



April 2026

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 8 **civil society organisations**: **Artists Giving Back, Collective Aid, Makerspace Lesvos, Médecins Sans Frontières Brussels, Refocus Media Labs, Refugee Relief Doro Blancke, TerraPsy, Yoga and Sport with Refugees**. 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?*



Number of arrivals April



Population in the CCAC



Lesvos Updates

In April, the population inside the Mavrovouni Closed Controlled Access Center (CCAC) on Lesvos shifted sharply. Informal field reports show **the camp dropped from around 650 residents at the end of March to fewer than 500 within two weeks**, one of the steepest short-term decreases recorded in recent months. **The reduction was driven by transfers to the mainland; arrival numbers did not fall.**

Service provision on the island is also changing. After Drop in the Ocean leaves Lesvos in May, **EuroRelief has informally signalled it will take over laundry services** previously delivered through partner cooperation, keeping this basic support in place inside the camp.

Even with fewer residents, **access conditions inside the CCAC remain highly restrictive.** Movement limits, controlled entry procedures, and administrative barriers continue to block residents from reaching services. Humanitarian organisations have repeatedly raised concerns about prolonged containment policies on the island.

Across the Aegean, crossings continued under increasingly dangerous conditions. Aegean Boat Report documented frequent attempts towards Lesvos and **a high number of interceptions by Greek authorities.** Reports throughout the month pointed to alleged pushbacks, ongoing monitoring of boats in distress, and continuing legal challenges around border practices and human rights violations.

Fatal incidents at sea persisted. **Monitoring organisations recorded at least 32 deaths across the wider Aegean during the March–April period.** Documentation from civil society actors describes repeated cases of vessels being intercepted or returned toward Turkish waters, raising sustained concerns about compliance with international protection obligations.

April also marked **one year since the 3 April 2025 Lesvos shipwreck near Skala Sikamniias, which claimed eight lives.** In March 2026, the Three-Member Court of Appeals for Felonies of the Northern Aegean **acquitted H.M., an Afghan survivor who had been criminally charged after the incident.** Represented by the Legal Centre Lesvos and Refugee Support Aegean, **his acquittal is a meaningful step toward accountability and underlines the wider problem of criminalising refugees in the aftermath of maritime tragedies.**

Humanitarian organisations continue to warn that **deaths in the Mediterranean keep rising while safe pathways and rescue capacity shrink.** Aegean Boat Report documented **5 pushback incidents in April, affecting 122 children, women, and men on the move.** Interception practices, restricted access to asylum procedures, and the externalisation of migration control keep placing people seeking safety at heightened risk.

The picture on Lesvos in April reflects a broader European pattern. **Falling camp populations point to accelerated transfers, containment strategies, and shifting humanitarian responsibilities among the actors that remain. The needs of people on the move have not decreased. Dignified reception conditions, real access to protection, and safe pathways are essential to prevent further loss of life in the Aegean Sea.**

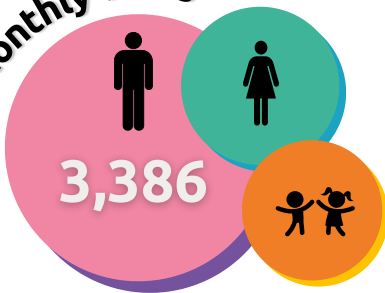
*<https://migration.gov.gr/en/statistika/>

**<https://aegeanboatreport.com/monthly-reports/> Sources: Reuters (28 March 2026); Euronews (26 March 2026); Ekathimerini (March 2026); IOM Missing Migrants Project; Sea-Watch.



April in numbers

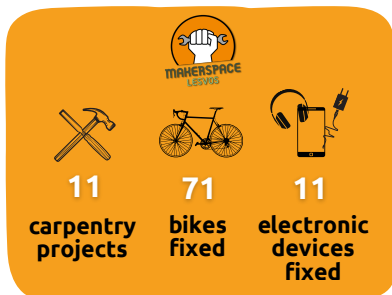
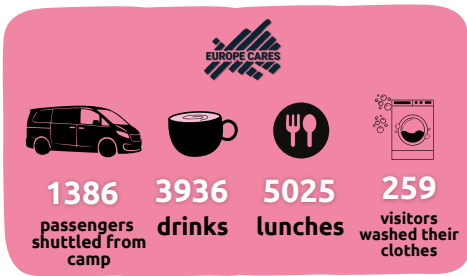
Monthly visits



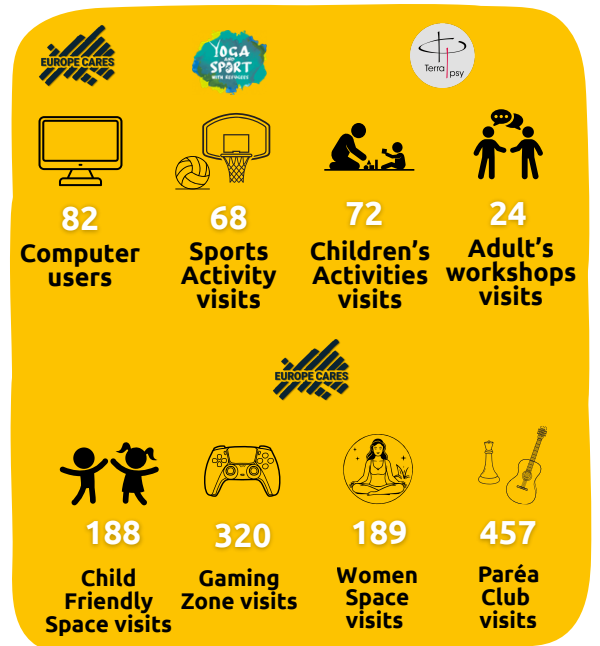
Average daily visitors



Basic Needs



Social Activities



Support Sessions





Highlight of the month:

On **April 16th**, we celebrated **Paréa's 4th anniversary** with a joyful party shared with **333 of our visitors!** The space was full of life, music, dancing, and laughter throughout the day. Visitors enjoyed special treats like **ice cream and sodas**, adding to the festive spirit.

Paréa welcomed **72 women** and **78 children**, all eager to take part in the activities of the day. In the **Women Space**, a special Beauty Day gave women the chance to get ready for the celebration with **glitter, henna, and gemstones**. Outside **Paréa Club**, children lined up excitedly for **face painting**, while inside, others gathered around tables to create **jewellery**.

Our partners, **Yoga and Sport for Refugees** led sports activities, including a lively **volleyball tournament**, while **TerraPsy**, together with our Nest team, facilitated a rainbow parachute game for the children.

It was a day brought to life thanks to our **visitors**, and our wonderful **volunteers**, whose **energy and joy** made the party truly **unforgettable!**



Faces of Paréa

“ When I come here I can get drinks: moka, coffee, tea, orange juice, it's nice. People here are really friendly, all of them, they have good vibes. When I am stressed about something, I come here, I see everyone dancing, smiling, having a good time, it makes me feel better and it helps me relax.

They are also offering legal advice. I used it before and it was really useful, they helped me before my interview. There are washing machines here, in the camp we cannot wash our clothes whenever we need or we have to use our hands to do it and that's really hard. So we come here to wash our clothes. It's really good. Thank you for this amazing place.



Bahaa Aldeen from Palestine



In the Spotlight

Meet our partner Medicines sans Frontières



Europe Cares continues its valuable collaboration with the MSF Mobile Clinic, which regularly **provides essential health services within Paréa**. The MSF team conducted midwives' workshops focusing on **maternal health awareness, reproductive health information, and safe pregnancy practices, offering a confidential and supportive environment for women**. In parallel, psychological counselling sessions are available, **supporting individuals facing stress, displacement-related trauma, and emotional vulnerability**. The presence of a medical nurse allows community members to **access primary healthcare consultations, basic medical assessments, and referrals when needed**. These services contribute significantly to **improving access to healthcare for people with limited mobility or resources**. The collaboration **strengthens holistic care at Paréa by integrating physical and mental health support**. MSF's multidisciplinary approach ensured **dignified, accessible, and culturally sensitive assistance**.

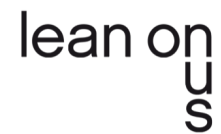
Welcome to our space: The Sewing Corner

One of our **newer additions is the Sewing Corner**, located within the main hall of Paréa. Here, **visitors take part in sewing classes that teach valuable, practical skills**. The initiative also **strengthens our partnership with Collective Aid**, as visitors can bring their newly received clothes for quick repairs.

A former volunteer, Berit, had been using the sewing machines when a visitor, Abid, approached her and shared his dream of becoming a designer. By teaching him basic techniques, she **encouraged him to begin experimenting with and developing his ideas through small creative projects**. He soon returned with friends, and the group eventually **grew to five regular participants**. Together, they created a motivated and collaborative community centred around shared aspirations.

Over the past few weeks, this space has quickly established itself as one of the most valuable parts of Paréa. It has been inspiring to see how it **fosters both community and social connections, while enabling technical growth that people can take beyond Paréa!**





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



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