

**UNHCR**United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
Haut Commissariat des Nations Unies pour les réfugiés**CALL FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST**

CALL FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST No. 1	
Project title and Identification:	Project Location:
<i>Protection of asylum seekers and beneficiaries of international protection</i>	CROATIA
Brief Background of the Project:	
<p>In Croatia UNHCR provides protection to asylum seekers, refugees and persons granted subsidiary protection. During the period of September 2015-March 2016, 658,068 refugees and migrants transited through Croatia. In 2015, following adoption of the International and Temporary Protection Act, the Croatian Government decided to receive 550 refugees under resettlement and relocation scheme. In addition, as a result of adoption of the European Agenda for Migration, Croatia has been obliged to receive additional 1,050 refugees under relocation scheme. Also, Croatia has pledged 30 places under EU-Turkey agreement.</p> <p>In 2017, UNHCR will continue to contribute to further strengthening the country's asylum system and protection capacities. With the adoption of the International and Temporary Protection Act in July 2015, asylum legislation is, in principle, in compliance with international and EU standards. Practical implementation of the legislation still remains a concern for UNHCR. Ensuring access to fair and efficient asylum procedures, including promotion of protection-sensitive border management, will remain a priority. UNHCR will assist the authorities to ensure adequate long-term reception capacity for asylum-seekers. UNHCR will continue to provide free legal assistance in the first instance procedure to asylum seekers as well as to refugees. Other areas of focus include supporting development of appropriate psycho-social support system for vulnerable groups, more specifically for unaccompanied and separated children. UNHCR will advocate for development of integration policies for beneficiaries of international protection. UNHCR will continue to support capacity development of Government, judicial, NGO and other stakeholders. UNHCR and partners will intervene before the national and international courts where necessary in order to uphold protection principles.</p> <p>Through this Call for Expression of Interest, UNHCR Croatia is inviting present or prospective partners that wish to participate in UNHCR's operations in Croatia and contribute complementary resources (human resources, funds, knowledge, etc.) to pursue common objectives towards strengthening the asylum system and protection capacities in Croatia.</p>	
Goal/Objectives:	
In 2017, UNHCR in Croatia will pursue the following objectives under its programme for Refugees and Asylum Seekers:	
<p><i>Objective 1: Ensure access to territory for persons of concern and reduce risk of refoulement;</i> UNHCR and its partners will continue advocating for the decriminalization of irregular migration in order for people in need of protection to have the opportunity to seek asylum. Asylum seekers should be able to effectively access the territory and to lodge asylum applications. Capacity building activities will be organised for border officials to enable them to identify persons in need of international protection, including persons with special needs within mixed migration flows. Another priority will be to facilitate protection information at the border for potential asylum seekers.</p> <p><i>Objective 2: Improved access to and quality of status determination process;</i> UNHCR and its partners will ensure that all persons seeking asylum will have prompt and effective access to status determination procedures. The procedures will take into account the specific needs of vulnerable persons. Mechanisms to identify vulnerable persons will be put in place as well as systems to respond to their</p>	

needs. International protection standards will be promoted through training for government officials and judges.

Objective 3: Ensure access to legal assistance and legal remedies to persons of concern;

UNHCR and its partners will seek to ensure that asylum seekers and refugees that are in need of legal services and counselling have full access to quality and effective state funded legal assistance and remedies, including to further improve the integration prospects of refugees.

Access to legal services requires availability of efficient translation/interpretation capacities. The access to legal services and legal remedies shall take in account vulnerability, age, education, youth, origin, background or other cultural issues, as well as physical or psychological disability.

Objective 4: Potential for integration realized;

UNHCR will advocate for the Government to acknowledge and implement their responsibilities towards refugees in terms of facilitating their integration through the adoption and implementation of appropriate national integration programs.

Activities will include organization of coordination meetings, briefings and trainings for government officials, NGOs and members of the private sector, to create awareness, build capacity and foster their engagement and ability to support the integration of refugees, including with regard to the housing and employment sectors, as well as in terms of family reunification.

Objective 5: Risks related to detention reduced and freedom of movement increased;

People in need of international protection in Croatia are detained only in exceptional circumstances and as prescribed by law. There is awareness among the authorities that detention of asylum seekers should take place as a last resort and their policies and irregular migration is no longer criminalized..

UNHCR shall endeavour to reach out to all persons of concern, through the provision of protection information, legal counselling, legal representation and whenever necessary through the use of strategic litigation. Such services shall be provided in all detention and reception centers where UNHCR persons of concern are accommodated.

Intended Population of Concern:

Refugees and Asylum Seekers

Project Period:

1 January 2017 – 31 December 2017

Submission Deadline:

16 September 2016

Date Decision Results to be Communicated to Applicants:

30 October 2016

Selection Criteria

Choose relevant criteria	<u>Criteria Description</u>	<u>Assigned Weighting (optional)</u>
X	Sector expertise and experience: the required specific skills, sector specialists, knowledge and human resources.	20%
X	Project management: ability to deliver project objectives, accountability mechanisms and sound financial management, taking into account the audit results of the previous UNHCR-funded projects, past performance and the external audit of partners' financial statements, where applicable.	10%

X	Local experience and presence: ongoing programme in the area of operation; local knowledge; engaging refugees and other persons of concern; trust from local communities; local presence; partner policy on community relations; complaint mechanisms for persons of concern; self-organized groups of persons of concern; and other factors that would facilitate access to and better understanding of the persons of concern and that would reduce administrative difficulties.	15%
X	Contribution of resources: evidenced and documented contribution of resources to the Project in cash or in-kind (e.g. human resources, supplies and/or equipment) by the partner that are presently available (or potentially mobilized by the partner) in order to supplement UNHCR resources.	15%
X	Cost effectiveness: level of direct costs and administrative costs imposed on the Project in relation to project deliverables.	30%
X	Experience working with UNHCR: global and/or local partnerships including knowledge of UNHCR policies, practices and programmes, including an understanding of and ability to work within UNHCR's funding limitations and associated inherent risks. Partners that have three consecutive qualified audit opinions for UNHCR-funded projects may not be considered.	10%
	Other: as required by the UNHCR Office for any specific project (specify)	

Please submit the following documents to the below indicated contacts. Please feel free to choose one or more objectives based on your expertise, experience and interest.

- ANNEX A: **PARTNER DECLARATION** - available at <http://www.unhcr.hr/>
- ANNEX D: **CONCEPT NOTE** - available at <http://www.unhcr.hr/>
- Copy of **Registration/Licence**
- Copy of previous **audit report**
- Details of **separate bank account**
- Confirmation of registration under the **UNHCR Partner Portal**

By email: submit your documents to hrvza@unhcr.org or

By post: in a sealed envelope to:

UNHCR Croatia

Radnicka cesta 41, 10000 Zagreb

For queries: please contact *Lada Blagaic, Associate Admin/Programme Officer* at blagaic@unhcr.org or +385 1 3713 441

Issuing UNHCR Office

Contact Address

Signature, Head of Office

Full name and title, Head of Office

Name of UNHCR Office

UNHCR Representation in Croatia

Radnicka cesta 41/VII, 10000 Zagreb, Croatia

Giuseppe Di Caro, Representative

UNHCR Zagreb

August 2016