



Фондация за  
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Foundation for  
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# NEWSLETTER 5/23 OF THE FOUNDATION FOR ACCESS TO RIGHTS - FAR



**Dear readers,**

At FAR, we will not be tired of repeating that knowledge and experience are one of the strongest foundations for access to rights. That is why [FAR celebrated its 10th anniversary](#) with the publication of a collection of articles on [Current Issues in Refugee and Migration Law](#) and a two-day conference on these topics. In this newsletter you will find dozens of video recordings from the conference, as well as expert videos and infographics we developed for a project to build an accessible legal aid network for refugees in Bulgaria. In this regard, it is no coincidence that FAR is currently leading three strategic cases before the European Court of Justice and others before the European Court of Human Rights!

We also continue to work actively on our European projects related to the protection of the rights of unaccompanied and separated refugee and migrant children and the introduction of complementary legal pathways for refugees to access the territory of host countries.

We are looking for ways to preserve the FAR hotline, which is a daily lifeline for so many refugees in Bulgaria. [Support us in this effort!](#)

**Thank you for your trust and partnership,**

[Attorney at Law Dr. Valeria Ilareva, Chairperson of the Foundation for Access to Rights – FAR](#)



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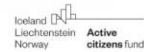
## NEWS

### THE JUBILEE COLLECTION OF ARTICLES OF THE FOUNDATION FOR ACCESS TO RIGHTS "CURRENT ISSUES IN REFUGEE AND MIGRATION LAW", EDITED BY LAWYER VALERIA ILAREVA, IS OUT OF PRINT.

The collection gathers the knowledge and experience of the authors Anna Velikova, Ana Raykova, Valeria Ilareva, Valeri Petkov, Vasil Panayotov, Vladislava Stoyanova, Desislava Argirova, Ildiko Otova, Iskra Yankova, Kaloyan Stoyanov, Magdalena Miteva, Maria Shisheva, Olga Dimitrov, Olga Kolot, Petya Kazakova, Rositsa Atanasova and Tanya Chechkova. You [can learn more about the collection HERE](#).



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SIGRID RAUSING TRUST

### THE ANNUAL REPORT ON FAR ACTIVITIES - 2022 WAS PUBLISHED.



A link to the annual report can be found on the FAR website [HERE](#).

The video for the annual report can be viewed [HERE](#).

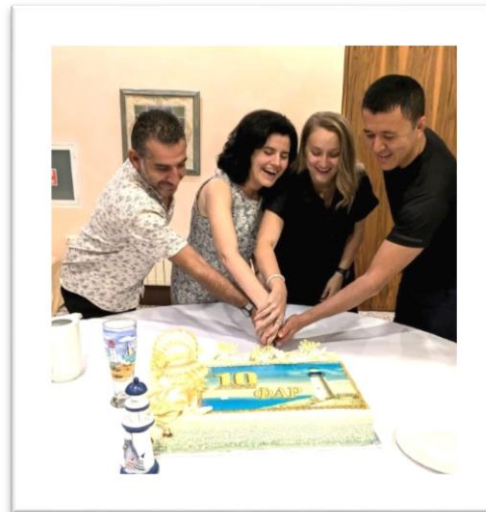


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## In July 2023 FAR celebrates 10 years since its creation



Read our interviews regarding our 10-th anniversary with our Chairman and Founder, [Phd. Atty. Valeria Ilareva](#), as well as [Atty. Magdalena Miteva and Olga Dimitrov](#).





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## CONGRATULATIONS FOR FAR ON THE OCCASION OF THE 10TH ANNIVERSARY

All congratulations can be seen [HERE](#).

[A congratulatory message from FAR's strategic partner UNHCR can be read HERE.](#)

**Our Ref: Congratulations on FAR's 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary**

Dear Valeria,

It is a tremendous honor for me to extend my heartfelt congratulations to the Foundation for Access to Rights on the auspicious occasion of your 10th anniversary. A decade of unwavering commitment to supporting refugees and stateless individuals in their pursuit of rights and opportunities is a truly remarkable milestone.

Over the past ten years, FAR has stood as a beacon of hope for those who have been compelled to leave their homes. It has been an innovative trailblazer, tirelessly advocating for the rights and dignity of displaced populations, while also enriching the lives of aspiring professionals. In doing so, FAR has laid a solid foundation for a brighter future for refugees, asylum seekers, and stateless communities.

On behalf of UNHCR, I wish to express my deep appreciation for the enduring partnership between our organizations. Our collaboration in the service of refugees and stateless individuals has been characterized by empathy, solidarity, and a shared commitment to aiding those in need. It is through such partnerships that we can truly effect meaningful change in the lives of those who depend on our assistance.

As we reflect on the past decade, UNHCR is profoundly grateful for the impact we have achieved together. Our shared experiences in helping refugees and stateless individuals find safety, support, and hope stand as a testament to the strength of our partnership and the dedication of our teams.

Once again, congratulations on reaching this significant milestone. May the next ten years be even more transformative and filled with successes in the service of refugees and stateless persons. I eagerly anticipate the continued growth of our partnership and the opportunities it will bring to make a profound difference in the lives of those we are dedicated to serving.

Please accept my best wishes and the assurance of the highest consideration.



Digitally signed by Seda Kuzucu  
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email=kuzucu@unhcr.org, c=CH  
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**Seda Kuzucu**

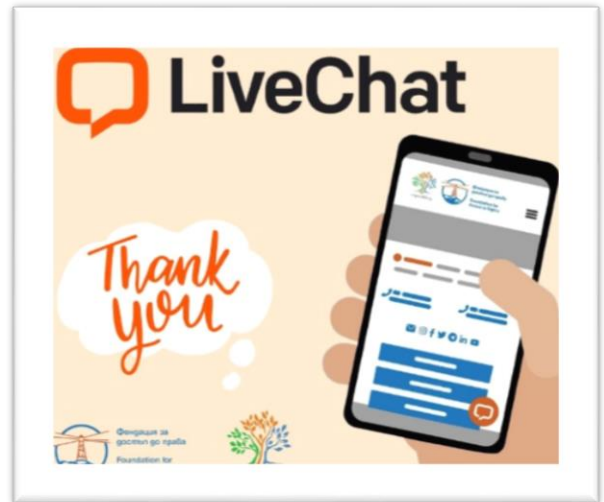
**UNHCR Representative in Bulgaria**



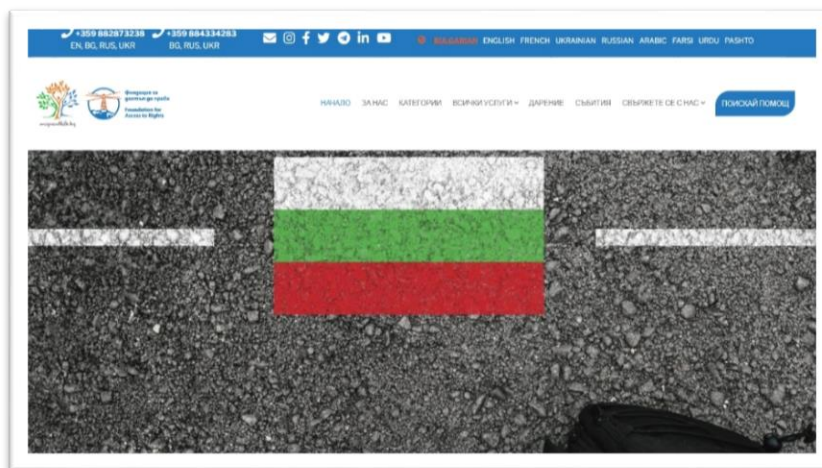
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## LIVECHAT

The LIVECHAT service has been launched, allowing beneficiaries to connect with our experts live.



## THE NAME OF THE MIGRANTLIFE.BG PLATFORM IS NOW [REFUGEEELIGHT.BG](https://refugeelight.bg)



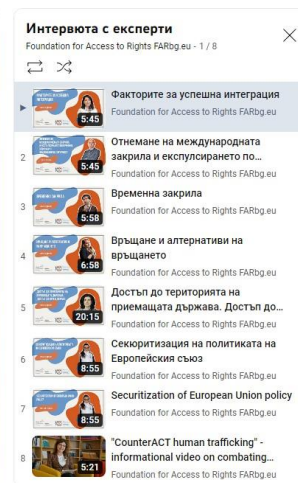


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# PROJECTS

## **PROJECT "ESTABLISHMENT OF AN ACCESSIBLE NETWORK FOR LEGAL ASSISTANCE TO DISPLACED PERSONS FROM UKRAINE IN BULGARIA AND PREVENTION AND COUNTERACTION OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING"**

For this project, FAR produced **7 videos** in which experts from the organisation share their knowledge and experience on topical issues concerning refugees and migrants. See [the videos HERE](#). The project is implemented with the financial support of Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway under the Active Citizens Bulgaria Fund within the European Economic Area Financial Mechanism.



For the same project we created **12 infographics, which you can find [HERE](#)**.





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## **WORK CONTINUES ON PROJECT SUN (SAFEGUARDING UNACCOMPANIED AND SEPARATED CHILDREN'S RIGHTS THROUGH THE EU CHARTER OF FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS)**



The project partners created **their first newsletter**, which can be viewed [HERE](#).

**On 22 and 23 June the lawyers [Magdalena Miteva](#) and [Valeria Ilareva](#), FAR visited [Thessaloniki](#), and on 20 and 21 September the lawyers [Magdalena Miteva](#) and [Valeri Petkov](#) from FAR visited [Bolzano, Italy](#).**

The purpose of these visits is to facilitate the exchange of knowledge and experience between the project partners on the protection of unaccompanied and separated refugee and migrant children and the implementation of the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights. The next meeting will be Romania!





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## **PROJECT "EFFECTIVE LEGAL AID FOR REFUGEES AND MIGRANTS IN BULGARIA - CONTINUATION"**

A first-of-its-kind video featuring a virtual reality experience was created - **"ALMOST HERE - for safe access to refugee protection"**. It is part of the project's advocacy activities. A link to the project video can be seen [HERE](#).



## **STRATEGIC CASES**

### **THE CASE THAT GIVES HOPE TO FOREIGNERS IN A LEGAL VACUUM IN BULGARIA**

The request was addressed by the Administrative Court - Sofia City to the Court of Justice of the European Union in Luxembourg on 29.05.2023 in a case led by the lawyers of FAR, which has the strategic potential to resolve one of the biggest systemic problems of access to fundamental human rights for foreigners in Bulgaria.

**Read the full text of the preliminary ruling [HERE](#).**



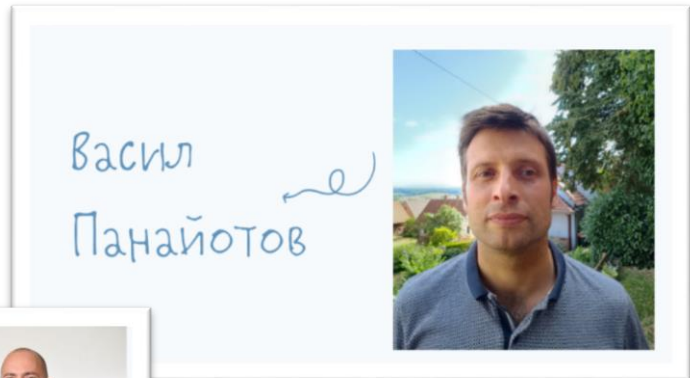




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## THE FACES OF THE FAR

Interview with lawyer Vasil Panayotov [HERE](#).



Interview with lawyer Kaloyan Stoyanov [HERE](#).

Interview with Petya Petrova -  
Social Media Expert [HERE](#).





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## EVENTS (TRAININGS)

**ON 12 AND 13 SEPTEMBER 2023 THE CONFERENCE "CURRENT ISSUES IN REFUGEE AND MIGRATION LAW" WAS HELD IN POMORIE.**



The videos with the speakers from the conference can be seen [HERE](#).

**ON 26 OCTOBER THE FINAL EVENT OF THE PROJECT "EFFECTIVE LEGAL AID FOR REFUGEES AND MIGRANTS IN BULGARIA - CONTINUATION" WAS HELD**



More about the event can be seen [HERE](#).



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## COMING SOON

**STAY TUNED FOR TWO  
NEW VIDEOS THAT WILL  
TELL ABOUT THE LIFE  
OF TWO STATELESS  
PEOPLE WHO HAVE  
BEEN LIVING IN  
BULGARIA FOR MORE  
THAN 20 YEARS**

The videos are produced with the financial support of the European Network on Statelessness. Their aim

is to show the systemic problems faced by stateless people and to promote the [Statelessness Index, which can be found HERE.](#)



## **THE SUN PROJECT WILL HOLD A PARTNERS MEETING IN ROMANIA ON 13-15.11.2023**

You can see more about the project [HERE.](#)





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**THE FINAL CONFERENCE OF THE COMPLEMENTARY PATHWAYS  
TO SOUTH-EASTERN EUROPE - COMP4SEE PROJECT WILL BE  
HELD IN ZAGREB, CROATIA ON 23.11.2023**

**COMP4SEE**

Complementary pathways for Southeast Europe

You can see more about the project [HERE](#).

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We are grateful to UNHCR for the donated car, which will help us to help even more refugees in more places in Bulgaria. The use of the vehicle by the FAR team will contribute to establishing even better contacts with the communities and our network of partners.



**UNHCR**

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





**We are grateful to everyone** who supported with their donations the cause of the FAR SOS Hotline in the Global Giving campaign. Thanks to them, the SOS Hotline it will continue to exist until the end of 2023. In the video below or [HERE](#) you can meet the team behind the SOS Hotline.

The FAR SOS hotline can still be supported [HERE](#). **Make your donation so the hotline can continue to help people in need!**



The FAR team would like to thank all our partners, donors, supporters and supporters, including the United Nations [High Commissioner for Refugees in Bulgaria](#), [Unicef Bulgaria](#), [International Rescue Committee](#), the [European Commission](#), [Sigrid Rausing Trust](#), [Active Citizens Fund](#), [the European Network for Stateless People](#) and more. It is thanks to their support and assistance that PHARE is realizing its core mission and activities to ensure access to rights in practice and to provide effective protection against arbitrary deprivation of rights.

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European  
Network on  
Statelessness

Iceland   
Liechtenstein  
Norway

**Active  
citizens fund**

**unicef**   
for every child

