In 2021, people arriving has decreased 54.9%, compared to 2020. 184 boats made it to the Greek islands, carrying 4342 people. Boats arriving has decreased 37.2% compared to 2020, when 293 boats arrived, carrying 9617 people. Illegal Pushbacks and the pandemic has reduced arrivals substantially.

Total arrivals has decreased 54.9% compared to 2020. 1086 boats started their trip towards the Greek islands in 2020, carrying a total of 30544 people. 184 boats made the trip, carrying a total of 4342 people, the rest, 902 boats, 26202 people, were picked up and arrested by the Turkish Coast guard and Police.

In 2021 902 boats have been stopped on their way towards Greece, 26202 people have been arrested. Boats arriving on the Greek island has been drastically reduced, due to illegal pushbacks by the Greek government, despite these efforts to prevent people from crossing, boats trying to cross has increased slightly in 2021, compared to 2020.
In 2021, 14,024 people were transported to mainland, from the Greek islands. Transfers have decreased 55.5% compared to 2020, when 31,545 people were transported. In 2021, population on the Aegean islands has decreased by 79.4%, from 17,005 to 3,508 people. The Greek government have drastically reduced the population on the Greek island in 2021, by illegal pushbacks, violating international laws and human rights on an industrial scale.

Official capacity on the islands is 13,811 people. Today’s population is 10,300 people under max total capacity. In the end of 2020 total population was 17,005, one year later its 3,508, population has decreased by 13,497 people this last year on the Greek Islands.
It is the legal right of men, women or children to enter a country with or without paperwork, if they intend to apply for asylum. Pushbacks are the illegal practice of a state preventing them from doing so by stopping them entering its territory, or forcing them back across a border or into the waters of another state. The Greek government has hugely increased illegal pushbacks of refugees since January 2020, with some victims stating they have been beaten by Greek officials before being forced back across borders, or into the sea.

In 2021 Aegean Boat Report have registered 629 pushback cases in the Aegean Sea, involving 15803 children, women and men who tried to reach safety in Europe. A third of them, 5220 people, had already arrived on the Greek Aegean islands, arrested by police, forced back to sea and left drifting in life rafts, illegally deported by the Hellenic Coast Guard (HCG), on orders from the Greek government, so far there has been no reaction from the EU on these illegal actions. Almost 60% of all boats picked up by Turkish coast guard in 2021 had been pushed back by Greek authorities.

60%, of all pushback cases registered happened around Lesvos and Samos. 10189 people have been pushed back at sea in 418 rubber boats, engines or petrol removed and left drifting, and in some cases even towed back to Turkish waters by HCG. In 201 registered cases, 5220 people have been forced into a total of 290 life rafts, and left drifting in the Aegean Sea by the Hellenic Coast Guard, a systematic use of rescue equipment as a deportation tool. The Greek government categorically denies any involvement in these atrocities, but the evidence against the Greek government is overwhelming, there is no doubt who is responsible.