

# Annual Report

a transparent view into 2021  
by Europe Cares e.V.



**SOLIDARITY  IN ACTION**



# EuropeCares Annual Report 2021

<b>1 A brief summary of 2021</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>2 Information About the Organisation</b>	<b>6</b>
2.1 History	6
2.2 Our Values	8
2.3 Goals	8
2.4 Organisational Structure	9
2.5 Partners	10
<b>3 Activities and Progress Report</b>	<b>11</b>
3.1 Campaigns and Projects	11
<b>4 Financial Report</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>5 Outlook on 2022 and Beyond</b>	<b>15</b>

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**Headquarters**

Europe Cares e.V.,  
Niddastr. 101, 60329 Frankfurt a.M.  
**Reg.Office:** Frankfurt a.M.  
**Registry:** VR 16842

**Represented by**

Director: Lennard Everwien  
Treasurer: Julian Gemmer  
contact@europecares.org

**Bank** GLS Bank

**IBAN** DE13430609671240904900  
**BIC** GENODEM1GLS  
**Tax.no.** 45 255 33664  
*Recognised charitable organisation*

## 1 A brief summary of 2021

### 13 Shipments to beneficiaries



The easiest way to understand the impact of Europe Cares in 2021 is to count the 40 tonne truck deliveries that all went to our intended beneficiaries who are displaced people trapped or detained on European borders.

Bosnia (01-13-21), Greece (01-15-21), France (02-05-21), Ukraine (03-19-21), France (03-17-21), Bosnia (03-26-21), France (06-01-21), Greece (07-14-21), Greece (08-20-21), Greece (08-31-21), Greece (09-10-21), Lebanon (11-12-21), Greece (12-22-21)

### 350 Pallets or 6500 Boxes



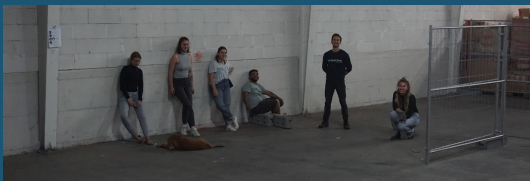
We moved a lot of humanitarian aid in 2021. Everything that we delivered addresses basic humanitarian needs of displaced people on European borders. It can roughly be split up into 40% Clothes (140PAL), 30% Shelter (105PAL), 15% Food (52PAL), 10% Hygiene (35 PAL), 5% others/specialties (18 PAL).

## 350 active Volunteers



In 2021 Europe Cares counted about 350 volunteers who joined in Europe Cares's events and activities. It is due to this active contribution that our intentions lead to sustainable support of refugees on European borders.

## 1750 volunteering hours



With an average contribution of 5 hours of work per volunteer Europe Cares facilitated 1750 hours volunteering hours. This invested time translates into support for displaced people.

## 64.863€ in Funds



In 2021 Europe Cares raised 17.538,04€ in cash donations and gained indirect funding for 9 shipments, which added up to 47.325€. In total Europe Cares received in cash and indirect support of 64.863€.

## 34 NGOs

### An amazing humanitarian network

In 2021, Europe Cares network of charitable organisations consisted of 34 NGOs. These are all groups that we collaborated with. We support each other. We all work towards a common cause. We from Europe Cares are grateful to be able to tackle today's societal problems together with such amazing partners.



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## 2 Information About the Organisation

### 2.1 History

As this is our first transparency report we would like to briefly elaborate on the history of Europe Cares, why we came together as an initiative serving the public good and how this initiative transitioned to becoming a charitable NGO.

Europe Cares is a humanitarian non-profit organisation that was initiated in the wake of the beginning of the Corona pandemic in early 2020. A small group of people started a grassroots campaign titled #EuropeCares and set out to reduce the hardship that was at this time rapidly increasing for displaced people trapped on European borders and not receiving the same health care support as local citizens during the pandemic.

Set in the context of the first COVID-19 lockdown measures, #EuropeCares had the aim of sending a message of solidarity to people on-the-move detained in Camp Moria. At the time, the topic of the horrendous humanitarian conditions on the European borders had disappeared from the news coverage, with the pandemic dominating the headlines and awareness of people across the continent.

With the first call to action for creating handmade masks, the campaign set its goal to mobilise European citizens to make masks for the people of Moria camp. The campaign's main priority was to support people on-the-move detained in Moria camp and to show them that European civil society has not forgotten them. This was the attempt to offer the people of Moria hope in an often forlorn situation. At the same time we sought to engage people in dealing with the situation on the European borders and to bring the issue into their focus and daily discourses. The mask initiative quickly spread in popularity and exceeded its initial goal by 100% leading to a donation of 40.000 masks, equal to two masks per resident of Moria camp at the time. This was made possible by enormous active contributions from individuals and groups from 15 different countries across Europe.

In light of our initial success in providing for the needs of people-on-the-move in Camp Moria, we were approached by other organisations - such as Team Humanity - to enlarge our aid offerings to deliver on the everyday needs of the camp inhabitants. Following up on this request we committed to collecting and sending in kind donations, such as

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products for body hygiene, food, clothes or items offering warmth and shelter such as blankets or sleeping bags. In order to live up to our commitment we run a few smaller campaigns delivering on the needs of people in Moria camp. With the outbreak of the fire in Camp Moria in September 2020 we intensified our humanitarian activities. With these actions we were able to send three truck loads (approx. 20tons) of humanitarian aid in support of people in Moria camp by the end of the year.

Building up on these smaller campaigns we decided to expand our activities at the end of 2020 to provide support for all people-on-the-move across Europe where-ever they are facing hardship on their journey or being detained in insufferable conditions. In a large-scale collection of in kind donations - mainly in Germany - we collected approximately 200t of raw humanitarian aid within one week, which we stored in three large warehouses in Hamburg, Frankfurt and Munich. In the following 15 months sorting and packing these in kind donations became our regular weekly work to which we invited numerous volunteers to join in preparing the humanitarian aid for its transportation to its beneficiaries. These activities accompanied by uncountable volunteering hours of the local civil society led to the 22nd humanitarian aid shipment leaving a Europe Cares warehouse in March 2021. The aid sent was distributed in northern France (Calais or Dunkirk), in the Balkan states Bosnia and Serbia or in one of the many Greek mainland or island hot spots where people-on-the-move are detained. The distribution was always conducted by close partners situated in these areas assuring the aid reached their intended beneficiaries.

At this point Europe Cares had reached a state in which we were regularly and actively working in the humanitarian sector supporting daily needs of people-on-the-move. At the same time our distribution partners have become used to us being able to provide for special needs coming up in hot spot areas. Acknowledging the fact that we have become an integral contributor to the humanitarian support network across Europe and with the intention to commit to permanently providing for the needs of people-on-the-move Europe Cares founded as a charitable NGO in May 2021.

This was the moment when we, as an organisation, started to think in a long term perspective. Now we are engaged in ongoing projects. We are installing permanent actions centres across Europe where we can carry on with our activities of supplying humanitarian aid. At the same time we are entering our own projects along the European border where we directly interact with people-on-the-move and offer them safe spaces we call Civil

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Action Centres, where they will find an environment in which they can pursue social and cultural activities or receive health service and legal advice.

We are proud to have come this far within just a couple of years and to be able to say that we do offer urgently needed support and manage to offer people-on-the-move some dignity, even if it is not nearly enough. We are grateful to all the generous volunteers supporting us in our work, without whom none of this would have been possible. We are looking forward to further developing our activities following our mission and fostering a civil society in which people-on-the-move have their place.

## 2.2 Our Values

### Self identification

How we identify is best explained by looking at our name. "Europe Cares" expresses our stance against the apathy that has allowed a lack of political action in support of human beings seeking a better life in continental Europe. We believe in a European community built on solidarity and respect for human rights. Together, we mobilise civil society across borders to stand up for a culture of empathy instead of inhumane deterrence.

### Vision

We believe in creating a European society that stands in solidarity with people on-the-move. People coming to continental Europe shall no longer suffer politically enabled hardship or fear for their life when setting foot on European soil. European civil society can become inclusive for immigrants and treat all people with dignity.

## 2.3 Goals

Europe Cares has a set of general goals that gives us guidance on how to work towards our vision.

### SOCIETAL ENGAGEMENT

We want to co-develop our humanitarian activities together with all people from European civil society, involving them and giving them an opportunity to grow as individuals. We make sure to empower our civil society to offer support to people-on-the-move and earn an understanding of the inhumane circumstances people-on-the-move are confronted with when crossing into continental Europe.

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## HUMANITARIAN IMPACT

We want to be a reliable actor in the humanitarian sector and foster a network of like-minded humanitarian NGOs that has the capacity to respond to constantly altering dynamics in migrational movements and the policies governing them.

## SOCIETAL CHANGE

We drive pan-european awareness campaigns with the intention of high-lighting urgently required changes in European politics to do justice to people-on-the-move. We will create political pressure and work towards systemic change.

## 2.4 Organisational Structure

**Legal representation:** In 2021 the organisation was legally represented by the two co-directors Lennard Everwien and Luca Beitz and the treasurer Julian Gemmer.

**Operational structure:** Typically for a grassroots initiative Europe Cares fosters an inclusive culture for decision making and promotes volunteer involvement. This way everyone willing to step up is encouraged to take on responsibility for the organisation and the fulfilment of our purpose.

In 2021 we counted 12 legal members of the organisation and about 20 active volunteers integrated into Europe Cares's operations and continuously contributing to these.

The organisation is separated into three operational teams, which cover the areas Actions, Awareness and Fundraising. While Actions and Awareness undertake operational activities directly aiming to fulfil the organisation's charitable purpose fundraising secures financing for these activities.

**Actions Team:** This team's overarching goal is to provide humanitarian support. There were two main ways this goal was achieved in 2021. First was the offering of in kind donations meeting the direct needs of people on the move. These donations were brought to areas where respective people in need resided and partnering organisations situated in these areas were tasked with distributing these donations among the beneficiaries. These activities were primarily undertaken in Frankfurt a.M. (GER), Hamburg (GER), Munich (GER) and The Hague (NL).

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Actively running a humanitarian support project on the ground with and for people on the move was the second way to engage in humanitarian support. With taking on the role as project lead of a community centre on Lesbos in 2021 Europe Cares engaged in its first project on the ground.

**Awareness:** This team deals with public external communication and acts as Europe Cares' juncture to the political sector and politically motivated activities. As such, the Awareness team is managing and producing our social media presence, promotional and educational materials for events and recruitment, organising and participating in events and demonstrations and archiving internal developments.

The Awareness team is key when it comes to shaping the organisation's perception in the public eye. This team has a leading role in creating communicational standards.

**Fundraising:** This team's goal is to secure financing of all charitable operations. When the organisation commits to execute campaigns or projects this team aims to raise money for these undertakings. In 2021 the fundraising team pursued its goals by gaining donations, community fundraising, receiving grants from foundations and by targeting specific companies for donations. As the organisation openly opposes many European policies and policies of member states of the EU the fundraising team consciously avoided applying for any governmental funding.

## 2.5 Partners

### Partner Organisations

EC collaborated with 29 organisations in jointly providing logistics or resources in humanitarian projects. Here are some collaborations we would like to highlight. In the case of the Community Centre on Lesbos we built a close relationship with STELP and LNOB, which led to a thriving community service project. In France we collaborate closely with Collective Aid and Calais Food Collective and can regularly engage in humanitarian aid deliveries to support the local refugees in Calais and Dunkirk. Volt and Vechta Cares played a big role in financing transports. Without such funding we could not have sent 13 full 40to trucks with donations.

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Full list of Partners we collaborated with:

## Aid transportation and distribution Europe:

- Attika (Athens)
- Calais Food Collective
- Christian Refugee Relief (Netherlands)
- Collective Aid (Calais and Bosnia)
- Distribute Aid (Transportation)
- Drop in the Ocean (Nea Kavala and Samos)
- HLO (Transportation)
- IHA (Thessaloniki)
- Khora Athens
- Leave No One Behind (Lesbos)
- Pampiraiki (Greece)
- S'Einlädele (Freiburg)
- Team Humanity (Lesbos)
- Utopia 56 (Calais/Dunkirk)

## Aid distribution Lebanon:

- Fabric Aid
- Thaki

## Community Center Lesbos:

- Doro Blanke Flüchtlingshilfe
- Leave No One Behind (LNOB)
- Makerspace Lesvos
- ReFocus MediaLabs
- STELP

## Local collection and sorting and delivering:

- Aachener Netzwerk
- Adiyah e.V.
- Hanseatic Help
- Hermine e.V.
- Refugee4Refugees (Samos and Athens)
- Seebrücke (Mainz, Frankfurt, Darmstadt)

## Funding of activities:

- Vechta Cares
- Volt Europa



## 3 Activities and Progress Report

### 3.1 Campaigns and Projects

#### Campaign: Truckloads of Solidarity

By the end 2020 the campaign Truckloads of Solidarity was coming to an end after having generated more than 100to of humanitarian aid to that time. In 2021 the remaining aid of the initial large-scale fundraiser was all located in a warehouse in Frankfurt. From here we continued to sort and pack the donations and were able to send out a further 4 trucks (including one sea freight container) by June.

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These last months of this campaign were slow moving due to the restriction in place regulating associations actions. Even though these were difficult times to navigate we are grateful for having such a dedicated and reliable warehouse team and for being able to activate a large number of motivated local volunteers.

## **Campaign: Summer of Solidarity**

In the beginning of 2021 there were far-reaching COVID restrictions in place throughout Europe that noticeably reduced the activities of NGOs and with it the support they were able to offer. With the beginning of summer there were a number devastating wildfires in mediterranean countries. This combination of harmful events led to a critical undersupply of people on the move with humanitarian aid to cover their basic needs.

With the summer of solidarity we wanted to run a short but intense campaign with the aim to address these urgent needs of people on the move. In the months July and August we conducted large scale aid sorting events and were able to engage 100 local volunteers and prepare 120 pallets of humanitarian aid, which we then sent out in the following weeks of September to beneficiaries in mainland Greece, Lesbos (Greece) and Bosnia. Altogether this was received as a well organised campaign with a notable impact.

## **Campaign: Calais Aid Run**

Towards the end of 2021 NGOs in Northern France approached us about not being sufficiently equipped for cold winter months ahead. They mainly were in need of tents, sleeping bags, blankets and food.

We were happy to jointly address these needs with other organisations. With our Calais Aid Run campaign we conducted relatively small-scale collections in the Netherlands and regularly drove a van of humanitarian aid to our partners on the ground in Northern France.

## **Project: Community Center Lesbos**

In October 2021 our 2nd director Lennard Everwien went personally to Lesbos for three months to take on a leading role in the coordination of the LNOB community centre and their NFI distributions. This centre lies near the refugee detention camp Kara Tepe. LNOB together with the other NGOs around this centre aim to address the basic needs of people detained in this camp, by offering NFI, meals, counselling, education and recreational activities.

In his role as NFI coordinator Lennard made a close connection with other NGOs in and around the Community Center. Through Lennards growing network and the positive impact he was having on the local operations in support of people on the move, Europe Cares reputation on Lesbos was rapidly growing.

By the end 2021 Europe Cares was approached by the NGO OHF, who also ran a community center near Kara Tepe, to take over their operations on the island as OHF was getting ready to move to Athens with its project as the number of people on the move there was increasing by the day.

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There were still more than 2000 people in Kara Tepe and no clear signs that this would change any time soon. Both NGOs OHF and LNOB who were running the main community centres were preparing to reduce activities and withdraw from the island. Under these circumstances Europe Cares wanted to step in and ensure the services of these community centres are maintained. The preparation and planning of this new project as well as the transition of OHF's operations to Europe Cares is to be done until March 2022. Lennard has extended his stay until the smooth start up of the Europe Cares community centre is conducted.

Looking back, Europe Cares got involved as staff in an existing field project and went out of this after three months preparing its own community centre in service of people on the move. If this outcome is a positive one, only time can show, but we are very excited about this result and the future this entails for us. We hope to live up to the standards set by LNOB and OHF on the island.

## **Campaign: Winter Donations 2021**

With our team in Frankfurt we launched a specific collection campaign in the months November and December for items offering warmth, such as tents, blankets and sleeping bags as well as warm winter clothing. For this campaign we worked together with external groups and initiatives, which each did their own individual collection campaign. Later we consolidated all the various smaller collections in our warehouse in Frankfurt and sent these donations to Lesbos and Sarajevo in two larger shipments.

## **Campaign: Issues in European Migration**

As part of our stated mission, Europe Cares aims to inform our community on current events and thereby defend human rights in the context of migration in Europe. This awareness campaign was conducted on social media, and aimed to emphasise the need for safe migratory routes, brought attention to the abuse of refugees by Greek, Croatian and Frontex border police and expressed our solidarity with those fleeing from violence and hardship. We seek to expand this awareness campaign by including other forms of media and organising online and offline events.

## 4 Financial Report

### **Accounts & Donation service providers**

Europe Cares holds two accounts. The primary account is with the bank "GLS Bank" IBAN DE13430609671240904900. The secondary account is a virtual account with "Paypal" [logistic@europecares.org](mailto:logistic@europecares.org). Both accounts are used to manage monetary income. Payments of expenses are exclusively conducted with the GLS Bank account.

To manage donation campaigns we use the services of Stripe Inc and Betterplace (gut.org gAG).

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## Income and expenses overview

This section details the cash flow through and reserves on Europe Cares accounts. In 2021 Europe Cares' entire income came through donations. The expenses spread across numerous different cost centres due to the complex nature of Europe Cares' humanitarian activities.

All expenses went towards the realisation of the organisation's charitable purpose.

At the end of 2021 Europe Cares' balance increased by €7,885.83 resulting in reserves in the same amount to the end of the year.

	Income	Expenses
Donations	€17,538.03	
Membership fees	€0.00	
Billed Service	€0.00	
Tax return	€0.00	
Interest	€0.00	
Other	€0.01	
Car Rental		-€522.00
Equipment		-€567.48
Insurance		-€299.00
Reimbursement		-€915.23
Rent		-€3,701.36
Services		-€705.80
Transportation		-€2,941.34
<b>Balance</b>		<b>+ €7,885.83</b>

## Income through single donor

Following the donors who have solely donated 10% or more to the total income of 2021 are listed.

Donor	Donation total 2021 in €
Henkel AG & Co. KGaA	€6,500.00

## Funding overview

The overall funding consists of direct and indirect funding. Direct funding is any financial support directly donated to the organisation, which is accounted for in our books. Indirect

funding refers to all contributions of activities where supporters cover the costs of Europe Cares' activities themselves. This typically includes financial contribution by a charitable supporter through settling bills for specific items directly instead of making a donation to Europe Cares.

The largest portion of these indirect contributions are traced back to shipments of humanitarian aid. Of these nine were directly dealt with by supporters contributing to a Europe Cares cause.

In total an amount of **74.885,62€ in funding** was contributed to Europe Cares' activities by supporters.

	Funding
Direct funding	€17,538.04
Indirect funding	€ 25,824.40
Shipment funding (indirect)	€31,523.19
<b>Total funding</b>	<b>€74,885.62</b>

## 5 Outlook on 2022 and Beyond

Our organisation has had an eventful first year after formally founding as an NGO. It has proven us to be on the right track and we see more clearly now where our strength lies in contributing within the humanitarian sector in support of people on the move. For our future we want to further develop following activities.

### Community Centre Lesbos

As mentioned above, we are in the midst of planning our own community service project. We acknowledged that there is hardly any better way of supporting people in need than being with them on the ground and involving them in the activities of the community centre. In this way our community centre will provide services for people on the move, but also include them in the organisation and offering of these services. By closely involving people on the move we seek to offer them a sense of belonging and provide them with a purpose they may pursue. The whole centre should be a welcoming safe space and act as a contrast to the detention camp.

2022 will be devoted to a smooth start-up of field activities on Lesbos and establishment of sustainable operations together with partnering groups joining the centre and offering their expertise services.

### Humanitarian Aid Supply



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Collecting, preparing and sending humanitarian aid to projects in support of people on the move along the European borders will remain a core part of our operations. In the past years we have built a solid network of partners contributing to the supply of humanitarian aid. Together with these we aim to offer crucial in kind donations when it is needed. We strive to further develop closer collaboration with groups in the field active in Northern France and in Bosnia. The goal is to set up a regular supply route to these areas and thus set up sustainable and continuous supply chains.

Both establishing the community centre on Lesbos and building up sustainable supply chains are at the core of Europe Cares purpose and will surely be our focal points for 2022. Next to these activities we also recognise a need to **professionalise the organisation's** inner structures and administration as we both grow in members and in the scale of our operations. We also want to maintain launching regular **awareness campaigns** to direct public attention to the critical issues in migration. Europe Cares has profited a lot from established organisations supporting our initiative early on. We want to do the same for other initiatives in humanitarian support for people on the move and are committed to **facilitate new support initiatives** as best as we can, to offer them a smooth start with their activities.

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## Closing words

Dear reader,

Putting our first formal year as an NGO down to paper has been rather humbling. For one thing it is sheerly amazing to summarise all the achievements we can already look back on in our short existence. But this lets one realise that this scale of humanitarian support through our organisation is greater than the board of Europe Cares or its members could ever accomplish on their own.

This brings us to our point. Europe Cares is just a formal entity - a lifeless shell, if you will. Only by the involvement of each and every one of you, - all you volunteers working endless hours in our projects, all you good-natured passers by seeing a good cause and chipping in your spontaneous contributing, all you problem solvers seeing a humanitarian activity in jeopardy and ensuring execution by making the impossible possible and many others - only by your contributions can Europe Cares fulfil its humanitarian cause.

There is no way to give our volunteers enough credit for their selfless support. We want to thank you sincerely from the bottom of our heart!

Finally this inevitably brings us to a most encouraging realisation. Hope is not all lost, when looking at the immense issues in European migration leading to unbearable situations people on the move are forced to accept as their life. Hope is not lost, because all the supporters of Europe Cares's cause or of the next NGOs are living proof that civil society does see these misdoings affecting fellow people on the move and civil society is not willing to accept this without a fight. So let us acknowledge that stepping in for the right thing is something many of us have in common and let us continue to step up for people that have no way of looking out for themselves.

Thank you for being part of this journey and we wish you all the best for the new year

*Your Europe Cares Board*

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