

Key Results (cont'd)

5 permanent forced-return monitors officially appointed by the Ombudsman Office.

3 guiding documents – a *Forced Return Monitoring Framework*, a *Monitor's Guidelines*, and a *Standard Monitor's Profile*, respectively – drafted throughout 5 facilitated workshops.

3 training curricula – for monitors, for escort officers, and for trainers, respectively – made available to the national stakeholders for future capacity building.

1 Good Practices Report – *Forced-Return Monitoring Systems in the EU: Comparison of Legal Systems, Actors, and Procedures* – developed and presented to the stakeholders.

1 Draft Agreement on forced-return monitoring – outlining aspects of inter-agency coordination and information exchange between the key actors – facilitated and proposed for consideration.

FRoM
FORCED RETURN
MONITORING



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DEVELOPMENT OF A FORCED-RETURN MONITORING SYSTEM in the Republic of Moldova (FRoMM)



Background

Forced-return operations must be conducted in a humane manner, respect the dignity of the persons being returned and comply fully with human rights. States are the main entities responsible to ensure that public authorities respect and guarantee human rights. They have the duty to set up mechanisms for the prevention of human rights violations and to ensure proactively their protection.

Within the framework of forced-returns, the escort officers that accompany the returnees have to ensure their safe return, with due respect to their dignity and in accordance with the relevant legal framework. In support of effective human rights compliance, independent forced-return monitors closely observe and subsequently report whether the return was enforced in compliance with human rights.

In Moldova, the Bureau for Migration and Asylum under the Ministry of Internal Affairs is the state authority in charge of organising return operations and their technical implementation – both for national return operations (NROs) from Moldova to other third-countries and collecting return operations (CROs) from EU Member States to Moldova.

The People's Advocates Office (Ombudsman) has the mandate to monitor the protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms at the national level. Moreover, the Bureau for Migration and Asylum cooperates with the NGO Law Center for Advocates for rendering legal counselling to irregular migrants kept in public custody.

The Project

Overall objective:

To contribute to a functioning return system in the Republic of Moldova in compliance with human rights as enshrined in relevant international, regional and national legislation and protecting the human rights of returnees through independent and transparent forced-return monitoring.

Specific objectives:

1. Strengthen the legal and institutional framework relevant to forced-return monitoring.
2. Increase the capacities of the relevant institutions to monitor forced-return operations.
3. Contribute to effective communication and cooperation between the return enforcing institutions and the monitoring bodies.

Direct beneficiaries:

- Bureau for Migration and Asylum
- The People's Advocate (Ombudsman) Office
- NGO Law Centre of Advocates

Indirect beneficiaries:

Persons who are forcibly returned to and from the Republic of Moldova.

Duration:

15 months
(December 2020 – February 2022)

Budget and donor:

120,000 EUR
Funded by the Ministry of the Interior and Administration of the Republic of Poland

Key Results

13 future national monitors – from both Ombudsman Office and civil society – received theoretical and practical training on forced return monitoring.

13 escort officers trained on human rights most at risk in forced-return operations, as well as their role and responsibilities.

8 future national trainers equipped in a train-the-trainers event with the skills and methodology required to teach on forced-return monitoring.

