



## Building capacity in migration and border management

*IOM organizes a study visit to Italy for senior officials of the Tunisian Ministry of Interior to facilitate the exchange of best practice and integrated border management procedure*

This month, a delegation of senior officials from the Tunisian Ministry of Interior and technical specialists from IOM, visited the international airport "Leonardo Da Vinci" of Rome and the International Cross-Border Cooperation Centre of Police and Customs of Ventimiglia, at the border between Italy and France.

The visit aimed to enhance immigration and border management capacity in Tunisia by providing the Tunisian delegation with the opportunity to examine airport and land border procedures, inter-agency cooperation and to learn from the Italian experience implementing integrated border management.

At Ventimiglia, the Tunisian delegation visited the International Cooperation Centre of Police and Customs, where the delegates have been briefed in details about a concrete example of practices of cross-border cooperation.

The visit to the international airport of Rome allowed the Tunisian delegation to examine best practices in the collection, management and analysis of data related to entries and exits through the airport, as well as measures put in place by the Italian Police to manage migration through airports. Italian counterparts also briefed the Tunisian delegation on the inter-agency cooperation mechanism put in place between the Italian Police and other authorities operating at the airport (including customs, military police and health services). The delegation from the Tunisian Ministry of Interior also exchanged experiences and information with Italian colleagues on the latest challenges posed by irregular mi-



Courtesy visit at Italian Central Directory of Immigration and Border Police © IOM 2013

gration through international airports using fake documents or identity fraud.

The visit was organized within the framework of the IBM project "Capacity Building for a Protection Sensitive Approach to Border Management", implemented jointly with UNHCR and funded by the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs.

As a result of the visit, a set of recommendations was proposed by the Tunisian government which will inform IOM's development of a concrete series of long-term initiatives aimed at establishing an integrated border management system in Tunisia and enhancing international dialogue and cooperation between Tunisia and its neighboring countries. These initiatives also follow on

from recommendations made in the report of the IOM-UNCHR-ICMPD joint assessment mission "*Gestion des frontières: contrôle et surveillance, fraude documentaire et protection des migrants*", conducted in April 2013, where IOM's IBM Specialist took part.

The Tunisian delegation was also received for a courtesy visit to the Central Directorate of Immigration and Border Police of the Italian Ministry of Interior. The visit was not only an opportunity for the Tunisian institutions to learn about the structure of the Italian border management system but also a unique occasion to build on the strong cooperation and the long-lasting relationship between two countries' migration management institutions which share the important duty of ensuring the safety of migrants crossing the Mediterranean sea.

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