

Project Description “Forced-Return Monitoring II” (FReM II)

Background and Justification

In 2013-2015 the International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD) implemented the “Forced-Return Monitoring” (FReM) project in co-operation with Austria, Bulgaria, Greece, Hungary, Luxembourg, Malta, Portugal and Switzerland. The project was co-funded by the European Union under the European Return Fund – Community Actions 2012. The objective was to facilitate the transposition of Article 8(6) of the EU Return Directive (2008/115/EC), stating that EU Member States are obliged to provide for an ‘**effective forced-return monitoring system**’. In particular, it aimed to create a pilot Pool of independent Forced-Return Monitors, available to the countries in need of implementing a forced-return monitoring system.

The Forced-Return Monitoring II (FReM II) project is implemented in support of the European Border and Coast Guard (EBCG) Regulation, in particular its Article 29 (pool of forced-return monitors) and Article 36 (training of staff involved in return-related tasks). It builds on the results of the previous FReM project and facilitates the further implementation of Article 8(6) of the EU Return Directive in contributing to a functioning EU Return System by supporting the establishment of an **independent and transparent forced-return monitoring system** based on a **common European approach and harmonised procedures**. Building on the outcomes of the FReM II project, a sustainable **Pool of Forced-Return Monitors** will be **established within the structures of the European Border and Coast Guard Agency (Frontex)** and equipped with the necessary training and reporting framework. In addition, the **national forced-return monitoring systems** will be **strengthened**.

Duration and Budget

26 months (1 September 2016 – 31 October 2018).

1.1 million EUR: the project is 90% co-funded by the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF) of the European Union and 10% by the participating countries.

Participating Countries and Implementing Partners

ICMPD implements the project in co-operation with the partner countries: Austria, Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Finland, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Latvia, Luxembourg, Malta, the Netherlands, Portugal, Romania, Sweden and Switzerland. The project is implemented with the support of European Border and Coast Guard Agency (Frontex) and the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA).

Objectives

Overall objective: To contribute to a functioning EU Return System in line with the EU Return Directive (2008/115/EC), **protecting the fundamental rights of returnees through independent and transparent forced-return monitoring** based on a **common European approach and harmonised procedures**.

Project objective 1: To **enlarge and institutionalise the Pool of Forced-Return Monitors**, providing all Member States (MS) and Frontex with **access to qualified and trained independent forced-return monitors**.

Project objective 2: To contribute to the **further harmonisation of rules at the European Union level** and support MS in **improving their national forced-return monitoring systems**.

Work Packages and Expected Results

- 1) **Enlargement of the Pool of Forced-Return Monitors**: Selection and appointment of forced-return monitors to increase the number of monitors in the Pool. Meetings with new partner states to enlarge the number of participating states in the project.

Result: Enlarged Pool of Forced-Return Monitors.

- 2) **Effective training for monitors**: Elaboration of a training concept as well as training of trainers (ToT) concept. Elaboration of training material (ToT manual and background reader for monitors). Implementation of ToTs and regular training for monitors. Organisation of annual lessons learnt meetings for monitors.

Result: Established training structure for monitors; available trainers; trained monitors.

- 3) **Deployment of monitors from the Pool of Forced-Return Monitors**: Elaboration of procedures for the deployment of monitors and guidelines for independent reporting.

Result: Agreed procedures for the deployment of monitors to specific return operations; available reporting template including reporting guidelines.

- 4) **Establishing the Pool within Frontex' structures**: Setting up of a permanent organisational and managerial structure of the Pool, including tasks and responsibilities.

Result: Pool established within Frontex' structures.

- 5) **Exchange of experiences and good practices**: Meetings with partner states and other MS's stakeholders from the return community to exchange experiences and good practices in forced-return monitoring; workshop on good practices.

Result: Good practices report on fundamental rights compliance in forced-return operations.

- 6) **Building up/strengthening national forced-return monitoring systems**: Organisation of fact finding/expert/training missions to MSs requesting support to build up or strengthen their national forced-return monitoring system focussing on the replication of good practices.

Result: Enhanced national forced-return monitoring systems in MSs.

- 7) **Observation of forced-return monitoring**: Participation in return operations of representatives from national return enforcing institutions in selected MSs to observe monitoring of forced-return to support replication of other MS's models to their own countries.

Result: Enhanced knowledge on forced-return monitoring of representatives of national return enforcing institutions in MSs.

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