



IRIS Networking
CSOs for protection sensitive
migration management



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IV REGIONAL SOCIAL ACADEMY OF IRIS NETWORK
“Independent living and deinstitutionalization in West Balkan.
Are we there yet?”

Online event, 20-22 October 2021.

Call for Applicants



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IRIS (Network of CSOs providers of social services) and **Arbeiter-Samariter-Bund Deutschland e.V.** are announcing the Call for participants of the Regional Social Academy, which will be held in online from **20th to 22nd October 2021**.

THE FOCUS

The Academy offers participants a unique opportunity to benefit from a diversified training package, increase capacities of their CSOs, regarding the service provision in process of deinstitutionalization and independent living of vulnerable groups (people with disabilities, children and elderly). Participants will attend 3 day tailor-made training consisted of different learning methodologies including lectures, workshops, discussions and case studies. The Academy program will enable further improvements and optimization to the needs, interests and constraints of the target groups and their institutional and organizational environments. Through a series of lectures and practical workshops participants of the Academy will:

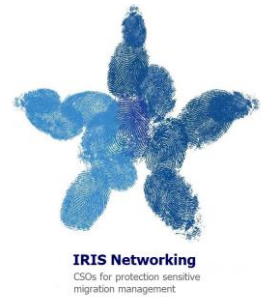
- Have better understanding of legal and policy framework on deinstitutionalization and independent living service on European and national level;
- Increase the understanding of Independent living and mapping the realities of independent living of vulnerable population across WB region;
- Improve their skills to direct their action in accordance with the main legal and political frameworks/provisions that can be utilized for service of independent living;
- Equipped with a practical understanding of the models of independent living service provision;
- Be able to formulate an action plan of constructive changes which participants can make to their work situations when providing service of independent living;
- Be part of the community of stakeholders around the Academy Alumni concept to ensure wide engagement and sustainability beyond the project duration.

ELIGIBILITY OF THE PARTICIPANTS

Ideal participant should:

- **Be mid-career professionals** (at least 4 years of engagement) from one of the following sectors: (i) Civil Society Organizations representatives active in offering service of independent living/planning to introduce the service to their organisation, (ii) Think tanks, researcher and academics working on deinstitutionalisation and independent living for vulnerable population, (iii) Government bodies, institutions and agencies involved in related social policy/service provision.
- **Be at an inflection point.** Ready or expected to scale-up their projects, take up new challenges or positions or jump-start new ventures. Ideal candidate goals are aligned with IRIS network principles and he/she is willing to engage in promotion of the networks goals.
- **Be caring for the social good.** We want candidates focused not solely on their careers and personal success but rather people who see their success and positions as leverages to make contributions to society and to have a broader impact. Participants will be obliged to organise follow-up seminar/lectures in their communities on the issues discussed on the Academy.
- **Have leadership potential.** We look for talented people who also have passion and a track record of starting new initiatives and ventures, organizing and engaging people.
- **Bring diversity.** We look for diversity of gender, geography, politics, religion, and more.

The Academy will be offered in English. **Excellent command and understanding of the English language is precondition to the application.**



APPLICATION PROCEDURE

In order to apply, **fill out form on the following link shorturl.at/oFMX0**, proving all above mentioned eligibility requirements. Based on Call criteria and submitted applications, up to 40 participants will be selected from 5 countries (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, North Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia).

Deadline for application is 14th October 2021 at 17 p.m.

Final participant list **will be announced on the IRIS Network web site no later than 2 days upon** the closing of the Call for Applicants.

FOLLOW UP

Successful participants will obtain certificates, and enter **Academy Alumni**. **Upon the training each of the participants will be obliged to deliver informative session/workshop to their communities/organisations/institutions and report it to the ASB representatives. This activity must be completed in framework of 3 months upon the completion of the education.** Upon the training each of the participants will have the opportunity to participate on **Follow-up check-point session** which will be held on 2 weeks after the Academy, online.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

IRIS network connects more than 200 CSOs, providers of social services from Western Balkan region. Members of the IRIS network provide necessary social and health services to more than 10 000 beneficiaries each day. IRIS aims to strengthen the role of non-profit social service providers throughout SEE and to ensure that these organizations are recognized as equal partners by the public sector.

IRIS network was founded in 2012 and from the mere beginning it had a huge support from its partners in the European Union and in the Civil Society Facility program. Through its work IRIS network encourages a consensus among decision-makers, experts and civil society on the needs on effective coordination and use of available local resources and future EU funds earmarked for social inclusion of vulnerable and marginalized groups.

In February 2018, IRIS Network commenced new initiative within the project “IRIS NETWORKING-CSO for protection sensitive migration management” that is focusing on quality of the social service and policy improvement for the migrants in 5 countries of South East Europe (Albania, B&H, North Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia). Main objective of the project is to empower CSOs to be effective and accountable independent actors and to improve their capacity to dialogue with governments influencing policy and decision-making processes. Project is funded by European Union.

Regional Social Academy is part of the regular IRIS programme activities, organized annually.

CONTACTS

For more information on the IRIS Network visit <http://iris-see.eu/>

For and additional questions contact iris@iris-see.eu.