

CONTACT INFORMATION

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FRoM II PARTNER COUNTRIES

ICMPD implements the project in co-operation with the partner countries:

- Austria, Federal Ministry of the Interior
- Bulgaria, Ministry of Interior
- Czech Republic, Office of the Public Defender of Rights
- Finland, Non-Discrimination Ombudsman
- Germany¹, Federal Office for Migration and Refugees
- Greece, Greek Ombudsman Office
- Hungary, Ministry of Interior
- Latvia, Ombudsman's Office of the Republic of Latvia
- Luxembourg, Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs
- Malta, Ministry for Home Affairs and National Security
- the Netherlands, Inspectorate of Security and Justice
- Portugal, Ministry of Interior
- Romania, Romanian National Council for Refugees
- Sweden², Swedish Migration Agency
- Switzerland, State Secretariat for Migration

¹ Germany officially joined the project in August 2017.

² Sweden changed its project focal point from the Ministry of Justice to the Swedish Migration Agency in November 2017.

Forced-Return Monitoring II

Pool of Forced-Return Monitors

FReM II OBJECTIVES

Since 1 September 2016, the International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD) is implementing the “Forced-Return Monitoring II” (FReM II) project in co-operation with 15 partner countries, Frontex and the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA).

The FReM II **overall objective** is 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.

The **project objectives** are to:

1. Enlarge and institutionalise the Pool of Forced-Return Monitors, providing all Member States and Frontex with **access to qualified and trained independent forced-return monitors**.
2. Contribute to the **further harmonisation of rules at the European Union level** and support Member States in **improving their national forced-return monitoring systems**.

The project also aims at **raising awareness and exchanging ideas and good practices** in the field of forced-return monitoring.

The FReM II project builds on the results of the previous “Forced-Return Monitoring” project (2013-2015), which put forward clear guidelines for forced-return monitoring and a comprehensive training manual for forced-return monitors. Furthermore, the previous FReM project established a pilot pool of forced-return monitors and developed a draft framework for the management of a pool of forced-return monitors.

FReM II BENEFITS

According to Article 29 (pool of forced-return monitors) of the **European Border and Coast Guard (EBCG) Regulation** all “Member States shall be responsible for contributing to the pool³ [...] “[...] of forced-return monitors from competent bodies who carry out forced-return monitoring activities in accordance with Article 8(6) of Directive 2008/115/EC⁴ [...] “[...] by nominating forced-return monitors corresponding to the defined profile⁵.” Hence, there are three clear benefits for participants of the FReM II project:

- Through the **comprehensive training of nominated monitors in all aspects of monitoring**, FReM II assists Frontex and Member States in implementing Article 29 (pool of forced-return monitors) and Article 36 (training of staff involved in return-related tasks) of the **EBCG Regulation**.
- FReM II supports Frontex in establishing the **Pool of Forced-Return Monitors within its structure** – providing **access to qualified and trained independent forced-return monitors** also for Member States.
- By supporting Member States to **strengthen their national forced-return monitoring systems**, FReM II assists them in further **implementation of Article 8(6) of the EU Return Directive (2008/115/EC)**, according to which EU Member States are obliged to provide for an **‘effective forced-return monitoring system’**.

³ Art. 29.2.

⁴ Art. 29.1.

⁵ Art. 29.2.

HARMONISATION AND INSTITUTIONALISATION OF FORCED-RETURN MONITORING

Added value of an independent and transparent forced-return monitoring system:

- Providing a checks and balances mechanism to guarantee the enforcement of returns based on fundamental rights
- Enhanced protection of fundamental rights of returnees
- Increased transparency and accountability of forced-return operations by ensuring the independent observation of police and enforcement authorities’ conduct and by providing unbiased and neutral reporting
- Improvement and harmonisation of return procedures by sharing good practices and quickly identifying and correcting possible shortcomings

Added value of a common European approach and harmonised procedures:

- Fundamental rights compliance across the EU, based on the EU Return Directive
- Increased awareness and common understanding on forced-return monitoring
- Introduction of European standards and aligned forced-return monitoring procedures in the EU
- Providing a support mechanism to Frontex and Member States
- Common European training programme and availability of qualified trainers
- Common monitor profile and availability of adequately trained/qualified and independent monitors