**Programme:** Economic and social participation of vulnerable displaced and local populations in the South Caucasus” (EPIC)

**PN:** 2017.4061.2-004.00

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**Activity**: Needs assessment of the target groups of foreign citizens, displaced persons residing in the Republic of Armenia (RA), as well as returnees from the perspective of the necessity of their integration or reintegration

**Period:** 25 March 2019 – 25 June 2019
 (up to 55 expert days)

1. **Project/Topic Background**

The programme on Economic and Social Participation of Vulnerable Displaced and Local Populations in the South Caucasus /EPIC was designed with the objective to improve socio-economic participation of vulnerable displaced and population of selected host communities in the South Caucasus.The Armenian component of the technical cooperation (TC) measure under the EPIC programme was launched in October 2018 aiming at economic integration of displaced persons from Syria.

The programme objective is translated into four closely related fields of activity:

1. Strengthening capacities of public actors to promote economic and social participation of vulnerable population, both displaced and local
2. Increasing employability of target groups with a special focus on women and youth;
3. Enabling private sector actors to apply new measures to promote local economic development and business start-ups
4. Empowering communities and their individuals to actively participate in society.

The South Caucasus, since 1991 has witnessed a number of regional conflicts that resulted in proportionally huge displacements of population and large communities of displaced in Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia. Different factors hamper the economic and social integration of displaced population in their host-communities, among them a lack of vocational qualifications and key competencies that match the demands of the local labour market and a lack of opportunities to participate in decisions about the local development in their host-communities.

Due to the war in Syria there was another significant movement to Armenia primarily of people with ethnic Armenian background. According to the Government of Armenia and UNHCR, the number of persons displaced from Syria currently present in Armenia is estimated to be around 15 000-17 000. While these figures are small in absolute numbers, they constitute a significant challenge for a small country such as Armenia. The government needed to expand its capacity to respond to the humanitarian challenges, elevate its process of naturalisation and prepare for the integration of thousands of new citizens into the labour market and larger society.

The RA government introduced a number of measures assisting persons displaced from Syria, offering them a variety of protection options, namely by way of (i) simplified acquisition of citizenship, (ii) accelerated asylum procedures or (iii) privileged granting of short, mid-term or long-term residence permits.

The quite heterogeneous and diverse in terms of professional background and skills group of Syrian Armenians (SAs) is welcomed with open arms by the RA government and society. This combination of i) SA enthusiasm, broad skills, experience especially in the Middle East and Mediterranean and service-orientation together with ii) Armenia’s declared interest and commitment for their integration supported by the international community offers excellent pre-conditions to tap into the many economic opportunities. This can possibly help Armenia’s economy to innovate and grow and open new markets regionally and internationally.

The core problem of SAs for their economic integration in Armenia had been the lack of access to existing business networks as well as to employment and business support programmes and finance in order to rebuild their livelihood. Therefore, the project for “Economic Integration of Syrian Refugees in Armenia” (EISRA) was commissioned by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) to improve the economic integration of Syrian refugees in Armenia. It was attached to the GIZ programme ‘Private Sector Development in South Caucasus (PSD SC)’ and its country component in Armenia. The project lasted for 3 years and ended in March 2018.

GIZ prioritizes gender mainstreaming in all its programmes and seeks for constant promoting gender equality.

1. **Conditions of the assignment**
	1. **Objective, relevance, tasks and deliverables**
2. **Objective**

Development of a common strategy for the policy of integration and reintegration of foreign citizens displaced persons residing in the Republic of Armenia, as well as for the persons returning to Armenia.

1. **Relevance**

It is envisaged by the “2017-2021 Action Plan for Effective Implementation of the Migration Strategy of the Republic of Armenia” approved by the RA Government Protocol Decree No 37 dated 31 August 2018 to develop, during 2019, and submit to the RA Government for approval a concept paper aimed at ensuring the reintegration of the RA citizens returning to the Republic of Armenia.

The necessity for development of this concept paper is determined by the fact that at present there is no comprehensive policy aimed at reintegration of migrants returning to Armenia, and no target polices are being implemented, there are also no specific functions defined for authorized state agencies. In fact, there are some programmes aimed at reintegration of returning citizens that are implemented mostly by NGOs, basically through the funding from international organizations and the countries sending back the migrants, with occasional involvement of some state agencies in the mentioned programmes. Such programmes, however, are not sustainable. The issue of coordination of programmes implemented by various agencies in this area still remains open, having its negative impact not only on the activities of state governance bodies, but also on the activities of international organizations and NGOs operating in this field and cooperation between the mentioned institutions. There is also a difference in the assistance packages offered within the frame of various programmes.

On the other hand, during recent years, there has been an increase in the number of migrants taking up their residence in Armenia for various purposes.

To address the needs of these persons the government has approved by the Protocol Decree No. 28, of July 21, 2016 the Policy Concept for Integration of Persons Recognized as Refugees and Granted Asylum in the Republic of Armenia, as well as for long-term migrants, adopting by the Protocol Decision N8, of February 23, 2017 also the action plan aimed at implementation the mentioned concept.

Basically, the measures implemented with the aim of integration of people returning to Armenia and the migrants residing in the Republic Armenia are the same: Armenian language courses, organization of civic orientation courses, solution of housing problems and economic integration through employment. The undertaken measures were not segregated based on the specificities of various target groups (including men and women) within the broader group of migrant population.

Therefore, to make the policies rolled out by the government in the mentioned area more comprehensive and to avoid unnecessary duplications, it was considered relevant to develop a common strategy for the policy of integration and reintegration of foreign citizens, stateless persons residing in the Republic of Armenia as well as for the persons returning to Armenia.

In the strategy design it is recommended to apply holistic approach by considering also social measures which will contribute to better integration

1. **Tasks**
2. Providing the outline of the target groups of foreign citizens, displaced persons residing in the Republic of Armenia in the context of the necessity of their integration or reintegration;
3. Identification of the main needs for integration and reintegration of migrants. refugees, asylum seekers, displaced persons residing in the Republic of Armenia, as well as for persons returning to Armenia, tackling both men and women;
4. Identification of institutions (state agencies, local self-government bodies, NGOs etc.) organizing the integration and reintegration processes and specification of the scope of functions for each of the institutions;
5. Proposal on the form of coordination of the activities of institutions organizing the integration and reintegration processes (council, platform, working group etc.);
6. Consulting gender expert of the programme on incorporating gender component into the strategy development;
7. Submission of financial evaluation for the strategy implementation indicating sources of financial means necessary for organizing the integration and reintegration processes (state budget, community budgets, resources of international organizations and NGOs etc.).
8. Presentation and consultations on the draft strategy with the Working Group established for development of a single strategy paper on integration of forcibly displaced persons residing in the Republic of Armenia, and reintegration of the RA citizens returning to Armenia.
9. Presentation of the draft single strategy on integration of foreign citizens, displaced persons residing the Republic of Armenia and reintegration of persons returning to Armenia to GIZ and the Migration Service of the Ministry of Territorial Administration and Development of the Republic of Armenia, revision of the draft strategy based on the recommendation and remarks submitted by the latter.
	1. **Deliverables and resources**

| **Deliverables** | **Timeline** |
| --- | --- |
| 1. **Prepare and present a concept for the single strategy development *(in English language)***
 | 1. ***April 2019***
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| 1. Providing the outline of the target groups
 | *3 days* |
| 1. Identification of the main needs for integration and reintegration of the target group
 | *5 days* |
| 1. Identification of institutions (state agencies, local self-government bodies, NGOs etc.) organizing the integration and reintegration processes
 | *2 days* |
| **II. Develop a proposal on coordination of activities among different stakeholders and make financial analysis for the resources needed for integration and reintegration processes (*in /Armenian language)*** | ***26 April 2019*** |
| 1. Proposal on the form of coordination of the activities of institutions organizing the integration and reintegration processes (council, platform, working group etc.)
 | *3 days* |
| 1. Submission of financial evaluation for the strategy implementation indicating sources of financial means necessary for organizing the integration and reintegration processes (state budget, community budgets, resources of international organizations and NGOs etc.).
 | *7 days* |
| **III. Develop a single strategy on integration of foreign citizens, displaced persons residing the Republic of Armenia and reintegration of persons returning to Armenia *(in Armenian language)*** | ***20 June 2019*** |
| 1. Presentation of the draft strategy on a regular basis to the Working Group and the final one in PPT (with up to 25 slides)
 | *5 days* |
| 1. Draft a single strategy on integration of foreign citizens, displaced persons residing the Republic of Armenia and reintegration of persons returning to Armenia to GIZ and the Migration Service of the Ministry of Territorial Administration and Development of the Republic of Armenia
 | *30 days* |
| 1. Present draft strategy paper GIZ EPIC and Migration Service; finalise the paper based on the received comments
 | *Draft* ***by 10 June 2019*** *for discussion.****Final paper*** *to GIZ EPIC and Migration Service based on comments and discussions* ***by 20 June 2019.*** |

* 1. **Conditions and payment terms**

Payment shall be effected based on the type of remuneration, following the performance of services, submission of reports, acceptance of services performed and invoicing.If travel to Yerevan or other places in Armenia is necessary, then the possibly required number and cost of travel should be clearly stated in the offer.

* 1. **Coordination and communication**

The strategy for the policy of integration and reintegration of foreign citizens, displaced persons residing in the Republic of Armenia, as well as for the persons returning to the Republic of Armenia shall be developed by the local expert hired by GIZ in the frame of the “Economic and Social Participation of Vulnerable Displaced Persons and Local Population in the Caucasus” programme. The hired expert reports to the GIZ EPIC project Team Leader. The expert will coordinate closely in all technical issues with the GIZ EPIC team members and Migration Service. All activities have to be approved by the GIZ team and agreed with Migrations Service beforehand.

* 1. **Submission Requirements**

The expert needs to meet the following requirements:

* A documented path of experience with a minimum of five years in the fields of forced displacement or migration and macroeconomic policy, as well as in the topics of inclusive growth, private sector development; socioeconomic development action planning and implementation, public policy production and employment support measures;
* Proven expertise in the area of conducting socioeconomic development research in Armenia and internationally (proven by references attached to the offer);
* Prior experience in dealing with SAs in Armenia and their socioeconomic integration (proven by references attached to the offer);
* Proven ability to access networks and individuals of the economic and social sectors in Armenia;
* Excellent understanding of and ability to meet the demands and standards of an institution of international development cooperation;
* Excellent understanding of how to approach and communicate with private businesses/start-ups, intermediaries, international organisations, government and state institutions;
* Structured, efficient, transparent and professional way of cooperation and communication, especially in case of applying as a consultancy company;
* Experience on gender mainstreaming is an asset
* Creative and innovate approaches for substantial and user-friendly publications and presentations;
* Experience in organising and conducting workshop and conferences;

Proficiency in Armenian and English (written and spoken).