

Annual Report

2024 - 2025



el sistema greece



Dear friends,

The academic year 2024–25 has been a year of reflection and renewal. A moment to turn inward, rethink our purpose and impact, and find the right words to express how El Sistema Greece has grown over the past nine years. It has also been a time to shape the strategy that will guide us toward fulfilling our mission in the years to come.

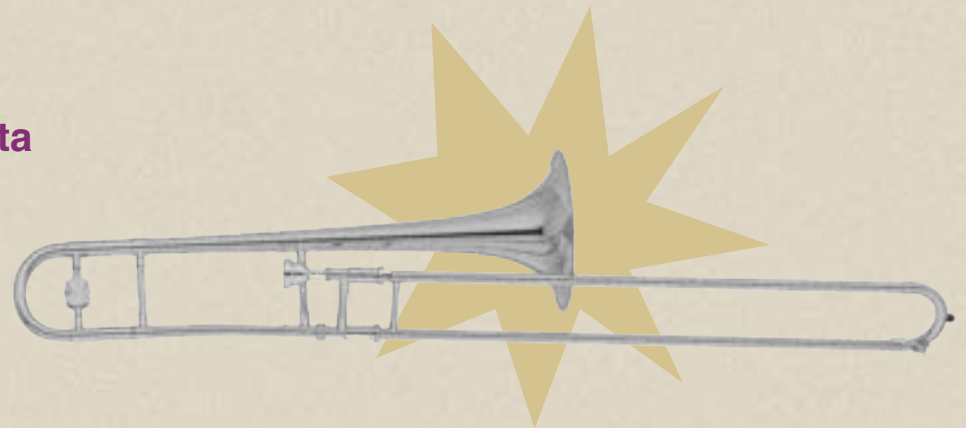
Throughout this process, the voices of our students and every team member have been at the heart of our evolution. Aligning our community around shared values and social goals has been a central focus, as we continue to act with greater intention and clarity while remaining true to our mission: To build an **inclusive, intercultural community** united by music, **supporting youth** on their journey of empowerment, **connecting the people around them**, and **embracing diversity** as a fundamental value of a cohesive society.

This year, we focused on deepening **creativity**, strengthening **community**, and investing in our people's **agency**. Through the redesigned summer camp, Music Beehive, we encouraged artistic exploration and improvisation. By organizing more social activities and making every rehearsal a moment of personal connection and celebration, we placed community building at the core of our work. Through hours of dedicated meetings with teachers and staff, we invested in developing the autonomy of our team, **grounded in the belief that we must embody the change we wish to inspire in our students.**

We extend our heartfelt thanks to all the families, volunteers, supporters, and partners who make this journey possible. Without you, none of this would be.

Anis Barnat, Elisa Sologni
Co-founders

Angeliki Georgokosta
General Manager



Program Overview

Founded in 2016, El Sistema Greece is an open, diverse and inclusive community united by music, inspired by the internationally renowned El Sistema model from Venezuela. We strive to promote social inclusion by offering high-quality music education in spaces that enable safe and meaningful interaction between young people from diverse social and cultural backgrounds.

Students participate in group instrumental, choir classes and ensembles where they develop self-expression, creativity, critical thinking, agency and teamwork. Through music, we cultivate a spirit of togetherness and children of diverse backgrounds come together as valued members of **a community that reflects the change we want to see in society.**

Our program not only unites children and youth, but also parents and caregivers that support them. Our performances invite **everyone** to join our music community and **celebrate diversity.**



Parents say:

She is a shy child, and she blossomed within the group. I see her enjoying the experience and actively participating. I am deeply grateful for the opportunity you have given her.



Key Numbers

2024 - 2025

777 students from **43** nationalities

1.872 hours of free music tuition

54 hours of free music tuition per week

20 concerts

15.775 audience members

15 extra curricular educational workshops

547 workshop participants



Through the years El Sistema Greece has welcomed young students from more than 43 different countries, proving that music can be a powerful force for unity, confidence, empathy, and amazing new friendships.

3 Key Pillars

Pedagogy

Learning Together,
Changing Together

Community

Music,
Our Connector

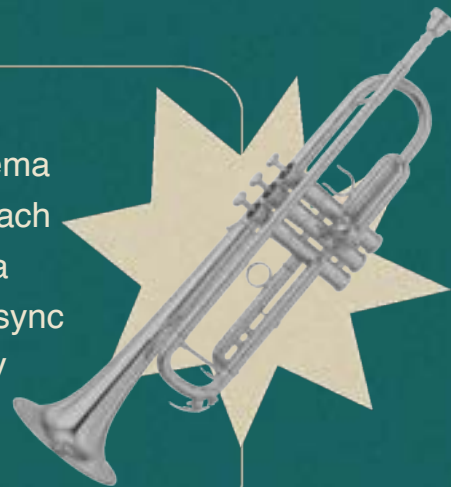
Advocacy

Music Education,
Vital Commodity



Parents say:

We didn't enroll him to El Sistema Greece just for music but to teach him the value of being part of a group. That you have to be in sync to move forward. And we really like that.



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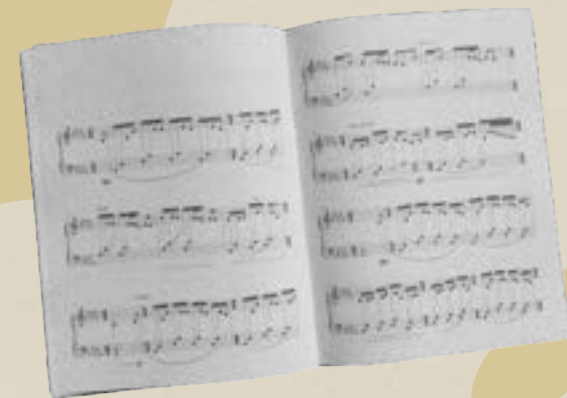
Pedagogy

Learning Together, Changing Together

Behind every lesson and concert stands a dedicated team of teachers, administrative staff, and volunteers who make the El Sistema Greece vision a reality. In 2024–25, our team grew stronger through professional development, international exchanges, and collaborations.

Outreach: In 2024–25, our points of action grew from 7 to 8, allowing us to welcome new young students into the El Sistema Greece community.

Collaboration: This year, we proudly maintained key partnerships that have enriched the educational and artistic journey of our students for years. These include the Stavros Niarchos Foundation Cultural Center, the University of Athens, the International Organization for Migration, and several local schools. Moreover, our international collaborations were further strengthened through exceptional partners such as El Sistema Venezuela, Academy for Impact through Music (AIM), Sistema Europe, among others.



Music Lessons at Korydallos Prison:

A milestone partnership of the year was the launch of a community music program at the **Second Chance School of Korydallos Prison**. Twenty-five inmate students actively participated in collective music lessons designed to foster confidence, teamwork, and creative expression in a setting where such opportunities are rare. The initiative demonstrated clear social and emotional benefits for the participants and reinforced the vital role of music education in rehabilitation and community reintegration.



Wellbeing: The strength of our team lies in its expertise, creativity, and unwavering commitment to inclusion, with **artists at the heart of El Sistema Greece**. This year, we prioritized creating an environment that nurtures their **creativity and capacity for innovation**, offering coaching sessions and training opportunities tailored to their specific needs. Our goal was to foster a working culture built on growth, collaboration, and wellbeing. A highlight of the year was a dynamic workshop on community music, led by **Sistema Cyprus** Co-Founder and Executive Director Nikoletta Polydourou, together with Artistic Director and Conductor Santiago Ossa Alzate.



Young People Turning Into Young Leaders:

As part of El Sistema Greece's pedagogical approach, we aim not only to teach music, but also to pass on values and skills that help our members find their role within the community. Through this process, students become aware of the importance of participation, collaboration, and active citizenship.

In 2024–25, the Young Leaders Program continued this mission, offering 15 young students the opportunity to develop as conscious, responsible, and inspiring members of society. The program empowers El Sistema Greece pupils to take an active role in their communities, using music as a starting point for social impact. Through workshops on communication, teamwork, and mentoring, they gain the confidence and vision to become changemakers.

A milestone this year was the appointment of Kyriaki Kontouri, conductor of the El Sistema Greece Youth Orchestra, as mentor of the program. As an established figure of strong female leadership, she acts as a role model for the students. Her guidance inspires young people to grow in leadership, creativity, and collaboration, supporting them in shaping their music and their future.



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Community

Music, Our Connector

Concerts are the culmination of the learning process and a vital way of connecting students with the wider community. They allow children and young people to step on stage, gain confidence, and share their achievements with families, peers, and the public.

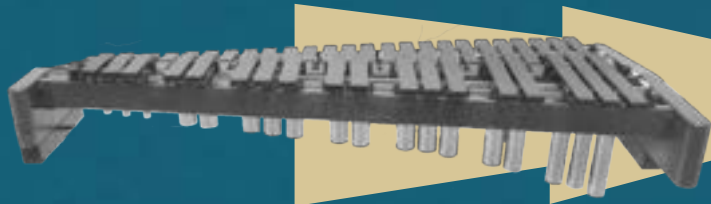
Building a musical community: Before performing on stage, students from all El Sistema Greece's points of action come together in a series of music meetings. These gatherings give children the chance to meet, spend time together, and make music as one. Through these experiences, they learn that every member is equally important and that **collective success** depends on team spirit, respect, and hard work. The goal is not only to prepare for concerts but to cultivate **a true sense of belonging, a musical community where everyone's voice matters.**

In 2024–25, El Sistema Greece organized and participated in a wide range of performances that showcased both musical excellence and social impact.



Highlights included: Once Upon a December at the Stavros Niarchos Foundation Cultural Center; Echoes of the World at the Olympia City Music Theater Maria Callas; EDEN in Olympia at Megaron, The Athens Concert Hall; concerts at the Schisto Facility for Asylum Seekers and local schools; a major concert at the Corinth town hall in collaboration with the Kaloy Foundation; and our participation in Athens Refugee Week, as well as several in-house celebrations.

Music Beehive was this year's summer camp, two days full of music, creativity, and improvisation with 120 children, coming from all El Sistema Greece action points in Athens and Corinth. The camp concluded with a final concert, where students presented the work they had developed, celebrating collaboration, expression, and the joy of music-making. Music Beehive remarked on a new season for our summer camps, willing to invite children to discover new ways of collective music and explore different aspects of creativity. The event was made possible through the support of the Stavros Niarchos Foundation.



We are Glocal: El Sistema Greece stands at the forefront of the global **El Sistema** movement and this year, members of the El Sistema Greece Youth Orchestra travelled to Genoa, Italy, and Nicosia, Cyprus, to collaborate with Sistema-inspired programmes **Trillargento** and **Sistema Cyprus**. Through joint rehearsals and concerts, they experienced firsthand how music builds connection, fosters dialogue, and strengthens a shared sense of belonging to a global movement for social action through music. In this broader context, and as part of the global celebration of 50 years of El Sistema, our co-founder Anis Barnat travelled to Venezuela, where his presence was a powerful reminder of music's ability to break barriers and inspire change.

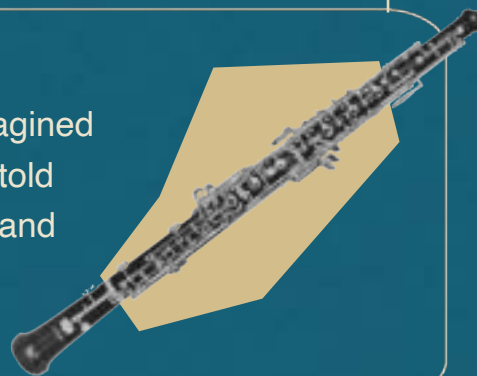


The Lullaby Project: One of the most emotionally powerful initiatives of the year, carried out in collaboration with Carnegie Hall and Stavros Niarchos Foundation Cultural Center, the Lullaby Project connected parents, caregivers, families, and young musicians through songwriting and musical storytelling. In its eighth edition, we included stories from refugee mothers, a mother who adopted a child, parents in Koridallios Prison, and even a local school principal. Each one brought their own experiences of love, distance, and connection.



Lullaby Project participants say:

We could never have imagined that our stories could be told through such a beautiful and distinguished piece.



This diversity of stories and experiences showed us that the Lullaby Project can only flourish in an environment of trust, safety, and openness. We learned the importance of creating spaces where every participant feels comfortable sharing their story, and of staying flexible and adaptive so that people from different backgrounds and experiences can all find their voice in this shared musical process.



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Advocacy

Music Education, Vital Commodity

Advocacy is a core part of El Sistema Greece's mission, highlighting music education as **a vital tool for the development of children and young people and for building inclusive communities.** In 2024–25, El Sistema Greece engaged at local, national, and international levels, participating in key conferences and forums promoting inclusion, creativity, and social impact through music.

Advocacy Highlights: Internationally, El Sistema Greece took part in the Global Artivism Conference 2024, the World Alliance for Arts Education Summit, the International Conference on Nurturing Active Global Citizens for a World on the Move, Rencontres Musicales de la Méditerranée, the Atlantic Council, the Lullaby Project Convening at Carnegie Hall, and the 2025 Research and Innovation Forum. The organization also participated in the Poetics of Leadership program by the Moleskine Foundation and the Musica e Arti per i Diritti Umani conference.

In Greece, El Sistema Greece contributed to the Initiative for Children's and Adolescents' Mental Health Conference, Athens Music Week, and the Ministry of Education, Religious Affairs & Sports' training sessions for teachers of social integration classes.



Media talk about us

In 2024–25, El Sistema Greece recorded 112 media mentions across print, digital, radio, and international outlets. The following three articles are indicative highlights, illustrating the growing public recognition of our work in Greece and abroad and showcasing the power of music to foster inclusion, personal growth, dignity, and agency.

2



Valeria y Jorge en Onda (Onda 107.9 FM), interview with co-founder Anis Barnat on the Venezuelan radio show, published on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of El Sistema, connected our work in Greece to global discussions on music as a tool for social change.

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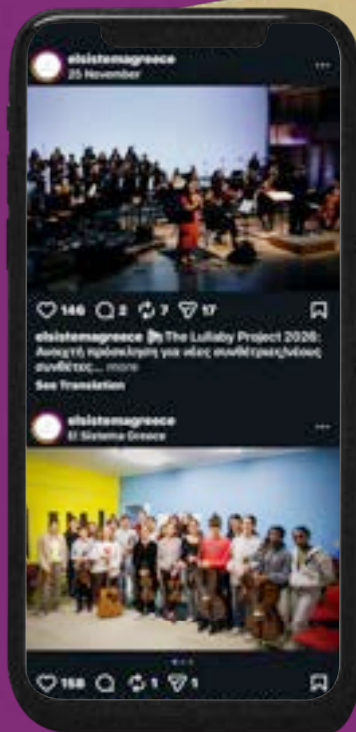


TA NEA, comprehensive feature, presenting El Sistema Greece's mission and impact in Greece.

3



Scherzo by Nathaly Ossa, article featured a conversation with our co-founder Elisa Sologni about the founding of El Sistema Greece during the refugee crisis, illustrating how, since 2016, our work has supported social inclusion and strengthened community cohesion across Greece.



Be part of our musical community!
Follow El Sistema Greece on social media.



People Follow Us

Facebook **11.192** friends

Instagram **5.136** followers

LinkedIn **695** followers

TikTok **131** followers

Threads **771** followers

Newsletter **1.346** recipients

Finances 2024

Income

In 2024, El Sistema Greece continued to expand its educational and community activities, supported primarily by donations, grants and institutional partnerships, totalling **€415,000.00**. The organisation **maintained all core programmes** and invested significantly in its teaching staff, community engagement and artistic progress.

The financial results reflect this strategic choice to prioritise social impact and program quality.

Income in 2024 remained stable, with the largest share coming from international foundations committed to arts education and social impact.

Cash at Bank

20.6%

Corporate Contributions

7.2%

Products

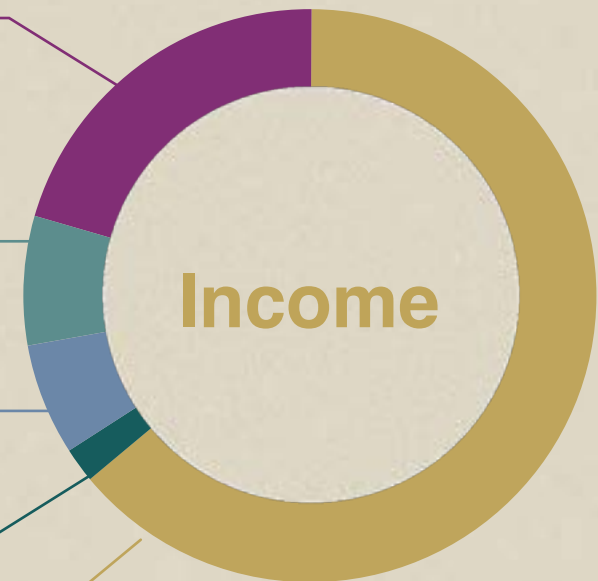
6.3%

Subsidies

1.9%

Grants

63.9%



Expenditures

Operating expenses increased due to inflation, the expansion of programme delivery, additional teaching hours, and a **broader range of community and artistic activities** across our centres.

Our operational spending remained fully within the planned budget. **Total expenditures amounted to €382,000.00.**

2024 was a year of substantial artistic, educational, and social impact for El Sistema Greece. The organisation remained fully committed to its mission of providing free music education, strengthening community cohesion, and expanding access to cultural participation.

Continued support from our foundation, corporate, and individual partners remains essential for sustaining this impact and enabling further growth in the years ahead.

Depreciation
& Miscellaneous

1.0%

Program
Delivery Costs

32.6%

External
Services

1.9%

Rent

5.6%

Administrative Staff

14.0%

Artistic
& Educational
Staff

44.9%

Expenditures



Category	Percentage
Artistic & Educational Staff	44.9%
Program Delivery Costs	32.6%
Administrative Staff	14.0%
Rent	5.6%
External Services	1.9%
Depreciation & Miscellaneous	1.0%



Students say:

Through music, I listen, express myself, think openly and understand others. At El Sistema Greece, music becomes a bridge for communication and connection. It teaches us to listen carefully, find our voice, broaden our horizons, and understand others. Here we grow as a connected community.



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