

PRESS RELEASE

Building the Capacities of Law Enforcement Officials to Implement Activities at a Police Cooperation Centre

The International Organization for Migration – IOM, Mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina, announces starting of the project titled ‘Building the Capacities of Law Enforcement Officials to Implement Activities at a Police Cooperation Centre’, financed by the UK Government.

The project will encompass police officers from the Border Police of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, and Serbia.

The establishment of a Police Cooperation Centre in Bosnia and Herzegovina will introduce an efficient system for identification and fight against illegal migration, in accordance with Schengen standards of border security. In this context, it will also ensure harmonisation of regional systems of border management with the regulations of the European Union, which is one of the goals of BiH on its path towards European Integration.

This initiative will contribute to the strengthening of police cooperation in the fight against cross-border crime and similar occurrences related to crime, through replicating the successful European model of Police Cooperation Centres.

The initiative will be managed by the IOM, which will, in consultation with the partners, ensure coordinated implementation of the working plan.

The global economic crisis, as well as political instability, have had a significant effect on the nature of migration flows in the region, resulting in an increased number of irregular migrants from extraregional countries of origin, who transit, and frequently are apprehended in BiH, as well as those from countries of the region, who are intending to enter European Union member states.

Without strengthening the existing regional cooperation and the introduction of new mechanisms, the borders of the European Union in Western Balkans region could become a highly porous entry point, which would place an additional burden on the law enforcement agencies.

BiH and South-East Europe region remain an important transit route for irregular migrants, as well as the illegal smuggling of goods, people, drugs, arms, and stolen vehicles. The capacities of state agencies in South-East Europe exist, but could be additionally strengthened through enhanced regional cooperation and information exchange.

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