

**RECOMMENDATIONS**  
**Workshop on Management of Irregular Transit Migration in the MARRI Region**  
**Sarajevo, 29-30 June 2006**

An increasingly complex phenomenon of irregular transit migration requires development of institutional capacities to cope with illegal transit flows and, most importantly, requires of MARRI Member States to formulate a sustainable migration policy to manage migration flows based upon knowledge and understanding of its root causes and consequences (push and pull factors). Policy needs to include the response instruments available and each MARRI Member State possesses: entry control mechanisms (visa regimes, border controls), readmission and return policies (deportation and expulsion), integration, rules on stay and residence, penalties and sanctions (carriers, employers, traffickers and smugglers). The enhanced national and regional operational cooperation and exchange of information represents a more concrete approach to multilateral efforts in controlling irregular migration flows.

In order to more effectively manage and decrease irregular transit flows, the participants of the above-mentioned workshop agreed on the following recommendations:

1. To enhance regional cooperation and information exchange mechanisms (on national legislation, policies and practices relating to prevention of ITM, operational structures and methods of perpetrators, consular information, false documents, fraudulent invitation letters, fake travel agencies, etc) and promote the approximation of common standards, the participants have agreed to establish a special MARRI Working Group dealing with this issue. It would consist of relevant experts from national institutions dealing with irregular migration.
2. Considering the trans-national character of irregular migration, the high importance and need for of international cooperation should be emphasised must be observed. The existing SECI and MARRI Regional centres could be more extensively used as regional bodies for extensive exchange of information, related to the fight against organised crime.
3. It was emphasised that cooperation among countries of origin, transit and destination along the migration routes is essential in combating irregular migration. In this regard, the South-East European Working Group of the Budapest Process can be utilised as a forum for presenting the existing capacities in the region, with the objective of improving the awareness of the present situation in the region among the participating states of Budapest Process. The identification of the priorities for inter-state cooperation is an important element of such capacities.
4. Identified cooperation priorities may be addressed in joint activities between the MARRI and the South-East European Working Group of the Budapest Process.
5. The importance of continuous co-operation of MARRI with other international organizations and actors, in particular IOM, ICMPD, UNHCR, UNMIK, SECI, RACVIAC and others was emphasised; to this end, the proposal that a joint meeting organised by RACVIAC and MARRI for 2007 on the topic of border management and irregular migration has been endorsed by the participants.
6. The IT Systems should be developed in order to have added value for quickly reproducing reliable and timely statistics on the basis of all migration data entered and updated. A good example is CIPS in Bosnia and Herzegovina, which may serve as a model of good practice that can be applied also in other MARRI Member States.
7. The need to further development of effective readmission and return policy was highlighted as a cornerstone of combating irregular migration.
8. The necessity for development of the systems for permanent training of migration officials was identified as one of the essential steps for implementation of effective migration management.
9. Detention centres for irregular migrants with minimum reception standards need to be established as soon as possible in all countries of the region.
10. The participants recognised that refugee protection and migration management are distinct but complementary. Refugees and asylum seekers who are unable to find protection where and when they need it may feel obliged to move on in an irregular manner. The fundamental obligation of states to refrain from returning refugees and asylum seekers to countries where their life or liberty would be at risk was reaffirmed. Measures taken to curb irregular transit migration must not prevent persons in need of international protection from gaining access to the territory and asylum procedure of another state.