

Athens, 13/3/2023

Press release on the Closing Event for the «Greece Capacity Building Project»

On Tuesday 28th February 2023, NORCAP, part of the Norwegian Refugee Council, organized the Closing event for the «Greece Capacity Building Project».

The event started with the Norway's Ambassador Ms. **Lajla Jakhelln**'s greeting, who stated: "Thanks to the excellent work of NORCAP in critical sectors of the national asylum and migration management systems, the tools and methodology are now in place and available to the Greek authorities to provide enhanced services to asylum seekers. But NORCAP's contribution lies on a much solid ground: on its people. Those are the 26 experts deployed in crucial parts of the migration chain since 2019, who are now uniquely qualified to follow up the operational implementation on agreed initiatives and procedures. They will be here in the aftermath of the project, ensuring that all this great work will remain dynamic, and relevant. Their commitment inspires us to continue our close cooperation with the national authorities, ensuring that the long-standing contribution of the EEA Grants in the Greek asylum and migration systems is valid, and sustainable."

Ms. **Anne Siri Rustad**, Senior advisor of the EEA Grants/International Section of UDI, congratulated NORCAP and their Greek partners. "NORCAP can proudly confirm having achieved ALL deliverables of the project; that is: hundreds of staff at various levels were trained, training manuals were developed, SOPs were established, experts have been seconded, local expertise is identified – and more... We hope you will find ways to continue to contribute to the asylum and migration management in Greece" she mentioned inter alia.

The NORCAP Executive Director, Ms. Benedicte Gjaever, highlighted the role of NORCAP in delivering expertise and supporting the authorities when needed, while Mr. Claus Sørensen, member of the Norwegian Refugee Council's (NRC) Board, emphasised the common destiny of the people of Europe and the need to demonstrate solidarity also through the funding mechanisms.

On behalf of the Greek authorities there were greetings by Mr. Emmanuel Logothetis, the Secretary General for the Reception of Asylum Seekers and by Mr. Hercules Moskoff, the Special Secretary for the Protection of Unaccompanied Minors.

At the event, the project results were presented. Within the framework of the project, which started being implemented at February 2019 and is concluding in March 2023, the following authorities were supported with the secondment of 26 experts in total: The technical department of the Ministry of Migration and Asylum, the Reception and Identification Service, on the level of the general secretariat for reception and on the level of the Refugee sites (Schisto, Eleonas, Chios, Diavata, Lagkadikia, Aleksandreia, Koutsochero), the Special Secretariat for the Protection of the Unaccompanied Minors, the General Secretariat for the Public Health and the National Centre for Social Solidarity.

The NORCAP experts who were deployed at the Reception and Identification Service (RIS) conducted 28 trainings to 187 employees of RIS structures, while 228 employees received on-the-job training, on issues of administrative management of newcomers' reception, registration and referral of vulnerable cases, notification of asylum decisions, referral pathways for cases of gender-based violence, as well as on the legal framework for the protection of the residents in the sites in general. Additionally, twelve (12) standard operational procedures (SOPs) were drafted by the NORCAP experts and approved by RIS in regards to the management of various issues, related to the unaccompanied children, the arrivals in the mainland from the islands and the protection services of the psychosocial units. In parallel, they had significant contribution in the drafting of the General Regulation of the mainland's structures.

The NORCAP experts who supported the National Centre for Social Solidarity (EKKA) in the management of the National Referral Mechanism for the Protection of the victims of human trafficking (NRM) conducted 53 trainings in total, reaching 989 first-line professionals of the public sector and the civil society and contributed to the statistical processing of the 843 referrals of presumed victims that the NRM actors detected since the beginning of its functioning, as well as to the follow-up of the case management. They also drafted the Practical Guide for first-line professionals, available in Greek.

More information on the project [here](#).

The project Greece Capacity Building was implemented under the Programme "Asylum and Migration" (Addressing urgent needs for the reception and screening of asylum seekers and for the accommodation of vulnerable groups) by NORCAP in Greece, financed by Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway. The Programme is part of the EEA Grants 2014 - 2021. The Fund Operator for the "Asylum and Migration" programme in Greece is SOL Consulting S.A in partnership with HumanRights360.

More information: <https://www.asylumandmigration-eeagrants.gr>