



*The project is funded by the Emergency Measures 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*

**Project title:**

**“Strengthening of the National Capacity of the Republic of Bulgaria in the Fields of Asylum and Migration (Emergency Measures AMIF Program, DG HOME)”**

*The project “Strengthening of the National Capacity of the Republic of Bulgaria in the Fields of Asylum and Migration” is funded under the EU’s Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF) as part of the integrated measures to address the challenges of increased migration pressure.*

The **overall objective** of the project is to focus on: (1) improving migrant reception conditions, in particular by providing psycho-social and legal services; (2) helping to combat the trafficking of vulnerable migrants and improving the protection of unaccompanied minors; and (3) providing information and advice to third-country nationals on the possibilities for voluntary return. These include:

**1. Improving migrant reception conditions and provision of psycho-social assistance:**

- Initial and ongoing assessment of Registration and Reception Centers (RRCs) of the State Agency for Refugees (SAR), incl. for health and safety risks;
- Infrastructure improvements and repairs;
- Construction of indoor and outdoor recreational areas and provision of related activities, incl. educational;
- Distribution of winter clothing;
- Professional trainings for SAR employees and other personnel working in RRCs and Special Homes for Temporary Accommodation of Foreigners (SHTAFs) on, among others, reception center management, intercultural competencies, working with vulnerable groups, and managing and providing psycho-social and health support services to persons housed in RRCs and SHTAFs.

**2. Helping to combat the trafficking of vulnerable migrants and improving the protection of unaccompanied minors:**

- Regular visits to SAR’s six RRCs by IOM’s mobile teams, each consisting of a legal consultant, psychologist and social worker;
- Carrying out detailed analyses of the situation of migrants residing in RRCs and SHTAFs with a view of identifying and assessing their needs, providing assistance and targeting cases of vulnerable migrants;
- Provision of legal and psychological counseling and social assistance for RRC-housed migrants in designated spaces or premises;
- Accompanying RRC-housed migrants in need to relevant institutions or out-of-center establishments;
- Referring RRC-housed migrants to other institutions/organizations in case their needs are beyond the competences of the mobile teams;
- Providing interpreters for the activities of the mobile teams and facilitating the communication between SAR employees and migrant residents;

- Extra support for particularly vulnerable persons (e.g. purchase of medicines);
- Group information sessions for migrants RRC-housed about their rights and obligations, risks and prevention measures, incl. human trafficking and migrant smuggling, sexual violence and the needs of unaccompanied minors;
- Dissemination of information materials adapted for RRC-housed persons concerning relevant risks and prevention measures, including human trafficking, sexual violence and the needs of unaccompanied minors.

### **3. Providing information and advice to third-country nationals regarding voluntary return:**

- Provision of information and counseling to third-country nationals on options for voluntary return;
- Carrying out voluntary return to countries of origin;
- Provision of reintegration assistance for persons who have returned voluntarily to their countries of origin.

**Start date:** 23.11.2016

**End date:** 30.09.2019

**Term of implementation:** 36 months