Migration Partnership Facility

LEGAL MIGRATION AND MOBILITY

Preventing Secondary Irregular Migration Movements to the EU (PSIMM)

Project completed

About the Project

The project strengthened the Western Balkans' capacity to manage legal labour migration by supporting the development of a common regional understanding and a Roadmap for improving the management of foreign workers across the Western Balkan region. Responding to the region's growing reliance on third-country nationals, particularly from South Asia, to address labour shortages in sectors such as construction, transport and hospitality, the project enhanced understanding of the national and regional challenges, gaps and risks associated with the screening and verification of foreign workers, including those that may contribute to secondary movements. Through evidence-based research and regional dialogue, the project laid the foundation for more effective, transparent and secure labour migration governance.

Partners

This project was implemented by ICMPD under the Technical Assistance and Support Component of the MPF.

Countries

Western Balkan region (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo[1], Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia)

Time frame

September 2025 – April 2026 (8 months)

Budget

EUR 368,607.46 (100% from AMIF)

1 This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244/99 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence.

Activities

Strengthening the Evidence Base and Regional Understanding

The project established a comprehensive regional evidence base on labour migration governance in the Western Balkans through a harmonised research methodology applied across all Western Balkan economies. The report, *Between Emigration and Attraction: Governance, Challenges, and EU Convergence*, provided a shared understanding of labour migration frameworks, governance gaps and risks associated with the recruitment and management of foreign workers. Through regional workshops, institutions responsible for migration, labour, employment and inspections validated the findings, exchanged experiences and identified common priorities, thereby strengthening regional dialogue and cooperation.



First Validation Workshop in Vienna, 14 November 2025



Laying the Foundation for Better Labour Migration Management

Building on the research findings, the project translated evidence into practical policy guidance through the development of the Regional Roadmap for improving labour migration management in the Western Balkans. The Regional Roadmap identified key priorities for strengthening governance, including evidence-based policymaking, transparent recruitment, improved post-entry monitoring, stronger institutional coordination, enhanced safeguards for workers and employers, and closer cooperation with countries of origin. Extensive consultations with implementing institutions ensured that the Regional Roadmap reflected operational realities and enjoyed broad institutional ownership.





Second Regional Workshop in Tirana, 19 – 20 February 2026

The Migration Partnership Facility

MPF
Migration Partnership Facility

This project was implemented by ICMPD within the framework of the Migration Partnership Facility (MPF), an EU-funded initiative that supports the external dimension of EU migration policy. Through its Grants and Technical Assistance and Support components, the MPF facilitates the implementation of projects that strengthen dialogue and cooperation on migration and mobility between EU Member States and partner countries outside the EU.

Funded by the European Union

Implemented by

MPF@icmpd.org

www.migrationpartnershipfacility.eu

@MPF_ICMPD

ICMPD
International Centre for
Migration Policy Development