



International Organization for Migration



Expertise on International Migration Law

in South-Eastern Europe, Eastern Europe and Central Asia



Globally, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) is dedicated to promoting awareness and understanding of International Migration Law (IML) in order to assist States in managing migration more effectively and humanely. IOM's efforts in this area include:

- training and capacity building for governments and other stakeholders on International and Regional Migration Law. The IOM IML Unit at IOM Headquarters conducts two annual training courses, one in Sanremo, Italy in collaboration with the International Institute of Humanitarian Law (IIHL) and the other in New York in collaboration with the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR).
- research aimed at consolidating IML information and making it more easily accessible to government policy makers and other stakeholders. Within the framework of its legal research, IOM supports governments in acceding to and implementing the international and regional instruments related to migration and migrants' rights. At a government's request, IOM also provides assistance in developing the national legislation in accordance with countries' policies and priorities, international standards and best practices available through IOM expertise and its online migration law database on international, regional and national legislations.



Migration Law and Migrants' Rights in South-Eastern Europe, Eastern Europe and Central Asia (SEEECA)

The SEEECA Region lies on the cross-roads where active migratory movements take place within its borders, transiting through it or originating from it. The large humanitarian flows of the 1980s and 1990s have changed into predominantly economically-driven migration, which requires a different approach in its normative regulation. Incoming, transit and outgoing irregular migration adds further challenges for the setup of the appropriate legal regulatory frameworks and their constant adjustment to reflect current realities and ensure effectiveness.

The development of appropriate migrants' rights protection mechanisms at all stages of the migration process is one of the key challenges the SEEECA States are faced with. In addition, improvement of the legislation regulating recruitment, employment and return migration processes, and facilitation of adaptation, integration and reintegration mechanisms are also at the top of the agendas of the relevant authorities. Other important challenges include the need for better legal regulation of the developmental impacts of migration and curbing irregular migration, in particular its worst forms – trafficking and smuggling of human beings. Furthermore, the adjustment to and the approximation with the existing legal regional standards of the European Union in the area of migration is important for a number of SEEECA States, while other governments focus on the development of new regional regulatory mechanisms and the alignment of their migration policies and legislation in the context of other regional setups and coordination structures.

IOM IML Activities in the SEEECA Region

In addition to regular training, capacity building and research activities, the SEEECA Regional Office in Vienna and the IML Unit at IOM Headquarters work closely with governments, international and non-governmental organizations, academia and other stakeholders on the development and implementation of projects and activities targeting various areas:

- **needs assessments** for better protection of the rights of migrants;
- **development and reform** of related migration legislation and policy, legal assistance;
- **support to migrants** through the creation of effective mechanisms and normative basis as well as practical activities.

The SEEECA Regional Office and IML Unit develop targeted thematic projects addressing the above challenges and mainstream human rights of migrants into other IOM activities in the Region.



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



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