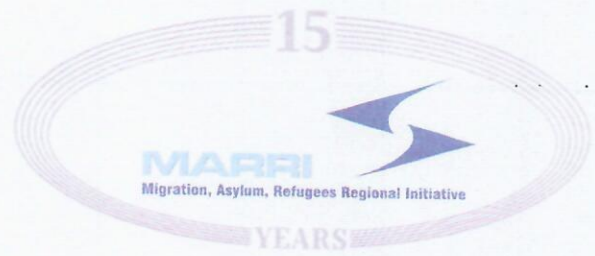




BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA  
MARRI Presidency-in-Office  
June 2018 – June 2019



## SARAJEVO DECLARATION

MARRI Regional Forum - Sarajevo, 14 June 2019

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

**Guided** by the principles laid down in the founding documents of MARRI, the MARRI Strategy 2018-2020, the Declaration of MARRI Regional Forum held in Tirana, 12 June 2018 and by the Priorities of the Bosnia and Herzegovina Presidency-in-Office;

**Having regard** to achieving a regional vision on migration aligned with European perspectives;

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

**Determined** to further encourage a successful MARRI Legal Framework Reform, with the key goal to valorise MARRI's ultimate potentials;

**Acknowledging the efforts and the results of the Presidency of Bosnia and Herzegovina, and in particular:**

- Successful completion of the project **Support of the sustainable development of cooperation among Border Police in South-Eastern Europe (BORDAIRPOL II)** by organizing one Annual meeting of four MARRI networks and one Joint training on presentation of **VEGA Handbook: Children at Airports**;
- organizing **Regional Meeting on Readmission in the Western Balkans** under the auspices of the Presidency-in-Office, **together with IOM**, a first Readmission Meeting with participation from the

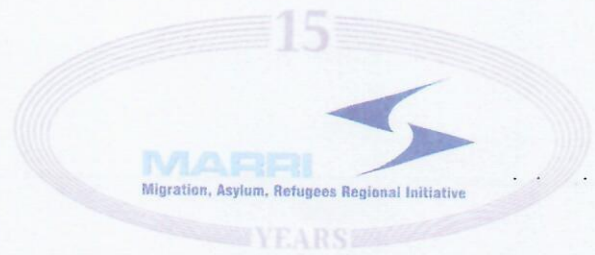
---

\* This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244/1999 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence.





BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA  
MARRI Presidency-in-Office  
June 2018 – June 2019

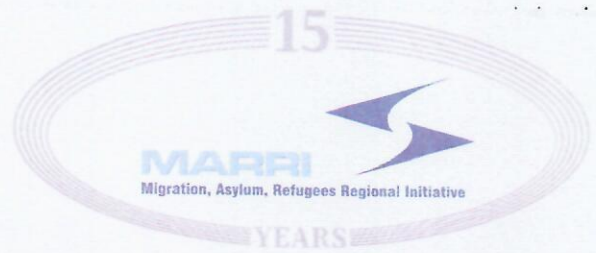


European Commission and other important stakeholders from all MARRI Participants in Sarajevo, May 2019;

- implementing joint activities with IOM under the Project **Regional Support to Protection-Sensitive Migration Management in the Western Balkans and Turkey** funded by IPA II, such as further capacitating the MARRI Regional Centre with two experts in the framework of this support, in particular
  - rolling-out, finalizing and deepening through on-the-job trainings the **Regional Remote Interpretation Service (MARRI RRIS)**;
  - developing the **Regional Migration Data Exchange Platform in the Western Balkans (WB-MIDEX)**;
- strengthening the cooperation with **German International Cooperation** by organizing:
  - 5 regional workshops titled "**Strengthening regional dialogue and cooperation on migration**" under the project "Strengthening regional migration governance" including Governmental officials, the Academia, International and Civil Society Organisations;
  - one Workshop discussing MARRI basic documents and one meeting for preparation of **Plan for Finalization of MARRI Basic Documents**;
- welcoming an increased cooperation with the **European Asylum Support Office (EASO)** in the framework of the IPA II Project **Regional Support to Protection-Sensitive Migration Management in the Western Balkans and Turkey**, discussing opportunities to support MARRI RC to coordinate trainings in the area of asylum within MARRI Participants;
- marking **15 years of MARRI existence** at a **Friends' Meeting / Diplomatic Briefing in April 2019** where Participants, partners and stakeholders expressed their commitment to MARRI for furthering the cooperation;
- strengthening and deepening the collaboration with **IOM, FRONTEX, EASO, GIZ, ICMPD and other relevant organisations, the regional non-governmental sector and academia** in the areas of migration;
- completing the selection and appointment of **Programme Manager and Communication Officer** at MARRI Regional Centre;

We have gathered at the regular annual Meeting of the Forum and confirmed the following:





BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA  
MARRI Presidency-in-Office  
June 2018 – June 2019

- We endorse the Annual Report of MARRI June 2018 - June 2019 and the Financial Report for 2018;
- We adopt the Priorities and the Annual Programme of Activities for the period June 2019 - June 2020;
- We endorse the Plan for Finalization of Basic Documents;
- We welcome the Joint Statement on Strategic Cooperation between MARRI RC and IOM;
- Aware that internal functionality represents one of the key challenges of MARRI, we confirm our readiness to support timely the implementation of all regular activities of MARRI RC;
- We agree that the next Presidency should be held by Kosovo\*.

**In line with the afore-stated**

**We encourage** MARRI RC, as the Secretariat of this Initiative, to implement the planned activities and continue further reforms;

**We would like to thank** the European Commission, IOM, the German government, GIZ and the State Secretariat for Migration of the Swiss Confederation for their support;

**We encourage** the MARRI Participants' Foreign Ministers to explore possibilities for MARRI to be positioned as Central Migration Agency for Western Balkans;

**We appreciate and commend** the efforts and results of Bosnia and Herzegovina during its Presidency and we hereby express our full confidence for a successful Presidency of Kosovo\* for the period June 2019 - June 2020.

In Sarajevo, 14<sup>th</sup> June 2019

---

\* This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244/1999 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence.