



Call for proposals for Research on refugee integration in Romania
The needs and perspective of refugees vis a vis the integration process [in Romania]

Background

The Romanian National Council for Refugees (CNRR) is a non-governmental organization, established in 1998. CNRR's mission is to promote and defend by any legal means possible human rights in general, and refugees and asylum seekers' rights in particular. Our specific objectives are to protect the right to asylum and to foster recognized refugees' integration in Romanian society. To this aim, we advocate, as partners of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, for the development of relevant integration legislation, policies and practice.

Integration is the process by which refugees become accepted into society, both as individuals and as groups. This definition of integration is deliberately left open, because the particular requirements for acceptance by a receiving society vary greatly from country to country. The openness of this definition also reflects the fact that the responsibility for integration rests not with one particular group, but rather with many actors—refugees themselves, the host government, institutions, and communities, to name a few.

Integration is a two-way process that involves efforts on both sides – refugees and their willingness to adapt to the host society and the readiness of the host society to welcome refugees and meet their diverse needs. It is the interaction between the two that determines the direction and the ultimate outcome of the integration process.

Comprehensive and successful integration policies, although varying from state to state, have key elements in common. They:

- Offer a vision for both refugees and receiving societies.
- Coordinate with immigration policies.
- Promote integration policies that acknowledge diversity.
- Recognize the local context.
- Involve non-governmental organizations.
- Delegate authority appropriately.

Consequently, it is critically important that the two actors in the integration process, refugees and the receiving society, are part of a broad integration strategy.

The development of integration policy in Romania is affected by the “transit country” rhetoric promoted by both policy makers and refugees themselves. This leads to limited engagement in integration from leading actors, but also to limited motivation and intentions to integrate from the target group –



beneficiaries of protection. Furthermore, despite efforts made so far by relevant stakeholders to improve the overall integration framework, those granted international protection continue to face barriers in accessing their rights and are at risk of poverty or social exclusion. According to participatory assessments conducted by UNHCR, the General Inspectorate for Immigration and NGOs, the majority of refugees do not wish to integrate in Romania and/or have had difficulties in accessing services provided by the state government or EU funds. In addition, no reliable data exists on the profiles of refugee populations, or their motivation/intentions when it comes to integrating in Romania, which negatively affects targeted interventions on integration. In this context, for the past years, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) noted a need to move, in practice, from a one-size-fits-all universal integration programmes, to an increasingly flexible, individualized approach, based on needs assessments. In this sense, in order to gain the insight needed for such a flexible, needs-based approach to integration programs and policies, there is a need to collect and analyse data concerning the intentions, motivations and experiences of the target groups, the challenges encountered during integration programmes or the positive/encouraging experiences impacting on integration outcomes.

Quantitative and especially qualitative data regarding the refugee population in Romania, collected during the course of the proposed research, will be used to advocate for a more individually fitted, needs-based approach to integration programmes and services.

Assignment

CNRR, under its program "*Advocacy for refugee integration in Romania*" funded by UNHCR, is looking for a Contractor (individual researcher or legal entity) to conduct a research on the factors that impact the successful integration of refugees into Romania and produce a Report with recommendations. The proposed research will develop an empirically grounded understanding of the issues that affect refugees' motivation and intentions when it comes to integration in Romania. The projected outcomes of the research project are twofold. In the first place, a specific research methodology will be designed, developed and tested to allow for the collection and analysis of qualitative information on refugees' perception concerning integration programmes and projects, the experience impacting on their successful integration of refugees.

CNRR and UNHCR will provide guidance and examples of similar research methodologies developed in the region, in particular in Hungary, which should be adapted to the extent possible and feasible. The methodology is thus both an end in itself, as well as a means to an end: the application of the research methodology in Romania will lead to a comprehensive dataset that will form the basis for an analysis of the intentions, challenges, obstacles, opportunities and good practices of integration of refugees, as well as challenges and solutions offered by service providers. The second expected outcome of this research project is a report that reflects the aforementioned analysis and proposes relevant recommendations.



The purpose of this final product – Report, including Field Survey and Policy Recommendations – is to capture refugees’ perspectives and intentions with regard to integration and inform a set of recommendations for policy makers and practitioners, in view of improving current integration programmes, policy framework and approaches.

Research objectives

The specific research objectives are as follows:

- Development and further fine-tuning of a research methodology that allows for the assessment and analysis of the level of integration of refugees.
- Use this research methodology in order to:
 - Identify tools and mechanisms that refugees are utilizing to facilitate integration in Romania;
 - Map motivational factors and intentions which drive their integration efforts (or not);
 - Identify obstacles and needs within the context of integration processes and the tools refugees might lack to achieve their desired goals (both in the short and in the longer term);
 - Examine the impact of current legislation, policies and practices in place that affect the legal, economic and social aspects of integration;
 - Gather information on the challenges faced by refugees themselves and by service providers when providing support to refugees and good practices which could be replicated elsewhere in the country or in the region;
- Drafting of a report in which the challenges, obstacles, opportunities and good practices of integration, as well as challenges and solutions, are analyzed. The report should include recommendations as to how integration programmes, practices, policies and legislation might be developed and improved in the future so that they better respond to the needs of beneficiaries of international protection.

Note: For the purpose of this call and the research tools to be developed, the term “refugee” is to be understood as covering both recognized refugees as well as persons granted subsidiary protection, including resettled and relocated refugees, as well as stateless persons with refugee status.

Expected outputs & products

The selected Contractor (individual or legal entity) is expected to deliver the following products:

	Product	Calendar
1	Methodology for the Research, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Proposed structure (Table of contents) for final Report - Tools proposed for field survey – including Information sheet for Field Survey participants, consent forms, semi-structured interview Guidelines + Focus-Group Guidelines 	15 March: documents submitted to CNRR: 5 April: Feedback provided 10 April: documents finalized
2	Report, including Field Survey and Policy Recommendations,	15 August – Interim Report



	comprising: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Executive Summary and summary of methodology - General introduction section – incl. analysis of legislative and policy framework - Field survey description and results, incl. excerpts from interviews and focus groups (Note: Field survey is to be carried out between April and August - Recommendations section 	10 September – Feedback provided 20 September – Final version provided.
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Details regarding Field Survey: The Field Survey will consist of individual interviews and focus groups mainstreaming age, gender and diversity, The aim will be to assess several factors and dimensions linked to refugees’ economic, social, cultural and civic life, such as:

- access to rights (education, employment, social assistance, housing, family unity etc.)
- coverage of basic needs;
- interaction with Romanian society and cultural orientation towards society
- level of satisfaction and expectation with respect to their experiences in receiving services, assistance and counseling from public institutions and NGOs;
- feeling of belonging;
- the perceived acceptance by the host society;
- satisfaction with regard to living standards pre-and post arrival expectations, positive and negative experiences and how these influence integration outcomes – if at all. *An aim is also to capture any differences in perception and experiences between newly arrived refugees and the population of refugees that has already spent over 3 years in Romania.*

A minimum of 50 individual interviews as well as at least six focus group discussions (with 4-12 participants each) will be held with refugees, in 6-10 locations, not limited to Reception Centers (Integration Centers and in general cities with more significant concentration of refugee population will be prioritized).. The interviews/focus group discussions are to be carried out in semi-structured formats. The Contractor’s proposed Interviewing Guidelines will be subject to consultation with CNRR and UNHCR before being used for conducting interviews/focus group discussions.

Sessions with service providers: the research project involves the organization and implementation of at least 6 discussion sessions in different locations for service providers dealing with refugee integration. The session will be a forum for information exchange on issues, challenges and good practices that service providers encounter in their work with beneficiaries. Participants of the service providers should be drawn from:

- Child protection staff working for Child Protection Centres / authorities; teachers, school inspectors, etc.
- Staff of NGOs that provide services to beneficiaries.



Duration of contract

01. 03. 2018 – 01.10.2018

Duties

In delivering the above-mentioned products, the Contractor is expected to:

- Prepare instruments and propose the Contents of the Research
- establish priorities over which type of data is basic, significant and relevant for collection, in collaboration with CNRR and UNHCR, in light of the research's objective;
- draft and finalize the tools to be used – methodology for data collection (surveys, interviews, focus groups, target group, research sample) together with CNRR and UNHCR;
- conduct interviews and focus groups in 6-10 selected locations hosting significant refugee populations
- assess, synthesize and interpret collected data in the Report, broken down by age, gender and country of origin.

Expected Result

The final report of the research will be drafted in English and provided in both hard copy and electronic form.

Submission of proposals and conditions for applicants

The applicants (individual or entity - non-governmental organization, research institute, researchers, etc.) should:

- Have demonstrated experience in the field of migration and/or asylum **research**
- Be familiarized with Romanian, European and international standards and legislation in the field of refugee protection and integration.
- Have excellent writing, analytical, data processing skills;
- Have excellent command of spoken and written English.

Interested parties are encouraged to apply by sending:

1. a CV of the researcher/team;
2. Technical proposal for the research, including detailed work-plan, calendar, brief description of proposed methodology, table of contents, proposed approach etc. [max. 10 pages]
3. Financial proposal for the research (budget, with breakdown of envisaged costs – e.g. fees for researchers, travel, printing cost, communication and interpretation costs etc.)
4. List of publications/ previous work in the field
5. 1 Writing Sample [10 pages max.], on a topic relevant to the research

Deadline: The proposal should be submitted by **10th of February 2018.**



Evaluation and Selection

For the award of this contract, CNRR has established evaluation criteria which govern the selection of offers received. Evaluation will be made on a technical and financial basis. The percentage assigned to each component is determined in advance as follows:

i) Technical Evaluation

The technical proposals will be evaluated using the criteria in the table below and percentage distribution: 60% from total score

	Technical evaluation criteria	Max. score obtainable	Min. score required
1. Qualifications	Experience in migration/asylum research	20	
	Knowledge on refugee protection/integration		
	Writing sample on a relevant topic		
2. Proposed approach and solutions to the requirements	Description of service capacity, incl. work-plan, methodology, etc.	40	
	Proposed researcher/team		
Total:		60	

Only proposals meeting the minimum technical score (30) will pass to the financial evaluation stage.

ii) Financial Evaluation

The financial proposal will use the following percentage distribution: 40 % from the total score.

The maximum number of points will be allotted to the lowest price offer. All other price offers will receive points in inverse proportion to the lowest price, e.g. $40 \times [\text{lowest price proposal}] \setminus [\text{price of other proposal}]$ = no. of points allotted for other supplier's Price Proposal.

Following an assessment of all proposals submitted, and if your proposal is deemed appropriate (content and budget wise) you may be invited for a discussion regarding the terms of the Contract.



Supervision

The Contractor will be under the direct supervision of the CNRR Project Coordinator and the overall supervision of UNHCR Protection Officer/Senior Protection Associate. Work will be closely coordinated with CNRR and UNHCR.

Any Contract concluded as a result of this Call for Proposals will provide the costs in local currency (RON). Payments shall only be initiated after confirmation by CNRR of successful completion of each stage of the assignment (details to be outlined in the Contract)..

Please send all documents to: office@cnrr.ro, carcu@cnrr.ro

For additional information, please contact us by using the email address office@cnrr.ro, carcu@cnrr.ro.