
Sum up Report after the participation of MWL in the joint IOM-OSCE-UNODC Regional Workshop on “Enhancing and Strengthening Cross-border Co-operation in Addressing Irregular Migration-related Crimes in the Western Balkans”

Podgorica, Montenegro, 31 August – 1 September 2016



Concept of the Workshop

This workshop was targeted at policy-makers, experts and practitioners from relevant bodies. Its aim was to promote interactive discussions regarding persistent challenges in different areas of expertise and to identify efficient measures in international and cross-border co-operation. It focused on irregular migration-related crime by identifying gaps and challenges, and in sharing good practices whilst putting forward recommendations.

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An important issue was related to gathering expert information from criminal justice and migration practitioners. These include law enforcement officers, judges, prosecutors, officials from the Ministry of Finance and the Ministry of Justice, liaison officers based in the Western Balkan states and representatives of non-governmental organizations dealing with migration-related crimes. The topics covered were prevention, prosecution and assistance provided to victims, migrants and refugees.

Agenda of the Workshop

Day 1 (9:30-18:00)

- *Introductory Session:* This session highlighted the complexity of human mobility in the Western-Balkans. The topics discussed were the political context, impact of border control measures and access to asylum. Also risk analysis and challenges of irregular migration flows. These were presented by Frontex.
- *Session I:* Europol, Western Union and an Albanian Prosecutor presented their experience on enhancing the detection of suspicious financial transactions for migration-related crimes. Main topics were: 1). Europol's role to support financial investigations in the topic, and 2).The involvement of the private sector on financial intelligence.
- *Session II:* Eurojust and Selec assessed the challenges in cooperating within the region in tackling organized crime and strengthening the co-operation between criminal justice systems. This requires a harmonized legal framework to facilitate the cross-border operations. As stated, there is a great necessity for further inclusion of the NGO-s as a support towards these operations of law-enforcement structures.
- *Session III:* IOM and Ministry of Interior of FYROM shared their experiences on managing migration in times of crises, with a humanitarian perspective on the issue. Two main areas of focus of IOM when in a migration crises are: 1). Humanitarian Border Management, and 2). CT in crises, which is a research toolkit used to provide evidence-based recommendations to the humanitarian community, addressing: risk, prevention of incidents.

Day 2 (9:30-14:00)

Thematic of Working Groups

Working Group 1: Increasing effectiveness of investigations into organized crime groups involved in irregular migration-related crimes;

Working Group 2: Building successful cases in irregular migration related-crimes through effective criminal justice cooperation;

Working Group 3: Humanitarian Border Management, WB and European experience.

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Results of the workshop and reflections from MWL Representatives

- Protection of human rights during mass migration movements
- Improvement needed in terms of identifying victims of trafficking during a crises situation
- More intense involvement and consideration of the NGO-s by the Law-enforcement, as resources of referrals, as valuable input towards enhancing human anti-trafficking operations, as a way to build good practices of a multi-expertise regional collaboration in tackling these crimes.
- Presenting more concrete steps and evidences of Justice System collaborating with NGO-s towards the identification and protection of the victims.

Resources

http://polis.osce.org/events/details?item_id=5234&lang_tag=EN&qs

file:///C:/Users/user/Downloads/migrant_smuggling_europol_report_2016.pdf

file:///C:/Users/user/Downloads/ep-ip_report_executive_summary.pdf

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