

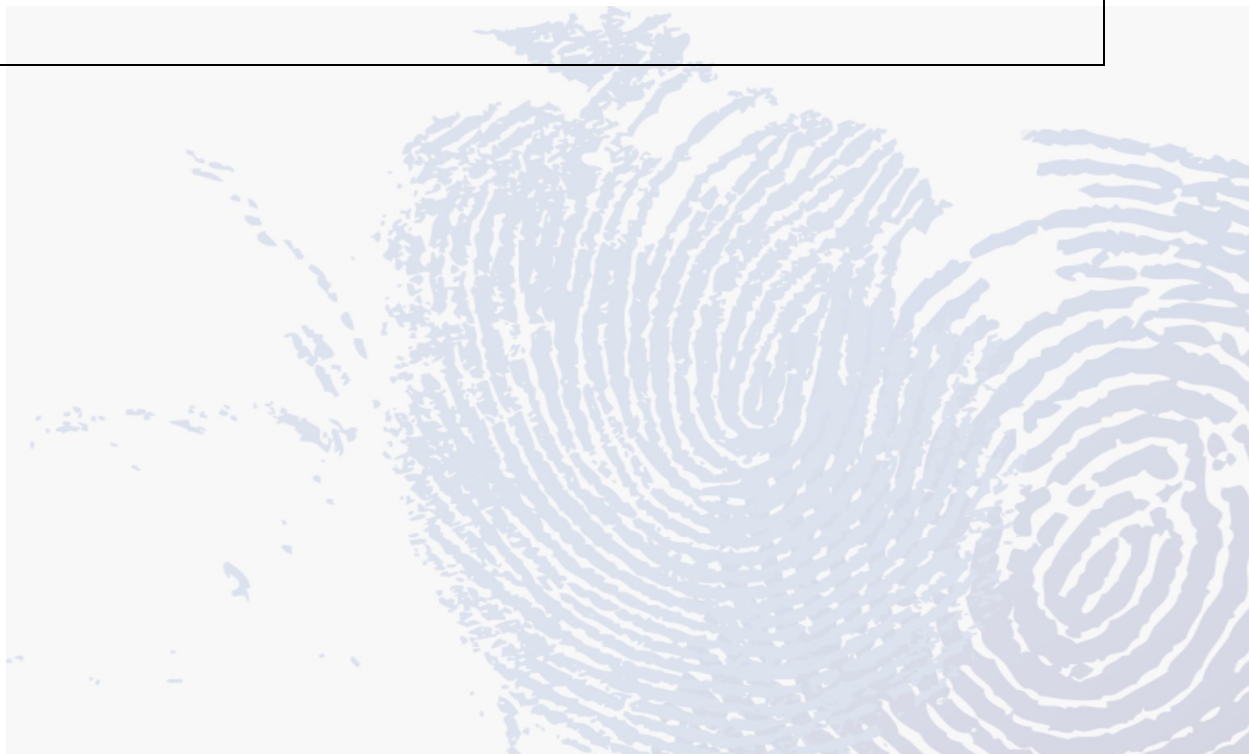


Project: “Strengthening capacities and policy engagement of community service providers - IRIS PROGRESS”

Regional Social Academy : Advancing Human Rights and Social Inclusion of Children and Youth at Risk in the Western Balkans

Skopje, 24-28 November 2024

Call for Applicants





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 Skopje, North Macedonia from **24th to 28th November 2024**.

THE FOCUS

Academy offers participants a unique opportunity to benefit from a diversified training package, integrating a Human Rights-Based Approach (HRBA) with children and youth-focused strategies, social service delivery, and instruments and mechanisms for protecting beneficiaries' rights. Participants will attend 4 day tailor-made training consisted of different learning methodologies including lectures, workshops, discussions and field visit. The Academy program will enable further improvements and optimization to the needs, interests and constraints of the participants and their institutional and organizational environments.

Through a series of lectures and practical workshops Academy will:

- Equip participants with knowledge and tools to integrate HRBA and gender mainstreaming into service provision and advocacy efforts, with a specific focus on **children and youth at risk**.
- Analyze the current human rights frameworks and service delivery in the region, compare them with the needs of children and youth at risk, and identify gaps in services and protection mechanisms.
- Strengthening the trust between vulnerable communities and public institutions, promoting the role of civil society in protecting and fulfilling human rights.
- Create actionable recommendations for improving policies related to children and youth at risk, human rights, and social inclusion.

MAIN TOPICS OF THE ACADEMY:

- Social Exclusion and Education (Children and Youth at Risk Focus);
- Mental Health and access to services for children and youth;
- Violence, sexual abuse, bullying, and cybercrime;
- Marginalization, discrimination, and children and youth inclusion;
- Risky behaviours and juvenile delinquency.

ELIGIBILITY OF THE PARTICIPANTS

Ideal participant should:

- **Be mid-career professionals** (at least 3 years of engagement) from one of the following sectors: (i) Civil Society Organizations representatives active in protection and social service delivery, (ii) Think tanks, researcher and academics working on social and welfare issues, (iii) Government bodies, institutions and agencies involved in social protection,
- **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.
- **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. Candidates must indicate in which field of service delivery they need additional learning/skills and the reason for that.

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, **all applicants fill the Application form in English**, link to the form is https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeLJi5IGekrvisXwEjEh1yWZYzqmb5P-q0_2jQsuNLYKthS8w/viewform . Based on Call criteria and submitted applications, in total 30 participants will be selected from Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo*, North Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia. **The deadline for application is 01st November 2024 at 17.00.**

All applicants will receive information on the acceptance to the Academy no latter than 5 days upon closing of the application deadline.

Information concerning the accommodation, transportation and other logistical issues will be subsequently delivered to the selected participants. All costs, except of per diems will be covered by the organizers. **Detailed agenda will be shared with successful candidates.**

FOLLOW UP

Successful participants will obtain certificates, and enter **Academy Alumni**. **Upon the training each of the participants will be obliged to organize follow-up seminar/lectures in their own communities. This activity will be completed in framework of 10 months upon the completion of the education.**

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 strong 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 2023, IRIS Network commenced new initiative within the project “Strengthening capacities and policy engagement of community service providers - IRIS PROGRESS” that is focusing on protection of human rights and anti-discrimination policies of marginalized groups in WB region. Main objective of the project is to achieve participatory democracies in EU approximation process of WB countries by advancing regional cooperation and good neighborly relations.

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 additional questions contact masa.mitrovic@asb-see.org