



ANNUAL REPORT 2022

ASOCIACIÓN ESPAÑOLA HABIBI CENTER

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The Team

What Habibi Center represents for the team

During this year, 2022, the team at the Habibi Center has continued to be formed by Stephanie and Camille. The Habibi Center represents something very special for each of them:

Stephanie (31 years old, Santiago, Chile)

Stephanie co-founded the Habibi Center in 2016 and continues managing the project until this day.



“Being from a mixed family, people often ask me where I call home, expecting to hear ‘the US’ or ‘Chile,’ but I always answer ‘here’. And although this country is lovely, I don’t mean Greece, I actually mean the Habibi Center. The Habibi Center is my home. I can’t imagine myself elsewhere. I love every part of it... well maybe not the accounting part. I really love our students, seeing them grow, open up and really blossom. It is truly something special. I also love the constant development of the Habibi Center. Year after year, the Habibi Center has changed and improved in many ways. This year has been a year filled with transformation and new things. It has been so exciting but also a lot of work! We have accomplished so much this year which wouldn’t have been possible but for our amazing team of volunteers. Now we are planning and preparing many more new things for 2023, and again this means more work, but I just can’t wait for next year!” –Steph

The Team

What Habibi Center represents for the team

Camille (33 years old, Paris, France)

Camille first came to the Habibi Center in February of 2020, and what was supposed to be a 2-month volunteering experience has turned into more than years with no end in sight for the near future. She started as an English teacher but today she does a bit of everything and has taken up the role of Project Coordinator.

“Not so long ago, I was asked to introduce the Habibi Center to foreign students and teachers. I hadn't prepared a speech. ‘Why Habibi Center? What’s Habibi Center?’ 5 of my students were with me and I asked them ‘what’s Habibi Center to you kids?’. They said words like ‘family’, ‘safe environment’ and ‘learn’.

I have always wanted to work in an environment that’s safe, where you can be yourself, do your best and that’d be enough. A place where every human being, students and teachers, feel safe and can grow into a better version of themselves. A place where caring for someone, helping someone without asking anything in return is simply normal. A place where I could teach to motivated students who chase their dreams. Because that’s all they have left. A place that feels like a family. A place called Habibi Center.” –Camille



The Team

Message about the year

As this year comes to an end, we look back at all that has happened at the Habibi Center. It's been a year filled with new endeavors and as well as challenges. A wonderful year, which couldn't have been possible without all of our team, both in Athens and working remotely. We would like to thank Matthew for taking charge of the GED Math and Science preparation, Steven for taking over the accounting as well as leading the employability workshops with the help of Jamel, Vangelis, Simon and Katerina; Edward for helping us with grant writing, Matt and Victoria for helping us with creating videos as well as developing a university scholarships and free courses database, Niel for helping us with graphic designs, Gen for helping to edit this report, and all of the volunteer teachers we have had this year, especially those that came for the closing of the year; we asked a lot from you guys, and you gave it all to help us make this our best year yet! And we have one more person we would like to thank for joining our team this year, but first, a little introduction...



At the Habibi Center, we have been looking for ways to help our students gain both the skills and work experience for their dream career paths, and at the same time, give them an opportunity to become a part of the Habibi Center volunteer team and give back to the project. Meet Habibi Center's first intern:

"Not long ago, before I left Greece, my teachers at Habibi Center asked me if I want to become a remote social media manager intern and I agreed to it. This opportunity gave me the chance to look at how the social side of organizations operates, and in this way, I've managed to gather a major amount of social media managing skills over the duration I've been working, so I'm so happy that I was given the opportunity and agreed to it. Until now I've learnt a lot about managing a social media page and I hope as much as it has been useful to me it has been helpful to Habibi Center as well."

–Pouya

A Special Thanks

Alex, a major part of the Habibi Center team, left Greece in May. His selfless dedication has left a lasting impact on both the project and the students. Merely entering the Habibi Center, one can see “Alex’s mark” imprinted on the walls of the school.

He will forever be a part of the Habibi Center family.



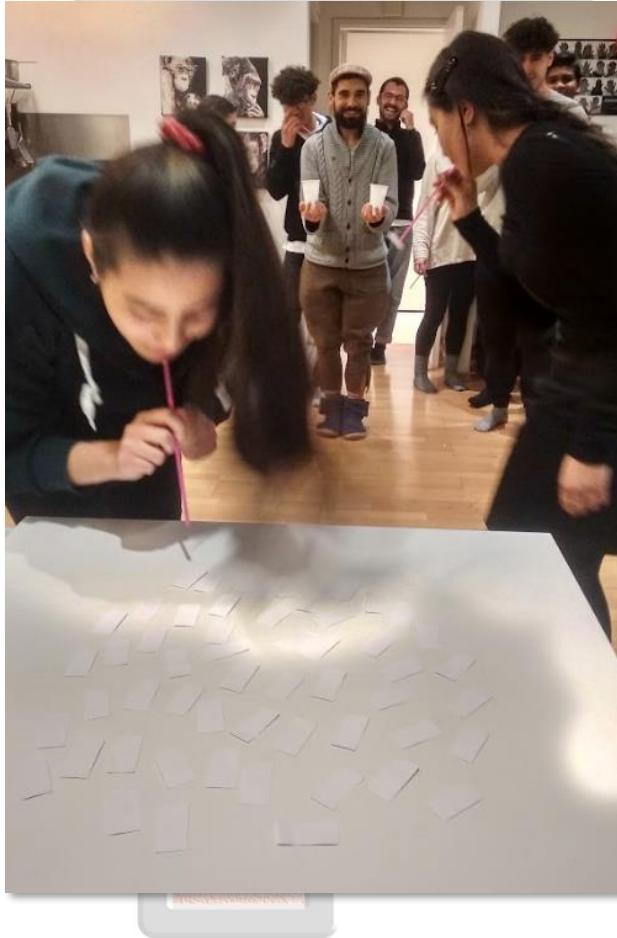
“After 2 short but intense stays in the Habibi Center in December 2016 and August 2017, I decided to leave everything behind in Scotland, where I used to live, and come permanently to Athens to help in the coordination of the project in January 2018. I came to give a 100% of myself, to find my way both personally and professionally, to open up and learn from different cultures, to understand the vulnerable situation of people who had fled their countries of origin to find a better and safer place to continue their lives, to witness first-hand the evolution of this hungry youth. All that I’ve lived during these nearly 4 years and a half has totally changed my perspective of life in so many ways.

There is a big rush to choose what to become as soon as possible, get a university degree, find a job related to that and get stuck to it for the rest of our lives, regardless the levels of fulfilment and happiness. That might work for many people, but it didn’t work for me as I felt that I hadn’t found my purpose in life yet. I feel extremely lucky to have saved some money during my 11 years of career as a draftsman...

as well as proud of having invested part of it on these intense years as a volunteer in Athens. Thanks to this adventure, I believe I have eventually found my true devotion: social work and teaching.

**Continued on the next page*

The responsibility I have felt during this time in Athens has been a huge challenge but also an amazing gift. Although some students only see me as a teacher, the connection with some others has been way more intense and I have become their friend, their older brother, their counsellor and sometimes their only support. I am extremely happy to feel that some of these resilient, loving, and compassionate youngsters will be part of my life forever.



And what can I say about Steph, the crazy and inspiring mother of this beautiful project? Countless moments surrounded by frustration, when things didn't go the way we wanted; worries and tears, when some of our little brothers and sisters disappeared or set off on dangerous journeys; joy while witnessing the evolution and successes of our strong students; laughter, when remembering dozens of anecdotes as well as funny misunderstandings with the youth; fatigue, while working really hard day after day to face new challenges; and happiness, when we stop and realise how much we have grown and how many goals we have achieved. I am very grateful for everything that has happened to me since I came on board of the team. I do feel that this is not the end but the start of a new period, that hopefully, will be forever connected to this needed and special project called Habibi Center.



“To all the teachers and the unique students I have met, THANKS FOR TEACHING ME!”
–Alex

About us

Habibi Center is a **non-formal education project** established in Greece since August 2016 and officially registered in the National Association Registry in Spain under the name *Asociación Española Habibi Center* (Nº 616525) since October 2018.

Mission

Offer **support at different levels** to young refugees from different countries who have been forced to stay in a temporary or indefinite form in Greece, while contributing to their **education**, and providing them with **useful tools** to build their future and empower them through education and life values.

Spread **positivity and hope** to young people who have a high degree of vulnerability, anger, frustration and uncertainty so that they obtain the **self-esteem, confidence and independence** necessary to build a dignified future and quality well-being within our society.

Vision

Education is the essential tool for the development, transformation and change of society.

Equal opportunities for accessing resources are essential to create a just society.

Youth empowerment is necessary to build a positive future.

The socio-emotional support for vulnerable young people is vital for their integration and active participation in society.

Values

EDUCATION: Habibi Center has created its own educational methodology and puts it in practice in the broadest meaning of the word education: tolerance, diversity, creativity and determination.

VOLUNTEER: Volunteering is the starter motor and what runs Habibi Center. Without it, nothing that has been achieved so far would have been possible.

COMMUNITY: Habibi Center is a project created, supported and coordinated by ordinary people. Together in unity we can create change in our environment.

Project Objectives

Learning English on an academic level

Learning the English language is a communicative tool that represents a very important part to our youth. With it, they can begin to communicate with their environment and feel safer and more independent, without the need for interpreters.

Although the main essence of a language is to give us the possibility to communicate with other people, with greater or lesser quality, this project focuses on their learning in a very **structured** and **academically-based** form. The main reason is the need that all these vulnerable young people present to reach their actual school level as soon as possible and, thus, enable to attain the same opportunities as any other young European person.

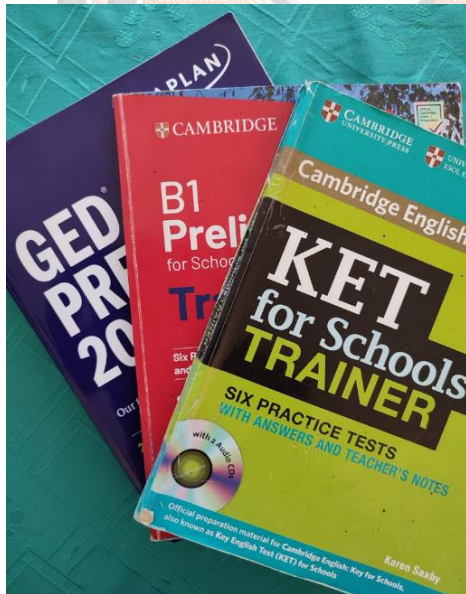
Many of our students have lived displaced from their homes and not attended any schools for years. For that reason, there is a high number of them who come to the center with a high level of **illiteracy**, not only of the English alphabet but even that of their own mother tongue. Although all of our classes are separated by levels and working in the most personalized way possible, this initial level requires a special adaptation to the unique needs of the student and a higher investment of energy. The project considers this first stage crucial since, if these young people do not reach a minimum level of literacy, they have a high probability of not being able to enter any educational program, be it formal or informal. One year later, we see that the number of illiterate young people keeps raising alarmingly, not only in the ones who are interested in joining the Habibi Center but also the ones we can see around the city with little optimism and future goals.



Project Objectives

Learning English on an academic level

When young people begin to acquire minimum levels of literacy, they are provided new vocabulary and grammar following a **specific curriculum** created based upon the 6+ years of experience of the Habibi Center team. This curriculum, a hybrid of the material included in several self-study books, the material personally created by the team since the organization's inception, as well as the creativity unique to each volunteer, helps us to give a structure to both students and various teachers. For example, on one hand, each new volunteer starts with the assurance of a structured syllabus that they will be required to teach during the following weeks. On the other hand, students benefit from the structure and consistency of learning since they will follow the agenda that corresponds to their level, without repeating material or taking a disproportionate leap into advanced material.



This academic learning approach culminates with one of the aspects which makes us unique in Athens: **the preparation of official Cambridge exams**. Since July 2017, **123** young people have taken at least one of these exams and, among these, 5 have achieved the B2 level certificate, 31 the B1 level certificate, 55 the A2 level certificate, 17 the level A1. From the earliest stages of arrival, 8 that took the exams but didn't pass and 7 who are still waiting for their exam results. The overall development of these young people has been of high importance, but with the preparation of these official exams it causes them to take an immense, measurable leap both in quality and their level of English, and even more importantly in their personal attitude and confidence levels. This experience gives them the opportunity to mingle with other young Greeks and their exams are scored without any favoritism or consideration of their legal situations and status, but simply as one more Cambridge exam candidate. In addition, many students who have received this certification have been able to utilize it for important matters such as routine asylum interviews, and once they have transitioned to other European countries, English level assessment interviews, as well as to qualify for and obtain higher-entry jobs.

Project Objectives

Youth empowerment

Although learning English is the reason why most students are interested in attending the center, the main mission of the project is really to fully empower these young refugees. This empowerment is a key element for their **development**, to **cultivate and sustain their independence and autonomy**, as well as integrating their **social and professional skills**.



Habibi Center believes that it is of utmost importance that young people learn to **recognize and strengthen their own skills** actualizing a feeling of fulfillment and satisfaction, as well as learning to **manage weaknesses and fears** by confronting them instead of avoiding them.

The project makes a great effort to provide them, on a daily basis, with **values and tools** to help them increase confidence and self-esteem, necessary to achieve any objective that they set, thus becoming independent people of society. Therefore, a great deal of energy and time is also invested in the **education of practical knowledge through education**, such as the use of different basic tools such as computer programs, typing speed and accuracy, and the creation of a Curriculum Vitae.

Project Objectives

Youth empowerment



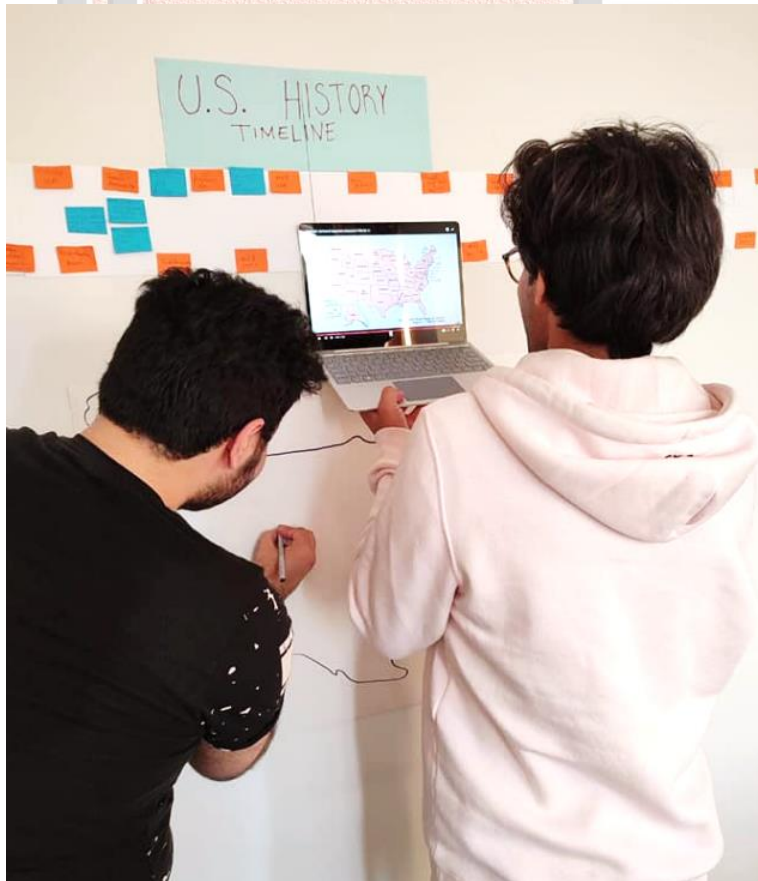
To achieve this goal and equip young people with knowledge and competencies, Habibi Center has created a **safe space, with freedom and coexistence** that brings the youth and adults together on a daily basis, a place to start building a better future, through education. Since 2017, this physical space is located in the center of Athens. Habibi Center opens its doors from 3.30 p.m. to 8 p.m. each weekday. This schedule allows the students to attend the official Greek school in the mornings and attend the Habibi Center's program in the afternoons.

Although originally equipped as an apartment, the Habibi Center has been adapted over time to now be a “homey” set of classrooms functioning as a community center. Educational supplies, such as tables, whiteboards, and a library, are simple yet functional, and **decorations** of most of the walls comprise, motivational phrases and quotes, project displays, past art projects, as well as photos of students and teachers. This eclectic and colorful collection has helped young people feel comfortable and relaxed within the **learning space, while maintaining the comfort and warmth of a home.**



Project Objectives

Youth empowerment



We started looking into what it would take to complete the GED exams (General Educational Development) about three years ago after realizing that, for some students, the task of going through the Greek school system to receive a high school diploma would be nearly impossible. Not having this proof of high school education would have serious consequences, preventing students from attending university and limiting their prospects of a good future.

To give students their best chance, we decided to help them take the GED exams, by providing preparation classes for each of the subjects tested. This is not an easy task as it takes months to prepare for each exam in the four subject areas: Reasoning Through Language Arts, Science, Math, and Social Studies. Through hard work, students can pass these exams and receive an American high school equivalency credential, opening more doors for their future.



Progress of the Year

January February March April May June July August September October November December

We began this year with the preparation for Cambridge exams. In March, Matthew (teacher) prepared 2 students for the B1 PET exams, then in May, Matthew (teacher) prepared 2 students for the A2 KET exams and Camille (teacher) prepared 5 students for the B1 PET exams, and they all took their exams in March. We have already received their results and certificates, all of them passed!



Progress of the Year

January February March April May June July August September October November December

After having passed the Math GED exam in December of 2021, Falak began preparing for the Science GED exam in February. Joe (Science Teacher) did an excellent job preparing him and with just two months of preparation, he was able to take the exam and passed! Here are his thoughts on studying for the GED exams:

“The GED test is a whole different experience for me. I was not familiar with GED at all. I went to an American school in Athens where I learned English but I couldn’t get admission for the second year and therefore was not able to get a high school diploma. However, I wanted to finish high school so badly because in the future I want to go to university. Since I don’t know Greek it became almost impossible for me to graduate high school from a Greek school. I did go to Greek school for one and half year, but it didn’t work out and after that my teacher Stephanie in Habibi Center introduced me to GED. It was not easy to just say ok I will start studying GED. It was a big responsibility as I was the only studying taking that exam, so one teacher had to teach me alone whereas in other classes there were 5 to 8 students in each class. Also, the GED is not an easy exam either and it becomes more difficult when you are the only student in class. This exam requires a lot of hard work, dedication, and patience... Passing the GED exams will earn me a high school diploma and recognition that I have a high school level of education. Even if I am not interested in going to college, my diploma can still help me to qualify for many jobs as my employers require job candidates to have a high school diploma so GED will open the door to many more career opportunities.” -Falak



Progress of the Year

January February March April May June July August September October November December

An Easter math workshop was a great addition to what the Habibi Center offers students.

“For some it was an important introduction to essentials such as percentages and decimals. Some students hadn’t studied these things for several years, and it was great to see understanding came back. Of course, many people will never really enjoy maths, but I think everyone had at least a moment of satisfaction having solved a problem.

For a separate group, the workshop provided individual attention and careful, English language explanation of maths covered at Greek school. It highlighted the inadequate adjustments made in Greek school for non-Greek speaking students with disrupted schooling. I think their confidence was really boosted as they understood what was written in their school books. I hope we can do similar things in the future to help students keep pace with maths taught in Greek maintain interest in an essential subject.” –Matthew



Progress of the Year

January February March April May June July August September October November December



No matter your background, embarking on the job search journey can be daunting if you don't know where to start. For this reason, we decided to create and run our first Employability Workshop. This workshop provided the basics for Habibi Center students to start looking for work including creating their resumes, thinking about their futures, using job sites, balancing their time, and practicing for interviews. By the end of the four-week workshop, students displayed more confidence in how to talk about themselves and their experiences and how to apply this to various skills they will use in the workplace. Many students have bigger dreams that involve helping the community and caring for people, and are excited they now have a strong starting foundation.

Progress of the Year

January February March April May June July August September October November December

This summer, we expanded our space and services adding 3 classrooms! This means that we had more space to do summer workshops, developed an IT program, and we increased our English classes from 9 to 13.



Progress of the Year

January February March April May June July August September October November December

English is the most widely spoken language and it's imperative that young people learn it in order to have more opportunities in their futures. However, nowadays there is another skill that is becoming more and more essential, and that is computer skills. For this reason, when we acquired the new space, we decided to dedicate a room to I.T. and to create a program that would start from computer literacy and develop into endless possibilities of learning.

“We created a curriculum with the understanding that every workshop at Habibi has the overarching goal of literacy; consequently, vocabulary is stressed along with basic building blocks that any student entering the workforce can utilize. Both the beginning and intermediate workshops begin with Windows, move to Office, then progress to the internet, with the intermediate class looking more in-depth at each subject. The students acquired knowledge that helps them comprehend not only why things work the way they do, but also how to make them work.” –Adam Desmond (IT teacher)



Progress of the Year

January February March April May June July August September October November December

For students who had a higher level of knowledge of computers, we created a Web Programming Workshop. During this three-week workshop, Arthur (IT teacher) taught the students about Visual Studio Code Software, CSS Language, Apache and MySQL, PHP Website Development, Data Creation and more.

“The IT class was a wonderful opportunity for me to experience something new. As a beginner, I found it extremely surprising that how we can use a computer for so many different works. I especially enjoyed coding. But overall, there was care, help and humor which made me eager to learn more.”

–Student



Progress of the Year

January February March April May June July August September October November December

For the first time, the Habibi Center ventured into the realm of theatre and playwriting. The Theater workshop culminated in a wonderful performance of a play written by the students called: REVELATIONS.

“Theatre is a powerful method of telling stories. One that connects the performer with the audience and has the capacity to bring new life even to familiar narratives. Theatre can also help bring clarity to the nuances involved in communicating with English speakers, instilling confidence in proud people brave enough to seek a fresh start, a better life, and a new home. It also gives students a chance to tell stories that are meaningful to them –inspiring stories that give new perspectives and create empathy.

The six-week workshop began by focusing on getting to know and trust one another, which allowed us to open up and participate in theatrical activities designed to help refugees more fully express themselves. As we built trust and let our walls down, we focused on stories and situation that the students resonated with and provided the audience with a glimpse into the life of refugees.”
– Adam and Windy (Theatre Teachers)



Progress of the Year

January February March April May June July August September October November December



"I had the privilege of conducting a two week's long art workshop at Habibi Center this July with 4 wonderful students. In advance I've had the proverb "Alone we go faster, together we go further" in my head for a common theme for the workshop and planned a program around it.

Visual art is often thought to be something quite private or at least something you do alone, only to share the final results with others. However, I wanted to challenge that. I thought it would be interesting to see what would happen if the students collaborated with each other and combined their strengths.

We began gently by preparing the ground: getting to know everyone and making several portraits of each other and of ourselves. It was fun, rather easy and nice. But then came the toughest part: creating a mural together in one of Habibi Center's classrooms. Exciting, a little bit scary for sure, and extremely frustrating at times!

It was frustrating to just talk and not do any art at all at first. It was difficult to find a common theme, decide on details such as colours, will there be text or not, who does what and so on... I insisted that everyone's handprint had to be seen in the mural. Everyone's effort was required for a successful result. Even though we made a plan together, it was still difficult to let others continue and possibly do something differently than you had thought in your mind. It was also difficult to believe in your



**Continued on the next page*

own ideas and capacities, think what if you fail and everybody will see it on the wall! Having grace, being brave, and believing in yourself became our new themes while working with the mural, as well as accepting some imperfection, after all, beauty does not equal perfection.

Slowly, working together became easier, and at the end the mural came out beautifully, showcasing everybody's handprint and effort. I am extremely proud of the students' work, and I hope they'll keep on remembering our new theme while continuing their lives on. Likewise I hope the mural will inspire new students to believe in themselves." –Anne (Art Teacher)



Progress of the Year

January February March April May June July August September October November December



At the Habibi Center, we strive to empower girls by giving them the tools they need to excel. One of these tools (and one our girls often struggle with the most) is self-confidence. For this reason, when Matt offered to teach a self-defense course for our girls, we said YES!

“Unfortunately, women are up to four times more likely to be the target of harassment and attacks than men. Being aware of your surroundings and projecting self-confidence are the best ways to avoid being the target of an attack. But knowing how to ward off and escape an attack helps give this self-confidence and these are critical skills for every woman to have.” –Matt Simmons (Self-Defense Instructor)

Progress of the Year

January February March April May June July August September October November December



This year we celebrated our 6th year anniversary! Who could have imagined that we'd come this far and still be going strong?

Every year we celebrate this special day with our students. This year we decided to do a scavenger hunt. None of the students had ever done one before. Most of the students loved the new experience, that is, with the exception of those that were exhausted and could not complete the last task (get a cup coaster from a café/bar). They particularly enjoyed figuring out the riddles and playing dodge ball. Working in teams, coming up with secret handshakes or victory dances; it truly was a celebration to remember!



Progress of the Year

January February March April May June July August September October November December



In September, we ran our 2nd Employability Workshop!

“Habibi Center strives to not only teach English and instill a confidence that encourages students to continue to learn and explore the language, but also works hard to provide tools that students will use after they leave the school.

These tools include those of self-expression through material and theater arts as well as preparing for the working world through an employability workshop. The employability workshop teaches students how to prepare their resumés using EuroPASS and teaches students how to present their best self to future employers. Students are taught the importance of all their experiences from educational, to professional and volunteer and everything in between.

Many students that have taken the workshop feel they do not have the necessary experience for an entry level job. Volunteer teachers help students see how all their life experiences have instill different skills and qualities in them that will help them

not only for their first job, but also for future employment opportunities. Students learn how to convey their thoughts and show more of their personalities through cover letters and are taught how to look for entry level jobs in their areas of interest and learn how getting to their overall dream is a path of many steps, a lot of work and dedication, patience, and overall, a good attitude.

We also teach students how to complete a job interview and how to present themselves as a professional and make a memorable first impression. While the subject of the workshop may seem boring and tedious, as nobody likes filling out countless job applications for that one job, we strive to make it an engaging and fun experience for the students. This includes getting to know them on a personal level, including learning about their hopes, dreams, ambitions, and interests that help them think critically about their future.

The overall goal of the workshop is not to land the students with their first job, as this all depends on timing, but instead the objective is to give the students the confidence in themselves and their own dreams to take that first, most important, step towards their future.”

–Steven (workshop teacher)

Progress of the Year

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This summer, we began preparing Nima (our second GED student) for the exams, and in October, he passed the Math GED exam.

“After months of hard work, he achieved a great score in the maths exam and, in GED's own words, 'has the skills needed to start college-level courses'. For maths, this is definitely the case.

As our lessons started it became clear that he had a different background to my previous GED maths student, so although I was more confident with the GED material, a different approach was needed. One of the biggest challenges was not being able to process the language in the question, even though he knew the maths. This meant that there was quite a lot of vocab at the start of our classes - quite unusual for a maths lesson. In all fairness, understanding 'a number and three multiplied by itself is forty' is a bit of pain for anyone. I think being able to unpack very precise English like this has been an unexpected benefit of studying maths! After establishing the basic vocabulary, we worked through the GED topics with a great book that Steph had brought back from the US. We then spent the final few weeks practising the trickier question types. Nima's independent work at this time really secured his success; before every lesson he completed his homework and came with questions to go over in class.

I wish all my maths students said 'that's great', 'no problem', 'I can do it', and brought as much enthusiasm to my classes. We have just started studying the science part of the course, and although I think it's going to be more of a challenge for both of us, I know his positivity will see him through.” -Matthew (Math Teacher)



Progress of the Year

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“The third time is the charm.” This is definitely true for the IT workshop. From the 1st workshop to the 3rd, the program developed immensely to what is now a very well-rounded and in-depth 1st Level IT class.

“Computers—a world of seemingly endless possibilities and these days almost a necessity. In the IT workshop at Habibi Center, we introduce youth to this world of computers. In four weeks, the youth learn the basic terminology of computers and get hands-on practice with the essential skills such as typing, writing emails, creating and editing documents and making presentations. They also learn how to keep hackers out and what to do when the computer stops working. To top off the workshop, a (slightly dysfunctional) laptop is dissected and the most important building blocks of the computer are explored. A small victory cry can be heard when, once the laptop has been reassembled and the power button pressed, it responds and the screen lights up. In short, this workshop empowers youth to be more independent and opens doors for their future.” –Daniel (IT teacher)



Progress of the Year

January February March April May June July August September October November December

In December, 5 students took the A2 and 2 students took the B1 Cambridge exams. Although we will have to wait until the end of January or February next year to find out their results, here is what some of them thought about their experience:

“In my opinion, English is the most important language to learn. I personally read to help myself and others. Every language is like a human being.” –A

“It was a nice experience because I need it for my future job.” –B

“I’m confident enough to officially announce that I’ve perfectly nailed the English exam. And of course, the toils of the teachers to prepare us for this day is worth mentioning.” –M



Progress of the Year

January February March April May June July August September October November December

Two students spent a little over 2 months studying for the GED Social Studies exam. The topics they covered included US History and World History, Economics, Geography and US Government. The first week of December, Falak, took and passed the exam.

“All the hard work has paid off! The 3rd GED exam done. It seemed almost impossible, when I started as it was something very new to me. However, 3 of them are already done and I’m just one step away from officially graduating. I do want to mention that it wasn’t just me who was working really hard but my teachers too. I was given one-on-one classes and even on the weekends my teachers have taught me. My gratitude to you for all you have done for me, which I will never forget. I truly appreciate you and the time you spent helping me.” –Falak



Progress of the Year

January February March April May June July August September October November December

The Habibi Center started a PenPal program with a school in Latvia. Two letters in, the students are opening up and getting comfortable as they get to know each other, with “let’s play videogames together” and “maybe we can celebrate our birthdays together” and giving each other life advice.

“Since the writing tasks make up a total of 75% in the B1 English exam – mandatory to achieve a certificate of primary education in Latvia – it is paramount to equip our students with necessary writing skills. However, it is becoming increasingly challenging to engage young adults in writing activities since they are growing up in a time when written sentences are replaced by string of emojis. Digital communication is fun and requires minimal effort, there is even an auto-correct for those tricky words that nobody can ever remember how to spell. Therefore, participation in a letter exchange program with Habibi Center has added that extra value and meaning to the writing activities and has increased curiosity and playfulness in class. I am grateful to Habibi Center teachers for this wonderful opportunity to collaborate, and its students for their effort, consistency and genuine interest in getting to know us.” -Evija (Teacher at Riga’s Tower Mountain Private School)

A last-minute school trip meant that students from Riga’s Tower Mountain Private School were able to come to Athens and spend three days with Habibi Center students. It was a very special time, in which they made Latvian Christmas cookies, played trivia games, built spaghetti-marshmallow towers, and most importantly, they had the chance to form new friendships. It was the perfect way to end an incredibly busy and wonderful year!



Statistical Highlights of the Year

16

different nationalities of students have had lessons together at the Habibi Center



Statistical Highlights of the Year

17

students accompanied by at least one family member have been part of the Habibi Center.

Among them:

12

boys

5

girls

95

unaccompanied students have been part of the Habibi Center.

Among them:

68

boys

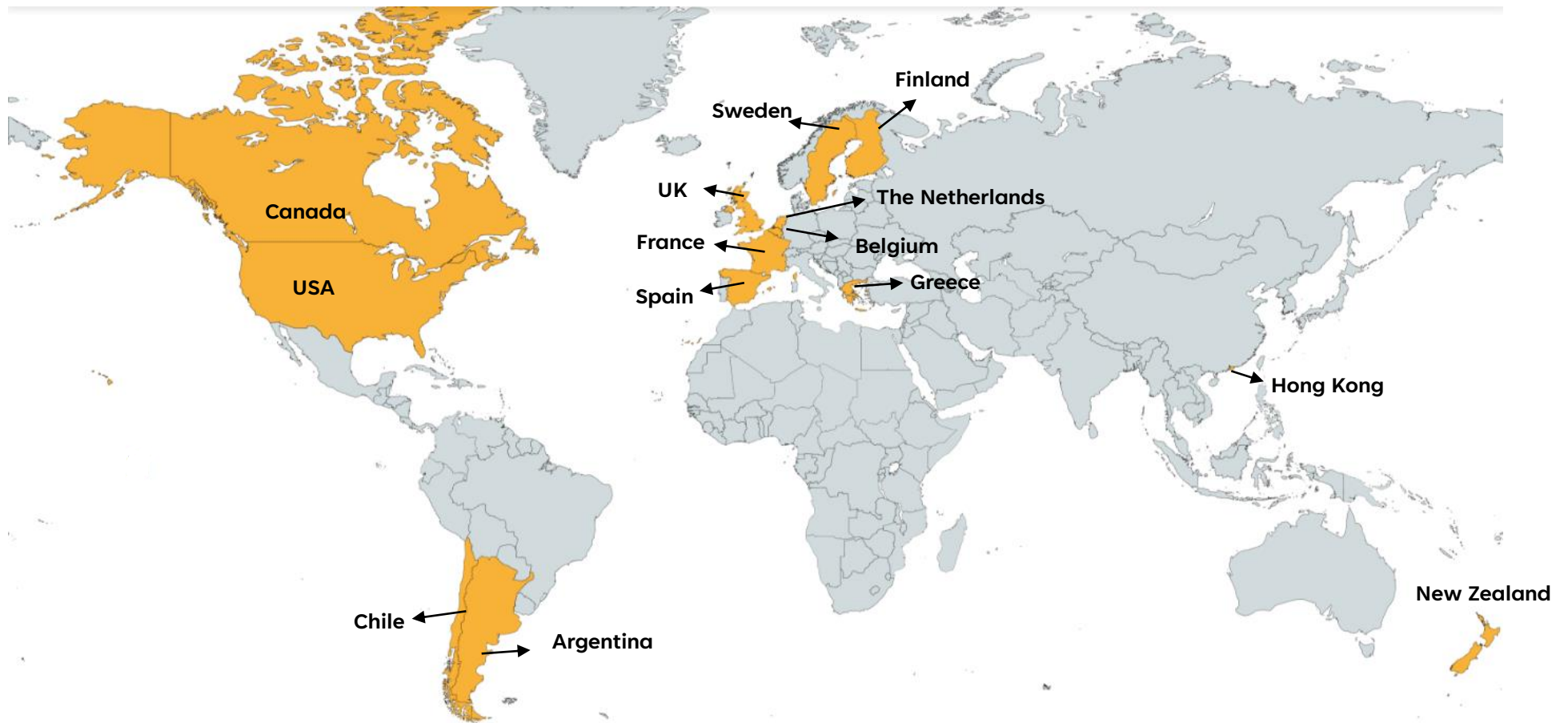
27

girls

Statistical Highlights of the Year

14

different nationalities of volunteers have been part of the Habibi Center



Statistical Highlights of the Year



11

students **learned to read and write** at the Habibi Center

2

students were prepared to take **GED exams**

16

students were prepared to take **official Cambridge exams**

12

students took the **1st level IT course** and received certificates

2

students took the **2nd level IT course** and received certificates

Statistical Highlights of the Year

34

students **reached adulthood** while being part of the Habibi Center

20

different **shelters for unaccompanied minors** are behind our 95 unaccompanied students and most of them coordinate efforts with the Habibi Center



ΣΥΛΛΟΓΟΣ ΜΕΡΙΜΝΗΣ ΑΝΗΛΙΚΩΝ & ΝΕΩΝ
SOCIETY FOR THE CARE OF MINORS AND YOUTH



Statistical Highlights of the Year

70

students stopped attending the Habibi Center due to:

4

family reunifications in other European countries

21

legal movements to other European countries, once they received their documents, to find better opportunities (14 of them were unaccompanied)

13

had to **focus on their jobs or studies** once they became adults (all of them were unaccompanied)

6

illegal movements out of the country (all of them were unaccompanied)

26

other reasons such as suddenly disappeared or were asked to stop (all of them were unaccompanied)



Statistical Highlights of the Year

17

private donors have made **financial contributions on a monthly basis**

7

groups from USA, Spain and the UK have supported financially the Habibi Center

25

private donors have made **financial contributions in a timely manner**

51

private donors have made **financial contributions through Teaming, donating 1€ monthly (2 former students)**

Habibi Center

Statistical Highlights of the Year

5

short-term volunteers decided to **personally cover the expenses of the photocopies used by their classes** during their stay



5

former students have made financial contributions to the Habibi Center (2 donate on a monthly basis)

4

private donors have made **material contributions** to the Habibi Center (3 of them are or were Habibi Center students)



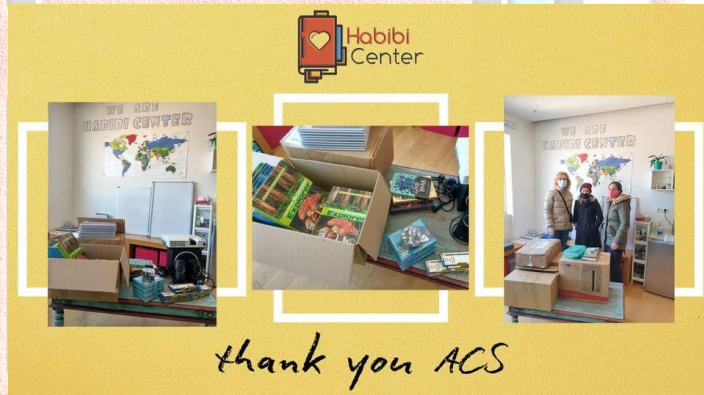
2

food fundraisers

Statistical Highlights of the Year

2

organizations donated **materials** to the Habibi Center



1

cultural event which created awareness and raised funds



Statistical Highlights of the Year

Over €5,000

raised through **online fundraisers** around the world

6th Anniversary Celebration
of Habibi Center



1st Gaming Fundraiser



Live
Gecu's Ironman Journey to 5.6B!
(End-of-Year Charity Stream? Puppy
Guest Star? Wow!)
RuneScape

10 birthday fundraisers



Testimonials

Students

All the testimonials of both students and volunteers can be read to their full extent on our official website www.habibicenter.org, going through the tag **Stories of Hope**. Below, we show a summary of all the received testimonials throughout this 2022.

“Habibi Center made me independent, forward-looking and aware while I’m living in Greece.”

– Mahmoud



“I got a lot of positive things from him (Alex - teacher) like follow whatever you believe in, don’t be afraid of trying something new, be on time, respect other people.”

– Tayebe



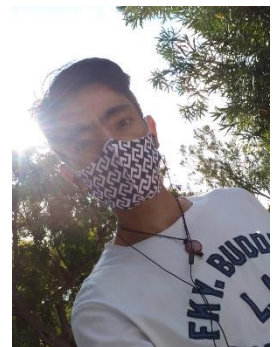
“...after a while I could feel there is something changing in my heart and my mind, by every day I could see improvement in my mind and my life.”

–Mossa



“In this place you will not just learn a foreign language, there are people that make you feel at home by listening and understanding your journey and helping you through hard times and give you the confidence to face challenges in life without ANY discrimination against your religion, skin color or culture.”

–Nasim



Testimonials

Volunteers

“What a rollercoaster of beautiful experiences, friendships, learning, laughing and crying...”

–Niel



“Seeing the Habibi Center students’ enthusiasm for learning makes me think that maybe these students are the ones that will make our world a better place in the future.”

–Marian



“Here, I returned to the core of teaching, where all the energy and love you put into your classes is returned by the motivation and eagerness of the students.”

–Sarah



“Without doubt it [HC experience] has altered for the better my understanding of the world, and recalibrated my own expectation for life and how I want to live it.”

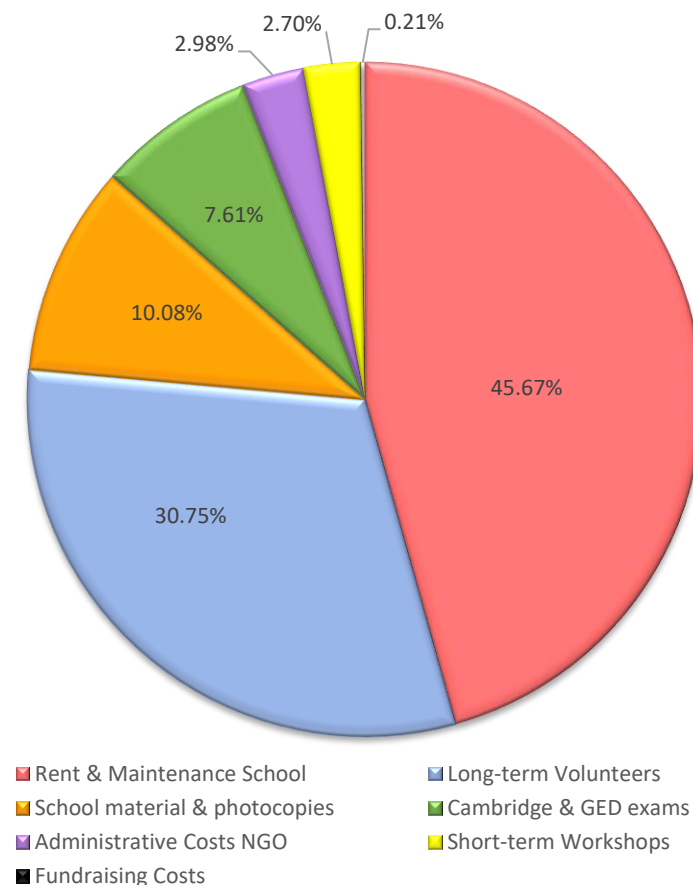
–Matthew



Financial Balance

Expenses

EXPENSES	
TYPE OF EXPENSE	AMOUNT (€)
Rent school	11.700,00
Rent flat for long-term volunteers	7.800,00
Material (pens, printer ink, A4 sheets, books, etc.)	962,80
Photocopies (regular lessons)	1.307,72
Activities (goodbye, celebrations, sport, etc.)	523,28
Equipment school (decoration, furniture, etc.)	254,80
Maintenance school (reparations, cleaning supplies, etc.)	705,73
Short-term workshops	749,32
Health Insurance long-term volunteers	725,49
Administration NGO (postage, SIM phone, taxes, bank, etc.)	842,91
Fundraising Activities/Objects (cards, Art Book, events, etc.)	58,80
Cambridge & GED Exams - Registration	1.589,43
Cambridge & GED Exams - Photocopies	520,87
TOTAL	27.741,15



Financial Balance

Income

INCOME	
TYPE OF INCOME	AMOUNT (€)
Excess from 2021	207,99
Monthly donations	2.968,09
Timely donations	4.083,22
Support Groups donations	14.756,16
Event donations	400,00
Online Fundraisers (birthdays, 6 th anniversary, etc.)	4,705,50
Fundraising Activities/Objects (cards, Art Book, events, etc.)	555,00
Donations to cover specific things (website, photocopies, etc.)	485,91
Gaming Fundraisers	67,62
TOTAL	28.229,49

EXCESS FOR 2023	
TOTAL	488,34

