



## THE INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR MIGRATION AND INTEGRATED BORDER MANAGEMENT

With the increasing mobility of persons and goods, States need to address the challenge of ensuring the right balance between open, but at the same time secured and controlled borders. In order to respond to this challenge, the European Union (EU) has developed the concept of “Integrated Border Management” which is key to the European border management strategy and presents key elements and activities for inclusion in IOM’s Immigration and Border Management programming.

As the leading intergovernmental organization in the field of migration, IOM is increasingly called upon by States to assist in addressing complex border management challenges. The 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 been established to offer guidance and expertise to governments aspiring to improve their migration and border management and operational procedures.

Integrated Border Management requires that all competent authorities work together in an effective and efficient manner. Cooperation should not be established exclusively within each country, but also across its borders, with relevant agencies of neighbouring States. Integrated Border Management seeks to address three levels of cooperation and coordination: intra-service cooperation, inter-agency cooperation and international cooperation.

A sub-concept of Integrated Border Management frameworks is the One-Stop-Border-Post (OSBP). Even though a relatively new concept by title, OSBPs have been implemented in various ways and in many regions, implying a single, shared physical infrastructure in which the neighbouring countries’ customs/border services operate side by side.

A parallel concept exists called “Coordinated Border Management” (widely recognized by the customs community and the World Customs Organization), with similar objectives to Integrated Border Management, which focuses more on the specifics of enhanced coordination and collaboration between Customs with other non-state actors.

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### OUR OBJECTIVE

SUPPORT STATES IN THEIR EFFORTS TO ENABLE FLUENT BORDER CROSSINGS AND FACILITATE THE ENTRY OF BONA FIDE TRAVELLERS WHILE ENHANCING SECURITY

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IOM International Organization for Migration

# INTEGRATED BORDER MANAGEMENT FOSTERS COOPERATION

**INTRA-SERVICE COOPERATION** is the efficient management of processes, information and resources within agencies responsible for specific tasks. It thus refers to interaction between:

- The different administrative departments of a ministry or agency at headquarters;
- The ministry/agency and regional centres;
- The ministry/agency/regional centres and the units working at the borders/inland;
- The various Border Control Posts, Border Inspection Points and in-land control stations.

**INTER-AGENCY COOPERATION** - The focus here is on the close cooperation between all agencies involved in border issues both at the border and at the central level, thus minimizing overlap and inconsistency and optimizing the efficient use of resources. There are three priority areas for inter-agency cooperation at the border and within the country:

- Coordinated processing at border crossings;
- Integrated information technology systems;
- Awareness-building and joint responsibilities.

**INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION** concerns the establishment of communication and coordination channels and procedures at the local, bilateral and multilateral levels. It refers to:

- Local cooperation between officials on both sides of the border;
- Bilateral cooperation between neighbouring states;
- Multinational cooperation, focusing on border management issues.



## INTEGRATED BORDER MANAGEMENT IN THE WESTERN BALKANS AND TURKEY

Recent projects implemented by IOM include a 2.5-million euros, European Commission funded action in the Western Balkans and Turkey that sought to put in place and develop several important aspects of Integrated Border Management doctrine across eight countries. The project conducted an exhaustive assessment for all main interlocutors in all eight countries and the resulting recommendations included the establishment of a forum for Heads of Border Services to exchange information and strategy on the management of their border posts. This was designed to assist in satisfying the international cooperation pillar of Integrated Border Management. Inter-agency cooperation was also developed by the cross-agency training events indicated as priorities by the assessment which included sessions on the principles of Integrated Border Management itself as well as training aimed to equip practitioners to institute Risk Management procedures into the work of the front line entities.

## CAPACITY BUILDING IN INTEGRATED BORDER MANAGEMENT AT THE SOUTHERN BORDERS OF IRAQ

An example of IOM implementing a project that attempted to instill Integrated Border Management principles outside of the EU accession environment is a 7 million USD action that concluded in 2010 for Iraq. The post-conflict situation in Iraq resulted in the various Agencies and Ministries being extremely fragmented and this, allied with the need to build skills and set new migration policy, created a ready environment to build in some important Integrated Border Management principles. The project sought to equip specific high volume border posts with OSBP focused processes and technology to ensure a more effective use of resources. Data Analysis centres were set up to allow Risk Management techniques to be established as well as a set of cross government working groups tasked with ensuring that communication between departments was established and synergies identified.