

Migration Management in Central and South-Eastern Europe

IOM STRATEGY AND OBJECTIVES

2006-2007



IOM International Organization for Migration

Opinions expressed in this report are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the views of IOM.

IOM is committed to the principle that humane and orderly migration benefits migrants and society. As an intergovernmental body, IOM acts with its partners in the international community to: assist in meeting the operational challenges of migration; advance understanding of migration issues; encourage social and economic development through migration; and uphold the human dignity and well-being of migrants.

Publisher: International Organization for Migration
Mission with Regional Functions for Central and South-Eastern Europe
12 Révay u.
1065 Budapest
Hungary
Tel: +36.1.472 25 00
Fax: + 36.1.374 05 32
Email: mrfbudapest@iom.int
Internet: <http://www.iom.hu>

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FOREWORD

Having worked on all aspects of migration management for 17 years, I am greatly satisfied to see that key migration issues – ranging from the fight against human trafficking and smuggling and the implementation of integrated border management to labour migration and migration and development, among others – are currently placed at the top of the agenda by governments, academics and the media. Moreover, I greatly appreciate the strong emphasis laid on these issues by the European Union and its member states.

The regions of Central and South-Eastern Europe are of particular interest in this context. The gradual demise of the bipolar global system, newly allowing for the free movement of millions of citizens and thus unifying the peoples of “old Europe”, together with the disintegration of Yugoslavia and the subsequent creation of independent states, has had and continues to have an immense impact on migration. The countries of Central Europe and South-Eastern Europe not only have to make great efforts in shaping their policies to address the very complex migration issues in all countries in general, but, as “new” EU Member States, candidate countries or potential candidate countries, they must also progress in the alignment of their policies and legislation with the evolving EU immigration policies and the related EU *acquis communautaire*. The “new” member states currently find themselves in a situation of dynamic change, due to increasing immigration and large flows of transit migration, as well as decreasing emigration. In the Western Balkans, genuinely durable solutions remain elusive, especially for Internally Displaced People (IDP), refugees and increasing numbers of returnees from European Union Member States.

This publication is aimed at sharing information on IOM’s priorities and proposed initiatives in the important regions concerned. It is my hope that this document proves useful to governments and policymakers and raises awareness and interest of the donor community. The document should in turn contribute to the coordination of strategies and activities in a region of particular importance to overall stability and security in Europe.

TINA SZABADOS
Regional Representative

I

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

With this strategy document, the IOM Mission with Regional Functions for Central and South-Eastern Europe (MRF Budapest) aims to outline the Organization's programmatic approach in the Region for the years 2006 and 2007, in response to latest migration trends and political and socio-economic developments in the countries under study.

Based on IOM's experience, regional and national migration studies and priority concerns expressed by the governments in the region, this document establishes the strategic regional framework for the planning of IOM's activities during the above-mentioned period. IOM's strategy takes into consideration both the recent EU integration of the five Central European countries involved (Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Slovenia, and Slovakia) and the EU membership prospects of the Balkan countries and their need for progressive alignment with the EU migration *acquis*.

This regional strategy places special emphasis on promoting regional, sub-regional and cross-border cooperation between the countries in Central and South-Eastern Europe. It considers first the overall framework of IOM's cooperation objectives in the region and its regional policy agenda focusing on the current political, economic and social issues. It puts forward a regional approach in line with the following priority areas, selected for their potential for regional benefits:

1. Technical Cooperation on Migration – Capacity Building
2. Enhancing Effective Border Management and Security
3. Regulating and Promoting Labour Migration
4. Integration of Third-Country Nationals
5. Sustainable Reintegration of Returnees
6. Voluntary Return and Reintegration
7. Protection of Ethnic Minorities
8. Counter-trafficking in Human Beings

Following the outline of IOM's regional strategy, this document takes a closer look at the individual approaches and policies for the 13 countries¹ in the Central and South-Eastern European region.

The aim of this document is to urge governments as well as the international community, in strengthened partnership with IOM, to support all opportunities for providing effective solutions to challenges arising from recent migration trends, thereby facilitating also the improvement of ethnic relations and socio-economic developments in Central Europe and South-Eastern Europe in the forthcoming years.

II

REGIONAL APPROACH AND STRATEGIC PRIORITIES AND OBJECTIVES

INTRODUCTION

Two significant political processes in recent European history continue to have immense consequences for the countries of Central and South-Eastern Europe: the consolidation of independent states after the disintegration of Yugoslavia, and the EU enlargement process towards the East, which has become an overarching political objective for all countries of the region. These political changes will continue to have a significant economic and social impact across Central and South-Eastern Europe, largely affecting migratory flows – both regular and irregular – to, within, and from the countries in the region, mainly to westward destinations.

Now that the Central European countries obtained EU membership in May 2004, the EU is currently looking at a further round of enlargement towards South-Eastern Europe, with Bulgaria and Romania as acceding countries and Croatia and the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia as formal candidate countries. Migration issues are a top priority when it comes to EU integration and this is reflected in the EU's policies in the areas of Justice, Liberty and Security as well as Enlargement.

By definition, migration challenges have a clear cross-border dimension and should best be addressed from a regional perspective. Regional cooperation is also the basis of EU integration policy. Thus, harmonized regional approaches and enhanced cooperation between countries of Central Europe and South-Eastern Europe should be promoted. While the Central European region and the South-Eastern European region are facing distinct and diverse migration challenges, development of inter-regional cooperation is in the interest of all countries in the region: it is a catalyst for reconciliation and good-neighbourliness, improved political relations and stability, and economic

prosperity. Migration challenges having a clear cross-border dimension should best be approached from a regional perspective. With field offices in all countries of Central Europe and South-Eastern Europe, IOM's Regional Office in Budapest ensures regional overview, while promoting synergies and joint efforts with a view to taking a balanced national and regional approach to key migration issues in the region under its purview.

IOM's primary objective in Central and South-Eastern Europe for the coming years is to act in full partnership with governments and national and inter-

national partners in order to continue evaluation of past experiences and to work towards strengthening regional cooperation and harmonized standards in all key migration-related areas, while reviewing new trends and challenges in this area. IOM will continue to work in close cooperation with other international organizations and relevant actors in the field of migration, such as civil society, the private sector, NGOs, and local governments, and will continuously seek synergies and coordination with existing regional initiatives and processes, such as the MARRI, RACVIAC and SECI in South-Eastern Europe and the Salzburg Forum and Budapest Process in Central Europe.

II.1

CURRENT MIGRATION TRENDS AND FUTURE CHALLENGES IN CENTRAL AND SOUTH-EASTERN EUROPE: THE IMPACT OF THE EU ENLARGEMENT PROCESS

From the perspective of migration policies, it is noteworthy that most new EU Member States in Central Europe have undergone a period of rapid change from being countries of origin to countries of transit and destination. There are indications that migrants (both regular and irregular) increasingly perceive Central European countries as attractive destinations because of their political stability, economic growth and newly acquired membership of the EU. In this context, integration of third-country nationals, labour migration (in-flow and out-flow) and protection of minorities are receiving increased attention.

One of the EU's main policy objectives in the field of immigration is to avoid the creation of a wide gap between EU citizens and third-country nationals which could seriously endanger the **integration of immigrants** into the social, economic and political fabric of the EU. Countries in Central Europe are receiving more and more economic migrants and they should therefore develop policies and practices towards creating ways in which migrant communities participate in

the host country, while respecting its values and fundamental norms. The approach should be holistic and advocate employment, education, language training, health and social services, involvement in social and political life, while taking into consideration relevant demographic developments. The failure to develop such policy objectives from an early stage may, in the long term, create serious social problems, reinforce exclusion, discrimination and racism, and subsequently increase the potential for criminal behaviour among immigrant groups. This is important also in light of Europe's general need for immigrants in order to improve its demographic situation and overcome labour market shortages.

Linked to the need for effective integration of third-country nationals is the issue of **labour migration**. Central European countries are undergoing a similar level of demographic stagnation as countries of Western Europe and are already now employing migrant workers, both high and low skilled, from third countries. Like their neighbours in Western Europe, the

Central European Member States now host significant informal economies and harbour an increasing number of irregular migrant workers.

Conversely, in certain Central European countries such as Poland, there is a strong flow of qualified migrant workers emigrating to Western Europe. Notwithstanding the restrictions under the current transitional arrangements for new EU members, the effects of increased labour mobility due to enlargement will need to be closely researched and analysed in coming years.²

Contrary to many populist predictions in recent public debate, the overall number of migrant workers coming to work in the old member states of the European Union may in fact be much lower than predicted. This may be due to the next rounds of enlargement to Romania and Bulgaria or by the candidacies of Turkey, Croatia, and the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia for later enlargements, as seen following the previous rounds of EU enlargement towards the South (Spain, Portugal, and Greece) and East (ten new EU Member States).³ Moreover, it is estimated that two-thirds of such migration flows are likely to be of a temporary nature. Therefore, in the years after accession of these countries, the current member states will most probably experience significant return migration, considering that the economic and social conditions will improve in these new member states.

On the other hand, potential migrants are frequently young and qualified, and their emigration may raise concerns regarding the departure of qualified workers to wealthier states (“brain drain”). In view of avoiding possible adverse consequences due to emigration, the acceding (Romania and Bulgaria) and candidate countries (Croatia and the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia) face a significant challenge in order to improve their internal economic and social performance, and thus reduce migration pressure, especially from the younger generation. This raises important issues for developmental policy in those countries.

A common feature of current migration into and through the Central European region is that a large proportion of migrants find themselves, at least at a certain point of their migration process, in an irregular situation. From an EU perspective, Central and South-Eastern Europe are key geographical areas of

concern when it comes to combating **irregular migration** and in particular, trafficking and smuggling of migrants. These phenomena are directly linked to organized crime and therefore also pose significant security problems for the states concerned.

The main trafficking and smuggling routes into the EU lead from Russia and the Baltic States through Poland and the Czech Republic to Austria and Germany; from the Ukraine through Poland, Slovakia, and Hungary to Austria and Germany; from the Balkans to Greece and Italy, and from Turkey through the Balkans to Italy and Austria.⁴ The accession of new member states has serious implications for migration-related organized crime, as the EU borders are now closer to key source and transit countries. Many smuggling networks originate from the directly surrounding countries, i.e. Albania, Republic of Montenegro, Republic of Serbia, Turkey and Ukraine, and their members often operate from within the EU itself.

Trafficking in persons differs from smuggling of persons in that it entails the continued exploitation of the victim and thus constitutes a serious and grave violation of the victim’s human rights. Unfortunately, trafficking continues to be a worrisome issue in all countries of South-Eastern Europe. Poland, Slovakia, Hungary, Romania and Bulgaria, which share substantial sections of the current and future EU borders, are regarded as key players in EU border management and security-related issues, and are therefore expected to develop effective capacities in view of contributing to the fight against irregular migration and organized crime, including trafficking in human beings.

Although the Western Balkan states have successfully overcome the immediate post-conflict stabilization and reconstruction phase, finding durable solutions to the nearly one million **persons involuntarily displaced** during the disintegration of Yugoslavia still remains a predominant issue on the migration agenda in South-Eastern Europe. With industrial employment diminishing (due in particular to the Balkan wars in the 1990s, ensuing political instability, and transition from state-controlled economies), there is little to hold people to the old industrial centres, and the population is once again on the move. For the millions displaced by the conflicts of the 1990s, the sustainability of their return depends largely on economic opportunity and job creation. The region represents

a source and transit area for both regular (economic migration) and irregular movements and it is unlikely that either internal or external migration will decrease in the near future.

As the period of reconstruction and stabilization draws to an end, migration issues will continue to weigh significantly on national, regional and international political agendas in many states. The process of formulating migration policies in the region will increasingly be influenced by responses to commonly faced challenges arising from demographic, social, and economic developments in the entire region and the whole of Europe.

To date, IOM activities in the region have predominantly supported and financed by the European Commission (EAR, CARDS, B7-667) and the EU Member States, but also by third countries such as the US and Switzerland. They have mainly concentrated on the urgent needs for **resettlement, assisted return and reintegration** of people who fled the conflict years ago, or individuals who later emigrated from the region to Western Europe, often in an irregular situation.

The fight against **trafficking in human beings** has also been at the centre of IOM's activities in the region, through implementation of the "3P strategy" (Prevention, Prosecution and Protection). In recent years, policy advice, legislative improvements, organizational and structural changes, training of staff with the aim of regional collaboration and exchange of information regarding cross-border related issues, and the further approach to EU and Schengen standards, have occurred and will continue in the near future. In particular, training of law enforcement and the judiciary in order that they may fight more effectively against trafficking in persons (based on European best practices and IOM's operational expertise) has been a crucial element of IOM's work in this area for years. Although governments in the region are playing a more active role in counter-trafficking, it is necessary to strengthen these efforts further. There is a need for coordination, cooperation and communication among the different ministries to offer effective medical, psychological and legal support services to trafficked persons, to guide policy and procedures on the national level, and to disseminate information on operational aspects of service provision and counter-trafficking efforts at regional and local levels. While

the role of government is essential, civil society organizations have significant skills and experience in this field and these should be used in cooperation with the work of the governments to enhance counter-trafficking efforts.

At the same time, the implementation of **integrated border management** strategies remains a key challenge in South-Eastern Europe and an area where IOM continues to work in close cooperation with the governments concerned. Establishing more effective management of borders, with a view to enhancing security and facilitating cross-border migratory flows, is also of key importance.

Finally, concerning the issue of returning migrants, it must be noted that it will take a long time to ensure the long-term sustainability of the process foreseen in the framework of Readmission Agreements to all countries in the region. Given the conditions of high unemployment in the countries to which they are returning and the social, economic and cultural distance created in the course of long stays abroad, returnees find themselves in very difficult situations. Their integration is, however, of crucial importance: on the one hand, to avoid secondary irregular movements and, on the other, to reduce the danger of returnees falling victims to organized crime. IOM currently runs numerous capacity-building projects and plans to build on these in order to provide the basis for sound and sustainable migration policies implemented by governmental leadership in the countries themselves.

Considerable progress has been made in all these areas, especially for the short-term perspective; however, durable strategies to address the complexities of migration trends in the region remain elusive. Looking into the future, significant innovation in managing emigration and return migration, building on past experiences, will be imperative for South-Eastern Europe.

The **EU enlargement process has a fundamental impact on the migration dynamics in the 13 countries within this region** – be they "new" member states, EU candidate countries, or EU potential candidate countries – and on their relations with countries in the West (old member states) and the East (i.e. Moldova, Ukraine, Belarus, South Caucasus).

On the one hand, EU membership provides states with the possibility to benefit from the EU's common space of freedom, security and justice, as well as from the free movement of people, increased investment opportunities, and access to the internal market of the Union, among other factors, and these will largely shape the migratory movements to, from and via the region under study.

On the other hand, we must also consider the external dimension of the EU enlargement and its impact on foreign policy. Since the 2004 enlargement, relations with the EU's neighbours have become a main

external priority. Through the "European Neighbourhood Policy" (ENP), the EU aims to avoid new dividing lines between the enlarged EU and its neighbours to the east and on the southern and eastern shores of the Mediterranean. In this context, the new member states and EU acceding countries in the region of Central Europe, sharing common borders with the EU's Eastern neighbours, play a key role, when it comes to migration management and other related issues that are an integral part of the ENP. The EU context should therefore be the guiding framework, when defining migration policies in the countries under purview.

II.2

IOM REGIONAL STRATEGIC PRIORITIES AND RESPONSES TOWARDS EFFECTIVE MIGRATION MANAGEMENT IN CENTRAL EUROPE AND SOUTH-EASTERN EUROPE

II.2.1 TECHNICAL COOPERATION ON MIGRATION – CAPACITY BUILDING

In order to work towards sustainable national and regional ownership on migration management issues affecting the region, capacity building will continue to be one of the key areas among IOM's activities and a transversal element of all its interventions in Central Europe and South-Eastern Europe.

In all countries in the region, IOM will continue to reinforce governments' capacity to manage migration towards comprehensive compliance and harmonization with EU standards. In this context, border management, visa regimes, prevention of irregular migration, counter-trafficking and smuggling, re-integration of returning nationals, management of labour migration flows, promotion of regular migration and respect for human rights are all elements of that migration management scenario.

As the EU enlargement process has shown, early familiarization with the EU's migration policy and

practice is of primary importance in preparing for effective EU-alignment. With the support of the future EC-IPA financial instrument and other available resources, IOM will continue to assist candidate countries (Croatia and the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia) and potential candidate countries (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Republic of Montenegro and Republic of Serbia) to develop their migration policy and practices in line with the EU's legal and policy migration framework.

Problems in management, lack of coordination between responsible agencies, disagreements, lack of overall migration policies and strategies in some countries, and lacunae in the training of law enforcement officers in South-Eastern Europe remain a challenge for IOM's interventions in the coming years.

The lack of reception resources and facilities and return structures for irregular migrants and of a legal framework for the management of illegal and legal migration in the region will also be tackled through IOM initiatives. Improving the operational capacities

of governmental structures dealing with migration, enhancing communication and cooperation in the analysis, and upgrading the processing and use of migration data are also regarded as key elements to be addressed in South-Eastern Europe.

II.2.2 ENHANCING EFFECTIVE BORDER MANAGEMENT AND SECURITY

The EU enlargement process emphasizes the importance of Central Europe and South-Eastern European countries establishing more effective management of their common borders, which in many cases still remain porous (i.e. Croatia/Republic of Serbia) and of the borders they share with neighbours towards the East (i.e. Ukraine, Moldova, Belarus, South Caucasus, Turkey), with a view to facilitating legal cross-border flows while enhancing security aspects.

In recent years, IOM has helped to:

- develop strong transnational networks promoting cooperation and exchange of best practices in the area of border management and the fight against irregular migration;
- improve the capacities of border officials and the physical infrastructure of borders between the EU and its neighbours.

IOM has a strong interest in replicating and/or adapting standards and practices developed within the process of the enlargement of the EU to Central Europe to countries in South-Eastern Europe, which are important transit points for migratory movements towards the EU. Shortcomings in border and in-country controls and the lack of coordinated administration of border management require further strengthening of human and technological capabilities.

IOM will continue to analyse current trends and provide technical and operational assistance to Central European Member States in the control and surveillance of external borders in cooperation with the EU Border Management Agency – FRONTEX.

II.2.3 REGULATING AND PROMOTING LABOUR MIGRATION

Labour migration policies are increasingly being analysed and elaborated by the EU, in order to develop cooperation among countries of origin, transit and destination, in order to meet commonly defined concerns and challenges.

Labour markets in Central European countries are still undergoing adjusting to the market economy. Their labour markets are suffering from low labour force participation and low employment rates, high unemployment and high regional disparities. With many trained people eagerly looking for opportunities in the West, brain drain combined with low participation in the labour markets can cause shortages of labour force.

Some Central European countries, notably the Czech Republic, have recently started to develop more active migration policies involving the recruitment of qualified immigrant labour force. Such selective admission systems for attracting specific foreign labour can ease labour market bottlenecks in the countries of Central Europe, in line with the EU's policies on economic migration. Moving to more selective immigration policies will be facilitated if countries can coordinate their efforts to identify future skills needs and develop occupational profiles, as well as forecasting potential labour shortages.

As regards South-Eastern Europe, governments should lay particular stress on the active labour market policies for solving problems in the labour market and for encouraging labour mobility. They should develop measures for managing brain-drain and creating favourable socio-economic conditions which will allow young people to develop their professional careers in their own countries. IOM intends to contribute to regional policy coordination and development of regional and/or bilateral mutually benefiting labour migration measures within, from, and via South-Eastern Europe. IOM's approach will prioritize intra-regional labour migration in order to avoid recent brain drain trends while preventing irregular labour migration from the region to third countries (EU Member States).

IOM intends to analyse opportunities for intra-regional labour migration (socio-economic conditions and unemployment rates in all the countries of South-Eastern Europe) and the impact of labour migration from the region to EU Member States at both ends of the migration spectrum. It will focus on labour migration within and from the region, including efforts to ensure better management of irregular labour movements and look for opportunities and interests to channel, rather than encourage, such labour movements into migration schemes that could bring together the economic interests of countries of origin and of destination.

If managed effectively and comprehensively as a part of an overall approach to migration management, legal labour migration from South-Eastern European countries might represent a potential for countries in South-Eastern Europe region or in the EU, since it will help limit labour scarcity, facilitate occupational mobility, maintain the current workforce level, and add to the human capital stock.

II.2.4 INTEGRATION OF THIRD-COUNTRY NATIONALS

Integration of third-country nationals in Central European countries is a priority for IOM. A forward-looking approach is needed and must encompass the promotion of comprehensive policies on integration of new and established migrants and to promote greater involvement of migrant communities in this process. These are universal challenges shared by immigration policymakers everywhere. New approaches are needed, together with strong coordination of a wide range of policies and committed involvement by actors at different administrative levels.

IOM will work towards filling the identified gaps in the implementation of a regional integration programme in partnership with NGOs in five Central European countries during 2004-2005 (Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia) with the support of the European Commission.

Lack of access to employment has been identified as the greatest barrier to integration and thus the most important priority for national integration policies.

Lack of language skills and difficulties with recognition of professional skills and qualifications are also important barriers. Special efforts should be made to improve job guidance and job counselling for migrants. The potential of migrants to become entrepreneurs is also increasingly recognized. The involvement and commitment of social partners are increasing, but remain limited and evaluation of the effectiveness of policies is scarce.

Increasing emphasis should be given to civic education or orientation for new immigrants. Such initiatives should include information on fundamental rights and obligations, equality of men and women, and basic norms and values of the host societies.

While immigrants are often thought to risk poverty and social exclusion, many countries still fail to provide in-depth analysis of the factors leading to this situation.

Countries in Central Europe are still struggling to provide affordable housing and to address the negative consequences of segregation and deprived urban areas, where immigrants tend to be over-represented. The fight against discrimination and racism has been rendered even more complex in the recent political climate, due to sometimes negative stereotyping of immigrants in the media. Policies to combat discrimination and racism are not always linked to the integration strategies pursued, despite clear recognition of the need to act.

Some countries in Central Europe are in the process of developing specific integration courses or programmes targeting immigrants and refugees. IOM will continue its efforts towards promoting the inclusion of issues relating to immigration into all policies and towards mobilizing stakeholders through greater cooperation among national, regional and local authorities, and civil society.

II.2.5 SUSTAINABLE REINTEGRATION OF RETURNEES

The issue of sustainable reintegration of returnees to South-Eastern Europe remains a top priority. The vast majority of return areas lie within former conflict

zones which are still characterized by defunct industries, very high unemployment, poor infrastructure and aging populations.

Secure employment and acceptable levels of security are among the main conditions that will persuade migrants to return home permanently. Although there are no comprehensive and internationally comparable statistics on irregular migration from South-Eastern Europe, emigration from the Balkan region over the past decade has been one of the most intensive within Europe.

The return home of irregular migrants, on the other hand, is a more recent phenomenon, partly due to more restrictive immigration policies in Western European countries, but also as part of the cyclical process of migratory flows due to positive economic developments in the South-Eastern Europe and difficulties faced by the migrants themselves in finding work in host countries.

Planned interventions in the coming years will build on IOM's experience of assisting voluntary returns over the past and will aim at responding to the need of enhanced reception and reintegration capacities to support the expected increase in the numbers of returnees from European countries (i.e. plans for large returns of Roma communities from Germany and other EU Member States).

IOM will continue to identify the socio-economic needs and expectations of returnees, their respective families, and communities. This will ensure effective delivery of reintegration assistance, including access to timely, accurate and unbiased information as to ongoing reintegration initiatives, referrals, personalized counselling, capacity building, training and the creation of sustainable income-generation, and redirection of employment.

II.2.6 VOLUNTARY RETURN AND REINTEGRATION

Assisted Voluntary Return (AVR) is a key component of IOM's recommended response to help countries deal with irregular flows and to assist stranded and destitute migrants. In both human and financial

terms, AVR helps lessen the burden that the presence of stranded migrants poses for countries of transit and destination and contributes to discouraging present and future irregular flows to West European countries.

The level of development of AVR programmes varies among the countries in Central and South-Eastern Europe. In most Central European countries (**Poland, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Hungary and Romania**), IOM has run voluntary return operations for quite some time. However, it is now important to enhance current efforts and work towards increased ownership by governments and enhanced reintegration components in order to ensure sustainable results. Working towards harmonized standards in alignment with EU return policies also remains a challenge. Moreover, IOM is now focusing on the following niche areas:

- attracting greater participation by NGOs in the implementation of migrant counselling and referral systems;
- continuing training and information exchanges for field practitioners;
- establishing partnership with the European Agency for the Management of Operational Cooperation at the External Borders of the Member States (FRONTEX).

To meet the growing challenge of irregular migration and as a core element in its regional technical cooperation strategy on migration management, IOM began implementation of pilot AVR projects in **Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, and Serbia and Montenegro** (then the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia) with initial support from the Government of Switzerland in mid-2001, and with additional support from the UK and the European Commission in 2002. A further contribution from the Italian government in 2003 enabled IOM to extend these key projects and enhance AVR mechanisms in the region.⁵

Pressing requests from South-Eastern European Ministries of Interior, together with IOM's field assessments in the region, emphasize the need for an enhanced framework and for structures of voluntary return assistance. This was also one of the recommendations made at the MARRI workshop in November 2004. Stranded migrants in South-Eastern Europe are often desperate to escape the restrictive conditions

they find in transit countries and, although some wish to return home, most lack the means to do so and/or the information to make that decision. IOM will assist South-Eastern European governments to see the benefits of voluntary return and to build their capacity to set up their own voluntary return programmes. In coming years, the following key actions, amongst others, are recommended:

- establishment of a regional framework to continue AVRs;
- exchange of best practices within the region;
- harmonization of standards in the region;
- capacity building and training on AVRs for governments and NGOs.

In **Bulgaria, Kosovo and the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia**, AVR programmes are still inexistent. There is now an urgent need to set up structures to prepare for voluntary return operations in the near future. IOM intends to develop national procedures for AVRs, in compliance with EU developments in return policies and practices, in order to be ready to start active implementation of returns. Bulgaria's and the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia's prospects of EU accession are of particular relevance in this regard.

II.2.7 PROTECTION OF ETHNIC MINORITIES

In South-Eastern Europe, practically all ethnic minorities were seriously affected by the dramatic changes following the collapse of communism and armed conflicts in the Balkans. Tens of thousands of people had to leave their homes and live as refugees or IDPs in the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Serbia and other countries in the region. While some refugees and IDPs have integrated into their host societies or returned, many others still live in refugee camps where difficult living conditions are aggravated by tensions with the local population. Discrimination and exclusion still characterize the lives of most minority groups today, resulting in racist violence, unemployment, poverty, illiteracy, and high infant mortality.

Roma populations are now the largest minority group in the Central and South-Eastern European

region and their protection and integration are considered of high importance. IOM supports all efforts in closing the gaps in educational, housing, employment, and health conditions between Roma and non-Roma, including desegregation and anti-discrimination actions in view of contributing to overall social cohesion in these countries. Roma populations are also one of the largest groups of trafficked victims in Central Europe: in Bulgaria, for example, Roma people represented 55 per cent of the IOM's overall caseload in 2004.

In cooperation with local authorities, NGOs and other IOs, and in line with the World Bank Strategic approaches to Roma inclusion (Roma Inclusion Decade), IOM will assist in developing internal structures, fighting discrimination, providing school access for children, and improving living conditions in terms of healthcare and housing for the various minority groups in the Central and South-East European region.

II.2.8 COUNTER-TRAFFICKING

Based on its experience over many years in the region and in all parts of the world, IOM will enhance counter-trafficking efforts through its integrated approach using prevention, prosecution and protection interventions. It will also adapt to evolving needs and challenges in the context of this abhorrent phenomenon in the countries of Central and South-Eastern Europe.

In particular, the following activities will continue in the region:

- awareness-raising and information dissemination programmes;
- effective data collection, analysis and information exchange;
- strengthening of capacity-building activities of governmental institutions (particularly law enforcement, migration, consular and security services), educators and civil society actors, on trafficking issues in general and on their respective roles in combating trafficking and protecting victims;
- reinforcement of the necessary legal reforms at the national level, including adoption and imple-

mentation of appropriate anti-trafficking legislation;

- assistance and protection of victims through return and reintegration.

In Central European countries, IOM will carry out in-depth research and follow-up actions on demand for services in sexual exploitation served by trafficking through regionally compiled and analysed national assessments. In taking this new direction, IOM's research will move the focus from the trafficked person to the users of sexual services, in order to identify new tools for addressing demand and thus diminish the market for traffickers.

On the other hand, IOM intends to make further efforts in the fight against networks trafficking in labour exploitation which use transit routes from Central Europe to Western EU Member States.

In South-Eastern Europe, IOM, together with local NGOs and IOs, has been a key player in the fight against trafficking in all countries. There is a need to ensure that governments, in cooperation with civil society, continue to build upon progress made at the political and institutional levels. They must gradually take ownership of the anti-trafficking agenda, including the growing need to address the problem of na-

tional victims of trafficking (VoTs), and to counteract the new trends and changing patterns in trafficking. National Action Plans, where they are available, should help governments to play a leading role in the fight against trafficking.

However, it should be emphasized that trafficking in South-Eastern Europe region has not diminished but has merely become less visible as criminal organizations change their methods of operation. In the case of sexual exploitation, trafficking has moved from public locations into private apartments, and more use is made of Internet or telephone communications. A more subtle exploitation through small payments to the victims to avoid denunciation and the participation of women as traffickers and pimps also contribute to making this crime less visible.

The international criminal organizations operating in trafficking of persons have modified their strategies and methods because of new measures taken by governments and institutions. IOM will contribute towards constructing the response to these changes, through its research, assessment, and analysis activities, though its efforts to increase awareness on new trends and patterns, and through the development of new strategies better adapted to meeting these challenges.

III

NATIONAL APPROACHES AND STRATEGIC PRIORITIES AND OBJECTIVES

III.1

ALBANIA

BACKGROUND

Albania, with the support of IOM and the European Commission, has recently launched a National Strategy on Migration and the subsequent Plan of Action. This policy framework presents a unique opportunity to bring about long-term solutions to Albania's migratory priorities. The IOM overall objective for 2006-2007 is to support the ongoing Stabilization and Association Process and to facilitate Albania's alignment with the EU migration *acquis* through the full implementation of the National Strategy along its three main pillars: programming migration outflows, fostering links with Albanians abroad, and supporting gainful return of human and financial capital.

IOM Tirana will be closely working with the Albanian institutions to:

- complete the relevant secondary legislative and administrative structures;
- support Albanians abroad and enhance links between diasporas and host communities;
- place migration among the country's development priorities, in cooperation with international partners;
- support implementation of the Readmission Agreement between Albania and the EU.

Special attention will be given to a number of initiatives identified as high priority in the National Strategy including:

- registration of the Albanian emigrants abroad;
- support to the bilateral cooperation on labour migration with Albania's neighbours;
- orientation and management of remittances.

With regard to irregular migration, further support will be provided to the Government of Albania in developing appropriate policies and mechanisms to counter-trafficking and smuggling.

PROGRAMMATIC PRIORITIES

(a) Technical Cooperation on Migration

IOM will aim at establishing an institutional framework and building relevant capacities for the implementation of the National Strategy on migration.

IOM will support the **creation of an Agency for Migration** attached to the Prime Minister's Office and charged with the conception and coordination of immigration, emigration, and diaspora policies. IOM will assist the transfer and the mainstreaming of competencies from the respective line ministries offices, including the Diaspora Institute, the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, and the Ministry of Interior Migration Directorates. IOM will support capacity building for a new agency and, in particular, identification, recruitment and training of specialists and their access to specific training tools and best practices produced by IOM. This initiative will also ensure the maintenance and upgrade of the National Strategy Website.

IOM will support the efforts of the Albanian government in conducting the **registration of Albanian emigrants residing abroad**, as a way of facilitating services provided by consular offices and of encouraging greater awareness among Albanian emigrants by allowing them to exercise civil rights, such as the right to vote. Based on a recommendation made by IOM Tirana in a feasibility study conducted in June 2005, this intervention will lead to the creation of a registration system and complement the ac-

tivities outlined in the Action Plan of the National Strategy.

(b) Counter-trafficking Activities

IOM will carry out interventions in the areas of:

- reintegration support for Albanian VoTs by building capacity in NGOs and at the government's National Reception Centre;
- capacity building in government agencies for developing and implementing counter-trafficking policies and programmes;
- incorporation of trafficking prevention curricula in schools;
- support for a national awareness raising campaign contributing to counter-trafficking prevention.

As part of the National Strategy on Counter-trafficking, IOM will support delivery of direct services to VoTs while strengthening the capacities of local NGOs and the Government of Albania to enable their progressive ownership of, and IOM's phase-out from, direct assistance activities. IOM will continue to support the Government of Albania in developing appropriate policies and mechanisms to counter-trafficking through, for example, the establishment of a national screening and referral framework, implementation of a witness protection scheme for victims and witnesses, and implementation of the government's new standards for the provision of social services. IOM will also continue to work with the Ministry of Education to incorporate counter-trafficking prevention in national school curricula, and will implement a counter-trafficking prevention awareness raising campaign (through television, radio and printed materials).

(c) Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration

IOM will support the Government of Albania in return migration management through the successful implementation of the **Readmission Agreement between Albania and the EC** and through preparation of other bilateral Readmission Agreements with third countries, in the context of the Albanian National Strategy on Migration and the priorities of the Euro-

pean Partnership. The objectives of this intervention include:

- supporting long-term local capacity for screening and referral of third-country nationals irregularly present in Albania;
- establishing reception facilities for third-country nationals, together with the necessary human resources and expertise;
- continuing the AVR programme for irregular third-country nationals stranded in Albania;
- supporting a Return and Reintegration Strategy for Albanian nationals to Albania, through the identification of potential returnees and the provision of reintegration services.

(d) Migration for Development

In cooperation with the Albanian government, IOM will create a pilot mechanism to enable **circular migration** of Albanian nationals, through seasonal and temporary work in Italy and Greece, and development of return migration, placement and reintegration to Albania.

IOM will support the government's policy of utilizing **remittances as a multiplier for the economic development of Albania**, through promotion and stimulation of emigrants' capital and productive investments.

(e) Facilitated Migration Services

IOM will continue its efforts to contribute to the development of legal migration and the greater freedom of movement for Albanian citizens through facilitated information provision in the field of migration management. This will include safer visa processing and decision-making for consular and embassy staff through the provision of timely, legally safe and accurate information. As a corollary, this move will lead to the deterrence of unfounded or bogus applications. It will also facilitate orderly, humane and efficient return and reintegration mechanisms for returning Albanian citizens.

IOM recognizes a continuing need to facilitate public access to orientation and information services and will support the government with information, data and statistics. It will also assist consular posts in offering services to migrants.

III.2

BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

BACKGROUND

IOM programmes and activities have accompanied Bosnia and Herzegovina's (BiH) progress from a war-torn to a post-conflict situation. The EU and NATO have been major driving forces in inducing the necessary changes at political, economic and security levels.⁶

While progress has been made in many areas, the national, political, social and economic structures remain strongly divided between its three constituent ethnic communities, as reflected in the institutional

structures comprising two semi-autonomous entities and an administrative enclave. Despite ongoing political discussions, constitutional reform has not yet been achieved. In addition, at the economic and social levels, endemic problems can be identified: official figures demonstrate a national 40 per cent unemployment rate; more than 65 per cent of Bosnian youth wishing to leave the country, an educational system that still reflects ethnic divisions, and police reforms that are still on hold.

Ten years after the Dayton Peace Agreements, the donor community together with its implementing

partners, such as IOM, are shifting priority from direct assistance and involvement to capacity building and progressive phase-out.

IOM's strategy for the next two years in Bosnia and Herzegovina is thus mainly focused on capacity building and the transfer of know-how and responsibilities to national authorities and local bodies.

PROGRAMMATIC PRIORITIES

(a) Migration Management

Over the period 2006-2007, and with the continued support of the Community Assistance for Reconstruction, Development and Stabilisation (CARDS) Programme, IOM will develop the BiH government's institutional capacity for establishing and maintaining a well functioning Migration Service and will assist relevant government bodies and authorities to manage all aspects of migration in line with EU and international standards. IOM will carry out these activities in the areas of:

- policy and management;
- legislation;
- migration data gathering and analysis;
- reception of irregular migrants;
- services to third-country nationals.

IOM will develop BiH's institutional capacity by assisting the government in establishing a well functioning border control system, open for trade and movement of persons, but closed for all illegal activities. It will also assist relevant government bodies and authorities to manage all aspects of Integrated Border Management.⁷ IOM will provide technical assistance to the State Border Service, Customs, Veterinary and Phyto-sanitary Services and the Market Inspectorate involved in border management.

(b) Demobilization

IOM has helped former soldiers in their transition from the armed forces to the civilian workforce for over ten years in 11 countries. In 2002, IOM Sara-

jevo started supporting the demobilization process by providing assistance to soldiers in their reintegration into civilian society and the labour market (Transitional Assistance to Demobilized Soldiers – TADS programme). As a result of this IOM programme, some 3,000 former soldiers have found sustainable employment in agricultural activities, established small business start-up and continued their education, a noticeable achievement in a country where the unemployment rate remains alarmingly high. During the next three years, IOM plans to assist an additional 4,000 former soldiers under the TADS programme, with some innovative components relating to self-sustainability.

(c) Counter-trafficking

In close cooperation with the State Coordinator on Illegal Migration and Counter-trafficking, IOM has developed a comprehensive multi-annual counter-trafficking strategy for BiH's National Action Plan.

Since 1999, IOM, together with local NGOs and IOs, has been a key player in the fight against trafficking in BiH. There is now important to ensure that the Government of BiH (GoBiH), in cooperation with civil society, continues to build upon progress made at the political and institutional levels. It must gradually take ownership of the anti-trafficking agenda, including the growing need to address the problem of BiH VoTs, and to counteract the new trends and changing patterns of counter-trafficking.

In this context, IOM's strategy will seek to contribute to this empowerment process by:

- building the capacity of GoBiH and other actors to fulfil their roles and responsibilities and take ownership of the anti-trafficking agenda, while providing tools to enable relevant NGOs to access international funding; this will constitute the basis of IOM's exit strategy initiated in 2004;
- ensuring that NGOs have the capacity, capabilities and means to provide appropriate assistance to both foreign and BiH national VoTs;
- promoting legal advocacy for VoTs and facilitating the prosecution of perpetrators of trafficking, IOM shall assist the NGO Vasa prava to strength-

en its network of legal assistance and counselling, and work with the relevant government authorities to set up a witness protection scheme;

- pursuing the outreach and the awareness raising efforts initiated by IOM in 2000, targeting the public at large and a variety of specifically vulnerable or at risk groups, contributing to their self-empowerment.

With regard to the last priority, prevention and awareness raising activities will focus on schools and youth at risk and will include training teachers to address trafficking issues effectively in school, creating anti-trafficking education materials for school curricula, and liaising with the State Coordinator for the inclusion of trafficking education within regular school curricula. Gender considerations will be a key issue for these activities.

(d) Irregular Migration

Due to its geographical position and its still porous borders, BiH is a country of transit for irregular migrants heading towards Western Europe. Through several IOM programmes funded by the EU CARDS programme, the capacity and knowledge of government authorities in dealing with irregular migration has been built. It is expected that, within the next two years, a detention facility will be operational in BiH.

IOM will continue to promote and develop the AVR programme as a key tool in providing durable solutions for irregular migrants stranded in BiH. As of 2006, IOM plans to include a capacity-building component in training programmes for relevant governmental institutions on the concept, benefits and procedures of AVR for stranded migrants willing to return voluntarily to their home countries.

(e) Migration and Health

Swedish Medical Programme (SMP)

The Swedish Medical Program celebrated its 10th anniversary in 2005. It was originally created to meet the need for medical and surgical services, which, due

to the ravages of the 1992-95 war, were not available in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Its aim was two-fold:

- to build local capacity; and,
- to evacuate to Sweden patients for whom appropriate services were not available during and following the conflict.

In ten years, more than 2,000 patients have been evaluated and over 1,000 have received treatment in BiH, provided by 57 Swedish doctors in a variety of disciplines. SMP has become a model. Focusing on medical evacuation after the war when the BiH medical system collapsed, it decided to build the capacity of BiH medical services by bringing in Swedish doctors to perform difficult surgeries, while training local doctors and transferring knowledge and skills.

BiH remains in great need of assistance for improving not only the primary healthcare system, but also the provision of specialized healthcare for many patients who have no chance of receiving treatment. Local professionals and health authorities have expressed their support and interest in the continuation and further expansion of the programme. The SMP Team estimates that the BiH Medical System will need training and support for another five years before it can run on its own.

HIV/AIDS

In coming years, IOM will carry out two initiatives in this area:

- one initiative, linked to counter-trafficking programmes in cooperation with United Nations Populations Fund (UNFPA), will focus on training healthcare and social service professionals in the treatment of VoTs and awareness raising on HIV/AIDS; and,
- the second will seek to prevent the spread of HIV/AIDS by reducing the risk among mobile groups.

Within the framework of the latter initiative, IOM will build national capacity to manage awareness raising activities targeting mobile groups. As part of a regional project already implemented in the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and the Province of Kosovo, IOM will:

- conduct two research studies;
- empower and train NGOs and mass media professionals to raise awareness of the vulnerability of mobile populations to HIV/AIDS; and,
- facilitate national and regional networks of governments and NGOs to address HIV/AIDS among mobile groups.

III.3

BULGARIA

BACKGROUND

Due to its geopolitical situation, Bulgaria is ideally placed to be a key transit country, a source country and, to a much lesser extent, an emerging destination country for both regular and irregular migrants.

Standing at the South-Eastern gateway to Europe, Bulgaria continues to be a transit country for migrants from Asia and Africa en route to the European Union. Irregular migration remains an area of concern, since the Bulgarian-Turkish border serves as the major entry point for irregular migrants with the Bulgarian-Greek border as the main exit point.

Over the past few years, there has been no significant changes in emigration attitudes of Bulgarian citizens, many of whom continue to seek seasonal labour in the EU countries. Violations of the EU's regimes of entry and stay and its labour regulations have been noted, resulting in deportations and the imposition of administrative restrictions on exit from the country by the Bulgarian authorities.

Bulgaria's candidacy for EU membership creates new issues as it will increasingly become a country of final destination and attract a growing number of requests for long term residence and for acquisition of Bulgarian citizenship. In addition, Bulgaria offers asylum for refugees and asylum seekers as the first safe country along the Balkan migration route. As a result, trafficking in human beings continues to be a serious issue of concern for the Bulgarian government, while Bulgaria remains a country of transit, of origin and to a lesser extent of final destination for VoTs.

IOM Bulgaria's core mission is to assist the Bulgarian government in the development and implementation of migration policies that respond effectively to migration challenges and realities and seek the optimal balance between the principle of free movement of people, control over irregular migration, and respect for migrants' rights.

With EU accession expected in the near future, IOM Bulgaria will aim to support and promote the establishment of strong migration management structures capable of responding to increasing external migration pressures, promoting orderly migration and curtailing irregular migration.

As trafficking in persons remains a serious area of concern, IOM Bulgaria will continue to implement its comprehensive, long-term counter-trafficking strategy supporting the development of national mechanisms for combating and preventing trafficking in persons by stimulating cross-sectoral cooperation in the field of prevention, capacity building, and direct victims' assistance.

PROGRAMMATIC PRIORITIES

(a) Assisted Voluntary Return

In light of Bulgaria's future EU membership, which will trigger increased migration flows, and in support of government efforts to address irregular migration and manage return migration in line with EU standards, IOM Sofia plans to build the Bulgarian govern-

ment's capacity to implement AVR programmes as a key instrument in managing migration. Through the offer of training and study visits to EU countries with established AVR procedures, IOM will assist the Bulgarian authorities in developing a national procedure for AVRs to stranded migrants and unsuccessful asylum seekers and a joint implementation programme for voluntary assisted returns.

In order to encourage voluntary return, IOM Bulgaria will also seek to support the development of procedures for inter-agency cooperation in the return process. This will involve the provision of information advice, document procurement, medical, pre-departure and travel assistance counselling and orientation.

(b) Counter-trafficking Activities

IOM Sofia will continue its support to the established national counter-trafficking network, through seven local facilities, information centres and inter-institutional partnerships for combating and preventing trafficking in persons. The information centres and inter-institutional partnerships will be sensitized to respond to current trafficking trends and forms of exploitation, with special attention given to prevention measures for vulnerable minority groups. Information and awareness raising campaigns will also aim to address the demand side of trafficking in persons.

Once the national and local Counter-trafficking Commissions, envisioned in the new Bulgarian CT legislation, begin operations, IOM Bulgaria will transfer know-how, expertise, working practices and effective models of cooperation to commissions' members, local administration, NGOs and service providers.

The IOM-initiated model of cooperation linking IOM, government institutions, agencies and service providers for the return and reintegration of unaccompanied minors and VoTs will be replicated through trainings for all stakeholders at the local level.

In addition, IOM intends to develop a small grants scheme for NGOs and local authorities for community projects and to continue support for VoTs through socio-economic reintegration activities.

(c) Labour Migration

IOM Sofia will continue to assist the government in its efforts to encourage regular channels for migration by seeking ways of promoting orderly selective labour migration from Bulgaria. IOM Bulgaria will support the selection of qualified labour migrants seeking employment in the Czech Republic through providing information and guidance in meeting selection criteria and through clarifying conditions for stay and work in the country.

Based on the accumulated experience and through its network of Information Consultancy Centres, IOM Sofia intends to develop bilateral labour migration programmes with destination countries for Bulgarian seasonal migrants. The proposed migration schemes will aim to serve labour market needs in destination countries and to guarantee observance of the host country's migration regimes, while at the same time providing protection of migrants' rights.

(d) Technical Cooperation on Migration

IOM Sofia will continue to support and reinforce government capacities for managing migration in order to achieve comprehensive compliance and harmonization with EU practices. Offering training and study visits to EU Member States for Bulgarian experts, IOM Bulgaria will focus on strengthening relevant migration management capacities to implement return policies in line with EU standards.

To assist the Bulgarian government in managing flows of irregular migrants arriving in or transiting Bulgaria, IOM will aim to support the establishment of a Pilot Temporary Migration Centre in South West Bulgaria. The Migration Centre will serve as an AVR migration management facility which will accommodate and process irregular migrants prior to return and will operate in accordance with EU and international standards.

To promote and facilitate a regional dialogue on migration, IOM Sofia will seek to establish a cooperative framework for migration management for countries of the Black Sea region. The Black Sea Regional Migration Centre will create a framework for policy

and operational activities on migration and for the development of efficient cooperative mechanisms and partnership networks.

(e) Facilitate Informed Migration

IOM Bulgaria will continue to provide services for both returning and potential migrants in order to promote orderly migration channels and curtail irregular migration. Through its network of Information Consultancy Centres, IOM Sofia will continue to offer information and advice on travelling abroad safely, existing regimes legislation, and procedures ruling the movement of people and possibilities of legal migration, as well as raising awareness on the risks of irregular migration.

In cooperation with other IOM missions and IOM partner organizations or within its own programmes, IOM Bulgaria will continue to carry out AVRs for Bulgarian nationals of various categories, mainly from

EU countries. IOM Bulgaria will also run family reunification programmes under on-going programmes and continue to provide return and reintegration assistance to VoTs.

Under specific agreements, IOM Bulgaria will continue to provide various consular services for migrants in cooperation with official authorities, aiming to diversify and expand the portfolio and geographical coverage of migration services.

(f) Research

Within regional initiatives, IOM Bulgaria will continue to coordinate the preparation of Bulgarian input to regional migration research. In 2006, IOM Bulgaria will facilitate the conduct of a national survey on financial investigations and confiscation of assets as a means to collect additional evidence in cases of trafficking in persons.

III.4

CROATIA

BACKGROUND

IOM has been supporting the Government of Croatia in addressing salient migration management issues for the past 14 years. When it was first established in Zagreb in 1992, the IOM mission gave priority to the provision of life-saving resettlement and health assistance to refugees and internally displaced populations. In the immediate post-conflict period during the late 1990s, IOM played a significant role in rebuilding social and physical infrastructure aimed at fostering return and reconciliation in the Areas of Special State Concern. Today, as the country moves closer to European Union and NATO membership, IOM activities are principally focused on building up Croatia's migration management capacity to levels similar to those

in the EU. To support this strategy during 2006 and 2007, IOM will seek to engage in activities relating to technical assistance, such as border management, fight against trafficking and irregular migration, and reintegration of former military personnel into civil society.

At present the IOM representation in Croatia, with its main office in Zagreb and with sub-offices in Split and Osijek, implements some 15 projects ranging from assisting and protecting trafficked victims, training law enforcement and judicial officials on counter-trafficking best practices, researching the incidence of HIV/AIDS amongst Croatian migrant workers, to supporting separated defence personnel in re-entering mainstream society through employment-gener-

ation activities. In addition, IOM Croatia is involved in a number of regional initiatives, including two EC CARDS funded programmes aimed at supporting the development of a regional migration strategy and at enhancing regional police cooperation in the fight against human trafficking and smuggling.

PROGRAMMATIC PRIORITIES

(a) Border Management

In 2006, IOM intends to assist Croatia's effective border management through strengthening of technical capacity of Croatia's Border Police through the provision of specialist equipment and training for staff, specifically on the Croatian-Serbian border which has been identified as vital for controlling irregular migration flows. The project will contribute to enhanced security on both sides of this border, which will in the near future become the EU's external border and thus offer a significant opportunity for political and operational trust-building.

(b) Counter-trafficking Activities

IOM Zagreb will work towards further supporting Croatia's National Action Plan to prevent and fight against human trafficking. To achieve this objective, IOM will pursue its assistance and prevention approach through institution-building, which will include training of border police officers and mid-level police managers. Moreover, IOM will develop a counter-trafficking module to be integrated into the Diplomatic Academy curriculum for consular and diplomatic staff being deployed abroad and seek to enhance national NGOs' capacity to address CT issues.

(c) Reintegrating Redundant Military Personnel

IOM Croatia will seek to reinforce its position within the security sector by diversifying the funding base of the Reintegration Assistance to Separated Defence Personnel (RASDP) project. This project's principal goal is to provide direct reintegration assistance

to up to 3,000 personnel identified for separation by the Croatian Ministry of Defence. These persons have been identified as most in need of reintegration support as they originate from the Areas of Special State Interest (ASSI), considered by the World Bank to be the most economically depressed regions of Croatia, because of their location in areas directly affected by the war. The assistance programme is tailored to the specific needs and skills of each individual, and follows IOM's experience and methodology in carrying out similar programmes in Kosovo and Bosnia and Herzegovina.

By actively supporting the transition of 3,000 military personnel into mainstream society, IOM continues to contribute to the national and regional peace-building process and to the consolidation of an economically productive manpower base in Croatia.

The purposes of this project are:

- to assist separated personnel in the transition process from military to civilian life; and
- to inform and maintain confidence in the Croatian Separated Personnel Care and Transition (SPECTRA) programme among separated personnel and potential employers.

(d) Assisted Voluntary Return

IOM will continue efforts to enhance AVR activities in Croatia. The Ministry of Interior has formally signalled its intention to sign an MOU regulating AVRs. This is an important step towards creating an effective and humane repatriation policy and mechanism in line with the EU standards.

(e) Migration Health

In order to improve the well-being and health of detained migrants and their families, IOM will work in close collaboration with the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Interior in efforts to adjust Croatia's policies, laws and procedures regulating their access to healthcare.

III.5

CZECH REPUBLIC

BACKGROUND

As a new EU Member State, the Czech Republic is gradually becoming a country of destination. In 2005 there were 268,000 legally resident migrants living in Czech Republic. At the same time, due to favourable economic conditions, Czech Republic is actively recruiting workers overseas to fill labour shortage gaps. In this, IOM provides assistance to the government through the Active Selection of Qualified Workers Programme, open currently to nationals of Belarus, Bulgaria, Croatia, Kazakhstan, Moldova, and Serbia.

IOM in Czech Republic is actively involved in the field of integration of third-country nationals within the framework of the regional project “Empowering migrants: Integration through Information and Training of Public Officials and NGOs”. Emphasis is given to direct cooperation with migrant communities through information dissemination and capacity-building activities.

As immigration from Eastern Europe is on the increase, Czech Republic has emerged as a donor of development assistance to its main sending countries: Ukraine, Armenia, Moldova, Georgia. Main aspects of assistance include support to migration management and community stabilization through job creation and vocational training.

In 2006, the main area of consideration in border management for the State Administration is to meet the criteria of *acquis* with a view to join the Schengen area by autumn 2007. A number of Schengen evaluation reports are being carried out, principally at the international airports.

IOM continues to assist in the voluntary return of unsuccessful asylum seekers and irregular migrants, predominantly to Moldova, Russia, China and Viet Nam.

Counter-trafficking is now being discussed at the State administration level through newly established Inter-Disciplinary Group which has developed a strategy for combating trafficking in human beings with special tasks for each Ministry, though overall competency rests with the Ministry of Interior. IOM continues to cooperate with NGOs in the provision of assistance to trafficked persons and is developing a counter-trafficking strategy focusing on the demand side of trafficking.

PROGRAMMATIC PRIORITIES

(a) Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration

Since 2001, the AVR Programme is an ongoing activity as part of a joint effort between the Czech Ministry of Interior (MoI) and IOM Prague. The number of Czech returnees applying for AVR varies from 300 to 400 annually. Recent developments in this field stress the importance of reintegration in returnees’ countries of origin and for this reason the Czech Republic will allocate funds for a reintegration and skills upgrading scheme to make returns sustainable. In 2006, the EU’s European Refugee Fund (ERF) funds are being used as an added value to the Czech National budget allocated for returns and reintegration.

(b) Czech Development Aid Programmes

Immigration trends in the Czech Republic are analysed each year by the Czech Ministry of Interior and provide the basis for planning assistance to main countries of origin. IOM is a natural partner to the government in developing this national financial instrument. The Czech government’s and IOM’s bilateral and multilateral projects are being implemented in Moldova, Georgia, Ukraine, Armenia and Bosnia and Herzegovina, in order to build capacity of officials

in migration and border management, to stabilize potential migrants in their countries of origin, to assist in vocational trainings for children in institutional care, to share the expertise gained through the EU accession process in migration and border management with other countries that declare their desire and readiness to join EU.

(c) Labour Migration

In view of the assessment of the Czech labour market shortages and the aging population, the Czech Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs (MLSA), in partnership with IOM, has designed the project for Selection of Qualified Foreign Workers to the Czech Republic. At the request of the Czech MLSA, IOM will provide potential migrants information about the project, eligibility criteria and conditions using various information channels, such as help-lines, brochures and other information materials, and outreach meetings, with the support of its network of missions worldwide.

In the Czech Republic, IOM stresses the importance of managed immigration and the human rights of migrants through targeted awareness raising activities. Currently the project is in its third year of pilot phase implementation and its targets are nationals from Kazakhstan, Bulgaria, Byelorussia, Canada, Croatia, Moldova, Republic of Montenegro, Republic of Serbia and Ukraine. After a five-year pilot phase, the project will be extended to nationals of all third countries worldwide without specific nationality criteria.

(d) Integration of Migrants

In recent years, the Czech Republic has become a destination country with almost 270,000 legally resident foreigners. The issue of integration is therefore a priority for the State Administration. IOM plays an important role in informing migrants about their rights and obligations through the website www.domavcr.cz (Home in the Czech Republic). IOM also works towards raising the capacity of State Administration through facilitation of best practices sharing among EU Member States. IOM cooperates with migrant community organizations to support their capacity in project development and project management.

(e) Counter-trafficking Activities

IOM is a permanent member of the Inter-Disciplinary Governmental Group, which is chaired by the Deputy Minister of Interior. This group coordinates all legislative, institutional and operational activities in the fight against trafficking in human beings. The referral system for the protection of VoTs is in place with NGOs as service providers and a law enforcement agency (Unit Combating Organized Crime) responsible for identifying victims. IOM's task in the victim protection system is the return and reintegration of victims to their countries of origin. In addition to its awareness raising campaigns, IOM will this year give special emphasis to the demand side. In 2006, IOM will also focus on combating trafficking for labour purposes.

III.6

THE FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA (FYROM)

BACKGROUND

The IOM Mission in Skopje initially grew out of a need to support the work of IOM in Kosovo after the war in 1999, and became a vital part of the emergency

response to the 2001 war in the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. The strategic goal of the IOM Mission is to assist the country in the implementation of the Stabilization and Association Agreement, with particular emphasis on migration management and

the implementation process for the Ohrid Framework Agreement. Since then, IOM Skopje activities have been expanded to address a variety of pressing migration-related issues, including trafficking in human beings, confidence building, and HIV/AIDS prevention among mobile populations.

PROGRAMMATIC PRIORITIES

(a) Counter-trafficking Activities

IOM will continue assisting the FYROM government in reinforcing its strategies and actions to counteract human trafficking. IOM's counter-trafficking programme has been designed to cover a wide range of activities focusing on direct prevention activities in cooperation with civil society, including information campaigns and capacity-building initiatives for local institutions (law enforcement, schools, social centres, etc.). IOM will also continue to provide direct assistance to VoTs, including return to and/or reintegration in their countries of origin.

Specific attention will be paid to the Government Strategy to Counteract Trafficking in Human Beings as well as to finalization of the Macedonian National Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings and Irregular Migration, especially in the field of strengthening local educational capacities and activities that raise awareness among schoolchildren.

(b) Assisted Voluntary Return

In order to enhance the capacity of FYROM authorities to deal with issues related to irregular migration, IOM will be drafting tailored activities and projects which will provide AVRs for irregular migrants stranded

in the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and assist in the development of institutional voluntary return mechanisms. It will aim to establish a humane framework for return assistance of stranded irregular migrants, alleviate the burden of their presence in countries of transit and destination, and contribute to the reduction of present and future irregular migration to Western European countries.

(c) Technical Cooperation on Migration

As FYROM has now been officially granted EU candidate status, IOM will continue to extend its support to the FYROM government to enhance its institutional capacity in line with the EU migration *acquis* and will support enhancement of the process of reforms towards EU membership, thus ensuring more effective migration management.

(d) Roma

Building on its experience acquired through implementation of projects providing assistance to Roma vulnerable populations (IOM's Humanitarian and Social Programmes), IOM Skopje intends to strengthen the capacities of NGOs and local authorities to deal with the socio-economic reintegration of vulnerable Roma.

To facilitate the reintegration of vulnerable Roma into the workforce, IOM intends to provide vocational and business skills trainings in line with the market demand for specific job profiles, as well as to support their referral to the local business associations, Chamber of Craftsmen and National Employment Bureau for the purpose of their employment or self-employment.

III.7

HUNGARY

BACKGROUND

Traditionally, Hungary is a key transit, source, and destination country of both regular and irregular migratory movements. Its geographical location, EU membership and relative prosperity act as a pull factor for migrants from neighbouring countries, including ethnic Hungarians.

As a new EU Member State, part of Hungary's borders form the new external borders of the enlarged European Union. One of the key priorities for the government in border management is to fulfil the Schengen *acquis* and join the Schengen area in 2007. Stricter immigration rules, strengthened border management, and tighter regulation of the employment of foreign workers have been developed and are being applied.

Young women and girls are trafficked to, from and through Hungary, for the purpose of sexual exploitation. Internal trafficking also occurs from areas of high unemployment rate in Eastern Hungary to Western Hungary. Apart from the potential for violation of human rights, which is an obvious area of concern, many public health-related issues, such as HIV/AIDS, also need to be addressed.

With the EU accession, labour migration of Hungarian citizens has increased to EU countries that did not impose transition periods for the free movement of labour (UK, Ireland), and as a result Hungary is gradually becoming a country in need of foreign workers in certain economic sectors.

The IOM Regional Mission in Budapest continues to provide support in technical and legal expertise to the Hungarian government in building its migration management capacity especially in developing the overall National Migration Strategy of Hungary.

As the integration of migrants becomes more important, IOM Budapest will assist and advise the

Hungarian government on establishing a coherent integration policy.

IOM Budapest will also continue to assist unsuccessful asylum seekers and irregular and stranded migrants to return to their respective countries of origin.

PROGRAMMATIC PRIORITIES

(a) Assisted Voluntary Return

IOM will continue the successful cooperation with the Hungarian government on AVR programmes initiated in 1993. To enhance and reinforce Hungary's administrative and operational capacity to deal with issues related to irregular migration, IOM plans to introduce the reintegration component into its voluntary return programmes to contribute to the sustainability of return.

(b) Counter-trafficking Activities

IOM has developed a comprehensive multi-annual counter-trafficking strategy (2006-2008) which will provide a framework for a variety of protection, prevention and prosecution interventions and will in turn help the government and relevant NGOs to take a leading role in the fight against trafficking in human beings (THB). It puts emphasis on counter-acting new trends, including the problem of persons trafficked internally from poorer to more wealthy areas within Hungary and the issue of the demand side of trafficking.

It proposes, among other projects:

- building the capacity of the GoH (at national and local level), NGOs, and service providers to fulfil

their roles and responsibilities and to take ownership of the anti-trafficking agenda (IOM Budapest will also support the development of the concise National Action Plan to combat trafficking in human beings and assist the government with policy development);

- pursuing national and community level outreach and awareness raising and sensitization efforts initiated by IOM in 1999, targeting the public at large as well as specifically vulnerable or at risk groups, thus contributing to their self-empowerment;
- contributing to socio-economic empowerment of identified groups with a high risk of falling into trafficking networks;
- promoting legal advocacy for trafficked persons, where IOM shall assist in strengthening a network, and providing the necessary tools for ensuring legal assistance and counselling for trafficked persons;
- carrying out in-depth research on the trafficking potential to, from, and through Hungary;
- developing an information campaign to create awareness among the general public about the demand side of trafficking in persons;

- continuing to provide protection and assistance to trafficked persons and facilitate implementation of the referral system to the recently opened shelter in Hungary.

(c) Labour Migration and Integration

IOM Budapest will promote legal channels to assist Hungarian citizens seeking to work in other EU countries. It also aims to assist the Hungarian government in facilitating the integration of migrants legally residing in Hungary into the Hungarian labour market.

(d) Technical Cooperation on Migration

In order to enhance Hungary's administrative capacity, IOM Budapest will conduct migration-related research to follow and monitor migration tendencies and flows to and from Hungary to serve as a basis for informed analysis and development of effective migration management policies in the country.

III.8

THE PROVINCE OF KOSOVO (REPUBLIC OF SERBIA)

BACKGROUND

In 1999, IOM joined the efforts of the international community in building a durable peace process in the Province of Kosovo and assisting the population to rebuild their lives and work for the future. IOM's strategy in Kosovo is consistent with that of the United Nations and goes beyond short-term reconstruction and rehabilitation efforts, which were an indispensable part in the initial response to the crisis.

In strict coordination with the United Nations Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) administration, IOM Kosovo consistently focuses its programmes on:

- return;
- reintegration for returnees and former combatants;
- infrastructure rehabilitation, medical assistance and medical evacuation and ancillary services;
- assistance to VoTs;
- labour market rehabilitation and labour creation and reinsertion;
- community development and assistance to information and awareness campaigns on migration-related issues.

Since 1999, IOM has assisted the return of nearly 200,000 people. This implies a broad responsibility to

continue to support long-term development projects and programmes, as the return process cannot be separated from decisive socio-economic factors, such as social services, employment opportunities, civil society development, and the establishment of law and order.

In December 2003, UNMIK and the Provisional Institutions of Self-Government (PISG) listed sustainable returns and the protection of the rights of minority communities as two of the eight critical standards to assess progress in Kosovo. IOM Kosovo will continue to respond to the request of Special Representative of the Secretary General (SRSG) and “assume the management and processing of returnees with an approach of building sustainable capacity in the PISG”.

There is a pressing need to enhance the capacity of Kosovo’s nascent administration to take ownership of reconstruction and development efforts, in order to create a sustainable socio-economic environment for both residing and returning Kosovars.

Due to the persistently high numbers of trafficking victims and the increasing number of minors being exploited, IOM Kosovo will remain committed in the coming years to tackling human trafficking through a range of capacity-building and awareness-raising interventions, in cooperation with local governmental and non-governmental actors in the areas of prevention, protection and prosecution.

PROGRAMME AREA PRIORITIES

(a) Assisted Voluntary Return

Assisted voluntary return (AVR) represents one of IOM Kosovo’s core service activities in the province since the cessation of hostilities and the subsequent establishment of the UN interim administration in 1999. IOM has created an environment conducive to successful and sustainable returns, including complementary reintegration support measures and a range of capacity-building actions to sustain the future development of Kosovo. More than one million people have benefited, directly or indirectly from these these initiatives, earning for IOM the re-

spect and trust of all communities in Kosovo, including a reputation for a balanced approach to all affected communities.

IOM will continue to cooperate closely with EU Member States, local authorities, and international organizations such as the European Agency for Reconstruction (EAR) to improve conditions for the return and reintegration of ethnic minorities through targeted interventions in the field of transport and direct assistance and/or specific reintegration measures and income generation support. IOM will also maintain its provision of support to members of the majority community who voluntarily return to Kosovo under IOM auspices or through other channels.

(b) Counter-trafficking Activities

IOM will continue its support for the return and reintegration of VoTs, while simultaneously forging and enhancing ties with relevant local governmental and non-governmental agencies as well as with regional assistance networks. Awareness raising and other preventive measures will be enhanced by the initiatives of several ongoing IOM programmes.

The PISG Council of Ministers’ recent approval of the Kosovo Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings 2005-2007 marked a significant milestone in the combined efforts of the local government, UNMIK, IOM and numerous other actors and will guide future counter-trafficking programming.

(c) Technical Cooperation on Migration

The EAR continues to view IOM as one of the most satisfactory implementing partners for income-generation activities benefiting ethnic minority communities already residing in, or about to return to, Kosovo. The Governments of Italy and of the Netherlands have entrusted IOM with the task of supporting minority returns in coming years through a variety of measures, including reconstruction of housing and infrastructure, which complements reintegration measures, such as tolerance building and inter-ethnic reconciliation.

Concerning stabilization of the population as a whole, IOM continues the process of building the local capacity for addressing the most pressing problems, such as matching labour needs and adequately skilled human resources which remain rare in Kosovo. Following the merger of IOM's Employment Assistance Project with the Kosovo Ministry of Labour and Employment, including the secondment of IOM staff and sharing of material assets, IOM is increasingly cooperating with local governmental structures, with particular emphasis on the Department of Labour and Employment (DoLE), in order to improve the conditions for domestic and foreign direct investments in productive structures.

(d) Migration and Health

Concerning the necessity for improving public health standards, IOM continues to offer and implement activities with the aim of identifying and assessing public health concerns and corresponding responses. These activities are designed to increase the awareness of personal and dissemination of information on public health risks among the general population and the local administration.

Moreover, given the lack of reliable statistical information, poor healthcare infrastructure, and the need for advanced and specialized training for local doctors, IOM will continue to facilitate treatment not available in Kosovo for seriously ill patients in other countries, visits from foreign medical professionals to build the capacities of local doctors, and research on the incidence rates of *communicable diseases*.

III.9

THE REPUBLIC OF MONTENEGRO

BACKGROUND

On May 21, 2006, 86 per cent of the 484,720 people on the Montenegrin electoral register voted in a referendum – and 55.53 per cent of them chose independence.

The EU will now open separate negotiations with Montenegro. In light of the EU accession as overarching political priority, there will be a need, among many other measures, for EU migration *acquis* alignment. The independence of Montenegro raises other important challenges that touch upon migration issues, which include the establishment of new administrative and institutional structures, ensuring the rights of minorities (totaling one third of the population), the establishment of new borders and their effective management and the development of new legal frameworks, among others.

High priority is given to economic and social integration and development in Montenegro. In that context, it is important to emphasize the potential of economic migration, both inwards (particularly in the tourism sector) and outwards (namely to EU Member States).

Through its office in Podgorica, IOM will support these endeavors, building upon IOM's experience and practice in other countries of the region, as well as in Montenegro proper.

PROGRAMMATIC PRIORITIES

(a) Technical Cooperation

IOM will support the Government of Montenegro through its technical cooperation on migration (TCM) activities. IOM will assist in the development and im-

plementation of programmes focusing on strengthening the capacity of the new government, to more effectively manage migration in a comprehensive, cooperative and ultimately self-reliant manner.

Technical cooperation offered will include main concerns of migration governance such as policy, legal framework and operational systems, as required. Capacity building activities will focus on main migration areas, from combating irregular migration and managing the borders, to integration of minorities and economic/labour migration. IOM will look into possibilities to extend into areas linking migration and development, particularly activities to help ameliorate root causes of economically induced migration and optimizing the potential of economic migration. In strengthening capacities, IOM will seek to complement and enhance national, bilateral and multilateral technical cooperation efforts of the government itself, and to enable and expand dialogue, planning and practical cooperation with other governments on the migration continuum.

(b) Counter-trafficking Activities

Activities to combat trafficking in human beings in Montenegro have increased in the past few years. Nonetheless, the democratic opening of the country and improved relations with the EU seem to have provided new and fertile ground for the flourishing of the phenomenon of trafficking. As a result, Montenegro recently became a country of origin as reflected by the increasing number of local women and children being trafficked to neighboring countries and to Western Europe, and in some instances, being trafficked internally as well. Despite good efforts and progress made in past years by Montenegrin authorities to effectively tackle the phenomenon, much remains to be done.

IOM proposes to continue meeting the immediate prevention, protection and assistance needs of foreign and (increasingly) national victims of trafficking (VoT) by supporting the establishment of a specialized facility fit for reintegration programmes by building the capacity of national government counterparts to detect victims of trafficking and to adequately refer these victims for further assistance (including possibilities for assisted voluntary return) and by carrying out further awareness raising activities.

(c) Durable Solutions for IDPs

According to official data, Montenegro today accommodates 26,246 displaced persons (4% of the population), out of which 8,441 are refugees from Croatia and Bosnia Herzegovina while 17,865 are internally displaced persons (IDPs) from Kosovo. Most of the refugees and IDPs in Montenegro are concentrated in specific areas, residing mainly in the municipalities of Podgorica, Berane and Bar. The vast majority of the displaced are living in poor quality private accommodation.

With the gradual phasing out of humanitarian assistance in Montenegro, longer-term, structural interventions are required to create conditions conducive to provide sustainable solutions to refugees and IDPs while respecting the needs of local communities. There are three possible solutions for the permanent settlement of refugees and IDPs residing temporarily in Montenegro which depend on the safety situation in the countries of origin, capability of the Republic of Montenegro and wishes of IDPs themselves: return to Kosovo, local integration, and resettlement to third countries.

In partnership with the Montenegro Commissariat for Refugees, civil society and other stakeholders, IOM will support sustainable livelihood schemes through housing construction, assisted voluntary return and facilitated access to income-generation opportunities.

(d) Reintegration Assistance to Former Defense Personnel

IOM is carrying out programmes targeting redundant defense personnel with reintegration assistance to ensure their successful transition into civilian society and workforce in Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Republic of Serbia. Through a series of measures embodied in IOM's successful "Four Pillars" ICRS (Information, Counselling and Referral Services) model, IOM will increase the "employability" of this vulnerable category in Montenegro as well. Emphasis will be placed on small and medium enterprise (SME) creation and expansion, consulting support services, agriculture revitalization, and, where appropriate, vocational skills training. IOM will build on the capacities of existing local public institutions, towards achieving long-term sustainable livelihood solutions for this particular group of beneficiaries.

POLAND

BACKGROUND

Following the EU accession when it became one of the EU frontier countries, Poland is particularly susceptible as a point of origin, destination and transit for migrants, the major challenges coming from irregular migrants arriving mainly from the former Soviet Union seeking asylum or jobs, and from VoTs. Increasingly Poland has become the transit and entry point for many migrants going to the “old” European Union. The number of migrants claiming asylum in Poland remains relatively high, as is the number of asylum seekers returned to Poland from other EU countries under the Dublin Regulation. Consequently, there is a growing need for programmes addressing the issue of irregular migrants in Poland and for migrants whose applications for asylum have been rejected.

The integration of migrants legally residing in Poland is gradually becoming a key issue. In IOM’s view, specific attention should be given to migrants from Chechnya, the majority of whom are not granted refugee status but are allowed a subsidiary form of protection, known as tolerated stay. This regularizes their stay in Poland and ensures access to labour market and social welfare, but does not give them a right to integration assistance. In many cases, they will seek to enter other EU countries illegally before being forcibly returned to Poland. These vulnerable migrants need social counselling and assistance for integration into the Polish labour market.

Poland’s greater accessibility to the EU job markets has also resulted in considerable growth in labour migration of Polish nationals mostly to those EU countries which have opened their labour markets to nationals from “new” EU Member States. As a result, Poland is now facing its own labour shortages, in areas such as healthcare and construction, and these need to be met by seeking workers from abroad.

PROGRAMME AREA PRIORITIES

(a) Assisted Voluntary Returns

So far, return assistance in Poland has been limited to unsuccessful asylum seekers. The results of a pilot project implemented by IOM in 2005 clearly showed an urgent need to increase activities in this field, since the number of persons applying for AVR exceeded the project capacities by 100 per cent. IOM Warsaw, in cooperation with the Polish government, is aiming to strengthen and extend the return mechanism to include irregular migrants. With the launch of new AVR projects, there has been a rise in demand for capacity building for government officials and NGOs. IOM Warsaw therefore plans to organize seminars to introduce AVR principles. Moreover, to ensure appropriate implementation of AVR programmes in Poland will require legislative reform (i.e. Aliens’ Act and Act on Protection of Aliens on the territory of Poland).

(b) Counter-trafficking Activities

Poland is increasingly becoming a transit and destination country for VoTs from Eastern and South-Eastern Europe. Yet, the general public demonstrates little awareness of the causes and consequences of trafficking and tends to stigmatize women in prostitution: they are blamed for crimes committed against them and thought to be immoral because of their involvement with traffickers. IOM Warsaw intends to launch an information media campaign to raise awareness on the situation of trafficked women. The campaign would aim at challenging such misconceptions and at changing social attitudes towards victims.

To combat trafficking effectively, it is crucial to identify VoTs. This implies an increased awareness on the part of law enforcement, but also of the judiciary and social/healthcare workers. In 2006, IOM Warsaw intends, in cooperation with the Polish government,

to develop and organize training for judges and social workers based on its expertise and on existing materials (AGIS 2004, MRF Washington). The manual in Polish language will be also made more widely available to judges and social workers in Poland.

IOM will also seek to facilitate mechanisms and procedures for the orderly, safe and dignified return of VoTs located in Poland and wishing to return to their countries of origin.

There is also a need to address increasing trends in trafficking in children and trafficking for labour exploitation. IOM Warsaw will seek to carry out an in-depth research to understand these phenomena better.

(c) Integration

Individual integration programmes in Poland are available only to recognized refugees. There is no special assistance for other groups of migrants. However, special attention should be paid to assist migrants with tolerated stay status. This group represents mostly migrants from Chechnya seeking protection from the ongoing conflict (Poland is currently a major recipient of Chechens in Europe). These migrants lack financial resources and information about their situation and rights in Poland. They also face difficulties in entering the Polish labour market. IOM Warsaw will seek to enhance cooperation with the national government and local authorities in order to develop a mechanism that will contribute to facilitating integration of this vulnerable group in Poland.

(d) Labour Migration

Poland is undergoing a similar demographic stagnation as the majority of Western European countries. On the one hand, unemployment rates are very high and numerous Polish citizens are looking for jobs in the UK, Ireland and other "old" EU Member States. On the other hand, migrants from Eastern European countries seek work in Poland and a bilateral agreement on labour migration between Poland and Ukraine is being drafted. IOM Warsaw will work

towards assessing the needs for foreign labour, and highlighting successful schemes and best practices in the field of the labour migration. This may also serve to design labour migration policy and facilitate labour migration where required.

(e) Health Migration

Poland is committed to introducing the Schengen Criteria by 2007. In the existing Protocols, there is no mention of public health aspects, apart from food control and veterinary measures. According to present practices, health assessment of irregular migrants in the border area is performed by border guards, who are not specifically trained for this sensitive and hazardous task. IOM will seek to contribute to increasing public health safety and appropriate healthcare provision to all migrants in the border area through the inclusion of a public health module in border management procedures.

Central European Forum for Migration Research

Central European Forum for Migration Research (CEFMR) is a research partnership bringing together the Foundation for Population, Migration and Environment, the Institute of Geography and Spatial Organization of the Polish Academy of Sciences and the International Organization for Migration. It is managed by IOM's Warsaw Office, which also represents CEFMR in contractual matters. CEFMR specializes in multidisciplinary research on international migration in Central Europe.

As a joint project, CEFMR has access to cumulated knowledge of its parent organizations, in particular to IOM's over 50 years' expertise, and to broad research expertise in Central and Eastern Europe of the Institute of Geography and Spatial Organization of the Polish Academy of Sciences.

Since November 2004, CEFMR has been a partner institution of the Swiss Forum for Migration and Population Studies (SFM) in Neuchâtel. Since 2006, the Forum has been invited to participate in the IMISCOE Network of Excellence as an Associated Member.

The major priorities of CEFMR for 2006/7 are as follows:

- to maintain its position of a leading research institute dealing with migration issues in Central and Eastern Europe;
- to expand its project portfolio to include projects commissioned by the European Commission, World Bank and other respective institutions;
- to improve and tighten international cooperation with other research institutions and think tanks dealing with different aspects of international mobility;
- to share CEFMR's expertise in international migration modelling and forecasting;
- to advise and provide sound input on migration issues for policymakers;
- to enhance publication output.

III.11

ROMANIA

BACKGROUND

Romania is primarily a country of origin, with considerable numbers of migrant workers travelling to Western Europe every year. Romania is also a country of transit and in future is likely to become an attractive destination for migrants from outside the European Union.

Romania has made great progress in preparing for EU membership and, according to the last report issued by the European Commission, legislative progress has been made in many areas of justice and home affairs (JHA); however, much remains to be done in order to ensure full alignment with the EU *acquis*. Administrative capacity needs strengthening in almost all areas, as many institutions continue to be affected by staff shortages and insufficient expertise. Moreover, inter-agency cooperation remains weak and insufficient.

PROGRAMMATIC PRIORITIES

(a) Assisted Voluntary Return

In 2005 IOM Bucharest started a new AVR Programme in cooperation with the Romanian government. The activities in 2006 and 2007 will envisage, in addition to basic operations:

- encouraging stronger participation by NGOs in the implementation of the migrant counselling component;
- continued training and information exchange for field practitioners in areas such as migrants' rights, selected migration law, AVR best practices, cultural diversity and gender issues, data collection, and the activities of the European Agency for the Management of Operational Cooperation at the External Borders of the Member States (FRONTEX);
- cooperation with third countries of return in implementing AVR operations.

(b) Counter-trafficking Activities

IOM will continue to provide direct assistance to victims, conduct prevention and awareness raising activities, and extend technical cooperation support to its partners in Romania. At the same time, IOM will focus on:

- completion and implementation of the much-needed national victim referral system;
- revision of the counter-trafficking legislation, especially with regard to victim's status, victim's access to services, and witness protection issues;

- implementation of legislation, especially regarding the conducting of trafficking prosecution and trials;
- continued training for counter-trafficking practitioners;
- inter-agency cooperation and networking;
- linkage between trafficking, labour migration and irregular migration.

(c) Labour Migration and Nexus between Migration and Development

According to IOM's research, labour migration outflows are expected to increase in the next years, as will the volume of Romanian remittances, currently estimated at over €2 billion annually. IOM will take initiatives ranging from comprehensive migrant services (informational, consular, medical, social, and legal) to remittance-related economic, legislative and administrative measures, in order to optimize the potential of such flows towards social economic development in Romania.

IOM strongly advocates in favour of consolidated policies that should harness the extraordinary development potential of migration in Romania. The IOM objectives relating to the migration-development nexus include, amongst others:

- assistance in the transfer of migrant communities' skills and expertise;
- micro and small enterprise development;
- labour market rehabilitation and integration;
- return programmes for qualified nationals;
- skill development projects for migrants;
- pre-departure and post-arrival orientation programmes for labour migrants;

- government capacity building and training in labour migration management and remittance management.

(d) Migration Health

IOM will continue the medical screening of self-paying permanent migrants, in accordance with the agreements between IOM and the respective immigration countries. Similarly, IOM will continue to follow up on the "Budapest Declaration on Public Health and Trafficking in Human Beings" in the implementation of its counter-trafficking programme. With regard to migration health components of the labour migration projects, IOM has the technical and operational capacity to advise on and implement the necessary strategy for the design, creation and delivery of health services, and to perform comprehensive cost-effective medical processing services at the required standards.

(e) Technical Cooperation on Migration

The EC regular report on Romania lists organized crime and border management as areas of particular concern. IOM will continue to work with the relevant migration structures to support efforts towards the effective management of the future Eastern EU border. The IOM projects focus primarily on training in specific topics and on bilateral cooperation and exchanges on the common border, including along the lines of action established by the Soderkoping Process. Also, the projects will seek to facilitate familiarization and cooperation of Romanian structures with FRONTEX.

THE REPUBLIC OF SERBIA

BACKGROUND

Following protracted conflicts in the former Yugoslavia, the Republic of Serbia remains host to the single largest population of refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Europe including some 130,000 refugees from Bosnia and Herzegovina and Croatia and 207,000 IDPs from the Province of Kosovo, many of whom are vulnerable Roma.

Moreover, the central position of the Republic of Serbia within South-East Europe makes it one of the main gateways to Western Europe, used by irregular migrants, smugglers and traffickers. However, recent trafficking studies show that the Republic of Serbia is not only a country of transit and destination, but also a country of origin, with indications that internal trafficking is also on the rise.

Finally, as the Ministry of Defence (MoD) carries out bold reforms including a massive redundancy plan affecting some 25,000 personnel, the Republic of Serbia may well face significant outwards migration, given the limited absorption capacity of the labour market.

The variety of migration issues in the Republic of Serbia poses a serious problem of social cohesion and an economic challenge that IOM will attempt to address through strengthened partnerships with government and targeted migration management activities.

PROGRAMME AREA PRIORITIES

(a) Counter-trafficking Activities

IOM will work closely with the Education Ministry to design and incorporate modules on human trafficking into secondary school curricula, while raising awareness on the risks and realities of the phenomenon amongst teachers, parents and peers. IOM

will also work closely with Serbian law enforcement officials in order to heighten their basic knowledge relating to the detection, identification, referral and rights of trafficked victims. In the field of trafficking protection, assistance and return, IOM will continue to provide capacity building and other forms of support to NGO-run shelters, and will initiate an innovative community-driven counter-trafficking project targeting communities where there are known high incidences of trafficking but little or no efforts to address them. Moreover, IOM will pilot-test a number of gender-based empowerment activities with a view to ensuring the successful social and economic reintegration of former trafficked victims into mainstream society.

(b) Labour Migration

In 2002 in the then Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, migrants' remittances were three times higher than total foreign direct investment (FDI) flowing into the country (US\$ 475 million). Although some 50 per cent of remittances are going through banking channels, there is no consolidated data on the level, frequency, sources or intended use of these transfers. IOM will conduct a pilot study to assess and analyze the key factors for remittance levels, channels and patterns of use, as well as their impact on poverty situation and local development.

(c) Promotion of Social Inclusion and Integration of Refugees and IDPs

With the gradual phasing out of humanitarian programming in the Republic of Serbia, longer-term, structural interventions are required to create conditions conducive to the return of refugees and IDPs while respecting the needs of local communities. Housing and employment solutions have been iden-

tified as key priorities within the National Strategy for Resolving the Problems of Refugees and IDPs of the Government of Serbia. In partnership with the Serbian Commissariat for Refugees, civil society and other stakeholders, IOM will support sustainable livelihood schemes through housing construction, purchase of rural estates and facilitated access to income-generation opportunities.

(d) Reintegration Assistance to Former Defence Personnel

Following a request for assistance from the Serbian Ministry of Defence (MoD), IOM has carried out a needs and gaps analysis of the current MoD-led redundancy programme and developed a five-year programme targeting some 5,100 redundant defence personnel categorized as “high risk”. Through a series of measures embodied in IOM’s “Four Pillars” ICRS (Information, Counselling and Referral Services) model, IOM will increase the “employability” of this vulnerable category. Emphasis will be placed on small and medium enterprise (SME) creation and expansion, consulting support services, agriculture revitalization, and, where appropriate, vocational skills training. The programme will build on the capacities of existing local public institutions, with a view to achieving long-term sustainable livelihood solutions for its beneficiaries.

(e) Provision of Suitable Housing and Sustainable Income to Roma Populations

In coordination with the UN Country Team, relevant Departments and Working Groups in the Ministry of Human and Minority Rights, IOM will formulate, plan and implement activities directed at improving the living conditions and social status of the marginalized Roma populations. Activities in this field will build upon the results and partnerships fostered through IOM’s HSP and AVR programmes, focusing on targeted support to socially vulnerable individuals of Roma ethnicity, whether returnees, displaced or residents, within the broader community setting.

(f) Technical Cooperation on Migration

In order to address the lack of information on the pitfalls of irregular migration, IOM will reach out to potential migrants to Western Europe. Information on the realities and consequences of irregular migration will be combined with clear and accurate information on existing legal channels and opportunities for living and working abroad. The latter information will be available from IOM’s Migrant Service Centre (MSC) in Belgrade.

III.13

SLOVAKIA

BACKGROUND

Since 1989, migration through and to Slovakia has been intensifying, with the highest increase in the number of asylum seekers after the year 2000. In the years ahead, a further rise of migration inflow – both temporary and permanent – can be expected. In this respect, Slovakia, which was traditionally a country of

origin, finds itself at a turning point in its migration history.

Slovakia’s EU Membership should lead to the stabilization of the labour market, a decrease of unemployment rates and greater participation of foreign companies in the provision of jobs. This in turn will lead to a more stable social and political environment and

to an increase in the number of foreigners coming to Slovakia in search of job opportunities. At the same time, Slovakia experienced a considerable decrease in the number of illegal migrants and asylum seekers on its territory during the first year of its membership in the EU.

It is important that the country reacts to changing trends and creates a comprehensive and effective migration policy, which will take into account the legal, economic, social, cultural and demographic aspects of migration and involve all relevant stakeholders into the management of these issues. As the leading organization in migration, IOM wishes to contribute its experience and expertise towards managing these new migration challenges, whether in the framework of its current programmes (such as AVR) or new technical cooperation and capacity-building projects in the areas of labour migration, and of social and labour integration of migrants in Slovakia.

Notwithstanding the change in immigration trends, Slovakia remains a country of origin with migrants leaving to take advantage of job or study opportunities that have opened up since it joined the European Union. Thus there remains a need to provide comprehensive and objective information to potential migrants about the conditions of travelling, staying, and working abroad, as well as about the possible risks, such as trafficking in human beings. Therefore IOM will keep its focus on information activities for potential migrants, specifically in the area of trafficking prevention.

PROGRAMMATIC PRIORITIES

(a) Assisted Voluntary Return

Since 1998, when IOM started implementing AVRs, this programme has been one of its primary activities in Slovakia. In the framework of the programme supported by the European Refugee Fund, IOM seeks to build AVR capacities in order to make its services available to more migrants, enhance cooperation with state institutions and other partners, and improve their capacities to provide information about the AVR option to migrants. IOM's main objective in the near future is to introduce and pilot-test re-integra-

tion measures, and consequently include them into the core AVR programme running under agreement between IOM and the Slovakian government. Application of this integral approach will ensure that the mechanism of assistance at voluntary returns in Slovakia will be further strengthened.

(b) Counter-trafficking Activities

Based on IOM's extensive experience in counter-trafficking, information from key institutions and recent research, IOM believes it is of primary importance to continue trafficking prevention activities as well as activities geared towards the creation of a comprehensive system of victim assistance in cooperation with experts, relevant NGOs, and state institutions in Slovakia.

IOM plans to continue providing preventive information about trafficking in human beings to the wide public and to the target group of girls and young women. Gradually, the focus of these activities should shift towards specific target groups, such as girls in re-education centres and children's homes, and Roma girls. There is an urgent need to increase the sustainability of prevention activities in secondary schools, in order to ensure that information about the problem of trafficking reaches new generations of students in all regions of Slovakia. This can be only reached through inclusion of the trafficking prevention into the curriculum for secondary schools. IOM also intends to expand its activities in the field of training of police force, students of police academy, and investigators.

In the area of direct assistance, which is currently not provided in a systematic and comprehensive manner (i.e. under the auspices of a state or a non-governmental organization), IOM aims to create a referral system to allow for rapid and efficient assistance to trafficked persons. This will consist of a network of specialists that will provide different types of aid, such as social, psychological, and legal and job counselling, tailored to individual needs. IOM also seeks to establish a sustainable system of return and reintegration of victims returning to Slovakia (such a system is currently implemented by IOM Bratislava within a project supported by the European Commission's EQUAL programme).

Within the scope of the National Counter-trafficking Action Plan for 2006-2007, the Slovakian government has entrusted IOM with the task of developing a model of victim support from return to reintegration. Within this model, in addition to the above-mentioned referral system, IOM intends to initiate the process of establishing a shelter for VoTs in Slovakia and build the capacities of NGOs, through transfer of IOM's know-how and expertise, for its efficient management.

IOM will also assist the Slovakian government in implementing EU legislation regarding granting a reflection period to VoTs found on Slovakian territory.

(c) Integration of Third-Country Nationals

In order for migrants to be able to participate actively in the national economy, Slovakia needs to develop programmes which will enable them to enter the labour market and participate in other sectors of social life. The key tool in prevention or alleviation of their social exclusion is the provision of precise and up-to-date information about job opportunities and conditions of life, stay and work in Slovakia. In reaction to this need, IOM will continue its services through the established Migration Information Centre which provides its clients with information and counselling services, thus facilitating their integration to the labour market. The services will help migrants over-

come the barriers of their integration process, such as insufficient knowledge of the language, the local environment or legal conditions of stay and work in Slovakia, cultural barriers, and discrimination.

(d) Labour Migration

IOM also plans to conduct research on the Slovakian labour market in order to study migration flows and brain drain from Slovakia further west. Consequently this research is expected to lead to the establishment of active management systems for labour migration in Slovakia within which a foreign work force would be able to fill gaps on the Slovakian labour market.

(e) Technical Cooperation on Migration

While Slovakia is active in adopting all necessary EU regulation, there is still a need for the transfer of practical expertise from other – mainly EU – countries to Slovakia in all areas of IOM's activities. IOM Slovakia will continue to serve as intermediary for the transfer of such best practices. On the other hand, the Slovakian recent experience in the field of migration related to EU accession can be transferred to candidate countries. IOM intends to increase its activities in this area as well.

III.14

SLOVENIA

BACKGROUND

Slovenia is a transit country of illegal migration coming from the Balkans region and it is slowly becoming a destination country, due to its favourable economic situation and accession to the EU, principally for migrants coming from Bosnia and Herzegovina, Repub-

lic of Montenegro and Republic of Serbia. It has also become a destination country for irregular seasonal migration, due to a thriving tourism industry.

Slovenia is a transit country and, to a lesser extent, a country of destination for women and girls trafficked for purposes of sexual exploitation. With

regards to trafficking, Slovenia has been classified by the US State Department Trafficking in Persons Report as belonging to Tier 2 (not complying with the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking, but is making significant efforts to do so). A detailed National Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings has been adopted, but its implementation is problematic, due to budgetary pressures and official number of cases is relatively low.

The majority of asylum seekers in Slovenia come from Republic of Serbia, Albania, Turkey, Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (1,100 in 2004). Slovenia has a sizeable population of refugees from Bosnia (2,000) who have been granted permanent residence permit and assisted with integration measures.

PROGRAMMATIC PRIORITIES

(a) Assisted Voluntary Return

IOM has signed an agreement on AVR with the Slovenian government and is currently devising a detailed implementation plan taking into consideration current migratory flows.

(b) Counter-trafficking Activities

Since 2000, IOM has been actively engaged in counter-trafficking efforts in Slovenia, mainly through research (*Where in the Puzzle: Trafficking From, to and Through Slovenia*), capacity building, return and reintegration of victims. A counter-trafficking information campaign is planned to raise awareness among the general population and potential victims. The project will include an information campaign designed to provide target groups with accurate in-

formation. It is expected that this campaign will promote a positive perception of the realities of migration and enable potential migrants to reach an informed decision.

The project will also strive to reach the current third-country national VoTs in the Slovenian territory, so as to inform them of the kind of protection and support they can receive while in the country.

(c) Migration and Health

IOM has undertaken a project on prevention of HIV/AIDS and other infectious diseases among vulnerable migrant groups in Slovenia. Local information points have been established at key social agencies and NGOs to increase awareness of HIV/AIDS risk among selected target as well as provide them with voluntary HIV testing, along with pre-test and post-test counselling.

Existing delivery services have been strengthened with specific tools for mobile groups, including informative brochures developed within the framework of this project. The project pilot phase has just been completed and IOM is currently seeking funds to continue its operation.

(d) Technical Cooperation on Migration

IOM in Ljubljana provides administrative assistance to the Stability Pact Organized Crime Training Network, which aims to strengthen regional and international cooperation in order to combat cross-border organized crime successfully. The network is expected to establish institutionalized relationships among police investigators of the region and links with other international partners.

NOTES

1. Including the Province of Kosovo, currently part of the territory of Republic of Serbia and administered by the United Nations on the basis of UNSCR 1244.
2. Communication of the Commission to the Council, the European Parliament, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions. Report on the Functioning of the Transitional Arrangements set out in 2003 Accession Treaty (1 May 2004-30 April 2006).
3. See also the conclusions of the Communication of the Commission to the Council, the European Parliament, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions. Report on the Functioning of the Transitional Arrangements set out in 2003 Accession Treaty (1 May 2004-30 April 2006).
4. "UK Threat Assessment from Serious and Organized Crime 2004/5 and 2005/6," National Criminal Intelligence Service, UK.
5. Since mid-2001, these projects have assisted nearly 2,150 migrants in referrals and over 1,570 migrants to return home. In Croatia, IOM was able to resume AVR support in December 2004, assisting some 90 migrants. Over 848 migrants were assisted in Bosnia and Herzegovina between June 2001 and April 2005, thanks to additional funding provided by the Government of Switzerland. In Albania, building on the earlier large AVR programme, some 56 migrants were assisted in returning home in 2004. In Serbia and Montenegro, a small funding allocation helped the project to regain momentum, after a temporary halt of a few months due to the State Emergency early in 2003, and has assisted 239 migrants returning home.
6. At the end of 2005, the EU agreed to begin Stabilization and Association Agreement negotiations. Through the Defence Reform Laws, which established a single army at the State level, BiH is also on its way to joining NATO Partnership for Peace.
7. This process will centre on the recently adopted National Integrated Border Management Strategy for BiH, which has been configured according to the EU Guidelines for Integrated Border Management in the Western Balkans.

Annex

PROPOSED PROJECT ACTIVITIES FOR 2006-2007 AT THE REGIONAL AND NATIONAL LEVELS

REGIONAL PROJECT PROPOSALS

LABOUR MIGRATION

Research on Labour Migration Potential in the Western Balkans

European Cooperation on Labour Migration: Search for Best Practices

IRREGULAR MIGRATION AND COUNTER-TRAFFICKING

Information campaign on prevention of illegal flows from/via South Eastern Europe

Guide to counter-trafficking responses by international organizations, international NGOs and national governments in South-Eastern Europe 2000–2006

In-depth applied research for a better understanding of the demand side of trafficking in persons (Hungary, Poland, Slovakia, and Slovenia)

Pilot awareness-raising campaign to address the demand side of trafficking in persons in the Western Balkans

European Conference: People Smuggling Through Central and Eastern Europe: Review of Latest Trends and Best Practice Responses

Temporary exchange/placement of law enforcement officers for enhanced cooperation in the fight against trafficking and smuggling in an enlarged EU

INTEGRATION OF MIGRANTS

**Facilitating integration of migrants in
Central Europe in partnership with civil
society**

**Development of Roma community schools in
Hungary, Czech Republic and Slovakia**

ASSISTED VOLUNTARY RETURN AND REINTEGRATION

**Enhancing mechanisms and harmonizing
standards in the field of voluntary return of
irregular migrants in EU Central European
Member States**

TECHNICAL COOPERATION ON MIGRATION

**Towards enhanced migration management in
the Western Balkans**

Black Sea Regional Cooperation on Migration

ALBANIA

IOM Tirana

Rr “Brigada e Tete” Villa No. 3
Tirana
Albania

Tel: +355 42 578 36, 37

Fax: +355 42 578 35

www.iomtirana.org.al

Chief of Mission: Maurizio Busatti

TECHNICAL COOPERATION ON MIGRATION

Support to National Agency for Migration

The project will focus on the establishment of an institutional framework and build capacity of the Albanian government to implement the National Strategy on Migration. IOM will support the creation of an Agency for Migration at the Prime Minister Office which will focus on development and implementation of immigration, emigration, and diaspora policies.

Registration system for Albanian emigrants residing abroad

IOM will support the efforts of the Albanian government to conduct the registration of Albanian emigrants residing abroad. This process will aim to facilitate services provided by consular offices and to exercise civil rights such as the right to vote.

MIGRATION FOR DEVELOPMENT

Circular migration for development

In cooperation with the Albanian government, IOM intends to run a pilot project to enable the circular migration of Albanian nationals towards seasonal and temporary work placement in both Italy and Greece, and facilitation of return and reintegration in Albania.

Remittances for support of socio-economic development of Albania

IOM will support the government’s policy of utilizing remittances for the economic development of the country through promotion and stimulation of the emigrants’ capital and productive investment.

COUNTER-TRAFFICKING

Capacity Building of NGOs and the National Reception Centre

IOM will aim to strengthen the reintegration support provided to Albanian victims of trafficking by building the capacity of NGOs and the government's National Reception Centre, which will also support the implementation of the National Strategy on Counter-trafficking.

Government capacity building to develop and implement counter-trafficking policies and programmes

Trafficking prevention in the school curriculum

IOM will continue to work with the Ministry of Education to incorporate trafficking prevention in the national school curriculum.

National counter-trafficking awareness raising and prevention campaign

The aim of this project is to implement a counter-trafficking prevention awareness raising campaign, using television, radio and printed material.

ASSISTED VOLUNTARY RETURN AND REINTEGRATION

Capacity building for screening and referral of irregular migrants in Albania

Reception assistance to irregular migrants in Albania

Assisted Voluntary Return (AVR) of irregular migrants stranded in Albania

Return and Reintegration of Albanian nationals to Albania

FACILITATED MIGRATION SERVICES

Source Country Information Albania (SCI)

The project is a partnership between International Agency for Source Country Information (IASCI) and IOM. The overall objective is to contribute to the development of legal migration and the greater freedom of movement of Albanian citizens through facilitated information provision in the field of migration management.

Migrant Service Centres in Western Balkans

The project aims to promote orderly migration flows and raise awareness on regular channels of migration addressing potential migrants.

BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

IOM Sarajevo

Vilsonovo Setaliste 10
71000 Sarajevo
Bosnia and Herzegovina

Telephone/fax:

(+387 33) 648 137

(+387 33) 648 150

(+387 33) 648 160

(+387 33) 648 168

(+387 33) 648 183

(+387 33) 648 202

E-mail: missionsarajevo@iom.int

www.iom.ba

Chief of Mission: Regina Boucault

MIGRATION MANAGEMENT

Integrated Border Management

IOM will provide technical assistance to the State Border Service, Customs, Veterinary and Phyto-sanitary services and the Market Inspectorate involved in border management.

DEMOBILIZATION

Redundant Military Personnel (RMP)

The project aims to assist 10,000 redundant military personnel in Bosnia and Herzegovina with reintegration into the labour market through employment assistance and income-generating activities. The project includes a revolving Loan Fund and it will take place over a period of three years. The project includes a strong capacity-building component and Ministry of Defense staff will be seconded to work on the project implementation at every level.

COUNTER-TRAFFICKING

Trafficking in Persons: Prevention and Protection

Through this project, IOM and its partners will address five main areas of counter-trafficking: victim assistance; legal advocacy and victim witness protection; government and NGO capacity building; public education and awareness raising; and empowerment of vulnerable populations. The project will emphasize building of the capacity of government authorities and NGOs to enable them to take over greater responsibility in the fight against trafficking, while pursuing the efforts to provide direct assistance to victims.

RETURN MIGRATION

Assisted Voluntary Return

IOM aims to build capacity of the Ministry of Security staff on the concept, benefits and procedures of assisted voluntary return.

Reintegration Fund

IOM proposes the creation of a Return Fund for migrants returning voluntarily to Bosnia and Herzegovina, to which the host countries and others would contribute. The fund would serve to give each returnee individualized assistance and finance in accordance with his/her needs and thus make the return sustainable.

MIGRATION AND HEALTH

Swedish Medical Programme (SMP)

The SMP Team estimates that the BiH medical system will need training and support for another five years before it can run alone. While the programme has been carried out with yearly funding, IOM and SMP will work together to devise a more medium-term approach in planning and funding in order to ensure that funding and assistance are available until the country can set up its own sustainable health system.

HIV/AIDS Capacity Building and Awareness Raising

IOM will strive to build the capacity of NGOs and media professionals to manage awareness raising activities targeted at mobile groups. IOM will conduct research, empower and train NGOs and mass media professionals to raise awareness of the migrant vulnerability to HIV/AIDS, and facilitate the creation of national/regional networks addressing HIV/AIDS among migrant populations.

BULGARIA

IOM Sofia

25, Han Krum Street
1040 Sofia
Bulgaria

Tel: +359 2 981-63-65

Fax: +359 2 981-67-41

E-mail: iomsofia@iom.int

Chief of Mission: Ilyana Derilova

ASSISTED VOLUNTARY RETURN

Trilateral programme between Bulgaria, Hungary and the UK to build capacity and transfer know-how for the developing of a national procedure in Bulgaria for assisted voluntary return

Assisted Voluntary Returns programme for irregular migrants stranded in Bulgaria to their countries of origin

COUNTER-TRAFFICKING

Transfer of know-how and small grants scheme for NGOs and local authorities and victims reintegration support

LABOUR MIGRATION

Bilateral labour migration programmes with destination countries for Bulgarian seasonal migrants

TECHNICAL COOPERATION ON MIGRATION

Pilot Temporary Migration Centre in the region of South-west Bulgaria

CROATIA

IOM Zagreb

Amruseva 10, 1st floor
10000 Zagreb, Croatia
P.O. Box 299

Tel: +385 1 4816-774

Fax: +385 1 4816-879

E-mail: iomzagreb@iom.int

www.iom.hr

Chief of Mission: Gregoire Goodstein

PREVENTION AND FIGHT AGAINST HUMAN TRAFFICKING

**Training of Police Officers in the field of
Trafficking in Persons and Smuggling of
Migrants**

**Preventive counter-trafficking capacity
building for Croatian diplomatic and
consular personnel project**

**Protection, assistance and return of trafficked
victims**

Counter-trafficking Capacity Building

ASSISTED VOLUNTARY RETURN

**Assisted voluntary return of 200 irregular
migrants stranded in Croatia**

TECHNICAL COOPERATION ON MIGRATION

Biometrics feasibility study

**Technical Capacity Building and Increased
Border Cooperation at the Croatian-Serbian
border**

Migration policy advisory study

Migrant Service Centre

Remittances for Development: pilot study

MIGRATION HEALTH

**Healthcare access for detained irregular
migrants**

CZECH REPUBLIC

IOM Prague

Dukelských hrdinů 692/35
170 00 Praha 7
Czech Republic

Tel: +420 2 3337 0160
+420 2 3337 2633
Fax: + 420 2 3338 2259
E-mail: prague@iom.int
www.iom.cz

Chief of Mission: Lucie Sladkova

TECHNICAL COOPERATION ON MIGRATION

Capacity building of Iraqi officials in migration and border management within IOM project. Three study visits are being prepared, two of which are funded by the Czech Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

INTEGRATION

Analysis of educational and schooling needs of foreigners residing in Prague region

The project is under preparation and should guide relevant authorities of the city of Prague in orienting their training and educative activities for benefit of foreigners.

COUNTER-TRAFFICKING

Information Campaign to Reduce Demand for Trafficking

THE FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC

IOM Skopje
P.O. Box 34
Skopje 1000
The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

Tel.: ++389 (2) 3088 100
Fax: ++389 (2) 3088 101
www.iomskopje.org.mk

Chief of Mission: Enrico Ponziani

COUNTER-TRAFFICKING PROJECTS

Counter-trafficking awareness raising through decentralized, institutional and civil society capacity building of the Roma population in the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

The project aims to support the development of a decentralized capacity-building process of civil society and relevant institutions in the field of Human Trafficking awareness raising among Roma communities and other relevant at-risk groups.

Human trafficking primary prevention project in schools through teaching and learning activities

The project will launch a coordinated education programme for preventing human trafficking through a variety of “teaching and learning” activities, meant to reach out relevant education officials, professional school teams (school sociologists, psychologists, pedagogues) teaching personnel, students and parents.

Counter-trafficking capacity-building training programme on human trafficking for lawyers and postgraduate students from the Faculty of Law

The project aims to continue the support of a long-term and sustainable strategy of capacity building of the key players involved in the combat against human trafficking and management of migration.

Preventing human trafficking and irregular migration in Roma communities through vocational trainings and skills development activities

The project is conceived to reduce the risk and potential for irregular migration and increase the economic empowerment and stabilization of vulnerable groups, particularly Roma aged 18-36 in impoverished areas around Skopje and Prilep.

OF MACEDONIA

Fostering the international networking of prosecutorial structures in Albania, Bulgaria, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Republic of Montenegro and Republic of Serbia for enhanced cooperation in the fight against trafficking and smuggling

This project is designed to support the regional coordination and cooperation of the prosecutorial law enforcement authorities of the countries in the Balkan region aiming to increase the effectiveness in prosecution, combating and mitigating irregular migration and human trafficking.

ASSISTED VOLUNTARY RETURNS PROJECTS

Voluntary return of irregular migrants stranded and destitute in the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

The project will establish, in collaboration with the Government of the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, a functional mechanism for the voluntary and orderly return of stranded irregular migrants and rejected asylum seekers from the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia to their countries of origin.

TECHNICAL COOPERATION ON MIGRATION PROJECTS

Capacity-building activities for government authorities responsible for migration management

The present project aims to contribute to the efforts of the Government of the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia in adjusting the Law on Employment of Foreigners in line with EU and international standards related to migration.

HUNGARY

IOM Budapest

Regional Mission for Central
and South-Eastern Europe
Révay u. 12
Budapest
1065
Hungary

Tel.: +36.1.4722500

Fax: +36.1.3740532

email: mrfbudapest@iom.int

Regional Representative: Argentina Szabados

COUNTER-TRAFFICKING

Strengthening Counter-trafficking Efforts in Hungary, IOM comprehensive strategy for 2006-2008

Interventions under the various components of the proposed project should help the government and relevant NGOs in taking a leading role in the fight against THB, and to counteract the new trends and changing patterns of it, including the problem of persons trafficked internally from poorer to more wealthy areas within Hungary. It will focus on building the capacity of the Government of Hungary (at national and local level), NGOs and service providers to fulfil their roles and responsibilities and take ownership of the anti-trafficking agenda in Hungary.

Research on the Trafficking Potential to/from/through Hungary

A research will assess Hungary's potential for trafficking as a possible destination country, transit country or country of origin.

LABOUR MIGRATION

National Information Campaign and Integration of Migrants in the Labour Market

IOM Budapest will promote legal channels for those Hungarians willing to work in other countries of the EU. It will also assist the Hungarian government in facilitating and promoting the integration of migrants legally residing in Hungary into the Hungarian labour market.

Migration Information Centre

Information will be provided to Hungarian citizens as well as migrants residing in Hungary on opportunities for regular migration and integration and on the risks and dangers of irregular migration. Research, awareness-raising activities are foreseen within this project.

TECHNICAL COOPERATION ON MIGRATION

Technical Assistance and Capacity-Building Programme in Migration Management

In order to enhance Hungary's administrative capacity, IOM Budapest will conduct migration related research to follow and monitor migration tendencies and flows to/from Hungary to serve as basis for informed analysis and development of effective migration management policies in the country.

KOSOVO (REPUBLIC OF SERBIA)

IOM Pristina

Ismail Qemajlli Street, No. 18
Arberi II
Pristina 38000

Tel: + 381 38 249 042
+ 381 38 249 060
+ 381 38 249 058
+ 381 38 249 059
+ 381 38 249 149

Fax: + 381 38 249 039

E-mail: iompristina@iom.ipko.org
www.iomkosovo.org

Chief of Mission: Enrico Ponziani

SUB OFFICES

Gjilan/Gnjilane

Tel & Fax: + 381 280 30 113
E-mail: iomgjilane@iom.ipko.org

Mitrovica

Tel: + 381 28 39 490 Fax: + 381 28 39 494
E-mail: iomprizren@iom.ipko.org

Peja/Pec

Tel: + 381 39 34 380 Fax: +381 39 34 066
E-mail: HSOPeja@iom.ipko.org

Prizren

Tel: + 381 29 41 413
E-mail: HSOPrizren@iom.ipko.org

IOM Zvečan/Zveçan

Kralja Milutina 56/3
Tel: +381 28 665 022 Fax +381 28 665 021

IOM Gračanica/Gračanica

Tel: +381 63 86 99 246

IOM Štrpce/Shterpcë

Tel: +381 63 8 810 350

COUNTER-TRAFFICKING

Anti-Trafficking Partnership in Kosovo (ATPIK)

The proposed project would focus on building the capacity of local governmental structures and NGOs, conducting awareness raising campaigns, and providing assistance to local victims of trafficking, as well as creating Anti-Trafficking Regional Teams to decentralize Counter-trafficking efforts.

ASSISTED VOLUNTARY RETURNS

Return of IDPs to the Villages of Sigë/Siga, Brestovik, and Ljevosa/Ljevoša, in the Pejë/Peç Municipality, Kosovo

Reception Activities for Returnees and Skills Transfer for Local Authorities

This project aims to expand local reception capacity and provide returnees with transportation assistance to final destinations within Kosovo and temporary accommodation, in special cases

Kosovo Source Information (KOSIP) Project

This project will provide unbiased, objective and reliable field-based information directly to relevant professional end-users engaged in migration management

MIGRATION HEALTH

Joint Tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS Prevention through School Health Education (SHE)

Swedish Medical Teams

IOM and the Swedish Migration Board are in the process of determining priorities for the next year in the area of migration health in Kosovo Province

TECHNICAL COOPERATION ON MIGRATION

Fostering Sustainable Reintegration in Kosovo by Enhancing Administrative and Municipal Capacities

This project includes measures to augment municipal administrations' service provision capacity for managing return migration.

Reintegration Assistance for Separated Kosovo Protection Corps Members

THE REPUBLIC OF MONTENEGRO

IOM Podgorica

Cetinjski put bb.-Promonte building
2nd floor, apt 45
81000 Podgorica

Tel: +381 81/234-332

Fax: +381 81/234-334

E-mail: iommontenegro@cg.yu

COUNTER-TRAFFICKING

Combating trafficking in Montenegro

IOM will continue meeting the immediate prevention, protection and assistance needs of national victims of trafficking by supporting the establishment of a specialized facility for reintegration programmes, capacity building of government authorities and NGOs to fight trafficking and an awareness-raising information campaign.

HUMANITARIAN/ POST-CONFLICT

Assistance Programme for the Displaced Persons in Montenegro through the provision of durable solutions. IOM will support the provision of housing assistance schemes in targeted municipalities and support return through referral systems to existing cross border return.

MIGRATION HEALTH

Counter trafficking training for mental health workers in Montenegro

IOM will propose counter-trafficking training for mental health practitioners in order to enable them to provide appropriate psychological and human rights-based counseling to the growing number of female victims of trafficking, including minors.

MIGRATION INFORMATION

Migrant Service Centre in Podgorica

In order to address the information gap on the pitfalls of irregular migration, IOM will reach out to potential migrants to Western Europe. Information on the realities and consequences of irregular migration will be combined with clear and accurate information on existing legal channels and opportunities for living and working abroad.

POLAND

IOM Warsaw
ul. Mariensztat 8
00-302 Warszawa

Tel: +48 22 5389103
Fax: +48 22 5389140
E-mail: iomwarsaw@iom.int
www.iom.pl

Head of Office: Anna Rostocka

COUNTER-TRAFFICKING

Information media campaign to raise awareness on the situation of trafficked women

Training for judges and social workers on the assistance to victims of trafficking

Research on trafficking in children and trafficking for labour exploitation

INTEGRATION

Integration of migrants with tolerated stay (subsidiary form of protection)

This group represents mostly migrants from Chechnya seeking protection from the conflict in Poland (in fact, Poland has become the major recipient of Chechens in Europe). They lack financial resources, but also information on their situation and rights in Poland, and face difficulties in integrating into the Polish labour market. IOM Warsaw in cooperation with the Government of Poland and local authorities will seek to develop a mechanism to contribute to the facilitation of their integration in Poland

MIGRATION HEALTH

Inclusion of a Public Health Module within Border Management Procedures

This initiative has been consulted with and strongly supported by the Polish government. According to present practices, health assessments of irregular migrants in the border area are performed by border guards, who are not specially or specifically trained for this sensitive and hazardous task.

ROMANIA

IOM Bucharest

B-dul Dacia 89
Sector 1
Bucharest
Romania

Tel: +(40)21/230.47.02

+(40)21/231.31.79

+(40)21/210 30 50

+(40)21/212 02 65

Fax: +(40)21/230.3614

E-mail: iombucarest@iom.int

Chief of Mission: Christina Gheorghe

ASSISTED VOLUNTARY RETURN

Enhanced Migrant Counseling

The aim of this project is to attract a stronger participation from NGOs in the implementation of the migrant counseling component.

AVR Best Practices Training

With this project IOM aims to continue training and information exchanges for field practitioners by including modules on migrants' rights, selected migration law, AVR best practices, cultural diversity and gender issues and data collection.

COUNTER-TRAFFICKING

Counter-trafficking initiatives in Romania IOM will continue to provide **direct assistance to victims, conduct prevention and awareness raising activities, and extend technical cooperation support** to its partners in Romania. The focus of IOM includes: the completion and implementation of the national victim referral system, revisions in the counter-trafficking legislation, implementation of legislation, continued training for counter-trafficking practitioners, inter-agency cooperation and networking and linkages between trafficking, labour migration and irregular migration.

MIGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT

Migration and Development Conference

**Migration and Development in Romania
– pilot project in selected communities**

**Interdisciplinary Migration Studies for
graduate and post-graduate education
– Migration Summer School**

MIGRATION HEALTH

**Migration health component of “Counter-
trafficking initiatives in Romania”**

**Migration health component of “Migrant
advisory services”**

LABOUR MIGRATION

Migrant Advisory Services

**Remittance Management: Transfer and
Investment**

Consular Reform support

TECHNICAL COOPERATION ON MIGRATION

**Migration Basics – English for Migration
Officials**

Border Management Training

Legal aspects of migration

**Migration Barometer in Romania
(bi-annual report)**

THE REPUBLIC OF SERBIA

IOM Belgrade

Drziceva 11, 11 000 Belgrade
P.O. Box 27, 11060 Belgrade

Tel: + 381 11 38 21 703

Fax: +381 11 412 739

Email: iombeograd@iom.int

Chief of Mission: Gregoire Goodstein

COUNTER-TRAFFICKING

Design and incorporate modules on human trafficking into secondary school curricula

IOM will work closely with the Serbian Education Ministry while raising awareness on the risks and realities of the phenomenon amongst teachers, parents and peers.

Community mobilization against trafficking

This project initiates an innovative community-driven counter-trafficking project targeting communities where there are known to be high incidences of trafficking but little to no efforts to address them.

Support to shelters for foreign and nationals victims of trafficking in the Republic of Serbia

Social and economic empowerment of victims of trafficking

The aim is the successful social and economic reintegration of former trafficked victims into mainstream society.

LABOUR MIGRATION

Pilot study on migration and remittances

IOM will conduct a pilot study to assess and analyze the key factors for remittance levels, channels and patterns of use, as well as their impact on poverty situation and local development.

HUMANITARIAN/ POST-CONFLICT

Provision of suitable housing and sustainable income to vulnerable displaced populations in Serbia

In partnership with the Serbian Commissariat for Refugees, civil society and other stakeholders, IOM will support sustainable livelihood schemes through housing construction, purchase of rural estates and facilitated access to income-generation opportunities.

Promotion of social inclusion and integration of the Roma population

Activities in this field will build upon the results and partnerships fostered through IOM's Humanitarian and Social Programmes (HSP) and assisted return programmes, focusing on targeted support to socially vulnerable individuals of Roma ethnicity – returnees, displaced and residents, within the broader community setting.

MIGRATION HEALTH

Cultural integration and psychosocial community-based activities

Establishment of pilot centers in selected communities in the Republic of Serbia.

IOM will propose a follow-up to the current successful psychosocial and trauma response project in order to consolidate the provision of psychosocial and cultural integration support through existing institutions and services in targeted areas, with particular focus on unemployment and integration.

MIGRATION INFORMATION

Migrant Service Centre in Belgrade

In order to address the information gap on the pitfalls of irregular migration, IOM will reach out to potential migrants to Western Europe. Information on the realities and consequences of irregular migration will be combined with clear and accurate information on existing legal channels and opportunities for living and working abroad.

SLOVAKIA

IOM Bratislava
Grosslingova 4
81109 Bratislava
Slovakia

Tel: +355 42 578 36, 37
Fax: +355 42 578 35

Head of Office: Zuzana Vatralkova

ASSISTED VOLUNTARY RETURN

Introduction of reintegration measures into the national AVR programme to enhance sustainability of return

COUNTER-TRAFFICKING

Provision of information on trafficking in human beings to the general public and to specially vulnerable groups, such as girls in re-education centres and children's homes, Roma children etc.

Introduction of information on trafficking in human beings in secondary school curriculum

Training of police force, students in police academy and investigators on trafficking

Creation of a referral system of assistance to trafficked persons – a network of specialists providing different types of aid (social, psychological, legal and job counseling) tailored to victims' individual needs

Voluntary Return and Reintegration of Victims of Trafficking in countries of origin (within the scope of the National Action Plan to combat Trafficking of the Government of Slovakia 2006-2007)

Assistance to the Government of Slovakia in the effective implementation of the EC legislation on counter-trafficking

LABOUR MIGRATION

Establishment of a Migration Information Centre – Provision of information to migrants about employment, education, language, culture and legal conditions of stay in Slovakia

Research on the Slovak labour market and possible “brain drain” effects of the EU enlargement

TECHNICAL COOPERATION

Transfer of know-how from other EU Member States to Slovakia on key migration issues

Transfer of know-how from Slovakia to EU candidates/acceding countries on the effective EU-aligned migration management

IOM International Organization for Migration
Mission with Regional Functions for Central and South-Eastern Europe
Révay utca, 12 (1065 Budapest, Hungary)
Tel.: +36 1 472 2500
Fax: + 36 1 374 0532
e-mail: mrbudapest@iom.int
webpage: www.iom.hu