



TERMS OF REFERENCE

to engage three (3) Experts - Researchers

Reference to the project: “Strengthening Local Actors in Refugee Integration in Macedonia”

Duration: 01 February- 30 April 2017

Background:

With the most recent refugee/migration crisis, Macedonia has faced many challenges in terms of the systematic approach towards the asylum and migration system in the country. During the last years, the country has set up proper legislation in the area of asylum, which is fully in accordance with the international documents. The Republic of Macedonia is a State Party to the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and its 1967 Protocol, 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons and 1997 European Convention on Nationality. It has a sound legal framework and functioning asylum system in place. The Law on Asylum and Temporary Protection (LATP) entered into force on August 3rd 2003. As of January 1st 2015, the Republic of Macedonia yearly hosts approximately 2500 persons of concern in need of international protection. Some 25% of this caseload was forcibly displaced in 1999 as a result of the Kosovo crisis, as well as persons of concern coming from outside the region of South Eastern Europe. In 2008, the Government of Republic of Macedonia adopted the Integration Strategy for Refugees and Foreigners for the period 2008-2015; and in 2009, the Government adopted the corresponding National Action Plan (NAP) detailing activities necessary to support implementation of adopted Strategy for period 2009-2015. In this context, the Ministry of Labor and Social Policy, in partnership with UNHCR, established the Center for Integration of Refugees and Foreigners responsible for facilitation of main activities outlined with the NAP.

Currently three municipalities in the country share the highest burden of the migration movements and the refugee population. Municipalities Gevgelija (south) and Kumanovo (north) where the Transit centers (Vinojug and Tabanovce) are located and Municipality of Butel, where the Reception center for Asylum seekers is located.

In 2016, MYLA conducted public presentations in five municipalities in Macedonia and had contacts with local CSOs working in those municipalities. Some of the findings showed that: (1) the administration in the local municipalities is not fully aware about the legal obligations towards the refugee population residing on its territory, (2) there is no dialogue among the local administration and the local CSOs on this topic, (3) local CSOs do not have sufficient expertise and capacity in working with refugees and asylum seekers, (4) there is need for better understanding about the refugee population among the local population.

Objective:

This assignment aims to assess the capacities of the local government administration for the implementation of the Integration Strategy for Refugees and Foreigners. The researchers will prepare an individual assessment of the integration capacities of the local administration (one individual



assessment in each of the three municipalities Butel, Kumanovo and Gevgelija) with a specific focus on: Education, Health services, Employment possibilities and Social services.

The research will also include field work with interviews with local governments, community organizations, population and other stakeholder groups. In the process of inception and final report stakeholders` consultation will be required.

Duties and responsibilities

The experts should prepare individual assessments of the integration capacities of the local administration (in Municipalities of Butel, Kumanovo and Gevgelija) with a specific focus on: education, health services, employment possibilities and social Services

In order to achieve the objectives of the task, the contractor will:

- Participate in regular coordination meetings with project staff;
- Conduct the assessment;
- Elaborate and submit the final report on applied methods.
- Define scope of work and methodology for the research.
- Participate and present the findings in seminars organized by MYLA where the findings will be discussed together with CSOs and local government administration;

At the initial stage for the research the following should be resolved:

- The scope of research to be conducted;
- Methodology of conducting the research;
- Review of regulatory basis and existing practices;
- Analyze existing data.

For implementation of the task the researchers will be working in close consultation with the Project Manager

Compensation:

For conducting the research, the contractor will be paid gross amount of 700 euro upon submission and approval of deliverables by Project Manager, that the services have been satisfactorily performed.

Qualifications:

- At least 5 years of experience of relevant professional experience, of which at least 2 years of experience in working on asylum, refugee and migration issues,
- University degree in law, social science, human rights or related fields,
- Knowledge, understanding and practical implementation of survey methodology, that demonstrates clear cognizance of technical, social, educational and other integration processes;
- Ability to analyze and clearly articulate complex issues in an understandable fashion to decision-makers;
- Highly developed communication skills, including the preparation of high quality reports and the delivery of presentations;



- Ability to work under pressure, sometimes with extended hours, and to meet tight deadlines without compromising the quality of outputs;
- Excellent skills in developing analytics and informative materials;
- Excellent communications skills;
- Proven previous work experience in similar assignment;

To apply:

- All interested candidates are required to submit a letter of interest and CV listing relevant qualifications, background and reference;
- Interested candidates should submit their application to Macedonian Young Lawyer Association at contact@myla.org.mk by Monday, 03 February 2017, 16.30 with subject line - **Application for expert - researcher, (Municipality of Butel, Kumanovo or Gevgelija).**
- One candidate can apply only for topics on conducting research for only one Municipality as listed above.