

ECHO 100 PLUS

HELP TO HELP



Who is Echo100Plus?

Since summer 2015, the Austrian charity Echo100Plus has been providing humanitarian aid to refugees arriving in Greece. With its International Volunteer Program Echo100Plus has so far engaged more than 500 volunteers from all over the globe to support the totally overstrained Greek relief system in coping with the humanitarian crisis. And though the influx of refugees has dropped in 2016, there are still thousands of refugees stuck on the islands, awaiting their Asylum applications to be processed. In order to hold individual distress and social unrest at bay, Echo100plus has consequently extended its services to educational and recreational programmes.

THE ECHO-HUB LEROS

In October 2016 Echo100Plus launched the Echo-Hub, a community centre in the town of Lakki on the island of Leros, to help refugees prepare for the next steps of their journeys and foremost the arduous task of integration. Neither the Greek authorities nor any other NGO currently offer similar assistance to adult refugees on the island.

Current situation on Leros

There are currently **900+ refugees from recognised war-torn countries** on the island of Leros, with arrivals from Turkey increasing again. While bare needs such as shelter and food are met by the local authorities, the **main gap occurs in the scope of the individual's mental wellbeing.** In addition to deplorable living conditions in overcrowded shelters, refugees are submitted to arbitrary and in-transparent processes involving long waiting times, that inevitably lead to **emotional distress, frustration and social unrest.**

With the Echo-Hub we strive to provide a space in which adult refugees can benefit from a friendly and dignified environment and from access to education* such as:

- › Language courses (Greek, English, German, Italian, Arabic etc.)
- › IT classes in the computer lab
- › CV-writing skills and personal development
- › Activities (sport, arts & crafts, film-making, theatre, chess etc.)
- › Music lessons (guitar, percussion, choir)

*Most courses on offer are co-educational, but in order to encourage more women to join the Hub activities, we provide **“women's only classes”** and dedicate one afternoon per week to **“women only activities”**.

The Hub Boutique

In addition to our educational programme, Echo100Plus runs the so-called Hub-Boutique, which is regularly stocked up with donated and purchased new clothing. Individuals and families can try on and choose their clothes in a dignified way.

Powered by volunteers

The organisation's central functions are staffed by the founders of Echo100Plus, who volunteer full time to accomplish their mission. This not only includes hands-on fieldwork, but also all the necessary back-office work such as volunteer recruitment, logistics, PR, fundraising, accounting and liaising with authorities and other NGOs. Thereby the organisation itself runs **with minimal overhead costs.**

At any given time, the Echo-Hub operates with a team of **eight to ten international volunteers**, who act as coordinators, teachers, professional advisers and drivers. Working side by side with them are usually four **volunteers from the refugee community**, who act as translators or teach classes and run activities of their own.

Supporting the local community

Due to the refugee influx, the local community of Leros has been under stress for almost three years now. Consequently, Echo100Plus tries to support the island by including the local community in the Hub's services. Locals are actively involved as teachers and students, and they also have access to our clothing Boutique. Further, we source necessary goods and services locally whenever possible. Echo currently employs 7 local teachers and coaches to guarantee the Hub's sustainability. In order to engage the local community even further, we have also appointed a Hub director to plan and oversee the programmes and services.

Echo100Plus Hub: Budget

The Echo-Hub operates a stringent budgeting process which is built around two central elements:

- › Donated goods & services: including volunteer-led courses and donated items such as clothing.
- › Paid-for goods & services: including basic operating costs such as rent, petrol for the vans, but also salaries for local teachers and coaches.

Between July and December 2017, over half of all services provided in the Echo-Hub were provided by volunteers. Whilst we try to maximise the donated and volunteered share of our monthly consumption, our paid-for goods and services play an important role for our relationship with the island: in the 2nd half of 2017, we spent on average €18,500 / month both employing locals as well as supporting local businesses by purchasing needed items locally.

One Year of the Echo-Hub

To-date **well over 1,000 refugees benefited from the courses and services** on offer in the Hub. Most of the students taking English classes graduate with the internationally-recognised **ESB (English Speaking Board) qualification**, which opens a crucial path to communication and integration in their new lives. In addition, **nine students gained scholarships** to continue their studies at the American Colleges of Greece ‘Camp to Campus’ programme; more students have applied for next terms scholarships.

Beyond numbers and most important for the Echo-Hub team, is the **overwhelmingly positive feedback** that we get from:

- Refugees, who describe the Hub as haven and emotional anchor-point on their perilous journey. The possibility of learning and acquiring new skills helps them to turn the wasted into meaningful time.
- Locals, who experience the Hub as a stabilizing factor in an overall tense situation and as a place where an effort is made to bridge the gap

between host- and guest communities.

- Volunteers, who are grateful to meet the arriving refugees as individuals and not as unattributed and threatening mass as which they are usually represented.
- Authorities and other NGOs, who perceive Echo100Plus as a reliable and efficient partner in the joint response to the humanitarian crisis.

The Future of the Echo-Hub

To sustain the future of the Echo-Hub Leros and its services, **ongoing financial support** is vital. Even though over half of the overall running costs of the Hub are currently covered through volunteer work and in-kind donations, the remainder of the running costs such as rent, local teacher’s salaries, fuel and “filling the gap” purchases, still need to be sponsored.

Since October 2017 Echo100Plus is registered as a Greek non-for-profit charity, which provides us with all legal qualifications to function even more effectively and to now operate out of all Greek refugee camps. As the Echo-Hub on Leros has proved itself as model to be replicated in other places, the Echo100Plus team is working hard to explore the possibilities of setting up the next Echo-Hub in Athens.

29,200

Volunteer hours in 2017

1,000

Over 1,000 refugees benefited from the Echo-Hub

9

Students gained scholarships to continue their studies

€19,400

Cost of the Echo-Hub per month going forward

Echo 100Plus: E-Hub Budget

As of: Nov-17 (note Dec-17 figures provisional); all figures in EUR unless otherwise stated

Running costs	Jul-17	Aug-17	Sep-17	Oct-17	Nov-17	Dec-17	BUDGET		
							Jan-18	Feb-18	Mar-18
Hub Overheads / Running Costs									
Rent (incl. garden)	518	518	518	518	818	668	668	668	668
Utilities	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Construction & repairs	132	248	269	-	-	585	206	206	206
Storage	250	350	350	350	469	409	409	409	409
Insurance	-	180	-	-	-	-	30	30	30
Legal Advice	-	-	-	2,015	1,791	-	634	634	634
Accountant	372	372	372	372	372	372	372	372	372
Translation services	-	205	100	43	-	45	66	66	66
Stationary	251	651	344	1,256	429	450	564	564	564
WiFi	80	127	60	120	208	120	119	119	119
Other costs & expenses	1,751	2,330	2,826	1,968	2,219	3,430	2,421	2,421	2,421
Total Overheads / Running Costs	3,354	4,981	4,840	6,643	6,306	6,079	5,488	5,488	5,488
Transportation (2x 12-seater vans)									
Fuel	1,067	1,056	958	1,045	1,320	1,000	1,074	1,074	1,074
Repairs	70	961	214	395	313	231	364	364	364
Other transport-related costs	-	70	-	350	155	-	96	96	96
Total Transportation costs	1,137	2,088	1,172	1,790	1,788	1,231	1,534	1,534	1,534
Hub-Boutique									
Clothes	2,521	-	18	-	-	-	423	423	423
Hygiene Items	-	2,400	496	-	-	-	483	483	483
Transport & Storage	173	349	452	967	193	300	406	406	406
Total Hub-Boutique	2,694	2,748	966	967	193	300	1,311	1,311	1,311
Staffing & Education Programme									
Hub Director	-	-	-	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000
Engl.Teacher (MT)	1,387	1,807	1,787	1,787	1,787	3,129	1,723	1,723	1,723
IT- Teacher (XD)	900	1,013	956	956	1,013	956	966	966	966
Greek-Teacher (AK)	882	405	840	742	735	490	682	682	682
Pottery-Teacher (KK)	468	515	632	398	293	293	433	433	433
Guitar-Teacher (AT)	336	814	336	491	639	699	553	553	553
Percuss.-Teacher (DS)	122	168	168	210	126	84	146	146	146
Football Coach	-	350	350	350	350	350	350	350	350
Total Staffing & Education Programme	4,095	5,071	5,069	6,934	6,941	8,001	6,853	6,853	6,853
Volunteer Costs									
Rent	1,450	1,450	1,200	1,200	1,200	1,200	3,450	1,150	1,150
Utilities	-	1,333	-	311	446	584	446	446	446
Volunteer coordinators living expense contribution	600	600	610	1,010	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
Travel & other expenses	1,714	642	1,312	971	889	436	994	994	994
Total Volunteer Costs	3,764	4,025	3,122	3,491	3,535	3,220	5,890	3,590	3,590
Other Costs									
Company Registration	-	-	100	-	-	-	-	-	-
ESB Exam Fees	-	-	-	-	-	1,270	212	212	212
AC Student Stipends	-	-	-	750	750	750	375	375	375
Bank Fees/PayPal	1	235	35	-	-	-	45	45	45
HOTSPOT	200	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Medicals	-	-	-	466	-	-	-	-	-
Total Other Costs	201	235	136	1,216	750	2,020	632	632	632
Total running costs	15,245	19,148	15,304	21,042	19,513	20,851	21,708	19,408	19,408

In order to sustain the Echo-Hub on Leros, we are seeking €20,000 per month to continue our ambitious education, entertainment, arts and sports programme. Your contributions will make an important difference to the lives of hundreds of families who have lost everything.

To donate:

Account: Echo100Plus
 IBAN: AT77 2011 1820 5088 5100
 BIC: GIBAATWWXXX
 Or online via www.echo100plus.com

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