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Swiss Confederation

Federal Department of Justice and Police FDJP
State Secretariat for Migration SEM



Support to efficient migration and border management in Bosnia and Herzegovina

Project duration:	2017 - 2019
Project budget	1'200'000 CHF
Swiss contribution:	900'000 CHF/additional credit CHF 240'000
Funding source:	Swiss State Secretariat for Migration (SEM)
Project partner:	Ministry of Security
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Project Description

BiH and neighbouring countries share a borderline of more than 1'600km. As most police agencies including Border Police (BP) do not have the optimum number of employees (on average one police officer covers 30km of the territory) it is difficult to control all borders. There is therefore a need to better connect BP structures at the local, regional and central level and to ensure faster communication and data exchange with other law enforcement agencies. Designed interventions supported the upgrade of an efficient large-scale information system that supports external border control, entry and exit in the country, law enforcement cooperation, and secure and central administration of data. This will ensure proper management and oversight of migration processes, asylum, residence permits, registration, visas and border crossing. After the submission of its application for EU membership in 2016, BiH has been invited to assess the country's capacity to start the EU accession process. In this context, the project supported the Ministry of Security to define its negotiating positions related to Chapter 24 - migration, asylum and border control.

The field of migration management is multi-sectorial. Therefore, a variety of organizational units of the Ministry of Security (Sectors for International Relations and European Integration, Immigration, Asylum, Border Police, Service of Foreign Affairs), as well as the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and other relevant institutions responsible for the implementation of the BiH Migration Strategy - are involved, either in the direct implementation of activities, or in the Project's Steering Committee.

Achieved Results

- Conditions created for establishing of a video surveillance system at 59 international border crossings: technical design and specification for an integrated system has been completed and handed over to the EU. Based on this documentation the EU is financing purchase and installation of video surveillance equipment through the EU IPA-2015 program financing. This is enabling the BP to better monitor and record border crossings. Another alignment relates to development of a module for the integration of biometrics data of foreigners in the Migration Information System, which will also be financed by the EU.
- Module for online registration of foreigners developed, integrated in the Migration Information System and in use. The simplified procedure enabled registration of 568 legal entities, 455 physical persons and 539,575 foreigners in a short period. This module raise to a higher level the security and control of movement of foreigners.
- Migration Information System (MIS) upgraded, data of four independent registries on asylum seekers, resident permits, visas registry and border crossing have been integrated in the central database. The

upgrade improved connections, exchange and interoperability between different institutions and with other information systems of police agencies outside of BiH (regional countries, EUROPOL, Interpol, FRONTEX).

- Local units of the Border Police report faster and more efficient (currently done by handwriting) on all events and data of interest for security of the country to the 6 regional Field Offices and the Central Office by using developed electronic records kept by the Border Police. Data exchange between local, regional and the BP main offices and with other security agencies is secured.
- Increased competences of 220 officials (+ 250 for using the MIS) working in the field of migration and asylum including implementation of the Law on Foreigners and the Law on International Protection, amended in 2016.
- The negotiation ability of the Ministry of Security and other relevant institutions with the EU regarding the requirements of Chapter 24 (Justice, Freedom and Security) are improved. The action plan for the areas of migration, asylum and external borders has been created.