



Annual Report 2025



**GREEK
COUNCIL
FOR
REFUGEES**

Cover photo: :

Karime spends a quiet moment with her youngest son, Iman, in a park in Athens. A loving mother of two, she hopes to provide her children with a peaceful and happy life, despite the challenges she has faced. Karime Ganji fled to Greece with her two children in 2016. Her parents were left behind. Once granted asylum in Greece, Karime applied to bring her parents from Iran to Greece through the family reunification process. In the meantime, her father died, while her mother's health deteriorated. The Greek Council for Refugees is supporting her case for family reunification.

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Annual Report 2025



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Rohingya refugee Mahmoud Suji with his wife Maryam and their two sons, Maher (right) and Mahdi (left) at a friendly home in Athens. With legal assistance, a Rohingya refugee family has been reunited after years, but funding cuts will deprive other families who are desperately waiting to be reunited of this support. Throughout this protracted and often uncertain process, Mahmoud was supported by the Greek Council for Refugees (GCR), which was implementing a legal aid program in partnership with the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). Unfortunately, due to dramatic and sharp cuts in humanitarian funding, the family reunification program has been scaled back.

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Message from the Board of the Greek Council for Refugees

Usually in all previous years the message of the Board of Directors for the report on the activities of the Greek Council for Refugees (GCR) was concerned and restrained, but always encouraging. However, in this year's report for 2025 we cannot hide our regret for the associates who do not continue to offer their valuable work in the field of action of the GCR due to the huge and sharp reduction in funding in the humanitarian sector around the world. Professionals who provided assistance to refugees through the GCR units, which are necessarily shrinking in its most traditional field of service provision, that of legal assistance.

This reduction is taking place in a broader socio-political environment of the erosion of democratic values and the rule of law and of course the protection of the rights of refugees in a European and national context, amidst a situation of international uncertainty, with war sirens that echo more than ever in our wider neighborhood. In this context, civil society actors and especially humanitarian organizations are targeted with arbitrary rhetoric and defamatory statements by political leaders and are treated as outsiders.

In defiance of the times, the Greek Council for Refugees will continue its work as it has been doing since 1989, despite the losses, as circumstances often require it.

The suspension, once again after 2020, of asylum for new arrivals in Crete, last summer, once again required the mobilization of the Greek Council for Refugees to claim the rights of refugees in our country.

Major, emblematic cases (such as the one against the designation of Turkey as a safe third country, or the systematic pushbacks taking place at the borders) remain at the forefront of the GCR defense work. Among them is the case of the Pylos shipwreck, where legal proceedings are now underway against the entire leadership of the Coast Guard for their inaction in rescuing hundreds of people in June 2023, in the largest shipwreck in the Mediterranean.

At the European level, the retreat in terms of protecting the rights of refugees and irregular migrants has widened in the past year, with the promotion of amendments to regulations and directives that will allow the operation of centers for people under return in exotic countries, far from any control and protection, as well as the establishment of rules outside any protection framework based on the principles of European law. Rules that, such as the increase in the duration of detention for return to 24 months, were rushed ahead of their time to be adopted by a new draconian law of the Ministry of Immigration in September 2025, which even criminalized, for the first time, irregular residence in Greece.

| Message from the Board of the Greek Council for Refugees

The upcoming start of implementation of the European Pact on Migration and Asylum in June 2026 will be judged on whether it will result in the expected disappearance of any solidarity mechanism within the EU framework, with the entrapment of a large number of refugees in Greece.

However, amidst all these worries, it is comforting to see the development and strengthening of the functioning of the PYXIDA refugee integration center operating in the GCR building, a living cell of a society that interacts harmoniously with its foreigners.

Also comforting is the reaction of society to the new shipwreck of Chios, in early February of this year. The Greek Coast Guard assisted from the very beginning the survivors and relatives of the 15 people who died as a result of the actions of the Greek Coast Guard, and will continue to provide assistance in this emblematic case, which we hope will provoke a change of policy, different from the one that has led to successive shipwrecks and deaths of people in the seas controlled by the Greek state.

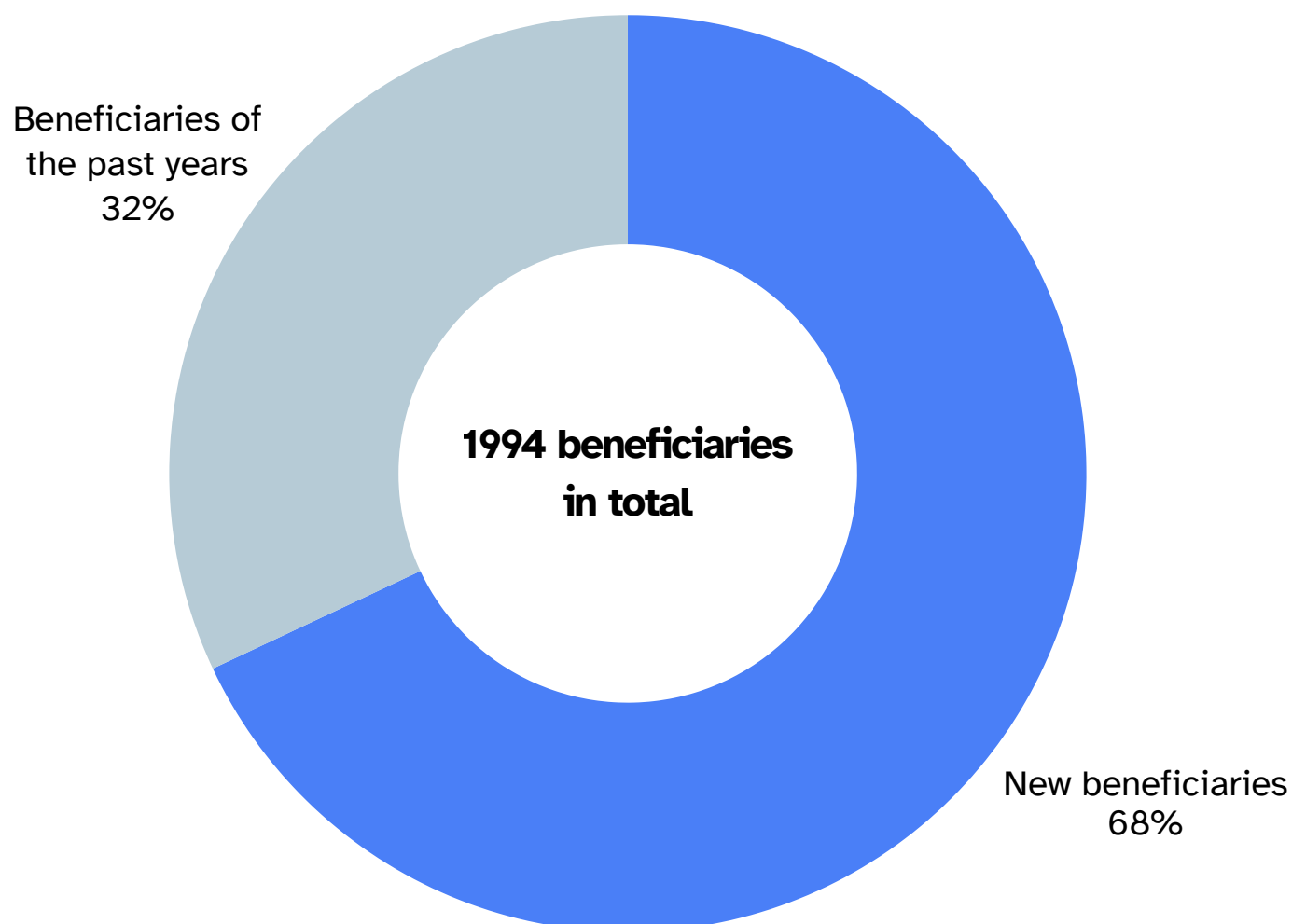
We hope that the development and strengthening of the HELIOS+ project which the Greek Council for Refugees began implementing in 2025 in four regions (Eastern Macedonia and Thrace, Western Greece, Peloponnese and North Aegean), will help in the smooth integration of refugees in our homeland.

The environment around us is not particularly encouraging. Nevertheless, from our side, we can only continue our work, hoping for the vigilance of the official institutional control bodies, as well as for the activation of civil society in the protection of refugees arriving in our country and in the defense of the rule of law.

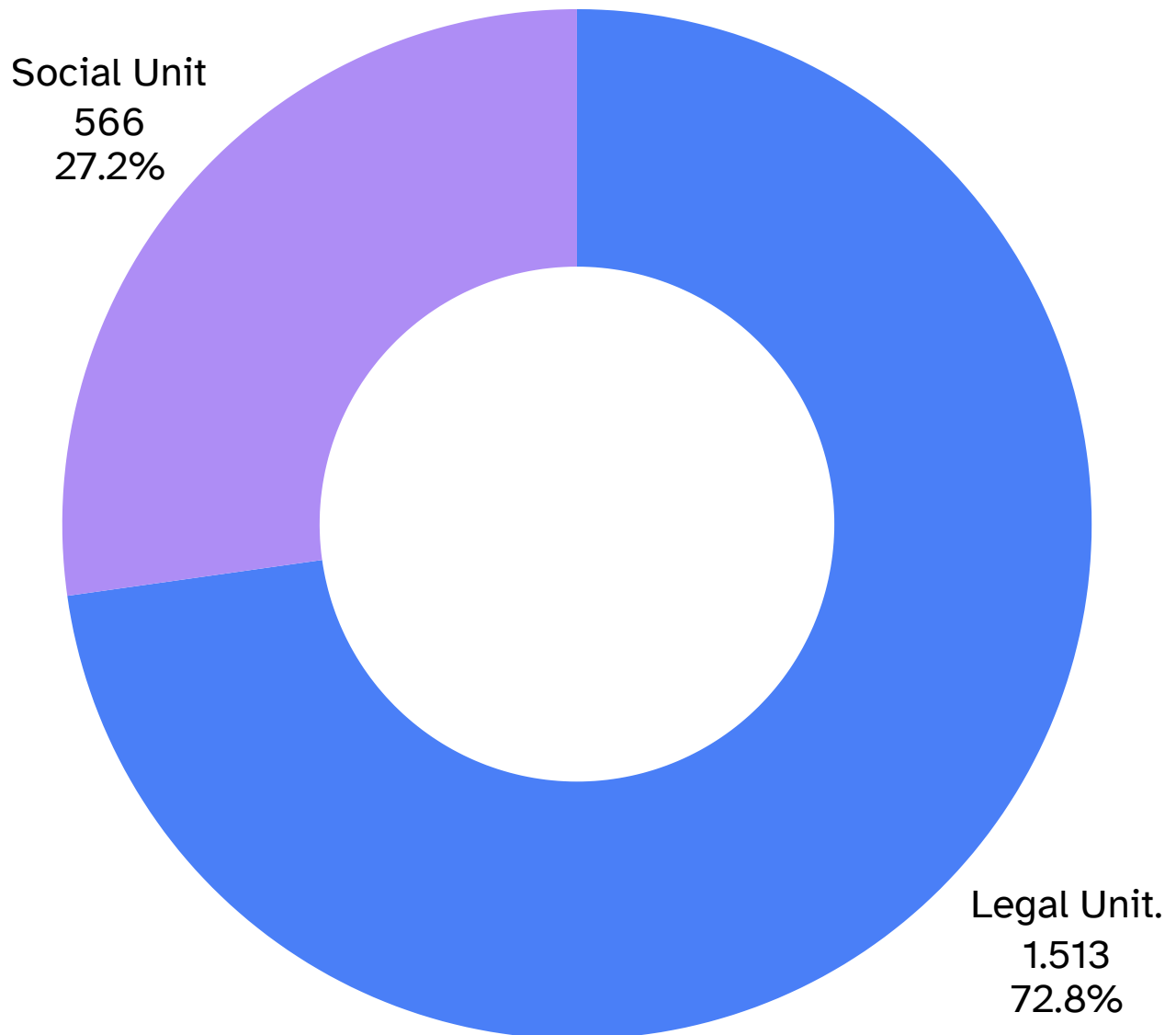
In this project for another year, we will address all our partners, who are also being tested by the financial crisis, as well as all supporters, small and large sponsors, donors, volunteers, as well as our members and especially our employees who have contributed to the work of the GCR for so many years, whom we thank for their professionalism and dedication.

Vasilis Papadopoulos, President
Eleni-Danina Maniou, Vice President
Eleni Spathana, General Secretary
Nikolaos Koulouris, Treasurer
Maria Zaimaki, Member
Anna Michalakeli, Member
Olga Charitou, Member

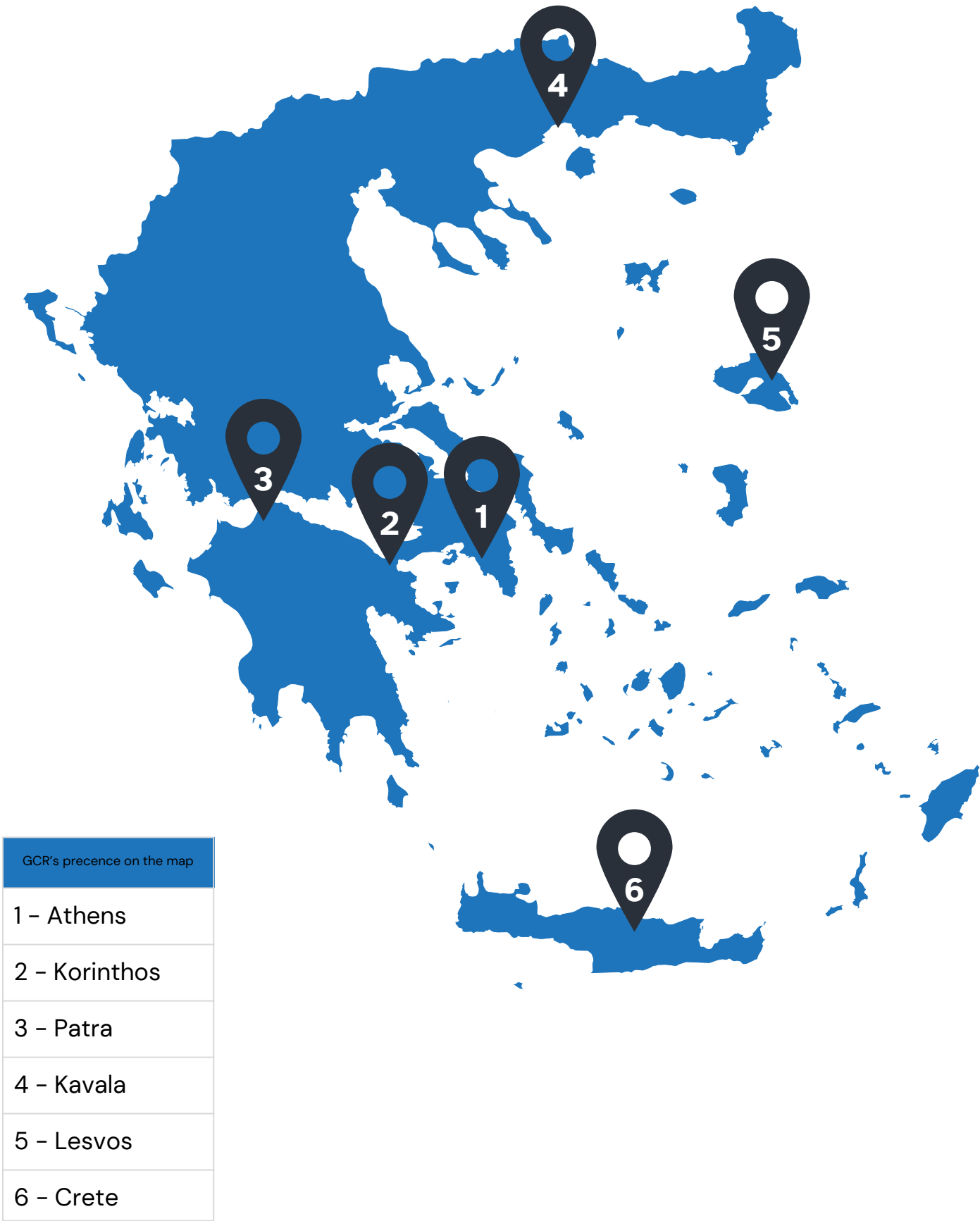
Our work in numbers



Number of Beneficiaries Served per Unit



GCR's presence on the map



Challenges and Achievements



Challenges and successes in the past year

2025 was another year of challenges in the field of international protection, as well as the protection of fundamental human rights. The GCR, steadfast in its values, with the perseverance and tireless efforts of its employees, demonstrated consistency and dedication in defending the rights of asylum seekers and refugees, responding to challenges, among others, through judicial actions and advocacy activities, and also noting significant successes.

ELandmark ECtHR decision/ Returns are a systematic practice of the Greek authorities.

On 4/6/2024, lawyers from the ECtHR represented, in an oral hearing, before the European Court of Human Rights (ECHR), a Turkish asylum seeker, who complained that in 2019 she had been returned by the Greek authorities to the Evros region {A.R.E. v. Greece (application no. 15783/21)}. The Turkish refugee was forced to flee her country due to political persecution and entered Greece through the Evros region in 2019 in order to seek asylum. This was the first case examined by the European Court of Human Rights concerning allegations of a pushback carried out by the Greek authorities in the Evros region.

On 7 January 2025, the European Court of Human Rights delivered its judgment, condemning Greece and finding that:

- there existed a “systematic practice of pushbacks by the Greek authorities of third-country nationals from¹ the Evros region to Turkey”
- the pushback of A.R.E., a Turkish asylum seeker, by the Greek authorities had indeed taken place

- A.R.E. had been unlawfully detained by the Greek authorities prior to the pushback
- the Greek judicial authorities had failed to conduct an effective criminal investigation and had dismissed A.R.E.’s complaint despite the available evidence.

In its judgment, the European Court of Human Rights further emphasized that the present case constituted only one example of the ineffectiveness of criminal proceedings in relation to allegations of pushbacks.

In July 1st, 2025, the European Court of Human Rights rejected the request of the Greek Government to refer the case to the Grand Chamber for reconsideration.

During the same year, the Greek Council for Refugees continued to provide legal representation in a significant number of cases concerning victims of informal and forced returns to Turkey (pushbacks). This practice continues to be documented through numerous allegations, which national institutions and international organizations have assessed as credible, and which is now recognized by the European Court of Human Rights as a systematic practice of the Greek authorities. (see below GCR Information Note on Pushbacks”).

Pylos Shipwreck

Just one year after the landmark judgment of the European Court of Human Rights concerning the 2014 Farmakonisi shipwreck, another major tragedy occurred in the maritime area west of Pylos on the 14th of June 2023. According to witness testimonies, more than 600 people drowned when the ADRIANA vessel, carrying them, capsized and sank.

From the very first moment, the Greek Council for Refugees, together with other organizations, stood alongside the survivors, who have filed criminal complaints.

According to the survivors' allegations, the Greek authorities not only failed to undertake the required rescue actions from the moment the vessel was detected but instead proceeded with an attempt to tow the boat, resulting in its capsizing and sinking.

The preliminary investigation before the Piraeus Naval Court was completed in December 2024. Following access to the criminal case file, we identified serious gaps and omissions, as well as the fact that the superiors of the coast guard vessel's crew had not been investigated by the competent Prosecutor for possible liabilities, despite their supervisory and operational responsibility for managing the incident.

For this reason, we submitted a request for the expansion of the investigation³ and criminal prosecution to include the leadership of the Hellenic Coast Guard.

On 16 May 2025, the Prosecutor of the Piraeus Naval Court initiated criminal proceedings against 17 members of the Hellenic Coast Guard, including senior officers of its leadership, among them its former Chief. However, the case against four senior Coast Guard officers was dismissed and archived.

The Greek Council for Refugees, together with the other organizations involved, filed an appeal before the Prosecutor of the Military Court of Appeal against the Prosecutorial Order archiving the case with regard to the four officers,

requesting criminal prosecution against them as well. The appeal was upheld, and felony charges were subsequently brought against the current Chief of the Hellenic Coast Guard and senior members of its leadership.

At the same time, we submitted a complaint against Frontex, denouncing its responsibilities and requesting an investigation into the agency's role in the tragedy. We recall that, according to the findings of the Fundamental Rights Office of Frontex, it was established that "...prior to the shipwreck, rescue was not the immediate objective of the authorities," while responsibility was attributed to the Greek Coast Guard authorities for the "delay in launching a rescue operation, which only began after the distressed vessel had capsized...".

The criminal prosecution of senior members of the leadership of the Hellenic Coast Guard in relation to the Pylos shipwreck constitutes a critical development for accountability in cases involving serious violations at the borders.

Following the refusal of the Hellenic Coast Guard to conduct an internal disciplinary investigation, the Greek Ombudsman carried out its own inquiry under its special mandate as the National Mechanism for the Investigation of Arbitrary Incidents. The investigation was concluded in January 2025 with the issuance of a relevant findings report, which was transmitted to the competent authorities.

A number of international organizations and institutional bodies have already called upon the Greek authorities to ensure a full and effective investigation into the circumstances of the shipwreck. These include, inter alia, the European Ombudsman, who issued relevant "Conclusions ... following her inquiry into how Frontex complies with its fundamental rights obligations in the context of maritime surveillance activities, in particular the Adriana shipwreck" the Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights and the Committee LIBE of the European Parliament.

4

The Council of State Annuls the Designation of Turkey as a "Safe Third Country" for Asylum Seekers

By decision of its Plenary, the Council of State upheld the application for annulment submitted by the Greek Council for Refugees and Refugee Support Aegean, and annulled the Joint Ministerial Decision designating Turkey as a safe third country for applicants for international protection originating from Syria, Afghanistan, Somalia, Pakistan, and Bangladesh. This final ruling of the Council of State, following the prior judgment of the Court of Justice of the European Union, overturns a long-standing, arbitrary, and abusive practice by the Greek authorities of rejecting asylum applications as inadmissible on the basis of the safe third country concept. It puts an end to the deprivation of rights affecting thousands of asylum seekers,

prohibiting their rejection where there is no possibility of readmission to Turkey and requiring their individual assessment in accordance with the law.

Despite the Plenary decision of the Council of State, and in apparent non-compliance with it, the administration proceeded to issue a new Joint Ministerial Decision once again designating Turkey as a "safe third country." In response, the Greek Council for Refugees and Refugee Support Aegean filed a new application for annulment before the Council of State, which is currently pending before the Court.

Pilot Trial before the Council of State

In February 2025, the hearing of an application for annulment took place in the context of a pilot trial before the Plenary of the Council of State, following the acceptance of a relevant request by the Greek Council for Refugees.

The case concerns the safeguarding of access to classified information and the right of defense and representation of asylum seekers, in accordance with the guarantees of European Union law and the relevant case law of the Court of Justice of the European Union.

It raises legal issues of broader significance, affecting a wider group of individuals, in line with the conditions required for the initiation of a pilot trial before the Council of State.

ECtHR – Findings of Violations by Greece concerning 39 Unaccompanied Children\

By its two judgments (M.Y. and Others v. Greece, application no. 51980/19 and 5 other cases, and A.I. and Others v. Greece, application no. 11588/20 and 2 other cases), the European Court of Human Rights examined jointly applications concerning a total of 39 minors. The Court found Greece in violation of Articles 3 and 5 of the European Convention on Human Rights, due to the failure to provide adequate reception conditions and/or to place the children in protective custody.

The cases were supported before the Court by the Greek Council for Refugees, as well as other organizations and lawyers.

Suspension of Asylum

Pursuant to the amendment of the Ministry of Migration and Asylum on the suspension of asylum procedures, adopted in July 2025 (Article 79 of Law 5218/2025, Government Gazette 125/A/14.07.2025), third-country nationals who arrived in Gavdos after its entry into force were denied access to the asylum procedure.

According to the amendment, for a period of three months, “the submission of asylum applications by persons entering the country illegally by any vessel originating from North Africa is suspended. These individuals are returned, without registration, to their country of origin or nationality.”

The Greek Council for Refugees represented Sudanese asylum seekers both before the European Court of Human Rights and before the Greek courts, which granted interim measures suspending their removal decisions.

For a period of three months, ‘the submission of applications for the granting of asylum is suspended for persons entering the country illegally by any vessel originating from North Africa’.

An innocent Refugee from Sudan Accused of Smuggling

After eight months in pre-trial detention, the court acquitted the defendant, accepting his claim that he had been steering the boat solely with the aim of approaching a passing vessel in order to save his own life, as well as the lives of his wife and their three minor children, who were also on board.

This case, represented by the Greek Council for Refugees, highlights once again the highly problematic provision of Greek legislation (Article 25 of Law 5038/2023), which makes no distinction between criminal smuggling networks and smugglers on the one hand, and individuals who are forced to operate a boat solely in search of protection on the other.

An innocent survivor of the Pylos shipwreck, charged with illegal residence under the provisions of the law of the Ministry of Migration and Asylum

The Single Member Misdemeanor Court of Athens acquitted an asylum seeker and survivor of the Pylos shipwreck, who had been arrested and prosecuted for irregular stay under the provisions of the Ministry of Migration and Asylum law (Law 5226/2025).

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For a period of three months, “the submission of applications for asylum is suspended for persons entering the country illegally by any vessel originating from North Africa.”

Under this new legislation, “irregular stay” is, for the first time, treated as a criminal offence, punishable by a custodial sentence of at least two (2) years without suspension.

The case was legally supported and represented before the court by the Greek Council for Refugees.

Protection from Arbitrary Detention

The Greek Council for Refugees represented before the Greek courts more than 14 asylum seekers subjected to administrative detention measures, challenging the legality of their detention.

In a significant number of cases, the competent courts found the detention measures unlawful and ordered the release of the individuals concerned. These rulings contributed to strengthening compliance with legality in the imposition of detention on asylum seekers and persons in need of international protection, as well as changing administrative practices in this field.

Within the framework of a specialized program for the protection of victims of human trafficking, five victims were identified while held in administrative detention in Pre-Removal Detention Centres. The Greek Council for Refugees played a decisive role in their identification and legal representation, resulting in the release of four of them. The release decisions made explicit reference to human trafficking, ensuring the application of specific protective measures for victims.

Asylum Cases

The Greek Council for Refugees provided legal counselling to 377 asylum seekers regarding asylum procedures and successfully supported asylum cases before the Asylum Service, the Appeals Authority, and the Administrative Courts (see Asylum Case Law Bulletin below).

Family Reunification of Recognized Refugees

Family reunification is a right of recognized refugees under international, European, and national law. In practice, however, the procedure remains extremely lengthy and complex.

In June 2025, an 11-year-old child arrived at “Eleftherios Venizelos” Airport and was reunited with his mother and younger sister after years of separation. The mother had been forced to leave her country of origin in 2019 due to persecution. She arrived in Greece the same year and was recognized as a refugee in 2022. Following her recognition, she immediately submitted an application for family reunification in order to bring her minor son to Greece.

After years of persistent legal interventions by lawyers of the Greek Council for Refugees—from the certification of the necessary documents to the interview before the Asylum Service, and the issuance of the child’s entry visa—the family was finally reunited.

In December 2025, a Sudanese refugee was reunited with his wife and their five minor children. The case is of particular significance, as it marked the first successful family reunification of a Sudanese refugee following the outbreak of the ongoing civil war in Sudan.

The case was also featured in the Hellenic Broadcasting Corporation (ERT) radio program hVoice of Greece – Infinitely Curious, in the episode titled “Sudan – From the War Zone to the Greek Streets”.

Within the framework of strategic litigation aimed at safeguarding the right to family reunification, applications for annulment and interim measures remain pending before the Administrative Courts in cases concerning family reunification of recognized refugees represented by the Greek Council for Refugees. These cases highlight the persistent obstacles in the procedure, which are linked, inter alia, to the restrictive interpretation of the law by the administration, and in some instances to the administration’s refusal to apply the applicable legal framework (see below the report of the Greek Council for Refugees entitled “Family Reunification of Recognized Refugees in Greece”).

The Greek Council for Refugees has successfully supported 46 family reunification cases, providing legal assistance to recognized refugees within the framework of a specialised family reunification programme implemented by the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR). Recent budget cuts within the United Nations system, due to reductions or suspensions in funding from the United States, threaten the ability of the Greek Council for Refugees to continue providing legal assistance in family reunification procedures (see also Annual Report 2024).

Reports / Interventions / Submissions to International Bodies

The Greek Council for Refugees published, for another year, ⁵important reports, interventions, and submissions to international bodies, and participated—both independently and jointly with other organizations—in reports, press releases, consultative forums, and international conferences. Indicatively:

- On the 9th anniversary of the EU–Turkey Statement and in the context of the event “Left to die: Unveiling pushback practices in Greece and Poland”, the Greek Council for Refugees presented at the European Parliament the findings of its report “At Europe’s Borders: Pushbacks under a Regime of Impunity” and the latest relevant developments. The panel included the Head of the Fundamental Rights Office of Frontex and the Head of the Asylum, Migration and Borders Unit of the EU Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA). The event was organized in cooperation with Oxfam and hosted by Members of the European Parliament Cecilia Strada (S&D) and Tineke Strik (Greens/EFA).
- Family Reunification of Recognized Refugees in Greece – Report of the Greek Council for Refugees The report of the Greek Council for Refugees documents, for the first time, the obstacles faced by refugees in the family reunification procedure. It constitutes an initial effort to capture key aspects of the family reunification process for recognized refugees in Greece. The report identifies critical legal and practical obstacles and puts forward recommendations for the effective protection of family unity, as defined under international and European law (the report in English is available [here](#)).

- “Overview of the Situation of Refugee and Asylum-Seeking Children in Greece”. The Greek Council for Refugees, in cooperation with Save the Children, publishes brief notes providing an overview of developments concerning children on the move (primarily refugee and asylum-seeking children) in Greece.
- Observations to the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe. Observations submitted by the Greek Council for Refugees and the AIRE Centre before the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe regarding the execution of judgments of the European Court of Human Rights in cases such as O.R. v. Greece, concerning the protection of unaccompanied children in Greece. Among other points, the observations highlight the prolonged stay of unaccompanied minors in Reception and Identification Centers and Closed Controlled Facilities under de facto detention conditions, as well as the reduction of available accommodation places in appropriate reception structures.
- AIDA Annual Report (Asylum Information Database) 2024–September 2025. The AIDA (Asylum Information Database) Annual Report for Greece covering the period up to September 2025 provides information on key developments in the national asylum system, including changes in asylum procedures, reception conditions, administrative detention, the content of international protection, as well as systemic challenges and the deterioration of rights for asylum seekers. The full AIDA report for Greece is available in English [here](#), while its summary in Greek is available [here](#).
- “The Pushback – Disconnect: Current and Anticipated Practice”. The report “The Pushback – Disconnect: Current and Anticipated Practice” of the Protecting Rights at Borders (PRAB) network, in which the Greek Council for Refugees participates, documents once again that pushbacks and related rights violations remain widespread and have evolved into an accepted tool of border management.
- “Democracy Without Oxygen – The State of the Rule of Law in Greece Today”. A joint submission to the European Commission by the Greek Council for Refugees together with Vouli channel, Refugee Support Aegean (RSA), HIAS Greece, the Hellenic League for Human Rights (HLHR), and Reporters United, documenting long-standing deficiencies and new threats to the rule of law in Greece. The report contributes to the European Commission’s annual Rule of Law monitoring process (full report in English [available here](#)).

“News from the Field”

The Greek Council for Refugees provides monthly updates on significant developments in the field of asylum and human rights.

“Information Note of the Greek Council for Refugees on Pushback Cases”

From 2022 until January 2026, the Greek Council for Refugees has been regularly updating information on its interventions before the Greek authorities and on interim measures granted by the European Court of Human Rights in cases supported by its Legal Service concerning allegations of pushbacks. During this period, the Greek Council for Refugees represented more than 1,100 asylum seekers before the European Court of Human Rights, submitting 121 applications for interim measures under Rule 39, all of which were granted by the Court.

Comments by the Greek Council for Refugees on the Draft Law of the Ministry of Migration and Asylum entitled: "Reform of the Framework and Procedures for the Return of Third-Country Nationals – Other Provisions of the Ministry of Migration and Asylum."

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Asylum Case Law Bulletin – New Issues The Greek Council for Refugees, in cooperation with Refugee Support Aegean (RSA) and HIAS Greece, published two new issues of the Asylum Case Law Bulletin in 2025.

Over five years of operation, the Asylum Case Law Bulletin has collected, with the contribution of other organizations, and published excerpts from 790 asylum decisions issued between 2020 and 2025, which are publicly available.

In June 2025, the Annual Report 2024 of the Recording Mechanism for Alleged Pushbacks was published. The Mechanism was established by the National Commission for Human Rights (NCHR), in which the Greek Council for Refugees participates and to which it contributed through the documentation of cases of alleged pushbacks.



[1] Information note summarising the key points of the judgment in Greek available here:

<https://gcr.gr/el/news/item/enimerotiko-simeiola/> and in English here:

<https://gcr.gr/en/news/item/enimerotiko-simeiola/> Press release:

<https://gcr.gr/el/news/press-releases/item/katadiki-tiselladas-gia-proti-fora-gia-pushback-ston-evro-apo-toeyropaiko-dikastirio-dikaiomaton-toy-anthropoy/>

[2] Judgment summary as published by the Court:

<https://hudoc.echr.coe.int/fre#%7B%22itemid%22:%5B%22003-7380289-10089391%22%5D%7D>

Greek Council for Refugees, "Vindication from the ECtHR in the Farmakonisi case: Press Conference on Monday, 11 July 2022"

<https://www.gcr.gr/el/news/press-releasesannouncements/item/2006-dikaiosi-apo-to-edda-giato-farmakonisi-synentefksi-typou-tin-deftera-11-iouliou>

[3] Press release:

<https://gcr.gr/el/news/item/peratosi-prokatartikis-exetasis-apo-tin-eisaggelia-toy-naytodikeioly-peiraia-gia-to-nayagio-tis-pyloy/>

[4] Pylos shipwreck: the Greek authorities must ensure that effective investigations are conducted:

<https://www.coe.int/en/web/commissioner/-/pylos-shipwreck-the-greek-authorities-must-ensure-that-effective-investigations-are-conducted>

Exchange of views on the migrant boat shipwreck off the coast of Greece (extracts):

https://multimedia.europarl.europa.eu/en/video/exchange-of-views-on-the-migrant-boat-shipwreck-off-the-coast-of-greece-extracts_1243537

[5] <https://www.gcr.gr/el/ekdoseis-media/reports>

GCR Interventions



A . LEGAL ASSISTANCE

Provision of legal and psychosocial support through reception groups

Partner: UN High Commissioner for Refugees

Implementation Period: 1/1/2025 – 31/12/2025

Location: Attica, Thessaloniki

The project concerned the provision of legal assistance to asylum seekers and refugees at all stages of the asylum procedure and other procedures related to their legal status. The type of assistance included the provision of information, counselling and representation before the authorities during the asylum procedure (at First and Second Instance), during the family reunification procedure under the Dublin III Regulation, support for recognized refugees, interventions aimed at protection from unlawful forced removal and ensuring access to the asylum procedure.

In addition, the project concerned the provision of psychosocial assistance and included information provision, support during the asylum process, counseling and related interventions on medical, educational, housing issues, etc.

Within the framework of the project, 785 asylum seekers and refugees received legal assistance in Athens and Thessaloniki. 329 people received psychosocial assistance.

Many cases were supported before the European Court of Human Rights, Civil and Administrative Courts with a positive outcome and many were granted refugee status.

Provision of Legal Support to Individuals in Detention

Partner: UN High Commissioner for Refugees

Implementation Period: 1/1/2025 – 31/12/2025

Location: Athens and Thessaloniki

The project concerned the provision of legal assistance to individuals in detention with the aim of ensuring their access to rights and the asylum procedure. The team carried out regular visits to detention facilities and police stations in Attica and Thessaloniki, and missions to the remaining detention centers (Corinth, Paranesti, Xanthi, Orestiada Police Station). The assistance included support at all stages of the asylum procedure, through counseling and representation, appeals before the administrative and judicial authorities for the lifting of detention, interventions before the Authorities.

In total, 125 people in detention received legal support in Attica and Northern Greece. The group filed objections to the detention of 50 people before the Police and 14 cases before the Courts. Many of the cases were supported before the European Court of Human Rights and before Criminal Courts.

The group also carried out institutional interventions and submitted reports to Independent Authorities and International Human Rights Mechanisms. The interventions not only benefited the cases they supported, but also contributed to addressing systemic problems.

Provision of Legal Support on the Islands, Evros, and Crete

Partner: UN High Commissioner for Refugees

Implementation Period: 1/1/2025 – 31/12/2025

Location: Lesbos, Kos, Evros, Crete

The project concerned the provision of legal assistance to asylum seekers and refugees at all stages of the asylum procedure and other procedures related to their legal status. More specifically, the main actions concerned, among others, counselling and representation before the authorities during the asylum procedure, during the family reunification procedure, interventions to lift detention and geographical restriction and actions to determine vulnerability.

Specifically, in 2025, 311 asylum seekers and refugees received legal assistance. Many cases were supported before Courts and were supported with objections to detention. In addition, the team carried out institutional interventions to address systemic problems identified on the islands.

Providing legal support to refugees during the family reunification process

Partner: UN High Commissioner for Refugees

Implementation period: 1/1/2025 – 31/12/2025

Implementation location: Athens

The project concerned the provision of legal assistance to recognized refugees in Greece so that they can be reunited in Greece with their family members in their countries of origin or in third countries outside the EU, a right based on Presidential Decree 131/2006.

The main actions included legal advice, interventions and representation before the competent authorities (services, Consulates, Embassies, Administrative Court, etc.), assistance with the issuance of the necessary travel and other documents, certificates and tickets for the transport of family members to Greece.

In the framework of the project in 2025, 46 cases were supported, involving 192 individuals (50 refugees in Greece and 142 members in their countries of origin or in third countries outside the EU). For most of the cases, multiple interventions were made before the competent authorities. In addition, the team supported three cases before the European Court of Human Rights.

It is worth noting that the process has many structural and systemic problems, multiple legal actions are required and most cases are in progress for many years until they are completed. Nevertheless, with the assistance of the GCR, in 2025 the process for 10 cases was successfully completed and 24 people came to Greece and were reunited with their families.

B. Support for the Vulnerable

Restoration of Torture Victims

Funding: United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture (UNVFVT), Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

Duration of implementation: 1/1/2025 – 31/12/2025

Implementation location: Athens

The program aims to identify victims of torture and other forms of serious violence among those seeking international protection in Greece. Its main purpose is to provide holistic (psychological, social and legal) support to ensure the victims' rehabilitation and access to asylum, as well as to document cases of torture to combat impunity. Furthermore, it contributes to strengthening the national capacity to protect victims.

Within the framework of the project, GCR provides comprehensive legal assistance and representation at all stages of the asylum process, including appeals against rejection decisions, representation in court and family reunification procedures. At the same time, the Social Service offers stable psychosocial support, counseling and psychoeducation for the management of stress (especially before and after asylum interviews) and the consequences of trauma, as well as escorts to hospitals and public services. In addition, social workers actively support victims in finding housing and employment, enrolling in educational programs, enrolling their children in school, and meeting basic livelihood needs through the distribution of non-food items and referrals to specialized medical and psychiatric facilities.

Despite the significant difficulties that arose, such as the accommodation of many victims in remote structures far from Athens, the lack of housing for those recognized as refugees, as well as their exclusion from public health due to delays in the issuance of legal documents, the project achieved excellent results thanks to its direct interventions and the strong network of collaborations with other NGOs and medical institutions. During the reporting period, the GCR supported a total of 91 beneficiaries (52 direct victims of torture and 39 members of their families), mainly from Turkey, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Iraq, providing all of them with legal and social services. One of the most important achievements of the year was the successful outcome, after a long legal battle, of the case of a Turkish asylum seeker who had been in a legal limbo for about ten years. In 2025, the court recognized his risk of persecution due to his political activity and the torture he had suffered, ultimately granting him refugee status.

Power to UAMs: Ensuring Equal Access, Participation, and Voice at the Local Level

Funding: European Union (EACEA, CERV-2024-CHILD)

Partners: Greek Council for Refugees (Coordinator), Bridge EU, Caritas International, Nadoe, Ecpat, Solidarity Now, Tarki

Duration of implementation: 1/1/2025– 31/12/2025

The project aims to ensure equal access of unaccompanied minors to quality public services at local level. By identifying existing gaps and strengthening cooperation between key stakeholders, the initiative contributes to the development of sustainable and inclusive support systems for children living without parental care. To achieve this objective, the project focuses on improving evidence through the collection of comparable qualitative and quantitative data on the needs of unaccompanied minors and their access to local services, strengthening local coordination through the participation of relevant stakeholders in working groups and regular consultation meetings. The empowerment of children and young people through the creation of child participation platforms in each selected area, ensuring that the views of unaccompanied minors are taken into account in decision-making processes, the development of local strategies tailored to the specific needs of unaccompanied minors in each area, the promotion of systemic change through advocacy actions at local, national and European levels, including taking legal action where necessary, and the provision of practical guidance through the development of a toolkit to support local actors in ensuring equal access to services for unaccompanied minors

Results:

- Strengthen coordination between stakeholders through the establishment of regular local working groups.
- Unaccompanied minors actively participate in decision-making processes through child participation platforms.
- Develop local strategies
- Raise awareness among stakeholders about the rights of the child and the specific needs of unaccompanied minors.

- Contribute through advocacy actions to the promotion of legal actions and long-term systemic policy improvements.

REACHing: REinforcing Assistance to viCtims of Human trafficking

Funding: European Union (AMIF-2024-TF2-AG-THB)

Partners: Forum Refugees (Coordinator), Cesie Ente del Terzo Settore, Fondazione International Rescue Committee Italia ETS (IRC Italia), Greek Council for Refugees

Duration of implementation: 1/7/2025–30/6/2027

REACHing is a European initiative that aims to strengthen the response to human trafficking within asylum systems. The project's mission is to create a network of mobile teams of operational experts, who will operate in registration platforms, reception facilities and integration programmes. These teams will monitor and respond to the evolving needs of both frontline professionals and victims, building on existing national and European identification and support tools. Depending on the national context of each country, interventions may also extend to support for minors.

Each partner country will set up its own mobile team, tailored to national needs, with key missions to support professionals by providing expertise, resources and guidance on trafficking in human beings, asylum and protection systems, provide direct support to victims during asylum procedures and throughout the integration process, strengthen cooperation and coordination with institutional bodies at local, regional and national level and promote European cooperation through the exchange of knowledge, operational practices and case experience in the areas of asylum and trafficking in human beings.

Results and expected impact:

- To empower survivors through targeted actions that enhance their self-confidence and resilience.
- To facilitate the exchange of knowledge and good practices between mobile teams, contributing to a coordinated European response to a global issue.
- To promote international cooperation, through study visits, with the aim of strengthening the protection of moving populations.

DIRECT: Develop coordination with Migrants to Enhance Inclusion of Trafficked People

Funding: European Union (AMIF-2022-TF1-AG-THB)

Partners: Associazione della Croce Rossa Italiana (Coordinator), Associazione Iroko Onlus, International Rescue Committee IRC Deutschland, Het Nederlandse Rode Kruis, Stichting Fairwork, Cruz Roja Espanola and Greek Council for Refugees

Duration of implementation: 1/4/2023-31/5/2025

DIRECT aims to prevent trafficking in human beings and promote the integration of third-country nationals considered victims of trafficking in Italy, the Netherlands, Germany, Spain and Greece, which host a significant number of third-country nationals and receive an increasing flow of migrants and refugees via the Mediterranean and Balkan routes. In this context, partners provided specialized training in technical professions and social skills with the aim of empowering them, while reaching out to communities and frontline professionals for awareness-raising and education. In Greece, services provided included legal advice, psychosocial support, employment counselling and facilitating access to public services.

- Evaluation and risk assessment of 129 individuals at risk of trafficking with specialized legal counseling and support, as well as complementary services for their wider social needs.
- Personalized job counseling to 39 people, career orientation and connection to the labor market, providing workshops for empowerment and development of social skills, based on the methodology to be developed within the project.

- Awareness and information of communities with targeted meetings and skills development workshops to 133 people and an information and dissemination campaign that reached over 3,000 people through social media interactions.

C. Integration

Helios+ : “Comprehensive Actions for the Integration of Third Country Nationals in the Labour Market” in Peloponnese.

Funding: ESPA 2021– 2027

Partners: International Organisation for Migration (IOM)

Duration of implementation: 1/1/2025– 30/6/2026

Implementation location: Peloponnese

The project concerned the support of the integration of third-country nationals into the labor market and autonomous living in the Peloponnese Region, through the operation of the HELIOS+ Center and the development of actions to connect with employers, locate available housing, and strengthen cooperation with local bodies.

Within the framework of the project, the lease and commencement of operation of the HELIOS+ Center from March 2025 was completed, while regular coordination meetings with the International Organization for Migration were held, as well as publicity and networking actions at the Regional level.

In the field of independent living, a total of 120 available apartments were identified for evaluation, of which 18 were deemed suitable and were registered on the heliospiti platform, enhancing the beneficiaries' access to independent housing. At the same time, a database of potential employers was created and is being updated, a mapping of businesses in the Region was carried out and 4 liaison meetings with employers were implemented, with the aim of facilitating beneficiaries' access to the local labor market.

2025 was a year of development of the basic implementation structures of the program in the Peloponnese Region and laid the foundations for the further strengthening of integration actions in the coming period.

Helios+ : «Comprehensive Actions for the Integration of Third Country Nationals in the Labour Market” in North aegean

Funding: ESPA 2021– 2027

Partners: International Organisation for Migration (IOM)

Duration of implementation: 1/1/2025– 31/8/2026

Implementation location: North Aegean

The project concerned the support of the integration of third-country nationals into the labor market and autonomous living in the North Aegean Region, through the operation of the HELIOS+ Center and the development of partnerships with employers, property owners and local bodies.

Within the framework of the project, the leasing and equipping of the HELIOS+ Center was completed, which was put into full operation from August 2025. At the same time, 11 posts were made to inform and promote the program on the GCR social media.

In the field of independent living, 50 available apartments were identified, of which 23 were verified as suitable and registered on the heliospiti platform, enhancing the beneficiaries' access to housing.

The program's actions contributed to expanding the cooperation network with local bodies and businesses and to strengthening the integration prospects of the beneficiaries into the labor market and the local society of the North Aegean Region.

Helios+ : “Comprehensive Actions for the Integration of Third Country Nationals in the Labour Market” in Eastern Macedonia and Thrace

Funding: ESPA 2021– 2027

Partners: International Organisation for Migration (IOM)

Duration of implementation: 1/1/2025– 31/10/2026

Implementation location: Eastern Macedonia and Thrace

The project concerned the support of the integration of third-country nationals into the labor market and autonomous living in the Region of Eastern Macedonia and Thrace, through the operation of the HELIOS+ Center and the development of partnerships with employers, property owners and local bodies.

Within the framework of the project, the lease and operation of the HELIOS+ Center in Kavala was completed, while regular coordination actions with the International Organization for Migration and 11 posts to inform and promote the program on the GCR social media were carried out.

In the area of employment promotion, 5 meetings were held with potential employers and the systematic mapping of the local labor market continued, with the registration of at least 59 businesses and organizations as potential partners. At the same time, in the area of independent living, 47 available properties were identified for evaluation to meet the housing needs of the beneficiaries.

2025 was a year of development of the basic structures and partnerships of the program in the Region of Eastern Macedonia and Thrace, laying the foundations for further strengthening integration actions in the coming period.

Helios+ : “Comprehensive Actions for the Integration of Third Country Nationals in the Labour Market” in Western Greece

Funding: ESPA 2021- 2027

Partners: International Organisation for Migration (IOM)

Duration of implementation: 1/1/2025– 31/12/2026

Implementation location: Western Greece

The project concerned the support of the integration of third-country nationals into the labor market and autonomous living in the Western Greece Region, through the operation of the HELIOS+ Center and the development of partnerships with employers, property owners and local bodies.

Within the framework of the project, the lease and operation of the HELIOS+ Center in Patras was completed, while 11 information and promotion posts of the program were made on the GCR social media and collaborations were developed with local government bodies, the DYPA and professional associations.

In the field of employment promotion, 23 meetings were held with employers and related bodies, through which 7 new jobs emerged, while 1 beneficiary was hired.

At the same time, the systematic mapping of businesses and the maintenance of a database of potential employers at the Regional level continued.

In the field of independent living, a total of 951 available properties were identified for evaluation, while 16 apartments were verified as suitable and registered on the heliospiti platform. In addition, a focus group was held with beneficiaries on issues of social inclusion and participation in the local community.

The program's actions contributed to the formation of a stable network of collaborations with local bodies and businesses and to the strengthening of beneficiaries' access to housing and employment opportunities in the Region of Western Greece.

Thesaurus V – Theatre-Play and Thrive

Funding: Fondazione Alta Mane

Duration of implementation: 1/1/2025– 31/12/2025

Implementation location: Athens, Intercultural center PYXIDA

The project “Thesaurus V – Theatre-Play and Thrive” was successfully completed, strengthening the psycho-educational support and social inclusion of refugee, migrant and unaccompanied minor children. Through theatrical and artistic workshops, actions for children’s rights and participation in events, a total of 184 children and adolescents aged 6–17 were supported.

Theater and art workshops:

149 workshops were implemented that promoted the strengthening of self-confidence, the free expression of emotions and team cooperation.

The children developed communication and empowerment skills through experiential activities and theatrical play.

Child Rights Workshops:

Through 8 book workshops, children and teenagers were informed about their rights through creative methods and participatory dialogue.

Events and Festivals:

The children came into contact with the wider community through 7 major activities, such as a human rights festival, theatrical performances, a summer camp and the Peace Festival in Lesvos, strengthening the sense of inclusion and social recognition.

Despite the difficulties, mainly due to the language barriers, we managed to create a safe and open space, where all the children felt comfortable to express themselves and feel that they belong. Their response was very positive and, gradually, substantial improvements were seen in both the management of their emotions and their social skills. This shows how important such actions are, as they contribute substantially to their psychosocial development and their future path.

Child Psychologist Services – PYXIDA Intercultural Center

Funding: Private donor

Duration of implementation: 1/1/2025–31/12/2025

Implementation location: Athens, Intercultural center PYXIDA

The child psychologist service project was successfully completed, achieving significant results in promoting mental health, resilience and social inclusion of vulnerable refugee and migrant children.

The program included individual sessions, psychotherapeutic interventions, parent counseling and psychoeducational groups, creating a wide range of support services. A total of 78 individuals (41 minors and 37 parents, from 36 families) were consistently supported throughout the year.

Psychological support for children:

Promoted the improvement of emotional well-being and the development of coping skills. Through interventions such as Art and Play Therapy and Cognitive Behavioral Therapy, children (with a greater concentration on ages 11–15) received help for issues of anxiety, depression, learning disabilities and post-traumatic stress.

Parental Counseling:

Parents were supported to strengthen their parenting skills, manage the stress of adjusting to a new country, and improve family communication through targeted sessions.

Group and psychoeducational activities:

As part of the summer camp in July, psychoeducational groups for adolescents were implemented on topics such as stress management and abuse prevention, highlighting the importance of preventive group interventions.

Despite challenges, such as the complexity of the cases, cultural/language barriers and difficulties in consistent attendance for those residing in off-site accommodation, the project achieved substantial results.

D. Research, Monitoring–Oversight (Monitoring), and Institutional Advocacy

RELEASE Project - pRotEcting migrant childrEn AgainSt detention through the EU Charter

Funding: European Union (CERV-2023-CHAR-LITI)

Partners: International Commission of Jurists European Institutions (Coordinator), Aditus Foundation, Défense des Enfants International, Forum for Human Rights, Helsinki Foundation for Human Rights, Foundation for Access to Rights and Greek Council for Refugees

Duration of implementation: 3/2024- 2/2026

The project seeks to deepen its focus on strategic litigation and alternatives to detention (AtD) for migrant children who are at risk of unlawful detention or whose rights may be violated within such alternatives. The main objective of the project is to contribute to a more enabling environment within the EU for the protection of migrant children from detention. Its overarching long-term impact is to ensure that the principle of the best interests of the child becomes a more central element in the case law of the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC), the European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR), and the Court of Justice of the European Union (CJEU).

Within the framework of the project, the GCR organized and implemented a National Training in Athens in February 2025, focusing on legal advocacy and strategic case litigation. At the same time, it participated in Transnational Exchange Workshops and hosted the 3rd Workshop in Athens in October 2025 to strengthen cross-border cooperation.

In addition, in January 2026 targeted mentoring sessions were delivered for legal professionals, focusing on real cases of unaccompanied minors and administrative detention practices. The organization also undertook the collection and submission of new cases for inclusion in the International Commission of Jurists (ICJ) online case-law database, as well as the translation and adaptation into Greek of the “Lawyers’ Guide” and audiovisual/informational material for migrants.

Through these activities, 27 legal practitioners, institutional representatives, and NGO members were trained at national level, while 32 experts from Greece and across Europe exchanged good practices, strengthening the child rights protection network. The ICJ online database was successfully enriched with seven (7) new Greek strategic cases, providing a valuable tool for lawyers internationally. At the same time, the translated “Lawyers’ Guide” was published online and made readily accessible to practitioners in the field. Finally, effective information dissemination to beneficiaries was ensured through the printing and distribution of multilingual leaflets in four languages (Farsi, Arabic, English, Dari), providing detained migrants with essential information on their rights and available legal remedies.

Watch the interview series with lawyers from four EU countries on the challenges and rights of children with a migrant background.

EQUAL: Empowering communities for intersectional justice and litigation

Funding: European Union (CERV-2024-CHAR-LITI-LITIGATION)

Partners: Awen Amenca (Coordinator), Coalizione Italiana per le Libertae i diritti e civili, Pro Bono Publico, Forum pro Lidska Prava, The European Roma Rights Centre, Validity Alapitvany- Kozpont a mentalis Serulek Jogaiert, Bridge EU, Greek Council for Refugees

Duration of implementation: 1/7/2025–30/6/2027

The EQUAL project is a transnational initiative aimed at addressing the challenges faced by marginalized communities, such as refugees and migrants, Roma people, and persons with disabilities, in accessing justice. The project seeks to identify these shared challenges, empower communities to advocate for their rights, and strengthen joint action among human rights lawyers. At the same time, it aims to ensure that legal tools, such as the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union, are applied equally to all marginalized groups.

Throughout the two-year duration of the program, targeted empowerment activities for marginalized groups are being implemented and planned. More specifically, focused discussions are organized between civil society professionals and the communities themselves, with the aim of documenting the barriers they face in accessing legal procedures and rights. In addition, the program develops legal aid support teams and establishes Legal Clinics. Finally, the project concludes with advocacy actions aimed at promoting an intersectional and community-led strategy for the use of litigation.

WING: EmpoWERING Actors in Civic Space Protection

Funding: European Union (CERV-2024-CHAR-LITI-CIVIC)

Partners: Fondazione Iniziative e studio sulla multietnicita ente del terzo settore (Coordinator), Platform for International Cooperation on Undocumented Migrants ASBL, Oxfam Italia Onlus Associazione, Fundacja Ocalenie, Groupe d'Information et de Soutien aux Travailleurs Immigres, Magyar Helsinki Bizottsag, Youngminds SRL and Greek Council for Refugees

Duration of implementation: 1/6/2025–31/5/2027

The WING project is a transnational initiative addressing the increasing criminalization of solidarity with migrants in the EU. Its objective is to promote rights and values by empowering civil society actors to prevent and respond to the criminalization of solidarity with migrants and its consequences. This is achieved through the collection and monitoring of cases, the development of multi-actor and multi-dimensional solutions, national and transnational exchanges, dialogue among civil society stakeholders, and awareness-raising activities.

Over its two-year duration, the program includes various actions, such as the creation of an online database containing at least 200 cases and experiences of organizations and individuals who have been criminalized.

Furthermore, a methodological note is being developed that will combine different methodologies for monitoring criminalization, which will be used for training civil society organizations (CSOs). The project also includes the engagement of CSOs in the development of multi-actor and multi-dimensional solutions to address and prevent criminalization, which will be reflected in informational infographics.

At the same time, a mapping of CSOs is being carried out, and opportunities are being created for discussion of solutions through national and transnational workshops and other events. Finally, a Policy Brief with recommendations for strengthening CSOs is foreseen, as well as the implementation of a broad awareness-raising campaign targeting 5,000 actors across the EU on the scale and impact of criminalization, combined with an information campaign to disseminate solutions.

EU Funds for Fundamental Rights- FURI

Funding: European Union (EACEA, CERV-2023-CHAR-LITI CHARTER)

Partners: Greek Council for Refugees (Coordinator), Bridge EU, Awen Amencia, European Network on Independent Living, Stowarzyszenie Instytut Niezaleznego Zycia, Nezavisima Ekspertna Mrezha Nie Sdruzhenie, Policy Center for Roma and Minorities, Validity Alapitvany, Partners Hungary Alapitvany

Duration of implementation: 1/1/2024-28/2/2026

The FURI project aims to ensure that European funds are used in full compliance with the fundamental rights of vulnerable groups, such as Roma communities, persons with disabilities, and refugees/migrants. Through cooperation with civil society organizations,

public authorities, and the media, the project strengthens the prevention of and response to rights violations, in alignment with the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights.

The main activities include capacity-building workshops, advocacy actions, and the development and use of legal tools (strategic litigation, complaints, policy proposals). The project contributes to improving beneficiaries' access to quality services and strengthening their social inclusion.

In April 2025, the GCR published the report "Fundamental Rights and European Funding", examining the compliance of co-financed projects with the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights and the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. The research analyzed 28 programmes with a total budget of €828 million and highlighted critical issues regarding Greece's compliance with relevant obligations.

Particular emphasis is placed on: the use of EU-funded equipment in incidents of pushbacks, as also documented by the Fundamental Rights Office of Frontex; systematic violations in asylum procedures, reception conditions, and administrative detention; and segregation practices, particularly in relation to persons with disabilities and Roma communities.

Overall, the report highlights significant gaps in oversight and accountability, with the risk that European funds may contribute—directly or indirectly—to the perpetuation of discrimination and systemic rights violations.

More information about the project is available on the official website <https://furi.gcr.gr/>.

Climate Migration II

Funding: European Climate Foundation

Partners: WWF Greece

Duration of implementation: 1/1/2025–
28/2/2026

The first phase of the project, as presented in the report “CLIMATE REFUGEES: Addressing climate-induced massive migration before it happens” by the GCR and WWF Greece, highlighted the need to approach climate migration through a human rights-based lens. Rather than focusing on numerical projections, the emphasis was placed on protecting the dignity and rights of displaced persons. The Eastern Mediterranean is already experiencing severe impacts of the climate crisis, underscoring the need for immediate policy responses.

The second phase of the project incorporates the experiences of refugees themselves. Our research shows that climate migrants are not a future scenario; on the contrary, many have already arrived in Europe in search of safer and more sustainable living conditions. By linking personal testimonies with verifiable climate events, this research highlights the need to recognise climate mobility as an existing reality and as a multidimensional issue—one that requires rethinking conventional categories of forced migration and protection, as well as prioritising climate action in the Global South. The research has recently been published in the international peer-reviewed journal *Ocean and Society*.

Advocacy



In 2025, the GCR continued to strengthen its advocacy strategy through targeted interventions, publications, and actions at both national and international level, maintaining its focus on four key pillars: [access to territory](#), [access to asylum](#), [the improvement of reception conditions](#), and [the protection of children's rights](#).

In March 2025, the GCR participated in a European civil society initiative opposing the new proposal of the European Commission for a Returns Regulation, which was presented during the same period. The organizations strongly criticized the proposal, highlighting that it prioritizes detention, deportation, externalization, and surveillance over protection, inclusion, and rights safeguards. Particular concern was expressed regarding the possibility of deportations to third countries with which the individual has no meaningful connection, the expansion of administrative detention, including of children and other vulnerable persons, the restriction of procedural safeguards, and the strengthening of digital surveillance.

Through this intervention, the GCR contributed to the joint call addressed to EU institutions for the withdrawal or rejection of the proposal in its current form.

At the same time, as a member of the Child Rights Advocacy Network (CRAN), the GCR co-signed a joint press release and publicly intervened regarding the new draft law of the Ministry of Migration and Asylum concerning return procedures. The organizations expressed serious concern about the impact of the draft law on children, stressing that any reform must primarily safeguard their rights, regardless of nationality or legal status.

In particular, issues highlighted included the possibility of detaining minors without adequate safeguards, the insufficient provisions for hearing the child, as well as restrictions on access to education.

Within the framework of the public consultation, the organizations submitted evidence-based proposals calling for the amendment of the relevant provisions in line with national, European, and international law.





Furthermore, on 11 September 2025, the GCR participated in a joint complaint submitted by civil society organizations before the European Commission, calling for the immediate initiation of legal proceedings against the three-month suspension of the right to asylum and the summary deportations of people arriving in Greece by sea from North Africa. The intervention highlighted that the measure violates fundamental principles of EU law, including the right to asylum and the principle of non-refoulement, while also underlining the lack of free legal assistance for individuals detained for the purpose of removal.

In 2025, the GCR also participated in the election process for the Monitoring Committee of the Migration and Home Affairs Funds Programmes (MIAF), which is responsible for overseeing compliance with fundamental rights in co-funded programmes. A representative of the GCR was elected as a member of the Committee for a one-year term, strengthening the organization's contribution to monitoring the implementation of relevant European policies.

Finally, in November 2025, the GCR, together with other civil society organizations, sent a joint letter to the Belgian authority CGRS, pointing out serious inaccuracies in a report used to substantiate refugee returns to Greece. In December 2025, the Belgian authorities withdrew the report for reassessment, acknowledging the contribution of the organizations to restoring the accuracy of the information. This development highlighted the importance of evidence-based advocacy and meaningful dialogue between public authorities and civil society in ensuring legality and the protection of rights.

Financial Information



Financial Information

The audit of the Balance Sheet and Financial Statements was completed on 23/03/2026 and was conducted by the certified public accountants firm SOL CROWE S.A.. The financial statements were approved by the Board of Directors on the same date, 23/03/2026, and were ratified by the General Assembly of the Association on 28/04/2026.

Funders / Programmes / Other sources	
International Organization for Migration	305.000,66
United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees	697.043,28
Sigrid Rausing Trust	185.648,88
EU Commission Co-Funded Projects	293905,44
Save the children	57.728,85
OSF	77.800,86
UN Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture	61.448,29
Oxfam	24.556,68
Dutch Council for Refugees	19.219,57
Private Donation	28.261,89
Dla Piper	16.357,13
National Lottery	2.000,00
Alta Mane	47.456,00
European Climate Foundation	62.442,59
Roza Luxemburg Foundation	3.283,09
Hellenic Parliament	7.500,00
Region of Attica	37.000,00
Other contributions	25.295,69
Membership dues	1.050,00
Extraordinary Income – Overheads	88.314,91
Total	2.041.313,81 €

Acknowledgements

The GCR warmly thanks all its supporters, charitable organizations, companies, and private individuals who contributed in a meaningful way to the implementation of actions aimed at the protection of and provision of essential services to refugees and asylum seekers throughout Greece.

We would like to extend our sincere thanks to:

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- The students of the Hellenic Society College of Europe for their valuable donation.
- Ms. Polyxeni Passia for sponsoring a scholarship for a young refugee in support of his studies, covering basic living expenses as well as academic materials.

- Global Brigades for its valuable support to the actions of the GCR.
- Ms. Amy McDonald for her valuable donation.
- Ms. Simona Segando for her donation in support of the GCR.
- Mr. Georgios Douvas for his generous donation.
- The audit of the Balance Sheet and Financial Statements was completed on 18/03/2025 and was conducted by the certified public accountants firm SOL. The financial statements were approved by the Board of Directors on 21/03/2025 and by the General Assembly of the Association on 29/04/2025.

We would also like to thank our members and donors for their trust and tangible support.

A special thank you is also addressed to our volunteers, who support our work with enthusiasm and consistency.

Finally, we thank all GCR employees who, with dedication and professionalism, stand by the side of the beneficiaries.



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