

## **“SAFERR Women and Girls (Shelter and Access for Empowerment and Risk Reduction)” Project with support of Catholic Relief Services (CRS)**

MARRI Regional Center with support of Catholic Relief Services (CRS) has successfully completed the project activities projected in **“SAFERR Women and Girls (Shelter and Access for Empowerment and Risk Reduction)” Project** funded by **UK Department for International Development (DFID)** and implemented by consortium of partners led by CRS. MARRI’s contribution to the objective of SAFERR was to bring the perspective of the national administrations of Western Balkans to the overall effort of the region to deal with the migration crisis.

In this context, on 27-28 February 2017 MARRI RC organized regional workshop “Irregular migration and THB – International standards for protection of migrants at risk of trafficking in human beings with particular focus on women and children along the migration route” where representatives from public and civil sectors as well as international organizations from the MARRI region, Bulgaria and Greece took active role in assessing the current anti-trafficking policies, practice and standards in the process of identification, referral and protection of potential victims of trafficking among migrants transiting through the Western Balkans. The occasion also provided an opportunity to National Coordinators for anti-trafficking of MARRI Participants to hold their annual meeting in order to analyze the state-of-play in the area of combating THB in the region, boost common activities related to EU accession negotiations (chapter 24) and to agree on regional activities.

The outputs of both events served as a platform for MARRI second project activity within SAFERR project, an in-depth research aimed at enhancing present legal framework and practices in line with UN and EU legislation in the area of THB and gender based violence (GBV). The research was conducted by independent researchers and it included analysis of the legal framework and statistical data on the subject provided by MARRI Participants, interviews with representatives of MARRI national administrations, NGOs and IOs and field visits to the transit and centres for asylum seekers in Serbia, Macedonia and Albania. The produced Assessment Report “Challenges in the identification and protection of vulnerable individuals and victims of gender based violence and trafficking in human beings in the context of migration crisis” provides overview of the current developments in regards to THB and GBV legally and in practice, it recapitulates the identified gaps and challenges in dealing with these crimes, elaborates on the interaction and collaboration among different stakeholders and offers number of recommendations for improvement. The document also provides recommendations for adoption of regionally harmonized and comparable basic indicators for identification of potential or supposed victims of THB and victims/survivors of GBV in the mixed migration flow.