



## “Enhancement of the Migration Information System (MIS) for Strengthening Migration, Asylum and Border Management in Bosnia and Herzegovina”

### Executive Summary

Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) has all the required institutional, legislative and administrative structures for effective migration management in place. The policies for border, migration and asylum management are guided by countries’ priorities, which are updated to respond to needs deriving from the huge pressure caused by massive and mixed migration flows of irregular migrants and refugees transiting through BiH or being stranded in BiH during recent years. Existing laws and legislation are gradually being brought into alignment with the European Union (EU) *acquis* and are, in general, being adequately implemented and enforced.

Bosnia and Herzegovina has been continuously and successfully supported within the Swiss "Migration Partnership Strategy for the Western Balkans" with the focus being placed on strengthening of BiH capacities to manage migrations and conduct coordinated and effective operations in the field of return and reintegration, with particular attention on vulnerable groups and prevention of irregular migration.

Within Strategy 2012-2015, the Ministry of Security and its agencies have been supported to improve the legal and institutional framework for migration management, including the establishment of a data management aimed to set legal norms for embedding the relevant EU *acquis* on entry and residence of third-country nationals. Within the Swiss "Migration Partnership Strategy for the Western Balkans" 2016-2019, the Ministry of Security and its agencies have been supported to improve border management and **upgrade the largest and most comprehensive source of data on migration** and define the negotiating position of BiH regarding the implementation of the EU integration processes for Chapter 24: Justice, Security and Freedom (migration, asylum and external borders) and strengthening of human capacities. Integration of data on asylum, residence permits, registration, visas and border crossing in a comprehensive management information system (MIS) was successfully finalized and tested. However, new legislative framework, the massive inflow of migrants, requirements stemming from the EU accession process and other issues led to new responsibilities and obligations, including **the need to continue with the intervention to further strengthen the migration management system in and sustainability of MIS through its continuous upgrading, as well as coordination between different institutions.**

This project is in line with the Strategy on Migration and Asylum 2016-2020 and the upcoming one for the period 2021-2025, as well as the overall framework of the Swiss – BiH Migration Partnership. It will also support the implementation of the Strategy for Integrated Border Management in BiH, 2019-2023.



With this project, authorities of BiH will be further supported to improve the efficiency of its migration management by increasing the level of control of the entry and stay of foreigners and upgrading the institutional capacities in the efficient coordination of migration, asylum and border issues and enhance the whole government approach. This means further improvement of the institutional capacities that will enable collection, analysis and exchange of data and information and strengthening the technical and personnel capacities of the competent institutions as far as establishing and functioning of the migration information system and collection of data is concerned.

## Objectives

**The project aims** to support the Ministry of Security, its organizational units (the Service of Foreigners Affairs and Border Police), the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and law enforcement agencies to efficiently manage and coordinate foreigners' entries and stays through the use of an efficient data management system on asylum, residence permits, registration, visas and border crossing. **The overall goal** is to enable the Ministry of Security to efficiently manage the regular and irregular movement of people and take effective measures to prevent and suppress related illegal acts, while maintaining a high level of security for BiH citizens, migrants and visitors.

Within the Project, **the following outputs** are planned:

- 1) *The Migration Information System is upgraded and extended with online application systems modules for visas and resident permits, and electronic short stay registration in Police stations across the BiH territory is set.*

The objective of this activity is to upgrade the online registration system for foreigners (E-Foreigner) by adding additional modules for visa and residence permits. Foreigners will be able to access those modules through a web portal, which would ultimately expedite the processes of visa and residence permits issuance.

- 2) *The system for electronic biometric residence permit cards issuance is introduced.*

The objective of this activity is to introduce a system for the personalization of residence permit cards, connecting this system to the biometric data held by the MIS, and the issuance of digital residence permit cards, which would ultimately improve document security, prevent potential falsification of the residence permits currently printed on stickers and will expedite the entire process.

## Project Stakeholders

Key project stakeholders are the Ministry of Security of Bosnia and Herzegovina, its organizational units (the Service of Foreigners Affairs and Border Police) and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Bosnia and Herzegovina.



The project is implemented by Ministry of Security and International Centre for Migration Policy Development – ICMPD. While the Ministry will provide overall guidance and determine the strategic and operational priorities, ICMPD will provide professional and administrative and technical support and ensure timely implementation of the project.

### **Project Duration**

The MIS Project is running for 16 months from November 2021 to February 2023.

### **Donors**

State Secretariat for Migration of Switzerland (SEM) through Swiss Embassy in BiH

### **Project Budget**

1,35000.000 CHF

### **Contact**

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