



Terre des hommes in Greece: **Action for children** *along with the children*

Annual report 2023





The annual report of Terre des hommes Hellas for 2023 is available in Greek and in English at tdh.gr.

Terre des hommes Hellas represents in Greece the Terre des hommes Foundation which was founded in 1960 in Lausanne and since then has been one of the leading child protection organisations worldwide. Learn about its work in 2023 around the world by scanning the QR code:



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Overview

Terre des hommes Hellas has been active in Greece since 2016, contributing to the improvement of the child protection system and the reformation of social care.

Our thematic priorities:



Child protection and safeguarding



Children and young people on the move



Access to justice for children and young people

In 2023, Tdh Hellas supported migrant families and continued its innovative work on access to justice and child protection. We developed creative methodologies within a strong psychosocial support framework (MHPSS). We implemented awareness and empowerment activities in schools focusing on issues related to preventing and responding to violence against children, gender-based violence in schools, access to justice and addressing incidents of child offending. We also strengthened children's voices in the planning and implementation stages of our projects through focus group discussions and the formulation of Children's Advisory Boards (CABs).

1.011

people benefited directly and indirectly from our projects in 2023

375

professionals trained in 2023 to identify and respond to cases of child abuse

675

children from vulnerable families were provided essential items*



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"Strengthening child protection systems through innovation and collaboration: Our vision for 2024"

For another year, Terre des hommes Hellas contributed to the strengthening of child protection and safeguarding systems in Greece. We are proud of our achievements and look forward to developing and deepening our interventions.

Trainings through European programmes were an important part of the year. Our experienced staff trained over 168 professionals in the fields of education, social welfare, justice, child protection and migration. As our approach to child protection is holistic, we did not focus only on professionals. Through our innovative Just-Us programme, we supported parents of children in contact with the justice system, a target group quite neglected and facing stigma as well as a lack of support and information about the processes their child is going through. This project was the first one implemented in Greece.

Finally, we never forget the children themselves and their contribution to our programmes. Through awareness raising circles in schools, high school children learned about offence prevention and restorative justice and provided feedback on our programmes.

Although as an organisation we took an advocacy and education approach to strengthening child protection systems, we provided direct material assistance to the population in need. In 2023, we completed the Dignify project, where we responded to the immediate needs of vulnerable refugee and asylum seeker families residing in Attica. In collaboration with MyMarket, throughout the programme we distributed supermarket vouchers to a total of 665 people, 404 of whom were children.

This year was important in creating new synergies while strengthening existing partnerships with national and international agencies. With the CARING programme, which aims to prevent and eliminate gender-based violence in schools, we fostered collaboration with 8 secondary schools in the Municipality of Athens. Multiple trainings implemented by our specialized staff in the World Health Organization's Problem Management+ methodology for peer-to-peer psychosocial support to the migrant and refugee population, brought together professionals from different parts of Greece, organizations and members of the Ukrainian community, as well as from abroad. The twinning of Terre des hommes Hellas with Restorative Justice Netherlands, in the Netherlands, not only strengthened the cooperation ties between the 2 organizations but also the exchange of knowledge and good practices.

With this in mind, we continue our work in 2024. With a willingness to collaborate, with creativity, analytical thinking and advocacy for the improvement of child protection systems in Greece.



Leda Avgousti

Head of Tdh County Office in Greece

Child protection



Challenging social and gender norms to reduce violence against children in school



Terre des hommes Hellas, as a child protection organisation, has as a constant objective the empowerment of children and the professionals who work with children. As part of our mission, we started in 2023 the implementation of the CARING project in eight schools in Athens. The transnational CARING project aims to understand, prevent and reduce gender-based violence among young people in school settings in 4 countries: Greece, Bulgaria, Romania, Bulgaria and Croatia. By challenging existing social and gender stereotypes, the project team aims to promote positive practices in schools and communities.

Οι εκπαιδευτικοί συζητάνε για το ρόλο τους στην πρόληψη της σχολικής έμφυλης βίας

Μιλώ με τα παιδιά για την έμφυλη βία και τα ενδιαφέρον να συζητήσουν ό,τι τα απασχολεί.

Έχω συνείδηση της αξίας του κάθε παιδιού ανεξάρτητα από το φύλο και τις προτιμήσεις του.

Ακούω με ενσυναίσθηση και φροντίζω αυτό που απασχολεί τους μαθητές μου/τους μαθήτρές μου.

Ζητώ βοήθεια και υποστήριξη, γιατί πολλά μπορούν να αλλάξουν με τη δική μου παρέμβαση.

Ενθαρρύνω για την σχολική έμφυλη βία και παραμύθι ευαισθητοποιημένος/η.

Μιλώ στα παιδιά χρησιμοποιώντας συμπεριληπτικό λόγο.

Παρατηρώ και αναζητώ ενδείξεις και σημάδια για ό,τι με προβληματίζει.

Αξιολογώ ευκαιρίες για να συζητήσω για την έμφυλη βία και σώμα και αν δεν έρω όλες τις απαντήσεις, φροντίζω το συναισθήμα του παιδιού που μπορεί να υπάρχει πίσω από τις απορίες του.

Συνεργώ θετικό κλίμα μέσα στην τάξη και δεν γίνεται επικριτικός/ή.

Έχω συνείδηση των δικών μου έμφυλων στερεοτύπων και προσπαθώ να αλλάξω ό,τι δεν είναι βοηθητικό για τη σχέση μου με τα παιδιά.

Δεν ανέχομαι συμπεριφορά διάκρισης μέσα στο σχολείο και αναφέρω άμεσα ό,τι με ανησυχεί.

Το παρόν έργο χρηματοδοτήθηκε από το έργο CARING που υλοποιείται από την Terre des hommes Ελλάς Προστασία, ενισχυτικά με την Υπ. Ουγγαρία, την Ελλάδα, την Ρουμανία, Institute of Social Activities and Practices (ISAP) και Association Budisti Budisti. Το έργο συγχρηματοδοτείται από την Ευρωπαϊκή Επιτροπή (Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values Programme) Δράσεις προτεραιότητας Μακρ. 2023 – Άρθρος 2025.

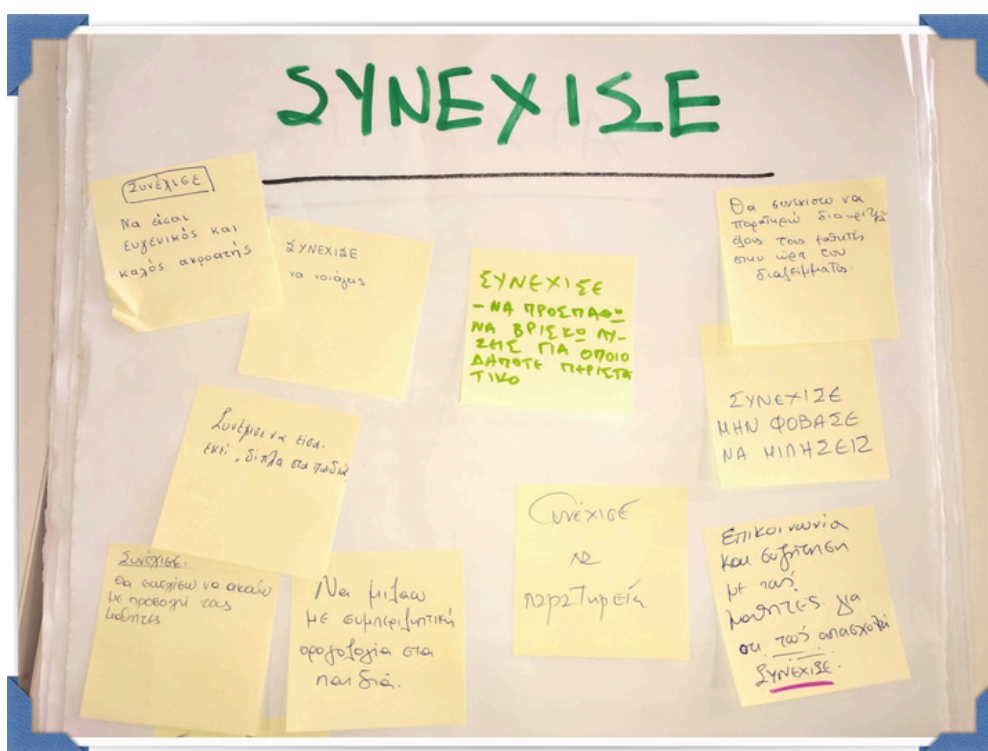
Terre des hommes
Αλλάζει την πορεία της ζωής.

Find useful material on combating gender-based violence in schools



The CARING activities:

1. **Exploring** the needs of the school community through qualitative research.
2. **Empowering the teacher community.** Terre des hommes Hellas will organise a training of trainers (ToT), with the aim of participants transferring this knowledge to the staff of the schools where they work. Terre des homme Hellas will then continue to play a supportive role by organising support sessions with the trained staff in each school.
3. **Training and empowerment** of students aged 13-18 years old, who will promote positive behaviours. Group activities will then be organised in each school so that the student community can develop and organise their own interventions/initiatives targeting parents or teachers, their peers and the local community.
4. **Meetings with parents** where they will be informed about issues of violence against children in school, gender-based violence and harmful social gender perceptions. Parents will be informed about activities at school and will consider how they can support their children in tackling and preventing violence.
5. **Dissemination of results** by organising events to share best practice and seminars to raise awareness among the wider public.



In December 2023, the first training of trainers (ToT) focused on developing skills to prevent, mediate and address school-related gender-based violence (SRGBV).

21 teachers from 8 schools participated in the training!



Co-funded by
the European Union

Children and young people on the move

Emergency support for families on the move



Responding to the phenomena of increasing hunger affecting refugees and asylum seekers, in 2022 Tdh Hellas supported vulnerable families of recognized refugees, rejected and unregistered asylum seekers, to whom financial assistance had been suspended. Through [DIGNIFY: Emergency Support for Families on the Move](#), this support took place with the distribution of supermarket vouchers that provided the beneficiaries with essential items - food, personal hygiene items, etc., with the exception of electronics, alcohol and cigarettes/tobacco.

The distributions took place in the center of Athens, in close collaboration with the Greek Forum of Migrants. Families living in the wider area of Attica and in open camps in Eleonas, Schisto, Malakasa, Oinophyta and Ritsona were served there.

As we are committed to a holistic approach to our interventions, we have provided psychosocial support to Dignify beneficiaries, with stress management support groups and 80 referrals to appropriate services.



**The name has been changed*

Mona, 25 years old, of Congolese origin, single parent of 2 minor children, was referred to the Dignify programme by the social service of a partner organisation. She was homeless and was sometimes hosted by members of her community.*

She had no consistent access to food, which made her feel disempowered in her role as a mother. Her support through the Dignify program provided her family with a living wage and gave her the opportunity to feel competent in her parenting role again. Also, some of her daily time that she used to devote to food security services was now dedicated to job search.

After we located her through a reference process, we welcomed her in the special area of the DIGNIFY programme in the centre of Athens, where we assessed her psychosocial situation and her needs and provided her with vouchers (coupons) from supermarkets, with which she could ensure her livelihood for a period of time.

Dignify project results in 2022-2023



60%

of the beneficiaries
were children



926

monthly distributions
of supermarket
coupons



DIGNIFY

Emergency Support
for Families on the Move



268.000€

were given directly
to the beneficiaries



665

vulnerable people



DIGNIFY: Emergency Support for Families on the Move is co-funded by Swiss Solidarity.
We also thank Future Directions Foundation for their support.



Children and young people on the move

Promoting the mental health and psychosocial well-being of refugee children and their caregivers through lay professionals amidst Ukraine's displacement crisis.



Objectives

1. Increase the capacity of non-MHPSS professionals to meet the mental health and psychosocial wellbeing needs of refugee children and their caregivers, especially of those displaced because of the Ukrainian conflict
2. Improve the mental health and psychosocial wellbeing of refugee children and their caregivers, especially of those displaced because of the Ukrainian conflict, in Italy, Greece, Hungary and Romania
3. Increase the awareness, knowledge generation, sharing of best practices and capacity building opportunities of both health and lay professionals working with refugee children and their caregivers, especially those displaced because of the Ukrainian conflict, on how to improve their mental health and psychological wellbeing through universal and indicated preventative measures
4. Advocate for a public health approach to mental health to enhance the access of refugee populations, including those displaced because of the Ukrainian conflict, to appropriate mental health and psychosocial support
5. The WELL-U project is coordinated by SOS Children's Villages Italy and in collaboration with SOS Children's Villages International, Terre des hommes (Tdh) Hellas, Tdh Romania, Tdh Hungary and War Child Holland.



Two focus groups and one round table were organised on the PM+ methodology



80 educators and professionals participated in trainings



Methodologies

In this section you will find basic information about the specialized methodologies applied by the staff of Tdh Hellas, aiming at the holistic psychosocial support and protection of children.

Movement, Games, Sports and Creativity (MGSC): It is a methodology that uses sport, games and creativity as a psychosocial tool to develop the personal and social skills of children aged 4 to 14 years old who may have experienced adverse childhood experiences, and aims to improve their resilience and psychosocial well-being through group action. The tool can be applied by professionals who work with children on a daily basis (social workers, teachers, animators, coaches, etc.).

ReachNow: a proactive case identification tool designed to facilitate the identification of children aged 6 to 18 in need of mental healthcare or with protection needs and encourage help-seeking. ReachNow is made up of illustrated case stories depicting culturally relevant examples of childhood psychological distress and family-related problems. The illustrations are paired with a simple decision diagram to allow trained community members to identify children and families in need of support and encourage them to seek for further support.

Problem Management Plus (PM+): a brief, low- intensity, transdiagnostic, psychological intervention developed by the World Health Organization (WHO), targeted to adults (aged 16+) impaired by distress in communities who are exposed to adversity. During PM+ session beneficiaries learn how to manage practical problems, reduce stress and anxiety, improve their mood, and strengthen their social support through evidence-based techniques. The PM+ strategy has been extensively tested through rigorous scientific studies and implemented across diverse cultural contexts.

Learn more about our expertise on PM+



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Children and young people on the move

Addressing the mental health needs of migrants and refugees through the dissemination of community-based methodologies for psychosocial support.



As a general objective, the STEP-IN project aims to strengthen the capacity of non-MHPSS specialists, members of the refugee communities as well as staff of reception centres, cultural mediators, health and social workers and caregivers in reception centres, camps, shelters and other semi-independent living programmes, working in different services for the care and reception of TCNs to recognize and address the mental health needs of migrant populations, exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic. In Greece, we will work with young vulnerable migrants 16-24 years old as well as vulnerable families of migrants, including single-headed households and professionals working with them.

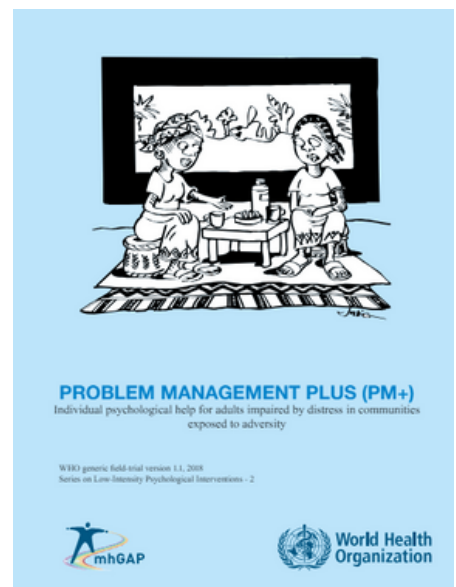
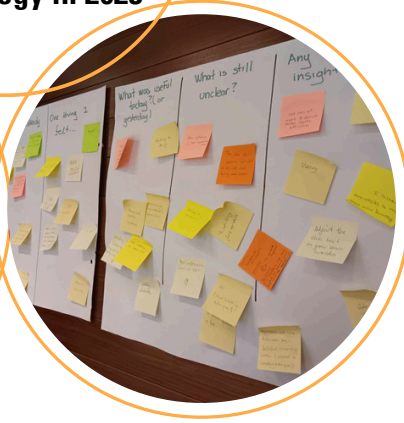
The STEP-IN project is coordinated by SOS Children's Villages Italy and in collaboration with Terre des hommes (Tdh) Hellas, Tdh Romania, Jesuit Refugee Service Romania, Centro Penc and HERA Center.



Co-funded by the European Union



36 professionals trained in PM+ methodology in 2023



Access to justice

Accessible quality restorative justice processes for children in contact with the law



In 2022, the [i-RESTORE 2.0 : Accessible Quality Restorative Justice Processes for Children in Contact with the Law](#) project was launched, building on the [i-RESTORE project](#) (2019-2021), which focused on promoting the use of restorative justice in cases involving child victims of crime and strengthening the capacities of justice professionals. As a result of this project, i-RESTORE 2.0 was drafted to go a step further and create accessible quality restorative justice processes for children in contact with the law.

Objectives:

- Build the capacities of national practitioners to address issues related to the rights of child victims and children suspected and/or accused of crime when involved in restorative justice processes
- Increase knowledge and exchange of learning among EU justice actors about access of child victims and children suspected and/or accused to high quality restorative justice processes.
- Empower child victims and children suspected and/or accused of crime to be agents to play a meaningful role when involved in restorative justice processes.
- Raise awareness among multidisciplinary actors and the community about accessibility and its obstacles, to high-quality restorative justice processes for child victims and children suspected and/or accused of crime.

i-RESTORE 2.0 is led by Terre des hommes Romania in partnership with Terre des hommes Regional Hub in Hungary, Terre des hommes Greece, European Forum for Restorative Justice (Belgium), Restorative Justice Netherlands, HALT (Netherlands), and Social Insurance Board (Estonia). It is co-funded by the European Union.



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What is restorative justice?

“Restorative justice is an approach that addresses harm or the risk of harm by engaging all those affected to reach an agreement on how to restore the harm and achieve justice. It is an approach that focuses on the needs of the victim and the motives of the offender, involving the local community where possible. It facilitates the prevention of harm and ensures that people are responsible for their choices and actions, with all parties involved actively participating together in resolving the issues arising from the unjust act.”

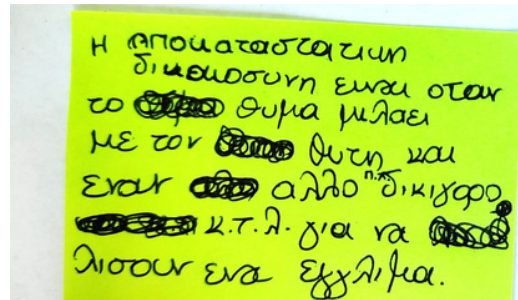
Panagiota Kanellopoulou, Access to Justice Project Coordinator

Our highlights in 2023

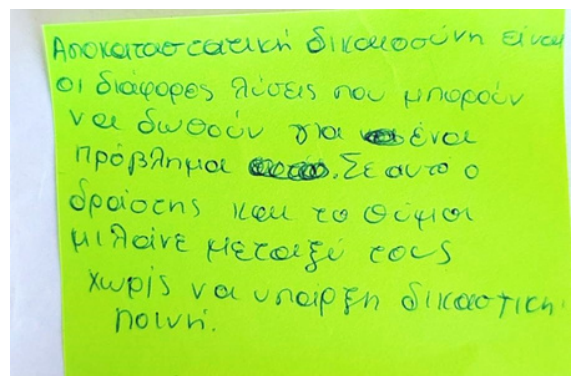
Over 30 professionals trained in child-friendly restorative justice.



We had the opportunity to work with students from public schools and create restorative justice awareness campaigns that we shared on our social networks!



Exchange of visits & partnership between Greece and the Netherlands



Why choose restorative justice?

“Restorative justice enables the victim of a crime to meet and communicate with the offender if both parties wish to do so. The victim is empowered and given a voice, while the offender can take responsibility and make amends. Rather than aiming for punishment, restorative justice gives all parties involved the opportunity to process what happened and express their feelings and experiences. With restorative justice, everyone is included and involved - the victim heals, the perpetrator is reintegrated and the balance of the community is restored, with lower recidivism rates.”

Maria Vlavianou, Project Officer of
Access to Justice Programmes

Our publications of 2023



We published the study on the child-friendliness of the justice system in Greece.



We published a report presenting the results of a survey conducted for the needs assessment on children and restorative justice in Greece and the Netherlands.



Co-funded by
the European Union

Access to justice

i-Access My Rights: 'Smart' justice for children, with the aid of artificial intelligence



The i-Access My Rights project aims to improve access to information and legal assistance in the field of digital justice for child victims in the European Union, by promoting an AI solution that is above all child-centric. The aim is to create an accessible tool based on NLP (Natural Language Processing) technology, where child victims will have access to information on their role and rights in criminal proceedings, presented in a child-friendly way. Starting from the belief that the most "competent" people to advise us about children are the children themselves, the tool will be developed with Child Advisory Boards, thus ensuring their active participation. The project is aimed at professionals, policymakers, and child victims aged 14-18 years, but also the public. It focuses on Greece, Bulgaria, and Romania and will also disseminate its results at the European level.



A special survey has been published examining whether children would like to be informed about their rights and available services by talking to a chatbot.



The chatbot was designed together with children, professionals and academics to be available by the end of 2024!



Hello there! 🌟 I'm a friendly artificial intelligence chatbot here to help you with questions. I'm not a real person, but a kind of super smart computer program. Just like you learn from your lessons at school, I have learned a lot of things by reading and practicing. You can ask me questions about children's rights and available support services. When you ask something, I give answers based only on the information that was provided by my human creators.

Hello, I am being bullied in my school. What can I do?

The AI chatbot is analysing your question, please wait...



Co-funded by the European Union

Access to justice

Empowering parents of children in conflict with the law through mental health and psychosocial support



In Greece, psychosocial support for parents/guardians of children who have come into contact with the criminal justice system is necessary but unfortunately limited. With the Just-Us project, Terre des hommes Hellas, in collaboration with the Self-Help Promotion Programme of the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki and with the support of the Juvenile Probation Services, addresses this gap by empowering parents and guiding them towards the creation of a supportive community.

The intervention by Terre des hommes Hellas includes:

- Empowerment groups: aiming to enhance parents and caregivers' ability and capability to protect children by strengthening parenting skills and improve the parent-child relationship, ensuring parents' overall wellbeing, especially during times of stress or crisis. Parents/caregivers of children who have exhibited delinquent/deviant behaviour in group settings, will be able to discuss and gain information on issues that affect them and their children.
- Community support and advocacy: Parent/guardian empowerment aims to develop **sustainable self-organised groups**, ultimately leading to the creation of independent networks of **peer education and mutual support**.

Terre des hommes Hellas considers this intervention as an essential part of its holistic approach to the empowerment of the social care system, which includes the direct empowerment of beneficiaries, the development of their capacities and the awareness raising of the wider public.



Read here the short guide published under the project.



The project is implemented by donation from the Stavros Niarchos Foundation.





Transparency

At Terre des hommes Hellas, we place great emphasis on the transparency of our actions and funding. In more detail:

- We work with an external firm of chartered accountants for annual audits.
- We publish on our website our annual financial reports, program reports as well as our internal regulations and codes of values.
- Available on our website are also all the documents of incorporation of the organization in Greece such as GEMI decisions & Articles of Association
- We are members of the national registers of the Ministry of Immigration and Asylum as well as in the Public Database of the Ministry of Interior.
- We apply internal controls by the international department of Terre des hommes.

Find more information



Networks and partnerships

We participated with a presentation at the event organised by Defence for Children International Greece together with the Child Friendly Justice European Network on the occasion of the recent evaluation of Greece by the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child.

Tdh Hellas invests in collectivity and cooperation between Civil Society Organisations by participating in national and transnational networks of organisations such as:

- CRAN
- Legal Aid Working Group
- Advocacy Working Group
- ACCMR

Through our programmes we have established partnerships with:

- Public Schools
- Juvenile Probation and Social Services
- Juvenile Protective Services and Child Welfare Services
- Children's Homes
- Child Advocacy Centers
- Children's Homes

Partners: Association Roditeli Bulgaria, Brave Phone Croatia, Centro Penc, European Forum for Restorative Justice, HALT, HERA Center, Institute of Social Activities and Practices (SAPI), Jesuit Refugee Service Romania, Katholieke Universiteit Leuven, Lawren.io, Noldus, Restorative Justice Netherlands, Social Activities and Practice Institute, Social Insurance Board, SOS Children's Villages International, SOS Children's Villages Italy, War Child Holland, Terre des hommes Romania, Terre des hommes Hungary.

Advocacy

In the context of the holistic philosophy that applies to our programmes, Terre des hommes Hellas collaborates with third parties (the State and Civil Society) in order to adapt the legislative framework to ensure respect for the rights of children and young people. More specifically, Tdh Hellas participates in special working groups, closely monitors legislative developments concerning child protection while at the same time implementing information and awareness-raising campaigns to contribute to a more child-centred justice system.

Submission of recommendations to Public Consultation Platform:

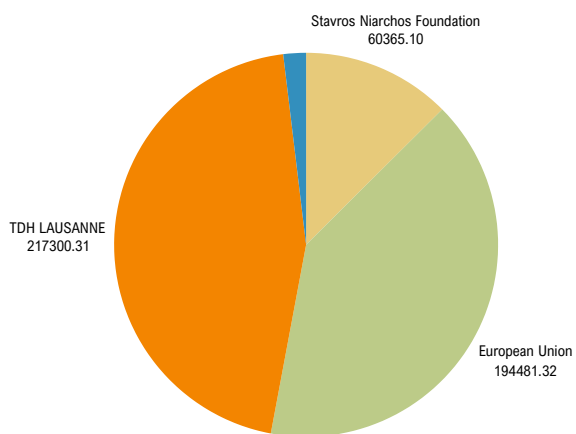
- on the draft law “Interventions in the Criminal Code and the Code of Criminal Procedure for the acceleration and qualitative upgrading of criminal proceedings - Modernisation of the legislative framework for the prevention and combating of domestic violence”.
- on the reform of the current Immigration Code.



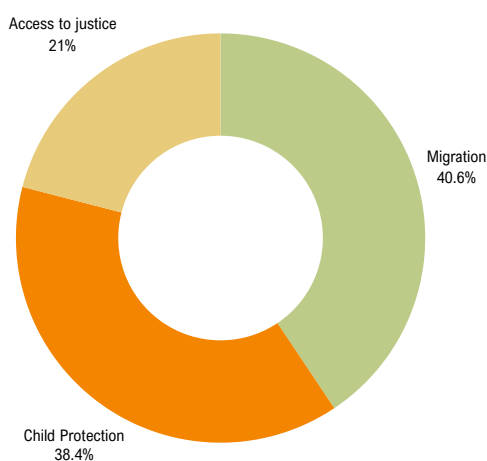


Funding

2023 resource allocation per donor, in EUR



2023 resource allocation by thematic priority



We would like to thank our donors for their support and trust in 2023!





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***Every child has a right
to a childhood.
It's that simple.***



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Helping children worldwide.