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Training Workshops on Integrated Border Management
Kaliningrad and Nizhniy Novgorod, August, 2010

On August 2010 the IOM Moscow project team together with an invited international experts conducted a scheduled training workshops on Integrated Border Management in Kaliningrad (August, 13-14) and Nizhniy Novgorod (August 25-26). In Kaliningrad the workshop was attended by the staff of Regional Office, representatives of Rosgranitsa HQ and representative of the North-West Division of Rosgranitsa. In Nizhniy Novgorod it was attended by the staff of Privolzhsky Regional Office and its Public Council, Rosgranitsa Central Office personnel, representatives of Privolzhsky Customs Department, representatives of Nizhniy Novgorod International Airport and Truck Carriers Association in Privolzhsky Federal District.

Both training sessions were in the series of training with the ultimate goal of enhancing the Rosgranitsa personnel capacity. The main aim was to promote the understanding of the concept and practice of IBM among border management staff of the Regional offices of Rosgranitsa as well as to arrange exchange of different opinions and experience on the issues of border management, checkpoints administrating and functioning.

During the workshops, IOM Moscow expert Mr. Sergei Brestovitsky gave an overall review of the project titled “Enhancement of Management of the Russian Federation Border Checkpoints” currently implemented by IOM Moscow and Rosgranitsa and financed by European Union.

Both training workshops involved International experts to provide the participants with the most detailed reports on the raised topics. The presentations made by the speakers – delivered comprehensive overview of the best international and national practices in border management. The presentations made by the participants led to active discussions and exchange of opinions. Particularly, the presentation made in Kaliningrad by Mr. Sainio, Chief Border Guard, Imatra BCP, Finland raised a genuine interest among the participants due to its technical specifications as well as the Provision of the invited IBM and Customs expert Mr. Colin Gazeley who brought to everyone’s attention in Nizhniy Novgorod the European experience in applying best technologies and legislation in managing border checkpoints within the EU Customs Union. Mr. Gazeley’s presentations were dedicated to a detailed analysis of national and international border management experience; risk indicators, risk assessment and risk management in Customs activities.

The participants of the Workshops had a practical chance to share their views on the assigned topic. They demonstrated vivid interest in the topic of the Workshops, participated in joint discussions and debate, expressed their opinions. The workshops were held in active, professional atmosphere.

Finalizing the workshops, all the participants took active part in the assigned role play organized by IOM project team.
According to Rosgranitsa representative, the international expertise in integrated border management along with professional view and experience exchange, especially after the recent creation of the Customs Union, is extremely important and in every possible way should be applied by Regional Offices personnel.

Workshop on International Experience in Border Management in Ekaterinburg

On September, 09 2010 a Workshop on international experience in border management, organized by IOM Moscow in close cooperation with its partner Rosgranitsa took place. This workshop was a planned activity within the framework of the project “Enhancement of management of the Russian Federation border management”. The workshop was included into the agenda of Rosgranitsa Board Meeting in Ekaterinburg. It was attended by about 25 participants, including Mr. Vladimir I. Goncharov, State Secretary - Deputy Head of Rosgranitsa Mr. Franz Prutsch, Border management expert, IOM Moscow, Mr. Andrei Baev, Allen&Overy LLP, Partner and Mr. Pasi Tolvanen - Lieutenant Colonel, Chief Border Checks Officer MOI of Finland, Border Guards HQ, Border and Coast Guard Division. The representatives of Headquarters and eight Regional Departments of Rosgranitsa, as well as stakeholders, participated in the dialog in order to improve international cooperation in facilitation of the border management. In welcome speech both Rosgranitsa and the invited experts recognized the significance of the implementation of the international and particularly EU expertise in development and maintenance of the effective systems of state border management and efficient border control procedures.

The presentation made by Mr. Prutsch was devoted to the main findings of Technical Assessment of the border control infrastructure at selected border points conducted earlier on the Russian Federation Border between St. Petersburg and Pskov region and neighboring EU countries. Mr. Tolvanen brought to everyone’s attention the Presentation on the system of automated border control in Finland. The Presentation made by Mr. Baev on International experience of Public-Private Partnership (PPP) and legal basis in RF, raised a genuine interest among the participants due to the fact that the PPP models are the subject of wide discussion in the Russian Federation now. Rosgranitsa, as the leading agency in the development and management of the Russian State Border including its infrastructure, puts this issue on top of the agenda.

Mr. Sergei Brestovitsky, Project Coordinator in his presentation of the project activities on development of the BCP interactive scheme gave a detailed explanation of the main goals and achievements as well as the tasks and issues which the Project team is presently facing.

At the final stage of the Workshop the Discussion on International experience of Public-Private Partnership (PPP) and legal basis in RF was held. The Rosgranitsa management team demonstrated vivid interest in the topic of the discussion, participated in joint debate, expressed their opinions. The whole workshop was held in active, professional atmosphere.

The Workshop resulted in the conclusion as per which the participants agreed that the international experience in border management provided is one of the most important and valuable impact. Rosgranitsa confirmed its commitment to actively participate in the project implementation and strategy planning.

Study tour to Poland for representatives of concerned agencies for familiarization with best examples of solutions in border management

Technical Visit

Poland, Latvia, Estonia September, 26 - October, 02

Within the Component 2, in September/October 2010 a Study Tour Study tour to Poland for representatives of concerned agencies for familiarization with best examples of solutions in border management (Technical Visit to the Seaports) was organized by IOM Moscow. It was planned to visit several border checkpoints located at the Baltic Sea. The main objective of the study visit to Poland, Latvia and Estonia was the familiarization representatives of concerned agencies of the Russian Federation with the best examples of solutions in border management, seaport border checkpoints administration, implementation of the up-to-date technologies and equipment and the current situation on the sea border.

While have an extensive experience in handling efficient border control procedures on the external common border with RF in particular at the seaports, the above mentioned countries became the EU members recently and presently successfully implementing the EU legislation, modern equipment and controlling systems in the field of border management.

The tour was implemented by IOM Moscow in close collaboration with it’s stakeholders – the Embassy of Poland Republic in Russian Federation, IOM representative offices of Belgium, Poland, Latvia and Estonia and Rosgranitsa. The study tour core curriculum was developed on the basis of counterparts’ consultations, inter-agency discussion and was approved by Rosgranitsa.

Russian delegation was headed by Ms. Elena Kitova, Head of Department of State policy in border management. Among the participants of the delegation there were representatives of the
During the visit the delegators conducted numerous meetings with the representatives of the Poland, Latvian and Estonian concerned agencies involved in administration and management of the sea border checkpoints. Legal, organizational, administrative, technical issues and data exchange mechanisms were thoroughly discussed during those meetings. The meetings conducted within the framework of the Study Visit was a good opportunity for all parties to highlight and discuss essential topics of border management and border checkpoints administration and further steps to be taken to establish even better contacts between partners.

To learn working procedures, organizational and technical structure of the sea BCPs Russian delegation visited Polish Border Guard Training Center and the seaport in Gdynia, Riga Seaport Headquarters and Cargo Terminal, Muuga Seaport in Estonia as well as the Estonian Border Guard Office.

Key priority topics of the Study visit were as follow:

- Design, construction, equipment and technical support of the checkpoints buildings, the premises and territories according to best international practices and EU standards;
- Definition the mechanism of international and interagency cooperation in border control performance on the seaport checkpoints (institutional structures responsibilities, coordination and cooperation; entities responsible for good functioning of seaport border checkpoints);
- Passenger, cargo and goods traffic flows;
- Corresponding legislation, instructions, rules and regulations;
- Familiarization with technical means of border and customs cooperation in border control performance on the seaport checkpoints (institutional structures responsibilities, coordination and cooperation; entities responsible for good functioning of seaport border checkpoints);
- Prevention and suppression of smuggling and drug traffics;
- Other topics related to the issue

The officials of the concerned agencies of all parties emphasized the necessity of further co-development, synchronization of procedures and formalities required for effective border management and combating illegal activities (terrorism, drug traffic, smuggling, illegal migration etc). The Russian side expressed their keen interest in further learning and adaptation of the best international border management practices.

**PROJECT: “DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION OF A RETURN AND REINTEGRATION ASSISTANCE PROGRAMME FOR VOLUNTARY RETURNEES TO THE CHECHEN REPUBLIC”**

In August 2010 following the Pilot project IOM continued the implementation of the Project “Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration to the Chechen Republic”.

The Project will assist to 70 selected Russian nationals currently residing in Austria to their voluntary return to the region of their origin as Chechen republic and reintegration into the social-economic life.

As earlier, supporting means will include transportation to the place of living in Chechnya, financial assistance for housing and living costs for the first month after return, including obtaining work equipment or materials; informational support and case-by-case counseling on reintegration opportunities such as assistance in job search and vocational training including coverage of cost for training, small business start-up, including business grants. Other integration means will include medical support to the vulnerable group or “Cash for care” for the families who have to take care of elderly, sick or disabled returnees.

The project’s partner NGO “Vesta” is in charge of the social reintegration of the participants. The Chamber of Commerce of the Chechen Republic is assisting the participants to their inclusion into the economic life. Social assistance includes first of all assigning the families to the services of local social agencies for receiving benefits, pensions, etc. “Vesta” also submits petitions to the state bodies on behalf of the participants for resolving their housing issues. The close attention is paid to the vulnerable participants with poor health or with restricted physical abilities. Among the present participants there is a participant who is an invalid of the first group with severe spine injury and a participant with severe form of tuberculosis. This category of participants will be additionally supported for obtaining medical help.

Economic reintegration includes consulting on small business opening and micro granting for business start up. The Local Project Business Consultant assists the participants in choosing the appropriate type of business, estimating the competitive situation on site, including business risks and profitability assessment as well as overall business planning. The participants are offered to get the series of individual business counseling or to attend the 12-day training of the Chamber of Commerce “Start your own business”.

For the period of August – September 14 families returned to the Chechen Republic (43 people in total). People are coming back as to the big cities (Grozny, Uru-Martan, Gudermes) as to the rural areas. At the present the participants are working on their business concepts. Among the submitted business plans there are businesses on keeping cattle, bee hiving, mini bakeries. The participants also opt for joining the successfully functioning business of their relatives as retail business or various production shops.

Current project is being implemented jointly by IOM Vienna and Moscow, in close collaboration with national, regional authorities, local civil society and international organizations, working in the region.

Local Business Consultant of the Project Zarema Chinkhoeva from the Chamber of Commerce of the Chechen Republic at the house of the participant assessing his business plan on keeping the cattle for future sale of meet in the market.
The Participant of the Project demonstrates the production of metal parts for drainpipes which he plans to invest his money in and become a business partner of his brother.

CENTRAL ASIA REGIONAL PROGRAMME

The Central Asia Regional Migration Programme (CARMP), jointly implemented by IOM/UNIFEM and the World Bank with financial support by DFID, aims to contribute to poverty reduction in Central Asia through the improved livelihoods of migrant men, women, and their families. Specific Programme purposes on the country level are protection of the rights of labor migrants to enhance economic & social opportunities of migrant men, women and their families and fostering legal employment channels for labor migrants. Russia's country-related activities will be taken to contribute to the following outputs of the programme:

- Coordinated information exchange & data collection to improve the quality of policy analysis necessary for development of national migration legislative base, existing administrative and judicial practices;
- Development and testing of flexible migration mechanisms and models, enhancement the potential, competencies and capacity building of migration officials;
- Assistance to the development of the network of labour migrants' service providers, enhancing coordination and information exchange, dissemination of best practices, to enable labour migrants to make better informed decisions about their involvement into the labour market;
- Facilitation of state- non-state partnership, awareness raising to create non-exclusive environment and strategies for social adaptation and integration of labour migrants, against discrimination and xenophobia.

One the regional level, the added value of the Programme activities will be increased dialogue, cooperation and partnership on the issues related to the management of labour migration on the regional level of CIS, EurAsEc member states countries.

Project Implementation Period: April 1, 2010 - March 31, 2012

Key partners: FMS, Ministry of Heath & Social Development, international organizations, public organizations and research institutions, NGOs - service providers and media.

To provide labor migrants with better access to a wider range of services, Information-Resource Center at IOM Moscow has started to operate. Organizational structure of the Information-Resource Center is designed to provide free of charge individualized information support and legal counseling to the visitors on the hotline, during the personal visits to centre, outreach consultations and trainings provided by the Lawyers and Counselors of the Center on a wide range of issues in the sphere of labour migration. Consultations are provided for all people, irrespective of their citizenship, gender, age, level of education, nationality, religion.

The primary target group will be the labour migrants, coming to the Russian Federation from visa-free countries. In addition, the Center will provide information support to employers, who are interested in use of foreign workers; to socially vulnerable groups of population (including irregular labour migrants on the Russian territory); governmental bodies and non-governmental organizations, working with migrants in the RF and in EurAsES countries; as well as to the expert community.

The Information-Resource Center is carrying out a mission of contributing to reduction of irregular migration, promoting the means of regular migration and regular stay in the host country. The Center will provide migrants with information and advice on safe migration and refer them to relevant services, as well as provide them with support services that will enable migrants to better understand their rights and obligations linked to their stay and employment on the territory of the RF.

Main Objectives of the Information-Resource Center:

- Provision of consultative and information services to the foreign nationals, on the variety of issues in connection with their stay and work in Russia.
- Provision of legal consultations and support for labour migrants on the issues linked to their stay and employment on the territory of the RF. Prevention of use of slave labour.
- Collection and update of information on the issues of migration legislation, legal status (rights and obligations) of migrants as well as on the existing possibilities for adaptation and social integration of migrants and their families. Collection and development of information and education materials (printed, audio and video) for the further use in consultative work and during the information campaigns, aimed at raising awareness and level of knowledge of migrants on their rights, obligations and possibilities in the host country.
- Basing on the results of work of Counselors and Lawyers of the Center, accumulate, process and analyze inquiries and data on the administrative and legal practices in the field of labour migration in the RF. Creation of the database of analytical materials.
- Improvement of cooperation and coordination between Russian non-governmental organizations, national and cultural associations, scientific-research centers, dealing with the labour migration issues and protection of rights of labour migrants on the territory of the RF.
• Improvement of inter-regional cooperation between the Information and Consultative Centers for labour migrants, established in the countries of Central Asia; development of the practices of exchange of information, of consultative and methodical materials, organization of professional trainings for the personnel of the Centers, contribution to the development of unified standards in delivery of informative services, and creation of the unified standards in collection of information for database for the Information and Consultative Centers in the countries of origin and destination for the labour migrants.

• Organization of campaigns of information dissemination on the issues of the labour migration and various educational programmes in the field of migration management, assistance in development of strategies of social integration of labour migrants in the RF and tolerant attitude towards migrants in society. Close cooperation with the mass media.

Toll free anonymous hotline:
8 800 333 00 16
(8:30 A.M. - 6:30 P.M. weekdays).

Regional Training Seminar on Gender and Labor Migration

Specialists of Information-Resource Centre visited Regional Training Seminar on Gender and Labor Migration on 14-15 October in Astana. This two-days Seminar was organized by: Office of the Coordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities and the OSCE Centre in Astana in co-operation with the Government of Kazakhstan as the OSCE Chairmanship in 2010, the Finnish Government, the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), the International Organization for Migration and the International Labor Organization.

The main goal of the training was to estimate gender policy in labor migration, reveal possible positive changes concerning living conditions, employment and incomes of labor migrants-women, and to raise social and economic benefits of labor migration, both for countries of destination and for countries of origin.

Group discussion and target researches were held in the frames of training.

The following key issues were pointed out:
- Data collection system should be enhanced in accordance with gender aspects;
- OSCE and IOM should harmonise the process of gathering information in Central Asia and Russian Federation countries;
- Trainings and information campaigns on implementation of gender-sensitive policy should be provided to government officials and policymakers;
- Scheme of labor migrants employment should be enhanced in accordance with gender aspects (acknowledgment of foreign diplomas on qualification, avoiding discrimination, violence, etc.)
- Signing of governmental agreements should take into account the opinion of employers, representatives of NGO and Trade unions, etc.
- All participants of the seminar should cooperate on implementation of gender-sensitive labour-migration policies.

PROJECT: “COMBATING TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS IN THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION (SIDA)

Networking visits to countries of origin of victims of trafficking for Russian law enforcement specialists for sharing best practices of combating human trafficking and providing assistance to victims.

A delegation consisting of representatives of the General Prosecutor’s Office and IOM Moscow visited Kyiv. Working contacts with international cooperation and counter-trafficking units of law enforcement agencies of Ukraine were established.

Networking visits to countries of origin of victims of trafficking for Russian law enforcement specialists for sharing best practices of combating human trafficking and providing assistance to victims.

During 3rd – 7th of August a delegation consisting of representatives of the General Prosecutor’s Office and IOM Moscow visited Minsk.

In the course of the visits contacts with respective national Law Enforcement authorities were established and exchange of information on human trafficking criminal cases in respect to Ukrainian and Belarusian citizens took place.

These visits are also carried out in the context of the CIS Program for Cooperation in Combating Human Trafficking in 2007-2010.

The IOM Moscow Times, Issue 20
Provision of the technical assistance to the Scientific-Methodological Center of the CCPG

Two class rooms at the Scientific-Methodological Center of the Coordination Council of the Prosecutors General of the CIS member states.

On September 29th -30th, 2010 a workshop "Enhancement of Interaction among Bodies of Sectoral Cooperation between CIS member nations in Combating Organized Crime and Human Trafficking" took place in Moscow.

The workshop was attended by the following Bodies of Sectoral Cooperation: the Coordination Council of the CIS Prosecutors General, the Bureau for Coordination of Combating Organized Crime and other Serious Crimes in the CIS territory, Anti-Terrorist Center of the CIS, Coordination Service of the Council of Commanders of the CIS Border Guards Troops, Council of Heads of the CIS Security and Special Services, Coordination Council of the Heads of the Tax (Financial) Investigations, Committee of Heads of the Law Enforcement Units at the Council of Heads of the CIS Customs Services. Besides among invitees were representatives of the Collective Security Treaty Organization, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, the CIS Inter-Parliamentary Assembly, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the International Organization for Migration.

Conduction of 6 networking-study visits for Russian delegates from the Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Justice, and Public Prosecutor’s Office to countries of destination of victims of trafficking.

13-17 September a delegation consisting of representatives of the RF Investigative Committee at the Public prosecutor’s office and IOM Moscow visited Japan, Tokyo city. In the course of the visit contacts with respective national Law Enforcement authorities were established and exchange of information on human trafficking criminal cases in respect to Russian citizens took place.

PROGRAMME OF COOPERATION WITH THE RUSSIAN AUTHORITIES

On 21 September 2010 Mr. Adelkhanyan, the Chairman of the State Registration Chamber with the Ministry of Justice of the Russian Federation met with Mr. Enrico Ponziani, IOM Moscow Chief of Mission.

At the meeting the Memorandum of Understanding was signed between the State Registration Chamber and the IOM. Both parties
emphasized that the signed Memorandum would become the first step in cooperation between two parties.

**MOSCOW PROGRAMME ON CULTURAL ORIENTATION**

*Timisoara, ROMANIA*

Two sessions were organized at the Emergency Transit Center in Timisoara, Romania in May 2010. One session catered for Sri-Lankan refugees and the other for the Palestinians who had just arrived from Al-Waleed camp, Iraq. The challenge of delivering sessions at the ETC is that all the populations are so distinctly different from each other. This makes the work of a CO facilitator both very interesting and challenging. The fact that the refugees are in a camp setting and do not have much to do, contributes to a 100% participation rate.

The group of Sri Lankans who were transferred to the ETC from Indonesia, where they were taken off board of the Oceanic Viking in November 2009, was represented by primarily 20 – 30 year old males full of enthusiasm and hopes for finding a job and making a happy life in the US as soon as they arrive. The refugees were so well-organized, that one could compare this group of people with an army squad. When the teacher asked them to split into two groups for an activity, it took them 10 seconds to form the groups and then they looked up in anticipation of the assignment.

Sri-Lankan refugees are discussing which items are allowed and which are not on board the plane

A group of mixed adults and youth in the ETC CO Classroom

One of the major tasks of CO is to develop realistic expectations on the part of the refugees bound for the United States. Both Sri Lankans and Palestinians who have gone through a long chain of disturbing events and hardships listened and took away much of the information about conditions of life for new arrivals in the US with great interest and commitment. When the facilitator asked the Palestinian women what were, in their opinion, the basic necessities that should be provided for them inside the American house, they were all sure that a washing machine is a must, which is not the case in the US for several reasons which the facilitator explained to them. They came away understanding the realities associated with many of the topics, including housing.

Minsk, BELARUS

The CO session in Minsk was arranged for 2 groups of P2 refugees. The participants listened with great interest and enjoyed the Welcome DVD, and were keen to ask questions. Hardly any had ever been to the US, and many of them wanted to know about the slightest details regarding life in the US, including the speed limit on the highways.

Some participants wanted to know more about the services provided by resettlement agencies, especially regarding assistance with finding a job. One of the participants was very concerned about the long flight and asked whether there was anybody who would help them in case they get lost somewhere in transit, e.g. in Frankfurt. Many were interested if the amount of money they could bring with them to the US, thinking that this may somehow affect the amount of financial help they are supposed to receive.

**MOSCOW MIGRANTS’ PROCESSING AND MOVEMENT**

IOM Moscow works with the Russian government, the U.S. State Department, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS), and various UNHCR offices and U.S. Embassies across Europe and the ex-USSR to implement a program of voluntary resettlement to the United States for migrants and refugees. Activities include receipt of applications, initial screening, supporting interviews with the U.S. Immigration Service, and assisting approved applicants with cultural
orientation, placement in the USA with resettlement NGOs, arrival
documentation, and departure.
The biggest beneficiary groups are (1) religious minorities from the
ex-USSR joining immediate relatives already in the United States; (2)
refugees referred for resettlement by the United Nations, including
Afghan refugees in Central Asia, and Afghan and African refugees in
Russia and Ukraine; and (3) African boat people stranded in Malta.
Comprehensive statistics for the period 01 Jul 2010 through 30
September 2010 are as follows:

Applications received and processed: 1292
individuals
Presented to DHS for status determination: 1061
individuals
Departures to the U.S.: 435 individuals

In total, IOM staff traveled to process cases, interview applicants,
prepare files for interviews, assist U.S. government officials and
provide Cultural Orientation in: Almaty (Kazakhstan), Baku
(Azerbaijan), Bishkek (Kyrgyzstan), Kyiv (Ukraine), Malta, Tashkent
(Uzbekistan), Tbilisi (Georgia), Timisoara (Romania), as well as
Krasnodar and Moscow, Russia.