



Annual Report

2021

Lesvos solidarity

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Foreword from our Board

2021 has been a year of deep transformation for Lesvos Solidarity. Following our eviction from Pikpa camp, we have designed new projects, as well as new ways of working together. This process has lead us to reconsider our entire structure, but also to confirm once more our mission and vision and focus on creating projects that would trigger political changes in Greece and in Europe and offer relief, dignity and agency to all vulnerable individuals in Lesvos.

At the same we had to continuously adapt to the context in which we work, due to the COVID-19 pandemic and consequent regulations, as well as the regular policy changes for the registration of NGOs, and in regards to the rights of asylum seekers and migrants at sea, in the camp and as members of society.

We feared that the loss of Pikpa would have a deep impact on our identity as a group and as a political actor, but so many supporters of ours were still faithfully with us, a lot of new colleagues joined our team and brought new energy and inspiration to the group, we had the need and the opportunity to push our creativity to build new projects and once more show other ways to answer to the many political challenges of the island.

We start 2022 with strong limitations from the authorities to operate, but with a renewed desire to break those ties and fulfill our mission: Bring an end to pushbacks and closed camps, build networks and spaces for welcoming migrants and individuals facing discrimination, support the public and social institutions and especially public health services, bring back democratic participation and the principles of mutual respect and solidarity.



E. Latsoudi,
Q. Brzustowski

Context: Pushbacks and the “trap to deter” policy



2021 saw the implementation of the EU's New Pact on Migration, which, despite bringing together policies in the areas of asylum, migration, integration and border management, as well as the EU's relationship with third countries, has generated additional challenges for those seeking refuge in Greece and the EU. The pact was accompanied by the Greek ministry's declaration that Turkey is a safe third country for asylum seekers from Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Pakistan and Somalia, leading to fast-track asylum procedures that fails to address individual protection needs, and leads many into a state of legal limbo as returns to Turkey remain completely frozen since the beginning of the pandemic.

Since March 2020 and throughout 2021, Greece was systematically pushing migrants back from the country's land and sea borders. This practice has been thoroughly documented by journalists and human rights observers, but the Greek authorities continue to deny their engagement in such practices and reject any measures to monitor the activities of the coast guards. Due to these pushbacks, new arrivals decreased substantially and the number of asylum seekers in the Greek Islands fell to less than 5,400.

Those who did manage to cross and claim asylum face increasingly restricted movement in camps and reception centres: The new EU-funded, closed, controlled Reception and Identification Center in Samos opened this year and has already been denounced for illegally detaining around 450 asylum seekers for over two weeks. At the same time, in the Mavrovouni RIC of Lesvos, arbitrary restrictions of movement were enforced on the basis of Covid-19 prevention, with most camp residents only allowed to exit the camp for a few hours per week, and some even receiving fines of up to 300€ for attending to their basic needs or educational activities outside the camp.

In the summer, the cash assistance program was handed over from UNHCR to the Greek Authorities, which failed to implement it, leaving thousands unable to cover basic needs. Subsequently, this gap shed light onto the absence of food distribution in certain facilities and led to a huge hunger crisis. Eventually, the Ministry of Migration re-assigned the provision of cash to an NGO, which proceeded to distribute cash cards. However, by the end of the year the program had still not fully resumed.

LeSol continues to be very active in trying to bring justice and accountability, whilst showing positive alternatives. In 2021 we joined many advocacy efforts and developed collaborations with Disinfox Collective and the Racist Violence Recording Network. We also participated in panels and meetings with national and EU government officials and organized meetings in Mosaik with the antifascist initiative Simeio. We investigated and made public the EU's plan to construct a new closed reception facility, next to the waste landfill of Lesvos.

Meanwhile, pressure on civil society actors continues to mount. Requirements for the registration of NGOs are hard to satisfy and organisations are being rejected because of their political activity. The authorities enforce the criminalization of solidarity movements and the message is clear: whoever gets in their way will be prosecuted. 2021 saw the start of the trials of human rights activists from the organisation ERCI who are accused of facilitating the illegal entry of migrants to Lesvos. Other trials included those of the protesters who occupied Sapphos square in 2018, as well as the six people accused of burning down Moria camp in 2020.

It is shameful and troubling that even as we celebrated the 70th anniversary of the Geneva Convention, Greece and the EU continue to demonstrate such disregard for the values and fundamental principles of international human rights law including non-refoulement, the right to safety, and the right to education.



Housing & MHPSS

Lesvos Solidarity is still committed to its first mission: providing dignified shelter and solidarity spaces. The eviction of Pikpa and disastrous conditions in the new camp once again highlighted the continued need for dignified housing alternatives and we began opening spaces for vulnerable individuals in the center of Mytilini. Based on our previous experience, the needs of people can only be addressed in a holistic way, including shelter, access to food, hygiene items, medical and social support, access to education and employment. We have also been building partnerships with protection actors on the island to spread our model. Beyond the direct support we offer hosted families we host, this project offers an alternative of good practices and strives to inspire other groups and governments to adopt similar models, instead of the current closed-camp policy. We can show the positive impact of such support on well-being and integration, but there should be no need to justify the basic right of dignified shelter.

We have already witnessed two winters and terrible conditions in the camp of Mavrovouni, and will continue to say: **a roof is a right, and accomodation that is both dignified and safe should be the standard not a luxury.**



Housing

This year, our housing project has mainly focused on supporting pregnant women and single women with young children, who are at high risk due to both poor access to camp hygiene facilities in the camp, and their need for dedicated medical support.

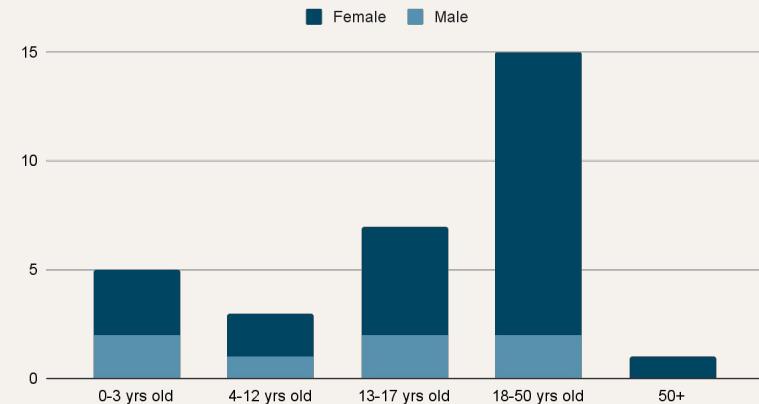
31 individuals, including 15 children, have lived in one of Lesvos Solidarity's apartments in 2021.

The residents were from Afghanistan, Syria, Congo, Mali, Malawi, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Angola and Iran

6 apartments are now rented and furnished, and can host around 27 residents.



Gender and age groups



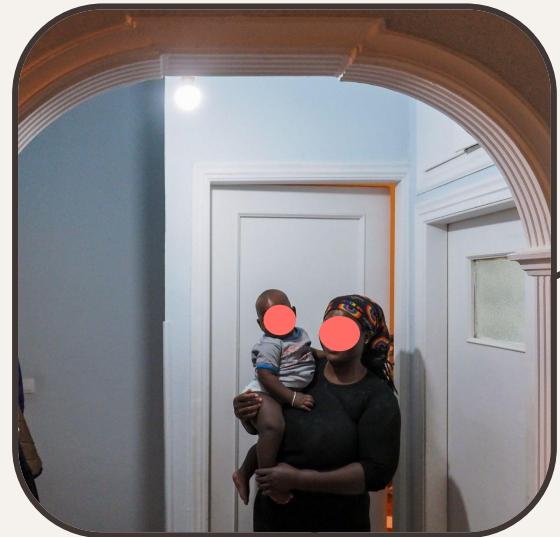
Due to the context on the island, it is not easy to find affordable apartments with landlords who are willing to host refugees. All residents have their names on the contracts so they can use this address for bureaucratic needs and travel document registrations. Without an address, these processes present huge challenges, even for those who have long-since received a positive decision.

Medical, Mental Health & Psychosocial Support

To ensure holistic support, the housing program is combined with the Medical, Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) team. Whilst we cannot completely replicate the community-based PIKPA model, our approach remains the same and we still believe in addressing and understanding everyone we work with individuals, with complex and intersectional needs. By combining housing with medical and MHPSS, we offer all residents integrated support, which starts with shelter and safety, the provision of food and medical assistance, and later includes access to education and integration opportunities.

The team comprises: one Nurse, one Social Worker, one Interpreter, one Receptionist, one Psychologist and one Coordinator. Additionally, we support vulnerable individuals who are not part of our housing program. We regularly receive referrals to support both locals and refugees, especially for medical needs that they cannot access.

In 2021, we provided medical services for **52** individuals, with over **160** interventions, including examinations, blood tests and COVID19 tests, **47** appointments for public and private doctors, **26** treatment follow ups. We also facilitated the transportation of a local person to receive treatment in Athens. We organised relevant trainings on first aid, sex education as well as several empowerment and life-skills.



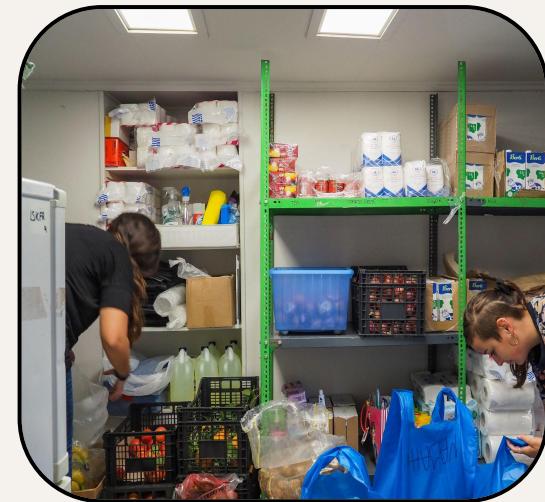
Food Distribution

Increasingly harsh laws and policies targeting displaced communities mean both applicants with multiple rejections and those already granted asylum are cut off from any state support and therefore find themselves with no financial resources. Currently, this devastating situation even affects asylum seekers who would normally be eligible to receive cash assistance, due to the failed transfer of the management of this program from UNHCR to the Greek Government in September 2021.

The need for basic ingredients as an alternative to camp-provided meals is therefore huge. By choosing preparing their own food people are able to claim back agency and dignity, too-often stolen by the asylum system.

The demand for dignified food distribution has also grown amongst the local population where many people already suffering from economic hardship, have seen their situation worsened by the pandemic.

From small ad-hoc distributions at the beginning of 2021, providing support to those who had been evicted from Pikpa, we have developed a much bigger project providing food boxes, clothes and hygiene products to over 70 locals and refugees, together with medical and social screening. The screening allows us to address the root causes of each individual situation, and provide food boxes adapted to each individual dietary needs.



Food Distribution



119 Individuals have benefitted from the food program so far,

including **22 men, 43 women**
and

54 children



In total, **2340 food boxes** were distributed in 2021, as well as **1500 blankets**. Facing currently increasing needs in 2022, we aim to distribute up to 200 boxes per week, with 30% going to local greek families.



Progress

We made a lot of progress in 2021, setting up a new Medical, MHPSS and Housing program, and adapting good practices and the Lesvos Solidarity approach to this new context.

We have rented and set up six houses so far, and successfully helped 12 people pass through and move on from the housing program.

Our food distribution program has continued to develop and respond to the evolving needs of the island. The number of beneficiaries has grown as well as the extent of the support offered.



Challenges

It has been difficult to find landlords willing to rent apartments to refugees. Additionally, as it is necessary for all residents to have their names on the contracts, this has sometimes required substantial bureaucracy, time and cross-cutting efforts from different team members.

Unlike Pikpa, which was self-contained, the houses are isolated meaning that guaranteeing the same level of protection can be challenging.

The population on the island also evolved in 2021, as did the various services available to refugees, the ability to obtain residents permits and transfers to the mainland.



Ambitions

We aim to further develop our Food Distribution program to 200 people of which we anticipate 30% will be local families. We want to develop a full medical screening as part of our referral process for food.

We hope to open more apartments this year and obtain the possibility of a more open and official referral process for accommodation of asylum seekers.



Mosaik Support Center



MOSAIK began in 2016 with the aim of offering refugees and migrants constructive meaning to an otherwise harrowing and seemingly arbitrary experience of waiting, attrition and discouragement. By learning a language or a craft, producing art or joining creative projects, or simply by sharing a space that is safe and supportive, refugees and migrants could regain some semblance of normality, empowerment and often, fun while often being stuck on the island of Lesvos. Additionally, we aimed to create a space that would welcome the local community, and help connect both populations through activities and learning.

Our activities in Mosaik have been heavily impacted by the pandemic. After a long lockdown with only online classes and activities, our Support Center could finally open again in May 2021 and once more started hosting classes, workshops and events. We restricted the number of students per class for safety but increased the opening hours to be able to reach more people.



Education

In 2021, we had **351** registrations for classes.

Our education program included:

Greek

From beginner to intermediate: we had **87** students this year

English

3 levels: beginner, intermediate and advanced. **147** students attended this year

IT

From beginner to advanced, the class offers skills on using computers and information technology. In total **59** students attended the classes. We also have computer lab hours where people can come and use laptops for whatever need they might have.

Arabic

We restarted our Arabic lessons in Mosaik after the Summer. So far **31** students have enrolled.



Visual storytelling as resistance

The workshops aim at providing skills and knowledge on audiovisual media and building a personal narrative. It is an initiative that aims to empower individuals to share their stories by using their own perspective and language, rather than letting others speak for them.



Migrimage

For the past 2 years already, we have worked in collaboration with the university of Aegean, the university of Granada and the university Del Salento, and local partner organisations to develop a masters' program to train people to work with migrant populations. The project also includes the creation of a web platform where migrants can upload their own material. This platform is taking the shape of web documentary, raising awareness on migration routes towards Europe. LeSol works as well on designing a training on how to create such material and upload it on the platform.

Education outreach

Our Education Outreach Focal Point, with colleagues from Humade and our MHPSS team have developed a series of sessions for primary schools. The sessions focus on the development of personal and social skills through games, art and upcycling, and were also shared with teachers, aiming to enrich their methods and learn tools for the psychological empowerment of their students. The sessions can be conducted online and were piloted twice with a group of 10 teachers and with a group 21 students, with very positive feedback. We have applied to the Ministry to get permissions to run the sessions in schools, and are still waiting for an answer.



Overcoming Barriers: Trainings sessions and workshops for refugee integration

During the first months of 2021, whilst in lockdown, we created a series of 11 online seminars, each tackling a different issue related to refugee support including mental health, self-care, communication and intercultural prejudice. The topics were chosen with the goal of helping participants better understand how they can position themselves to support refugee integration. We had 367 registered participants for these Faces of Migration sessions, with more than 80 during our webinar entitled “The dimension of sexual orientation and gender identity in migration”



Employment and integration



Our experience has shown that one of the best ways to give back agency, independence and hope for future prospects is by support individuals gain access to employment. LeSol has been active in this field since our inception, but we still see huge gaps in meaningful support for bureaucratic procedures and education on labor rights in Greece. We therefore expanded our work in this area in 2021 with the newly created role of Employment and Integration Coach offering sessions to refugees and asylum seekers who wish to find a job. 55 people have already attended the employment classes and 21 the life skills class. We have started creating a pool of candidates as well as a network of employers who are looking for staff.



Progress

Our main success of the year was being able to re-open Mosaik in a way that is safe for all. We have re-organised the space and the schedules as well as reducing the number of attendees per class and offering on-site Covid tests.

We extended the opening hours of Mosaik and the workshops, created new classes and welcoming new teachers.

Our series of webinars for Faces of Migration was a great success and very well received. Initially planned as live sessions in Mosaik, we hope to have the opportunity to organise more such events, this time hosted in Mosaik.



Challenges

We had huge difficulties this year to reach our students. During the lockdown, we provided SIM cards so they could join classes remotely, but camp conditions meant participation was a continual challenge. The restrictions of movement for camp residents have been constantly changing, sometimes in completely arbitrary ways. At one point, students needed a signed document from us to allow them to exit the camp, and we were later asked to provide a weekly list of attendees to the camp's management.



Ambitions

Having finally reopened, we are more determined than ever to increase Mosaik's capacity and fulfil its mission as a connecting point for interaction of local society and refugees.

We hope to be able to organise more community events in Mosaik, reinforce our capacity for activities in the evening, and bring back local residents in the space.

Due to the changes in the situations of asylum seekers and refugees on the island, we want to refocus on classes that are adapted for short term stay.



Safe Passage Bags



Created in 2015, the Safe Passage Bags workshop is an educational and integration project, offering vocational training and employment opportunities to refugees and locals living on the island.

Our team creates bags by upcycling migration-related trash. Life jackets, dinghy boats, tents and old clothes carry the stories of refugees who have passed through, forced to undertake the treacherous journey from Turkey to the camps in Lesvos by unfair and dangerous EU border policies.

This discarded material also exemplifies the heavy environmental impact on the island in the last few years.

We collect this trash, cut pieces and sew bags that turn this story into one of hope, of empowerment and symbolize the beginning of a new life. The workshop has become an important provider of training and employment opportunities, which supports asylum seekers and refugees financially as well as helping them reclaim their agency and independence. Selling the bags also brings income that helps sustain our activities on the island.

Recycling

Our teams collects trash to be reused in our bags. This year, to produce our unique items, we have reused :

135 life Jackets **170.4 kg** of old fabric **284.4 kg** of dinghy
boats **15.2 kg** of GRC Tents **5.1 kg** of fabric from small tents



Employment & Trainings

Safe Passage is offering training and job opportunities to refugees in Lesvos.

This year, **14 men and women were employed** thanks to the sales of our bags

Production

The 2021 production figures for each item. Materials are first cleaned and cut into patterns, before being sewn together by our tailors.

Item	Cutting	Sewing
Wallet	1253	1554
Small pencil case	795	676
Pencil case	643	539
Traveller	110	110
Shopping bag	146	145
Moon	100	110
Notebook	92	65
Notebook medium	67	66
Backpack	160	174
Vanity bag	300	273
Necessaire	345	388
Hip bag	441	441
Tote bag	70	60
Backpack dinghy	166	161
Bowl small	0	276
Bowl medium	0	36
Bowl big	0	93
Coasters (pack)	0	127
Keyholders	0	365
Shopper	72	77
Postie	68	64
Weekender	40	45
TOTAL	4868	5845

New products

The type of trash available on Lesvos island continues to evolve. Due to the ever-common and illegal phenomenon of “push backs” employed by the Greek Coast Guard, there are far fewer arrivals than in previous years, with even fewer life jackets and boats.

At the same time, tent material is increasingly discarded as camps change and organisations leave the island. For many, the time in Lesvos’ camps constitutes the most distressing and traumatic part of their journey and the Safe Passage Bags team of cutters and tailors were determined to transform this type of trash into something positive.

Therefore whilst some of the oldest models, made mainly of lifejackets, are no longer available, our three new items developed in 2021, highlight the continued relevance and importance of this project.

We are also offering tailored products for large orders and events. This year, we designed keychains for the Swiss Refugee Council, and special signature bags for “The Greens” EFA in the EU Parliament.





Progress

In our search to provide job opportunities for displaced people, reuse waste material, and find innovative ways of tackling climate change we have created new bags made of discarded tents. Customer feedback of the products has already been incredibly positive. We have installed a new industrial sewing machine to work with dinghy material, further expanding our design possibilities.

Sales have increased since last year as have orders from shops outside Greece, aided by our improved purchasing procedures.

We also introduced a new role of Tailor Trainer, who now trains team members who don't have previous sewing experience.



Challenges

2021 saw many legal and policy changes with wide-reaching implications for Lesvos' displaced community. This included new regulations for the employment of asylum seekers and new schemes for transfers. For our workshop, this meant recruitment has become increasingly challenging as it's virtually impossible to employ those who are still in the asylum procedure. The number of recognized refugees willing or indeed able to stay on the island has also diminished as people try to establish themselves in areas with existing networks and increased job security.



Ambitions

Further increase the amount of upcycled material in each item we make, and reach a minimum of 50% upcycled material in each bag, with some bags reaching 100%.

We created 3 new items using tent fabric this year, and want to develop this range of products with a new Backpack.

With our Tailor Trainer position already proving beneficial, we want to open one or two "learner" positions for people with limited sewing experience who would like to be trained.

Increase the network of shops selling our products



Humade Crafts Workshop

Our workshops combine artistic creation, education and vocational training to foster social inclusion and dialogue around critical issues. We explore innovative ways to learn, grow and develop creativity by re-using trash, often seen as useless. By offering a welcome space where this material can be crafted into something useful or a beautiful work of art, we simultaneously create opportunities to share, learn and discuss important topics such as environmental protection, human rights, forced displacement and gender norms.

Humade workshops take place daily indoors and in the garden of Mosaik Support Center. It is an open and safe space where anyone with a creative idea or need can come and find materials and develop skills within a nurturing environment.

We also regularly go to schools and villages all around Lesvos island to lead activities, share ideas, create murals and mosaics. In 2021, due to the pandemic, we also became increasingly active online and created videos to show some easy upcycling crafts to do at home.



Humade Crafts Workshop : Some highlights

People carrying their home(s) is a participatory weaving project, which further develops what began as a mural in Pikpa. Visitors of our workshop and regular participants are invited to add strips of fabric onto a canvas representing displaced individuals, carrying their homes. Participants are then asked to write down their answer to the question: "if you could take only one item, what would it be?". Since May, we had over 150 people adding their piece to the canvas, and have had some very deep discussions about what "home" means.



"My Name Is Not A Doll" is a short film made as part of International Women's Day by seven women in a Humade workshop. The protagonist is constructed entirely from old bras, and animated in stop-motion. The film raises awareness of gender inequalities and sexism and was awarded one of 3 winner prizes by Raise your Voice Festival.



To coincide with the launch of an online exhibition about the village of Sykamnia, which LeSol created in collaboration with the university of Aegean, we also set up a physical space in the village itself, for people to access the exhibit. The Humade team organised workshops with locals and created a collaborative mosaic mural, representing a mermaid, inspired by Stratis Mirivilis' book "Panagia Gorgona".

Humade Crafts Workshop : Outreach

One of Humade's objectives is to connect with individuals in Lesvos and beyond to share knowledge, experience and LeSol's work whilst engaging in artistic activity. We do this through various outreach programmes with different groups.

In 2021 we developed and expanded these activities, running creative upcycling workshops and making mosaics in collaboration with schools and associations in Mytilini, Agia Paraskevi, Kalloni, Sykamnia and Vatousa.

We also organised upcycling workshops outside the island in Fournoi, Ikaria and Athens.



In 2021 our Humade team participated in Raise your Voice Festival (online), Handmade and Recycled Theater Festival (Fabrica Athens), "Wind, Vine and Wine" festival of the "Kampos" association (Anemotia), Lesvos Plastic Free anniversary, and the Play Perform Learn Grow conference, with whom we have a long-standing collaboration.





Progress

We expanded our practices this year both conceptually and geographically. We developed online resources and workshops to adapt to Covid-19 restrictions, and shared videos on upcycling and crafts, launched an web exhibition, and participated in online events. We also strengthened our social media presence. Our items exchange initiative "To Thelis?" ("do you want it?") aims at minimising waste, has reached 850 members and is very active. We organise activities in schools and villages, and created murals in Sykamnia, Milies, Mytilini and Agia Paraskevi.

Challenges

The Covid-19 pandemic and restrictions made it difficult for us to organise activities, especially at the beginning of the year. Our online alternatives, whilst well-received and successful, can never be as engaging as a live activity. Humade's space is already small and the need to limit participants to ensure social distancing further impacted workshop attendance. Additionally, although the team and activities have grown this year, the sheer amount of trash on the island that cannot be recycled or reused, presents a constant challenge.

Ambitions

In the coming year, we aim to further develop and spread our current projects "People Carrying Their Homes" and "Creative Learning". We want to create new family activities and workshops for children and their parents together.

We are also hoping to collaborate with the University of the Aegean and the Recycling Factory of Lesvos to raise awareness around environmental issues and eventually create a guided tour in Mytilini with 17 "sustainable development goals" stops.



Aeschylus Project



We have worked hard this year to find new dignified housing opportunities for vulnerable refugees in Mytilini. It has been difficult to find appropriate spaces, as well as owners and landlords who are willing to let these spaces for the accommodation of refugees at a reasonable price.

The Aeschylus project combines the set-up of a new shelter with integration through vocational training, education, and the creation of job opportunities for both locals and refugees. The project saw two local construction professionals together with three asylum seekers and refugees employed for four months to repair and renovate an old residential building. The participants received training from the experienced workers at every step of the renovation, whilst also attending language, computer and employability support classes in Mosaik.

The house, which would have otherwise remained abandoned, is now fully renovated and accommodating vulnerable refugees. The property is now rented very cheaply by LeSol and forms part of the housing programme. It is a 112 m² house with 2 floors: 3 bedrooms, a bathroom, a kitchen and a dining room, lots of storage space and a beautiful backyard with an extra toilet.



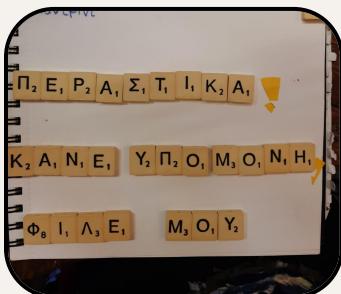
Aeschylus Project

On the construction site, the participants received training on:

- Safety instructions and the use of various tools
- Surface clearing, fixing and painting
- Installation of wooden elements, door and window frames
- New wall construction
- Installation of insulation
- Electrical installation
- Installation of plumbing and a new heating system



Participant courses in Mosaik included:



- Four hours per week of Greek language and two hours per week of computer class
- Three hours per week of employment coaching, with a focus on:
 - Labor rights in Greece
 - How to navigate public services
 - Excursions to local services (e.g. tax and social security department) to build confidence and knowledge of how to access the system independently
 - Applying for work: job hunting and useful web resources, producing quality CVs and motivation letters.

Additionally, courses included information on Greek history and society, and travelling rights of refugees in the EU. The team went on excursions to the Sigri Museum and the castle of Mytilene. On December 16th, we had an opening party and the building was handed over to our Housing team.



Progress

Participants successfully renovated the house within the established deadlines and budget.

The project fostered a really positive and supportive dynamic between locals and participants.

Project participants enjoyed the possibility of earning an income whilst studying and became increasingly able to work independently as the project progressed.

THE
AESCHYLUS
PROJECT



Challenges

Although, thanks to successful planning, we finished the renovation on time, the timeline was heavily disrupted by the delay of licences from the Urban Planning Authorities for the work outdoors.

New rules for the employment of asylum seekers were implemented when the project had already started meaning that two participants lost their right to work and their contracts had to end prematurely. We kept them involved in the educational activities and continued to support their cases.

The kitchen was donated to us but was delivered late. Although we could set up a temporary kitchen in the meantime, it was another challenge to the project.

Ambitions

This pilot project was a real success in combining several parts of our mission. Our ambition is to reproduce such projects on a bigger scale and to share our experience with others to inspire new possibilities for training, employment and integration, whilst opening new spaces for social housing.

Our advocacy efforts are directed at reversing harsh regulations on employment to be able to include asylum seekers again in such programs and work with them on starting a new life in Europe.

Our support to local society: Public Health Services

As a grass-roots organisation, we have always maintained a focus on what is happening to locals on the island and we use our resources, network and knowledge to support vulnerable individuals within the local community.



In addition to five years of local political crisis, Lesvos' residents continue to suffer from the fallout of decisions at national and EU-level. All of this has been further compounded by the global pandemic, which has put further strain on an already over-stretched public health system.

This year, we have continued to support the local hospital and health services with the donation of three ISOBox containers, which have since been used for COVID-19 testing.

We donated equipment responding to the needs of the local health centers in Mytilini, Plomari, Kalloni and Polichnitos: six wheelchairs, two breast pumps, a fetal cardiotocography machine (CTG), thousands of masks, hundreds of gloves, 100 new uniforms, six stethoscopes, 30 oximeters, 40 pairs of crutches, 450 blankets, a defibrillator, a surgical aspirator and 100 COVID-19 test kits.

We also reached out to the elderly care unit and brought them 3 wheelchairs, 500 masks, 500 diapers and 120 blankets.

Our support to local society

In addition to supporting public health services, our targeted interventions provided local families in need with wheelchairs, air conditioning units and food boxes. In one case demanding specialist attention, we reached out to our network and organised surgery for a woman who was about to lose her sight.

At community level, we developed an online exhibition in cooperation with the University of Aegean about the history of Sykamnia village in the north of Lesvos. We also renovated a space there and equipped it with a projector and sound system, as a first step towards a physical museum

LeSol continues its commitment to protecting and preserving the beautiful environment and nature of Lesvos island. In 2021, Safe Passage Bags team collected 165 kg of old clothes, 97 lifejackets, 17 dinghy boats and 180 broken tents.

We want to lead by example in our approach to Lesvos island's ever-evolving challenges and ensure the local population is not ignored or overlooked when responding to crises. Failing to meaningfully include locals, a repeated mistake of many over the last years, has given grounds to defiance against all NGOs operating with refugees and fueled a discourse of hatred against any solidarity with refugees. This is a narrative we are determined to change.

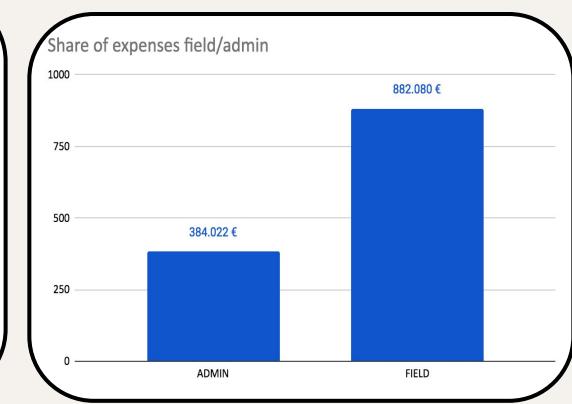
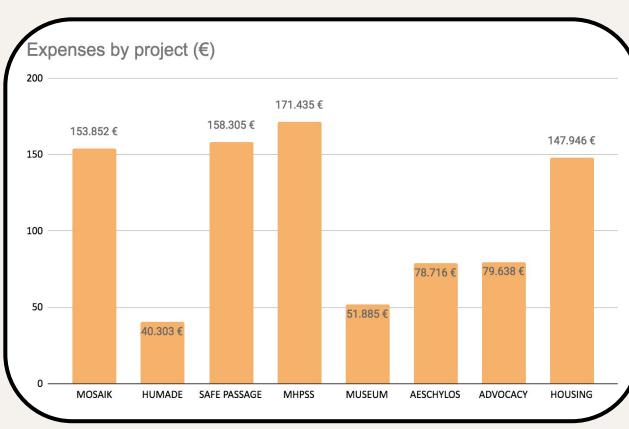
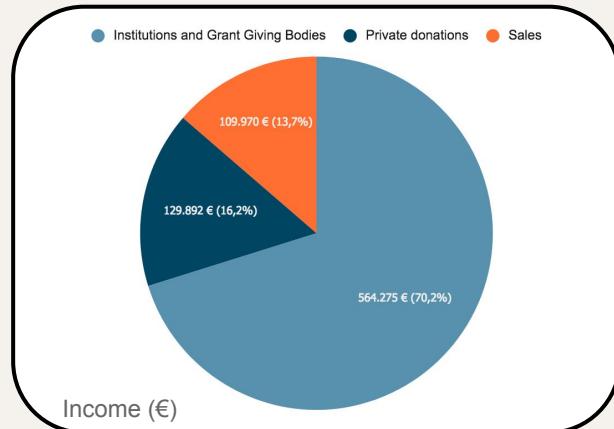


Finances

The following charts provide an estimation* of our overall income and expenses for 2021.

We received over 1300 donations from 445 different donors, which made our many projects possible and contributed to the employment of 81 individuals including 25 refugees and 41 Greeks. Overall, salaries (both field and admin) made up more than 64% of our expenses.

Our administration costs increased significantly in 2021 due to numerous new and burdensome Ministry of Migration requirements for the registration of NGOs. The admin expenses displayed therefore include salaries, IKA contributions and taxes (incl. donation tax), costs associated with ISO9001 and financial audits. However costly, it has given us the opportunity to welcome new experienced colleagues who have done incredible work formalizing our operational procedures.



THANK YOU

Our work wouldn't be possible without the support from our amazing community and partners:

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Dignified Shelter

Integration



Employment

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