

RETURN AND REINTEGRATION

Empowering Reintegration: Strengthening Capacities for Return and Reintegration Counselling through CSOs

About the Project

The overarching aim of the action is to enhance the capacity of EU and non-EU civil society organisations (CSOs) to provide accurate and sustainable return and reintegration counselling services to migrants residing in EU countries through leveraging the expertise of the European Reintegration Support Organisations (ERSO). Additionally, the project seeks to establish and pilot a systematic referral mechanism, facilitating connections between CSOs and relevant government authorities responsible for overseeing the return and reintegration process. Moreover, the project also aims to foster knowledge exchange and mutual learning by facilitating discussions on best practices, challenges and lessons learned in the area of return and reintegration counselling across various EU Member States and target partner countries.



Partners

This MPF project is implemented by Caritas International Belgium in collaboration with Caritas Albania, Mother Theresa Society (Kosovo*) and Caritas Moldova.



Countries

Belgium, Denmark and/or Germany, Albania, Kosovo*, Moldova, Bulgaria, Croatia, Slovenia



Time frame

March 2024 – October 2025 (20 months)



Budget

EUR 916,903.19 (95% from AMIF)

*This designation is without prejudice to positions on status and is in line with UNSCR 1244/1999 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence.

Activities



Capacity Building for CSOs in Return and Reintegration Counselling

This component focuses on the development of a comprehensive training program tailored specifically to CSOs in return and reintegration counselling. Initially, a thorough needs and gaps assessment will be undertaken, shaping the development of a training curriculum to address identified areas of improvement. The training program will adopt a multifaceted approach, incorporating diverse methodologies, such as workshops and role-plays. Caritas International Belgium will facilitate the trainings in concert with project partners, and expert organisations from ERSO. Furthermore, collaboration with key stakeholders, including Frontex and RRF, will be integral to the training program, enhancing the program's reach across EU and non-EU countries and bolstering the return and reintegration counselling capabilities of CSOs.



Facilitation of Exchanges and Peer-to-Peer Learning

The action will establish efficient exchange and peer-to-peer learning mechanisms through quarterly exchanges, networking opportunities and dialogue between CSOs in EU countries (Bulgaria, Croatia, Slovenia) and non-EU countries (Albania, Kosovo*, Moldova). To further enrich learning experiences, study visits will be organised to exemplary EU countries, such as Denmark, Germany, or Belgium, to gain insights into effective referral mechanisms. Additionally, engagements with speakers from the RRF and Frontex will deepen understanding of the EU's role in return and reintegration counselling, facilitating coordination and support for returning individuals. Through these activities, the action aims to facilitate the exchange of knowledge and best practices, ultimately strengthening the capacity of CSOs to provide effective return and reintegration support.



Establishing Effective Referral Mechanisms

This component of the project is centered on developing and operationalising comprehensive, robust referral systems, starting with roll-out and implementation in Croatia. The guidelines for return and reintegration counselling services will be formulated in collaboration with Ghent University. Efforts will extend beyond the three identified EU Member States through promotion and strategic collaboration, with the developed guidelines serving as a valuable resource to reach a broader audience beyond the project's immediate scope. At the project's conclusion, the guidelines will be disseminated to interested EU MS. The main objectives are enhanced awareness, understanding, and the wider adoption of best practices for CSO referrals, ultimately leading to the provision of more efficient and supportive counselling services for returning individuals.

Implemented by



The Migration Partnership Facility



This project is awarded and contracted in the framework of the Migration Partnership Facility (MPF), an EU-funded initiative implemented by ICMPD in support of the external dimension of the EU migration policy. Through its grants, the MPF facilitates the execution of projects to strengthen dialogue and cooperation on migration and mobility between Member States and partner countries outside the EU.

*This designation is without prejudice to positions on status and is in line with UNSCR 1244/1999 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence.

Funded by the European Union



Contracted by ICMPD

