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# NEWSLETTER

INTEGRATED BORDER MANAGEMENT (IBM)

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## **DRAFTING OF A NATIONAL INTEGRATED BORDER MANAGEMENT (IBM) STRATEGY AND UPDATING OF THE NATIONAL ACTION PLAN TO IMPLEMENT TÜRKİYE'S IBM STRATEGY PROJECT (EU4IBMTR)**

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## IBM DEVELOPMENTS IN THE WORLD

### EU EXTERNAL BORDERS IN 2023<sup>1</sup>

➔ In the first five months of the year, the number of irregular border crossings detected at the EU's external borders reached to 102,000, presenting a 12% increase compared to the year before, according to the European Border and Coast Guard Agency (Frontex).

According to the figures, the Central Mediterranean remains the main migratory route to the EU. There were twice as many crossings detected in the first five months of this year, compared to the same time period in 2022, which has been the highest figure recorded since 2017.

- An increase of 12% has been recorded on the entries to the EU through the Central Mediterranean route. It remains the most active route into the EU, with more than 50,300 crossings between January and May.
- During the period from January to May, the Western Balkan route, which is the second most active route with over 30,700 crossings, saw a decline of 25% in comparison to the same period of the previous year
- Arrivals on all the other migratory routes saw declines ranging from 6% on the Western Mediterranean up to 47% on the Western African routes.

### FRONTEx PUBLICATIONS<sup>2</sup>

➔ The Frontex Consultative Forum on Fundamental Rights published its tenth annual report for 2022. The report outlines the main observations and recommendations that the Forum raised throughout the year with Frontex, the European Border and Coast Guard Agency, and its Management Board to strengthen fundamental rights protection in Frontex activities.

[1] <https://frontex.europa.eu/media-centre/news/news-release/half-of-arrivals-to-the-eu-through-the-central-mediterranean-h45xHQ>

[2] <https://frontex.europa.eu/media-centre/news/news-release/frontex-consultative-forum-publishes-tenth-annual-report-OogSMw>

### BORDER MANAGEMENT RELATED EVENTS

- ➔ On 24 May 2023, Frontex hosted the First Annual Reintegration Conference in Prague. The event brought together authorities from the EU and Schengen countries, the European Commission, and international experts on migration. The discussions included potential initiatives within the communities, as well as involvement of private sector, diaspora organizations, associations of returnees, service providers, public services etc. in the reintegration process.
- The Identity Week Europe 2023 was organised in Amsterdam on 13-14 June 2023. The event provided updates regarding the state-of-the-art developments in document security. The main focus of the event was to present the most recent innovations in terms of security and user experiences regarding identity technology. In two days, 200 identity technology industry pioneers presented the most recent technologies.
- The "2023 World Border Security Congress" took place in Skopje, North Macedonia from April 25 to 27, with attendees from 54 countries around the world [1], which served as a global forum for a number of discussions around a whole range of Border Management matters.
- On May 16, The European Union and Montenegro signed an upgraded agreement on operational cooperation in border management with Frontex, with the aim of contributing to addressing irregular migration and further enhancing security at the EU's external borders [2].

[1] <https://www.border-security-report.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/06/BSRMayJun2023.pdf>

[2] [https://neighbourhood-enlargement.ec.europa.eu/news/border-management-eu-signs-status-agreement-montenegro-2023-05-16\\_en](https://neighbourhood-enlargement.ec.europa.eu/news/border-management-eu-signs-status-agreement-montenegro-2023-05-16_en)

## IBM DEVELOPMENTS IN TÜRKİYE

### TRAINING SESSIONS WERE ORGANIZED FOR THE PERSONNEL WORKING IN BORDER PROVINCES

➔ Training sessions were held between April 25-29, 2023 within the scope of the European Union funded "Technical Assistance for Increasing Border Surveillance Capacity at Türkiye's Eastern Borders - Phase I" project carried out by the Border Management, Foreign Relations and Project Department of the Directorate General of Provincial Administration (DGPA). Within the scope of the trainings, the personnel working in the provinces with land borders received training on Türkiye's border-related legislation, integrated border management and migration management topics.

### THE PERSONNEL OF THE MINISTRY OF INTERIOR RECEIVED TRAINING UNDER THE PROJECT FOR "SUPPORTING THE INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY OF THE NATIONAL COORDINATION AND JOINT RISK ANALYSIS CENTRE (NACORAC)"

➔ European Union funded NACORAC Project organized a five-day Basic Risk Analysis Training between June 6 to 10, 2023. 20 personnel from the relevant institutions have attended the training. The training sessions were carried out in partnership with the Border Management, Foreign Relations and Project Department of the DGPA and International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD).

### THE ONGOING WORKS AT THE BORDERS WERE EXAMINED ON-SITE

➔ A delegation from the Border Management, Foreign Relations and Project Department of the DGPA visited the border areas between May 22 and 26, 2023, to examine the physical and technological border security investments in the Eastern provinces. The delegation received information from the authorities about the current status of the relevant investments.

## DEVELOPMENTS IN THE EU4IBMTR PROJECT

### IMPORTANT DEVELOPMENTS IN THE PROJECT:

- Integrated Border Management (IBM) Project Team of ICMPD Türkiye Office, together with a delegation from the Border Management, Foreign Relations and Project Department of the DGPA, paid a courtesy visit to the Ministry of Health, General Directorate for Borders and Coasts Health Services in Istanbul on 22 June 2023 followed by field visits to two border crossing points in Istanbul, namely Galataport and Istanbul Airport.



Photograph: EU4IBMTR Project team's Istanbul field visit.

The purpose of the visits was to exchange ideas on the business processes and procedures as well as technical communication platforms for international coordination and cooperation in the field of border management, in addition to assess the needs of the visited border crossing points.

- A questionnaire was prepared for the development of the Report on Three Alternative Integrated Border Management Models and shared with the border management institutions to ensure a high level of participation from all relevant stakeholders.

## DEVELOPMENTS IN THE EU4IBMTR PROJECT

- On April 11, 2023, a coordination meeting was held with the Border Management, Foreign Relations and Project Department of the DGPA, which is the main beneficiary of the Project. In this context, issues related to the visibility and communication activities of the Project and the activities of the fourth component, "Inter-Institutional and International Cooperation" were evaluated.
- Within the scope of communication activities, updates were exchanged regarding;
  1. Design and development of the IBM project website,
  2. Development stages of the scenario and the creation of the drawings for the animation video in which the project will be visually presented.
- In the last quarter, national and international experts were identified to provide technical support under the fourth component of the Project and a report preparation process has been initiated to present recommendations for the evaluation and development of work processes, regulatory framework, cooperation mechanisms and technical communication platforms for inter-institutional and international coordination and cooperation. In addition, desk researches were initiated by national and international experts to support institutional capacity (infrastructure, equipment, technology and software) in terms of international and inter-institutional cooperation and coordination. In this context, additional preparations have been initiated for the development of a needs analysis report, in which good practices will be taken into account to identify the needs.



### ACTIVITIES PLANNED FOR THE NEXT REPORTING PERIOD:

- The Third Steering Committee Meeting will be held on July 11, 2023, with the participation of all stakeholders of the project to provide information on the state of play, the project outputs and the activities planned for the next six months,
- The Report on Three Alternative IBM Models will be reviewed, taking into account the contributions of the project stakeholders and submitted to the approval of the relevant authorities,
- Consultation meetings with project stakeholders operating in the field of border management will be organized,
- The project website will be launched and the project animation video will be completed,
- The study visits to observe good practices and identify areas that can be benefited, postponed due to the earthquake disaster in our country, will be arranged. Following the completion of the visits, a roundtable meeting will be organised in which the observations will be shared with the relevant parties,
- Consultation meetings with relevant institutions will be organized in order to contribute to the needs analysis reports on inter-institutional and international cooperation to be prepared by national and international experts. The final reports will be presented at a workshop with participation of the representatives of relevant institutions.

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