BULLETIN

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MARRI

Migration, Asylum, Refugees Regional Initiative

SASHKO KOCEV
Director of MARRI Regional Centre

WITH GREAT COMMITMENT, ALL OBLIGATIONS CAN BE MET

MILICA TRPEVSKA
WELCOMING IOM IN MARRI

CHRISTOPH VON HARSDORF
BORDER MANAGEMENT

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

BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA PRESIDENCY-IN-OFFICE

Bosnia and Herzegovina took over the Presidency-in-Office with MARRI for the period from June 2018 to June 2019. The Presidency proceeded with the activities in accordance with its priorities, MARRI basic legal documents and MARRI Strategy 2018 – 2020 while taking into consideration all relevant EU and UN documents in regards with the obligations and tasks of each MARRI Participant resulting from their European Integration status.

With great commitment, all obligations can be met

Sashko Kocev
Director of MARRI
Regional Centre

Dear MARRI friends,

Five months have passed since I took over the position of Director of the MARRI Regional Centre. It is a milestone in my professional life.

After more than 29 years with the Macedonian Ministry of Interior, it is the first time that I engage with a different institution - although closely related to the MOI's tasks in migration management.

I am aware of the challenge I am faced with but at the same time, I am convinced that my extensive experience in Police and border management, as well as the practical knowledge and expertise in implementing numerous EU/IPA funded projects, will greatly benefit our work at MARRI. It may also not be detrimental to MARRI to come with the reputation of a hard worker, of a good listener and of a team player.

With MARRI, I entered into a work environment with a noticeable degree of professionalism and tremendous experiences as a result of high dedication of MARRI's Committee Members, Coordinators, Representatives and all MARRI RC staff. Their deep commitment serves as a positive impetus for our joint cooperation to achieve sustainable results.

I hope that by the end of my tenure, I will witness that the Initiative has accomplished its mission, fulfilled its vision and realized all strategic goals of the MARRI Participants, including strengthened capacities in the field of MARRI's mandate as part of the preconditions for future EU membership.■

Interview with **MILICA TRPEVSKA**
IOM Project Assistant at MARRI Regional Centre

Welcoming IOM in MARRI

Milica Trpevska is working for the International Organisation for Migration (IOM), within the EU-funded IPA II project 'Regional Support to Protection-Sensitive Migration Management in the Western Balkans and Turkey'. For a year now, she has been seconded to the MARRI Regional Centre. Over a cup of coffee, she told us what her typical day at MARRI looks like and what she loves about her job.

Why did you decide to join the MARRI team?

I came across the Project Assistant position accidentally. I was looking for a new career adventure – to expand my scope of work and to get to know a new field. I have never worked in a regional organisation, so I grabbed this great opportunity to join a diverse team of talented individuals who contribute to a better migration management in the region.

How do you usually start your day in the office?

No two days are the same on this job, but my morning routine is usually identical. I come to the office a bit earlier than most of my other colleagues and use the morning to prioritise my tasks. Responding to few emails or making a phone call before small problems become big issues goes a long way toward making things run more smoothly the rest of the day.

> *I AM TRYING TO MAKE SMALL CHANGES EVERY DAY BY MAKING OTHER PEOPLE AWARE OF THE MULTIPLE BARRIERS TO FULL ACCESSIBILITY AND INCLUSION FACED BY PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES*

What do you like most about your job?

I like the overall focus of our work. As a common grounder, I believe in the benefits of regional cooperation and joining forces to achieve better results. I also like my MARRI and IOM colleagues. They are open, honest and always ready to offer a helping hand whenever my plate is full.

Tell me about your current project. What is it about and how does it support MARRI Participants?

My primary task is to coordinate the establishment of the MARRI Regional Remote Interpretation Service (MARRI RRIS). It is a tailored regional interpretation solution where MARRI Participants complement each other by sharing information about interpreters for languages which are rare (not widely spoken) in the Western Balkans. When the service is launched, each MARRI Participant will be able to schedule an interpreter from another MARRI Participant – making the communication with migrants much easier and quicker.

This is an excellent example of regional cooperation for the benefit of all – MARRI Participant administrations and migrants alike. We have spent considerable time on testing the service, making sure it fits MARRI Participants' needs. We still have a lot of work to do, but I am sure it will turn out to be a great service in the end.

What do you do outside of work?

I am a disability rights activist and an "accessibility evangelist". I am trying to make small changes every day by making other people aware of the multiple barriers to full accessibility and inclusion faced by persons with disabilities. I am a motivational speaker and my life mission is to empower persons with disabilities like myself to live independent and productive lives.

I usually spend my free time listening to a good podcast, reading an engaging book or going for a long walk-and-talk with friends.

What is your advice for finishing a busy day?

A glass of wine and a good night sleep – it always works for me. ∎

Selma Mehovic
National Representative of
Montenegro/Project Manager

MARRI Regional Centre

SUPPORT
of the sustainable development of cooperation among border police in Southeast Europe BORDAIRPOL II

The Project started on January 2016 and the last activity that marked the end of the project was held on 18 December 2018. MARRI RC was directly responsible for the implementation of the activities. The Donor was Swiss State Secretariat for Migration (SEM). The Beneficiaries were Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Macedonia, Moldova, Montenegro, Romania, Serbia and Kosovo*.

The objective of the Project was to bring existing regional mechanisms into compliance with EU acquis, standards and best practices as well as to further enhance administrative capacities of the Southeast European border police (air and land border).

The Project contained three components- Secured Web page, Annual meetings – designed for Border Police representatives and Joint trainings – designed for air and land border police officers.

The approach of the Project management in implementing planned activities was to create synergies to multiplied effects of efforts invested by regional initiatives in order to assist beneficiaries in the migration management systems (PCC SEE, DCAF RCC, SEPCA), to intensify exchange of information about needs in the field of border security and mutual activities in this field as well as to obtain the comprehensive approach in dealing with border police matters and intra-agency cooperation. Also, it was assessed that specific, effective and need based regional approach are the key components for capacity building of border police services.

Results reached during the implementation:

✓ MoU between MARRI & PCC SEE signed on June 2018 at the MARRI Ministerial Meeting;
✓ Higher level of networking among beneficiaries and FRONTEX experts provided;
✓ Support to national governments to address challenges in implementing national policies and legislation – by working towards a comprehensive picture of threats posed by the areas of asylum and mixed migration flows;
✓ EU experience in the process of adjusting WB six legislation and the working procedures with the EU requirements;
✓ Specific initiatives presented and incorporated in MARRI Strategy 2018-2020;
✓ EU expertise and best practices, particularly in reaching common standards to guarantee access to fair and efficient asylum procedure;
✓ Joint trainings designed to assist authorities in implementing measures required to accede to Schengen and strengthen thair capacities in police cooperation;
✓ MARRI translated the FRONTEX Handbook on Vega Children (Standard Operational Procedures based on VEGA Children Handbook, raise awareness on children at risk, enhance operational cooperation, enhance inter-agency cooperation and cooperation with international and nongovernmental organizations as well as to identify risks affecting children on the move);
✓ Assistance to police officers in building capacities in travel security and enhancing the skill for detection of falsified documents;
✓ Negotiated with INTERPOL to provide trainings for the police officers at the PCCs in order to be acquainted with INTERPOL data base as well as to acquire access to I 24/7 global police communication system.

It shall be noted that MARRI RC is proud for establishing and enhancing international cooperation with FRONTEX, INTERPOL, DCAF, SEPCA, PCC SEE, SEM, ICMPD, experts from the WB six administrations, UK Foreign Office, Italian Ministry of Interior, Bulgarian Ministry of Interior and Romanian Ministry of Interior. ∎

WB - MIDEX

REGIONAL PLATFORM FOR MIGRATION DATA EXCHANGE IN THE WESTERN BALKANS

Under the auspices of the IPA II project "Regional Support to Protection-Sensitive Migration Management in the Western Balkans and Turkey", IOM is supporting MARRI in establishing the Regional Platform for Migration Data Exchange in the Western Balkans (WB-MIDEX). The MIDEX Platform is a unique regional mechanism where MARRI Participants will be able to exchange and publish official non-personal migration statistics in line with the relevant EU standards and guidelines.

The European Commission Progress Reports for the MARRI Participants highlight the urgent need for strengthened regional cooperation on migration and for appropriate alignment of migration data with the EU acquis and standards. For this reason, IOM has created regional templates for collecting non-personal migration related data in line with Regulation (EC) No 862/2007 on Community statistics on migration and international protection, and the relevant Eurostat guidelines. The common templates were validated by the national administrations of the MARRI Participants at a Regional Migration Data Workshop held in February 2018 in Belgrade.

Following the presentation and validation of the regional migration data templates, IOM initiated the development of the Regional Platform for Migration Data Exchange in the Western Balkans (WB-MIDEX). The platform is an online software solution, administered by MARRI RC, where national administrations will input migration statistics in the EU-compatible templates. The reporting institutions would be State Statistical Agencies and the relevant departments of the Ministries of Interior/Security of the MARRI Participants. Under this activity, IOM is also providing national level support to the MARRI Participants in strengthening national systems related to migration statistics and further alignment with Regulation (EC) No 862/2007, by providing relevant EU Member State expertise, capacity building and equipment.

The WB-MIDEX Platform will facilitate public access to comprehensive, comparable and EU compatible official migration statistics from all six MARRI Participants which can be used in risk analyses, migration profiles as well as in planning and monitoring migration flows. These statistics will be publicly available and thus can be used by various stakeholders including international and EU organizations, academia and civil society.

The MIDEX Platform will contain migration data devided in five migration data modules:

1. International Migration (Immigration/Emigration), and Acquisition of Citizenship,

2. International Protection;

3. Returns and Prevention of Illegal Entry/Stay;

4. Residence Permits;

5. Smuggling of Migrants.

The platform will be operational by mid-2019 and the data exchange is envisaged to start in 2020. ∎

ALEKSANDAR TODOSIEV   IVAN MOJSOV   SONJA BOZINOVSKA PETRUSEVSKA   SAŠKO KOCEV   IVAN KOČOVSKI   MILICA

MARRI Regional Remote Interpretation Service

Interpretation during asylum procedures is a fundamental human right for persons seeking international protection. The MARRI Regional Remote Interpretation Service ensures that asylum officials from the Western Balkans have access to extra regional rare-language interpreters.

Reports on the asylum policies and practices of MARRI Participants, including the European Union's Progress Reports have highlighted that the procedures for granting international protection in the region face a number of challenges, with lack of access to interpretation being one of them. In the Western Balkans, there is a limited number of interpreters who can translate from and to languages spoken in the Middle East, in Sub-Saharan Africa and South East Asia.

In order to mitigate this challenge and ensure that asylum authorities can effectively respect the rights of migrants and those seeking international protection, MARRI has established the Regional Remote Interpretation Service.

The momentum for addressing this challenge was initiated in 2015 through a project funded by the UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office, where an online database of interpreters in the region was developed. In 2018, with the support of IOM under the auspices of the EU-funded IPA II project 'Regional Support to Protection-Sensitive Migration Management in the Western Balkans and Turkey', the database was transformed into an online interpreter-scheduling platform which now functions as part of the MARRI Regional Remote Interpretation Service

(MARRI RRIS). This service is a tailored solution designed to complement MARRI Participants' domestic capacities in accessing reliable extra-regional language interpretation services. It allows asylum officials to identify and schedule an interpreter located in any of the MARRI participants and then contact them remotely through a video link.

One of the key advancements regarding remote interpretation was made in February 2018 when the Ministers of Interior/Security of MARRI Participants signed the "Protocol on the Use of Joint Interpretation Pool in the Area of Migration and Asylum". The Protocol provides fundamental legal basis for the set-up of a pool of extra-regional language interpreters as well as for an interpretation-scheduling website. At the moment, the MARRI RRIS has an initial pool of 24 extra-regional language interpreters – who are able to interpret from and to Western Balkans languages.

At present, the MARRI Regional Remote Interpretation Service is most easily accessible for asylum departments since it offers a possibility to schedule an interpreter in advance. In the future, the service will be adjusted for the use in other migration-related procedures.

The Regional Remote Interpretation Service will be fully handed over to MARRI by June 2019. The MARRI Regional Centre will administer and manage the online interpreter-scheduling platform and will be fully responsible for ensuring the long-term sustainability of the service. ■

Border Management

by Christoph von Harsdorf

* (https://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/sites/homeaffairs/files/what-we-do/policies/european-agenda-security/20180612_agenda-on-security-factsheet-sis_en.pdf)

Everyday at 8 am, when I start my work at MARRI RC, I would like to have the same information as smugglers and traffickers in human beings have. I would like to know how many migrants arrived in WB6 in the last 24 hours and where, and how many migrants have left WB6 and where and with which destination. I would like to know which official and unofficial Borders they crossed, from which countries they come and their true identities, where their passports are, and how many more will come in the next days. I would also like to know, if locals helped to cross unofficial Borders and which officers have accepted bribes. Tax administrations and prosecutors would like to know how much money smugglers and traffickers in human beings have gained.

But there is no information equality. We know very little - and definitely much less than smugglers and traffickers in human beings know.

A Border is a logic control point, but it is not a smart one and not an "intelligent" one. Why?

Good maps for hikers and mountaineers show where no Border controls can happen. Official Border control points are mapped. Car navigation systems and Internet show all Border crossing points, with exact location and opening hours. Border crossers can prepare for controls. It is up to the Border-crossers to decide which unofficial or official Border they choose for crossing and at which day and even at which time of the day and which documents they want to present. And if smugglers and traffickers in human beings have local contacts (and they usually have), they will know everything about the work shifts, the names of the Customs and Police teams and their weaknesses.

Every State must protect the integrity of its territory. Why?

A defined State territory, defined people within the territory and State power make a State. In 1900, Professor Georg Jellinek PhD, published volume 1 of his opus magnum "ModerneStaatslehre" (General Theory of State). Jellinek was Professor for State and Constitutional Law at the Universities Vienna, later Basel, before becoming Dean and Rector of Heidelberg University, Germany's oldest University founded in 1386, and one of Europe's great schools. Jellinek coined the theory of three elements being constitutive for a "State" (State Territory, People, State Power). Other theorists have later added the requisites "recognition by other States", "norms" (Kelsen) or "external political representation" (Montevideo Convention, 1933, Art. 1). But the nucleus are the three aforementioned three elements.

A State is, of course, free to agree to Border controls outside of its own territory to protect the integrity of its territory. Such system is the Schengen Area.

The free movement of persons is a fundamental right guaranteed by the EU to its citizens. It entitles every EU citizen to travel, work and live in any EU country without special formalities. Schengen cooperation enhances this freedom by enabling citizens to cross internal Borders without being subjected to Border checks. The Border-free Schengen Area guarantees free movement to more than 400 million EU citizens, as well as to many non-EU nationals, businessmen, tourists or other persons legally present on the EU territory.

Originally, the concept of free movement was to enable the European working population to freely travel and settle in any EU State, but it fell short of abolishing Border controls within the Union. A break-through came in 1985 when cooperation between individual governments led to the signing, in Schengen (a small village in Luxembourg), of the Agreement on the gradual abolition of checks at common Borders, followed by the signing in 1990 of the Convention implementing that Agreement. Its implementation started in 1995, initially involving seven EU States. Born as an intergovernmental initiative, the developments brought about by the Schengen Agreements have now been incorporated into the body of rules governing the EU*.

If there is a serious threat to public policy or internal security, a Schengen country may exceptionally temporarily reintroduce Border control at its internal Borders for, in principle, a limited period of no more than thirty days. If such controls are reintroduced, the other Schengen countries, the European Parliament and the Commission should be informed, as should the public.

On the 12th June 2018, the European Parliament and the EU Council found a political agreement on the Commission's proposals to strengthen the Schengen Information System (SIS II). The system is Europe's most widely used information sharing system for security and border management. The system was consulted over 5 billion times in 2017 alone.

The newly strengthened SIS will help national border guards better monitor who is crossing EU Borders; support Police and law enforcement officials in capturing dangerous criminals and terrorists; and offer greater protection for missing children and vulnerable adults – all in line with the EU's new data protection rules.

Border controls are part of a State's concept to protect its territory and its citizens and to guarantee public order. A Border control concept is part of a wider Protection framework. Controls are just one way to prevent and to protect a State territory. Treaties are another way to protect a State territory. ▶

Christoph von Harsdorf

Border crossing „TABANOVCE"

▶ Border control is a nonlinear control with many variants, such as time of control, duration of control, intensity of control, training of controllers, technical equipment, honesty and integrity of controllers, use of reference systems et cetera.

Control theory is an interdisciplinary branch of engineering and mathematics that is concerned with the behaviour of dynamical systems with inputs, and how to modify the output by changes in the input using feedback, feedforward, or signal filtering. One way to make the output of a system follow a desired reference signal is to compare the output of the control activity to the desired output, and provide feedback to modify the output to bring it closer to the desired output.

The abstract mathematical model of non-linear controls is well researched. There are several techniques for analyzing nonlinear feedback systems. These systems try to measure the input/output of controls and their effectiveness and efficiency with respect to the controls' objectives.

A smart Control Management optimizes input and monitors output. Increasing control intensity at one Border crossing point may decrease its filtering function and "success", when illegal Border crossers avoid such Border control point. Increased intensity at one Border control point may shift attempts of illegal entrances to lesser controlled Border crossing points. Smugglers and traffickers in human beings know more about effectiveness of Border control than the Authorities. It is a Border Control Managers (Customs/Police) daily task and duty to interlink with all other Border crossing points of his/her own State and the ones of neighbouroughing States to optimize resources up to the expected control results.

Running a marathon without training can be unhealthy, but to train for a marathon has many health benefits.

Running 42.195 km in one piece without training can be unhealthy and cause dehydration, overheating, oxidative stress and kidney problems. But training for a long run has many health benefits.

WB6 continue to strive for EU membership. This process is beneficial and can already now be used for better cooperation between WB6. How?

At the moment, WB6 progress with respect to the Acquis Communautaire. But WB6 do not progress inter se. There is a big stagnation between WB6 in becoming an EU similar Freedom of movement of persons, goods, services and capital/Rule-of-Law/Security/Customs Cooperation/Police Cooperation Area, see Chapter 1 "Free movement of goods", Chapter 2 "Freedom of movement for workers", Chapter 18 "Statistics", Chapter 23 "Judiciary and fundamental rights", Chapter 24 "Justice, freedom and security", Chapter 29 "Customs Union".

WB6 behave as if they had to wait until EU approves their membership before fully cooperating regionally. WB6 could regionally, Chapter by Chapter of the EU Acquis Communautaire, already now agree on regional cooperation frameworks and practical cooperationin line with the EU Acquis Chapters.

Example:

There is no need to wait for full EU membership before creating a Border-free WB6 Area. Nothing speaks against WB6 Regulations and Agreements regarding "Freedom of movement for workers" (Chapter 2), or "Free movement of goods" (Chapter 1). A "Customs Union" (Chapter 29) can be realized long before full EU membership. WB6 could already "train" EU membership Rules and Regulations, and, as an example, simplify or abandon certain Border controls.

Such progress would also make the EU approximation process and progress visible to WB6 citizens. The population could see benefits.

From a State security and from a criminological point of view, I recommend to any State and particularly to WB6 to measure input and output of Border controls, in dependence of investments, quality and quantity of controls, technical installations and equipment, use of intelligence, training and use of manpower. Under inclusion of non-official Borders, the results may surprise.

The author's opinion does not necessarily express MARRI RC's position. ∎

MARRI COMMUNICATION

MARRI RC aims to maintain a good information flow with its beneficiaries, partners, donors and the local community. We communicate what we know, what is done and what is available out there.

MARRI website www.marri-rc.org.mk and Facebook page www.facebook.com/marri.rc.org.mk are the places where the professionals and frontline practitioners can find information about our activities but also about the latest international developments in the area of migration. We inform about released publications, risk analyses, researches, conferences, developed tools for practitioners, best practices as well as new legislations and directives. The MARRI website offers links to useful live-on platforms with real time maps and statistics, contact details of focal points within the WB administrations and relevant up-to-date legislations, migration profiles, national strategies and action plans of MARRI Participants.

To increase its visibility among those who benefit of MARRI services and products, MARRI RC supports and participates in initiatives designed to raise the awareness for different causes among which "Run for Refugees Initiative" which was organized by UNHCR as a part of Tirana Half Marathon 2018. ∎

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