



International Organization for Migration



Migration and Border Management Assistance
in South-Eastern Europe, Eastern Europe and Central Asia



The International Organization for Migration (IOM) is committed to providing assistance to migrants and governments along the entire spectrum of migration, as well as supporting governments' efforts to enable orderly and humane population movements across borders. IOM's Immigration and Border Management Division (IBM) is supporting States in enhancing their border and migration management structures, as well as applied border control procedures, focusing its work on the following four thematic areas:

- reducing irregular migration and smuggling;
- strengthening the protection of migrants' rights in immigration and border management;
- enhancing international cooperation;
- harmonizing national policies and practices internally and within regional contexts towards common international norms.



In the last two decades, in the wake of globalization, movements of people and goods have greatly increased, calling for the adaptation of enhanced immigration and border management structures to ensure better and more efficient management of these flows. As a consequence, States have been confronted with a common challenge: to facilitate the legitimate movement of people and goods while maintaining secure borders, in other words, to ensure the right balance between openness and control.

Border agencies, usually customs, border police and immigration services are those responsible for the processing of people and goods at points of entry and exit, as well as for the detection and regulation of irregular flows of people and goods across borders. Efficient border and immigration management policies and structures, supported by professional and well-trained immigration and border officers, not only foster smooth movement management at borders and prevent irregular migration, but also enable detection of smuggled migrants and trafficked persons, thus contributing to the dismantling of organized crime networks and protection of the human rights of vulnerable persons.

IOM is increasingly called upon by States to provide assistance in meeting their operational challenges in the area of migration management. The IOM Immigration and Border Management (IBM) Team, consisting of a core group of specialists with substantial technical expertise and strong border management experience, posted to strategic locations in the field as well as in IOM Headquarters, has thus been established to offer guidance and expertise to governments wishing to improve their migration and border management and operational procedures.

The main priority in the area of Immigration and Border Management is to support States in the South-Eastern Europe, Eastern Europe and Central Asia (SEEECA) Region in enhancing their border and migration management structures, along with their applied border control procedures, by working with a wide range of stakeholders: national governmental entities, civil society, international partners and donors.

Countries in the SEEECA Region can be divided into different sub-regions with common interests and similar goals in relation to the development of their migration and border management systems. States closer to the EU predominately focus on the approximation towards the EU standards and good practices with a view of a possible future EU membership, or at least gaining as much benefit as possible from the opportunities offered by the EU within the Eastern Partnership, in particular the facilitated visa regime, whereas other countries aim specifically at enhancing their national capacity to better cope with an unprecedented increase in the cross-border flows of persons and goods, while at the same time ensuring the integrity of their borders and safeguarding their national economies against transnational threats.

The IBM Technical Specialists in the SEEECA Region work to assist governments in shaping their immigration and border management policies and support their implementation. In this context, IOM focuses especially on:

- border and migration management policy and legal framework development;
- improving operational management and innovative career development for border guards;
- building the capacities in performing joint border patrols and establishing police cooperation centres;
- strengthening migration management and cooperation on readmission;
- fighting against irregular migration and detection of forged travel documents;
- automation of the border management information system.

Since the goals of governments and other stakeholders in migration management change over time in nature and priority, IOM IBM Team's activities continuously evolve to meet new migration challenges on national, regional and international levels.



EU, USA, Japan and the UK are currently among the main donors of IOM's IBM work in the SEEECA countries.



**IOM IS COMMITTED TO THE PRINCIPLE
THAT HUMANE AND ORDERLY MIGRATION BENEFITS MIGRANTS AND SOCIETY.**



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