

LEGAL MIGRATION AND MOBILITY

Preventing Secondary Irregular Migration Movements to the EU (PSIMM)

About the Project

This project aims to strengthen the Western Balkans' capacity to manage labour migration by addressing the challenges associated with the recruitment of third-country nationals, particularly from South Asia. While the region has experienced a significant increase in foreign labour inflows to address workforce shortages, especially in sectors such as construction, transport, and hospitality, weak screening mechanisms and limited coordination with Countries of Origin (CoO) have led to increased irregular migration and secondary movements towards the EU. By enhancing institutional understanding and cooperation, the project seeks to support the development of more effective, transparent, and secure labour migration policies across the Western Balkan region.



Partners

This project is implemented by ICMPD under the Technical Assistance and Support component of MPF.



Countries

Western Balkan region (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo*, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia)



Time frame

September 2025 – April 2026 (8 months)



Budget

EUR 368,750 (from AMIF)

* This reference should be understood in the context of UNSCR 1244/99.

Activities



Comprehensive Mapping and Stakeholder Engagement

The project will begin by identifying key institutions and stakeholders involved in labour migration across the Western Balkans. Through a structured questionnaire and targeted consultations, it will map existing screening practices, legal pathways, inflows of foreign workers, and the role of recruitment agencies. A regional workshop will convene key stakeholders to exchange insights on current practices, institutional challenges, and the risks contributing to secondary movements.



Comparative Regional Analysis

Building on national-level engagement, the project will produce six country-specific papers detailing current screening and verification procedures, institutional challenges, and patterns of secondary migration. These findings will be synthesised into a regional comparative analysis report, highlighting shared vulnerabilities, procedural gaps, and cross-cutting trends. The report will offer a comprehensive overview of the labour migration governance landscape and identify priority areas for targeted interventions.



Regional Roadmap to Improve Screening and Cooperation with CoO

A high-level regional meeting will be held to validate the findings from the national and comparative reports, promoting inter-institutional dialogue and consensus on key priorities. Drawing on this input, a joint regional roadmap will be developed, setting out practical, coordinated steps to improve screening mechanisms and strengthen cooperation with CoO. The roadmap will serve as a strategic guide for future policy and operational reforms, tailored to national contexts and aligned with regional and EU migration objectives.

The Migration Partnership Facility



This project is 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



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