

# THE FIRST TO SAY „HELLO!”: PROFILE AND MOTIVATION OF THE VOLUNTEERS IN THE REGISTRATION AND RECEPTION CENTERS FOR REFUGEES IN BULGARIA

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**Abstract.** *The report is focused on attitudes and helping behaviour towards asylum seekers in Bulgaria. Overview of context and the current situation is presented as well as summary of the main publications on the topic. On the base of existing and ongoing volunteer program, sample of 63 applicants for volunteer position is studied based on their application documents. Descriptive statistics on the profile of the applicants and qualitative content analysis of their motivation is presented. Authentic texts are segmented and grouped on the basis of the six motivational functions served by volunteerism. Social change seems to be additional function in that case. Specifics of Social and Protective function are discussed.*

**Keywords:** volunteers; motivation; asylum seekers; refugees

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