REACHing: REinforcing Assistance to viCtims of Human trafficking in European asylum and integration systems through field interventions by mobile teams

Forum réfugiés is coordinating and implementing a new European project in partnership with French, Italian and Greek organisations. The REACHing project (REinforcing Assistance to viCtims of Human trafficking) aims primarily to strengthen the capacities of frontline professionals to identify and support asylum seekers and beneficiaries of international protection who are victims of human trafficking, and to provide direct assistance and awareness-raising messages to victims and potential victims of human trafficking in three European Union (EU) countries.

The REACHing project, coordinated by Forum réfugiés, will run for 24 months (July 2025 – June 2027) and is being carried out in partnership with three Italian and Greek associations and two French organisations:

- Forum réfugiés (coordinator)
- Greek Council for Refugees (GCR)
- International Rescue Committee Italia (IRC Italia)
- CESIE ETS (European Centre of Studies and Initiatives, Italia)
- MIPROF (Mission interministérielle pour la protection des femmes contre les violences et la lutte contre la traite des êtres humains - Interministerial Mission for the Protection of Women against Violence and the Fight against Human Trafficking)
- Université Clermont Auvergne

In a context where trafficking in human beings (THB) is evolving with new modus operandi and growing challenges, the REACHing project represents an innovative and operational response focused on the issue of THB in European asylum and integration systems.

This project, co-funded by the European Union (AMIF), involves setting-up mobile teams in France, Italy and Greece, managed by Forum réfugiés, ICR Italia and GCR.

The mobile teams, composed in each of the three countries of two employees specializing in issues related to human trafficking (THB) in the context of asylum (plus interpreters and/or cultural mediators), will operate in several territories for 18 months

on the basis of a common intervention framework adapted to the national context and needs.

In these territories, their main tasks consist of:

- Supporting professionals working in structures and facilities that receive and assist asylum seekers and refugees by strengthening their capacities through awareness-raising sessions on issues related to THB and by providing them with support in identifying and assisting victims of THB who are asylum seekers or beneficiaries of international protection.
- Providing assistance to asylum seekers and beneficiaries of international protection who are victims or potential victims of THB through group information and awareness-raising sessions, as well as tailored individual support.

In addition to the objectives of strengthening the capacities of professionals and providing direct assistance to victims and potential victims of THB through the intervention of mobile teams, the REACHing project aims to:

- Facilitate the exchange of knowledge, tools and good practices between European partners.
- Strengthen cooperation with institutional actors and other stakeholders at local, national and European level on issues related to international protection and trafficking in human beings.
- Share operational experiences and good practices and strengthen cooperation between European partners and actors from a non-EU country, a transit country for migrants who are victims of human trafficking on migration routes.

The REACHing project will include events aimed at sharing experiences, expertise and findings, and will result in the production of several deliverables that Forum réfugiés will publish on its website.

This project is a continuation of the European TRACKS project, which focused on the identification and response to the needs of trafficked asylum seekers, and the European TRIPS project, which aimed to better identify trafficked beneficiaries of international protection's special needs.

Co-funded by the European Union

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