



CAFE

Quiet Corner

GARDEN

Maker Space

WOMEN'S SPACE

Free Shop

MSF +

info point

DORO BLANCKE

REFOCUS

Terra & psy

TOILET

May 2025

MONTHLY REPORT



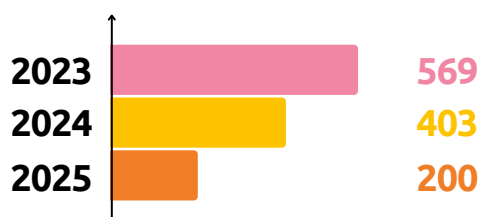
The word 'paréa' in Greek means "company, circle of friends": **everyone is welcome in Paréa!** Located within walking distance from the CCAC (*Closed and Controlled Access Camp*) on Lesbos, our community center **Paréa Lesbos** offers a safe space where people on the move, locals and internationals can meet and spend time in a peaceful and welcoming environment.

Paréa is run by **Europe Cares** responsible for the safety, major facility costs, maintenance and development of the center. It is also a **home** to another **11 civil society organisations**: **Artists Giving Back, Boat Refugee Foundation, Collective Aid, Leave No One Behind, Makerspace Lesbos, Refocus Media Labs, Refugee Relief Doro Blancke, TerraPsy, Yoga and Sport with Refugees** and **Welcome Office Lesbos**. In a time of high political uncertainty and constant withdrawal of support and international attention from Lesbos, our network of partner organisations joined forces to offer people on the move a **wide range of services** including food and NFI distributions, legal and psychosocial support, education and social care activities. But first and foremost, we offer **a sense of community and belonging**.

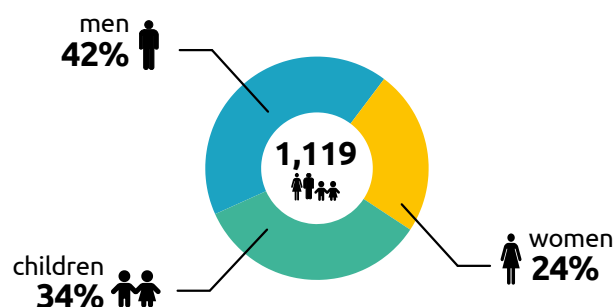
We are **one community in solidarity**. *Will you join us?*



Number of arrivals in May



Population in the CCAC



Lesvos Updates

Between 28 April and 1 June, Lesvos recorded **200 new arrivals**, while **152 people departed** during the same period, according to UNHCR. This brings the **total number of residents** in the Lesvos CCAC to **1,119**. During this period, **13 pushback incidents** were reported in the Aegean Sea, involving **445 people, including children, women, and men**—each one representing a missed opportunity to uphold the right to seek asylum in Europe.

Greek Coast Guard Involved in Dangerous Pushback, almost 2 years after Pylo's shipwreck.

On the night of May 25, a vessel carrying **96 people—including 38 small children**—was left adrift near the island of Nisyros. Despite multiple emergency alerts, the **Greek Coast Guard** delayed intervention and eventually **approached the boat with masked, armed personnel aboard a vessel unsuitable for rescue**. Instead of bringing passengers to safety, they **towed the boat for over three hours into Turkish waters—without life jackets on board**.

This time, no lives were lost. But the incident closely echoes the Adriana shipwreck off Pylos in June 2023, where **over 600 people died during a similar towing attempt by Greek authorities**. **A criminal prosecution against 17 Hellenic Coast Guard members is taking place for the first time**.

Survivors from the Nisyros incident reported violence, phone confiscations, and being left adrift again after being forcibly removed. Far from isolated, this event is part of a systematic **pattern of pushbacks** that violate international law and **endanger lives at Europe's maritime borders**. While these practices continue, European institutions remain silent. The question remains: How many more tragedies must occur before there is accountability?

Vastria CCAC Construction: Mounting Concerns.

As summer temperatures rise in Lesvos, so do concerns over the newly constructed CCAC in the forests of Vastria. The facility—designed to hold up to 5,000 people—has become a focal point for public debate: **security vs. human rights, containment vs. community, policy vs. environment**.

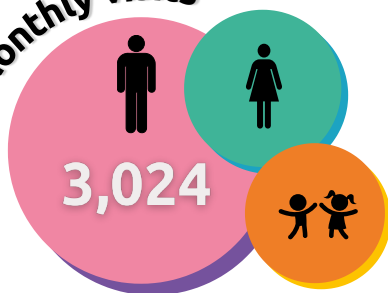
The camp's construction required the clearing of 24 hectares of protected pine forest, raising alarm over **wildfire risks in one of the most fire-prone areas of Greece**. Local residents and environmental groups have expressed outrage, noting the lack of public consultation and warning that the location of such a high-security, barbed-wire compound in an ecologically sensitive zone endangers both displaced people and the broader community.

Critics view the project as emblematic of broader European migration policies that **prioritize isolation and deterrence over protection and integration**—at a time when Lesvos is still grappling with the consequences of past humanitarian failures.



May in numbers

Monthly visits

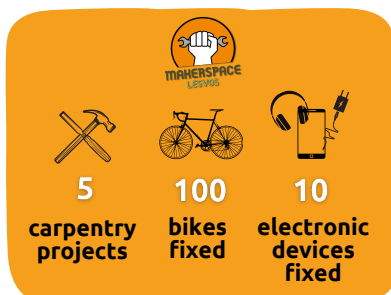


Average daily visitors

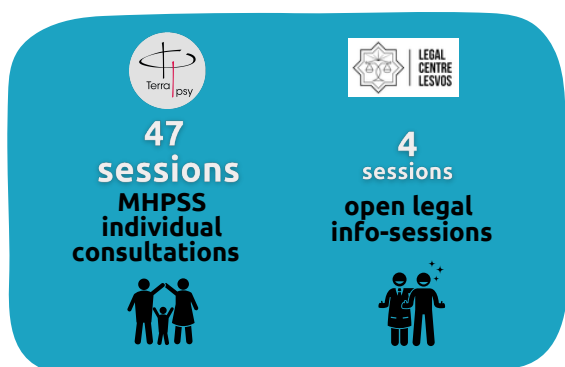


Social Activities

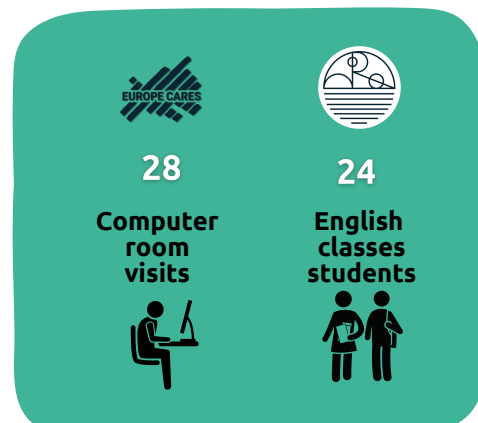
Basic Needs



Support Sessions



Education





Highlight of the month

In the **Women Space**, we organised a **cooking workshop**, where together we prepared mini **chicken gyros**, alongside **freshly made tzatziki**. **19 women** joined this activity and **everyone was involved** in either chopping, mixing, adding spices to the chicken or assembling the wraps.

As word of the activity spread, **more and more women joined the space**, and **dancing started alongside the cooking**. Once the chicken gyros were ready, we all **sat down** and **enjoyed** our delicious creation **together**.

Faces of Paréa

“In the heart of Lesvos, 'Parea' is not just another space; it's a home for those who have lost everything. Here, together, we rediscover the sense of family and belonging. Every smile, every help, is part of our 'Parea'. Thank you for being with us.”



– Zaker –
Afghanistan



In the Spotlight

Meet our partner

TerraPsy



TerraPsy provides **psychological** and **psychosocial support** for **families**: children, teenagers and parents. Every day, their **team** of **psychologists** and **interpreters** organizes **workshops** — using arts, discussion groups, and other psycho-pedagogical techniques — as well as **individual consultations**.

These are **crucial** in **supporting children** in the **development** of their emotional regulation, social skills and psychomotor skills. They also provide **support** for **parents** by recreating a **calm** and **secure space** to share their difficulties.

Since **psychological support** for children is **scarce on Lesvos**, **TerraPsy** plays a **vital role** in filling this **critical gap** in **essential services** for families on the move.

Welcome to our space **Cafe**

The **Café** is a program **run by Europe Cares** and offers **free drinks**, including coffee, tea, milk, chocolate and cold juice as well as **free lunches** cooked by our partner Zaporeak on a **daily basis**.

As **food situation in the camp** remains **poor**, we provide **crucial support** to the people in the camp. In April we delivered **225 meals per day**, supporting those who are cut off from governmental assistance due to their legal status.

Our visitors highly enjoy the Café, appreciating the **sense of normality** choosing their preferred drinks and enjoying a nutritious meal brings. This month we added a **new summer drink** to our menu: **homemade Iced Tea!**





Would you like to join our community?
Contact us at contact@europecares.org



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