Steering Group and Launching Conference of the AENEAS 2005 Ukraine Project

The Steering Group meeting and the Launching Conference of the project "Strengthening capacities and cooperation in the identification of forged and falsified documents in Ukraine" took place on 8-9 November 2007 in Kyiv, Ukraine. The events gathered some 50 high ranking participants from project partner states, Ukrainian authorities and international organisations involved in the field of document security to endorse the Assessment report and to officially launch the project implementation phase.

During the Launching conference, ICMPD presented the results of the assessment phase and took stock of the results achieved so far in this project, which aimed at sharing EU good practices in the document security field with several national authorities of Ukraine. The European Union’s Border Assistance Mission to Moldova and Ukraine (EUBAM) and the European Agency for the Management of Operational Cooperation at the External Borders of the Member States of the European Union (Frontex) announced their intention to co-operate in the field of training in the framework of the project.

Ukrainian authorities accepted the findings of the Assessment report, prepared during the inception phase of the project, and agreed that this document become public by publication on the ICMPD website. Participants of both events accepted the draft Inception report as a living document, which can be updated during the project implementation and adjusted if jointly agreed.
Dear Reader,

Particularly at the beginning of a new year, good intentions and their implementation throughout the coming period are in the forefront. I hope and wish that you now feel invigorated and ready to pursue actively, and to achieve, your personal and professional goals.

In ICMPD too, we started the New Year with new energy and objectives, which need our full attention to achieve them. In particular, we intend to further strengthen the quality of our services for states and administrations in charge with questions how to make migration management more effective, more efficient and more sustainable.

ICMPD’s support to inter-governmental dialogues aims at targeted and focussed discussions about topics to be prioritised by the participating states. Services will continue to entail analytical preparations, information, and experience exchange and will increasingly include modern tools to provide instant, visualised and easy access to migration situations in the wider European region. With such tools, inter-governmental co-operation is encouraged, because all participating administrations benefit from the sharing of information, experiences and best practises.

In the area of capacity building, ICMPD already last year concentrated its activities on priorities of Member States relating to their foreign migration policy. This year, further developments will lead to enhancing technical knowledge and experience transfer in the field of migration management among many states in the European region. We will inform you about the outcomes of these very promising endeavours.

To be fit for these new challenges, ICMPD has restructured the organisation. The department Intergovernmental Dialogue and Research will support the formulation and implementation of national migration strategies and policies; whereas the department Capacity Building and Operations will continue to act as a strong and reliable service provider in the field of migration management.

On December 17th ICMPD signed an MoU with the Migration, Asylum, Refugees Regional Initiative (MARRI). For MARRI, this was the first MoU ever signed, continuing the successful co-operation which today is visible in three ongoing projects:

"Development of communication and information exchange systems on illegal migration in the Western Balkan region";

"Programme to Support the Development of Transnational Referral Mechanisms (TRM) for Trafficked Persons in South-Eastern Europe";

"Programme for the Enhancement of Anti-trafficking Responses in South Eastern Europe – Data Collection and Information Management”.

Smart Visa Project Publications Online

The publications elaborated within the project “Smart Visa for Students from the Western Balkans” are now available on the ICMPD website (www.icmpd.org) as well as on the King Baudouin Foundation website (www.kbs-frb.be):

Research study: “Smart Visa for Students from the Western Balkans - Challenges and Possible Solutions”;

Summary of the study “Smart Visa for Students from the Western Balkans - Recommendations for the way ahead”.

The study and the subsequent summary describe policy and practice regarding long-term visa and residence permits as well as short-term visa within selected EU Member States, highlight good practices and make recommendations for change, especially in relation to the Western Balkans. Based on a thorough analysis of the present situation, the project aims to contribute to the further development of facilitated procedures for students from the Western Balkan region wanting to pursue studies in the EU. The project is funded by the King Baudouin Foundation in Brussels and implemented in co-operation with ICMPD.
January 2008 saw the completion of the “Arab and European Partner States Working Document on the Joint Management of Mixed Migration Flows”. The document, developed for the benefit of MTM Arab and European Partner States by the project implementing agencies Europol, Frontex and ICMPD, in collaboration with UNHCR, represents the result of a year of consultations on the four core areas of mixed migration management: interception and apprehension of irregular migrants; combating smuggling and trafficking networks; reception and detention; and return and readmission. The Working Document will provide a base upon which to develop further joint activities on mixed migration management through the consensus built between partners on both shores of the Mediterranean.

**MTM Working Document**

The new version of the MTM Interactive Map on Irregular Migration Routes and Flows (i-Map) was unveiled at the MTM Project Closing Conference of Geneva. This web-based information exchange instrument developed jointly by ICMPD, Europol and Frontex, features significant technical improvements and a substantial increase in the migration-related topics addressed. 2008 will see new international agencies joining the consortium (Interpol, UNODC, UNHCR* and Odysseus Academic Network) allowing for additional expert analyses of migration information from the 37 MTM Partner States. Besides information gathering meetings and missions, the new i-Map will include an on-line MTM Questionnaire on Irregular Migration and Trafficking in Human Beings in the Partner States thus establishing a permanent and sustainable information-gathering process.

* Negotiations under way.

**MTM Closing Conference**

On 30-31 January 2008, the final Conference of the joint ICMPD-Europol-Frontex project “Towards a Comprehensive Response to Mixed Migration Flows” took place in Geneva. This event, hosted by the Swiss Federal Office for Migration, presented one of the outcomes of the project – the “Arab and European Partner States Working Document on the Joint Management of Mixed Migration Flows”. Moreover, the conference also served as a forum to discuss future MTM activities for 2008 and beyond; these were agreed upon in the presence of high-level representatives for MTM Arab and European Partner States, as well as relevant international organisations.

The first opportunity to discuss the Inception report’s aims at expert level was the Workshop on information exchange and on training, which took place on 5-7 December 2007 in Kyiv, Ukraine and was hosted by the Ministry of Interior. Experts from Croatia, Germany (representing DCAF), Hungary and the Netherlands as well as representatives of EUBAM (Finland, Slovakia) delivered presentations in line with the topic of the workshop. Ideas for information exchange and ongoing practices in the field of document security were presented by all participating Ukrainian authorities.

The next project activities foreseen are study visits to Hungary and the Netherlands, which will take place in the first or second week of February 2008. As a leader in the training module on identification of forged and falsified documents, Hungary is planning a programme which will include visits to training centres, specialised laboratories, Budapest international airport, BCPs and introduction of preparation methods of alerts (documentation on counterfeit documents).

Two DCIM Training on Database Usage held in Vienna

Two trainings on the usage of the two databases developed in the framework of the "Programme for the Enhancement of Anti-trafficking Responses in South-Eastern Europe – Data Collection and Information Management (DCIM)" took place in Vienna in December 2007. The databases, one on trafficker-centred and criminal justice data and one on victim-centred data, shall be used for the collection of data related to trafficking in human beings in the areas of prevention, protection and prosecution. They will be owned nationally by the relevant institutions in the government and will provide the participating countries with the opportunity to have access to reliable and comparable statistical information.

The training on the usage of the victim-centred database was held on 10-11 December 2007 and the one on trafficker-centred database took place on 12-13 December 2007. A total of eighteen participants from Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Macedonia, Moldova, Montenegro, Romania and Serbia took part in the two trainings. The trainees worked on familiarising themselves with the database in the local languages. Trained by Mr Dolleschal from Developer.AT, whose company developed the DCIM software, the trainees explored the different functions and output possibilities of the databases, including the option to produce customised reports. The active participation and the constructive input provided by the national representatives during the interactive training modules was also the basis for an upgrade of the databases to improve their functionality and reliability in the collection of data.
Second Regional TRM Seminar

The Second Regional Seminar of the "Programme to Support the Development of Transnational Referral Mechanisms (TRM) for Trafficked Persons in South-Eastern Europe" took place on 13-16 November 2007 in Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina. The Seminar benefited from the participation of national delegations from Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Macedonia, Moldova, Montenegro, Romania, Serbia and the UN-administered territory of Kosovo. Furthermore, the representatives from Austria, Germany, Greece, Italy, the Russian Federation and Turkey as main destination countries for victims of trafficking from the SEE region, whose attendance was specifically requested by the SEE participants, contributed significantly to the discussion.

The participants acknowledged the fact that effective transnational referral of victims of trafficking is contingent upon the commitment and participation of countries of origin, transit and destination. Thus the foundations of transnational cooperation were laid.

The conclusions of the Second

Regional TRM Seminar will serve as the basis for the activities foreseen for the upcoming third test-run phase of the TRM Programme. During this phase, the TRM guidelines will be applied in the concrete work on transnational cases. In order to prepare the national actors more thoroughly for the practical work with the TRM guidelines, national trainings will be organised. In addition, meetings and trainings will be organised on a bi- and trilateral basis among the participating countries.

It was also announced that Italy would host the concluding Third Regional Seminar in Rome in May 2008.

The participants reiterated their commitment to take action to address the outstanding gaps in this process by working together with all relevant actors in an effort to foster a comprehensive, nationally-owned approach to the fight against trafficking in human beings.

Development of Comprehensive Anti-trafficking Response in Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia

The official presentation of the International Labour Organization (ILO) project aiming at development of anti-trafficking response in Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia took place in Yerevan on November 22nd - a project implemented in partnership with the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), and the International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD).

The project offers measures leading to a long-term perspective against trafficking in human beings in the Southern Caucasus by contributing to and enhancing National Action Plans (NAP) and the legal framework against Trafficking in Human Beings in all three countries. It seeks to contribute to the progressive reduction of trafficking in human beings in Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia.

The project is funded by the European Commission. It will be implemented over a period of two years. Additional co-funding will be provided by ILO and partner organisations.

The first project milestone was a workshop on "Implementation of the National Action Plan on Trafficking in Human Beings" in Baku on December 11th; with participation of the Deputy Minister of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Mr. Vilayet Eyvazov, in his capacity as National Coordinator for Fight against Trafficking in Human Beings.

Photo: Participants of the second TRM seminar.

Photo: Baku Workshop on the implementation of NAPS.
The EU funded Border Management in Central Asia (BOMCA) programme, encompassing Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan is being implemented by UNDP. As under the previous BOMCA IV phase, ICMPD was again subcontracted by UNDP to implement an integrated border management (IBM) project under the current BOMCA V phase.

From 17 – 19 December the two final activities, a regional workshop and the closing conference, took place in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan. 43 representatives from border agencies (border guards, migration service, customs, phyto sanitary, veterinary and sanitary services) from all five central Asian countries, as well as national BOMCA staff, representatives from the EU-funded Border Management in Badakhshan Afghanistan (BOMBAF) programme and UNDP, gathered to work on and discuss integrated border management related issues.

The workshop introduced the IBM training manual, elaborated under the BOMCA project by ICMPD, to trainers from border agencies from the five central Asian republics. This workshop constituted the last activity in a training cycle which started with a training needs assessment, followed by a study tour to Austria and a regional Training of trainers (ToT) seminar in Almaty, Kazakhstan. The regional and interagency character of all the activities, involving the main border agencies from all five central Asian countries, additionally supported the exchange of experience and cross border co-operation in the region.

The introduction of the IBM training manual constitutes a major step forward in the field of capacity building for training institutions of border agencies in Central Asia as it gives the future trainers a useful, practical and sustainable tool for conducting day-to-day trainings as well as specialised IBM trainings in the future. The manual allows the beneficiary training institutions to immediately implement and practice IBM trainings by using modern training methods in their daily trainings and to pass on their experience to their training colleagues in a sustainable way.

During the closing conference the results of the 11-month project were presented and discussed with the national authorities from all countries.

Sri Lanka Information Exchange Project Continued

With the financial support of the United Kingdom, ICMPD continues to implement an information exchange project in Sri Lanka, in partnership with the Ministry of Nation Building and Estate Infrastructure Development. The project aims at supporting the UK Home Office in ascertaining the nationality of Sri Lankans by carrying out identity verifications. A small project team of 5 people is active in the whole of Sri Lanka. On the basis of official records, such as birth registration and school records, confirmation can be obtained with regard to the identity of individuals.
Budapest Process

Budapest Process Working Group on Irregular Transit Migration through the South Eastern European Region

The WG met on 27 – 28 November 2007 in Zagreb. The meeting was chaired and hosted by the Ministry of Interior of Croatia and focused on Minors as Irregular Migrants, from legal and practical aspects.

Minors represent a growing challenge in all South Eastern European countries. In particular groups of minors originating from countries in the region and staying or transiting through other countries, where they are apprehended, are considered as a major problem not only in terms of adequate housing, care and assistance and protection, but also with regard to investigation, information gathering and assessment against the background of trafficking and smuggling of human beings as well as other forms of abuse.

Following the presentations at the meeting, the participants recommended a list of priorities to provide solutions to the challenge of unaccompanied minors in an irregular situation.

Joint Conference of UNODC and the Budapest Process with the Organisation of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (BSEC) on Trafficking in Human Beings in the Black Sea Region

The conference, held in Istanbul on October 9-10, 2007, focused on transnational co-operation between law enforcement and NGOs for the referral of trafficking victims, regional initiatives on transnational co-operation as well as on data collection and information management.

The participants encouraged continuing this interagency initiative and agreed that a co-ordinated, multidisciplinary and multidimensional approach can only be attained by sharing experiences, good practises and recommendations. It was also recognised that harmonising national approaches in accordance with international standards and benchmarks will contribute to establishing more effective anti-trafficking policies. Hence, regional institutionalised co-operation among all actors concerned shall be a priority in the Black Sea Region.

New ICMPD Publications

Aeneas WB: Regional Report

One of the core milestones of the Aeneas project “Development of communication and information exchange systems on illegal migration in the Western Balkan region” is an assessment of the situation in the field of migration information exchange, on legal, institutional and operational level. This assessment was carried out in the framework of six expert missions and a feedback round, in which all relevant national and international stakeholders were included. The resulting “Regional Situation Analysis Report”, a comprehensive 128 page document, was handed over to the EC in December 2007.

In addition to that specific areas of interest were identified for each country, to be addressed through tailor-made national workshops. In the case of Serbia this led to the development of a handbook for the collection and distribution of data on illegal migration, which identifies the responsible bodies within the border police, and describes the necessary procedures. In Albania the project supported the drafting of a risk analysis manual, including templates for risk analysis products. The Project, under the leadership of the Hungarian Ministry of Justice and Law Enforcement (MOJLE), will run until June 2008 and continue with the implementation of national workshops as well as the set-up of a regional pilot information exchange system.

IBM Training Manual

Under the BOMCA V programme ICMPD developed a training manual including modern training methodologies for central Asian trainers. Following training assessment missions to all five central Asian countries, and following the experience gained during training activities in the region, ICMPD created a practical and handy training manual with the support of international experts based on three generic integrated border management training curricula. This includes interactive training exercises, possible case studies, descriptions of modern and interactive training methods and training devices. The manual further includes a chapter on feedback and evaluation and annexes useful for trainers in their daily work. All in all, the manual constitutes a practical and sustainable training tool for general or specialised IBM trainings in the whole central Asian region.
Forthcoming Events

**Budapest Process Working Group on Irregular Movements and Asylum:** Prague, 14-15 April  
**DCIM Final Regional Meeting:** Skopje, 14-16 April  
**15th Meeting of the Budapest Group of Senior Officials and Friends of the Chair:** 15-16 May, Trabzon  
**Third TRM Regional Seminar:** Rome, 19-22 May  
**Budapest Process Working Group on Immigration and Admission Policies:** Budapest, 5-6 June

News in Short

**Vernissage in ICMPD HQs**

Concurrent to the Slovenian EU-Presidency, ICMPD is honoured to present a number of paintings by prominent Slovenian artists, made available by the Slovenian Cultural Centre in Vienna, Korotan and Eva Petric, a challenging young artist. A vernissage on February 19 introduced these works of art, together with works by the Austrian painter Andreas Frank.

*Photos: paintings by Vinko Železnikar (left) and Apollonia Zwest.*

**Specialist from Dutch Migration Department joins ICMPD**

Edward Geelen joined the ICMPD staff as Senior Migration Specialist in November 2007. Mr. Geelen’s field of expertise lies in analysis and prognosis of all migration processes and the build-up of information management and communication systems. Before joining ICMPD, Mr. Geelen formed part of a task force for the Dutch government to improve migration processes and to establish better co-ordination between them. Based on the accomplishments of this task force, Mr. Geelen managed to introduce a new permanent reporting system, which informed – and still informs – the Dutch parliament on all relevant trends and developments in national migration processes. Mr. Geelen’s secondment to ICMPD was made possible through the strong support of the Dutch government, in particular the State Secretary of Migration Affairs, Mrs. Albayrak, the Director General, Mr. Visser and the Managing Director of Coordination for Immigration Affairs, Mr. Van de Griendt. Given that Mr Geelen’s particular field of expertise is also valuable for ICMPD’s Member States, we are proud to welcome him on the ICMPD team.

*Photo: Mr Geelen (centre) flanked by DDG Gabriela Abado and DG Gottfried Zürcher.*

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