

Forced Return Monitoring (FReM)

Project description

Background and Justification

Article 8(6) of the Return Directive states that Member States are obliged to provide for an 'effective forced-return monitoring system'. This project aims to facilitate the transposition of Article 8(6) in line with the requirements of the Community Actions proposal and the findings and best practices of the Comparative Study for Best Practice in Forced Return Monitoring.

The project specifically aims to create a European pool of independent Forced Return Monitors, available to the countries in need of implementing a forced return monitoring system. An effective monitoring system aims at verifying whether human rights standards and legal obligations are met during the return i.e. returnees should be treated in a manner compliant with national legislation and international human rights standards. The general principle is that the coercive measures need to be justified, reasonable, necessary and proportionate to the objective pursued. An objectively implemented forced return monitoring system takes into account the balance between the observation of human rights and safety of the returnees and accompanying officials.

Implementing Agency

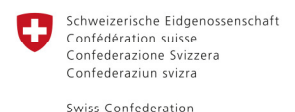
The International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD) in co-operation with the project partners and associate partners: Austria, Bulgaria, Greece, Hungary, Luxembourg, Malta, Portugal and Switzerland.

Donor

The European Union Return Fund – Community Actions 2012, Austria, Bulgaria, Hungary, Luxembourg and Switzerland

Duration

The project duration is 26 months (September 2013 – October 2015)



Objectives

The main objective of the project is to further strengthen the quality of the European return system in line with the human rights standards and best practices, thus supporting the implementation of Article 8(6) of the Return Directive.

The specific objectives of the project are:

- To design a framework for a European pool of forced return monitors (terms of reference, working modalities, participation, mandate, etc.);
- To elaborate and agree on a set of guidelines to be used by all monitors during forced return monitoring based on existing best practices and the findings of the 'Comparative Study for Best Practice in Forced Return Monitoring', the results of the working groups together with the recommendations of the PSG;
- To identify and select a group of forced return monitors, on the basis of set criteria, to integrate the European Pool whose services will be available to various European States;
- To elaborate a FReM Training Manual for the European Pool of forced return monitors, and to implement a training programme on the basis of this manual;
- To implement pilot monitoring operations based on the guidelines, training manual and trainings received.
- To introduce the results of the FReM project and discuss the potential of a European Pool of Forced Return Monitors available to all EU MS and Associated Schengen States.

Activities

The project foresees the implementation of **five core stages in line with structured activities** which will address the **main aim of the project** 'to create a European pool of forced return monitors, which will be made available to the countries in need of implementing a forced return monitoring system'.

- **Stage 1: Design of the European pool of Forced Return Monitors.** Four working groups (WGs) design the framework, mandate and functioning of the pool of European forced return monitors, through a series of consultations and workshops.
- **Stage 2: Development of Guidelines and Monitoring Tools.** Four WGs will elaborate the FReM guidelines based on the recommendations outlined in the study, complementing existing guidelines, through a series of consultations and workshops.
- **Stage 3: Selection of Monitors.** Monitors are selected according to a series of criteria set by the WGs in line with the recommendations set out in the study. The created pool is made available to all participating European States (ES).
- **Stage 4: Development of FReM Training Manual and Implementation of a Training programme.** A FReM training Manual for the European pool of forced return monitors is produced and implemented through a Training Programme.
- **Stage 5: Pilot Monitoring Operations.** All trained monitors take part in pilot monitoring operations, each covering a specific phase of the monitoring process.
- **Stage 6: Shared Benefit Workshop.** The project partners and EU (and Schengen Associated) Member States are invited to discuss the FReM results and provide information on their needs.

For more information please contact

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