



## Action Fact Sheet

**Project Title:** IRIS NETWORKING – CSO for protection sensitive migration management

**Implementation period:** December 2017 – April 2021

**Lead applicant:** Initiative for Development and Cooperation (IDC) (Serbia)

**Action Partners:** ASB (Germany), LIR CD (Bosnia and Herzegovina), Open Gate – La Strada (FYROM), Initiative ARSIS (Albania) and SOS Podgorica (Montenegro)

**Location of the action:** Serbia, Germany, Bosnia and Herzegovina, FYROM, Albania and Montenegro

At the beginning of 2018, IRIS Network commenced anew initiative within the project “IRIS NETWORKING-CSOs for protection sensitive migration management” that is focusing on the quality of the social service and policy improvement for the **migrants** in 5 countries of South East Europe (Albania, BiH, FYROM, Montenegro and Serbia). The main objective of the project is to empower CSOs to be effective, accountable and independent actors and to improve their capacity for dialogue with governments for the purpose of influencing policy and decision-making processes.

The recent migration crisis in the Balkans exposed all challenges of the migration management systems, particularly visible in the lack of coherence among all stakeholders and in establishing inclusion mechanisms for migrants who are residing for longer periods of time. Existing regional cooperation is seen only through security lenses of border management and police cooperation, with minimal inclusion of CSOs. Lessons learned in protection sensitive migration management are still to be communicated, considering uncertainty of existing and future migration issues. Therefore, CSOs will remain key players in the process of services provision and advocating more inclusive migration policies.

In the period of 40 months (Dec 2017 – April 2021), Initiative for Development and Cooperation (IDC) from Serbia as the lead applicant, will be implementing the project in partnership with the EU based organization ASB (Germany, LIR CD (B&H), Open Gate La Strada (FYROM), ISC ARSIS (Albania) and SOS Podgorica (Montenegro). Project is supported through the European Commission Programme Consolidating Regional Thematic Networks of Civil Society Organizations.

Within the scope of this initiative, 200 CSOs network members will continue to facilitate and advance social services to vulnerable groups (people with disabilities, the elderly, children and youth at risk, women victims of domestic violence and Roma), most of whom are migrants.

### Overall objective of the Action:

To empower CSOs to be effective and accountable independent actors and to improve their capacity to dialogue with governments influencing policy and decision-making processes.



### **Specific objectives of the Action:**

- a) to **enhance the impact of civil society** by strengthening **capacities of CSO service providers** for actively engaging in protection sensitive migration management,
- b) to engage in structured civic dialogue with governments at all levels promoting **CSOs' involvement in public decision-making** and reform processes in order to improve service delivery for migrant populations.

### **Target groups:**

- 1) IRIS network
- 2) at least 200 members of CSO social services providers in countries covered by the Action
- 3) at least 20 CSOs in countries covered by the Action
- 4) Vulnerable and marginalized groups and individuals including all categories of migrants in countries covered by the Action
- 5) 10 line ministries for Social Protection and Migration Management in the Western Balkans region
- 6) 200 public officials in countries covered by the Action
- 7) National and EU decision-makers in countries covered by the Action
- 8) at least 20 reporters from the media outlets in countries covered by the Action
- 9) Wider public in countries covered by the Action

### **Final beneficiaries:**

- 1) Ministries in charge of the migration management and implementation of the social welfare policies;
- 2) Offices in charge for the cooperation with civil society in 5 WB countries;
- 3) Local self-government (LSG) units on WB;
- 4) CSOs providing social services;
- 5) EU Institutions, various EU based networks, organizations and stakeholders involved in the processes of social inclusion and migration related issues;
- 6) Media,
- 7) Users of the social services on the local level.

### **Results:**

- Result 1. Increased quality of social and legal services provided by CSOs through capacity building activities
- Result 2. Increased resilience and social cohesion of the local communities through civil society networking initiatives
- Result 3. Strengthened national/regional coordination of the CSOs and public institutions in migration management
- Result 4. Influenced reform processes in WB in order to improve service delivery for the migrant population



## **Main activities:**

### **Pillar 1. Capacity building**

- 1.1. Partnership building meetings
- 1.2. Guide on referral system/social service delivery for migrants
- 1.3. Small Grants Scheme
- 1.4. Annual Regional Social Academies - in cooperation with Regional Cooperation Council and Migration, Asylum, Refugee Regional Initiative
- 1.5. EU based traineeships
- 1.6. Mentoring programme
- 1.7. Peer review instrument
- 1.8. ToT on migration management

### **Pillar 2. Policy influencing**

- 2.1. Gap Assessment - social services for migrants
- 2.2. Public hearings
- 2.3. Annual (re)integration Shadow reports
- 2.4. Local/national advocacy campaigns
- 2.5. Balkan briefings - quality standards of services in migration management
- 2.6. EU Parliament events

### **Pillar 3. Awareness raising**

- 3.1. Balkan media caravan
- 3.2. Media campaigns
- 3.3. Promotion of best practices/innovative case studies

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## **About IRIS Network**

IRIS was founded in 2012 with the aims to strengthen the role of civil society organisations social service providers throughout SEE and to ensure that these organizations are recognized as equal partners by the public sector. From the beginning it was supported from EU partners and EC IPA Civil Society Facility program. The Network was created under the project “Improving the provision of Social Service Delivery in South Eastern Europe through the empowerment of national and regional CSO networks” (Social services in SEE), that was implemented by:

- Arbeiter-Samariter-Bund, e.V. Germany (ASB) in partnership with:
- SOLIDAR Aisbl Belgium;
- Local Initiative for Development Civil Society (LIR CD) from Bosnia and Herzegovina;
- Centre for Legal Aid and Regional Development (CLARD) from Kosovo;
- SOS Telephone for Women and Children Victims of Violence (SOS Podgorica) from Montenegro;
- Organisation for Civil Initiatives (OGI) from Croatia;
- Educational Centre Leskovac (EDC) from Serbia.



The second phase of the support was provided by European Commission through the project Improving the provision of Social Service Delivery (SSD) in South Eastern Europe through the empowerment of national and regional CSO networks. Overall project objective is to achieve a more dynamic civil society actively participating in public debate on democracy, human rights, social inclusion and the rule of law and with capacity to influence policy and decision making processes. The specific objectives are: a) to achieve greater commitment and capacity of CSO networks to give citizens a voice and influence public sector reform processes through analysis, monitoring and advocacy, and b) to strengthen the CSO Networks dealing with SSD in Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, FYROM, Kosovo\*, Montenegro and Serbia in order to improve overall Service delivery to the citizenry. Overall and specific objectives were not a subject to change and they correspond to the objectives from the previous project.

The project was implemented from 2014 to 2016 by following partners:

- Arbeiter-Samariter-Bund, e.V. Germany (ASB),
- SOLIDAR aisbl from Brussels, Belgium,
- LIR CD – Local Initiative for Development Civil Society from BIH,
- EDC – Educational Centre” Leskovac, from Serbia,
- CLARD – Centre for Legal Aid and Regional Development from Kosovo\*,
- SOS Telephone for women and children victims of violence from Montenegro,
- ASYD - Association of students and youth with disabilities from FYRoM,
- ARISIS - Social Organization for the Support of Youth from Albania.

IRIS network is the only regional network that brings together CSOs social service providers in South East Europe, specifically from Serbia, Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, FYROM, Macedonia, Kosovo and Albania. The 7 national networks currently gathering 203 member organizations that provide different types of social services to different vulnerable groups:

- people with disability,
- children and youth at risk,
- victims of violence,
- elderly,
- migrants



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