

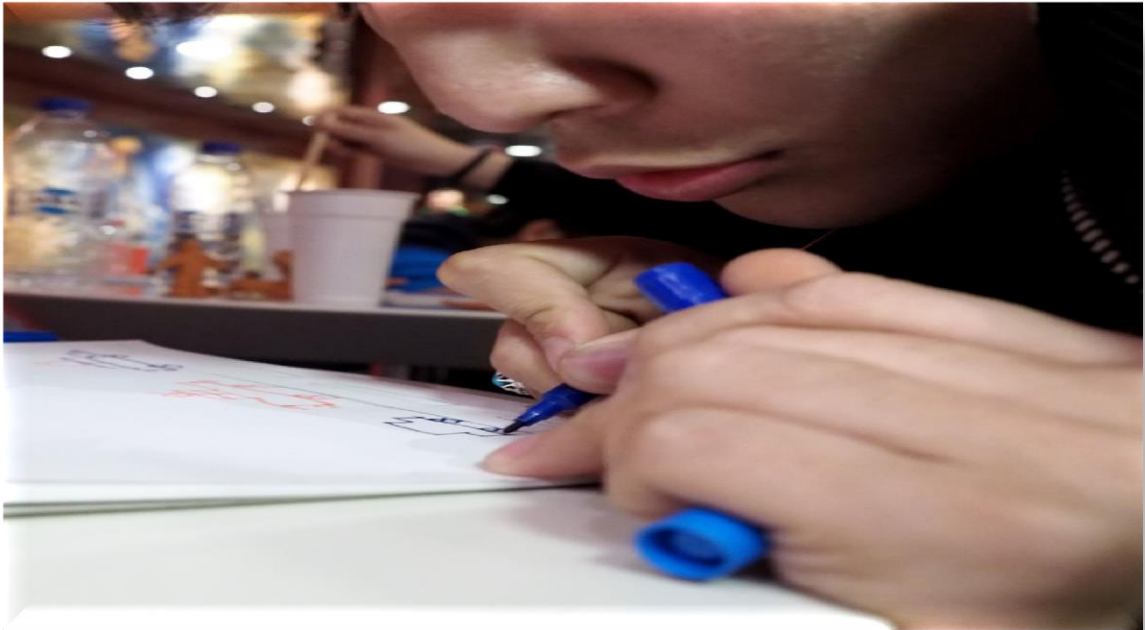


IOM International Organization for Migration
ΔΟΜ Διεθνής Οργανισμός Μεταναστεύσεως

SOAM
in Greece

FEBRUARY 2015

01_02_NEWSLETTER



The International Organization for Migration in Greece is the Fund Operator for the Programme “**Supporting Organizations that Assist Migrant Asylum Seeking Population in Greece**” (**SOAM**) under the framework of the European Economic Area Grants (EEA Grants).

The **SOAM Programme** aims at increasing the quantity and the quality of the reception centres, managed by NGOs, to the migrant asylum seeking population in Greece. Based on the current situation in Greece, civil society is increasingly called upon to provide asylum seekers with shelter, primary and secondary care. SOAM’s primary goal is to support NGOs to operate reception centres for vulnerable asylum seekers, especially unaccompanied minors in Greece.

The direct beneficiaries of the **Programme** are Non-governmental, non-profit organizations (NGOs), with at least 2 year - experience working with asylum seekers and providing services such as medical and psycho-social care and legal counselling.

Also, beneficiaries of the **Programme** are asylum seekers with emphasis on unaccompanied minors and other vulnerable groups such as single-parent families, people with disabilities, people with chronic health problems and the elderly.

**Supporting Organizations that
Assist Migrant Asylum Seeking Population
in Greece**



Newsletter's Scope and Content

The purpose of the SOAM Newsletter is to share information on the operation of the funded reception centres, identify and promote good practices and raise awareness on issues concerning the asylum seeking population in Greece.

The content of the newsletter refers to the work of the three SOAM consortiums, funded by EEA Grants:

- **Reception Centre for vulnerable 70 asylum seekers in the center of Athens**, coordinated by Medecins du Monde - Greece in partnership with the Greek Council for Refugees.
- **STEGI PLUS (+)**, coordinated by PRAKSIS in partnership with the Hellenic Red Cross. The consortium operates 2 centres, one in Athens for 30 unaccompanied minors and one in Patras for 30 unaccompanied minors and 40 other vulnerable asylum seekers.
- **MELLON (FUTURE)**, coordinated by ΝΟΣΤΟΣ in partnership with the organizations EADAP, IASIS and Ergoerevnitiki. The centre is located in Moschato (Attica) and its capacity is 102 spaces, 60 for unaccompanied minors and 42 for mothers with children.

Reception Centre for 70 vulnerable asylum seekers in the center of Athens



In September 2014, the Athens Yoga Studio (<http://www.athensyoga.gr>) provided free Yoga sessions to children who are hosted at the Reception Centre for Vulnerable Asylum Seekers, in the frame of SOAM Programme. The children joined the sessions with great excitement and were eager to learn about this alternative method of exercising. They participated in the class, followed the instructors and got to know other peers who attended this very special activity. Among the priorities of the consortium is to provide opportunities for entertainment, and socialization and enhance the development of the personalities of the children who stay at the Centre.



In June 2014, Medecins du Monde organised a daily excursion to the Attica Park, in Spata, East Attica. The beneficiaries of the SOAM Programme, together with volunteers and MdM staff were guided through the Park, were informed of its operation. They also got to view a training session for the marine mammals. Children and adults enjoyed themselves while some of them were moved by recalling images of their countries of origin as they recognised animals found at sub-Saharan Africa and central Asia.

STEGI PLUS (+) in Athens



STEGI PLUS (+) in Athens

organized an activity at its premises in order to celebrate the International Day for Refugees. The activity consisted of three parts; at the beginning the children had the opportunity to cook, with the supervision of professionals, meals from their countries of origin. Next, a participatory and informative discussion took place on what the term refugee means, rights and obligations. The activity concluded with the presence of a magician who performed for the children.



During the summer the children had the chance to go swimming. The day was filled with fun and games in the sea and on the beach. Children enjoyed themselves and all returned back to the centre with big smiles on their faces.

STEGI PLUS (+) in Patras



Activities are organized, on a weekly basis, within the premises of STEGI (+) in Patras, aiming at enhancing interaction and verbal and non-verbal communication, promoting conflict resolution, building trust, encouraging the cooperation and developing social skills of children.

**ένα μικρό
παιδί
ένα μεγάλο
ταξίδι**

πέμπτη 18/12 κέντρο ημέρας ασυνόδευτων ανηλίκων
PRAKSIS, τσαμαδού 38

Δράσεις
19:00 με 20:00
> "Ο Μολάνος και οι καλικάντζαροι" από την ομάδα αφήγησης & δραματοποίησης περρωμιθών Μυθοεκριματικές
> "Ο επιμένον λεχονικά" από την ομάδα κουκλοθεάτρου Αμπελοφόουλα
> "Don't worry be happy", παράσταση τσίρκο από την ομάδα X- Saltibagos
20.00 με 22:00
> Προβολή ταινίας "Qadir - Ένας Αφγανός Οδυσσέας" της Αννέτας Παπαθανασίου
> Ανοικτή συζήτηση με τη σκηνοθέτιδα
Συλλογή αθλητικών, εφηβικών παπουτσιών και ρούχων (για αγόρια)



STEGI PLUS (+) in Patras

organized an interactive event for children called, "a little child - a long trip". The event took place at PRAKSIS' Drop-In centre and included puppet and circus performances and story tellers. At the end of the event the film "Qadir, an Afghan Ulysses" was screened and the Director, Ms. Annetta Papatthanasiou, participated in the open discussion that followed. The goal of the event was to inform and sensitize the local population on asylum seeking issues and collect second hand clothing for unaccompanied children.





Educational and recreational workshops are organized on regular basis at MELLON centre. These workshops, that sometimes are supported by volunteers, are part of the regular scheduled educational programme of the centre. During the autumn workshop in September a group of youths was given the chance to work with colors, decorate their T-shirts and create something on their own.



The Greek newspaper I Kathimerini ([Καθημερινή της Κυριακής 7-12-2014](#)) published a report that follows a group of unaccompanied children from the island of Lesbos to MELLON. Among other things, the report refers to detention conditions and the transfer of these children, who seek asylum in Greece; also, it gave the opportunity to the centre's representatives to talk about their work, the challenges they face and the rewards that they experience.

Supporting Organizations that Assist Migrant Asylum Seeking Population in Greece



In November the International Organization for Migration (IOM) Office in Greece initiated the participation of children asylum seekers, who are hosted at the reception centres funded by the European Economic Area (EEA Grants), in the Authentic Marathon of Athens; they run 1.2 klm promoting the online message **#SOAMforShelters**. The children enjoyed the event and had the chance to learn more about the Marathon from the pedagogues from the centres where they live.

In December, within the same framework, IOM Greece in cooperation with the Hellenic Athletics Federation (HAF), the Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs and the Social School, organized in December a visit, with children, to the closed training Centre of Olympic Athletic Center of Athens. The Coach of the National Athletics Team, together with top Greek Athletes welcomed and guided the children in the Center. The youngest children had the opportunity to participate in the Kids Athletics program and the older to compete in a relay race. At the end of the visit gifts were given to children.

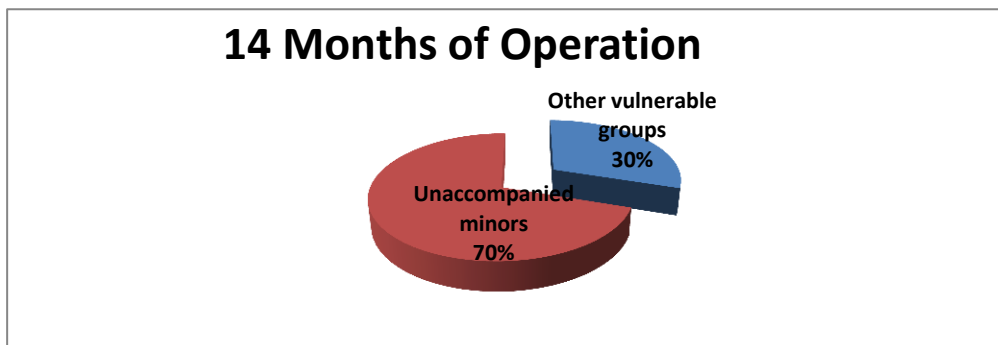


Supporting Organizations that Assist Migrant Asylum Seeking Population in Greece

Data on SOAM

For the implementation period from **September 2013** to **October 2014**, the SOAM Programme provided services, including shelter, health care, legal counselling and psycho-social assistance to:

- ❖ **555 Unaccompanied minors**
- ❖ **238 Vulnerable migrants** including: single-parent families, (female and male), parents with children, victims of torture, migrants with medical needs.



Supporting Organizations that Assist Migrant Asylum Seeking Population in Greece



<https://www.facebook.com/SOAMinGreece>

<http://eeagrants-iomathens-soam.gr/>



www.greece.iom.int

www.twitter.com/iomgreece

www.facebook.com/IOMGreece



<http://www.eegrants.org/>

<http://www.eegrants.gr/el/>



<http://mdmgreece.gr/missions/stin-ellada/kinonikes-domes/xenonas-etounton-asilo/>



<https://stegiplus.wordpress.com/>



<http://www.mellonshelter.gr/>



01_02_Newsletter
February 2015