



British Embassy
Skopje



**Second Meeting of the Working Group on Document Security - Western Balkan Region
“Registration of Birth, Nationality and Residence in Country and Abroad”
MARRI Regional Centre in Skopje, 18 – 19 June 2007**

CONCLUSIONS

The MARRI Regional Centre organised the Second Meeting of the Working Group on Document Security – Western Balkan Region titled “Registration of Birth, Nationality and Residence in country and abroad” held in Skopje on 18-19 June 2007. The event was attended by regional experts from the national institutions managing areas related to document security and establishment of identity in the MARRI region.

The Second Meeting presented an excellent opportunity to exchange views, ideas, best practices and perceptions about the topic of the meeting. Also, it contributed to establishment of contacts among MARRI Member States’ national experts which will increase and facilitate regional co-operation.

National feedback on “Registration of Birth, Nationality and Residence in country and abroad” focused on existing national legislation, organisational structures, practices and procedures analysing in-depth procedures on different situations and identified gaps and needs during the registration procedures and development of possible solutions.

Recognising the need for more efficient management of registration procedures and relevance of personal data protection at all stages, common interest in improvement of national institution’s service towards citizens for regulating civil and social status rights, prevention and combating all forms of criminal activities related to document security, irregular migration, trafficking and smuggling of human beings, stolen identity, human organs trafficking, slavery, terrorism and other issues, the participants of the Second Meeting of the Working Group on Document Security agreed on the following Conclusions:

- ✓ The MARRI Member States’ **national legislation regulating “Registration of Birth, Nationality and Residence in country and abroad”** needs to be based on and harmonised with relevant instruments of international law (i.e. Council of Europe Convention for the Protection of Individuals with regard to the Automatic Processing of Personal Data – C 108 and Additional Protocol to the Convention 108).

- ✓ **Well established registration procedures** which will reduce possible misuse or abuse of legal channels and which will provide practical solutions that will enable civil status officials to perform duties more effectively. Without good and precise civil status registers and records, without precise data, there is no future development of high quality identification documents. Furthermore, **well established monitoring and inspection procedures** have been recognised as crucial.

- ✓ MARRI Member States needs to **improve intra-agency** (permanent horizontal and vertical cooperation within national institutions responsible for civil status matters), **inter-agency** (permanent co-operation among different national institutions responsible for civil status matters) **co-operation through enhanced co-operation procedures** and **inter-state co-operation** through **improved co-operation on international and regional level** (on national legislation, document security and authenticity of identification documents, establishment of identity of natural persons, exchange of personal data, identified misuse or abuse of legal channels, exchange of views, ideas, best practices, etc). **Conclusion of bilateral/multilateral agreements for co-operation is recognised** as possible means for establishment of legal basis for co-operation. That **co-operation among countries, in particular among neighbouring countries, has been recognised as essential.**

- ✓ **Development of awareness raising campaigns** by the governmental institutions with possible co-operation with non-governmental organizations for the purpose of awareness raising within targeted groups about responsibility for registration of birth in the country or abroad in particular children born in foreign countries residing legally or illegally or death of natural person (i.e. registration of new born children in Roma community or registration of children born abroad in diplomatic-consular representations).

- ✓ **Development/improvement of comprehensive IT data and information support systems** in order various national institutions responsible for civil status matters to have the ability to collect considerable data, its in-depth analysis, assessment, monitoring and evaluation which will enable them to exchange information and to perform duties more effectively.

- ✓ **Development/improvement of permanent training systems for civil status officials dealing with registration process** and to explore modalities for enhancing such training.

- ✓ **To elaborate follow-up strategies from the conclusions reached during the Second Meeting of the Working Group on Document Security.**

Skopje, 19 June 2007