



**MARRI**

Migration, Asylum, Refugees Regional Initiative



**WORKSHOP ON DOCUMENT SECURITY AND ESTABLISHMENT OF IDENTITY  
SKOPJE, 23 – 24 NOVEMBER 2006**

**CONCLUSIONS**

The Workshop on Document Security and Establishment of Identity, organised by the MARRI Regional Centre and held in Skopje on 23-24 November 2006, presented an excellent opportunity to exchange views, ideas, best practices and perceptions of what document security and establishment of identity represents. Furthermore, it contributed to establish contacts among the States from the MARRI Region and from the EU Member States.

National presentations focused mostly on new types of travel documents, security features, biometrics, misuses and forgeries and less emphasis was put on the legal content in terms of the credibility of the document (with exceptions of Macedonia and Montenegro).

Following the presentations of experts on existing practice in the European Union, it is recommended to invest more efforts in bringing together all representatives of agencies on national level in order to develop a think tank/working group consisting of the experts which must have good knowledge on the legislation and practice which must be empowered to act quickly on operational questions in particular when it comes to the frauds in terms of civil status.

Progress demonstrated and achieved in the area of document security and establishment of identity in MARRI Member States must be shared and compiled in the form of the catalogue of best practices of the Western Balkan states in order to improve the image of the states and the level of the progress achieved in this specific area of migration and to share the expertise of MARRI state experts with their EU colleagues and wider.

The mandate of the MARRI Regional Centre is, amongst the other, to identify which activities need to be implemented in order to enhance capacity building in the region. High need exists for the comprehensive integrated training in the field of migration (migration and immigration as well). Well trained persons dealing with the civil status issues are essential when it comes to establishing of the credibility of the documents which need to be recognized and accepted in other countries where the citizens of MARRI states move regularly or irregularly.

Necessity to exchange of information and identified practices in every day operational work, knowledge and relevant legislation is of vital importance as can be drawn from the example of Netherlands presentation during the workshop where they reached progress in prompt exchange of information on fraudulent documents which can be used an example for other countries.

In order to adjust national/regional MARRI Member States migration policies it is necessary that MARRI Regional Centre establishes the **MARRI Regional Centre Working Group for Document Security and Establishment of Identity**, whose main overall objectives of operation would be:

1. to facilitate permanent intra-agency cooperation between institutions in MARRI Member States dealing with document security and establishment of identity;
2. to identify best practices in the area of document security and establishment of identity in the region;
3. to increase regional harmonisation of the standards related to document security in regard to data protection;
4. to develop solutions/recommendations on avoidance and prevention of possible misuse of legal channels (obtaining of nationality, registration of birth or death in the country or abroad, by marriage, by adoption, recognition of paternity, lack of registration of birth in the countries in particular children born in foreign countries residing legally or illegally, problems related to multiple identities, identifying gaps regarding establishing and confirmation of identity of foreigners, applicants for visa, residence permits, naturalization, including questions related to the right on family reunification);
5. to work on catalogue of good practice in the area of document security and establishment of identity for Western Balkan countries with standardized procedures on protective measures for the documents, establishment of identity for staff dealing with applications for different legal status (visa, naturalisation, residence permits, and asylum) and for staff dealing with control of aliens lawfully residing and irregularly as well;
6. to provide practical solutions that will enable prompt exchange of information on misuse of legal/illegal channels on obtaining identity documents among regional institutions by development of appropriate IT tool;
7. to contribute to the training of civil servants (border police, civil status officials, officials dealing with visa applications, nationality, residence permits, etc) and explore modalities for enhancing such training;
8. to elaborate follow-up strategies from the conclusions reached during the workshop.

Skopje, 24 November 2006