

2022

ANNUAL REPORT



PROJECT ELPIDA E.V.

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WHAT IS PROJECT ELPIDA?



ABOUT US

Project ELPIDA e.V. is a non-profit organization founded in 2021 in Berlin. We support NGOs that are involved in helping refugees in Greece.

The personal connection we have to Greece and especially to the island of Samos, as well as the years of stagnation regarding the situation at the European external borders have motivated us to become active ourselves.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Project ELPIDA e.V. is committed to a Europe of solidarity - one in which people of all skin colors, religions and sexual orientations can live in safety and are welcomed with open arms. Since 2015, however, a different picture of Europe has emerged, one of isolation and exclusion.

While there was still a civil society awakening in 2015, which gave rise to many private initiatives, public interest has been declining for years and the willingness to donate and stand up for refugees in Greece is also clearly diminishing.

For this reason, we have decided to become active ourselves. We collect donations, which we then use to buy products that are indispensable for the daily work of our partner organizations.

We want to give our partners as much freedom as possible in choosing the purpose of the donations so that we can react flexibly to current needs. In addition, we organize donations of clothing at regular intervals, which we send by transport to Greece.

We select our partner organizations after a close examination of their activities and philosophy.

GOALS

Our primary goal is to contribute to the improvement of the living conditions of refugees in Greece. Furthermore, it is important to us to purchase the products for our partner organizations locally. By doing so, we hope to reduce the resentment of the local population towards refugees and NGOs.

At the same time, we want to draw attention to the situation of those seeking protection in Greece. The public indifference that has persisted for years means for refugees on the ground a continuation of living under inhumane circumstances and a collective European evasion of migration policy responsibility.

For this reason, we take every opportunity to inform our audience about these abuses.



OUR WORK IN 2022

LAST YEAR WE WORKED IN...

SAMOS

Our first campaign as an NGO took us to Samos in February 2022. A few months earlier, the first so-called CCAC (closed controlled access center) of the Greek islands had been opened there. The remote location and the limited exit possibilities make the camp look more like a prison than a center for asylum seekers.

In the course of our first campaign we were able to support our three partner organizations Just Action, Selfm.aid and Samos Volunteers with products for their daily work.

We were able to provide **JUST ACTION** with bus tickets and food items to be distributed in their Free Shop. The 1000 bus tickets were particularly important, as they are often the only way for refugees to get from the remote camp to the main town of Vathy,

SAMOS VOLUNTEERS have been offering various language classes and other activities in their ALPHA CENTER for years. The move of the camp has also meant new challenges for them.

ALPHA LAND, which is within walking distance of the new camp, gives people the

opportunity to escape its daily horror, even if they cannot afford a bus ticket.

For this reason, we have supported Samos Volunteers with various materials for the Community Centre as well as the Women's Centre. As a psychosocial service, such a protected recreational space is indispensable. In addition, we were able to purchase glasses, which Samos Volunteers has been distributing since the withdrawal of the only medical NGO on Samos.

SELF.M.AID offers refugees in their Skills Factory the opportunity to contribute and strengthen their own talents and has thus created a unique space for exchange and cooperation.

Whether carpenters, electronics technicians or gardeners, all talents are welcome!

We are very happy that we could support two of their projects: the new kitchen with building materials and the hairdressing workshop with different razors, scissors and combs.

OUR WORK IN 2022

LAST YEAR WE WORKED IN...

ATHENS

At the end of April 2022, we traveled to Athens for our second campaign. At that time, the Russian war of aggression on Ukraine overshadowed any other crisis in Europe. It was all the more important for us to remain active on the ground.

For many refugees, Athens is the first stop after a stay on the Greek islands that often lasts several years. There, bureaucratic chaos and homelessness await them. The lack of government assistance has meant that it is primarily NGOs that provide it. As many donations since February 2022 have gone to support Ukrainian refugees, organizations in Greece have suddenly found themselves in an even more precarious and uncertain financial situation.

MAZI HOUSING PROJECT provides housing for a total of 23 male refugees. Single men represent the majority of the refugees stranded in Athens. Mazi also supports them with visits to authorities, medical appointments and job applications. As part of our campaign, we were able to provide the two apartments with cleaning materials and detergent for an entire year. In addition, we were able to buy fans and insect repellent, which are enormously needed especially during the hot summer days.

KHORA has been operating in Athens since 2016 and has continued to expand its services during this period: In their Free

Shop, people on the move and homeless people can choose clothes and hygiene items for free. We were able to support this offer with a total of 1650 bars of soap. In addition, Khora cooks around 450 hot meals a day for the needy in her Social Kitchen. For this food distribution we were able to purchase a total of 5800 food containers.

GOODWILL CARAVAN provides medical and legal assistance in addition to regular food and baby food distributions. At the time of our campaign in Athens, we received a request for assistance with the annual Ramadan distribution drive. In total, with our support, 78 families were provided with food parcels worth 20,50€ each.

CHEERin GREECE has been organizing football training sessions at Camp Malakasa near Athens since the beginning of 2022. What started as a small project for the children of the camp quickly became bigger, so that CHEERin now provides three children's teams and two adult teams that even participate in regional amateur leagues.

In order to provide the children and adults with the necessary equipment, we collected soccer shoes and equipment with various supporters. In the end, we were able to send a total of 271 pairs of shoes, as well as various soccer balls, jerseys and other materials to Athens.



OUR WORK IN 2022

LAST YEAR WE WORKED IN...

NORTHERN GREECE

Our third campaign in 2022 took place in northern Greece, more precisely in Thessaloniki and Kavala. While in recent years Thessaloniki in particular has been a kind of transit station for refugees on their way across the Balkan route, this has changed recently. The reason for this are illegal forced returns, so-called *pushbacks*, which are being carried out in several countries in the Balkans. On the one hand, this means that this route has become much more dangerous and on the other hand, it also means that people who have already left Greece for the North are being "pushed back" there. Since these processes now take place in several countries in succession, humanitarian aid organizations speak of "pushback chains." These people come back to Greece destitute and traumatized.

WAVE THESSALONIKI is one of the few organizations that takes care of them: At their Community Center, they provide hot meals and clothing, as well as a place to retreat and companionship - seven days a week.

Before the cold winter months, Wave had asked us to provide them with warm clothing. With the logistical support of Wir packens an, we were able to send a total of 33 boxes containing jackets, pants and hats, among other items. We were also able to buy 40 new sleeping bags on site. These will mainly benefit people who have no shelter and also no fair access to asylum.

With **EQUAL LEGAL AID**, we were able to support for the first time an organization that offers legal counseling for refugees.

This includes the accompaniment of asylum processes, help with appeals against rejection decisions as well as providing information to asylum seekers about their rights in their process. To make ELA's work more effective, we were able to equip them with a total of 6 laptops, a tablet and a cell phone. A special thanks goes to the agency haebmau, who donated four of their working laptops to us.

NORTHERN LIGHTS AID is the only NGO that supports refugees in the city of Kavala. In addition to their Community Centre, where workshops are offered, NLA also has a Free Shop and a Community Garden. In particular, the close cooperation with the local population has left an impression on us. Locals come by to drop off clothing and can also pick out something themselves if there is a need. It is exactly such projects and cooperations that we as Project ELPIDA would like to promote.

We were able to add seeds, soil, flowers, and a lawn mower to NLA's Community Garden, which will hopefully lead to it being even more frequented and providing a safe space outside of camp.

In addition to this, we were able to purchase fabric and paint for various workshops in the coming months and board games for the many children who stop by NLA.

ACTIVITY OVERVIEW

HERE YOU CAN FIND AN OVERVIEW ON OUR CAMPAIGNS IN 2022



CAMPAIGN	TIME PERIOD	DONATION TOTAL
SAMOS CAMPAIGN	NOVEMBER 2021 - FEBRUARY 2022	4.993,62€
ATHENS CAMPAIGN	FEBRUARY 2022 - APRIL/MAY 2022	4.501,10€
NORTHERN GREECE CAMPAIGN	JUNE 2022 - SEPTEMBER 2022	3.458,43€



FINANCES

HERE IS AN OVERVIEW OF OUR REVENUES IN 2022

REVENUES	AMOUNT
DONATIONS RECEIVED	22.469,03€
REVENUES SOLI-MERCH	2.912,75€
MEMBERSHIP FEES	875,00€
TOTAL	26.266,78€



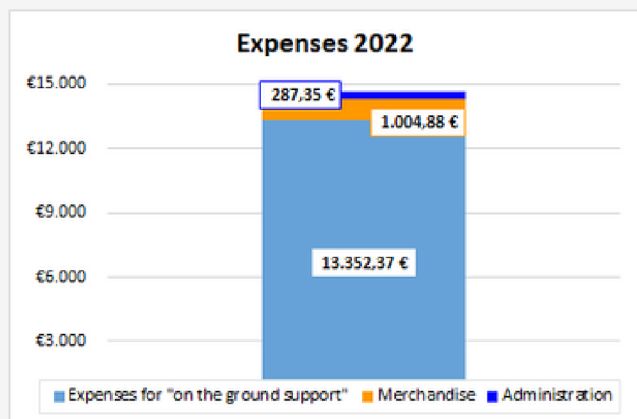
FINANCES

HERE YOU WILL FIND AN OVERVIEW OF OUR EXPENSES IN 2022

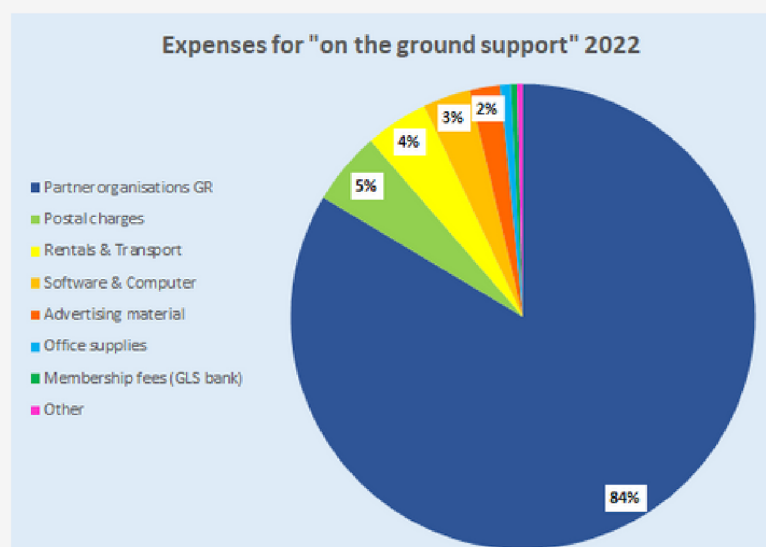
EXPENSES	AMOUNT
CAMPAIGN EXPENSES	13.352,37 €
BANK FEES	287,35 €
MERCHANDISE	1.004,88 €
TOTAL	14.644,60 €

FINANCES

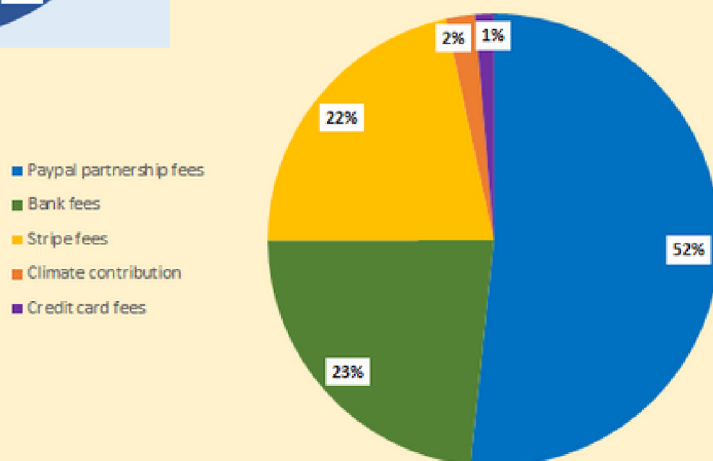
FACTS & FIGURES



Expenses in 2022	Amount in €
Merchandise	1004,88
Merchandise total	1004,88
Paypal partnership fees	148,39
Bank fees	67,00
Stripe fees	62,21
Climate contribution	5,96
Credit card fees	3,79
Administration total	287,35
Partnerorganisations GR	11155,40
Postal charges	679,70
Rentals & Transport	586,08
Software & Computer	437,67
Advertising material	284,33
Office supplies	97,63
Membership fees (GLS bank)	60,00
Other	51,56
Expenses for "on the ground support" total	13352,37
Expenses in 2022 total	16.644,60



Administrative expenses 2022





SUPPORT FOR UNACCOMPANIED MINORS 2023

Shortly before Christmas 2022 we received the most beautiful gift one could have wished for: The Theresia Zander Foundation, which is committed to helping disadvantaged children and young people, donated 10,000€ to us to support unaccompanied minors on Samos. Our partner organization Just Action prepares food packages for the almost 60 children and young people there every month and also provides them with clothing. This donation makes it possible for us to offer monthly support for the first time and thus create urgently needed planning security for one of our partner organizations. We would like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank the Theresia Zander Foundation for this incredible amount!

WHAT'S NEXT?

PROJECT ELPIDA CELEBRATES ITS FIRST ANNIVERSARY, BUT THIS IS ONLY THE BEGINNING



Our previous campaigns and exchanges with our partner organizations have confirmed the importance of offering regular support.

For this reason, we will continue to organize campaigns in Samos, Athens and Northern Greece, with the aim of including the widest possible range of activities and assistance.

Furthermore, we want to professionalize ourselves structurally: our own website was completed in November 2022 and we also want to acquire corporate donations to a greater extent in the future.

In order to work even more effectively and purposefully, we are currently

creating volunteer positions for membership administration, contacting companies regarding donations and managing our website.

On 09.01.2023 our first self-organized event took place at the tak-Theater at Moritzplatz, including a podium discussion, live music and a donation raffle.

We are already a member of the Grenzenlose Hilfe network, in which aid organizations from all over Germany are represented. The goal is to exchange ideas even further and to start joint collection campaigns.

THE TEAM ELPIDA

THESE PEOPLE WERE ACTIVELY INVOLVED IN THE DAILY
WORK OF PROJECT ELPIDA IN 2022



LEVIN SCHMIDT
1ST CHAIRMAN



LORENZ SCHMIDT
2ND CHAIRMAN



BENJAMIN SCHMIDT
TREASURER/BOARD
MEMBER



ANTONIA SCHMIDT
SOCIAL MEDIA

First and foremost, we would like to thank all the people who, through their active assistance and donations, have helped us to successfully organize three campaigns in our founding year.

Without energetic helpers at collection campaigns, printing of T-shirts or posters, especially the campaign preparations in Berlin would not have been possible in this form.

The active team of Project ELPIDA consists of four people:

Levin Schmidt is responsible for public relations & communication with partner organizations, Lorenz Schmidt takes care of logistics & organization in Berlin. The board is completed by Benjamin Schmidt, the master of numbers, who has the overview of the finances of the association.

Special thanks also go to Antonia Schmidt, who is in charge of the organization of the social media channels and accompanies every campaign photographically.

ACTIVITIES IN BERLIN

IN PREPARATION FOR OUR CAMPAIGNS IN GREECE, WE HELD VARIOUS FUNDRAISING EVENTS IN BERLIN IN 2022

In order to support our fundraising campaigns materially, we have started to carry out various campaigns in Berlin.

This began in January with the collection campaign on behalf of *Leave no One behind* at the tattoo studio Golfclub Berlin. This was followed in the summer by our own collection campaign for winter clothing, which was sent to Thessaloniki. We were able to engage the Schöneberg pub Kuckucksei and the cultural association from Prenzlauer Berg *Kiezkultur*. The *Kuckucksei* also made it possible for us to hold our first community gathering in April, where all Soli shirt buyers could pick up their t-shirts.

A big thank you also goes to *Dreisechseins Boutique* who made each T-shirt individually.

Furthermore, *Raven Art Department* provided us with almost 200 T-shirts for direct distribution to Just Action on Samos. These t-shirts were previously part of an installation at the International Funk Exhibition in Berlin.

We would also like to thank *Champions ohne Grenzen*, who actively supported us in a collection campaign for football boots, and *Berliner Amateure*, from whom we were able to collect boots and donations as part of a football tournament.



OUR PARTNER ORGANISATIONS

IN THE COURSE OF OUR FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGNS, WE WERE ABLE TO SUPPORT A TOTAL OF 10 PARTNER ORGANISATIONS IN 2022

SELF11.AID



WAVE
thessaloniki



Goodwill Caravan

An important part of our philosophy is that we support partner organisations that have been active in Greece for years. Through this experience, they are able to assess what needs currently need to be met. This means that our aid can be well organised and effective.

WE WOULD LIKE TO THANK ALL OUR PARTNER ORGANISATIONS FOR THEIR CLOSE AND TRUSTING COOPERATION IN THE PAST YEAR!

OUR SUPPORTERS



haebmau.



BHZ



Our work would not be possible without the active support of organisations, clubs, companies, musicians, schools and bars. Whether it is help with clothing collections, sponsorship for donation raffles or donations in person - we have been actively supported in every campaign.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!