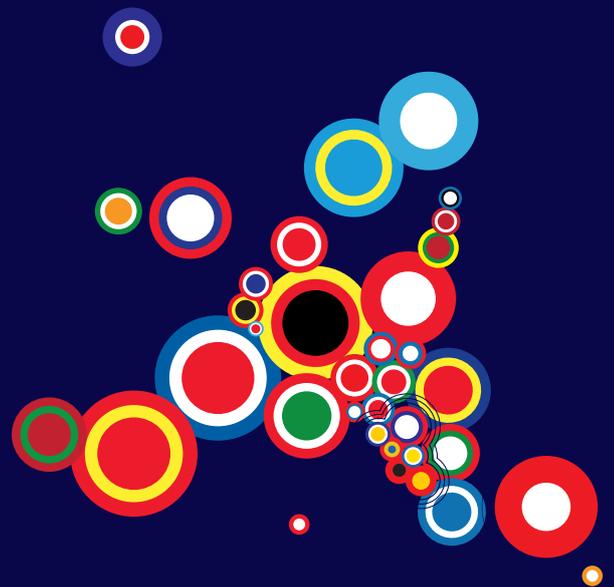




INSTRUMENT FOR PRE-ACCESSION ASSISTANCE (IPA II) 2014-2020

MULTI-COUNTRY

Regional support to protection-sensitive migration management in the Western Balkans and Turkey



Action Summary

The objective of the Action is to further develop and operationalize a comprehensive migration management system in the IPA Beneficiaries applying a human rights based approach. Complementing IPA assistance at the national level, the regional programme will focus on identification of migrants, improving the information exchange mechanisms and setting up structures to facilitate voluntary and non-voluntary return solutions.

With this, a comprehensive and holistic regional approach can be ensured in the Western Balkans and Turkey.

Through the Action common challenges and priorities identified by the European Union and the IPA II Beneficiaries will be addressed.

Action Identification	
Programme Title	IPA II Multi-country action programme 2014
Action Title	Regional support to protection-sensitive migration management systems
Action Reference	IPA 2014/031-603.07/MC/migration
Sector Information	
ELARG Sectors	Rule of Law and fundamental rights
DAC Sector	15130
Budget	
Total cost (VAT excluded)¹	EUR 8.25 million
EU contribution	EUR 8 million
Management and Implementation	
Method of implementation	Direct management
<i>Direct management:</i> ELARG unit in charge	ELARG D.3
Location	
Zone benefiting from the action	Western Balkans and Turkey
Specific implementation area(s)	Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia, Turkey and Kosovo*
Timeline	
Deadline for conclusion of the Financing Agreement	N/A
Contracting deadline	31 December 2015
End of operational implementation period	31 December 2018

* This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244/1999 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence.

1. RATIONALE

PROBLEM AND STAKEHOLDER ANALYSIS

In its Western Balkans Annual Risk Analysis 2014, FRONTEX has identified the risk of large migration movements from Turkey as the first out of three identified border security risks². The numbers on migrants from third countries seeking to transit through the Western Balkans has been continuously rising since 2010. The report confirmed that no substantive improvements have been made in comparison to previous years and that ‘all Western Balkan countries still face significant problems regarding identification and return of irregular migrants’.

Despite recent efforts at the national level –including through EU assistance³– the capacity of authorities to deal with the migrants/asylum seekers has still to be considered insufficient in most countries. Basic rights of migrants cannot be consistently ensured as IPA II Beneficiaries often lack the appropriate infrastructure, the financial means, the practical experience and training and sometimes also the political will to effectively deal with migrants.

The FRONTEX report also stated, ‘the problem was further complicated by the fact that detected irregular migrants applied for asylum and thus frustrate(d) return attempts’. Indeed, due to the mostly transitory nature of migration through the Western Balkans and Turkey the administrations often focus on ‘processing migrants and asylum seekers’ for the duration of their temporary stay in accordance with international standards, rather than on establishing a human rights based approach to comprehensive management of mixed migration flows. In order to mitigate the burden of unfound asylum application on the national systems and to strengthen the authorities’ responsiveness to vulnerable migrants, interview techniques must be strengthened to allow the correct classification between various types of migrant groups. On the other hand, support must be provided to strengthen the national asylum systems.

Recognizing the need for a regional approach to migration management in the Western Balkans many platforms/networks/initiatives have been created in recent years, often initiated by an international organization or an individual country. These include the Migration, Refugees, Asylum Regional Initiative (MARRI), the Budapest Process, the Brdo Process, the Prague Process, and other. New initiatives are at present in the making, such as the Western Balkans Migration Network⁴ initiated by Slovenia in November 2013 and administered by ICMPD. UNHCR and IOM have jointly developed the so-called ‘Comprehensive Approach to Migration and Asylum in the Western Balkans’ in 2013. Given the various interests and players in support of migration management, support at times overlaps and duplicates. To overcome this challenge the Regional Coordination Council (RCC) appears wishing to assume a coordinating role for the years to come. Until such time, a thorough consultative process has led to the identification of the most pressing issues to be addressed at the regional level.

The following areas have been identified in order of priority to be addressed through a regional intervention:

- Difficulties to establish the identity of irregular migrants.
- Challenges to classify the nature of the migrant taking into account possible vulnerabilities.
- Lacking translation into languages of migrants.
- Lack of sustainable and cost-effective mechanism to offer voluntary return of irregular migrants.
- Lack of legal basis, mechanisms and financial resources to exercise non-voluntary return solutions.

² Western Balkans Annual risk Analysis 2014, FRONTEX, April 2014, page 5.

³ For the period 2007-2013, 95.8 M Euro was allocated for the wider area of illegal migration, migration management, human trafficking, readmission and asylum.

⁴ This network envisages to mirror the European Migration Network in the future.

- Migrant smuggling.

The Action will seek to address most of the identified challenges, except interpretation services and security threats through smuggling of migrants. For the future it is envisaged to establish a regional interpretation pool, possible under IPA 2015, after a similar regional model will have been tested and introduced in EU Member States. The smuggling of migrants will be addressed through national programmes and streamlined within the overall regional support to strengthen cooperation of law enforcement to fight organised crime. Programmes relating to strengthening national asylum mechanisms will be addressed at the national level through national IPA envelopes.

RELEVANCE WITH THE IPA II MULTI-COUNTRY STRATEGY PAPER AND OTHER KEY REFERENCES

Under the European Union's overarching policy framework for the EU external migration policy, the Global Approach to Migration and Policy (GAMM) 5, four main priorities have evolved including preventing and reducing irregular migration in an efficient, yet humane way and strengthening international protection systems and the external dimension of asylum. The respect for the rights and dignity of migrants is thereby understood as an essential cross-cutting dimension of the overall policy framework.

On 23 April 2012, the Council of the European Union adopted the *EU Action on Migratory Pressures – A Strategic Response* which includes a non-exhaustive list of strategic priority areas where efforts need to be stepped up and monitored in order to prevent and control existing pressures that derive from illegal immigration⁶. It specifically refers to the need to prevent irregular immigration (from and) via the Western Balkans and requests the provision of IPA assistance and continues monitoring of the further development of border, migration, asylum and visa systems in Western-Balkan countries.

For the Western Balkans and Turkey the EU Enlargement Strategy 2013-2014⁷ confirms that the rule of law is now at the heart of the enlargement process while recalling that the European Union is founded on common values and principles, including the respect for fundamental rights. It confirms that mixed migration and border issues will be addressed through the relevant fora.

The Multi-Country Indicative Strategy Paper 2014-2020⁸ states that mixed-migration and border management capacities will be supported with IPA II funding where required under the Chapter 23 and 24 negotiations. It lays out that that efforts will be made to enhance cooperation and coordination between the countries, in the areas of information exchange, identification of irregular migrants and translation services. Solutions will be offered on assisted voluntary and non-voluntary return. Adding to national efforts, support may be provided to develop asylum systems in line with international standards. A specific reference is made to the need for close cooperation and coordination with relevant EU agencies such as Frontex as well as with EU Member States and international organisations.

LESSONS LEARNED AND LINK TO PREVIOUS FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

The European Commission has been supporting the establishment and strengthening of migration managements systems and asylum systems through national IPA allocations. During the period 2007-2013, close to 203 Million Euro were allocated to build effective border management systems and 102 Million Euro to support migration and asylum systems. For the latter, successful programmes have been carried out providing various types of support including building of reception facilities, aligning national legislation with EU and international standards, etc. However, increasing numbers of third

⁵ The GAMM was renewed in November 2011. It complements the EU foreign policy and development cooperation.

http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/home-affairs/what-we-do/policies/international-affairs/global-approach-to-migration/index_en.htm.

⁶ <http://www.statewatch.org/news/2012/apr/eu-council-actiion-plan-migratory-pressure-8714-rev1-12.pdf>.

⁷ http://ec.europa.eu/enlargement/pdf/key_documents/2013/package/strategy_paper_2013_en.pdf.

⁸ C(2014) 4293, 30.06.2014

country nationals seek to transit through the Western Balkans route aiming to enter the European Union. Given the cross-border nature of migration flows the national efforts need be complemented by regional support.

2. INTERVENTION LOGIC

LOGICAL FRAMEWORK MATRIX

OVERALL OBJECTIVE	OBJECTIVELY VERIFIABLE INDICATORS (OVI)	SOURCES OF VERIFICATION	
To develop and operationalize a comprehensive migration management system in the IPA Beneficiaries	Numbers of irregular migrants detected in comparison to previous year.	Frontex' Western Balkans Annual Risk Analysis 2017 and 2018. EU Progress Reports	
SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE	OBJECTIVELY VERIFIABLE INDICATORS (OVI)	SOURCES OF VERIFICATION	ASSUMPTIONS
Improved capacity of IPA II beneficiaries to offer a protection-sensitive response to mixed migration flows by strengthening identification mechanisms, improving systematic information exchange and preparing the IPA II beneficiaries to offer sustainable return solutions.	Techniques on identification of migrants assessed and improved. Mechanisms for inter-regional information exchange mechanisms developed and operational. Regional voluntary and non-voluntary return mechanisms established and operational.	Frontex' Western Balkans Annual Risk Analysis 2017 and 2018. EU Progress Reports 2017 and 2018. Annual reports submitted to Contracting Authority. External assessment report in December 2016 and June 2018 on overall progress made.	Increased interest and genuine commitment by beneficiaries. Interest in regional cooperation.
RESULTS	OBJECTIVELY VERIFIABLE INDICATORS (OVI)	SOURCES OF VERIFICATION	ASSUMPTIONS
Result 1: Identification of mixed migration flows at first and second point of contact and within the territory as well as screening on nationalities improved.	Result 1: 1.1 Number of officials equipped to apply improved identification and screening techniques.	Result 1: Gap-analysis. Reports by national authorities.	Result 1: Interest in regional cooperation by IPA II Beneficiaries.

<p>Identification is linked to the relevant national referral systems taking into account the classification of the migrant as an irregular migrant, asylum seeker or person with other protection needs (such as unaccompanied minor, potential victim of trafficking in human beings or other)</p>	<p>1.2 Level of application of standardized profiling questionnaires. 1.3 Number of screenings undertaken to identify nationality. 1.4 Mixed profiling teams deployed at Border Crossing Points.</p>	<p>Interview response sheets. Report from on-the-spot monitoring. FRONTEX' Western Balkans Annual Risk Analysis 2017 and 2018.</p>	<p>Increased commitment by IPA II beneficiaries.</p>
<p>Result 2: Information exchange of non-personal information and data is strengthened at the intra-regional and inter-regional levels;...</p>	<p>Result 2: 2.1 Mechanism to exchange information systematically on irregular migrants improved among IPA II Beneficiaries in the Western Balkans and Turkey. 2.2 Number of exchanges of operational data. 2.3 Number of officials trained on data collection and data protection.</p>	<p>Result 2: Reports from migration and border agencies of Western Balkans countries and Turkey, Europol, FRONTEX, EASO and other relevant EU agencies.</p>	<p>Result 2: Interest of beneficiaries to use information.</p>
<p>Result 3: Voluntary and non-voluntary return mechanisms established at regional level and operational cooperation established and ongoing with selected countries of origin (for voluntary return does not include Turkey as covered through separate national IPA envelope).</p>	<p>Result 3: 3.1 Legal frameworks for managing voluntary and non-voluntary return operations in place and harmonized. 3.2 Level of application of the Standard Operating Procedures for voluntary and non-voluntary return operations.</p>	<p>Result 3: Standard Operating Procedures for voluntary and non-voluntary return at the regional level.</p>	<p>Result 3: Increased ownership and commitment by beneficiaries.</p>

ACTIVITIES	MEANS	OVERALL COST	ASSUMPTIONS
<p>Activities to achieve Result 1:</p> <p>1.1 Assessment of existing gaps in identification methods, and referral mechanisms currently applied.</p> <p>1.2 Advice on institutional improvement of existing mechanisms and development of new ones where needed.</p> <p>1.3 Development of standardized profiling questionnaires.</p> <p>1.4 Training/capacity building on identification methods.</p> <p>1.5 Training on screening of nationality.</p> <p>1.6 Development of mechanism to ensure provision of systematic and continues training/capacity building on identification and screening methods.</p> <p>1.7 Establishing a system to ensure regular monitoring and evaluation of established protection-sensitive mechanism.</p>	<p>Activities 1.1-1.6, 2.1, 2.2 and 3.1-3.3, 3.6 (for non-voluntary return), 3.5, 3.7 (on country of origin info relating to asylum): Direct Award</p>	<p>Results 1, 2.1, 2.2 and 3 (for non-voluntary return): (EU contribution 100% of the overall budget)</p>	
<p>Activities to achieve Result 2:</p> <p>2.1 Assessment and recommendations relating to the existing level of information exchange on migration related issues at the regional level, with EU agencies including FRONTEX, and the European Asylum Support Office as well as countries of origin.</p> <p>2.2 Advice and capacity building measures on institutional and structural improvements of exchanging information.</p> <p>2.3 Workshops/Coordination meetings</p> <p>2.4 Development of operational framework agreements for regional data exchange</p>	<p>Activities 1.7, 2.3, 2.4, 3.1-3.3, 3.4, 3.6, (for voluntary return), 3.7 (on country of origin info relating to return): Direct Award</p>	<p>Results 2.3 and 3 (for voluntary return): (EU contribution 90% of the overall budget)</p>	

<p>Activities to achieve Result 3:</p> <p>3.1 Assessment of the existing legislation aiming at adding/changing/ameliorating it.</p> <p>3.2 Development of Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs).</p> <p>3.3 Implementation of SOPs through setting up of relevant structures, creating synergies among all services involved, organizing capacity building activities.</p> <p>3.4 Meetings with countries of origin seeking to reach agreements on identification and repatriation.</p> <p>3.5 For non-voluntary return, ensuring alignment with national legislation and signing of bilateral agreements with Kosovo¹.</p> <p>3.6 Workshops/meetings.</p> <p>3.7 Preparing methodology for collecting country of origin information and establishing relevant mechanisms for collection, use and sharing of country of origin information.</p>		<p>TOTAL: EUR 8.25 million</p>	
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¹ A multi-lateral agreement has been signed between the Ministers of Interior from Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia on 26 November 2013.

ADDITIONAL DESCRIPTION

The Action is aiming to offer a comprehensive and holistic regional approach to mixed migration management complementing national efforts by providing a mixture of horizontal and regional support in the areas identified as the most urgent needs to be addressed. It in parts implements the UNHCR/IOM developed so-called 'Comprehensive Approach to Migration and Asylum in the Western Balkans' in 2013. With the successful implementation of the activities, IPA II beneficiaries will be in the position to advance towards closing existing gaps.

1. Identification of migrants: This component of the Action consists of two parts, namely strengthening the identification techniques at the first point of contact at the borders or within the territory and secondly strengthening the second line interviewing techniques for the establishment of a potential vulnerability and the identity of a migrant, for the latter in cases where migrants do not have appropriate documents. Improving the identification process will allow to ensure an improved quality of the process incorporating a protection-sensitive approach linking the correctly identified group of migrant to the relevant national referral mechanism. This component will be implemented by FRONTEX in cooperation with EASO, as well as UNHCR and IOM. The screening procedures will be improved based on a methodology developed and successfully applied by FRONTEX in EU Member States.

2. Information exchange: In regard to strengthening the information exchanges systems in the Western Balkans and Turkey it is envisaged to explore expanding the capacity of the already existing specialized units in charge for migration, including the FRONTEX National Contact Points within the Ministries of Interior or other ministerial structures. The focal points could serve as national one-stop shops on migration analysis, where deemed useful in the national context, including on risk analysis, vulnerabilities, data exchange and other. Capacity should be expanded to share analytical information and data within the region as well as to engage on information gathering, for example on countries of origin. Inter-regional and intra-regional lines of information exchange and closer links with EU agencies will be streamlined through the National Contact Points. Alliances and linkages to existing information exchange networks will be made.

3. Establishing regional return mechanisms: Under the present Action support will be provided to establish the mechanisms for regional voluntary and non-voluntary solutions. This Action does explicitly not include the physical removal of individuals. For this, other sources of funding will have to be sought. The feasibility of a Regional Returns Fund administered by a regionally owned structure will be explored. Such a Returns Fund would offer a comprehensive approach to functioning return mechanisms whereby the European Commission would through this Action co-fund the legal and institutional set up, including capacity building, for voluntary and non-voluntary. On the other hand, IPA II beneficiaries, other international and bilateral donors could provide contribution for the actual repatriation of migrants. Selected EU Member States have in previous years funded voluntary repatriations at the national level. In regard to the cooperation with countries of origin, alliances will be made with ongoing activities such as the Budapest Process and synergies created with to other EU funded programmes in countries of origin.

3. IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENTS

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The Action will be implemented through two intertwined components.

FRONTEX will through a direct award be in the lead for the implementation of the objectives relating to identification of migrants at first point of contact and within the country, screening procedures for the identification of nationality, information exchange and to prepare the IPA II beneficiaries in the

Western Balkans for joint return operations. FRONTEX will offer its expertise by providing the methodology and materials for screening on nationality. Trainers already trained by FRONTEX in the EU Member States will be utilized to the extent possible. EASO and UNHCR together with IOM will support the development of standardized profiling questionnaires for the interviews at the first point of contact and within the territory in order to ensure a protection-sensitive approach. The expertise of the EASO will be drawn where possible. UNHCR will be associated to the Action and co-implement activities from its newly established regional office in Sarajevo.

The IOM will be awarded with the second grant to implement activities relating to the operational component of setting up effective information exchange mechanisms and setting up mechanisms for a regional voluntary return structure. Implementation will be operated from IOM's regional hub in Sarajevo coordinating the activities of the project officers in the beneficiary countries.

Links will be made and an alignment explored with EURINT, the European network of EU Member States, aiming to develop and share European best-practices in the field of return, mainly focusing on non-voluntary return, from the moment of identification to the actual obtaining of travel documents required for a person to return to his or her country of origin,¹⁰ as well as EU-LISA and other.

IMPLEMENTATION METHOD(S) AND TYPE(S) OF FINANCING

The Action will be implemented following the conclusion of grant contracts: one contract with an indicative amount of EUR 5.5 million, awarded to FRONTEX in form of a direct award, and one contract with an indicative amount EUR 2.5 million directly awarded to the International Organisation for Migration (IOM). The direct awards are based on Article 190 (1)(f) of the Rules of Application on account of its technical competence and high degree of specialisation on migration issues. While FRONTEX as the EU border agency has the combined good practice of the EU in dealing with border management and joint return operations, IOM, on the other hand, is the only organisation with an extensive expertise and experience in providing assistance on voluntary return programmes of migrants to governments. Through its global network of country offices it allows to create comprehensive repatriation systems including reintegration in the countries of origin.

The direct grant to Frontex will be financed by the EU by 100%, while the direct grant to IOM will be co-financed by the IOM with 10%. Both contracts should be signed in third quarter, 2015.

The implementation period of the Action is planned to start on 1 September 2015 and to last until 30 August 2018.

4. PERFORMANCE MEASUREMENT

METHODOLOGY FOR MONITORING (AND EVALUATION)

Monitoring of the quality of implementation will be ensured through a variety of means at different levels:

- Annual review of progress by the Steering Committee;
- Annual narrative and financial reporting on progress to the Contracting Authority and quarterly progress update. Contract execution will be monitored through regular reports (inception, quarterly updates, annual report, final report), with clearly identified milestones linked to each component of the Action. Regular meetings/teleconferences/video conferences

¹⁰ <http://www.eurint-network.eu/index.php>.

between the task manager and the contractors will further ensure that results are achieved in due time;

- *Ad hoc* on-the-spot will ensure monitoring of the progress.
- A Result Oriented Assessment will be undertaken in early 2017 for both direct grants;
- Evaluation by independent project evaluator.

INDICATOR MEASUREMENT

Indicator	Description	Baseline2014	Last (year)	Milestone 2017	Target 2020	Source of information
<i>Strategy Paper indicator(s) – if applicable</i>						
<i>Action outcome indicator1</i>	Techniques on identification of migrants assessed and improved.	<i>Identification techniques insufficient due to lack of capacity.</i>	<i>n/a</i>	<i>Identification mechanism assessed by external sources as improved.</i>	<i>IPA II Beneficiaries have adequate mechanism in place to identify diverse groups of migrants and to establish identity of undocumented migrants.</i>	<i>Frontex Western Balkans Risk Analysis 2018</i>
<i>Action outcome indicator2</i>	Mechanisms for inter-regional information exchange mechanisms developed and operational.	<i>Information exchange exists fragmented, on an ad hoc basis.</i>		<i>National systems for intra and inter-regional information exchanges, including National Focal Points, set up.</i>	<i>National systems for inter-regional information exchanges fully operational.</i>	<i>Frontex reports.</i>
<i>Action outcome indicator 3</i>	Regional voluntary and non-voluntary return mechanisms in place and fully operational to allow the implementation of return activities	<i>No regional mechanism in place, multi-lateral agreement in WB, except Kosovo, signed</i>		<i>Regional mechanism in place. Governments' structures in</i>	<i>Regional Return Fund established. Voluntary and non-voluntary</i>	<i>State reports. IOM, FRONTEX reports.</i>

Indicator	Description	Baseline2014	Last (year)	Milestone 2017	Target 2020	Source of information
		<i>in November 2013 on joint non-voluntary return operations.</i>		<i>place and trained to apply Standard Operating Procedures.</i>	<i>return operations to third country of origin take place in an organized and regular manner.</i>	
<i>Action output indicator 1 (result 1)</i>	<p>1.1 Quality of interview techniques.</p> <p>1.2 Level of application of standardized profiling questionnaires.</p> <p>1.3 Number of screenings undertaken to identify nationality.</p>	<i>Assessment</i>		<p><i>Standardized profiling questionnaires introduced in all WB and Turkey, and officials trained.</i></p> <p><i>30% increase in clarifying the identity of undocumented migrants.</i></p>	<p><i>Standardized profiling questionnaires applied in all WB and Turkey.</i></p> <p><i>70% increase of clarifying the identity of undocumented migrants.</i></p>	<i>Frontex reports.</i>
<i>Action output indicator 2 (result 2)</i>	<p>2.1 Mechanism to exchange information systematically on irregular migrants improved among IPA II beneficiaries in the Western Balkans.</p> <p>2.2 Number of exchanges of operational data.</p>	<i>Assessment</i>		<i>National Focal Points in place.</i>	<i>Data on irregular migrants is being systematically exchanged, both ad hoc and structured.</i>	
<i>Action output</i>	3.1 Legal framework and	<i>No system in place for</i>		<i>Legislation</i>	<i>Voluntary and</i>	

Indicator	Description	Baseline2014	Last (year)	Milestone 2017	Target 2020	Source of information
<i>indicator 3 (result 3)</i>	Standard Operating Procedures for voluntary and non-voluntary return operations adopted and in line with EU/international standards. 3.2 Staff in the relevant institutions trained and able to manage voluntary and non-voluntary return operations in line with EU/international standards. 3.3 Number of country of origin information used and shared in the Western Balkans in comparison to previous year.	<i>non-voluntary return.</i> <i>No system in place for voluntary return to third countries of origin.</i> <i>No methodology for collecting county of origin information developed and no mechanisms for collection, use and sharing in place.</i>		<i>aligned in all WB and Turkey. Standard Operating Procedures introduced.</i> <i>Mechanisms for collecting/using and sharing country of origin information in place.</i>	<i>non-voluntary return takes place in the WB.</i> <i>Countries in the WB collect, use and share country of origin information.</i>	
<i>Process indicator 1</i>	<i>Direct agreement signed with Frontex</i>	<i>Q3 2015</i>	<i>n/a</i>		<i>n/a</i>	<i>ELARG/D3 monitoring reports</i>
<i>Process indicator 2</i>	<i>Direct agreement signed with IOM</i>	<i>Q3 2015</i>	<i>n/a</i>		<i>n/a</i>	<i>ELARG/D3 monitoring reports</i>

5. CROSS-CUTTING ISSUES

ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE (AND IF RELEVANT DISASTER RESILIENCE)

N/A

ENGAGEMENT WITH CIVIL SOCIETY (AND IF RELEVANT OTHER NON-STATE STAKEHOLDERS)

Consultations with civil society are critical. It will be explored on how to strengthen the involvement of civil society actors also in regard to supporting irregular migrants. Thus far, efforts of civil society actors have mostly focussed on vulnerable groups, such as refugees and asylum seekers.

EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES AND GENDER MAINSTREAMING

Female and male migrants are differently affected by the uncertainty of travelling irregularly or being a refugee. Women are at greater risk of harassment and sexual exploitation. All programme components will sensibly take into account the different needs of migrant women and men. A gender based approach will be incorporated into training manuals and all capacity building activities.

MINORITIES AND VULNERABLE GROUPS

All support of the Action requiring a direct engagement with migrants is steered towards ensuring a protection-sensitive approach, giving consideration to the special individual needs of different groups of migrants. Hereby, particular attention will be paid to unaccompanied minors, families as well as refugees and their possible traumatized experience. Female migrants, especially those considered at risk for sexual exploitation, will get special attention. Close consideration will further be attributed to the fact that certain migrants may face double or triple vulnerability.

6. SUSTAINABILITY

Each of the Action component have been selected with a careful view as to the sustainability of the Action. In regard to identification techniques, models will be developed ensuring the continuous transfer of knowledge beyond the Action implementation period. The support in reinforcing/establishing improved information exchange systems will be designed to be independently operational towards the end of the Action. Shall nevertheless further support be required, a follow up will be ensured. In regard to the return systems it is envisaged to explore the possibility of creating a regional returns fund under a regionally owned mechanism which would absorb the knowledge generated during the implementation of the Action and carry on the work beyond its duration.

7. COMMUNICATION AND VISIBILITY

Communication and visibility will be given high importance during the implementation of the Action. All necessary measures will be taken into account to make public the fact that the Action has received funding from the EU in line with the Communication and Visibility Manual for EU External Actions.

The implementation of the communication activities shall be the responsibility of the contractors and shall be funded from the amounts allocated to the Action.

Visibility and communication actions shall demonstrate how the intervention contributes to the agreed programme objectives and the accession process. Actions shall be undertaken to strengthen general public awareness and promote transparency and accountability on the use of funds.

The Commission shall be fully informed of the planning and implementation of the specific visibility and communication activities.

Activities and reports of success stories will be collected and widely disseminated among IPA beneficiaries, EU Member States, NGOs and other relevant actors.