



Priorities of the Serbian Presidency of the MARRI

(April 2011- April 2012)

The Republic of Serbia is taking over the MARRI Presidency at the regular meeting of the Regional Forum, on 29 April 2011, in Tirana. In addition to the permanent task of strengthening the principle of the regional initiative, enhancing regional and international cooperation and support to the EU integration, the Republic of Serbia shall during its Presidency give particular attention to the issues of common interest for all Western Balkans countries, and focus the activities to two areas of MARRI operations in particular, namely: **legal migration** and **fight against trafficking in human beings**.

We believe that the issues of regular migration, current problems and challenges of the present time with all MARRI Member States having been approved visa liberalisation, are of utmost importance in the near future. This area is very important in the EU accession process of the countries of the region as well, whether they are candidate countries or expect to be granted such status in the forthcoming period.

The fight against smuggling of and trafficking in human beings is a serious problem still highly burdening the region. The Serbian priority shall be intensifying the activities commenced in this area through a coordinated and integrated regional approach to the problem, which shall provide continuity of priorities set by the Republic of Albania as the country previously holding the Presidency, on one hand, and define the overall objective and initiate joint actions in the forthcoming period, on the other.

The Republic of Serbia shall consistently work towards fulfilling the tasks set by the newly adopted documents – the Strategy and the Action Plan 2011-2013.

In that respect, Serbia shall endeavour to provide a new momentum for MARRI activities so that the Initiative could respond to the substantive needs of its Member States and provide utmost benefit in overall cooperation with the EU and its agencies EUROPOL and FRONTEX, international organisations and agencies, the most significant being UNHCR, OSCE, IOM, ICMPD, DCAF, and in particular regional organisations SEECP, RCC, PCC SEE, SEPICA, SECI-SELEC, RACVIAC etc.

Plan of Activities

The MARRI Regional Centre shall, in line with the set priorities during the Presidency of the Republic of Serbia of the Regional Initiative, as well as the new Strategy and Action Plan 2011-2013, implement the following activities:

1. **Forums and Committee Meetings** – The regular terms for holding MARRI Forums are twice a year: in April and December. Committee meetings have so far preceded the Forums and have been organised a day or two earlier at the same venue.
2. **MARRI Friends Meetings** – A diplomatic briefing is an activity held at the beginning of the year with a view to presenting the annual MARRI Plan of Activities to international organisations and representatives of the diplomatic corps. The last four meetings were held in Skopje. We propose that the next meeting be held in Belgrade.
3. **Establishment of MARRI Networks** – In line with the MARRI Strategy and Action Plan, it has been envisaged to establish networks of experts and contact officers for cooperation by the end of 2011. The plan envisages intensive activity during the year in order to fully establish other networks, in addition to the two ones already in place (asylum and border police at airports).
4. **Seminars – Study visits** – As previous years, it has been planned to organise at least one seminar together with a study visit. It has been proposed to visit the asylum centre in Montenegro.
5. **Meetings** – The plan envisages holding regular periodic meetings of experts - members of the established networks. The Plan envisages holding such meeting of the network of police managers at international airports in May based on the signed Memorandum on cooperation of border police stations at airports.
6. **Workshops** – During the Serbian Presidency, in line with the proposed priorities, four workshops shall be organised, two in the field of regular migration and two in the field of THB, including the meeting of all national THB coordinators in Belgrade. The topics and titles of workshops shall be defined in due time.
7. **Publications** – It has been planned to post on the MARRI web site all relevant documents – legislation in the field of migration (laws, by-laws, rules, strategies, action plans, etc.) of all MARRI Member States. Also, it has been planned to post all Member States MIGRATION PROFILES by November, as well as to publish them.
8. **Bilateral meetings** – It has been planned to hold a number of meetings during the year with experts, representatives of various international organisations and other parties showing interest in the activities of MARRI or in visiting the Regional Centre in Skopje.

9. **Newsletter** – Twice a year, in June and December, MARRI publishes and disseminates a newsletter – magazine on activities in the previous period. The Regional Centre is fully responsible for the preparation of the magazine for issuing.
10. **MARRI Questionnaire** – For the purpose of a comprehensive comparative analysis of the current situation in MARRI Member States and in order to get a full picture of all MARRI relevant areas, a single Questionnaire has been produced containing about 100 questions structured in ten chapters. On the basis of the answers provided, a comparative analysis shall be done and published as a useful document for all the countries in the region as well as for EU institutions and other international organisations whose operations are in the area of migration.
11. **Project implementation** – Throughout the year, efforts shall be made to implement the projects defined in the MARRI Strategy and Action Plan 2011-2013. The number and type of activities shall depend on the donors and implementing partners. The proposed projects shall be duly presented to the states and international organisations that show an interest in funding the proposed projects. Specifically, in 2011 the MIDWEB project shall be implemented by the IOM with MARRI as a strategic partner.
12. **Attending conferences, workshops and forums** – In the forthcoming period MARRI shall continue to actively participate in all other activities organised by major international organisations or in projects, where invited, with a view to increasing visibility and presenting its activities and projects.