



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:

“Protection of Vulnerable Migrants and Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration Support (Emergency Measures AMIF Program, DG HOME)”

The project "Protection of Vulnerable Migrants and Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration Support" is funded under the EU Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF) as part of the integrated measures to address the challenges of increased migration pressure and is a continuation of the activities carried out under the project "Strengthening of the National Capacity of the Republic of Bulgaria in the Field of Asylum and Migration."

The **overall objective** of the project is to focus on: (1) improving reception conditions, in particular the provision of psycho-social services and support to counter the trafficking of vulnerable migrants, and strengthen the protection of unaccompanied minors; (2) providing information and advice to third-country nationals on the possibilities for voluntary return; and (3) supporting voluntary return to countries of origin.

1. Improving reception conditions, in particular the provision of psycho-social services and support to counter the trafficking of vulnerable migrants, and the protection of unaccompanied minors:

- Infrastructure improvements based on needs assessments made in the Reception and Registration Centers (RRCs) of the State Agency for Refugees (SAR);
- Improving work with asylum-seekers in Harmanli RRC, Pastrogor RRC and Lyubimets SHTAF;
- Enhancing the capacity of IOM’s mobile teams and interpreters by providing professional trainings on working through consecutive interpretation;
- Working with and protection of unaccompanied minors;
- Providing two medical teams for the needs of migrants housed in RRCs;
- Psycho-social support initiatives involving asylum-seekers – theater, art classes, culinary courses, vocational trainings, sports, etc.;
- Individual support and counseling for vulnerable migrants;
- Entertainment and educational activities;
- Outreach activities to involve the local community in the lives of people from RRCs;
- Incentives (tangible and intangible) to involve asylum-seekers in the lives of the centers and to encourage them to actively contribute to their living conditions (e.g. minor repairs, hygiene maintenance, sewing, cooking, etc.);
- Bulgarian language courses;
- Provision of hygiene materials;
- Purchase of medicines and support with hospitalizations and access to medical services for those living in RRCs;
- Opening an internet kiosk in Harmanli RRC;
- Opening two protected safety zones for unaccompanied minors in two of the RRCs on the territory of the Republic of Bulgaria;

- Organizing an information campaign on the risks of human trafficking and migrant smuggling and measures to prevent them;
- Organizing a training visit to the Netherlands for senior SAR staff with a focus on working with unaccompanied minors.

2. Providing information and consultations to third-country nationals on voluntary return:

- Preparation, development and dissemination of information materials for voluntary return and reintegration support;
- Cooperation with IOM missions in the countries of origin of persons requesting return;
- Updating information materials on the current situation in countries of origin and discussing possible reintegration measures;
- Individual counseling for third-country nationals, incl. regarding the situation in their country of origin and available support for voluntary return;
- Preparation of individual plans for voluntary return;
- Organizing and financing the travel of third-country nationals to their countries of origin;
- Assistance in the preparation of travel documents, incl. visas;
- Providing internal transport within the boundaries of the Republic of Bulgaria;
- Purchase of airline tickets;
- Providing pocket money to the voluntarily returning;
- Coordination of voluntary returns with IOM missions in countries of origin and transit;
- Provision of *en route* assistance as well as escort for unaccompanied children and vulnerable persons.

3. Comprehensive support, including financial, for persons returning voluntarily to their countries of origin

- Provision of assistance upon arrival in the country of origin;
- Discussing the specific needs of the returned and the planning of reintegration measures;
- Support for the implementation of reintegration measures after return to countries of origin;
- Monitoring of reintegration programs.

Start Date: 01.06.2017

End date: 15.06.2019

Term of implementation: 24 months