



International Organization for Migration (IOM)
The UN Migration Agency

OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL

Management Response and Actions IOM Regional Office Brussels Audit File No. BE201802

The IOM Office of the Inspector General (OIG) conducted an internal audit of the IOM Regional Office Brussels (the “Regional Office”) from 19 to 23 March 2018. The audit assessed the risk exposure and risk management of the Regional Office’s activities, in order to ensure these are well understood and controlled by the regional-level management and staff. The audit covered the activities of the Regional Office from March 2016 to March 2018. The results of the audit are public and can be accessed through IOM’s global website¹.

The OIG assessed the Office as partially effective, and raised 25 audit findings and recommendations, out of which 11 are high priority².

As of December 2020, out of the 25 audit findings there remain 9 open recommendations of which 2 are high priority.

The below report provides an explanation of the actions taken since the 2018 audit and the current state of the IOM Brussels regional office.

Management Response and Actions to the Internal Audit Report of BE201802 – IOM Regional Office Brussels

Management and Administration

Finding No. 1: Need for an improved and enhanced Terms of Reference of Coordination Cell established in Regional Office Brussels

Finding Closed

There have been a series of discussions with the Regional Office, Department of Resource Management and Office of the Director General on the subject during related coordination meetings and we defer for more information to our original comments provided. In the absence of additional funding/structure being provided and in view of the discussions held, there is a general agreement on the respective Regional Offices - also in their capacity as managing mission for the respective EUTF window/strand - to be responsible for the management of the EUTF projects that they manage without changes in the reporting lines vis a vis headquarters. Similarly, the accountability for decentralized projects that are managed by individual country offices remains with the Chief of Mission. Regional Office Brussels in turn continued its mandate to provide technical support and coordination/liaison vis-a-vis the EU institutions in Brussels and to provide support in verification and mission preparations to IOM country offices. A dedicated internal evaluation has also been initiated

¹https://www.iom.int/sites/default/files/about-iom/audit/be201802-iom_ro_brussels.pdf

²All high risk findings under Information Technology were not presented, according to the provisions of IB/78 “Disclosure of IOM Internal Audit Reports”.



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and we look forward to lessons learned and recommendations emanating from this exercise that hopefully can help ensure in any programme that may follow in the next funding cycle to be setup more coherently and with clearer lines of responsibility and accountability from the onset and with the commensurate staff structure set up from the start. As regards with the planned technical support visits, while a number of these have been undertaken and others had to be postponed due to priority having to be given to completion of report reviews that ordinarily reached the Regional Office with significant delays, the onset of the COVID-19 situation resulted in the cancellation of all remaining planned visits, including those foreseen to be undertaken jointly with OIG.

Finding No. 2: Need for an enhanced reporting capacity and data validation for EU Trust Fund projects

Finding Closed

Likewise, here we defer to our original comments as this is primarily a headquarters' action point and can only re-affirm our agreement on the importance of having accurate and reliable up-to date data/statistics, lack of which entails reputational risk for the Organization.

Finance and Accounting

Finding No. 9: Lack of adherence to Donor contractual terms by implementing IOM Offices

Finding Closed

The Regional Office has not received any dedicated budget to undertake the trainings that we deem important, however, a series of trainings on EU compliance have been completed in collaboration with relevant Regional Offices in the context of their regional training plans. In addition, the Organization has institutionalized automatic report notification emails to the Project Managers with the relevant Regional Office in copy for follow up as needed.

Finding No. 10: Systemic exposure to co-funding shortfall

Finding Closed

We refer to our previous comments and consider that, while management of co-funding exposures remains an ongoing need, the recommendation to have been completed as per our previous comments with the roles and responsibilities being clear as denoted on the co-funding group intranet page and as communicated to country offices in the context of co-funding group approvals.

Information Technology

Five out of the seven high findings under Information Technology had been implemented by the regional office.

OIG/Internal Audit Comment:

OIG - Internal Audit takes note of the action taken by the Office to close the recommendations and strongly encourages the implementation of the nine remaining pending recommendations.