



MARRI Regional Forum (Mostar, 9 November 2006)

MARRI Regional Centre Action Plan for 2007

The MARRI Regional Centre aims to fulfil its objectives in the manner of concrete projects that would, first of all, benefit to the development of further improvement of national capacity building in different areas of migration. That is the reason for the concrete activities to be focused on the projects that are implemented with the interested donors. In the upcoming period the MARRI Regional Centre will primarily focus its activities on implementing the commitments of countries from the MARRI Strategy & Programme of Action for 2007. In process of realisation of its SPoA 2006-2007, the MARRI Regional Centre, in cooperation with partner countries, organisations and agencies, ensures that programs and subsequent projects are fully in line with EU standards. It equally ensures that the approach taken is in line with the requirements needed in progressively closer association among countries and, at a later stage, accession to the European Union.

To this end, the MARRI Regional Centre proposes the following Action Plan for 2007 for the following projects, as conditioned to the specific donor's interests:

1. MARRI Regional Centre will carry out an **Analysis Report on Action Plans in the area of Asylum**, i.e. an evaluation and follow up of achieved objectives from MARRI Member States national reports, strategies and action plans that were the result of Regional CARDS Programme, its Regional Guidelines on Integrated Asylum, Migration and Visa Management in the Western Balkans with particular emphasis on the progress made in the development/approximation of the national legislation in the area of Asylum.
2. **Workshop thematically dedicated to the dialogue between Parliaments and Governments on the relevance of migration policy for the development of the countries**, which shall be partly organized by the Stability Pact Interparliamentarian Initiative and Committee on Migration from the Parliamentary Assembly of Council of Europe with the support of MARRI Regional Centre (January/February 2007).
3. **A joint Workshop of SEE Working Group of Budapest Process and the MARRI Regional Centre**, whose objective is to bring together migration policy experts and decision-makers from the European Union, Switzerland and Norway (February 2007)
4. **The Workshop on Economic Migration** shall be organised, as a follow up of the Workshop on Labour Migration for Integration/Development in Western Balkans held in Zagreb on 22-24 February 2006. It will be dedicated to the potential of return of retired economic emigrants to the region and the potential of their possible investment of remittances, as well as development.
5. **The Programme to Support the Development of Trans-national Referral Mechanisms (TRM) for Trafficked Persons in South-Eastern Europe**, funded by USAID (United States Agency for International Development) and implemented by the ICMPD (International Centre for Migration Policy Development) in partnership with the Ministry of Interior of Bulgaria, ACTA (Network of NGOs against

Human Trafficking and Corruption) and the MARRI Regional Centre in Skopje. The countries/territories participating in the programme are Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Macedonia, Moldova, Montenegro, Romania, Serbia and the UN-administered territory of Kosovo. The objective of the programme is to empower trafficked persons to restart a self-determined life, being aware of their rights and of the role they might play in criminal proceedings. For this purpose, mechanisms necessary for comprehensive trans-national victim support and institutionalized co-operation on trans-national cases between countries/actors in South Eastern Europe will be developed and implemented in the course of the programme. TRM Programme will provide a platform for MARRI to organize meetings with the National Anti-Trafficking Coordinators of the MARRI countries to discuss anti-trafficking issues in the region. The content and structure of the meetings of the governmental coordinators will be under the responsibility of the MARRI Centre in close consultation with Programme partners.

6. **Project on Document Security - Western Balkan region.** Its objective is to improve capacity-building and regional cooperation as supportive instrument for freedom of population movements in the MARRI region. The Strategy Summary of the Project was submitted to the UK Government for funding is to enhance regional cooperation and info exchange mechanisms and promote harmonisation of standards in the area of irregular transit migration in the field of document security, in MARRI region (Western Balkans). Main activities shall include establishment and setting to function of a permanent working group, forming operational network of state experts in the field of documents security. Working Group will closely cooperate with other States and international organisations (e.g. Interpol, Europol). The main thematic areas to be covered by Working Group are: a) technical aspects of documents security (including operational expertise on genuine documents unlawfully obtained; genuine documents obtained by false identity; genuine lost or stolen issued documents used by third parties; and genuine documents obtained by means of corruption and b) legal aspects on establishment of identity (risk analyses on possible frauds and abuse of legal documents to obtain false identity).
7. **Projects under the framework of the AENEAS programme, as coordinated by the Swedish Migration Board.**
8. **MARRI publications to facilitate and support MARRI migration-related institutions.** The first one would be the **Analysis Report on Action Plans in the field of asylum**. The second one is the **Framework Concept of Migration policy**. More specifically, the participants at the MARRI Workshop on Migration Management Systems held in Ulcinj on 5-6 October 2006 agreed that the migration policy should be adopted as framework instrument to improve the migration governance in respect to MARRI states. In that respect, the MARRI Regional Centre shall prepare a framework concept on migration policy that might be used in MARRI states.

The remaining workshop is the **Workshop on Establishment of Co-operation between Academia and Governmental Institutions**, which aims to create a specific approach towards awareness-raising transfer of practical experience on implementation of legislation on migration in practice to the students of law, journalism, social and political science. It is foreseen that the mentors from the faculty and the relevant ministries should monitor the results. The expected most valuable outcome would be the knowledge gained through this very specific co-operation and the interest of some of the students to continue their professional career dealing with migration. The end result of the project will be demonstrated on regional level, with further co-operation of the universities in the region and numerous other follow-ups, such as moot courts and other forms of competition. In the pipeline, the MARRI Regional Centre also envisages the organisation of the **Workshop on Integrated Migration Training**.

Skopje, 7 November 2006