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FReM II PARTNER COUNTRIES

ICMPD implements the project in co-operation with the partner countries:

• Austria, Federal Ministry of the Interior
• Bulgaria, Ministry of Interior
• Czech Republic, Office of the Public Defender of Rights
• Finland, Non-Discrimination Ombudsman
• Germany¹, Federal Office for Migration and Refugees
• Greece, Greek Ombudsman Office
• Hungary, Ministry of Interior
• Latvia, Ombudsman’s Office of the Republic of Latvia
• Luxembourg, Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs
• Malta, Ministry for Home Affairs and National Security
• the Netherlands, Inspectorate of Security and Justice
• Portugal, Ministry of Interior
• Romania, Romanian National Council for Refugees
• Sweden², Swedish Migration Agency
• Switzerland, State Secretariat for Migration

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¹ Germany officially joined the project in August 2017.
² Sweden changed its project focal point from the Ministry of Justice to the Swedish Migration Agency in November 2017.
FReM II OBJECTIVES

Since 1 September 2016, the International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD) is implementing the “Forced-Return Monitoring II” (FReM II) project in co-operation with 15 partner countries, Frontex and the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA).

The FReM II overall objective is to contribute to a functioning EU Return System in line with the EU 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 objectives are to:

1. Enlarge and institutionalise the Pool of Forced-Return Monitors, providing all Member States and Frontex with access to qualified and trained independent forced-return monitors.

2. Contribute to the further harmonisation of rules at the European Union level and support Member States in improving their national forced-return monitoring systems.

The project also aims at raising awareness and exchanging ideas and good practices in the field of forced-return monitoring.

The FReM II project builds on the results of the previous “Forced-Return Monitoring” project (2013-2015), which put forward clear guidelines for forced-return monitoring and a comprehensive training manual for forced-return monitors. Furthermore, the previous FReM project established a pilot pool of forced-return monitors and developed a draft framework for the management of a pool of forced-return monitors.

FReM II BENEFITS

According to Article 29 (pool of forced-return monitors) of the European Border and Coast Guard (EBCG) Regulation all “Member States shall be responsible for contributing to the pool […]” “[…] of forced-return monitors from competent bodies who carry out forced-return monitoring activities in accordance with Article 8(6) of Directive 2008/115/EC […]” “[…] by nominating forced-return monitors corresponding to the defined profile”.

Hence, there are three clear benefits for participants of the FReM II project:

- Through the comprehensive training of nominated monitors in all aspects of monitoring, FReM II assists Frontex and Member States in implementing Article 29 (pool of forced-return monitors) and Article 36 (training of staff involved in return-related tasks) of the EBCG Regulation.

- FReM II supports Frontex in establishing the Pool of Forced-Return Monitors within its structure – providing access to qualified and trained independent forced-return monitors also for Member States.

- By supporting Member States to strengthen their national forced-return monitoring systems, FReM II assists them in further implementation of Article 8(6) of the EU Return Directive (2008/115/EC), according to which EU Member States are obliged to provide for an ‘effective forced-return monitoring system’.

HARMONISATION AND INSTITUTIONALISATION OF FORCED-RETURN MONITORING

Added value of an independent and transparent forced-return monitoring system:

- Providing a checks and balances mechanism to guarantee the enforcement of returns based on fundamental rights
- Enhanced protection of fundamental rights of returnees
- Increased transparency and accountability of forced-return operations by ensuring the independent observation of police and enforcement authorities’ conduct and by providing unbiased and neutral reporting
- Improvement and harmonisation of return procedures by sharing good practices and quickly identifying and correcting possible shortcomings

Added value of a common European approach and harmonised procedures:

- Fundamental rights compliance across the EU, based on the EU Return Directive
- Increased awareness and common understanding on forced-return monitoring
- Introduction of European standards and aligned forced-return monitoring procedures in the EU
- Providing a support mechanism to Frontex and Member States
- Common European training programme and availability of qualified trainers
- Common monitor profile and availability of adequately trained/qualified and independent monitors