

## Project Description Forced-Return Monitoring III (FReM III)

### Background and Introduction

As a direct follow-up to the FReM I and II projects, the **Forced-Return Monitoring III (FReM III)** project will further **contribute to a functioning EU Return System in line with the 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 will support the European Border and Coast Guard Agency (Frontex) to further establish the pool of forced-return monitors (Pool) in line with the European Border and Coast Guard (EBCG) Regulation. Furthermore, it will support Member States (MSs) in meeting their obligations under Art. 8(6) of the Return Directive, requiring them to provide for an effective forced return monitoring system.

The predecessor FReM I<sup>1</sup> and FReM II<sup>2</sup> projects were implemented from 2013-2018. **FReM I** produced clear guidelines for forced-return monitoring and a comprehensive training manual for forced-return monitors. Furthermore, the project 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 within their structures in line with the EBCG Regulation and equipped the Pool with a sound training and reporting framework. Moreover, it supported MSs to build up and strengthen their national forced-return monitoring systems through targeted national activities such as training, round tables, workshops, expert consultations and alike.

**FReM III** will provide a final management structure and procedures for the Pool, contributing to sustainability, improved day-to-day management and independence of the Pool. The operational and procedural effectiveness and efficiency of the Pool will be enhanced by improved communication, information and reporting tools. The full management of the Pool and all procedures/activities will be handed over to Frontex by the end of the project. The training and capacity building activities foreseen in FReM III will strengthen the professional development of monitors from the Pool. Furthermore, MSs will be supported with targeted needs-based national activities, enhancing their monitoring capacity, and facilitating the further implementation of the Return Directive.

Fundamental rights training and awareness-raising on monitoring will be organised for return enforcing institutions in MSs, contributing to harmonisation of standards in this field and eventually to fundamental rights sensitive and dignified forced-return procedures. Monitors of relevant third countries participating in Collecting Return Operations (CROs) will receive training in forced-return monitoring, contributing to the smooth implementation of CROs in line with international fundamental rights and principles. The main target group/direct beneficiaries of the FReM III project

<sup>1</sup> In partnership with Austria, Bulgaria, Greece, Hungary, Luxembourg, Malta, Portugal and Switzerland as well as Frontex and FRA. The project was co-funded by the EU under the European Return Fund – Community Actions 2012.

<sup>2</sup> In partnership with Austria, Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Finland, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Latvia, Luxembourg, Malta, the Netherlands, Portugal, Romania, Sweden and Switzerland as well as Frontex and FRA. The project was co-funded by the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF) of the EU.

are forced-return monitoring bodies in MSs and selected third countries, forced-return escorts in MSs, and relevant Frontex units.

### **Duration and Budget**

37 months (1 December 2018 – 31 December 2021).

2 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 Organisations**

ICMPD implements the project in co-operation with the **partner countries**: Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Finland, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Latvia, Luxembourg, Malta, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Sweden and Switzerland as well as the **European Border and Coast Guard Agency (Frontex)** and the **European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA)**.

The project's main **target group and direct beneficiaries** are the monitoring bodies/institutions in project partner countries responsible for effective forced-return monitoring in line with Article 8(6) of the EU Return Directive (2008/115/EC) as well as relevant Frontex units such as the Fundamental Rights Office, the European Centre for Returns, the Training Unit and the Capability Programming Office. Moreover, the project targets forced-return escorts in MSs and forced-return monitoring bodies/institutions in selected third-countries.

### **Objectives**

**Overall objective:** To contribute to a functioning EU Return System in line with the Return Directive, 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.

**Specific objective 1:** To 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

**Specific objective 2:** To increase the effectiveness of forced-return monitoring in MSs, based on specific national needs.

### **Work Packages (WPs) and Expected Results**

- **WP 1: Management and Coordination of the Action**

#### **WPs under specific objective 1:**

- **WP 2: Operational Management of the Pool of Forced-Return Monitors**  
**Result:** assessed Pool; improved communication, coordination and information with and among monitors of the Pool; increased monitors' awareness on return procedures and monitoring systems in other MSs; streamlined reporting process, available reporting application and database.
- **WP 3: Overall Management of the Pool and full Handover to Frontex**  
**Result:** increased efficiency of the management of the Pool.
- **WP 4: Training and Continuous Professional Development of Monitors from the Pool**  
**Result:** improved training framework for monitors of the Pool; increased capacity of the Pool.
- **WP 7: Capacity Building of Forced-Return Monitors in Third Countries**

**Result:** increased capacities of monitors from third countries that cooperate in the framework of collecting return operations (CRO).

**WPs under specific objective 2:**

- **WP 5: Support to National Forced-Return Monitoring Systems in MSs**  
**Result:** improved forced-return monitoring systems in MSs.
- **WP 6: Fundamental Rights Training for Forced-Return Escorts in MSs**  
**Result:** increased escorts' awareness on fundamental rights compliance in forced-return operations and on forced-return monitoring.

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