



June 2016

Dear Friends!

To support our refugee aid programs on the island of Leros and at Ritsona Camp, in Attica, **we are urgently looking for volunteers to join this initiative and for donations to support operations on the ground.**

The closing of borders in Europe has resulted in thousands of refugees, crossing from Turkey to Greece by boat, then heading for asylum in Northern European countries, to being stuck in crisis ridden Greece. These individuals have already endured the psychological trauma of life in a war-torn country, fleeing from home and embarking on the dangerous journey to Europe. They are now stranded all over Greece, separated from their families and friends, for an indeterminate amount of time. On top of that, the vast majority of refugees have by now run out of money, due to the extortionate charges of human traffickers, and the inability to work legally.

The on-going economic crisis leaves Greece ill equipped to deal with this huge problem. Thus, *Echo100Plus* has decided to step in and support the overwhelmed local Greek population on, both Leros, and Ritsona.

### Leros

*Echo100Plus* volunteers have been helping out on Leros since October 2015. In the past months the nature of our work has greatly changed. *Echo100Plus* is currently working alongside the authorities, the First Reception Service, and the local organization, the [Leros Solidarity Network](#) and others. We have focused our efforts in Leros on two locations, the *Hotspot*, which opened in February of this year, here *Echo100Plus* is in charge of distributing clothes, milk, hygienic and other non-food items to *Hotspot* residents. The second location we are active in, is PIKPA, a refugee accommodation run by LSN, where the most vulnerable refugees (minors, women with small children and elderly) find shelter. *Echo100Plus* has supported LSN with providing them with our volunteers, distributing food and helping out with teaching and other activities for children, such as trips for ice cream and a day at the beach. Additionally, we have been working on several projects to improve the living conditions of refugees stuck on Leros. We are trying to install Wi-Fi in the *Hotspot* and are setting up an improvised cinema at PIKPA. *Echo100Plus* is also striving to implement a permanent English teaching program for both children and adults, as well as a sewing and carpet - weaving workshops for women.

### Ritsona

Ritsona Camp, located in the middle of a forest, north of Athens, is a deserted Greek Air Force base, which was prematurely turned into a makeshift refugee camp, receiving refugees in tents, without any decent infrastructure in place, like electricity, adequate

water supply, medical care etc. The Air Force provides refugees with daily meals and drinking water, but the standards they can cater to are sadly often inadequate. For other basic needs, like extra food, hygienic products, baby care etc. camp residents have to fully rely on outside donations. *Echo100Plus* is one of three NGOs that have stepped in to support the local Greek communities and organizations with the management and supply of the camp. With the help of the camp residents - self- management is encouraged - all teams on the ground cooperate, to establish improved infrastructure, distribution systems at camp. Furthermore, Echo100plus is constantly trying to allocate additional in-kind and financial donations, taking on some of the burden of the local Greek population, who have been generously supplying Ritsona Camp with basic items.

If you are interested to help and join one of our our teams on the ground, please visit our website [www.echo100plus.com](http://www.echo100plus.com) and fill out our online registration form. We will then get in touch with you to discuss further details, in person, or via Skype.

If you are unable to volunteer yourself, but still want to contribute, you can either just make a donation onto our account or **sponsor a volunteer** by funding her/his expenses for a two weeks stay, which we calculated to amount to roughly € 560,00.

**Account name: Echo100Plus**  
**IBAN: AT77 2011 1820 5088 5100**  
**BIC: GIBAATWWXXX**  
**Ref: Volunteer Ritsona**  
**Ref: Volunteer Leros**

Please do not hesitate to ask us for any further information! We are happy to try to accommodate your preference, for either Leros or Ritsona Camp as your preferred volunteer destiny, **if we can**, but please understand, should we need to allocate you differently, depending on the needs on the ground.

Thank you AGAIN for your time, and thank you for passing this letter on to other potential volunteers, interested in supporting our *Echo100plus* teams on the ground.

Best regards,  
Echo100Plus Team

**Echo100Plus** [www.echo100plus.com](http://www.echo100plus.com) is a charitable association founded in 2012 in Vienna. Echo100Plus identifies and supports viable and sustainable social and humanitarian NGO's, projects and grass-root efforts in Greece to address social and humanitarian problems caused by the poverty resulting from the current crisis. Echo100plus account owners are: Catharina Kahane, Theresianumgasse 11/7, A-1040 Wien & Annunziata Schmidt-Chiari. The address of the bank is: Erste Bank der oesterreichischen Sparkassen AG (Erste Bank Oesterreich) Graben 21 A-1010 Wien.