



Seminar
“Comprehensive Migration Management Systems”
Ohrid, Macedonia, 12th September 2008

RECOMMENDATIONS

National models for migration management need to be based on comprehensive and carefully structured set of country specific interests, objectives, policies and procedures. States have responsibilities and authority to design models of migration management limited by international conventions agreed to by a State, and the principles of international law.

The MARRI Member States need to establish and develop comprehensive, integrated migration management systems that can help governments and civil society focus on providing solutions to the growing migration (covering immigration and emigration as well) challenges.

Integrated migration management systems should provide the basis for development of policies, legislation, and administrative organization for management of migration (regular/irregular), admission policy, border management, asylum, trafficking, readmission, return/integration policy and document security as crucial elements of the migration system.

The following key elements of comprehensive migration management systems can be identified:

LEGISLATION

- National legislation regulating migration needs to be based on and harmonised with relevant instruments of international law. The adopted legislation should, in a clear and unambiguous way, state the obligations and rights for the authorities implementing the legislation.
- Legislation should be supplemented by by-laws, instructions, manuals, etc., providing good and effective service.

MIGRATION POLICY AND GOVERNMENTAL INTER-AGENCY WORKING GROUP

- It is essential to adopt comprehensive migration policy and to establish governmental interagency working group.
- Migration policy should provide guidance on timely coordinated response of state institutions about migration related challenges in the area of other policies: economic policy (labour emigration/immigration), social and health policy, taxation policy, demographic policy, education policy, security and defence policy and other policies as appropriate.
- The future tasks of governmental inter-agency working group would be:
 - a) Monitor migration flows on national, regional and international level on permanent basis;

- b) Evaluate situation in the field of migration;
 - c) Analyse push and pull factors in the field of migration;
 - d) On the basis of evaluation of situation, to propose appropriate measures, change or amendment of existing material legislation, monitor and evaluate the implementation of the right to appeal as one of fundamental human rights standards
 - e) Follow EU legislation in the field of migration and to propose measures for harmonising domestic legislation;
 - f) Co-ordinate inter-agency activities in the field of migration;
 - g) Co-operate with research and educational institutions, NGOs which are dealing with migration;
 - h) Development of efficient integration policy.
- Comprehensive migration management system should provide horizontal inter-agency co-operation covering visa policy, admission policy, border management, asylum, trafficking/smuggling, readmission, return/integration policy, document security and provide well functioning intra-service co-operation based on the following objectives:
 - a) Vertical co-operation with each agency/institution responsible for specific area;
 - b) Clear and coherent regulatory framework;
 - c) Transparency of responsibility concerning management, task report and follow-up with top-down and bottom-up communication procedures;
 - d) Well established administrative/working procedures;
 - e) Transparent flow of information to beneficiaries of services including their rights and obligations as well as information about the agency/institution's working procedures.

CENTRAL MIGRATION AUTHORITY

- It is essential to establish a Central Migration Authority tasked to provide good and effective inter-agency co-operation.
- The principle functions of Central Migration Authority should be:
 - a) Coordinate operative actions of the implementing bodies;
 - b) Continuous monitoring of implementation of migration policy with task to report to the executive and legislative ruling powers;
 - c) Monitor and analyze implementation of the objectives of the migration policy;
 - d) Prepare expert basis for change or amendment of the legislation;
 - e) Decide on appeals against first level decisions;
 - f) Co-ordinate the initiatives with other ministries and agencies, other countries and international organisations/institutions;
 - g) Co-ordinate dialogue with local authorities and civil society;
 - h) Provide training and education of the staff;
 - i) Provide the research of migration in cooperation with research institutions.

IT SUPPORT MECHANISMS

- Information management support IT mechanisms need to be developed in order to have the ability to collect data which will enable the States to perform operational procedures more effectively, continue assessment, monitoring and evaluation in all elements of the migration management system.

DATA COLLECTION

- Regionally harmonised and coherent data collection methods are essential for gathering valid statistical data that would enable to control and manage migration, co-operation and exchange of information bilaterally and multilaterally.
- Sustainable harmonised system of data gathering mechanisms in migration should be developed. Also, circulation of information and awareness-raising on information through the media on national and international level needs to be ensured. Preventive measures for the privacy of data and data protection need to be implemented in accordance with national and international legal standards.

TRAINING SYSTEMS

- Capacity building for development of permanent training systems specific for each profession category of the staff dealing with migration issues (law enforcement, policy units, units for aliens matters, asylum units, units for naturalization, for civil status, consular departments, labour agencies etc) needs to be established or enhanced. Training should be updated and continuous throughout professional careers of the civil servants.

REGIONAL COOPERATION AND EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION

- Regional cooperation is imperative and of particular importance. For co-operation in the MARRI Region, the following models for co-operation could be utilised:
 - a) Bilateral/multilateral agreements
 - b) Readmission agreements
 - c) Inter ministerial meetings with regular joint meetings between services and agencies on operational level
 - d) Designation of authorized contact persons, exchange of liaison officers
 - e) MARRI Regional Forum and MARRI Regional Centre
- The exchange of information and experiences between the countries in the region and their cooperation on the local level is an important part of the regional cooperation.
- It is recommended to establish a model of early warning system using the liaison migration officers as well as MARRI framework to facilitate the process
- Sound budget lines in national budgets should provide the basis for increase in migration related activities and sufficient capacity building in human resources which should be reflected in national action plans related to migration.
- Awareness of migration related issues should be raised among the parliamentarians.
- Policies for integration of migrants into society should be developed, based on EU policy for not less favourable treatment of migrants than own nationals and right to cultural identity and mutual participation in society (social care, employment, education, health care etc.)