



MOSAİK

SUPPORT CENTER FOR REFUGEES AND LOCALS



ANNUAL REPORT
2017



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Mosaik Support Center's entrance

MOSAİK SUPPORT CENTER

Mosaik's aim is to offer refugees and migrants a sustainable perspective on life while being on the island of Lesbos. We want to give some constructive meaning to an otherwise harrowing and seemingly arbitrary experience of waiting, attrition and discouragement. By learning a language or a craft, producing art or joining creative projects, by seeking support in the asylum procedure from our legal teams, or simply by sharing a space that is safe and supportive, refugees and migrants regain some semblance of normality, empowerment and often, fun.

The Mosaik Support Center is open to refugees and migrants living in camps, private apartments, or NGO shelters on Lesbos. Furthermore, we support people whose asylum procedures have already been completed and who have decided to stay on Lesbos, as well as members of the island's local community. All classes are made up of mixed migrant nationalities and locals in order to discourage segregation within the migrant population itself and to encourage exchange between migrant and local populations. Thus, the Support Center facilitates multiple levels of integration.

Given the extent of our experience in solidarity work with refugees and migrants on Lesbos, we are in a position to help connect them with local organizations that can facilitate their integration into the local environment and offer them further support in their attempt to recover the basic human rights of empowerment and autonomy.

WHO WE ARE

The Mosaik Support Center is a collaborative project run by Lesvos Solidarity and borderline-europe.

Lesvos Solidarity is a local activist group on Lesvos that manages the open refugee camp PIKPA in Mytilini. It is a self - organized, autonomous space which has existed since 2011 and is run by volunteers and is built on the basic principle of solidarity.

Bordeline-europe is a German human rights organization monitoring the situation of migrants on the external borders of Europe. In 2015, borderline established a first reception station on the north of the island to respond to the immediate humanitarian crisis on Lesvos. Both Lesvos Solidarity and borderline-europe are independent networks that rely on support, donations and the energy of volunteer activists whose work is grounded in the belief that solidarity is the only appropriate response to this crisis.

Howling Eagle Productions and SOMEWHERE FILMS created two explanatory videos of Mosaik Support Center for refugees and locals. Please check our videos below:

[Mosaik Support Center Video1](#)

[Mosaik Support Center Video2](#)

THE TEAM IN 2017

Coordination Team

Efi Latsoudi, Alice Kleinschmidt, Stratos Stafyllidis

Reception Team:

Athanasios Skourtas, Christina Zoupi, Katerina Kovaïou Argiri, Roula Tega, Stratos Stafyllidis

Teacher Coordinators

Nicolien Kegels, Konstantinos Korozis

Teachers

Kostas Korozis, Fotini Mitsou, Zisis Ainalis, Stavroula Tasia, Mary Laskari, Nikos Athanasios, Giorgos Tsaousis, Nicolien Kegels, Sayed Rafiullah Kamal, Konstantine Kabel, Sappho Haralambous, Ian Veazey, Qasem Qasemi, Taha Alabdullah, Rima Loulou, Meropi, Ali Al Shimari, Murad Alkaraeazh, Bonnie Face, Ibrahim Halimi, Erdem Guler

Workshop staff

Vonne Hemels (Storytelling Workshop), Mariza Vamvoukli, Christina Katsamatsa, Giorgos Gergos (Children's Choir Polyphonica), Mariza Vamvoukli, Christina Katsamatsa (Adult Choir) Irene Anagnostou (Jewellery Workshop), Fred (Circus School), Yohannesabraham Zerazion (Eco Craft), Raha (Handicraft), Yulie Tzirou (Meditation), Chrysiida Chrysi, Nadia Sarri, Kalliopi Kalaitzidou, Leon Vitas, George Katsaros (Craft Workshop), Nienke and Panos Mitsopoulos (Engraving and Animation Workshop), Ioanna Aspioti, Nadia Sarri, Dora Monastrili (Natural Cosmetics Workshop), Elisavet Stavrianoudaki, Yioula Koutsoumbou (Upcycling Workshop), Zisis Ainalis (Literacy Workshop), Ioanna and Dafni (Weaving Workshop)

Other staff

Interpreters: Mohammed Hasan, Barham, Sayed Rafiullah Kamal, Azizi Hasib, Akefa, Mohammadi

Cleaning services: Nikos Zoupantis

WHAT MOSAIK OFFERS: Bringing together over 800 students from 20 countries, aged 4 to 60+, The Mosaik Support Center offers language courses in English, Greek, Arabic and Farsi, IT classes, Alphabetization classes for adults, legal support for asylum applicants, vocational trainings in arts and crafts, upcycling workshops, music and yoga classes, and cultural events supported by artists, activists and organizations from across the world. Mosaik is dedicated to the improvement of the refugees' situation on Lesbos and to the effort to demonstrate that alternative solutions to unsuccessful ones commonly practiced are viable.



LANGUAGE CLASSES

Language classes are given by experienced teachers who work permanently at Mosaik. The various courses are designed as a ten-week program in which students learn to read and write the alphabet and learn basic communication skills. The courses follow a structured curriculum and end with a final test. After passing the exam, each student earns a MOSAIK diploma that certifies his or her achievement according to the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (A1 & further levels).

“It is such a big opportunity for us. We are able to get out of the camp, learn a language, communicate. The camp makes me depressed. When I was outside and I was introduced to the Greek culture I saw the other side of the coin. I believe this is the purpose of these activities. To help us forget, to give us the feeling of joy. This is what people in Mosaik do” (quote from Roja, 20 years old, student in Mosaik)

English Language Classes for adults

Basic Module (Beginners + A1 & A2)

Key modules include vocabulary, speaking, grammar and writing in the following thematic areas:

Alphabet, Greetings, Self, Favorite things, Clothes, Family, Daily Life, In Town, Doctor, Weather, Work, Café / Restaurant, Shopping, House, Travel, Geography.

“The students’ enthusiasm and motivation regarding their attendance of English classes, is obvious from the comments they provided on their learning experience. Some suggested to increase the frequency and intensity of the classes in order to learn more and faster.” (feedback from our students)

Weekly, we had 15 groups of 10-15 participants each, aged 14-60+, twice a week.

English Language Classes for children

Each group covers basic education in reading and writing, depending on the level. **Weekly, we had 3 groups of 8-15 children each, aged 5-13, twice a week.**



Mary - English Class for Children



Stavroula – English A1 Level Mixed



Zisis – English A1 Level Mosaik’s Certificates



Fotini - English B1 Level Mixed

English Language for Farsi speakers (with Kamal)

Basic module (Beginners + A1). Kamal graduated from Kabul Polytechnic University in 2015 as a civil engineer, and is now working as a teacher and translator in Mosaik. He is teaching English to Farsi speakers and in his class, students discuss and analyze the main differences between Persian, Greek and English. **Weekly, we had 1 group of 10-15 participants, aged 14-60+, twice a week.**



Farsi Class

Alphabetization for adult students

A month-long class for students who want to begin with the Alphabet. After they finish this course, they can start the English language class for beginners. **Weekly, we had 1 group of 7-10 participants, aged 14-60+, twice a week.**



Alphabetization Class

Farsi Language Class for non-Farsi speakers (with Kamal)

First, students learn how to write and read the Farsi Alphabet and then, learn Farsi words and phrases. **Weekly, we had 1 group of 10-16 participants, aged 14-60+, twice a week.**

Arabic Language Class

Our Arabic language classes are available for total beginners and students at the intermediate level. Total beginners learn how to write and read the Arabic Alphabet, and intermediate students develop their reading, listening and speaking skills. **Weekly, we had 2 groups of 10-12 participants each, aged 14-60+, twice a week.**



Arabic Class

Greek Language Classes

The aim is to obtain basic communication skills specifically designed for the needs of the target group. The students learn basic Greek words and phrases for their subsistence and integration needs. Key modules include vocabulary, speaking, grammar and writing in the following thematic areas: Alphabet, Greetings, Self, Favorite things, Clothes, Family, Daily Life, In Town, Doctor, Weather, Work, Cafe / Restaurant, Shopping, House, Travel, Geography. **Weekly, we had 13 groups of 10-15 participants each, aged 14-60+, twice a week.**

“Our Challenges: Keep students engaged by using a Learning Contract such as “What’s my goal in learning Greek?” Most of our participants face difficulty in learning Greek. However, we try to find a method to support them and encourage them to continue by using tools that make the class more interesting – such as listening to music, using flashcards, concentration games etc. This helps them to come to their classes and be more active and efficient. The majority was grateful for having the opportunity to learn Greek, since they see it as a way to get in closer contact with the locals and be integrated into the Greek society” (quote from Kostas)



Kostas – Greek Class Mixed

WORKSHOPS / ACTIVITIES

IT Classes

The goal of the IT courses is to offer basic computer literacy lessons to beginners and to provide a more comprehensive IT skill set for more advanced students in a relaxing and creative setting, where youth of different cultures can interact with each other in a positive manner. By the end of the course, we intend that participants demonstrate improved basic and advanced IT literacy skills. The IT curriculum covers the following thematic areas: Introduction to the computer, Introduction to Windows, Introduction to Typing, Windows Navigation, Windows File Management, MS Word Introduction, Internet Navigation, Internet Search, MS Word, Excel, Powerpoint and MovieMaker.



IT Class

At the end of each class, students prepare PowerPoint presentations covering topics such as their family, their country, their new life in Greece, their hobbies, their favorite music, their fears, their dreams etc. This allows them to show what they have learned and present their results in front of the class.

Weekly, we had 5 groups of 10-15 participants each, aged 14-60+, twice a week.

Guitar Classes

Most students do not have previous guitar experience and therefore start by practicing easy guitar chords. They practice the body posture needed for the guitar playing, the Tirando Technique (right hand position), the names of strings, the names of left hand fingers, and open position chords (Em, Am, Dm).

Weekly, we had 3 groups of 10 participants each, aged 14-60+, twice a week.



Guitar Class

Storytelling Workshop for adults

Storytelling is resistance. In this class, our students challenge the dominant narratives of the world by telling their own stories. We address many different ways of telling stories: theatre, visual arts, writing, spoken word, poetry, photography and journalism. Sometimes the focus is political, sometimes personal, sometimes abstract. But we go by the idea that any type of storytelling is a form of resistance and therefore important. **Weekly, we had 1 group of 10-15 participants each, aged 14-60+, twice a week.**



Storytelling Class

**Storytelling As
Resistance:**
Drawings And Stories
From Lesbos And Elsewhere



BOOK PRESENTATION @ Mosalk Support Center
Monday 4th December 2017 6 p.m.

“After nearly a year of storytelling at Mosaik, students from different countries and visitors, Danish poets, a Serbian illustrator, photographers and many others helped to put together a book of stories that we presented to the public in December 2017”.

(quote from Vonne)

Yoga Class

Every night in Mosaik Support Center our yoga room is full to capacity. There are more than twenty students in each class. Typically, we have students from more than ten nationalities including men and women of all ages. It is a true joy to see such a diverse, vibrant and flourishing yoga community. The students come together as a family to support each other in healing, personal growth and well-being through a Hatha Yoga practice.

Weekly, we had 1 group of 20-30 participants, aged 14-60+, five times per week.

“As the teacher, I could not be more proud of all the students’ character and hard work. Our Mosaik Yoga community is constantly growing with new students participating every night. All together with the Mosaik Community, local community, volunteers/NGO community and visitors we are coming together as one and it is extraordinary!” (quote from Dino)



Yoga Class

Children's Choir Polyphonica

The choir takes place once a week at MOSAIK and is open to refugees and local children alike, bringing them together through music. The choir is hosted by Polyphonica and offers children the opportunity to express themselves in a creative and cheerful way through music. To learn more about Polyphonica please click [here](#).

Weekly, we had 2 groups (varying according to the children's age) of 23 participants, aged 4-11, once a week.



Children's Choir Polyphonica

Intercultural Adult Choir CANTAlaloun:

The choir CANTAlaloun and ensemble performed at the Municipal Theater as part of the cultural week of school activities. **Weekly, we had 1 group of 45-60 participants, aged 14-60+, once a week.**

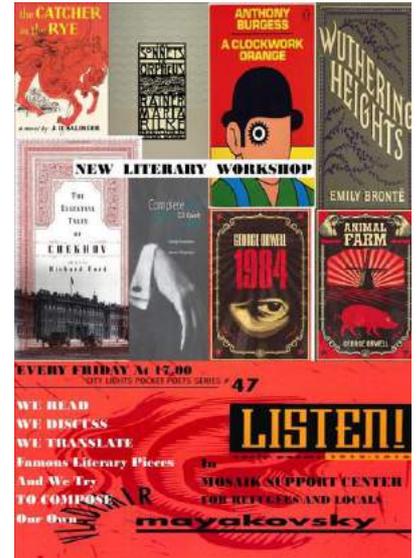
"An intercultural, interactive musical circus theatre in which 60 people took part, originating from all parts of the world. Locals, immigrants, refugees and travelers under the guidance of Fred and his collaborators, created this show in Mytilene, proving that community spirit and close collaboration can achieve wonders!"

You can watch OPERA BABEL here:

[Interactive Musical Circus - Opera Babel](#)

Literary Workshop

In 2017, students in our literary workshop fervently read and discussed poems and short stories by C. P. Cavafy, Charles Baudelaire, Vladimir Mayakovsky, Feodor Dostoyevsky, Oscar Wilde, Walt Whitman, S. T. Coleridge, George Seferis, J. D. Salinger, Raymond Carver, Margaret Walker and Maya Angelou. We have seen animated versions of short stories (such as "The Dream of a Ridiculous Man") and we have discussed the differences between the short story and the animated version. Special guests, writers, poets and translators, such as Eleni Priovolou, Khaled Mattawa and Monica S. Baker honored us with their presence, their insights and their wisdom. Moreover, our students were strongly urged to compose their own literature pieces through literary exercises and one of our students has even published his own book. **Weekly, we had 1 group of 7-10 participants, aged 14-60+, once a week.**



Poetry Reading

This workshop is organized by Kamal (teacher and interpreter at Mosaik) and Carmen from Lesvos Solidarity. More than 20 participants from different countries join our poetry reading and take part by reading poems in up to nine different languages. Participants also share their own poems and translate them into English. **Frequency: Every 15 days per month.**

Independent projects in Mosaik

We host four independent projects on the premises of the Mosaik Support Center. These are not represented in our expenses as they function financially independent from Mosaik's activities.

1. The **Safe Passage Bags** is an integration and educational project of Lesvos Solidarity. It is an upcycling project where bags are being created by refugees and locals living on the island. The bags are created with the lifejackets left on the shorelines of Lesvos, and used by refugees that have crossed the Aegean Sea from Turkey. The workshop aims to build skills and knowledge and creates job opportunities for refugees and locals. In 2017 three local women and seven refugees were employed in the workshop.



By Nils Heldal – Bags Safe Passage

2. The Upcycling Workshop



From January to May, Yohannes from Eritrea ran the Eco-Craft Workshop. The creative upcycling workshop was established in June 2017 and since then has been housed in the Mosaik Support Center. Together with the Safe Passage Bags workshop it offers innovative ideas aimed at education, vocational training and social inclusion. The initiative stemmed from the constant need to manage and exploit the massive amount of seemingly useless materials (life jackets, boats, plastic-glass bottles, etc.) piled on the coasts of the island of Lesvos due to an unprecedented flow of population movement towards Europe. Based on respect for the environment and natural resources, various methods of recycling and re-use of these materials have been explored.

The workshop aims to: sensitize people, develop their creativity and ingenuity, inspire concepts such as recycling, processing and transformation of useless materials and the rational use of them, reduce waste volume, promote the art of re-use, cultivate environmental responsibility, strengthen the economy, and limit over-consumption – all while creating remarkable and unique pieces of art. Following the basic principles of Lesvos Solidarity, the main focus of the project is the search for more substantial ways of supporting the refugee and migrant population trapped on the island through the creation of a space of socializing and solidarity.

The ultimate target of the workshop is to create employment positions in order to provide physical and psychological support to -the local, refugee and migrant population, so they can live lives of dignity, within a social fabric.



Yohannes from the Eco-Craft Workshop



Kamal from the Upcycling Workshop
Aref Hussaini creation

3. **Legal Centre Lesbos** A team of lawyers, law graduates and interpreters from across the world show their solidarity with the refugees of Lesbos and Europe through their legal work.



4. **Refugee Support Aegean (RSA)** is a non-profit organization that focuses on strategic litigations in support of refugees, the monitoring of human rights violations as well as the provision of legal, social and humanitarian support in individual cases.



Providing information about Mosaiks' activities

Other events and happenings in Mosaik

Field Trips

Field trips are very important and exciting for our students since they offer an escape from the confines of the camps. We have noticed that a field trip not only improves social relations (increases student-student and student-teacher social interaction), but also – students look happier! Most of the students who participated in the field trips were from Moria refugee camp.

FIELD TRIPS in 2017

- 17.02 Greek class with Kostas Korozis visited the New Archaeological Museum in Mytilene
- 18.02 Female students participated in a Bazaar at Mosaik to sell the items they had made
- 22.02 Watch OPERA BABEL, musical circus theatre at the Municipal Theatre in Mytilene – Lunch at a local restaurant
- 01.03 Football match – students played soccer
- 23.03 Horse Riding - Lunch at a local restaurant
- 28.03 Visit Teriade museum – refreshments in a local cafeteria
- 31.03 Mountain Bike excursion with an experienced Cyclist guide - Lunch at a local restaurant
- 16.06 Visit of the Municipal Art Gallery in Mytilene
- 21.06 Wood carving workshop for beginners
- 30.06 Spontaneous field trip in a local cafeteria
- 17.07 - 11.08 Physical activity – Learn how to swim
- 20.07 Greek “tavern” experience
- 25.07 Football match – students played soccer
- 24.08 Old town of Mytilene walking tour
- 15.09 Have fun. Play games, watch a film and have a “Souvlaki”
- 21.09 Visit of the New Archaeological Museum in Mytilene
- 26.09 3D tour and visit of the castle of Mytilene



Youth Led Events

Youth Led Events are incredibly important because the purpose is to empower young participants as much as possible and enable them to take action and create change. From the very beginning, the ideas for activities should come from the participants, who can contribute to the following general themes (for example): Voice and decision-making; creative self-expression; integration (both with host communities and with other nationalities they are living with); improved physical conditions and facilities; safety and security; family and community unity, etc.

YOUTH LED EVENTS in 2017

- 03.04 - 09.05 MS PowerPoint presentation – topic: “Your Life”
- 23.05 - 15.07 Start a women’s volleyball team.
- 01.07 - 31.08 Create a blog page
- 10.07 - 11.08 How to learn basic swimming skills
- 24.08 - 27.08 How to paint a wall professionally. Construction Skills
- 01.09 - 08.09 Making traditional food from Afghanistan
- 04.09 - 08.09 Women from Afghanistan, Iran and African countries made a traditional sweet from their place.
- 14.09 - 21.09 Working together to make a creative map of Mytilene
- 18.09 - 21.09 Making a film with professional film makers
- 19.09 - 29.09 Students organized an Intercultural Dance Workshop in Mosaik



More Events:

27.01 “Those Who Survived” documentary showing stories of torture survivors produced by the Greek refugee council and Babel day center

03.02 Protest march and commemoration to commemorate the people who passed away during the winter in the camps on Mytilene

03.02 Party at Mosaik with a magic show, live music and dancing

18.02 Choir’s concert and bazaar

22.02 Opera Babel theatre show in cooperation with Polyphonica

On 08.04 and 09.04 We participated in the Lesvos international film festival with film screenings. Movies from and about Africa and the Middle East, South Asia and of course, Greece

13.05 Puppet theatre presentation for kids with 3 Laloun, an independent theatre group from Kerkira

24.06 T-shirt upcycling workshop

19.07/ 11.08/ 25.08/ 01.09/ 15.09 Natural Cosmetic Workshop sessions with women in cooperation with Better Days

10.06 to 20.06 Engravings – Animations workshop for young people with Nienke and Panos Mitsopoulos

28.07 Bazaar in Mosaik and one year anniversary party, music, exhibition and after party with DJ Kosta

04.09 to 08.09 Language education with women (English and Greek) in cooperation with the Hellenic Open University

26.09 Intercultural Dance workshop organized by Mosaik students

13.10 Greek dance workshop

15.10 School for parents in cooperation with Agkalia

31.10 First Aid Training for staff October

21.11. and 28.11 Information Sessions about Asylum Procedures

Also, we ran the following activities in cooperation with other NGOs and volunteers:

Meditation / Reiki / Acupuncture/ Aromatherapy

Circus school every Saturday with Fred

School of Trust seminar about democratic and communicative structure of schools
in cooperation with the Mariza Vamvoukli

Craft Workshop (Soaps/Upcycling/Candles) in cooperation with IRC from May to
September

In cooperation with Mikros Dounias we organized several events on education and
parents' issues (alternative models of education)

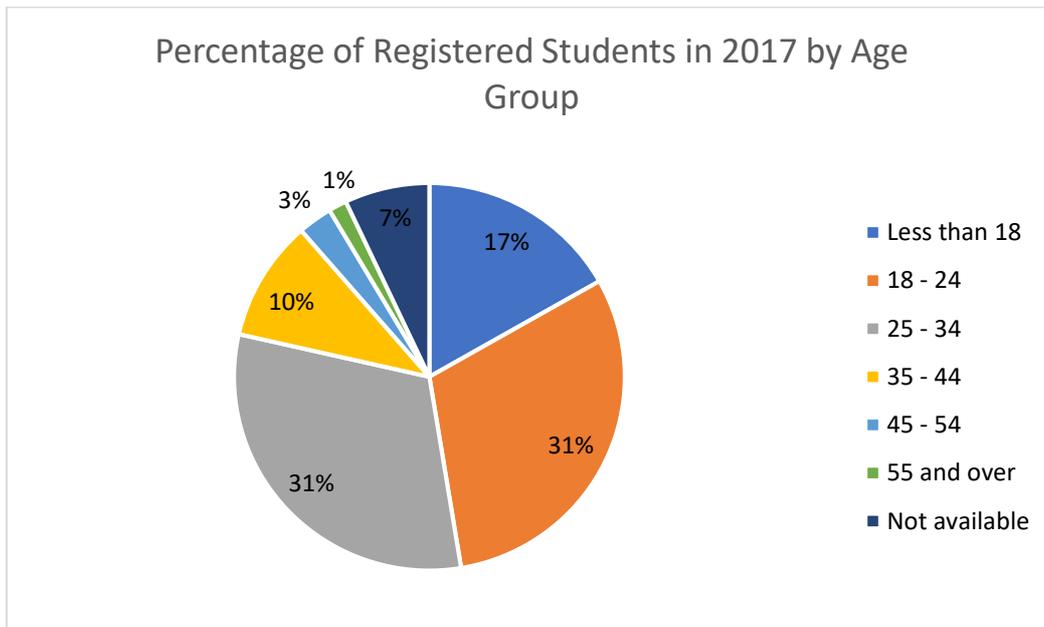
Anti-trafficking workshop with UNHCR



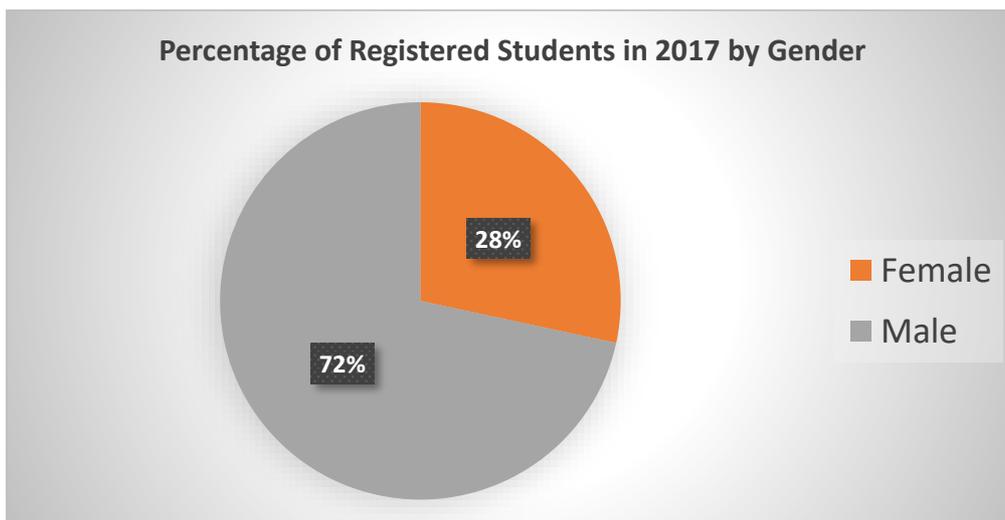
Mosaik's 1 Year Celebration

STATISTICS

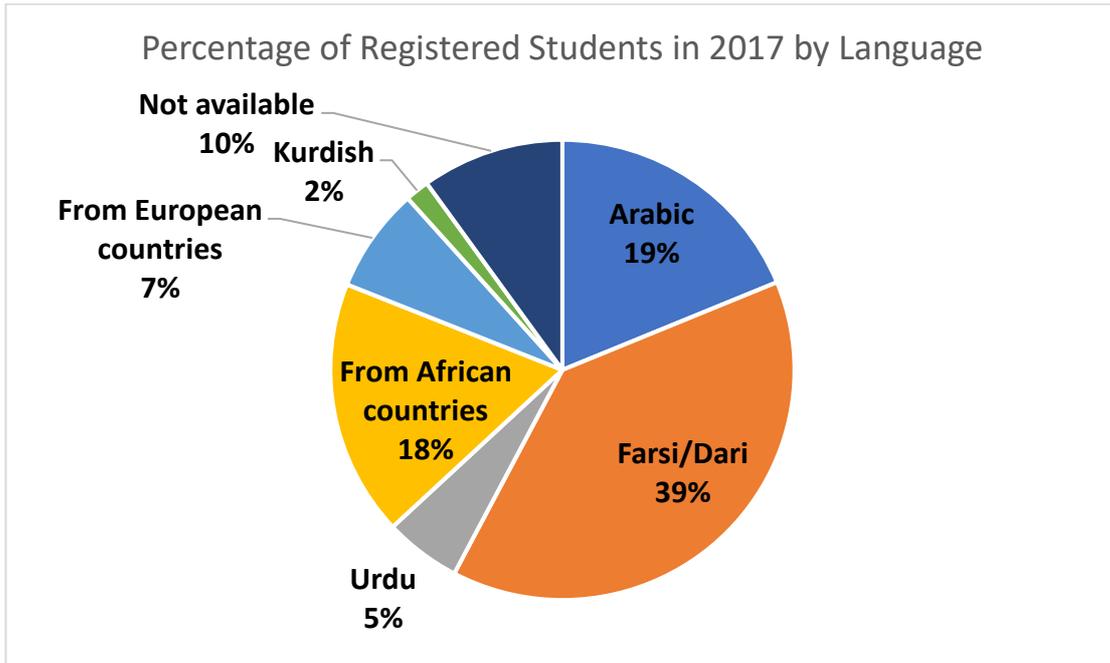
During 2017, 2,460 new students registered for Mosaik Support Center’s courses and recreational activities. The majority of the registered students prioritized the language courses (English, Greek, Arabic and Farsi), followed by IT courses and creative workshops such as guitar class, upcycling and story-telling.



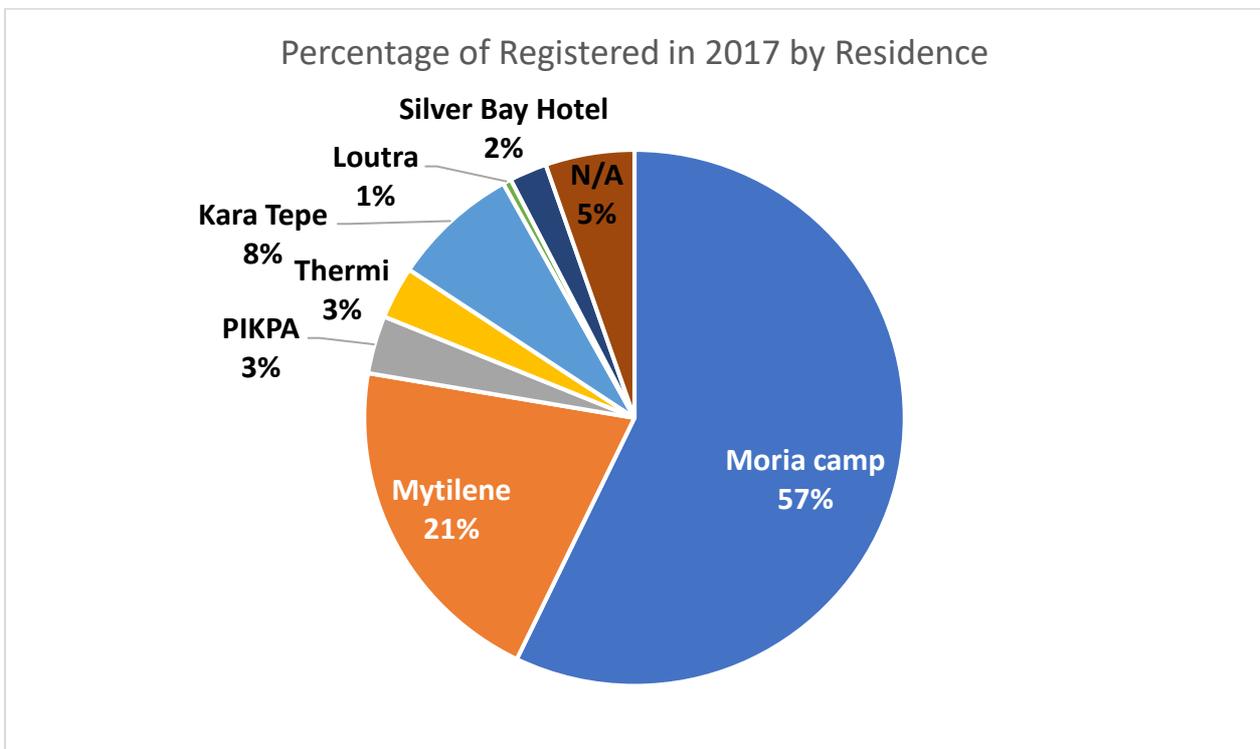
From the information given in this pie chart, most of the students that registered were aged between 18 to 24 and 25 to 34. A total of 17% was aged less than 18 and 10%, 35 to 44.



The majority of the students registered in Mosaik were male students. A total of 72% were male and 28% female in 2017.



As shown in the pie chart, the highest percentage of students were Farsi/Dari speakers followed by 19% Arabic speakers. 18% were from African countries.



This pie chart shows that 57% of students who registered in 2017 were from Moria camp. Transportation tickets were provided to all students from Moria camp, Kara Tepe, PIKPA, Thermi, Loutra and Silver Bay Hotel.

Financial Report

Mosaik Support Center 2017

Our Expenses

As two of our aims are to base our work on long-term relationships and to be sustainable, we work mainly with paid staff. By doing so, we are able to provide these opportunities to locals and refugees on the island of Lesbos. Therefore, salaries make up nearly one third of our monthly expenses. The second biggest item in the budget is our expenditures for bus tickets. We distribute transportation tickets to our students who are living in the camps outside the city to enable them to come to class in the city center. Our expenses are divided into five main categories:

Education, integration, mobility, information and warm and safe space.

Education

Our Greek and English language classes and our Computer classes are free of charge. We do, however, pay teachers' salaries and require supplies such as notebooks, pencils etc. Usually, we have at least 600 active students in our classes and workshops. Each class includes 20 sessions, taking place two times per week for 1.5 hours over a 10 weeks program, with 10 to 15 students in each class. The teacher's payment is gross 25 Euros for 1.5 hours. The breakdown of costs for one student for the 10 weeks cycle is 40€. With at least 600 new students participating every three months that sums up to 96,000 Euros yearly, without class material accounted for.

Integration

In the form of workshops, field trips and events, we bring together locals and refugees. Costs per person average 10 Euro. We try to offer weekly field trips that are usually attended by 20 to 30 people. Additionally, we provide multiple classes that local residents of Lesbos are encouraged to attend. Our daily Yoga classes and the children's choir are especially popular among both the local and refugee populations.

Usually we need two trainers/coordinators to organize events and workshops, trying to be as participatory as we can. For fieldtrips, events, and workshops we spend 24,000 Euros per year.

Mobility

We provide our students with free tickets to ride a municipal bus – the only transportation available to them – from the refugee camp in Moria to Mosaik. To enable the participation in courses twice a week, we spend 12,80€ per student per month. One bus tickets costs 80 cents. With 600 students at the moment, our mobility costs amount up to 6,000 Euros per month (10% of the students live in the city center) and 72,000 Euros per year.

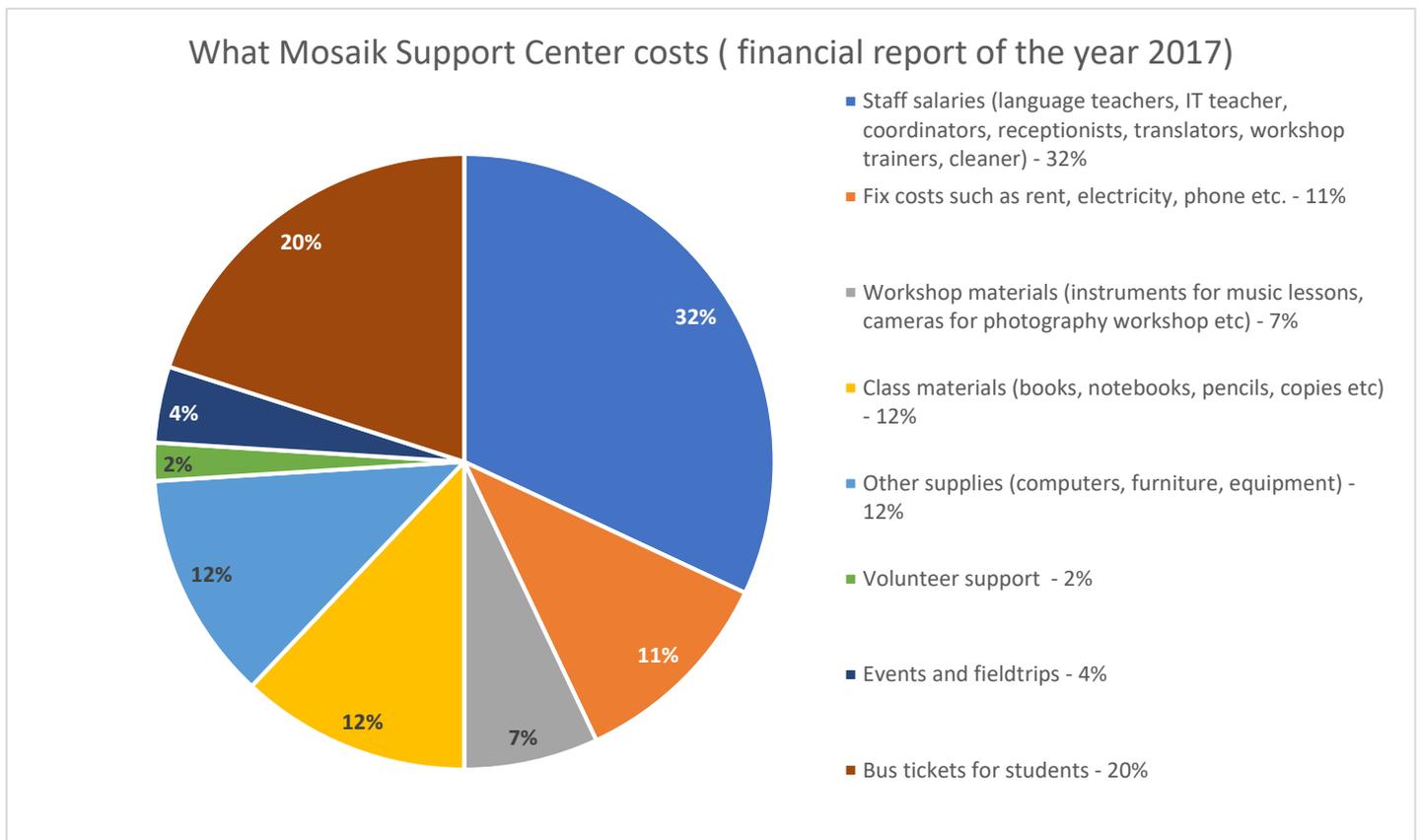
Information

From 8:00 o'clock in the morning until 21:00 o'clock our reception is staffed with a competent team (including translators) to provide every visitor with the information he or she needs. We do networking with other actors and organizations in order to find support for the people. The reception and social support personnel are paid on a monthly basis, with costs running at 5,000 Euros per month and 60,000 Euros per year.

Warm and safe space

The rest of our expenses concern the infrastructure of the Support Center, which means rental costs, petrol, heating, electricity, telephone bills, etc. These costs sum up to 40,000 Euros per year.

The Sum of our expenses in 2017 is estimated at 300.000 Euros. See below for the exact percentages.



A big thank you to everyone who makes our work possible!!!!

We at Mosaik Support Center are confident that your generous support will have a long-lasting impact on the lives of the refugees on Lesbos, as well as those of the local people who are impacted by the refugee crisis.

We would like to thank all of the organizations and private donors who have made our work possible with their support and donations. Besides the monetary donations, we also received in-kind support via supplies in the form of class material, equipment and food, and clothes for refugees. Without your cooperation and support Mosaik Support Center wouldn't be possible!

Partners through 2017: Evangelische Kirche von Westfalen, Mercy Corps, kerk in actie, Vi goer wad vi kan, Odysseas, Polyphonica, Help Refugees, Agkalia, MSF, IRC, Together for Better Days, Metadrassi, Praksis, Attika Warehouse and the many, many, many, private donors.



Thank you from our students

PICTURES



Swimming Classes



Wood Carving Workshop



Football Match



Preparation for Mosaik's Birthday Celebration



Tour in the Old Town of Mytilene



A traditional sweet from their place



Traditional Food from Afghanistan



Children participating in OPERA BABEL show



Candles Workshop



Weaving Workshop