



# UNHCR

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees  
Haut Commissariat des Nations Unies pour les réfugiés

### UNHCR Office in Cyprus

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## CALL FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

<b>Call For Expression of Interest No.: UNHCR/CYP/07/2017</b>	
<b>Project title:</b> Strengthening Asylum in the Republic of Cyprus	<b>Project Location:</b> Nicosia
<p><b>Brief Background of the Project:</b>  The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) is a humanitarian and non-political organization mandated by the United Nations to protect refugees and stateless persons and help them find lasting solutions to their problems. UNHCR's activities are based on a framework of international refugee law and standards that includes the <i>1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees</i> and its <i>1967 Protocol</i>, as well as an array of international and regional treaties on human rights and humanitarian law. UNHCR works with States, civil society organizations, the legal community, the media and other actors to ensure effective protection and promote durable solutions through a mix of capacity-building, refugee law promotion, advocacy and public awareness activities.</p> <p>UNHCR established its presence in the Republic of Cyprus in August 1974 upon the request of the Government and the UN Secretary-General to coordinate humanitarian assistance programmes for the then internally displaced persons from the two communities. Since the end of the 1990s, UNHCR has shifted its focus to assisting the Government to establish, further refine and improve its asylum legislation and procedures, and to develop and implement targeted programmes to support those accorded international protection to integrate into the economic, social and cultural fabric of the society.</p> <p>The Government of the Republic of Cyprus is UNHCR's key partner in its mission to ensure the protection of refugees, asylum-seekers and stateless persons in accordance with international and European Union standards. Over the years, UNHCR has strengthened its partnership with various Government ministries, especially those of the interior, foreign affairs, justice, education and labour and social affairs. UNHCR has also established constructive working relations and mutual co-operation with the relevant Parliamentary committees, the Office of the Ombudsman and the Office of the Child Commissioner. Likewise, UNHCR has forged useful links with a number of local NGOs and other members of the civil society.</p>	
<p><b>Goal/Objective, Expected Outcome and Main Activities:</b>  UNHCR's multi-year strategic objectives in Cyprus concern ensuring that national asylum legislation and practice is in full conformity with international standards and that effective policies and measures are in place to facilitate the integration of refugees into the economic, social and cultural fabric of the host society.</p> <p>There are at present around 4,000 asylum-seekers in the Republic of Cyprus waiting for a decision on their asylum applications. Some are accommodated at the Kofinou Reception Centre, but the vast majority live independently in the community under difficult conditions. The numbers of people afforded international protection over the past ten years has reached approximately 8,500 in total (about 13% with refugee status and 87% subsidiary protection). There is a need for greater assistance and support to help them effectively integrate into the social, economic and cultural fabric of the society. Effective integration would require that reception policies for asylum-seekers are designed to promote social inclusion, rather than isolation and separation from host communities. Language learning, vocational</p>	



training programmes to help refugees acquire new, employable skills or strengthen and perfect the ones they already have and employment/self-employment are important drivers of integration. The duration of residence permits has also a considerable impact on refugees' integration. Short-term residence permits are detrimental to refugees' sense of security and stability. Similarly, family reunification is very essential to integration; it is difficult for refugees and beneficiaries of subsidiary protection alike to rebuild their lives without the support of their families. Acquisition of citizenship remains the most potent measure of integration.

**Intended Population of Concern:** Refugees and Asylum-seekers in the Republic of Cyprus

**Project Period:** 1 January 2018 to 31 December 2018

**Submission Deadline:** 14 August 2017      **Decision to be Communicated to Applicants:** 2 October 2017

**Selection Criteria**

No.	Criteria Description	Assigned Weighting
1	<b>Project management:</b> ability to deliver project objectives, accountability mechanisms and sound financial management, taking into account the audit results of the previous UNHCR-funded projects, past performance and the external audit of partners' financial statements, where applicable.	25
2	<b>Local experience and presence:</b> ongoing programme in the area of operation; local knowledge; engaging refugees and other persons of concern; trust from local communities; local presence; partner policy on community relations; complaint mechanisms for persons of concern; self-organized groups of persons of concern; and other factors that would facilitate access to and better understanding of the persons of concern and that would reduce administrative difficulties.	25
3	<b>Sector expertise and experience:</b> the required specific skills, sector specialists, knowledge and human resources.	20
4	<b>Contribution of resources:</b> evidenced and documented contribution of resources to the Project in cash or in-kind (e.g. human resources, supplies and/or equipment) by the partner that are presently available (or potentially mobilized by the partner) in order to supplement UNHCR resources.	10
5	<b>Cost effectiveness:</b> level of direct costs and administrative costs imposed on the Project in relation to project deliverables.	10
6	<b>Experience working with UNHCR:</b> global and/or local partnerships including knowledge of UNHCR policies, practices and programmes, including an understanding of and ability to work within UNHCR's funding limitations and associated inherent risks. Partners that have three consecutive qualified audit opinions for UNHCR-funded projects may not be considered.	5
7	<b>Office premises:</b> Centrality of the location of organization's office and accessibility to refugees and asylum-seekers; availability and suitability of space/room for receiving and counselling/interviewing refugees and asylum-seekers	5

<b>Issuing UNHCR Office:</b>	Cyprus
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<b>Signature, Head of Office:</b>	
<b>Name and title, Head of Office:</b>	Damtew Dessalegne, Representative
<b>Name of UNHCR Office:</b>	UNHCR Office in Cyprus
<b>Date:</b>	14 July 2017