



BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA
MARRI Presidency-In-Office
June 2018 - June 2019



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PRIORITIES OF MARRI PRESIDENCY-IN-OFFICE BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA (June 2018 – June 2019)

Bosnia and Herzegovina will take over the Presidency-in-Office of the Migration, Asylum and Refugees Regional Initiative (MARRI) from the Republic of Albania at the MARRI Ministerial Regional Forum which will be held on 12th June 2018 in Tirana.

Bosnia and Herzegovina Presidency-in-Office will continue the activities in accordance with MARRI basic legal documents¹ MARRI Strategy 2018 – 2020, as well as all relevant documents adopted by EU and UN, in line with obligations and tasks of each MARRI Participant resulting from their status in European Integration, UN membership (for those who are full-fledged members) and general principles of international protection of basic human rights.

During its Presidency, Bosnia and Herzegovina will continue the efforts of previous MARRI Participants' presidencies towards promotion of closer regional cooperation aimed at common, comprehensive and harmonized approach to safe, orderly and sustainable management of migration in the region. It will genuinely follow the recommendations of all political declarations adopted at MARRI Regional Forum sessions and other relevant documents adopted at the meetings of permanent MARRI bodies, as well as recommendations of Gap Analysis on MARRI functioning (produced by European Commission, FRONTEX, EASO, IOM, UNHCR, financed through multi-annual IPA II project²).

Bosnia and Herzegovina recommends the following priorities during the period of the Presidency-in-Office, as follows:

1. Strengthening and harmonizing legal regulation and practice in the areas of immigration and asylum rights in the MARRI Participants, to be later harmonized with the EU Acquis and EU best practices;
2. Strengthening cooperation in the area of immigration with aim to prevent irregular migration, smuggling and trafficking in human beings, as well as exchange of best practices and experiences in this area;
3. Successful implementation of the readmission agreements among MARRI Participants;

¹ Host Country Agreement, MARRI Guidelines and Rules of Procedures and MARRI RC Statutes

² Regional Support to Protection Sensitive Migration Management in Western Balkans and Turkey



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4. Strengthening bilateral and multilateral cooperation with Western Balkan migration and asylum authorities;
5. Continuation of ongoing projects related to the establishment of a regional interpreters' network and exchange of non-personal statistical data in the region, based on EU Directive 862/2007 using the EUROSTAT methodology, as well as facilitation of jointly organized returns of irregular migrants from MARRI Participants to their countries of origin in voluntary return cases and forced deportation procedures;
6. Establishment of unique database on the countries of origin for all MARRI Participants;
7. Continuous exchange of experiences and application of best practices in dealing with asylum requests;
8. Establishment of list of secure third countries;

FURTHER REFORM OF MARRI

The Bosnia and Herzegovina believes MARRI needs to continue efforts of the previous Presidency, in line with afore mentioned Gap Analysis and MARRI Strategy, in the aim of:

- **Upgraded internal functionality of the Initiative**
- **Greater efficiency and visibility and**
- **Strengthening of the Initiative itself by engagement of external expertise.**

It is necessary to continue with the efforts towards enhancing internal functionality of MARRI, with:

- follow the good example of previous Presidency in Office with advanced annual scheduling of regular MARRI meetings in this document (two Committee meetings, MARRI Friends Meeting and MARRI Forum meeting) in order to assure adequate participation and preparation of these regional events,
- regular adoption of key documents needed for functioning of MARRI and regular activities of MARRI Regional Centre, as well as regular payment of annual contributions by MARRI Participants.
- finalisation of organisational legal documents aimed at better efficiency and effectiveness of MARRI, stronger communication, cooperation and coordination among MARRI Forum, Committee and Regional Centre (Secretariat of the Forum). In that context, Bosnia and Herzegovina will conduct further work of MARRI Ad Hoc Working Group tasked to produce new organisational legal documents aligned with reform achievements and strategic goals related to MARRI organisation defined in MARRI Strategy, Gap Analysis and GIZ assessments and reports. To that aim, Ad Hoc Working Group will receive in writing opinion on introduction of Deputy Director position till the end of June 2018. Right afterwards, Regional Centre will provide updated draft organisational documents with the Minutes from

the previous session of Ad Hoc Working Group. The meeting of the Ad Hoc Working Group will be scheduled in September in Sarajevo. Key task of this session will be finalisation of the documents to be proposed for consideration to Committee and then for adoption to the Forum till the end of 2018.

- stronger involvement of MARRI National Coordinators as liaisons between the Executive Secretary of the Forum (MARRI RC Director) and the Forum Members (Ministers)
- capacity building of the MARRI Participants' Representatives seconded at the Regional Centre in order to reach professional standards adequate to regional mechanisms. In that terms external technical and financial assistance will be provided through **GIZ and SDC Joint Programme "Strengthening regional dialog, coordination and cooperation on migration in the Western Balkans"**.

- finalisation of all planned project and reform activities commenced in the previous period.

In that respect, Bosnia and Herzegovina shall endeavour to provide preconditions for such MARRI activities that could respond to the substantive needs of MARRI Participants and provide utmost benefit in the overall cooperation with the EU, as well as the international and regional organisations.

MARRI PROGRAM OF ACTIVITIES

June 2018 - June 2019

In the framework of the **regular and ad hoc MARRI** activities the following **meetings** will be organized:

- Committee meeting on 11th December 2018 in Skopje, Macedonia
- MARRI Friends Meeting on 5th April 2019 in Skopje, Macedonia
- Committee Meeting on 11th June 2019 in Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina
- Forum Meeting on 12th June 2019 in Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina
- Ad Hoc Working Group Meeting, September, Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina (precise date to be agreed)
- Finalization of the Competition for MARRI RC Program manager till 1st August 2018.

Implementation of all scheduled project activities planned in the framework of **BORDAIRPOL II till the end of year 2018 and preparation of the Application for BORDAIRPOL III. Remained activities in BORDAIRPOL II are, as follows:**

- Annual Meeting of Heads of Border Police of MARRI Participants
- 2 joint regional trainings.

Precise calendar of these activities will be provided in separate documents, in line with previous practice in implementation of BORDAIRPOL project.

All project activities implemented in the previous period will be reassessed in line with MARRI Forum decisions from 12th June 2018 and MARRI Strategy 2018 – 2020 in order to



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develop the follow up of those projects/activities that will be aligned with the needs of MARRI Participants.

Technical assistance provided by **GIZ, SDC, EC (IPA II)** will be implemented in line with arrangements with partners and donors. Separate Action Plans will be developed.