

## **Factual information on ICMPD’s activities and role related to the extension of the multipurpose reception centre in Lipa, Bosnia and Herzegovina**

Vienna, April 2023 – The International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD) was contracted by European Commission to procure the construction of a “temporary retention facility”, for twelve people, as an extension of the multipurpose reception centre in Lipa that accommodates up to 1500 people.

The purpose of this accommodation is to provide a secure facility within the temporary reception centre where, in specific cases, measures of detention and restrictions of movement can be implemented in line with international and EU standards, while providing shelter and basic services. People who present a risk to others on the camp site can temporarily be held there.

Based on this, authorities of Bosnia and Herzegovina, acting within the framework of the establishment and functioning of the multi-purpose reception centre at LIPA, had conducted all preparatory and groundwork for the construction of this temporary retention facility. The national authorities were responsible for resolving all procedural issues related to building permits, planning and construction of the centre. Before construction started, the authorities informed ICMPD that all procedural issues and preliminary work had been completed and the necessary permits obtained. Only after confirmation by the authorities on having all necessary conditions in place, ICMPD launched the project to construct the temporary retention facility.

ICMPD’s role remained limited to the construction of the facility. During the construction phase, ICMPD acted following the decisions taken by the authorities of Bosnia and Herzegovina, and the European Commission, and regularly coordinated with the authorities of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The overall purpose and manner of use of the temporary retention facility have been determined by the respective authorities of Bosnia and Herzegovina. The final purpose of the temporary retention facility will be decided by the authorities of Bosnia and Herzegovina in line with the national legal framework.

ICMPD does not have any role in determining the final purpose of the use of the facility, and will not have any role in the management of this facility. Authorities of Bosnia and Herzegovina will remain responsible to manage the multipurpose reception centre in Lipa.

The funding for this construction project is provided by the European Union.

At present, the facility is not yet in use. It will remain empty until it will be taken over by the authorities of Bosnia and Herzegovina. This handover is set to take place within the next few weeks.

ICMPD will continue to take required action based on the decisions made by the relevant national authorities and the European Commission.

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The International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD) is an international organisation with 19 Member States and more than 460 staff members. Active in more than 90 countries worldwide, it takes a regional approach in its work to create efficient cooperation and partnerships along migration routes. Priority regions include Africa, Eastern Europe and Central Asia, Mediterranean, Silk Routes, Western Balkans and Turkey. Its three-pillar approach to migration management – structurally linking research, migration dialogues and capacity building – contributes to better migration policy development worldwide. The Vienna-based organisation has a mission in Brussels, a regional office in Malta and project offices in several countries. ICMPD receives funding from its Member States, the European Commission, the UN and other multilateral institutions, as well as bilateral donors. Founded in 1993, ICMPD holds UN observer status and cooperates with more than 700 partners including EU institutions and UN agencies.

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