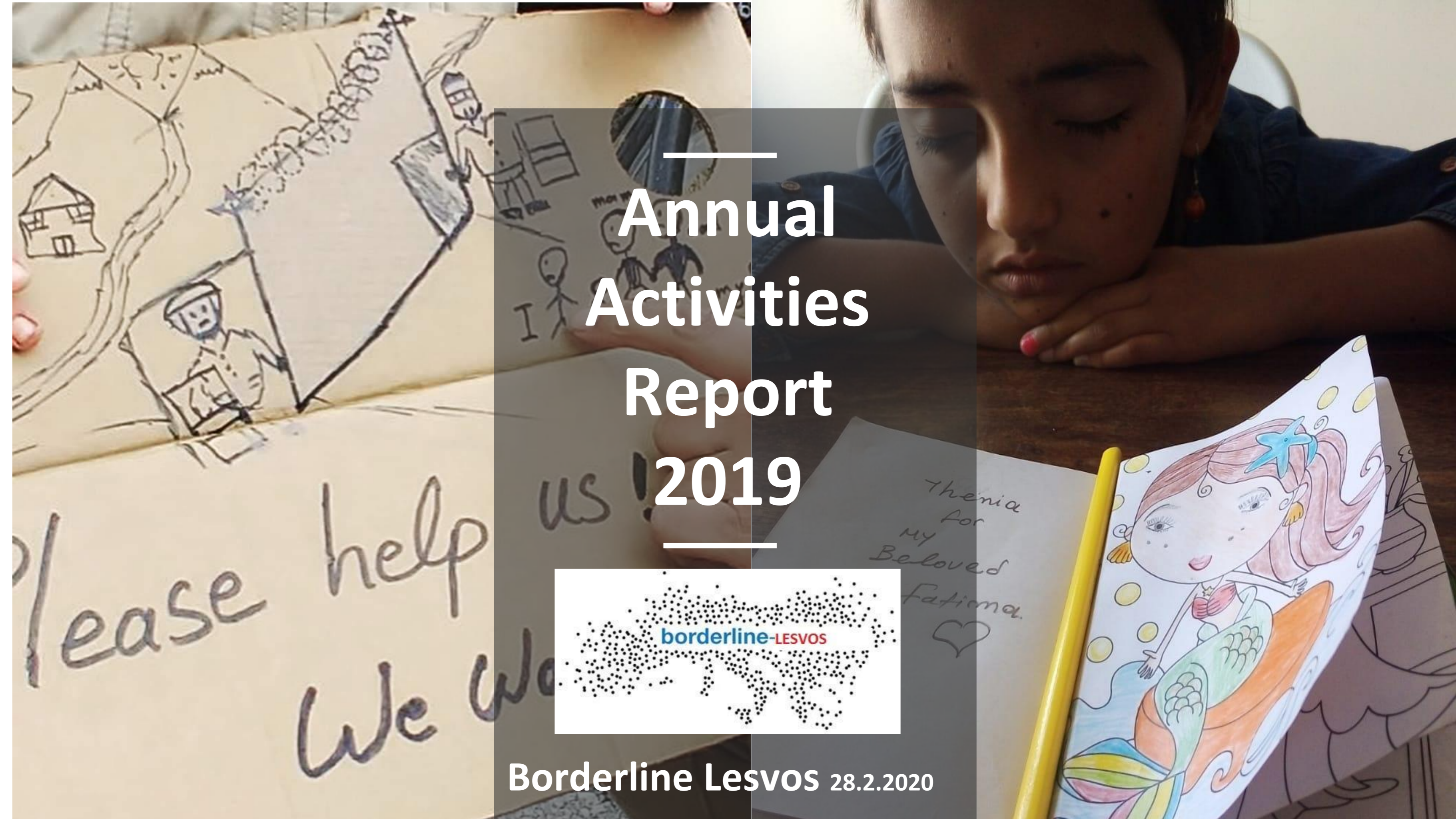


Annual Activities Report 2019



Borderline Lesvos 28.2.2020



A word from the coordinator Alice Kleinschmidt



We want to support refugees, migrants and locals on the island of Lesbos.

After some years now on the island it is very frustrating to see that the reasons why so many people suffer is a political decision that started by signing the EU-Turkey Deal in March 2016. Main initiators are Angela Merkel and the German government. The idea is to keep people off of the European “mainland”, somewhere where we can’t see them and to close the borders so that people seeking protection will end up somewhere outside of “our” societies. Here, now, with more than 20 000 refugees isolated and imprisoned on an island, everyone starts to turn against everyone. Locals blame NGOs for attracting migrants, NGOs blame the Greek government for not acting, the Greek government blames the refugees to come here “illegally”, refugees blame the local authorities for not helping, the helpers blame the ignorance of the European Union, the EU blames Turkey and this list goes on and on. At the end, we don’t know who is responsible but it is definitely not the migrants and refugees, neither the locals. To really change things here is impossible. Without the freedom of movement and the abolition of containment policy to keep humans in camps without caring for their basic rights and without giving people from war or crisis zones a possibility for safe passage people will suffer and some of them will die. Facing the truth does not mean to step back. On the contrary it means to speak out loud and stand up for the people that are neglected in Europe.

During the last year we decided to look for realistic solutions and be flexible. I am proud to say that our team gives hope and support to some of the most vulnerable living on the island. What makes us think we did great work is that we “involve locals”, we are locals, we all, working within the projects, live here. We fight for justice maybe in small cycles but there we feel that we can change things. We see everyone we teach a class or help to find a job or give a ride to a safe place as a local, as someone with the right to be here. This is the big difference to the politics that we make. We don’t see numbers, or “asylum seekers”, we see humans, and we will not step back. We cannot build public schools for everyone nor open the borders nor give a residence card to people, but we can stand side by side and try to come near these goals. All this wouldn’t be possible without the help of our supporters. Thank you!

We are looking forward to support better and more with your help. It became more important than ever. Unfortunately.

Lesbos, 28.02.2020



Lesbos – a manmade crisis against humanity in Europe

Since the EU- Turkey Deal 2016, Lesbos has become an island of prison for many migrants, refugees, asylum seekers. No matter how you want to call the people arriving on the shores of this island, they are all humans trying to reach safety and a life with dignity in Europe. All of them are deeply shocked by the conditions they have to live in and the perspectives given to them. It is a nightmare ([read more](#)). Not few of them have very serious mental health problems due to living in the hell of Moria Camp. I think we all know that this place shouldn't exist nowhere in the world. It is like a black whole. There is no safety, no human rights, little rule of law only. Thousands of people among them more than 8000 children without access to running water, electricity, heating, education, healthy food, peaceful environment, hundreds of them very seriously ill without access to proper healthcare ([see more](#)). Basic rights to seek asylum are dismantled ([read more](#)). Everything got even worse with the new right-wing government that was elected in 2019. Even if before was hard, now there are no solutions offered but populist statements made, all of them stating the migrants as “invaders” without the right to be here. Even NGOs now are the new one to blame that refugees come to the island. No one wants to except the reality that people that can't survive in their homeland will be on the move and always have been. Local community's patience has come to an end.

We want to give a welcome that people deserve. We don't want to stand still while everyone blames someone else. We want to take responsibility, for the people who arrive in the flimsy dinghies, for the people that want to stay find a job and an apartment, we help them through burocratic steps. We want to give children the opportunity for education. Even if they should attend public schools. We want to be present in the very center of our society, not far away. We want to connect people.

20 000 +

Asylum seekers on the island

40%

Are children

93%

Are from conflict zones such as Afghanistan, Syria, Iraq, Somalia and R.D. Congo



Our Team and resources

Currently our team consists of

- Two social support receptionists: one of them Farsi/English speaking the other one Greek/English (picture on the right→)
- Six part time teachers: one Greek teacher, two English teachers, one art therapist, one primary school and one math teacher (see picture on page 8)
- Two coordinators (legal representatives) one of them a local Greek and one a local resident (from Germany) since 4 years. They both deal with administration, finances, communication and coordination (picture to the right →)
- One part time driver for transportation of refugees from the shore to the first reception (picture on page 11)
- We work with local networks and cooperate with many other organizations and independent volunteers depending on the needs, season, funds and projects we are active (e.g. legal aid!)
- We currently rent two spaces for our projects
- We own one Pick-Up car to our use.



Where we started

Borderline Lesvos began working in Lesvos in 2015. We funded ourselves as a subbranch of the German association [Borderline Europe – Human rights without borders e.V.](#) and we fully registered as independent NGO in May 2016 in Lesvos. Since then we have been active in several projects regarding first reception of refugees (emergency response) but also and especially in integration projects that work long term based with locals and refugees in Lesvos. We believe that **building an inclusive community of solidarity and dignity can be the only answer to the so called “refugee crisis”**, in other words the response against the misery and the lack of political decisions that are based on human rights for everyone can only exist with local networks fighting against the inhuman.

01.05.2019 – 31.12.2019



Achievements and developments of the project 2019

We opened the Welcome Office 3rd of June with the aim to be a consultation and social support office located in the center of Mytilini. We help with steps of registration in Greece such as getting a tax number, social insurance number and filling in other forms as application for unemployment card. We support people in how to get a bank account, apartment or job.

Unfortunately mid of the summer 2019 the new government canceled the right for asylum seekers to get a tax number or social insurance card. We are still open to every request and need that people bring to us and we try to help even if its just referring or informing people.

Our reception is open Mondays to Fridays from 9 to 13:00.

Our activities include:

- Consultation and referrals to other services on the island
- Filling in forms and assist with gathering all documents needed for several procedures
- Helping with writing CVs and inform about job offers
- Assist refugees and volunteers searching for apartments
- Assisting other organizations setting up their registration
- Be there trying to solve other problems refugees and migrants face in Lesbos
- Register for Welcome Lessons
- Providing our office space for other activities such as the mental health sessions, Farsi lessons for NGO workers and other

2200

Persons supported with the tax and social insurance card

3800

People supported with copies for other applications and bureaucracy

45

People accompanied to offices of concern

12

other organizations were informed about procedures

1

network for job offers and apartment search was set up

Project Report 2019 # 1

WELCOME OFFICE



A one-hour class on Mental Health by IRC Psychologists

For Farsi, French and English speakers

Every Monday 15:00-16:00

Welcome Office Centre

For registration please ask the Welcome Office front desk and write your name on the participation list

We cooperated through the year with IRC (International Rescue Committee) on providing weekly mental health sessions refugees, and we also went with our welcome office team to other initiatives to inform about the bureaucratic steps to get a tax number or social insurance number (among them One Happy Family and the tax office)





01.01.2019 – 31.12.2019

Achievements and developments of the project 2019

It is still unbelievable but there are thousands of children without any access to education in Lesbos. There are probably 10 organizations on the island providing informal education to refugee children. But spaces are always limited. Quality of the education varies. Public schools are taking refugee children, primary, secondary and also evening schools, but capacities haven't met the needs at all.

We started to support especially students under 18 within the Mosaik Support Center already. The first days in January 143 children registered for our classes there. Later the year we moved the Welcome Lessons for children to our Welcome Office. In both cases children gained access to the city center and to some education. We cannot be a public school, we can just give them a start, learning some of the basics things they will need when entering the school system hopefully sooner than later.

More than 350 children registered in total for our classes

More than 230 children could be enrolled into our program

- In difference to 2018 where we mostly had children in one class, now we give them 2-3 different subjects and have also follow up advanced classes
- In the Welcome Office we started with 50 children in July in several lessons, and ended up with 100 at a time the end of the year

We organized six different subjects through the year 2019 and cooperated with two more activities

- Greek lessons (mostly 0 level, different age groups)
- English (beginners, advanced, different ages groups)
- Geography
- Mathematics
- Computer lessons (in Mosaik)
- Art workshop in cooperation with IsraAid
- Theatre/creative workshop (in Mosaik)
- Children's choir in cooperation with Polyphonica (in Mosaik)
- 15 fieldtrips to the city center when courses ended

Our current waiting list (end of February 2020 has 150 children on it). Most of our students live in Moria Camp and come from Afghanistan.

8000+

refugee children
residing in Lesbos

~ 3000

Estimated children attending some kind
of informal education through NGOs

300

Children enrolled in
public schools

230

Children participated in
our lessons

350

Children registered for
our classes

Project # 2 WELCOME LESSONS for young refugees

08



Above on the left, Stavroula with advanced English, middle above Giorgos with Greek for school preparation, above on the right Stamatia with some Pre-Greek and Geography, left and right our art workshop in cooperation with IsraAid.



Project # 2 WELCOME LESSONS for young refugees

09

Winter-Spring
2020



Our schedule
since
January
2020

We are also part of
the education
working group
coordinated by the
UNHCR

We build our classes
according to the
students we have on
our waiting list , their
wishes, age groups
and needs.

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
9:00 - 13:00	WELCOME OFFICE Thenia and Omid	WELCOME OFFICE Thenia and Omid	WELCOME OFFICE Thenia and Omid	WELCOME OFFICE Thenia and Omid	WELCOME OFFICE Thenia and Omid
10:00	English with Stavroula New Group 1	Pre Greek with Stamatia Group 2	English with Stavroula New Group 1	English with Omid Group 1	English with Omid Group 1
11:30	Maths with Omid Group 1	English with Mary Group B	English with Stavroula Advanced	English with Mary Group B	
13:00	Pre Greek with Stamatia Group 1	English with Mary Group A	Pre Greek with Stamatia Group 1	English with Mary Group A	Greek with Giorgos Group 1
14:30	Pre Greek with Stamatia Group 2				Greek with Giorgos Group 2
15:00				English with Mary Group C	
16:30	Greek with Giorgos New Group 1		Greek with Giorgos New Group 2		

Project Report 2019 # 3 PROTI STASSI (“First Stop”)

10 01.01.2019 – 31.12.2019

Achievements and developments of the project 2019

The north and north east of Lesbos is where most of the boats arrive in Lesvos. Boats are usually at least filled with 50 people (average). The journey they do is happening at night and boats are not always spotted by the authorities. 2019 was a year with several tragedies, officially 70 people are dead or missing in the Aegean Sea 2019. Especially with the change of government it is very important to be present to monitor the situation for the arriving people in need. The Greek government claims quick deportations and doesn't want to support NGOs anymore. Locals started to oppose against supporting structures for arriving refugees. Arrivals have risen a lot in the last 4 months of 2019, without the cooperating NGOs in the north we are sure things would have been very bad for the refugees arriving in winter especially.

Our activities included:

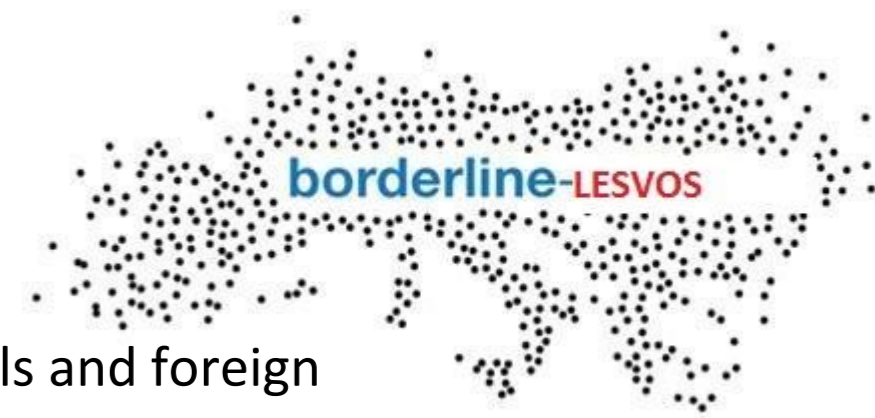
- Land search for finding arriving boats
- Transport of arriving refugees to transit sites
- Collecting of boat material and lifejackets
- Warehouse/transit site to provide clothes, water and hygiene items
- Networking with locals in order to be aware of arriving boats
- Networking with other organizations and authorities

We remain the only existing transit site in the north currently (on standby)

- We translate and mediate between locals and foreign volunteers in the area
- Especially in difficult areas to access we are the only car able to transport people
- We were the first ones to be informed about a missing girl by local sheep farmer in February 2019 – unfortunately the girl was found dead 15 days later

Support and cooperation – with/for Lighthouse Relief

- During July/August and September our Pick-up truck was given to Lighthouse Relief to assist the landings
- We supported with a night vision device for their spotting team
- We provide a space for supplies (mainly clothes and others which is urgently needed for the arriving people)



26974

People arrived in Lesbos in 2019

726

Boats arrived on Lesbos in 2019

17819

People were transferred to the mainland in 2019

3140

Boats! were stopped by the Turkish Coastguard trying to reach the Aegean Islands (107.981 people) in 2019

71

Landings assisted by us

43

Pick ups and deliveries of life jackets for upcycling projects

Project Report 2019 # 3 PROTI STASSI ("First Stop")

01.01.2019 – 31.12.2019



01.01.-31.03.2019

How we started and ended

Since 2016 we were partners of the local NGO Lesvos Solidarity , with whom we funded the Mosaik Support Center. We achieved a lot of things together and we are very proud and happy to have been able to establish such an amazing center in Mytilini together. The end of March 2019 our cooperation ended. And Mosaik is now run by Lesvos Solidarity only. As we stopped also half of the team had to leave. Some of us had worked nearly 3 years in Mosaik. We want to thank everyone who joined this wonderful journey of support and solidarity as a living example of dignity and humans-we-are-one-spirit. ♡ ♡ ♡

See more: www.lesvosmosaik.org

630

New registrations for language classes within 3 days

12

Teachers continuously teaching: English, Greek, Theatre, Guitar, Computer Lessons

13

Different classes daily!!!

650

Active students every week

4

Receptionists for registrations and social support

What we achieved 2019

Education – coming together – and learning from each other

400 new students participated in our lessons and some 200 continued advanced classes

During the first three months of 2019 Mosaik presented 2 movie nights, 6 literary workshops, 2 parents discussion about children, Yoga twice per week, one Bazar, weekly cooperation with choirs, legal support and more....

Besides the amazing events and special happenings in Mosaik - we had a busy schedule with 13 different classes average every day! Mainly English, Greek, Computer and Alphabetization Lessons.

Each class had 10 to 20 students attending - men and women – mainly adults and residents of Moria camp. During morning hours we assisted at least 50 people daily with filling out forms for public services and offices and providing them with photocopies of their documents. Due to its long term structure – Mosaik keeps being a very central place for refugees to seek support and education – but also for locals who wish to engage in solidarity work. We wish Mosaik all the best for the future! 😊



MOSAIK
SUPPORT CENTER FOR REFUGEES AND LOCALS

13

Thank you, team! And all the visitors we could welcome during 2019!

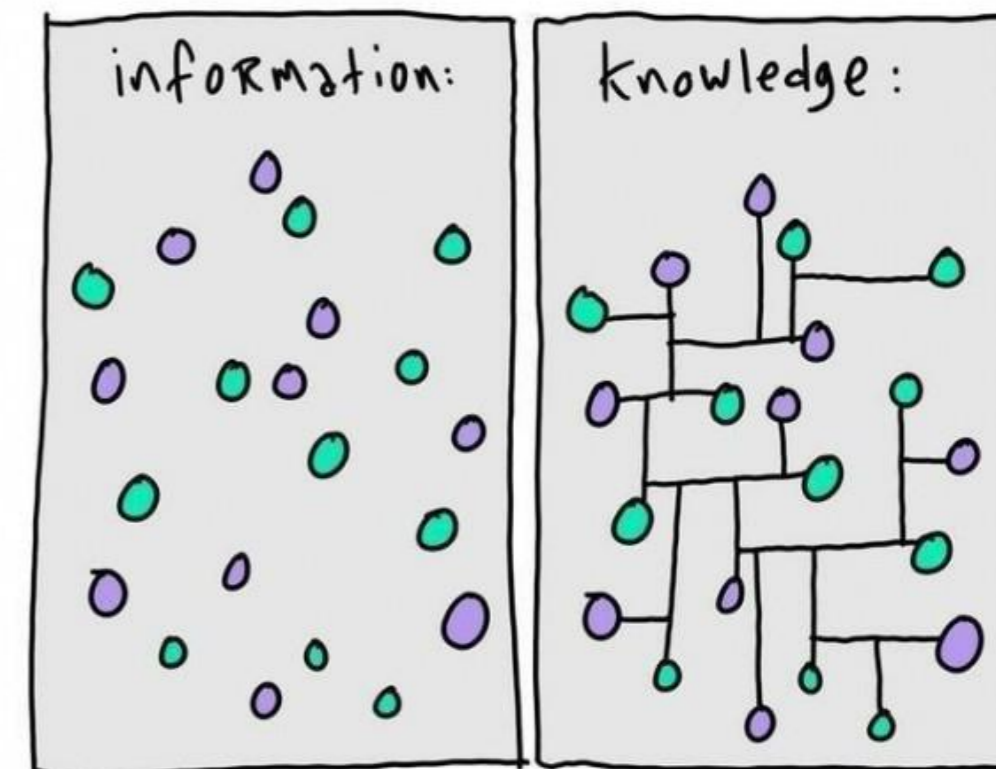


Communication, advocacy and coordination

Of course an important part of our organization is to coordinate the different projects, supervise the staff working and making sure that the refugees benefit best out of it. As well we must communicate with donors, inform visitors, journalists and interested organizations from abroad about the situation. That for we need to monitor all the actual happenings and structures.

We have been taking part in the exchange program for professionals working with refugees all over Europe “Europe4 Refugees” which is part of Erasmus+. In May 2019 we organized a three-day conference and learning activity for 25 participants from 5 European countries in order to learn about the situation and different projects on the island (picture on the bottom right →).

There has been an enormous interest from journalists, researchers, privately visiting persons and organizations from all over the globe to know how to engage on the island or to know what refugees go through etc. As well as there is already a high amount of reports. We try to forward and refer things and people to each other. Weekly we meet persons that are interested either for setting up their project or for knowing where to volunteer or for interviewing refugees or organization etc.



50

Briefing and reports to persons/organizations outside of Lesbos

22

"Tours" and visits organized in Lesbos with subject situation of refugees and locals

1500

E-Mails sent out in 2019 Either for coordination or for communication

2100

E-Mails received in 2019 Either for coordination or for communication



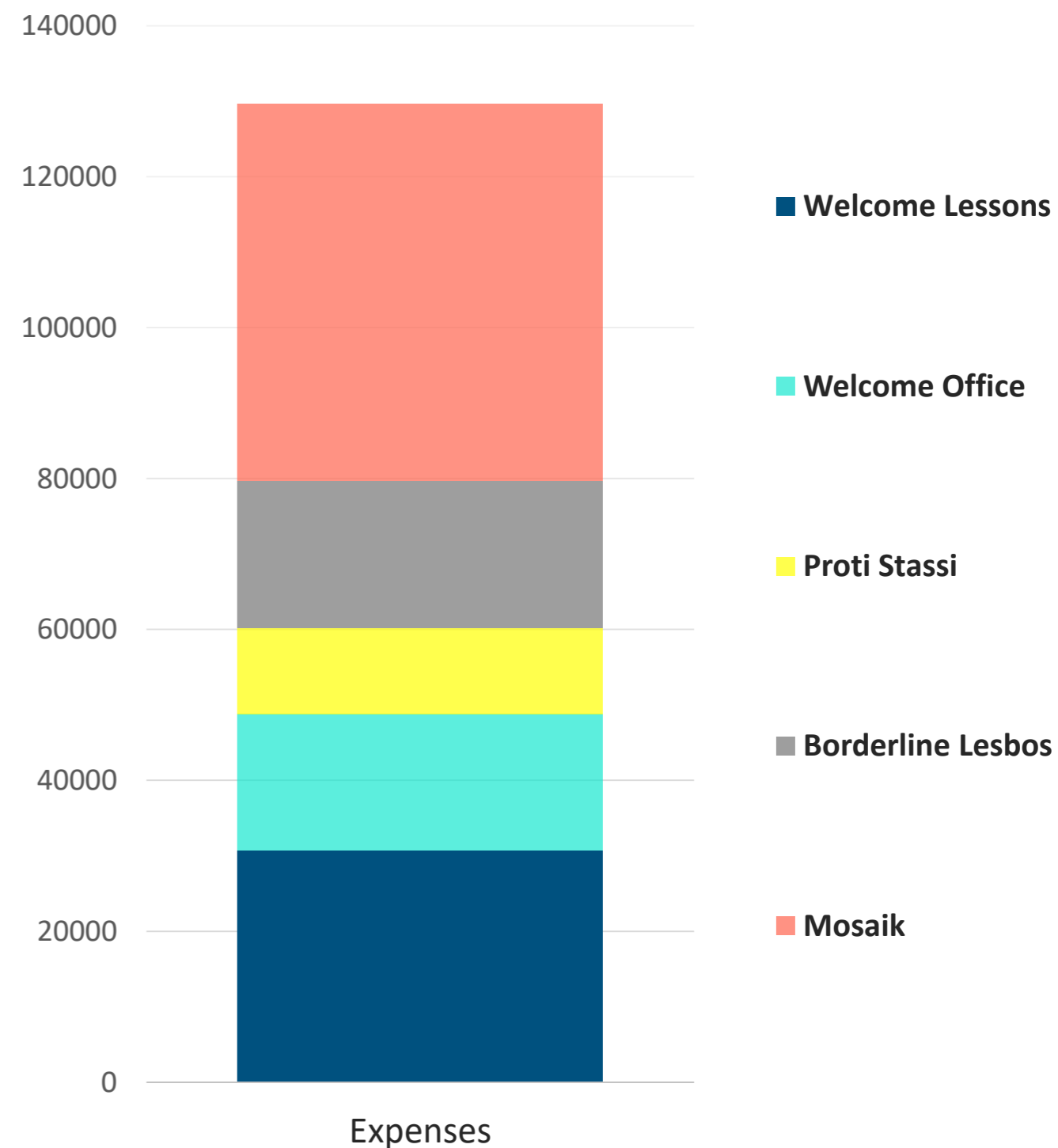
Income and sources of the contributions

	2019
1. Fund cooperation for children activities from Freundeskreis für Kinder in Not e.V.	30.000 €
2. Fund for Proti Stassi from Kerk in Actie	10.000 €
3. One-time private donation for Mosaik	30.000 €
4. Fund for borderline lesbos from Ursula-Wandres-Stiftung	15.000 €
5. Fund for Welcome Office from HelpRefugees	9.700 €
6. Fund for Europe4Refugees project Erasmus+	1.457 €
7. Rotary Club Euskirchen for borderline lesbos	7.000 €
8. Companies donations (Air Ticket GmbH)	5.000 €
9. Private donations for all projects	10.500 €
Total	€ 118.657,00

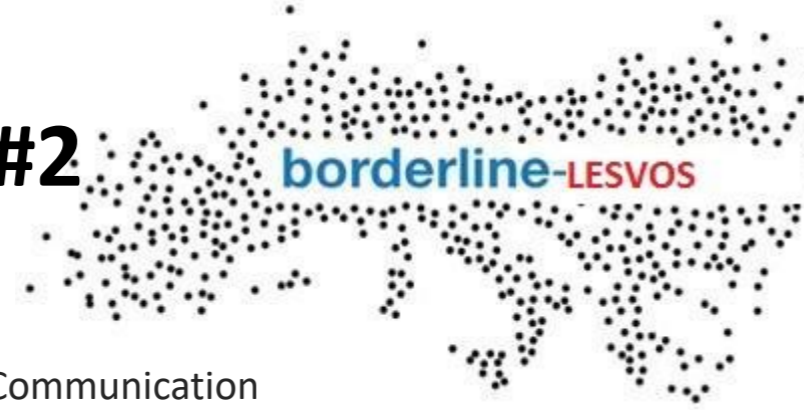
Expenses per project

1. Welcome Lessons (refugee children's education)	30.682,82 €
2. Welcome Office	18.119,50 €
3. Proti Stassi (North Shore Response)	11.373,86 €
4. Borderline Lesbos (coordination, communication and advocacy)	19.467,26 €
5. Mosaik	49.956,82 €
Total	€ 129.599,66

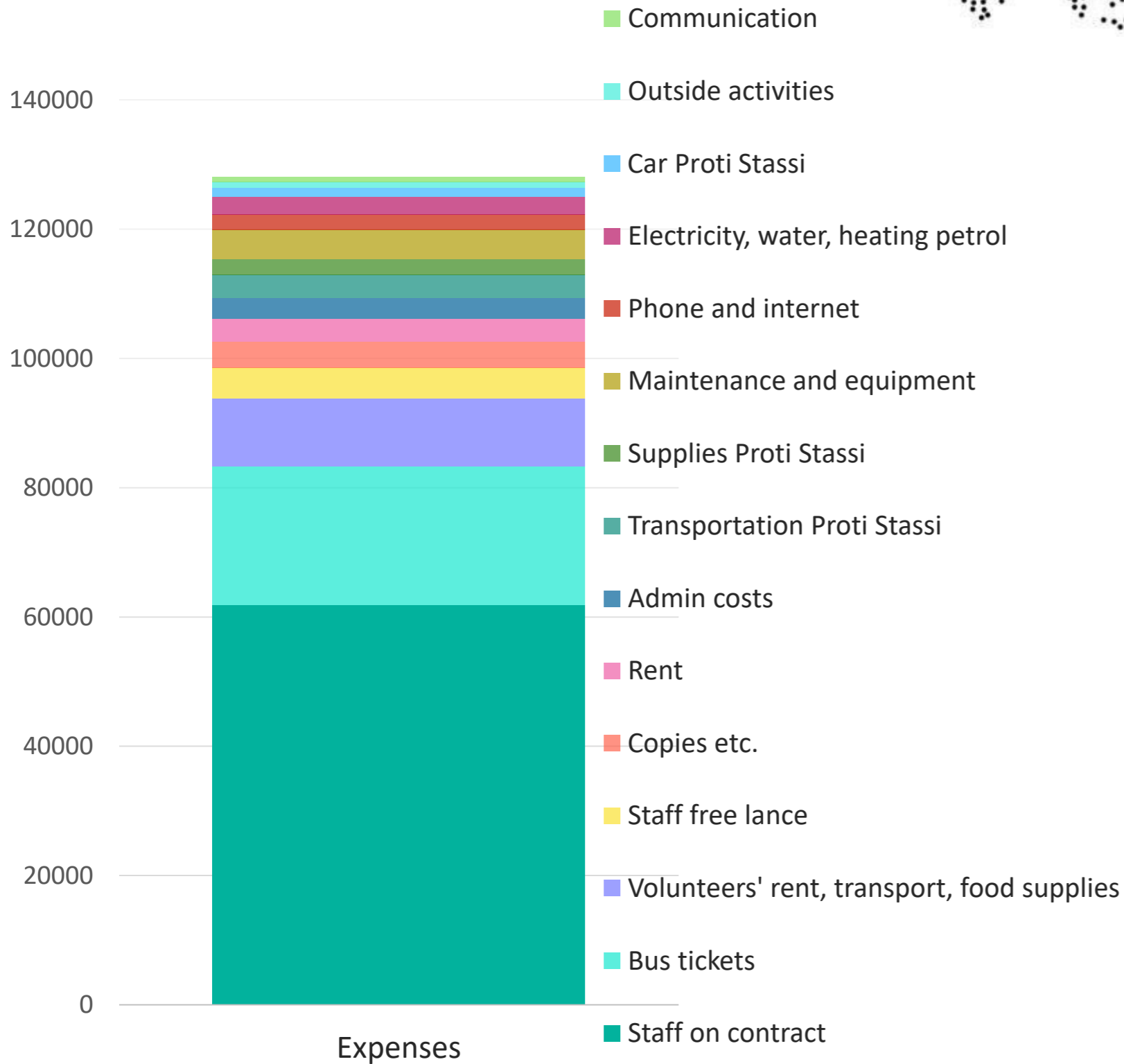
Breakdown of expenses by project



16 Financial report #2



Breakdown of all expenses



Detailed expenses all projects by categories

2019

1. Staff on contract (social insurance/tax incl.)	61.819 €
1. Bus tickets for refugees	21.440 €
2. Volunteer's rent, transport, food supplies	10.480 €
3. Staff free lanced	4.800 €
4. Copies/paper/inks/pens/notebooks	4.049 €
6. Rent	3.540 €
7. Administrative costs (accountant)	3.210 €
8. Transportation Proti Stassi	3.600 €
9. Supplies Proti Stassi	2.400 €
10. Building maintenance and office equipment	4.532 €
11. Phone and Internet	2.384 €
12. Electricity, water and petrol	2.752 €
13. Car Proti Stassi (insurance, tax, reparation)	1.373 €
14. Outside activities and workshops	938 €
15. Communication work (meetings, website)	750 €

Total

€ 129.600,00

17 Supporters

We want to especially thank our long-term partners here!

And each and every private donation that was done with a full caring heart to help refugees, migrants and locals on the island

**kerk
in actie**

THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR YOUR
SUPPORT!!!!
YOU make this happen!!!



Freundeskreis für Kinder in Not e.V

UW

Ursula-Wandres-Stiftung

Partners

We are very happy that we have been able to cooperate with amazing organization on the island such as:

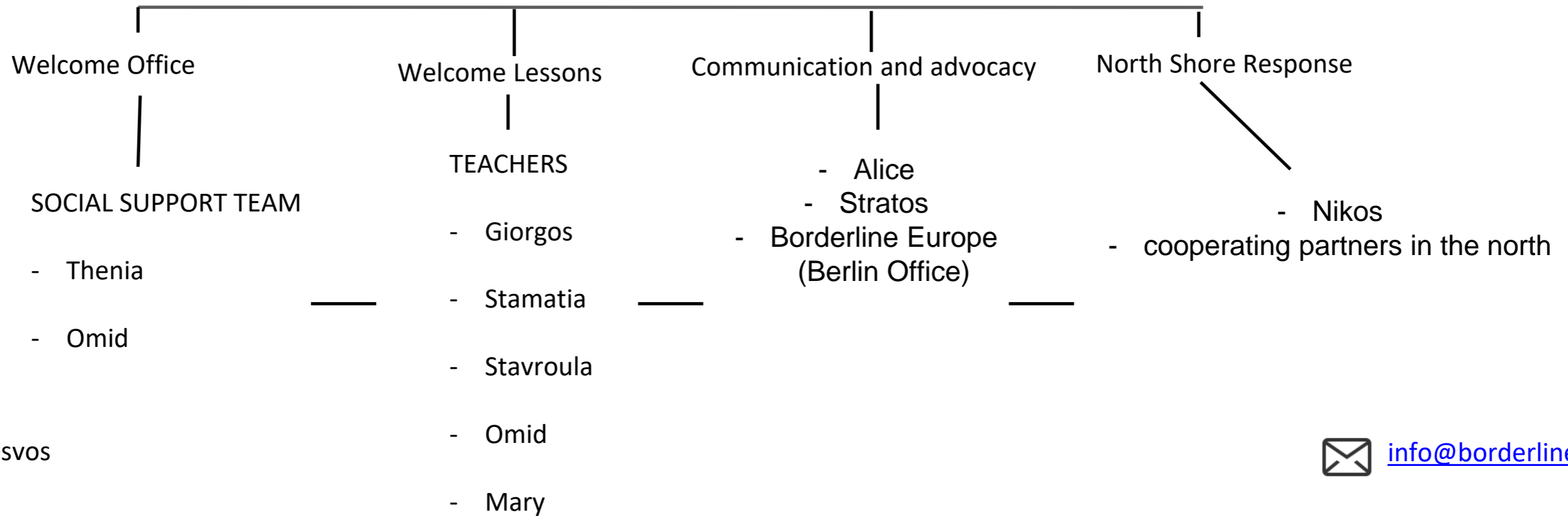
- Legal Centre Lesbos
- Lesvos Solidarity
- One Happy Family
- Lighthouse Relief
- Refugee Rescue
- International Rescue Committee
- IsraAid

Contact and visit us!



Legal representatives and coordinators

Stratos Stafilidis and Alice Kleinschmidt



@Welcometolesvos

info@borderlinelesvos.org

0030 6988724982

Welcome Office Kontouriotou 45, 81100 Mytilini, Lesbos
[Click here](#) to see the map.

www.borderlinelesvos.org

Proti Stassi, Kleio 1, 81104 Mantamados, Lesbos
[Click here](#) to see the map.