



MARRI Regional Centre ACTION PLAN FOR 2008/2009

Background

MARRI Regional Centre has developed Action Plan for 2008/2009 based on identified priority areas as outlined in the MARRI Strategy for 2008. 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 harmonization and approximation of MARRI Member States standards in Justice, Liberty and Security (JLS) area as part of reforms under the EU integration processes.

Identified priority areas

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.

In order to achieve objectives from these strategic priority areas MARRI Regional Centre has developed activities which will contribute in capacity building of the MARRI Member States national institutions managing abovementioned priority areas as well as enhancing regional co-operation, exchange of best practices and information.

Implementation methods for MARRI Regional Centre Action Plan for 2008/2009

The MARRI Regional Centre serves as the executive tool to accomplish the political commitments set by the MARRI countries. The MARRI Member States' levels of capacities for reforms differ, therefore regional dimension of MARRI activities will also serve to fulfil specific national priorities.

Activities developed in the Action Plan are based on implementation methods which have been the basis for realization of MARRI activities in the past. Those methods are:

1. Policy harmonization and Legislation reform

Meeting EU policy and management standards and implementing reforms to meet EU acquis standards, in all MARRI areas, is a key to a successful migration management on both, national and regional level, as well as supporting EU integration. Assisting MARRI Member States to meet set standards remains core activity.

2. State administration capacity building

Effective implementation of new legislative requirements depends on the capacities of state structures to reform and on their abilities to perform new tasks. The need to create stable structures calls for trainings and expert technical assistance, gaps and needs analyses, assessments, workshops, roundtables, study visits in order to acquire capacities to implement new or amended legislative requirements.

3. Enhancing regional co-operation, exchange of information and best practices

As a regional hub for consultation, MARRI Regional Centre will initiate practical discussions between regional and international experts disseminate relevant information regarding the progress achieved by MARRI Member States and the projects implemented by international partners.

4. Visibility and Awareness Raising

In order to increase visibility of MARRI RC will organize international conferences, bilateral meetings, workshops and seminars.

It is necessary to raise the awareness of the MARRI Member States governments about importance of having sound migration policies and strategies, to provide MARRI Member States with an insight into the situation in the area of Justice, Liberty and Security (JLS) and the benefits of regional co-operation from long term perspective. This can be achieved through support and assistance in networking and data exchange, dissemination of publications (manuals, newsletters, overviews, analyses, etc.).

WORK PLAN

Regular MARRI Activities

As stipulated in basic MARRI documents, two MARRI Ministerial Forums (F1, F2) will be organized. In order to facilitate decision making during Ministerial Forums, two preparatory meetings (P1, P2) will be organized prior to the organization of Forums.

Visibility Activities

ü MARRI Regional Centre will organize Donour/Friends of MARRI meeting and briefing for representatives from diplomatic corps (MF1).

ü MARRI Regional Centre management will organize bilateral meetings (BM) with High Level Representatives/Ministers from MARRI Member States National Institutions responsible for migration management.

ü Newsletters will be published (NL1, NL2) on semi-annually basis with aim to provide information to all interested parties about MARRI activities, news and upcoming events.

ü MARRI Regional Centre is in progress of designing modern, user friendly Web page which will be outstanding tool/platform for information sharing, enhancing visibility and bringing closer MARRI Initiative to the public.

ü A roster of national experts from institutions managing migration (both regular and irregular) will be developed for all Member States to be used as focal points for future MARRI activities.

ü MARRI Regional Centre will work on improvement of updated information flow on recent developments in the area of migration. Through regular contacts with MMS national institutions, State Officials should provide

MARRI RC with updated information on recent developments in the area of migration from their countries. Offices of MARRI National Coordinators need to be regularly updated with MARRI activities and vice versa, National Coordinators should increase their efforts to provide MARRI RC with valuable input for development of additional activities of common interest to all Member States.

Implementation of MARRI Regional Centre project proposals

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

- ü Building capacity of MARRI Member States for successful implementation of Agreements on Visa Facilitation and Readmission;
- ü MARRI Interactive Migration Map;
- ü Assessment of Types of Identification Documents in MARRI Member States;
- ü Promoting a Regionally Integrated Approach for Successful Preventing and Combating of THB;
- ü MARRI MIGRATION PAPER 2008/2009 (Analysis of progress made in areas identified in Roadmaps for Visa Liberalization and recommendations for way forward in the region) and
- ü Types of identification documents in MARRI Member States.

These projects are in line with identified needs and shortcomings in MMS institutions managing migration.

Up to date the Government of Czech Republic expressed interest in funding Project proposal “Building capacity of MARRI Member States for successful implementation of Agreements on Visa Facilitation and Readmission” and transferred amount of 25,000.00 EUR for its implementation.

MARRI Regional Centre in framework of its financial capacities will participate in funding of the Projects in 18,12% from total Project budgets for all four project proposals.

Co-operation with International Organizations

MARRI Regional Centre will continue cooperation and develop partnerships such as partnership with ICMPD within Project on Transnational Referral Mechanisms and Project on Data Collection and Information Management, Swedish Migration Board projects funded by AENEAS Programme in MARRI Member States as well as with IOM within Project on Promoting a Regionally Integrated Approach for Successful Preventing and Combating of THB.

MARRI Regional Centre will place special emphasis on working towards achieving better cooperation with the European Union and its programmes of support for the region.

MARRI Regional Centre will work on facilitating exchange of migration related information and practices among MARRI Member States, as well as with European organisations such as EUROPOL and FRONTEX.

MARRI Regional Centre will seek out modalities for obtaining observer status in the activities of other international intergovernmental organizations and regional structures (e.g. Council of Europe, OSCE, RACVIAC, SEECP etc.) and vice versa in the format of a signed Memorandum of Understanding or Protocol for Cooperation.

MARRI Regional Centre Questionnaires

MARRI Regional Centre will continue with planned activities with the purpose to develop overviews of current state of affairs in migration in identified strategic priority areas from MARRI Member States. Overviews will be prepared based on gathered answers from disseminated Questionnaires (Q).

In order to complete the overview of current state of affairs in migration within MARRI scope of work, MARRI RC has developed following set of Questionnaires:

- Ø Overview of Migration Management Organisation in MARRI Member States;
- Ø Country Overview on Illegal Migration, Combating Trafficking and Smuggling of Human Beings;
- Ø Overview of Technical Aspects of Implementation of Readmission Agreements;
- Ø Overview of Asylum Systems in MARRI Member States;
- Ø Overview of Types of Identity and Travel Documents in MARRI Member States;
- Ø Visa Questionnaire;
- Ø Overview of Personal Data Protection Standards in MARRI Member States;
- Ø Overview of Labour Migration Management and Diaspora Matters in MARRI Member States;

Activities related to the identified priority areas

Priority area	Activity	Implementation method	Main objectives	Target group
Migration	Seminar (S1) on comprehensive migration management systems	Policy harmonization and Legislation reform	To underline importance of development and adoption of comprehensive national migration policies as prerequisite for sound migration management	Migration High Level decision makers
Trafficking in human beings	Workshop (W1) on models for exchange of information in preventing and combating THB	Enhancing regional co-operation, exchange of information and best practices	To create platform for swift and prompt exchange of information between MMS institutions responsible for combating illegal migration and THB	MMS national coordinators/ heads of units responsible for THB
Visa liberalisation and implementation of readmission agreements	Workshop (W2) on identified gaps of implementation of RA	State administration capacity building	To identify gaps of implementation of technical aspects of readmission agreements	MMS national representatives involved in implementation of RA
Visa liberalisation and implementation of readmission agreements	Update (U1) of overview of visa regimes in MMS	Enhancing regional co-operation, exchange of information and best practices	To create an overview of legal framework, institutions, procedures, IT systems, consular co-operation, types of visas, security features, prices	MFA's and Border Police
Border management	Workshop (W3) on establishment of network for co-operation between border police on international airport BCP's in MMS	Enhancing regional co-operation, exchange of information and best practices	To establish more effective cross border co-operation between border police on international airport BCP's in MMS, to increase efficiency in movement of persons and goods and prevent/reduce crime and irregular migration.	Heads of border police on international airport BCP's in MMS
Asylum and refugees	Workshop (W4) on best practices in managing Reception Centre for asylum seekers	State administration capacity building	Secured minimum standards on the reception and treatment of asylum seekers to ensure a dignified standard of living, paying specific attention to the situation of applicants with special needs such as minors, un accompanied children, and victims of torture or traumatised persons.	Personnel responsible to run Reception Centres for asylum seekers Expert from EU Partner Agency: UNHCR

Timetable of Activities for 2008/2009

Activities	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May
MARRI Ministerial Forums (F1, F2)						F1						F2
Preparatory Meetings (P1, P2)						P1						P2
MARRI Friends Meeting / Diplomatic Briefing (MF1)					MF1							
Seminar (S1)				S1								
Workshops (W1, W2, W3, W4)					W1		W2			W3	W4	
Update (U1)		U1	U1	U1	U1							
Bilateral Meetings (BM)	BM	BM	BM	BM	BM	BM	BM	BM	BM	BM	BM	BM
Newsletters (NL1, NL2)	NL1						NL2					
Questionnaires (Q)	Q	Q	Q	Q								

(F1, F2)..... MARRI Ministerial Forums

(P1, P2).....Preparatory Meetings

(MF1)..... MARRI Friends Meetings/ Diplomatic Briefings

(S1)..... Seminar on comprehensive migration management systems

(W1) Workshop on models for exchange of information in preventing and combating THB

(W2)..... Workshop on identified gaps of implementation of RA

(W3)..... Workshop on establishment of network for co-operation between border police on international airport BCP's in MMS

(W4)..... Workshop on best practices in managing Reception Centre for asylum seekers

(U1)..... Update of overview of visa regimes in MMS

(BM)..... Bilateral Meetings

(NL1, NL2). Newsletters

(Q).....Questionnaires

