

For more information please visit MARRI Regional Centre official website pages available at: www.marri-rc.org

Croatian Annual MARRI Presidency Finished in May 2008



The MARRI PiO, held by Croatia (April 2007 – May 2008) introduced new activities and set higher standards for the initiative. The Republic of Croatia assumed the role of active leader in committing MARRI Member States to increase their capacities and resume ownership and responsibility of decision making within main MARRI areas of work. The activities of the Croatian MARRI PiO were focused on strengthening of the regional ownership, promoting the European dimension of the region and enhancing the operational capabilities of regional co-operation and intensifying co-operation among MARRI Member States in MARRI fields

.... Read More on Page 4

New MARRI Presidency-In-Office—Republic of Macedonia (May 2008-May 2009)



The MARRI Regional Centre, under Macedonian MARRI Presidency, has developed Action Plan for 2008/2009 based on identified priority areas as outlined in the MARRI Strategy for 2008. A comprehensive strategy consists of priority areas fully in line with the French EU Presidency Agenda in the area of Justice, Liberty and Security (JLS) and supports commitments for harmonisation and approximation of MARRI Member States standards in Justice, Liberty and Security (JLS) area as part of reforms under the EU integration processes. MARRI has identified following priority areas for development of activities in the upcoming period:

- Migration;
- Trafficking in human beings;
- Visa liberalisation and implementation of readmission agreements;
- Document security;
- Border management.
- Asylum and refugees.

.... Read More on Page 4

Interesting articles in this issue:

Croatian One-year MARRI Presidency Finished in May 2008	1
New MARRI Presidency-In-Office—Republic of Macedonia (May 2008-May 2009)	
MARRI Diplomatic Briefing/Friends of MARRI Meeting, Skopje, 10 March 2008	2
Round Table “Strengthening of Cross-Border Police Cooperation among the Countries in the Region” Zagreb, 14 March 2008	
Concluding Regional Meeting of the Project “Document Security in the Western Balkan Region” Skopje, 20 March 2008	
MoUs Signed with SEPCA and IOM	3
Round Table “Suppression of Trafficking in Persons – Repatriation and Reintegration of Victims” Zagreb, 9 April 2008	
Final Regional Meeting of DCIM Programme, Skopje, 14-15 April 2008	
MARRI Regional Forum, Zagreb, 19 May 2008	
Croatian Annual MARRI Presidency finished in May 2008— Continued From Page 1	4
New MARRI Presidency-In-Office—Republic of Macedonia (May 2008-May 2009) - Continued From Page 1	
Newly Redesigned MARRI Website	

MARRI Diplomatic Briefing/Friends of MARRI Meeting, Skopje, 10 March 2008

The Director of the MARRI Regional Centre, Dr. Trpe Stojanovski, held a briefing for members of Macedonian diplomatic core, relevant international organisations and representatives of foreign donors from EU countries. The meeting was held in the Government building in Skopje on 10 March 2008, whereas the opening speech was delivered by the Macedonian Minister of Interior, Ms. Gordana Jankuloska, M.A.

An overview of MARRI Regional Centre's present and future activities was presented. More specifically, three proposed project proposals from the MARRI initiative (i.e. "Interactive Migration Map," "Building capacity of MARRI Member States for Successful Implementation of Agreements on Visa Facilitation and Readmission" and "Assessment of Identity Documents in MARRI Member States") were presented at the mentioned meeting.

The meeting underlined the contribution of MARRI to the promotion of regional cooperation, as MARRI was established according to the basic guidelines of the regional ownership concept among Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia. This regional cooperation in the area of migration reflects the extent to which the region is prepared for integration into EU structures.



Round Table "Strengthening of Cross-Border Police Cooperation among the Countries in the Region" Zagreb, 14 March 2008

The Croatian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration and the Ministry of Interior, within its capacity of MARRI Presidency-in-Office, organised the Round Table "Strengthening of Cross-Border Police Cooperation among the Countries in the Region," held in Zagreb on 14 March 2008. There is an ongoing process of transformation and increasing of administrative capabilities of police services in South-East European countries, which also include the countries of the MARRI initiative, as well as of adoption of the "European" standards in the area of border management, illegal migration and prevention of all forms of cross-border crime.



With a view to provide security and stability in the region and beyond and having in mind the fact that there are no borders for cross-border organised crime and illegal migration, a conclusion can be drawn that they can be suppressed only by means of successful cross-border police cooperation among all the countries in the region. With regard to the abovementioned, the aim of this Round Table referred to analysing the current situation as regards cross-border police cooperation focusing on border police cooperation, better understanding of European and Schengen standards in this area, the analysis of the effects that the current bilateral and multilateral initiatives and organisations have had so far, with a view to avoiding overlapping and doubling of the activities and projects, and all aimed at the maximum use of the past achievements in finding new and concrete cooperation mechanisms.

Concluding Regional Meeting of the Project "Document Security in the Western Balkan Region" Skopje, 20 March 2008

The Concluding Regional Meeting of the Project "Document Security in the Western Balkan Region," as funded by the United Kingdom and organised by MARRI, took place in Skopje on 20 March 2008. The meeting gathered Ministers and High Level State Officials and Experts from MARRI Member States, as well as representatives from International Organisations.

The objective of the Concluding Regional Meeting was to present the results of the fifteen month MARRI Project "Document Security in the Western Balkan Region" and the Manual on standardized procedures on establishment of identity.



MoU s Signed with SEPCA and IOM

MARRI and Southeast Europe Police Chiefs Association (SEPCA) have signed the Memorandum of Understanding on the margins of SEPCA meeting held in Sofia on 28 March 2008. MARRI and International Organization for Migration (IOM) have also signed the MoU on 3 July 2008. The mutual interest of these MoUs is to establish effective co-operation in the area of migration management in the South Eastern Europe and further strengthening of cooperation between the MARRI Regional Centre and major organisations such as SEPCA and IOM within the fields of their competence.

This cooperation has already proven useful, as seen in MARRI's signing of MoUs with ICMPD (December 2007) and SEPCA (March 2008). MARRI shall continue cooperation and develop partnerships with major stakeholders in the area of migration and it envisages MoUs with SECI and RCC in the near future.



Round Table “Suppression of Trafficking in Persons – Repatriation and Reintegration of Victims” Zagreb, 9 April 2008



The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration of the Republic of Croatia, in cooperation with the Croatian Government's Office for Human Rights—within the framework of Croatia's Presidency of MARRI - organised a Round Table on “Suppression of Trafficking in Persons – Repatriation and Reintegration of Victims” which was held in Zagreb on 9 April 2008.

This Round Table accorded particular attention to repatriation and reintegration of victims in their countries of origin, aimed at detecting potential co-operation in this field and to fulfil the obligations which ensue from the effective international instruments in this field. The Round Table also constituted an opportunity to analyse the existing victim repatriation and reintegration system in the MARRI Member States, European standards in this field and possibilities to improve the system.

Final Regional Meeting of DCIM Programme, Skopje, 14-15 April 2008

The final meeting of the DCIM (The Data Collection and Information Management) programme took place in Skopje on 14-15 April 2008. DCIM Project is funded by the Royal Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation. Partners in this project are: ICMPD, MARRI, Anti-Corruption and Anti-Trafficking Network (ACTA) and EUROPOL.

The objectives of the above-mentioned meeting were:

- Presentation/discussion about preliminary results of the assessment of the DCIM start-up phase;
- Identification of the remaining gaps and possible recommendations;
- General feedback from the beneficiaries and proposal for follow-ups.



This project seeks to support government actors in the collection, management and ultimately analysis of this very important trafficking data. DCIM is envisaged as a starting point for data collection and information management – from both the victim and trafficker side – which each country can build upon as needed and in moving forward in their counter-trafficking efforts.

MARRI Regional Forum, Zagreb, 19 May 2008



The high representatives responsible for migration issues and the MARRI National Coordinators have met for the MARRI Regional Forum in Zagreb on 19 May 2008, as held by the Croatian MARRI Presidency (April 2007 – May 2008). Dr. Trpe Stojanovski, Director, MARRI Regional Centre and Ms. Marina Rožić, on behalf of the then Croatian MARRI Presidency in Office briefed the participants on the past and future MARRI activities in the past year.

The MARRI Strategy and Programme of Action 2008, Zagreb Declaration and Priorities of the upcoming MARRI Presidency-in-Office of the Republic of Macedonia (May 2008 – May 2009) were adopted at the Forum.



Croatian Annual MARRI Presidency Finished in May 2008 —[Continued From Page 1](#)

...

During the Croatian MARRI Presidency, the MARRI Member States started in principle to fund the running costs of the MARRI Regional Centre in January 2008. Four substantial project proposals have been submitted to interested donors who have indicated that support will be forthcoming in areas such as building capacity for the implementation of visa facilitation and readmission agreements, interactive migration map, an assessment of identity documents in MARRI Member States and prevention and combat against trafficking in human beings. Steps have also been taken to formalise co-operation in the form of MoUs with relevant international and regional organisations such as ICMPD and SEPCA.

The adopted MARRI Strategy & Programme of Action 2008 and Zagreb Declaration (19 May 2008) provide the basis for MARRI activities in 2008, as well as the Priorities of Macedonian MARRI Presidency in order to come to conclusions on the future work of MARRI. Having a dedicated framework for these activities will facilitate them being kept firmly on the agenda of the governments of MARRI Member States.



New MARRI Presidency-In-Office—Republic of Macedonia (May 2008-May 2009) —[Continued From Page 1](#)

...

The MARRI Regional Centre, under Macedonian MARRI Presidency, will continue with endeavors in promoting developed six MARRI project proposals that were submitted to potential donors for funding:

- Building Capacity of MARRI Member States for Successful Implementation of Agreements on Visa Facilitation and Readmission;
- MARRI Migration Interactive Map;
- Types of identification documents in MARRI Member States.
- Assessment of Types of Identification Documents in MARRI Member States;
- Promoting a Regionally Integrated Approach for Successful Preventing and Combating of THB;
- MARRI Migration Paper 2008/2009 (analysis of progress made in areas identified in Roadmaps for visa liberalisation and recommendations for way forward in the region)

As far as upcoming events, the MARRI Regional Centre and the Macedonian Ministry of Foreign Affairs will organise the Seminar “Comprehensive Migration Management Systems,” to be held in Ohrid on 12 September 2008 and Friends of MARRI meeting, to be held on 23 October 2008 in Skopje.



Newly Redesigned MARRI Website

The MARRI Regional Centre in Skopje has launched its newly designed website as of July 2008, which can be visited at www.marri-rc.org. The website provides an overview of MARRI activities and migration information on all six MARRI Member States. The MARRI web pages contain migration news from MARRI areas from the region and documents of relevance to the organisation, as well as MARRI links and contacts.

The website includes a subscription tool for the media and general public who wish to receive the latest MARRI press releases and other resources. This new website will be filled with fresh information on a regular basis. The MARRI aims at providing informative, up-to-date and resourceful content to its users, and is open to feedback and comments.

MARRI Regional Centre
 MTV Building, 8th fl., Blvd. Goce Delčev bb
 P.O. Box 447, 1000 Skopje, Macedonia
 Tel.: ++389 2 3235700; Fax: ++389 2 3235711
 Website Address: www.marri-rc.org



For subscription to the MARRI Newsletter, please subscribe/unsubscribe at www.marri-rc.org and for ordering of other publications/further information about MARRI activities please do not hesitate to contact us at info@marri-rc.org.mk.