

December 2025

MONTHLY REPORT

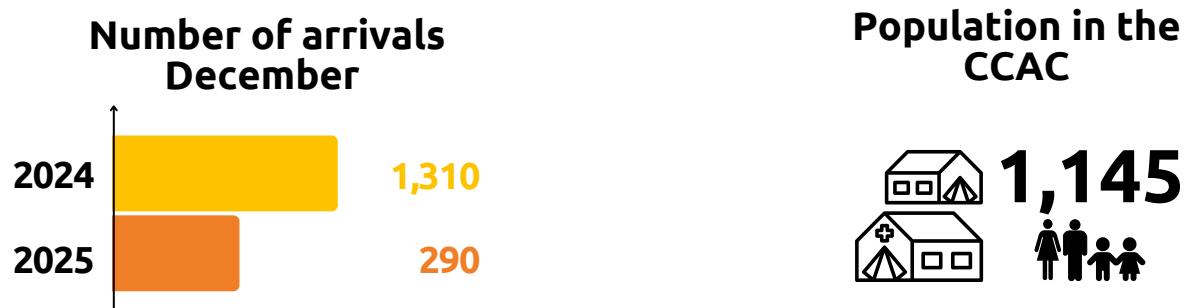




The word 'paréa' in Greek means "company, circle of friends": **everyone is welcome in Paréa!** Located within walking distance from the CCAC (*Closed and Controlled Access Camp*) on Lesvos, our community center **Paréa Lesvos** offers a safe space where people on the move, locals and internationals 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 10 **civil society organisations**: **Artists Giving Back**, **Collective Aid**, **Makerspace Lesvos**, **Médecins Sans Frontières Brussels**, **Médecins Sans Frontières Greece**, **Refocus Media Labs**, **Refugee Relief Doro Blancke**, **TerraPsy**, **Yoga and Sport with Refugees** and **Welcome Office Lesvos**. In a time of high political uncertainty and constant withdrawal of support and international attention from Lesvos, our network of partner organisations joined forces to offer people on the move a **wide range of services** including food and NFI distributions, medical, 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?**



Lesvos Updates

In December, Lesvos recorded **290 new arrivals and 49 departures**. By the end of the month, **1,145 people*** were living in the **Lesvos Closed Controlled Access Center (CCAC)**. As both the number of arrivals and CCAC population for December show, there is an overall decrease in how many people are arriving on the island. This trend is even more significant in comparison to December 2024, with 1,310 arrivals.

Yet, human rights violations continue to occur across the Aegean islands. **ABR documented 12 pushback incidents in December, affecting 336 children, women, and men on the move****. Each case is not just a statistic, but a person denied the right to seek protection under international law. Highlighting more overt attempts in Greece to normalise harmful practices preventing people from accessing asylum and that disregard international rights laws, the Greek Health Minister Adonis Georgiadis has publicly advocated for rethinking whether pushbacks should continue to be considered illegal. However, **illegal pushbacks in Greece have been recorded to be extremely violent, with cases of people being beaten and robbed****. In Lesvos alone, ABR recorded 47 pushbacks in 2025**.

On a wider EU level, December also witnessed **harsher policy developments in the management of asylum**. On December 8th, a set of increasingly restrictive measures were agreed on by EU countries during a Justice and Home Affairs (JHA) meeting in Brussels. This includes a new list of 'safe countries', where asylum claims from these countries will be denied more quickly unless special circumstances are proven. Additionally, states will be able to establish **asylum processing centers and 'return hubs' in non-EU countries** for people with unsuccessful asylum claims to be placed in whilst their departure is coordinated.

These measures build on the **EU Migration and Asylum Pact** that will come into effect June this year. They exemplify the continuing trend in the EU of aiming to **externalise asylum processes beyond EU borders**, fast-track the rejections of asylum claims, and **make it significantly more difficult for people on the move to access their right to safety**. These measures have been widely criticized by human rights organisations as they stress the risk of leaving people in a continued state of limbo and the unjust consequences on the rights of people on the move. As Silvia Carta from PICUM states: *'Instead of investing in safety, protection and inclusion, the EU is choosing policies that will plunge more people into danger and legal uncertainty'****.

These policy developments will considerably exacerbate the vulnerabilities of people on the move arriving on Lesvos and other places on EU external borders.



December in numbers



Basic Needs



Support Sessions





Highlight of the month

On the 18th of December, Paréa Lesvos was **full of laughter and dancing** as we hosted our **Winter Party**. Paréa welcomed almost **400 visitors** who joined in on the festivities throughout the day!

The day began with hanging up wonderful colorful decorations that visitors and volunteers had crafted together the weeks leading up to the party. At our Women's Space, it was a special beauty day as women and girls decorated each other with glitter eyeshadow, rhinestones, and henna! Meanwhile, our partners **Yoga and Sports with Refugees** held an action-packed volleyball tournament outside.



At our cafe, our partner **Refugee Assistance Doro Blanke** provided croissants with every drink while **Médecins Sans Frontières** offered different soda drinks to go with each lunch. After lunch, the circus area transformed into a celebration of music, dance, and community as **our DJ, Hamed from Makerspace**, played songs from various countries. Children, women and men across different backgrounds gathered to sing, dance, and **filling Paréa with joy and a sense of togetherness!** It was a day embodying what Paréa stands for: a circle of friends.

“Faces of Paréa”

Your generosity will remain etched in my soul and I will carry it wherever I go, as a proof that humanity knows no bounds.

You did not just welcome a refugee, you embraced a human being, carrying his wounds.

Thank you, each and every one of you, for every moment of attention, every kind word and every door you opened for me.

”



Abdul monem- from Sudan



In the Spotlight

Meet our partner

TerraPsy



TerraPsy provides **psychological** and **psychosocial support** for families: children, teenagers and parents. Every day, their **multidisciplinary team** and **cultural mediators** organize **workshops** — using **art** therapy, **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 and work on the development of parenting skills.

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 **Women's Space**

This month, our **Women's Space** has continued to be a vibrant and supportive environment for the women who visit Paréa. Every day, we offer a different activity, creating opportunities for **learning, creativity, and self-expression** - from beauty day to jewelry making, embroidery, and arts and crafts.

This month, this space has hosted some special activities and celebrations for the **16 days of activism against gender-based violence**.

Most importantly, the Women's Space continues to be a place where women can come as they are—to **relax, connect, and feel part of a community**. Whether through creative projects, shared meals, dancing, or quiet conversation, the space continues to foster a sense of community, belonging, and well-being.





DORO BLANCKE
FLÜCHTLINGSHILFE



lean on
us



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



Published by:

Europe Cares e.V.
Niddastrasse 101,
60329 Frankfurt
www.europecares.org

Comments or feedback:
contact@europecares.org

