



MARRI - Migration, Asylum, Refugees Regional Initiative

STABILITY PACT FOR SOUTH EASTERN EUROPE

ACCESS to RIGHTS

Moving from Refugee Status to Citizenship

Project Document



Draft 2

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1. Project Summary

More than one million refugees and displaced persons in the Western Balkans are still in need of a sustainable solution. Furthermore, thousands of the 1.5 million persons who have returned or decided to settle elsewhere since the end of the wars in Bosnia-Herzegovina, Croatia, and Kosovo have not found sustainable solutions to their plight.

In order to demonstrate their political and democratic maturity, states in the Western Balkans now have to show their willingness, readiness and determination to create the necessary conditions in the areas of security and non-discriminatory access to economic, social and cultural rights that will allow each and every refugee and displaced person to exercise a free choice whether to return to their place of origin or to settle elsewhere. Return to the place of origin must, however, remain the priority solution. Respecting the free choice of the individual refugee or displaced person implies that other solutions than return must also be supported. To exercise such a free choice would mean that persons are free to choose their own future, which requires that all conditions be in place for the choice to be truly voluntary and free. Access to property and other acquired rights, like pensions, can in no way depend on whether or not a refugee or IDP opts for return or local integration in the country of refuge.

Action is required at three levels: political, legal and operational and will be facilitated by the Project.

1. *At the political level*, a statement from the Heads of States of the region has been encouraged, reiterating the willingness of the governments in SEE to create conditions for the return of all remaining refugees and displaced persons and uphold their human rights. At the same time, such a statement would need to declare without ambiguity that, whether they opt to return or settle elsewhere, all former refugees and displaced persons will be treated with all the equal economic, social and cultural rights linked to citizenship. *A political framework and endorsement of the goal of programme will be achieved through a joint commitment of the concerned governments and institutions within the Framework of the MARRI Regional Forum, the Stability Pact and SEECF.*
2. *At the legal level*, action in two areas will be taken. First, it will be essential to examine citizenship issues (also against the background of the former SFRY), conditions for granting citizenship, issues of dual citizenship (conditions, rights and duties) as well as to guard against action leading to Statelessness. Secondly, it will also be necessary to analyze all existing legislation as well as identify legal shortcomings in order to ensure that the rule of law is the basis for the access of citizens, who may have been considered as refugees until now, to the relevant rights and the enjoyment thereof. *Preparatory research prior to implementation and establishment of adequate structures will be carried out by an independent research team also addressing specific issues such as citizenship and statelessness.*

3. *At the operational level, there is a need to systematically identify all the relevant areas of access to rights and define the necessary (affirmative) action and initiatives to be taken to realize those rights. Furthermore, it is important to establish benchmarks and arrangements for monitoring that action is taken (and how). Among the areas that need to be addressed are: security conditions; non-discriminatory access to property including, repossession, reconstruction and resolution of tenancy/occupancy rights, non-discriminatory access to education; anti-discrimination legislation to ensure fair and proportionate representation of minorities in employment. A regional project team/secretariat will be established to support regional and national processes and to accompany the overall implementation during the inception phase.*

Finally, action will be taken to define and develop the role of local government, local and regional civil society in creating the conditions for sustainable solutions and in ensuring and monitoring that refugees, displaced persons and other vulnerable groups are indeed granted access to rights.

The project is a result of extensive discussions and consultations within the context of MARRI and its Steering Committee and based on the recommendations of the Regional Programme of Action. As such it will provide the neutral platform on national and regional level to facilitate the identification and development of activities, aiming at building on existing initiatives, projects and efforts by the stakeholders. It is expected that the project will generate the necessary cohesion, subsequently resulting in better-focused resource mobilization when and where necessary in support of government, civil society networks and institutions.

The MARRI Secretariat will initially oversee the project implementation pending the establishment and operationalization of the MARRI Regional Forum and the MARRI Regional Center. The Danish Refugee Council will facilitate the implementation and administration of the project. Stakeholders of the project will be the concerned governments in SEE, civil society networks, international institutions and organizations and bi-lateral and multi-lateral donors.

1.1 Applicant Agency

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Legal authorisation to operate: n/a

Country covered by authorisation: n/a

1.2 Implementing Partner(s) If Different:

Danish Refugee Council

1.3 Title and Reference Number of Project:

Access to Rights in South Eastern Europe - ATR

1.4 Location(s) of Project:

South Eastern Europe - Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Serbia and Montenegro, Macedonia, Albania

1.5 Aim of Project:

Achieve unimpeded and non-discriminatory access to all those still displaced citizens of the region (5 SAp countries) to their basic human, economic and social rights in the five years to come and eventually expand to larger groups of vulnerable citizens in the region

1.6 Target Group and approx. number of beneficiaries of project (direct & indirect):

Initially 900,000 displaced and refugees as well as vulnerable population in the region

1.7 Duration of Project:

3 years

1.8 Total Cost of Project (€ - Euros):

Regional and national direct implementation costs estimated at € - Euro 1,000,000 for the first 12 months - and subsequently € - Euro 800,000. - per annum.

1.9 Amount Requested from Development Cooperation Ireland (€ - Euros):

€ - Euro 300.000.-

1.10 Other Sources of Funding (Details of Applications submitted & funding secured)

Government of Denmark- amount to be confirmed;

1.11 Bank Account Details - tbc

1.12 Date and Signature by authorised person (and note of his/her name and title)

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2.1 PROJECT BACKGROUND

At the EU/Western Balkan Summit in Thessaloniki on 21 June 2003, the Declaration stated that "...Sustainable return of refugees and internally displaced persons is critical for ethnic reconciliation and an index of democratic maturity; it remains high on our priority agenda...". Furthermore, the Agenda of the Thessaloniki Summit, endorsed by the EU Council of Ministers encourages "...further return of refugees and internally displaced persons and fully supports relevant regional activities, notably MARRI..."

In the Presidential Statement of 15 July 2002, following the Summit among the leaders of Bosnia-Herzegovina, Croatia and (then) FRY, the presidents confirmed their "...willingness to create conditions for the return of all refugees and displaced persons who wish to return, in safety and dignity, considering this an indispensable factor for full normalization of the relations between our countries...". And in June and July 2003, both the Prime Minister of Croatia and the leaders of the Kosovo Albanian community have called on respective refugees and displaced persons to return to their homes.

Present situation

More than one million refugees and displaced persons in the Western Balkans are still in need of a sustainable solution. Furthermore, thousands of the more than 1.5 million persons who have returned or decided to settle elsewhere since the end of the wars in Bosnia-Herzegovina, Croatia and Kosovo have not found sustainable solutions to their plight.

There are both obvious humanitarian and political reasons to move decisively forward towards an early and lasting solution to the problem of refugees and displaced persons in the region. Firstly, leaving hundreds of thousands of persons in economic and social limbo and misery is an affront to humanity and contrary to the values that underlie the European community of nations. Secondly, these marginalized and socially dislocated groups, together with other social "losers" in the transition from war to peace and from closed to open societies, represent a serious threat to political stability and social cohesion in the region. Thirdly, normalization and good neighborly relations in the region will not be possible as long as more than one million persons are referred to and treated as refugees from other countries in the region. Their continued plight is a far too visible reminder of the painful past and an obstacle in the way of reconciliation and democratization. They are a manifestation of the separatist forces of the past rather than being seen as potential assets in the integration of the future. Fourthly, there is no way that the European Community will allow the integration of states and of a region carrying with them a baggage of more than one million refugees and displaced persons.

In order to demonstrate their political and democratic maturity, states in the Western Balkans now have to show their willingness, readiness and determination to create the necessary conditions in the areas of security and non-discriminatory access to economic, social and cultural rights that will allow each and every refugee and displaced person to exercise a free choice whether to return to their place of origin or to settle elsewhere. It should be stressed that return to the place of origin must remain the priority solution. However, respecting the free choice of the individual refugee or displaced person implies that other solutions than return must also be supported. To exercise such a free choice would mean that persons are free to choose their own future, which requires that all conditions be in place for the choice to be truly voluntary and free. Access to property and other acquired rights, like pensions, can in no way be depending on whether or not a refugee or IDP opts for return or local integration in the country of refuge.

Action

Action is required at three levels: political, legal and operational.

At the political level, a statement from the Heads of States of the region would be encouraged and highly appreciated, reiterating their willingness to create conditions for the return of all remaining refugees and displaced persons and upholding their human rights. At the same time, such a statement should declare without ambiguity that, whether they opt to return or settle elsewhere, all former refugees and displaced persons are treated with all the equal economic, social and cultural rights linked to citizenship. Such a statement would mark the beginning of the end of the refugee phase and contribute to the development of good and mature neighborly relations. It would place human security at the center of the agenda leading towards European integration.

At the legal level, there is a need for action in two areas. First, it will be essential to examine citizenship issues (also against the background of the former SFRY), conditions for granting citizenship, issues of dual citizenship (conditions, rights and duties) as well as to guard against action leading to Statelessness. Secondly, it will also be necessary to analyze all existing legislation as well as identify legal shortcomings in order to ensure that the rule of law is the basis for the access of citizens, who may have been considered as refugees until now, to the relevant rights and the enjoyment thereof. Action in this area would build and draw on initiatives already underway, for example by UNHCR, OSCE and the Council of Europe. An inventory of existing initiatives would be an important first step.

At the operational level, there is a need to systematically identify all the relevant areas of access to rights, define the necessary (affirmative) action and initiatives to be taken to realize those rights. Furthermore, it is important to establish benchmarks and arrangements for monitoring that action is taken (and how). Such monitoring can also be helpful in measuring progress towards

European integration efforts. Among the areas that need to be addressed are: security conditions; non-discriminatory access to property including, repossession, reconstruction and resolution of tenancy/occupancy rights, non-discriminatory access to education; anti-discrimination legislation to ensure fair and proportionate representation of minorities in employment.

Finally, action is required to define and develop the role of local government, local and regional civil society in creating the conditions for sustainable solutions and in ensuring and monitoring that refugees, displaced persons and other vulnerable groups are indeed granted access to rights. Many organizations, both in the region and outside, are already active in this field and the MARRI initiative should build on work in progress. There are already contacts between Civil Society and MARRI to coordinate our action.

Conclusion

The Thessaloniki Summit took a decisive step in encouraging and supporting the states and the region of the Western Balkans to break with the past and to chart the future course towards integration into the European Union. Leaving the painful legacy of the refugee problem behind and moving forward to integrate the refugees, displaced persons and other vulnerable groups as citizens with all the inherent rights would be a clear demonstration of the maturity and determination of the leaders and peoples of the region to move ahead towards European membership and of their commitment towards the values that are at the heart of European integration.

2.2 PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The project is a result of extensive discussions and consultations within the context of MARRI and its Steering Committee and based on the recommendations of the Regional Programme of Action. As such it will provide the neutral platform on national and regional level to facilitate the identification and development of activities, aiming at building on existing initiatives, projects and efforts by the stakeholders. It is expected that the project will generate the necessary cohesion, subsequently resulting in better-focused resource mobilization when and where necessary in support of government, civil society networks and institutions.

The MARRI Secretariat will initially oversee the project implementation pending the establishment and operationalization of the MARRI Regional Forum and the MARRI Regional Center. The Danish Refugee Council will facilitate the implementation and administration of the project. Stakeholders of the project will be the concerned governments in SEE, civil society networks, international institutions and organizations and bi-lateral and multi-lateral donors.

Goal:

The project aims to at achieving unimpeded and non-discriminatory access to all those still displaced citizens of the region (5 SAp countries) to their basic human, economic and social rights in the five years to come and eventually expand to larger groups of vulnerable citizens in the region.

Objectives:

More specifically the project will focus on the following:

- Identification of shortcomings and gaps in the legal framework, the relevant implementation instruments and the level of access of the citizens to these with specific attention to property rights, social rights such as pensions, health and education, employment and citizenship.
- Agreement and consensus on the status, gaps and adequate action through a consultative process on national and regional level, bringing state and non-state actors, including civil society, to cooperate.
- Introduction and implementation of sustainable national and regional mechanisms for monitoring and reporting on the progress of implementation.

2.3 PROJECT ACTIVITIES AND OUTPUTS

Activities:

The following elements will be required for implementation:

1. *A political framework and endorsement of the goal of programme to be achieved through a joint commitment of the concerned governments and institutions within the Framework of the MARRI Regional Forum, the Stability Pact and SEECP.*

In connection with the establishment of the MARRI Regional Forum, the draft concept and implementation plan, as prepared by the regional project team (MARRI), will be presented, discussed and be endorsed. Necessary national coordination of relevant state, non-state (civil-society) and international actors must be based, to the extent possible, on existing national consultative structures and civil society networks (i.e. joint legal working group in Croatia or national SEE-RAN/HRN groups) and be placed in the context of the MARRI Regional Forum. These mechanisms will be developed, utilized, strengthened, enlarged and enhanced as appropriate, bringing the national and regional actors together in a constructive dialogue and concerted action.

2. *A regional project team/secretariat to support regional and national processes and to accompany the overall implementation during the inception phase.*

A small team (2-3 persons), drawn from staff of regional NGO' and international NGO' networks, is required to provide the necessary regional backstopping and secretariat to the activities under the programme and should report directly to the high level steering group of the Regional Forum, once established. The team will develop the implementation plan, foster consensus on issues and establish initial monitoring and reporting mechanisms, based on the research carried out in the preparatory phase. The Danish Refugee Council on behalf of the stakeholders will initially contract the team.

3. *Preparatory research prior to implementation and establishment of adequate structures*

Based on the initial overviews prepared by the MARRI Secretariat (now available as draft papers for Serbia & Montenegro, including Kosovo, Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina) 6 months of consultancy, supported by research assistance (interns), will be required to finalize a detailed overview and mapping of the legal framework and issues to be addressed to serve as basis for national discussions. A specialist will carry out research on specific issues such as citizenship and statelessness within this period.

Activity Output Indicators

- Analysis of the legal framework and identification of shortcomings and gaps and the relevant implementation instruments and the level of access of the citizens to these.
- Measurable indicator: Country chapters with baseline information on the access to rights situation including a regional overview to be finalized in August 04.
- Agreement and consensus on the status, gaps and adequate action through a consultative process on national and regional level among state and non-state actors, including civil society by the end of 2004.
- Measurable indicator: Active regional discourse on ATR (April), Meeting of Consortium (March), Meeting of SEE governments (April), Agreed paper on gaps and priority areas (May), Establishment of Technical Working Groups (May/June).
- Introduction and implementation of sustainable national and regional mechanisms for monitoring and reporting on the progress of implementation.
- Measurable indicator: Regular progress reports to be presented by the project team. National working plans at the latest by the end of 2004.

2.4 BENEFICIARIES

The current number of registered IDPs and Refugees totals some 900.000 persons in SEE (As of 31 December 2003):

Croatia: 4,195 refugees

	12,566 IDPs
BiH:	22,510 refugees
	327,188 IDPs
Albania:	112 refugees
fYROM:	2,478 refugees
	2,678 IDPs
Serbia & Montenegro	289,680 refugees
	224,833 IDPs
(Kosovo)	1,400 refugees
	27,200 IDPs

Vulnerable and destitute sections of the population in need of better and non-discriminatory access to services and rights are estimated to reach up to 20-25 % of the overall population. Citizens belonging to national minorities and particularly the Roma in SEE, experience difficulties accessing their rights

- **Target beneficiaries:** A detailed gender/age breakdown is not available but should be one of the outputs of the project. In addition, 20,000 Collective Center inhabitants require special attention and a high percentage of aged and disabled persons and women-held households is observed amongst the DPRES.
- **Reason for selection of these beneficiaries:** According to recent research (WB ECSS) IDPs and refugees are the most disadvantaged and discriminated amongst the poorest sections of society.
- **Beneficiary participation in design of project:** Civil Society networks and counselling services (DIHR-HRN, NHLO) have provided the necessary baseline and substantial input on selection of key issues thus far.
- **Anticipated role of beneficiaries in project implementation:** Beneficiaries will be represented by civil society networks in national and regional coordination for a.

2.5 COORDINATION

The overall objective of MARRI is to establish a professional and political Forum composed of Ministers and Senior Officials responsible for migration, asylum, border management, visa and refugee return or settlement for exchange of information, experiences, lessons learned, best practices as well as to discuss and resolve issues of common interest and concern and develop a common vision for the region.

The MARRI PoA includes a series of recommendations for actions, which are linked to intensive exchange of information on developments and practices or to harmonization of standards. Such a Regional Forum will enable the five countries to better manage their cooperation and, hence, facilitate the implementation of the MARRI Programme of Action.

The Forum will bring together Ministers as well as senior officials of the five countries responsible for the areas covered under MARRI, i.e. asylum, migration, border management, entry/visa policy and sustainability of return.

Overall responsibility for the Forum will lay with the competent Ministers. In practice however most responsibilities will be delegated to the senior officials, who will be mandated by their respective Government to actively participate in the process. The five SAp countries will commit themselves to support the work of the Forum as described below.

In addition to formal cooperation under the auspices of the Ministers a great deal of informal cooperation will take place among and between the countries in the region. The meetings of the Forum shall take place at an informal level, i.e. the Forum and its sub-committees should provide a platform for internal consultations and recommendations but without binding decisions being taken. The latter shall be taken at national level only. It is understood, however, that the Forum will aim at resolving concrete problems in such a way that it may guide and influence national decision-making.

While cross-sector issues will be discussed in the general Forum, details related to the subject areas will be dealt with in five sub-committees of the Forum (i.e. asylum, migration, border management, entry/visa policy and sustainability of return.). Thus senior officials are able to focus their discussions according to specific needs.

The Forum and sub-committees will meet twice a year for two days, namely in spring and in autumn, possibly linked to the biannual meetings of the MARRI Steering Committee. The first day of the spring meeting will be in a plenary for discussion of cross sector issues while the sub-committees will meet on the second day. The autumn meeting will be split into a ministerial meeting (one day for in-depth policy discussion) and a meeting of the plenary and if necessary of the sub-committees. The individual sub-committees may need to meet more frequently. However this should be decided within each sub-committee.

The presidency, which will last for a year a time, will be held in turn by each of the five SAp countries, linked to or independent from the rotating SEECF Presidency. The presidency will be responsible for the convening and running of the two meetings and chair them. The presidency will also be in charge of organizing and chairing additional sub-committee meetings as required. Once the Forum is well in place and functioning, the Government presiding over the Forum could present a programme for the tenure.

The Forum will be composed of the five SAp countries only. Upon request of the Forum, guests/observers may be invited to join the meetings.

Each country will appoint a contact person who will serve as country coordinator for issues related to the general Forum (e.g. such as the SP coordinators). Country focal points for the individual sub-committees will be the respective head of offices.

The presidency will be assisted by one secretary, who will be administratively linked to and drawing on the MARRI Secretariat in Vienna and working part-time in the presidency country.

As regards the ATR project, coordination will be ensured in the Framework of the Regional Forum as follows:

1. Regional Forum & MARRI Center

- Regional Forum meets bi-annually at ministerial level and provides the political guidance and support.
- The regional MARRI Center being a permanent structure for capacity building, training, documentation, information exchange etc. will provide the host for secretariat and ensure information flow.

2. ATR ad hoc Steering Committee/ Advisory Board

- The Steering Committee (SC) brings together SEE Governments and Consortium members (consisting of relevant IOs, NGOs and active donor governments) on an ad hoc basis for strategic consultation and policymaking.
- Its' Secretariat or project team will be part of the regional MARRI Center and consists of a selected project manager & assistant and initially a 2-3-person research team (1 general researcher, 1 expert on citizenship questions, 1 assistant).

3. National and Regional Technical Working Groups

- Regional and National Issue Specific Working Groups (on property, housing, employment, health/pension, education and citizenship) will be established and supported through the project team/secretariat bringing SEE government representatives, civil society networks and IO representatives together when and where appropriate.

4. Facilitator for ATR Initiative

- Danish Refugee Council (DRC) will be the project facilitator. All financial recourses will be managed by the DRC for the following project elements: (1) research team, (2) project team, (3) meetings/travel costs for participants in the process.

5. Potential Stakeholders and Contributing Parties to the ATR Project

A coalition of the concerned parties will be built through the steering committee. The following governments, organizations and institutions are expected to be involved in the process, others may join:

- The Governments of Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Macedonia, Serbia and Montenegro.

- Danish Refugee Council, Danish Human Rights Center (SEE-RAN-HRN), Danish Government, Norwegian Refugee Council
- European Commission
- Council of Europe
- US Government, USAID, German Marshall Fund, IRC
- UK Government, DFID
- Government of Switzerland, SDC (NHLO)
- OSI, Soros
- International Alliances (NL)
- German Human Rights Institute
- UNHCHR, UNHCR, UNDP
- UNMIK
- IOM, ICMPD
- OSCE
- World Bank

2.6 IMPACT

The expected impact will be foremost achieved through the focus on trustbuilding and sustainable cooperation of state and non-state actors on key issues affecting initially the displaced populations and later vulnerable and larger sections of the society.

Although the project in its design is rather a tool to engage concerned parties in a process, ultimately aiming at improving the non-discriminatory rights of citizens, the measurable long term impact would be a coherent legal framework and implementation instruments, including legal advice and counselling, based on international standards such as Council of Europe Policy and EU *acquis*.

2.7 PROJECT SUSTAINABILITY

Project implementation will be steered in the context of the MARRI Regional Forum, which is expected to be a process carried forward by the countries of SEE in their EU accession efforts. Similar to the Scandinavian consultative process further sub-regional cooperation mechanisms on asylum, migration are also expected to continue at a later stage. It is expected, however, that the ATR project would lead to an institutionalized and permanent national consultative process on citizens' rights involving state and non-state actors. International and external support to this regional project supporting national structures is initially planned to be phased out after three years of project implementation. The situation and requirements will, however, be reviewed periodically by the stakeholders involved in the Steering Committee. Needs and resource requirement analyses will be developed in each of the countries in the course of the project identifying adequate implementation mechanisms and timeframe.

Existing networks, initiatives, projects and national structures will form an entire part of the project, which aims at further enhancing possible synergies. Citizens capacity in SEE will be enhanced to actively participate in policymaking and the development of a society based on the “Rule of Law”.

2.8 RISKS AND ALTERNATIVE STRATEGIES

The success of the project is subject to a political endorsement by the governments of the region of the proposed concept and consequently adequate remedial action to problems encountered. Although written endorsements have been received from governments and the Regional Forum is expected to endorse the initiative in early April, the implementation might be hampered by a lack of understanding and implementation on the side of concerned structures or slow establishment of the necessary for a on national level. Antagonistic positions of civil society and state have often prevented constructive dialogue and joint action to address shortcomings and trust must be built as a pre-condition. The key to success of the initiative is to ensure the full neutrality of research and project facilitation, which can be respected by all involved parties.

The respect for the sensitivity of some of the issues, the need for the constituents of the initiative to develop trust and understanding of the added value of a constructive dialogue, but also the fact that time is required, will be the underlying principle of this important endeavour.

The clearly stated intention of the five SAp countries to enter the European Union and to demonstrate that measurable progress is being made in the field of the Rule of Law and access to Citizens rights, based on international; standards will provide a major incentive for all state parties to cooperate. The CIS or CIREFCA processes and resulting constructive dialogue of civil society and state provides an example and best practice.

2.9 TIMELINE

The project with its regional structures, including the project team, is initially designed for a period of 3 years (to be reviewed), while national structures are expected to continue their work independently for the years to come. The regional project will rely on external resources for at least three years and should be co-financed by a range of donors to ensure additional neutrality and continuity. National activities resulting from the development of the action plans will need to be financed through bi- or multi lateral country programmes.

Expected Timeline for 2004:

March: Recruitment of Research Team
 Consortium Meeting, Belgrade

April:	SEE Governments Regional Consultation
May:	Steering Committee Recruitment of Project team
June:	Finalize draft baseline papers International Conference on financing of citizen rights approach
June-Dec:	Technical Working Groups
November/Dec:	Draft National Action Plans
2005-2006:	Implementation, Monitoring, Review.

2.10 MONITORING AND EVALUATION

The entire project implementation will be monitored and evaluated by the Regional Forum and the ATR Steering Committee representing the stakeholders, initially supported by the MARRI Secretariat and later by the Regional Center. The Danish Refugee Council is responsible for facilitating the administration of funds and staff and will through its accounting and auditing procedures be responsible for reporting on the use of donor funds. The Project team will provide substantial progress reports through the Steering Committee.

3. AGENCY INFORMATION (to be provided by DRC)

4. BUDGET

The budget developed below is indicative at this stage pending finalization of implementation arrangements and would cover activities from 3/2004 until 3/2005. It is expected that bi-lateral, multi-lateral financing or state budgeting where applicable would cover thereafter national activities. The regional team will need to be maintained for a period of three years covering staff related and regional aspects of the programme, estimated at some Euro 700-800,000 per annum (including seminars, conferences and additional research).

Timeframe and estimated budget

4.1. Research prior to implementation can be begin with immediate effect (March/April 2004) and should be carried out by an experienced legal expert with a focus on property and social rights, seconded by a specialist on citizenship issues:

2x 6 months intl. consultancy	Euro 15,000.- per month	180,000.-
Office, supplies and equipment	Euro 1,500.- per month	18,000.-
Travel - 20 trips (tickets/DSA)	Euro 1,500.- per trip	30,000.-
Overheads, Miscellaneous 15%		34,200.-
Total		€ <u>262,200.-</u>

4.2. *The project support team/secretariat* would be required as of April/May 2004 being based in the Region and to integrate into the context of the regional forum and a regional center in the course of the year. This function should be combined with the initial research project.

24 months intl. Staff	Euro 12,000.- per month	288,000.-
Office, supplies and equipment	lumpsum	30,000.-
Travel - 40 trips (tickets/DSA)	Euro 1,500.- per trip	60,000.-
Overheads, Miscellaneous, Reserve 15%		56,700.-
Total:		€ <u>434,700</u>

Regional and in-country consultative mechanisms involving government, civil society and international institutions will require strong support in the first year of implementation. It is proposed to use a special regional fund, managed by the regional team also in support of national activities such as workshops, training and research to allow to ensure stop gapping, pending national project development and funding through national and international sources.

Regional meetings, conferences, training, research		150,000.-
Support to national activities		200,000.-
Total:		€ <u>350,000.-</u>

Grand Total: € **996,900**

