

ANNEX C: CALL FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

Note: The purpose of the **Call for Expression of Interest** is to solicit interest from existing or prospective partners that wish to participate in a UNHCR operation and contribute complementary resources (human resources, knowledge, funds, in-kind contributions, supplies and/or equipment) to achieving common objectives as agreed in a **Project Partnership Agreement**.

UNHCR Offices are required to provide a brief description and background of the **Project** and selection criteria for the **Project**. A sample template for a **Call for Expression** of interest is below.

CALL FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST No.	
<p><u>Project title and Identification:</u></p> <p>Part I: Border Management, Protection of Asylum-Seekers and Integration of Refugees</p> <p>Part II: Assistance and Services Provided to Refugees at the Emergency Transit Centre (ETC)</p>	<p><u>Project Location:</u></p> <p>Romania</p>
<p><u>Brief Background of the Project:</u></p> <p>PART I: In 2017 the number of asylum seekers entering Romania increased considerably, reaching a total of 1,628 applications during the first five months of the year, with most entries registered on the Serbian border. Since 2013, asylum-seekers have mainly come from Syria, Iraq and Afghanistan. According to official statistics, around 7,000 persons were granted international protection in Romania between 1991 and May 2017, and at of the end of 2016, there were more than 2,900 beneficiaries of international protection registered with a valid residence permit in Romania, as well as some 334 stateless persons.</p> <p>The Government of Romania provides funds through the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF) mechanism to NGOs and other institutions to implement projects aimed at assisting asylum-seekers and beneficiaries if international protection. The project funded by UNHCR aims at covering important areas which are falling out of the scope of the funding provided by the Government.</p> <p>The “Border Management, Protection of Asylum-Seekers and Integration of Refugees” project priorities in 2018 reflect the multi-year objectives of the UNHCR in Central Europe, and aims at further improving access to territory, procedures and reception conditions; advocating for the use of alternatives to detention and ending the detention of children; promoting integration and positive public attitudes towards persons of concern.</p> <p>Based on monitoring activities, evaluations and information obtained to date, UNHCR will continue its advocacy activities which will be aimed at ensuring asylum-seekers, refugees and stateless persons have access to rights and adequate services and work closely to address gaps in integration programmes.</p>	



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PART II:

In 2008, a Tri- Partite Agreement was signed between the UNHCR, the Government of Romania, and the International Organization for Migration regarding temporary evacuation to Romania of persons in urgent need of international protection and their onward resettlement, establishing an Emergency Transit Centre (ETC) in Timisoara. The Centre was established to provide timely and effective protection of persons of concern to UNHCR pending their onward resettlement, and to enable resettlement country officials to conduct interviews in a stable and secure environment. The ETC has a capacity of 200 persons, the refugees evacuated are granted permission to stay in Romania for six months with the possibility for a further six months extension in exceptional circumstances. During their stay in the ETC, refugees benefit from basic and essential services provided directly by UNHCR and through an implementing partner.

Goal/Objective, Expected Outcome and Main Activities:

PART I:

In 2018, the project will focus on activities to address main gaps:

- Limited involvement of local authorities in integration; lack of legislative/policy coherence on various sectors (economic, social, employment etc.); lack of unitary institutional practices; difficulties in ensuring effective access to rights and implicitly to durable solutions; lack of data feeding into an increasingly flexible approach towards integration, based on needs assessments and individual evaluations.
- Further needs to improve and ensure consistency in refugee status determination (RSD), in the context of the envisaged Common European Asylum System (CEAS) reform – impacting national legislation; issues of interpretation of the EU acquis; absence of judicial resources in the field.
- Insufficient free extra judicial assistance in the administrative procedure.
- Lack of sufficient and specialized legal assistance and representation for certain profiles and types of cases; lack of sufficient and specialized legal assistance and representation for effective access to civil, socio and economic rights (for asylum seekers and beneficiaries of international protection); lack of up-to-date user friendly, age & gender sensitive and accessible protection information.
- Risks related to ensuring effective access to the territory, access to information regarding asylum and overall limited presence at the borders.
- Little knowledge/awareness regarding the detention framework among stakeholders, including those implementing or reviewing it; lack of up-to-date, regular information regarding conditions in detention and the effectiveness of procedural safeguards and guarantees.
- Underreporting of SGBV cases; lack of capacity to adequately identify, react to and assist vulnerable cases.
- Increasingly negative public perceptions and attitudes regarding refugees; risks of discrimination and hate crime/hate speech

Consequently, the project(s) to be implemented in 2018 will focus on the following:



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- Improving access to territory and asylum procedures for all persons in need of international protection.
- Monitoring and improving the overall quality and standards in asylum procedures and reception conditions;
- Complementing legal assistance and representation for asylum-seekers, focusing on persons with specific needs
- Advocating for alternatives to detention and ending the detention of children
- Advocating for an efficient mechanism for the identification of vulnerable persons
- Promoting effective integration of beneficiaries of international protection, including through litigation.
- Promoting positive public attitudes towards persons of concern to UNHCR.

Goal: Advocacy for Protection and Solutions (1900)

Objective: Potential for integration realized

- Advocacy conducted

The Partner conducts monitoring of areas hosting significant number of beneficiaries of international protection (BIPs), including integration centres, across the country to assess effectiveness of integration programme, access to rights and services and address existing/new identified gaps.

The Partner conducts advocacy interventions for increasing coordination mechanisms at local levels or addressing the lack of involvement by local authorities.

The Partner provides legal assistance and counselling to BIPs and representation for cases with potential for improving practice/policy;

The Partner conducts research based on individual interviews and focus groups mainstreaming age, gender and diversity considerations, in relation to the motivation of refugees to integrate in Romania. The research/data collection aims to provide a tool for evidence based advocacy and informed recommendations for more individually-fitted approaches.

The Partner conducts mapping exercise of existing initiatives related to integration.

The Partner undertakes public information activities to promote refugees' integration and actively supports UNHCR PI campaigns, in line with the UNHCR Comms Strategy.

Objective: Access to and quality of status determination procedures improved

- Advocacy conducted

The Partner monitors the asylum procedures at the level of reception centres and provide asylum-seekers with information and counselling.

The Partner regularly collects and disseminates resources for judges – collection of juridical practice.

The Partner advocates for the regular use of quality assurance tools for the judiciary.

The Partner produces a compilation of jurisprudence on asylum, prints it and disseminate it to relevant courts.

The Partner translates and disseminate relevant ECHR/ECJ decisions and country of origin information.

Objective: Access to legal assistance and legal remedies improved

- Legal assistance provided

The Partner ensures that all newly-arrived asylum-seekers benefit from timely high-quality protection information, counselling, assistance and representation at all stages of asylum procedure.

The Partner provides Legal aid and/or strategic litigation could be undertaken for a limited number of cases with potential for improving legislation, policy or practice.



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The Partner develops an easy-to-use online platform for information and basic counselling on accessing their social, economic, cultural rights, accessible 24/7 regardless where persons of concern may reside.

The Partner supports UNHCR in the development & implementation of a pilot Refugee Law programme.

The Partner supports training sessions for ex-officio lawyers.

Objective: Access to the territory improved and risk of refoulement reduced

- Systematic and independent border monitoring established or conducted

The Partner conducts regular monitoring visits to designated border areas, including international airports, to monitor access to the territory and asylum procedures. UNHCR is promptly informed on potential risks of refoulement.

The Partner disseminates protection information materials for potential persons of concern in the border areas and provides legal counselling to persons subject to the border procedures.

The Partner establishes a cross border mechanism for regular information exchange with NGOs from neighbouring countries.

Objective: Law and policy developed or strengthened

- Advocacy conducted

The Partner ensures regular presence in all six Reception Centres and establishes a mechanism for monitoring reception conditions. The Partner intervenes, promotes best practices and ensures that restrictive provisions are not implemented arbitrarily.

The Partner designs targeted training for Legal representatives on the use of adapted tools on Best Interest Determination (BID).

The Partner organises three thematic working groups on Reception Conditions, Vulnerable persons and Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV).

The Partner conducts six trainings targeting staff and NGOs working in Reception Centres on provision of assistance and services to Asylum-seekers.

The Partner produces one protection sensitive and accessible information material for persons of concern on risks associated to SGBV.

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

- Situation of persons of concern monitored

The partner monitors Detention Centres and Specially Arranged Closed Areas (SACAs) to ensure compliance with the international standards on conditions and treatment of PoCs in detention.

The Partner organises meetings with relevant actors on procedural safeguards and alternatives to detention.

The Partner uses the detention monitoring information management system, established by UNHCR, to support evidence-based advocacy based on tools and methodology for data collection developed at European / regional level.

PART II:

Resettlement countries face access obstacles in some countries of first asylum to process resettlement submissions. The ETC provides the possibility to overcome these obstacles through the evacuation of refugees in urgent need of resettlement. It also provides the opportunity of fast evacuation of refugees that require emergency resettlement owing to acute protection needs. Resettlement countries and UNHCR facilitate onward resettlement to all refugees evacuated at the ETC.



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Goal: Resettlement (1900)

Objective: Potential for resettlement realized

- Emergency resettlement organised

The Partner ensures that all refugees evacuated at the ETC are provided with basic/essential services until their departure for resettlement for a third country:

- Provision of food and water,
- Provision of personal hygiene and household items,
- Services to persons with specific needs,
- Access to basic and specialised medical assistance and services and psychological support,
- Access to education for different age groups,
- Access to recreational, sports and cultural activities,

The Partner ensures that community mobilization will be pursued, encouraging refugees to actively participate in activities, assessments of needs, distribution of items and decision-making processes.

Intended Population of Concern:

PART I: Persons in need of international protection, asylum-seekers, recognised refugees and beneficiaries of subsidiary protection in Romania.

PART II: Recognised Refugees temporarily evacuated at the ETC.

Project Period [estimated start and end dates of project]:

1 January- 31 December 2018

Submission Deadline:

15 September 2017

Date Decision Results to be Communicated to Applicants:

30 October 2017

Selection Criteria

<i>Choose relevant criteria</i>	<u>Criteria Description</u>	<u>Assigned Weighting (optional)</u>
X	Quality of the Concept Note: in terms of clarity, adherence to the objectives and activities mentioned in the call for expression of interest, and drafting.	20%
X	Sector expertise and experience: the required specific skills, sector specialists, knowledge and human resources.	10%
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.	10%
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.	10%

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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 %

Organizations interested in submitting a Concept Note related to Part I of the present Call for Expressions of Interest, may include in their Concept Note all Objectives, Expected Outcomes and Main Activities under the Goal: Advocacy for Protection and Solutions, or just those Objectives, Expected Outcomes and Main Activities for which they deem they have the expertise, knowhow and ability to implement a successful project.

For Concept Notes relating to Part II of the present Call for Expression of Interest it is necessary to include all the activities mentioned under the Goal: Resettlement provided in the present document.

The documents listed below shall be uploaded in the UNHCR Partner Portal (<https://partner.unhcr.org>) and also submitted to the contacts indicated below.

- ANNEX A: PARTNER DECLARATION
- ANNEX D: CONCEPT NOTE
- Copy of **Registration/Licence** (with national authorities for establishment of your organisation)
- Copy of previous **audit report** (if audit not required under the national laws, please provide a copy of 2016 balance sheet)
- Details of **separate bank account** (or in writing confirmation that a separate account shall be maintained for the UNHCR project in case of successful selection).
- Confirmation of registration under the **UNHCR Partner Portal (<https://partner.unhcr.org>)**

By email: submit your documents to ROMBUPST@unhcr.org

By post: in a sealed envelope to:
48A Primaverii Bdv, Bucharest 011975, Romania

For queries: please submit your questions to the following email address rombupst@unhcr.org

Issuing UNHCR Office
Contact Address

Representation in Romania
48A Primaverii Blvd, Sector 1, Bucharest

Signature, Office Representative

Full name and title, Office Representative
Name of UNHCR Office
Date

Eduardo Yrezabal, Representative
UNHCR Representation in Romania
05 July 2017