

MARRI

Migration, Asylum, Refugees Regional Initiative



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PRESS RELEASE



MARRI ASYLUM NETWORK MEETING HELD IN TIRANA 07 APRIL 2011

07 April 2011, Tirana, Albania - Next MARRI Asylum Network meeting was held on 7th April 2011 in Tirana, Albania. The meeting was organized by the MARRI Regional Centre under the Albanian MARRI Presidency-in-Office. This Meeting was a follow up of the activity from the Meeting of the Network for cooperation among MARRI Member States' national institutions in the field of Asylum, "Challenges in 2010", held from 23rd to 25th June 2010, Zlatibor & Banja Koviljača, Republic of Serbia. The activities and results achieved through the MARRI Asylum Network so far have been assessed as satisfactory. However, the goal of this Network is to enhance efforts in strengthening co-operation between MARRI member states concerning asylum matter.



DCAF MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE IN LJUBLJANA

Ljubljana, 01 March, 2011 - On 28th February and 01st March, 2011 in Ljubljana the 8th Annual Ministerial Conference

on Cooperation in the field of Border Security in Southeast Europe was organized. The Conference brought together the main players in the border security area from the region as well as from the European Union and other international organizations. The Border management issue is one of the priorities in the MARRI Strategy 2011-2013. The presentations by the Ministers and high level authorities from MARRI MS regarding the border management in national as well as bilateral and regional achievements were highly appreciated. The presence and meetings of the MARRI RC Delegation with the heads of the international organizations were a good possibility for further coordination of the mutually important initiatives and project activities.



MR. STOJANOVSKI MET THE MINISTER OF INTERIOR OF REPUBLIKA SRPSKA AND GAVE A LECTURE AT THE POLICE ACADEMY IN BANJA LUKA

Banja Luka, 25 February, 2011 - On 25th of February 2011 MARRI RC Director was invited to make a lecture to the students of the Police Academy in Banja Luka. The topic was the International Police Cooperation in the area of Migration, from the aspect of MARRI. The visit of the MARRI RC Director was used

for the meeting with the Minister of Interior of Republika Srpska, Mr. Stanislav Čađo, and his cabinet. The meeting was used for exchanging the information regarding the migration processes in the region as well as interagency cooperation in preventing and fighting the crime. The migration was in the focus, where the information for the activities organized by the police will be forwarded to MARRI RC. Minister Čađo pointed out that Banja Luka could be a good place for any future MARRI event.

OPERATIONAL HEADS OF AIRPORTS ANNUAL CONFERENCE ORGANIZED IN BUDAPEST

From 01 to 03 March 2011 in Budapest, Hungary, FRONTEX in cooperation with the Hungarian EU Presidency organized a three day Annual Conference for the Operational Heads responsible for border control at all EU international airports. Operational Heads of MARRI Member States Airports and MARRI RC were invited to the Conference, as well. The Conference has been organized on annual basis bringing together operational heads of EU and MARRI MS airports in order to further promote the added value of cooperation in the field of Integrated Border Management. The aim of the Conference was to facilitate personal contacts between the operational leaders of all European international airports and MARRI MS airports in the capitals as well as to provide opportunity for delegates to discuss issues of shared interest and get updated on the latest developments in the field of air border integrated management. During the Conference, FRONTEX's Air Border Sector introduced to participants its "Program of

work 2011" and practical topics related to the organization of FRONTEX activities as well as operational challenges in the course of 2011. Other activities



of relevant interest to air border guards were presented by different FRONTEX Units and other cooperative partners. In the panel for the presentations by the international organizations MARRI RC presented the current and future related activities. In addition, on the margins of the Conference, in compliance with the agreed activities for cooperation between FRONTEX and MARRI Regional Centre, timetable of FRONTEX expert visit to MARRI Member States main airport border police units with objective to train selected officers how to fill in data in the FRONTEX Pulsar weekly data collection questionnaire has been set up.

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WORKSHOP ON MIGRATION CHALLENGES FOR PRE-ACCESSION COUNTRIES IN SOUTH-EAST EUROPE HELD IN BELGRADE, SERBIA

On 10 & 11 March 2011 in Belgrade, Serbia the Regional workshop on Migration challenges for pre-accession countries in South-East Europe took place, jointly organized by the Commissariat for Refugees of the Republic of Serbia and TAIEX, DG Enlargement of the

European Commission. The Workshop gathered high level experts managing migration from the MARRI Member States and Turkey as well as experts from the European Union. The aim of the Workshop was to provide a platform for Government representatives, EU experts and representatives from international, regional and non-governmental organizations to exchange good practices in migration management in order to create more compre-

hensive approach in designing and implementing effective migration policies. The Workshop provided an opportunity for representatives from accession countries to gain deeper understanding of how the migration policy functions, firstly at the European level and secondly on the level of individual member states. During the second day of the Workshop, MARRI RC had a presentation on MARRI Strategy and Action Plan 2011 – 2013 with a special focus on

Networks for Cooperation in the fields of Migration (regular and irregular), Asylum and refugees, Visa and consular cooperation and Border management.



BUILDING MIGRATION PARTNERSHIP PREPARATORY MEETING HELD IN KYIV

On 15 & 16 March, 2011 in Kyiv, under the Prague Process – Building Migration Partnership, 1st Preparatory Meeting for the 2nd Ministe-

rial Conference was held. The meeting was attended by the representatives from 30 countries and 6 international organizations. The goal of the meeting was to make further progress in drafting the BMP Strategy, to identify the items which will be developed in the Action Plan. From the per-

spective of MARRI MS it is important to clarify the position of the MARRI MS in this important EU project, and specifically how MARRI RC could contribute in this process. The further activities are planned mostly for Hungary and Poland in 2011, under the EU Presidency in Office.

MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE ON FIGHT AGAINST CRIME IN SOUTH EAST EUROPE ORGANIZED IN BUDVA

On 17 & 18 March, 2011 in Budva, under the SEECP, the ministers of Justice and Home Affairs from South East Europe countries, as well as the international organizations MARRI, UNODC, OSCE, RCC, EUROPOL, INTERPOL and SECI Center attended the

conference "Strengthening the cooperation in the fight against organized crime in South East Europe". The speakers presented the progress from the national and regional perspective, as well as the successfully completed actions. The conference brought the possibility to debate for further, more coordinated activities on prevention and fighting the organized crime. Two declarations were adopted at the conference: Common Dec-

laration of SEECP Ministers of Justice and Home Affairs regarding the endorsement of the Regional Strategic Document 2011-2013 and the Action Plan for its implementation and Budva Declaration on Strengthening Regional Cooperation in the Fight against Organized Crime in South East Europe. On the margins of the conference the MARRI RC delegation headed by the Director Dr. Trpe Stojanovski had a working meeting with

Mr. Ivan Brajović, Minister of Interior of Montenegro, discussing the Montenegrin priorities from the area of migration and the MARRI RC activities.



OSCE MEETING IN PRISHTINA

On 28&29 March, 2011 in Prishtina, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe – OSCE organized a two day Regional Coordination Meeting for OSCE field opera-

tions on regional Organized Crime and other transnational treaties, inviting the relevant regional organizations and the OSCE heads of the police missions



in the region. The meeting brought the opportunity for exchanging the experience, identifying the possibilities and gaps in the bila-

teral and regional cooperation through presenting the ongoing and forthcoming national as well as regional projects. The MARRI RC Director presented the MARRI achievements and priorities to work on the implementation of the MARRI Strategy 2011-2013.

PRESENTATION OF THE WORK OF MARRI INITIATIVE IN EUROPEAN COMMISSION

On 30th of March 2011 in Brussels the Albanian MARRI Presidency in Office Chairman, Mr. Mal Berisha, Director General from MFA and MARRI RC Director, Dr. Trpe Stojanovski had a working meeting with the relevant authorities from the European Commission – Directorate for Enlargement. At this meeting Mr. Virgil Ivan Cucu and Mr. Sorin Steriu from RCC were also present. The goal of the meeting was for the MARRI representatives to brief EC authorities on the progress developed in the last

year and to hear the EC priorities oriented towards Western Balkans. In the presentation of the MARRI Representatives the focus was put on the political dimension of MARRI as a regional initiative and the benefits for the countries received through the memorandums of understanding and other activities developed in the last year. It was mentioned that MARRI RC, as a partner



with IOM is working under IPA MB Programme – Project titled "MIDWEB", which is a first time for MARRI to be directly involved in EC funded Project. The meeting was an excellent opportunity for exchanging the views and to identify the fields for better synergy in the area of migration. The invitation of MARRI to the European Commission meetings and networks was estimated as a positive trend, which should keep the continuity. The interest shown by the EC representatives was especially oriented towards the internal activities regarding the asylum seekers from MARRI MS and the policy on all inclusi-

veness, presenting interest about the future integration of Kosovo in the regional activities. MARRI Delegation, in the same format with the representatives from RCC had a meeting with Mr. Ivan Bizjak, Director General of the Council of the European Union and his team. The goal of this meeting was the Council of the European Union to be briefed on the MARRI activities and progress of this regional initiative in the last year. The special interest by the Council of the European Union was expressed regarding the MoU in the consular issues, signed by MARRI MS, last year.