



REPUBLIC OF ALBANIA
MARRI Presidency-In-Office
June 2017 – June 2018

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MARRI REGIONAL FORUM DECLARATION

Tirana, 12 June, 2018

We, the Ministers and High representatives responsible for the issues of migration, asylum and refugees from Albania, Macedonia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia, Montenegro and Kosovo* in the format of the Migration, Asylum and Refugees Regional Initiative (MARRI);

Guided by the principles laid down in the founding documents of MARRI, the Declaration of MARRI Regional Forum held in Belgrade on June 27, 2017 and by the Priorities of the Presidency of the Republic of Albania;

Having regard to the importance of the European perspective and renewed EU commitment to support it, confirmed in the strategic document *A credible enlargement perspective for and enhanced EU engagement with the Western Balkans*, from 6th February 2018;

Committed to support at regional level: stability, safety and prosperity of MARRI Participants as well as to protection of external EU borders, while respecting the international human rights protection standards;

Determined to further encourage successful MARRI reform process, with the key goal to valorise its ultimate potentials;

Supporting the efforts and the results of the Presidency by the Republic of Albania that can be assessed as the outstanding, in terms of:

- Adoption of **MARRI Strategy 2018 – 2020**;
- Implementation of all planned activities in the framework of the Project **Support of the sustainable development of cooperation among border police in South-eastern Europe (BORDAIRPOL II)**;
- Excellent implementation the project: **Strengthening collaboration between the local and the national tiers in the management of migrations (MIGRALONA)**;

* This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSC 1244 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence.



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- Implementation of the joint activities with IOM within the Project ***Regional Support to Protection-Sensitive Migration Management in the Western Balkans and Turkey funded by IPA II*** and capacitating of MARRI Regional Centre with two experts in the framework of this support;
- Follow up of **technical assistance support of German International Cooperation (GIZ) and conduction of inception phase of GIZ/SDC Joint Programme “Strengthening regional dialog, coordination and cooperation on migration in the Western Balkans”** to be implemented in the next three years, as well as additional capacitating of MARRI Regional Centre with one GIZ integrated expert;
- Organisation of **Friends of MARRI Meeting** and increasing significantly **MARRI visibility** in the international context and media;
- Further strengthening of cooperation with **INTERPOL, FRONTEX, EASO, IOM, UNHCR, ICMPD, and in this context signing of the Memorandum of Understanding between MARRI Regional Centre and PCCSEE Secretariat;**
- Completing Competition for new MARRI Regional Centre Director and conducting the competition for selection of the Program Manager of MARRI Regional Centre;
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We have gathered at the regular annual meeting of the Forum and confirmed the following:

- We endorse the Annual Report of MARRI June 2017 - June 2018, and the Financial Report for 2017,
- We unanimously adopt the Priorities and Annual Program of Activities for the period June 2018 - June 2019,
- Aware that internal functionality represents one of the key challenges of MARRI, we confirm our readiness to support the implementation of regular activities of MARRI RC,
- We agree that the next Presidency should be held by the Bosnia and Herzegovina.

In line with the afore-stated,

We encourage the MARRI RC, as the Secretariat of this Initiative to foster important results in translating regional interests and priorities into useful and sustainable activities/projects aimed at: faster harmonisation of national legislative frameworks with EU Acquis, capacity building and information exchange in the area of migration management;

We would like to thank the European Commission, the State Secretariat for Migration of the Swiss Confederation, GIZ and Italian Region of Friuli Venezia Giulia for the support of project activities of the MARRI RC with technical and financial resources;



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We would like to thank the Republic of Albania and commend it for the results of its one-year Presidency, and we hereby express our full confidence for a successful Bosnia and Herzegovina MARRI Presidency for the period June 2018-June 2019.

We praise devoted professional efforts and outstanding results of ambassador Tamara Mugoša in managing MARRI Regional Centre/MARRI Secretariat in the previous three years and we wish Saško Kocev successful term in office in the period August 2018 – August 2021.

In Tirana, 12 June 2018