



## **PRIORITIES OF THE MONTENEGRIN PRESIDENCY OF THE MIGRATION, ASYLUM AND REFUGEES REGIONAL INITIATIVE**

### **General**

During its Chairmanship-in-Office, Montenegro will be focused on strengthening of MARRI as a unique regional ownership initiative in charge of migrations and related issues, as well as on the activities of the Western Balkans governments in this field. Therefore, special attention will be paid to improvement of regional cooperation, further reinforcement and promotion of the concept of regional ownership and enhancement of MARRI member states' capacities for further development of migration management.

Montenegrin Presidency will try to cooperate as much as possible with the EU on all the aforementioned issues, on the presentation of achievements of the member states and the very Initiative, as well as on finding possibilities for cooperation within the EU projects in the Western Balkans.

The Presidency shall additionally work on intensifying contacts with countries, international organisations and donors in order to promote the Initiative and to provide funding for the implementation of planned activities. It will continue to foster relations with regional and international partner organisations with which MARRI has had a number of joint projects and programs.

### **Strengthening of the Initiative**

The Montenegrin Presidency will work on further institutionalization of the Initiative through organising Regional MARRI Forums and developing cooperation with other international organisations based on the complementarity principle order to avoid overlapping of activities.

Special attention will be paid to the reactivation of the MARRI Regional Committee in order to include Ministries of Foreign Affairs of the Member States more directly into conducting and directing this Initiative in line with needs and possibilities of the region.

Montenegrin presidency regards the MARRI Regional Centre as the best model and tool for promotion of the work of the Initiative, possibilities and results, so it will work on reinforcement, diversification and further focussing of the Regional Centre to a large number of activities and of joint cooperation fields of interest for the whole region.

### **Specific Areas**



**Visa liberalisation** – Having in mind the fact that 2009 and 2010 are the key years for most of the countries in the region when it comes to the abolition of the EU visa regime, the Montenegrin Presidency shall work together with the Regional Centre on the exchange of experience between the countries of the region in order to finish this process as soon as possible.

**Migrations** – work on further information exchange about migration in general, harmonisation of data collecting methodology and their categorisation. The Presidency regards the Regional Centre as the key element in this process.

Special accent will be put on intensification of dialogue between parliaments and governments of the Member States about the importance of migration policy for the development of the countries of the region.

**Legal migrations** – Promotion of cooperation between the MARRI member states in order to facilitate migrations of working force in the region, especially season workers, with constant exchange of experience and data and searching ground for joint projects, as well as exchange of information regarding registration of sign-ins and sign-offs.

**Illegal migrations** - Coordination of activities for finding effective mechanisms for prevention and reduction of trans-border crime, smuggling and human trafficking. Establishing of system of monitoring and data exchange, common risk analysis of illegal migrations, smuggling and human trafficking; exchange of data and experience between the MARRI Member States about illegal migrants accommodation facilities.

**Asylum** – further work on harmonisation of legislation, acceptance of migrants, capacity building, training and exchange of information towards reaching European standards. Attention shall be paid to the issues of asylum in the region, legal and illegal entries, migrants' rights and their treatment, development of regional mechanisms in this field and exchange of experiences and best practices between the MARRI Member States.

**Readmission** - improvements in concluding and implementing readmission agreements and search for long-lasting solution for reintegration of returnees and providing human and social rights in order to make their return sustainable.

**Refugees** - Special attention will be given to the issue of solving status of refugees in order to find permanent solution for their problems through synergy of all MARRI member states in further communication and exchange of ideas and programs.



**Border management** – Presidency will further promote good results that MARRI reached in exchange of experiences and ideas between border services of the member states.

**Citizenship** - Focus will be put on the analysis of regulation of citizenship in the MARRI member states and their harmonisation with the *Acquis* along with the addressing the issue of statelessness in relation to the successor states.