

REGULARIZATION



IOM's Immigration and Border Management Division

The International Organization for Migration's (IOM) Immigration and Border Management (IBM) Division supports Member States in defining and implementing regularization measures that enable non-nationals in an irregular situation to remain lawfully in the country.

Regularization is a State's policy response to the presence of irregular migrants residing in the country. IOM provides Member States with technical assistance and policy guidance in managing regularization procedures.



Objective 4: Ensure that all migrants have proof of legal identity and adequate documentation.

Objective 5: Enhance availability and flexibility of pathways for regular migration.

Objective 7: Address and reduce vulnerabilities in migration.



Target 10.7: Facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people, including through the implementation of planned and well-managed migration policies.

Target 16.9: By 2030, provide legal identity for all, including birth registration.

THE BENEFITS OF REGULARIZATION

Regularization leads to the stabilization of a migrant's status within a country, decreases the likelihood of migrant exploitation, increases tax and social security revenues for the State, improves the availability of more accurate data on labour market and irregular migration, and weakens the underground economy.

IOM'S REGULARIZATION SUPPORT

IOM assists Member States in ensuring that their regularization procedures are carried out in accordance with international law. IOM also supports States in developing regularization policies that are part of a comprehensive and coordinated policy approach, which attempts to tackle all dimensions of irregular migration and integrate it with broader policies including border management, visa policy, return, asylum and subsidiary protection.

IOM's regularization activities include the following:



ADVOCACY AND RESEARCH

IOM supports Member States in raising awareness and recognizing regularization as a potential policy tool to address irregular migration. IOM can also assist Member States in conducting research on regularization.

In practice



- Campaigns to inform individuals on the risks of irregular migration
- Research on the national regularization context and sharing of best practices
- Facilitation of national, bilateral and multilateral dialogue and cooperation between government agencies



POLICY GUIDANCE

IOM supports Member States' regularization policy development efforts by carefully assessing their institutional and administrative structure and capacity prior to carrying out regularization measures.

In practice



- Assessment of the existing legal frameworks and policies related to regularization
- Assistance in revising and developing new legislation, policies and standard operating procedures



OPERATIONAL SUPPORT

Based on the needs of migrants and the Member State, IOM provides operational support for the implementation of regularization measures.

In practice



- Capacity-building: Providing training on regularization processes and procedures
- Technical assistance: Establishing registration mechanisms, document issuance, use of biometrics and document verification services
- Information campaigns: Conducting or assisting with outreach campaigns to disseminate information on regularization procedures to migrants

