



Funding for Short-Term Migration Needs in Bulgaria

Overview

EU funding contributes to the **safeguarding of the European borders** and the **improvement of living conditions** for people awaiting asylum decisions. It improves access to legal assistance for vulnerable migrants, and helps migrants who want to **voluntarily return** to their country of origin, providing **protection of children** travelling alone, and covering the basic needs if there is a sudden increased number of migrants.

Safeguarding the European External Borders

Bulgaria is protecting an important section of the EU external border and the EU short term funding has additionally ensured that effective border control remains at a common high standard for all of the EU, both in terms of upgraded border surveillance equipment and faster intervention.

By installing stationary surveillance systems in border regions and video surveillance systems at border crossing points, and by maintaining and repairing systems for surveillance, **improved surveillance** of the Bulgarian external borders is achieved. This will allow for continuous monitoring of high-risk areas of the border and for **gathering information** in real time.

To increase the efficiency and capacity of border control the communication network was expanded, vehicles purchased and helicopters equipped. By supporting border guards with specialised equipment the ability to detect illegal entries (by trucks, trains etc.) was significantly improved, resulting in **faster and more effective border checks**.

Beneficiaries:

- Ministry of Interior
- Border Police
- State Agency for Refugees
- International Organization for Migration (IOM)
- United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)

AT A GLANCE

Geographical coverage:

Bulgaria

Budget (in € million):

Total EU support since 2015: €173,1M

- € 126,6M to Bulgarian authorities under ISF-Borders and Visa
- € 46,5M under AMIF, of which €39,4M to Bulgarian authorities and €7,1M to international organisations
- 14 projects funded

Type of funding:

Emergency Assistance (EMAS) under:

- Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF)
- Internal Security Fund – Borders and Visa (ISFB)



Improving Living Conditions

This short-term funding improves the living conditions for third country nationals accommodated in the Reception and Registration Centres. Managed by the Bulgarian authorities and international organisations, the funding covers, among other things:

- infrastructural **renovations** of premises;
- increase of **security, reception and accommodation capacity, protection services** (legal, social, interpreting and psychological assistance);
- the maintenance of **human dignity** for asylum seekers (clothing, shoes, toys, hygiene items and other items of primary need, medical care, daily distribution of food).

It also provides:

- **counselling and assistance** (including psychosocial support, humanitarian support and counter-trafficking assistance to vulnerable migrants);
- **incentive activities** for asylum seekers;
- **outreach and cultural activities** for the integration of children and adults, and
- the **transfer of children to schools**.

Protecting Children Travelling Alone

This funding allowed Bulgaria to establish **safety zones** for the accommodation of **unaccompanied minors** with suitable furniture for children, recreational zones and playgrounds. Since 2019, 24/7 care is provided in the safety Zones.

Voluntary Return

This funding supports **information campaigns** and individual consultations for third country nationals in order to provide information about the countries of origin and present the possibilities to assist **voluntary return** and **reintegration** assistance.

