

## Standard Summary Project Fiche – IPA centralised programmes

### **Social Inclusion: Regional support to the marginalised communities**

#### **1. Basic information**

- 1.1 CRIS Number: 2008/020-320
- 1.2 Title: Regional support to the marginalised communities
- 1.3 ELARG Statistical code: 1.63 – Aid to refugees and IDPs or disadvantaged groups
- 1.4 Location: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia as well as Kosovo<sup>1</sup>

#### **Implementing arrangements:**

- 1.5 Contracting Authority (EC) European Community represented by the Commission of the European Communities on behalf of the Beneficiaries.
- 1.6 Implementing Agency: European Commission in joint management with the UNHCR
- 1.7 Beneficiary (including details of project manager): Marginalised community

#### **Financing:**

- 1.8 Overall cost (VAT excluded)<sup>2</sup>: EUR 1 250 000
- 1.9 EU contribution: EUR 1 000 000
- 1.10 Final date for contracting: 30/11/2009
- 1.11 Final date for execution of contracts: 30/11/2011
- 1.12 Final date for disbursements: 30/11/2012

#### **2. Overall Objective and Project Purpose**

##### 2.1 Overall Objective:

This project aims to contribute to the increased legal and social inclusion of the marginalised communities and facilitate their full enjoyment of citizenship rights in the Western Balkans.

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<sup>1</sup> under UNSCR 1244/99

<sup>2</sup> The total cost of the project should be net of VAT and/or other taxes. Should this not be the case, the amount of VAT and the reasons why it should be considered eligible should be clearly indicated.

## 2.2 Project purpose:

- To reduce the number of persons at risk of statelessness, which particularly affects the marginalised population, especially those displaced during the conflicts in the region;
- To facilitate access to free legal aid for the provision of personal documents as essential condition for marginalised groups to obtain and enjoy their basic citizenship rights;
- To increase awareness of marginalised groups and other relevant stakeholders of the need for civil registration and documentation as well as the need to remove unnecessary legal aid administrative obstacles associated with registration.

## 2.3 Link with AP/NPAA / EP/ SAA

Human Rights and the Protection of Minorities is an issue mentioned in all the European / Accession Partnerships as a short-term or medium-term priority.

## 2.4 Link with MIPD

This project has been designed on the basis of the Multi-beneficiary MIPD 2008-2010 in which social inclusion is a priority under Section 2.3.1.2.1 – Minority Rights, protection of minorities and refugee return. The objective to be achieved according to the Multi-beneficiary MIPD is to *"ensure the protection of minorities and marginalised groups in accordance with EU and international standards in the sectors where the regional approach brings an added value (i.e. civil registration)."*

## 2.5 Link with National Development Plan (where applicable)

The link with national programmes is appropriate as the civil registration of marginalised communities represents the first step of a process to assist these communities in sectors that are more relevant at national level. The provision of legal documents will enable marginalised groups to gain access to facilities such as medical insurance, school attendance, employment and civil rights. In this regard, when the regional activities have been completed (civil registration), activities of a national scope will take over and enable marginalised communities to participate in sectors such as education, health care and labour market.

## 2.6 Link with national/ sectoral investment plans(where applicable)

Not applicable

# 3. Description of project

## 3.1 Background and justification:

The conflicts associated with the break-up of former Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (SFRY) have caused suffering and displacement for large numbers of people, including ethnic minorities. For the Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian (RAE) communities, displacement has caused a further deterioration of their access to basic human rights, aggravating their already significant levels of poverty and social exclusion. The marginalised communities in the

Western Balkans are particularly vulnerable due to generally low levels of education, lack of personal documents, deep-rooted and institutionalised discrimination, and limited access to the full enjoyment of their civil, political, social, economic and cultural rights. The current situation of the marginalised communities represents a serious human rights and human security problem in the region. The Western Balkans must work towards the social inclusion of these minorities to comply with their responsibilities under the European Social Charter, as well as fulfilling the requirements of EU accession.

One of the fundamental disadvantages for the marginalised groups in the Western Balkans is their lack of personal documents and/or civil registration. These are essential for them to prove or acquire nationality and to enjoy equal access to citizenship rights. The lack of personal documents and/or civil registration represents an obstacle to their integration into existing communities. For example, children are denied school registration, and access to employment as well as to social services is blocked.

This leads to a parallel world of people outside the system without access to basic rights. The absence of one document frequently leads to a “chain reaction” where individuals are unable to secure further documents. The movements during the various conflicts in the Balkans exacerbated this problem as existing documents were lost or destroyed, fragile links with communities of origin were severed and families were separated. Because of their marginalisation, RAE themselves have often not been fully aware of the importance of civil registration, naturalisation and documentation to enable them to gain full access to basic civil, political, social and economic rights. At the same time, the authorities often lack understanding and sensitivity as to the extent and possible consequences of this problem, and the concrete need to address it.

### 3.2 Assessment of project impact, catalytic effect, sustainability and cross border impact (where applicable)

As this programme represents the second phase of a previous operation, it is foreseen to take into consideration the impact of the 1<sup>st</sup> phase in the drafting and the preparation of the project. A project impact assessment will be undertaken at the end of the ongoing project.

The cross border impact is present through the possibility for the authorities and the contractor to coordinate and avoid the duplication of the delivery of documents.

### 3.3 Results and measurable indicators:

1. Expanded awareness and pro-activity of local authorities in civil registration and provision of documents to marginalised communities;
2. Increased registered persons in the municipalities of the Western Balkans from the marginalised groups;
3. Increased access to school, medical insurance, employment and civil rights for the marginalised communities.

### 3.4 Activities:

1. Raising awareness of marginalised communities in the civil registration and naturalisation process through electronic and printed media;

2. Raising awareness and increasing pro-activity of authorities at all levels in civil registration and access to documents through round tables, seminars and meetings;
3. Increasing capacity of stakeholders through training, workshops, marginalised community participation, consultants and by provision of technical support;
4. Advocacy with authorities and legislative bodies for improvements in procedures and services linked to civil registration;
5. Free legal aid in provision of documentation;
6. Facilitate exchange of information and documentation between competent state authorities of the Beneficiaries involved in order to ease registration.

### 3.5 Conditionality and sequencing:

- Cooperation and commitment of relevant authorities in the region at all levels and active participation of marginalised communities;
- Willingness of relevant authorities to implement necessary changes and alleviate position of marginalised groups.

### 3.6 Linked activities

The proposed activities have been designed to take into consideration the regional aspect of the issue. Civil registration is linked to other matters that have to be addressed at the national level. Projects relating to education and housing complement the regional programme. The present programme should be seen as a pre-condition for marginalised groups to legally become the beneficiaries of other projects of a national nature.

Apart from the support to marginalised communities, the Commission has also been active in refugee return. In parallel to the physical return, assistance has also focused on providing lasting solutions to the refugees and Internally Displaced Persons who wish to remain in their host country. Therefore, similar activities to those of the present Programme have been delivered to the target population, such as provision of legal assistance.

### 3.7 Lessons learned

This programme represents the second phase of a current project undertaken by UNHCR. Considering the needs and the regions to be covered, a follow-up project is necessary. The preparation of the project will take into account all the lessons learned from the previous operation. As the original project started in February 2008, there are no details on the lessons learned as yet. A project impact study will be requested of the contractor in the course of the implementation of this project.

#### 4. Indicative Budget (amounts in EUR)

			TOTAL EXP.RE	SOURCES OF FUNDING								
				IPA COMMUNITY CONTRIBUTION		DOMESTIC CONTRIBUTION					PRIVATE CONTRIBUTION	
ACTIVITIES	IB (1)	INV (1)	EUR (a)=(b)+(c)+(d)	EUR (b)	%(2)	Total EUR (c)=(x)+(y)+(z)	% (2)	Central EUR (x)	Regional/ Local EUR (y)	IFIs EUR (z)	EUR (d)	% (2)
Activity 1	x		1 250 000	1 000 000	80						250 000	20
contract 1.1	x		1 250 000	1 000 000	80							
TOTAL IB			1 250 000	1 000 000	80							
TOTAL INV												
<b>TOTAL PROJECT</b>			<b>1 250 000</b>	<b>1 000 000</b>	<b>80</b>						<b>250000</b>	<b>20</b>

Amounts net of VAT

- (1) In the Activity row use "X" to identify whether IB or INV
- (2) Expressed in % of the **Total** Expenditure (column (a))

#### 5. Indicative Implementation Schedule (periods broken down per quarter)

Contracts	Start of Tendering	Signature of contract	Project Completion
Contract 1.1	N/A	2009 Q2	2010 Q4

All projects should in principle be ready for tendering in the 1<sup>ST</sup> Quarter following the signature of the Financing Agreement.

## **6. Cross-cutting issues (where applicable)**

### 6.1 Equal Opportunity

The principle of equal opportunities should be taken into account when evaluating the quality of all projects proposed under the two components. Specific attention will be paid to this dimension when determining the benefit of training activities.

While implementing the project, the Beneficiary will try to assure that gender disaggregated data will be made available to carry out an analysis of the social and economic impact of the actions undertaken.

### 6.2 Environment

Project beneficiaries shall ensure that during implementation of the actions due consideration be given to the government's development policy relating to environmental management and that such policy is embodied within all strategic policy documents that they may draft and all training activities that they may carry out.

### 6.3 Minorities

Rights of minorities should be taken into account when evaluating the quality of all projects proposed under the two components.

As far as possible while implementing the project activities, and to the extent applicable, the Beneficiary will try to assure that national minority disaggregated data will be made available to carry out an analysis of the social and economic impact of the actions undertaken.

## **ANNEXES**

- 1- Log frame in Standard Format
- 2- Amounts contracted and Disbursed per Quarter over the full duration of Programme
- 3- Description of Institutional Framework
- 4 - Details per EU funded contract (\*) where applicable:

**Annex I Log frame in Standard Format**

LOGFRAME PLANNING MATRIX FOR PROJECT FICHE	<b>SOCIAL INCLUSION</b>	
	Contracting period expires:	Disbursement period
	<b>30/11/2009</b>	<b>30/11/2012</b>
	Total budget: <b>€1.25m</b>	IPA budget: <b>€1.0m</b>

	<b>Intervention logic</b>	<b>Objectively verifiable indicators of achievement</b>	<b>Sources and means of verification</b>	<b>Assumptions</b>
<b>Overall objectives</b>	1. To ensure the social inclusion of marginalised groups and their access to full enjoyment of citizenship rights in the Western Balkans.	Marginalised women, men and children have access to personal documentation and civil registration enabling them to access basic rights and prevent the risk of statelessness.	Regular UNHCR reports from the field and from Implementing Partners, reports by Governments, UNDP and civil society in the region.	Willingness and the ability of the authorities and other stakeholders in the region to support legal and social inclusion of the marginalised population.
<b>Specific objective</b>	1. To ensure that the marginalised population have the civil registration status reducing the risk of statelessness.	Number of marginalised community members who have accessed civil registration process.	Database of UNHCR Implementing Partners.	Cooperation and commitment of relevant authorities in the region at all levels and active participation of marginalised communities in the process.

	2. Achieve an increased number of marginalised groups accessing free legal aid for the provision of personal documents.	Number of marginalised persons who have accessed free legal aid and obtained personal documents.	Database of UNHCR Implementing Partners.	
	3. Increased awareness of the marginalised groups and other stakeholders on the need for civil registration, documentation and for the removal of unnecessary legal and administrative obstacles in the processes, and raising the capacity of all relevant stakeholders.	Increased number of marginalised people is informed and pro-actively seeks civil registration and personal documents. Increased response and cooperation of authorities and other stakeholders in civil registration process and realization of rights for the marginalised groups.	Recorded reactions to PI and other outreach activities.	
<b>Expected results</b>	1. 10,000 persons in the region are provided with free legal assistance in obtaining personal documents and subsequent and renewed civil registration enabling them to access basic human rights and preventing cases of statelessness.	Number of documents provided and number of subsequent and renewed registrations and number of persons provided legal advice and counselling.	Database and reports of UNHCR's Implementing Partners.	Willingness of authorities and relevant institutions to enable implementation of activities.
	2. Improvements in administrative procedures and services regarding access to documents, civil registration and naturalisation.	Number of resolved cases in a timely manner.	Reports from UNHCR's Implementing Partners.	Willingness of relevant authorities to implement necessary changes and alleviate position of marginalised groups in the



			processes.
3. Increased awareness and participation of marginalised communities in the civil registration and naturalisation processes.	Significant number of marginalised groups informed through various outreach and PI campaigns seek assistance related to civil registration, documentation and naturalisation.	Number of PI activities conducted.	Willingness and level of involvement in planning campaigns of NGO's and community leaders.
4. Increased awareness and pro-active measures undertaken by authorities to facilitate civil registration, naturalisation and access to documents for the RAE.	Number of government institutions actively participating in the processes and number of obstacles removed in processes.	Government and civil society reports and adopted national mechanisms for protection of marginalised groups	Willingness of authorities at all levels to pro-actively participate in the processes and implement mechanisms for protection of marginalised groups
5. Increased capacity of stakeholders dealing with the marginalised community populations/communities in the region.	Number of capacity building activities conducted and extent of proactive approach of stakeholders in the processes.	Reports from the field and reports of various organisations and institutions.	Willingness of stakeholders to be active in the processes.

**Activities**

1. Increased awareness and participation of marginalised communities in the civil registration and naturalisation processes will be achieved by: (a) organising/designing media campaign through TV shows, documentaries and panel discussions), radio shows, press conferences, newspapers, bulletins, leaflets, booklets and posters) (b) organisation of marginalised community meetings.

Reports from the field and reports of various organisations and institutions.

What pre-conditions are required before the action starts?  
What conditions outside the Beneficiary's direct control have to be met for the implementation of the planned activities?

2. Increased awareness and proactive measures undertaken by authorities to facilitate civil registration, naturalisation and access to documents for the marginalised groups will be achieved by: **(a)** organisation of Round Tables with relevant ministries **(b)** organisation of seminars at the municipal level **(c)** organisation of meetings with relevant municipal authorities in charge of health, education, social welfare, employment, registry, etc.

**Costs**  
EUR 1,25M

3. Free legal aid will be implemented by: **a)** obtaining personal documentation **b)** initiating subsequent and renewed registration **c)** provision of legal advice and counselling

**ANNEX II: amounts (in €) Contracted and disbursed by quarter for the project**

<b>Contracted</b>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> 2009</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2011</b>			
Contract 1	1,000,000.					
<b>Cumulated</b>	<b>1,000,000</b>					
<b>Disbursed</b>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> 2009</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>1<sup>st</sup> 2011</b>	<b>2012</b>		
Contract 1	800,000		200,000			
<b>Cumulated</b>	<b>800,000</b>		<b>1,000,000</b>			

**Annex 3: Reference to laws, regulations and strategic documents:**

- Council Decision of 18 February 2008 (2008/210/EC) on the principles, priorities and conditions contained in the European Partnership with Albania and repealing Decision 2006/54/EC
  
- Council Decision of 18 February 2008 (2008/211/EC) on the principles, priorities and conditions contained in the European Partnership with Bosnia and Herzegovina and repealing Decision 2006/55/EC
  
- Council Decision of 12 February 2008 (2008/119/EC) on the principles, priorities and conditions contained in the Accession Partnership with Croatia and repealing Decision 2006/145/EC
  
- Council Decision of 18 February 2008 (2008/212/EC) on the principles, priorities and conditions contained in the Accession Partnership with the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and repealing Decision 2006/57/EC
  
- Council Decision of 22 January 2007 (2007/49/EC) on the principles, priorities and conditions contained in the European Partnership with Montenegro.
  
- Council Decision of 18 February 2008 (2008/213/EC) on the principles, priorities and conditions contained in the European Partnership with Serbia including Kosovo as defined by United Nations Security Council Resolution 1244 of 10 June 1999 and repealing Decision 2006/56/EC
  
- Multi-Beneficiary Multi-annual Indicative Planning Document (2008/2010)

#### **ANNEX 4: Details per EU funded contract**

A Contribution Agreement will be concluded with the UNHCR under joint management.