Best Interests Procedures," which includes the development of a new Best Interests Procedures Toolkit. This aims to establish standardised tools and harmonise procedures for evaluating the best interests of the child. The Best Interests Procedures Toolkit supports the work of the guardianship mandated persons in performing their duties, who receive specialised training and guidance from the General Secretariat. The contribution of UNHCR includes the development of guidelines and standard operating procedures, as provided for in the institutional framework, as well as support in producing informational materials to promote the objectives of the programme.
- The General Secretariat, represented by the Unit, is now a member of the European Guardianship Network, which is co-funded by the European Commission with the support of the Dutch organisation Nidos. The goal is to connect organisations working in the sector of guardianship in each EU member state, fostering the exchange of good practices, addressing challenges uniformly and staying informed about relevant European legislation and international standards.
- The Unit in cooperation with EUAA organised a two-day workshop, with the participation of representatives of the Lithuanian authorities, aiming at the exchange of technical knowledge and experiences regarding the Greek Guardianship system, its organisation and operation. In parallel other projects of the General Secretariat were presented as well, namely NERM, the Mentors and the Best Interests Procedures Toolbox (BIA).



Group photo at the periodic networking meeting of the European Guardianship Network in November 2024 in Dublin.

1.4 Programme "GUARD-UP – Empowering guardianship systems to improve the guidance of UAC"

The transnational programme titled "Guard Up – Empowering Guardianship Systems to Improve the Guidance of Unaccompanied Children (UAC)" is being implemented under the coordination of the Themistocles and Dimitris Tsatsos Foundation – Centre for European Constitutional Law, with the participation of the General Secretariat as an associated partner. The programme is funded by the European Union's Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF-2023-TF2-AG-CALL-06-CHILDREN).

The action falls under the section concerning the support provided to Member States in the fields of child protection and guardianship of unaccompanied minors. It officially began on 1st April 2024 and will run for a duration of 30 months. The consortium consists of ten organisations—both governmental and non-governmental—from seven Member States (Greece, Cyprus, Italy, Croatia, Belgium, the Netherlands and Poland), all of which are responsible for providing guardianship or representation services to unaccompanied minors or collaborate with state authorities in these areas.



Presentation of the Unit to representatives of organisations from seven EU Member States, who were in Athens for the study visit as part of the GUARD-UP project, hosted by the University of West Attica.

The purpose of the action is to enhance the knowledge and skills of guardians through the improvement of specific educational materials and their continuous professional development. This aims to ensure that unaccompanied minors receive high-quality representation and care services to safeguard their best interests. Within this framework, a detailed mapping is carried out for each Member State represented in the Action, including the relevant legal framework, its practical implementation and the stakeholders involved at national and European levels. Additionally, an exchange of knowledge and best practices takes place. In 2024, study visits were also conducted in Greece and the Netherlands.



Group photo at the Guard-Up event in October 2024.

1.5 Harmonisation, Establishment and Certification of Best Interests Procedures

The "Harmonisation, Establishment and Certification of Best Interests Procedures" programme has been implemented by the General Secretariat with the support of UNHCR and EUAA, since November 2022.

It is a **pioneering, child-centered initiative** that aims to ensure the consistent delivery of high-quality and specialised services by child protection professionals to **all unaccompanied, separated and family-detached children**, third country nationals or stateless, that are identified and reside in our country. The objective of the programme, in line with the National Strategy for the Protection of Unaccompanied Minors, is the harmonisation of best interests procedures in Greece through the use of standardised best interests assessment forms and the conduct of the assessment process by experienced and trained professionals.



Within the framework of the programme, a **new Best Interests Procedures Toolkit** was developed, **which**, from August 2023 to date, **has been consistently used by 24 collaborating child protection organisations**. These organisations operate across Greece, providing services of identification and immediate support for unaccompanied minors experiencing homelessness and precarious living conditions, hosting and care services, protection and support services in safe areas of the Reception and Identification Centres (RICs)/ Closed Controlled Access Centres (CCACs) of the country, as well as guardianship services under the implementation of the National Guardianship System for Unaccompanied Minors.



In parallel, since December 2023, five-day **Training-of-Trainers sessions on "Best Interests Procedures – Conducting Best Interest Assessments"** have been conducted by the Unit for selected focal points from all child protection agencies participating in the programme.

To this end, **specialised training material** was developed by the General Secretariat in collaboration with UNHCR and EUAA. The training package includes modules focusing, inter alia, on adult education methodology, interview techniques with children, the stages of the assessment procedure, as well as methods of preparation, information recording and development of a comprehensive and holistic Action Plan for the minor, ensuring their participation throughout the process. Subsequently, the trained focal points from the agencies use the provided training material to prepare, organise, and conduct **secondary training sessions for their staff**, who carry out the best interests assessment for children in the field.

By the end of 2024, a total of **eight Training-of-Trainers sessions were conducted for 80 focal points** working in 24 different agencies. Similarly, **43 secondary training sessions have already been successfully completed for a total of 380 professionals**, from 20 different agencies working in collaboration with each other.



Presentation of the programme by the Unit during the Round Table (04.06.2024)

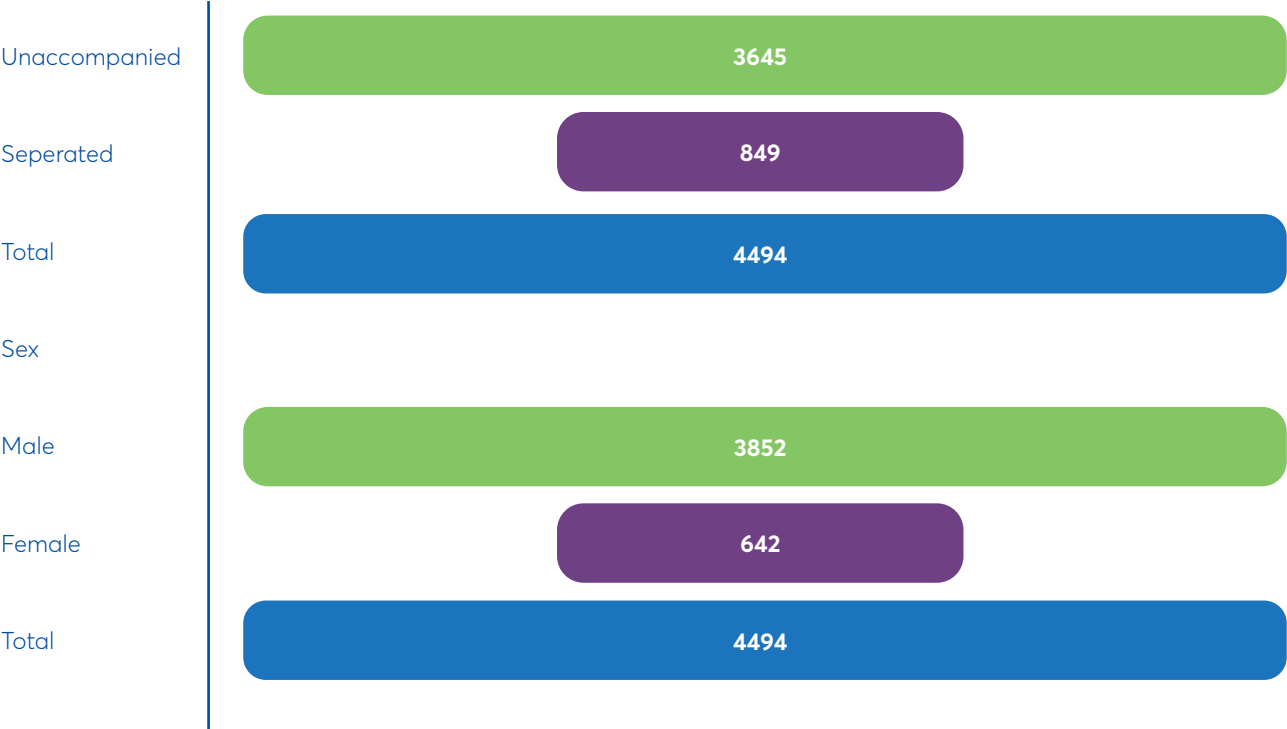
In June 2024, the General Secretariat organised a **Round Table** with the contribution of the programme partners, UNHCR and EUAA, and with the participation of representatives from the Ministry of Migration and Asylum, the Ministry of Justice, Non-Governmental Organizations, the Institute of Child Health and the University of West Attica. The achievement of this effort was the **publication of a Policy Brief** outlining the topics discussed, the key conclusions reached, the proposals for strengthening synergies in the field of child protection, as well as the next steps required for the establishment, harmonisation and certification of Best Interests Procedures.

The programme's key and long-term objectives include **harmonising** best interests procedures **at the national level, establishing** best interests assessments as an integral part of child protection case management and consolidating all child-related information into a **standardised assessment tool** to be used by all professionals involved. Additionally, the implementation of the programme aims to **protect children** from potential retraumatisation due to multiple interviews, ensure the **transfer of expertise** to all child protection agencies and guarantee that best interests assessments are conducted exclusively by **certified professionals**. *The progress made so far is a strong indication that these goals are within reach, laying a solid foundation for a more comprehensive and effective child protection system.*

1.6 Promoting Foster Care for Unaccompanied Minors

In the context of the State’s actions for the development of a child protection system that promotes deinstitutionalisation, the Unit continued to assist in the process of inclusion of unaccompanied minors into the national foster care and adoption system, with an emphasis on foster care, in collaboration with the competent Service of the Ministry of Social Cohesion and Family Affairs. Through the implementation of the foster care system as a protective measure and an alternative care framework, unaccompanied minors can receive the needed support within a family environment, fostering their integration into Greek society with the assistance of their guardian. To date, all unaccompanied minors under the age of 12 have been registered in the minors’ registry of the National Foster Care and Adoption System.

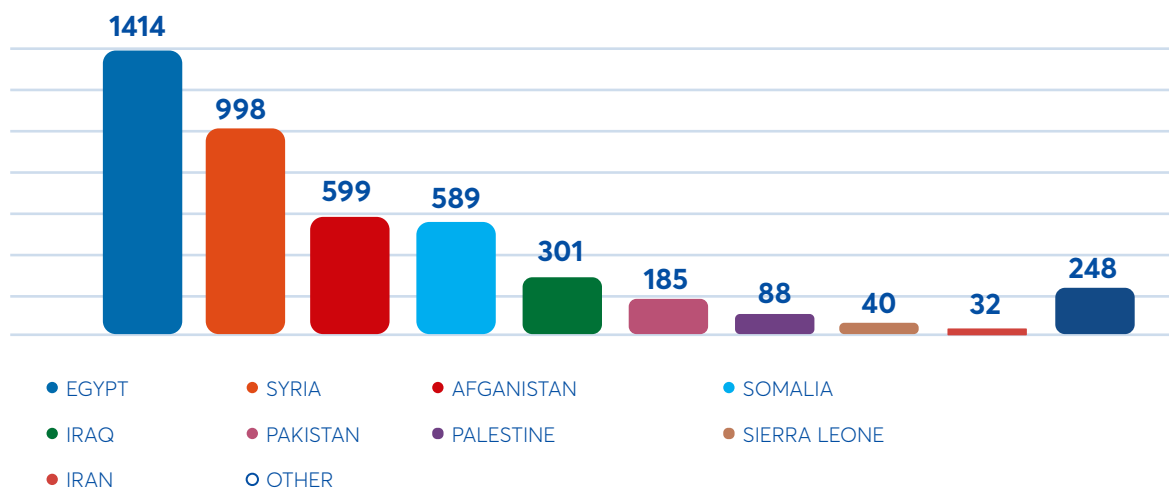
Total number of children who received guardianship services in 2024



The graph above illustrates the number of children who received guardianship services in 2024, by gender. It also specifies the number of separated and unaccompanied children.

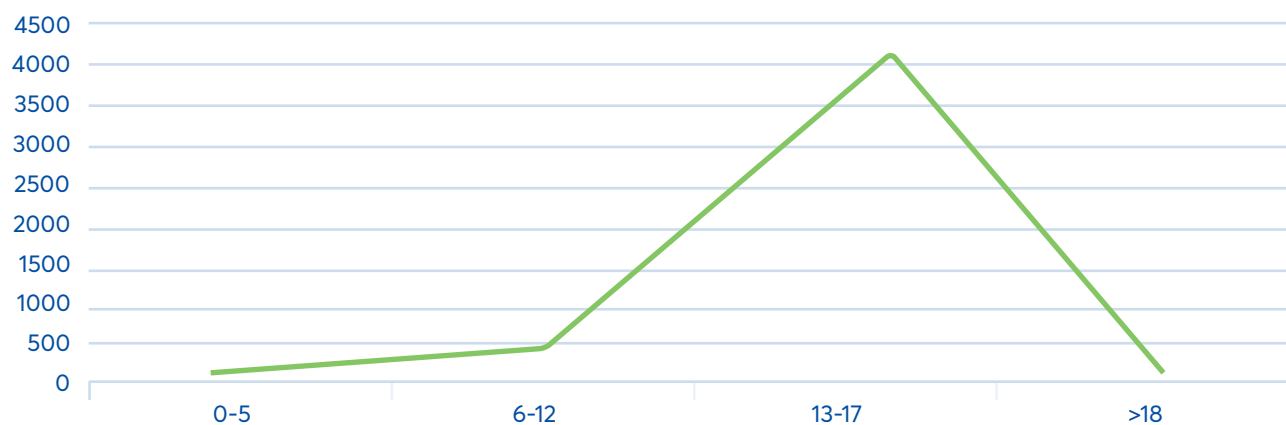


Nationalities

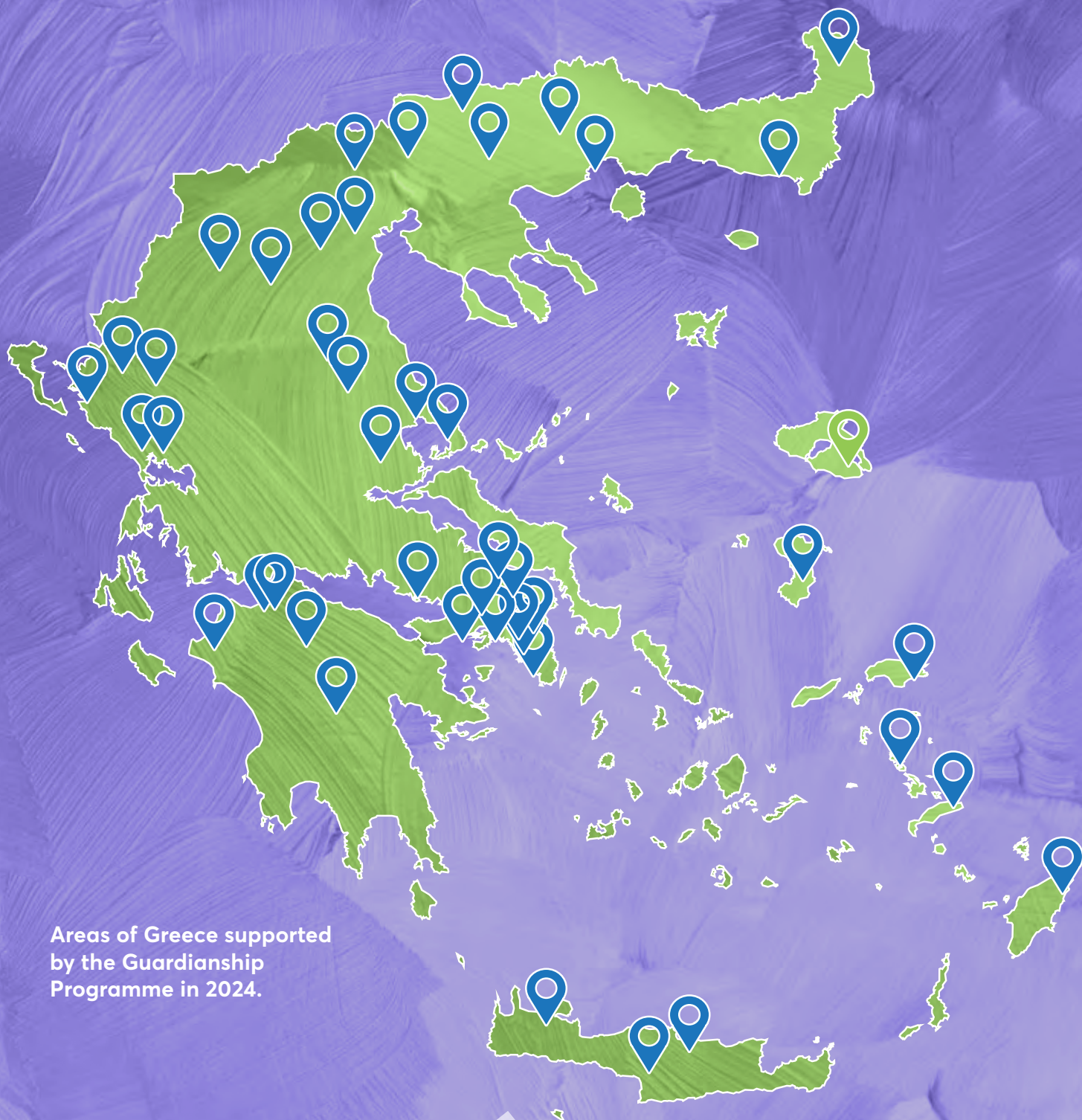


The graph above illustrates the number of children who received guardianship services by nationality in 2024.

Age



The graph above illustrates the number of children who received guardianship services in 2024, categorised by age.



Areas of Greece supported
by the Guardianship
Programme in 2024.



2. Ensuring accommodation for unaccompanied minors

Unit of Management of Accommodation Requests & Relocation (the Unit) coordinates and ensures the placement of unaccompanied minors in suitable long-term accommodation facilities. These may include Accommodation Centres for Unaccompanied Minors (Accommodation Centres) or Supervised Apartments for Semi-Independent Living (SILs) for minors aged 16 and above. Children located either in Reception and Identification Centres (RICs) or in Closed Controlled Access Centres (CCACs) at the country's entry points, or in emergency accommodation facilities are transferred to long-term accommodation facilities, where they receive comprehensive support services.

In 2024, the Unit processed approximately **4.546** housing requests for unaccompanied minors, completing all required procedures for their transfer and placement in long-term accommodation facilities.

Simultaneously, the Unit manages vulnerable cases of unaccompanied minors requiring special care and collaborates with child protection agencies and competent authorities, coordinating all involved stakeholders, providing necessary guidelines and contributing significantly to the management of the said cases.

In collaboration with the NGO METAdrasi, the transfers of unaccompanied minors from reception points to the mainland and from across the country to safe accommodation facilities were successfully completed in 2024. These transfers are conducted in the presence of authorised and trained escorts and interpreters specialising in child protection issues, in compliance with the regulatory framework defined by Law 4960/2022 and integrated into Law 4939/2022, which governs organised and safe transfers of unaccompanied minors.



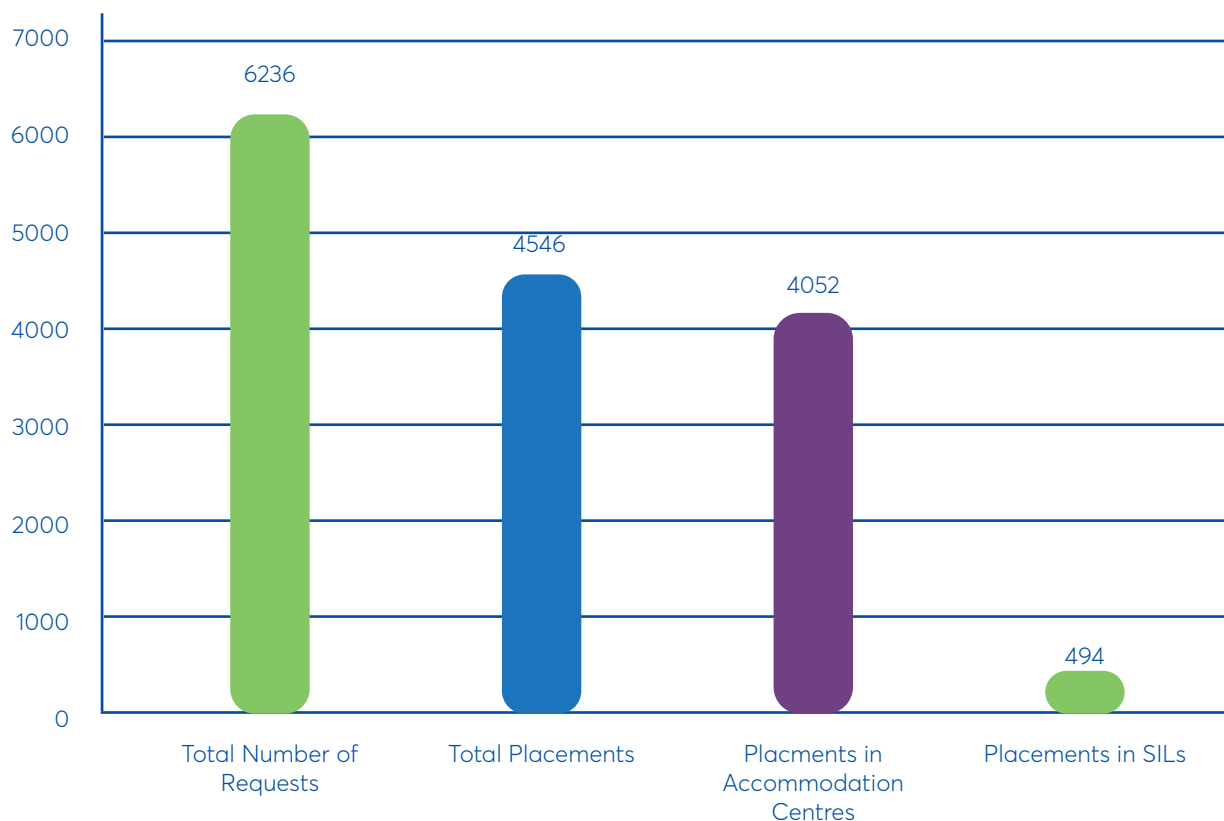
The project "Subsidy for Organisations Operating Accommodation Centres for Unaccompanied Minors (Accommodation Centres)", concerns Special Objective 2: Legal Migration and Integration. Budget: €54,000,000, EU Contribution: 75% & National Contribution: 25%. 1,750 places for the period 2023-2024. The remaining accommodation places are funded through other resources.

In addition, the project "Subsidy for organisations operating Supervised Apartments for Semi-Independent Living for Unaccompanied Minors aged 16 and above (SILs)" is also co-financed by the Greece Programme of the Asylum, Migration, and Integration Fund (AMIF), with a total budget of €4,500,000 (Special Objective 2: Legal Migration and Integration. EU Contribution: 75% & National Contribution: 25%)



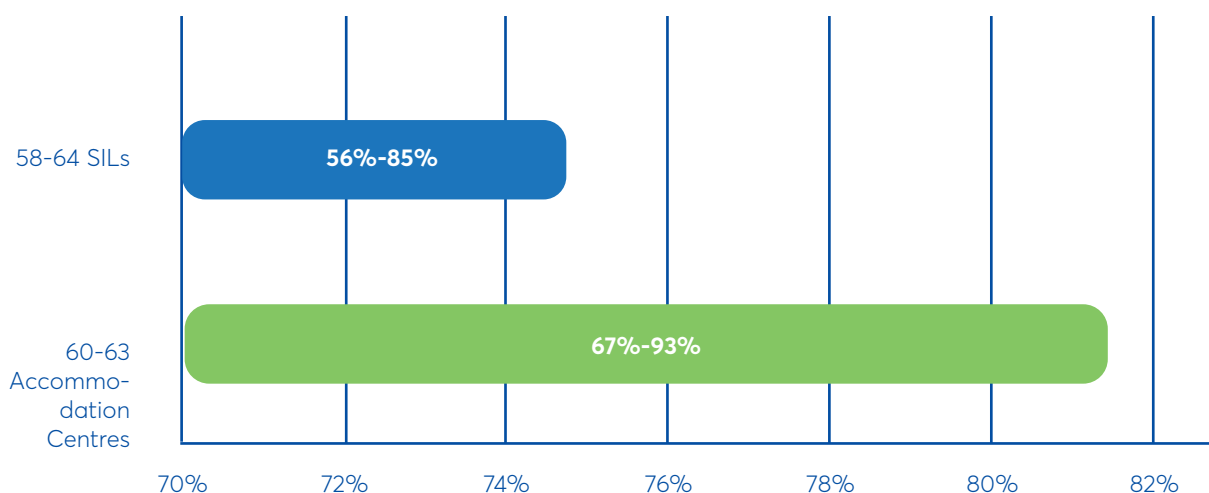
A consolidated overview of accommodation requests for 2024 is provided in the following **graphs**:

Management of accommodation requests for unaccompanied minors



The above graph illustrates the number of accommodation requests for unaccompanied minors in long-term accommodation facilities, followed by the total placements made, categorized into Accommodation Centres and SILs.

Occupancy rate of long-term accommodation facilities



The chart above illustrates the variation in occupancy rates of Accommodation Centres and SILs during 2024. It should be noted that the number of accommodation facilities fluctuates over the course of the year, as indicated on the left side of the chart.

2.1 Safe areas

Enhancing service provision in **safe areas** within the CCACs and RICs in collaboration with the Reception and Identification Service (RIS) contributed to ensuring the necessary care and protection for unaccompanied minors.

Since January 2024, the General Secretariat, with implementing partners the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and NGOs Zeuxis and ARSIS, has developed child protection teams in the safe areas of the CCACs in Kos, Leros, Samos, Chios, Lesvos, and the RIC in Fylakio providing uninterrupted care for unaccompanied minors arriving at these points, considering their increased number in 2024.

Safe areas are staffed with field coordinators, administrative personnel, lawyers, social workers, psychologists, caregivers and interpreters. They provide 24-hour care, psychosocial and psychological support, legal assistance, vulnerability assessments, and best interest assessments for minors. Interpretation services and transport to meet their needs are also ensured. At the same time, access to health services is supported, and basic living needs are met.

In the aforementioned safe areas, a total of **4.708** children received child protection services during 2024.



At the same time, **to better manage the increased arrivals of unaccompanied minors at both designated and non-designated entry points across the country**, a new safe area began operating at the Malakasa RIC in April 2024, with implementing partner the non profit organisation, VELA. From July 2024, the child protection team was further strengthened through collaboration with IOM.

Notably, since September 2024, **the presence of staff from the National Emergency Response Mechanism (NERM) and its implementation partner, the Network for Children's Rights**, ensured en-

hanced service delivery. This intervention supported the assessment of the best interests of minors, improving the quality and effectiveness of provided services.



To meet the ever-growing needs, an additional safe area was established within the Diavata RIC. In this context, from November 2024, the newly designed safe area is being supported by the NGO ARSIS, an operational partner of NERM, to provide child protection services and specialised care.

At the aforementioned RICs, **1.030** unaccompanied minors arrived during 2024. Among them, **755** children received child protection services after the commencement of work by the child protection teams and the parallel launch of the safe areas.

Simultaneously, **to strengthen effective and direct collaboration, the Unit conducted on-site visits to safe areas** in Kos, Leros and Samos. During these visits, meetings were held with the management of the CCACs, the respective unaccompanied minors' offices and personnel from the following implementation partners: personnel from the organisation "Zeuxis" that manage the respective Safe Areas, the medical and psychosocial support teams from the "Hippocrates" programme providing services within the reception and identification procedures and the personnel of METAdrasi operating within the long-term accommodation facility in Samos. Discussions focused on issues related to accommodation, management of temporary accommodation placements, and the transfer of minors to long-term accommodation facilities. Additionally, the Unit participated in a visit to Chios with a delegation from Bulgaria, fostering the exchange of expertise. These activities aimed to enhance coordination and information sharing for the optimal care of minors.



Snapshot from the on-site visit to the Safe Area facilities in Lesvos, with the delegation from the Czech Republic.

The safe areas in Lesvos, Fylakio and Malakasa **are funded through the Voluntary Solidarity Mechanism, with donor countries being the Netherlands and the Czech Republic.** This funding is provided as an expression of solidarity towards Greece, with resources allocation being managed through IOM. Meanwhile, the safe areas in Samos, Chios, Kos and Leros **are co-funded by a Swiss contribution and the Ministry of Migration and Asylum.**

The efforts to strengthen the safe areas and the systematic collaboration with specialised partners **contributed to the provision of comprehensive protection and care to unaccompanied minors,** while also considering the importance of continuous adaptation to new requirements and challenges.



3. National Emergency Response Mechanism (NERM)

The National Emergency Response Mechanism (NERM) was designed by the Special Secretariat for the Protection of Unaccompanied Minors (current General Secretariat for Vulnerable Persons and Institutional Protection) and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in 2020. It was implemented in 2021 and institutionalized in 2022, in order to identify unaccompanied minors living in homelessness or in precarious conditions and provide them with immediate accommodation in Emergency Accommodation Facilities for Unaccompanied Minors, being an example of best practice for the protection of the said cases.

3.1 NERM's services and activities

NERM's fundamental pillar is the **tracing line**, which is now available through the **five-digit telephone number 15107** (courtesy of OTE) and **free of charge** for all subscribers. The above-mentioned cases of minors are referred to this line and guidance is provided for their immediate transport and accommodation in a safe environment. At the same time, the NERM can be contacted via **WhatsApp** and **Viber at 6942773030**.

It is noted that from the beginning of the operation of NERM, i.e. from April 2021 until 31/12/2024, the number of unaccompanied minors who have been accommodated in accommodation facilities is **5.957**. More specifically, within 2024, **1.649** unaccompanied minors were housed.

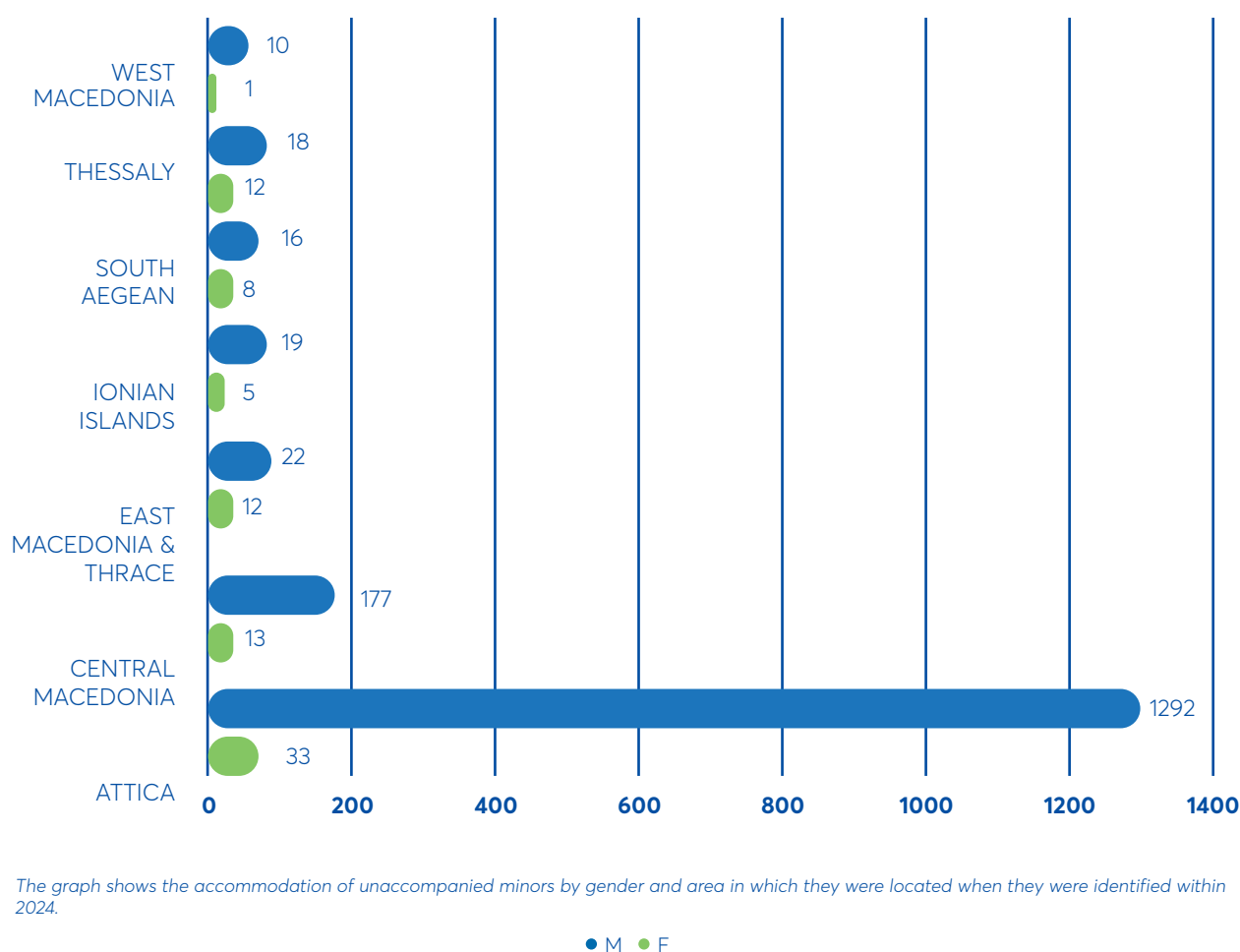


Snapshot of the escorting of unaccompanied minors by NERM partners.



Currently, four Emergency Accommodation Facilities for Unaccompanied Minors, with a total capacity of 155 places, operate nationwide, under the operating responsibility of the International Organization for Migration (IOM), which are located in the mainland. During the minors' stay within the facilities, psychosocial and legal support, education and health care services are provided, while the registration of applications for international protection at the Regional Asylum Offices (RAOs) is completed and the best interests of the minors are assessed in order to find a suitable framework for long-term accommodation.

Areas where minors have been identified



In addition, within NERM's operational framework, collaboration has been developed with civil society organisations, such as the "Network for Children's Rights" in Attica and "Arsis" in Thessaloniki, which manage the operation of **info desks** and **mobile units**. The unaccompanied minors can visit the info desks for information on their right to be housed in accommodation facilities and to receive legal and psychosocial support. Social workers and psychologists carry out a best interests assessment, and under the coordination of NERM, minors are placed in the NERM's immediate accommodation scheme. Finally, the mobile units escort minors to the police stations of reference for their identification, to health facilities for medical examinations, when required, as well as to the facilities where they are accommodated.

Furthermore, from October 2022, NERM has developed targeted actions through the innovative programme "Protection for All Minors" implemented in Athens by the "Network for Children's Rights" with co-funding from INTERSOS. The programme includes a reception area where individualised support is provided to unaccompanied and separated minors, who live in precarious conditions and who do not wish to be placed in accommodation facilities, in order to empower them so that they can be housed in the said facilities at a later time. It should be noted that, within the framework of the programme, social workers and psychologists create individual action plans for each minor, while at the same time they have direct cooperation with the Regional Asylum offices

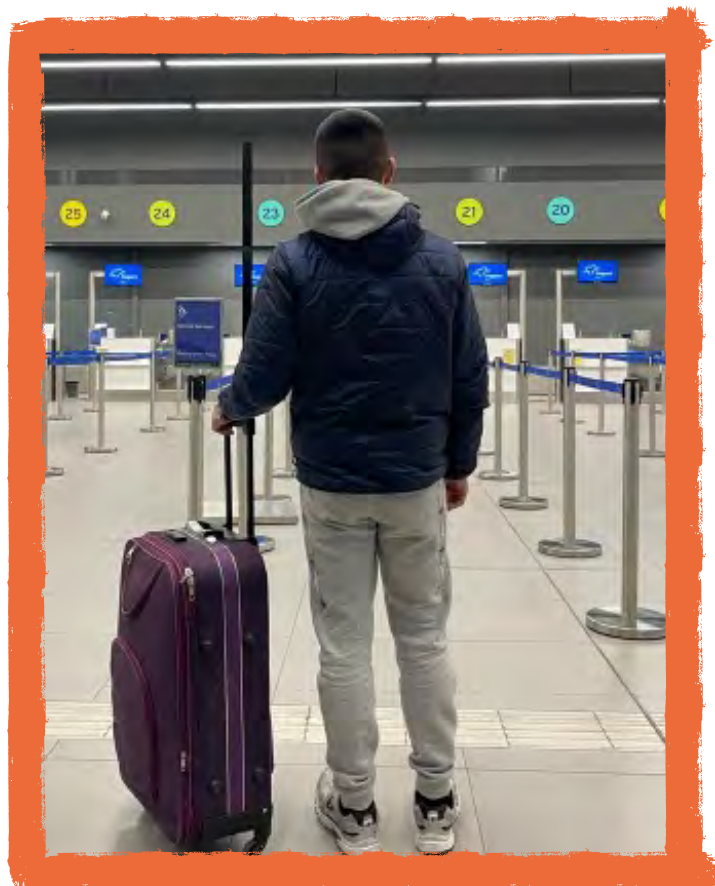
(RAOs) of the prefecture of Attica, where they go whenever there is a need, in order to identify unaccompanied or separated minors in due time.

Of crucial importance is also the provision of a tele-interpretation line by "METAdra-si" in **Arabic, Farsi, Dari, Urdu, Punjabi, Bengali** and other languages, subject to availability, as part of NERM's operation.

During this year, NERM **was called upon to assist in the management of arrivals of unaccompanied minors from entry points** such as Crete, Messenia etc., where there are no Reception and Identification Centres (RICs). In this context, and in coordination with the Reception and Identification Service (RIS), the NERM **provided, through its partners, field teams** during the reception of unaccompanied minors from the entry points to the RICs on the mainland, while it also launched the creation of emergency safe areas, in order to serve the increased needs.

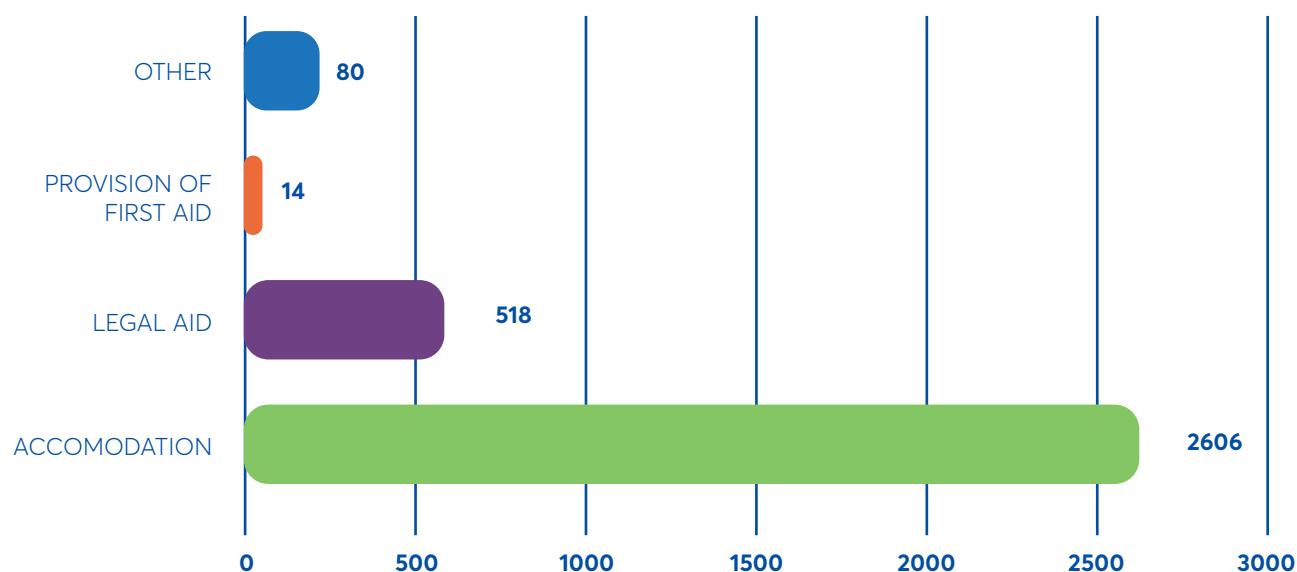
Regarding the support to unaccompanied and separated minors from Ukraine, in particular, NERM recommended a

specified procedure for assessing their best interests and developed cooperation with police authorities and competent agencies. The number of referrals received through the Tracing Line from the beginning of the Ukrainian war and up to 31/12/2024 is **605**, while **290** minors have been referred to Municipal Social Services for further monitoring and support.



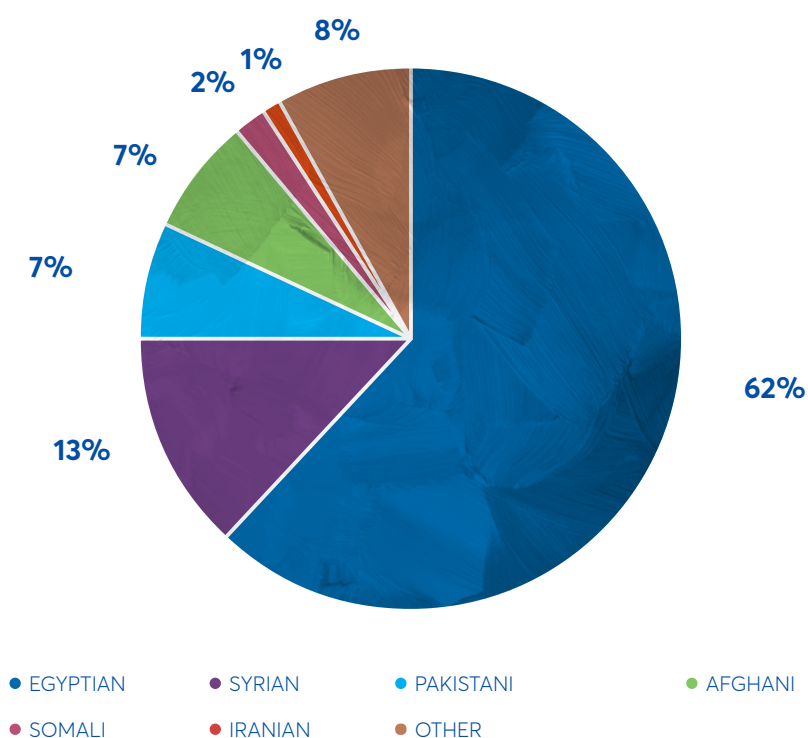


Requests



The graph shows the different requests received by NERM within 2024.

Nationalities



The graph shows the nationalities of the minors that received services from NERM within 2024.

It is worth noting that NERM has been supported by key partners such as the UNHCR, the European Union Agency for Asylum (EUAA), IOM and the Swiss Government, which funds the entire project.

3.2 Actions for vulnerable persons

NERM, in the context of the extension of its competencies with the establishment of the General Secretariat, is going to adopt new procedures and provide services to vulnerable third country nationals or stateless persons living in a situation of homelessness and in precarious conditions in the mainland. The services will include measures of direct intervention in the field, liaison with the competent reception authorities and the health and social care services. More specifically, targeted actions are planned in Athens and Thessaloniki to assess their needs and provide them with psychosocial and legal support. In addition, NERM is expected to cooperate with municipalities to support these persons in their geographical regions. Mapping existing health, psychosocial and legal support services, as well as social support and protection services of central importance to the effective establishment of a referral network in order to better respond to their needs. NERM is, therefore, in the process of updating all the above services.

3.3 International and European Awards

Following the presentation of NERM's work **as a good practice at the World Refugee Forum** in December 2023, the Initiative for Child Rights, which is responsible for highlighting and managing child protection commitments, **invited the General Secretariat to co-organise the annual meetings** of child protection-related actors with a view to highlighting commitments at the next World Refugee Forum in 2027.



Group photo from NERM's participation in the 32nd European Social Services Conference of the European Social Network.



At the 32nd European Social Services Conference of the European Social Network (ESN) on the theme "Co-Creating Future Social Services", held in Antwerp, Belgium, in June 2024, the General Secretariat **was selected to present NERM's activities in the field of child protection and the provision of related social services.** This conference promoted the need for the adoption of the NERM model by other countries facing similar challenges in the field of child protection.

Following the above-mentioned participation in Antwerp, NERM **was nominated as a candidate for the best European service** in the European Social Services Awards 2024 (ESSA 2024) in Lisbon, Portugal, in November 2024, organised annually by the ESN. NERM's work competed in the category **"Collaborative Practice"**, one of the six categories of the competition.

3.4 Transmission of good practices

The strategic goal of NERM is to promote the afore-mentioned model of protection for unaccompanied minors living in homelessness or precarious conditions to other countries facing similar challenges.

In this context and following a visit by the Bulgarian authorities in Greece in July 2024, NERM experts conducted a working visit to Bulgaria at the request of UNHCR, EUAA and the Bulgarian national authorities. The purpose of the visit was the transfer of expertise regarding the management of unaccompanied minors on the move.



Snapshot from the presentation of NERM's project during the working visit to Bulgaria.

In August 2024, the General Secretariat participated in the Conference on "Effective Practices to Counter Child Trafficking: Promising Initiatives and Good Practices", organised by IOM Egypt and the National Coordinating Committee for Combating and Preventing Irregular Migration and Trafficking in Persons. This participation was an excellent opportunity for Greece to present NERM as a good practice in the prevention of trafficking of unaccompanied minors in precarious conditions and as an example of effective cooperation between the State and Civil Society.



4. Ensuring the quality of services provided in the accommodation facilities for unaccompanied minors

4.1 Implementation of the standard operating procedures of the accommodation centres for unaccompanied minors

Providing an adequate accommodation framework for unaccompanied minors is a key priority for the General Secretariat. To ensure the adequacy of living, care and protection conditions for the hosted minors, the framework for unaccompanied minors' accommodation has been institutionalised (under Law 4960/2022, as incorporated into Law 4939/2022), and the Standard Operating Procedures have been established for each type of accommodation facility. In 2023, the Standard Operating and Licensing Rules for Accommodation Centres for Unaccompanied Minors (Accommodation Centres) and the Standard Operating Rules for the Supervised Apartments for Semi-Independent Living (SILs) were established, while in 2024, relevant Rules were also introduced for Emergency Accommodation Facilities for Unaccompanied Minors.

Additionally, the long-term accommodation facilities for unaccompanied minors (Accommodation Centres and SILs) are registered in the Registry of Accommodation Facilities for Unaccompanied Minors, managed by the Unit for the Monitoring and Evaluation of the Accommodation

Centres (the Unit) following the review of the formal registration documentation concerning the facilities' structural, organisational and operational adequacy. **During 2024**, the Registry was updated following amendments to the institutional framework, and now includes **59 Accommodation Centres and 60 SILs and 4 Emergency Accommodation** facilities operated under the responsibility of the International Organization for Migration (IOM).

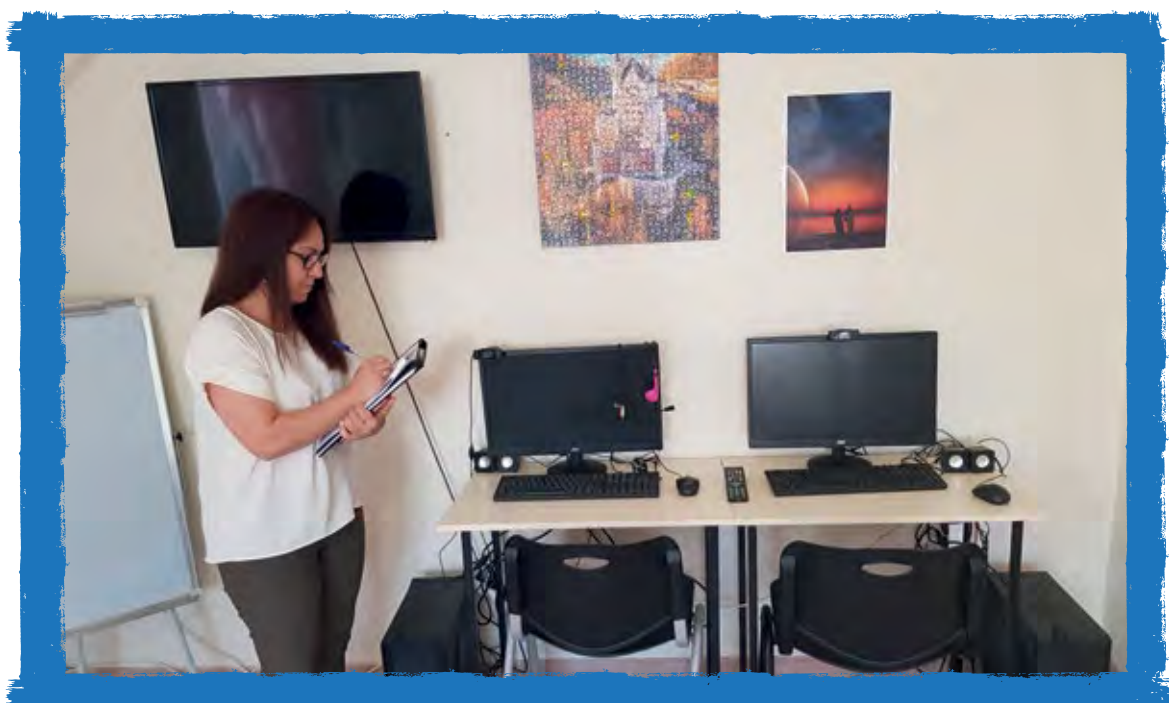
Under the institutional framework, the Unit is responsible for monitoring compliance with the operational standards of the long-term accommodation facilities, monitoring and regularly evaluating the quality of the provided services, providing support to facility staff, designing necessary improvement interventions and overseeing their effectiveness.



Snapshot from on-site inspections at long-term care facilities for unaccompanied minors.

4.2 On-site audits of the accommodation facilities for unaccompanied minors

Since April 2023, the Unit has been systematically visiting the long-term accommodation facilities for unaccompanied minors and conducting **on-site supervision audits**. The audit teams consist of trained staff from the General Secretariat who utilise specialised **tools and methodologies** tailored to effectively verify compliance with the institutional framework and identify potential deviations. The added value of on-site audits lies in the inclusion of feedback from both the staff and the minors, as a fundamental parameter in the facility's evaluation process.



Snapshot from on-site inspections at long-term care facilities for unaccompanied minors.

In 2024, the Unit conducted **62 on-site visits across Greece**, out of which **57 were visits to Accommodation Centres and 5 were to SILs operating cumulatively 25 apartments**. During these audits, **more than 310 employees expressed their opinions** through group and individual interviews and more than **500 hosted children** through focus group discussions facilitated by independent interpreters.



Additionally, in 2024, the Unit investigated four reports concerning issues related to child protection, violations of minors' rights and unethical conduct occurring during their stay at the facilities.

Online audits of the operational documents of the accommodation centres

During 2024, **12 online audits** were conducted at the level of the operating actors, pertaining to the Internal Operating Regulation, the Child Protection Policy and the Code of Conduct **implemented in 34 Accommodation Centres**. At the same time, to facilitate the actors, the following **two Guidelines** were issued by the Unit: "Guidelines for the adaptation and adherence to the Child Protection Policy of the actors operating Long-Term Accommodation Facilities for Unaccompanied Minors" (Ref. No. 129731/4.24) and "Guidelines for the adaptation of the Protocols for Crisis Management and breach of the accommodation terms in the Accommodation Centres for Unaccompanied Minors" (Ref. No. 151304/5.24). During the audits, necessary recommendations were provided and staff training was requested based on the updated documents and new guidelines to ensure alignment among all entities and workers.

Focus Group Discussions with Unaccompanied Minors Residing in Long-Term Accommodation Centres





During its on-site audits to long-term accommodation facilities across Greece, the Unit has incorporated in its methodology the implementation of focus group discussions with the unaccompanied minors residing in these facilities, with the assistance of interpreters independent from the actor operating the facility.

This methodological approach is based on Article 12 of the International Convention on the Rights of the Child, which stipulates that "States Parties shall assure to the child who is capable of forming his or her own views the right to express those views freely in all matters affecting the child, the views of the child being given due weight in accordance with the age and maturity of the child." Through focus group discussions, the hosted children are given the right to express their opinion on matters of their everyday life and to participate in the improvement of their living conditions.

The added value of this methodological approach lies in the fact that the minors themselves are made "co-participants" in the evaluation process regarding the facility's functioning and the provided services. The discussions are conducted using child-friendly and age-appropriate methods and procedures and are recorded in a special section of the Assessment Report compiled for the facility under evaluation, so that they can be considered by the operating actors when designing interventions aimed at better meeting the needs.

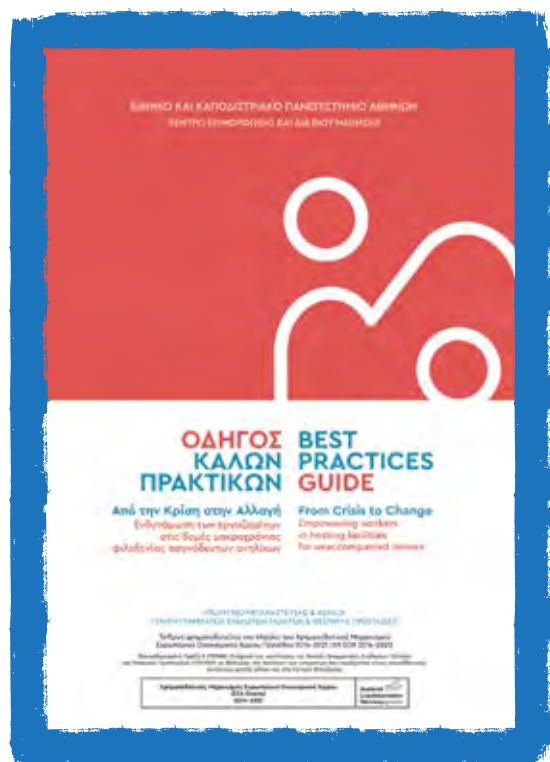
In this context, the supervision and evaluation of long-term accommodation facilities is governed by the principles of participation, child-centered approaches, support and a focus on positive change, with the aim of ensuring the best interests and the expressed needs of the hosted unaccompanied minors.

4.3 Exchange of expertise with other countries

As part of the Predefined Project 8 (PDP#8) titled "Strengthening the Capacity of the General Secretariat for Vulnerable Persons and Institutional Protection to improve the quality of services provided to unaccompanied minors, including in accommodation centres" (EEA Grants), a collaboration with the Migration Directorate of Norway's Ministry of Justice was completed in April 2024. This partnership aimed to exchange expertise on matters and procedures regarding the evaluation of long-term accommodation facilities for unaccompanied minors. Specifically, in 2024, three meetings were held in Norway and Greece, which included "on-the-job training" of the Unit's staff and optimisation of the tools and methodologies used for the audits.

4.4 Skills development of staff working in long-term accommodation facilities in cooperation with the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens (NKUA)

In the year 2024, the training of staff working in long-term accommodation facilities was completed, which was implemented in cooperation with the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens (NKUA) in the framework of the Pre-Determined Project 8 (PDP#8) (EEA Grants).



The programme included **in-person trainings in facilities** all over the country, aimed at empowering field professionals (team building, crisis management), specialised **asynchronous training** (substance use, violence management etc.) and **clinical supervision**. More than **700 field professionals** working in long-term accommodation facilities participated in the trainings, of which **479** completed the training and received the certificate of attendance.

Finally, based on the experiences highlighted during the trainings, the "Good Practice Guide: from crisis to change" was published and distributed to all long-term accommodation facilities for unaccompanied minors in the country.

Guide of Good Practices from the Programme "Skills Development of Employees in Long-Term Accommodation Facilities" in collaboration with the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens (NKUA)



4.5 Dissemination of audit results and good practices

On 27 March 2024, a **Review Conference** titled "Framework for the Accommodation and Support of Unaccompanied Minors: data and perspectives" (PDP#8) was held, where the results of the First Cycle of On-Site Audits of Long-term Accommodation Centres for Unaccompanied Minors (April 2023 - March 2024) were presented. Additionally, in June 2024, the **"Report on the Findings of the First Cycle of Evaluation** of Accommodation Centres for Unaccompanied Minors: April 2023 - March 2024" was distributed to the accommodation centres, which presented detailed statistical and qualitative data of the audits as well as good practices aiming to provide feedback to the field.

4.6 National Registry for the Protection of Unaccompanied Minors

In 2024, the technical and legal specifications for the operation of the National Registry for the Protection of Unaccompanied Minors were finalised. This registry will maintain data on unaccompanied minors present in the country, the systems supporting them (Guardianship) and the capacity and operation of emergency and long-term accommodation facilities. The maintenance of continuously updated data will positively contribute to the design of policies and services tailored to the needs of unaccompanied minors.





5. Promoting mental health and preventing mental disorders of unaccompanied minors and empowering frontline professionals

The project " **"Promoting mental health and preventing mental disorders in unaccompanied minors in Greece: UAM Mental Health Hub "** " has been implemented since May 2022 in cooperation with SOS Children's Villages Greece, while from 2024 is being funded by SOS Children's Villages Germany. The project aims to provide specialised services to strengthen and promote the mental health of unaccompanied minors, as well as to empower professionals working in long-term accommodation facilities and public sector workers.

In the framework of staff training and empowerment, 48 online trainings were completed for professionals of the Accommodation Centres for Unaccompanied Minors (Accommodation Centres) and Supervised Apartments for Semi-Independent Living of Unaccompanied Minors (SILs), on thematic modules focusing on psychological support for children. This year for the first time the project also focused on training and skills development for public sector workers. 60 professionals from the Ministry of Migration and Asylum and the Independent Department for the Coordination and Monitoring of Refugee Education of the Ministry of Education, Religious Affairs and Sports were trained in trauma management while emphasis was placed on learning resilience building techniques and burnout prevention.



Snapshot from the trainer training for the tool 'I support my friends,' held with the support of the World Health Organization Europe Office for Quality of Care and Patient Safety in Athens, within the framework of the Mental Health Hub programme.

In relation to direct interventions to unaccompanied children, the continuation of psycho-educational groups for children in Athens, Thessaloniki and Lesvos led to the creation of a **Guide for open groups providing preventive psychosocial support to unaccompanied refugee minors**. These groups' main objective was the promotion of psychosocial health and the cultivation of skills.

Finally, with the valuable assistance of the World Health Organization and its Office in Greece, a training of professionals on the innovative peer support tool "I support my friends" was organised. Professionals learned empowerment techniques and tools for children and adolescents that enable them to identify symptoms of anxiety, sadness and distress and support their peers.

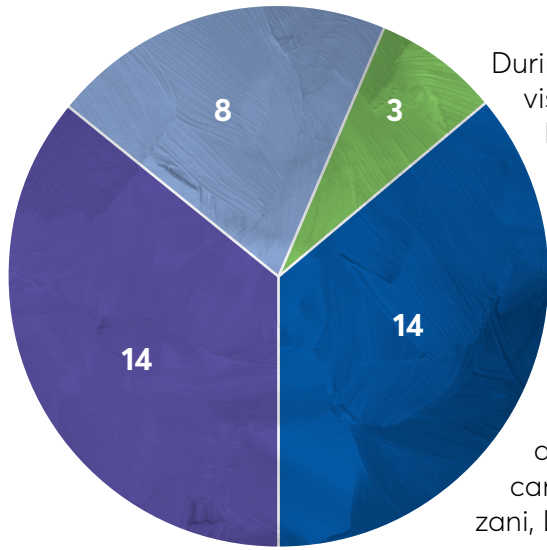


Snapshot of the World Health Organization (WHO) Regional Office for Europe for Quality of Care and Patient Safety in Athens and the WHO Regional Office for Europe.





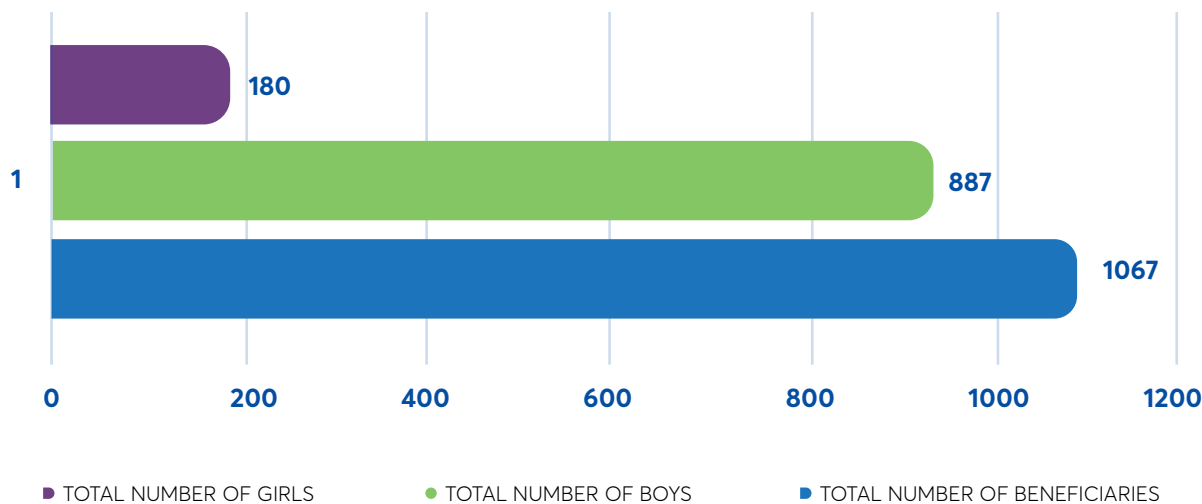
6. Mentorship



During 2024, the Mentors' activities continued with regular visits to Accommodation Centres for Unaccompanied Minors (Accommodation Centres) and Supervised Apartments for Semi-Independent Living of Unaccompanied Minors (SILs). The past year, for the first time, the mentors supported minors living in Emergency Accommodation Facilities in Attica, by providing basic information on the child protection system in Greece, the necessary information on the next steps regarding their transfer to accommodation facilities and their operating rules. At the same time, in an effort to support regions outside Attica, the team carried out missions to Patras, Kalavrita, Pentalofos, Kozani, Larissa, Volos, Alexandroupolis and Chios.

- FIELD VISITS TO ACCOMMODATION CENTRES
- FIELD VISITS TO SILs
- FIELD VISITS TO REGIONAL ACCOMMODATION FACILITIES
- FIELD VISITS TO EMERGENCY ACCOMMODATION FACILITIES

Number of children that participated in mentoring activities



During the visits, the children had the opportunity to meet the mentors, discuss their experiences, receive guidance through the example of the mentors and their own experience, learn about various activities and express questions or concerns about their daily lives through focused group discussions.

6.1 Art Workshops

The team of mentors continued to organise monthly painting workshops in Athens, while in 2024, 13 painting workshops were held in Patras, Kalavrita, Kozani, Chios, giving thus the opportunity to children living in regional areas to express themselves through art, to learn basic painting techniques and enjoy their time. Additionally, three painting exhibitions were held in Athens, showcasing canvases created by the children during the workshops.



Snapshot from the annual exhibition of paintings created by unaccompanied minors, hosted at the Intercultural High School of Athens.

6.2 Teens' Network

Aiming to increase the participation of children from various parts of Greece, the team continued for the third year the "Teens' Network", a monthly online initiative, focusing on the smooth integration of children, connecting them with other unaccompanied children, helping them understand various administrative procedures in Greece and ultimately improving their daily lives through thematic meetings. This year, 12 meetings were held, during which the team had the pleasure of hosting colleagues and partners specialising in legal matters and professional orientation, presenting the specific topics with maximum effectiveness.

6.3 Awareness-raising activities in schools

To support the integration of unaccompanied minors, the mentors' team visited five schools alongside the Head of the Unit for the Integration and Support of Unaccompanied Minors and participated in various events organised by the schools. The aim was to raise awareness among students and teaching staff about unaccompanied minors, their lives, the journey and the daily challenges faced by refugee children without parental support.



Snapshot from the painting exhibition of unaccompanied minors, hosted at the Embassy of the Netherlands as part of an event dedicated to the National Guardianship System for Unaccompanied Minors.

6.4 "Mentors' explained" - YouTube channel

For the second year, the team's informative and educational videos continued to be shown through the YouTube channel "Mentors' explained", while the topics that the unaccompanied children distinguished the most were the management of financial assistance and the National Guardianship System for Unaccompanied Minors.

6.5 Promoting mental health

Mental health promotion was added as a new pillar of action for the team. The mentors were trained in the "I Support My Friends" tool based on the Psychological First Aid principles and through their visits to long-term accommodation facilities provided information to adolescent teenage girls and boys on recognising when a friend or housemate might be facing difficulties and in what ways they can support them under adult supervision. This effort aims to inform children, detect difficulties in themselves and those around them at an early stage, but most importantly to raise awareness around mental health issues.



Snapshot from the Delphi Economic Forum, where the work of the Ministry of Migration and Asylum was presented by the Deputy Minister, the Secretary General and the mentoring team.



7. COMPASS

The project **"COMPASS – Complementary Mechanism for Supporting the National Strategy for the protection of unaccompanied minors in Greece"** was designed to establish a supplementary support mechanism to address identified needs and structural gaps in the existing support framework for unaccompanied minors in the country.

"COMPASS" is a multidimensional project aimed at assisting unaccompanied children in meeting their urgent needs, such as escort and transportation services for medical reasons, while also supporting their integration and active participation in Greek society. The latter is achieved through the operation of Specialised Support Services Centres, the provision of legal counselling and representation, mental health services, enhancing their participation in the educational process and supporting their smooth transition into adulthood. Additionally, the project promotes children's engagement with civic education topics, issues related to the European Union, volunteering, as well as continuous awareness and sensitization on gender-based violence, human trafficking and gender equality.



Snapshot from the launch event of the "COMPASS" project. The project is funded by the European Union through the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF, 2021-2027).

The project has a duration of three years and aims to strengthen the existing protection framework with specialised services and interventions. Its activities target unaccompanied minors residing in Accommodation Centres for Unaccompanied Minors (Accommodation Centres), in Supervised Apartments for Semi-independent Living (SILs), in Emergency Accommodation Facilities as well as in the "safe areas" operating within Reception and Identification Centres (RICs) or the Closed Controlled Access Centres (CCACs). The services are also available to unaccompanied minors who are homeless, including those who, upon transitioning to adulthood, lack a protective framework and are up to 21 years old. The project also includes initiatives targeting professionals working in the field, providing services and support to the aforementioned population.

As part of the project, specialised training and clinical supervision will be offered to personnel employed in Accommodation Centres, SILs, Emergency Accommodation Facilities, and to designated guardians of unaccompanied minors. This support aims to enhance the capacity of professionals working with unaccompanied children by equipping them with tools and guidance to better perform their duties.

The beneficiary and main coordinating partner of the programme is "SYNYPARXIS – Ecumenical Refugee Programme," Civil Non-profit Company of the Church of Greece.

Actively participating in the programme as partners are five civil society organizations: 1. The Lesvos Civil Non-profit Company "ILIAKTIDA," 2. The "SOS Children's Villages Greece," 3. The Non-profit organization "SOLIDARITY NOW," 4. "ZEUXIS NGO" and 5. "EUROPEAN EXPRESSION".

The project COMPASS is included in the Special Actions of the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund with an EU Contribution of 90% (cross-border or national projects that provide added value to the Union in accordance with the objectives of each Fund) and is a Complementary Support Mechanism for the National Strategy for the Protection of Unaccompanied Minors in Greece (Budget: €12,858,010.83, EU Contribution: 90% & National Contribution: 10%).





8. Supporting the social integration of unaccompanied minors

8.1 Enhancing access to education for unaccompanied minors

Since 2020, the General Secretariat, through the Unit for the Integration and Support of Unaccompanied Minors (the Unit), has established a community of learning and practice for educators working in accommodation facilities for unaccompanied minors across Greece. This initiative, being a good practice, includes periodic bi-monthly meetings focusing on issues related to access to both formal and non-formal education, as well as the training of professionals. During the past year, particular emphasis was placed on training educators in accommodation facilities to support the teaching and learning of Greek language by unaccompanied minors. More specifically, under the new institutional framework of Standard Operating Procedures for the Accommodation Centres for Unaccompanied Minors, where the mandatory teaching of the Greek language is set at a minimum of six hours per week per person, the Unit, in cooperation with governmental and non-governmental organisations such as the Ministry of Education, Religious Affairs and Sports, UNICEF and the Non-profit Organisation SolidarityNow, organised training seminars for educators and distributed to all accommodation facilities printed educational material adapted to the teaching needs. Indicative examples of these seminars include: "Interactive techniques and the use of games in teaching", "Designing an engaging interactive lesson for the introduction to the Greek language" and "Artificial Intelligence as a tool for adolescent education".

In 2023, the Standard Operating Procedures and Licensing Framework were defined for the Accommodation Centres for Unaccompanied Minors (Accommodation Centres) and the Standard Operating Procedures for the Supervised Apartments for Semi-Independent Living (SILs).



In addition, the Unit provided training to teachers in the pedagogy of Human Rights Education (HRE) as well as familiarisation with the Council of Europe's educational tool for HRE, "Compass", with training sessions both in-person at the Accommodation Centres for Unaccompanied Minors in Athens and remotely to teachers of all facilities.

8.2 Promoting participation in integration activities, including athletics, recreational and cultural Activities

Participation in Summer Camp Programmes

Under the initiative of the Deputy Minister of Migration and Asylum, Ms Sophia Voultepsi, and with the generous sponsorship of the Hellenic Bank Association and the four systemic banks (Piraeus Bank, National Bank of Greece, Eurobank and Alpha Bank), the Unit organised day camp programmes during the summer months in various regions of Greece. The institution of camping is widely regarded as one of the basic social learning processes, where children learn to live with their peers, develop their personality and cultivate critical thinking skills. It is also a means of fostering team spirit, developing social and communication skills and broadening horizons. For unaccompanied minors in particular, structured and recreational activities during the summer fill the gap of surplus free time, promoting their mental health. The programmes were aimed at minors aged 6 to 17 years old residing in accommodation centres. A total of 323 unaccompanied minors hosted by 14 organisations operating accommodation facilities under the supervision of the General Secretariat, participated.



Snapshots from the participation of unaccompanied minors in integration-focused sports activities.

Priority was given to unaccompanied minors under the age of 13. The programmes took place in the regions of Attica, Thessaloniki, Ioannina, Alexandroupoli and Lesvos. This initiative constituted a good practice, as it provided children with the opportunity to enhance their socialisation and develop new skills. Of significant importance was the interaction of unaccompanied minors with their Greek peers, thus fostering their cultural integration and building bridges of understanding and solidarity, which are crucial for their smooth integration into society.

Together in Sport: In collaboration with METAdrasi and through the "Together in Sport – Phase II" programme, both sports and cultural/artistic activities were organised with the participation of unaccompanied minors. Additionally, in the framework of the same project, professionals from the public and private sector were trained in child protection issues by staff from the Unit.



Snapshot from the Hope Runners' event on the 2nd Zero Discrimination Run.

8.3 Vocational readiness and preparation for the transition to the labour market

In collaboration with **Junior Achievement** and as part of the "Youth Achieve" programme, **vocational training workshops** were conducted in accommodation facilities for unaccompanied minors outside Athens, specifically in the Accommodation Centres operated by KEAN in Larissa, Social EKAB in Larissa, ARSIS in Makrinita, Volos and ILIAKTIDA in Lesbos. In Larissa, the workshops were followed by a Job Shadow event, where unaccompanied minors visited a large industrial facility to become familiar with the workplace environment and the tasks, and with the ultimate aim to connect them with the local labour market. In Athens and Thessaloniki, "Career Days" events were organised to promote the interconnection between demand and supply while supporting unaccompanied minors in developing skills relevant to their professional future and aligned with their interests, promoting at the same times inclusion and understanding of diversity in workplaces.



In collaboration with **SolidarityNow**, **educational workshops** were jointly organised for both professionals and children to facilitate the labour market integration of unaccompanied minors under the programme "INtegration: Through school into community." These workshops were conducted in Athens and Thessaloniki in person, as well as online for other regions, to inform professionals about the existing legal framework for minors' access to the labour market and educate minors about their labour rights.

8.4 Information and awareness-raising actions for the local community

On 19 November 2024, on the occasion of **World Children's Day** and in the framework of the Swiss-Greek Cooperation Programme, a conference was held at the "Melina" Cultural Centre of the Municipality of Athens. The aim of the event was to promote understanding and knowledge of children's fundamental rights. The children expressed their views and concerns about their rights through three workshops using visual arts, music and movement and philosophy for children. The results of their work served as the basis for a round-table discussion that followed with the participation of the Minister of Migration and Asylum, the Secretary General for Vulnerable Persons and Institutional Protection, the Ambassador of Switzerland to Greece and the Diplomatic Representative of UNICEF in Greece.

On 10 December 2024, **Human Rights Day**, Unit for the Integration and Support of Unaccompanied Minors, in collaboration with the Hellenic Open University, hosted an **online symposium** titled: *"Bridges of Cooperation: Human Rights as a Foundation for the Integration of Young Refugees"*.



On the occasion of the International Migrants' Day on 18 December, the accommodation centres in the Ioannina region opened their doors inviting classmates from local schools to participate in joint workshops on baking, crafts and journalism.

Additionally, on 19 December, the Unit, in collaboration with Refugee Education Coordinators (RECs) of the Municipality of Ioannina, the accommodation centres of "International Centre for Sustainable Development (ICSD) and the "Youth Centre of Epirus", as well as the Day Centre "Compass" of SolidarityNow, co-organised an integration event in Ioannina. The event concerned education on children's rights, with emphasis on issues of equality and inclusion of refugee children, through interactions with students from Ioannina's 3rd vocational upper secondary school.

The children were educated through experiential and creative games and ac-

tivities that focused on the fundamental principles of rights that concern them, such as the right to protection, equality and active participation in decision-making. In the process, children had the opportunity to understand the value of rights and the need for a society where all children, regardless of origin, language or religion, enjoy equal opportunities and protection.

Finally, throughout the year, **awareness-raising workshops were conducted in schools** with the active participation of the General Secretariat's Mentors' Team, aiming to inform and disseminate knowledge on issues related to children's rights, combating discrimination, fostering an understanding of interculturalism and addressing the specific needs of unaccompanied minors.

Stories of successful social integration



Ali came to Greece in 2016 from Pakistan. After completing all three levels of education in Greece, he received this year a General High School Diploma. His dedication to learning Greek at an intensive pace earned him a full scholarship at the American College of Greece-Deree for studies in Cyber Security and Theatre. He is actively involved in theatre and photography and has participated in many theatrical productions, including at the Greek National Opera. He also excelled in the 10th Panhellenic Student Photography Competition, where one of his photographs ranked among the top ten entries and for which he was awarded by the Deputy Minister of Migration and Asylum, Ms Sofia Voultepsi.

Amir came to Greece in 2019 from Afghanistan. After graduating from high school with a focus on science he achieved a respectable score in the national university entrance exams. He secured a full scholarship to study Computer Science at the American College of Greece-Deree. In parallel, he participated in European integration and education programmes for young refugees in Norway and Romania, under the guidance of the Unit. For the past two years, he has been continuing his studies while working as a pastry chef and his dream is to become a programmer and remain an active member of civil society.



II. Actions for the protection of vulnerable third-country nationals or stateless persons





9. Institutional supervision of third-country nationals or stateless persons

With the establishment of the General Secretariat, the institutional guarantee and safeguarding of the rights of vulnerable third-country nationals or stateless persons is one of its fundamental areas of action. This includes coordination of actions, services and actors involved in issues of protection of vulnerable persons, interventions to enhance access to their rights as well as measures and initiatives to ensure these rights.

Through broad collaboration and continuous communication and feedback with institutions and services, it has been possible to **monitor the implementation of procedures** concerning vulnerable or potentially vulnerable individuals, to assess the adequacy of the relevant support services and to identify institutional gaps. Moreover, the **design of field research** to assess protective and risk factors related to vulnerability, aims at a holistic approach and strengthening of the protective framework for vulnerable individuals.

Inextricably linked to the institutional safeguarding of the rights of vulnerable third-country nationals or stateless persons, as provided for in the international and EU protective legal framework, is the undertaking of institutional initiatives and interventions that, inter alia, promote the priorities of the General Secretariat. To this end, a key pillar of action has been the proposal for the establishment of legislative and administrative measures aimed at enhancing support services, protecting physical and mental health, preventing further deterioration of vulnerabilities, and generally improving their status. In this context, priority has been given to identifying needs and designing proposals and actions on issues such as access to medical care for vulnerable persons, recognition and access to services for victims of torture, and the protection of victims of gender-based violence.

Special priority has also been given to the preparation for the implementation of the **"New Pact on Migration and Asylum"**, which includes the entirety of new rules for managing migration and establishing a common asylum system at the EU level, set to come into effect in June 2026. In this context, there has been active participation in working groups of the Ministry of Migration and Asylum, contributing to needs assessment and the drafting of the "National Implementation Plan" which outlines the key actions for implementing the new rules, in line with the requirements of the new Pact.



Institutional safeguarding of vulnerable persons' rights-the case of Mohamed*

Mohamed, an elderly homeless man from Egypt, had been hospitalised for several months in the emergency department of an Attica hospital due to his severely deteriorated health, without any identification documents. The procedure for registering his application for international protection could not take place, as his health condition prevented him from appearing in person before the competent authorities. Due to the absence of identification documents, the vulnerable individual was not entitled to access health care services, while his referral to long-term care facilities was also impossible.

Upon receiving relevant information from the hospital's Social Service, the General Secretariat immediately proceeded with multiple actions of liaison with the Asylum Service, taking into account the serious vulnerability of this elderly person. As a result, his application for international protection was prioritised for registration. Consequently, the applicant was issued an international protection applicant card and an active Temporary Number of Insurance and Healthcare for Foreigners (PAAYPA), an element necessary for his access to essential medical care and hospitalisation.

** The name has been changed for data protection reasons.*

10

10. National Strategy for the Protection of Vulnerable Third-country Nationals or Stateless Persons

The General Secretariat, responding to the need to create a holistic protection framework for vulnerable third countries or stateless persons, developed the National Strategy for the Protection of Vulnerable Persons. This document constitutes a comprehensive and cohesive set of policies and interventions aimed at the institutional protection, support, interconnection and social integration of vulnerable persons, in line with national and international law. Its main objective is to strengthen the support framework for vulnerable individuals by providing specialised services tailored to their needs, as well as to establish uniform procedures and protocols in collaboration with relevant entities and services.



The National Strategy also emphasises the development of policies and mechanisms for the protection of victims of violence and human trafficking, through the design of tools and interventions for the identification, support and protection of victims, as well as the development of modern information systems for data collection and analysis of data relevant to vulnerable persons in general.



11. Actions for the accommodation, support and integration of vulnerable third-country nationals or stateless persons

11.1. Pilot Programme "STIRIXIS – Accommodation programme in buildings and apartments for extremely vulnerable international protection applicants"

The General Secretariat aiming to design and develop an effective protective framework for vulnerable third-country nationals or stateless persons, undertook targeted actions regarding the upcoming implementation of the "STIRIXIS" accommodation programme. The programme aims to support and ensure an adequate standard of living for extremely vulnerable individuals, whose applications for international protection are under examination by the competent authorities.



The project is expected to start in 2025, through which 500 beds will be made available for the housing of the said applicants for international protection and their families, addressing their specific protection and living needs. The design of the services includes both housing in appropriate accommodation adapted to their needs, as well as psychosocial support services, interpretation, escorting services and connecting them with public services and civil society organizations for complementary support services.

To ensure the smooth implementation and operation of the programme, the General Secretariat conducted multiple needs and conditions assessments in 2024, examining best practices for the housing of vulnerable individuals,

the enhancement of their resilience and their successful transition to long-term sustainable solutions. Quantitative and qualitative data regarding the vulnerable population in reception or accommodation facilities were used, inter alia, to design services tailored to the needs of the population. Additionally, in collaboration with civil society partners, the state of available building infrastructure in large urban centres was assessed.

For the smooth implementation of the programme, all relevant procedures and institutional actions were initiated in 2024, including the drafting of the Joint Ministerial Decision (JMD), regarding the terms of the project's implementation.

The Pilot Programme "STIRIXIS – Accommodation programme in buildings and apartments for extremely vulnerable applicants for international protection (up to 500 beds)" is co-financed by the Greece Programme of the Asylum, Migration, and Integration Fund (AMIF) 2021-2027.

11.2 Programme "A Step Forward" - accommodation programme for vulnerable women and single mothers with children

Aiming at the protection of particularly vulnerable single women and single mothers with their children, the Ministry of Migration and Asylum and the General Secretariat signed a project agreement with Doctors of the World for the operation of the Open Accommodation Centre "A Step Forward," supported by the Swiss State Secretariat for Migration.



The programme foresees the provision of housing and protection services to vulnerable single women and women with children, with maximum age limit of 14 years for boys. This open and accessible accommodation centre, with a total capacity of 44 places, is located in the urban area of Athens, close to health-care facilities and public services. The implementation of the project is guided by the principle of ensuring the dignity and the continuous empowerment of the women beneficiaries and their children, aiming, during their stay, at their gradual acquisition of autonomy and their full integration into society.

From the start of the implementation of the programme on **13 June 2024** until **31 December 2024**, a total of 31 single women as well as 13 single mothers and 18 children benefited from the programme, receiving - in addition to housing - benefits and supportive services, such as basic goods and food, psychosocial support, direct linkage with health services, legal counselling, participation in informal education and job counselling programmes.

Out of the total number of beneficiaries, **21** women were victims of gender-based violence, **2** were victims of torture and **4** faced serious/chronic illnesses. During this period, **23** women exited the centre due to finding employment or family reunification or relocation to another country.

Prioritising the protection of particularly vulnerable women and single mothers with their children, the programme will continue in 2025.



The programme "A Step Forward" is implemented by Doctors of the World in collaboration with the Ministry of Migration and Asylum, the General Secretariat for Vulnerable Citizens and Institutional Protection and the Swiss State Secretariat for Migration (under the "Swiss-Greek Cooperation Programme 2023-2026" for the reduction of economic and social disparities).

Stories of successful support, accommodation and Liaison

Zahra*, originally from Gaza, Palestine, arrived in Greece in September 2024 together with her three children, as part of the family reunification procedure with her husband and their two-year-old child, who is facing serious medical issues. The father and the two-year-old were staying at a

hostel run by the National Centres for Social Solidarity. The referral to the Open Accommodation Centre "A Step Forward" was made on the very first day that the mother and the children were due to arrive in Greece. During the stay, the family received psychosocial and legal support services as well as medical evaluation due to serious health issues affecting the mother and one child.

The family was accommodated in the centre for about a month, during which time the youngest child who had been living with the father, was also transferred there for the latter to be able to seek employment and support his family. During this time, the family received holistic support from all the professionals of the facility. In the meantime, the father found a job and in a short time the family was able to rent an apartment of their own and live together. The family's contact with the Doctors of the World Polyclinic continues to this day for their support in the medical issues they are facing.

Amina*, originally from Somalia and a member of the LGBTQ+ community. She arrived at the Open Accommodation Centre in October 2024 directly from the island of Samos. Following coordinated efforts, Amina visited the Doctors of the World Polyclinic to undergo the necessary medical examinations and after her placement in the facility, she also received psychosocial support and legal counselling services.

It is noteworthy that after weekly sessions with the facility's psychologist, Amina began participating in external and internal activities, while also building friendships with other beneficiaries. At the same time, she expressed her desire to start Greek language lessons as she had previously worked as an interpreter knowing Arabic and Somali and being fluent in English and German.

Today, Amina has already developed a network in Athens with the LGBTQ+ community, meets weekly with the facility's psychologist and continues Greek lessons with the facility's educator.

** The names have been changed for data protection reasons.*



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12. Actions to prevent and strengthen the protection of victims of trafficking in human beings and violence

During 2024, the development of policies and interventions for the effective protection of victims of violence and trafficking in human beings was a fundamental priority of the General Secretariat. Specifically, a series of actions were implemented with an emphasis on preventing and addressing gender-based and domestic violence, torture and human trafficking, involving victims who are third-country nationals. These initiatives focused on preventing discrimination and violence, strengthening victim protection and fostering cooperation and coordination of actions with stakeholders at the national and international levels.

The General Secretariat notably enhanced its cooperation with the **National Referral Mechanism for the Protection of Human Trafficking Victims** (NRM). The NRM, has been operating since 2019 under the management of the National Centre for Social Solidarity (NCSS) and the supervision of the Office of the National Rapporteur on Trafficking in Human Beings (ONR), with the aim of ensuring the optimal documentation and effective monitoring of cases involving third-country nationals and unaccompanied minors, as well as updating the National Action Plan against Human Trafficking in collaboration with the ONR and the NCSS.



SCAN ME



Participation of the General Secretariat in the online seminar (webinar) organised by the NCSS on the topic

"Domestic Work and Human Trafficking: boundaries, related concepts, and victim protection"

The General Secretariat also contributed to the drafting **of Guidelines regarding the identification and response to human trafficking incidents** in the Regional Services of the Reception and Identification Service.

On 18 October, European Anti-Trafficking Day, the General Secretariat, in cooperation with the International Organisation for Migration (IOM), organised a closed round table discussion on **"Labour Exploitation of Third-Country Nationals: Challenges and Good Practices in Effectively Prosecuting Perpetrators and Protecting Victims."**

On 23-24 October, the **Regional Expert Group Meeting** was held in Thessaloniki, with a focus on "The Link Between Human Trafficking and Migration Flows", in collaboration with the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the ONR and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), focusing on the connection between human trafficking and migration flows.

Aiming to strengthen the capacity of professionals to effectively support victims of trafficking in human beings, the General Secretariat co-organised a training seminar in March with a **focus on human trafficking indicators**, in collaboration with the Greek Diplomatic Academy, the UNODC, the ONR and the NCSS.



Snapshot from the roundtable discussion on the topic of "Labour Exploitation of Third-Country Nationals: Challenges and Good Practices in Effectively Prosecuting Perpetrators and Protecting Victims"

At the same time, the General Secretariat designs, promotes, and implements targeted training programmes for professionals. The participation in the programme "Specific Action on the Provision of Services to Victims of Trafficking in Human Beings who are Third Country Nationals", implemented by IOM in collaboration with the General Secretariat and NCSS, is included in this framework. This programme provides, inter alia, frontline professionals with tools for identifying and managing cases of trafficking in human beings while also offering in-kind support to survivors. During the reporting period and as part of the programme, the General Secretariat supported the conduct of 13 seminars carried out by IOM and NCSS staff for 300 field professionals and contributed to the publication of the "Practical Tool for frontline professionals for the Support and Reintegration of victims of human trafficking."

The above action (with OPS code 6002603) is part of the "Greece Programme - Asylum, Migration, and Integration Fund 2021-2027" and is co-financed by the Asylum, Migration, and Integration Fund (Budget: €500,000, EU Contribution: 90% & National Contribution: 10%).

As part of national and international efforts to exchange good practices and promote innovative approaches in the fight against human trafficking, the Secretary General participated in the **Meeting of National Rapporteurs and Coordinators on Human Trafficking** and equivalent mechanisms, held in Vienna by the Council of Europe and the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) on 12-13 September, 2024, where he presented the steps taken at the national level to combat human trafficking and protect victims. Members of the General Secretariat attended **the Twelfth Session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its Protocols** (COP12 UNTOC), held in Vienna from 14 to 18 October 2024.



Members of the General Secretariat together with the representative of the Greek delegation at the Fourteenth Session of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) Working Group in Vienna.

During the **Fourteenth Session of the Working Group of the UNODC in Vienna**, the Secretary General highlighted the importance of promptly identifying unaccompanied children living in precarious conditions and presented the good practice of the National Emergency Response Mechanism (NERM). His proposal to include a related recommendation in the final conclusions was unanimously approved by all national delegations.

Additionally, the General Secretariat participated in the international field exercise against human trafficking **"MEDUSA 2024,"** with the slogan **"Break the chain, break the silence, now"** involving more than 500 people at 70 locations inside and outside Greece, including recognised refugees and asylum seekers from 12 accommodation facilities.

Targeted **awareness-raising actions** for the target population and **public awareness campaigns** are at the heart of actions to prevent all forms of violence:

Article in TO VIMA Newspaper in collaboration with Doctors of the World, partners in the "A Step Forward" programme, hosting vulnerable women seeking international protection, on the occasion of **World Day Against Trafficking in Persons (30 July)**:

"We support a new national action plan to combat exploitation and human trafficking, emphasizing the synergies between the State and Civil Society. We are fully aware that our work, to be effective, must operate on two levels: providing immediate support to victims and vulnerable individuals, and optimising coordination with all relevant ministries to improve the State's response to their needs, to combat gender discrimination, gender-based violence, and human trafficking, as well as to ensure the effective prosecution and punishment of perpetrators."

(Heracles Moskoff, Secretary General of Vulnerable Persons and Institutional Protection)

"16 days of activism against gender-based violence"

In the framework of the international campaign to eliminate violence against women, which takes place every year from November 25 to December 10, the General Secretariat:

- Co-organised an **event** on the **"Prevention and Identification of Trafficking in Human Beings"** at the Embassy of Mexico, under the auspices of the Ministry of Migration and Asylum.
- Participated on 25 November in the event organised by Doctors of the World at the **Open Accommodation Centre "A Step Forward,"** during which women asylum-seekers sent messages of equality, freedom and elimination of all kinds of violence through collages, photographs and crafts, sharing their own stories.
- Organised experiential workshops for **the empowerment of girls residing in the Accommodation Centres for Unaccompanied Minors**, aiming to inform them about the risks of exploitation, especially through social media with *loverboy* tactics and *grooming* phenomena.

Case of a successful rescue of a human trafficking victim

In September 2024, an adult man from Nepal, lacking legal documents, initially contacted IOM and then the National Emergency Response Mechanism (NERM) via WhatsApp. The man reported being held captive and subjected to labour exploitation in a village in the region, shared his location and requested immediate rescue, while expressing fear of being detained for lack of legal documents. Subsequently, under the supervision and support of the Hellenic Police's Sub-Directorate for Combating Organised Crime, a rescue operation was organised and the person was taken to the Security Department for a statement and further investigation of his case. The man had experienced extremely difficult living and working conditions, which increased the need for immediate assistance and rehabilitation. He was therefore immediately linked with organisation A21 for care and protection and with IOM for his voluntary and dignified repatriation.



The background is an abstract composition. The top half features a light blue, textured surface with a circular, embossed stamp in the upper center. Below this, a dark blue, textured area separates the top from the bottom. The bottom half is dominated by a dark blue, heavily textured surface with prominent, swirling brushstrokes. Overlaid on this bottom section is a large, stylized number '13' in a vibrant pink color. The number has a thick, hand-painted appearance with visible brushwork and a slight 3D effect.

13

13. Programmes and actions supporting unaccompanied minors and other vulnerable third-country nationals or stateless persons

Aiming at the design and implementation of actions and initiatives focused on strengthening the protection, psychosocial support, education and equitable integration and participation of unaccompanied minors and vulnerable individuals in the social and economic life of the country, the General Secretariat continued to pursue **synergies and collaborations with national and international actors**, promoting innovation and exchange of best practices.

The emblematic axes include the use and management of financial instruments, such as the "Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund" (AMIF), the "European Social Fund+" (ESF+), the "Structural and Cohesion Fund" (CF), the "Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values" programme (CERV), the "Internal Security Fund" (ISF), the "European Education and Culture Agency" (EACEA), the European Economic Area (EEA) Grants, bilateral cooperation programmes, etc.



Training of the General Secretariat in cooperation with the EU Agency for Asylum (EUAA) and the EU Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA), for the coordinators of the guardianship mandated persons, in the framework of the implementation of the project "National Guardianship System" funded by the programme Greece - Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund, 2021-2027.

By making use of the available financial instruments and developing synergies with civil society organisations, actors and international organisations, the General Secretariat has undertaken a series of actions aimed at the strengthening of psychosocial care for vulnerable persons, creating and upgrading of accommodation facilities and supporting unaccompanied children in "safe areas" within reception facilities under the jurisdiction of the Reception and Identification Service (RIS), both at entry points and in mainland areas, as well as the implementation of programmes for learning the Greek language, vocational training and preparation for labour market integration. Finally, specialised actions have been implemented in the areas of prevention of delinquency and the fight against trafficking in human beings, with a particular emphasis on unaccompanied minors.

13.1 Project "Fortify"

The project **"FORTIFY: Strengthening the Greek Systems for the Protection and Prevention of Delinquency in Unaccompanied Minors"** is an innovative initiative that aims to develop strategies for the prevention of juvenile delinquency among the population of unaccompanied minors in Greece. Supported by the **European Economic Area (EEA) Financial Mechanism 2014-2021** and through collaboration between Greek and Norwegian partners, the project combines know-how transfer and bilateral cooperation to create a strong protection framework. Its design includes needs assessment, mapping of existing actions, development of Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) and awareness-raising through targeted campaigns.



Snapshot from the kick-off meeting of the "Fortify" project

Through study visits to Norway, consultations with professionals and focus group discussions and the creation of a coherent communication plan, the project aspires to ensure the adoption of best practices across the country. The collaboration of the General Secretariat with project partners, ZEUX-IS and NORCAP, ensures the utilization of specialised expertise, enhancing the social integration and protection of unaccompanied minors. The pilot nature of the FORTIFY project lays the foundation for expanding its activities at a national level. The project is not just limited to addressing immediate needs but also focuses on creating a sustainable impact, aiming to serve as a model for the development of a comprehensive and innovative framework for preventing youth delinquency in Greece.

13.2 Project "Reception and Integration Reforms for Migrants, Especially Unaccompanied Youth"

The project, funded by the Structural Reform Support Programme (DG REFORM) assigned to UNHCR as the technical expert and being implemented in close collaboration with GSVPIP, introduces an innovative institutional framework for improving the reception and integration of unaccompanied children as well as those transitioning to adulthood in Greece. The project's goal is to enhance unaccompanied minors' and young adults' access to comprehensive and individualised services, providing them with tools and skills that will help them actively integrate into society. Through targeted education, vocational training and resilience-building programmes, the project promotes young people's autonomy, creating conditions for their smooth and successful integration. The project lays the foundation for a sustainable and fair system that will meet the needs of unaccompanied children and young adults while ensuring the social wellbeing and empowerment of the local communities that host them.



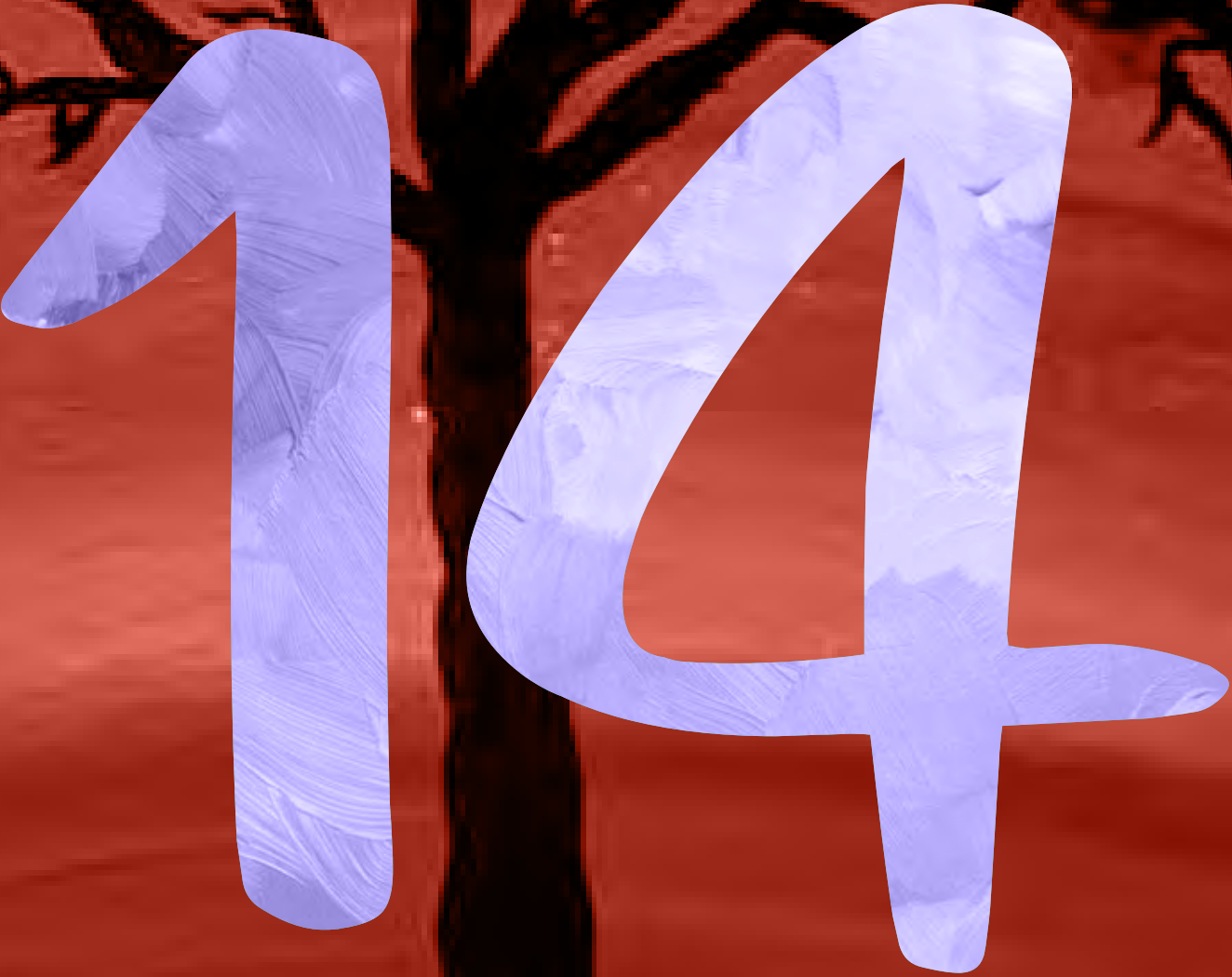
13.3 Project "Safe Borders"

The project **"Safe Borders: Strengthening Judicial Expertise and Frontline Support to Combat Child Trafficking"** funded by the European Union's Internal Security Fund (ISF), focuses on strengthening international cooperation to combat trafficking in human beings, with particular emphasis on the protection of children who are victims of trafficking. It aims to promote a holistic approach to the protection of child victims and the effective prosecution of trafficking cases by strengthening the capacities of judicial and police authorities, as well as frontline professionals such as lawyers, social workers and child protection professionals. The project will be implemented through knowledge exchange, the documentation of best practices and the organisation of training activities. A specialised network of prosecutors focused on field of trafficking in human beings is also foreseen to be established, which will enhance coordination and improve the prosecution of child trafficking cases.



Meeting for the launch of the "Safe Borders: Strengthening Judicial Expertise and Frontline Support to Combat Child Trafficking" programme.

At the same time, the use of innovative technologies, such as the development of a transnational artificial intelligence application, will enhance the ability to detect, monitor and combat child trafficking at the European level. Through capacity-building activities, the establishment of transnational cooperations and the use of cutting-edge technologies, the project makes a significant contribution to strengthening the protection of the most vulnerable victims and shaping sustainable solutions for the prevention and combating of child trafficking.



14. Actions expected to be implemented in the upcoming period

14.1 Assessment of needs related to mental health and psychosocial well-being of third-country nationals and stateless persons

As part of the awareness-raising and strengthening of the response on issues concerning vulnerable citizens, the General Secretariat in cooperation with civil society organisations, will proceed with the assessment of the psychosocial well-being of the population hosted in Controlled Access Facilities for Temporary Accommodation of Asylum Seekers. Through the documentation and analysis of the current situation, the aim is to identify and evaluate factors that promote and those that act protectively regarding psychosocial well-being at an individual, family, and collective level, with particular emphasis on those factors directly or indirectly linked to the emergence and maintenance of vulnerabilities. The ultimate goal is psychosocial support and the integration of both vulnerable and non-vulnerable third-country nationals. The implementation of this project is expected to begin within 2025.



14.2 Actions for the protection of victims of trafficking in human beings with an emphasis on labour exploitation



The protection needs of victims of trafficking in human beings and labour exploitation, as well as the prevention and addressing of these issues, require a series of targeted and innovative actions. **In the coming period**, the General Secretariat will focus on:

- The development of **a basic guide on the rights of victims of trafficking in human beings**, with an emphasis on labour exploitation, which will be available online in the primary languages spoken by the refugee and migrant population.
- The establishment of an **Interdisciplinary Working Group for the protection of vic-**

tims of trafficking in human beings, aimed at identifying systemic issues, promoting good practices, coordinating actions and strengthening cooperation among all stakeholders, preventing the phenomenon and enhancing the state's overall response in relation to the prosecution of the crime and the protection of victims.

- Designing a framework for the establishment and operation of an **advisory body** for policy development focused on the prevention and tackling of trafficking in human beings, consisting of survivors.
- Planning awareness-raising interventions for workers, the general public and businesses regarding the risks of **labour exploitation of third-country nationals**.
- Developing a framework for cooperation with the **General Secretariat for Gender Equality and Human Rights**.

14.3 GBV Safe Space for Female and Child Victims

In collaboration with SOS Children's Villages Greece, we designed the "GBV Safe Space for female and child victims" programme, aiming to create a friendly space for mothers and their children, within the Controlled Access Facility for Temporary Accommodation of Asylum Seekers in Pyrgos.

The project focuses on providing targeted actions aimed at ensuring the well-being and empowerment of a total of 70 vulnerable mothers and 42 children by offering:



- Support services: psychological support and counselling.
- Integration activities: Greek language courses and vocational counselling.
- Empowerment: activities for mothers and children that enhance psychological resilience and social participation.
- Creative activities for children during their mothers' lessons.

The programme, funded by SOS-Kinderdörfer weltweit Hermann-Gmeiner Fonds Deutschland (HGFD), will run for 24 months, starting on January 1, 2025.

14.4 Hope in Action: Support to Vulnerable Young Refugee Mothers and Children at Risk

The **"Hope in Action: Support to Vulnerable Young Refugee Mothers and Children at Risk"** programme aims to provide comprehensive support to 16 unaccompanied minor mothers and their children. The programme's key pillars are the creation of a stable and supportive environment for mothers and children, as well as the prevention and support of minors at risk. The programme will offer psychological support to address trauma, guidance on parenting roles and childcare, Greek language lessons tailored to the mothers' needs, as well as vocational training, skills development, and job placement support. Additionally, the programme will focus on understanding the consequences of delinquent behavior, developing skills such as anger management, conflict resolution and decision-making, enhancing soft skills for children and strengthening community integration activities, aiming at reducing the risk of exploitation for children at risk.

The "Hope in Action" programme is funded by SOS-Kinderdörfer weltweit Hermann-Gmeiner Fonds Deutschland (HGFD) and will run for 24 months, starting on 1 January 2025.



14.5 "16+ and Young Adults Semi-Independent Living (SIL+) Focused on Employability"

The programme **"16+ and Young Adults Semi-Independent Living (SIL+) Focused on Employability"** will soon be implemented with the goal of supporting the smooth transition to Greece of 25 young people aged 16 - 21.

Specifically, the programme will offer:

1. Greek language courses to enable young persons to participate in the Greek language proficiency exams of the Centre for the Greek Language.
2. Professional counselling and training tailored to the requirements of the labour market.
3. Assistance in finding employment opportunities and support in launching their professional careers.

Through this programme, SOS Children's Villages Greece aim to empower young people aged 16+ by providing them with the necessary tools to secure stable employment, enhance their independence and protect themselves from the risks of exploitation. The programme is funded by *SOS-Kinderdörfer weltweit Hermann-Gmeiner Fonds Deutschland (HGFD)* and will run for 24 months, starting on January 1, 2025, with implementation points in Athens and Thessaloniki.



15. Synergies and awareness-raising activities of the General Secretariat

The General Secretariat, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), and the University of West Attica (UWA) through the School of Administrative, Economic, and Social Sciences signed a **Memorandum of Cooperation to coordinate their efforts in the field of child protection**, with a focus on the refugee and migrant population.



The Memorandum's objective is to establish a framework for interdisciplinary collaboration among all involved stakeholders. The central goal is research documentation, strengthening of the skills of professionals in the field of child protection and further exchange of practices and expertise among child protection agencies, particularly within the refugee and migrant population. An important element of the Memorandum is also the creation of a Master's Programme in Child Protection, as well as the support for the establishment of pathways that facilitate access to higher education for young refugees and migrants.

Staff from the Accommodation and Relocation Requests Management Unit and the Institutional Protection Unit participated in the joint initiatives of the General Secretariat

and the Hellenic Police **to prevent delinquency among unaccompanied minors**. This initiative aims to inform and raise awareness among children residing in Accommodation Facilities supervised by the General Secretariat, regarding Greece's legal framework, the rules for harmonious co-existence with the wider population, as well as their rights and obligations. Through their briefing on these topics, the aim is both to empower them for their smooth integration into the communities where they reside and to prevent incidents of violence and delinquency involving the unaccompanied minors themselves. In total, 11 actions were implemented in Athens and Thessaloniki during 2024.

The General Secretariat co-organised together with the NGO A21 and the Almyros High School, an event focused on the **Protection of Human Rights and the Combat against Trafficking in Human Beings**. More than 200 students from local schools participated in Experiential Workshops led by students from the Department of Early Childhood Education at the University of Thessaly, with their instructor and collaborator of the General Secretariat, Ms Maria Papathanasiou. The event was greeted by the Deputy Minister of Migration and Asylum, Ms Sophia Voultepsi, and the Secretary General, Heracles Moskoff.

On the occasion of the World Human Rights Day, Intersos Hellas and the Network for Children's Rights co-organised an event titled **"Invisible Unaccompanied Children: Protection for All Unaccompanied Minors"**.



For the second consecutive year, the General Secretariat participated in the Conference on **"Effective Practices for Addressing Child Trafficking: Promising Initiatives and Good Practices"**, organised by IOM Egypt and the National Coordinating Committee for Combating and Preventing Irregular Migration and Trafficking in Human Beings in Cairo.





At the educational conference titled **"Vulnerability of Migrants/Refugees & Child Protection"**, co-organised by the General Secretariat, the Department of Early Childhood Education of the University of Thessaly and the NGO A21, we had the opportunity to discuss the qualitative characteristics of children's vulnerabilities, the issue of child protection, ways to address trafficking in human beings and the pivotal role of the involvement of school communities.

Representatives from the General Secretariat participated in the European Conference on Educational Research, held at the

University of Cyprus in Nicosia, with the theme: **"Education in the era of uncertainty"**.

During the interactive event **"Why Do I Read?"** young people shared with the partners of the General Secretariat their favorite books, authors, literary heroes and heroines, as well as the reasons they read (or do not read) books. The event took place as part of the 52nd Athens Book Festival and was organised with the participation of the General Secretariat. It was one of the three public events that was co-organised by the European Commission Representation in Greece and the European Parliament Liaison Office in Greece.

With the generous sponsorship of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), unaccompanied minors residing in accommodation facilities, as well as students from dozens of schools - among them several intercultural middle and high schools - were hosted with their accompanying teachers at the KAPPA Theater and attended the theatrical performance **"Rapunzel Alone"** by Mike Kenny, which has received a Theatre Award for Children and Adolescents from the Greek Union of Theatre Critics and Performing Arts.



The attendance of the theatrical performance **"The Boy with the Two Hearts"** by staff of the Ministry of Migration and Asylum and unaccompanied minors residing in accommodation facilities of the General Secretariat marked the beginning of a fruitful dialogue about the challenges refugees face during their journey, through a discussion that was organised by the General Secretariat after the performance, at the Alma Theater.



The Deputy Minister of Migration and Asylum, Ms. Sofia Voultepsi, the Secretary General, Mr. Heracles Mosckoff, and staff from the General Secretariat participated in an event at the Hellenic Institute of Byzantine and Post-Byzantine Studies in Venice, where students from the educational institution "Ekpaideytiria Giannopoulou" presented their work on the topic **"The Migrant and Refugee Flows of Hellenism in Venice – Modern Greece as a Host Country"** at the Sala di Capitolo.



Acknowledgements

In reflecting on this year's actions, I would like to first express my gratitude to the Minister of Migration and Asylum, Mr. Nikos Panagiotopoulos, for his unwavering and continuous support of our work.

I would also like to extend my special thanks to the Deputy Minister of Migration and Asylum, Ms Sofia Voultepsi, responsible for the portfolio of the General Secretariat, who guides and supports us in every step of the development of our expanded role.

Warm thanks go to the Secretary General for Migration Policy, Mr. Manos Logothetis, as well as to the Special Service for the Coordination and Management of Migration and Home Affairs Funds of the Ministry of Migration and Asylum, especially to its Head, Mr. Theofanis Papadopoulos, as the majority of the General Secretariat's actions were implemented thanks to the contribution of the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF). This publication is part of an awareness-raising action funded by the European Union and the Technical Assistance of the Migration and Home Affairs Funds 2021-2027. I would also like to thank the Secretary General for the Reception of Asylum Seekers, Mr. Dimitris Glymis, with whom we aim to continue our close collaboration for the implementation of our actions.

Finally, I could not fail to thank the dedicated team of the General Secretariat for their contribution to the implementation of our actions and programmes, especially during this demanding and challenging period.

Herakles Moskoff

Secretary General for Vulnerable Persons and Institutional Protection



Organisations providing technical support

European Union Agency for Asylum (EUAA)

International Organisation for Migration (IOM)

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)

United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF)

Collaborating organisations & partners*

A21

ActionAid

Athens Coordination Centre for Refugee & Migrant issues (ACCMR)

Asociația pentru Dezvoltarea Practicilor Alternative de Reintegrare și Educație (ADPARE)

Association for Regional Development and Mental Health (Greek acronym: EPAPSY)

ARSIS- Association for the Social Support of Youth

Babel

BRIDGE EU

Caritas International ASBL (CARITAS BELGIUM)

Cell of Alternative Youth Activities (Greek acronym: KEAN)

Centre for the study of democracy

Cesie Ente del Terzo Settore (CESIE ETS)

Directorate-General for Migration and Home Affairs (DG HOME)

Directorate-General for Structural Reform Support (DG REFORM)

End Child Prostitution, Child Pornography and Trafficking of Children for Sexual Purposes (ECPAT France)

European Federation for Missing and Sexually Exploited Children (MCE- Missing Children Europe)

European Institute for Crime Prevention and Control (HEUNI)

European Society, Political Expression, Institutions

Federation of Pontian Associations of Southern Greece "NOSTOS"

Faros Elpidas

Fundacja Vela – Organizacja Humanitarna Na Rzecz Ochrony i Edukacji

Greek Council for Refugees (GCR)

Hellenic Foundation for European and Foreign Policy (Greek acronym: ELIAMEP)

Hellenic Red Cross

Hellenic Social Welfare Assistance Unit (Kinoniko EKAV)

Institute of Child Health (ICH)

INTERSOS

International Centre for Sustainable Development (ICSD)

International Organisation for Migration (IOM)

International Rescue Committee (IRC)

Iliaktida

Junior Achievement

KETHEA MOSAIC

Medical Intervention (med.in)

METAdrasi- Action for Migration and Development

Mission

Médecins du Monde Greece (MdM)

Municipality of Voios

National and Kapodistrian University of Athens (NKUA)

Network of Afghan Diaspora Organisations in Europe (NADOE)

NIDOS

Norwegian Directorate of Immigration (UDI)

Norwegian Refugee Council (NORCAP)

Organization Earth

Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE)

PRAKSIS- PROGRAMS of Development, Social Support and Medical Cooperation

PWC

Qualify Just - It Solutions and Consulting, Lda (IPS Innovative Prison Systems - IPS)

Social Action & Innovation Centre (KMOP)

SolidarityNow

SOS Children's Villages Greece

Society for the Care of Minors and Youth

Synparxis- Ecumenical Refugee Programme

Terre des Hommes

The Home Project



The Network for Children's Rights (NRC)

The Smile of the Child

The Themistocles and Dimitris Tsatsos Foundation – Centre for European Constitutional Law (CECL)

Tarki Tarsadalomkutatasi Intezet Zrt (TARKI)

United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF)

United Nations Office for Drugs and Crime (UNODC)

University of West Attica

VELA Greece

Zeuxis

Youth and Lifelong Learning Foundation (Greek acronym: Inedivim)

Youth Centre of Epirus (YCE)

* Alphabetical list

Embassies

Embassy of Austria

Embassy of Switzerland

Embassy of Norway

Embassy of the Netherlands



HELLENIC REPUBLIC

Ministry of Migration & Asylum

General Secretariat for Migration Policy

Managing Authority for Migration & Home Affairs Funds



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Ministry of Migration & Asylum

General Secretariat for Vulnerable Persons &
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