

**ASYLUM, MIGRATION AND INTEGRATION FUND**

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**Project title:**  
**BG65AMNP001-2.004-0007-C01**  
**“Increasing the Awareness and Tolerance of the Bulgarian Society and Migrant Communities in Bulgaria”**

*The project is funded by the National Program of Bulgaria under the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund 2014-2020 with the financial support of the European Union and the budget of the Republic of Bulgaria.*

The **overall objective** of the activities envisaged under the project is to contribute to the improvement of the social solidarity and tolerance of the Bulgarian society as a host society with respect to third-country nationals (TCNs) legally residing in Bulgaria, including persons who are seeking or have been granted international protection in Bulgaria. Special attention will be paid to introducing Bulgarian society to the problems and needs of migrants and, in particular, those of vulnerable migrants such as unaccompanied children, persons suffering from health problems, pregnant women, survivors of human trafficking, etc.

The project will support legally residing TCNs and persons who are seeking or have been granted international protection in overcoming intercultural differences for the purposes of facilitating their overall integration into Bulgarian society.

The project activities will contribute to the development of multicultural competencies and actual participation in the integration process of Bulgarian civil society, social partners, central and local authorities and international and non-governmental organizations. The project will contribute to raising awareness among Bulgarians about immigrants' positive contribution to the country's development and will help build a climate of tolerance as a necessary element for the successful integration of TCNs in Bulgaria.

The guiding principle in the implementation of all activities under the project will be respect for the rights of migrants and the preservation of their ethnic, cultural and religious identity. The project activities will also encourage the active involvement of Bulgarian society in the integration process.

There will be 4 information campaigns, each involving at least 3 different activities. It is predicted that at least 3500 TCNs will be covered by the information activities carried out for the purposes of raising awareness in the Bulgarian society and the migrant communities in Bulgaria.

The **main objective** of the project is:

- Alleviate the process of TCN integration into Bulgarian society by raising awareness and tolerance, reducing intercultural differences and facilitating the cultural adaptation of immigrants and their acceptance by Bulgarian society.

The **specific objective** of the project is:

- Providing information for the facilitation of the integration of TCNs legally residing in Bulgaria, including persons who are seeking or have been granted international protection, and raising the awareness and tolerance of Bulgarian society towards TCNs.

The project is aimed at improving the conditions for the integration of TCNs legally residing in the Republic of Bulgaria, incl. persons seeking or having been granted international protection, especially vulnerable persons as well as close relatives of the target group.

The activities under this project proposal are aimed at providing information to facilitate the integration of TCNs and increase the tolerance of the host society in accordance with the measures under Article 9 of Regulation No 516/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council.

The implementation of the project will promote communication and constructive dialogue between TCNs and the host society, as well as the acceptance of TCNs by the Bulgarian society, incl. through media participation. Particular attention will be paid to the support of vulnerable persons, taking into account their specific needs and the need for specialized assistance, with a view to increase the empathy of the Bulgarian society towards immigrants.

All project activities will be implemented in strict compliance with the principle of humane treatment and respect for the rights and dignity of TCNs.

**Start date:** 11.10.2017

**End date:** 11.10.2021

**Term of implementation:** 48 months