

Reinforcing the Capacities of the Government of Georgia in Border and Migration Management

The project – Reinforcing the Capacities of the Government of Georgia in Border and Migration Management (More-for-More) – is funded under the Eastern Partnership Integration and Cooperation Programme 2012 and is implemented by the International Organization for Migration (IOM), Mission to Georgia. The project started on 15 December 2013 and will continue until June 2017. During this project IOM will implement a complex and integrated set of tailored capacity building activities for the Georgian authorities in enhancing border and migration management policies and institutional approaches in line with EU standards.

The overall objective of this project is to enhance the capacities of Georgian authorities in the area of integrated border management and migration in line with relevant EU-Georgia Agreements and action plans, in particular the Visa Liberalization Action Plan.

The specific objectives of the project are twofold:

1. To strengthen the legal and institutional capacity for integrated border management

This includes improved inter-agency cooperation and upgraded cooperation with civil society, strengthened border check and border surveillance procedures and operation, in particular along Georgia's green and blue borders. The key focus will be placed on the border between Georgia and Turkey, which is regularly targeted by irregular migrants who are seeking transit to destinations further west, including to the EU. Expertise from European Union Member States will be actively applied during all relevant activities.

2. To strengthen the migration governance framework

This includes the capacity to reduce irregular migration, promote the sustainable reintegration of Georgian returnees and fight cross-border crime, organized transnational crime, and trafficking in human beings in line with the orientations of the Visa Liberalization Action Plan. The Georgian authorities have taken considerable steps to strengthen inter-ministerial coordination in migration management, including by allocating increased authorities to the Ministry of Internal Affairs to coordinate policies for the reduction of irregular migration. Significantly revised immigration legislation will be in place when this action will start and Georgian authorities will require guidance, in particular from expertise available in EU Member States, in implementing law provisions in practice.

Project Activity Areas

Thematic block 1: Capacity building in integrated border management, including tailored procurement of specialized equipment

- Provision of technical assistance by EU experts to strengthen the IBM inter-institutional framework
- Support the development of the IBM Strategy 2014-2018 and relevant Action Plan in line with EU standards
- Capacity building for Georgian border officials in utilizing equipment procured under direct EU management
- Procurement for the MIA of single hardware and software products
- Capacity building in the field of inspection of forged documents
- Support the Ministry of Internal Affairs in establishing a comprehensive border-related risk management system
- Support the Border Police in developing policies in the field of Human Resources
- Border crossing satisfaction survey

Thematic block 2: Capacity building in reducing irregular migration and addressing cross-border crime, including trafficking in persons

- Capacity building for the Government of Georgia on developing policies for the combat of irregular migration
- Support MIA and respective law enforcement bodies to address transnational organized crime
- Procure appropriate software packages for cybercrime investigation
- Facilitate bilateral cross-border meetings between Georgia and its neighboring countries
- Support the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in further developing its Consular E-management Information System
- Support to national and local authorities in developing information schemes to prevent irregular migration
- Reduce irregular stay through AVR services for vulnerable migrants from Georgia to their countries of origin
- Support the Academy of the MIA with developing curricular modules on the fight against trafficking in narcotics
- Support the Georgian government with tailored expertise to meet ad-hoc requests

Thematic block 3: Reinforce capacities of the Georgian authorities to prepare strategies and programmes for the sustainable reintegration of Georgian returnees

- Capacity building for government structures and service providers for sustainable reintegration for returned migrants
- Support the operation of the Mobility Centre for the sustainable reintegration of returned migrants
- Provide tailored assistance to readmitted migrants and returnees from vulnerable groups

Thematic block 4: Development of the inter-ministerial migration data management system

- Launch a unified national immigration data system
- Support the development of the Diaspora Global Network portal
- Support National Census
- Develop the Extended Migration Profile