

Design of the Macedonian Targeted Study:

Changes in MARRI (Migration, Asylum, Refugees Regional Initiative) Regional Centre in Skopje.

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OBJECT OF RESEARCH

The Macedonian targeted study was focused on the changes in MARRI (Migration, Asylum, Refugees Regional Initiative) Regional Centre in Skopje. MARRI RC is an international governmental organisation, which acts as legal entity since 2004. As external project initiated from EU and Stability Pact (2000), MARRI was established in order to facilitate exchange of information between the MARRI Member States (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia), and to identify gaps in the legislature in the field of migration. The next step was to facilitate and to strengthen the ownership in the regional cooperation. Today the initiative is able to identify regional priorities, important from the perspective of EU integration of the member states, and to work on it.

The initiative, as other regional initiatives and forums, has no time limit for its existence. Even more, it is recognised as important tool for solving regional problems in the field of migration and fostering regional cooperation and partnership; very often it is used as successful model for other geographical areas.

MARRI RC is composed of six state officials, seconded by the respective Ministries of Foreign Affairs or Ministries of Interior / Security from each MARRI Member State [MS], Director and technical personnel.

Since 2008 MARRI is under regional ownership, this means that the MS are responsible for the policy implementation and the financing of the initiative. The MARRI Regional Forum, which is the steering body of the initiative and which is composed of the ministers of Interior from the six member countries, meet twice a year. Representatives from international partner organisations and donor countries are also invited to attend. The Regional Forum acts as a platform for coordination among the member countries and for consultation with its partners. The initiative is led by a presidency hold by one of the member countries on a rotating basis.

The MARRI RC acts to support the implementation of the decisions taken by the Regional Forum by carrying out practical cooperation and activities.

All MARRI RC projects are based on the priorities outlined by the MARRI Regional Forum. The projects are always implemented in cooperation with a donor. The financial support is crucial to MARRI RC projects. It also drives the RC to work in line with EU and international standards. The RC is focused on several new projects MARRI Migration Paper 2011-2012: "Joint Comprehensive approach in Building Cooperation between MARRI Member States and SEPCA Member States' Border Police on International Airports Border Crossing Points".

The Macedonian COMPOSITE targeted study focused on the MARRI RC Project BORDAIRPOL, which started in 2009 and is dealing with the Air Border Policing in nine countries in South East Europe. The Project (which has been developed in three circles, divided and subsequently followed one by one) is projected to run until 2015, and its goal is to develop the channels of communication between police



forces on the main airports in Tirana (Albania), Sarajevo (Bosnia and Herzegovina), Sofia (Bulgaria), Zagreb (Croatia), Skopje (Macedonia), Kishinev (Moldova), Podgorica (Montenegro), Bucharest (Romania) and Belgrade (Serbia). Besides the cooperation between the Border Police from the airports, the project established a network of cooperation on the strategic level among the heads of the border police of the nine countries.

The Project implementation is supported by FRONTEX, with institutional measures and with expert knowledge in the training modules. Coherency in this project is visible with the partnership of SEPCA (South East Police Chiefs Association) and PCC SEE (Police Cooperation Convention for South East Europe).

GOAL OF THE RESEARCH

The survey was designed for the purpose to evaluate the regional police cooperation between the police on the airports in nine countries in South East Europe (change project MARRI Project BORDAIRPOL and adaption of the police on the new established modalities).

In order to fulfil the purpose mentioned above, the survey was divided in three parts:

- a) Evaluation of the overall cooperation;
- b) Cooperation between specific partners (social network analysis) and
- c) Demographics

The target group was comprised of law enforcement (airport police commanders, heads of the Border Police Units, police officers, representatives from international organisations, and others who were/are involved in the MARRI Project).

DESIGN

As a method of data collection, the Macedonian research team preferred conducting a survey, but also used observations from inside, having in mind that two persons from the Macedonian research team are involved in managing the project. Furthermore, a combination of the methods is possible.

The survey was developed by the Macedonian research team in close partnership with the research team from Erasmus University Rotterdam (the Netherlands). For that reason, a number of video calls and e-mail communications were organised, followed by working meetings of both teams in Macedonia (Ohrid, 4-6 June, 2013). The survey was developed in English language, and was translated in Macedonian, Albanian, Serbian, Croatian, Bosnian and Montenegrin, with the purpose to ensure a better understanding of the interviewees, increasing their motivation, and enhance a better response rate.

The data was collected between August and October 2013, amongst others 36 interviews. Two ways of answering the survey were performed: by internet and by paper.

The different languages and national police structures of the MS, as well as the motivation, interest and enthusiasm of the police staff were foreseen as a potential obstacle regarding the access to police forces and / or data collection and analysis.