



IOM's Immigration & Border Management Programme

Data Management, Intelligence and Risk Analysis

## IOM AND DATA MANAGEMENT, INTELLIGENCE AND RISK ANALYSIS

With questions on the integration of foreigners, border security and international migration flows at the forefront of the media and international policy debate, there is an increasing awareness of the need to have reliable and efficient methodologies in place for gathering trustworthy and timely statistical migration data. Migration is becoming an increasingly important item on the international agenda and not just for governments: media, civil society and international organizations are all asking for information and statistics on migration. All these demands have one thing in common: search for data and information that define today's reality and, in the best case, contribute to forming well informed public opinion and reinforcing good governance and democracy.

The collection and use of migration data is a specialist area of its own but is inexorably linked with the provision of strategic and tactical intelligence to relevant border agencies. It is an essential element when performing risk analysis in order to understand how best to deploy limited resources and inform human resource-related and other policy decisions.

The use of migration data as a foundation in formulating a country's migration policy is commonplace, notably in Europe, North America and Australasia. The strategic intelligence that can flow out of this kind of data enables governments and national administrations to address their border management challenges in a proactive way, which in turn contributes to better deployment of resources as well as increased security and detection of cross-border criminality.

States increasingly acknowledge the need to share information between national stakeholders and agree that the collection and sharing of migration statistics enhances cooperation and understanding with other States at the regional level, forming a solid basis for the development and harmonization of common policy.

### OUR OBJECTIVE

“  
ENABLE STATES AND GOVERNMENT AGENCIES TO SHAPE PROACTIVE MIGRATION POLICIES THROUGH IMPROVED MIGRATION DATA COLLECTION AND MANAGEMENT

ENSURE LONG-TERM SUSTAINABILITY THROUGH PROVISION OF TECHNICAL TRAINING TO NATIONAL OFFICERS

”



International Organization for Migration (IOM)



## IOM'S CAPACITY BUILDING IN RISK ANALYSIS

Threats to national security stemming from terrorism or cross border crime, threats to the State's right to control and regulate the entry and exit of persons onto its territory, are all risks that need to be managed. The fight against trafficking in persons and smuggling in migrants as well as health risks, including infectious diseases, need to be part of comprehensive risk management strategies. The loss of life of migrants at borders at the hands of criminals is also a real risk that needs to be considered. Those risks at borders are to be balanced with the need to keep borders open and as easy to cross as possible. Open borders are needed for economic development, socio-economic, political and cultural exchange and cooperation, trade, people to people contacts, tourism, and so forth.

The border management approach of countries should follow from an analysis of the country's external threats as there is no one-size-fits-all solution. The border management approach must be responsive to specific challenges, and be tailored to best manage the risks. The measures (policy, organization, personnel, practices,

information, tools) should be carefully selected to achieve the maximum result while rationalizing the allocation of resources.

The purpose of data collection as part of the border management process is to help verify and validate the assumptions that underlie the design of the border management measures. If the data shows that certain threats were over- or underestimated, then a readjustment of these measures will be required. As such, border management is a cyclical process and is not something that can simply be put in place and then left. By its very design, it should continuously aim to improve itself, in response to changes in the nature, size, composition and location of the cross border flows.

IOM's capacity building programmes follow this holistic and cyclical approach in order to equip policy makers and border officials with advanced know-how and skills in risk analysis and data management.

For further information, please contact:

**Department of Migration Management – Immigration and Border Management Division**

17 route des Morillons, P.O. Box 17, 1211 Geneva 19, Switzerland

Tel.: + 41 22 717 91 11 • Fax: + 41 22 798 61 50 • E-mail: [ibm@iom.int](mailto:ibm@iom.int) • Website: [www.iom.int](http://www.iom.int)