

**ASYLUM, MIGRATION AND INTEGRATION FUND**

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Project title:**BG65AMNP001-1.006-0001-C01****„Legal Counselling and Interpretation Services to Asylum-Seekers 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 project is to provide legal assistance and interpretation services to third-country nationals (TCNs) who have applied for international protection in Bulgaria within the meaning of Directive 2011/95/EC but have not yet received a final decision. Information and awareness-raising services in relation to the rights and responsibilities of TCNs will also be offered.

The envisaged activities will: contribute to the understanding of the process of applying for international protection in Bulgaria; provide support for the preparation of asylum-seekers for interviews and for the follow-up on judicial proceedings in the case of refusal/approval of the application. In this way, the tension and anxiety of those seeking international protection whilst awaiting their decision will be reduced. Special attention will be given to the provision of legal assistance, provided by trained interpreters in a form accessible and understandable for TCNs. The provision of interpretation and legal services is expected to be beneficial not only in terms of procedural assistance but also with a view of informing asylum-seekers about the progress of their case.

The project will provide a set of translators to be used upon request by the State Agency for Refugees (SAR) and other partner organizations providing assistance to persons seeking international protection and will seek to consistently build on the skills of interpreters and increase their number in order to minimize the risks of misunderstandings due to a lack of proper interpretation.

The guiding principles in the implementation of the project will be respect for the rights of migrants, ensuring they are properly informed at all stages of their respective administrative and legal procedures and ensuring their assistance in the collection of the necessary documents to support their case.

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

- Alleviating and facilitating the application process for international protection by providing legal consultations and interpretation services to TCNs.

The **specific objectives** of the project are:

- Providing legal advice, interpretation and awareness-raising services regarding the rights and responsibilities of TCNs; and
- Supporting the effective communication of the target group with Bulgarian institutions, incl. by providing written and oral translation and interpretation when interacting with SAR interviewers, judicial and administrative authorities, social services, etc.

Special attention will be given to the support of unaccompanied children, taking into account their specific needs and the need for specialized assistance, in an accessible and understandable language and style.

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

Start date: 11.10.2017

End date: 11.10.2021

Term of implementation: 48 months