

Enhancing Migration Management in the Western Balkans

The Project aims at deepening regional cooperation by developing a community of practice of professionals dealing with managing the migration flows in the Western Balkans.

The goal is to enhance regional cooperation and capacity in managing migration challenges, through building skills and knowledge of professionals dealing with migration issues including but not limited to experts in law enforcement, border control, and security through technical level courses, fostering dialogue and collaboration through the high-level Sarajevo Migration Dialogue, and creating a sustainable framework for continuous improvement in migration management in line with realities in the region and with respect of international norms including human rights, refugee and migration law.

The project aligns with international legal frameworks such as the UN Convention on Refugees and EU migration policies. The training initiatives aim to support the integration of national policies with EU standards governing the Schengen area. By fostering regional cooperation, the initiatives align with broader international strategies for managing migration flows effectively and promoting stability in the Western Balkans.

PROJECT GOALS

The overall goal is to enhance regional cooperation and capacity in managing migration challenges in the Western Balkans.

EXPECTED RESULTS

- Delivery of technical workshops for migration practitioners in law enforcement, border control, and security from the WB countries

- Delivery of a Sarajevo Migration Dialogue, high-level policy event, to open space for exchange on common challenges and possibilities for joint action among WB countries

PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION

The project will address the skills gap among professionals and their organisations by providing targeted training, thereby empowering them with enhanced capabilities to manage migration more effectively. The idea is for the knowledge and skills to be transferred further within their institutions. With an important number of technical courses

alumni, the project aims at creating momentum by which skills gap of professionals and their sending ministries, and therefore countries, will be closed progressively. Secondly, through the High-Level Migration Dialogue, the project contributes to the formulation of informed and evidence-based policies. This dynamic approach allows policies to adapt to the ever-changing nature of migration challenges. Thirdly, the project promotes regional cooperation through collaborative courses and dialogues. By fostering a culture of cooperation, it actively works towards addressing the existing fragmentation in migration management efforts.

IMPORTANCE OF THE PROJECT AND PREVIOUS RESULTS

In order to strengthen its migration partnerships and their sustainable development impact on the Western Balkan, Switzerland pays particular attention to the regional dimension of migration. It is crucial to facilitate a comprehensive understanding of relevant migration issues in the region and to facilitate harmonized/common approaches in addressing migration governance aspects in line with EU accession requirements, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the ongoing global dialogues on migration. The new Swiss Migration Strategic Framework for the Western Balkans 2024-2027 reiterates the importance of promoting regional dialogue, coordination and cooperation.

PROJECT IN BRIEF

NAME: *Enhancing Migration Management in the Western Balkans*

DOMAIN: Migration

LAND/REGION: Bosnia and Herzegovina/WB

PARTNERS: BiH Ministry of Security

STARTING POINT / BACKGROUND INFORMATION: The project is an upgrade and continuation of Switzerland's support to the Sarajevo Migration Dialogue.

PROJECT OBJECTIVE: To enhance regional cooperation and capacity in managing migration challenges in the Western Balkans.

TARGET GROUP: Western Balkan countries- relevant ministries and institutions.

COSTS: CHF 900'000

DURATION: 2024 – 2027 (3 years)

