THE INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR MIGRATION,
DATA MANAGEMENT, INTELLIGENCE AND RISK ANALYSIS

With questions on the integration of foreigners, border security and international migration flows at the forefront of the media and international policy debate, there is increasing awareness of the need to have reliable and efficient methodologies in place for gathering trustworthy and timely statistical migration data. Migration is indeed becoming an increasingly important item on the international agenda and not just for governments: media, civil society and international organizations are all asking for information and statistics on migration. All these demands have one thing in common: the search for data and information that define today’s reality and, in the best case, contribute to forming well informed public opinion and reinforcing good governance and democracy.

The collection and use of migration data is a specialist area of its own but is inexorably linked with the provision of strategic and tactical intelligence to relevant border agencies. It is an essential element when performing risk analysis in order to understand how best to deploy limited resources and inform human resource-related and other policy decisions.

The use of migration data as a foundation in formulating a country’s migration policy is commonplace, notably in Europe, North America and Australasia. The strategic intelligence that can flow out of this kind of data enables governments and national administrations to address their border management challenges in a proactive way, which in turn contributes to better deployment of resources as well as increased security and detection of cross-border criminality.

States themselves increasingly acknowledge the need to share information between national stakeholders and agree that the collection and sharing of migration statistics enhances cooperation and understanding with other States at the regional level, forming a solid basis for the development and harmonization of common policy.

OUR OBJECTIVE

ENABLE STATES AND GOVERNMENT AGENCIES TO SHAPE PROACTIVE MIGRATION POLICIES THROUGH IMPROVED MIGRATION DATA COLLECTION AND MANAGEMENT

ENSURE LONG-TERM SUSTAINABILITY THROUGH PROVISION OF TECHNICAL TRAINING TO NATIONAL OFFICERS
“INTEGRATED BORDER MANAGEMENT IN THE WESTERN BALKANS AND TURKEY”

This 1.5 million euros, European Commission funded project which concluded in June 2011, was aimed at building capacity among all border management actors in seven Balkan countries as well as Turkey. The main theme was Integrated Border Management, but integral to this was a significant element of the project focused on building Risk Analysis and Intelligence Development capacity for all relevant agencies including border guard, customs, phytosanitary and veterinary services. Working closely with one of our partners, Frontex, IOM provided expert inputs from a team of practitioners who gave advice on how to integrate Risk Analysis systems into current operational environments and provided technical training on the analysis process itself. In addition, a separate round of training of trainers was delivered in all eight countries to ensure that a cadre of trainers in Risk Analysis was available across all agencies to foster sustainability. In order to foster improved international cooperation, the project also focused on the development of Memoranda of Understanding between the beneficiaries that encouraged data sharing and joint intelligence exercises where risk profiles were exchanged.

“EFFECTIVE MANAGEMENT OF IRAQI MIGRATION FLOWS & MIGRANT PROTECTION IN EGYPT, LEBANON AND JORDAN”

The above action, funded by the Department of Immigration and Citizenship in Australia, concluded in 2010 and had a strong focus on assisting the three countries in gathering accurate and timely migration data to assist with making proactive border management decisions. The project funded the creation of a series of data sharing and management training modules which were then delivered to a cross-section of border management agencies. In addition, studies were instituted in all three countries to assess the existing capacity for the gathering of such data and also how that data was utilised. Finally, four inter-regional meetings were held between the participating countries to discuss data and information/intelligence sharing, with a strong accord reached between two of the parties.