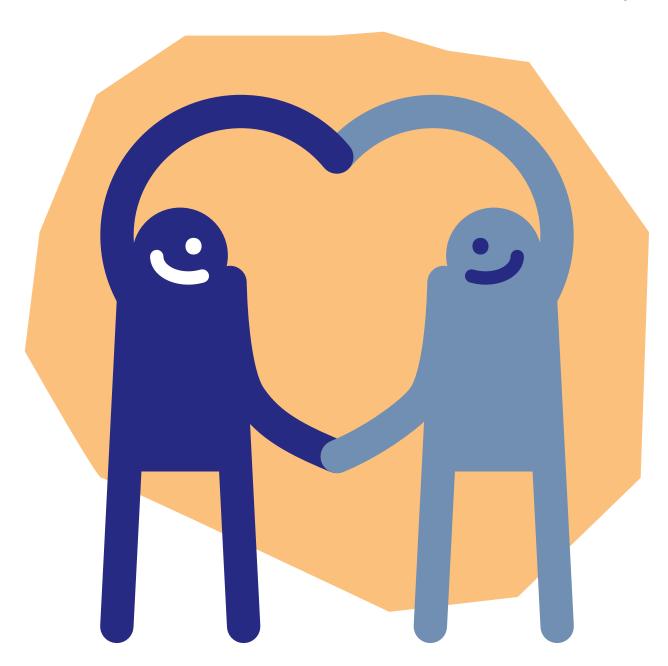
Annual Report 2019



This is our common ground



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Editorial

The vital test for Europe is to guard its humanitarian values and urgently develop policies for integration and harmonious coexistence



Stelios Zavvos, Chairman, SolidarityNow

the economic migrants represent one of the most challenging and urgent issues of our time. They create an identity crisis, potentially harmful for the cohesion of the European Union and the survival of its pluralistic democratic values. Populist autocratic leaders have raised the threat of migrants as their primary campaigning issue to polarize the European societies and gain power.

There are several causes for this urgent situation. Firstly, in today's modern world, people are more interconnected via mobile phones and social media and get faster information and easier transportation. The increasing economic inequality between the countries attract migration flows to the most prosperous, affluent, and accessible countries.

There are geopolitical factors. The destructive war in Iraq resulted in the weakening of Pax Americana in the Middle East and lead to many regional conflicts which produced large migration flows to neighboring countries with destination the more affluent countries in northern Europe.

The European Union is required to address this population flows urgently, through a pan-European asylum policy where a specific number of people per year would be allocated between the countries according to the size of their GDP and to their relative population.

Another important step is the restructuring of the Dublin treaty to fairly allocate the burden of the migration flows between European countries. The existing status requires "illegal" migrants to be returned to their countries of first entrance, usually Greece and Italy.

The demographic decline of Europe and the projected explosive doubling of the population of Africa by 2045, require immediate measures from the European Union: implementation of the required pan-European policy and support of the economic development of the African continent so that the improved economic conditions will allow people to stay in their continent.

On a global scale, Europe is a political and military declining superpower; its significant function remains the custodian of democratic, humanitarian values and personal freedom. In this context, at the end of 2013 we founded our organization, SolidarityNow, in the middle of the economic crisis.

Since then, in less than seven years, that we effectively started operations, SolidarityNow has provided services to over 320,000 beneficiaries, both vulnerable Greeks and migrants/refugees. Our ground operations consist of Solidarity Centers, support of independent living in accommodation structures, protection and educational programs for families, women, and children in open refugee shelters and educational Centers all around the country. Through our operations we support the most vulnerable population groups and we focus on their harmonious integration into Greek society.

Our qualitative impact, though harder to measure, is probably more significant – SolidarityNow acting as a social policy entrepreneur, exploring new avenues through innovative interventions. It is precisely our persistence with these core values that allows us to confidently anticipate the challenges of the future– inclusive growth and a catalyst for social change.

During 2019, we once again faced arrivals in excess of 45,000 people; this number exceeded

the flows of Italy, Spain, Malta and Cyprus combined. This was due to Tukey's aggressive tactics to hijack European monetary assistance and gain other geopolitical concessions. An example of this deteriorating situation was the overcrowded Moria hotspot in Lesvos with over 12,000 people in excess and more than 1,000 unaccompanied minors.

SolidarityNow
acting as a
social policy
entrepreneur,
exploring new
avenues through
innovative
interventions



If we give into the forces of chauvinism, xenophobia and nationalism, the European democratic values will cease to function.

The vital test for Europe is to guard its humanitarian values and urgently develop actionable policies for integration and harmonious coexistence. If we give into the forces of chauvinism, xenophobia and nationalism, the European democratic values will cease to function.

Europe needs to turn todays migration crisis into an opportunity for addressing its worsening demographic conditions and developing long term sustainable growth, while concurrently maintaining its humanitarian values and remaining an open society.

From SolidarityNow's perspective, we will build around the above values – an organisation mobilizing almost 400 staff -only in 2019-, dedicated to promoting solidarity selflessly. Thus, we strongly believe that this organisation should be the cornerstone of a wider effort, comprising volunteers, donors and supporters who want to spread these exact core values.



Editorial

New Strategy -Walking Faster Towards an Open Society



Antigone Lyberaki, General Manager

e said goodbye to 2019 with the experience, modesty and enthusiasm gained by a dense 6 years of activity and intensive learning experience on shaping sustainable solutions to complex problems. Looking back, we must evaluate ourselves and our work with critical rigor. Looking ahead, we must take the next steps in our journey through the central components of a new SolidarityNow strategy.

Our baggage contain large and small programs, for both the old and the young, with tangible but also with intangible aspects. Our programs cover a vast range of needs - from the immediate need to meet the basics, to that of creating opportunities for social inclusion, building on self-confidence and empowerment.

In 2019 alone, we provided 51,795 free services to 11,945 beneficiaries of the three Solidarity Centers in Athens and Thessaloniki, while through the ESTIA program, 2,721 of our fellow human beings secured 660,134 overnight stays in apartments and shelters in Attica, Ioannina and Thessaloniki. In the field of child protection, we supported 11,214 children, adolescents and mothers, and implemented 4,827 educational activities with the aim of providing our beneficiaries with the necessary skills to better integrate into the societies they will choose to live. Meanwhile, we were also able to support and empower 2,194 of our fellow human beings with 4,613 services to facilitate their access to the labor market.

Unfortunately, the environment in which we are moving, shows few signs of improvement and maturity since the first days of the double social and refugee crises. Particularly regarding a major issue – that is, how social inclusion fuels social cohesion-, our country is constantly lagging behind. The uncertain future brings new challenges and, consequently, renders the response to old ones more pressing and important.

What have we learned over the years - what lessons from our actions are always applicable and can guide our future? Social cohesion thrives in open societies, which constantly create opportunities for all - including those belonging to vulnerable groups.

- Social cohesion is not achieved with just good intentions
- ◆ Social cohesion is not achieved with appealing announcements
- ◆ Social cohesion is not achieved by constantly invoking values
- ◆ Social cohesion is not even achieved exclusively through generous funding and social benefits.

The only way to foster a cohesive society is through constant and repetitive interaction between people who work together in their daily lives. All the above help, but are not enough.

For us at SolidarityNow, this conclusion serves as a turning point and a compass for a new beginning:

- ♦ We build on the experience of the operation of the Solidarity Centers. We seek to strengthen this symbolic "meeting place" of people who come in with different characteristics and backgrounds but are in the same boat now and tomorrow.
- We take advantage of what we have learned: we upgrade the operation and effectiveness of the Solidarity Centers.
- We continue our operations with an emphasis on even higher quality of activities and placing special attention to resource management and transparency.
- We aim at stable and fruitful collaborations with the Municipal Authorities in Athens, Thessaloniki and Joannina.
- ♦ We look for (and find) new partners and supporters such as the Shapiro Foundation.

At the same time, we dare to open new channels and create new "good practices", leaving our familiar "comfort/safety zone". We are now focusing on two new activities, aimed at two new target groups:

A. Shelters for unaccompanied minors - because we cannot pretend we don't know what's going on

B. Mobilization to address the needs of the Greek population – giving priority to the needs of vulnerable elderly groups.

We have a long and difficult road ahead of us. But it does not scare us. We are SolidarityNow, and we are the pioneering force for an open society, for the good of us all.

Milestones 2019

What events made the

difference during 2019?

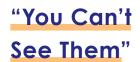




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MORE!



This was the key message of the SolidarityNow awareness campaign launched nationwide in November and in collaboration with Soho Square, to inform and raise public awareness of the organisation's diverse actions on the side of the most vulnerable people and of its role in enhancing and empowering their integration without being visible. Thus, "we can't see them". The campaign's protagonists were SolidarityNow's beneficiaries, as well as employees of the organisation that supported its creation.

Targeting to get the message across, SolidarityNow's awareness campaign used various communication tools, such as:

- TV spot (aired pro bono as social message by the TV channels)
- Special tribute to the SolidarityNow website
- Print and digital ads
- Online campaign in the organisation's social media pages and accounts
- Thematic tribute in the organisation's e-newsletter
- Targeted articles in the Press
- Human stories, with 'heroes' the people empowered and supported by the organisation's programs; published on the website, social media and the Press.





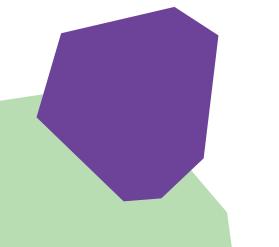


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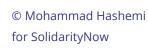
1st Job Fair took place in Thessaloniki for migrants and refugees

SolidarityNow's 1st Job Fair took place in Thessaloniki and was a great success. Refugees, migrants and asylum seekers, agencies, organisations, and private companies of the city gathered for the first time, sat at the same table, and discussed labor issues. Businesses and various organisations presented their activities and were informed about how they can approach and work with refugees and migrants looking for a job in Greece.





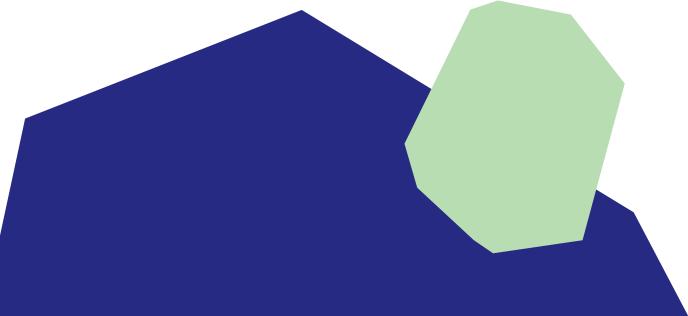






The 1st Job Fair for refugees and migrants in Athens

One more Job Fair dedicated to refugees and migrants took place, this time in Athens! The 1st Athens Job Fair was organized by the Employability Service of SolidarityNow, together with the corresponding Services of eight other organisations, which make up the "Livelihoods" Committee of the Municipality of Athens. 19 companies from different industries such as construction, shipping, and the hotel sectors, participated. The attendance of the people was impressive and moving, and the representatives of the companies had a lot of interviews with candidates.



Capturing the harmonious coexistence

SolidarityNow in collaboration with the Fredric Roberts Photography Foundation organized a photography workshop on "Social and Cultural Integration", for children aged 14-16, from 15 to 22 June 2019, in Athens. The workshop included lectures and practice of photography at selected locations in the centre of Athens, while it ended with an exhibition of photographs of the participants. Twenty children, ten boys and ten girls, both from urban centres and the countryside, originally from Greece and other countries (second-generation immigrants and refugees), lived an exciting experience. What makes this program unique is that after completing the course, the Foundation left four professional cameras to its partner, in this case SolidarityNow, so that the children could borrow them to continue photographing. Instructors of the Foundation will return to our country after two years to deliver advanced photography lessons to the same group of children.

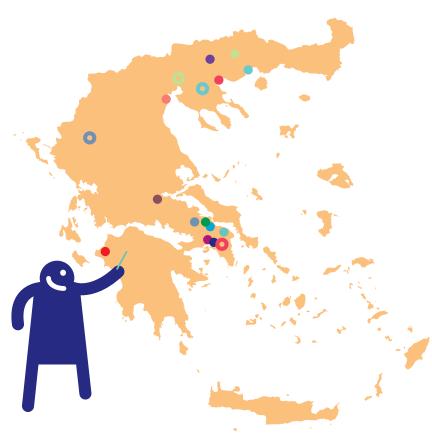


The Year in Review

Programs and Initiatives for a fairer society

Since 2013, we have supported more than 320,000 people to claim their right to control their lives again. Especially in 2019, we focused our efforts on the areas described in the pages that follow.

The geography of programs



National

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

Accommodation ProgramPartner: **AIRBNB Open Homes**

Active Citizens Fund Greece
Partner: BODOSSAKI FOUNDATION

Donor: **EEA Grants**

Child and Family Support Hubs (CFSH)

Donor: UNICEF/IOM/E.U.

Elaionas (Athens)

Elefsina (Attica)

Oinofyta

Ritsona

Serres (I & II)

Kavala

Drama

Kato Milia (Katerini)

Volvi (Thessaloniki)

Thiva

Malakasa

Thermopyles

Andravida

Thessaloniki

Solidarity Center
Donor: OSF/OSIFE

Blue Refugee Center Donor: UNHCR/E.U.

Accommodation & Services Program #ESTIA

Donor: **UNHCR/E.U.**

Integration Learning Center

Donor: IOM/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

loannina

Accommodation & Services Program #ESTIA

Donor: UNHCR/E.U

Intergration Learning Center

Donor: IOM/E.U.

Athens

Solidarity Center

Donor: OSF, EEA and Norway Grants, (with HumanRights360 and CROWE Greece as the fund operator)

Partner: Municipality of Athens

Accommodation & Services Program #ESTIA

Donor: UNHCR/E.U.

Integration Learning Center

Donor: IOM/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+

My Site

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**

DONOI. USF/USIFE

Education/IT Essentials

Partner: **CISCO**

Photography Workshops

Partner/Donor: FREDRIC ROBERTS PHOTOGRAPHY

SIRIUS (Skills and Integration of Migrants, Refugees and Asylum Applicants in EU Labour Markets)

Donor: E.U./HORIZON

Athens Solidarity Contor









17,277 services



1,100,188.34€ budget

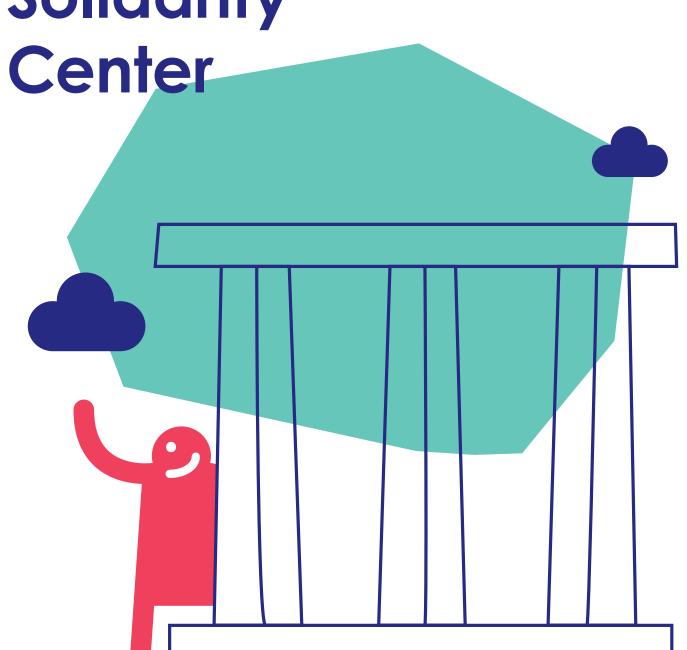


OSF, EEA and Norway Grants,

(with HumanRights360 and CROWE Greece as the fund operator)

(since May 2019)

Donors/Supporters



The Athens Solidarity Center (ASC) is the answer to the complex needs emerged by the economic crisis and exacerbated by the refugee crisis.



he doors of the Athens Solidarity Center opened in December 2014 and since then, it has been an example of optimal cooperation between a public body (Municipality of Athens), the local civil society and institutional supporters.

The Center follows an "open door" policy, which means that it welcomes all people in need indiscriminately – that is, regardless of nationality, origin, sexual orientation, religious or political beliefs etc. The only criterion is their vulnerability.

MORE!

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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

The Center serves hundreds of our people in need daily, who receive high quality free social, psychological, and legal support services, employment support services and accounting services.

In 2019, the ASC provided the following services:

- Social services (7,325 sessions)
- Psychosocial support (1,695 sessions)
- Cultural Mediation
- Legal assistance (1,910 sessions)
- Employability services (1,590 sessions)
- Accounting services (4,757 sessions)
- Center for Children (provided by the Network for Children's Rights) (412 sessions)
- Special services for children and teenagers with learning difficulties (provided by Babel SynEirmos organisation) (492 sessions)
- Internet corner
- Independent operation of the office of the Asylum Service for vulnerable cases

αλληλεγγύη SOLIDARITY ΑΛΛΗΛΕΓΓΥΗΣ

More specifically



5,952 beneficiaries were supported through the social service



214 beneficiaries were supported through the psychological service



864 beneficiaries received legal support



620 beneficiaries were supported through the employability service



2,581 beneficiaries were supported through the accounting service

Furthermore, 1,893 children and adults were supported through educational and recreational activities, as well as through psychosocial support at the Center for Children, implemented by the Network for Children's Rights.

Also, from January to June 2019, 100 children benefited by the "Special services for children and teenagers with learning difficulties", intervention implemented by Babel-SynEirmos NGO.

Last but not least, the Psychologist Team coordinator initiated a photography workshop for ASC staff and beneficiaries, which took place on a weekly basis. The workshop, which aimed to empower individuals through photography, was run in English and Farsi.

Thessaloniki Solidarity Center





1,487

unique beneficiaries



11,800

services



578,092.39€

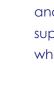
budget



O21

Donors/Supporters

The Thessaloniki Solidarity Center (TSC) has been operating since 2013. Our goal is to provide integrated support through a series of services to people who need it. The services provided are offered free of charge to all, indiscriminately, and can be equally accessed by all in need.



eople who visit the TSC seek support for issues that they are called upon to address in their daily lives but are unable to deal with. Both the inability to access services and the need for individualized and holistic support bring them in contact with professionals who provide these services at the TSC.



during 2019:



Services offered

Social services



Psychosocial support/Mental Health service



Cultural mediation

On a weekly basis, more than 250 people visit the TSC to receive support, with various requests and needs. The requested services are, inter alia, psychosocial support, legal counseling or representation, accounting services, administrative support, and employment counseling.

Our goal is to effectively assist our beneficiaries, using an individual/personal approach, while always preserving the values of solidarity, respect, diversity, and the defense of human rights.

Legal aid and representation continue to be 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 had numerous successful court cases in 2019.

A service worth mentioning is the provision of 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.

© Giorgos Moutafis

for SolidarityNow

Among the TSC's most notable achievements in 2019 were the individual sessions with skilled **Employability Officers that allowed previously**unemployed citizens and migrants to reintegrate into the labor market. Many newly-obtained jobs are in the fields of tourism, catering, agriculture, security, cleaning, and fashion. 90 people succeeded in finding job throughout the year.

90 people succeeded in finding job throughout the year.



Legal assistance



Employability services



Accounting services



Educational activities



Child Friendly Space



Internet corner

27



necessities



Blue Refugee Center



4,210 unique





22,718

services







The Blue Refugee Center (BRC) is a support hub as well as a place of meeting and interaction for refugees and asylum seekers in the greater Thessaloniki area.

> he BRC has been operating since 2016 and supports refugees and asylum seekers by providing a variety of services and operating in addition to the Thessaloniki Solidarity Center. The services offered are integration - oriented and concern one of the most vulnerable groups in our society. Educational activities for adults and minors, job counseling, psychosocial support and legal guidance are just some of the services provided by the BRC. In 2020, the support service for people who want to start their own business will be also provided.

On a weekly basis, many people visit the BRC to benefit from its services, as well as volunteer organisations and other organisations host educational activities and seminars, making the space a reference point in the city.

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 of more than 34 different nationalities were offered our services in 2019, with most seeking job support and educational activities.

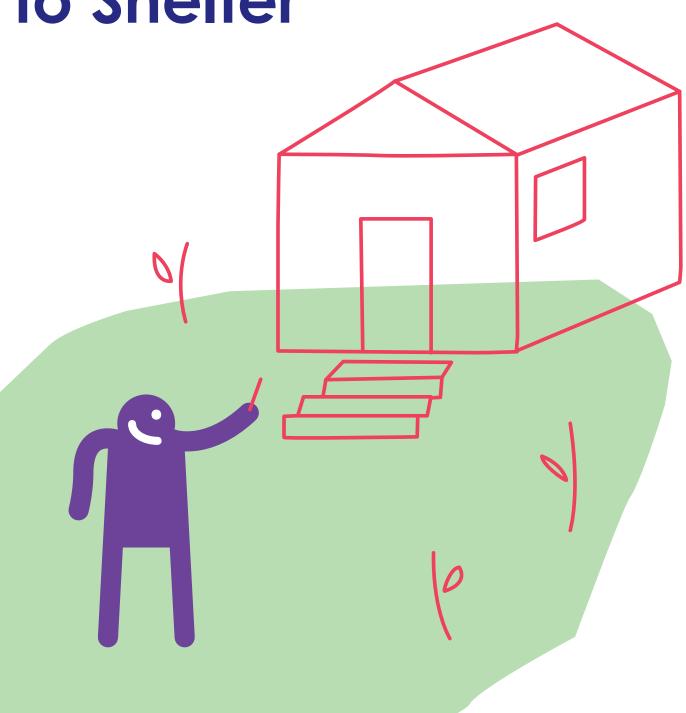
Keeping in mind the challenging employability sector, the employability consultants of the BRC along with the Thessaloniki Solidarity Center, organised the 1st Job Fair for refugees and asylum seekers. This initiative attracted beneficiaries coming from the refugee/migrant population, representatives from the business sector and Civil Society Organisations; more than 500 people attended and participated in the activities. One of the results of the job fair, beside others, was the creation of the Employability Working Group which SolidarityNow is chairing.



© Giorgos Moutafis for SolidarityNow

34 different nationalities were offered our services in 2019

The Right to Shelter







beneficiaries



22,224 services



accommodation

nights

660,134



6,737,997.49€



UNHCR, Airbnb

budget

Donors/Supporters

In 2019, SolidarityNow continued the implementation and expansion of the ESTIA program in collaboration with the UNHCR, reaching 2,267 accommodation places in the regions of Attica, Thessaloniki, and Ioannina.

> he program, which has been running since 2016, includes collective housing, autonomous accommodation, and shelters for particularly vulnerable groups, to respond efficiently to the urgent needs of providing quality accommodation solutions within the urban landscape. Since the beginning of the program, SolidarityNow has provided a plethora of quality services to those in need, through qualified and experienced professionals.

The year 2019 brought around various changes: in Attica, the Paiania building (135 places) was evacuated to be renovated and re-operated.

In addition, SolidarityNow proceeded with the establishment of the Athens Social Service Center, where relevant services are provided by the program's social workers, to promote self-reliance of the beneficiaries, community engagement but also local integration.

Consequently, the frequency of home visits progressively decreased, while the beneficiaries were encouraged to book their appointments at the Athens Solidarity Center as to focus more on their empowerment and enhancement.

In addition, changes were also brought to the beneficiaries of the program, specifically to those recognized as beneficiaries of international protection in 2017 and 2018, as the Ministry of Migration Policy decided to view the ESTIA program as a whole, and proceed with an exit procedure for those recognized as beneficiaries of international protection. During 2019, 121 beneficiaries exited the SolidarityNow accommodation scheme.

In Northern Greece, the ESTIA accommodation program was implemented in three locations of Epirus and Central Macedonia. The year was marked by the publishing of the Regulatory Framework for the implementation of Accommodation and Cash assistance, that coincided with the first round of exits due to recognition of international protection status.

Focusing on integration became even more urgent, as 275 beneficiaries of the program were eligible for a cessation

of their accommodation and had to be intensively supported to overcome the challenges of transition from semiindependent to independent living.

As part of this effort, 483 tax declarations were submitted and 89% of the beneficiaries issued a social security number.

In addition, to improve the changing living conditions of the beneficiaries, more than 30 activities (exhibitions, focus group discussions, visits to museums, recreational activities in public schools etc.) took place.

Airbnb Partnership

The collaboration with Airbnb and its "Open Homes" platform, initiated in 2017, continued successfully in 2019. As the number of houses available to book for free on the platform has been low, Airbnb provided SolidarityNow with travel credit to directly book Airbnb listings for refugees and asylum seekers. In 2019, SolidarityNow completed 101 bookings, accommodating a total of 206 beneficiaries.

The partnership has allowed SolidarityNow to assist vulnerable individuals in difficult times – such as victims of gender-based violence who need to be evacuated from a camp to avoid the perpetratorand also provide short term accommodation for newly hired staff in smaller localities.



© Alexandros Avramidis for SolidarityNow

89% of the beneficiaries issued a social security number

TESTIMONY

Said: "I want to become a social worker"

Said, a beneficiary of the accommodation program ESTIA in Thessaloniki, firmly says, "I want to study, to become something in my life". He is young - at 27 – handsome and he came from Syria; "My name in Arabic means happiness. I am a happy person, I like making people smile with my jokes, in any case we only live once". Said apart from being a happy man, he has dreams, and he does whatever he can to turn them true. He has studied economics, but his great passion is computers. When he lived in Syria, he had his own shop where he repaired cell phones and computers. Now, he studies the Greek language at the Thessaloniki Solidarity Center and with the support of his social worker he succeeded to attend the Modern Greek Language school of the Aristotle University. His dream is to become a social worker. The knowledge of the Arabic language, and his life experiences are assets for this job, as he says.

The Right to Child Protection







3,437,032.30€



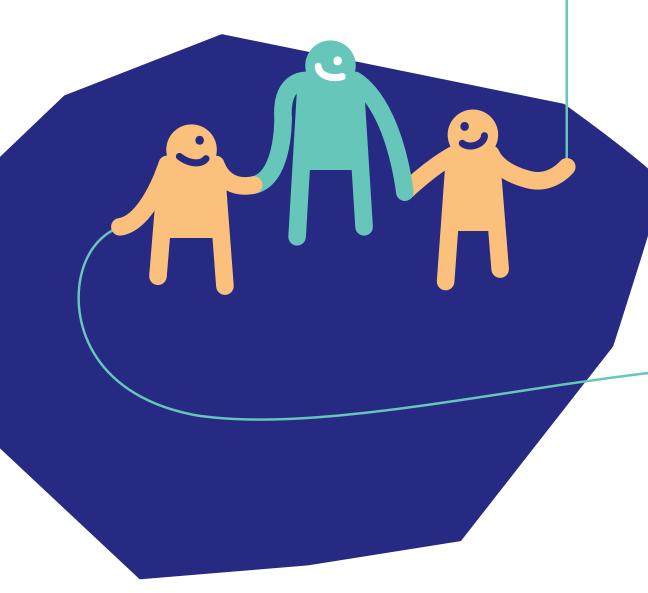


Our partnership with UNICEF continued in 2019 and expanded both in terms of geography and interventions, to protect the most vulnerable groups of refugees.

uring 2018 we were operating in 11 geographical locations, and in 2019 we expanded to 14 Open Accommodation sites, in Andravida, Elaionas, Thermopylas, Thiva, Elefsina, Malakasa, Oinofyta, Ritsona, Drama, Serres (I and II), Kavala, Volvi, Kato Milia Katerini, but also in Thessaloniki, through the operation in the Blue Refugee Center.

The Child and Family Support Hubs have been able to evolve to cover the constant and increasing refugees' needs due to the growing number of new arrivals, and the population's fragile health; but also because of the political turmoil and bureaucratical procedures that have limited their access to health.

37





The Child and Family Support Hubs exceeded our original goals, as:



53,160

individual services (psychosocial, legal and educational) were provided



4,052

adult refugees received services



7,162

children benefited from the services

The main pillars of our services were:

- non-formal educational support, including homework support, provision of language (English and Greek) and math/science classes, and support to school enrolment
- holistic case management support to child protection risk cases, including legal representation - a unique service
- prevention and response to gender-based violence.

During 2019, we continued to train our field teams on topics such as: intercultural education, teaching Greek as a foreign language, child protection, gender-based violence, sexual orientation, and gender identity issues (LGBTI population), and other.

The teams also increased their interaction with the local communities located around the Open Accommodation Sites, organizing, and participating in various events for young and adults.

As needs and activities continued to

increase, we were able to install on the field 20 new containers to better deliver our services. At the same time, SolidarityNow has become a key player in distributing items to beneficiaries, and in 2019, 3,000 school supplies were distributed, among other material. In collaboration with Elix and Unicef, "HERE I GO", an innovative approach to teaching Greek through psycho-social activities, was co-written and published. In addition, our teams, building on the Balanced Literacy Approach (BLA), created and illustrated an alphabet booklet to enable children to absorb the

Greek alphabet in a creative and engaging way.





More specifically:

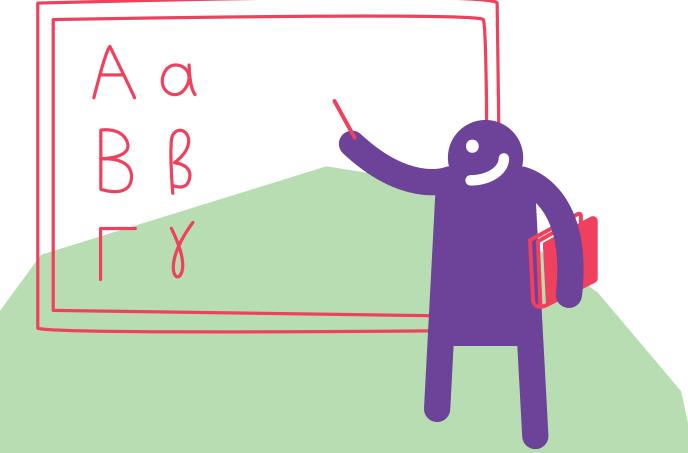
- 11,214 people (adults and children) received support (psychosocial, legal, and educational)
- ◆ **4,208 people** received legal support
- **5,029 people** received psychosocial support
- 15 designated spaces for women and children were established, reaching 2,116 women and female teenagers
- 282 infants were benefited and 190 mothers/ caregivers received specialized counseling on nutrition for toddlers and infants

- 255 unaccompanied children were identified and supported holistically
- 1,810 referrals of beneficiaries with specific needs (health, mental health, SGBV, formal education και accommodation)
- 3,887 children and adults attended classes and received school support
- 95 teachers were trained in intercultural education and teaching of Greek as a foreign language

The Right to Education

Education has become a key

part of our work









2,456,066.84€

budget



OSF, UNICEF, Almasar, Development Forum, CISCO, Metropolitan Development Agency of Thessaloniki, STAR, IOM

Donors/Supporters

he interventions in this area continued in 2019 and are described below:

HELIOS program

In 2019, SolidarityNow partnered with the IOM for the design and implementation of a large-scale integration program for recognised refugees which started in June 2019.

The project offers Greek language classes, housing benefit and support to access the labour market. SolidarityNow was responsible to set up three Integration Learning Centers in Athens, Thessaloniki and loannina through which a six-month "Integration Program" will be provided to refugees that were recognised after January 2017, aiming at supporting with Greek language and life-skills classes for 1,000 beneficiaries.

SolidarityNow is one of the partners in charge of the educational component of Greek language and life skills classes – aiming to give individuals the knowledge and skills required to live in Greece.

The first classes with beneficiaries of HELIOS commenced in December 2019, while in loannina and Thessaloniki classes are scheduled to be launched in early 2020. In addition, the organisation has contracted two implementing partners, Perichorisis and OMNES, in Katerini and Kilkis respectively, who will undertake to operate ILCs in the aforementioned regions.

Diadromes-Intercultural Center

SolidarityNow continued until the middle of the year, to successfully operate the Diadromes Intercultural Center.

Education Matters, an initiative developed in close collaboration with Almasar and the Development Forum at the Athens Training Center "Diadromes", included free support training courses, networking technician training in collaboration with CISCO and other activities for children and adults.

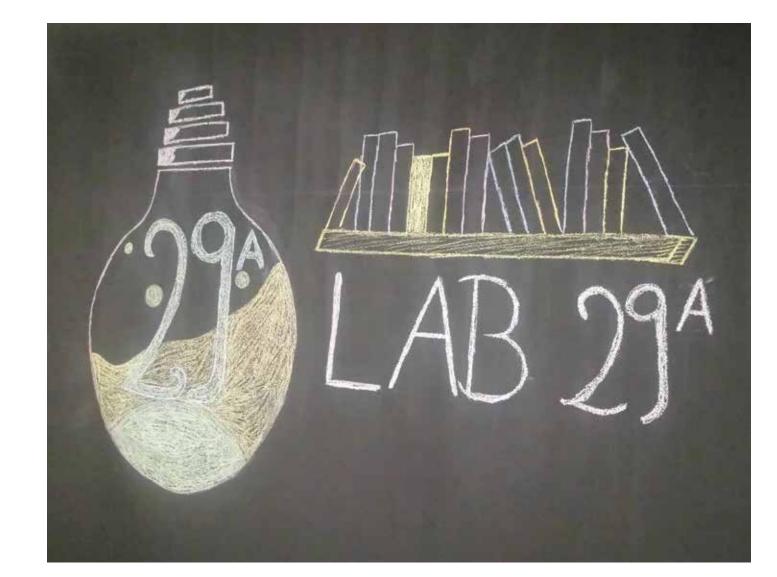
16 people successfully received the A2 level Greek language certification, which is a prerequisite for working in Greece, while 5 students received the French language certification.

Since 2018, SolidarityNow is a certified member of the CISCO Netacad Academy and in this context implemented the Cisco IT essentials: PC Hardware and Software training program. This enabled those who followed it to acquire the necessary qualifications to work as PC and Network technicians in environments such as businesses, public services, educational institutions, or as freelancers in the field of computer support. An award ceremony was held to celebrate the 21 students who successfully completed the training.

Diadrasis

The educational program for children in the urban context of Thessaloniki continued in 2019 in collaboration with the Metropolitan Development Agency of Thessaloniki (MDAT). The goal of the project was to offer lessons to school children at the Intercultural School, a public school in the heart of the city. At the end of the formal school curriculum, teachers gave Greek and English lessons, and provide learning support to each student when needed.

One of the year's highlights was certainly a day-long conference, bringing together MDAT, YMCA, and SolidarityNow. The scope was to share with public audience, the ideas, experiences, and good practices that emerged. The most moving was the involvement of refugees' parents in the discussion panel, which also showed the impact of the project and how it contributed to their social integration, which was one of the goals to be achieved. At the International Multilingual Festival organised, children and adults discovered new games, made friends, and connected with the local community. The project managed to bring people with different cultural and linguistic backgrounds - from Albania, Turkey, Angola, Iraq, Sierra Leone and many more - together.



Recreation and Education space - Lab29A

Lab29A, has been operating since early 2019, offering a recreational and education space designed to provide 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.

The first year of Lab29A's operation was very successful with some of its most popular activities being child theatre and afro dance.

Some of the activities offered during 2019 were arts and crafts workshops, recreational and educational activities, while the space hosted various meetings, workshops and trainings carried out by 17 different organisations.

STARTnow

In 2019 an innovative project was launched in collaboration with the Student Action for Refugees (STAR) from England, which is active in engaging students in migration and refugee issues. The aim of the project was to explore the mobilisation of Greek students through volunteerism and their involvement in the public sphere.

The project started in April and engaged students from the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki and the University of Macedonia, who showed their enthusiasm and positive response. The activities coordinated by the SolidarityNow team took the form of "Conversation Clubs" where young people, students and refugees discussed and exchanged experiences in Greek. Young people feel more comfortable and relaxed about sharing stories of their life, their journey to Greece, with their peers. This helps in addition to practicing the Greek language, socializing, and promoting multiculturalism, as they learn about the traditions and customs of different cultures.

The project will also continue in the academic year 2019-2020, when the refugees participants will be trained in volunteerism, to work with their communities and other vulnerable groups. Then they will travel to England to attend the annual student conference, where they will have the opportunity to share their experiences. By the end of the project, we hope that young students will become acquainted with the institution of voluntary offering and values such as collaboration, coexistence, and solidarity, and they will continue to contribute to local communities.



The Right to Employment







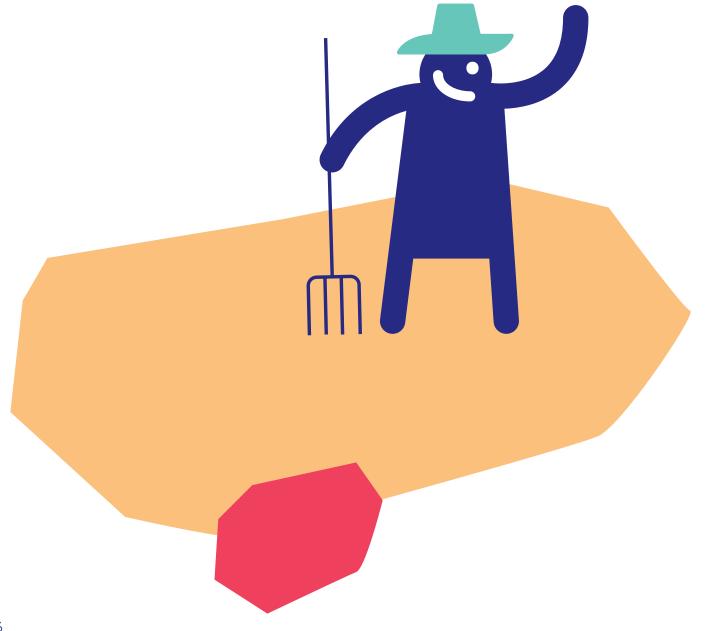
4,613





UNHCR, EEA and Norway Grants, OSF, Horizon 2020/ EU, Erasmus+/EU

Donors/Supporters



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



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



© Alexandros Avramidis for SolidarityNow



Our initiatives regarding the access to the job market in 2019 were:

- Thessaloniki Solidarity Center 90 Greeks, refugees, migrants, and other beneficiaries found a job with the support of experienced employment counselors, while 358 people in total were supported through 1,061 sessions.
- Blue Refugee Center 140 refugees and asylum seekers found a job, while 545 people in total were supported through 1,642 sessions from experienced counselors.
- Athens Solidarity Center 1,291 Greeks and migrants have been supported by the Employability Service, through the provision of 1,910 sessions, while 255 people found a job.

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 train youth (18 to 35 years old), including asylum seekers, refugees, and Greeks, in business skills, and to be able to take the first steps to start their own business in Greece. By the completion of the program in July of 2019, 351 had been trained over 19 cycles in Greek, English, Arabic and Farsi. 30 participants received individual mentorship, after following a rigorous selection process and received a seedfunding grant to start their own business.

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 organisations 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 participated in Refugees WelComB! a strategic partnership of organisations from Germany, Hungary, Italy, Spain, Bulgaria, Turkey, and Greece. It aimed to improve interdisciplinary cooperation, and it seeks to strengthen the social and occupational integration of refugees.

During the implementation of the program SolidarityNow participated in transnational meetings in Spain, Bulgaria and Turkey, which allowed for further networking with the project partners and local organisations, including human rights and refugee organisations and the UNHCR. SolidarityNow also hosted the final transnational meeting in Athens. In the framework of the Strategic Partnership, two surveys were conducted in the seven partner countries targeting refugees and relevant stakeholders. The findings of the surveys and the integration plans applied in partner countries were analyzed and presented during the transnational meetings.

Partners also presented best practice examples on labor market integration of refugees and on validation of competences. The agenda of the meeting also included a workshop with Employability Officers from Athens Solidarity Center and a visit to the Offices of the ESTIA Accommodation Program.

The right to justice





6,142





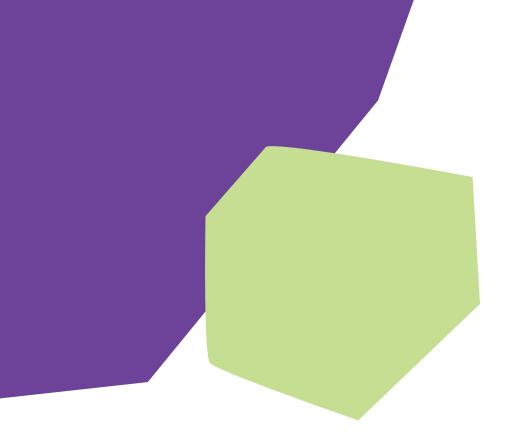
OSF, UNHCR, EEA and Norway Grants (with HumanRights360 and CROWE Greece as the fund operator), IRC, RLS

Donors/Supporters



Access to justice by all people, indiscriminately, has always been of utmost important for SolidarityNow. In particular, through our Solidarity Centers in Athens and Thessaloniki, SolidarityNow legal experts fight on the side of the weakest and least favored members of society, to restore balance in their lives, especially when they are dealing with justice issues.

ast year, 2,612 people received legal assistance through the Solidarity Centers and the Blue Refugee Center. In total, more than 180 cases, primarily involving civil and administrative matters, reached the courts and were represented by SolidarityNow's lawyers. Finally, while considering each beneficiary's legal and political background and vulnerability, 68 criminal law cases were upheld.



© Constantina Peppa for SolidarityNow

The milestones of 2019 include the successful completion of family reunification cases, both for unaccompanied children and adults, with their relatives legally residing in other countries that are parties to the Dublin III Regulation, as well as refugee status recognition for third-country nationals who have been prosecuted for resisting state authorities due to their journalistic or artistic vocations.

It is important to note that SolidarityNow is one of the very few organizations that undertakes to cover court costs and representation in the courts.

SolidarityNow's partnership with the International Rescue Committee (IRC) to manage Refugee.Info - an online legal advisory platform- continued until June 2019, as SolidarityNow's lawyers continued to answer questions addressed by refugees/asylum seekers across the country on various issues of their interest.

It is also worth mentioning the ongoing cooperation with the voluntary organization Refugee Legal Support (RLS) from the United Kingdom, through which our team of lawyers at the Athens Solidarity Center was enhanced with the assistance of experienced lawyers in asylum and international legal protection. The culmination of our cooperation, despite the particularly adverse administrative conditions at the time, was the successful completion of the family reunification of a 16-year-old unaccompanied child, who was homeless for 8 months.

Finally, in 2019, our Centers' lawyers participated in various local, national and international forums and conferences, including the EASO meeting for the Vulnerability Network Advisory Group in Malta.



TESTIMONY

Thodoris: "Your Wealth, my Poverty"

2019 was a very important year for me. Having gone through a very long period of my life supporting people in need and people who support people in need, I reached the so called "turning point". A "hot point" as we say in Group Dynamics. I realized that despite the emotional burden, I have "grown up" in a team of people that with minor changes, remains the same for four years now, constantly building new skills, with the most crucial one being the "collaborative learning culture". When you find yourself in such favorable working conditions, in force as a result of collective maturation, you suddenly see

the new possibilities widely open in front of you; this common culture creates a space for constant creativity and ingenuity that is of benefit to both, us and the people we take care of. "Your Wealth, my poverty", I always believed in this magic exchange. At the Athens Solidarity Center, we, the staff and the beneficiaries, share the most precious experience of our lives and this is why I want to thank everyone who "bears any responsibility" for this humble but rare daily miracle.

Thodoris Zeis Lawyer, ASC Legal Service

Innovative initiatives for People's Empowerment

Resilient Roots

SolidarityNow implemented an accountability pilot project entitled "The Resilient Roots Initiative", which was completed in August 2019.

The project aimed to improve the interaction channels between the SolidarityNow management and its primary constituents. 60 young SolidarityNow beneficiaries from Athens and Thessaloniki participated in a range of activities aiming to increase the frequency and depth of their interaction with the organisation's management.

These included: photo trainings, online radio trainings (production of podcasts), trainings to inform and capacitate its primary constituents (public speaking & team building exercises, presentation of SolidarityNow's mission, programs and Concern Response & Feedback Mechanism), feedback exercises (one-to-one interviews, FGD & satisfaction survey), small grant allocation to the groups of participants to self-organize an action benefiting their community and monthly meetings (grant assistance, reporting back meetings, meetings with senior management).

The goal of these activities was the collection of more/better feedback by the SolidarityNow primary constituents, to influence more informed decision-making, and to improve the relaying of information about how the organisation is responding to feedback back to its beneficiaries.



Photography workshops

SolidarityNow collaborated with the Fredric Roberts Photography Foundation to carry out a workshop in June 2019 in Athens. The workshop brought together ten boys and ten girls aged 14-16 years old from different backgrounds and from across the country, for one week, to learn about photography and their city and be empowered through its use. The project was a great success and the students, professional photographers and SolidarityNow staff who participated were thrilled to be a part of this. The work culminated in a graduation event which took place in a central Athens venue.

Solidarity soccer

SolidarityNow carried out a pilot program in collaboration with the British Council, teaching English through football in Agia Varvara. The program was completed in February 2019 with a graduation ceremony for the students. The project was a success and was also very welcomed by the local community and the school where it was hosted. Participation of the 55 students was 100% in the final three sessions.

All together at the Museum

The project "All together at the Museum", a partnership between SolidarityNow and the Museum of Cycladic Art and Pierce College, was completed in June 2019.

The composition of the project involved 30 refugee students from the ESTIA 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 project's aim was to give the opportunity to students to interact and communicate through art. Through the workshops, students from different cultural 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 art works. The project was completed with an exhibition at the Cycladic Museum of Art.



Bridging Rainbow

Bridging Rainbow, a 7-month project funded by the Municipality of Barcelona which aimed to raise awareness and build capacity around challenges faced by the LGBTI community and LGBTI refugees, was completed in June 2019. Through the project SolidarityNow carried out nine trainings (LGBTI sensitivity, legal framework & asylum procedure, employability counseling & sessions, vocational) and reached a total of 155 beneficiaries. The project was very innovative for the Greek context and brought together an array of stakeholders including NGOs, public authorities, and other actors. SolidarityNow created a series of communication materials to support the program and these gained a lot of visibility on social media. A leaflet on the Stonewall riots was prepared to commemorate the 50 years since the event and a myth-buster video was created and promoted in the Press.



Support to **Civil Society**

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

n 2019, we provided support to the following organisations and projects:



Active Citizens Fund

The Active Citizens Fund in Greece is supported through a €12m grant from Iceland, Liechtenstein, and Norway as part of the EEA Grants 2014 – 2021. The program aims to develop the sustainability and capacity of the civil society sector in Greece, and to strengthen its role in promoting and safeguarding democratic procedures, active citizenship, and human rights.

The Fund Operator for the Active Citizens Fund in Greece is Bodossaki Foundation in consortium with SolidarityNow. The overall objective of Active Citizens Fund is the strengthening of civil society and active citizenship and the empowerment of vulnerable groups and it is based on the common values of respect of human dignity, freedom, democracy, equality, the rule of law and the respect for human rights including rights of persons belonging to minorities.

In particular, the Active Citizens Fund in Greece aims to achieve the following outcomes, through six open calls for project proposals:

- 1. Vulnerable groups empowered
- 2. Strengthened civil society watchdog and advocacy role
- 3. Increased citizen participation in civic activities
- 4. Increased support for human rights
- 5. Gender equality promoted and genderbased violence combatted
- 6. Platforms and networks among CSOs developed

Day Center "Babel" - Association

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. From 2017 till June 2019, the Day Center took part in a new phase of a holistic collaboration with the Athens Solidarity Center, offering direct support to children on the autistic spectrum or with various learning, speech, or language difficulties. From January till June 2019, 70 children benefited, as well as 1,127 sessions took place. SolidarityNow provided the space at the Athens Solidarity Center in which sessions were held between special therapists and beneficiaries. SolidarityNow offered funding that covered staff costs of special therapists.

Grant Amount: €27,000 01/01/2019 - 30/06/2019

Doctors of the World

Through the open, multidisciplinary clinic in Thessaloniki, Doctors of the World-Greece strove to cover the healthcare needs of uninsured citizens, the elderly, women, refugees, migrants, and unaccompanied minors by providing free services. From January till June 2019, a total of 10,983 sessions were held, far exceeding the initial goal of 4,500. SolidarityNow's funding covered the staff costs of a nurse and a full-time interpreter.

Grant Amount: €21,057.60 01/01/2019 - 30/06/2019



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Social Enterprise Knowl

The social enterprise Knowl assisted with training seminars in the context of Business4YOUth, the support program for young, vulnerable entrepreneurs that was implemented from January 2018 till July 2019. During 2019, a total of 193 people were trained, including 105 asylum seekers, 36 refugees, and 52 Greek nationals.

Grant Amount: €40,062 01/01/2019 - 31/07/2019

Network for Children's Rights

The Child's Center is an open space for all children without discrimination. It runs daily at the Athens Solidarity Center. In 2019, 1,893 unique beneficiaries benefitted from the services offered at the Child's Center. In total, the Center counted

2,596 visits from refugee, migrant, and Greek children aged 0-13 years old. At the same time, the Center conducted 195 counseling sessions with parents. The Child's Center appropriately referred 93 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 provided both the venue in which the sessions and activities of beneficiaries took place and the funding that covered the staff costs for one teacher and a psychologist.

Since June 2019, the Child's Center is financed by EEA and Norway Grants, with HumanRights360 and CROWE Greece acting as the fund operator.

Grant Amount: €27,000 01/01/2019 - 15/06/2019 Grant Amount: €22,749.76 16/06/2019 - 31/12/2019

Advocacy, Policy and Research

In 2019, SolidarityNow continued its advocacy work on issues concerning the rights and integration of asylum seekers and refugees, as well as other marginalized populations, including the homeless and unaccompanied children.

We also continued working on building counter narratives and combating xenophobia and racism.

ur evidence-based advocacy relies heavily on data and information collected with advanced tools from SolidarityNow's programs and work on the ground and is disseminated through strong links and extensive networks to mobilize decision makers and the public.

SolidarityNow, in the context of its strategy, is revising its CRM system to enhance this evidence-based policy and is now proceeding with phase 1 of the process.

Indicatively, the Advocacy Unit's actions towards authorities and governmental bodies included more than 100 meetings with officials as well as collaborating CSOs, trade unions and other actors. In addition, we have drafted or co-signed more than 15 letters, submitted comments in consultation processes and participated in more than 50 advocacy groups.



Either acting individually or as a member of NGO networks we are proud of our advocacy on national and international levels - towards 6 Ministries, the Municipality of Athens and Members of the Parliament, European Commissioner Johansson and the High Commissioner for Refugees, Filippo Grandi.

More specifically, we have addressed:

The **Ministry of Migration Policy** regarding its national Integration Strategy and the decision to terminate accommodation contracts for recognised refugees.

The **Ministry of Health** regarding the gaps in the provision of healthcare for refugees and asylum seekers including limitations and delays in the provision of healthcare services in camps and problems with accessing the healthcare system.

The **Ministry of Citizen's Protection** regarding the non-issuance of AMKA (National Insurance Number) for asylum seekers and refugees, a fundamental requirement for their access to the labor market and healthcare system.

The **Ministry of Administrative Reconstruction** for the promotion of more accountable, responsive, and inclusive governance while fighting corruption and empowering citizens.

The Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs and the Municipality of Athens concerning their priorities for combating homelessness and promoting social housing.

The **Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs** on issues of access to education for refugee

children living in camps and urban settings.

Members of the Parliament, who received our comments regarding the draft law about International Protection, despite the short consultation period. In the document we outlined our objections on the restrictions of individual rights and procedural guarantees that the law brings in the Greek asylum system.

Commissioner Johansson about the dire situation in the hotspots of the Aegean islands and managed to establish channels of communication.

The High Commissioner for Refugees, Mr. Grandi, urging him to address with Greek authorities' significant concerns regarding access to asylum procedures, provision of basic services and inadequate protection of children.

In 2019, the Advocacy Unit organized or coorganized more than 10 roundtable discussions, workshops, conferences and dialogues attended by Greek authorities, EU institutions, European and national civil society actors, academics as well as international organisations, with hundreds of participants from almost all EU-Member states. Highlights include:

The organisation of a roundtable discussion in the framework of the Convergences Forum on the thematic of the "Enhancement of employability of socially excluded population". Invited speakers included representatives of Social Cooperatives, the Labor Ministry, the Municipality, and the National Center for Social Research.

- Two events in Athens and Thessaloniki respectively, to launch a new report on "Attitudes Towards National Identity, Immigration, and Refugees in Greece". The report presented the results of a research conducted by the Social Change Initiative and More in Common in the framework of a European project, in which SolidarityNow participated and which aims to change negative public narratives on migration.
- A roundtable Conference on "Child Protection and EU Funding for migrant populations in Greece: A reality check and the way forward". The discussion was focused on child protection challenges that the Greek State encountered in the aftermath of the so-called refugee crisis of 2015 that revealed chronic deficiencies of the reception, asylum, and child protection systems of the country.

Similarly, in terms of **international and European networks**, we have attended more than **15** workshops and events, in Greece, Belgium and other European cities. Among them:

The ECRE Annual General Conference which focused on the future of asylum in Europe and how we can assess and capitalize on recent changes at EU level.

The International Civil Society Forum for a Resilient Civil Society Able to Build on EU Values, organized in Bucharest at the conclusion of the Romanian Presidency of the Council of the European Union.

The "Go local: Supporting regions, cities and rural areas in migrants' inclusion" Conference, organized by the European Commission's Directorate-General for Migration and Home Affairs. SolidarityNow's Head of Advocacy was a key speaker at the workshop "Facilitating access to quality basic services

for people with a migrant background".

Other selective highlights include:

In 2019 SolidarityNow's Advocacy Unit started working more systematically on the homelessness and decided to develop its capacity on the issues of shelter and housing more broadly. In line with this decision, a member of the team assumed the role of a Board Member at the Greek Network **for the Right to Shelter and Housing**, thereby representing SolidarityNow and participating at the Network's meetings and advocacy initiatives.

Furthermore, SolidarityNow became a **member of FEANTSA**, the European Federation of National Organisations working with the Homeless, enabling its advocacy work on the issue of homelessness to reach a broader audience while sharing information and best practices with other European organisations.

Humans and their Stories

Stories are made by humans.

The stories that people experience, make their lives. The beneficiaries of SolidarityNow do not have easy lives. That is why they have interesting stories. Even if we do not speak the same language with most of them, we can understand them perfectly. Because we are all humans.

And humans share the same stories.





#ReadyStudyGo! International Day of Education

On the International Day of Education (January 24th), SolidarityNow made a tribute to young people who came to Greece, looking for security and more opportunities to improve the quality of their lives. They chose the path of education to achieve their goal. Kamel, Moe, Mahram, Said and Abdo - all beneficiaries of the organisation - had the will, the dream, and the faith to continue their studies and in fact, they succeeded.

Mahram,

beneficiary of the educational program, Blue Refugee Center, Thessaloniki

"I don't know if I'm the best student, but I certainly try hard. I want to find a job and I want to study. And if I get good grades, I want to go to medical school"! Great efforts come hand

in hand with great desires. Mahram did not stop dreaming despite the difficulties he went through in his homeland, Afghanistan, but also during his journey to Greece. "When I went to school in Afghanistan, I didn't like math at all, so instead of paying attention to class, I painted houses and birds", Mahram says in Greek, while drawing a bird on a white piece of paper.

He is 19 years old and is in his first year of high school, at a night school in Thessaloniki, while at the same time he takes Greek lessons at the SolidarityNow Blue Refugee Center.

Afghanistan, Iran, Turkey, Lesvos, Athens, Ioannina, again Athens, Idomeni and then Thessaloniki. He followed this path to freedom. In Lesvos, he learned English and Greek. When he arrived in Athens, he lived in a shelter for minors. Unfortunately, it took two years for him to go to school due to a health problem, as he says. But things have changed for the better for Mahram. "I really like my school. I feel like a Greek", he says happily today.



© Stella Delliou for SolidarityNow

#FemalePower International Women's Day

March 8 is a day dedicated to women and their fights for equality. The SolidarityNow tribute whose main message was "female power", focused on female employees of the organisation, women from different parts of the world – such as Albania, Egypt, Sri Lanka, Greece and elsewhere, who through their experiences, personal stories and their work, are role models and help empower other women.

Fatma,
Cultural mediator,
Thessaloniki Solidarity Center

"Women need to discover the power they have within", says Fatma, a cultural mediator at the Thessaloniki Solidarity Center. Fatma Abdelbadie, 61, is originally from Cairo and has been in Greece since 1983. Fatma grew up in a closed society and only when she came to Greece did she begin to discover her abilities. "I gradually discovered the strength I had within me. I was in a

foreign country, with three children, one of them being deaf. All I had to do was stand up and say to myself, 'go ahead!". Indeed, she enrolled her son in a school for deaf children, thereby taking him out of "world of silence", she learned sign language, and found a job taking care of children.

And so, she raised not only her own children, she also worked as a babysitter - for Fatma, they are all her children. In the past, she has been involved in volunteering, either at KETHEA, taking care of the children of women addicts, or at Idomeni, at the beginning of the refugee crisis, working as an interpreter. Life brought her to SolidarityNow.

By chance, instead of pressing the elevator button that would lead her to the 6th floor, she found herself at the organisation's offices, where she was offered a job. And this was the way Fatma started working as an interpreter during therapy sessions for LGBTI and women refugees. "I get emotional with my job. Women from Arab countries have an eager to express themselves; and by translating for them, I feel that I am helping them. I identify myself in these women. I see how I was and where I am now. So, I feel the need to help them even more".

#WomenInScience

The relationship between women and science is an issue that is being studied worldwide because, as statistics show, the field of science is distinguished by gender inequality. This gap is observed in all countries regardless of language, economic prosperity, history. At SolidarityNow, we gave voice to four women who took the road less travelled, following - not what society usually imposes- but their talent and what they loved. And what they loved was nothing but science.

Rosa, Graduate of IT Essentials Educational Program, Athens Solidarity Center

"Mathematics for me has a whole philosophy and a horizon of connection with all the other sciences", says Rosa. Close to the example of Rosa Luxemburg, from whom she took her name, our Rosa from Athens is a fighter, with a strong political discourse, a revolutionary spirit, but also with a steady course, mainly in terms of her personal development in a mainly male-dominated field, that of STEM - Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics.

It was in her father's math library that Rosa saw so many books on mathematics, and where she noticed one on female mathematicians, who have existed and still do, but that came to her surprise, since she thought only men were mathematicians. Rosa has since realized that there are no restrictions on science, and of course

gender could not be one. She loves biology, chemistry, physics and, of course, mathematics, but she never forgets her other love, history, which she has managed to combine with mathematics.

What she liked was the history of mathematics and their interdisciplinary approach. She studied at the University of the Aegean, at the Department of Environment, Marine Sciences/Oceanography, which, at first glance, seems like a very different subject from that of mathematics that Rosa expected. "But it is not", she replies, "it is a department full of positive science courses, applied mathematics, and so it has covered by need to have an interdisciplinarity approach, through combining these sciences".

Rosa continues her postgraduate studies and as she appreciates lifelong learning, she says "I have not finished my studies. I will go one step further and I will be a living proof that women can do just as well, if not better, in the field of science".

#Radio_Photography_Days

60 beneficiaries of SolidarityNow took part in photography and radio courses - two strong means to express oneself- carried out as part of the implementation of the program entitled "The Resilient Roots Initiative". Two modern media, of speech and image, that - if used properly - can express true feelings, ideas, opinions and a constructive critique.

Kamran, beneficiary of the ESTIA Housing Program, Youth Shelter, Athens

"I like it very much. I like everything different that I do", says Kamran during the break from the photography lesson held in Athens with the photojournalist Giorgos Moutafis, as the speaker. Kamran, 19, lives in SolidarityNow's Youth Shelter in central Athens. He came to Greece from Pakistan three years ago, in order to pursue his dream of studying Computer Science. He was recognized as an unaccompanied minor and as soon as he turned 18, he was transferred to the Youth Shelter for young men aged 18 to 22 years.

Despite his "tight" daily schedule -Kamran goes to school and attends three-hour Greek and English classes - Kamran participated enthusiastically in the photography and radio lessons. "I want to learn everything. I believe that whatever I am learning will be useful to me". Through radio lessons, Kamran and his classmates learned to produce radio podcasts, and the contact with the medium in a real studio was what excited him. Kamran discovered another aspect of himself through these lessons, as he describes. He created his own podcast, without knowing in advance what it is, and his own collection of photographs he took in the new city that hosts him and in which he wishes to live. His dream is to study Computer Science and work in Greece.

Mr. Elias, beneficiary of the Employability Service, Athens Solidarity Center

He became unemployed at the age of 52. Today he is 62 years old. It's Mr. Elias, who always wears sunglasses and a hat, as if the sun (helios in Greek) is shining on him 24 hours a day, "because my name is Elias", as he says with a smile. Mr. Elias was a professional lithographer, during the years when printing was an art. After a successful career in the field, when lithography drifted into oblivion, he left this job and found another one in the post office where he worked for several years. However, the economic crisis took him almost immediately out of the job market and for many years he lived on welfare. His path led him to Athens Solidarity Center, where he discovered that he could once again claim his position in the labor market with the support of the Employability Service. It took many individual sessions, with much effort and optimism, to get fruitful results.

With the help of the employability officer, he made his CV, sent it where he thought he could work, and finally found a job in the Municipality of Athens, as part of the OAED Public Works Program. He was accepted into the program and at the same time joined the training program provided through the overall Community Service. Mr. Elias is a man who never lost his will to live, despite the adversities he encountered along the way. He always endures and always hopes because as he says, "I love life"!

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.

e 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.

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 wellbeing and self-reliance
- Empower people to be aware of their rights to make decisions that affect their lives
- Enable the strengthening and independence of Greek Civil Society by defending open society values

Programmatic priorities

- Empowerment, financial independence and social integration
- Unaccompanied minors
- Education and useful life skills
- Defense of human rights





© Alexandros Avramidis for SolidarityNow

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, first National Ombudsman of Greece and Ombudsman for the European Union

Doxiadis Aristos, Partner, Venture Capital Investor

Cavounidis Jennifer, Senior Research
Fellow – Centre of Planning and Economic
Research, Visiting Associate Professor, Athens
University of Economics and Business

Boutaris Yiannis, Businessman, Politician, Chemist, Oenologist, ex Mayor of Thessaloniki

Nomikou Calypso, 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

Our Team

Antigone Lyberaki

General Manager

Directors & Heads

Programs
Marilyn Polena, Director
Melina Chalkidi, Director (interim)

Programs, N. Greece loanna Fourkiotou, Director

Financial Lili Sklavi, Director

Human Resources

loanna Pertsinidou, Director

Communications
Sophia loannou, Director

Supply Chain & Logistics Valia Gialia, Manager

Research, Policy, and Advocacy Lefteris Papagiannakis, Head

Fundraising
Fay Koutzoukou, Head

Program Coordinators

Accommodation

Eva Giannakaki, Attica

Katerina Goula, Northern Greece

Child and Family Support Hubs Christiana Kyrkou

Solidarity Center Athens Irini Diamantopoulou Valia Andrakakou, George Kanaris (2019)

Solidarity Center Thessaloniki Stefania Athanasiou

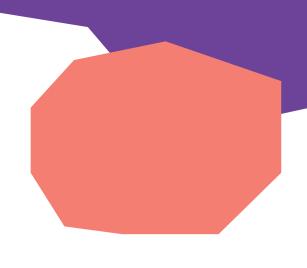
Blue Refugee Center Iyad Ladaa

Helios Program Nikolas Rangos

Financial Statements



Statement of Financial Position	<u>2019</u>	<u>2018</u>
ASSETS		
Tangible assets Intangible assets Advances and long-term assets	302,808 46,252 249,417	27,287 62,548 210,790
Non-current a ssets	598,477	300,625
Trade and other receivable Cash and cash equivalents	438,583 2,379,774	760,485 1,090,489
Total current assets Total assets	2,818,357 3,416,834	1,850,974 2,151,599
EQUITY		
Retained earnings Total equity	101,936 101,936	98,898 98,898
LIABILITIES		
Provisions for employee benefits Non-current liabilities	296,335 296,335	246,182 246,182
Trade and other payables Current liabilities	3,018,563 3,018,563	1,806,519 1,806,519
Total equity and liabilities	3,416,834	2,151,599
Statement of Profit or Loss and Other Comprehensive Income		
Revenue Payroll Depreciation Other expenses Operating (loss)/profit	1/1-31/1/2019 13,605,415 (8,554,680) (255,173) (4,775,119) 20,443	1/1-31/1/2018 12,464,144 (7,896,161) (71,365) (4,501,080) (4,463)
Finance income Finance expense	1,518 (18,923)	75,014 (17,000)
Net finance expense (Loss)/Profit before tax Income tax (Loss)/Profit after tax Total comprehensive profit for the period	(17,405) 3,038 0 3,038 3,038	58,014 53,552 0 53,552 53,552



Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements

Opinion

Independent

Auditor's Report

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, 2019, 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, 2019 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 [consolidated] 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, 24.07.2020
The Certified Auditor Accountant
Andreas Hadjidamianou
S.O.E.L R.N 61391
Ernst & Young (Hellas)
Certified Auditors Accountants S.A.
8B Chimarras St., Maroussi
151 25, Greece
Company SOEL R.N. 107

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION according to the GREEK ACCOUNTING STANDARDS 01/01/2019 - 31/12/2019 (amounts in Euros)

ASSETS	1/1/19-31/12/19	1/1/18-31/12/18
Tangible & intagible assets	1,022,313.22	741,248.88
Less: Accum. Depreciation	(816,021.68)	(651,413.80)
Net Assets	206,291.54	89,835.08
Accounts receivable	2,000.00	225,486.31
Advances	685,999.57	723,743.16
Other receivable	2,379,774.29	<u>1,112,534.47</u>
Total Assets	3,274,065.40	2,151,599.02
EQUITY & LIABILITIES	1/1/19-31/12/19	1/1/18-31/12/18
Capital & reserves	49,793.81	49,793.81
Non current Liabilities	345,438.70	295,286.26
Current Liabilities	2,878,832.89	<u>1,806,518.95</u>
Total Equity & Liabilities	<u>3,274,065.40</u>	2,151,599.02

STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS according to the GREEK ACCOUNTING STANDARDS 01/01/2019 - 31/12/2019 (amounts in Euros)

Revenue	<u>1/1/18-31/12/19</u> 13,557,375.95	1/1/18-31/12/18 12,453,243.09
LESS: Payroll Depreciation Other expenses	(8,554,680.37) (164,609.02) (4,872,880.38) (13,592,169.77)	(7,896,161.07) (71,365.30) (4,501,080.35) (12,468,606.72)
PLUS: Other income	49,557.14	12,389.26
LESS: Finance expense (Loss)/Profit before tax Income tax (Loss)/Profit before tax	(14,763.32) (0.00) 0.00 (0.00)	(16,999.69) (19,974.06) 0.00 (19,974.06)

SolidarityNow in Numbers

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.

Statement of activities January -**December** 2019

Donors



51.73% UNHCR



24.80% UNICEF



14.91% OSF



4.37% **EEA GRANTS**



1.94% IOM



2.25%

Other Institutions and International NGOs

SolidarityNow Beneficiaries



Athens Solidarity Center

17,277 services

6,248 beneficiaries



Thessaloniki Solidarity Center

> 11,800 services

1,487 unique beneficiaries



Blue Refugee Center

22,718 services

4,210 unique beneficiaries



Accommodation program **ESTIA**

> 22,224 services

2,721 beneficiaries

53,160 individual services 11,214

beneficiaries

CFSH

660,134 accommodation nights

Expenses per Project

Accommodation 6,518,801

ASC 932,511

BRC

464,612

TSC

469,243

UNICEF

3,466,367

IOM 261,779

Allocation of Expenses

Personel cost

8,554,680

Rent & utilities

2,885,150

Expenses for centers & stuctures

407,969

Supplies / Services for beneficiaries

531,172

Operating expenses

375,555

Regranting

94,898

VAT on expenses

480,375



Human Resources



Volunteers' applications



Donors & Partners 2019

OPEN SOCIETY FOUNDATIONS/OSIFE

UNHCR

UNICEF

International Migration Organisation

European Union

EEA and NORWAY GRANTS

(fund operators: HumanRights360 & ΣΟΛ CROWE)

Municipality of Athens

Municipality of Barcelona

ACSAR Foundation

AIRBNB Almasar

Fredric Roberts Foundation

CIVICUS

IRC

RLS

CISCO

Thessaloniki

STAR UK

Keystone Accountability

Development Forum

Metropolitan Development Agency of

Accountable Now

Memberships

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

OSEN

SolidarityNow is a member of OSEN (Open Society European Network), which brings together spin-off national foundations of the Open Society Foundations in Europe and contribute to its mission. / www.opensocietyfoundations.org

International Detention Coalition

The International Detention Coalition (IDC) is a unique global network, of over 300 civil society organisations and individuals in more than 70 countries. / www.idcoalition.org

Racist Violence Recording Network

The Racist Violence Recording Network was created in October 2011 to monitor the escalation of hate crimes. / www.rvrn.org

Transparency Register

SolidarityNow joined the Transparency Register platform to contribute to its goals and vision, concerning the answers to 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. http://ec.europa.eu/transparencyregister/

Accountable Now

SolidarityNow is member of Accountable Now, a global platform that supports civil society organisations (CSOs) to be transparent, responsive to stakeholders and focused on delivering impact. http://accountablenow.org

National Registry of Institutions of the Private Sector

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 Organisations of the Greek Ministry of Health and Social Solidarity. SolidarityNow is also registered to the relevant National Registry of the Ministry of Migration Policy.

International Human Rights Funders Group

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. / www.ecre.org

CIVICUS

SolidarityNow is part of CIVICUS, a global alliance of civil society organisations and activists dedicated to strengthening citizen action and civil society throughout the world. https://www.civicus.org

FEANTSA

FEANTSA is the European Federation of National Organisations Working with the Homeless. It is the only European NGO focusing exclusively on the fight against homelessness. https://www.feantsa.org

Greek Network for Shelter and Housing

The Greek Network for Shelter and Housing was founded in 2010 by twenty social and public organisations that help fight homelessness in Greece, support socially excluded groups and the homeless and advocate for the right to quality housing for all.

NGOsource

SolidarityNow has been certified by NGO source as being the equivalent of a U.S. public charity. https://www.ngosource.org/

PICUM

PICUM, the Platform for International Cooperation on Undocumented Migrants, is a network of organisations working to ensure social justice and human rights for undocumented migrants. https://picum.org/

SolidarityNow, following a ministerial decision, received a Special Certification as a Provider of Primary Social Care Services (Government Gazette No. 2341).

Together we can make the difference!

We want to support the most vulnerable members of society, indiscriminately, through new innovative 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

Donate your

own amount

I want to make an one-off donation

Donate your

own amount

Donation via

10€ 20€ 20€ 30€ 50€



Donation via Paypal

Any donation small or big is important to us!

For more information, please contact the Fundraising Department at fundraising@solidaritynow.org

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.

Share your precious time

SolidarityNow is constantly looking for volunteers to aid the organisation. 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

- SolidarityNow
- @Solidarity_Now
- Solidarity_Now

