

annual
report

SOLIDARITY
NOW

This is our common ground

2018



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We will Build around our Solid Achievements

by Stelios Zavvos,
Chairman of the Board of Directors



“This organization should be the cornerstone of a wider effort, comprising volunteers, donors and supporters who want to spread our core values”

SolidarityNow (SN) as a collaborative venture already spans six years’ consistent and arduous efforts across diverse fields. It was started in 2013 by people who shared a vision to help people cope through the deepest and most pernicious crisis. From its very first steps it was endowed with a strong sense of purpose, borne out of deeply felt values. It was the clarity of these values - oriented towards the open society - that enabled SN to rise to the challenge of rapidly changing circumstances. It was thus able to put to work its basic tenet of societal solidarity in addressing complex and unforeseen challenges- such as the refugee crisis. Its success is signalled by quantitative indicators –in six years it was able to provide

practical **help to more than 300,000 people**. Its qualitative impact, though harder to measure, is probably more significant –SN acting as a social policy entrepreneur, exploring new avenues through innovative interventions.

It is precisely our persistence with these core values that allows us confidently to anticipate the challenges of the future– inclusive growth and a catalyst for social change.

SolidarityNow has matured into an organization with a significant social footprint, evidenced in both the scope and the extent of actions undertaken during 2018. Programs of support to beneficiaries continued to be rolled out, supplemented by the necessary response

to emergencies. In 2018 our **Solidarity Centers in Athens and Thessaloniki** supported more than 10,000 people offering employability, psycho-social and legal assistance to all who need it.

In the fields of training and education, SolidarityNow helped more than 2,300 individuals in 2018 – Greeks, migrants and refugees alike - to rebuild their lives. It supported more than 4,000 children to reintegrate into education or, in cases, even to attend school for the first time. It organized more than 10,000 individual atypical educational initiatives.

In the field of accommodation we supported more than 2,000 refugees to live in independent habitations, bringing the total who benefited from this program since its inception in 2016 to over 7,000. SN was quick to offer support during the catastrophic wildfires that swept through Attica in the summer of 2018. It mobilized and organized groups of volunteers, including refugees, to aid the relief work of the competent authorities.

The past year was also marked by the necessity to intervene publicly to argue for respect of human rights. We continued, alongside other civil society organisations, to query the side-effects of the EU-Turkey agreement, the most pernicious of which is 12,000 people marooned in unacceptable conditions in the reception and identification centres in the Greek islands.

We strenuously advocated the position, supported by the European Parliament, that member States should agree to a more efficient and equitable asylum system. This system should support member states, inter alia through a mandatory mechanism of distribution of migrants and enablement of family reunification.

We also stood firm against “the criminalization of solidarity”. The arrest of two volunteers helping refugees arriving by sea to Lesbos, was based on a charge sheet that collapsed quickly. Notwithstanding this judicial resolution, this episode should

serve as a warning against complacency. SN, along with many thousands of European citizens, is an enthusiastic participant in the European civil initiative #WelcomingEurope. In the past, SolidarityNow established a solid reputation – delivering succour to individuals and stressing the importance of rights. This stance is a necessary counterweight to rising inequality, mounting refugee flows and economic insecurity.

In the future, this effort should be redoubled. **We will build around our solid achievements** – an organization mobilizing more than 400 staff dedicated to promoting solidarity selflessly. This organization should be the cornerstone of a wider effort, comprising volunteers, donors and supporters who want to spread our core values.

It is our fervent hope that SolidarityNow can act as a catalyst to promote an open and just society, built on solidarity and respect for human and social rights.

Looking Forward: vision and goals for SolidarityNow

Antigone Lyberaki,
General Manager



Six years of SolidarityNow is a good vantage point to take stock. How we started, how we traversed the turbulent waters of the financial, but also the refugee crises; how-out of necessity- we evolve into an organization that learned to swim and navigate at the deep end. In those six years we learned many things, though, most importantly, we learned how to learn. **We are now, thus, a new age civil society organization - NGO.** Our main asset and source of pride were the principles and values that shaped our journey, together with the experience we gained. We confirmed what we always knew: the open and cohesive society is the quickest way to improve people's lives - especially those most vulnerable. This entails a holistic approach to different needs, focussing on individuals' dignity and respect. Facing them, humility in what we have done must be combined with striving to do more. Up to this point, we have had to respond to pressing

needs chiefly of refugees: protection, housing, education, and most recently, job opportunities are the means for independence. We have rolled out large-scale programs, and are still pursuing them. And did so with professionalism and attention to detail. **Now, however, the larger picture is changing.** We are reaching the end of the deep and prolonged financial crisis; at the same time refugee flows to Europe are more moderate but with a definite element of uncertainty on the issue. Today we must deal with the undertow of past troubles - xenophobia, deprivation and social exclusion. This is now joined by long term challenges –ageing population, dysfunctional labour market, ineffectual social policy, environmental degradation. To meet these challenges, **we must capitalize what we have learned**, drawing strength from our core activities, the Solidarity Centers; we must **move forward without hesitation on**

the new phase of our journey. We are not just a humanitarian NGO; we are also not just a developmental NGO. We aspire to **become a catalyst for social innovation.** We want to provide the testing ground for innovative interventions in a small scale, which can then be scaled up. **We must spot synergies between different needs. We must build solidarity bridges between people of different ethnic origins, social backgrounds and lifecycle stages.** Our experiences in education and training, employability, legal support and psycho-social counselling comprise pieces of a puzzle. For the puzzle to be complete, we must abandon the security of what we know. We must invest in innovative social intervention programs, involving intergenerational ambit, long term planning, enabling the mobilisation of new partners and donors.



MILESTONES
2018

We share with you some of the major events of 2018

Education Matters

SolidarityNow has continued to successfully implement a series of educational initiatives such as Education Matters, an initiative that took place in close cooperation with the Almasar organization and the Development Forum at the “Diadromes” educational center in Athens. The program included language classes, a

training program on computer networks, implemented in cooperation with CISCO and other educational activities for children and adults. In Thessaloniki, SolidarityNow has worked closely with UNICEF and the Metropolitan Development Agency of Thessaloniki to implement successful educational programs.



Employability programs

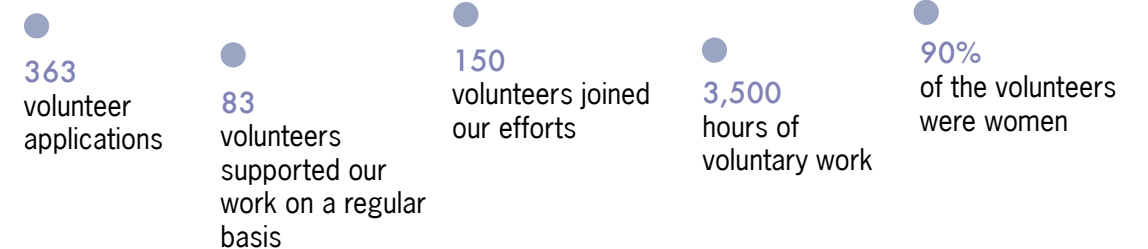
Linking people from vulnerable groups to the labor market and providing them with employment opportunities is one of the key objectives of our social inclusion efforts, with the relevant programs expanding significantly in 2018. SolidarityNow's Employability Program at the Athens Solidarity Center started in March 2018. Throughout the year, 556 people benefited from these services, 147 of whom found a job. The corresponding programs in Thessaloniki implemented at the Solidarity Center and the Blue Refugee Center have also had significant success this year: in total, 669 people benefited from 2,568 sessions with experienced labor consultants and 154 people managed to enter the labor market.



Volunteering program

In 2018, SolidarityNow continued to welcome volunteers from around the world to support our activities across all structures and programs, helping us take our work a step further. More than 150 volunteers offered over 3,500 hours of voluntary work in 2018. It is worth noting that during the devastating summer wildfires in Attica, staff members, volunteers and beneficiaries of SolidarityNow helped the victims of the wildfires. They offered their personal time and distributed goods gathered for this purpose.

The Volunteering program in numbers



Internships

SolidarityNow opened its doors to students who wanted to carry out their internship in the organization as part of their studies. Students from Panteion University, Metropolitan College, Democritus University of Thrace, Hellenic Open University, Michigan University, Arizona State University (USA), SciencesPo (France), York University (Canada), Central European University (Hunga-

ry), Mae Fah Luang University (Thailand) were among the universities with which we collaborated during the past year. In addition, we have strengthened our strategic partnerships with the following educational organizations: ACSAR Foundation, Watson Foundation, Salesforce, Campion School and Let's Do it Greece.

300,000 beneficiaries and we keep going

6 years after SolidarityNow was founded, the organization succeeded in supporting, through its activities and programs, more than 300,000 vulnerable people. Our aim is to support and empower them through a variety of free services we provide across the country.

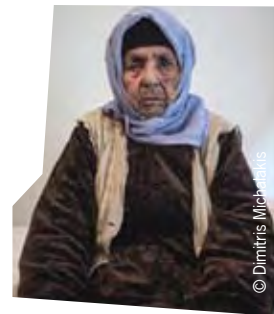


© Galateia Kossori

Farewell Leila

In 2018, we said goodbye to SolidarityNow's eldest beneficiary of the Accommodation program. She passed away at the end of February, leaving behind children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and a story of courage and endurance that she experienced in her 110 years, beginning in Syria and reaching Greece after many hardships.

Starting in November 2017, Laila lived with her family in a home in Athens in the frame of SolidarityNow's Accommodation and Services Program that is part of the ESTIA Emergency Support to Integration and Accommodation program, supported by the UNHCR and funded by ECHO.



© Dimitris Michailidis

For the decriminalization of solidarity

Sara Mardini and Sean Binder worked for two years as volunteers at the ERCI organization in Lesvos where they were arrested in August 2018 with charges of human trafficking, espionage and money laundering. Sara became famous when, in 2015, together with her sister Yusra, she saved a boat with refugees by steering the boat to the coast of Lesvos. SolidarityNow supported the humanitarian aid volunteers throughout their imprisonment, encompassing their legal defense with advocacy actions in Greece and Europe. In December, Sara and Sean were released from pre-trial detention.



By the side of the wildfires' victims

After the unspeakable pain caused by the wildfires in eastern Attica in late July, SolidarityNow was, from the onset, helping the victims with supplies, volunteers and aid coordination services.



© Giorgos Moutafis for SolidarityNow

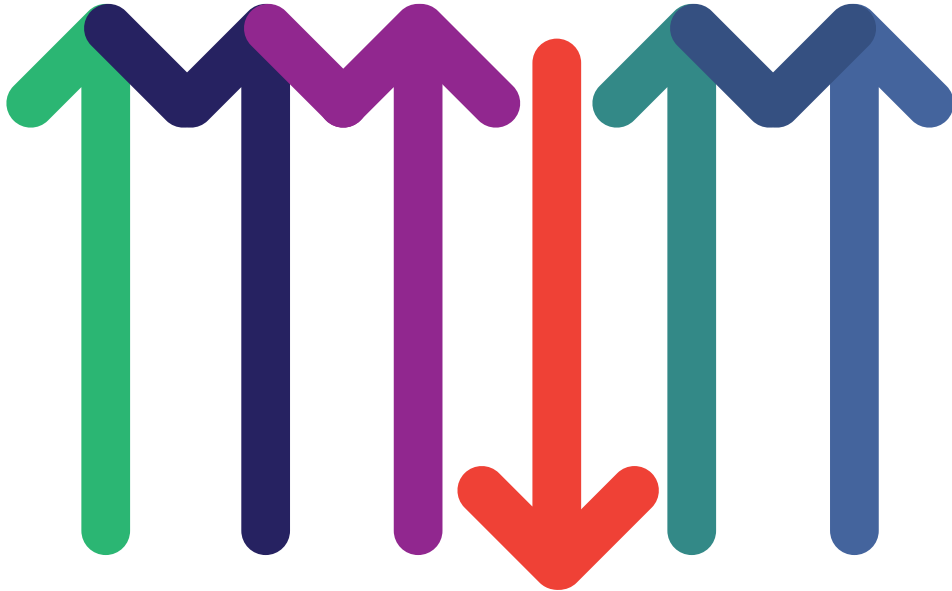
World Refugee Day

To celebrate World Refugee Day on June 20th, 3 SolidarityNow beneficiaries who are painters exhibited their works and, narrated the stories and experiences that define their art.

Artistic workshops, art exhibitions, screenings, musical events, sports events, food and dance, with the active participation of refugee communities, have highlighted the beauty of diversity and the power of culture as a means of integration and empowerment.



Goals & Priorities



MAIN AXES

1
Protection and
social inclusion

2
Catalyzing
livelihoods
opportunities

3
Strengthening the
independence of civil
society and defending
open society values

Values

- Equal access for all
- Empowerment
- Innovation and creative solutions
- Responsibility
- Transparency
- Efficiency



Our vision

Improve people's
lives and empower
them to create a
more just and inclu-
sive society



Our mission

- To offer** non-discriminatory, qualitative and comprehensive support to vulnerable people
- To bridge** the needs of vulnerable groups and link them with social innovation projects
- To be** the catalyst for policy change in Greece





THE YEAR IN REVIEW


programs
and initiatives
for a more just society


Since 2013, we have supported more than 300,000 vulnerable people to reaffirm their right to life. Particularly in 2018, we focused on the issues described in the following pages.

The geography of programs



-  **Child and Family Support Hubs (CFSH)**
Donor: UNICEF/IOM/E.U.
- Maizonos (Athens)**
- Lavrio**
- Serres**
- Kavala**
- Drama**
- Kato Milia (Katerini)**
- Volvi (Thessaloniki)**
- Thiva**
- Malakasa**
- Kavalari (Thessaloniki)**

**National**
Perception Study on Attitudes Towards National Identity, Migration and Refugees in Greece
Partner/Donor: SOCIAL CHANGE INITIATIVE

**Accommodation Program**
Partner: AIRBNB Open Homes

Thessaloniki

-  **Solidarity Center**
Donor: OSF/OSIFE
-  **Blue Refugee Center**
Donor: UNHCR/E.U.
-  **Accommodation & Services Program #ESTIA**
Donor: UNHCR/E.U.
-  **Accommodation Program**
Partner: AIRBNB Open Homes
-  **Education/School Support**
Partner/Donor: METROPOLITAN DEVELOPMENT AGENCY OF THESSALONIKI (MDAT)/OSF
-  **Refugees WelcomB!**
Donor: E.U./ERASMUS+
-  **Resilient Roots**
Donor: CIVICUS
Partners: KEYSTONE ACCOUNTABILITY & ACCOUNTABLE NOW
-  **Specialized Program for LGBTI Refugees/Asylum Seekers**
Donor: UNHCR/E.U.
-  **SIRIUS (Skills and Integration of Migrants, Refugees and Asylum Applicants in EU Labour Markets)**
Donor: E.U./Horizon
-  **LAB29A Edutainment Activities**
Donor: OSF/OSIFE
-  **STARTnow**
Partner/Donor: STAR UK

 **Sindos (Thessaloniki)**
Accommodation & Services Program #ESTIA
Donor: UNHCR/E.U.

 **Ioannina**
Accommodation & Services Program #ESTIA
Donor: UNHCR/E.U.

Athens

-  **Solidarity Center**
Donor: OSF
Partner: Municipality of Athens
-  **Accommodation & Services Program #ESTIA**
Donor: UNHCR/E.U.
-  **Specialized Program for LGBTI Refugees/Asylum Seekers**
Donor: UNHCR/E.U.
-  **Youth Shelter for refugees/asylum seekers**
Partner: Society for the Care of Minors & Youth
Donor: UNHCR/E.U.
-  **Rewip, Refugee empowerment & work integration program**
Donor: E.U./ERASMUS+
- www MYSITE**
Donor: E.U./ERASMUS+
-  **Business4Youth**
Partner/Donor: IRC/CITI FOUNDATION
-  **Specialized Program for LGBTI Refugees/Asylum Seekers BRIDGING RAINBOW**
Donor: MUNICIPALITY OF BARCELONA/ ACSAR FOUNDATION
-  **Refugees WelcomB!**
Donor: E.U./ERASMUS+
-  **Resilient Roots**
Donor: CIVICUS
Partners: KEYSTONE ACCOUNTABILITY & ACCOUNTABLE NOW
-  **Lifelong Learning Initiative EDUCATION MATTERS**
Strategic Partner: ALMASAR
Partner: DEVELOPMENT FORUM
Donor: OSF/OSIFE
-  **Education/IT Essentials**
Partner: CISCO
-  **SIRIUS (Skills and Integration of Migrants, Refugees and Asylum Applicants in EU Labour Markets)**
Donor: E.U./HORIZON

Athens Solidarity Center

ASC

6,501 beneficiaries
17,522 services
970,742€

Donors/Supporters:
OSF

The Athens Solidarity Center (ASC) was established in 2014 as an innovative response to the complex issues created by the economic crisis and exacerbated by the refugee crisis. The Solidarity Center is well known for its free services to all vulnerable people without discrimination.

The Center's holistic approach of the one-stop-shop is unique, as it offers knowledge and experience in various fields. The continuous assessment and adjustment of services, the dynamic nature of our interventions, and the synergy between employees ensures our responsiveness and effective coverage of the current needs of the target population.

The ASC aims to help marginalized and vulnerable people residing in and around Athens to become active and productive members of society. More specifically, the target population groups are those who either already are or are at risk of being socially excluded, such as:

- (a) people with little or no income, irrespective of national or ethnic origin;
- (b) migrants who have not yet found their place in society;
- (c) minorities (such as the Roma)
- (d) refugees and asylum seekers
- (e) young people who are out of employment or education

In 2018, the ASC provided the following services:

- Social services
- Psychosocial support
- Cultural Mediation
- Legal assistance
- Employability services
- Accounting services
- Day Care Centre for Children (provided by the Network for Children's Rights)
- Special services for children and teenagers with learning difficulties (provided by Babel - SynEirmos organization)
- Internet corner
- Independent operation of the office of the Asylum Service for vulnerable cases

Thessaloniki Solidarity Center

© Paul Cohn



TSC

2,393 beneficiaries
17,066 services
433,196.37€

Donors/Supporters:
OSF

SolidarityNow has also been operating the Thessaloniki Solidarity Center (TSC) since 2014, with the objective to support the weakest and most vulnerable members of our society.

Legal aid and representation is in great demand in Thessaloniki with SolidarityNow being one of the few providers of this service. The team focuses on civil, penal and asylum law and the TSC's experienced lawyers have had numerous successful court cases in 2018.

The Thessaloniki Solidarity Center also provides psychological support to individuals who have been through traumatic situations, such as torture and domestic violence. Their difficult experiences often result in a loss of confidence in themselves, others, and life in general. As a result, individual and group sessions are organized, aiming to support their rehabilitation and empowerment.

Among TSC's most notable achievements in 2018 are the individual sessions with skilled Employability Officers that have allowed previously-unemployed Greeks and migrants to reintegrate into the labor market. Many newly-obtained jobs are in the fields of tourism, catering, agriculture, security, cleaning, and fashion.

In 2018, the beneficiaries supported by the TSC came from 60 different nationalities as from Greece, Albania, Iraq, Iran, Syria, and Nigeria.

Services offered during 2018:

- Social services
- Psychosocial support
- Legal assistance
- Cultural mediation
- Employability services
- Accounting services
- Educational activities
- Child Friendly Space
- Internet corner
- Provision of essential necessities



Blue Refugee Center

BRC




The Blue Refugee Center is a support hub, as well as a meeting point for vulnerable refugees and asylum seekers in the urban and peri-urban area of Thessaloniki. The Center has been active since 2016 with the primary goal of supporting refugees and asylum seekers that have arrived in masses in the city; it operates in a complementary manner with the Thessaloniki Solidarity Center. Ever since its establishment, voluntary organizations and other institutions have been hosted in the facilities and have been conducting educational activities and seminars. As a result, the center has become a reference point for both refugees and other stakeholders active in the wider area of Thessaloniki.

Services offered include psychosocial support, legal counseling and support, employability services, cultural mediation, support for parents and children, non-formal education and recreational activities, internet corner, and a Child Friendly Space. People from more than 28 different nationalities were offered our services in 2018, with most seeking job support and educational activities. In total, more than 100 beneficiaries managed to obtain a job through our services. Another 124 participated in examinations in the Greek language, and 35 received certifications in the Greek language. Another 15 people have enrolled in Aristotle University's Greek language department.

3,669 beneficiaries
9,289 services
487,467€

Donors/Supporters:
UNHCR/ECHO, UNICEF/ECHO



Mr. N,
beneficiary of the
psychosocial counseling
and psychotherapy
service at Athens
Solidarity
Center

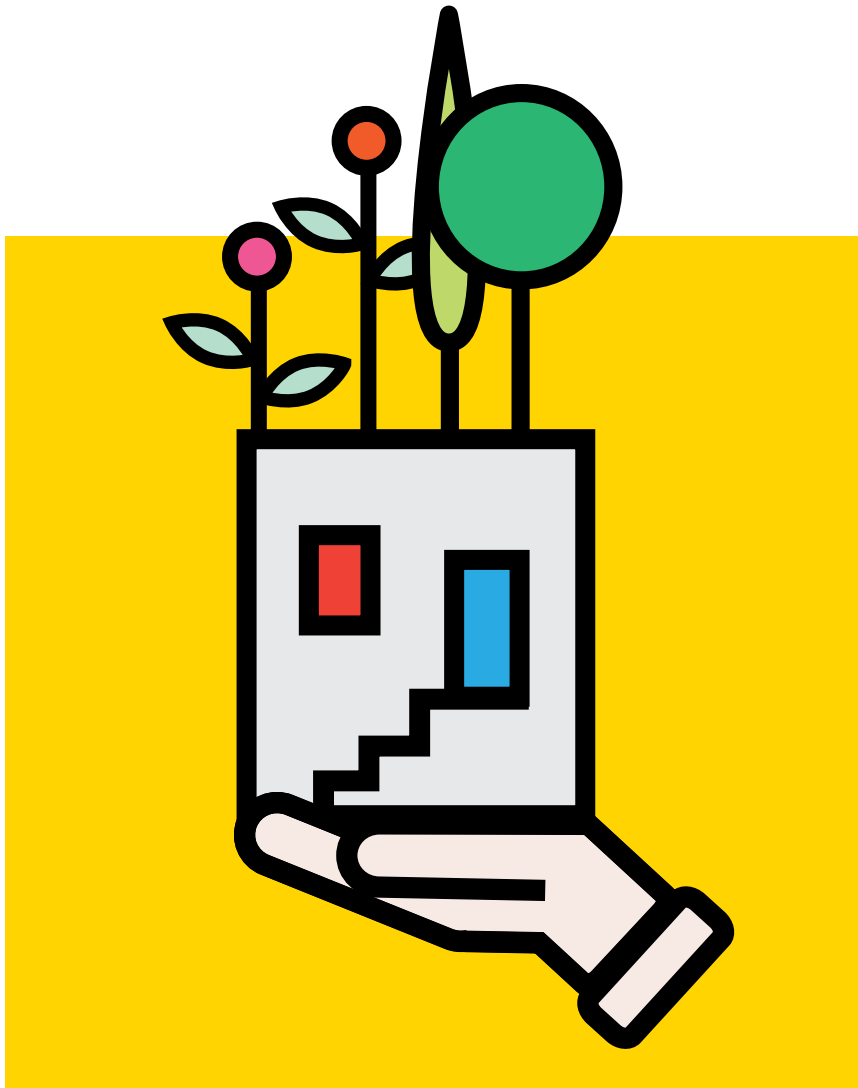
It is late afternoon and Mr. N. is about to attend one of his scheduled sessions with the psychologist at the Athens Solidarity Center. One year ago, in October 2017, Mr. N. came to Greece from Yemen, fleeing his birthplace due to his religious beliefs. Upon his arrival in Greece and having spent all his savings, Mr. N. decided to visit the Athens Solidarity Center and ask for support. Today, after receiving the necessary psychological and legal support at the Cen-

ter, he admits that he has created a safe bond with the Center's professionals and reveals, "I would have gone mad if I was somewhere in Omonia Square". Almost a year after arriving to Greece, he was officially recognized as a refugee: "SolidarityNow helped me in all this process and now the psychologist, the interpreter, and the lawyers are like family to me".

Ali,
beneficiary of the
educational program
implemented at the
Blue Refugee Center
in Thessaloniki

"I like Greek, because I can learn new things and speak better", says 15-year-old Ali, who is in third grade of high school. Ali and his family have been living in Greece for the past three years. They were forced to leave Pakistan when Ali was eight years old and prior to their arrival in Greece, they had lived in Saudi Arabia for some years. Today, Ali goes to school in the mornings and attends Greek, English, Physics, Chemistry and Mathematics courses at the Blue Refugee Center in the afternoons. "My favorite lessons are physics and Greek" he says. Ali loves Greek mythology and wants to become a software engineer, "because I like it and because I am good with computers". "Now I'm not afraid. I like to speak Greek with the Greeks because I learn a lot of things" he concludes.

The Right to Shelter



2,855 beneficiaries
12,688 services
478,870 accommodation nights
6,499,235€
Donors/Supporters:
UNHCR/ECHO, Help Refugees, Airbnb

For SolidarityNow, 2018 was a period in which the Accommodation programs were significantly expanded. These programs, including collective housing, autonomous accommodation, and shelters for particularly vulnerable groups, have been implemented since 2016 in order to respond efficiently to the urgent needs of providing quality accommodation solutions within the urban landscape.

SolidarityNow has succeeded in providing an excellent quality of services. A significant amount of qualified and experienced professionals are employed by the organization to secure the well-being and protection of vulnerable groups, such as asylum seekers, refugees, and vulnerable Greeks.

Since 2016, as one of UNHCR's housing partners in Greece, SolidarityNow has provided accommodation to over 7,000 asylum seekers in Attica, Thessaloniki, Epirus, Peloponnese, and Macedonia.

The program, which initially only offered support to those eligible for the relocation program, has evolved to include asylum seekers and recognized refugees in Greece, for a limited period. The accommodation program beneficiaries that SolidarityNow supported resided in independent apartments and other accommodation structures in the prefectures of Attica, Thessaloniki, Ioannina, and the island of Tilos. Since the beginning of 2018, the accommodation program has included a Shelter for Young Adults Refugees and Asylum Seekers (18-22 y.o), who were previously staying in shelters for unaccompanied minors in the center of Athens until they reached adulthood.

Alongside the accommodation program, which is being implemented in collaboration with UNHCR and with E.U. funding, SolidarityNow has also continued its interventions. In co-operation with the United Kingdom-based volunteer organization "Help Refugees", SolidarityNow provided accommodation to five families of recognized refugees and a Greek family of Albanian origin, all with school-aged children. This project has allowed us to develop a more focused approach to supporting those who intend to remain in Greece; therefore, we were able to support their social and economic integration into their new homeland. In addition, in 2017, a partnership with Airbnb and the Open Homes platform began, offering free short-term accommodation to asylum seekers, recognized refugees, and people in need of medical care in hospitable spaces.

To this day, a total of 105 people have been supported, making a total of 366 free of charge accommodation nights. Many people who would otherwise end up on the street or who were subject to different forms of abuse, were able to benefit from access to these flexible, short-term solutions. All accommodation solutions include case management and additional services such as psychosocial support, financial assistance to cover basic subsistence, and support for their integration into Greek society.

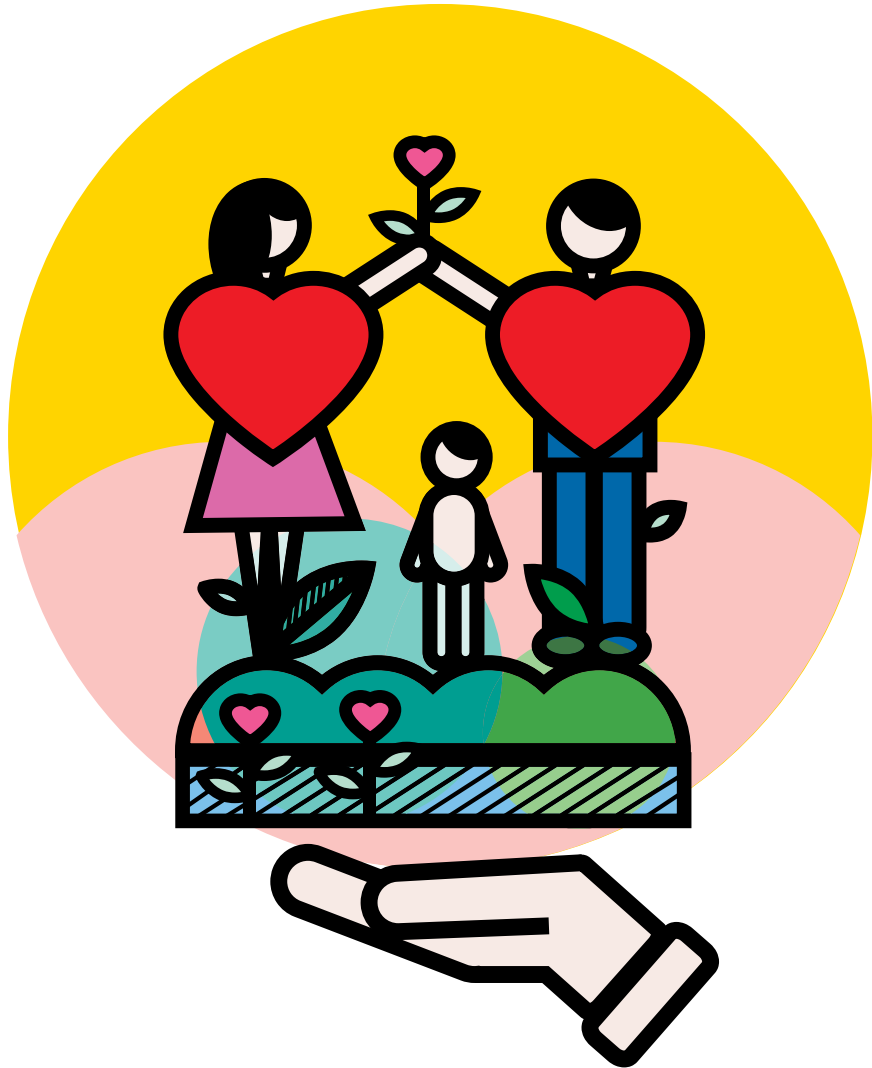
Sayeed,
beneficiary of the
accommodation program



Sayeed speaks Rohingya (or Ruaingga), an unwritten language. Rohingya are not granted citizenship since 1982, thus they are officially stateless. But unofficially, “my heart is still in Myanmar, I was born there, my parents were born there. The last time I saw them was ten years ago; I don’t know whether they live or not, I know nothing”. Going to school was and still is forbidden for the children of Rohingya - Sayeed and his siblings didn’t have the chance to attend. Sayeed, Mobina and their children joined the organization’s accommodation program in December 2017 and now live in an apartment in Athens. Since then, they allow themselves to make plans and dreams about the future. Sayeed is sure that he will find a job and underlines that the most important thing for him is education – “I want my children to go to school and learn Greek – I want them to do more than what I did.” he says.

© Giorgos Moutakas for SolidarityNow

The Right to Child Protection



7,370 beneficiaries
2,127,089€
Donors/Supporters:
UNICEF/ECHO, EPIM

The Child and Family Support Hubs (CFSH) (ex Blue Dots program), evolved this past year, and incorporated non-formal education activities.

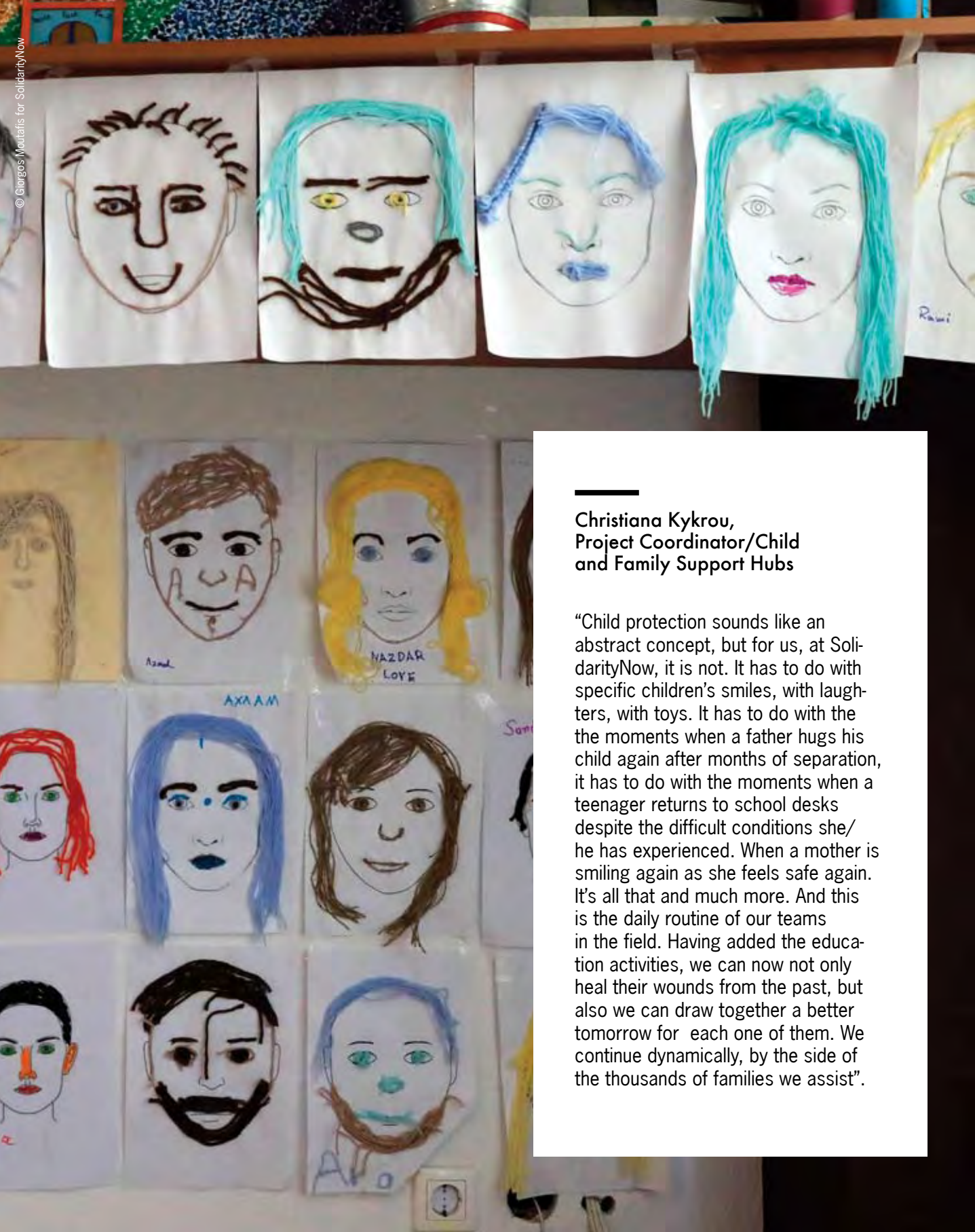
This development not only complemented perfectly other child-protection and gender - based violence prevention and support services, but it also had a positive multiplier effect on the lives of the beneficiaries. With UNICEF's support, we intervened in 11 different locations aiming to protect the most vulnerable refugees and asylum seekers.

In 2018, we continued to offer assistance in the Refugee Reception centers in Thebes, Malakasa, Lavrio, Drama, Serres, Kavala, Voves, Kato Milia and Kavalari. We also provided support in urban areas of Athens with the help of the Athens Coordination Center for Migrant and Refugee issues of the Municipality of Athens and in Thessaloniki (through the Blue Refugee Center of SolidarityNow).

The CFSH Program surpassed our initial goals:

7,363 refugees and children received our services (psychosocial, legal and educational)	332 unaccompanied children were identified and supported holistically
3,017 people received legal assistance	5,184 referrals of people with more specialized needs
2,221 people received psychosocial support	3,562 children and adults attended classes and received educational support
10 Female and Child Friendly Spaces were created, which were visited by 2,133 women and teenagers. In total, 724 infants and 403 mothers and caretakers benefitted from feeding support services.	34 teachers were trained in intercultural education and the teaching of Greek as a foreign language
	2,774 children benefitted from creative spaces

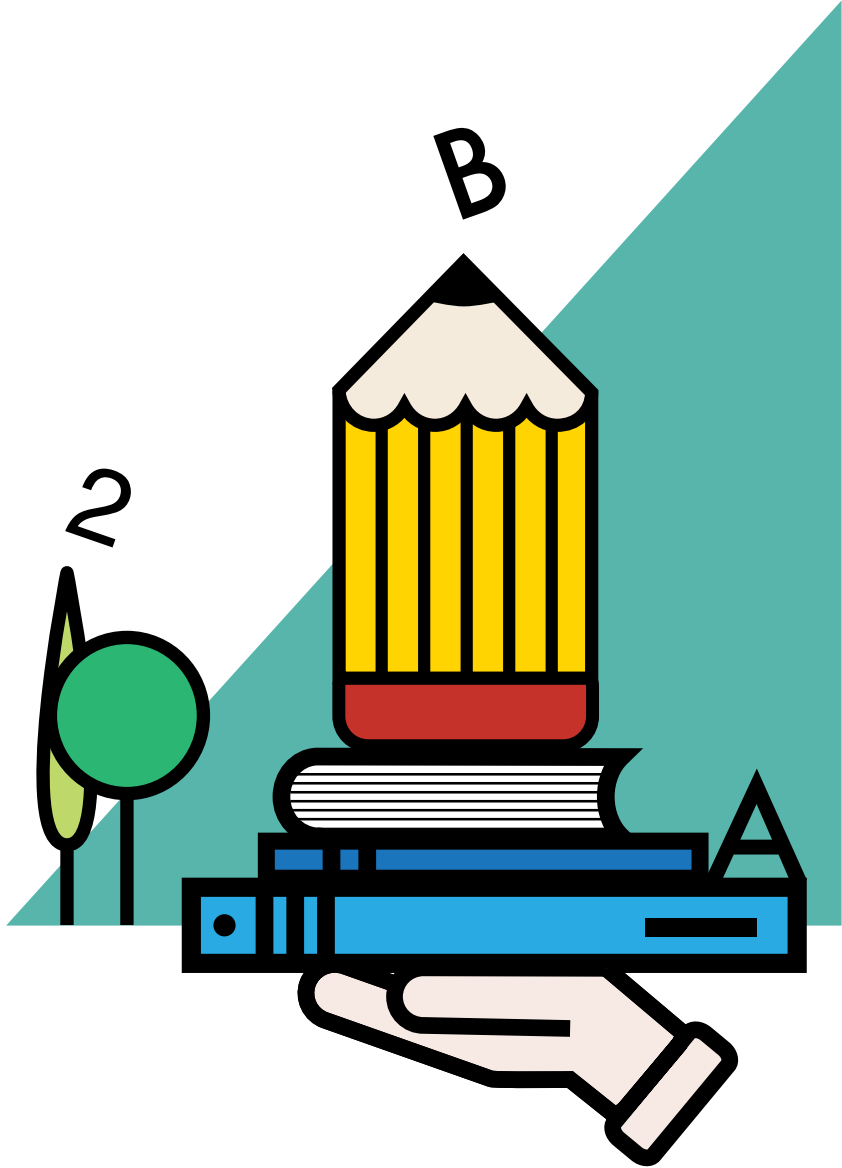
In 2018, the program “Following Their Footsteps” implemented by SolidarityNow, was completed. This program concerned unaccompanied refugee minors. Our main partners were Faros, Merimna, CivisPlus, and Babel. We received funding from the European Program for Integration and Immigration (EPIM). The main goal of the program was to improve the systematic identification and registration of the unaccompanied minors separated from their families; these children often live under adverse conditions on the streets of Athens. Additionally, the goal was to provide holistic care and hospitality by offering an alternative to detention and life on the road.



Christiana Kykrou,
Project Coordinator/Child
and Family Support Hubs

“Child protection sounds like an abstract concept, but for us, at SolidarityNow, it is not. It has to do with specific children’s smiles, with laughs, with toys. It has to do with the moments when a father hugs his child again after months of separation, it has to do with the moments when a teenager returns to school desks despite the difficult conditions she/he has experienced. When a mother is smiling again as she feels safe again. It’s all that and much more. And this is the daily routine of our teams in the field. Having added the education activities, we can now not only heal their wounds from the past, but also we can draw together a better tomorrow for each one of them. We continue dynamically, by the side of the thousands of families we assist”.

The Right to Education



3,594 participants
159,548€
Donors/Supporters:
OSF, Almasar, Development Forum, CISCO, Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie, Refu-AID, The Cube Athens, Council of Europe, Metropolitan Development Agency of Thessaloniki

Due to the structural challenges in the education system and the difficulties to access the Greek labor market, many young people are forced to drop out of school, thus squandering their potential. SolidarityNow provides non-formal educational support and skill-development activities through innovative learning tools and intercultural programs, helping people reconnect with the labor market, university, and the school community.

More than 2,000 children and adults have benefited from these non-formal educational activities, while almost all children hosted by SolidarityNow up until December 2018 have successfully signed up and attended public schools. Supportive classes are provided to children who have recently entered school to enhance their chances of continuing their education.

Diadromes Learning Center

The increased demand for language learning, led SolidarityNow in 2017 to launch a partnership with the NGO Almasar and the Development Forum for the implementation of a training program at the educational center “Diadromes” in Athens. SolidarityNow provided Greek, English and French classes to adults and Arabic classes for children, as well as computer classes. In 2018, 613 students attended the language courses, while 13 people took the Greek language certification exams. Moreover, since 2018, SolidarityNow is a CISCO certified Academy and launched a training program for IT Networks with the support of the Greek American Union. The first 10 students completed the CISCO IT Essentials program. In collaboration with Electra Energy and Precious Plastic Greece, SolidarityNow implemented the BY(E) PLASTIC project to promote recycling and reusing of plastic.

Language and cultural support program in French

In 2018, the french learning program - which began in 2017 with the support of the Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie - ended. The program concerned the teaching of French as a foreign language, but also as a mother tongue, to refugees and migrants. At the same time, it also had an element of cultural acquaintance with French literature, art

and music. The lessons were held at the Blue Refugee Center in Thessaloniki, at the “Diadromes” training center in Athens, as well as at the accommodatin center at Loutra Volvis. The program’s beneficiaries - 154 in total - came from different backgrounds; these included French-speaking refugees, refugees waiting for family reunification in a French speaking EU country, or refugees and migrants who were simply interested in learning French or learn about the French-speaking culture. The program included training seminars on formal and non-formal education, which took place in Athens and Thessaloniki and brought together a total of 43 participants. The cultural aspect of the program resulted in many beautiful moments, such as the tribute to the poems written and recited by the members of the Congolese community of Loutra Volvis during the Thessaloniki International Book Fair.

Diadrasis: Supporting the right to education and the access to school for refugee children.

SolidarityNow, in a pilot partnership with key players in Thessaloniki, such as the Municipality of Thessaloniki through the Metropolitan Development Agency of Thessaloniki (MDAT) and YMCA, implemented since October 2018, the educational program “Diadrasis» for the better integration of refugee children in the city. YMCA provided classes for students while SolidarityNow provided courses and school

support for adolescents aged 12-18 years old, of refugee and immigrant origin. The lessons were provided in the Intercultural High school of Thessaloniki and it is worth mentioning that the excellent cooperation between the educational staff of SolidarityNow and the school, acts as a good practice for the implementation of similar programs in other schools in the future. The 53 students came from different countries including: Turkey, China, Afghanistan, Syria, Albania, Russia, Georgia, People’s Republic-Congo etc. Along with these classes, complimentary Greek and English lessons were provided to the parents. Through this project, the Intercultural School was transformed into a small muticultural training and meeting hub of the city.

‘Linguistic Support to Adult Refugees’: dissemination activities of the Council of Europe toolkit.

The goal of this program was to spread the toolkit of the European Council for linguistic inclusion and integration of adult refugees, which also aims to support educators who are working with these populations. 10 teacher training sessions were conducted by experienced SolidarityNow educational staff in 8 different locations throughout Greece. The target - groups of the training courses were formal and non-formal education teachers, and we succeeded in representing both public edu-

cational bodies and NGOs as well as voluntary organizations. The trainings were conducted in Thessaloniki, Athens, Thebes, Malakasa, Ioannina, Serres, Drama & Kavala. Meanwhile, the total amount of educators that participated in the program were 174! The biggest success of the program was the local networking of many educational providers, and the mutual support of participants, regarding the challenges they face in their educational project. SolidarityNow conveyed the comments and teachers’ notes to working groups of those involved in refugees’ education (in Athens and Thessaloniki), with the aim of disseminating it to the educational community but also in the Council of Europe group which designed the toolbox.

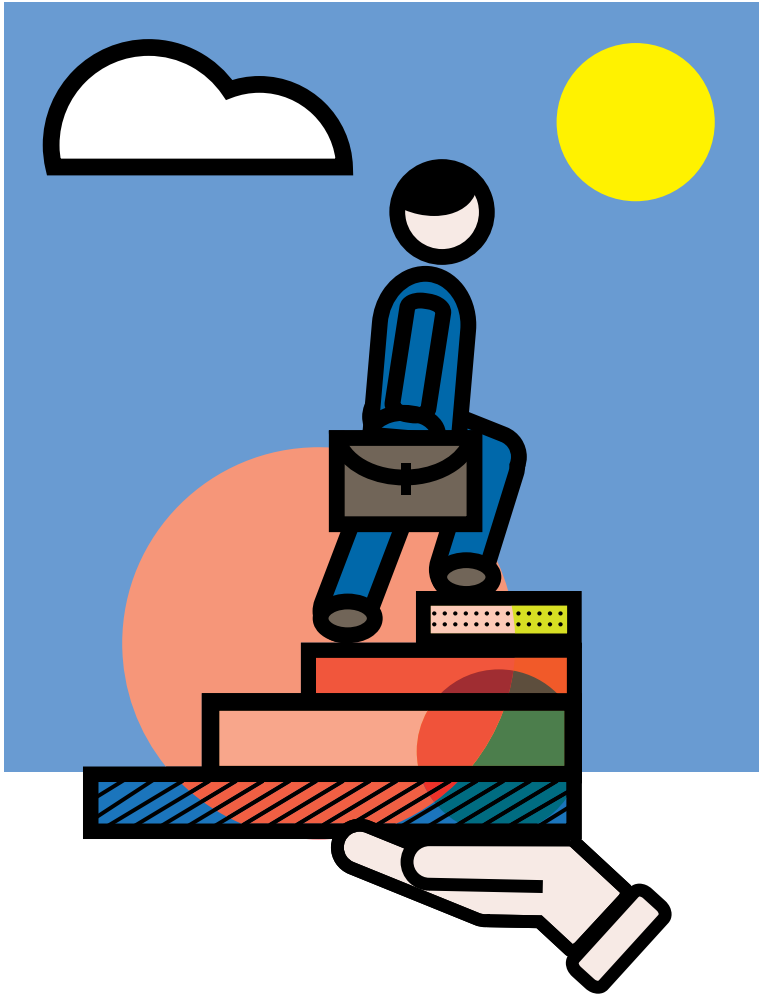
Campus Bus

In 2018, together with The Cube Athens, we supported the implementation of Campus Bus. The Campus Bus is a mobile bus funded by Google Greece, which is specially designed to serve as a computer lab as well as a classroom for conducting courses. The bus travelled across Greece and held seminars to teach participants (Greeks, refugees and immigrants) on how they can work as freelancers by offering services mainly through the internet. The bus visited 10 central squares, 9 refugee accommodation centers, and 8 local community centers across the country, educating a total of 895 people on the subject.

Raha,
beneficiary of the Future Interpreters educational program organized at the Thessaloniki Solidarity Center

“I recall the past and I tell myself that now everything is perfect”, says Raha, who was born and raised in Iran and has an 11-year-old boy. Today, living with her second husband in Northern Greece, she decided to attend the Future Interpreters training seminar at the Thessaloniki Solidarity Center. “We learned so many things by attending this seminar. From how to dress up to how to manage a difficult situation, such as when beneficiaries are angry. I also liked the different teaching methods used by our instructors to make the seminar even more interesting”, says Raha, who was talented in art from a very early age. Growing up, Raha studied and became a great painting teacher. Now, she aims to combine interpretation with painting, since she considers them both arts.

The Right to Employment



2,017 beneficiaries
4,413 services
190,671€
Donors/Supporters:
UNHCR/ECHO, OSF, Guerilla Foundation, Horizon
2020/ EU, Erasmus+/EU

Solidarity Centers in Thessaloniki and Athens work to facilitate employment and access to the labor market for Greeks and immigrants.

Our primary objective is to support individuals to integrate into Greek society. As a result, citizens are able to rely less on the state and non-governmental organizations and instead focus on personal development.

Our initiatives regarding the access to the job market in 2018:

• **Thessaloniki Solidarity Center**

54 Greeks, refugees, migrants and other beneficiaries found a job with the support of experienced employment counselors. 306 people in total were supported through 1,259 sessions.

• **Blue Refugee Center**

100 refugees and asylum seekers found a job, while 363 people in total were supported through 1,305 sessions from experienced counselors.

• **Athens Solidarity Center**

556 Greeks and migrants have been supported through the Employability Service. 147 people found a job.

• **Future Interpreters**

In 2018, the Future Interpreters educational program was completed, with a total of 121 people participating. All participants had different backgrounds and different mother tongues (Kurdish, Arabic, Turkish, Chinese,

Farsi, French, Urdu, etc.). The participants came from 19 countries. Specifically, 41 of the 121 participants found work, at SolidarityNow and elsewhere.

• **Business4YOUth**

In 2018, the Business4YOUth program was launched in collaboration with the International Rescue Committee (IRC) and the social enterprise Knowl, funded by the Citi Foundation. Business4YOUth aimed to educate young people, including asylum seekers, refugees and Greeks, in order to learn about business in Greece and to be able to take the first steps to start their own business in our country. In total, 116 people were trained (72 men and 44 women), during 8 cycles in Greek, English and Farsi. The program will be completed in 2019.

• **Sirius: Skills and Integration of Migrants, Refugees and Asylum Seekers in the European Labor Markets**

In January 2018, the Sirius Transnational Project was launched in cooperation with

universities and organizations from Belgium, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, Italy, Switzerland, the United Kingdom, and Greece. The program aims to identify barriers and enablers for migrants and refugees to enter the job markets. The program consists of research and policy discussions, a job fair, dialogues with key professionals and more. The program will be completed in 2020.

• **Refugees WelComB!**

SolidarityNow is participating in Refugees WelComB!, a strategic partnership of organizations from Germany, Hungary, Italy, Spain, Bulgaria, Turkey, and Greece. The program is funded by the European Commission's Erasmus+. It aims to improve interdisciplinary cooperation, and it seeks to strengthen the social and occupational integration of refugees. The project will be completed in 2020.

© Katerina Antoniadou

Sana, graduate of the manicure-pedicure seminar organized at the Blue Refugee Center in Thessaloniki

A 22-year-old woman, mathematician, refugee, poetess, speaks about life and dreams through song lyrics. Lyrics of a song by the Beatles is also the answer to the question of how life is in Greece for a girl from Pakistan: "Here we are free as birds; we can go wherever we want". Sana is actually doing her best to become who she wants and be where she wants to be. She has already gotten her degree in mathematics, writes poems and hopes to publish her own poetry anthology. Her interests are several and this is what led her to participate in the manicure-pedicure seminar held at the Blue Refugee Center in Thessaloniki. Sana was one of the seminar's best students and after its completion she set one more goal: to start her own business and become a beauty salon owner. What does math have to do with manicure - pedicure? Multi-talented Sana knows the answer: "When you are occupied with math all day you end up feeling tired. Taking care of myself relaxes me and makes me feel more feminine".

The Right to Justice



3,223 beneficiaries
5,111 services provided
340,242€
Donors/Supporters:
OSF, UNICEF/ECHO, IRC, RLS

Access to justice, equal treatment of all people, the right to legal representation, and the right to a fair trial are four of the basic human rights that SolidarityNow believes should be self-evident for every individual, regardless of nationality, gender, religion, or political beliefs.

Since the onset of the Solidarity Centers in Athens and Thessaloniki, the organization has provided free legal aid to anyone who requests it. Teams of experienced lawyers in refugee, civil, criminal, and administrative law offer support to those in need with a wide range of services, such as the issue of legal documents, the representation to public authorities, and in some cases judicial representation.

At the Blue Refugee Center in Thessaloniki, the Legal Service is responsible for preparing people for the interviews with the Asylum Service, as well as for providing information about asylum procedures, resettlement, and reunification. Civil law issues, including child recognitions, divorces, and weddings are also among the cases the Center handles.

One of the success stories of 2018 was the victorious litigation for the divorce of a refugee woman-victim of domestic violence, who also took the custody of her children. Another one, was the acquittal of four Syrian refugees who, due to the difficulties in communication, were almost convicted for resistance to the Authorities. It's important to say that in Thessaloniki SolidarityNow is the only organization, together with the Greek Council for Refugees, to cover court and representation costs.

SolidarityNow's collaboration with the International Rescue Committee (IRC), which was established in order to manage the the legal information of the online platform "Refugee.Info", successfully continued in 2018. SolidarityNow's lawyers responded to country-wide questions about the asylum process, family reunifications, rights and obligations in Greece, and other legal issues of interest to refugees and asylum seekers. Moreover, live chats were held in Arabic, Farsi, and French, with more than 16,000 viewers who asked insightful questions. Furthermore, SolidarityNow has developed a new partnership with the United Kingdom's Refugee Legal Support (RLS). The assistance of the experienced RLS lawyers in the field of asylum and international protection has reinforced our legal team at the ASC.

In 2018, our lawyers participated in local, national, and international forums and conferences, such as the European Conference on Migration Policy in Lesvos and the first EASO meeting on the Vulnerability Network Advisory Group in Malta. In total, 3,223 people received legal assistance through the Solidarity Centers and the Blue Refugee Center. A total of 123 cases reached the courts and were represented by SolidarityNow (50 cases in Athens and 73 cases in Thessaloniki).

Marina Kanta,
Head of Legal Service at
Athens Solidarity Center



«I work with people who have urgent needs, but I also get strength through them. I admire them for their strength and endurance. I've changed. I am more adaptable, gentler, more open in accepting others as they are, and feeling overall emotionally fulfilled. I firmly believe that when you give love and show empathy, you receive it back. This is the world, I try to introduce to my children as well».

Small Projects - Big Changes

SolidarityNow has implemented several smaller programs that equally deserve our attention



Welcome to Lab29A

Lab29A which started operating in 2018 by SolidarityNow, is a leisure and education space designed to offer a variety of free-of-charge services to children, teenagers, parents and teachers in the city of Thessaloniki. It is a hospitable, happy and colorful social space for all, for those who feel creative and want to express themselves through art, education and multiple other activities.

Some of the activities offered at Lab29A are workshops, trainings and educational activities, breastfeeding counseling for young mothers, art lessons, foreign language courses, preparation of candidates for scholarships and many more.



Shelter for Young Adult Refugees and Asylum seekers

Since January 2018, SolidarityNow has been working with the Society for the Care of Minors (SMAN) on the operation of a Shelter for Young Adult Refugees and Asylum seekers living in Athens. A total of 45 young adults who, until turning 18 stayed in structures for unaccompanied refugees, found shelter and care in the guesthouse. While there, they have been participating in a variety of educational, informative and recreational activities. They have also been participating in employment and technical training programs.

All Together at the Museum

The program “All Together at the Museum” started in October 2018 as a partnership between SolidarityNow, the Museum of Cycladic Art and Pierce College. The composition of the program had 30 refugee students from our accommodation program and 30 students from the IB program of Pierce College participating in this innovative educational program based on the notion of solidarity. The program’s aim was to give the opportunity to students to interact and communicate through art. Through the workshops, students from different cultural, social and economic backgrounds that do not speak the same language, learned how to use the code of Cypro-syllabic script as a tool to communicate together and create their own artworks.



MYSITE

Under the MYSITE program (funded through Erasmus+ of the European Commission), a national survey on entrepreneurship in Greece was held in 2018. It included meetings and interviews with many stakeholders (such as young people, entrepreneurs, investors, researchers, etc.) aiming at the recording of the legal and institutional framework for entrepreneurship in Greece, the challenges and difficulties faced by young entrepreneurs, as well as opportunities and the potential for development and funding (both private and institutional) offered. A series of training seminars are scheduled to take place in 2019 for the aspiring young entrepreneurs.

The Resilient Roots Initiative

A pilot accountability program was launched in July 2018 in cooperation with CIVICUS, Keystone Accountability and Accountable Now. 31 young beneficiaries of our organization, including the young adults hosted in the Youth Shelter, LGBTQI and women from vulnerable groups, participated in the program to improve communication between the Primary Constituents and SolidarityNow Management. Among other things, participants joined photography, radio (radio podcast production) and public speaking seminars. The program will end in 2019.



Support to Civil Society

Since its founding, SolidarityNow has supported Civil Society organizations that complement and reinforce its work to better support its beneficiaries and the Civil Society in Greece.

In 2018, we provided support to the following organizations and projects:

“Babel” Day Center

The Babel Day Center is a public mental health facility that aims to provide mental health services to migrants, refugees, and asylum seekers residing in Athens. Since 2017, the Day Center has taken part in a new phase of a holistic collaboration with the Solidarity Center in Athens. Together, the centers offer direct support to children on the autistic spectrum or with various learning, speech, or language difficulties. In 2018, 20 children benefited from the Center’s 175 services. Additionally, 35 parent sessions took place. SolidarityNow provides the space at the Ath-

ens Solidarity Center in which sessions are held between Special Therapists and beneficiaries. SolidarityNow offers funding that covers staff costs of Special Therapists. Grant Amount: € 48,649 01/01/2018 - 31/12/2018

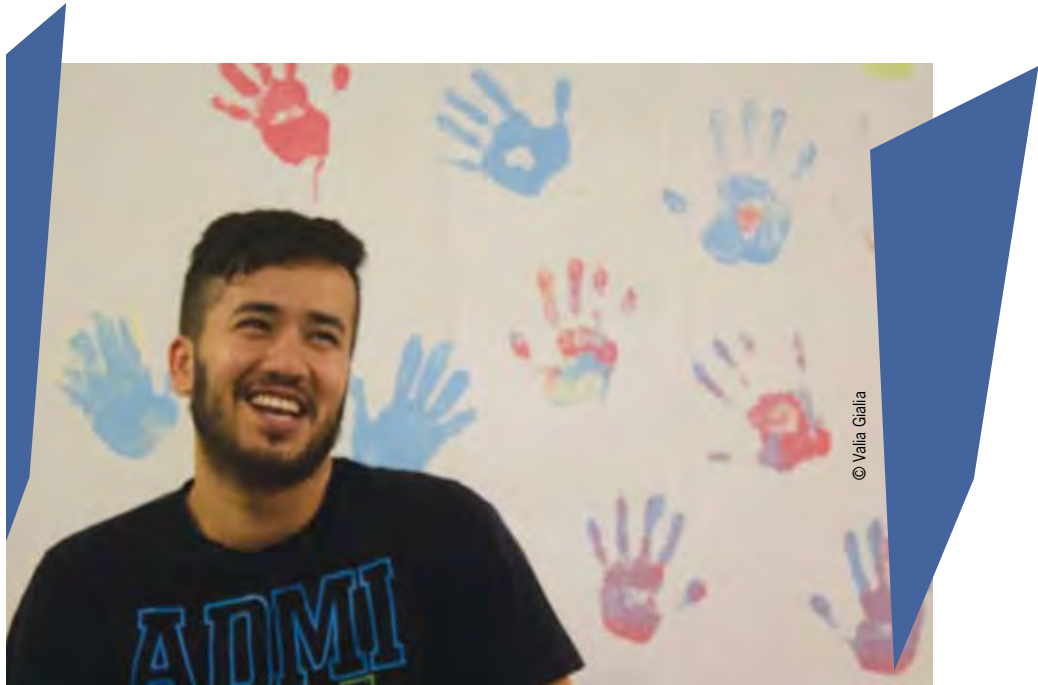
Doctors of the World

Through the open, multidisciplinary clinic in Thessaloniki, Doctors of the World Greece strives to cover the healthcare needs of uninsured citizens, the elderly, women, refugees, migrants, and unaccompanied minors by providing free services. Since December 2018, a total of 7,349 sessions have been held, far exceeding the initial goal of 4,500.

A total of 3,226 people have been offered services. SolidarityNow’s funding covers the staff costs of a nurse and a full-time interpreter. Grant Amount: € 33,000 01/03/2018 - 31/12/2018

Social Enterprise Knowl

The social enterprise Knowl assisted with training seminars of Business4YOUth, the support program for young, vulnerable entrepreneurs. As of 2018, a total of 116 people have been trained, including 49 asylum seekers, 47 refugees, and 19 Greek nationals. Grant Amount: € 40,062 01/01/2018 - 31/12/2018



Network for Children's Rights

The Children’s Center is an open space for all children without discrimination. It runs daily from 9:00 to 19:00 at the Athens Solidarity Center. In 2018, 3,002 refugee, migrant, and Greek children aged 0-13 visited the space. At the same time, the Center conducted 290 counseling sessions with parents and 15 individual sessions with children. The Children’s Center appropriately referred 211 cases to a social worker from the Network; some of these cases concerned visits to children’s hospitals, registration for certain Creative Groups

provided by the Network, and even referrals for Greek courses for children and parents. SolidarityNow provides both the venue in which the sessions and activities of beneficiaries take place and the funding that covers the staff costs for teachers and a psychologist. Grant Amount: € 46,000 01/01/2018 - 31/12/2018

Active Citizens Fund

Lastly, together with the Bodossaki Foundation, SolidarityNow has also assumed the management of the Active Citizens Fund. The

€ 12m Active Citizens Fund program for Greece is funded by Iceland, Liechtenstein, and Norway, and is part of the European Economic Area (EEA) Financial Instrument for the 2014-2021 period. The program was launched in the beginning of 2019. It aims to strengthen the sustainability of civil society and to promote its role in ensuring democratic processes, enhancing citizens’ participation in society, and defending human rights.

Defending human rights, ensuring access to social rights and promoting integration



Promoting the social inclusion of disadvantaged groups - harshly affected by the Greek economic crisis - and the integration of newly arrived refugees has been at the core of SolidarityNow's daily work as well as the cornerstone of our advocacy efforts.

Addressing obstacles inhibiting refugees' reception and integration

During 2018, our advocacy initiatives addressed obstacles inhibiting refugees' access to social rights and their integration, such as housing, employment, and health, targeting diverse stakeholders and the authorities.

- Among other interventions, SolidarityNow submitted reports to the Greek Ombudsman addressing specific obstacles refugees and asylum seekers face in accessing their rights when interacting with public services. We achieved his intervention and in a number of cases the revoking of the practices.

- SolidarityNow continued to monitor legislative and policy developments at national, EU, and global level, to apply pressure. It also engaged in a dialogue with the authorities and international non-governmental organisations (INGOs) calling them to protect refugee rights and ensure the dignified treatment of newly arrived migrants and refugees in Greece. Indicatively:

- On the occasion of the EU-Turkey Deal's second anniversary, SolidarityNow co-organised the press conference "Two years after the EU-Turkey Deal: a humanitarian tragedy for refugees and asylum seekers" during which civil society organizations

reminded the public how this deal is undermining human rights and Europe's very fundamental principles.

- SolidarityNow co-hosted a Working Conference around the joint policy brief 'Transitioning to a Government-run Refugee and Migrant Response in Greece: a joint NGO roadmap for more fair and humane policies'. During the closed event, NGO representatives engaged in a dialogue with central and local government, EU agencies and INGOs to enhance cooperation in achieving common goals.

- At the international level SolidarityNow attended United Nations high-level meetings providing input on the zero draft Global Compact on Refugees, a framework for better responsibility-sharing, and a sustainable solution to refugee situations.

- Combatting social exclusion and promoting integration through employment is a priority for SolidarityNow. Specifically, SolidarityNow participates in the program 'Skills and Integration of Migrants, Refugees and Asylum Applicants in the European Labor Market' (SIRIUS), focused on developing more evidence-based research and policy recommendations for enhancing migrants' integration.

Developing counter-narratives on migration; anti-extremism/anti-racism actions

SolidarityNow's proximity to population groups

that suffer from discrimination due to race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, and socioeconomic position puts us at the forefront of defending equality and promoting inclusive narratives in defence of solidarity.

- During 2018, SolidarityNow was the country coordinator, in Greece, for #WelcomingEurope, the first European Citizen's Initiative (ECI) on migration. The campaign's aim was to raise awareness on the issue and achieve legislative changes at the EU level.

- In addition, we are partners of an EU-wide project coordinated by the Social Change Initiative (SCI) that seeks to develop positive migration narratives in the public discourse and respond more effectively to populist and far-right threats.

Standing against the criminalization of humanitarianism

SolidarityNow clearly voiced its concerns and took action against the recent pan-European trend that criminalizes acts of solidarity.

- SolidarityNow supported two humanitarian volunteers, Sara Mardini and Seán Binder when they were arrested for helping people arriving safely to Lesbos islands, throughout their detention, surrounding their defense with advocacy efforts in Greece and beyond. Through close collaboration with other organizations such as Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch, we worked towards their release from pre-trial detention, and continue to monitor the case and the overall trend of criminalizing acts of solidarity.



Listen to their Story

During 2018, we made a series of tributes to those who keep on dreaming, who try to improve their lives, who share their strength with us.

It is a series of tributes in which beneficiaries of SolidarityNow are in the limelight.

#iBelieveInMe

In a country where most people have no access to mental health services, this tribute aims to share human stories of those supported by the Psychological support & Counseling service offered in our organization's solidarity centers. This is where Alexandra found and received - like everyone else, without discrimination - the support she needed.

Alexandra,
beneficiary of the Psychological & Counseling service
at the Athens Solidarity Center

32-year-old Alexandra was born and raised in Athens. She has a 3-year-old beloved son, Stelios, and makes all efforts to keep him physically and psychologically healthy and offer him the best she can. She spent many years trying to define herself and find happiness through substance abuse, which she now describes as “an alternative means of accepting the family situation I was in”. While initially the substance abuse created the illusion of a new family by her side, Alexandra later realized that she was living through the worst kind of isolation. “I needed support to confront my child” Alexandra said, and she was lucky to find it in the Psychological support & Counseling service in the Athens Solidarity Center. Her psychologist helped her set priorities so that she wouldn't let anyone determine her life as a wife and mother. Alexandra, with her strong will, her love for her son, and the love she ultimately developed for herself, materialized her wishes: “My dream is to live by the sea. I want my son to enjoy living in nature and I want to be creative, for example grow crops, in nature!”. Even though she is only 32 years old, Alexandra has experienced many different types of lifestyle. Now she is living the one she likes the most.



#Nailedit

A tribute to job empowerment and access to the labor market that aims at social integration through the development of skills. Fifteen refugees and migrants were qualified as professional nail artists through an intensive educational program at the Thessaloniki Blue Refugee Center.

Amber,
nail artist who graduated from the educational program
at the Thessaloniki Blue Refugee Center

33-year-old Amber is from Pakistan and has been living in Greece with her family for the past nine months. Amber recalls and tells her story in a way that shows a person who doesn't give up. She first came to the Blue Refugee Center to learn Greek: “I want to learn Greek because I want to live and work here, start my own business, and communicate with the people”. When she found out about the nail artists seminar she didn't hesitate to enroll. “I thought it was an excellent chance to learn new things and techniques. Taking care of nails is a type of art and this is why I like it” Amber claims. Amber speaks beautifully about her educational experience: “We learnt all kinds of techniques and more than that, we talked about our past and our lives when we did each other's manicures as part of the exercise. I liked this a lot. First, I want to thank those who gave me this chance. It was even more important for me because I have burnt my fingers”, Amber explains. When she was in Turkey, Amber worked in a label factory where she had a serious accident that caused a second-degree burn in her fingers. “I decided to participate in these seminars to make my fingers good again. People think that appearances matter a lot. They all look at one's outside not inside. As people, however, we ought to look at one's inside” she concludes.



#ArtIsMyLife

For nine artists from Congo and Guinea, art is their life. All nine have found support through the organization's Housing and Child & Family Support Hubs programs in Northern Greece. This tribute introduces the artists and their music, proving that humans can be multidimensional: they are musicians and refugees who sing their home country's traditional songs in their new home, Europe and Greece.

Sami,
beneficiary of the Child & Family Support Hubs program in Northern Greece

"I am an artist and I will die an artist... My life is behind me" claims Sami, a 33-year-old refugee who fled Congo to come to Greece in December 2018. His long trip begun in Moria, Lesbos and finished in Thessaloniki. While Sami is talking to us, he pulls out of his backpack a dossier that holds all his drawings. He has sketched an African lady wearing her traditional dress and mask. He explains that he made these drawings in Greece, inspired by his home country, Congo. "My Greek teacher at Moria gave us markers and I made these drawings" Sami says. He has been studying art ever since he was a child. He started at pre-school. At 12 years old he attended drawing and sculpture lessons and later studied interior design in college. Sami has now obtained asylum in Greece and hence decided to take English and Greek language courses. "I have started to understand how Greek society works. I now have to try to adapt and integrate in it. I came to Greece and learnt a lot about its culture and history. I want to show to the Greeks that we have a culture and history as well and I want to do this through my art. I want to give Greece something in return" Sami says.



#iAmStrong

Refugees who belong to the LGBTQI community face a double stigma that might result in their isolation and discrimination. Through the tribute #iAmStrong we aim to give a voice the LGBTQI beneficiaries of the organization, empowering and helping them obtain the liberating power of expression and speech.

Hassan and Baref,
beneficiaries of the specialized LGBTQI accommodation program, Safe Refugee

"We came here, and our lives changed. Do you see my black mobile screen? This is how my life was before I came here". Hassan and Baref are a couple. They met years ago when living in the Middle East. Like all couples, they communicate in their own way: a glance or a nod is enough to understand one another. 27-year-old Hassan is gay and 21-year-old Baref is trans. They started as friends but then fell in love, and with love came fear. It is weird to hear someone say that they can't express their love freely in 2018. "We wanted to go on a trip, or grab a coffee together, but we couldn't. We were afraid", says Hassan. "If you are gay, lesbian, or trans, you cannot admit it to anyone. It is a secret you keep for yourself. If anyone learns the truth, the consequences are bad" Baref adds. They came to Greece and now live in Thessaloniki. "People here are open-minded, we have no problems, and the social worker as well as SolidarityNow help us a lot. We came here and anything bad disappeared". When they qualify for asylum, Baref wants to start the gender reassignment procedure since she feels safe in an environment that supports self-determination and free gender expression.



The Polaroid Project

“Polaroid Stories, Human Stories: past like present”. Five stories in five photographs: a tribute to family. The polaroids allude to the past of the art of photography and to the typical family photograph that was taken as a polaroid in older times. Refugee families in family photographs look different because of their status and number of family members - however, their purpose is the same: to remain all together.

Khalil,
beneficiary of the Accommodation & Services program in Athens

44-year-old Khalil lives in France with his family, his wife and their four children. They first lived in Greece for two years, arriving in Europe after a painful journey from Iraq, and then moved to France. “For years we struggled to build a life and we lost everything within two hours.” They left everything behind and fled their home country seeking safety in Europe. Before arriving to Greece, they spent two painful years in Turkey after having walked through the mountains for seven days. In Athens, the accommodation program and services of SolidarityNow supported Khalil’s family by offering lessons in English, kids’ educational workshops, and psychological support. They will always remember Greece whole-heartedly because, as Khalil says, “Greeks showed us respect”.



#8Women8Stories8March Women’s International Day

A tribute to women, who remain victims of gender inequality in Greece and the rest of the world. Much can still be done to improve gender equality. Eight stories of everyday women that voice the daily struggles of all women, and who courageously overcome the gender stereotypes and discrimination.

Zainab,
beneficiary of the educational program at the Thessaloniki Blue Refugee Center

Zainab Annan is a 17-year-old refugee from Lebanon. She is a talented girl that loves literature, poetry, writing, and anything that has to do with fine arts. For the past two years she has lived with her mother and younger brother in Greece. She goes to third grade of high school and her favorite subjects are Maths, English, and French. In the afternoons after school she visits SolidarityNow’s Blue Refugee Center in Thessaloniki and attends foreign languages courses. She also enjoys opera and classical music, while she reads and draws manga (japanese cartoons) in her free time. When she was 13, Zainab read Victor Hugo’s “Les Misérables”, which became her favorite book and inspired her to become a playwright. “I have two favorite writers. One is Astrid Lindgren, famous Swedish children’s book writer, and the other is Victor Hugo” she mentions. “I have written about many topics like the environment, women’s rights, teenager-parents’ relationships, social networking, and advertising” she adds. Social workers at the Blue Refugee Center noticed her talent in writing and supported it by giving Zainab the chance to cultivate her writing skills.



About SolidarityNow

SolidarityNow was founded in 2013. Through our initiatives and the services provided to the Greek, migrant and refugee populations, we seek to support and empower them.

We implement programs in several areas across Greece, including urban and rural settings. At the same time, we develop focused interventions in refugee camps to support the most vulnerable populations.



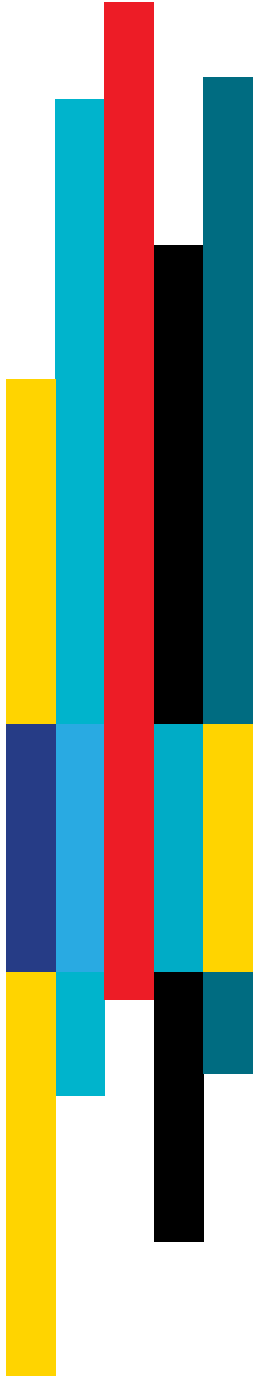
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We strive to

- **Ensure**
that people are safe and have access to vital resources and services
- **Encourage**
people to realize their potential for long term economic well-being and self-reliance
- **Empower**
people to be aware of their rights in order to make decisions that affect their lives
- **Enable**
the strengthening and independence of Greek Civil Society by defending open society values

Programmatic priorities

- Catalyzing livelihood opportunities
- Enabling access to education, promoting integration
- Defending and promoting human rights
- Providing shelter and accommodation



Financial Statements

Statement of Financial Position		
	2018	2017
ASSETS		
Tangible assets	27.286,87	48,52
Intangible assets	62.548,21	78.605,19
Advances and long-term assets	210.790,00	149.526,00
Non-current assets	300.625,08	228.179,71
Trade and other receivable	760.485,23	427.395,61
Cash and cash equivalents	1.090.488,71	3.186.024,71
Total current assets	1.850.973,94	3.613.420,32
Total assets	2.151.599,02	3.841.600,03
EQUITY		
Retained earnings	98.897,81	45.346,22
Total equity	98.897,81	45.346,22
LIABILITIES		
Provisions for employee benefits	246.182,26	269.730,18
Noncurrent liabilities	246.182,26	269.730,18
Trade and other payables	1.806.518,95	3.526.523,63
Current liabilities	1.806.518,95	3.526.523,63
Total equity and liabilities	2.151.599,02	3.841.600,03
Statement of Profit or Loss and Other Comprehensive Income		
	1/1-31/1/2018	1/1-31/1/2017
Revenue	12.464.144,15	11.743.193,52
Payroll	(7.896.161,07)	(7.157.763,23)
Depreciation	(71.365,30)	(182.540,86)
Other expenses	(4.501.080,35)	(4.180.973,27)
Operating (loss)/profit	(4.462,57)	221.916,16
Finance income	75.013,85	1.851,70
Finance expense	(16.999,69)	(155.535,86)
Net finance expense	58.014,16	(153.684,16)
(Loss)/Profit before tax	53.551,59	68.232,00
Income tax	0,00	0,00
(Loss)/Profit after tax	53.551,59	68.232,00
Total comprehensive profit for the period	53.551,59	68.232,00

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the Members of the Non-Profit Association "SOLIDARITYNOW"

Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements Opinion

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of Non-Profit Association "SOLIDARITYNOW", (the "Association"), which comprise the statement of financial position as of December 31, 2018, the income statement, the statement of changes in equity and cash flows for the year then ended and a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements present fairly in all material respects the financial position of "SOLIDARITYNOW" as at December 31, 2018 and its financial performance and cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards, as adopted by the European Union.

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (ISAs), as incorporated in Greek Law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the "Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements" section of our report. We remained independent of the Association in accordance with the International Ethics Standards Board for Accountants' Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (IESBA Code), as incorporated in Greek Law, together with the ethical requirements that are relevant to the audit of the financial statements in Greece, and we have fulfilled our ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements and the IESBA Code. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Other information

Management is responsible for the other information. The other information includes the Board of Directors Report, for which reference is also made in section "Report on Other Legal and Regulatory Requirements", but does not include the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon.

Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information identified above and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact. We have nothing to report in this regard.

Responsibilities of the Management and Those Charged with Governance for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards, and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, management is responsible for assessing the Association's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless management either intends to liquidate the Association or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor’s Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor’s report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs, as incorporated in Greek Law, will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

As part of an audit in accordance with ISAs, as incorporated in Greek Law, we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Association’s internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by management.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of management’s use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Association’s ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor’s report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor’s report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Association to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

Athens, 9 July 2019
The Certified Auditor Accountant

Andreas Hadjidamianou
S.O.E.L. R.N. 61391
ERNST & YOUNG (HELLAS)
CERTIFIED AUDITORS ACCOUNTANTS S.A.
8B CHIMARRAS ST., MAROUSI
151 25, GREECE
Company SOEL R.N. 107

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION according to the GREEK ACCOUNTING STANDARDS
01/01/2018 - 31/12/2018 (amounts in Euros)

ASSETS	1/1/18-31/12/18	1/1/17-31/12/17
Tangible & intangible assets	741.248,88	659.795,09
Less: Accum. Depreciation	(651.413,80)	(581.141,38)
Net Assets	89.835,08	78.653,71
Accounts receivable	225.486,31	150.710,79
Advances	723.743,16	1.064,18
Other receivable	1.112.534,47	3.598.010,40
Total Assets	2.151.599,02	3.828.439,08
EQUITY & LIABILITIES	1/1/18-31/12/18	1/1/17-31/12/17
Capital & reserves	49.793,81	(3.757,78)
Non current Liabilities	295.286,26	318.834,18
Current Liabilities	1.806.518,95	3.513.362,68
Total Equity & Liabilities	2.151.599,02	3.828.439,08

STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS according to the GREEK ACCOUNTING STANDARDS
01/01/2017 - 31/12/2017 (amounts in Euros)

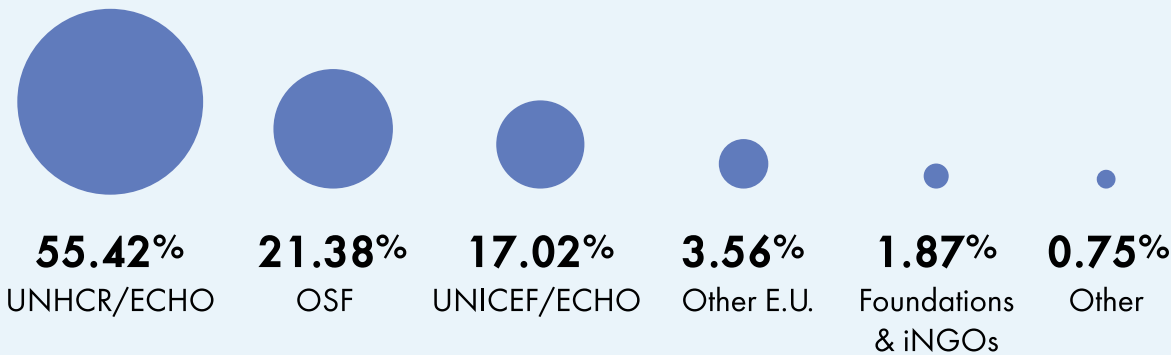
	1/1/18-31/12/18	1/1/17-31/12/17
Revenue	12.453.243,09	11.343.241,15
Less:		
Payroll	(7.896.161,07)	(6.865.118,09)
Depreciation	(71.365,30)	(179.741,99)
Other expenses	(4.501.080,35)	(4.257.537,89)
Plus:		
Other income	12.389,26	1.992,66
Less:		
Finance expense	(16.999,69)	(24.507,84)
(Loss)/Profit before tax	(19.974,06)	18.328,00
Income tax	0,00	0,00
(Loss)/Profit before tax	(19.974,06)	18.328,00

SolidarityNow in Numbers

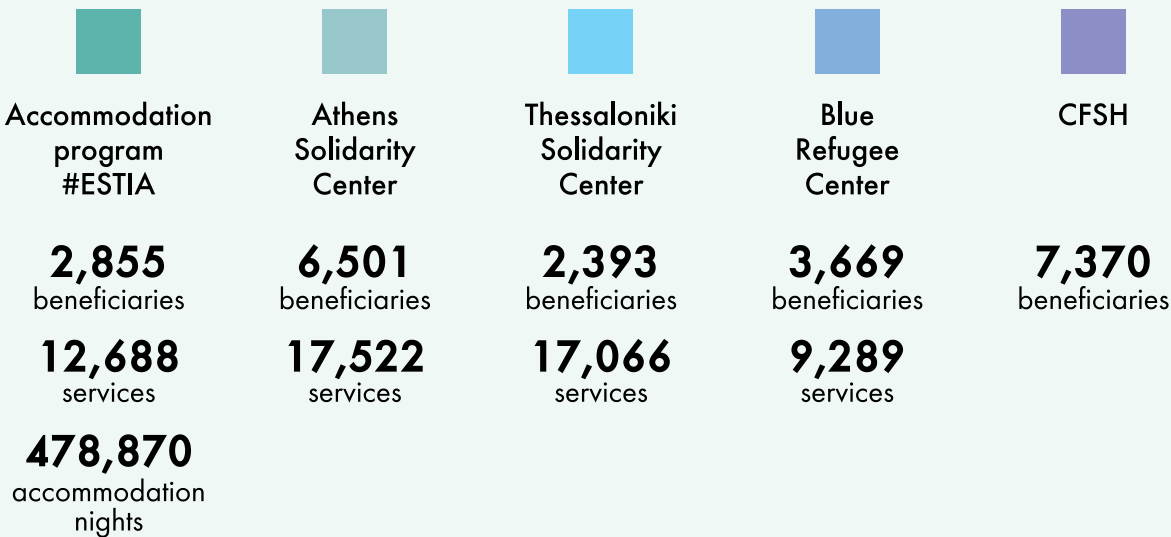
Statement of activities January - December 2018

Auditing/ With the initiative of SolidarityNow, independent auditing by Ernst & Young Hellas is carried out and the results are published at www.solidaritynow.org.
At the same time, SolidarityNow is also being audited by certified auditors for every grant received

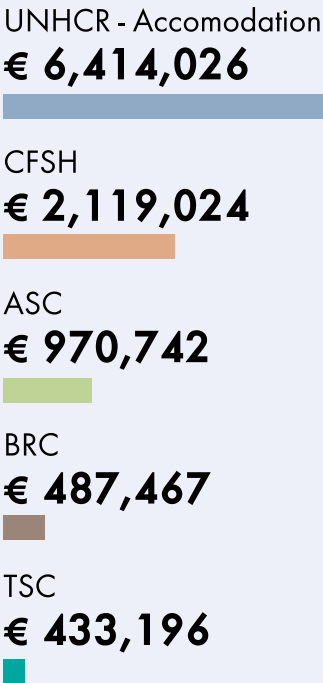
SolidarityNow Donors



SolidarityNow Beneficiaries

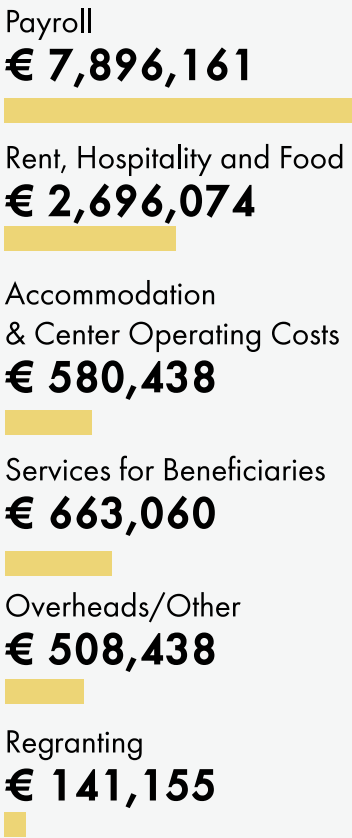


Expenses per Program

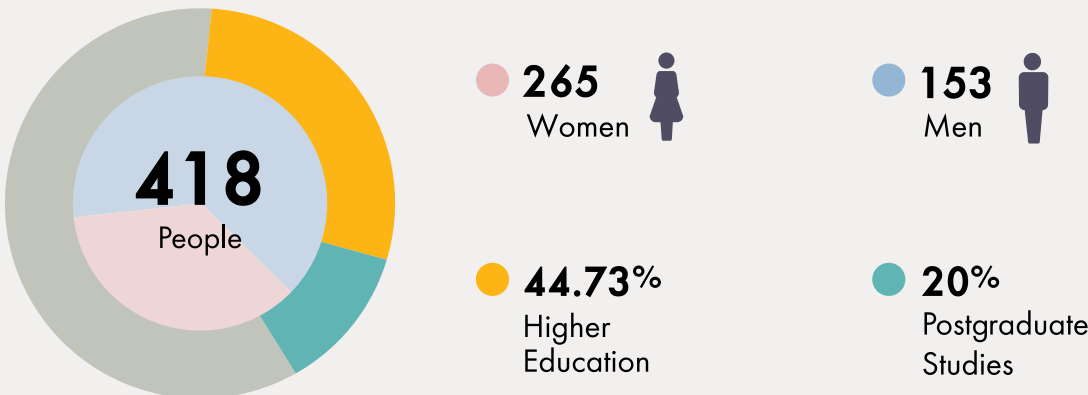


(small programs are not included)

Allocation of Expenses



Human Resources

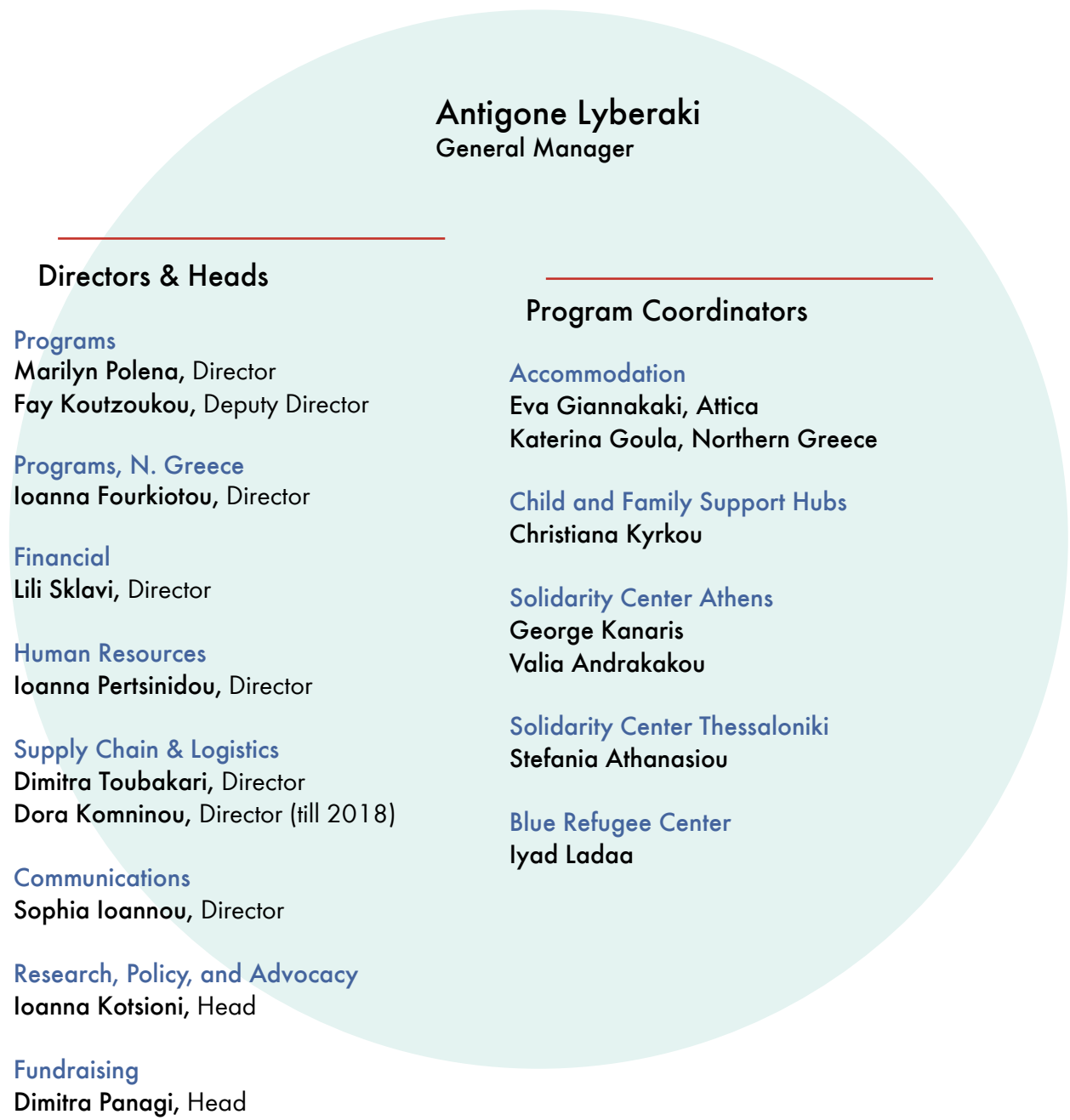


The Board of Directors

- Zavvos Stelios**, Chairman
- Alivizatos Nikos**, Honorary Professor of Constitutional Law – University of Athens
- Vidalis Euthimios**, Vice-Chairman, Businessman
- Diamandouros Nikiforos**, Honorary Professor of Political Science – University of Athens
- Doxiadis Aristos**, Partner, Venture Capital Investor
- Kavounidi Jenny**, Senior Research Fellow – Center of Planning and Economic Research, Visiting Associate Professor, Athens University of Economics and Business
- Matsagganis Manos**, Associate Professor in the Department of International and European Economic Studies – Athens University of Economics and Business
- Boutaris Yiannis**, Businessman, Politician, Chemist, Oenologist
- Nomikou Kalipso**, President of A M. Nomikos Transworld Maritime Agencies S.A.
- Rozakis Christos**, Professor of International Public Law – University of Athens, Vice President of the European Court of Human Rights
- Triantafyllidou Anna**, Professor – European University Institute, Florence, Italy

Our Team

SolidarityNow is supported by an experienced and passionate team of more than 400 individuals with diverse backgrounds and areas of expertise.



Supporters



Memberships

SolidarityNow joins forces with international and Greek organizations, networks and institutions of the civil society and works together with them in order to enhance human rights and support to all vulnerable populations.

OSEN

SolidarityNow is a member of OSEN (Open Society European Network).

The Open Society European Network brings together spin-off national foundations of the Open Society Foundations in Europe with the aim of ensuring a continued level of coalition, the exchange of information, and to provide the opportunity to contribute to the mission of the Open Society Foundations in Europe. Currently, members of the Open Society European Network are based in Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Greece, Lithuania, Latvia, Poland, Romania, Slovenia, and Slovakia.

/ www.opensocietyfoundations.org



The International Detention Coalition (IDC) is a unique global network, of over 300 civil society organizations and individuals in more than 70 countries, that advocate for, research and provide direct services to refugees, asylum-seekers and migrants affected by immigration detention.

/ www.idcoalition.org



The Racist Violence Recording Network was created in October 2011 through the initiative of the UNHCR office in Greece and the National Commission for Human Rights, in order to monitor the escalation of hate crimes. There are currently more than 35 non governmental organizations and other bodies that participate in the Network, providing legal, medical, social or other support services and come into contact with racist violence victims.

/ www.rvrn.org



Transparency Register

Citizens can, and indeed should, expect the EU decision-making process to be as transparent and open as possible. The more open the process is, the easier it is to ensure balanced representation and avoid undue pressure and illegitimate or privileged access to information or to decision-makers. Transparency is also a key part of encouraging European citizens to participate more actively in the democratic life of the EU. The transparency register has been set up to answer core questions such as what interests are being pursued, by whom and with what budgets. The system is operated jointly by the European Parliament and the European Commission.

SolidarityNow joined the Transparency Register platform to contribute to its goals and vision.

<http://ec.europa.eu/transparencyregister/>



SolidarityNow is member of Accountable Now, a global platform that supports civil society organizations (CSOs) to be transparent, responsive to stakeholders and focused on delivering impact. Our Members are internationally operating CSOs who drive this agenda together with us. Accountable Now was founded in 2008 under the name International NGO Charter of Accountability by 10 leading CSOs, including development, humanitarian, environmental, rights-based and advocacy organizations.

<http://accountablenow.org>

Registries

SolidarityNow is registered in the National Registry of Institutions of the Private Sector Non-profit holding social care services and in the Special Registry of the Volunteering Non Governmental Organizations of the Greek Ministry of Health and Social Solidarity. The registered members in the above registries are recognized as certified bodies of the National Social Care System.



SolidarityNow is a member of the International Human Rights Funders Group, a global network of donors and grantmakers committed to advancing human rights around the world through effective philanthropy.

/ www.ihrfg.org



SolidarityNow is a member of ECRE (European Council on Refugees and Exiles), a pan-European alliance of 90 NGOs protecting and advancing the rights of refugees, asylum seekers and displaced persons. Their mission is to promote the establishment of fair and humane European asylum policies and practices in accordance with international human rights law.

/ www.ecre.org



Together we can make
the difference!

We want to support the
most vulnerable members
of society, indiscriminate-
ly, through new innova-
tive social actions.

If you believe in an open society
MAKE A DONATION and help us
support more people in need.

Visit our website

www.solidaritynow.org/donation/

Click on 'Make a donation' button and select the
amount you wish to give to support our actions.

I want to make a
monthly donation

10€
20€
30€

Donate your own
amount €

I want to make an
one off donation

20€
30€
50€

Donate your own
amount €

Donation via
credit card

Donation via
Paypal

Any donation small or big is important to us!

For more information, please contact
the Fundraising Department 210 6772500,
Monday - Friday 09:00 - 17:00
fundraising@solidaritynow.org

Other ways to support us:

Corporate donations

Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR)
is practiced by many companies
operating in Greece. The partnerships
we seek are: financial aid, donations in
kind, information, awareness of their
employee's, volunteering, etc.



Hands-on!



SolidarityNow is constantly looking for
volunteers to aid the organization.
If you are interested in volunteering,
please complete the online form
you will find on our site, and we will
contact you to explore the ways that
you can contribute to our efforts.



This is our common ground

www.solidaritynow.org

 @Solidarity_Now  Solidarity_Now

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