



MIGRALONA

***Strengthening collaboration between the local and the national tiers in the management of migrations
A project for exchanging experience and good practices***

CONCEPT NOTE

In general terms the arrival of migrants is seen as an obligation from the international community to guarantee protection of the right holders and an issue of national security, that are competences of the national authorities. The role of the Municipalities dealing with the migration flows in their realms has been often disregarded, despite the burden they are bearing along the current long-lasting circumstances and since 2015 crisis in particular. **Communication and coordination among national and local authorities remains a difficult task in many aspects.** This causes misuse of the resources of the territories, provoking distress or resentment in the public opinion about migrants while hampering the resilience of the local communities. On the contrary Local Authorities have the capacity and the need to be involved and supported in the actions deployed to deal with the migrants, not only in the border areas.

An accurate assessment of the problems and needs of the local authorities in the South-Eastern Europe was initiated by NALAS already in October 2015 (Zagreb conference): a request of recognition, information, orientation as well as the need of efficient and flexible financial support from the national authorities, the European Union and the international organizations rose there. In Skopje on March 2016 **MARRI and NALAS together, with the support of the CEI, focused on the “local - national” collaboration in the Western Balkans** and benchmarked the regional situation with the experience of spread-out reception of migrants represented by the Italian model known as SPRAR (The National Asylum Seekers and Refugees Protection System).

Therefore the **purpose of MIGRALONA project** is to carry on with the outcomes of that conference through the international dissemination of the SPRAR model and other state policies for the integration of refugees and asylum seekers as implemented by the Autonomous Region of Friuli-Venezia-Giulia with its Municipalities and NGOs involved in the reception system.

Six workshops in Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo*, Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia and **one regional reflection meeting** are foreseen, with the participation of Italian experts, to compare practices and elaborate recommendations for all involved levels of decision making.

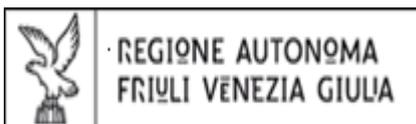
The **specific objectives** of MIGRALONA workshops at national and regional level try to contribute to come out from the emergency approach for a long-term organized management of the migration by

- further upgrading the legal frameworks on the cooperation between local and national administrations;
- developing a common vision on the multi-level collaboration up to drafting a “joint plan of action” of local-national measures;
- featuring “curricula” for training and updating national and local public officials on migration management issues.

MIGRALONA activities are addressed to the Ministries of Internal Affairs of the MARRI Participants and the associations of municipalities in the same Participants, that are connected with NALAS. Indirect beneficiaries are the local authorities and the non-governmental organizations that will participate in the decentralized events whereas the citizens of local communities facing migration flow and the migrants, asylum seekers and refugees first, should be considered as well as last beneficiaries of the project.

Thus the **expected result** is also to facilitate the WB stakeholders of the governance of migration to match the inputs stemming from the UNDP, IOM, OSCE, Council of Europe, for a stronger “LO-NA” cooperation, enabling the Balkan society to turn the challenge of migration into an opportunity for its own growth.

The **Partners of MIGRALONA** are the Secretariat of the Central European Initiative as the implementing organization together with the Migration, Asylum, Refugees Regional Initiative – MARRI, the Network of Associations of Local Authorities of South-East Europe – NALAS and the Italian Solidarity Consortium – Refugees Office (ISC), the Municipality of Gradisca d’Isonzo (MGI), the European Group of Territorial Cooperation “Euregio Without Borders” (EGTC EwB)



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