

CONTACT INFORMATION

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FRoM III PARTNER COUNTRIES

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

- Austria, Federal Ministry of the Interior
- Belgium, General Inspectorate of the Integrated Police
- Bulgaria, Ministry of Interior
- Croatia, Ombudsman for Children
- Cyprus, Office of the Commissioner for Administration and the Protection of Human Rights (Ombudsman)
- The Czech Republic, Office of the Public Defender of Rights
- Finland, Non-Discrimination Ombudsman
- Germany, Federal Office for Migration and Refugees
- Greece, Greek Ombudsman Office
- Hungary, Ministry of Interior
- Italy, National Guarantor for the Rights of Persons Deprived of Liberty
- Latvia, Ombudsman's Office of the Republic of Latvia
- Luxembourg, Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs
- Malta, Ministry for Home Affairs and National Security
- Norway, National Police Directorate
- The Netherlands, Inspectorate of Justice and Security
- Poland, Rule of Law Institute Foundation
- Portugal, Ministry of Interior
- Romania, Romanian National Council for Refugees
- Slovakia, Public Defender of Rights
- Sweden, Swedish Migration Agency
- Switzerland, State Secretariat for Migration

Forced-Return Monitoring III

Pool of Forced-Return Monitors

FReM III OBJECTIVES

Since 1 December 2018, the International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD) is implementing the **Forced-Return Monitoring III (FReM III)** project in co-operation with 22 partner countries, the European Border and Coast Guard Agency (Frontex) and the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA).

The FReM III **overall objective** is to contribute to a functioning EU Return System in line with the EU Return Directive (2008/115/EC), guaranteeing and protecting the fundamental rights of returnees through independent and transparent forced-return monitoring based on a common European framework, standards, good practices and harmonised procedures.

The **specific objectives** are to:

1. Increase the **operational and procedural effectiveness of the Frontex pool of forced-return monitors** and to **hand over the full management** and implementation of all activities related to the pool of forced-return monitors to Frontex.
2. Increase the **effectiveness of forced-return monitoring in Member States**, based on specific national needs.

The project also develops a **fundamental rights and forced-return monitoring training for escort officers in Member States**. It shall contribute to harmonisation of training standards and eventually to fundamental rights sensitive and dignified forced-return procedures.

Moreover, **monitors of relevant third countries** participating in Collecting Return Operations (CROs) will receive **training in forced-return monitoring**. The training shall contribute to the smooth implementation of CROs in line with international human rights standards and principles.

BACKGROUND

The FReM III project builds on the results of the FReM I and FReM II projects that were implemented from 2013-2018.

FReM I produced clear guidelines for forced-return monitoring and a comprehensive training for forced-return monitors. It also established a pilot pool of independent forced-return monitors, available to the countries in need of implementing a forced-return monitoring system and developed a draft framework for the management of such a pool.

FReM II supported Frontex to establish the pool of forced-return monitors within their structures in line with the European Border and Coast Guard (EBCG) Regulation and equipped it with a sound training and reporting framework. It also supported Member States to build up and strengthen their national forced-return monitoring systems through targeted national activities.

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 pool¹ [...] “[...] of forced-return monitors from competent bodies of the Member States who carry out forced-return monitoring activities in accordance with Article 8(6) of Directive 2008/115/EC² [...] “[...] by nominating forced-return monitors corresponding to the defined profile³.”

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.

1 Art. 51.2.

2 Art. 51.1.

3 Art. 51.2.