

EU-TURKEY DEAL

Visualising data from the
Greek hotspots
2016-2023

INTRODUCTION

This report visualises data from the Greek hotspots between 2016-2023. The visualisations have been rendered from a dataset based on an open-source literature review which provides the first comprehensive and (almost) complete overview of data from the hotspots on the Greek islands between 2016 and 2023. The dataset and used reports are on file with Boat Refugee Foundation and could be made available upon request.

For each hotspot island (Lesvos, Samos, Chios, Leros and Kos) the dataset covers the number of new arrivals, people forced to stay at the hotspots (and their capacity) and returns to Turkey (under the EU-Turkey Statement). The data also includes the number of people forced to stay in the hotspots and the capacity of each facility as well as demographics such as country of origin and gender.

Data in English and Greek has been collected and aggregated from the UNHCR data portal¹ the IOM Global Data Institute Displacement Tracking Matrix² and the Hellenic Republic Ministry of Migration & Asylum.³ To compare data, reports from Aegean Boat Report have been consulted.⁴

When multiple data sources were reported on a single data point (for example, if three reports mentioned differentiating numbers of arrivals in October 2022) an average was used. Where necessary, data was converted to a monthly unit. Numbers in graphs have been rounded to one decimal place. The total of people in hotspots between April and December 2016 is an average based on 53 daily UNHCR reports and could be less accurate than other years.

The Hellenic Ministry of Migration and Asylum, between 2022 and 2023 reported the capacity of the Mavrouvoni Temporary Closed Controlled Access Centre on Lesvos as 8,000. Discrepancies in reporting, including inconsistent reporting from the Ministry itself, have raised questions regarding the accuracy of this figure. Sources suggest that the actual capacity of the Lesvos facility is approximately 3,840 individuals.⁵

The data presented in this report encompasses both the 'official capacity' and the corrected 'real capacity' (3,840) observed between January 2022 and December 2023. From February 2024 onwards, Ministry reports have been adjusted to reflect the revised capacity, reducing the capacity of the Lesvos facility to 3,840.⁶

Boat Refugee Foundation wishes to thank the following people for their editorial and research assistance:

Haley Ritsema (data consultant), Johannes Mulder and Esther Tiefengraber



1. UNHCR 'Operational Data Portal' (2023)
2. IOM 'The Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM)' (2023)
3. Hellenic republic Ministry of Migration and Asylum 'Statistics' (2023); Scribr 'Uploads by Hellenic Ministry of Migration and Asylum' (2023)
4. Aegean Boat Report 'Reports' (2023)
5. Hellenic Ministry of Migration and Asylum 'NSP Eastern Aegean 27.09' (SCRIBD, 1 October 2023); Hellenic Ministry of Migration and Asylum 'NSP Eastern Aegean 27.09' (SCRIBD, 29 September 2023); Stonisis '5.236: Ξεπέρασε κάθε προηγούμενο ο πληθυσμός στον Καρά Τεπέ' (8 December 2023) RSA 'Tweet' (X, 22 September 2023); RSA 'Tweet' (X, 2 October 2023).
6. Hellenic Ministry of Migration and Asylum 'NSP Eastern Aegean 20.02' (SCRIBD, 21 February 2024)

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<u>2017</u>	<u>10</u>
<u>2018</u>	<u>11</u>
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Cover: Lesvos, Moria hotspot (Boat Refugee Foundation, 2020)

Visualising data from the Greek
hotspots 2016-2023

DATA BETWEEN

2016-2023

Samos, outside the Vathi hotspot (Refugee Law Clinic Berlin, 2021)

FIGURE 1.1:

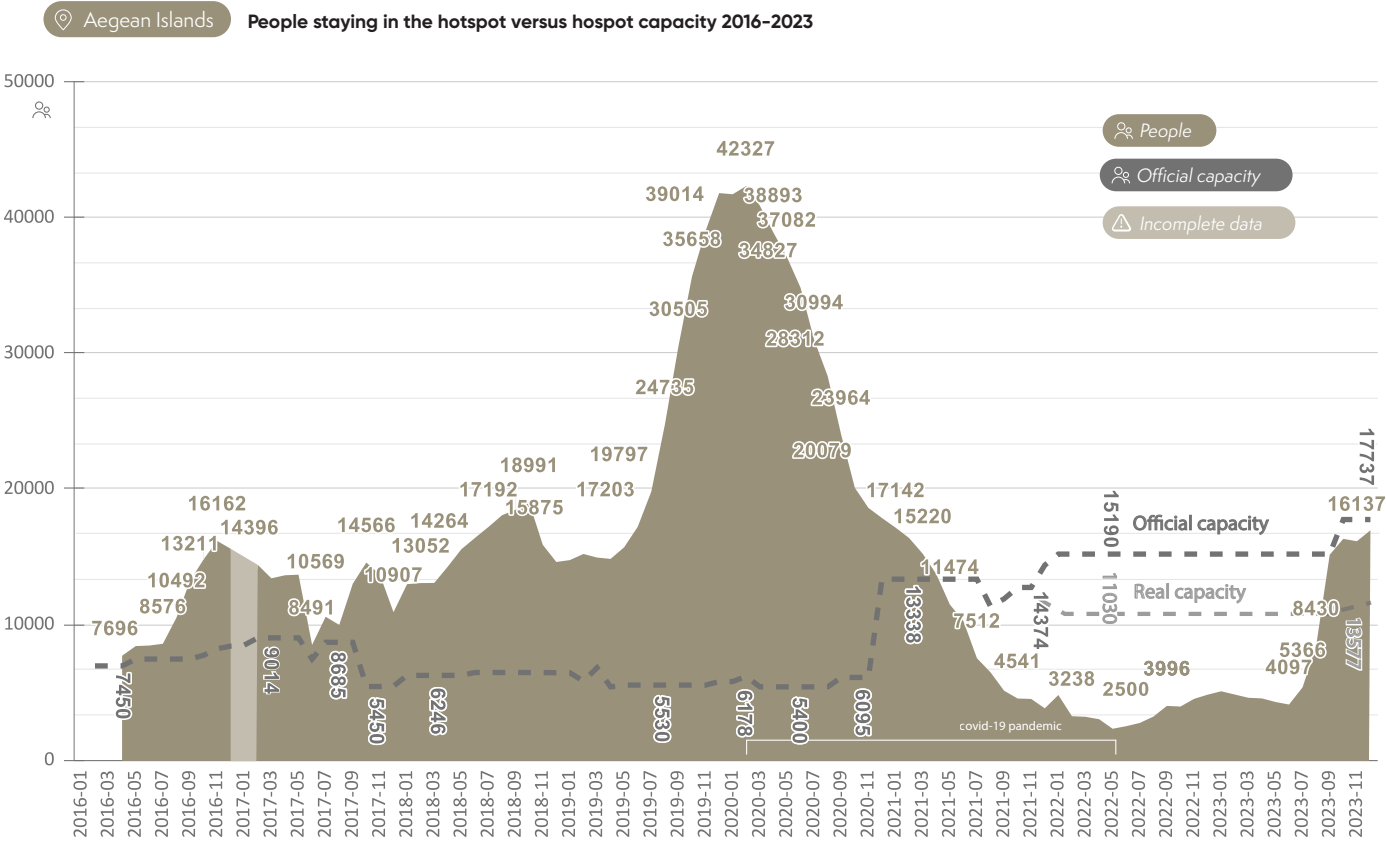


FIGURE 1.2:

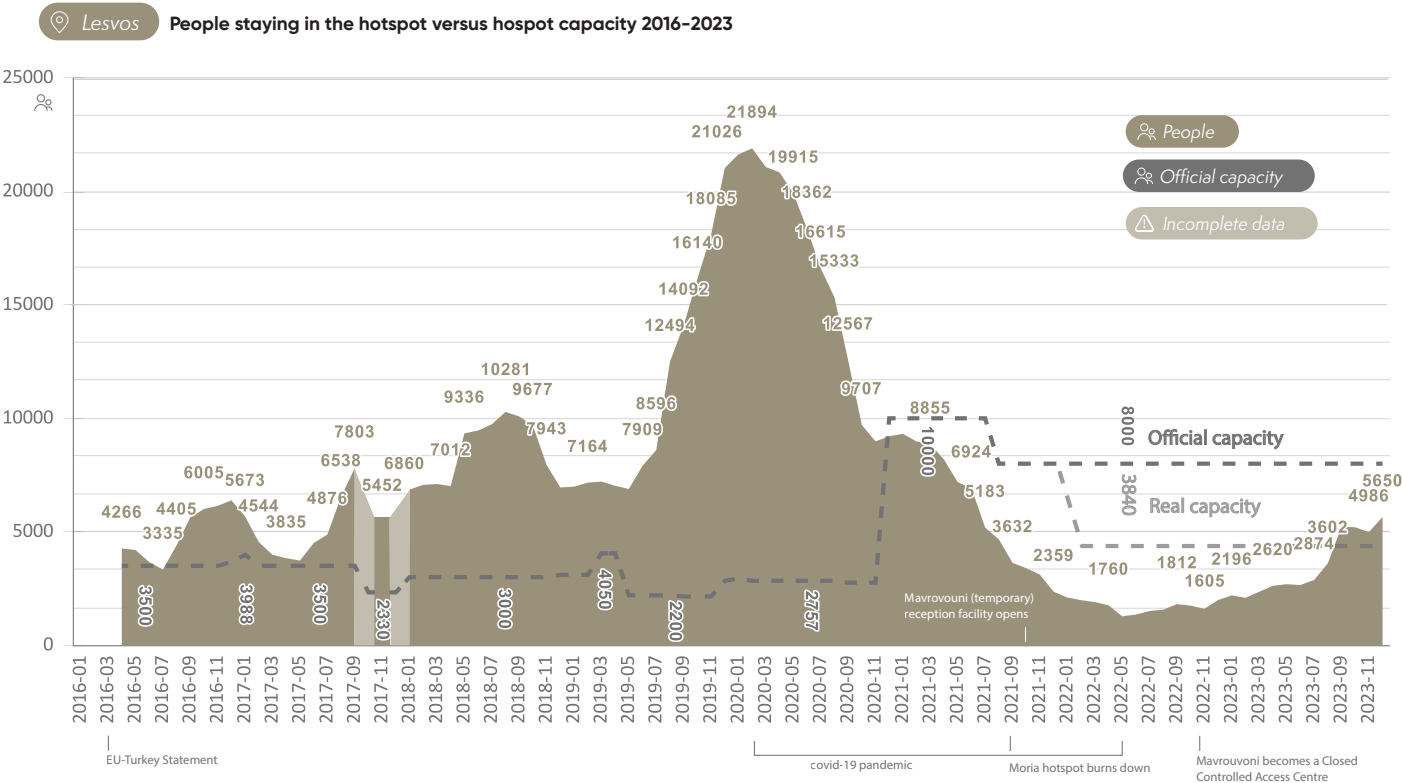


FIGURE 1.3:

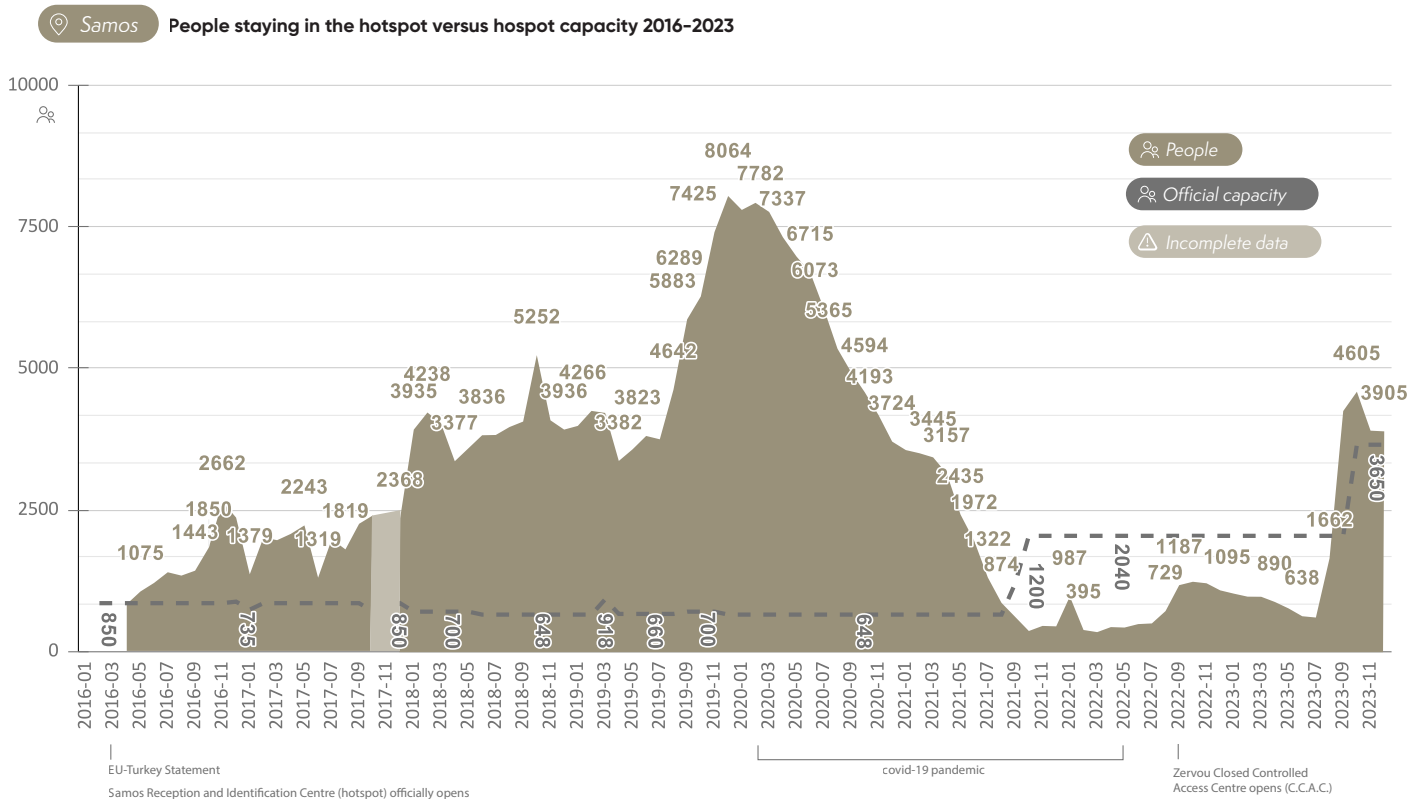


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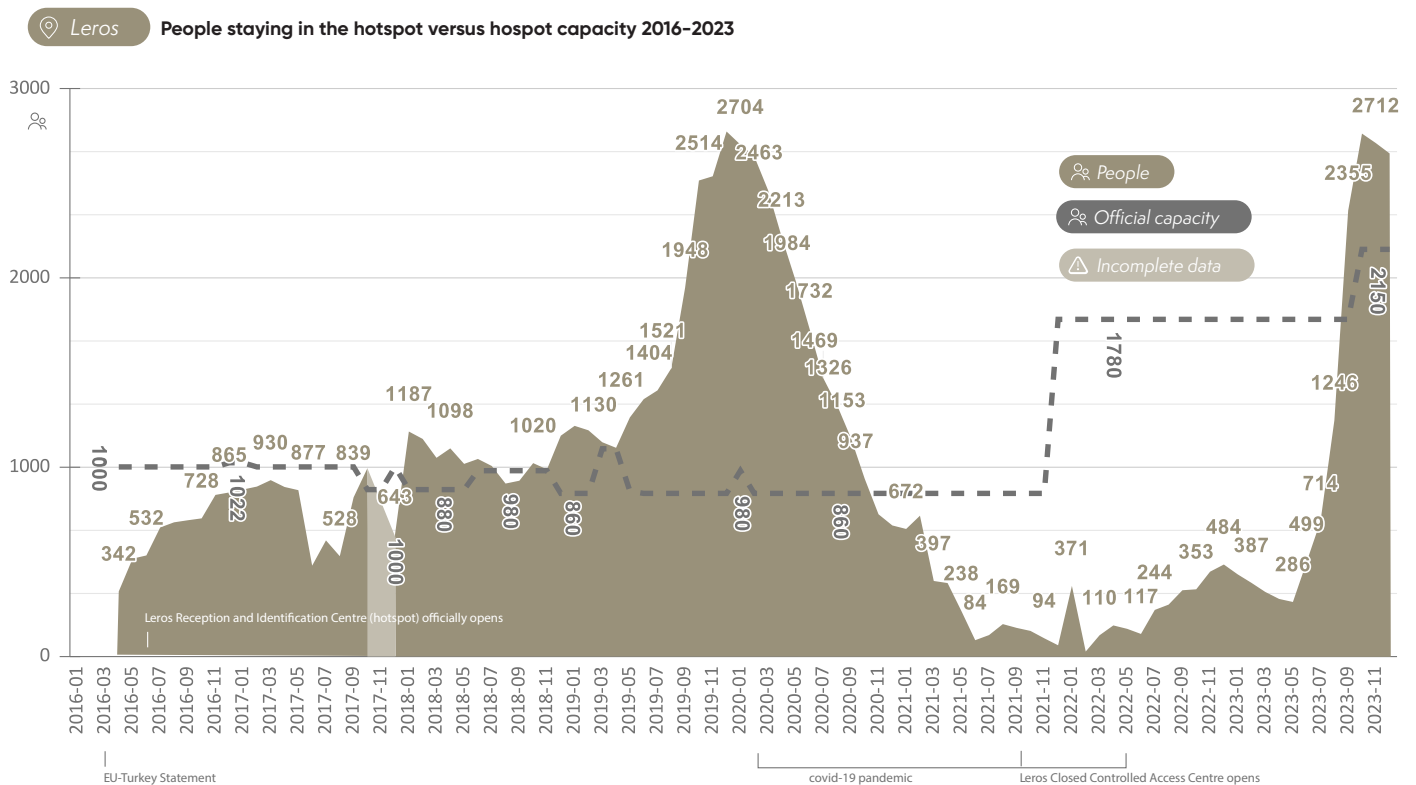


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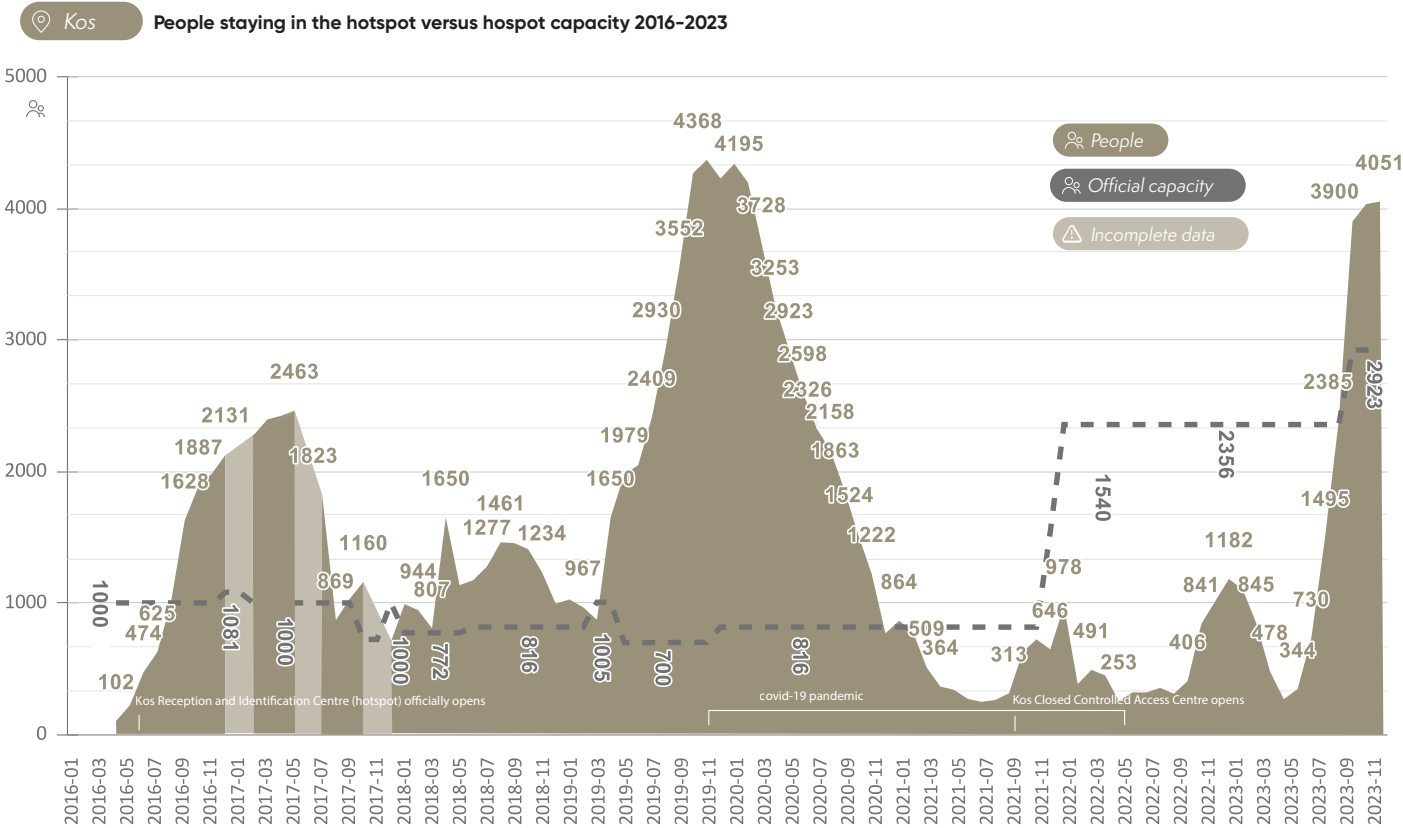
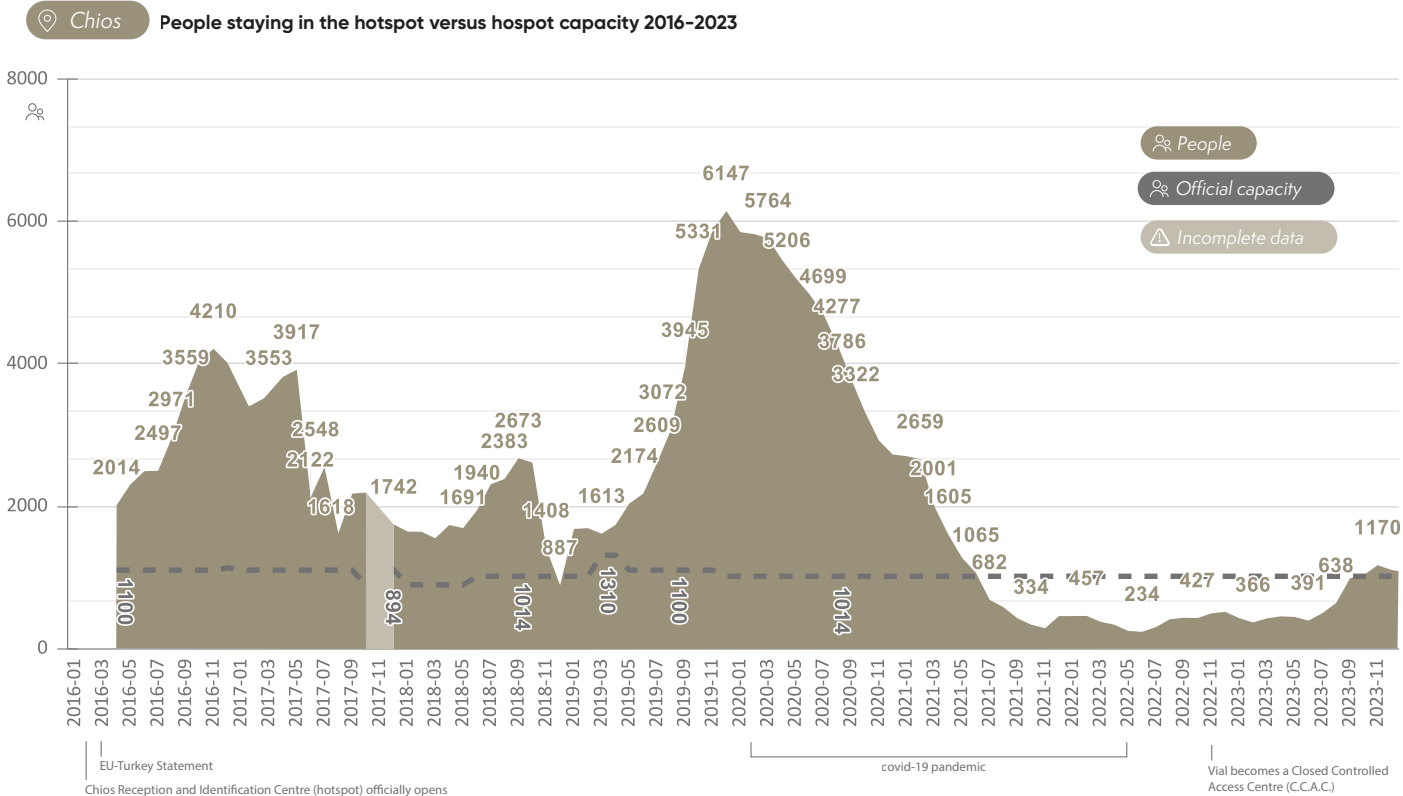


FIGURE 1.6:



Visualising data from the Greek
hotspots 2016-2023

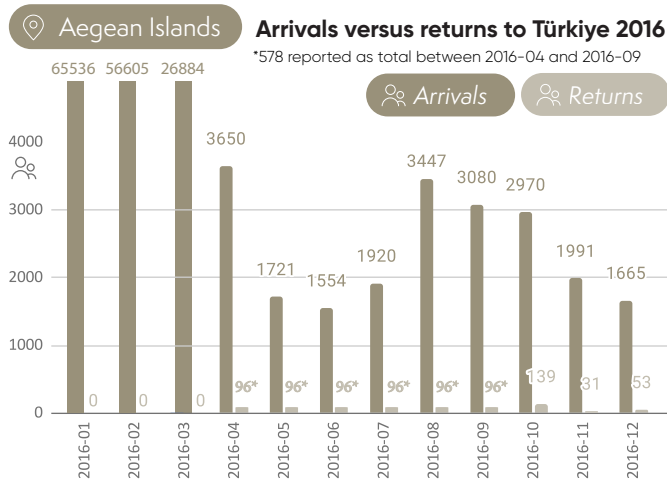
DATA PER YEAR

2016-2023



^ Lesvos, Moria hotspot (Boat Refugee Foundation, 2019)

FIGURE 2.1:



At least **171.024** people arrived on the Greek islands of Lesbos, Samos, Chios, Leros and Kos between January and December 2016.

Before the EU-Turkey statement (between January and March) **137.403** people left the islands for the mainland. After the EU-Turkey deal close to **21.998** people arrived on the Aegean islands.

After March 2016, **801** people were returned to Türkiye under the EU-Turkey Statement (including voluntary returns).

FIGURE 2.2:

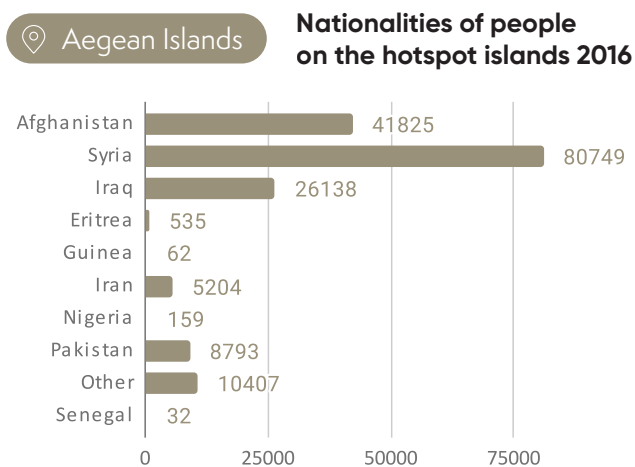


FIGURE 2.3:

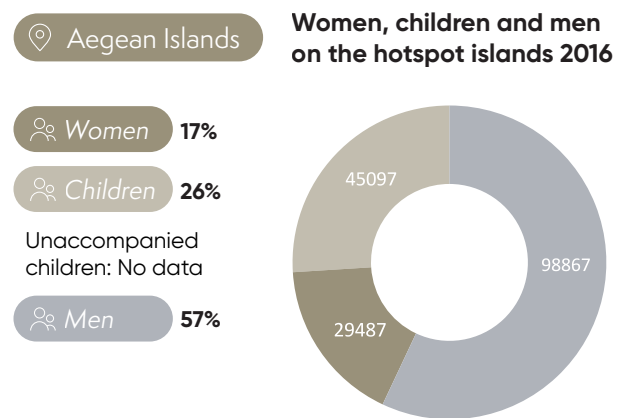


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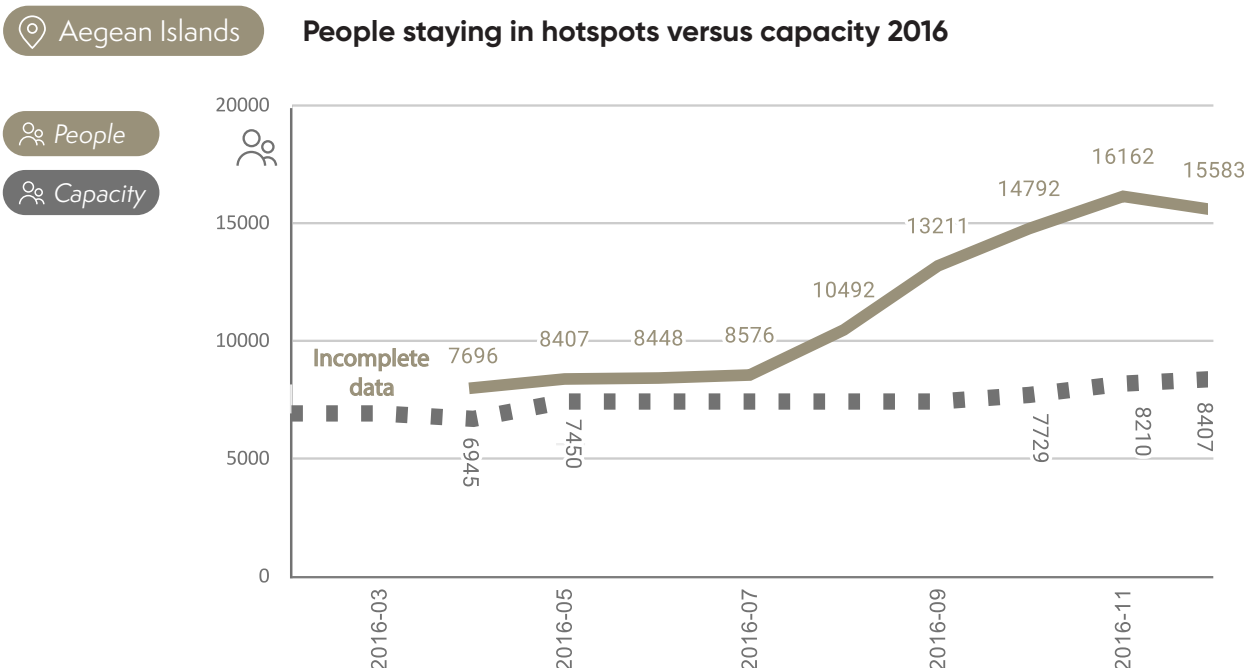
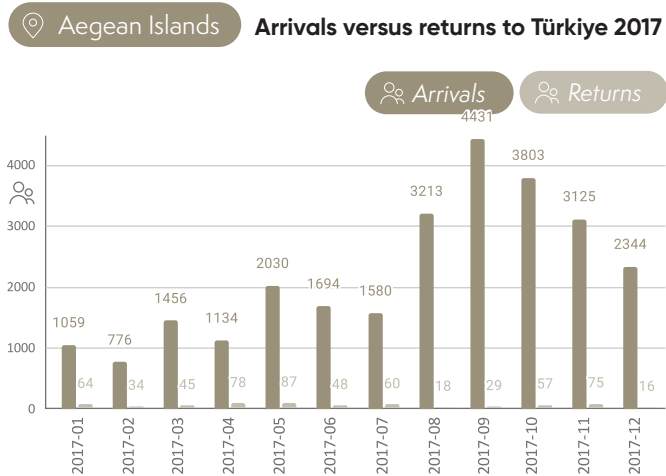


FIGURE 3.1:

At least **26.643** people arrived on the Greek islands of Lesbos, Samos, Chios, Leros and Kos between January and December 2017.

611 people were returned to Türkiye under the EU-Turkey Statement (including voluntary returns).

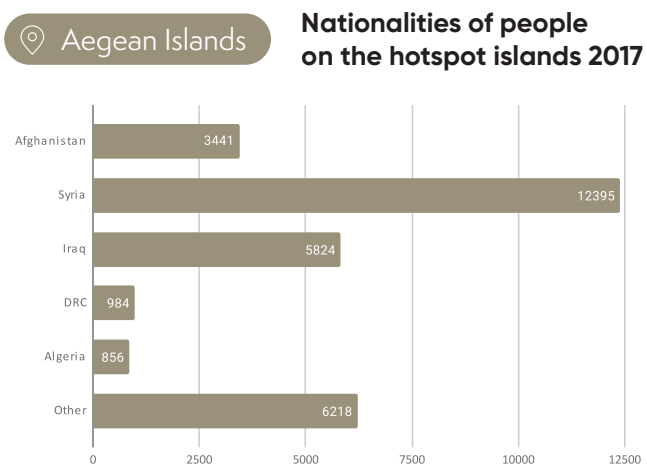
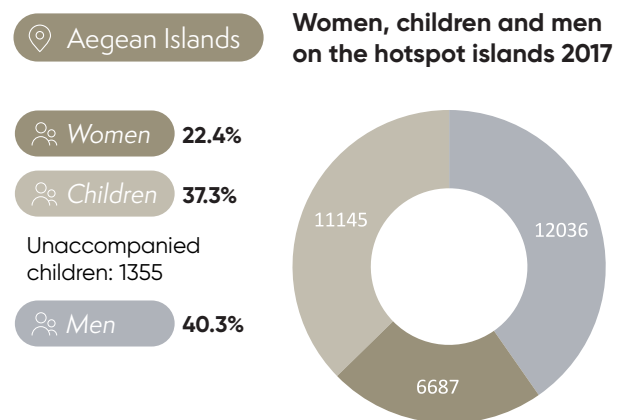
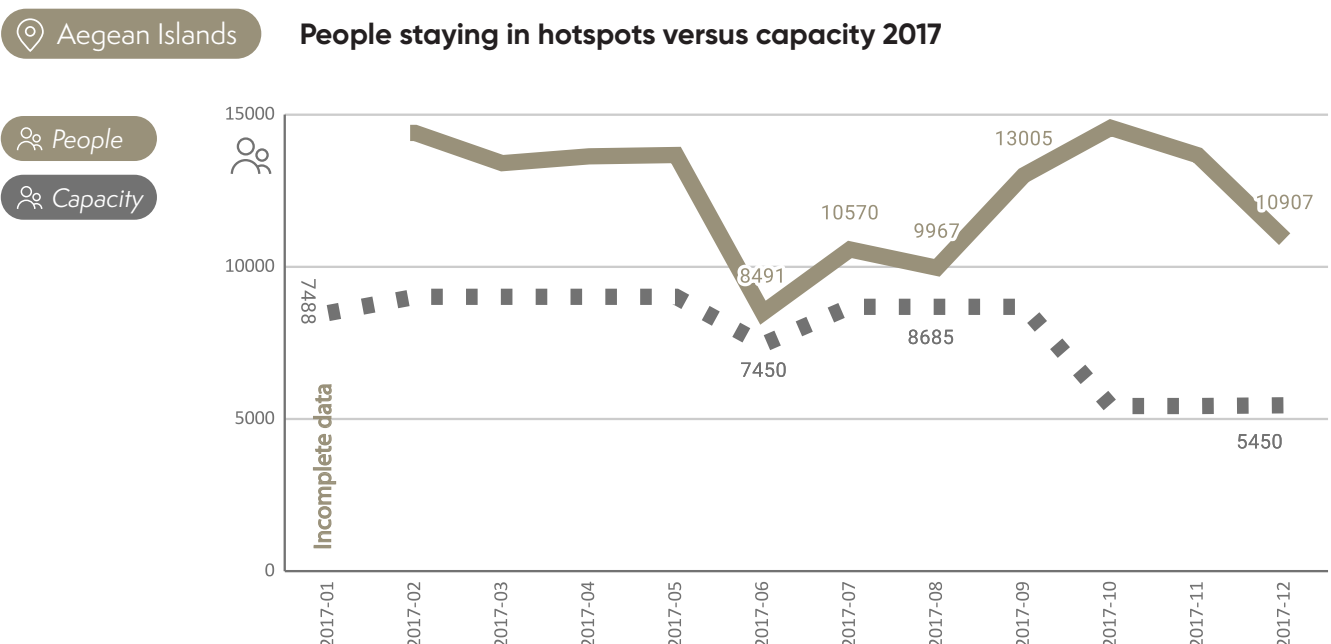
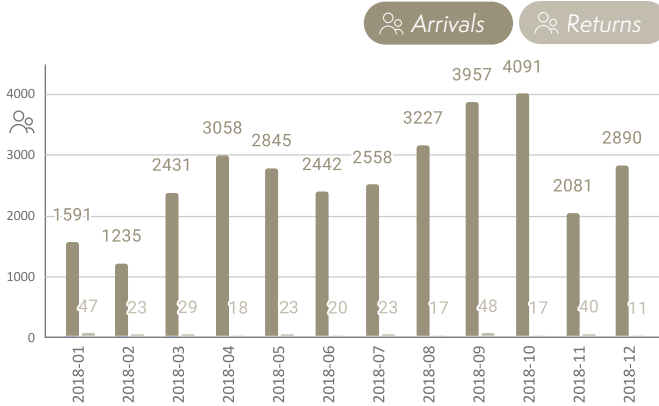
FIGURE 3.2:**FIGURE 3.3:****FIGURE 3.4:**

FIGURE 4.1:

📍 Aegean Islands Arrivals versus returns to Türkiye 2018



At least **32.405** people arrived on the Greek islands of Lesbos, Samos, Chios, Leros and Kos between January and December 2018.

316 people were returned to Türkiye under the EU-Turkey Statement (including voluntary returns).

FIGURE 4.2:

📍 Aegean Islands Nationalities of people on the hotspot islands 2018

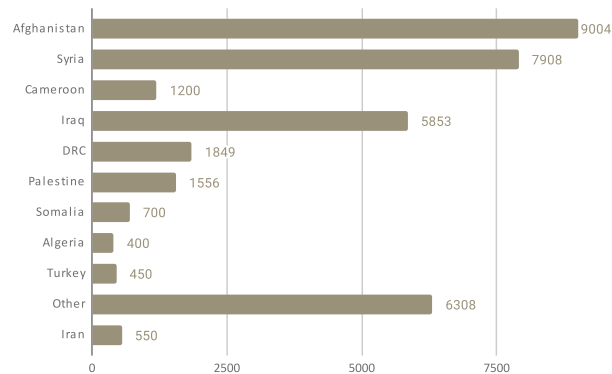


FIGURE 4.3:

📍 Aegean Islands Women, children and men on the hotspot islands 2018

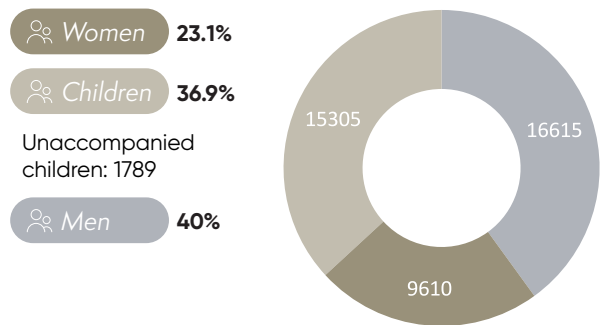


FIGURE 4.4:

📍 Aegean Islands People staying in hotspots versus capacity 2018

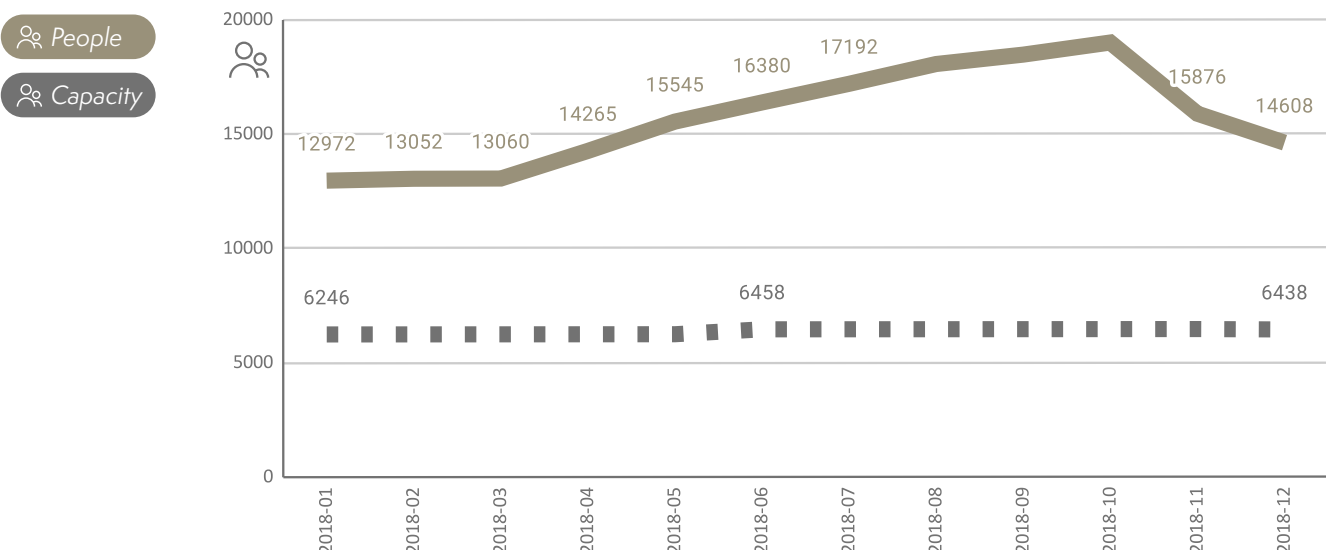
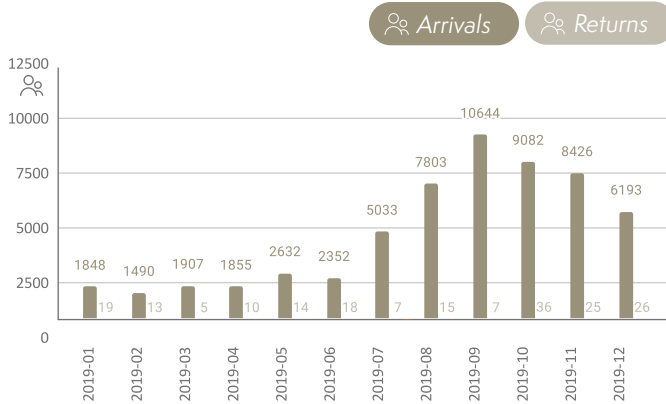


FIGURE 5.1:

📍 Aegean Islands **Arrivals versus returns to Türkiye 2019**



At least **59.265** people arrived on the Greek islands of Lesbos, Samos, Chios, Leros and Kos between January and December 2019.

195 people were returned to Türkiye under the EU-Turkey Statement (including voluntary returns).

FIGURE 5.2:

📍 Aegean Islands **Nationalities of people on the hotspot islands 2019**

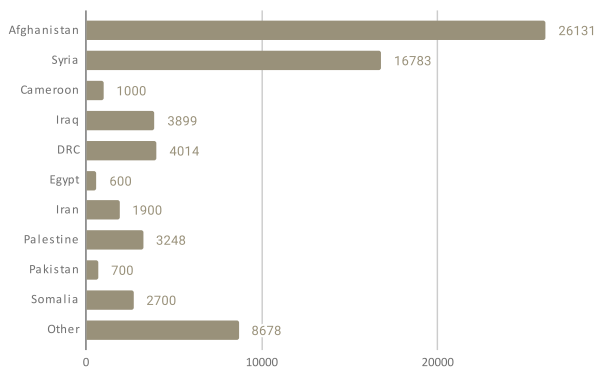


FIGURE 5.3:

📍 Aegean Islands **Women, children and men on the hotspot islands 2019**

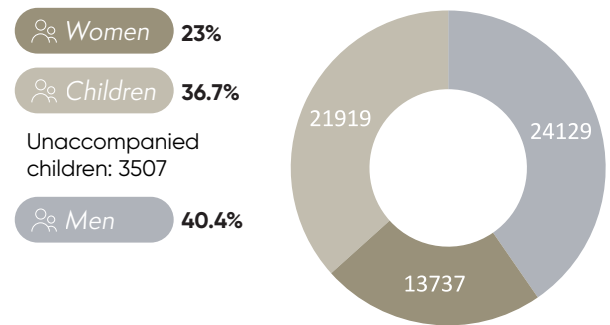


FIGURE 5.4:

📍 Aegean Islands **People staying in hotspots versus capacity 2019**

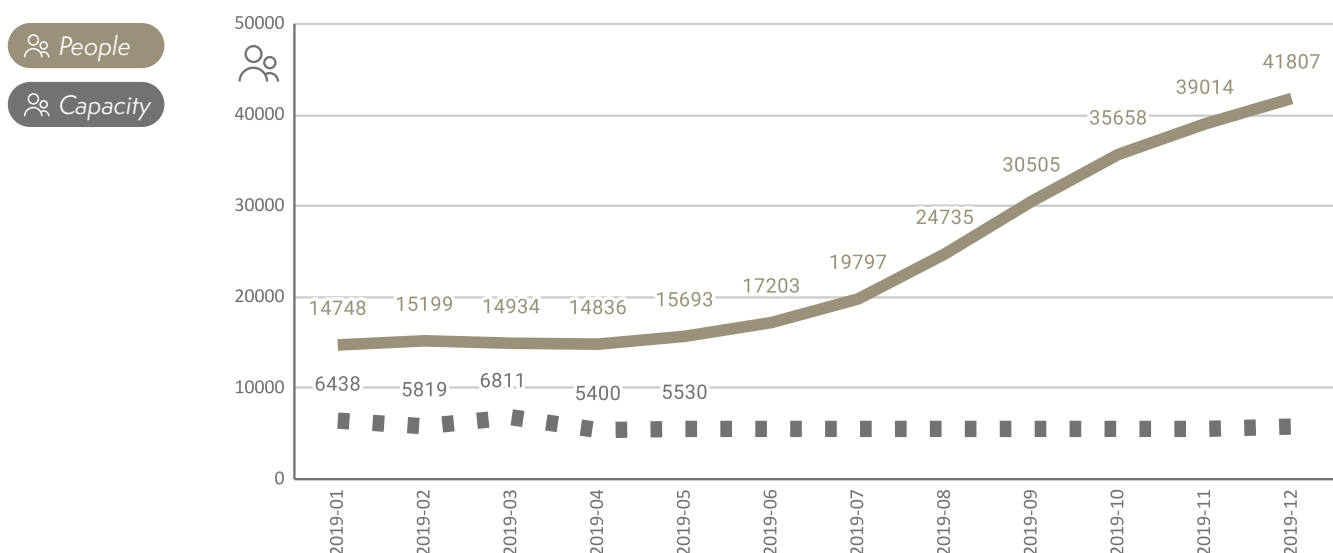
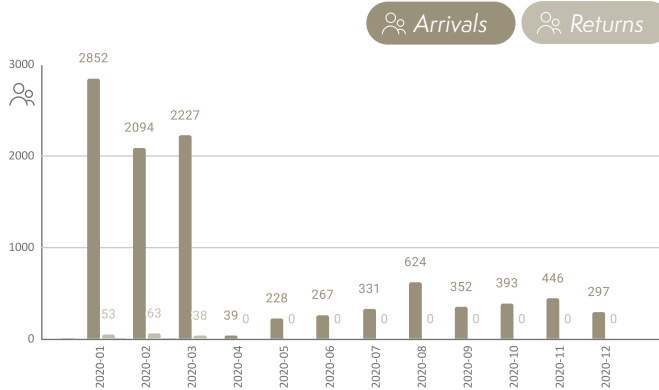


FIGURE 6.1:

📍 Aegean Islands **Arrivals versus returns to Türkiye 2020**



At least **10.151** people arrived on the Greek islands of Lesbos, Samos, Chios, Leros and Kos between January and December 2020.

154 people were returned to Türkiye under the EU-Turkey Statement (including voluntary returns).

In February the COVID-19 pandemic reached Greece. In March Greece suspended the right to seek asylum for one month after a crisis at the land border with Türkiye and Türkiye suspended all returns under the Statement, citing COVID-19 restrictions. In September a fire destroyed the Moria hotspot on Lesbos.

FIGURE 6.2:

📍 Aegean Islands **Nationalities of people on the hotspot islands 2020**

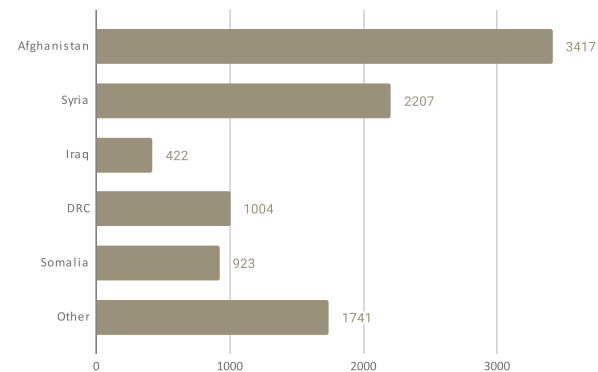


FIGURE 6.3:

📍 Aegean Islands **Women, children and men on the hotspot islands 2020**

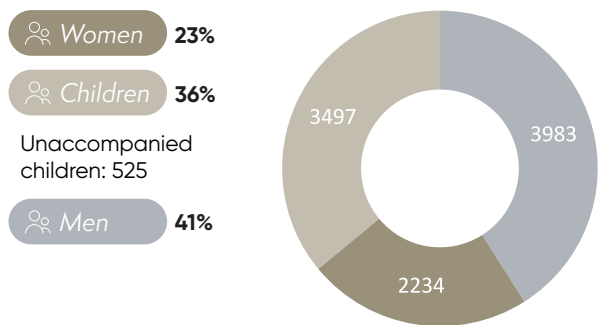


FIGURE 6.4:

📍 Aegean Islands **People staying in hotspots versus capacity 2020**

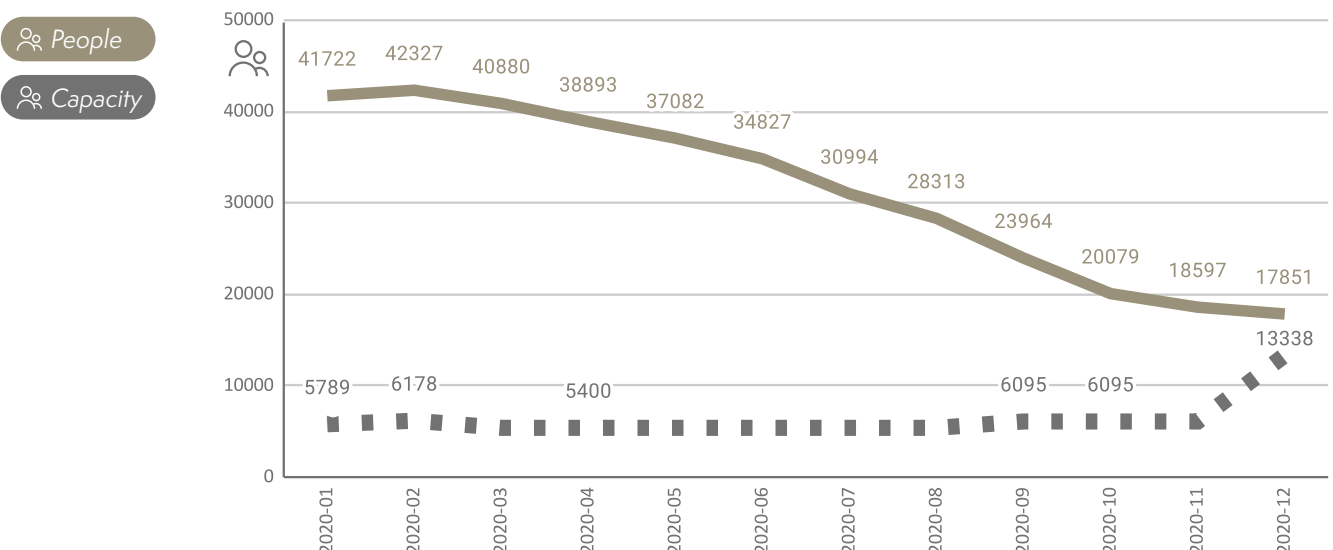
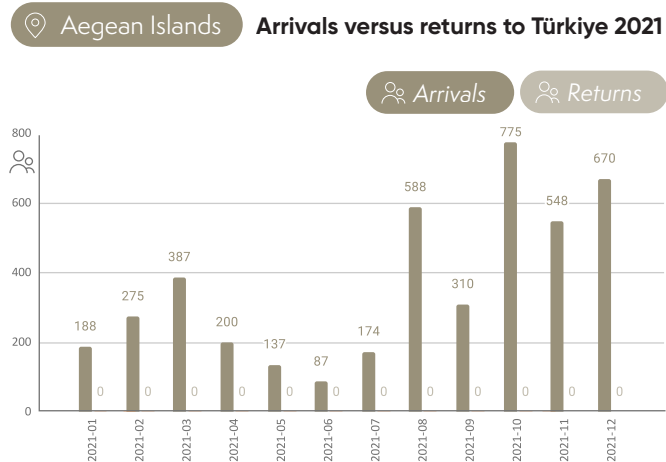


FIGURE 7.1:



At least **4.337** people arrived on the Greek islands of Lesvos, Samos, Chios, Leros and Kos between January and December 2021.

No (**0**) people were returned to Türkiye under the EU-Turkey Statement (including voluntary returns).

In May Greece ended its lockdown measures. During 2021 Greece changed its format of reception from Reception and Identification Centres to Closed Controlled Access Centres, opening new facilities with a higher capacity on Samos, Kos and Leros and adapting existing facilities on Chios and Lesvos (the new Zervou C.C.A.C. on Lesvos is still under construction).

FIGURE 7.2:

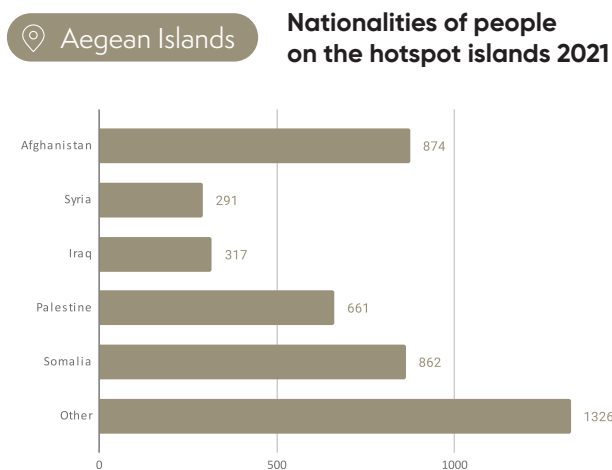


FIGURE 7.3:

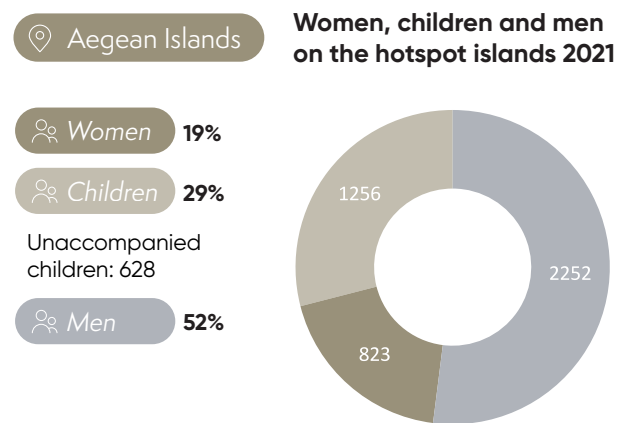


FIGURE 7.4:

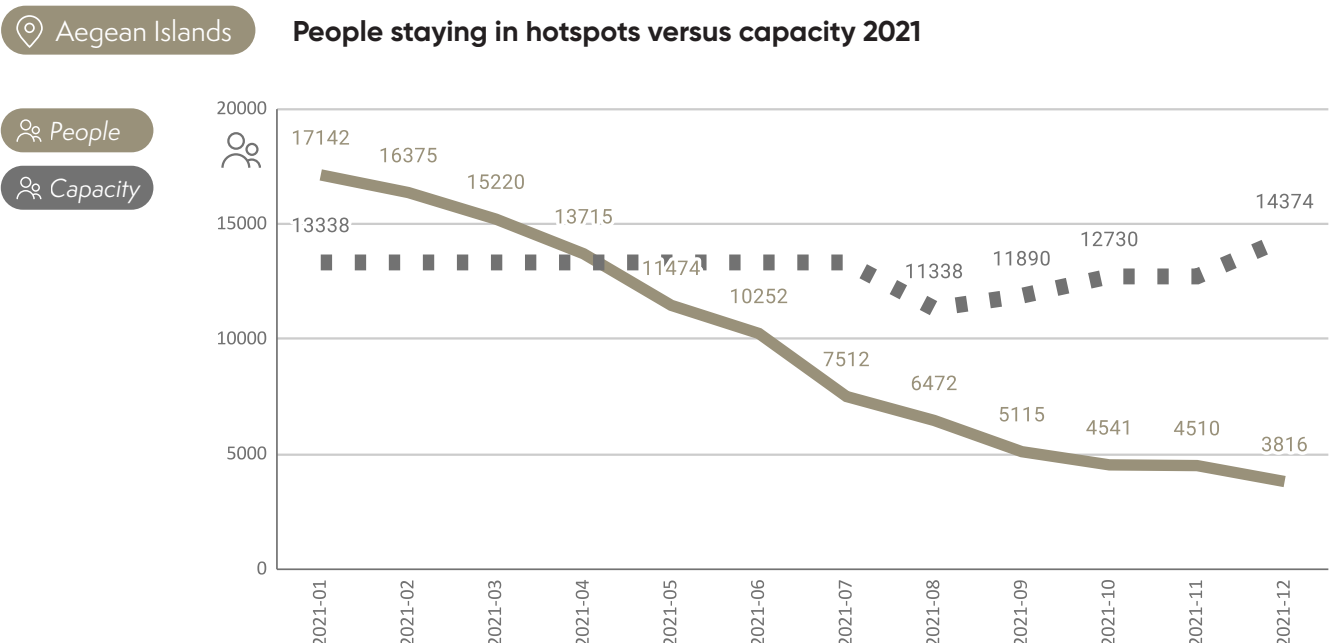
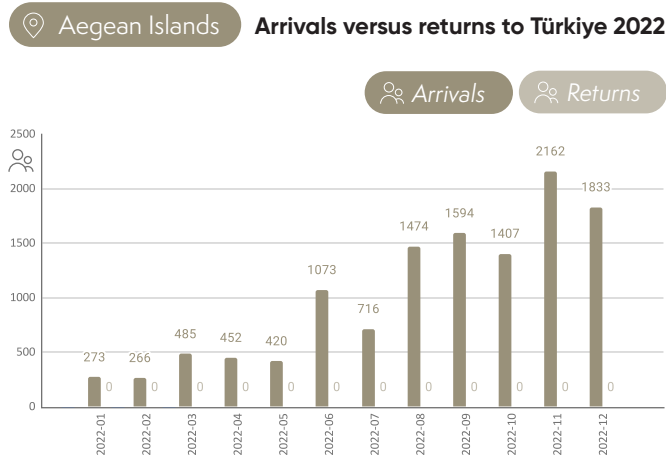


FIGURE 8.1:



At least **12.152** people arrived on the Greek islands of Lesbos, Samos, Chios, Leros and Kos between January and December 2022.

No (**0**) people were returned to Türkiye under the EU-Turkey Statement (including voluntary returns).

The Hellenic Ministry of Migration and Asylum between 2022 and 2023 officially reported the capacity of the Mavrouvoni temporary Closed Controlled Access Centre on Lesbos as being 8.000 whilst the actual capacity was 3.400. Data shows both the (total) 'official capacity' and (total) corrected 'real capacity'.

FIGURE 8.2:

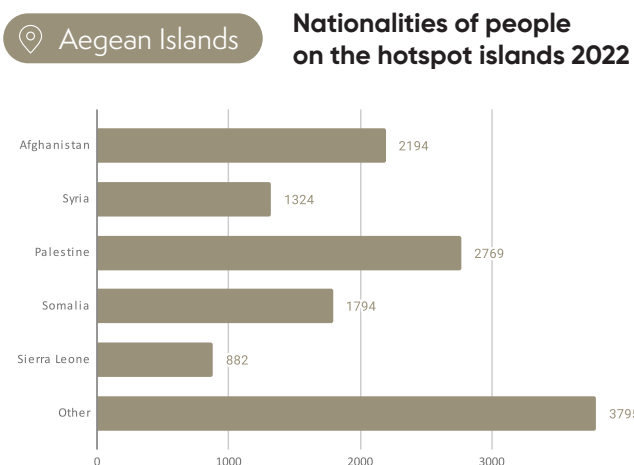


FIGURE 8.3:

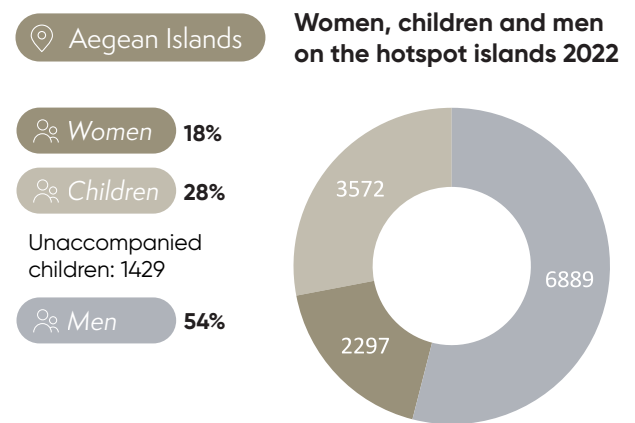


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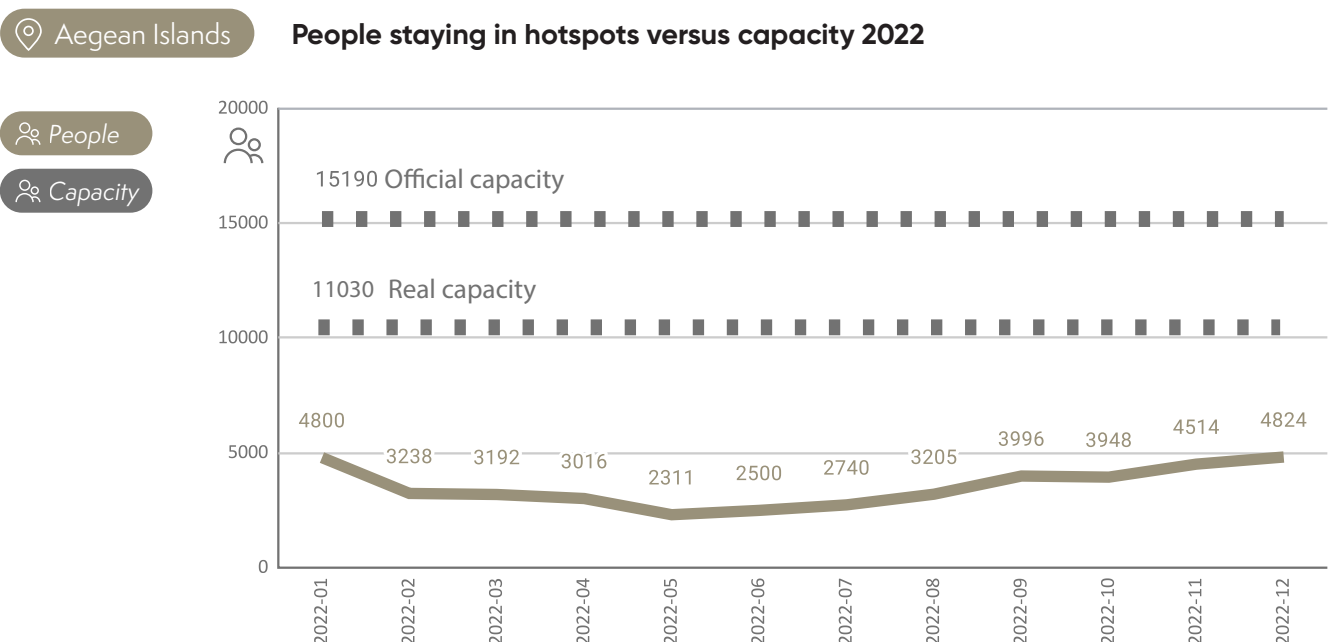
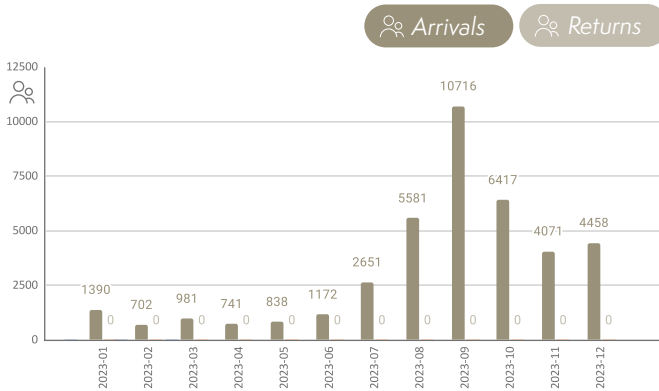


FIGURE 9.1:

Aegean Islands Arrivals versus returns to Türkiye 2023



At least **39.715** people arrived on the Greek islands of Lesbos, Samos, Chios, Leros and Kos between January and December 2022.

No (**0**) people were returned to Türkiye under the EU-Turkey Statement (including voluntary returns).

The Hellenic Ministry of Migration and Asylum between 2022 and 2023 officially reported the capacity of the Mavrouvoni temporary Closed Controlled Access Centre on Lesbos as being 8.000 whilst the actual capacity was 3.400. Data shows both the (total) 'official capacity' and (total) corrected 'real capacity'.

FIGURE 9.2:

Aegean Islands Nationalities of people on the hotspot islands 2023*

*Data from January to September 2023

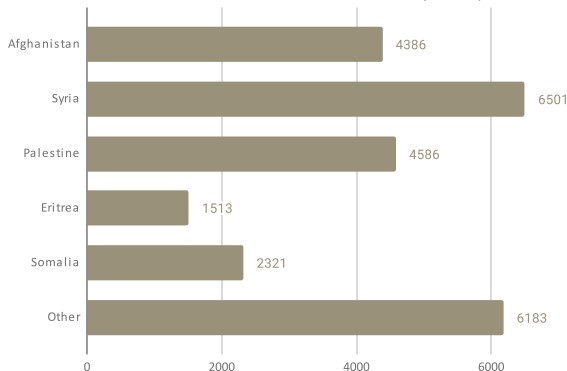


FIGURE 9.3:

Aegean Islands Women, children and men on the hotspot islands 2023*

*Data from January to September 2023

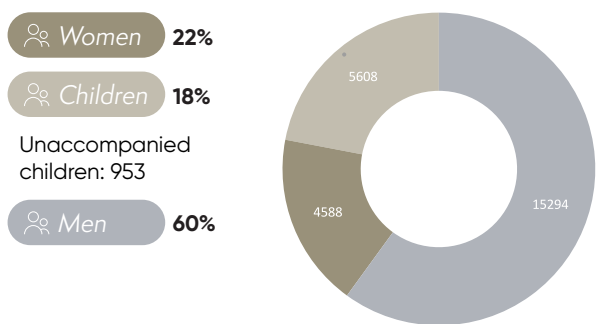


FIGURE 9.4:

Aegean Islands People staying in hotspots versus capacity 2023

