



**IX Session of the SCTM Presidency**

**TO INTERNATIONAL AND EU PARTNERS**

**APPEAL  
of the**

**Standing Conference of Towns and Municipalities – National Association of Local Self-governments in Serbia in regards to the refugee, migrant and asylum crisis**

The Republic of Serbia has been for several years on the main transit route of the refugees, migrants and asylum seekers from the Middle East and Africa towards the Western, Central and Northern Europe. During the 2015, this movement of the people escalated into the major ongoing refugee, migrant and asylum crisis. Up to this point, Serbia has temporarily hosted more than 200 thousands of refugees, and it is expected that hundreds of thousands more will pass through the country. On the so-called Balkan route, most of the people are passing through Turkey, Greece, Republic of Macedonia and Republic of Serbia.

This crisis is primarily humanitarian, resulting in many people being forced to leave their homes. The crisis also produces large negative effects on transit countries. Temporary residence of many refugees leaves a mark on the communities they are passing through, and the effects are particularly visible at the local level, in those towns and municipalities through which the migratory flows are particularly massive. Such towns and municipalities are increasingly in a need of assistance and support, so they are able to provide help to refugees in the best way possible.

The SCTM, recognizing the great efforts that the Republic of Serbia invests in alleviating and addressing the consequences of the current refugee, migrant and asylum crisis, will be available, in its capacity, for all the support and assistance to the competent authorities in crisis management.

Standing Conference of Towns and Municipalities – National Association of Local Self-governments in Serbia (SCTM), makes this appeal to

**Members - towns and municipalities in Serbia:**

- The towns and municipalities through which refugees, migrants and asylum seekers are passing, should prepare an inventory of their needs in this crisis as soon as possible, both the ones that are most urgent, as well as those they expect to face in the long-run.
- The towns and municipalities through which refugees, migrants and asylum seekers are passing, should actively address the public, to show solidarity on both individual and group level and provide necessary help to refugees temporarily residing in their communities
- Ensure that other towns and municipalities show their solidarity with the above, and offer and provide their assistance, as was the case during the devastating floods in the spring of 2014. The SCTM will mediate in the provision of information between recipients and providers of assistance.

**International public, especially the SCTM partners:**

- An ongoing refugee, migrant and asylum crisis is international; therefore, there is a need for coordinated action of the international community.
- It is of the particular importance that the institutions and organizations at EU level recognize the needs of transit countries which are not EU member states, but are in its immediate neighborhood, as well as the needs of their local communities. Accordingly, it is necessary to involve these countries in the process of decision making on the response to the crisis.
- The international donor community needs to direct funds towards to states and their local communities which are directly affected by the current refugee, migrant and asylum crisis, so they are able to help alleviating and addressing its consequences in the best possible way.

**Belgrade, 30<sup>th</sup> October 2015**