

Visa Capacity Building in Bosnia and Herzegovina (VCBB)

About the Project

The project's primary objective is to enhance Bosnia and Herzegovina's (BiH) visa and border management system to meet EU standards, with a specific focus on the common visa policy and Schengen border regulations. By bolstering BiH's capabilities in identification, visa operational procedures and security measures, the project aims to combat fraudulent applications, minimize visa misuse, and address issues related to human trafficking and irregular migration. Furthermore, the project seeks to foster increased cooperation and facilitate information sharing among Western Balkan countries.



Partners

This MPF project is implemented by the Swedish Migration Agency in collaboration with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Security of Bosnia and Herzegovina.



Countries

Sweden, Bosnia and Herzegovina



Time frame

May 2024 – August 2026 (28 months)



Budget

EUR 1,193,177.19 (94.5% from BMVI)

Activities



Research Study and Action Plan

As part of the project inception, a research study will be conducted to review the current legislation and identify areas for potential development in aligning Bosnia and Herzegovina's (BiH) visa process and border management with the EU common visa policy and Schengen border regulations. A conference will follow with the aim to present and discuss the outcomes of the study report.

Additionally, workshops will be held with key stakeholders from EU and BiH institutions (including public administration) to develop guidelines towards creating a Visa Harmonization Action Plan.



Establishment of the Educational Visa unit in BiH

An operational Visa Processes Educational Unit will be established in Bosnia and Herzegovina to reinforce institutional capacity for training staff responsible for visa procedures in both participating Ministries. The unit's role, structure, functioning and organizational belonging will be defined during the project implementation. Core staff will receive comprehensive training to become responsible trainers in the new unit, covering training methods and the relevant Visa Code. Training materials will reflect current policy and regulations in BiH, with a module on potential changes expected during the implementation of the Action Plan for harmonization.



Study visits and workshops

A key component of the project will consist in providing the participants with the necessary knowledge and skills to improve visa procedures and effectively address challenges related to border management and security. This will be done by means of study visits and trainings for staff of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Security, the Service for Foreigners Affairs and the Border Police of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The study visit to Sweden will offer participants firsthand exposure to good practices, innovative techniques and strategies used to enhance visa operations and strengthen border security implemented by the Swedish colleagues. The trainings will instead focus on improving techniques related to visa interviews, conducting security background checks, detecting fraudulent applications, identifying risks associated with human trafficking and potential illegal migration, and utilizing biometric equipment in visa application procedures.

Implemented by



The Migration Partnership Facility



Migration Partnership Facility

This project is awarded and contracted in the framework of the Migration Partnership Facility (MPF), an EU-funded initiative implemented by ICMPD in support of the external dimension of the EU migration policy. Through its grants, the MPF facilitates the execution of projects to strengthen dialogue and cooperation on migration and mobility between Member States and partner countries outside the EU.

Funded by the European Union



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