Date: November 30th 2017.

Cities: Beograd, Subotica, Šid, Sremska Mitrovica, Vranje, Preševo, Đevđelija, Kumanovo, Skoplje

10 local networks for supporting migrants and refugees formed in Serbia and Macedonia

Within the project "Building Together – Community Monitoring and Advocacy" we have formed 10 local networks for supporting migrants and refugees in 10 municipalities in Serbia and Macedonia. Below you will find a more detailed report on activities within these networks.

In 10 municipalities in Serbia and Macedonia (Subotica, Šid, Sremska Mitrovica, Belgrade, Preševo and Vranje, Gevgelija, Kupanovo and two municipalities in Skopje) there have been formed local networks for improving the quality of coexistence between the local population and migrants in these areas. These informal networks, gather professionals who work with refugees, asylum seekers and migrants, and they are all employed by state institutions (social protection, education, health, prosecution, Police department), local governments and civil society.

A regional meeting of all coordinators of these networks was held mid September in order to present an activity plan within the project. Since every municipality has their own challenges, through exchange of experiences, coordinators got a broader picture of the refugee situation in different municipalities, but also how to overcome these challenges.

During November and December members of all local networks will go through training for monitoring of the local system of care and integration of refugees. So far, these trainings have been held in Šid, Sremska Mitrovica and Subotica, and in the coming weeks they will be held in the rest of the municipalities.

The main task the local networks have within this project is to improve the position of migrants and refugees in 10 municipalities in Serbia and Macedonia, and primarily through improving the integration system. Trainings as well as other activities which are planned with the project are directed towards networks raising their own capacities and becoming ready for the implementation of the integration process.

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