



VOLUNTARY RETURN HOME



A New Beginning

For sustainable voluntary return of third country nationals from Bulgaria

Have you considered the possibility of returning back to your country of origin?

If you feel the need to return back home, Caritas Sofia can assist you with their Project for Voluntary Return of foreign residents from Bulgaria sponsored by the European Union and Republic of Bulgaria.

Project Aims:

The aim of the project is to assist for the voluntary sustainable return to the countries of origin of third country nationals from Republic of Bulgaria with the help of government institutions, non-government organizations and various migrant and refugee communities.

Activities:

1. *Information campaign* aimed at foreign residents' and raising their awareness for the possibilities of voluntary returning home.
2. *Individual social and law consultations through cooperation and work of Caritas Sofia, Bulgarian Red Cross, Bulgarian Helsinki Committee* and other partners which support third country nationals in their voluntary return to their country of origin in accordance with the humane principles and respect for every human being.
3. *Completing the process of voluntary home return* in accordance with individual re-integration plans together with partner organizations in corresponding countries of origin and further assistance for integration.

Funding:

*Procedure for funding
BG/RF2009/A7/GR21, European Return Fund, Ministry of Interior,
Republic of Bulgaria*

Why Voluntary Return?

You are a foreigner, who has come to Republic of Bulgaria in pursuit for a better life and a better future for yourself and your family in a country of the European Union?

You could not receive a residence visa and a working permit?

You have become an unlawfully residing foreigner in Republic of Bulgaria with all its negative consequences, such as inability to participate in the labour market, lack of social benefits, and inadequate medical care.

You could benefit from the EU funded program for voluntary return home!

The European Union and the Republic of Bulgaria are giving a rare opportunity for foreigners who are unlawfully residing in Bulgaria to take advantage of the program for voluntary return back to their country of origin.

Voluntary return home is carried out in accordance to all relevant European policies and standards set in place as well as with world human right treaties.

CHOOSING VOLUNTARY RETURN, YOU CAN RETURN BACK TO YOUR HOME COUNTRY WHILST TAKING ADVANTAGE OF THE FOLLOWING SERVICES:

- Free consultations;
- Fair and transparent procedure;
- To travel and arrive as a regular passenger;
- To plan your departure and arrival ;
- To receive social (and economic) support in your home country.

Do you wish to start a new in your home country?

DO YOU NEED FINANCIAL SUPPORT TO BE ABLE TO SUCCESSFULLY RETURN BACK HOME?

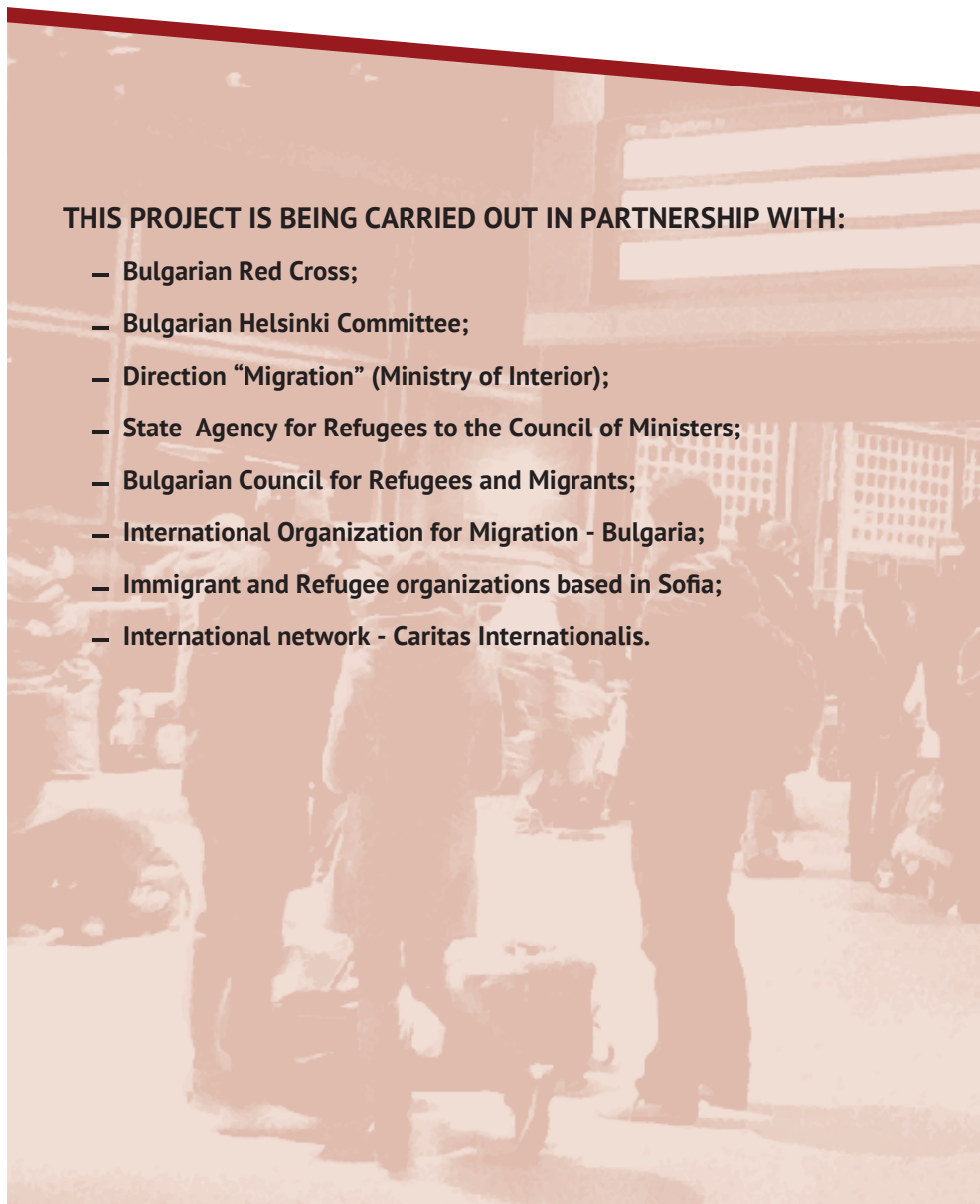
- for fees necessary to obtain travel documents from your country of origin;
- for fees needed for issuing of transit visa (if necessary to travel through another country via road or air on your way home);
- for travel expenses to your country of origin;
- for integration in your country of origin, including expenses for:
 - transport in your home country in order to reach your chosen place of settlement;
 - education and professional qualifications;
 - medical care, medicaments, and other;
 - accommodation;
 - utility bills for electricity, water, heating/cooling;
 - urgent repairs needed at your home place and others.

All of your expenses in your home country, according to the above classification will be covered by Caritas up to the amount of 2000 EUR for the period up until 30th June 2011. The payments will be made through a local organization or expert in your home country.

Do you need additional information to take a decision?

THIS PROJECT IS BEING CARRIED OUT IN PARTNERSHIP WITH:

- Bulgarian Red Cross;
- Bulgarian Helsinki Committee;
- Direction “Migration” (Ministry of Interior);
- State Agency for Refugees to the Council of Ministers;
- Bulgarian Council for Refugees and Migrants;
- International Organization for Migration - Bulgaria;
- Immigrant and Refugee organizations based in Sofia;
- International network - Caritas Internationalis.



The decision to return back home is yours!

If you are:

- A foreigner looking for protection;
- A rejected asylum seeker;
- A foreigner with a refugee status;
- A foreigner with humanitarian status;
- A foreigner without lawful rights to reside in Bulgaria.

WE CAN HELP YOU IN THE FOLLOWING WAY:

1. Providing necessary information to take a decision, including:

- Up-to-date information for your country of origin (social, political, economic and other);
- Facilitating the issue of travel documents and contact with the local Embassy;
- Searching and locating relatives and friends in your country of origin.

2. Providing lawyer assistance needed to:

- Collect and comply documents necessary to apply to Ministry of Internal Affairs, Section “Consulate relation” with the Ministry of Internal Affairs, relevant embassy and consul of your country of origin in connection with your return home;
- Applying to Ministry of Internal Affairs (Sofia 1000, Maria Luisa Bul. 48) for permission of long-term departure from Republic of Bulgaria in order to avoid accommodation in the Special home for foreigners, Busmanzi;
- Issuing of transit visa for the countries which may be needed when returning to your home country.

3. Supplying of special information for:

- Re-integration opportunities in your country of origin
- Qualification and re-qualification or starting of a small business
- Providing social, medical and other help.

About us

WHAT IS CARITAS?

Caritas is mercifulness, which is a major component of Christianity. Caritas is an organization founded by the Catholic Church lead by its mission to help and unite people in strived to help the needing ones. Caritas is made of separate foundations based on common values and principles.

Caritas Sofia is an organization, filed under the Central register of non-for-profit organizations with registration number №2003416009 of the Ministry of Justice. Caritas Sofia is a member of the National Catholic federation Caritas Bulgaria which is part of the worldwide network of the Catholic Church, Caritas International.

OUR MISSION!

Our mission is to contribute to all needing people, regardless of their gender, race, and ethnicity, political or religious beliefs, and to support them with compassion and mercifulness. This will help them bear the difficulties in life with dignity and will assist them in maintaining hope for their personal growth and further social integrity.

Such help, especially when providing social services, promotes and maintains self-respect and empowers those in needs. Consideration of someone's problems resonates in increased social brotherhood and tolerance and strives for spiritual growth amongst its members.

WHAT DO WE DO?

Caritas Sofia is a licensed non-for-profit organization which delivers the following social services:

- Day care centre for disadvantaged young people;
- Centre for social rehabilitation and integration of people with disabilities;
- Home care for elderly;
- Mobile centre and Centre for people with addictions.

We also deliver projects supporting disadvantaged groups of society, such as migrants, refugees, single mothers, children from minority ethnic groups and people affected by natural disasters.

WHERE CAN YOU FIND US?

Caritas Sofia relies on its networks of paid and voluntary workers in Sofia, Bourgas, Plovdiv, Yambol, Kuklen, Malko Tarnovo, s. Banya (region Nova Zagora) and s. Pokrovan (region Ivaylovgrad). We are working towards expanding our network and we are open to all who are willing and able to participate.

How to get in touch with our services?

If you have decided to return voluntary home and you would like to find out more about the project, please contact one of our offices below:



Каритас
София

Caritas Sofia

For initial contact and social consultations:

Sofia 1309, jk. Ilinden, bl. 55, vh. B

Tel. (02) 920-08-25

Tuesday: 10 am – 5 pm

Consultations are also carried out at:

Sofia 1632, 12 Montevideo Bul., State Agency for Refugees
Integration Centre, level 2, room 208

Thursday: 12 pm – 5 pm



Bulgarian Red Cross

For social contacts:

Sofia 1407, 76 James Baucher Bul.

Tel. (02) 816-48-22

Tuesday, Thursday and Friday: 9 am – 5 pm



Bulgarian Helsinki Committee

For lawyer consultations:

Sofia 1000, 1 Uzundzovska, level 3

Tel. (02) 980-20-49, (02) 981-33-18

Monday to Friday: 9 am – 5 pm



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Каритас
София