Report of the Expert Meeting on Preventing Facilitation of Irregular Migration

17-18 October 2017
Kiev, Ukraine
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

On 17–18 October, the Expert Meeting on Preventing Facilitation of Irregular Migration took place in Kyiv. The event was co-hosted by Ukraine and Lithuania with the support of the European Commission and the IOM Mission in Ukraine under the framework of the Eastern Partnership Panel on Migration and Asylum (hereinafter – “EaPPMA” or “Panel”).

The issue of preventing the facilitation of irregular migration is of great importance worldwide. According to IOM, in 2016 alone 7,934 migrant deaths were recorded worldwide, more than half of them while being smuggled. These numbers demand an adequate response of all stakeholders: countries of origin, transit and destination, intergovernmental organizations, civil society and the international community as a whole. The recent upsurge of migrants using the “Black Sea route” will require more attention and adequate response of the Eastern Partnership (EaP) states. The Expert Meeting provided a unique occasion for discussions and sharing experiences between representatives from the European Commission, EUROPOL, EUBAM, EU Member States, EaP countries (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine), Serbia, UN agencies and international organizations, (IOM, UNODC, ICMPD), academia and civil society.

The meeting started with welcome statements from Mr. Robert Rybicki and Ms. Silja Kasmann, European Commission Directorate General for Migration and Home Affairs (DG Home), Mr. Maksym Sokoliuk, Head of the State Migration Service of Ukraine, Mr. Algirdas Stoncaitis, Chancellor of the Ministry of the Interior of the Republic of Lithuania, and Ms. Alessia Schiavon, Senior Programme Coordinator at the IOM Mission in Ukraine.

Mr. Robert Rybicki, DG Home, stressed that countering the facilitation of irregular migration is important “for both who are struggling on the frontline of the migration crisis and also for those who are less affected by it as they can see how to prepare for what may come.”

“In the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants adopted in 2016, the United Nations Member States reaffirmed the importance of the existing international instruments on preventing and combatting trafficking in persons and the smuggling of migrants, as well as their obligations under international law to vigorously combat these phenomena,” reminded Ms. Alessia Schiavon, IOM Ukraine.

Over the two-day Panel meeting, participants addressed legal solutions and best practices of preventing and countering facilitation of irregular migration. Importance of interagency, cross-border and international cooperation for effective responses to the phenomenon of migrant smuggling, as well as the humanitarian dimension of preventing the facilitation of irregular migration and respecting human rights of all migrants, were in the focus of the discussions.

On the second day, the participants took part in the interactive session “Interagency and Cross-Border Cooperation for the Analysis and Investigation of Facilitated Irregular Migration: Strategies and Best Practice”, which was moderated by Mr. Razvan Budeanu, Head of Field Operation of EUBAM, and Mr. Ben Nicholls, Seconded National Expert of EUROPOL. The participants worked on a case study, followed by a productive discussion and exchange of experiences. As highlighted by Mr. Budeanu, the main goal of the session was to harness the experience of the participants and draw from their individual working environments such as border police, migration and asylum, police, justice, diplomatic, or civil society – and to identify potential steps to be taken by each country to enhance their capacity to better combat the facilitation of irregular migration. As a result of the interactive session, participants identified a range of recommendations for consideration by their governments and suggested several best practices to enhance information exchange, risk analysis and investigation of migrant smuggling cases.

At the end of the meeting, participants were invited to watch the movie, “Becky’s Journey” directed by Dr. Sine Plambech from the Danish Institute for International Studies. The movie demonstrated the
complexity of the migrant smuggling phenomenon and interrelation of this dangerous transnational crime with human trafficking, sexual exploitation, and human rights violations.

The next Panel meeting will be devoted to the economic integration of migrants, co-organized by Poland and Georgia on 14-15 December in Warsaw.
Welcome and opening

Mr. Robert Rybicki, DG Migration and Home Affairs (DG HOME) of the European Commission, welcomed the meeting participants and thanked the hosting states – Ukraine and Lithuania – for the invitation, for having made the event possible and for their contribution to the preparation of the materials. Mr. Rybicki noted that four EaPPMA meeting a year concentrate on different topics that are interesting and relevant for both EaP countries and EU member states. He briefly outlined the scope and the agenda of the current meeting devoted to preventing the facilitation of irregular migration. He stressed that countering the facilitation of irregular migration is important for both who are struggling on the frontline of the migration crisis and also for those who are less affected by it as they can see how to prepare for what may come. Mr. Rybicki wished the participants excellent productive two days of the meeting.

Mr. Maksym Sokoliuk, Chairman of the State Migration Service of Ukraine, welcomed the meeting participants on behalf of hosting state. He underlined that even though the State Migration Service of Ukraine was established only in 2011 it facilitated the adoption of such conceptual documents as Migration Policy Strategy until 2025. Mr. Sokoliuk stressed that migration relates to different domestic processes and therefore the analysis of migration issues could facilitate resolution of various state challenges. He stated that the EaPPMA meetings provide for an opportunity to identify the pathways to procedural and legislative developments and expressed hope that the cooperation within the framework of EaPPMA will continue in the future.

Mr. Algirdas Stoncaitis, Chancellor of the Ministry of the Interior of the Republic of Lithuania, stressed that the irregular migration is a global issue, which affects all processes and development of concrete states. He underlined the importance of using a systematic approach to solve legal issues related to irregular migration. Mr. Stoncaitis urged participants to take advantage of the meeting to discuss national legal conditions of the relevant states and to develop joint strategies and tactics for their improvement.

Ms. Alessia Schiavon, IOM Mission in Ukraine, thanked the hosting states – Ukraine and Lithuania – for hosting the meeting. She stressed that the topic of preventing the facilitation of irregular migration is of outmost importance for the EU and its MS as well as for EaP countries, international organizations and civil society engaged in this matter. She reminded that in the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants adopted in 2016, the UN MS reaffirmed the importance of the existing international instruments on preventing and combatting trafficking in persons and the smuggling of migrants, as well as their obligations under international law to vigorously combat these phenomena. Ms. Schiavon stressed that one of the strategic goals of the EaPPMA is to provide the participating states with a platform for exchanging experiences and best practices regarding various aspects of migration as well as for further improving their national policies and legislation. Thus, on behalf of IOM, she encouraged all participating states to use the Panel’s capacities effectively to promote and strengthen the bilateral and multilateral cooperation between the EaP countries, the EU and the EU Member States.

Ms. Laura Scorretti, IOM Mission in Ukraine, presented the discussion paper providing: (i) an overview of the existing international legal and policy framework on preventing facilitation of irregular migration (migrant smuggling); (ii) definition of liability for facilitating irregular migration in the EU MS and EaP countries; and (iii) an overview of cooperation mechanisms at international and national level for effectively preventing facilitation of irregular migration. The paper was prepared based on the answers received from six EU MS and five EaP countries to a questionnaire specifically designed for this purpose. See the presentation “Preventing Facilitation of Irregular Migration Overview of the national experiences of the EU MS and EaP countries”.

www.eapmigrationpanel.org
Session I. Preventing and countering facilitation of irregular migration: from legal solutions to best practices
Moderator: Mr. Robert Rybicki, DG Migration and Home Affairs, European Commission

Ms. Silja Kasmann, DG Migration and Home Affairs, European Commission, presented an overview of the current EU policy framework related to preventing the facilitation of irregular migration. In particular, she highlighted such key policy documents as the EU Agenda on Migration, the EU Agenda on Security, the EU Action Plan Against Migrant Smuggling 2015-2020, the Council Directives No. 2002/90EC and 2002/946/EC (so-called “Facilitators package”). She stressed that a legal revision at this point of time would not bring more added-value than a focus on the improved and full implementation of existing legal framework and the EU Action Plan. In addition, Ms. Kasmann drew the participants’ attention to the perspectives of revision of the Immigration Liaison Officers (ILOs) network regulation 377/2004 and Employers Sanctions Directive.
See the presentation “Addressing irregular migration: the EU policy framework”.

Mr. Andriy Donskov, Foreigners and Stateless Persons Department, Main Department of the State Migration Service of Ukraine In Kharkiv Region, presented recent legislative developments in Ukraine, activities of the State Migration Service of Ukraine on preventing and countering irregular migration and its facilitation, recent programs and operations in this field as well as the main results of such activities in 2016 in Ukraine and in the Kharkiv region particularly. The presentation generated further discussion among participants on the impact of irregular migration on the national security and the need for a balanced policy in this regard.
See the presentation “Cooperation of public agencies on prevention of irregular migration, facilitation: the experience of the State Migration Service of Ukraine”.

Mr. Giedrius Strikulis, State Border Guard Service under the Ministry of Interior, Lithuania, provided participants with information regarding the Lithuanian experience of counter-human smuggling. He mentioned that Lithuania is a transit country and the so-called Baltic Route of irregular migration passes through its territory. The processes of preventing and investigating facilitation of irregular migration are complicated by the fact that only targeted risk-assessed checks can be performed in the Schengen free-movement area. Mr. Strikulis described two-staged investigation process in cases related to facilitation of irregular migration, structure, functions, and tasks of the State Border Guard Service in this regard. He also explained the existing legislative framework with a special focus on the definition of smuggling of migrants, administrative and criminal liability for this type of offence and conditions for waiving sanctions, and presented recent statistics on organized irregular migration in Lithuania.
See the presentation “Counter-human smuggling in Lithuania: Legislation and Practical Implementation”.

Mr. Vladimir Cucic, Commissioner for Refugees and Migration, Serbia, presented to the participants the Serbian experience of managing irregular migrants flows. He started with providing an overview of the past two-year migration crisis in the Republic of Serbia. Serbia is a state of origin for many asylum seekers and 80,000 readmitted persons (as of 2016), but at the same time, it is a state of asylum and transit with the prolonged stay. Longer retention of migrants has put significant pressure on state institutions dealing with migration management both in the organizational and financial sense. However, Serbia has made necessary steps to increase and improve its accommodation capacities and services (thus, there were five asylum centers and 13 reception centers as of October 2017). Mr. Cucic stressed that it is necessary to have a comprehensive, sustainable solution for the migration crisis at the European level, which should include transit countries as well. The international community has to reach a unified position and agree
on a comprehensive solution, which would include the joint measures and activities in order to properly and efficiently way to respond to migration challenges. He also noted that when dealing with migrant smuggling it should be taken into account that capacities of smugglers are being developed all the time. They can change modus operandi very fast and use the hi-tech equipment (e.g. drones) to conceal their criminal activities. This requires fast and adequate response from relevant law-enforcement authorities.

See the presentation “Western Balkans Migration Route Experiences – Obstacles, Challenges, and Solutions”.

**Session II. Stronger cooperation – better results**

Moderator: Ms. Natalia Naumenko, Director of the Department for foreigners and Stateless Persons, State Migration Service of Ukraine

Mr. Mario Carta, Professor of European Union Law, University of Rome Unitelma Sapienza, devoted his presentation to the effectiveness of international cooperation as a tool to fight against smuggling of migrants as a major transnational crime. He provided an analysis of the transnational nature of smuggling of migrants; of the challenges to prosecute migrant smuggling; of the EU legislation and international legal cooperation and assistance in this field as well as of the role of national systems in preventing the facilitation of irregular migration. In addition, he highlighted the recent EU Court of Justice case law in this field as well as the role of international cooperation and extraterritorial jurisdiction in countering smuggling of migrants under the UN Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea, and Air. See the presentation “Cooperation as a tool of preventing irregular migration”.

Mr. Razvan Budeanu, EUBAM, presented the role of EUBAM in cross border cooperation against facilitated irregular migration, providing an overview of EUBAM working groups, their activities and analytical EUBAM projects aimed at assessing current situation in the sphere of migration and border control in Moldova and Ukraine, and facilitating the development of necessary legislative amendments. Mr. Budeanu admitted the change of patterns of migration in the region as the Black Sea route has been recently activated. He also underlined the necessity to harmonize legislation and procedures of two or more states involved in international migration and border management. See the presentation “EUBAM support in preventing irregular migration and trafficking in human beings”.

Mr. Rostislav Gavrilov UNODC Ukraine, in his presentation touched a very topical issue of the interrelation between human trafficking and migrant smuggling. He briefly overviewed main differences and overlaps of trafficking and smuggling, clarified the relevant terms and elements, and analyzed major obstacles in addressing migrant smuggling as well as UNODC’s pillars of work to address the smuggling of migrants’ challenges. He also presented the “SOM Knowledge Management Portal”, an effective source that contains relevant case law, legislation, regional agreements, and bibliography. In addition, Mr. Gavrilov presented some cases that clearly demonstrated an overlap between the understanding of smuggling and trafficking and thus the importance of correctly distinguish between these offences. See the presentation “Interrelations between human trafficking and migrant smuggling. Cases and specifics”.

**Session III. Facilitation of irregular migration: humanitarian dimension**
Moderator: Mr. Maksim Afanasjev, Ministry of the Interior of the Republic of Lithuania Public Security and Migration Policy Department

Ms. Loreta Leimontaite, Migration Department under MOI of the Republic of Lithuania, spoke about preventing irregular migration in the context of regular migration in the Republic of Lithuania. She shared the Lithuanian experience in countering fictitious entrepreneurship as a method of obtaining temporary residence in Lithuania. First signs of active usage of this method occurred in 2008. Facilitators of irregular migration began to register such entrepreneurship with an aim to purchase legal status for migrants in Lithuania and use this state as a transit to other EU MS. She mentioned that amendments providing for stricter requirements for entrepreneurial activities for non-nationals in Lithuania came into force at the end of 2014 and relevant legislative mechanisms are still being developed. See the presentation “Prevention of irregular migration in the context of regular migration”.

Mr. Tuhan Ediev, NGO “The Right to Protection”, drew participants’ attention to the issue of the interrelation between protection of migrants’ rights, which enshrined in international treaties and considerations of national security. He briefly overviewed the current situation in Ukraine regarding the legislative framework and available remedies and procedures for migrants and asylum seekers. He also described migration trends to Ukraine in recent years, including the routes and methods usually utilized. He mentioned some cases from his practice and emphasized the need for harmonization of EaP countries legislation with regards to the legal status of migrants, refugees, asylum seekers and non-nationals.

Ms. Iryna Sushko, NGO “Europe without Borders”, spoke about the role of civil society in preventing the facilitation of irregular migration in Ukraine. She noted that, according to the official statistics, only 1% of Ukrainian labour migrants are employed through official state facilitators (official employment agencies and official employers). Such situation incentives and creates opportunities for smugglers and traffickers. NGOs’ activities in countering facilitation of irregular migration may include participation in developing and monitoring of state policies; developing and implementing raising awareness campaigns; data collection and monitoring; rights protection etc. She also presented five main tools of effective awareness raising campaigns and examples of good practice in this field and listed potential steps that may enhance the role of NGOs in preventing the facilitation of irregular migration. See the presentation “Civil society instruments of preventing the facilitation of irregular migration: the case of Ukraine”.

18 October 2017 – Day 2

Session IV. Interactive session organized by IOM “Interagency and cross-border cooperation for the analysis and investigation of facilitated irregular migration: strategies and best practice”

Moderators: Moderator (s)/Trainer (s): Mr. Razvan Budeanu (EUBAM), Mr. Ben Nicholls (Europol)

Mr. Ben Nicholls, Facilitated Illegal Immigration Team, European Serious Organized Crime Centre, Europol, started the Interactive Session with a presentation devoted to the structure of Europol and its specifics and to the European Migrant Smuggling Centre (EMSC) as a special institution established for
preventing migrant smuggling. He described the structure of European Migrant Smuggling Centre, its statistics, activities and main products, such as investigation initiation documents, operational analysis reports, early warning notifications, cross-match reports, debriefing reports etc. Also, he presented the main issues and challenges in ESMC operation, the mechanism of prioritization elaborated by ESMC, current threats related to facilitation of irregular migration in the region and the use of social media profiling in the work of the Centre.

See the presentation “Europol: the European Migrant Smuggling Centre”

The interactive session “Interagency and cross-border cooperation for the analysis and investigation of facilitated irregular migration: strategies and best practice” organized by IOM was aimed at providing an in-depth consideration of the issues discussed during the plenary part of the meeting. The session was moderated by Mr. Razvan Budeanu, EUBAM and Mr. Ben Nicholls, Europol.

The Interactive Session set the following objectives for participants:

The main goal of the session was to harness the experience of the participants and draw from their individual working environments such as border police, migration and asylum, police, justice, diplomatic, or civil society — and to identify potential steps to be taken by each country to enhance their capacity to better combat facilitation of irregular migration.

Agenda and Methodology of the Interactive session:

The agenda revolved around a practical group work on a case study. The latter was designed to allow participants reasoning on how to manage smuggling cases from the different perspectives of national authorities, NGOs, and international organizations. Participants were required to negotiate, develop and present priority strategies and best practices to enhance the information analysis on irregular migration as well as the investigation of facilitated irregular migration.

Pre-assessment exercise

The interactive session started with a short self-assessment questionnaire aimed at assessing how successful were participants’ organizations, institutions in promoting/regulating/assisting information exchange on irregular migration, regular joint analysis of information about irregular migration, joint investigation of irregular migration cases and how successful were in promoting/regulating/assisting the respect of human rights within the joint analysis and investigation of irregular migration cases. The pre-assessment exercise was aimed at engaging participants at the beginning of the session and establish a baseline for discussion.

Group work

In the following part of the interactive session, the participants were divided into two groups and provided with the text of the case study. One group was invited to develop and enlist good practices to enhance information analysis and investigation of facilitated irregular migration, while another group developed relevant strategies to enhance information analysis and investigation of facilitated irregular migration. After the brainstorming discussion, the groups provided their proposed strategies and practices applicable to the study case in a written form. Each group appointed a speaker who presented the main outcomes of the group discussions as described in the next paragraph.

Recommendations regarding best practices on information analysis and investigation of irregular migration:

1. Strengthening cooperation both on internal (interagency) and external levels (with third states as well as with both regional and global international organizations). Concluding specific agreements, organizing events and opportunities for building international dialogue action of training courses for stuff.
2. Creating the joint investigation team on the risk analysis of transnational organized crime.
3. Adopting Frontex and Europol methodologies and alignment of terminology.
4. Conducting parallel investigations (e.g. financial, cybercrime, counter-terrorism).
5. Regulating and improving data collection.
6. Exchanging knowledge, expertise, and technology in the relevant field.
7. Exchanging relevant data with Europol.
1. Recommendations regarding priority strategies to enhance the information analysis and investigation of irregular migration:

A. To enhance information analysis:
1. Establishing the Coordination Analytical Center on Unregulated Migration; adopting relevant legislation in the field.
2. Enhancing risk-analysis.
3. Elaborating relevant strategies for the state authorities concerned.
4. Elaborating short-, middle and long-term action plans.
5. Training staff, exchanging best practices.
6. Awareness-raising activities.
   1. B. To enhance investigation:
   2.
   1. Revising and adopting specific legislation.
   2. Elaborating of strategies and action plans on:
      □ Creating databases and provision of technical equipment.
      □ Training personnel, organizing training courses, exchanging experience, introducing screening procedures.
      □ Providing a sufficient number of translators.
      □ Concluding specific bilateral and multilateral agreements.
      □ Cooperating with international organizations on collecting and sharing a country of origin information.

Feedback on the interactive session
The interactive session was positively evaluated by the participants. Summary of the evaluation forms indicates that the participants were highly satisfied with the organization, format and moderation, and found the interactive session useful. For example, Mr. Denys Shpak, Head of International Relations Departments, State Migration Service of Ukraine, expressed confidence that the knowledge and skills obtained during the meeting, and especially during the interactive session, will be used by participants in their practical work.

The materials of the interactive session are available [here](#).

At the end of the meeting, participants were invited to watch the movie, “Becky’s Journey” directed by Ms. Sine Plambech from the Danish Institute for International Studies. The movie demonstrated the complexity of the migrant smuggling phenomenon and interrelation of this dangerous transnational crime with human trafficking, sexual exploitation, and human rights violations.

Summary and closure

Ms. Silja Kasmann, European Commission, DG HOME, in her closing speech expressed gratitude to the hosting states for their hospitality as well as IOM for its contribution to organization and coordination of the meeting. She noted the importance of exchange of best practices and mutual understanding between
participants. Ms. Kasmann also informed that the next Panel meeting will be conducted in December 2017 in Warsaw and the topic is “Economic Integration of Migrants”.

Mr. Denys Shpak, Head of International Relations Departments, State Migration Service of Ukraine, expressed gratitude to representatives of Lithuania, European Commission and EaPPMA Support team for assistance in the organization of the event.

Mr. Maxim Afanasjev, Chief Officer, Ministry of the Interior of the Republic of Lithuania, thanked all the colleagues involved in the organization of the Expert Meeting, the participants for their fruitful work and the translators for providing quality service.

Ms. Laura Scorretti, IOM Mission in Ukraine, in her closing remarks emphasized that the two-day event helped participants to explore all perspectives behind the complex crime of migrants smuggling across the borders, to find out the main reasons for irregular migration, and to acknowledge the experience and best practices of different countries. She stressed the importance of interagency cooperation enhance and understanding that counter-smuggling of migrants should include the element of ensuring of human rights of victims of smuggling.

Mr. Robert Rybicki, DG Migration and Home Affairs, European Commission, expressed his gratitude to the host countries and the participants for their active and dynamic work during the Expert meeting. He also mentioned organizational changes in the work of the Panel and announced his hand over of the coordination of EaPPMA’ activities on behalf of the European Commission to his colleague Ms. Silja Kasmann. Finally, he wished a fruitful work at the following events organized within the EaPPMA framework.

All the presentations mentioned in this report, as well as all the materials related to the meeting, can be found on the Panel website. The presentations are accessible to logged-in users only.
A) Pre-assessment exercise

**Question 1:** How successful is your organization/institution in promoting/regulating/assisting the information exchange on irregular migration in the following frameworks:

a) inter-agency (domestically) at central level

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |

b) inter-agency (domestically) at regional/local level

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |

c) cross-border (bilateral) at central level

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |

d) cross-border (bilateral) at regional/local level

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |

e) international (multilateral)

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |

**Question 2:** How successful is your organization/institution in promoting/regulating/assisting a regular joint analysis of information about irregular migration in the following frameworks:

a) inter-agency (domestically) at central level

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |

b) inter-agency (domestically) at regional/local level

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
c) cross-border (bilateral) at central level

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d) cross-border (bilateral) at regional/local level

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e) international (multilateral)

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**Question 3:** How successful is your organization/institution in promoting/regulating/assisting the joint investigation of irregular migration cases in the following frameworks:

- a) inter-agency (domestically) at the central level

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- b) inter-agency (domestically) at regional/local level

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- c) cross-border (bilateral) at central level

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- d) cross-border (bilateral) at regional/local level

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- e) international (multilateral)

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Question 4: How successful is your organization/institution in promoting/regulating/assisting the respect of human rights within the joint analysis and investigations on irregular migration?

a) Joint analysis

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b) Joint investigations

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c)  

B) Case Study

Country X has a developing economy according to the International Monetary Fund’s World Economic Outlook Report of April 2015. The country has experienced periods of war and civil unrest in the past 30 years, has the multi-ethnic population and a frozen conflict on its territory, and its state border is not fully demarcated with one of its neighbours. The country has deepened its social, economic and political links with the EU through an Association Agreement and other partnerships, and is developing democratically on the path of a recognized EU membership perspective. Also, some progress is made in the visa liberalization process with the EU, along with an improvement of the migration and border management systems. The country is aware of the necessity of adopting an Integrated Border Management policy and there is increasing awareness among the senior management of its law enforcement agencies on the need to develop better mechanisms of inter-agency, cross-border and international (multilateral) cooperation.

Historically the country has been an origin and transit country of irregular migration, but there are indicators of developing into a country of destination for migrants of ethnical groups which have already strengthened their base in some regions with a growing economy and significant trade opportunities, thus facilitating the settlement of newcomers in the respective communities.

High passenger and cargo flows pass across some of the borders of the country X within the regional movement of goods and local trade, while the proximity of wider transport corridors facilitated by developing sea and river ports exposes the same borders to a permanent risk of illegal border crossing and transfer of goods. The nationals of the country X enjoy bilateral visa-free regime with some of its neighbors, thus the schemes of irregular migration of the citizens of the country X to the Western European countries rarely involve the illegal crossing of the border to its neighboring countries. On the other hand, the country has seen an increase of irregular migrants from third countries arriving with fraud documents overland and by air, or by abusing the legal travel channels in the past years.

The migration crisis in Europe and the political and conflict developments in migration origin countries maintain the risk of a sudden increase of irregular migration arriving in the country X. There is a fear of new irregular migration routes and channels being activated to facilitate the transportation of migrants oversea to its ports or to the relatively long and less populated coast. In past months several large groups of irregular migrants from third countries were caught on entry by the border authorities of a neighbor country after transiting undetected the territory of the country X with assistance from unknown facilitators of mixed nationalities. In a recent and unprecedented case, one vessel carrying migrants was rescued from the stormed sea in the territorial waters of the country X.
Questions (A)

**Priority strategies to enhance the information analysis on irregular migration**

What legal frameworks would be recommended to country X to enhance the information analysis on irregular migration?

What policy, programs and action plans would be recommended to country X to enhance the information analysis on irregular migration?

**Best practices on information analysis on irregular migration**

What specific arrangements would be recommended to country X to enhance the information analysis on irregular migration?

What specific structures (institutional mechanism) would be recommended to country X to enhance the information analysis on irregular migration?

What methodologies would be recommended to country X to enhance the information analysis on irregular migration?

Questions (B)

**Priority strategies to enhance the investigation of facilitated irregular migration**

What legal frameworks would be recommended to country X to enhance the investigation of facilitated irregular migration?

What policy, programs and action plans would be recommended to country X to enhance the investigation of facilitated irregular migration?

**Best practices on investigation of facilitated irregular migration**

What specific arrangements would be recommended to country X to enhance the investigation of facilitated irregular migration?

What specific structures would be recommended to country X to enhance the investigation of facilitated irregular migration?

What methodologies would be recommended to country X to enhance the investigation of facilitated irregular migration?

C) **Group session form (outcomes to be developed by the groups)**

- Recommended strategies to enhance the information analysis and investigation of irregular migration
- Recommended best practices on information analysis and investigation of irregular migration
D) Best practices to enhance information analysis and investigation

- New possibilities
- Legal shared experience
- Historical situation

UNICAP
- Diplomatic - neighborhood cooperation
- Inter-agency cooperation
- Common database
- Compatibility
- Internal structures
- Draft agreement
- Avoid circular reporting
- New sources
- Break silo working
- Policing
- Training joint procedures
- Crime up-stream programmes
- Use other people's expertise

- SCCTA - common language
- EPAP - aligning priorities
- ENSA - skills
doc. and technical equipment
- Training/exchange
- Informed network
- WhatsApp group?

- Impact assessment
- Secure legal framework

- EURED JFT - legal cooperation
- JFTs
- Evidence vs. intelligence

Feedback
Best practices to enhance info analysis & investigation

1) Cooperation
   a) internal & inter-agency
   b) external (w/ int. orgs) trainings, agreements
2) Creation of joint investigation teams
   on the risk analysis of trans org crime
3) Adoption of Europol & Europol methodologies & alignment of terminology
4) Parallel investigations (financial, cybercrime, counter-terrorism)
5) Regulating & improvement of data collection
6) Skills, expertise, technology sharing
7) Feedback upon request
D) Strategies to enhance information analysis and investigation

A) To improve the quality of information analysis and investigation:

1. Establish an observation level
   - Scientific research
2. Adaptation of an existing analytical tool
   - Adaptation of the existing analytical tool to the specific conditions
3. Cost-benefit analysis
4. Strategy development for a period of 1 year
5. Staff training
6. Information dissemination among the population

В) Reference and adaptation of existing analytical tools

1. Review of the adaptation
   - Adaptation of the existing analytical tool
2. Development of new databases
   - Development of new databases and technical support
3. Exchange of information, technical assistance
4. Translation
5. Cooperation with other countries
   - Cooperation with international organizations
   - Information dissemination