

# 2025 IMPACT REPORT



# INDEX

<b><u>Beyond the kitchen</u></b>	<b>03</b>
<b><u>24/7 at the Borders</u></b>	<b>05</b>
<b><u>The Crew</u></b>	<b>16</b>
<b><u>Aid in Figures</u></b>	<b>19</b>
<b><u>Logistics</u></b>	<b>22</b>
<b><u>Health on the Move</u></b>	<b>25</b>
<b><u>Watchdog &amp; Advocacy</u></b>	<b>29</b>
<b><u>Awareness &amp; Outreach</u></b>	<b>36</b>
<b><u>Why This Matters</u></b>	<b>39</b>

# BEYOND THE KITCHEN

This year, 2025, has been brutal. Like every human rights defender, we have had to grow armour around our hearts just to keep moving – to keep working, half-smiling, showing up, while massacres in Sudan, Gaza, and the Mediterranean are livestreamed to the world. It breaks us, and it fuels us. Because everything is connected: north and south, east and west, our grief and our rage.

Gaza bleeds into Europe's borders, where Palestinians search for safety and find barbed wire instead. The same goes for Syrians – forced from their homes, then harassed by European authorities eager to send them back the moment Assad fell, no matter the roots they had already put down in new communities. Sudanese and Somalis cross the sea chasing a peace that feels almost fictional. Afghans and Bangladeshis flee earthquakes and monsoons. Moroccans, Lebanese, and Tunisians risk everything to escape militias, mafias, and clientelist networks.

Every journey is different. Every attempt to move, to survive, to claim a future, contains a whole universe. But they all begin in the same place: a global system of injustice, coated in the residue of colonialism, racism, violence, and class oppression, staining the lives of everyone on this planet.

Abuse is everywhere. The so-called Pact on Migration and Asylum is just another blueprint for Fortress Europe: billions poured into fences, drones, dogs, thermal cameras, armoured vehicles, and weapons, while private contractors run “reception centres” like prisons of over-

crowding and humiliation. Europe's leaders feed on fear and xenophobia, squeezing votes out of cruelty while their societies grow older and more diverse — a change that is brave, inevitable, and impossible to stop.

At NNK, we do not buy into any of it. Our mission goes far beyond food. Sure, “Kitchen” is in our name — but what we really serve is resistance. We confront the border regime and fight for a welcome rooted in empathy and dignity. We cook solidarity.

That means food packs, blankets, shoes, first aid kits, hygiene products. It means documenting pushbacks, violence, and abuse. It means carrying out life-saving search and rescue operations in Bulgaria and Oulx. But it also means tea shared at midnight, a football game on broken ground, stolen moments of music, laughter, and trust. Because resilience is not only about survival. It is about joy, community, and the refusal to be broken.

That is the Kitchen way: instinct and empathy, radical care with teeth. The fight for freedom of movement has only just begun. And losing is not an option.

“

***Every meal, every blanket, every conversation is a small revolution of care.***

This report captures NNK's work in 2025, bringing together numbers and stories from our daily struggle on the frontline.

# 24/7 AT THE BORDERS

NNK's operations are defined by permanent adaptation. Our teams follow the movement of People on the move, responding in real time to border dynamics, pushbacks, and seasonal variations. No year ends in the same spots we started in.

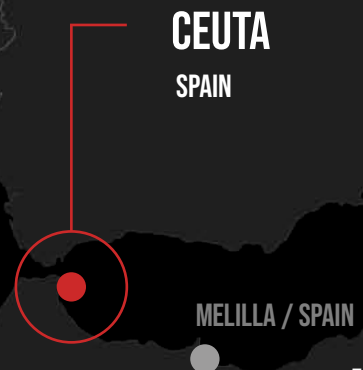
We are not driven by the temptation to chase the harshest-looking emergency, nor by the fantasy that we must only go where nobody else goes. What shapes our strategy is active listening. People change routes, need to shift, and border violence constantly reinvents itself. So we keep rethinking ourselves too, trying to stay where we can offer something specific and real: emotional presence, safeguarding, watch-dog work, trust. Sometimes that means medicine or shoes. Sometimes it just means sharing a conversation and saying the one thing this system works hard to erase: "you are not alone, compañero."

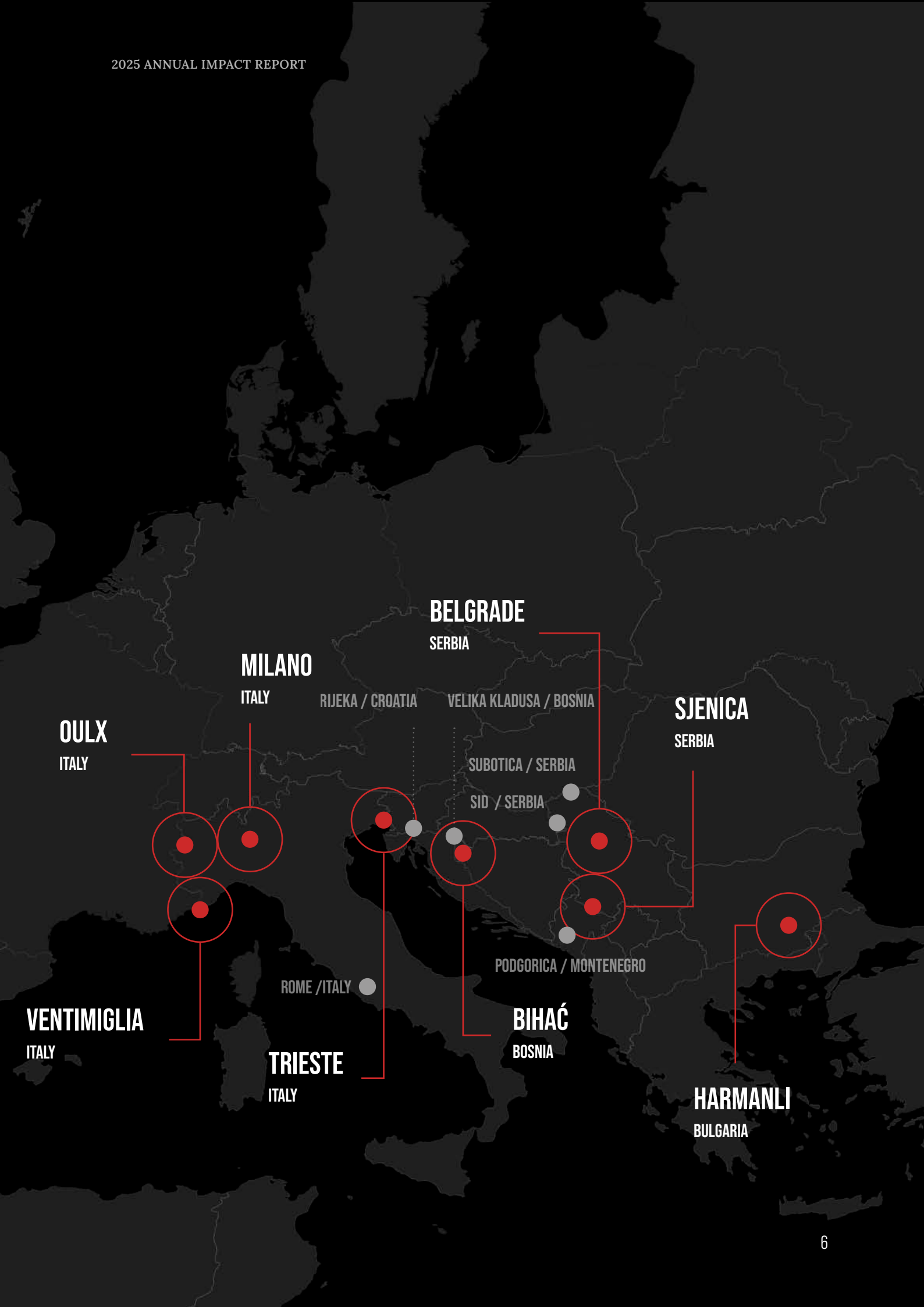


**ACTIVE PROJECTS**



**PREVIOUS PROJECTS**





**OULX**  
ITALY

**MILANO**  
ITALY

**BELGRADE**  
SERBIA

**SJENICA**  
SERBIA

**VENTIMIGLIA**  
ITALY

**TRIESTE**  
ITALY

**BIHAĆ**  
BOSNIA

**HARMANLI**  
BULGARIA

RIJEKA / CROATIA

VELIKA KLADUSA / BOSNIA

SUBOTICA / SERBIA

SID / SERBIA

PODGORICA / MONTENEGRO

ROME / ITALY



# CEUTA, SPAIN DENIED AT SEA



HEALTH ON THE MOVE	● ● ○
AID DISTROS	● ● ○
WATCHDOG AND LEGAL	● ● ●
SEARCH AND RESCUE	○ ○ ○

 TYPE OF BORDER  
Maritime / External EU border

 NKK ADDED VALUE  
Socio-legal accompaniment + litigation  
+ emergency dignity response

 TAGS  
#Minors #Pushbacks #BuroRepression

Ceuta is where our work touches African land, at the border with Morocco, in one of the European Union’s most revealing frontier zones. There, NKK provides **personalised socio-legal accompaniment** to people on the move who are **excluded from registration, asylum, guardianship**, and other basic protection systems, many of them **minors or former wards of the state**. Our work is rooted in the street and combines legal support, **documentation of abuses**, and practical assistance to people living in situations of deep abandonment. In a context marked by police pressure, frequent ID checks, and institutional hostility, our role is both immediate and political: to respond to urgent needs while confronting the structures that keep people deliberately excluded.

In 2025, that work also gained important political weight. At the beginning of the year, and after our lawsuit, a ruling by the High Court of Justice of Andalucia recognised that **pushbacks at sea are illegal**, marking a significant step in challenging one of the most violent practices of the southern border. Later in the year, the collapse of the CETI – in English, roughly Temporary Stay Centre for Immigrants – during the summer left hundreds of people sleeping outside. NKK deployed our **portable showers in Ceuta for the first time**, turning a basic act of care into a concrete response to institutional abandonment. The publication of **Vidas Desechables** further strengthened this line of work, helping expose the way the border produces disposability as policy.



# VENTIMIGLIA, ITALY


## OPEN-SKY EXPULSION



HEALTH ON THE MOVE	●	○	○
AID DISTROS	●	●	○
WATCHDOG AND LEGAL	●	●	○
SEARCH AND RESCUE	○	○	○

 TYPE OF BORDER  
Internal / France–Italy border

 NKK ADDED VALUE  
Aid + psychosocial care + abuse monitoring + continuity

 TAGS  
#Evictions #Injuries #AdminViolence

Ventimiglia remains one of the clearest expressions of **Europe’s internal border violence**. There, NKK combines humanitarian support with documentation work, providing food, essential items, **psychosocial care**, accompaniment, and community-based activities while monitoring abuses linked to the French border regime. The project supports both people in transit and **people who remain stranded** for longer periods under the bridge or in unstable street situations, often facing exhaustion, repeated evictions, and complex vulnerabilities. Throughout 2025, our work stretched across different points of the city and the border space itself, adapting to constant shifts in police presence, sleeping spots, and crossing attempts.

Often with no shelter, and no stable access to even the most basic means of survival. In this context, our presence has been about much more than material support. It has meant building continuity in a place structured by rupture, offering practical solidarity where everything is designed to exhaust people, and gathering testimonies that expose how exclusion, **racialised policing, and administrative uncertainty** shape life at the border.

“  
**Ventimiglia is brutal because violence becomes routine: people are pushed back, displaced, and forced to start again.**




## MILAN, ITALY INDOOR EXILE



HEALTH ON THE MOVE	●	○	○
AID DISTROS	●	●	○
WATCHDOG AND LEGAL	●	○	○
SEARCH AND RESCUE	○	○	○

---

 TYPE OF BORDER  
Urban / Internal EU exclusion space

---

 NKK ADDED VALUE  
daily support, rest and basic protection

---

 TAGS  
#Shelter # Journey #Community

---

In Milan, our work is rooted in a **small independent shelter**, property of our partner Rete Milano, that offers **accommodation and daily support** to people on the move within a fast-paced urban environment. Launched after a period of assessment and relationship-building, the project responds to a gap that is as simple as it is brutal: people arriving in the city often have **nowhere to sleep**, no access to basic services, and very little time before being pushed back into the street or onward movement. The shelter has functioned as an **immediate point of protection**, offering food, hygiene support, rest, and a minimum of stability to people navigating one of the many urban faces of border violence.

Milan shows that **exclusion does not only happen at the edge of Europe**. It is also produced inside its cities, through invisibility, housing precarity, exhaustion,

“

**The strength of this project lies in its scale and closeness: co-living, sharing space, responding quickly**

and lack of access to dignified reception. and creating a **small but concrete structure of continuity** in the middle of fragmentation.



# OULX, ITALY

## THIN AIR



HEALTH ON THE MOVE	● ○ ○
AID DISTROS	● ● ○
WATCHDOG AND LEGAL	● ● ●
SEARCH AND RESCUE	● ○ ○

---

 TYPE OF BORDER  
Alpine / France–Italy mountain border

---

 NKK ADDED VALUE  
Safety + referral + abuse monitoring

---

 TAGS  
#Pushbacks #Protection #Rescue

---

Oulx is an **alpine border town** where many arrive directly from the Central Mediterranean route and find themselves, often with little information and no experience, facing snow, altitude, and the **risk of injury, disappearance, or death.**

“

*Our role has been to reduce harm before people enter one of the most dangerous stages of their journey.*

NNK’s work in the “Refugio Massi” focuses on **mountain safety, triage, referrals**, and documentation of abuses.

Throughout 2025, Oulx remained a strategic and highly dynamic transit point, marked by **strong seasonal peaks** and a **significant presence of unaccompanied minors**. The project’s daily presence made it possible not only to distribute essential items and route information, but also to monitor the changing dynamics of the Alpine border and the repeated pushbacks carried out by French authorities.



# TRIESTE, ITALY

## STAMPED OUT



HEALTH ON THE MOVE	● ● ●
AID DISTROS	● ● ○
WATCHDOG AND LEGAL	● ● ○
SEARCH AND RESCUE	○ ○ ○

---

 TYPE OF BORDER  
Internal / Balkan Route arrival border

---

 NKK ADDED VALUE  
Mobile outreach + material aid +  
psychosocial support + guidance

---

 TAGS  
#Medical #Injuries #Asylum

---

In Trieste, our team provides **material and psychological support** to people arriving after the Balkan Route, while working closely with local actors to understand the context, identify gaps, and define where NNK can bring added value. The project combines **mobile outreach**, support in dedicated spaces, and observation around institutional sites connected to asylum access and reception.

“  
***In Trieste, border violence often takes an administrative form: delay, bureaucracy, obstruction, and selective access to rights.***”

Our role has been to support people in concrete ways while staying attentive to the structures that shape what happens to them after arrival.

Throughout 2025, the project remained present across different parts of the city, adapting to changing gathering points, sleep sites, and **institutional barriers**. This meant not only distributing food, clothing, and basic items, but also accompanying people through confusion, and the uncertainty of a city where many are left outdoors despite formal reception systems existing on paper. The work in spaces such as the Women’s Centre and other community settings also helped create **moments of safety, rest, and information-sharing** in an otherwise harsh environment.



# BIHAĆ, BOSNIA WHAT THE BORDER SPITS BACK



Bihać remains one of the **main frontline bases of the Balkan Route**, where the violence of the Bosnian-Croatian border continues to shape everyday life for people on the move. From there, NKK provides **food and essential items**, remains present around key transit and reception points, and supports **people returning from pushbacks** and other forms of abuse. The work combines immediate humanitarian response with **testimony collection, monitoring, and long-term trust-building** in a context marked by **chronic neglect, repeated violence**, and an ongoing effort by authorities to keep support work and documentation out of sight.

In 2025, the context in Bihać kept shifting. The closure of the Borići reception centre re-

HEALTH ON THE MOVE	● ● ○
AID DISTROS	● ● ●
WATCHDOG AND LEGAL	● ● ●
SEARCH AND RESCUE	○ ○ ○

---

○ TYPE OF BORDER  
Externalised / Bosnia-Croatia zone

---

🚫 NKK ADDED VALUE  
Food + essentials + testimonies +  
frontline presence + trust-building

---

🛍️ TAGS  
#Pushbacks #EmergencyResponse  
#Criminalization

---

moved a rare point of proximity between people on the move and the social life of the city, concentrating people instead in Lipa, further away and more isolated. At the same time, **reports of medical neglect** inside reception facilities became increasingly serious, culminating in deaths that deepened concerns about the consequences of institutional abandonment.

“  
**Despite this, movement continued, support continued, and people kept finding ways to reach out, meet, and survive.**



## BELGRADE, SERBIA ROUTES IN HIDING



After closing our historical base in Šid, NNK relocated to Železnik, on the outskirts of Belgrade, in order to reach a **wider and more shifting geography of movement**. From there, the team has been able to access Belgrade, Obrenovac, Loznica, and other key areas more quickly, adapting to a context in which **routes are increasingly fragmented** and populations often remain hidden from view. The project combines **distributions in forests and informal settlements** with access to showers, food, essential items, and advocacy-oriented monitoring, responding to a population exposed to **detention, police violence, and growing criminalisation**.

Throughout 2025, this mobility proved essential. The closure and reorganisation of recep-

HEALTH ON THE MOVE	● ● ○
AID DISTROS	● ● ●
WATCHDOG AND LEGAL	● ● ●
SEARCH AND RESCUE	○ ○ ○

---

○ TYPE OF BORDER  
Transit / Hidden internal route hub

---

🛡️ NKK ADDED VALUE  
Mobile distributions + showers + forest outreach + monitoring + flexibility

---

📁 TAGS  
#Pushbacks #EmergencyResponse  
#Criminalization

---

tion structures, including transfers between camps, changed the map once again, requiring a **flexible response grounded in field presence** rather than static infrastructure. NNK's team also maintained contact with people less visible in informal settlements by continuing visits to other support points in the city, despite

“

**The Serbian context remaining hostile to solidarity itself: activists faced police pressure, detention, intimidation, and sanctions.**



# SJENICA, SERBIA

## SLOW DAMAGE



HEALTH ON THE MOVE	● ● ●
AID DISTROS	● ● ○
WATCHDOG AND LEGAL	● ● ○
SEARCH AND RESCUE	○ ○ ○

---

 TYPE OF BORDER  
Camp / Remote containment space

---

 NKK ADDED VALUE  
Psychosocial care + activities + daily continuity

---

 TAGS  
#CommunityCenter #PsychoSupport #Dignity

---

In Sjenica, NKK opened its **first community centre** in 2024, creating a **safe and steady space** for people trapped in the closeby reception centre. Unlike more transit-oriented bases, the project is centred on the **slow violence of immobility**: chronic uncertainty,

“

*The centre offers psychosocial support, recreational activities, basic material assistance, and relational continuity in a context where people are often expected to simply endure.*

**deteriorating mental health, isolation,** and the erosion caused by being forced to wait without horizon.

In 2025, that role became even more important as camp transfers reshaped the local population and concentrated further vulnerability in Sjenica. The the year was marked by multiple deaths of people on the move in and around Sjenica, each one surrounded by the same pattern of **opacity, poor accountability, and bureaucratic indifference** that so often follows migrant death in Europe’s borderlands.



# HARMANLI, BULGARIA


## THE FOREST KNOWS



HEALTH ON THE MOVE	● ● ○
AID DISTROS	● ● ●
WATCHDOG AND LEGAL	● ● ●
SEARCH AND RESCUE	● ● ●

 TYPE OF BORDER  
Land / Bulgaria-Türkiye EU border

 NKK ADDED VALUE  
Emergency response, prison solidarity, minors

 TAGS  
#Detention #Pushbacks #Criminalization

In Harmanli, NNK developed a **dual project combining camp and prison solidarity** with a **land-based search and rescue programme** in the forests along the Bulgarian-Turkish border. The work includes distributions, social support, **first aid, and monitoring of detention and deportation dynamics** in Harmanli and Sofia.

“  
**The emergency line responds to distress cases in the forest, where people face pushbacks, disorientation, injuries, freezing, and abandonment by the authorities.**

This project has brought together **humanitarian action, protection, and direct resistance to border violence** at one of the earliest and harshest points of the Balkan Route.

Throughout 2025, the search and rescue dimension became a defining feature of the project. Rescue operations took place in conditions marked by urgency, terrain difficulty, and **constant obstruction by the police**, including roadblocks, harassment, arbitrary arrests, confiscations, and other attempts to criminalise solidarity. Many of the emergencies involved minors, families, and people lost in the forest at night, sometimes after pushbacks or after days without adequate food, warmth, or medical attention.



# THE CREW HEART & ENGINE

We are a movement. That means our edges are blurry. Some actions are formal, carried out by activists with specific roles and strategies. Others just happen: people moving on behalf of NNK, without a masterplan, because urgency, care, and political instinct do not always wait for structure. A distribution in Novi Sad. A fundraiser in New York. An awareness action in Sydney. Not everything is planned or controlled in advance.

“

*The powerful magic lives in the meeting point between people pushed into struggle by the border regime and people choosing to place their privilege at the service of that fight.*

**Counting on our records**, people who formally applied to join our field teams for a specific period of time, **287 activists** powered NNK's operations in 2025. But none of this work would exist without people on the move. Many are activists themselves — and many others become defenders of rights the

moment they are forced to fight for their own. When safe routes are closed, trying to survive, move, and build a better life is already an act of resistance. People on the move identify needs, share knowledge, and fight racism shoulder to shoulder with NNK's mates.

## Commitment & Satisfaction

At the end of each experience, activists fill in a feedback form. In 2025, **the average satisfaction score was 4.6/5**. Yes, it sounds suspiciously like a restaurant review. But still: we are saying it.

Other signs matter too. Around **85% of people joined because someone they trusted had already been with NNK and recommended it**. And **1 in 4 came back again**. That says something about trust. About bonds. About organisational health.

NNK also deepened its academic links through five bilateral internship agreements. More than 30 people carried out research and/or internships through the organisation in 2025. Sometimes we think of NNK as a small school of activism. And honestly, that gives us hope.

**287**

activists in 2025

**4.6/5**

average satisfaction

**85%**

joined through  
recommendation

**1 in 4**

returned again

“

*I loved the time with NNK. I'm very proud to have been on the field with such a passionate organization.*

“

*I met many beautiful and caring people, both in the field and among the people migrating.*



**AID IN FIGURES**  
**THE TIP OF**  
**THE ICEBERG**

Numbers don't tell the whole story. Still, they speak. Each instance of support means that one person received support at a given moment – sometimes through one action only, but most often through several at once, such as food, clothes, or a first aid kit.

Despite Frontex and IOM reporting a much sharper decrease in so-called irregular journeys. In practice, NNK's support remained at a very similar scale that in 2024, while reaching across an even broader geographical scope.

## ACTIONS OF SUPPORT

# 57,025

OR IN OTHER WORDS

# 309

days of work

Because on Sundays, we try to recharge our batteries

# 184

actions per day

7.6 actions per hour



FOOD DISTRIBUTIONS

15,166

This figure includes **cooked meals**, ingredients or **food packs** prepared by people on the move, and **high-protein snack packs**. The food provided always **depends on the local context** and the input of people on the move. In Sjenica, this meant **daily breakfasts** in the community centre. In Bihać, large numbers of snack packs easily **eaten on the move**. In Ventimiglia, helping people choose food in local shops they already used.



NON-FOOD ITEMS

43,369

NFIs include **jackets, socks, sleeping bags, hygiene items, first aid kits, tents, and SIM cards**. In 2025, NNK distributed **29% more than in 2024**, reflecting growing needs and support along the routes. On the Balkan route, this included **warm winter clothing** and first aid materials. In Ventimiglia, tents became essential after repeated evictions from the bridge area. In several locations, **SIM cards helped people stay connected** and safer on the move.



SHOWERS

1,490

Access to a shower **is never just about hygiene**. It can mean **warmth, privacy, dignity**, and the chance to **feel human again** after **days or weeks on the move**. Nearly **1,000 showers were provided in Ventimiglia** and the rest in Ceuta, Belgrade and Milan.



HYGIENE ITEMS

13,845

This includes **soap, toothbrushes, toothpaste, razors, menstrual products, towels, and essentials** hard to access on the move. These distributions respond to **immediate needs**, and to **comfort, health, and self-respect in contexts shaped by abandonment and transit**.



# LOGISTICS NO LOVE SONGS

No vans, no fuel, no warehouses, no storage, no distributions, no winter gear, no first aid kits, no tents, no rescue material, no way of reaching people stranded in the cold, under bridges, in forests, at stations, or along the road. Logistics is not background work. It is the difference between wanting to help and actually arriving.

**96,500  
KM DRIVEN**

That is for example:



times around the Earth



# € 20,600

SPENT ON REPAIRS + "NEW" OLD VEHICLES

That same money could also mean:



**834** protection packs



**72** legal appeals



**HEALTH  
ON THE MOVE  
CARE AS A RIGHT**

Our approach continued to be built around 4 interconnected pillars: **hygiene and prevention, primary healthcare and first aid, access to specialised treatment, and psychosocial care on the move.**

Together, they reflect a conviction: health is not a secondary need, nor a technical matter. It is a universal right — and one that is constantly denied to people on the move. That is why health is also political.

Sometimes care means a dressing, pain relief, a hygiene kit, or a referral. Sometimes it means helping someone reach a doctor they would never be able to access alone. Sometimes it begins earlier, by creating the minimum conditions for rest, trust, and emotional safety.

Behind the following figures lies a much broader reality. Health support in NNK means responding every day to the physical consequences of displacement, exposure, poor living conditions, and institutional neglect. It means treating wounds, infections, pain, exhaustion, skin conditions, and untreated chronic issues. It also means addressing the slower damage caused by sleeping rough, lacking privacy, being unable to wash, living in constant uncertainty, or carrying the aftermath of violence across borders.



## Mental health on hostile ground

Alongside field healthcare and prevention, **Care on the Move** continued to offer individual psychosocial support to people on the move in 2025, mainly in **Trieste, Ceuta, and Serbia**. These sessions created space for emotional processing, practical orientation, and mental health support in contexts where distress is not incidental, but produced by the conditions people are forced to live in.

Most sessions took place directly between the psychologist and the person, while others were held with interpretation support to ensure accessibility and understanding. Rather than existing in isolation, this work remained rooted in field realities, often combining emotional guidance with practical coordination and follow-up by local teams.

## Trust and relationships

Many sessions centred on broken trust, loneliness, conflict, and the struggle to maintain meaningful relationships while living under pressure. The work aimed to reinforce support networks, whether in person or remotely, and to create space for safer bonds to emerge.

A significant part of the conversations focused on life inside camps, squats, or unstable accommodation. Overcrowding, lack of privacy, insecurity, and prolonged waiting were not side issues: they were central to people’s mental health and emotional balance. Stress, fear, sadness, exhaustion, and emotional overload remained recurrent themes. These sessions sought to offer tools for managing pressure, recognising distress, and building small forms of resilience in environments designed to destabilise.

### **Care for activists is part of operational safety**

In 2025, structured psychological support for activists remained a central part, recognising that solidarity work in border spaces also carries emotional, relational, and operational strain.

Across the year, support sessions were held regularly across all projects, with **a mix of group sessions, individual follow-up, exit sessions, and pre-departure workshops**, addressing five recurring areas:

---

### **Team dynamics**

Rotating teams, intense co-living, and demanding contexts make interpersonal dynamics a constant part of field reality. Sessions helped prevent conflicts, improve collaboration, and strengthen group functioning.

---

### **Stress, and burnout**

Support created space to process accumulation before it became collapse. Much of the work focused on prevention: emotional preparation, stress management, workload boundaries, and recognising early signs of exhaustion.

---

### **Boundaries, limits, and decision-making**

Activists often work in contexts where urgency distorts limits. Sessions helped teams and individuals reflect on responsibility, self-protection, decision-making, and how to act without burning through themselves.

---

### **Exposure to violence, death, and critical incidents**

Part of the support work was reactive: creating space for debriefing after traumatic events, emergencies, death, or particularly difficult field situations. This helped transform shock into process, rather than leaving it to settle silently in the team.

---

### **Gender dynamics and safeguarding**

Psychological support also addressed gendered tensions, power imbalances, and safeguarding concerns, contributing to safer and more inclusive team environments.

---



**WATCHDOG  
& ADVOCACY  
CRACKING SILENCE**

Border violence survives not only through brutality. It survives through repetition, silence, and impunity. Our work is to interrupt that cycle.

In 2025, NNK kept doing what watchdog work is meant to do: stay close to the violence, document it properly, and push it into spaces that would rather not look. What begins in the field as testimony, accompaniment, and documentation does not stay there. It moves. **Into courts. Into UN mechanisms. Into reports, headlines, and public record.**

### **From winter abandonment to legal consequence**

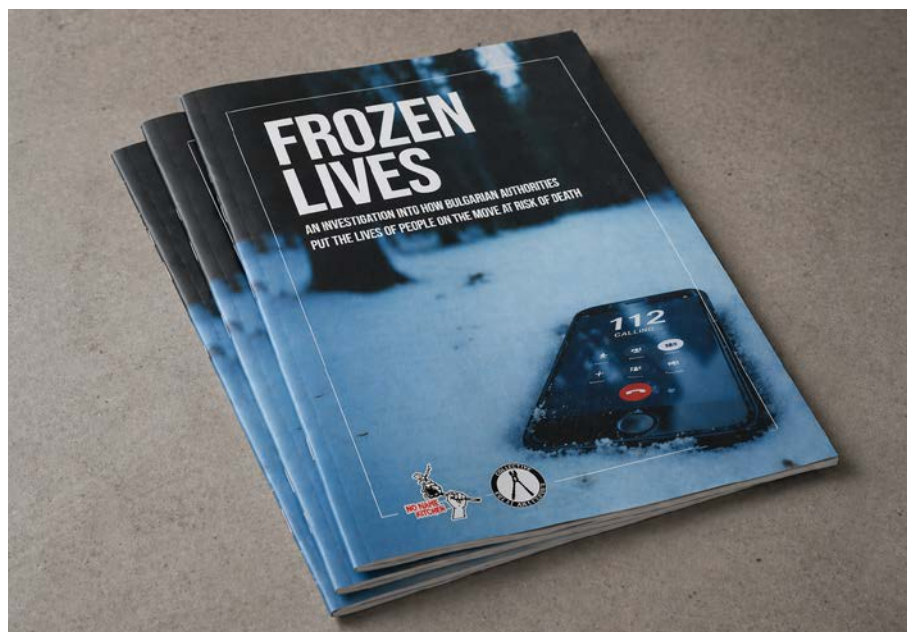
The year opened with **Frozen Lives**, our joint investigation with Collettivo Rotte Balcaniche into the deaths of three Egyptian minors near the Bulgarian-Turkish border. The report exposed how the boys could have been saved either by the Bulgarian emergency services, had they responded properly, or by grassroots rescue teams, had the police not obstructed access to the area after repeated calls to 112. Our evidence showed that Bulgarian police ignored the alerts, blocked rescue access and helped turn a preventable emergency into three deaths.

Frozen Lives became a political bomb because it made it impossible to deny what many institutions had long preferred not to name: that state negligence, police obstruction and anti-migrant violence are intertwined. The investigation was covered by The Guardian and other outlets, helping carry the case beyond solidarity circles and into a much wider public arena. It also gave us a firmer platform to do what matters most after publication: push for consequences.

After the publication of Frozen Lives, we worked intensively with members of the European Parliament and allied actors to move the case into institutional terrain. Nearly 40 parliamentarians backed a parliamentary question to the European Commission on Frontex involvement and fundamental rights violations in Bulgaria. In parallel, the case fed a broader wave of scrutiny around Bulgaria's border regime and around the EU's willingness to keep financing authorities implicated in abuse.

In April, the Commission's response mattered politically: it signalled the Bulgarian administration over what had happened, raised the possibility

**Frozen Lives**, our joint investigation with Collettivo Rotte Balcaniche into the deaths of three Egyptian minors at the Bulgarian–Turkish border.



that border-control spending linked to rights violations should not be reimbursed, and treated our rescue efforts as genuine and legitimate rather than criminal. A few months later, the Frontex Fundamental Rights Officer’s opinion on Bulgaria again pointed to serious fundamental-rights concerns and reinforced the legitimacy of independent rescue and monitoring work in that context.

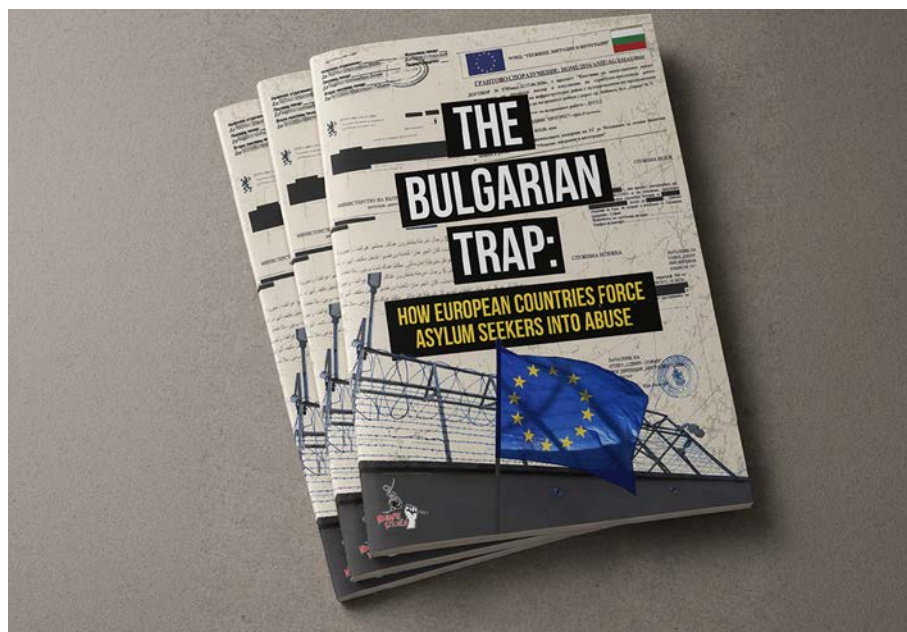
For us, this matters not because institutions suddenly became trustworthy, but because it shows what movement-generated evidence can do when it is sharp enough and persistent enough. It can force uncomfortable actors to answer, generate paper trails that did not exist before, and create openings that help weaken official denial. That is the real function of watchdog work when it is rooted in the frontline: not only to narrate violence, but to push that violence into spaces where authorities are forced to account for it.

After our December 2024 investigation into the harassment of Syrian asylum seekers — especially the coercion used to force people into signing so-called “voluntary return” documents — NNK provided expert witness testimony before a UK High Court.

#### **4 interim measures were secured using our research as a tool to stop deportation cases across Europe**

The reasoning was clear: returning those Syrian asylum seekers to Bulgaria exposed them to a serious risk of onward refoulement to Syria. Article 3 ECHR was not abstract. It was urgent.

***The Bulgarian Trap***, published in April and featured in *The Guardian*, helped bring NNK evidence on abuses in Bulgaria and Croatia into the UN Universal Periodic Review processes.



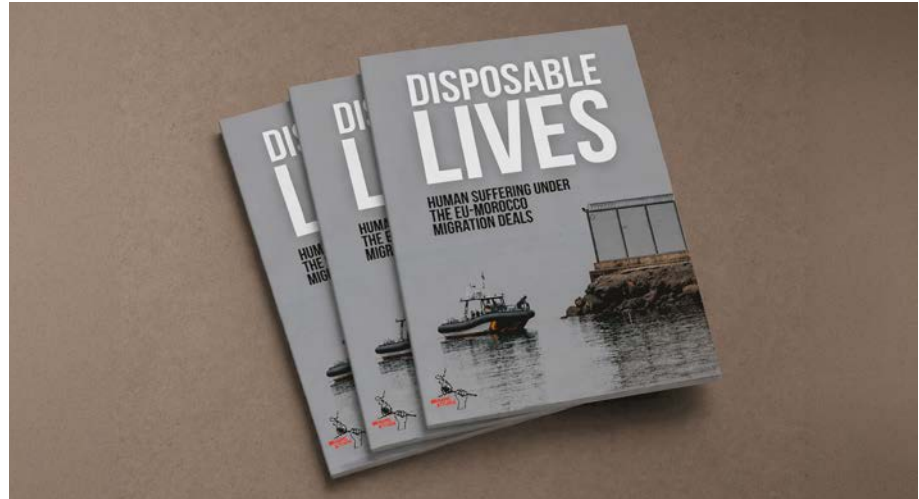
In April, we published **The Bulgarian Trap**, featured in *The Guardian*, and submitted evidence to the Universal Periodic Review processes for both Bulgaria and Croatia.

For Bulgaria, the UN text drew heavily on NNK’s evidence and recommendations. It echoed our documentation of intimidation and detention of activists assisting people on the move. It reflected evidence of pushbacks, pullbacks, detention, inhuman conditions, physical and psychological abuse, lack of due process, coercion into “voluntary returns,” and deaths and disappearances. It also carried forward our call to end violent expulsions and guarantee access to asylum in line with non-refoulement.

For Croatia, the summary again reflected the depth of the evidence, including NNK’s, on systematic pushbacks. It echoed calls for fair and individualised asylum procedures, an end to pushbacks, an end to the harassment of genuinely independent monitoring mechanisms, and an end to the Ministry of Interior’s politics of denial. It also reflected the need for Croatia to stop acting as a loyal executor of European deterrence agendas when those agendas encourage violations of international human rights law.

In May, NNK **joined Novact, Centro Iridia, Solidary Wheels, Servicio Jesuita a Migrantes, and Fundec in a shadow report to Spain’s review** before the Human Rights Committee under the ICCPR, and we brought those concerns directly before the Committee in Geneva.

**Disposable lives** exposes how EU and Spanish migration deals with Morocco have funded violence, exclusion, and systemic abuse against people on the move.



Then, in September, we published **Disposable Lives**, a photo report on the human cost of the EU-Morocco migration deals: outsourced brutality, disposability, and the violence enabled by deterrence politics, including desert dumps.

In August, after a series of deaths in the reception centre in Sjenica, NNK launched **an open letter initiative to the European Commission, DG NEAR, and the EU Delegation in Serbia.**

We asked for clarity on oversight mechanisms and the suspension of IPA III disbursements, because when people die in spaces shaped, funded, or politically backed by the EU, responsibility cannot be outsourced forever.

In 2025, NNK collected **83 testimonies of border violence** (compared to 71 in 2024). The increase is modest. The pattern is not.

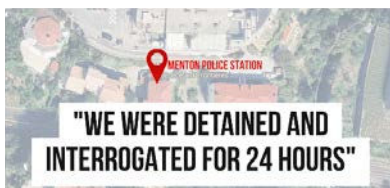
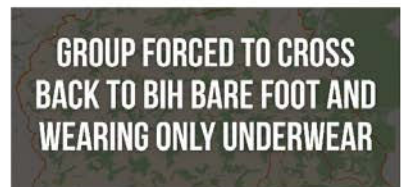
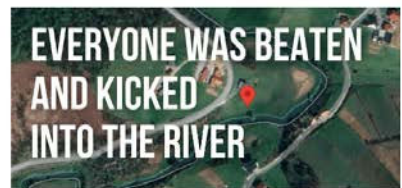
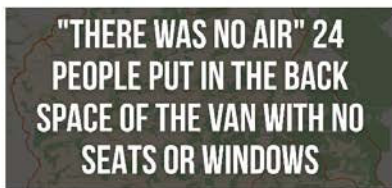
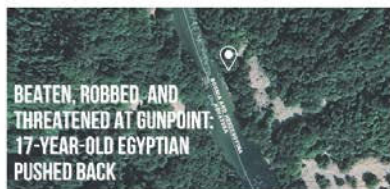
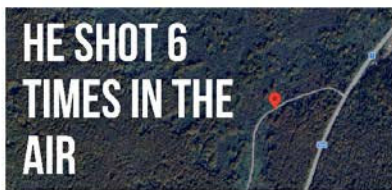
**Beatings . Kicking . Insults . Theft . Destruction of belongings . Detention . Minors caught in the same machinery . Denial of healthcare**

**Benvenuti nel Vuoto** is an investigation into the inhumane living conditions – overcrowding, rat infestations, inadequate medical care – at the CARA asylum seeker reception centre in Gradisca d’Isonzo.



In 2024, our testimonies covered 7 countries. In 2025, **they covered 14**. That expansion reflects two things at once: the growing reach of deportation and Dublin return structures, and the evolution of NNK's own methodology, training, and partnerships. Especially around post-return harm.

**The border is no longer only a line. It is a chain. Our documentation had to adapt accordingly.**



## Press as pressure in 2025

---



**170** press articles

---



**23** languages

---

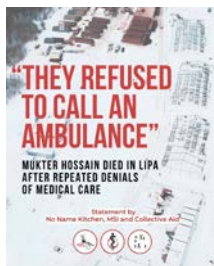


**113** media outlets

---



**08** press releases



This is not about visibility for its own sake. Press matters because it turns field evidence into public record. It makes denial more expensive. It drags what happens in forests, camps, detention centres, police stations, and border crossings into political and social space.

“

**Documenting abuse is activism—every report is a lifeline for justice.**



**AWARENESS  
& OUTREACH  
HOPE RULES**

In 2025, NNK kept pushing the border debate far beyond the border itself. Through talks, screenings, festivals, school visits, solidarity markets, exhibitions, street stands, and digital advocacy, we brought what happens in camps, forests, stations, police vans, and border zones into everyday public space.

A lot of this work was carried by activists after their field experiences. People left the ground, but not the story, bringing it back to their ci-

ties, universities, festivals, and communities. That is one of the strongest parts of NNK's outreach model: testimony keeps moving.

## EVENTS

40

## COUNTRIES

12





01

### podcast released

On the Move launched in 2025, opening a new format to carry frontline voices, testimony, and political analysis beyond the field.



1K

### students reached directly

Educational activities alone engaged more than 1,000 students. Not every conversation can be counted. Many of them landed.



68K

### followers across platforms

NNK's total digital audience passed 68,000 followers in 2025 with 13,000 new followers during the year.



1.1M

### IG accounts reached

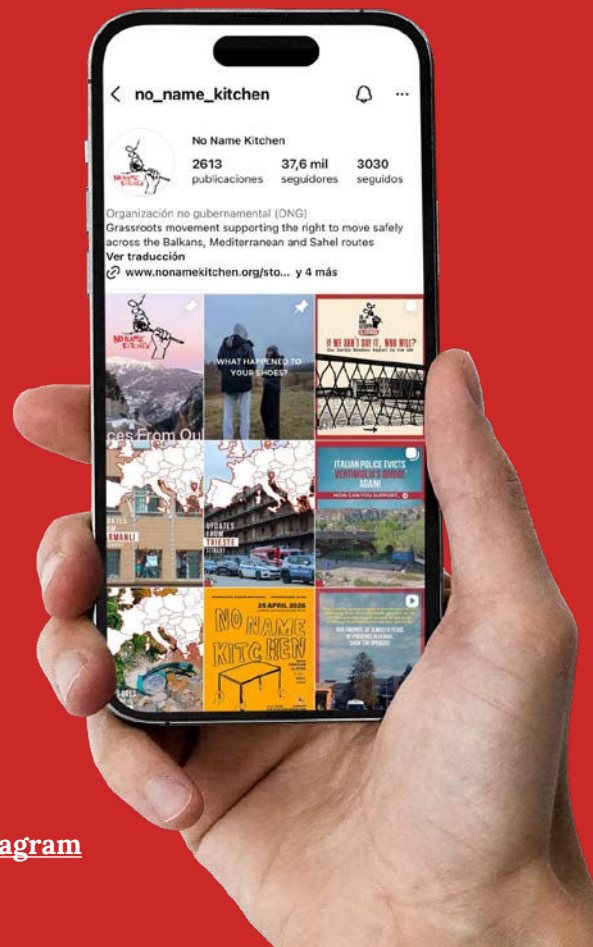
On Instagram alone, 1.2 million impressions and 80,000+ interactions. NNK's Instagram content generated more than 1.2 million impressions and over 80,000 interactions.

## Some spaces hit harder

At TSB Camp 2025, NNK strengthened ties and opened new paths for collaboration. At Glastonbury Festival, together with All About Change, NNK combined fundraising and awareness in one of the biggest public spaces in the UK.

## Growth met its limits

17:54 Not every comms line grew equally. The podcast slowed, TikTok plans stalled. The reason: repression in Bulgaria, legal emergencies, and the need to prioritise rapid response over slower production.



# WHY THIS MATTERS

This year brought grief, exhaustion, conflict, and relentless pressure. But it also brought proof. Proof that solidarity can travel far. That truth can pierce propaganda. That organised care can protect life. That even the border regime, for all its violence, is not untouchable.

**Thanks.** Everything we did in 2025 was made possible by people on the move, by activists, by donors, by comrades, by long-term partners, by foundations, by collectives, by neighbours, by friends, and by strangers who decided not to look away. Some brought money. Some brought time. Some brought skills, space, contacts, stubbornness, courage, or love. Many brought all of it at once.

**What held this work together was not only resources, but trust.**

We do not list names here because it would be unfair to reduce this struggle to a shortlist, when the real list is endless. That is also part of our ethical position and political independence. We know what it means, in these times, to trust an organisation like ours. We do not take that lightly.

Anyone who wants to know more about our accountability and funding can write to [info@nonamekitchen.org](mailto:info@nonamekitchen.org)

2025 leaves us with evidence, scars, new alliances, stronger tools, and sharper clarity. 2026 is already coming in heavy. More reasons to stay awake, more cracks in the wall, more chances to make solidarity real.

And maybe that is the best way to end this report:

“

**The work ahead is big.  
So is our will.  
See you in the struggle.**



**No Name Kitchen** (NNK) is a grassroots movement determined to transform Europe's racist and violent borders into safer and non-discriminatory pathways.

[www.nonamekitchen.org](http://www.nonamekitchen.org)

THINK.**ACT**.SHARE

