



Annual Report 2025

General Secretariat for Vulnerable
Persons & Institutional Protection



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



Co-funded by
the European Union





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Greetings from the Minister of Migration and Asylum



The year 2025 marked the third year of operation of the General Secretariat for Vulnerable Persons and Institutional Protection, established in June 2023 within the Ministry of Migration and Asylum. This three-year course is now reflected in tangible results, demonstrating the clear political choice of the present Government to develop an effective and institutionally grounded system for the protection of unaccompanied minors, victims of human trafficking and other categories of vulnerable third-country nationals or stateless persons. This system is based on clear rules, operational tools and implementation mechanisms, within the framework of a modern executive State model characterised by strong central planning, a clear allocation of responsibilities and effective coordination among the competent authorities, capable of translating strategic planning into concrete and measurable outcomes.

The protection and support of vulnerable persons in the field of migration is not merely an obligation arising from the Union acquis; it is also a cornerstone of serious and effective migration management. Substantive and targeted intervention to persons demonstrably in situations of heightened vulnerability and in need of special protection, reduces the long-term social and fiscal costs of marginalisation and strengthens, where feasible, access to education and employment, with a view to gradual economic independence and smooth social integration, while preventing phenomena of exploitation and radicalisation.

At the same time, the State ensures - through institutionally prescribed and individualised assessment procedures - that protection status is granted exclusively to those who meet the lawful criteria, thereby preventing abusive claims of vulnerability. In this way, recognition and support for those entitled to international protection go hand in hand with the consistent application of the law and a clear distinction between lawful and unlawful presence.

This principle runs through the entirety of the country's migration policy: legal migration is governed by strict rules, while irregular entry does not confer any right of residence. Those who do not meet the conditions for international protection are, in accordance with the applicable legal framework, subject to return procedures, the implementation of which constitutes a cornerstone of the credibility of any serious migration policy, ensuring that the asylum system serves exclusively its intended purpose. At the same time, Greece plays a leading role in shaping a new European approach, with emphasis on the protection of external borders, deterrence and the effective implementation of the new Pact on Migration and Asylum, advocating a common European policy that combines tangible solidarity with a balanced sharing of responsibility and meaningful support for frontline Member States, which, like Greece, have consistently borne a disproportionate burden in managing migratory flows.

On this firm foundation, the safeguarding of national sovereignty and social stability, the unwavering respect for the rule of law and the effective management of migration flows coexist as non-negotiable pillars of a strict yet fair migration policy that reconciles order with justice. A policy that guarantees meaningful protection for the vulnerable and the immediate enforcement of the law against those who seek to circumvent lawful procedures.

Thanos Pleuris
Minister of Migration and Asylum

Greetings from the Deputy Minister of Migration and Asylum



This year's annual report reflects a period of continuity, structured action, and qualitative consolidation of the protection policies implemented by the General Secretariat for Vulnerable Persons and Institutional Protection. With a steady institutional orientation and a strong focus on effectiveness, interventions were designed and implemented to improve the system's day-to-day operation and strengthen its overall credibility.

Throughout the year, particular emphasis was placed on enhancing the quality of services provided, clarifying procedures, and ensuring the targeted and efficient use of available resources. This approach enabled a more meaningful response to beneficiaries' needs and laid solid foundations for policies with long-term impact.

Within this framework, education, vocational training and labour-market integration programmes were further strengthened,

recognising the central role of employment in fostering autonomy, social participation, and a sustainable outlook. Linking protection with skills development and access to work constituted a key pillar of this year's policy planning.

At the same time, procedures for identifying and assessing protection needs were further improved, including age-assessment processes. Through clearer and more reliable mechanisms, protection is provided in a targeted and fair manner to those who genuinely need it, enhancing the functionality, transparency, and credibility of the system.

The protection of unaccompanied minors and the support of vulnerable adults continued with consistency, while policies promoting inclusion and active participation in social life were further developed. Care, education, and employment are treated as interconnected components of a comprehensive protection policy.

This annual report captures a trajectory of steady progress and substantive strengthening of the system. With a clear focus on quality, credibility and measurable outcomes, we remain committed to policies that deliver meaningful support to vulnerable persons and generate broader benefits for society as a whole.

Sevi Voloudaki
Deputy Minister of Migration and Asylum

Foreword by the General Secretary for Vulnerable Persons and Institutional Protection



The protection of vulnerable persons constitutes a non-negotiable priority of the State and a fundamental pillar of our social policy. The year 2025 marked a period of substantial strengthening and institutional consolidation of the work of the General Secretariat for Vulnerable Persons and Institutional Protection. With consistency and a clear political orientation, we proceeded with the implementation of our strategic commitments, upgrading the quality of the services provided and consolidating a more coherent, effective and human-centered framework of protection for every vulnerable person.

At the core of our interventions remained the establishment of a holistic framework for the immediate response, protection and support of

unaccompanied minors, guided by the fundamental principle of safeguarding their best interests. Through the National Guardianship System for unaccompanied minors, more than 4,800 children received guardianship services in 2025. Regarding the accommodation framework, during this year we managed to process approximately 4,839 accommodation requests for unaccompanied minors, while ensuring appropriate living conditions and assessing the quality of services provided in accommodation facilities also constituted a key priority. Within the same framework, we further expanded the presence of specialised multidisciplinary child protection teams in Safe Areas and Safe Zones, contributing to the provision of protection, care and support tailored to the individualised needs of each minor, even at the country's first reception facilities.

Particular emphasis was placed on the meaningful social inclusion of unaccompanied minors, prioritising access to education, skills development, and liaising with the local community and the labor market, within the context of a smooth transition to adulthood. At the same time, the work of mentors contributed to their empowerment and inclusion. This approach reflects our firm position that protection must create a tangible pathway to integration for every minor.

The operation of the National Emergency Response Mechanism proved decisive for the immediate protection of unaccompanied minors living in homelessness or precarious conditions, ensuring their timely transfer and referral to appropriate care. In 2025 alone, 1,695 placements were carried out, substantially contributing to the prevention of child homelessness and risk exposure.

The actions of the General Secretariat were not limited to the protection of unaccompanied minors but were extended to the overall strengthening of the protection framework for all vulnerable persons, through targeted interventions and sustainable solutions, particularly for individuals with serious illnesses or disabilities. At the same time, a comprehensive and coherent network of actions was developed for the prevention and combatting of human trafficking and for the protection of victims of torture and other forms of violence, with the General Secretariat in a central coordinating role. The establishment of the Interdisciplinary Working Group on Counter Trafficking and the Protection of Victims of Trafficking of Human Beings was of pivotal importance to strengthening the country's institutional response in full alignment with its European and international obligations.

Preparation for the implementation of the Pact on Migration and Asylum constituted a key political priority. The active participation of the General Secretariat in national planning, through its contribution to the drafting of the National Strategy for the Management of Asylum and Migration and the National Contingency Plan, confirmed the importance of the protection of vulnerable persons within the broader framework of migration policy.

The interventions of the General Secretariat were implemented through the utilisation of national and European resources, ensuring the stability and continuity of the protection system. The contribution of the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF) and the National Development Programme (NDP) was instrumental, as was the support of international and European partners. Of particular significance were the contributions of the governments of Switzerland, Norway and the Netherlands, the funding of the EEA (Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway), and the Voluntary Solidarity Mechanism (VSM) with donor countries the Netherlands and the Czech Republic, which substantially strengthened the implementation of a coherent and effective support framework.

The design and implementation of the policies and actions of the General Secretariat would not have been possible without the invaluable contribution of its staff. Of decisive importance was the reinforcement of the Secretariat's staff with specialised professionals through the European Union Agency for Asylum (EUAA). At the same time, our cooperation and the support provided by the International Organization for Migration

(IOM), the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and UNICEF substantially enhanced our work, supporting interventions with a clear institutional protection footprint and holistic support.

The work of the General Secretariat confirms that the institutional protection of vulnerable persons constitutes the foundation of a fair and sustainable policy that goes beyond the coverage of immediate needs and is grounded in the safeguarding of rights and social cohesion. In the upcoming year, we will continue consistently to strengthen a comprehensive and effective framework of protection, with emphasis on cooperation and the prompt response to the needs of every individual.

Heracles Moskoff

General Secretary for Vulnerable Persons and Institutional Protection

Introduction

The year 2025 marked a period of consolidation, specialisation and operational maturation of the protection framework for vulnerable persons, within the context of the gradual expansion of the responsibilities of the General Secretariat for Vulnerable Persons and Institutional Protection. Building on the strategic directions established in 2024, the year signalled the transition from institutional planning to operational implementation, with emphasis placed on the development of protection mechanisms and the provision of services tailored to the needs of each vulnerable person.

The protection of unaccompanied minors was placed at the centre of interventions through a comprehensive child protection system that links first contact with safety, emergency response with stability and transitional care with long-term prospects. This system covers all stages of their pathway, from arrival and emergency response to long-term accommodation, legal representation and social integration.

The uninterrupted implementation of the National Guardianship System contributed decisively to the protection of unaccompanied minors and to safeguarding their rights and interests, ensuring the representation of more than 4,800 children in critical decisions concerning, among others, their housing, education, medical care and access to the labour market. Particular emphasis was placed on the Best Interests Assessment process, through the use of uniform standardized assessment forms and the delivery of training-of-trainers programmes. The inclusion of all unaccompanied minors under the age of 12 residing in accommodation facilities in the National Foster Care and Adoption System was also of key importance.

Furthermore, the accommodation of unaccompanied minors and the safeguarding of the quality of services provided within accommodation facilities constituted key priorities of the Secretariat. Through the operation of the National Emergency Response Mechanism, immediate accommodation was ensured for unaccompanied minors identified as living in homelessness or precarious conditions. At the same time, within the framework of cooperation with operational partners and the competent prosecutorial authorities, cases of minors living in precarious conditions who declined immediate placement in accommodation facilities continued to be monitored, with the ultimate objective of their gradual inclusion in the protection system.

With regard to support at the first reception stage, the presence of specialised child protection staff within Safe Areas / Safe Zones constituted a key mechanism for the immediate protection of minors at entry points and in the mainland. Within this framework, more than 5,000 unaccompanied minors received individualized protection and care services, including 24-hour staff presence, safe accommodation, provision of basic items, psychosocial and legal support, best interests assessments and escorts to health facilities.



However, the protection provided was not limited to covering basic needs but was substantially extended to inclusion and empowerment through the participation of unaccompanied minors and young adults in education, psychosocial support and social participation activities. At the same time, supporting professionals working in accommodation facilities through targeted trainings, workshops and child-centered tools remained of key importance. A distinct and essential pillar of inclusion continued to be the mentoring programme, which benefitted a total of 1,437 unaccompanied minors through a structured framework of interventions, including visits to accommodation facilities across the country, individual and group guidance, and targeted psychosocial empowerment activities.

Additionally, the "COMPASS" project, through the operation of 5 Day Centres in Athens, Thessaloniki, Ioannina, Larissa and Lesvos, provided specialized services to 1,934 unaccompanied minors and 465 young adults up to the age of 21. Equally important was the support provided both to children, through escorts to hospital units and assistance during hospitalization, and frontline professionals.

Expanding its interventions beyond the protection of unaccompanied minors, the General Secretariat strengthened the protection system for all vulnerable persons, adopting a holistic and inclusive approach to every form of vulnerability. Particular emphasis was placed on victims of torture, human trafficking and gender-based violence, as well as on persons with disabilities, with the aim of ensuring their equal and unhindered access to appropriate reception conditions, care and social integration. Equally important was the participation of the General Secretariat in the implementation of three key transnational projects addressing child trafficking and labour exploitation, alongside its active engagement in European cooperation mechanisms, aiming at policy development and at the promotion of good practices in line with European priorities.

An important component of the interventions was the development of synergies and protection tools, with emphasis on prevention and early identification, as well as on the accommodation, support and empowerment of vulnerable persons. In this context, the conclusion of a Memorandum of Cooperation on combatting gender-based violence, the implementation of targeted awareness-raising and training activities, the contribution to the development of the National Strategy and Action Plan for the Prevention and Combatting of Human Trafficking, as well as the publication of the Guide on the Rights of Victims of Human Trafficking significantly strengthened the framework for the protection and support of victims of gender-based violence and trafficking. At the same time, the development of the Policy Guide on the Protection of Persons with Disabilities established a clear framework of directions and priorities, ensuring alignment of the proposed interventions with the principles of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD).

Particular emphasis was placed on the accommodation of vulnerable persons and their connection with health, social care and welfare services through the operation and strengthening of specialised accommodation facilities and support programmes. These interventions were designed to safeguard dignity, empower individuals, and gradually enable them to achieve autonomy, as a prerequisite for their sustainable social inclusion.

The design and implementation of all the above-mentioned actions are embedded within the broader national operational planning in view of the full implementation of the Pact on Migration and Asylum. In this context, the General Secretariat actively contributed to the development of the National Asylum and Migration Management Strategy as well as the National Contingency Plan, to ensure that the new protection safeguards for vulnerable persons are translated into implementable policies, clear procedures and adequate support services.

The following sections present in detail the specific actions, initiatives and interventions undertaken by the General Secretariat during 2025, as well as the actions expected to be implemented in the upcoming period, highlighting their contribution to the development of a coherent, effective and holistic protection framework for the vulnerable persons.



Flagship Actions supported by the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund and the Managing Authority for Migration & Home Affairs Funds

The strengthening and expansion of the holistic protection framework for unaccompanied minors and vulnerable individuals was made possible thanks to the financial support of the "Greece Programme– Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF) 2021–2027" and the designated Special Actions, within which flagship initiatives of the General Secretariat for Vulnerable Citizens and Institutional Protection were implemented.

Specifically, in response to the increased and needs for reception, support and representation of unaccompanied minors, and following the establishment of the National Guardianship System for Unaccompanied Minors under Law 4960/2022, the flagship project **"National Guardianship System"** was implemented with funding from the "Greece Programme – Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF) 2021–2027".

**This action falls under
Specific Objective 2:**

Legal Migration and
Integration with a budget of

11,917,756.58 €

(EU Contribution: 75% and National Contribution: 25%).

Additionally, within the framework of providing accommodation for unaccompanied minors in long-term reception facilities, tailored to their needs, as well as ensuring the quality of the services provided, the following actions were implemented with the financial support of the "Greece Programme – Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF) 2021–2027":

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

**This action falls under
Specific Objective 2:**

Legal Migration and
Integration with a budget of

58,084,077.54 €

(EU Contribution: 75% and National Contribution: 25%)
for the period 2024–2025.

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

**The action falls under
Specific Objective 2:**

Legal Migration and
Integration with a budget of

7,324,654.48 €

(EU Contribution: 75% and National Contribution: 25%).

Furthermore, following the guidelines of the National Strategy for the Protection of Unaccompanied Minors and with a focus on achieving its objectives, the project **"COMPASS – Complementary Support Mechanism of the National Strategy for the Protection of Unaccompanied Minors in Greece"** was designed. This project is funded by the European Union through the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF, 2021–2027) and significantly strengthens the child protection framework, extending the services provided to include young adults aged 18–21.

**This action falls
under Specific
Objective 1–KESA**
with a budget of

12,858,010.83 €
(EU Contribution: 90% and National Contribution: 10%).

Furthermore, within the framework of the General Secretariat's expanded responsibilities and its strategic planning for the protection of victims of human trafficking, action was implemented focusing on strengthening the skills of field professionals through the provision of specialised tools for the identification, management and support of relevant cases. The action is carried out through the programme **"Specific Action on the provision of services to victims of trafficking in human beings who are third-country nationals."**

The project is part of the "Greece Programme – Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund 2021–2027" and is co-financed by AMIF.

**This action falls
under Specific
Objective 1–KESA**
with a total budget of

500,000 €
(EU Contribution: 90% and National Contribution: 10%).

Finally, aiming to continue with the implementation by the General Secretariat for Vulnerable Persons and Institutional Protection of targeted actions for the protection of unaccompanied minors and vulnerable women, the project titled **"Strengthening the Protection System for Unaccompanied Minors and Vulnerable Women Asylum Seekers and Beneficiaries of International Protection"** was implemented, with the International Organization for Migration (IOM) as the project's beneficiary.

The project is part of the "Migration and Asylum Operational Programme 2021–2025" and is funded by the National Development Programme (NDP).

**The Action falls under the Priority
Axis "Integration of Vulnerable
Population Groups (Art. 1 para. 4,
Law 4019/2011) in Education"**
with a total budget of

5,161,020.45 €

Section A'

Actions for the protection
of Unaccompanied Minors



1. Data on Unaccompanied Minors

Situation Update:

Unaccompanied Minors (UAM) in Greece

Reference Date: 01.01.2026



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



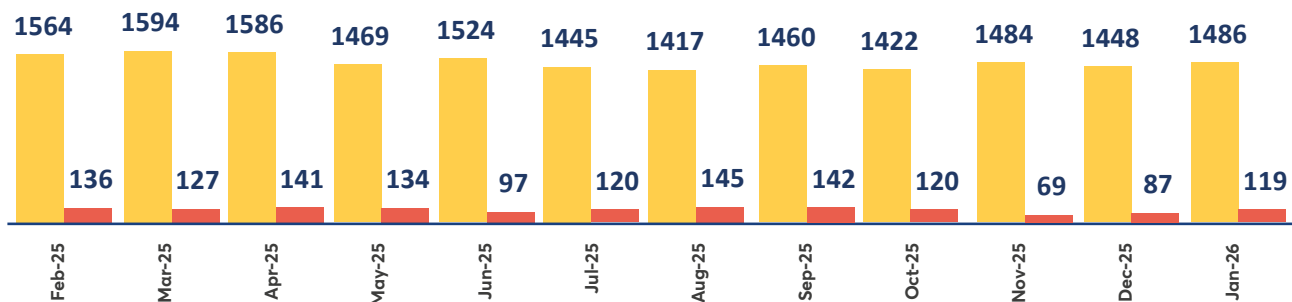
DIRECTORATE GENERAL ICT

Number of UAM per accommodation type

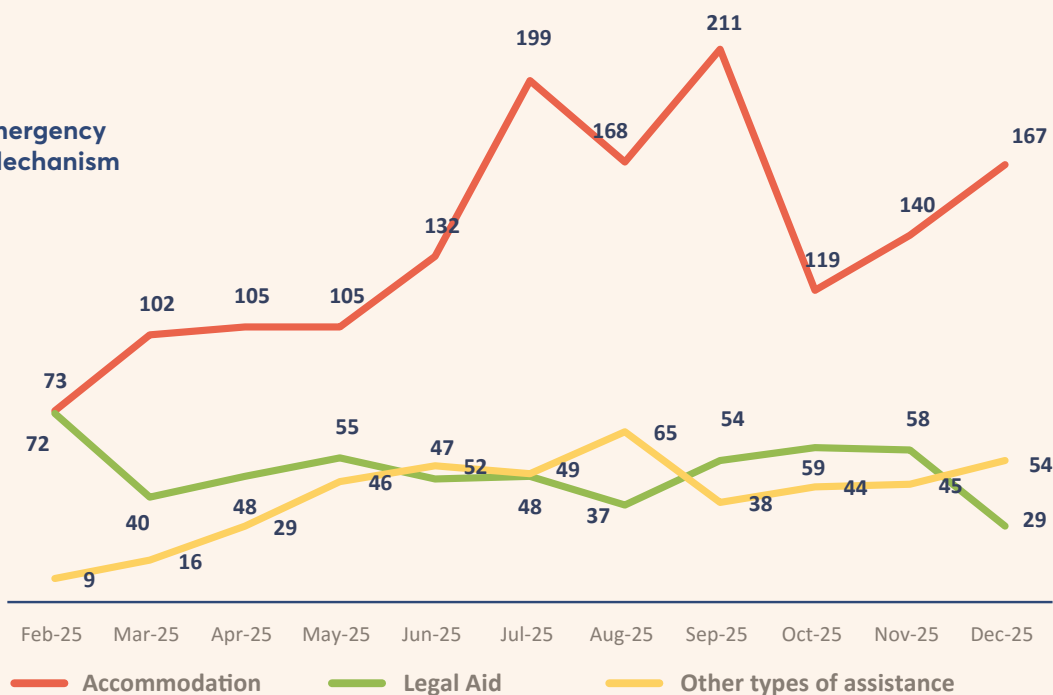
February 2025 - January 2026

In long term accommodation

In short term accommodation



National Emergency Response Mechanism



Key Facts

*1,909 unaccompanied minors in total out of which:

93% Boys

7% Girls

12,7% <15 years old

1,282 unaccompanied minors in Accommodation Centre

204 unaccompanied minors in Semi-Independent Living apartments (SIL)

119 unaccompanied minors in Emergency Accommodation Facilities

254 unaccompanied minors in Reception and Identification Centers & Closed Controlled Access Centers of Islands

50 unaccompanied minors in Controlled Accommodation Facilities for Asylum Seekers

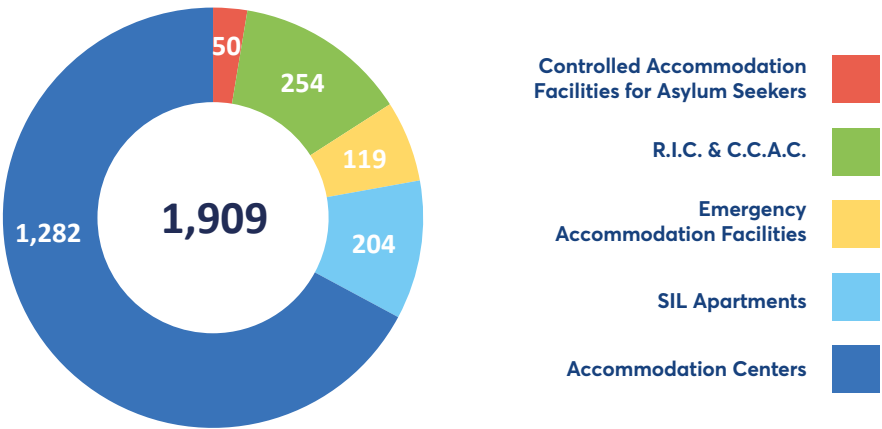
Number of places

1,745 places in Accommodation Facilities (Accommodation Centers / SIL apartments)

153 places in Emergency Accommodation Facilities

Figures dynamically change and may be adjusted based on verification by GSVPIP.

UAM analysis per accommodation type



The National Emergency Response Mechanism for Unaccompanied Minors (UAM) in precarious living conditions launched the telephone line in April 2021. Until today, the Mechanism received 16,763 calls, which concern 11,598 different cases of (UAMs), out of which 8,979 concern accommodation requests, 1,559 legal aid, and 1,060 other types of assistance. Since 02.03.2022, the line has received referrals for 4 unaccompanied*, 10 orphans (with escorts) directly from an orphanage of Ukraine and 606 separated minors from Ukraine.

*There are cases of unaccompanied minors whose status changes from unaccompanied to separated following their initial referral as well as due to their adulthood



Situation Update:

Unaccompanied Minors (UAM) in Greece

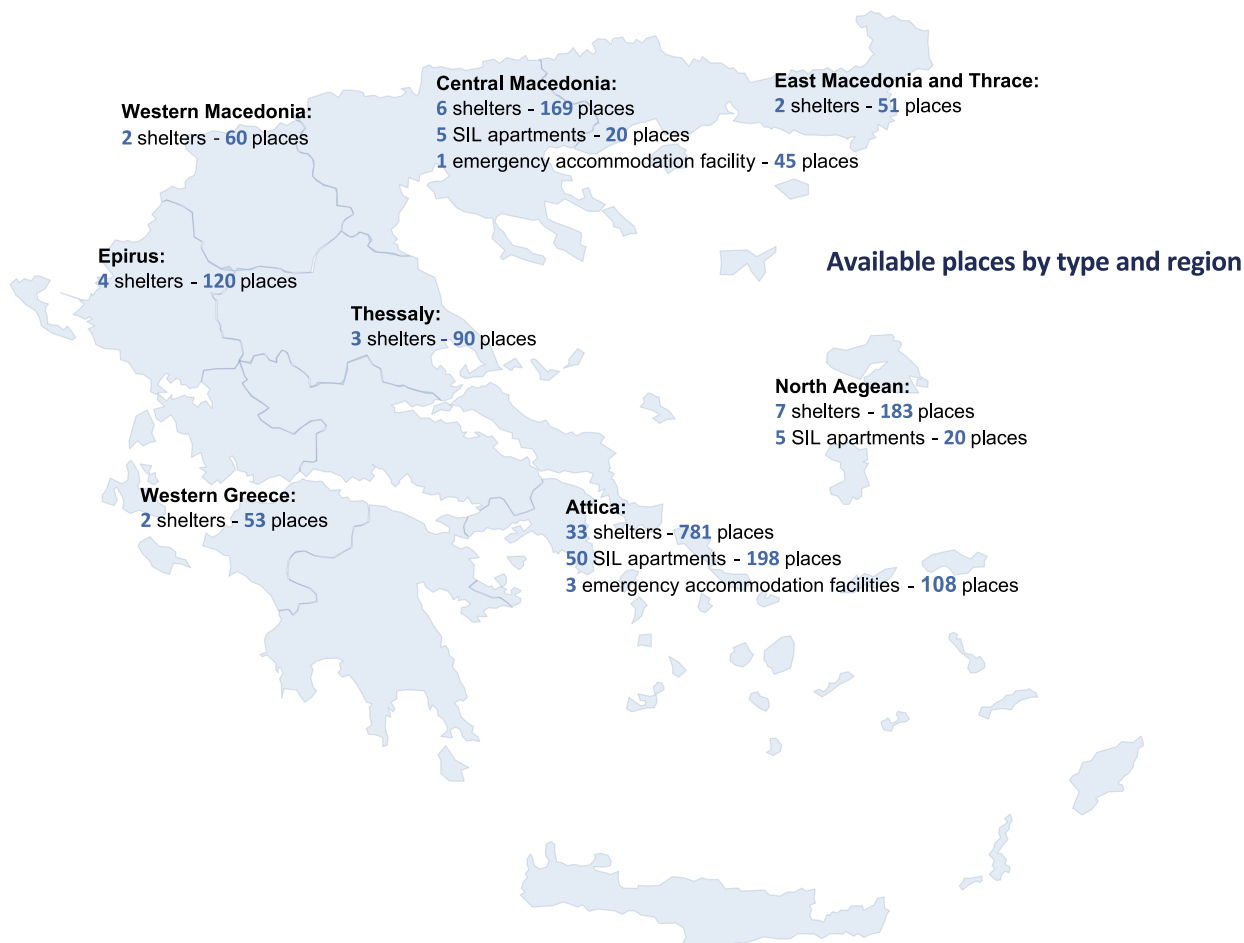
Number and places of UAM shelters, apartments SIL, emergency accommodation facilities, December 2025



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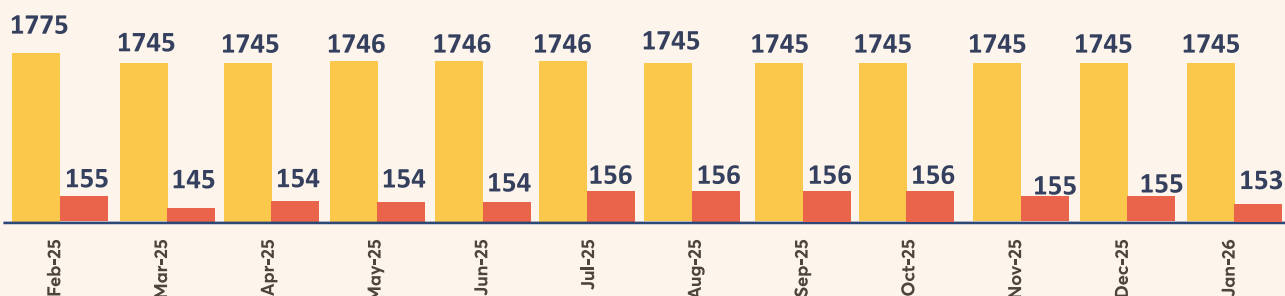


DIRECTORATE GENERAL ICT



Current Capacity compared to previous months January 2025 - December 2025

Long-term places
Temporary places



Key Facts

UAM Shelters

- Current: **59** UAM shelters with total **1,507** places

SIL (Supported Independent Living apartments)

- Current: **60** SIL apartments for UAM with total **238** places

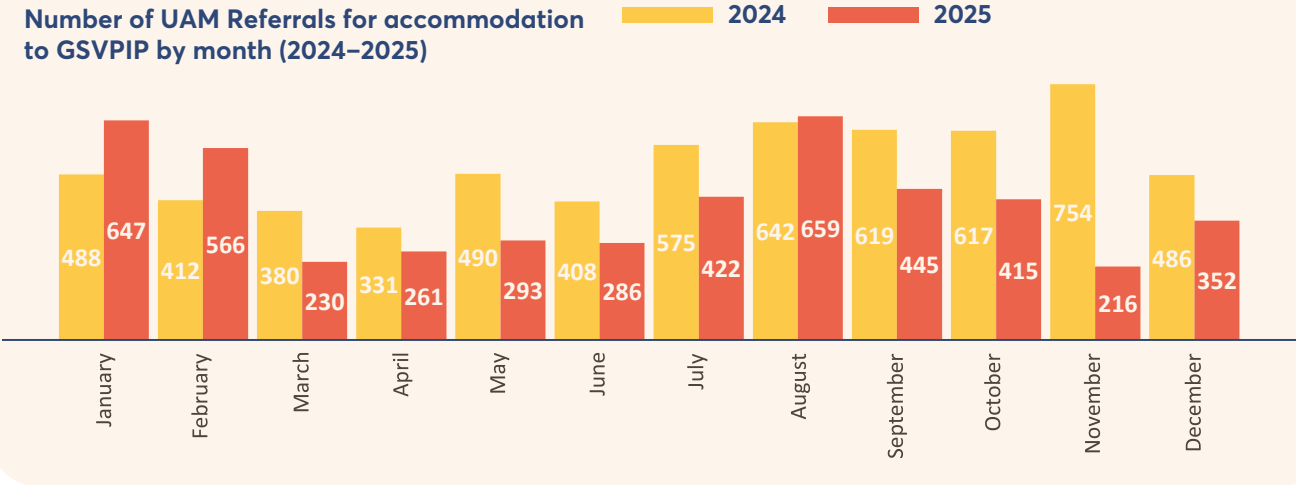
Emergency Accommodation facilities

- Current: **4** emergency accommodation facilities with total **153** places

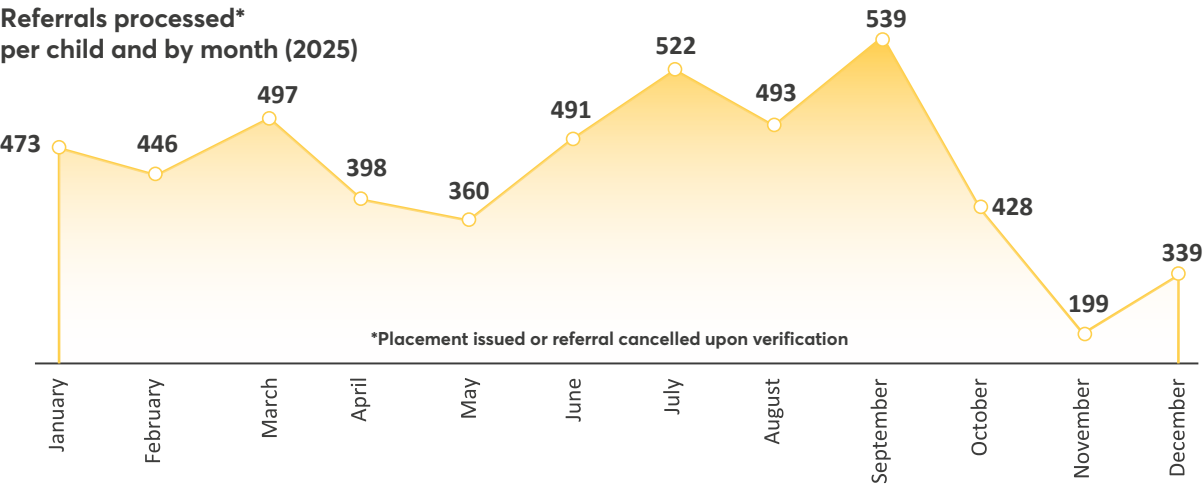
Situation Update:
Unaccompanied Minors (UAM) in Greece



Number of UAM Referrals for accommodation to GSVPIP by month (2024–2025)

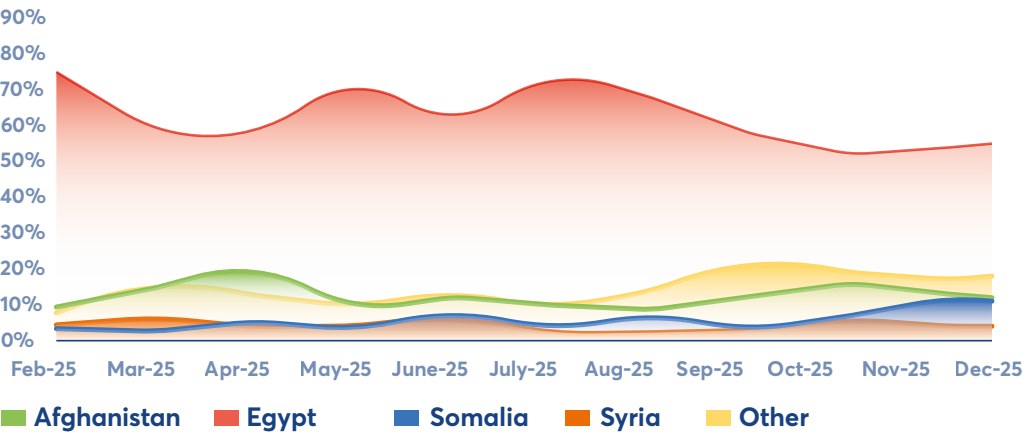


Referrals processed*
per child and by month (2025)



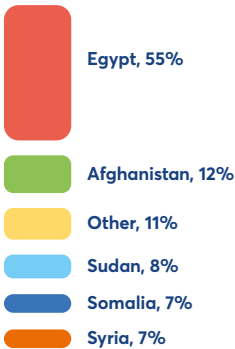
61,097 Total number of UAM referrals
January 2016 - December 2025

UAM referrals (%) for accommodation to GSVPIP by month and nationality
February 2025 – December 2025



Estimated UAM
population
disaggregated
by nationality

1,909

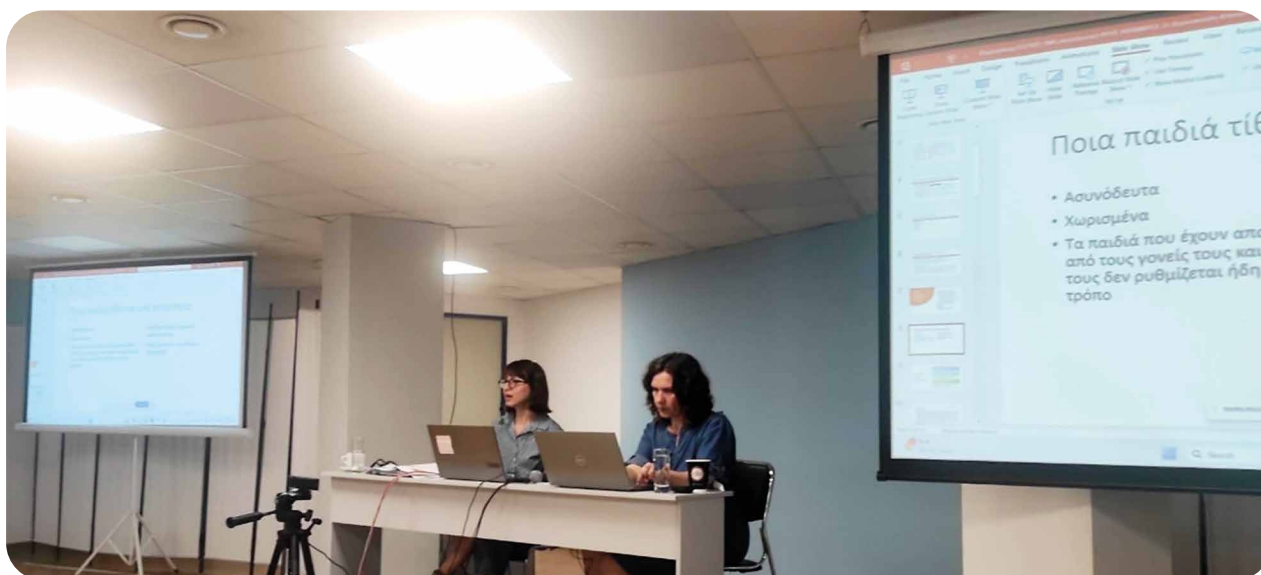


2. Institutional Protection of Unaccompanied Minors

The institutional protection of Unaccompanied Minors is a core responsibility of the State. According to Law 4939/2022, the Institutional Protection Unit is the competent authority for the guardianship of unaccompanied minors, ensuring that each child has a designated institutional adult of reference—the appointed guardian—who represents them, provides support, ensures the full enjoyment of their rights, and serves as the institutional guarantor of unaccompanied minors' rights, acting as the key link between the children, their guardians, and the relevant authorities.

The functioning of the Institutional Protection Unit covers the entire spectrum of protection: from supervising the implementation of the guardianship framework and the operational coordination of involved stakeholders, to active intervention in cases of increased vulnerability.

At the same time, the Unit systematically monitors the functioning of the institutional framework, identifies dysfunctions or gaps, and proposes improvements to ensure that the guardianship system remains operational, coherent, and adapted to the actual needs of minors. Particular emphasis is placed on managing individual cases of high criticality, that require the immediate mobilisation of multiple services and coordinated institutional intervention.



Presentation of the Legal Framework of Guardianship in Introductory Education for Appointed Guardianship Officers

2.1 National Guardianship System for Unaccompanied Minors

The National Guardianship System for Unaccompanied Minors is based on a clear and multi-level operational framework, in accordance with the provisions of Law 4939/2022. The General Secretariat, through the Institutional Protection Unit, holds a coordinating, guiding, and supervisory role, while the Prosecutor functions as an institutional guarantee, appointing as guardians, non-profit legal entities with proven experience in child protection. Guardians exercise their duties through specially trained natural persons — **the guardianship mandated persons** — who serve as the child's consistent point of reference and collaborate with all relevant stakeholders, from accommodation facilities to migration and asylum services.

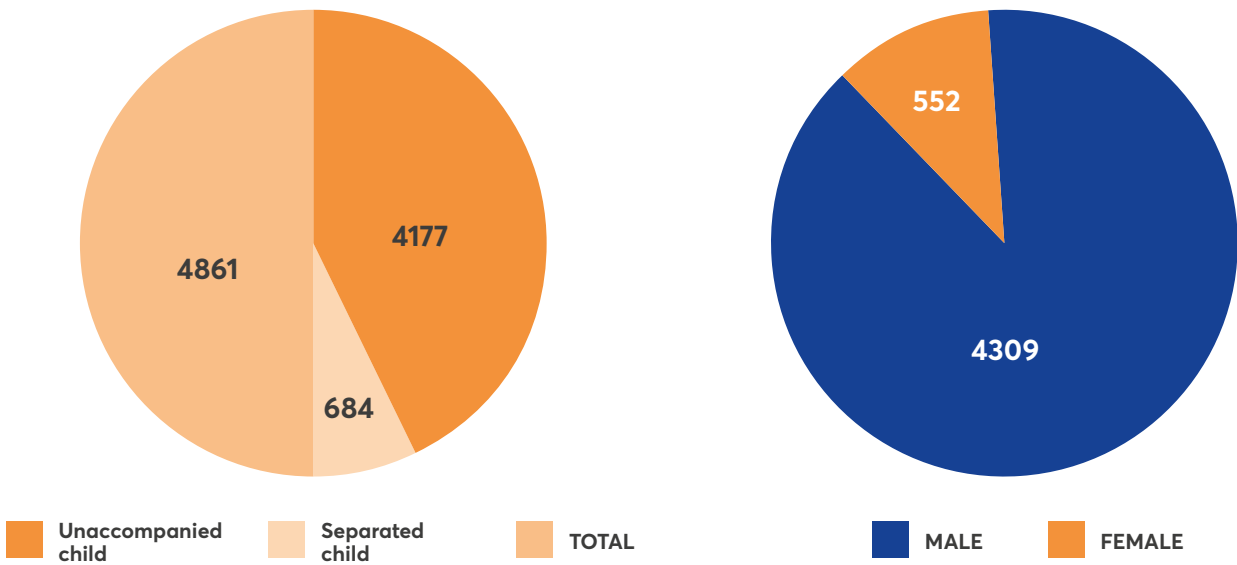
The operation of the System is reinforced by oversight and accountability mechanisms, such as the role of the coordinator, the Child Protection Policy, the Code of Conduct, the complaint mechanism for children under guardianship, and the five-member Guardianship Council for Unaccompanied Minors. Furthermore, provisions are made for the continuous training of professionals, as well as the possibility of dismissing guardians or representatives in cases of non-compliance with the institutional framework.

Main Actions and Interventions of 2025



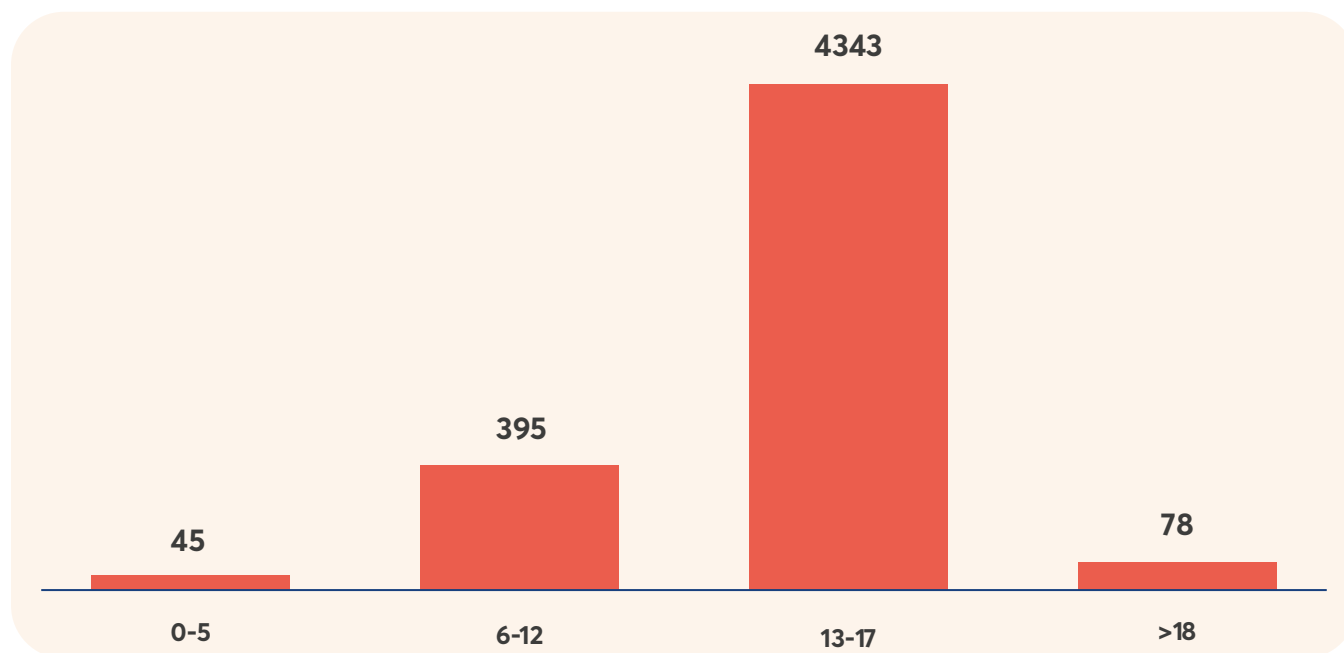
The year 2025 served as a year of consolidation and qualitative strengthening for the National Guardianship System for Unaccompanied Minors. Two years after the commencement of its implementation, more than **7,000 unaccompanied minors** had an appointed guardian. Specifically, during **2025 alone, more than 4,800 children received guardianship services**, whereas in 2024 the corresponding number exceeded 4,600 unaccompanied children, confirming the gradual establishment of a coherent, functional, and institutionally secured protection system with nationwide application. For the reference year 2025, the maximum recorded duration of guardianship amounted to approximately one (1) year and eleven (11) months, while the average duration of guardianship was six (6) months and eighteen (18) days.

Children who received guardianship services



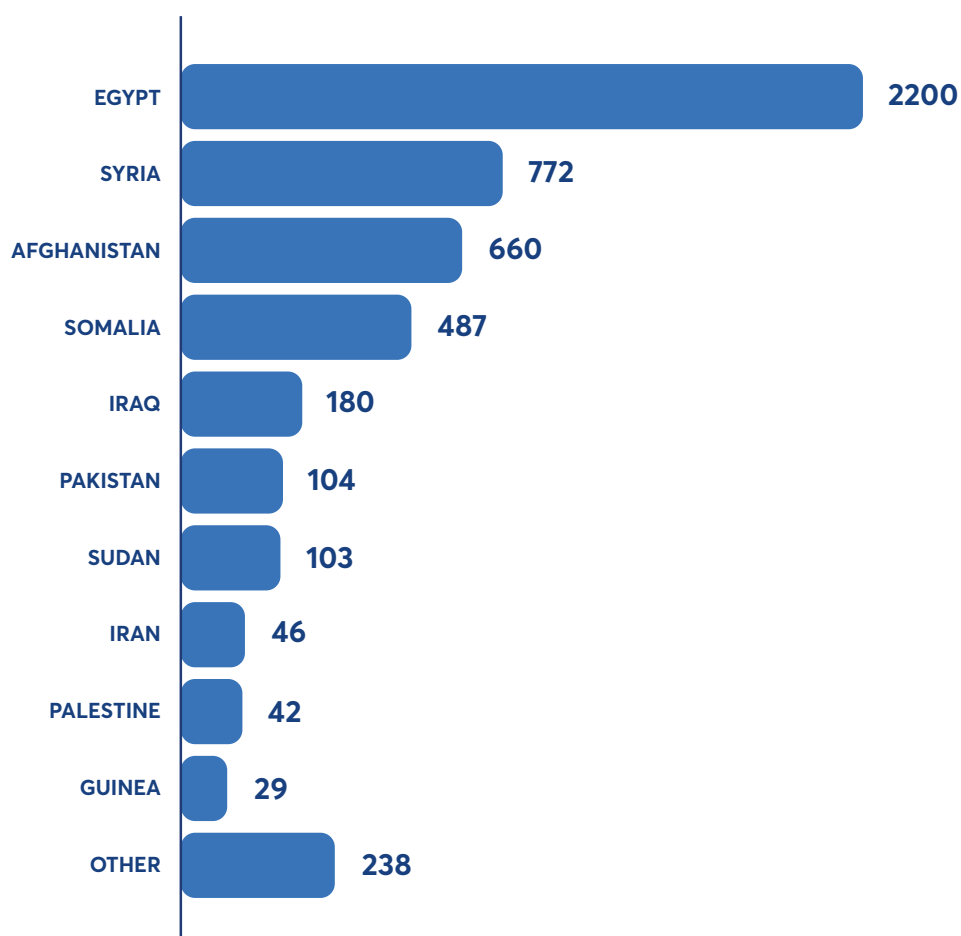
The above charts present the number of separated and unaccompanied children who received guardianship services during 2025. They also illustrate the number of children by gender.

Age group



The above chart presents the number of children who received guardianship services by age group, during 2025.

Country of origin



The above chart presents the number of children who received guardianship services by country of origin, during 2025.

Simultaneously, the nationwide guardianship programme, implemented since 2024 by the organisations "METAdrasi" and "PR.A.K.S.I.S." following a comparative evaluation process, continued, and was strengthened in 2025 with funding from the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF) 2021–2027. **During the year 2025, a total of 145 appointed guardians were employed**, while a six-month extension of the project until June 2026 was also provided to ensure a smooth transition to a new implementation scheme.

Strengthening the uniform application of the institution:

During 2025, the Unit focused on the uniform application of the institution at a national level. Updated guidelines were developed and shared with Guardianship Service Providers, while systematic bilateral meetings were held with appointed guardians across the country to record challenges and provide targeted solutions. In parallel, steady cooperation was strengthened with coordinators, appointed guardians, child protection agencies, and competent administrative authorities, alongside institutional cooperation with the locally competent Public Prosecutors' Offices and the Prosecutor's Office of the Supreme Court.

Quality control and systematic coordination:

Particular emphasis was placed on the supervision and qualitative evaluation of the System. On-site inspections were carried out at the implementing agencies, specialised evaluation tools for the services provided were developed, and a detailed mapping of the unaccompanied minor population across the country was conducted. This process allowed for a more targeted allocation of appointed deputies based on actual local needs and is updated on a continuous basis.



Best Interests Procedures:

In collaboration with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the European Union Agency for Asylum (EUAA), the implementation of the "Harmonisation, Establishment and Certification of Best Interests Procedures" programme continued, with the development of a new Best Interests Assessment Toolkit, which actively supports the work of appointed guardians.

Guardianship Council for Unaccompanied Minors:

During 2025, the Guardianship Council for Unaccompanied Minors functioned as a key support mechanism for the exercise of guardianship, with a steady focus on defending the best interests of unaccompanied minors and enhancing their prospects for social and professional integration. In this context, a total of 59 cases were examined, the vast majority of which (53) concerned requests for access to the labour market. The relevant decisions primarily covered positions of general interest and low specialisation, boosting early work experience and the minors' self-reliance. Simultaneously, the Council provided opinions in cases of disagreement between guardians and accommodation facilities, contributing to the resolution of care issues and ensuring the continuity of support for the children. All cases were examined with a coherent and individualised approach, utilising the best interests assessment as a key management tool and highlighting the role of the Council as a body for the protection and integration of unaccompanied minors.



A delegation of representatives from the General Secretariat for Vulnerable Persons and Institutional Protection participated in the first meeting of the European Guardianship Network for 2025 in Vienna.

"GUARD UP" Programme:

The transnational programme "GUARD UP - Empowering guardianship systems to improve the guidance of UAC" is implemented with the participation of the General Secretariat for Vulnerable Persons and Institutional Protection as a partner, under the coordination of the Tsatsos Foundation and funded by the EU Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF). During 2025, the programme focused on mapping educational needs and developing training guidelines for guardianship professionals, tailored to the national institutional framework of each country. Its completion is scheduled for June 2026.

Technical Collaborations: Finally, 2025 was characterised by the strengthening of international and European collaborations:

- **The European Union Agency for Asylum (EUAA)** provided continuous technical support to the General Secretariat, while officers from the Institutional Protection Unit actively participated in the **European Guardianship Network (EGN)**.
- At the same time, **UNICEF** supported the development of the complaints mechanism and the monitoring and evaluation framework of the guardianship programme.
- The Ministry of Justice and Security of the Netherlands has been systematically supporting the General Secretariat since 2021, through the **Nidos organisation**, on issues related to the protection of unaccompanied children, with particular emphasis on the guardianship system. In 2025, within the framework of this cooperation, targeted actions were carried out to strengthen the National Guardianship System and the foster care framework for unaccompanied children, including three working visits to the Netherlands and Greece by staff from the General Secretariat, the co-competent Ministry of Social Cohesion and Family Affairs, and the Nidos organisation, for the exchange of expertise and best practices. Additionally, focused group discussions were organised to develop a cooperation protocol and guidance between guardians and staff of accommodation facilities, aimed at improving their collaboration.



Snapshot from a focused discussion organised by NIDOS in collaboration with the General Secretariat for Vulnerable Persons and Institutional Protection to strengthen cooperation between Guardians and accommodation providers for unaccompanied children in 2025

Emblematic Guardianship Cases

In 2025, within the framework of the operation of the National Guardianship System for Unaccompanied Minors, the practical implementation of the scheme highlighted the importance of a stable mechanism for the protection, care and institutional representation of children. The experience from managing complex and often demanding cases showed that the effectiveness of interventions is not limited to the immediate response to danger, but lies in the continuity, consistency, and substantive coordination of all involved professionals, within the framework of institutional supervision and support from the Institutional Protection Unit. The following cases illustrate representative examples of the implementation of the guardianship system, guided by the best interests of the child.

- The management of a case involving two minor victims of human trafficking, who were under conditions of severe labour exploitation and restriction of their freedom, was particularly indicative. Initially, the children did not recognise their victimisation, perceiving exploitation as normality. The case required specialised knowledge, discreet handling, and a consistent professional presence. Through targeted interventions, consistent communication, and clear information regarding their rights and available procedures, it became possible to gradually build a relationship of trust and secure the substantive participation of the minors in the relevant processes. Their support during testimonies before the competent authorities, as well as the continued support following developments in the criminal proceedings, highlighted the role of the appointed guardians as institutional professionals whose contribution is decisive both for the protection of children and for safeguarding their access to justice.
- Equally crucial was the timely intervention of a guardian in the case of a minor who was about to become unaccompanied due to the terminal illness of his mother, in circumstances of heightened vulnerability linked to developmental and psychosocial difficulties. Continuous monitoring and cooperation among all the involved individuals contributed to stabilising the child's situation during a particularly critical period of loss and adjustment. An encouraging outcome in this context is the positive decision regarding the family reunification request, with the minor expected to be transferred to the responsible Member State in the near future.
- At the same time, cases of increased complexity emerged, in which the protection of the child required long-term involvement and repeated assessment of their needs. A characteristic example is the case of an unaccompanied minor girl with serious psychiatric difficulties and repeated hospitalisations. The management of this case relied on the systematic and persistent support provided by the Guardianship Service Provider, close cooperation with mental health services and accommodation facilities, and the continuous reassessment of the child's needs. This collective effort functioned as a critical factor in preventing more serious risks, even during periods of significant destabilisation.
- The management of a case involving an unaccompanied minor with a complex psychosocial profile and strong family ties with relatives abroad also showcased significant institutional value. During the examination of the case, differing scientific assessments arose regarding the most appropriate direction for the minor's future. These differences were addressed through substantive communication and fruitful dialogue, with the active contribution of the professionals responsible for the case. In this context, the assistance of the Guardianship Council for Unaccompanied Minors was decisive, facilitating the reconciliation of different approaches and the formulation of a commonly accepted and sustainable solution, based on the best interests and emotional stability of the child.

The aforementioned cases, as well as all cases of unaccompanied children under guardianship, demonstrate that the guardianship system, when supported by clear institutional oversight and implemented through consistent, professional, and collective work by all involved actors, can respond even to the most demanding circumstances, ensuring meaningful protection and stable points of reference for unaccompanied children.

The **"National Guardianship System"** project is co-funded by the Greece Programme of the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF) 2021-2027 (Specific Objective 2: Legal Migration and Integration. Budget: **€11,917,756.58**. EU Participation: **75%** & National Participation: **25%**).

2.2 Harmonisation, Establishment and Certification of Best Interests Procedures

The "Harmonisation, Establishment and Certification of Best Interests Procedures" programme has been implemented by the General Secretariat for Vulnerable Persons and Institutional Protection of the Ministry of Migration and Asylum, with the support of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the European Union Agency for Asylum (EUAA), since November 2022.

This is an innovative, child-centred initiative aimed at ensuring the consistent provision of high-quality and specialised services by child protection professionals to all unaccompanied, separated and children removed from their families, who are third-country nationals or stateless persons identified and residing in Greece. The programme seeks to harmonise best interests procedures at a national level through the use of standardised assessment forms and the implementation of the process by certified and trained professionals.



WHAT IS THIS ASSESSMENT?

The Best Interests Assessment is **a way to learn your needs and wishes** and find together what is possible for you to do in Greece.



WHO PARTICIPATES?

You and **Every professional** who is responsible for you and your care (such as the Social Worker where you live or your Guardian). Other important people in your life may participate if you wish.



HOW IS IT DONE?

With **Questions** and **Discussion**.

WHERE IS IT DONE?

Wherever you are in Greece, in every location you reside.



WHEN IS IT DONE?

It begins **when you arrive** and is renewed as you grow up and for as long as you stay in Greece until you turn 18 years old.

Informational material on the Best Interests Assessment Procedure in child-friendly language

Within the framework of the programme, the **Best Interests Procedures Toolkit** was developed, which is currently used by **24** collaborating child protection organisations across the country. These organisations operate throughout Greece, providing identification and immediate support services to unaccompanied children in homelessness and precarious living conditions, accommodation and care services for unaccompanied children, protection and support services for unaccompanied children in safe areas of the country's RICs/CCACs, as well as guardianship services within the implementation of the National Guardianship System for Unaccompanied Minors.

Since December 2023, the Unit has been conducting five-day **Training of Trainers (ToT)** sessions for selected focal points from all partner organisations. The specialised educational material, developed in collaboration with the UNHCR and the EUAA, includes adult education methodology, child interview techniques, assessment stages, information collection and the development of a comprehensive Action Plan for the child, ensuring their participation throughout the process. The established trainers subsequently provide **secondary training to staff within their organisations**, ensuring the transfer of knowledge and the consistent application of procedures at all levels.

The use of a shared assessment tool by all professionals working with the child enhances protection from possible re-traumatisation caused by multiple interviews and allows all relevant information to be consolidated into a single assessment tool used by all involved professionals. The programme's key long-term objectives include the full harmonisation of best interests procedures at national level, their establishment as an integral component of child protection case management, the protection of children from multiple interviews, and ensuring that assessments are conducted exclusively by certified professionals.



Snapshot from the Training of Trainers on "Best Interests Procedures – Conducting a Best Interests Assessment", implemented by the Institutional Protection Unit.

Main Actions and Interventions in 2025

In 2025, the Institutional Protection Unit implemented a comprehensive set of actions aimed at enhancing quality, strengthening the institutional framework and ensuring the harmonised implementation of Best Interests Procedures across the child protection system.

During 2025, **Best Interests Assessments** were carried out for **5,342 unaccompanied, separated and children removed from their families** residing in emergency and long-term accommodation facilities, identified in precarious living conditions or homelessness, accommodated in safe areas of facilities under the responsibility of the Reception and Identification Service, as well as within the framework of guardianship, either independently by the guardian or in cooperation with accommodation facilities.

By the end of 2025, a total of **eight (8) Training of Trainers sessions had been implemented, in which ninety-two (92) focal points** from twenty-four (24) different child protection organisations participated. In parallel, **sixty-three (63) secondary trainings were successfully completed, reaching a total of five hundred and fifty-two (552) professionals** from twenty (20) organisations, through intersectoral cooperation among child protection actors.



A joint delegation from the General Secretariat for Vulnerable Persons and Institutional Protection and the General Secretariat for Demographic and Housing Policy paid a working visit to the Netherlands, visiting NIDOS for the exchange of best practices in foster care for unaccompanied children.

National pool of specialised expertise: In this context, a List of Professionals / Trained Trainers in Best Interests Procedures was established, functioning as an informal registry of certified knowledge and expertise. With the consent of the participants, the List was utilised for cooperation between child protection agencies and the implementation of joint trainings based on the approved educational material and the relevant directions of the General Secretariat. The directory will be regularly updated in full compliance with the applicable data protection framework.

Child-centred information and empowerment: During 2025, information leaflets were developed in child-friendly language to ensure the substantive understanding of the best interests assessment process by children. The material, available in six languages (Greek, English, French, Arabic, Farsi, and Somali), was distributed to accommodation facilities and integrated into the reception procedures for new unaccompanied minors, enhancing transparency and the child's participation.

Standardisation and harmonisation of procedures: The Unit is systematically extending the use of the best interests assessment process so that it begins already at the stage of the children's arrival in the country and the reception of unaccompanied minors in RIS facilities. To this end, a technical working group was established with the competent services of the RIS to develop a common protocol for the use of best interests assessment tools, contributing to the gradual harmonisation of practices and the establishment of uniform qualitative application standards.



Snapshot from the second periodic networking meeting of the European Guardianship Network in November 2025 in Copenhagen.

European innovation in quality assurance:

2025 marked the commencement of a pioneering supervision and quality assurance process for the best interests assessment tools (Short and Detailed Form). This process allows for the systematic evaluation of both the tools themselves and the implementation of the assessment as a process and is carried out by trained coordinators for professionals conducting the assessment within the same organisation. Through feedback, areas for improvement are identified and good practices are highlighted, while it simultaneously functions as a mechanism for continuous learning and gradual harmonisation with international, European, and national child protection standards.

Continuous operational support: Throughout the year, the Unit provided guidelines and technical assistance to all involved actors, ensuring the consistent, evidence-based, and child-centred application of Best Interests Procedures in the field.

Evaluation of Training of Trainers: During 2025, the importance and effectiveness of the Training of Trainers in "Best Interests Procedures – Conducting Best Interests Assessment," implemented by the Institutional Protection Unit of the General Secretariat during the period December 2023 – November 2024, were evaluated. The training programmes were based on the specially developed training package of the project and were adapted to the profiles of participants, using experiential and participatory learning methods. The proposed recommendations focus on strengthening cross-sectoral cooperation, the harmonisation and digitisation of best interests assessment tools, the provision of introductory and refresher trainings on the subject, and the empowerment of the participatory approach in case planning and management. Good practices identified included the participation of multiple organisations providing different services to unaccompanied children in each training, the adaptation of the training methodology to participants' learning styles, and the emphasis on the practical application of best interests assessment tools - elements that contributed significantly to the improvement of cooperation and the harmonisation of implemented procedures.

2.3 Promotion of Foster Care for Unaccompanied Minors

Within the framework of State actions to develop a child protection system that promotes deinstitutionalisation, the Institutional Protection Unit has continued to play a central role in the planning, coordination and monitoring of the inclusion of unaccompanied minors into the National Foster Care and Adoption System, with an emphasis on foster care, in close cooperation with the competent service of the Ministry of Social Cohesion and Family Affairs.

To date, the registration in the Registry of Minors of the National Foster Care and Adoption System of all unaccompanied minors under the age of twelve (12) residing in accommodation facilities for unaccompanied minors operated by the Ministry of Migration and Asylum has been completed - a significant step towards further strengthening foster care as a key pillar for the protection of unaccompanied children.



Snapshot from a working visit in 2025 of a joint delegation of the General Secretariat for Vulnerable Persons and Institutional Protection and the General Secretariat for Demographic and Housing Policy, to the Netherlands, to the organisation NIDOS, for the exchange of best practices on matters of foster care for unaccompanied children.

The implementation of foster care, as a protection measure and alternative care framework, is institutionally supported by the Unit at all stages. Through the supervision of the guardianship system and cooperation with involved child protection actors, it is ensured that unaccompanied children receive individualised and continuous support within a family environment, promoting their psychosocial well-being and smooth integration into Greek society.

A decisive role in this process is played by the guardian, who, with the support of the Unit, systematically monitors unaccompanied children placed in foster care and collaborates closely with the foster family, the regional social services supervising the foster care, as well as the child's biological family, where this is deemed to be in the child's best interests. At the same time, children's access to asylum procedures, healthcare and psychosocial support is ensured, along with the maintenance or restoration of communication with family members, where this is feasible and safe.

3. National Emergency Response Mechanism (NERM)

3.1 Institutional and Operational Framework and Provided Services

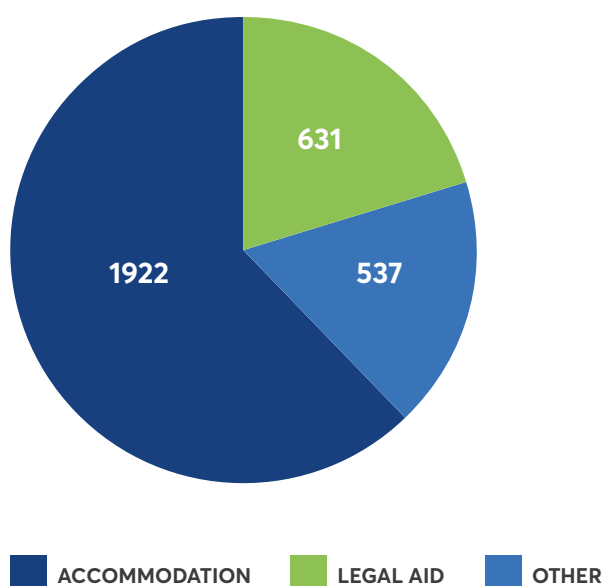
The National Emergency Response Mechanism (NERM), which was implemented in 2021 and institutionlised in 2022, continues its operation to this day, aiming at the immediate identification of unaccompanied minors living in homelessness or in precarious conditions and their immediate referral to Emergency Accommodation Facilities. The year 2025 constituted a year of substantial strengthening and maturation of the NERM, with critical steps in its institutional consolidation and the upgrading of its operation, particularly through the entry into force of Ministerial Decision No. 193953/2024 for the establishment of Standard Operating Rules for Emergency Accommodation Facilities for Unaccompanied Minors, as well as through the restructuring of NERM's Operational Team.

During its years of operation, it has been established as a mechanism of best practice, constituting a central pillar of child protection in the country.

Tracing Line

A central pillar of NERM's operation is the **Tracing Line**, which operates free of charge via the **five-digit** number **15107** (sponsored by OTE) and serves as a key tool for timely intervention and activation of the prescribed procedures and the protection mechanism for unaccompanied minors living in homelessness or precarious conditions. Additionally, to enhance accessibility and ensure prompt response, NERM also receives communications via instant messaging applications (WhatsApp and Viber) at the number **6942773030**.

Requests



The chart shows the number and type of requests received by NERM, during 2025.

Emergency Accommodation Facilities
for Unaccompanied Minors

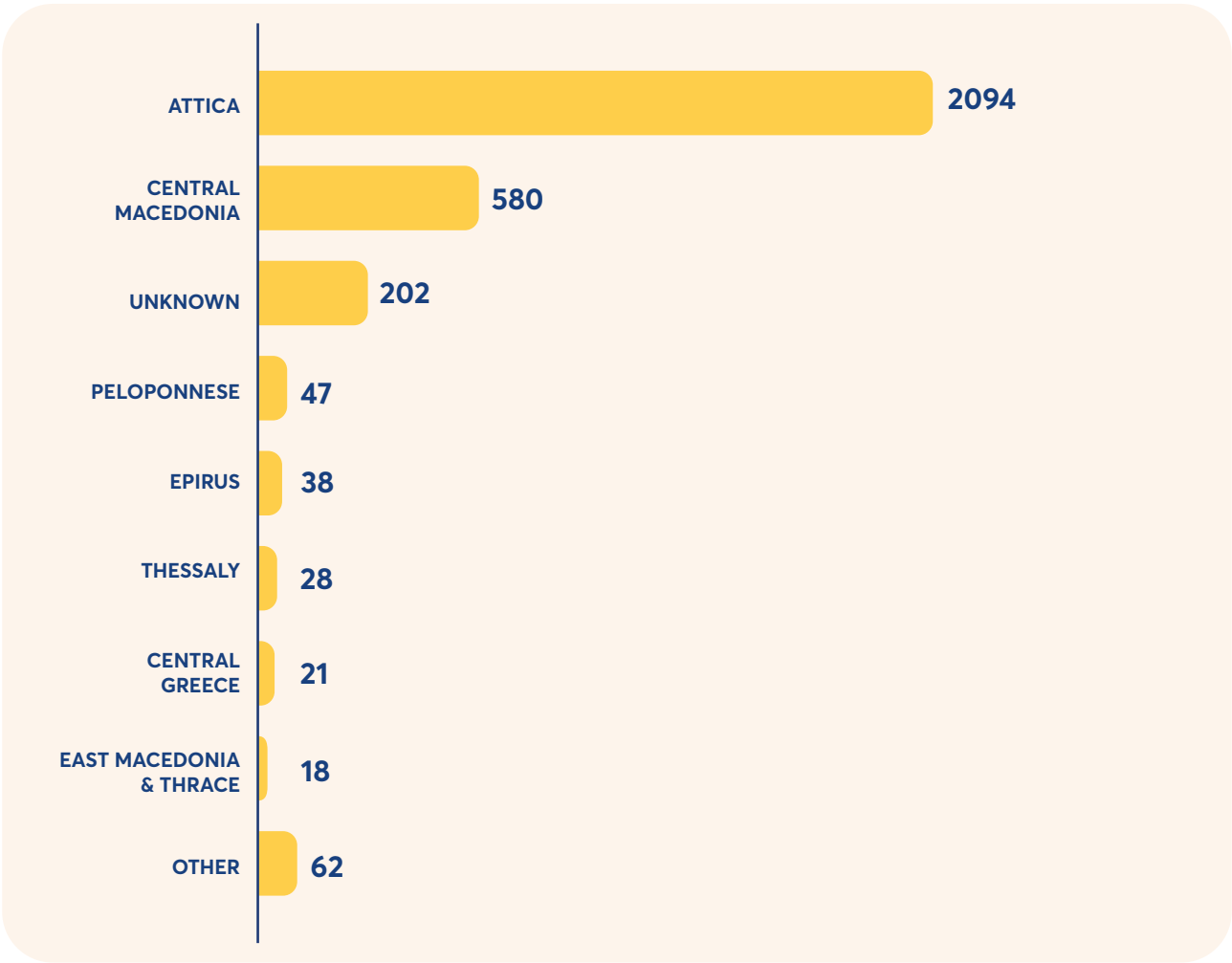
Within the framework of immediate and holistic protection, four Emergency Accommodation Facilities for Unaccompanied Minors operate nationwide, with a total capacity of **156 places**, under the operational responsibility of the International Organization for Migration (IOM). These facilities provide temporary accommodation and a comprehensive range of services, including psychosocial and legal support, access to education and healthcare, as well as assessment of the needs and best interests of each child. During the minors' stay at these facilities, the registration of international protection applications is also completed, with the aim of subsequently finding an appropriate long-term accommodation and care framework.

Since the start of its operation, in April **2021**, and until **31 December 2025**, NERM has secured a total of **9,132 accommodations for unaccompanied minors**, of which **1,695 were provided in 2025**.

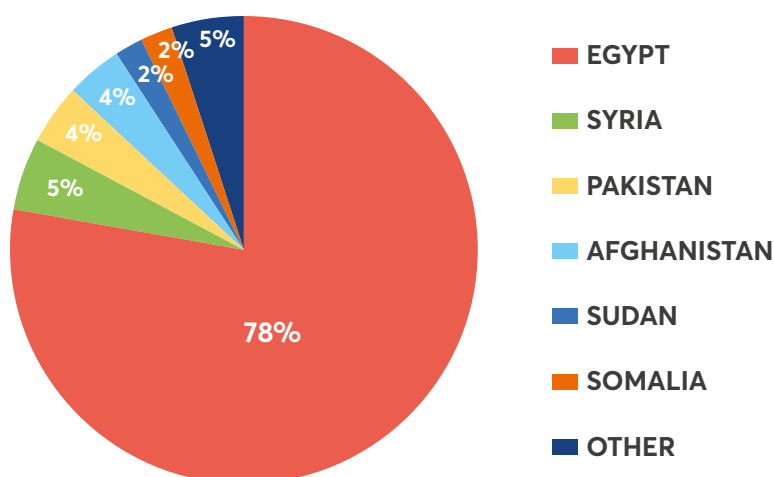


Escort of an unaccompanied child to an Emergency Accommodation Facility

Requests



The chart presents the regions where unaccompanied minors were identified during 2025.



The chart presents the nationalities of the minors served by NERM, during 2025.

Partner Organisation and Support Actions

NERM has developed a stable network of cooperation with civil society organisations, such as the "Network for Children's Rights" and "Arsis – Social Organisation for the Support of Youth", through the operation of **Info Desks and Mobile Units** in Athens and Thessaloniki, which provide information, psychosocial and legal support, best interests assessment and escort of unaccompanied minors, under the coordination of the Mechanism, to the Police Departments of Reference for their identification, as well as to healthcare structures, where required, and, subsequently, to the accommodation structures, ensuring the continuity of their protection."

At the same time, within the framework of cooperation with the operational partners and the competent prosecutorial authorities, NERM systematically monitors cases of unaccompanied and separated minors in precarious conditions who do not wish their immediate placement in accommodation structures, with the aim of their empowerment and their gradual inclusion in the protection system.

Furthermore, of paramount importance for the operation of NERM is also the provision of **tele-interpretation services** by "METAdrasi – Action for Migration and Development" in key communication languages, ensuring the effective management of the cases that address the Identification Hotline.



Provision of information to unaccompanied children at the offices of a cooperating partner organisation of NERM.

Additionally, for the support of **unaccompanied and separated minors from Ukraine**, NERM developed a special process of assessment and cooperation with the competent authorities. From the start of the war until the end of 2025, **673** referrals were recorded through the Identification Hotline, while **291** minors were referred to the Municipal Social Services for further support.

Finally, at an operational level, in 2025 NERM responded to new challenges, such as the **management of arrivals of unaccompanied minors in areas where Reception and Identification Centers do not operate.**

Specifically, due to the increased arrivals in Crete during the summer period, NERM, in cooperation with the Reception and Identification Service, contributed to the design and coordination of interventions concerning the accommodation and transfers of minors. In this context, field teams of the partner organisations were immediately mobilised at transfer points, ensuring the safe transfer of children to mainland structures and the coverage of temporary accommodation needs.

NERM has been supported over time both in terms of technical assistance and operational reinforcement by international and European organisations, such as the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the European Union Agency for Asylum and the International Organization for Migration. Within 2025, NERM's activities were mainly funded through the Swiss contribution. Subsequently, resources from the Sectoral Development Programme were utilized through the National Development Programme (EPA) within the framework of a Programming Agreement between the Ministry of Migration and Asylum and the International Organization for Migration for the implementation of the project titled "Strengthening the protection system for unaccompanied minors and vulnerable women applicants and beneficiaries of international protection".

3.2 Development of Interventions for the Support of Vulnerable Persons

Regarding the support of vulnerable third-country nationals or stateless persons who live in conditions of homelessness or precarious living, NERM is in the process of designing the implementation of **actions including needs assessment, psychosocial and legal support in Athens and Thessaloniki**, as well as the development of cooperation with **reception, health, and social care services**. At the same time, NERM will develop **partnerships with Municipalities** with the aim of linking beneficiaries to the services of local social structures, while the **mapping of all available health, psychosocial, and legal support services** will contribute to the creation of a functional referral and support network.

3.3 Educational and Information Activities

As part of knowledge dissemination and collaboration with the academic community, in May 2025 an **educational seminar was held at the Department of International and European Studies of the University of Piraeus**, in cooperation with NERM, with the participation of staff members of the General Secretariat, who presented the institutional and operational framework for the protection of unaccompanied minors and developed an interactive dialogue with the students of the Department.



Snapshot from the presentation of NERM, delivered in the context of a training seminar held at the University of Piraeus.

3.4 International Knowledge Exchange

During the year, a **visit and evaluation were conducted by the School of Social Work at Columbia University, in collaboration with the University of West Attica**. The evaluation was based on a mixed-methods approach, including on-site observations, ethnographic documentation, surveys, and semi-structured interviews with NERM staff, partner organisations and beneficiaries. During the visit, staff members from the Secretariat presented its work. The evaluation confirmed the effectiveness of the child-centred and rights-based intervention model, highlighted the importance of cross-sectoral collaboration and emphasised the need to further strengthen capacity-building and the systematic exchange of knowledge.



Snapshot from the working visit of the School of Social Work of Columbia University in collaboration with the University of West Attica.

Illustrative Case of Successful NERM Intervention

NERM plays a critical role in managing high-risk cases involving unaccompanied and separated minors, through coordinated interventions in collaboration with its operational partners and the competent authorities, particularly in cases of potential victims of trafficking, violence, severe abuse or neglect, functioning both as a preventive and protective support mechanism.

An illustrative example of NERM's effective operation and successful cross-sector collaboration is the **dismantling of a network exploiting unaccompanied minors in Athens** for the purpose of coercing them into criminal activities. The operation was carried out by the Directorate for Combatting Organised Crime, following an order from the competent Prosecutor's Office and reports from a NERM operational partner in Attica. Upon completion of the operation, the minors were immediately transferred to an Emergency Accommodation Facility, and all necessary actions were undertaken to protect them and safeguard their rights, in cooperation with Guardianship Service Providers.

4. Ensuring Accommodation for Unaccompanied Minors



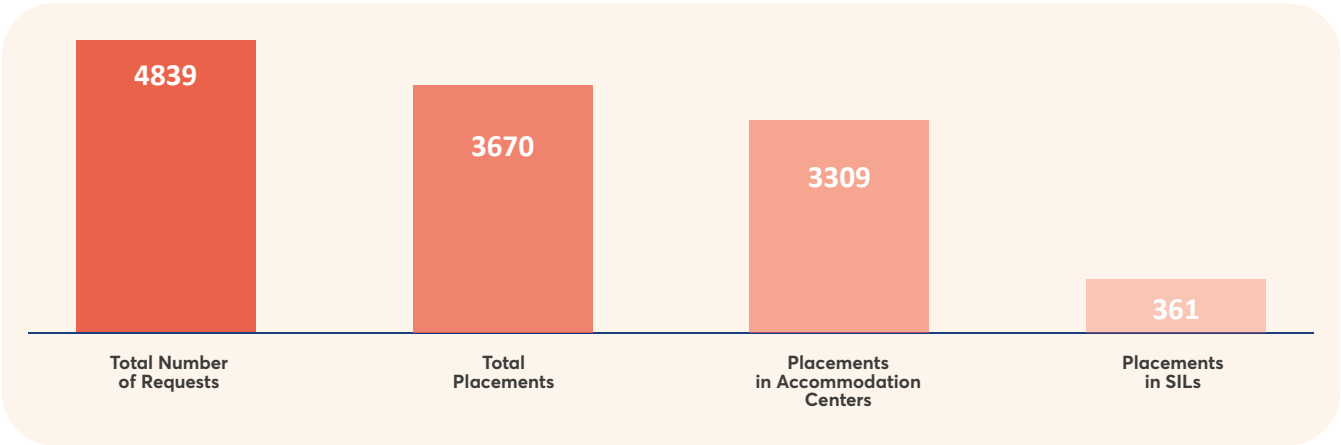
Snapshot from an art exhibition featuring works by unaccompanied minors on the theme: 'My Home'.

The Unit of Management of Accommodation Requests & Relocation (the Unit) manages and coordinates the placement of unaccompanied minors originating from Reception and Identification Centres (RICs), Closed Controlled Access Centres (CCACs) at the country's entry points, emergency accommodation facilities. The Unit also manages referrals submitted by any reporting entity that identifies an unaccompanied minor within the Greek territory. The placement of minors is carried out in Long-Term Accommodation Facilities, which may include Accommodation Centres for Unaccompanied Minors or Supervised Apartments for Semi-Independent Living (SILs) (for minors aged over 16), with the aim of ensuring holistic support and assistance.

In 2025, **4,839** accommodation requests for unaccompanied minors were processed through all established transfer and placement procedures in Long-Term Accommodation Facilities. It is noted that, in 2025, **59** Accommodation Centres for Unaccompanied Minors were recorded, with a total of **1,507** accommodation places, as well as **60** SILs, with **238** accommodation places.

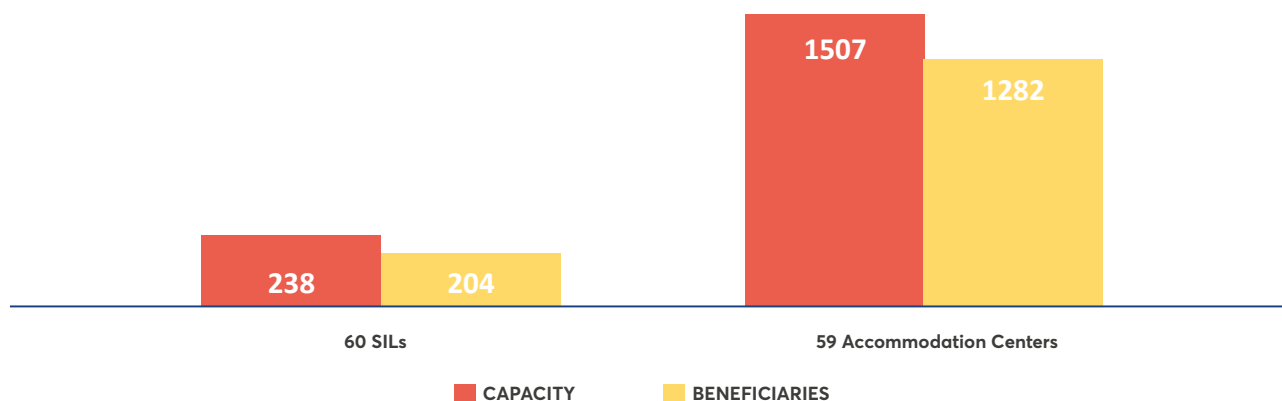
An aggregated overview of accommodation requests and capacity/occupancy for 2025 is provided in the following **charts**:

Management of accommodation requests for Unaccompanied Minors



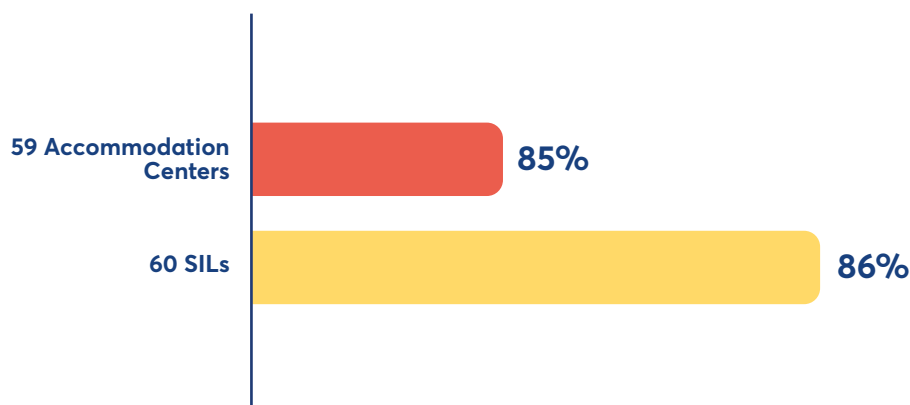
The above chart presents the number of accommodation requests for unaccompanied minors in long-term accommodation facilities, followed by the total number of these placements, disaggregated into Accommodation Centers and SILs.

Capacity and the number of residents by facility type



The above chart illustrates the capacity and the number of residents by facility type during 2025.

Occupancy rate by facility type



The above chart illustrates the occupancy rate by facility type in December 2025.

The project **"Grant Scheme for Organisations Operating Accommodation Centres for Unaccompanied Minors (ACUM), 2024–2025"** is funded under the "Greece Programme – Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF) 2021–2027", falls under Specific Objective 2: Legal Migration and Integration, and has a total budget of **€58,084,077.54** (Union contribution: **75%** and National contribution: **25%**) for the period 2024–2025.

The project **"Grant Scheme for Organisations Operating Supervised Apartments for Semi-Independent Living for Unaccompanied Minors aged 16 and above (SILs)"** is funded under the "Greece Programme – Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF) 2021–2027", falls under Specific Objective 2: Legal Migration and Integration, and has a total budget of **€7,324,654.48** (Union contribution: **75%** and National contribution: **25%**).

Furthermore, in 2025, in cooperation with METAdrasi – Action for Migration and Development, the transfers of unaccompanied minors from reception points to the mainland, as well as from various locations across the country to safe accommodation settings, were successfully carried out through an authorised escort trained in child protection and an interpreter, in line with the relevant institutional framework governing organised and safe transfers of unaccompanied minors under Law 4960/2022, as incorporated into Law 4939/2022.

The project for the **provision of transportation and escort services** for unaccompanied minors was initially implemented through Swiss funding, on the basis of a Programme Agreement between the Ministry of Migration and Asylum and METAdrasi – Action for Migration and Development, and subsequently through funding from the National Development Programme (NDP), on the basis of the Programme Agreement between the Ministry of Migration and Asylum and the International Organization for Migration (IOM) for the implementation of the project entitled "Strengthening the protection system for unaccompanied minors and vulnerable women applicants and beneficiaries of international protection".



Snapshot from the presentation of the Unit of Management of Accommodation Requests and Relocation, delivered in the context of a training seminar held at the University of Piraeus.

Good Practices

The Unit maintains **stable, long-standing cooperation** with child protection actors and the competent authorities, coordinating and **providing the necessary case-by-case guidance** and contributing to the management of vulnerable cases. It remains in continuous communication and cooperation with the competent local Public Prosecutors' Offices, Guardians, staff of long-term and emergency accommodation facilities, as well as the Reception and Identification Service.

At the same time, the Unit is informed of any significant matter concerning the living conditions of minors and supports accommodation facilities, through liaison with the competent services, in cases involving minors who require enhanced care.

The Unit's contribution is also notable with regard to the **management of requests to extend beneficiaries' stay** after reaching adulthood, **either to enable the continuation of schooling** - aiming to encourage and acknowledge minors' efforts to integrate into the Greek community through education - **or on grounds of vulnerability**, through the review and assessment of the specific characteristics of each case and the best interests of the minor.

4.1 Provision of Child Protection Services in Safe Areas / Safe Zones

Aiming to **provide enhanced child protection** services and comprehensive care to unaccompanied minors arriving and residing within designated areas referred to as **"Safe Areas"** or, where applicable, **"Safe Zones"** which are located in facilities under the responsibility of the Reception and Identification Service (RIS), the General Secretariat for Vulnerable Persons and Institutional Protection (GSVIP), in cooperation with RIS, has, since January 2024, undertaken the development of child protection teams within these areas.

Throughout the stay of unaccompanied minors in the Safe Areas and Safe Zones, the provision of at least the following services is ensured: 24-hour care, psychosocial and legal support and assessment of their best interests, meeting of basic needs, access to health facilities and services, provision of interpretation and transportation services to other services or authorities within and outside Reception and Identification Centers (RICs)/ Closed Controlled Access Centers (CCACs)/ Controlled Access Facility for Temporary Accommodation of Asylum Seekers (CAFTAASs), particularly to health facilities, in order to meet minors' needs.



Snapshot at the Swiss Embassy with all implementing agencies, within the framework of the Greece–Switzerland agreement.

More specifically, during 2025, the General Secretariat, in partnership with the implementing NGO "ZEUXIS," initially co-funded by the Swiss Contribution and subsequently through the National Development Programme, continued the uninterrupted presence of specialised teams providing child protection services in the **Safe Areas** operating in the CCACs of **Samos, Leros, Chios, and Kos**, as well as in the **Safe Zones** operating within the CAFTAASs of **Alexandria and Vagiochori**. These efforts contributed significantly to ensuring immediate protection, care and safety for unaccompanied minors identified at the country's reception and identification points.

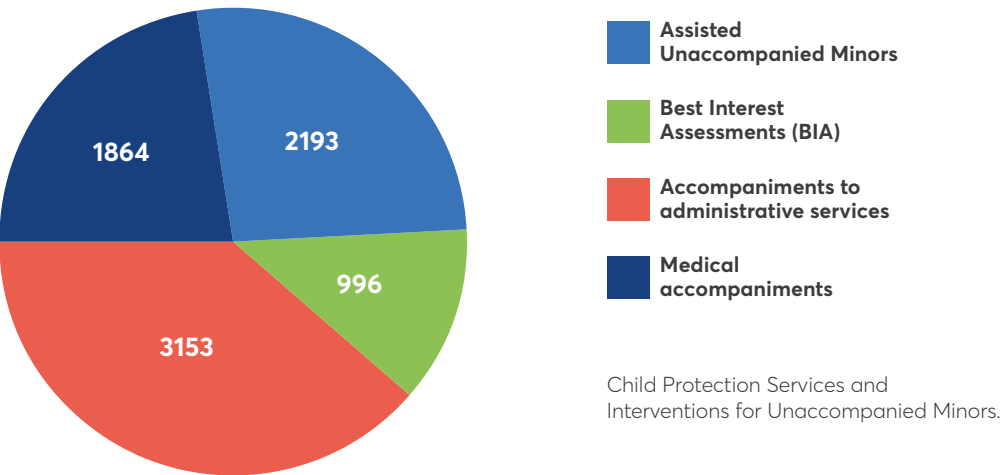
During 2025, a total of **2,193** unaccompanied minors received child protection services in the above Safe Areas and Zones, including 1,219 who arrived within the year.



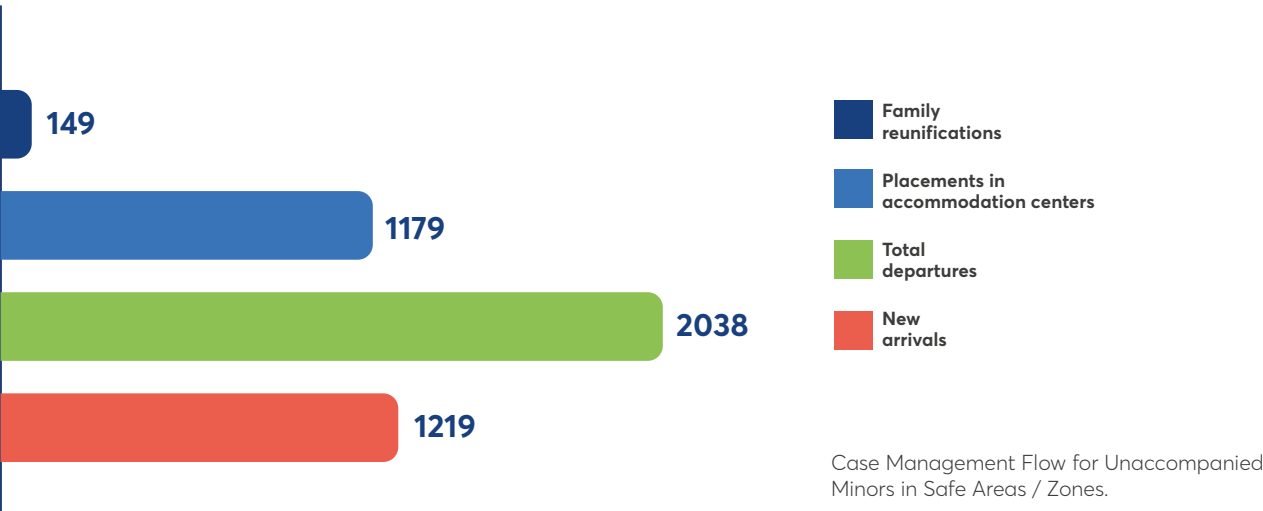
Snapshot of minors engaging in artistic activities.

In this context, during the same year, **996 best-interest assessments** were conducted at the above locations, supporting decision-making regarding the future placement of the minors, such as family reunification procedures or placement in appropriate long-term care facilities. At the same time, **1,179 minors were transferred to Accommodation Centres for Unaccompanied Minors**, and **149** minors departed as part of **family reunification** procedures. Emphasis was also placed on facilitating unaccompanied minors' access to health services and administrative procedures. In this framework, a total of **5,017 escorts** were carried out, of which 3,153 involved administrative services and 1,864 involved medical facilities, ensuring that the needs of minors are met in a timely and uninterrupted manner.

Overview of Services and Interventions for Unaccompanied Minors in Safe Areas / Zones



Case Flow for Unaccompanied Minors in Safe Areas / Zones

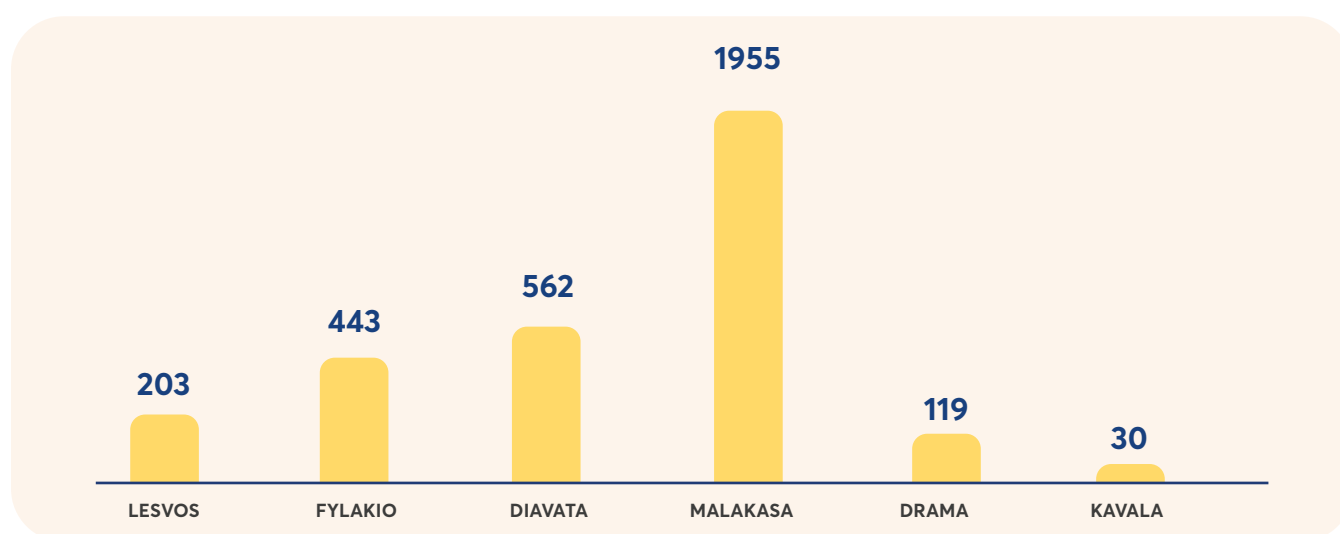


Furthermore, during 2025, the presence of specialised teams continued in the Safe Area operating within the CCAC of **Lesvos**, in partnership with the International Organization for Migration (IOM), which collaborated with "Arsis – Social Organisation for the Support of Youth" (as the field implementing partner) for the Safe Areas operating at the RICs of **Diavata** and **Fylakio**, as well as with the Non-profit Organisation "VELA" (as the field implementing partner) for the Safe Area operating within the RIC of **Malakasa** and the Safe Zone within the EDPFAA of **Drama**.

Child protection services were also provided in the Safe Zone of the CCAC of **Kavala**, with the non-profit organisation "VELA" as the field implementing partner.

At the above locations, more than **3,300** unaccompanied minors received services, ensuring the provision of safe accommodation, daily care with continuous staff presence, basic necessities and access to health services, legal support and psychosocial empowerment.

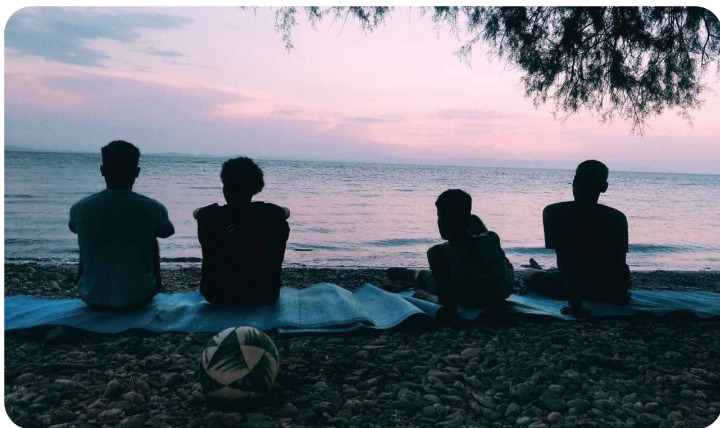
Unaccompanied Minors receiving support



Unaccompanied Minors supported in Safe Areas / Safe Zones.

The Safe Areas/Zones in **Samos, Chios, Kos, Leros, Vagiochori, and Alexandria** were co-funded by the Swiss Contribution and subsequently by the National Development Programme (NDP). The Safe Areas in **Lesvos, Malakasa, Diavata, Fylakio, and Drama** were funded through the Voluntary Solidarity Mechanism (VSM), with the Netherlands and the Czech Republic as donor countries, as a demonstration of solidarity with Greece, with the resources allocated through the International Organization for Migration (IOM). From October 2025, the Safe Areas in **Malakasa, Diavata, Fylakio, Drama, and Kavala** have been funded by the National Development Programme.

The above activities in the Safe Areas/Zones funded through the NDP are implemented under a Programming Agreement between the Ministry of Migration and Asylum and IOM for the implementation of the project entitled "Strengthening the protection system for unaccompanied minors and vulnerable women applicants and beneficiaries of international protection".



Overall, the actions implemented in the Safe Areas/Zones during 2025 confirmed the importance of comprehensive protection and care at the country's reception and identification points, strengthening the child protection system. At the same time, through these actions, the importance of cooperation among the involved stakeholders was highlighted, which contributed substantially to maintaining a high level of services provided and to effectively responding to the needs of unaccompanied minors.

5. Monitoring and Evaluation of Accommodation Facilities

5.1 Implementation of the Standard Operating Procedures of the Accommodation Facilities for Unaccompanied Minors



Providing an adequate accommodation framework for unaccompanied minors is a key priority of the General Secretariat. The long-term and emergency accommodation system for unaccompanied minors includes Accommodation Centres for Unaccompanied Minors, Supervised Apartments for Semi-Independent Living (SILs) and Emergency Accommodation Facilities for Unaccompanied Minors. Accommodation facilities are registered in the Registry of Accommodation Facilities for Unaccompanied Minors, following a review of their structural, organisational and operational adequacy. In 2025, the Registry included 59 Accommodation Centres, 60 SILs and 4 Emergency Accommodation Facilities. To ensure adequate living, care and protection conditions for the hosted minors, Standard

Operating Procedures have been established for each type of accommodation facility (Joint Ministerial Decision 187634/2023, as applicable to Accommodation Centres, Ministerial Decision 138529/2023, as applicable to SILs, and Ministerial Decision 193953/2024 for Emergency Accommodation Facilities). The Unit is responsible for monitoring compliance with the operational standards of these facilities, evaluating the quality of the services provided, supporting facility staff, and designing and monitoring the effectiveness of necessary improvement interventions.

5.2 On-site audits of the accommodation facilities for Unaccompanied Minors



Snapshot from the on-site inspection

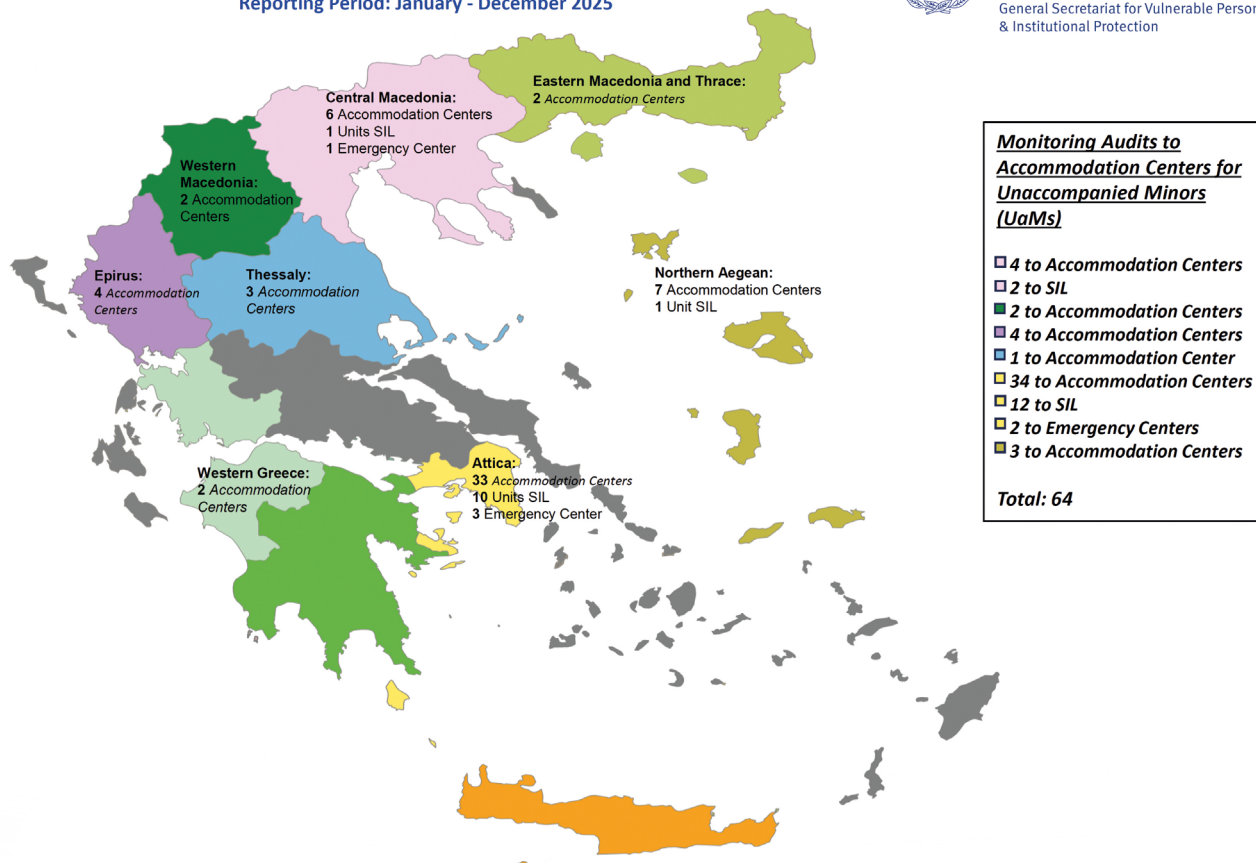
During 2025, trained staff of the Unit conducted **63** on-site audits at long-term and emergency accommodation facilities for Unaccompanied Minors across Greece, using specialised tools and methodologies to effectively verify compliance with the institutional framework and to promptly identify any deviations. Of the 63 audits mentioned above, 40 were conducted in accordance with the annual plan, 15 for the purpose of verifying compliance with the recommendations of previous audits, and 8 were carried out on an ad hoc basis in response to reported concerns.

Specifically, 71.7% of Accommodation Centres, 75% of SILs and 75% of Emergency Accommodation Facilities operating during the reporting period were audited. The map below illustrates both the total number of facilities and the audits conducted by the Unit. In certain geographical regions, the number of audits exceeded the number of existing facilities, as the findings indicated the need for additional on-site visits.

**Distribution of Monitoring Audits by the Unit of Monitoring
& Evaluation of Accommodation Centers**
Reporting Period: January - December 2025



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



Allocation of audits conducted by the Monitoring and Evaluation Unit across Accommodation Centers, by geographic region.



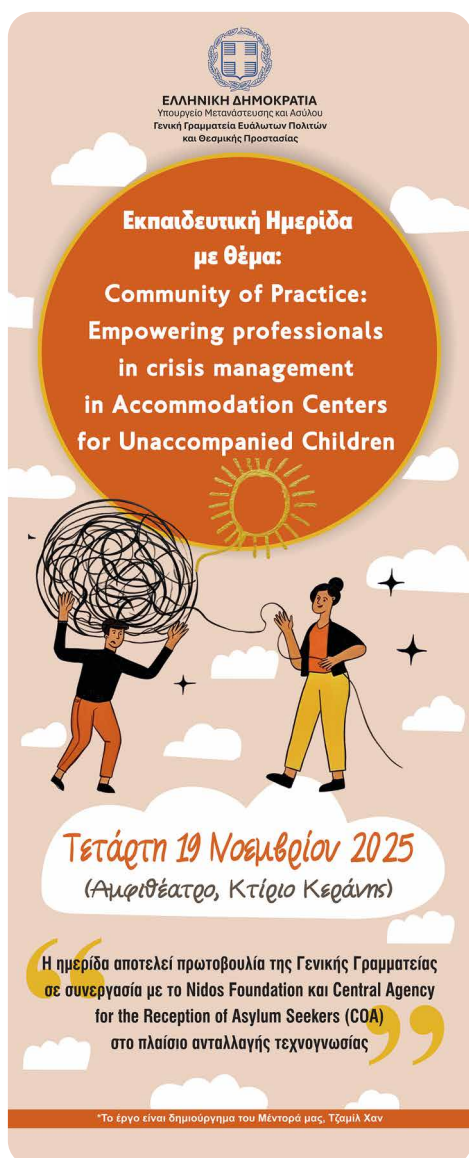
Snapshot from a group interview conducted with accommodated minors.

Particular emphasis is placed on the participatory dimension of monitoring, as the on-site audit methodology systematically incorporates the views and experiences of both staff and unaccompanied minors, to ensure a comprehensive evaluation of the operation of the facilities. In 2025, interviews and discussions were conducted with more than **390** facility staff members and **447** hosted minors, who, through individual interviews and focus group discussions, expressed their views on the organisation and operation of the facilities in which they work and reside respectively.

5.3 Online audits of the operational documents of the Accommodation Facilities

In 2025, seven (7) online audits were conducted on the key operational documents of the accommodation facilities for unaccompanied minors, including the Internal Operating Regulation, the Child Protection Policy, the Code of Conduct and the Crisis Management Protocols, in accordance with the Guidelines issued by the Unit in 2024. The audits highlighted the degree of incorporation of the Guidelines and the adequacy of the operational documents as working tools. Targeted recommendations were also formulated for their further alignment with the institutional framework and for staff training, with the aim of strengthening the operational readiness of those facilities.

5.4 Training of Staff in Accommodation Facilities



On 19 November 2025, the Unit of Monitoring and Evaluation of Accommodation Centres organised the **training seminar** "Community of Practice: Empowering Professionals in Crisis Management in UAC Accommodation Facilities". Key speakers at the event were representatives from the Ministry of Justice and Security of the Netherlands and the National Guardianship Agency for Unaccompanied Minors "NIDOS", who work in facilities and programmes for unaccompanied minors. Participants, who are employees at Accommodation Centres for Unaccompanied Minors, were informed about alternative training and empowerment practices for frontline professionals on safety related issues, the role of intercultural mediators and behavioural scientists in crisis management, as well as the Prospect Reception Facilities (PON), which operate as alternative accommodation facilities for minors with challenging behavior.

Training workshop poster: "Community of Practice – Empowering Professionals in Crisis Management in Unaccompanied Minors' Accommodation Facilities".

6. Supporting the Social Integration of Unaccompanied Minors

6.1 Strategic Framework for Strengthening Integration through Education

With the aim of promoting education, as a central pillar of social integration, the Unit for the Integration and Support of Unaccompanied Minors focused on **strengthening access of unaccompanied minors to formal education**. In this direction, institutional cooperation continued with the **Ministry of Education, Religious Affairs and Sports** (Autonomous Department for the Coordination and Monitoring of Refugee Education) and with the local **Refugee Education Coordinators (RECs)**.

Furthermore, strategic actions were designed and implemented to ensure the uninterrupted access of unaccompanied minors **to non-formal education**.

Since 2020, the Unit has developed and coordinates **a nationwide learning practice community** with the participation of educators working in long-term and emergency accommodation centres for unaccompanied minors. The community operates through regular monthly meetings, covering topics related to both formal and non-formal education of minors, as well as continuous professional development of practitioners in selected cognitive and pedagogical areas. This year, particular emphasis was placed on training educators working in accommodation facilities on how to implement the compulsory Greek language instruction to facilitate language acquisition among unaccompanied minors. In addition, in application of the relevant institutional framework requiring the mandatory teaching of the Greek language for at least six hours per week in accommodation centres for Unaccompanied Minors, the Unit in cooperation with the Ministry of Education, Religious Affairs and Sports and civil society organisations, organised **training seminars for educators** and distributed appropriate **printed educational material**, strengthening the capacity of the facilities to implement the new regulatory framework.



Group photo of colleagues from the GSVPIP during the event celebrating World Children's Rights Day in Athens



Snapshot from the training of professionals in unaccompanied minor's accommodation facilities on Human Rights Education».

Moreover, an in-person **training was conducted for educators** working in long-term accommodation facilities in Attica, with the support and coordination of the Unit, on the topic: "Inspiring Minds, Transforming Method: An Introduction to Suggestopedia." The training introduced the experiential learning method **Suggestopedia**, an approach to language learning that integrates culture and other subject areas. The training is based on the theory of communicative suggestion,

Suggestology, which draws on insights from Neuroscience, Psychotherapy, and the Semiotics of Art. This approach has been applied with notable success in the education of asylum seekers at the Restad Gård refugee accommodation facility in Sweden by Christina Johnstone, who also served as the trainer for this session. The method is primarily addressed to minors aged 16+ and adults with zero or low literacy in the target language.

In the framework of initiatives to support and integrate unaccompanied minors, the Unit also provides training for professionals working in accommodation facilities, with a focus on **Human Rights Education**. This intervention constitutes a good practice with a multiplier effect, as it invests in strengthening the capacity of frontline professionals by enhancing their knowledge, skills, and ability to design and implement interventions tailored to the needs of minors. Participants make use of the tools developed by the Council of Europe to integrate human rights principles into the daily operation of the facilities. The pilot implementation in Athens was positively evaluated and subsequently expanded to additional facilities in Athens and Thessaloniki, with results presented in the framework of "Refugee Week".

6.2 Fostering Social Inclusion through Sports and Culture

On 6 April, in celebration of **International Day of Sport for Development and Peace**, the Unit co-organised an innovative collaboration and inclusion football tournament in Thessaloniki, in cooperation with "Arsis – Social Organisation for Youth Support", ActionAid, and the Sports Club of Thessaloniki "Iraklis F.C.". The event brought together children residing in the long-term accommodation facilities for unaccompanied minors operated by Arsis, and young athletes from Iraklis' football academies. The tournament was conducted using ActionAid's football3 methodology, emphasising not only on the competitive outcome but also on fair play, teamwork, and mutual respect. Participants also took part in the international "White Card" campaign, symbolically promoting the message of peace and social inclusion.



Snapshot from the cooperation and inclusion football tournament in Thessaloniki.

Additionally, on the same day of the above event, a **Memorandum of Cooperation** was signed between the General Secretariat and the Sports Club "Iraklis", aiming to establish a stable, sustainable, and systematic framework for supporting the social inclusion of unaccompanied minors in the Greek community through sports. The initiative seeks to promote active participation, inclusion, intercultural understanding, and social cohesion.

Furthermore, with the aim of empowering and providing psychosocial support to unaccompanied minors, **specialised self-defense workshops** were developed and implemented, initially targeting minor girls, responding to identified needs for boosting self-confidence and fostering a healthy relationship with the body. The workshops were conducted within the framework of the "Empowerment and Self Defense (ESD)" programme, applying a holistic intervention model based on a trauma-informed approach. Through these experiential workshops, participants explored topics related to psychoeducation and the management of personal boundaries, while simultaneously receiving training in verbal and physical self-defense techniques, aiming to restore autonomy and strengthen their sense of safety and control.

The highly positive evaluation of the initial intervention led to the expansion of the programme beyond Attica, including island regions, where it was implemented with both boys and girls, underscoring its universal and preventive character. In October, the programme was carried out at a shelter for unaccompanied minors run by the organisation "The Home Project," and, on the International Day of the Girl Child, an open session was held with the active engagement of the Unit's staff. The initiative continued in November at the shelter for unaccompanied girls operated by the organisation "Zeuxis NGO," in alignment with the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women. The positive reception from both beneficiaries and professionals highlights the intervention's value as a substantive tool for safeguarding human rights and fostering gender equality in practice.



Snapshot from the preparation for the delivery of self-defense seminars

To mark Igoumenitsa's designation as the honored municipality of the "Refugee Week Festival," the Unit carried out **inclusion-focused activities with the local community**. Centred around promoting inclusion, a two-day **art exhibition** was held on June 18–19, **featuring paintings by unaccompanied minors** residing at the ICSD Igoumenitsa Accommodation Centre, under the topic "Embracing Diversity." The event received strong support from the local community and municipal authorities, highlighting the importance of mutual acceptance. In parallel, a **friendly football match** involving students from the 2nd General High School of Igoumenitsa served as a meaningful bridge for communication. Through shared sporting activity and a cooperative spirit, the interaction between the minors and local youth was strengthened, sealing the success of the inclusion process.



Group photograph taken during the '5E' event held in celebration of World Children's Rights Day

6.3 Supporting Unaccompanied Minors in their preparation for and transition into the labor market

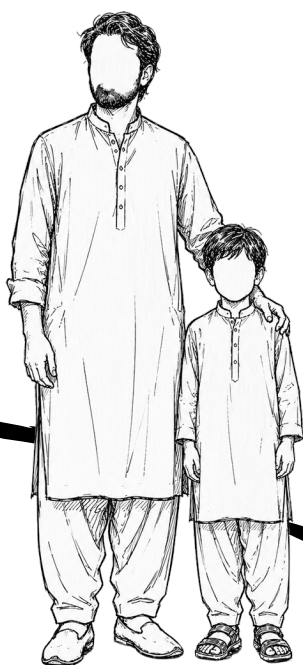
Within the framework of capacity-building initiatives for personnel working with unaccompanied minors, the Unit conducted a series of targeted **training seminars** for educators, psychologists, social workers, and legal professionals employed in accommodation facilities for unaccompanied minors. The training aimed to facilitate unaccompanied minors' and young adults' access to vocational education, skills development, and lawful employment, as key pillars of social and economic integration. The seminars focused on strengthening professionals' knowledge and skills, enabling them to provide accurate and legally grounded guidance, thereby contributing to the prevention of labor exploitation and undeclared work, which often arise from a lack of institutional information and support.

The educational programme provided a comprehensive overview of the current legal framework governing the employment of minors over the age of 15, outlining both the formal and substantive requirements for entering the labor market. Special emphasis was placed on:

- Professions explicitly prohibited for individuals under 18 years of age
- The application process to the Guardianship Council for unaccompanied minors
- Requirements for enrollment in vocational schools and training institutions
- The importance of Greek language proficiency as a key factor in accessing education and employment.

At the same time, the available **referral pathways** to vocational education and training providers were presented, aiming to create realistic, sustainable, and safe career pathways for minors. Through interactive discussions, case studies, and the exchange of experiences, participants identified the main challenges unaccompanied minors face during their transition to adulthood and co-developed practical interventions to enhance their career prospects, socio-economic integration, and overall social cohesion.

As part of empowering the minors themselves, **child-friendly workshops** were also conducted, aiming to strengthen their autonomy and provide accurate, accessible, and age-appropriate information. Special emphasis was placed on understanding the legal framework in a clear and child-friendly manner, as well as highlighting the importance of education, Greek language acquisition, and vocational training as key pillars of social and professional integration. The workshops were structured as experiential activities, encouraging active participation and the development of self-awareness, critical thinking, and decision-making skills related to their future careers. Through group activities, role-playing, and interactive exercises, minors were able to express their expectations and concerns, acknowledge their interests and skills, and shape realistic career prospects.



Examples of successful integration interventions

The case of Kalavryta

As part of the Unit's strategic planning, a comprehensive **pilot integration programme was designed and developed in Kalavryta area**, identified as a particularly suitable environment for the social and professional integration of unaccompanied minors and young adults. In this context, meetings were held with the local government and the Social Services of the Municipality of Kalavryta, as well as with the board of Kalavryta Agricultural Dairy Cooperative.



Photograph from the meeting held between the Ministry of Migration and Asylum, the Agricultural Cooperative of Kalavryta, and the Hellenic Red Cross for the conclusion of a Memorandum of Cooperation.

The above planning was finalised with the signing of a **Memorandum of Cooperation** between the Ministry of Migration and Asylum, the Kalavryta Agricultural Cooperative, and the Hellenic Red Cross, establishing a comprehensive integration framework that includes vocational training and access to the labor market. The vocational training component was delivered by "COMPASS" Day Centre in Ioannina, operated under Solidarity Now. At the same time, an experiential workshop was organised for unaccompanied minors, focusing on labor rights, the link between education and employment through career guidance, and familiarisation with the work environment of a dairy production facility.

The Kalavryta pilot programme represents a comprehensive model of successful collaboration among the state, local authorities, social partners, and child protection actors, and may serve as a basis for the development of similar initiatives in other regions of the country.

Indicative cases of successful integration of Unaccompanied Minors

The story of M.T.

M.T., whose country of origin is Afghanistan, arrived in Greece as an unaccompanied minor and resided in an accommodation centre for unaccompanied minors run by the NGO Iliaktida. From the very beginning, he demonstrated a high level of adaptability and a strong willingness to learn, despite the difficulties he faced due to the linguistic and social transition. With the continuous support of the interdisciplinary team, and especially the educators, he was successfully admitted to the 1st Model Gymnasium of Mytilene after successfully passing the entrance examinations. He consistently attended the educational programme, mastered the Greek language within a short period of time, and actively participated in school activities. The minor was subsequently placed in a supervised semi-independent living apartment, with the aim of further supporting his professional integration and independent living. After reaching adulthood and having achieved a high level of proficiency in the Greek language, he prepared for the Panhellenic Exams, and in 2025, was admitted to the Department of Environment at the University of the Aegean, where he is currently studying. At the same time, he works as an interpreter, while he continues his consistent effort to enter Medical School.

The story of E.G.

E.G., whose country of origin is Cameroon, arrived in Greece as an unaccompanied minor and has been residing since 2023 in a supervised semi-independent living apartment run by the organisation European Expression. During his stay, alongside regular school attendance, E.G. worked diligently and, within six months, obtained the American GED high school diploma. This achievement enabled him to gain admission to study Computer Engineering with a full scholarship at the Hellenic American College in Athens. Additionally, with the support of Kostas Filippidis, former world champion in pole vaulting, he has achieved significant accomplishments in athletics, ranking among the top ten nationally and participating in international competitions.

In 2024, he also participated as an actor, starring in the intercultural opera workshop of the National Opera, held annually on the main stage of the Stavros Niarchos Foundation Cultural Centre. The previous year, he played a central role in the production "Migrants" by Vizniek, which was supported by the Ministry of Culture.

Now as an adult, E.G. works as caregiver at the same organisation where he had lived as an unaccompanied minor.



6.4 Social Awareness & Rights

In celebration of **World Children's Rights Day**, events dedicated to the empowerment of unaccompanied minors were organised in Athens and Thessaloniki (19–20/11/2025). These activities promoted both the empowerment and active participation of unaccompanied minors.

In addition, **information and awareness-raising activities** on human rights were conducted in Secondary Schools as part of the World Human Rights Day celebrations.

Finally, in collaboration with the Greek Section of Amnesty International and with the support of the Stavros Niarchos Foundation (SNF), **the educational programme "You and Me, Traveling Together..." was implemented for unaccompanied minors of primary school age**. The programme aimed to foster values of respect, cooperation, and empathy through experiential activities and received particularly positive feedback. The programme was based on a multi-sensory educational trolley that travels across Greece to meet minors. The trolley contains games and materials that facilitate collaborative and experiential activities focused on human rights.

Qualitative Research on the integration needs of unaccompanied minors with the support of UNICEF

As part of the strategy of the General Secretariat for Vulnerable Persons and Institutional Protection to strengthen the social integration of unaccompanied minors in Greece, and with the support of UNICEF, **an extensive qualitative study** was conducted from June to August 2025 on the migration profile and integration needs of unaccompanied minors, with a particular focus on the increasing population from Egypt. The research included **16 focus group discussions** with **45 children and structured interviews** with **26 frontline professionals** in Athens, Thessaloniki, and Ioannina. The main finding was that children, primarily aged 13–17, migrate due to extreme poverty and family pressures, often originating from rural areas with low educational backgrounds.

The contribution of the Unit for the Integration and Support of Unaccompanied Minors was pivotal in designing the methodology, developing research tools, coordinating focus groups, analysing qualitative data, and formulating evidence-based policy recommendations. The study highlighted that the integration of unaccompanied minors is not only a protection obligation but also a critical investment in social cohesion and sustainable economic development, laying the groundwork for evidence-based integration policies, including those addressing the transition to adulthood.

Section B'

Strategic Actions for the Support of
Unaccompanied Minors



7. Mentorship

7.1 Visits to Accommodation Facilities Nationwide

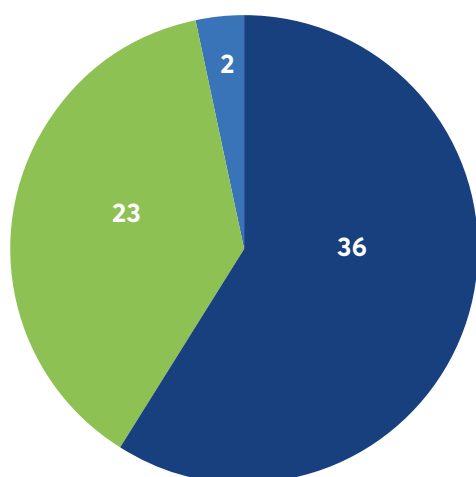
Throughout 2025, the Mentors' initiative continued through regular visits to Accommodation Centres for Unaccompanied Minors, Supervised Semi-Independent Living Apartments, and Emergency Accommodation Facilities for Unaccompanied Minors in Attica region as well as in accommodation facilities in Thessaloniki, Chalkidiki, Mytilene, and Kozani.



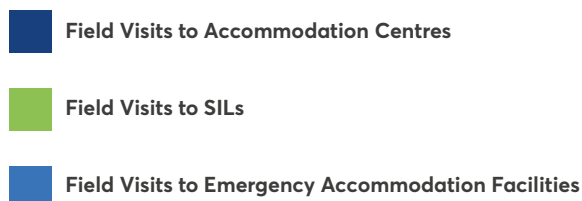
Snapshot from the team's visit to the accommodation centre for unaccompanied girls in Pentalofos, Kozani.

In this context, the children had the opportunity to meet the Mentors, receive support and guidance, and be informed about available activities through group discussions, as well as to participate in creative and sports activities, which strengthened their creative expression, social interaction, and contributed to their overall empowerment.

Total field visits to Accommodation Facilities

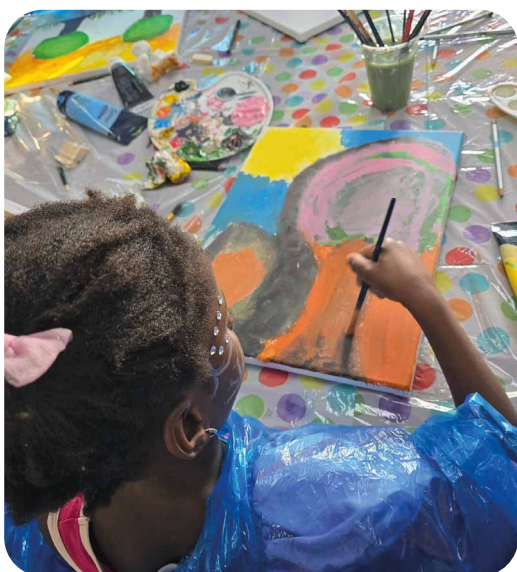


In 2025, the Mentors carried out **61 visits** in total including 36 visits to Accommodation Facilities for Unaccompanied Minors, 23 visits to Supervised Semi-Independent Living Apartments and 2 visits to Emergency Accommodation Facilities.



Number of visits conducted in Accommodation Facilities

7.2 Art Workshops



Snapshot from the monthly painting workshop.

The Mentors team continues to implement monthly art workshops in Athens, as well as during missions outside Attica, with the aim of providing unaccompanied minors with a safe and creative space for expression through art. Each workshop follows a thematic approach, with indicative themes including emotions, mental health, psychological well-being, and children's rights.

Through their participation, children have the opportunity to meet peers, socialise and develop friendships, become familiar with basic painting techniques, and strengthen their emotional expression. At the same time, the workshops contribute substantially to building self-esteem, managing emotions, and reducing anxiety, enhancing minors' psychosocial well-being and promoting a sense of safety and inclusion within their social environment, through a creative and enjoyable process.

7.3 Art Exhibitions



Snapshot from the painting exhibition held in the framework of the event celebrating World Children's Rights Day in Athens.

Beyond the organisation of art workshops, the team also implemented art exhibitions showcasing the works created by unaccompanied minors during the workshops. These exhibitions offered minors the unique experience of seeing their artwork displayed in an exhibition space, reinforcing their self-confidence and sense of recognition for their creativity. At the same time, the wider public had the opportunity to become acquainted with, view, and appreciate minors' artistic expression in Athens and Thessaloniki.

7.4 Training on the Peer Support Tool “I Support My Friends”



Snapshot from the “Growing Healthier Together” event, organised in cooperation with the World Health Organisation to mark World Mental Health Day, focusing on the mental health of adolescents and youth

The Mentors team continues to broaden the scope of its actions by strengthening dialogue with children around mental health and psychological well-being through the peer support training manual “I Support My Friends”, which is based on the principles of Psychological First Aid. The aim of the training sessions is to empower older children and adolescents with the necessary knowledge and skills to recognise signs of distress and provide basic support to friends and peers, always under the guidance and supervision of trusted adults.

The informative sessions of “I Support My Friends” are implemented in accommodation centres and supervised semi-independent living apartments and are now expanding beyond Attica. The programme recognises the dynamic and active role of children and adolescents in peer-to-peer support, while ensuring that this process is carried out safely, with close adult supervision and a strong emphasis on the protection and well-being of minors.

7.5 Teens’ Network

For the fourth consecutive year, the Mentors Team successfully continued the implementation of the Teens’ Network, a monthly online initiative that has been established as a safe digital space for connection, interaction, and reliable information for adolescents living in accommodation facilities across Greece. The central focus of the Network remains the social inclusion of minors, as well as their understanding of the rights and procedures that concern them in Greece.

Throughout 2025, the thematic sessions focused on empowering young people and improving their daily lives, while also strengthening their digital skills. This year, the Network was further enriched through the participation of specialised professionals, offering adolescents valuable knowledge and tools to support an independent and creative future. The consistent engagement of participants lays a strong foundation for the further development of the Network in 2026, with the aim of expanding inclusion and support.

7.6 Support in Emergency Accommodation Facilities

In 2025, the Mentors Team continued the implementation of a targeted programme of visits to emergency accommodation facilities. The main purpose of these visits is to provide minors with accurate, immediate, and easy-to-understand information. By making use of their personal experiences, the Mentors guide minors through the next stages of their transfer to long-term accommodation facilities. During the visits, the operating rules of the facilities are explained in detail, along with the framework of coexistence both within and outside the facilities, with particular emphasis being placed on promoting cooperation between minors and staff. Through this approach, the Mentors’ intervention plays a crucial role in supporting the smooth transition of minors to a more stable living environment.

7.7 Sport Activities



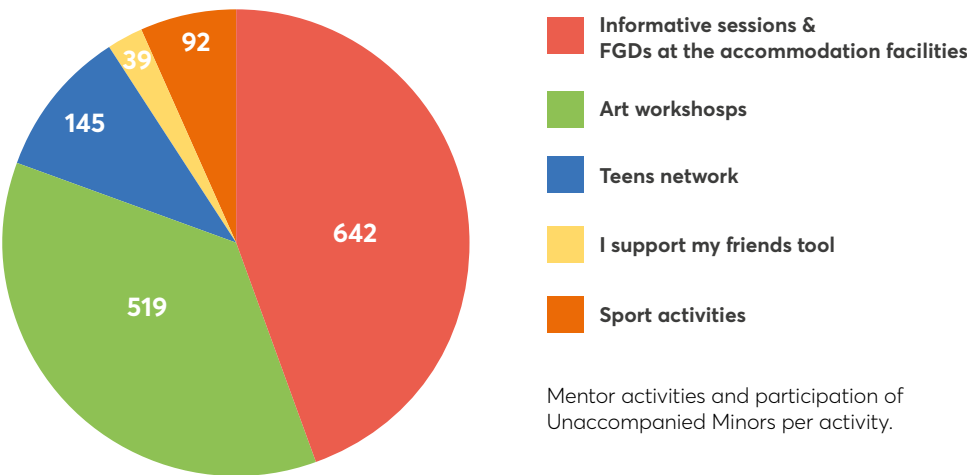
Snapshot from an article dedicated to peer support published in the magazine of the YMCA Thessaloniki.

Within the framework of socialisation and engagement activities for unaccompanied minors, the Mentors, along with the Unit for the Integration and Support of Unaccompanied Minors, organised sports activities, strengthening their participation, cooperation, and socialisation, in collaboration with organisations that support the education and social development of unaccompanied minors. The initiative aimed to promote cooperation, teamwork, and mutual respect, offering participants a positive and inclusive sporting experience.

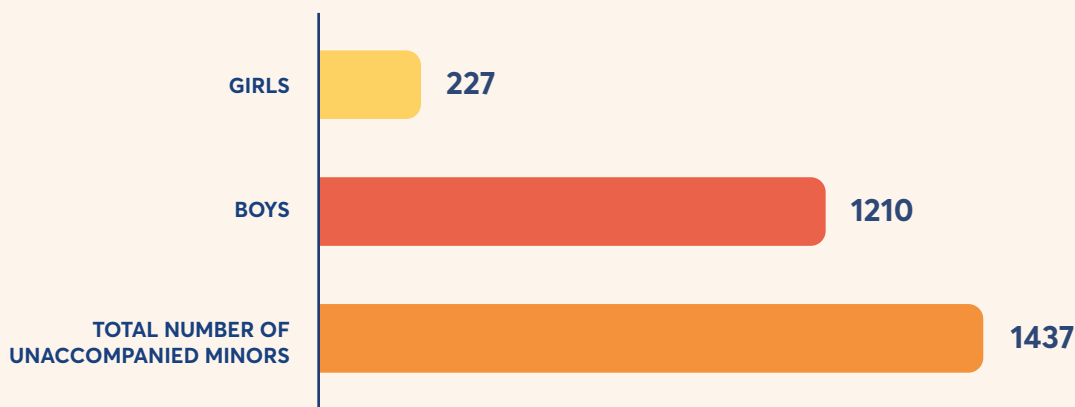
7.8 Informational Visits to Schools

For the third consecutive year, awareness-raising activities for the school community regarding unaccompanied minors are continued. Specifically, the team carried out visits to schools in cooperation with the Head of the Integration Unit and participated in educational and cultural events organised by the schools. These activities aimed to inform and sensitise students and educators about the circumstances and challenges faced by unaccompanied minors, who, despite belonging to the same age group, experience significantly different social and personal difficulties.

Unaccompanied Minors benefitted from the activities



Unaccompanied Minors benefitted from the activities



Number of Unaccompanied Minors engaged in mentor activities.

8. Compass – Complementary Support Mechanism to the National Strategy for the Protection of Unaccompanied Minors in Greece



Snapshot from the visit of members of the GSVPIP to the Day Centre « "COMPASS" in Ioannina

Under the auspices of the **General Secretariat for Vulnerable Persons and Institutional Protection**, the **"Compass"** project constitutes a key complementary support mechanism for the protection of unaccompanied minors in Greece. Coordinated by **"SYNYPARXIS – Ecumenical Refugee Programme"** and in partnership with the organisations **"ILIAKTIDA"**, **"SOS Children's Villages"**, **"SolidarityNow"**, **"ZEUXIS"**, and **"European Society, Political Expression, Institutions"**, the programme provides a holistic intervention across critical sectors.

Key Pillars and Results of the Action

- Operation of Day Centres:** Since January 2025, through the five Day Centres operating in Athens, Thessaloniki, Ioannina, Larissa and Lesvos, a total of **1,934 unaccompanied minors** and **465 young adults** (up to the age of 21) have been supported, receiving specialised services in mental health, legal aid, education, and smooth transition to adulthood.
- Healthcare & Accompaniment:** NGO **ZEUXIS** ensured the safe transfer of **659 minors** from entry points (Lesvos, Kos, Chios, Samos, Leros, Crete), as well as from Reception and Identification Centres and accommodation facilities for unaccompanied minors, to hospital units, thereby significantly facilitating their access to essential healthcare services. Continuing this action, **SYNYPARXIS** provided **270 support services** (exclusive nurses / accompaniment support) to **77** minors during their hospitalisation, strengthening a holistic care approach for children accommodated in facilities for unaccompanied minors, with the aim of ensuring their comprehensive and sustainable care.
- Support for Professionals:** **SOS Children's Villages** provided supervision sessions for frontline professionals supporting unaccompanied minors, such as staff at accommodation facilities for unaccompanied minors and guardianship coordinators. More than **800** professionals have been supported in managing complex psychosocial cases, preventing burnout, and enhancing the quality of care and protection of unaccompanied minors, particularly under conditions of increased workload and facility decongestion.



Snapshot from the visit of members of the GSVPIP to the "COMPASS" Day Centre.

- Educational Material & Prevention:** Two specialised Guides for Accommodation Centres for Unaccompanied Minors have been published. The first, **"Guide for the Establishment and Operation of Democratic Communities"** was published by the partner "European Society, Political Expression, Institutions", while the second, focusing on protection against **human trafficking** and the promotion of **gender equality**, was published by the partner "ZEUXIS". The materials are intended for staff and trainers delivering educational workshops to unaccompanied minors residing in accommodation facilities. At the same time, the development and adaptation of customised guides and informational leaflets directly targeting unaccompanied minors was supported. Furthermore, educational workshops for unaccompanied minors across the country on these thematic areas are planned for 2026.



Snapshot from the Presentation Event of the "Guide for the Establishment and Operation of Democratic Communities in Accommodation Centres for Unaccompanied Minors" by "European Expression", within the framework of the project "COMPASS – Complementary Support Mechanism for the National Strategy for the Protection of Unaccompanied Minors in Greece".

The "Compass" project is co-funded by the European Union and national resources, within the framework of the "Programme Greece – Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund 2021-2027". It falls under the Special Actions of the AMIF with **90%** Union contribution (transnational or national projects that provide added value to the Union in line with the objectives of each Fund) and serves as a Complementary Support Mechanism for the National Strategy for the Protection of Unaccompanied Minors in Greece (Budget: **€12,858,010.83** – EU contribution: **90%**, National contribution: **10%**).

9. National Registry for the Protection of Unaccompanied Minors

The year 2025 marked a turning point in the digital transformation of the system, with the launch of the National Registry for the Protection of Unaccompanied Minors. The National Registry, interconnected with the unified information system "Alkioni II", provides a comprehensive overview of each minor's situation, in terms of accommodation, guardianship and asylum status, thereby enhancing transparency, continuity of care and institutional accountability.

The platform became fully operational in November 2025. At the same time the drafting of Memoranda of Understanding concerning the processing and protection of personal data was completed, strengthening the capacity of the General Secretariat to monitor, in real time, the needs of unaccompanied minors and accommodation facilities.

The National Registry for the Protection of Unaccompanied Minors is designed to provide continuous, up-to-date data, supporting the development of policies and services tailored to the needs of unaccompanied minors.

10. Code of Conduct for professionals working with Unaccompanied Minors



In 2025, the drafting of the Code of Conduct for professionals working with unaccompanied minors was completed with the aim of establishing a unified framework of principles and rules to guide responsible and ethical professional conduct of professionals working with unaccompanied minors.

The Code of Conduct will be mandatory for all staff members and collaborating persons who, in any capacity, are involved in the provision of protection and care services to unaccompanied minors. The Code will apply, inter alia, to guardianship mandated persons, coordinators of guardianship mandated persons, professionals working in child protection institutions and/or in Accommodation Facilities for Unaccompanied

Minors, such as Emergency Accommodation Facilities, Accommodation Centres for Unaccompanied Minors and Supervised Semi-Independent Living Apartments, as well as staff employed in Information Centres, Day Centres, mobile child protection teams, in the Safe Areas within the Reception and Identification Centres (RICs) and the Closed Controlled Access Centres (CCACs) as well as in the Safe Zones within the Controlled Accommodation Facilities for the Temporary Accommodation of Asylum Seekers (CAFTAASs).

Section C'

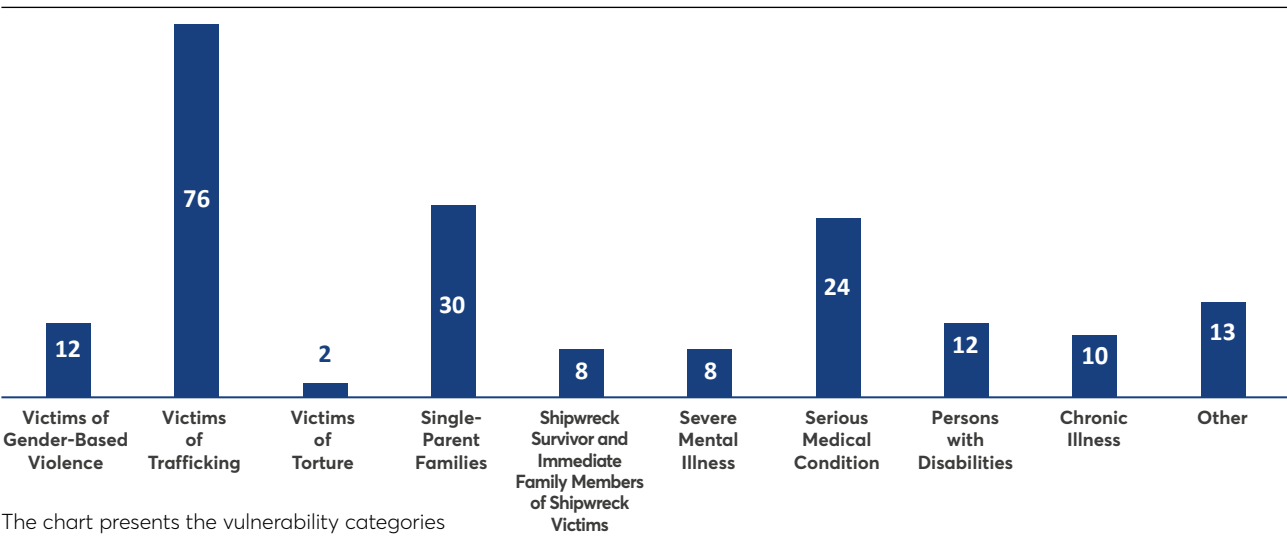
Actions for the Protection of Vulnerable Persons



11. Data on Vulnerable Persons

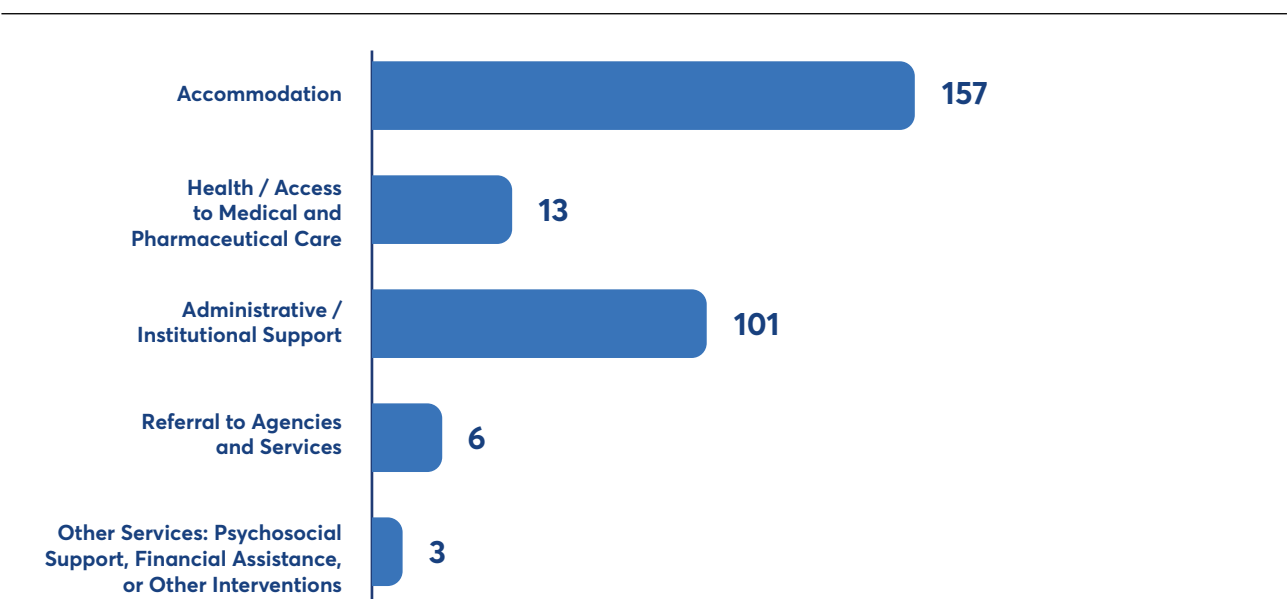
During 2025, the General Secretariat for Vulnerable Persons and Institutional Protection managed cases involving a total of **231** individuals, of whom **195** were vulnerable third country nationals or stateless persons. Most of the individuals who received support were aged 18–35. The main countries of origin were Nepal (73 individuals), Afghanistan (36 individuals), countries of Sub-Saharan Africa (32 individuals), and Syria (26 individuals). The main requests recorded were the provision of safe and needs-appropriate accommodation, administrative support, and access to health services and medical and pharmaceutical care. It should be noted that, among the aforementioned cases, a significant number of these individuals were observed to be in a particularly vulnerable situation, including, indicatively, 76 victims of trafficking and 30 single-parent families.

Vulnerability

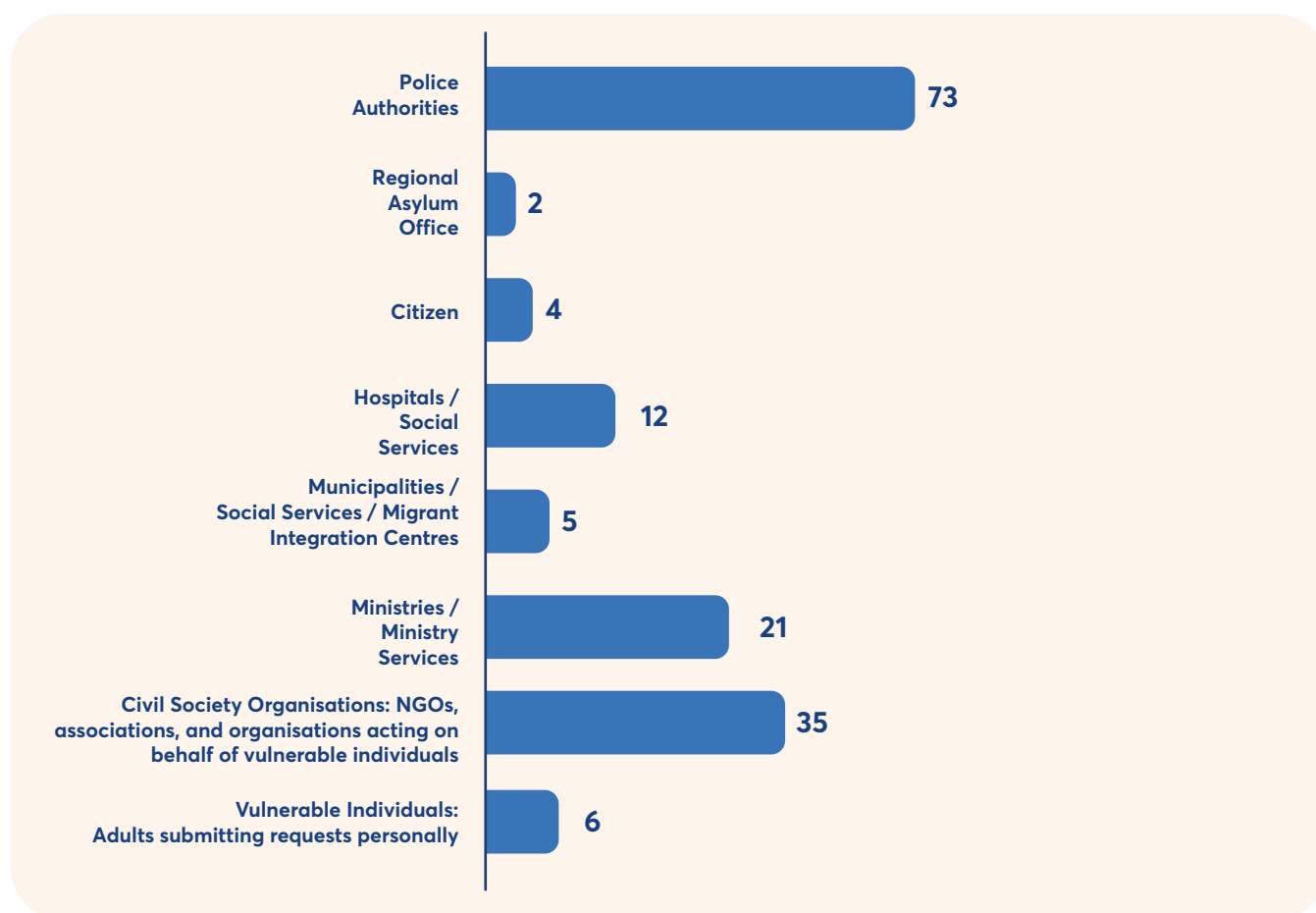


In cooperation with competent authorities and institutions, such as police authorities, hospitals, and civil society organisations, the General Secretariat for Vulnerable Persons and Institutional Protection consistently responded to the multifaceted and evolving needs of these individuals, highlighting its role as the competent authority for coordinating policies and actions aimed at optimising procedures and ensuring the provision of specialised protection and support services.

Type of Request



Source of Request



The chart presents the communication channels used for receiving requests and the respective number of requests per category.

12. National Strategy for the Protection of Vulnerable Persons

Recognising the need for a coherent and effective framework for the protection of vulnerable third-country nationals or stateless persons, the General Secretariat has developed the National Strategy for the Protection of Vulnerable Persons.

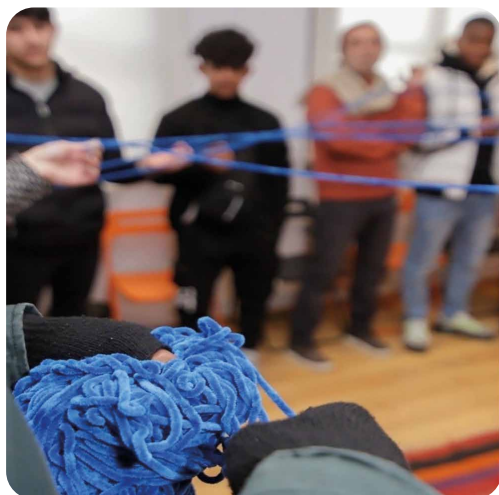
The National Strategy constitutes a comprehensive framework of policy priorities and interventions, based on the existing national and European institutional framework, while taking into account the requirements arising from the implementation of the Pact on Migration and Asylum. Its objective is to provide institutional and substantive support to vulnerable persons through the implementation of appropriate and uniform procedures, the provision of specialised services responding to their specific needs, and the promotion of cooperation mechanisms with relevant entities and services. Particular emphasis is placed on ensuring a cross-sectoral approach to the implementation of specific actions, as the effective protection of vulnerable persons requires coordination and cooperation among competent authorities, services and stakeholders, thereby promoting a targeted and sustainable approach tailored to the needs of vulnerable persons.

In 2025, the internal consultation process with other Services and Organisations was completed. The National Strategy is expected to be submitted for public consultation in 2026, prior to its publication.

13. Institutional Supervision of Vulnerable Persons

The institutional safeguarding, protection and guarantee of the rights of vulnerable third-country nationals and stateless persons remained, throughout 2025, one of the key pillars of action for the General Secretariat for Vulnerable Persons and Institutional Protection. Interventions were designed within the framework of a coherent strategy aimed at protecting vulnerable individuals and promoting policies and actions that enhance access to and coherence of the services provided.

A central strategic objective was to strengthen the effective and efficient access of vulnerable persons to their rights, prevent the further deterioration of conditions of vulnerability and social exclusion, and ensure equal treatment and the protection of human dignity.



Within this context, a key priority was the reinforcement of the legislative and administrative framework, with a view to ensuring unhindered access for vulnerable persons to healthcare facilities and appropriate medical and pharmaceutical care. To this end, targeted institutional interventions were promoted, and coordination initiatives were developed with competent authorities, in order to address practical and administrative barriers and enhance the effectiveness of services provided, in line with the applicable national, international and European legal framework.

At the same time, the promotion of **universal, equal and inclusive access of persons with disabilities to rights and services** constituted a key pillar of action in 2025. Emphasis was placed on the provision of specialised services tailored to individual needs, in accordance with the principles of equality, non-discrimination, accessibility and inclusion.

Within this framework, a **Guidance Note** has been drafted, incorporating institutional proposals aligned with the principles of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD). Simultaneously, it identifies key access challenges across sectors such as social welfare, healthcare, education, and social inclusion, as well as cross-cutting needs for accessible and multilingual information, interpretation, and service accessibility. The Guide further includes a **set of proposed interventions aligned with the National Strategy for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities 2024–2030**, providing guidance on standardised procedures and best practices, vulnerability and disability identification mechanisms, accessible communication or tele-interpretation, as well as measures to improve accountability and monitoring mechanisms. The Guide is intended to be utilised for the implementation of actions aimed at further strengthening the protection framework for persons with disabilities.

Concurrently, meetings were held with co-competent Ministries to formulate a holistic and coherent framework for the support and protection of persons with disabilities. Furthermore, support was provided for the maturation of the Technical Support Instrument (TSI) project, with UNESCO as the implementing partner, aimed at strengthening the capacity of the Coordinating Mechanism for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and supporting the implementation of the National Strategy.

At the same time, priority was given to **strengthening the protection framework for victims of torture and other serious forms of physical, psychological, or sexual violence**, through the mapping of the relevant institutional framework at international, European, and national level, alongside the interpretative specification of the term «rehabilitation» for victims, in order to translate it into appropriate procedures, tools and actions aimed at providing specialised support, care and rehabilitation services.

In this context, the General Secretariat actively participated in a two-day **interactive seminar organised by the European Union Agency for Asylum (EUAA)** on October 20 and 21, 2025, focusing on the protection of victims of torture, with the participation of representatives from the Reception and Identification Service, the Asylum Service and the Ministry of Health, thereby strengthening inter-sectoral cooperation and the exchange of best practices.



Finally, in 2025, the need to ensure access for **LGBTI+ persons** — recognised as a new category of vulnerability under the Pact on Migration and Asylum — to safe and appropriate reception conditions and to social inclusion services, was also identified as an institutional priority. Particular emphasis was placed on the prevention of violence and ensuring non-discrimination. In this context, a preliminary mapping of key areas of intervention and the design of main axes of action were carried out, including the creation of a resource repository, staff training, and the use of European tools and expertise, aiming to formulate a coherent action plan and partnerships for 2026.

14. Support, Accommodation and Referral Actions for Vulnerable Persons

14.1 Housing Support Programme for Vulnerable Single Women and Single Mothers with Minor Children ("A Step Forward")



With the aim of protecting particularly vulnerable single women and single mothers with their minor children (with an upper age limit of 14 years for boys), the programme "Open Accommodation Centre – A Step Forward" has been operating since June 2024.

Snapshot of artistic activities at the "A Step Forward" Accommodation Centre.

The programme consists of an open and accessible accommodation centre with a total capacity of **44** places, located within the urban fabric of Athens, close to health facilities and public services. It provides accommodation, protection, and support services, including psychosocial support, legal counseling, interpretation, language learning and creative activities. The implementation of the project is guided by the principles of ensuring the dignity and continuous empowerment of the women and their families, aiming for their gradual attainment of autonomy and full integration into society.

During 2025, the programme supported a total of **99 vulnerable single women and single mothers with minor children** (42 single women, 24 single mothers, and 33 children), providing them with safe accommodation and a comprehensive package of supportive services. Notably, 62 programme beneficiaries successfully exited the centre, following substantial interventions for their social integration and autonomy.

For the period 01.01.2025–30.09.2025, the programme was implemented by Médecins du Monde – Greece (MdM) in cooperation with the Ministry of Migration and Asylum (MoMA), the General Secretariat for Vulnerable Persons and Institutional Protection (GSVIP) and the Swiss State Secretariat for Migration (under the framework of the “Switzerland-Greece Cooperation Programme 2023–2026” for the reduction of economic and social inequalities), with funding from the Swiss authorities and national resources. Subsequently, for the period 01.10.2025–31.12.2025, the programme continued to be implemented by Médecins du Monde – Greece in cooperation with the General Secretariat and the International Organisation for Migration (IOM), with funding from the Migration and Asylum Sectoral Development Programme 2021–2025, within the framework of the project “Strengthening the Protection System for Unaccompanied Minors and Vulnerable Women Applicants and Beneficiaries of International Protection”. The continuation of the programme is also planned for 2026.



Snapshot from the visit of the Egyptian Delegation to the “A Step Forward” Accommodation Centre.

Indicative Cases of Successful Intervention and Support



Snapshot from educational activities for the children of the "A Step Forward" Accommodation Centre

A. The story of Dareen

Dareen*, a 42-year-old nurse and mother of two minor children, fled Libya following years of domestic violence perpetrated by her husband. During her journey to Greece, the boat she was traveling on sank off the coast of Crete, resulting in serious injuries that required surgical intervention on her leg.

After her hospitalisation, she was initially accommodated in a Reception and Identification Centre (RIC) and was subsequently transferred to the Open Accommodation Centre, where she receives comprehensive support from Médecins du Monde – Greece, including medical and psychological care, legal counseling, and provision of basic daily necessities.

Today, while her health is gradually improving, she participates in vocational counseling activities and offers online English lessons to other refugees, while her children attend kindergarten and take part in educational and psychosocial integration programmes.



B. The story of Yasmin

Yasmin*, from Somalia, left her country of origin as an unaccompanied minor due to a forced marriage. Upon her arrival in Greece, she was initially hosted in a RIC and later in a facility for unaccompanied minor girls. Upon reaching adulthood, she joined the Open Accommodation Centre, where she attended English and Greek lessons, received career counseling, legal support regarding her international protection application and psychosocial care.

After completing her stay at the centre, she was employed on seasonal work in the tourism sector, managing at the age of 20 to achieve her autonomy and independent future course.

*Names have been changed for data protection purposes.

14.2 Pilot Programme “STIRIXIS – Housing Programme for Highly Vulnerable Applicants for International Protection”



Within the framework of its expanded responsibilities for the protection and support of vulnerable third-country nationals, the General Secretariat for Vulnerable Persons and Institutional Protection has proceeded with planning actions for “STIRIXIS” housing programme, with the aim of providing special reception conditions, including accommodation and the provision of support services.

The pilot programme will offer **340** accommodation places in mainland facilities for highly vulnerable applicants for international protection and their family members or caregivers and will be implemented in areas with university hospitals. The programme will be funded by the 2021–2027 AMIF (Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund) and is expected to run for 12 months, with the possibility of extension.

The design of the programme was based on the needs and vulnerabilities of residents in facilities under the responsibility of the Reception and Identification Service and incorporates best practices in terms of housing and the empowerment of beneficiaries of the programme, as well as their smooth transition to long-term housing and social integration solutions.

15. Prevention and strengthening of protection for victims of human trafficking and other forms of violence

During 2025, the General Secretariat for Vulnerable Persons and Institutional Protection implemented a coherent framework of actions at both national and international level, focusing on the prevention and combatting of human trafficking as well as the protection of victims of human trafficking and other forms of violence.

15.1 Participation in Transnational European Programmes

The General Secretariat actively participated in the implementation of three flagship transnational projects addressing child trafficking and labour exploitation, namely:

- The **“Embrace”** project, which focuses on the implementation of Due Diligence Mechanisms in Supply Chains.
- The **“HOST”** project, on the implementation of pilot actions for the identification of indicators of human trafficking in the tourism sector.
- The **“Safe Borders”** project, which aims to strengthen judicial expertise through an Artificial Intelligence (AI) platform for pattern recognition in child trafficking. The findings of the national research completed in 2025 will feed into the publication of a Practical Handbook, which will serve as the primary reference tool for standardising procedures for the identification, referral and protection of minor victims at national level.



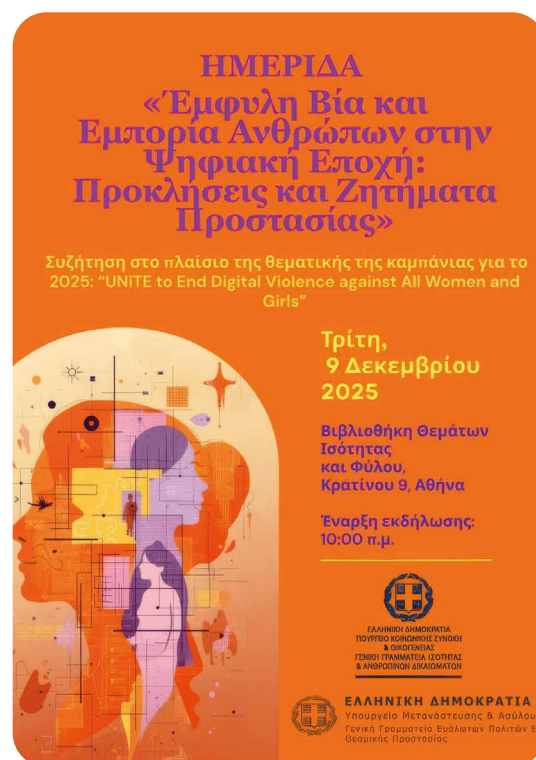
The strategic approach to these projects is based on **strengthening mechanisms for identifying** and upgrading procedures for early victim identification through multisectoral cooperation, **skills development** through specialised training of frontline professionals for more effective case management, and **institutional harmonisation** through the full alignment of national practices with the European institutional framework and EU strategies.

The **"HOST"** and **"Embrace"** projects are co-funded by the European Union Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF 2021–2027).
The **"Safe Borders"** project is co-funded by the European Internal Security Fund (ISF 2021–2027).

15.2 Actions to strengthen national policy and victim protection

A decisive initiative for the strengthening of the national policy for the protection of victims of human trafficking, in alignment with the European Strategy on Combatting Trafficking in Human Beings (2021-2025) and the country's international obligations, was the establishment of the **Interdisciplinary Working Group for the Protection of Victims of Human Trafficking** in November 2025. The Group, which is chaired by the General Secretary for Vulnerable Persons and Institutional Protection, is composed of a wide range of representatives from institutional bodies, ensuring a holistic approach to the phenomenon; its objectives include the evaluation and improvement of the regulatory framework, strategic planning and cross-sectoral cooperation, the addressing of technology-assisted forms of exploitation, and an active contribution to the development of the new **National Action Plan against Human Trafficking**.

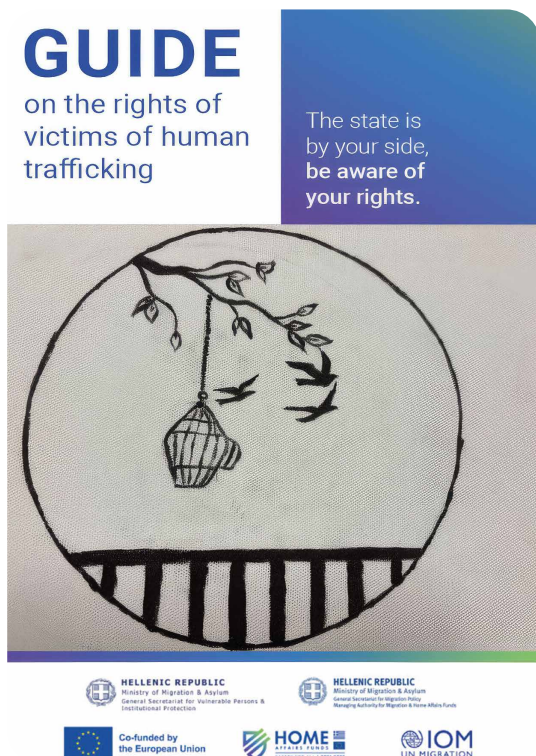
Furthermore, in the context of the ongoing commitment to the protection of human rights, a **Memorandum of Cooperation** was signed between the **Ministry of Migration and Asylum** and the **Ministry of Social Cohesion and Family Affairs**, providing for joint actions to **promote Gender Equality and combat gender-based and domestic violence** against women and children refugees, migrants, and asylum seekers.



Seminar poster: "Gender Based Violence and Human Trafficking in the Digital Age – Challenges and Protection Issues".

In addition, in honour of the Global Campaign of **16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence**, with the central theme for 2025 being the elimination of digital violence against women and girls, the General Secretariat for Vulnerable Persons and Institutional Protection and the General Secretariat for Equality and Human Rights co-organised a conference entitled **"Gender-Based Violence and Human Trafficking in the Digital Age: Challenges and Protection Issues"**. The General Secretariat for Vulnerable Persons and Institutional Protection also implemented a training workshop for field professionals, focusing on digital gender-based violence and online human trafficking.

In order to ensure the coherence of public policies and the substantive support of victims, the General Secretariat for Vulnerable Persons and Institutional Protection (GSVIP), in close cooperation with the **Office of the National Rapporteur on Combatting Human Trafficking (ONR)** and the **National Centre for Social Solidarity**, actively participates in the development of a coherent and effective **National Action Plan** for the prevention and combatting of human trafficking and for the protection and assistance of victims.



Guide on the Rights of Victims of Human Trafficking

At the level of implementing operational actions for the protection of human rights, the General Secretariat for Vulnerable Persons and Institutional Protection developed the **Guide on the Rights of Victims of Human Trafficking**, an institutional tool providing information on the identification of indicators of exploitation, rights and access to **free legal aid, psychosocial support and medical care**, complaint mechanisms, and the legal framework for granting **residence permits** in special cases. Through this initiative victims are provided with **reliable information** on the full range of their rights, while simultaneously their unhindered access to immediate and safe support mechanisms is facilitated.

The Guide on the Rights of Victims of Human Trafficking was published within the framework of the **"Specific Action – Staff Training Seminars and Skills Development Sessions for the Support of Victims of Human Trafficking with a View to Their Reintegration,"** implemented by the International Organization for Migration in cooperation with the General Secretariat for Vulnerable Persons and Institutional Protection.

The Specific Action forms part of the "Greece Programme – Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund 2021–2027," co-funded by the AMIF and implemented under Specific Objective 1 – CEAS, with a total budget of **€500,000** (EU contribution: **90%**, National contribution: **10%**).

15.3 Strengthening the Operational Capacity and Technical Skills of Frontline Professionals

The General Secretariat for Vulnerable Persons and Institutional Protection, aiming to continuously strengthen the skills of frontline professionals, has developed **specialised tools and guidelines** to support unaccompanied minors, thereby reinforcing the child protection framework. In particular, it developed standardised procedures for identifying and managing cases of unaccompanied minors who are victims of human trafficking, specifying the relevant guidance of the National Referral Mechanism (NCC/NRM).

In parallel, it drafted guidelines for the support of minor victims of trafficking, under the specific forms of recruitment into armed groups and exploitation for criminal activities, within the asylum process.

The General Secretariat continued to support child protection professionals by providing expertise, coordination, and interconnection with competent services and bodies, while it contributed to the updating of critical tools for identifying and responding to human trafficking incidents. Furthermore, it participated in transnational initiatives, contributing to the development of tools for a child-centred justice system, with a focus on the needs of unaccompanied minors, third-country nationals.

15.4 Participation in European and International Fora

- Within the framework of the 25th OSCE Conference on Combatting Trafficking in Human Beings, the General Secretariat organised a side event on 31st March titled "Evidence-Based Insights from Greece: Strengthening Protection Systems", presenting the key findings of the 'FORTIFY' project on the prevention of delinquency and trafficking of unaccompanied minors. The event included the participation of former unaccompanied minors, who shared their experiences and perspectives on strengthening protection. Special emphasis was placed on the importance of international cooperation.



Snapshot from the event titled "Evidence-Based Insights from Greece: Strengthening Protection Systems".

- On 9–10 April, the General Secretariat also participated in the conference **"Together Against Human Trafficking for Forced Labour and Labour Exploitation"** in Warsaw, held under the Polish Presidency of the Council of the EU. Its intervention focused on the protection of unaccompanied minors and victims of human trafficking and/or labour exploitation, highlighting the role of General Secretariat for Vulnerable Persons and Institutional Protection on issues regarding the protection of victims of human trafficking and other forms of violence, the cooperation with the National Referral Mechanism (NRM) of National Social Solidarity Centre as well as training and awareness-raising initiatives.



Snapshot from the conference "Together Against Human Trafficking for Forced Labour and Labour Exploitation" in Warsaw.

- In the context of the **34th Session of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)**, the General Secretariat organised a side event on 19 May, presenting pilot experiential workshops conducted for unaccompanied girls as a best-practice for preventing exploitation, using a child-centred and trauma-informed approach with an emphasis on the empowerment and personal safety of children.
- The General Secretariat also participated in the **"Access to Experts Training"** conference held on 15–19 September in Nicosia, presenting the tools under development to support field professionals providing assistance to unaccompanied minors, victims of human trafficking, the actions to immediate support for vulnerable third-country nationals as well as the "Guide on the Rights of Victims of Human Trafficking".
- During the **annual OSCE Conference on Human Dimension** in Warsaw, the General Secretariat organised a side event for the **"Safe Borders"** project on 15th October, presenting the findings of the field research on child trafficking in Greece and Poland and highlighting protection best practices such as the National

Emergency Response Mechanism and the House of the Child, as well as common international challenges. As a culmination of this event, the Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General on Violence Against Children invited Greece to participate in the Pathfinding Global Alliance on Ending Violence Against Children.

- On 12 December, the General Secretariat participated in the **OSCE Symposium on Combatting Trafficking in Human Beings** in the Mediterranean Region, held in Vicenza, Italy. At the Symposium, the General Secretariat **highlighted emerging trends in human trafficking and presented best practices from national efforts to combat human trafficking**, contributing to the dialogue on strengthening prevention, protection, and cross-border cooperation.



Snapshot from the participation of representatives of the GSVPIP at the OSCE Symposium on Combatting Human Trafficking in the Mediterranean, held in Vicenza, Italy

Indicative cases of successful intervention

The General Secretariat served as a central coordinating **pillar in significant cases of rescue and victim protection**.

Rescue of 73 Nepalese Citizens

In two large operations by the Hellenic Police (July in Arcadia and November in Aetolia-Acarnania), following anonymous reports to the A21 NGO support line, 73 Nepalese citizens, victims of labour exploitation in the agricultural sector, were rescued. The General Secretariat played a decisive role in the immediate mobilisation and coordination of the necessary actions to ensure their safe transport, accommodation, and placement into a protective framework.



15.5 Strategic Programming for 2026

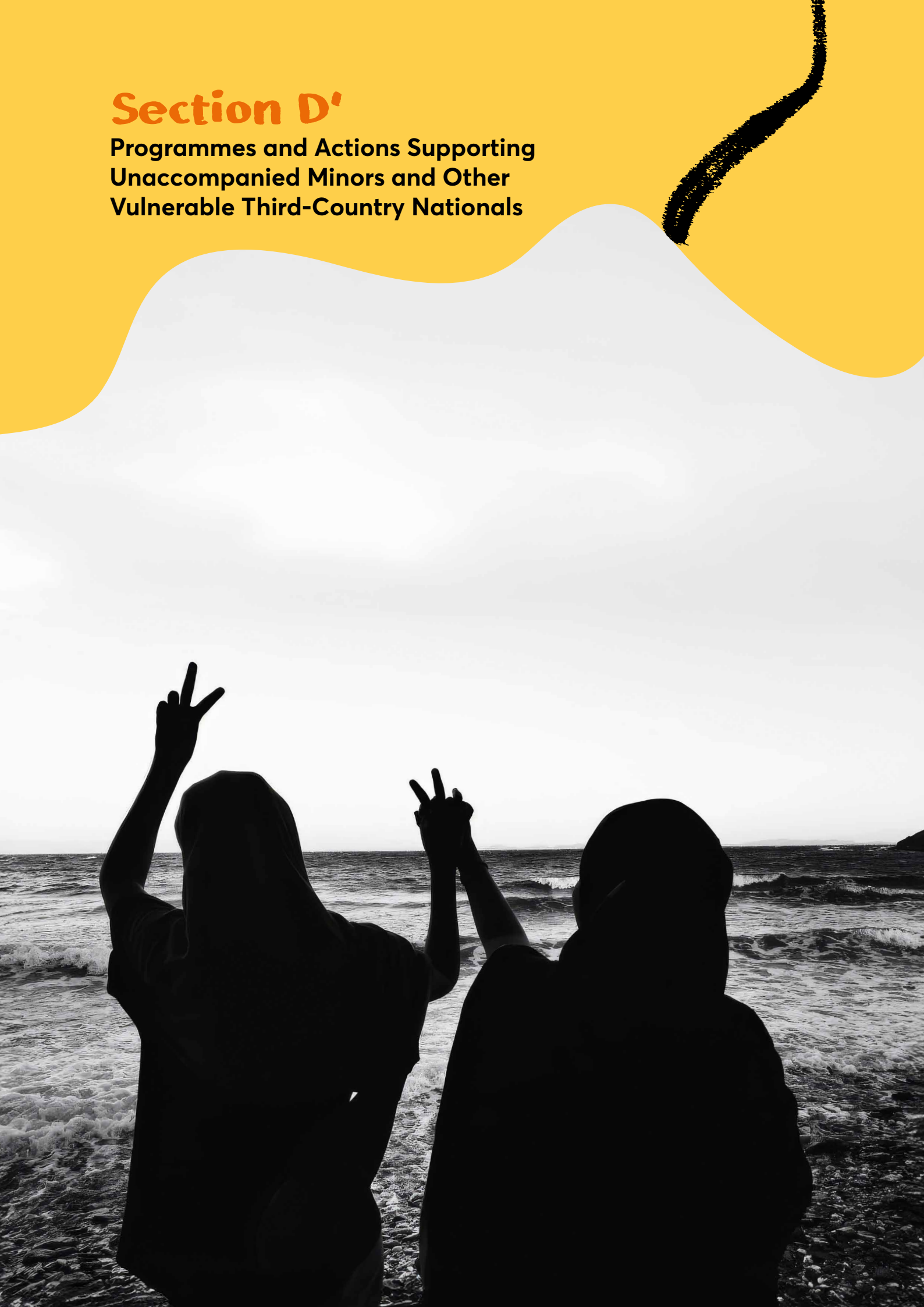
Following the signing of the relevant Memorandum of Cooperation, the General Secretariat for Vulnerable Persons and Institutional Protection (GSVIP) and the General Secretariat for Equality and Human Rights (GSEHR) will jointly assume the **co-chairmanship of the National Working Group on Combatting gender-based violence**. The launch of the Working Group's activities within 2026 marks a new phase of operational coordination, with the primary objective of establishing a unified and accessible protection framework that guarantees the safety and dignity of every vulnerable person, regardless of legal status.

The pillars of action include **targeted prevention**, with the development of mechanisms to combat gender-based and domestic violence; **inclusive protection**, with particular attention to survivors of gender-based violence in a situation of heightened vulnerability, including individuals without legal documentation; and **risk management**, with an emphasis on early identification and support of persons at high risk of exposure to violence.



Section D'

**Programmes and Actions Supporting
Unaccompanied Minors and Other
Vulnerable Third-Country Nationals**



16. Programmes and Actions Supporting Unaccompanied Minors and Other Vulnerable Third-Country Nationals

The General Secretariat for Vulnerable Persons and Institutional Protection played a pivotal role in 2025 in the design and development of proposals, as well as in the inclusion, administrative and financial monitoring, and progress assessment of funded programmes aimed at the protection and support of unaccompanied minors and other vulnerable groups.

In particular, beyond the design and submission of funding proposals - which were approved and entered implementation - special emphasis was placed on the management and monitoring of projects financed through national, European and international resources, ensuring the proper use of funds and compliance with the requirements of the respective funding mechanisms. At the same time, in order to optimise oversight of individual projects, the General Secretariat maintained close cooperation with implementing bodies, national authorities and funding partners, supporting the smooth implementation of projects through systematic monitoring.

Within the same framework, the implementation of strategic technical support interventions was launched, such as the **Technical Support Instrument (TSI 24EL16) project on the reform of migrant reception and integration policies, with a focus on unaccompanied youth**. The project centered on mapping existing policies, services and mechanisms, and on developing preparatory tools to support future institutional reforms.

In addition, **the inclusion and implementation of projects** strengthening the General Secretariat's strategic approach **in the areas of prevention and response to human trafficking and child protection** were of particular importance. In particular, these included the **"Safe Borders"** project, which aims to strengthen the capacities of judicial authorities and frontline professionals to prevent, identify and address child trafficking through cross-border cooperation and the strengthening of institutional child protection mechanisms; the **"HOST"** project, which focuses on preventing and combatting human trafficking and labor exploitation in the hospitality sector; and the **"EMBRACE"** project, which aims to prevent labor exploitation and human trafficking by promoting corporate responsibility and the application of ethical practices in supply chains.

At European level, the General Secretariat's institutional presence was strengthened through **participation in cooperation and knowledge-exchange mechanisms of the European Commission**, within the framework of the ESF+ Communities of Practice and related European initiatives, taking part in plenary sessions, workshops, study visits and policy co-creation processes in the areas of migrant integration, employment, education, as well as social innovation and inclusion. This engagement contributed to strengthening policy design and the development of funding proposals, improving the quality of implemented interventions, promoting the transfer of good practices and innovative approaches at national level, and ensuring coherence with European priorities.

Particular emphasis was also placed on **participation in targeted, high value-added European on-site actions**, such as the study visit to Campania, Italy, on synergies in the use of European funding instruments for the integration of vulnerable migrants and for addressing labor exploitation in non-urban areas; participation in actions supporting the implementation of the European Child Guarantee through ESF+ in Malta; as well as the study of good practices in social innovation across successive ESF+ programming periods in the Czech Republic.



Snapshot from the participation of the GSVPIP in the Social Innovation Forum 2025 in Helsinki.

In parallel, the General Secretariat participated in **high-level European events and fora**, amongst others, in Brussels and Helsinki, as well as in key European policy fora, such as the S3 Conference and the Social Innovation Forum 2025, contributing to the visibility of Greek practice and to the transfer of evidence-based and innovative approaches at national level.

Finally, in 2025, **funding proposals** were submitted under the HORIZON Europe, CERV and AMIF 2027 programmes. These proposals are currently under evaluation and concern interventions in the fields of rights, equality, social inclusion, education, digital resilience and the protection of vulnerable persons.

16.1 Technical Support Instrument (TSI 24EL16) Project on the “Reform of Migrant Reception and Integration Policies, with a Focus on Unaccompanied Youth”

In 2025, implementation of the Technical Support Instrument (TSI 24EL16) project on the “Reform of migrant reception and integration policies, with a focus on unaccompanied youth” commenced, laying the foundations for targeted and sustainable institutional reforms. The project is implemented by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and, following the initial design phase, systematic mapping of existing policies, services and mechanisms began across the pillars of the institutional framework, vocational education and training (VET), and mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) for unaccompanied minors and young people aged 15–23.



Snapshot from the opening event of the project “Reception and Integration Reforms for Migrants”, with a Focus on Unaccompanied Youth

Through extensive research, mapping, gap analysis, and targeted cross-sectoral cooperation with competent stakeholders and services, the project produced findings and preparatory tools that strengthen the State’s institutional readiness. At the same time, 2025 marked a transition from analysis to solution design, through the preparation of occupational profiles, guidelines and action frameworks aligned with the EU Pact on Migration and Asylum and national strategies. Overall, the project’s trajectory has been characterised by gradual maturation, strengthened cooperation and the development of a coherent reform framework with a clear orientation towards the sustainable integration of unaccompanied minors and young adults.

16.2 Programmes in collaboration with S.O.S. Children's Villages

Gender Based Violence Safe Space for female and children victims.

The GBV Safe Space for female and children victims for women survivors of GBV and their young children provides a safe friendly environment for mothers and their children within the Controlled Access Facility for Temporary Accommodation of Asylum Seekers in Pyrgos. The Safe Space ensures access to essential services, psychoeducation, integration-oriented activities, and recreational opportunities, strengthening the protection and empowerment of highly vulnerable refugee mothers. Through its activities and services, **55 women** and **64 children** were supported in 2025, with the aim of enhancing their protection, empowerment, and social integration.



Snapshot of children taking part in recreational activities.

Within the GBV Safe Space, children showed strong engagement, attending recreational activities with consistency and enthusiasm. Activities for children and mothers combined creative expression, socialisation, and empowerment. Introductory sessions, as well as activities in drawing, arts and crafts, dance, music, and group games were conducted. Children engaged in creative constructions using cardboard, clay, and plasticine, and created emotion masks, seasonal items, animals, posters, and collage artworks, while mothers participated in handicraft workshops, including the creation of decorative items, jewelry, and floral arrangements.

In 2026, the programme will focus on consolidating gains in participation while further strengthening the inclusiveness of activities offered to women at the Pyrgos facility. At the same time, structured and age-appropriate support will be ensured for their children, with the aim of enabling women's active and consistent involvement in programme activities.

The programme funded by *SOS-Kinderdörfer weltweit Hermann-Gmeiner Fonds Deutschland (HGFD)* has a duration of **24** months, with a start date of **1.1.2025**.

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

The **Hope in Action** project provides holistic and targeted support to unaccompanied girls, unaccompanied minor mothers and their children, addressing both immediate protection needs and longer-term empowerment. The intervention delivers a comprehensive package of services, including mental health and psychosocial support, strengthening parenting skills, Greek language instruction, and vocational education and training (VET), aimed at strengthening well-being, self-reliance, and social inclusion.

During the reporting period, the project was fully integrated into the broader SIL+ programme, enhancing coherence, continuity, and complementarity across services provided to vulnerable refugee populations. Within the framework of the educational activity, **46 online Greek language courses** and **23 online employment counseling sessions were conducted**, with the participation of **32 girls** from accommodation facilities in Lesbos Island and Kozani.



Looking ahead, the **“Hope in Action”** programme will focus on further strengthening pathways for unaccompanied minors through tailored job counselling, targeted skills-development activities, and active support in identifying and securing appropriate job placements. These efforts will be complemented by structured follow-up mechanisms to support a smooth transition into the labour market and promote sustainable employment outcomes.

The programme funded by *SOS-Kinderdörfer weltweit Hermann-Gmeiner Fonds Deutschland (HGFD)* has a duration of **24** months, with a start date of **1.1.2025**, implemented in Athens, Kozani, Lesbos island and Thessaloniki.

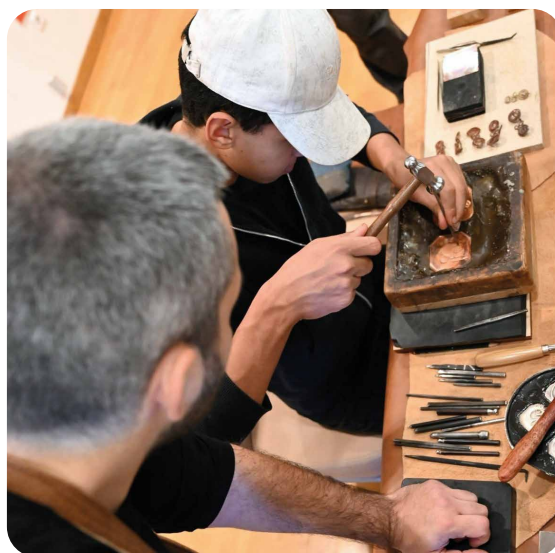
16+ and Young Adults Semi-Independent Living (SIL+) – Employability Focused

The 16+ and Young Adults Semi-Independent Living (SIL+) programme, focused on employability, supports unaccompanied minors and young third-country nationals, aged 16–21, who reside in SIL apartments. The programme aims to facilitate a safe and sustainable transition to adulthood, fostering independence and employability through skills development and self-confidence building, enabling participants to manage their daily lives responsibly.

The initiative combines certified Greek language learning, vocational education and training, and individualised job counseling, contributing to the reduction of exploitation risks while enhancing long-term safety, stability, and social integration.

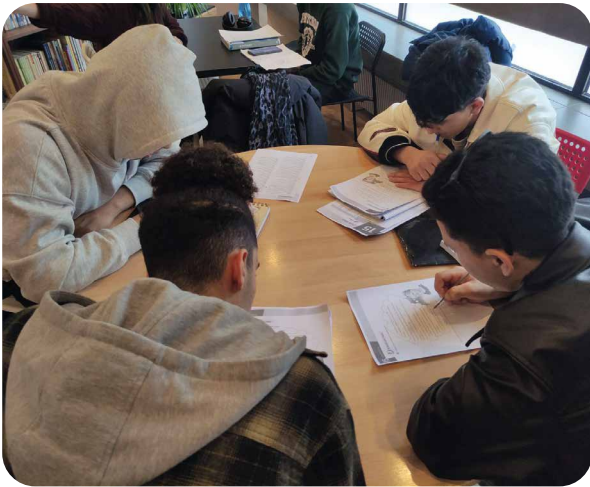
A total of **81 boys** participated in the Greek language learning and job counseling programmes. As part of the educational and support activities, 96 Greek language lessons and 56 job counseling sessions were delivered in Athens and Thessaloniki. All participating minors who attended Greek language courses successfully passed the exams by obtaining the A1 and A2 level Greek language certificate. Although the sample was small, the 100% success rate reflects both the effectiveness of the programme and the dedication of the participants. At the same time, full coverage of examination fees ensured equal access for all beneficiaries.

Looking ahead to 2026, the programme will further enhance Greek language certification preparedness by increasing the number of unaccompanied minors supported to sit the official examinations scheduled for May 2026, ensuring they receive structured instruction and targeted exam-preparation guidance to maximise their success.



Snapshot of children participating in a vocational education and training (VET) workshop.

The programme funded by *SOS - Kinderdörfer weltweit Hermann - Gmeiner Fonds Deutschland (HGFD)* has a duration of **24** months, with a start date of **1.1.2025**.



Snapshot from the Greek language courses



Snapshot from the delivery of training seminars.

17. EU Pact on Migration and Asylum

The General Secretariat for Vulnerable Persons and Institutional Protection played a particularly active role in the operational planning of the Ministry of Migration and Asylum, with the aim of ensuring the timely and effective preparation of the Country for the implementation of the Pact on Migration and Asylum as of June 2026. In this context, it played a central role in the development of the National Strategy for Asylum and Migration Management, which constitutes a mandatory instrument for EU Member States and seeks to ensure that the country has the necessary capacity for the effective implementation of the asylum and migration management system. Furthermore, it provided significant input in the drafting and submission of the National Contingency Plan, aimed at ensuring the readiness and preparedness of the country to respond to increased migration flows or crisis situations.

The invitation from the European Union Agency for Asylum (EUAA) to the General Secretariat to contribute to the final development of informational materials for unaccompanied children, represented a best practice for enhancing the effectiveness of such tools, based on the children's experience. The General Secretariat submitted proposals on the content of the EUAA-developed materials, in compliance with the Regulation establishing a common procedure for international protection. To evaluate the EUAA-developed materials' clarity and practical utility, testing activities were conducted in four Accommodation Centres for Unaccompanied Minors (shelters) in Attica, where children actively participated in formulating improvement suggestions and in assessing their level of understanding.

Additionally, the Mentors' Team took part in a testing activity of the EUAA's informational materials for

unaccompanied children which were developed in accordance with the revised Reception Conditions Directive. The Mentors, most of whom were once unaccompanied minors themselves, shared their valuable experiences and provided their feedback that was crucial in enhancing the clarity, accessibility and suitability of the materials for children arriving alone in Europe.

Finally, the General Secretariat made a particularly significant contribution to the gradual development of the new national regulatory framework incorporating the provisions of the EU Pact on Migration and Asylum into national law, through the submission of comments and legislative proposals on issues concerning vulnerable persons, including unaccompanied minors, to ensure its full alignment with the safeguards and requirements set out by the Pact on Migration and Asylum.

18. Synergies and Exchange of Expertise

18.1 Needs assessment regarding mental health and psychosocial well-being of third-country nationals and stateless persons in Greece

The General Secretariat in close cooperation with three civil society organisations (Syn-eirmos, EPAPSY and SolidarityNow), members of the Technical Working Group on Mental Health and Psychosocial Support of Refugees of Attica, the World Health Organisation (WHO) and with the support of the European Union Agency for Asylum (EUAA), conducted a needs assessment on the mental health and psychosocial well-being of third-country nationals or stateless persons, residing in Controlled Access Facilities for the Temporary Accommodation of Asylum Seekers (CAFTAAS) of the Reception and Identification Service and specifically, in Schisto, Veria, Lagadikia and Pyrgos.



Group photo from the training on the assessment tools with the participation of the collaborating institutions

The needs assessment aimed to document good practices in the provision of mental health services, to map the mechanisms for dealing with the challenges faced by residents and to identify factors affecting their psychosocial well-being, with a view to designing and strengthening psychosocial support and protection programmes.

As part of the process, and with the valuable support of the Reception and Identification Service, 45 interviews and focused group discussions were conducted with residents of the CAFTAAS, as well as 14 individual interviews with psychosocial and administrative support professionals.

The findings highlighted, noteworthy, good practices implemented by psychosocial support professionals at the local level, that may enhance both the psychosocial well-being of residents and the work of frontline professionals. At the same time, the importance of mental resilience in managing challenges was highlighted.

The final report, including findings and proposed actions, is expected to be published by the General Secretariat in 2026.



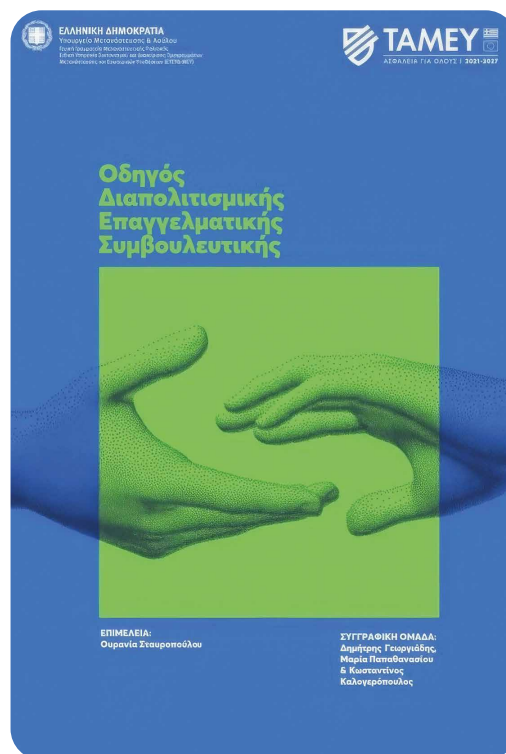
Photo with sunflowers near the CAFTA of Lagadikia

18.2 Guide to Intercultural Professional Counselling

In 2025, the “Guide to Intercultural Professional Counselling” was completed. It is addressed to counsellors and personnel working in facilities and services that support refugees and migrants. The Guide was developed as a reliable and user-friendly tool in the field of vocational training and counselling for labour market integration, with the aim of enhancing the quality and effectiveness of the services provided.

It sets out core principles of intercultural approach, practical guidance and methodological tools to facilitate the individualised support of the beneficiaries, considering their specific social, cultural and professional paths. In this way, it contributes to the systematisation of counselling practice and to the strengthening of the professional integration of third-country nationals.

The Guide was prepared, on behalf of the General Secretariat, by the Director of the Office of the Secretary General, Mr. Georgiadis, and the associates Ms. Papathanasiou Maria and Mr. Kalogeropoulos Konstantinos, in collaboration with the Special Service for the Coordination and Management of Migration and Home Affairs Programmes.



The project is co-funded by the *Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF) 2021 – 2027* and is part of the wider framework of actions of the General Secretariat for the promotion of social and professional inclusion.

18.3 Information initiatives in collaboration with the Sub-Directorate for the Protection of Minors of Attica

Following the actions implemented in 2024, over the year 2025 a total of **8** joint information initiatives were implemented with the participation of the staff of the General Secretariat for Vulnerable Persons and Institutional Protection and the Sub-Directorate for the Protection of Minors of Attica, in the context of both preventing incidents of violence and delinquency and empowering minors. Through these initiatives, minors had the opportunity to be informed about the legal framework on their rights and obligations as well as the risks of their possible exploitation. The actions were implemented into Accommodation Centres for Unaccompanied Minors and Emergency Accommodation Facilities for Unaccompanied Minors in Attica.

18.4 Study Visit to the General Secretariat by a delegation of the Egyptian authorities and the NCCPIM & TIP network

As part of the exchange of good practices, a **three-day Study Visit** to the General Secretariat for Vulnerable Persons and Institutional Protection was held in April 2025 by a **delegation of the Egyptian authorities and the National Coordinating Committee for Preventing and Combatting Illegal Migration & Trafficking in Persons** (NCCPIM & TIP) network. During the study visit, the national system for the protection of unaccompanied minors and vulnerable persons, the legal migration framework as well as the areas of support provided by the European Union Agency for Asylum (EUAA) were presented to the participants, while particular emphasis was placed on the role and operational functions of the National Emergency Response Mechanism, as well as on the mechanisms for protecting, preventing and combatting trafficking in human beings.



Snapshot of the study visit of the delegation of the Egyptian authorities and the NCCPIM (National Coordinating Committee for Preventing and Combatting Illegal Migration) & TIP (Trafficking in Persons) network

18.5 Transnational collaborations and exchange of know-how with Dutch authorities and actors

In the context of strengthening the operational readiness of the accommodation facilities in crisis management, staff of the General Secretariat conducted a **study visit** in April to facilities and services of the Ministry of Justice and Security and the National Guardianship Body for Unaccompanied Minors «NIDOS». During the visit, the participating staff from the Units of the General Secretariat for Vulnerable Persons and Institutional Protection (SGVIP) were informed about innovative crisis management programmes and visited standard and exemplary facilities for unaccompanied minors.

In November, officials from the same Dutch bodies visited Greece, where they were introduced about the mandate and activities of the General Secretariat and visited a shelter for unaccompanied minors.



Snapshot from the educational visit of staff members of the General Secretariat for Vulnerable Persons and Institutional Protection to facilities and services of the Ministry of Justice and Security and of the National Guardianship Agency for Unaccompanied Minors «NIDOS».

19. Programmes and Actions expected to be implemented in the upcoming period

19.1 Programmes and Actions in compliance with the EU Pact on Migration and Asylum

The General Secretariat for Vulnerable Persons and Institutional Protection will implement, within 2026, targeted programmes and actions that were proposed in the National Implementation Plan as well as in the National Strategy for the Management of Asylum and Migration, in the context of compliance with the requirements of the Pact on Migration and Asylum regarding issues of vulnerability and safeguards for unaccompanied minors.

These actions, which will be funded by the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF), programming period 2021–2027, as Special Actions under the Pact, include:



Accommodation Facilities for international protection applicants with serious health related issues or other vulnerabilities (Stirixis)

With the aim of strengthening the provision of special reception conditions, the General Secretariat plans to establish and operate specialised accommodation frameworks for persons with special reception needs, particularly those with serious health related issues. These facilities, which are planned to operate near specialised health structures (e.g. University Hospitals) and public services, will provide psychosocial support, legal counselling, and services by intercultural mediators in order to ensure the effective access of these individuals to hospitals and healthcare facilities.

Development of Informational Material

Informing applicants for international protection about the applicable procedures, as well as their rights and obligations, is among the fundamental guarantees established by the EU Pact on Migration and Asylum. In particular, with regard to children and vulnerable persons, the right to adequate, appropriate, and accessible information is essential to ensure their access to necessary care and services.

Within this framework, the General Secretariat, in cooperation with other Services of the Ministry of Migration and Asylum, where required, will develop informational material for unaccompanied minors and vulnerable persons. This material will reflect, in an appropriate and concise manner, the essential information that persons with special reception needs, such as victims of human trafficking, victims of torture, persons with serious illnesses, and unaccompanied minors, need to know concerning the asylum procedure as well as the reception system.

Organisation of Training Sessions

The Pact on Migration and Asylum establishes new processes, such as the Screening Procedure, for all newly arriving third-country nationals, which includes the registration of information, medical examination, and preliminary vulnerability assessment. In this context, strengthening the training of frontline professionals on issues of vulnerability and child protection is of critical importance.

The General Secretariat will organise training sessions, in cooperation with relevant authorities, targeting professionals from the Hellenic Police, reception staff, and healthcare professionals. These trainings will cover child protection issues and specific vulnerability concerns, such as the protection of victims of human trafficking and gender-based violence. At the same time, the General Secretariat will support training for reception, asylum, and Appeals Committee professionals regarding the new vulnerability categories explicitly mentioned in the Reception Directive, such as LGBTI+ persons.

National Guardianship System

With the aim of ensuring the immediate and meaningful representation of every unaccompanied minor identified in the Greek territory, the recruitment of temporary representatives at entry points as well as at screening points is anticipated, in order to safeguard the rights of minors and ensure their effective access to the procedure.

Transitional Accommodation Facilities for Victims of Human Trafficking

Aiming at the further protection of victims of human trafficking, the General Secretariat plans the establishment of transitional accommodation facilities, for adult women and single mothers with their minor children, and for adult men, victims of human trafficking. The design of the action includes both the provision of safe accommodation in appropriate facilities (buildings) within the mainland, and the provision of protection, support, and care services, with the aim of empowering the beneficiaries.



Language Learning Programmes and Educational Activities for Unaccompanied Minors

Aiming to align with the requirements of the EU Pact on Migration and Asylum, education and language learning are recognised as critical tools for the integration and support of unaccompanied minors. Within this framework, actions are planned to be implemented in the near future, including language learning programmes and educational initiatives for unaccompanied minors, with the aim of enhancing their skills, promoting social integration, and ensuring equal access to education.



Mobile Support Team for Victims of Torture

Under the EU Pact on Migration and Asylum, the obligation of Member States to promptly identify and provide appropriate and specialised care to victims of torture or other serious acts of violence is strengthened and presented in a clear and detailed manner. Within the framework outlined in the new Reception Conditions Directive (EU 2024/1346), the present action has been designed, aiming at the creation of a mobile interdisciplinary support team for victims of torture which will provide psychosocial therapy, rehabilitation and care services, thereby supporting the reception system.

19.2 Continuation and Strengthening of Cooperation with “Nidos” Organisation

Aiming to continue cooperation with the organisation of the Netherlands “Nidos”, the General Secretariat plans to expand the scope of the collaboration, focusing on the following thematic areas:

- In the development and implementation of specialised training and educational material for the personnel of the Secretariat (Training of Trainers – ToT), with an emphasis on crisis and conflict management within accommodation facilities.
- In providing support for the development of operational requirements, standardised operating procedures (SOPs), and internal regulations, with the aim of guiding the effective functioning of Specialised Accommodation Facilities for minors who face difficulties in complying with the rules.
- In the design and potential pilot implementation of intercultural mediation actions, aimed at preventing and resolving conflicts among unaccompanied minors in reception settings.

Acknowledgements

With the completion of the General Secretariat's annual cycle of actions, it is deemed appropriate to highlight the decisive contribution of both the political and administrative leadership, as well as the involved services, to the effective implementation of our work.

Special mention is due to the Minister of Migration and Asylum, Mr. Thanos Plevris, for his steady and substantive support, which ensured the smooth progress of all initiatives of the General Secretariat.

Similarly, the contribution of the Deputy Minister of Migration and Asylum, Ms. Sevi Voloudaki, responsible for the General Secretariat's portfolio, is recognised for her guidance and continuous institutional support of our actions.

Gratitude is also extended to the Secretary General for Migration Policy, Ms. Nadia Papakosta, as well as to the Managing Authority for Migration & Home Affairs Funds of the Ministry of Migration and Asylum, and in particular to its Head, Mr. Theofanis Papadopoulos, given that the majority of the General Secretariat's actions were implemented with the co-funding of the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF). This publication forms part of a publicity initiative co-financed by the European Union and the Technical Assistance of the Migration and Home Affairs Funds (TAMEY) 2021–2027.

Finally, the importance of collaboration with the Secretary General for Asylum Seekers' Reception, Mr. Spyros Stathoulis, is emphasised, aiming to continue the institutional and operational synergy for the implementation of joint actions.

Special recognition is given to the staff of the General Secretariat, whose professionalism and dedication were instrumental in achieving the objectives during a demanding period.

Heracles Moskoff

General Secretary for Vulnerable Persons and Institutional Protection

Organisations providing technical support

European Union Agency for Asylum (EUAA)
International Organization for Migration (IOM)
United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)
United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF)

Collaboration organisations & partners*

A21
ActionAid
Agricultural Dairy Cooperative of Kalavryta
Apostoli NGO
ARSIS- Association for the Social Support of Youth
Asociația pentru Dezvoltarea Practicilor Alternative de Reintegrare și Educație (ADPARE)
Association for Regional Development and Mental Health (Greek acronym: EPAPSY)
Athens Coordination Centre for Refugee & Migrant issues (ACCMR)
Athens Multicultural Junior High School
BRIDGE EU
Caritas International ASBL (CARITAS BELGIUM)
Cell of Alternative Youth Activities (Greek acronym: KEAN)
Centre for the study of democracy
Central Agency for the Reception of Asylum Seekers (COA)
Cesie Ente del Terzo Settore (CESIE ETS)
Columbia University, School of Social Work & Columbia Global Centre Athens
Directorate-General for Migration and Home Affairs (DG HOME)
Directorate-General for Structural Reform Support (DG REFORM)
End Child Prostitution, Child Pornography and Trafficking of Children for Sexual Purposes (ECPAT France)
European Federation for Missing and Sexually Exploited Children (MCE- Missing Children Europe)
European Institute for Crime Prevention and Control (HEUNI)
European Society, Political Expression, Institutions (Evropaiki Ekfrasi)
European Union Agency for Asylum (EUAA)
Faros Elpidas
Federation of Pontian Associations of Southern Greece "NOSTOS"
Fundacja Vela – Organizacja Humanitarna Na Rzecz Ochrony I Edukacji
Greek Council for Refugees (GCR)
Gymnastikos Syllogos Thessalonikis «Iraklis»
Hellenic Foundation for European and Foreign Policy (Greek acronym: ELIAMEP)
Hellenic Red Cross
Hellenic Social Welfare Assistance Unit (Kinoniko EKAV)
Iliaktida NGO
Institute of Child Health (ICH)
International Centre for Sustainable Development (ICSD)
International Organization for Migration (IOM)
International Rescue Committee (IRC)
INTERSOS
KETHEA MOSAIC
Medical Intervention (med.in)
METAdrasi - Action for Migration and Development



Médecins du Monde - Greece (MdM)
Municipality of Voios
National and Kapodistrian University of Athens (NKUA)
Network for Children's Rights
Network of Afghan Diaspora Organisations in Europe (NADOE)
NIDOS
Norwegian Directorate of Immigration (UDI)
Norwegian Refugee Council (NORCAP)
Odyssea
Organisation Earth
Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE)
PRAKSIS - PROGRAMS of Development, Social Support and Medical Cooperation
Qualify Just - It Solutions and Consulting, Lda (IPS Innovative Prison Systems - IPS)
Saúde em Português (SAUDE)
Social Action & Innovation Centre (Greek acronym: KMOP)
Society for the Care of Minors and Youth
SolidarityNow
SOS Children's Villages Greece
Synyparxis - Ecumenical Refugee Programme
Syn-Eirmos NGO
Sub-directorate of Juvenile Protection of Attica
Sub-directorate of Juvenile Protection of Thessaloniki
Tarki Tarsadalomkutatasi Intezet Zrt (TARKI)
The American College of Greece (ACG)
The Network for Children's Rights (NRC)
The Smile of the Child
The Themistocles and Dimitris Tsatsos Foundation – Centre for European Constitutional Law (CECL)
The Home Project
United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF)
United Nations Office for Drugs and Crime (UNODC)
Union of Women Associations of Heraklion Prefecture
University of West Attica (Greek acronym: ΠΑΔΑ)
VELA Greece
World Health Organization (WHO)
Youth Centre of Epirus (YCE)
Zeuxis

***Alphabetical list**

Embassies

Embassy of Austria
Embassy of Czech Republic
Embassy of Egypt
Embassy of the Netherlands
Embassy of Norway
Embassy of Spain
Embassy of Switzerland
Embassy of Ukraine



HELLENIC REPUBLIC
Ministry of Migration & Asylum
General Secretariat for Migration Policy
Managing Authority for Migration & Home Affairs Funds



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