

# DCAF

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## DCAF Activities in Romania & Bulgaria: Swiss Intermediate Body (SIB) Programme

### Background

Through the establishment of the Enlargement Contribution Fund, Switzerland has committed to supporting the development of the twelve countries that joined the EU in 2004 and 2007. The aim is to contribute to the reduction of the economic and social disparities in the enlarged EU in order to enhance stability and security on the European continent. Within this framework, a consortium, composed of three Swiss-based organizations DCAF, Team Consult and Coginta, oversees the Thematic Fund "Security, Stability, and Support for Reforms" in Romania and Bulgaria. The three organisations form together the Swiss Intermediary Body (SIB), responsible for the oversight of the thematic security projects in the police, judicial and migration sector, within which DCAF oversees the migration and counter-trafficking projects.

Within a first round of projects (2011 - 2014), the aim was to build the capacity of the relevant Romanian and Bulgarian authorities through exchanges of experience and best practice with Swiss authorities. Currently, DCAF oversees one ongoing project in Romania on asylum. Two further projects on counter trafficking and migration were finalised in August 2013 and November 2014 respectively.

For the second phase (2014 - 2018), counter-trafficking and anti-corruption were identified as priorities. DCAF currently oversees five projects under the second phase on counter-trafficking and migration in both Romania and Bulgaria.

The framework foresees that for governmental executing agencies, Switzerland contributes 85% of the total budget, while the Executing Agency covers 15% with its own funds. For projects executed by non-governmental actors, Switzerland contributes 90% of the total budget.

### Contact Information

For further details about any of these projects, please contact:

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DCAF Activities in Romania & Bulgaria 2012-2018

## Projects in Romania

### 1. “Supporting Romanian NGOs for direct assistance to victims of human trafficking” Project

The aim of the project is to establish a grant mechanism to contribute to the improvement of the national anti-trafficking assistance system in Romania by supporting victims of human trafficking through Romanian NGOs providing direct assistance services. Two yearly funding calls are currently implemented by the project to fund 6-9 victim assistance service projects. The grants are managed and monitored by the Romanian National Agency against Trafficking in Persons (ANITP). In addition, the project will build the Agency's grant awarding and management capacity to ensure the sustainability and continuation of the grant mechanism.

**Executing Agency:** Romanian National Agency against Trafficking in Persons (ANITP).

**Swiss partners:** IOM Bern, Swiss NGO ACT212, and Zurich City Police as a Swiss representative of the Swiss-Romanian Working Group on THB.

**Duration:** 3.5 years, starting January 2015. **Budget:** 2'084'750 CHF

### 2. “Direct Assistance for Recovery for Victims of Trafficking in Human Beings” Project

The project aim was to support the reintegration of Romanian victims of THB back into society through the acquisition of necessary life and job skills, including the improvement of their psychological and physical health for an independent life, preventing them from falling back into poverty or vulnerability to further trafficking. The project further aimed at developing a long-term strategy to improve the financial and institutional sustainability of the Reaching Out Centre and to raise awareness about the Centre's activities to authorities, the public and NGOs in Romania and Schengen States. **Executing Agency:** Reaching Out Romania.

**Swiss partner:** Christliche Ostmission. **Duration:** 1 year, starting March 2014. **Budget:** 171'591 CHF

### 3. “Asylum matters - Capacity building of Romanian Immigration Office (RIO)” Project

#### 1<sup>st</sup> Phase:

The aim of the project was to contribute to capacity building of the Romanian General Inspectorate for Immigration (GII, formerly RIO) on asylum procedures through the exchange of Swiss-Romanian practice. Project activities include an evaluation mission, workshops on application and registration procedures of asylum seekers and early identification of Dublin cases. Furthermore, improvements to equipment and infrastructure of two 'Regional Centres of Accommodation and Procedures for asylum seekers' will be carried out in order to create adequate infrastructure and proper accommodation conditions according to EU requirements.

**1<sup>st</sup> Phase: Executing Agency:** Romanian General Inspectorate for Immigration (GII). **Swiss partner:** State Secretariat on Migration SEM (formerly Federal Office of Migration (FOM)). **Duration:** 3 years, starting May 2012- August 2015. **Budget:** 274'170 CHF



## 2<sup>nd</sup> Phase:

The aim of the project is to increase the efficiency and quality of the asylum process in Romania, taking into account Schengen accession and transposition of the new EU Directives (Directive 2013/33/EU and Directive 2013/32/EU) by implementing daily activities as training for the GII officers in the field of asylum and develop a coordination mechanism for the evaluation of reception standards.

**Executing Agency:** Romanian General Inspectorate for Immigration (GII). **Duration:** March 2016-June 2017, **Budget:** 210'000CHF

## 4. "Victim of human trafficking can be you. Do not be fooled" Project

Starting from the previous campaign impact evaluation, similar prevention instruments are required in order to ensure the sustainability and long term impact of Prevention (P) Identification (I), Protection (P) project, and increase the number of people who are positively influenced by the impact of those campaigns.

The general objective of the project is to reduce the vulnerability of Romanian citizens to trafficking in person through raising awareness on the risks associated to trafficking in persons and increasing the self-protection capacity of the vulnerable persons against threats of related to this phenomenon.

**Executing Agency:** Romanian National Agency against Trafficking in Persons (ANITP), in coordination with ANITP partner such as regional centres, local institutions and NGOs. **Duration:** 2.5 years, starting March 2016. **Budget:** 289'915 CHF.



#### Finalised Projects:

##### 1. “Prevention (P) Identification (I) Protection (P) (PIP)” Project

The project aimed to improve the fight against human trafficking. Prevention, reintegration and repatriation were strengthened through the exchange of experience between Swiss and Romanian authorities. Project activities included two study visits to Romania and Switzerland; workshops on prevention, victim identification methods, reintegration and protection; a national anti-trafficking campaign; the publication of a brochure on identification, referral and repatriation of victims; and a survey on the dimensions of begging as a form of human trafficking.

**Executing Agency:** Romanian National Agency against Trafficking in Persons (ANITP). **Swiss partner:** Swiss Coordination Unit against the Trafficking in Persons and Smuggling of Migrants. **Duration:** 2.5 years. **Budget:** 531'746 CHF

##### 2. “Operational capacity building and training programmes for Romanian Immigration Office (RIO) staff” Project

The project improved the capacity of the Romanian General Inspectorate for Immigration (GII; formerly RIO) staff on aspects concerning irregular migration. Project activities include a study visit to Switzerland and workshops with a focus on the detection of forged documents and interview techniques, and the procurement of eight motor vehicles used for the detection and transportation of irregular migrants.

**Executing Agency:** Romanian General Inspectorate for Immigration (GII). **Swiss partner:** State Secretariat on Migration SEM (formerly Federal Office of Migration (FOM)). **Duration:** 1 year, starting May 2012. **Budget:** 184'874CHF



BULGARIAN-SWISS COOPERATION PROGRAMME  
БЪЛГАРО-ШВЕЙЦАРСКА ПРОГРАМА ЗА СЪТРУДНИЧЕСТВО

## Projects in Bulgaria

Under **the migration sector of the Thematic Fund Security**, three projects are currently implemented under an "umbrella" concept: Swiss-Bulgarian Programme of Cooperation for the Prevention of Trafficking in Human Beings (THB) and the Identification, Protection, Support, Return & Reintegration of Victims of Trafficking, chaired by the Bulgarian National Commission for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings (NCCTHB), with three projects implemented by the NCCTHB, IOM Bulgaria and the NGO ANIMUS Association Foundation. The first is being overseen by Coginta and the other projects are being overseen by DCAF.

The three projects combined will have seven outcomes:

- Improved bilateral Swiss-Bulgarian Cooperation on THB and rights of Victims of Trafficking (VoT);
- Improved monitoring of the National referral Mechanism (NRM) and VoT post-shelter;
- Increased prevention of THB;
- Improved identification and referral of VoT;
- Increased provision of protection of VoT;
- Improved immediate, medium-term and long-term support to VoT;
- Increased facilitated return for VoT to country of origin.

Budget: The total cost of the Programme is 2'239'504 CHF.

DCAF is overseeing the following two projects:

### 1. "Bulgarian-Swiss Joint Efforts for providing immediate and unconditional protection of trafficked persons and preventing trafficking in human beings" Project

The ANIMUS Foundation project component is directed at the prevention of trafficking in human beings and at protecting the rights of trafficked persons as first priority of all anti-trafficking measures. The project aims to ensure respect of the rights of trafficked persons for immediate and unconditional access to services upon identification in Switzerland as country of destination and in Bulgaria as country of origin. The project will contribute to the sustainable implementation of the protective measures for victims of trafficking as envisaged in the Swiss and in the Bulgarian legislations.

**Executing Agency:** ANIMUS. **Swiss partners:** Swiss Coordination Unit against the Trafficking in Persons and Smuggling of Migrants, Fachstelle Frauenhandel, Frauenmigration (FIZ). **Other partners:** ICMPD (Austria). **Duration:** 3 years, starting in January 2015. **Budget:** 878'494 CHF.

### 2. "Return and Reintegration of Victims of Trafficking in Human Beings" Project

The IOM project component aims to improve the effectiveness in countering THB and protecting victims of trafficking by: facilitating safe and dignified return of victims of trafficking and to provide them with protection and assistance for sustainable reintegration as well as to increase the VoT's access to assistance measures; and by improving the administrative capacity of the Bulgarian authorities to provide protection and support to victims and witnesses of trafficking. **Executing Agency:** IOM Bulgaria **Swiss partners:** Swiss Coordination Unit against the Trafficking in Persons and Smuggling of Migrants, IOM missions, BG and CH NGOs involved in return. **Duration:** 3 years, starting in January 2015. **Budget:** 479'998 CHF.