



IOM International Organization for Migration
OIM Organisation Internationale pour les Migrations
OIM Organización Internacional para las Migraciones

PHBLM PROJECT

“Increasing Public Health Safety Alongside the New Eastern European Border Line”

Co-funded under the European Commission’s Public Health Programme 2006

Summary:

The enlargement of the Schengen zone brings new migration-related health challenges to the Member States on the eastern external frontier and highlights the pre-existing gap in migration and health policies in Europe. Health systems and border services need to be prepared to address public health concerns, health needs and rights of migrants as well as ensure staff’s occupational health. The PHBLM Project, responding to these conditions, is managed by the Brussels office of the International Organization for Migration in cooperation with IOM offices in Bratislava, Budapest, Warsaw and Bucharest.



Launched in June 2007, the Project aims to minimise public health risks, build capacity for border management and public health staff, and facilitate appropriate healthcare to migrants as a fundamental human right. A collaborative effort, PHBLM is being implemented in partnership with public health and migration authorities of the Governments of Hungary, Poland and Slovakia, and with the participation of Romania in selected activities. The Project further includes the partnership of the University of Pécs, the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC), Frontex, and WHO Euro, and began with the development of a methodology for the analysis and documentation of the current public health situation regarding border management and detention. Based on this comprehensive assessment, the Project is developing a template for a migrant health database, a set of evidence-based guidelines for public health in border management and detention procedures and recommendation for structural changes to health/public health services in the targeted border sectors, multidisciplinary training materials for health professionals and border guard staff, as well as a regional workshop to test these elements as part of a comprehensive and adaptable public health and border management module.

Objectives:

1. To minimise the public health risks posed by migration along the borders of an enlarged European Union;
2. To analyse and document the current public health situation regarding border management in the EU countries forming the new eastern Schengen border;
3. To promote the human-rights based provision of appropriate and adequate healthcare to migrants and occupational health assistance to border officials through training, guidelines for public health in border management and detention procedures and recommendation for structural changes to health/public health services in the targeted border sectors;

Regional Liaison and Coordination Office to the European Union

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4. To disseminate the results of the project and experience gained, in order to facilitate increased public health safety along the entire external borders of the enlarged EU.

Project Coordination:

Throughout the project, a *Steering Committee* will function as the oversight body, and in the preparatory phase, it will endorse the terms of reference and work plan of the project. The Committee will be made up of IOM, the University of Pécs, the Andalusian School of Public Health (EASP) and representatives of relevant government bodies in the participating countries, partner agencies and organisations active in the fields of public health and border management, and the European Commission. The experts engaged in the project will form three *Joint Project Teams* (JPT), consisting of IOM and partner experts.

IOM will manage the project from the Brussels office in cooperation with IOM field offices in the participating countries (three target countries: Hungary, Poland and Slovakia, plus Romania).

Project Components:

The project includes four main components:

1. *Situation Analysis*: In order to understand the magnitude and nature of the current health/public health hazards in border management and detention, the Team will develop the research methodology and cooperate with partner governments and IOM field missions of the participating countries to perform the assessment. IOM will prepare the Situation Analysis Report based on the findings from the assessment.
2. *Training course development and regional testing*: The needs for training that are identified in the Situation Analysis will be developed into materials for border officials and for health professionals. EASP will lead the development of the training materials, while UP will pilot these during a regional workshop for participants from Hungary, Poland, Slovakia and Romania.
3. *Development of guidelines for public health in border management and detention procedures and recommendation for structural changes to health/public health services in the targeted border sectors*: Guidelines for public health in border management and detention procedures will be developed to address gaps in conditions and protocols that were identified by the Situation Analysis. EASP will be responsible for the guidelines and recommendations for structural changes (including changes to hygiene construction regulations, detention conditions, communication channels, and capacity of health/public health services in the border region).
4. *Dissemination of results*: The developed module and experience gained during the implementation of this IOM project will be disseminated within the participating countries and at the European level.





Escuela Andaluza de Salud Pública
CONSEJERÍA DE SALUD



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“Increasing Public Health Safety Alongside the New Eastern European Border Line” (PHBLM)

Project Coordinator:

International Organization for Migration - IOM Brussels
(with the country coordination of Bratislava, Bucharest, Budapest, and Warsaw country offices)

Associate partners:

University of Pécs, Hungary
Andalusian School of Public Health, Spain

Participating Governments:

- Hungary
- Poland
- Romania¹
- Slovakia

Collaborating Organisations:

- European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC)
- Frontex
- World Health Organization, Regional Office for Europe (WHO EURO)
- Center for Migration Research, Warsaw, Poland
- Voivodeship Sanitary-Epidemiological Station in Olsztyn, Bialystok, Poland
- School of Law Enforcement, Szeged, Hungary
- University of Trnava, Public Health Department, Trnava, Slovakia
- Slovak Foreign Policy Association, Bratislava, Slovakia

Main Donor:

European Commission, DG Health and Consumers

Donor Government:

Ministry of Health, Government of the Republic of Hungary

Project Duration:

36 months (June 2007 – June 2010)

Project Budget:

EUR 836.229

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¹ Note: Romania is a member of the Steering Committee and will participate in the preliminary situation analysis and regional training, with the aim of sharing information with future Schengen zone countries.