

CONCLUSIONS

INTRODUCTION

Europe and especially the SEE region, despite of recent ad-hoc border closures, is facing a massive and unprecedented influx of refugees/migrants, challenging the capacities of national and local institutions of the countries affected to assure stability, peace and well-being of both, the local populations and the refugees/migrants.

Past experiences have shown that the regional context of the situation witnessed, is rather uncertain and unpredictable, which makes appropriate coordination and decision-making between national and local institutions, but also between the EU and transit countries even more urgent. The situation is volatile, this implies that transit routes, affected communities and countries, the number of refugees/migrants itself and the anticipated time frame of the crisis can change all of a sudden. The fact that the refugee/migrant crisis is of regional proportions further stresses the need for a regional crisis management.

Here local, regional, national and international institutions/organizations from the government and civil society level are requested to join forces and cooperate within the scope of their competences and responsibilities to foster stability, peace and well-being.

Specifically the Conference recommends the following:

- It is essential to strengthen the capacities of Central and Local Governments in migration management and establish mechanisms to prevent, prepare for, respond to and recover from the crises;
- National migration management policies must consider the needs and capacities of local authorities;
- It is essential to share information, best practices, knowledge and resources at all levels of governance at national level;
- Local and regional strategies for dealing with the refugee and migration crisis should be developed and aligned with the national strategies;
- It is necessary to jointly plan the funds for dealing with the refugee and migration crisis, both from national resources, as well as the EU funds , in general aid;
- Solidarity must be shown to the more affected municipalities and regions;
- Local and national governments from different SEE and EU countries should come together and cooperate in order to intensify cross border cooperation in implementing projects in order to improve the situation.
- In regards to the challenges in communication, collaboration and cooperation between central and local governments in migrant crisis management, it is necessary to introduce the concept of quality information;
- Enhancing existing and establishing new regional coordination mechanisms, including both central and local authorities by networking, consultations in defining government policies, continuous needs assessments of local authorities, etc.
- Readiness of international organizations to continue supporting the efforts of regional structures and national authorities in the process of enhancing capacities of the Central and Local level in migration management.
- Necessity to have structured support of donor community.

CONCLUSIONS

The participants invited MARRI and NALAS to join their institutional know-how, experience and capacities to explore a feasible proposal for an innovative and collaborative regional mechanism approach among central and local level. The network concept could be an adequate work platform to pool capacities and resources of key stakeholders in refugee/migrant management.