



## Terms of Reference

### Expert for developing a methodology for participatory monitoring

#### INTRODUCTION

Macedonia Lawyers Association (MLA) in partnership with Konrad Adenauer Stiftung and NGO Atina - Serbia started with implementation of the project *Building Together: Community Monitoring and Advocacy* which is financially supported by the European Union. The overall objective of the project is to improve the position of refugees and other migrants, especially children and women in local communities in Serbia and Macedonia. During the project KAS, ATINA and MLA will develop participatory community-based mechanisms for continuous monitoring and advocating for the implementation of effective integration and protection policies and services for migrants, especially women and children.

The expected outcomes of the projects are that: Local Monitoring and Advocacy Networks are able to monitor local policies and protection practices in regards to integration of migrants; Local policies and services for migrants (especially children and women) are improved; similar initiatives gathering CSOs and institutions are implemented in Macedonia, Serbia and the region.

#### RATIONALE

The migrant and refuge crises in Europe from 2015 became the worst humanitarian crises since the Second World War. Since the breakout of the crises over 1 million migrants and refugees crossed into Europe in search of better opportunities. The main countries of origins of the migrants are: Syria, Afghanistan and Iraq. With its central geographical position Macedonia and Serbia played a crucial role within the Balkan Route of movement of migrants toward Western European countries.

The crises posed a serious challenge to both countries in terms of facilitating their journey and accommodating their temporary residence. With this being the case, both countries establish temporary registration centres in August 2015 as entry points where migrants and asylum seekers had their data recorded with the possibility to stay in the country for 72 hours.

However, the situation changed dramatically in October/November 2015 when the main countries of destination (Austria, Germany and Sweden) reversed their welcoming policies for the migrants and began to negotiate with Turkey for stemming the influx of migrants through Greece and the Balkan route further on. Finally, after months of negotiations the EU and Turkey struck a deal for stemming the flow of migrants from Turkey and in early March 2016 the Balkan Route was effectively closed which left the migrants in limbo.

The situation left several thousand of migrants in the temporary centres in Macedonia and Serbia who were left with two options: apply for asylum or head back to Greece and return to their home destination.

As was the case with other countries in the region, the Governments of Serbia and Macedonia were initially overwhelmed with the large influx of new arrivals. While Serbia and Macedonia had recently established reception and asylum systems, the implementation of the asylum law has been deficient and services inadequate, the more so as these systems were designed for much smaller numbers. In an effort to better cope with the situation and prompted by international actors and national NGOs, in the autumn of 2015 both Macedonia and Serbia adopted emergency plans in case of mass influx of migrants, with the support of international actors. However, the plans focuses on the immediate priority of increasing accommodation capacity and winterizing shelters and, as UN Women observed, while referring to the need of special assistance for vulnerable groups, they are weak in addressing protection and gender concerns.



Recently, there have been some promising developments at the policy levels in both countries. For instance, in Macedonia, Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) have been developed for processing unaccompanied children (November 2015), and for other categories of vulnerable refugees and migrants, including the elderly, pregnant women, single parents (April/May 2016), while SOP for the prevention and response to SGBV in the refugee crisis are currently under consideration.<sup>11</sup> The Serbian government adopted the “National Strategy for Gender Equality for the period 2016-2020”, which includes women refugees as a vulnerable group at risk of discrimination. A new draft Law on Asylum and Temporary Protection is currently being considered, which should improve the asylum procedure.

Migrants’ protection is a complex issue involving a wide range of aspects which need to be addressed by adopting a multidisciplinary and intersectoral approach. Dominant discourse in policy debates emphasises migration aspects, transnational collaboration and national actions, leaving out human rights and protection aspects and the most relevant actors in protection of migrants, especially the most vulnerable ones – local communities.

## SCOPE OF WORK

National Expert for developing a methodology for participatory monitoring in Macedonia will be responsible for development of monitoring methodology and instruments used by the Local Networks for Advocacy and Monitoring. Specific responsibilities of the National Expert for development of methodology for participatory monitoring are:

1. ***To participate in the work of the Expert team.***

As a member of the Expert team (One lead expert and two country experts), the Expert for development of monitoring methodology will be responsible for: participation at the Expert team meetings, providing inputs for development of overall methodology and of the formats for reporting.

2. ***To develop monitoring methodology.***

The methodology should include methodological framework, indicators, tools and instruments for monitoring the overall effectiveness of the protection standards already in place, as well as the level of implementation of the local integration policies concerning different groups of migrants.

Specific indicators with the aim to monitor and assesses integration measures targeting the vulnerable groups such as women and children should be included.

The developed methodology should also include roles of the members of the Local Network for Advocacy and Monitoring, reporting templates and monitoring work plan.

3. ***To support the process of monitoring reports development.***

The methodology will be used by the Local Networks of professionals engaged in protection of refugees and migrants, as well as social protection in general (4 networks in Macedonia).

The Networks will be consisting of 10 to 20 members from relevant local institutions and organizations and will produce three monitoring reports in a period of 14 months.





## **BIDDING PROCEDURE**

Interested consultant should develop and submit the bidding proposal in English language to respond to above mentioned specific tasks no later than April 14th, 2017. The bidding proposal should include:

1. Description and contact details of a consultant applying;
2. A clear description of the methodological approach;
3. A detailed Budget Proposal (in the required form);
4. CV of expert involved emphasizing relevant experience;
5. Witting sample of the similar assignments.

## **SELECTION CRITERIA**

Project team will make decision on the selection of the most successful bidder, subject to the available budget, on the following four criteria:

- University degree in the relevant field
- At least 3 year of relevant experience
- Experience of the candidate in performing similar projects or programs;
- An example of previous work as a reference of previous experience is desirable

## **DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF BID**

All bids need to be submitted no later than Friday, April 14, at 17:00h in electronic version, to the email [euproject@mla.org.mk](mailto:euproject@mla.org.mk). A selection will be made no later than April 17th, 2017 and the selected consultant will be contracted no later than 17 April, 2017.

Only selected candidate will be informed.