



## **DRAFTING OF A NATIONAL IBM STRATEGY AND UPDATING OF THE "NATIONAL ACTION PLAN TO IMPLEMENT TURKEY'S IBM STRATEGY" (EU4IBMTR)**

### **Executive Summary**

EU4IBMTR Project's aim is to develop a tailored national IBM Strategy for Turkey, and an updated National Action Plan for its implementation.

The project is funded by the EU Commission, with funds from IPA II mechanism in the amount of 2,000,000 EUR. National main beneficiary is the Ministry of Interior, while the International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD) is responsible for project management and implementation. The other beneficiaries of the project are "Ministry of National Defence, Ministry of Trade, Ministry of Transport and Infrastructure, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, civil society and private sector. EU4IBMTR Project will review the current Integrated Border Management (IBM) system in Turkey (overall strategic priorities, legislative and institutional frameworks, policies and practice) and develop an improved/optimised national IBM model for Turkey. In the following step, the selected model will be further developed into a tailored National IBM Strategy for Turkey, and an updated National Action Plan for its implementation will be developed.

In addition to the development of new IBM model and related policy documents, the EU4IBMTR Project will also aim to support related institutions and agencies to put the new IBM Strategy and Action Plan into practice through effective policies and implementing measures and ensure continuous monitoring and evaluation of the implementation.

### **Current Context**

With 2,949 km of land borders, a coastline of 8,484 km and over 30 land border crossing points with Syria, Iraq, Iran, Azerbaijan, Armenia, Georgia, Bulgaria and Greece, Turkey has a complex and multifaceted border management circumstance. Turkey's unique geographic position, straddling Europe and Asia, has contributed to its increasing role as a destination and transit country for migrants and refugees to reach Europe.

Factors such as the continuity of conflicts and instability in neighbouring countries cause constant security risks and the threat of terrorism along the borders of Turkey. Economic, political and social problems in the region triggered a constant stream of forced migration from the neighbourhood towards Turkey. Harsh climate conditions, long-lasting winters and challenging terrain of the border areas



in Turkey's eastern and south-eastern regions also make it more difficult to apply proper border security measures in these sections.

Efforts at advancing the border management model in Turkey have continued over the last decade, with extensive support from the EU, to respond to arising needs and improve the border management system in general, based on the requirements deriving from the EU accession process.

In the area of border management, the institutional and legal framework and operational coordination need to be improved. There is a large number of public institutions that are responsible for different aspects of border management. The current system of having more than one agency responsible for providing security and passport checks at border crossings and supervising the country's blue, air and green borders makes inter-institutional cooperation and coordination essential.

Since 2003, Turkey has made significant efforts to improve its border management system. The adoption of the 'Strategy Paper for the Protection of the External Borders' in 2003, followed by the adoption of 'National Action Plan Towards the Implementation of Turkey's Integrated Border Management' on 27 March 2006, are significant achievements in this field.

Within this context, the 'Regulation on Interagency Cooperation and Coordination in Border Management' was published in 2016 to increase cooperation and coordination between public institutions and organisations. In Turkey's 2016 progress report, the adoption of the Regulation was considered to be a positive step.

The mechanisms established to improve intra-agency and interagency cooperation – namely the Integrated Border Management Coordination Board and Border Management Implementation Board – are essential steps in this regard. Although interventions supported through IPA and national funded activities have improved the overall functioning of the current border management system, there is still a need to reinforce the system further. The most critical issue is to sustain efforts to ensure cooperation among the various institutions.

Considering the increased necessity for further improvement of border management measures in Turkey, developing a National IBM Strategy and a revised Implementation Action Plan is essential. The National IBM Strategy and the revised Action Plan will overcome the current shortcomings in the system and



guide the development and implementation of the political, institutional and legislative aspects of a reformed border management system in Turkey.

### Objectives

The overall objective of the project is to support better alignment regarding Chapter 24-Justice, freedom and security.

The **Specific Objective** is to improve IBM in Turkey in line with EU standards and EU *acquis*.

The implementation of the project will be structured around the following four **Components**:

- The first component focuses on reviewing of the current Border Management system in Turkey.
- The second component aims at drafting a National IBM Strategy and an updated Action Plan for implementation.
- The third component focuses on developing policies and measures for the implementation of the new IBM Strategy and Action Plan,
- And the fourth component is focused on increasing inter-agency and international cooperation

### Project Stakeholders

The stakeholders of the EU4IBMTR project are the Ministry of Interior, Ministry of National Defence, Ministry of Trade, Ministry of Transport and Infrastructure, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, civil society, local communities and private sector.

### Project Duration

The EU4IBMTR project is running for a duration of 30 months from 24 November 2021 to 24 May 2024.