

Project Fiche No. 12

Migration and socio-economic development in the Western Balkans

1. Basic information

- 1.1 CRIS Number:** 2009/021-373
- 1.2 Title:** Migration and socio-economic development in the Western Balkans
- 1.3 ELARG Statistical code:** 03.24 - Justice, freedom and security
- 1.4 Location:** Western Balkans: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia as well as Kosovo under UNSCR 1244/99.

Implementing arrangements

- 1.5 Contracting Authority (EC):** European Community represented by the Commission of the European Communities on behalf of the Beneficiaries.
- 1.6 Implementing Agency:** Not applicable
- 1.7 Beneficiary:** People who intend to migrate temporarily, for work or studies, from/to the Western Balkans, to/from an EU Member State as well as local authorities in the Western Balkans.

Financing

- 1.8 Overall cost (VAT excluded)¹:** EUR 2 222 222
- 1.9 EC contribution:** EUR 2 000 000
- 1.10 Final date for contracting:** 30 November 2010
- 1.11 Final date for execution of contracts:** 30 November 2012
- 1.12 Final date for disbursements:** 30 November 2013

¹ The total cost of the project should be net of VAT and/or other taxes. Should this not be the case, the amount of VAT and the reasons why it should be considered eligible should be clearly indicated

2. Overall Objective and Project Purpose

2.1 Overall Objective

Increase the benefits of temporary labour migration on the socio-economic development of the Western Balkans.

2.2 Project purposes

- Inform skilled potential labour migrants from the Western Balkans about entering legally the EU labour market and prepare them to use their competences and skills more efficiently;
- Encourage the return of skilled migrants to their countries of origin while facilitating their sustainable social and professional reintegration² and promoting the dissemination of new acquired skills.

2.3 Link with AP / NPAA / EP / SAA

Albania

The Albanian Government has placed EU integration high on its agenda and set a list of priorities in the area of migration reflected in the Action Plan for the Implementation of Association and Stabilisation Agreement. These priorities stress the need to improve administrative and financial capacities for the implementation of legislation on asylum and migration, and in particular for the implementation of national strategies and corresponding action plans. In May 2008, the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs (MLSA) established a Coordination and Monitoring Plan for implementation of the National Strategy on Migration, including the associated Action Plan. Preparations for implementation of the migration strategy are proceeding, albeit slowly. The 2008 European Partnership with Albania recommends as a short term priority the implementation of the European Community/Albania readmission agreement and the negotiation of readmission agreements with the countries of origin of transiting migrants. Overall, the labour market performance is slightly improving, but rigidities remain relatively high. In the field of social policies, preparations for amendment of the labour law are underway. Incentive structures and flexibility in the labour market still need to be improved.

Bosnia and Herzegovina

The National Migration Strategy and related Action Plans for 2008-2011 have been adopted. In 2007 the staffing levels of the Migration Sector at the Ministry of Security has increased, but further efforts in this regard are needed. The 2008 European Partnership with Bosnia and Herzegovina recommends as a short term priority the implementation of the European Community/Bosnia and Herzegovina readmission agreement and the negotiation of readmission agreements with the countries of origin of transiting migrants. Active labour market programmes are being implemented, some of which focus on training and improving the skills of job-seekers. However, only limited progress has been made in removing structural rigidities and building up the productive capacity. Skills mismatch hampers the proper functioning of the labour market.

² In the context of this project, "reintegration" targets migrants who have returned to their origin countries following illegal stay in the EU or after the end of their legal stay in the EU, and not specifically refugees who fled the country following the conflict. In Bosnia and Herzegovina and Kosovo 'reintegration' is used to refer to reintegration of persons who fled the country after the conflict, and there are specific programmes in place for this (ie Bosnia and Herzegovina mainly focussing on housing).

The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

The latest Accession Partnership with the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia recommends as a short term priority to implement the European Community and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia readmission agreement and negotiate readmission agreements with the countries of origin of transiting migrants. As the number of returned people rose compared with the previous year (2007), efforts should be put into integration of readmitted persons. Secondary legislation on migration policy and an integration policy plan are still lacking. Nonetheless, the Government has endorsed a resolution on Migration Policy 2009-2014 that elaborates its position on issues related to migration and its management, for the period 2009-2014. A readmission agreement was signed with Bosnia and Herzegovina, bringing the number of readmission agreements with non-EU Member States to five.

*Kosovo*³

The European Partnership 2008 with Serbia including Kosovo recommends as a short term priority the adoption of a law on migration in accordance with European standards as well as the drawing up of a strategy and action plan concerning migration, addressing in particular the readmission and reintegration of persons returned from abroad. Furthermore, the European Partnership suggests the design and implementation of active labour market policies in close cooperation with the local business community with a view to enhancing the matching process in labour markets, and the increase of the share of skilled labour in the overall labour force.

Montenegro

The European Partnership 2008 with Montenegro does not include specifically migration in its priorities, but mentions the following related issues as short-term priorities: the development of institutional capacity in relation to visa policy and the alignment of visa policies with those of the EU; the adoption of the Asylum Law and the construction of the planned reception centres for asylum seekers and refugees. The European Partnership suggests ensuring the right of a real choice between sustainable return and integration and providing conditions for integration for those who choose the latter. Continued efforts to promote adaptability and skills of the labour force are to be sought, with full engagement of employers and trade unions in that process.

Serbia

The European Partnership 2008 with Serbia recommends the provision of sustainable solutions for the integration of readmitted persons as a medium-term priority. In January 2008, the readmission Agreement between Serbia and the EU entered into force. In November 2007, Serbia established a Council for returnee reintegration and an inter-agency working group in charge of formulating a strategy and action plan in the area. Moreover, the Ministry for Human and Minority Rights published handbooks for returnees⁴. The national strategy on returnees and re-integration has been adopted in February 2009, and while Serbia's current capacities for reintegrating returnees are poor, the development of an effective mechanism for implementation of return and reintegration policy is a priority for 2009.

³ under UNSCR 1244/99

⁴ They are: "The information handbook for returnees", disseminated by the Readmission Office at Nikola Tesla Airport; and "The handbook on procedures for reintegration process of readmitted persons", produced for civil servants.

2.4 Link with MIPD

The EU approach on global migration put emphasis on labour migration and socio-economic development as accompanying measures to better manage economic migration, thus contributing to the growth in the Western Balkans, promoting legal migration and curbing illegal migration, as set in the IPA Multi-beneficiary Multi-annual Indicative Planning Document (MIPD) 2009-2011⁵ (Integrated Border Management, Visa and Migration, Section 2.3.3.8). The programme also touches upon Section 2.3.2.1 of the MIPD (Competitiveness of the economies), in particular Human Capital Development: A major human capital reform is needed to address urgently the increasing gap between existing skills and skills required by the market. This includes also addressing means to increase labour market flexibility and to promote entrepreneurial thinking at all levels of the education system.

2.5 Link with National Development Plan

Migration Policies in place:

Albania

The National Strategy on Migration and the corresponding National Action Plan on Migration was developed in 2004-2005 with assistance from the European Commission and the International Organisation for Migration (IOM). The strategy provides Albania with a more comprehensive policy on migration, from one that has mainly reacted to combat irregular flows to a more holistic policy based on the management of migration. The Action Plan represents one of the very first attempts to concretise the idea of linking the management of migration and the development of the country of origin in line with the orientations of the common immigration policy of the EU. The emphasis is put on the management of emigration flows as an immediate priority, rather than on the development of a policy for immigration. One of the main pillars of the National Strategy supports gainful return of human and financial capital.

Bosnia and Herzegovina

The new law on movements and stays of aliens has been adopted, and it entered into force on 14 May 2008. In addition, the Council of Ministers adopted the State level strategy on asylum and migration together with the related Action Plan 2008-2011. There is no diaspora policy or related legislation in Bosnia and Herzegovina. There is, however, a Sector for diaspora within the Ministry of Human Rights and Refugees acting as a resource point for Bosnia and Herzegovina citizens living abroad, providing up-to-date information on citizenship laws, investment opportunities and developments within the country. Initial discussions have begun on developing a unifying strategy to ensure that the activities outputs are maximized. The sector cooperates with the Foreign Investment Promotion Agency of Bosnia and Herzegovina (FIPA) to promote investment opportunities.

The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

In its alignment process to the *acquis*, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia is committed to applying a comprehensive, systematic and effective migration policy and take proper actions in implementing the relevant legislation. The Government has put efforts on defining and implementing consistent policies and programmes in the areas of rights and duties of foreign citizens residing in the country.

⁵ C(2009)5418

The Government has formally adopted the Law on Foreigners in February 2006. With this act the country aligned its migration legislation with the *acquis*. The new law regulates and develops the EU minimum standards on: entry and admission; stay and residence; expulsion and voluntary return; irregular migration; trafficking in human beings and migration statistics and data protection.

With regard to return policies, the Center for Research and Policy Making's research claims that the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia has no policy to attract migrants back home nor does it offer any type of return assistance. Moreover, the study points out certain obstacles for potential returnees, namely the payment of customs fees for all belongings returning migrants might bring home. The IOM office in Skopje is carrying out return related projects. The activities under these projects range from travel assistance to migrants wishing to return to reintegration assistance upon return.

Kosovo

The issue within migration management drawing the most consistent attention in Kosovo is the return process. Kosovo is in the process of signing Readmission Agreements with EU Countries. Support to the economic inclusion of returnees coming back to Kosovo is of great importance for their successful and sustainable reintegration. The UN Security Council Resolution 1244/99 has identified the safe and unimpeded return of all refugees and displaced persons to their homes in Kosovo as one of the main UNMIK's responsibilities. The framework for addressing other issues in the field of migration management, such as asylum, is still being developed. The UN Regulation No. 2005/16 on the movement of foreigners into and out of Kosovo sets the legal framework for immigration, i.e. defines categories of persons who may enter and stay in Kosovo, as well as required documents for entry. The following draft laws are under preparation: Border Law, Law on Foreigners and Asylum Law.

The EU is a major source of investment in Kosovo as well as the main international actor after the restructuring of UNMIK. Kosovo is part of the region with a clear EU perspective. Therefore, the European Commission has developed the Stabilisation and Association Tracking Mechanism (STM) for Kosovo. The main objective behind the STM is to provide Kosovo's authorities with EU expertise by serving as a forum at which political and technical discussions take place between Kosovo and the European Commission.

Montenegro

The status of foreigners, including rights and obligations, is regulated by the new Law on Foreigners. Montenegro has also adopted the Strategy for Integrated Migration Management for the period 2008-2013, in compliance with EU standards. The strategy aims at setting legal, regulatory and institutional frames for the control of migration flows, and setting up a sustainable structure for migration management in the country. The government has also adopted a National Sustainable Development Strategy, a Development and Poverty Reduction Strategy, and a National Strategy for Solving the Issues of Internally Displaced Persons and Refugees.

Serbia

Although the government has made substantial progress in defining and drafting strategies and action plans in migration related areas, a streamlining process in migration policy and practice/management needs to be further developed. The following sectoral policies and strategies are worth mentioning:

- National Strategy for the Reintegration of Returnees from Readmission, 2009;
- National Sustainable Development Strategy, 2008;
- National Strategy for Solving the Issues of Internally Displaced Persons and Refugees, 2002;

- Draft Strategy on Sustainable Return and Stay of IDPs from Kosovo and Metohija;
- Draft law on the Diaspora;
- Serbian Poverty Reduction Strategy 2003;
- National Strategy for Employment 2005-2010 and the Serbian Employment Plan 2006-2008;
- A draft Law on record-keeping in the field of labour has been under preparation and will, once adopted, provide for the proper registration of Serbian citizens hired abroad;
- Integrated Border Management Strategy 2006;
- National Strategy against Trafficking in Persons 2006;
- Draft National Action Plan against Trafficking in Persons (2009-2011);
- Draft National Strategy for the Fight against Illegal Migration (2009-2014);
- Draft Strategy on the Improvement of the Position of the Roma;
- Regarding improvement of visa policy/free movement facilitation, important bills were adopted – Law on the Protection of state borders (2008) and Law on Foreigners (2008).

3. Description of project

3.1 Background and justification

In December 2005, the European Council adopted the Global Approach to Migration⁶. It initially focused on Africa and the Mediterranean region. In its Conclusions of December 2006, the European Council called on the European Commission "to make proposals on enhanced dialogue and concrete measures" with regard to applying the Global Approach to the eastern and South-Eastern regions neighbouring the European Union. Through its Communication of 16 May 2007⁷, the European Commission put forward a series of recommendations aiming at achieving better governance of migration flows in the eastern and south-eastern regions. Acknowledging the need for intensified and more coordinated cooperation with these regions, the European Council invited the European Commission to consider these recommendations as priority measures. In addition, the Presidency Conclusions of 21/22 June 2007 called on the Member States and the European Commission to ensure that adequate human and financial resources were allocated in order to enable the timely implementation of the migration policy in the region.

In 2007 the European Commission launched a project entitled "Joint Migration and Development Initiative" covering 16 countries in Latin America, the Caribbean, North and Sub-Saharan Africa, Eastern Europe and Asia. In July 2008, the EU Member States, officially consulted about this project, have underlined the importance of extending this approach to the Western Balkans region.

A major change is ongoing in the external dimension of the European migration policy, namely the shift from a security-centred approach, to a more transparent and balanced approach encompassing all aspects relevant to migration. The Global Approach on migration put emphasis on the importance of improving the accompanying measures to manage migratory flows from/to South-Eastern regions neighbouring the European Union, making migration and mobility positive forces for development and giving greater consideration to labour migration aspects in policies and strategies to better manage economic migration, thus contributing to the growth in the Beneficiaries, promoting legal migration and curbing illegal migration.

⁶ Strengthening the global approach to migration: increasing coordination, coherence and synergies, COM(2008)611 Final, 8.10.08.

⁷ COM(2007)247 Final, 16.05.07

Although migration can have positive effects on the socio-economic development, this is very much hampered by the fact that potential migrants from the Western Balkans find it difficult to identify job opportunities abroad matching their professional skills and educational qualifications. This may lead them to eventually accept low income job offers, which is translated in less important revenue flows being sent to their home countries and in losing skills (which is detrimental also for their country of origin once they return). Furthermore, monetary flows generated by remittances sent by the migrants to their home countries have only up to a limited extent been effectively used to fuel investments and income and labour-generating initiatives.

In this context, the project "Migration and socio-economic development in the Western Balkans" aims at fostering the positive impact of labour migration on the socio-economic development of the Beneficiaries, in particular facilitating temporary labour migration from the Beneficiaries to EU Member States to acquire new professional skills; encouraging the return of skilled migrants to their origin countries; fostering the transfer of new skills acquired; and facilitating their social and professional reintegration. Reintegration is crucial to avoid possible 'secondary' irregular migration and to reduce the risk of returnees entering criminal networks. The project will also contribute to develop measures to prevent the so called 'brain drain' phenomenon and develop favourable socio-economic conditions which would allow skilled and qualified labour forces, especially young people, to develop their professional careers in their home countries.

3.2 Assessment of project impact, catalytic effect, sustainability and cross border impact

Catalytic effect: The project will promote a more effective management of labour migration flows from/to the Western Balkans, contribute to the socio-economic development of the Western Balkans, foster the dissemination of new professional skills acquired by migrants, thus contributing to legal migration and curbing illegal migration.

Regional approach: While the security and legal issues were the main first areas for cooperation in the target Beneficiaries, the migration and socio-economic development dimension too has started to emerge. The project has a clear added value in developing a systematic and integrated approach in the areas of labour migration, voluntary return and reintegration of migrants. Labour migration is a cornerstone of any migration policy and that it is therefore necessary to address it at European level from one side, and at regional level from the other side, in the context of the progressive development of a coherent global migration strategy.

In addition, one of the reasons for having a multi-beneficiary programme approach resides with a greater visibility for the support provided by the European Community's external policy to labour migration issue and to facilitate the creation of synergies between the European Commission and EU Member States approached in this field. Incidentally, the participation of the 'new' EU Member States to the project implementation could bring added value in terms of similar challenges and experience that the labour migrants of these countries might have encountered.

Sustainability: The potential sustainability of the project will vary in the area, depending upon the political support and the socio-economic development in the Western Balkans.

Impact assessment: The programme will be regularly monitored and the performance evaluated in order to allow relevant readjustments. Action plans should be developed to assess progress. Several methods will be used to conduct performance monitoring, in particular regular implementation reviews on specific objectives and related activities and results. External monitoring will be conducted by the European Commission Results Oriented Monitoring. Appropriate planning and regular monitoring throughout implementation in the form of regular briefing sessions and reports will take place. Evaluation during implementation and/or at the end of the project, as well as an audit of the project, may also take place.

3.3 Results and measurable indicators

Results and measurable indicators in relation with activity 1

1. Cooperation initiatives and networks between partners of the Western Balkans and the EU Member States are built; Reliable data on labour migration are available; Information about legal channels for migration is disseminated among potential migrants; Information mechanisms about labour demand and job offers are developed; legal economic migration is promoted.

Measurable indicators:

- Number of cooperation initiatives developed (i.e. between relevant state agencies);
- Quality and effectiveness of pre-departure trainings;
- Quality and extent of temporary migration movements;
- Information mechanisms in place;
- Quality of the information disseminated;
- Number of persons benefiting from this information;
- Quality of statistics on labour migration.

Results and measurable indicators in relation with activity 2

2. Measures in place to facilitate the return of temporary workers and to reintegrate them into their home society; successful reintegration of returnees.

Measurable indicators:

- Number of skilled migrants back to their origin countries in the region;
- Number of returnees benefiting from reintegration programmes;
- Number of returned skilled labour forces finding a job up to their skills.

3.4 Activities

Activity 1 Promote and support cooperation initiatives between the relevant actors (public employment services, special state agencies, local authorities, consulates, representation offices, etc) in EU Member States and in the Western Balkans to facilitate the entry of potential migrants to the labour markets in the EU and the Western Balkans.

- 1.1 Strengthen cross border inter-service cooperation so as to enable relevant administration to provide up-to-date and accurate information to potential migrants on the risks linked to illegal immigration, as well on available channels for legal migration, including the entry requirements to EU labour market and conditions of temporary residence;
- 1.2 Develop databases of skills per sector needed in the EU and in the Western Balkans;
- 1.3 Provide information to graduate students for paid trainings in the EU with incentives for return.

Activity 2 Develop measures to facilitate the return of skilled labour forces, reintegrating them into their home society, and supporting the dissemination of new acquired skills.

- 2.1 Create temporary or virtual return programmes, i.e. by setting up e-learning schemes, facilitating networking between foreign researchers working in the EU, identifying and disseminating best practices in areas such as secondments or sabbatical leave;
- 2.2 Foster institutional partnerships (research institutes, universities, hospitals, etc.) between the EU Member States and the Western Balkans in association with Community Programmes;
- 2.3 Promote initiatives to support professional and socio-economic reintegration of the returned migrants (for instance bilateral agreements on social security, implementation of readmission agreements, post-arrival orientation programmes aiming at facilitating their integration into the labour market);
- 2.4 Support mechanisms and initiatives of students or other skilled migrants returning to their countries with a view to disseminate their skills for the benefit of these countries;
- 2.5 Reinforce consular cooperation between the authorities of the Western Balkans and of EU Members States by developing exchange of information between administrations;
- 2.6 Share experience in managing short-term return programmes (EU Member States to be involved).

3.5 Conditionality and sequencing

Three broad categories of risks are envisaged. The first relates to risk factors associated with programme management, particularly the speed of programme implementation, and internal coordination. The second category of potential risk has to do with the political relevance of the thematic area of intervention, and the degree of political sensitivity of the subject. The last category is defined by risks associated with sustainability of programme interventions and programme results. The matrix below highlights the estimation of risk levels for each of these factors, and the mitigation measures employed.

Risk factor	Level	Mitigation measures
<p><i>Management risk</i></p> <p><i>Speed of implementation</i></p> <p><i>Internal Coordination</i></p> <p><i>Regional aspects ensured</i></p>	Low-medium	<p>Operational capacity of the implementing actor already in place.</p> <p>A shared vision established among implementing actors on programme strategy and expected results.</p> <p>Regional capacity of the international organisation to be selected will be essential criteria for the award.</p>
<p><i>Political risk</i></p>	Medium	<p>Broad consensus exists on the developmental impacts of migration.</p> <p>Programme is anchored in thematic priorities of the European Commission.</p>
<p><i>Sustainability risk</i></p>	Low	<p>Networking, partnerships and capacity building placed at the centre of interventions.</p>

3.6 Linked activities

Other key actors include the EU Member States, UN organisations (in particular the UNHCR, the UNDP, the ILO), the International Organization for Migration (IOM), the International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD), NGOs as well as various formal and informal regional processes aimed at creating mutual understanding on migration related challenges and opportunities. In the context of the preparation of the United Nations High Level Dialogue on Migration and Development which took place in September 2006, there was also an increase in the number of processes or *fora* specifically dealing with the relationship between migration and development (such as the Global Commission on International Migration (GCIM) and the International Migration Forum). The Commission has been in regular contact with these actors and sometimes participated directly or supported their activities when they pursue the same objectives.

Through the Aeneas Programme⁸, the European Commission has supported numerous projects in the Western Balkans related to migration, both at the national and regional level. Some of them were a pre-requisite to the present programme, such as the implementation of the readmission agreements, the development of national strategies on migration (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina

⁸ The general objective of the AENEAS programme was to provide financial and technical assistance to third countries with a view to support these countries' efforts to better manage migration flows in all its aspects. The duration of the Aeneas programme, initially created to cover the period 2004-2008, was finally shortened to three years (2004-2006) during which migration related projects for an amount of about EUR 120 million have been financed.

and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia), the identification of migration profiles and the setting-up of Migration Service Centres.

The Aeneas Programme has been replaced by the thematic programme on migration and asylum. Its general objective is to help third countries manage migratory flows.

Currently, in Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Kosovo, Montenegro and Serbia, a project called "Capacity building, information and awareness rise towards promoting orderly migration in the Western Balkans" is being implemented by IOM. The project seeks to contribute to existing efforts towards promoting orderly migration within and from the Western Balkans. The project's objective is to foster local capacity to develop policy and provide migrants with efficient information, advice and referral to appropriate services, thus preventing irregular migration and optimizing their possibilities for legal migration. Information, advice and referral services to migrants and potential migrants is provided through the established regional network of Migrant Service Centers (MSCs).

In addition, UNDP⁹, UNICEF¹⁰, UNFPA¹¹, UNV¹² and IOM¹³ are preparing a project called "Youth Employability and Retention Programme" worth US\$ 6 000 000 under the Millennium Development Goals Fund. The component of the project concerning migration will build on the regional Aeneas programme as well as on assistance provided by IOM in support of the state migration and asylum strategy. The project will provide support to those who choose to migrate and an opportunity for returning young people to get retrained and reintegrate into the local labour market, in particular taking into account their skills acquired abroad.

The two projects will be closely monitored before the finalisation of the proposed actions in this project in order to avoid overlapping of activities and to use already built networks and experiences.

The proposed activities will be complementary to the previous projects and the international organisation which will implement the project will have to use the migration profiles¹⁴ established for each beneficiary. This approach will avoid conducting preliminary studies about figures and facts on migration in the Western Balkans.

EU Member States are working together on migration-related issues and build on existing cooperation structures in order to avoid duplications and overlapping activities (as Söderköping and Budapest Process, the Salzburg Forum or the Brdo Process). EU Member States are also engaged in a number of activities on migration and development, however, not many focuses on the South-Eastern regions neighbouring the European Union.

Projects on reintegration of migrants who return voluntary have been financed from the European Return Fund and several Member States used that opportunity to elaborate their own projects (Germany, France). Some Member States (Italy, Greece, Sweden, Estonia, France, Belgium, and United Kingdom) supported projects promoted and run by various governmental agencies, NGOs

⁹ United Nations Development Programme

¹⁰ United Nations Children's Fund

¹¹ United Nations Population Fund,

¹² United Nations Volunteers

¹³ International Organisation for Migration

¹⁴ Migration profiles give a clear picture of the migration situation in the countries of origin. They contain data and analyses on the labour market situation, unemployment rates, labour supply/ demand and present/potential skill shortages by sector and occupation, skills needs in the country, skills available in the diaspora, migration flows, incoming and outgoing financial flows linked with migration, including migrant remittances, and aspects relating to gender and minors.

and international organizations. Several Member States have joined projects implemented by IOM (Czech Republic, Slovakia, and Hungary) or UNHCR (Sweden).

The voluntary return is also facilitated through the bilateral agreements on social security schemes (e.g. Poland, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Czech Republic, Bosnia and Herzegovina).

3.7 Lessons learned

A certain number of lessons have been drawn following the implementation of the 2003 CARDS Regional Programme “Establishment of EU compatible legal, regulatory and institutional frameworks in the fields of asylum, migration and visa matters”, carried out by the Swedish Migration Board together with the International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD), UNHCR and IOM, these include:

- The priorities in the Aeneas programming were too detailed to be adequately concretised through general calls for proposals or to allow the flexibility needed to adapt to the evolution of the migration situations;
- The objectives were too ambitious as the contractor noted an insufficient institutional capacity to implement the *acquis* in practice whereas it was one of the main goals of the projects. Beneficiaries;
- Efforts should be made to ensure that public administrations of the Beneficiaries are directly involved in project implementation (Beneficiaries could be partners in the project).

In addition, the present IPA 2009 programme will benefit from the lessons learned of an ongoing project developed by IOM in Albania which aims to enhance the link between migration and development in the country. In fact, some of the activities will be transposed at the regional level: capacity building of the Albanian authorities to provide services to the Albanian diasporas community in EU Member States, improving the image of Albanians abroad; training of the Albanian diplomatic service in migrant rights; supporting the Albanian government to develop and launch an information campaign on migrant’s rights, return migration, migration and development.

4. Indicative Budget (amounts in EUR)

			SOURCES OF FUNDING									
			TOTAL EXP.RE		IPA COMMUNITY CONTRIBUTION			NATIONAL CONTRIBUTION				
ACTIVITIES	IB (1)	INV (1)	EUR (a)=(b)+(c)+(d)	EUR (b)	% (2)	Total EUR (c)=(x)+(y)+(z)	% (2)	Central EUR (x)	Regional/ Local EUR (y)	IFIs EUR (z)	EUR (d)	% (2)
Contract 1: Migration and socio-economic development in the Western Balkans	X		2 222 222	2 000 000	90						222 222	10
TOTAL IB			2 222 222	2 000 000	90						222 222	10
TOTAL INV												
TOTAL PROJECT			2 222 222	2 000 000	90						222 222	10

Amounts net of VAT

(1) In the Activity row use "X" to identify whether IB or INV

(2) Expressed in % of the **Total** Expenditure (column (a))

Co-financing: the selected implementing organisation will contribute with 10% of the total eligible costs

5. Indicative Implementation Schedule (periods broken down per quarter)

Contracts	Launch of Call for Proposals	Signature of contract	Project Completion
Grant	Q1 2010	Q3 2010	Q3 2012

6. Cross cutting issues

6.1 Equal Opportunity

The principle of equal opportunities should be taken into account when evaluating the quality of the project proposal. Specific attention will be paid to this dimension when determining who will benefit from training events and labour matching.

While implementing the project activities and, to the extent applicable, the contractor will try to assure that gender disaggregated data will be made available to carry out an analysis of the social and economic impact of the actions undertaken.

6.2 Environment

Not applicable

6.3 Minorities

Rights of minorities will be taken into account when evaluating the quality of the project proposed. Specific attention will be paid to this dimension, especially since vulnerable groups (refugees, displaced persons, Roma, national minorities...) might also be target beneficiaries of the project.

ANNEXES

- I. Log frame in Standard Format
- II. Amounts contracted and Disbursed per Quarter over the full duration of Programme
- III. Description of Institutional Framework
- IV. Reference to laws, regulations and strategic documents:
- V. Details per EC funded contract where applicable

ANNEX I: Logical framework matrix in standard format

LOGFRAME PLANNING MATRIX FOR Project Fiche		"Migration and socio-economic development in the Western Balkans"	2009/021-373
		Contracting period expires: 30 November 2010	Disbursement period expires: 30 November 2013
		Total budget : EUR 2 222 222	IPA budget: EUR 2 000 000
Overall objective	Objectively verifiable indicators	Sources of Verification	
Increase the benefits of temporary labour migration on the socio-economic development of the Western Balkans.	Percentage of skilled migrants who benefited from a temporary labour experience in the EU returning to their home country and finding a job up to their skills within 1 year	Monitoring and reporting by various national and international actors (UE, IOM, UNDP, OSCE, governmental reports, NGOs).	
Project purpose	Objectively verifiable indicators	Sources of Verification	Assumptions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Inform skilled potential labour migrants from the Western Balkans about entering legally EU labour market and prepare them to use more efficiently their competences and skills; - Encourage the return of skilled migrants to their countries of origin while facilitating their sustainable social and professional reintegration and promoting the dissemination of new acquired skills. 		Official statistics on migrants returns, project reports, diasporas reports, universities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Social and political environment and perspectives supportive of migrants return - No deterioration in stability and security in the region
Results	Objectively verifiable indicators	Sources of Verification	Assumptions
1. Cooperation initiatives and networks between partners of the Western Balkans and the EU Member States are built; Reliable data on labour migration are available; Information about legal channels for	1. Number of cooperation initiatives developed (ie between state agencies) Quality and effectiveness of pre-	Official statistics on migrants returns, project reports, diasporas reports, universities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Governments willing and able to implement migration policies

<p>migration is disseminated among potential migrants; Information mechanisms about labour demand and job offers are developed; legal economic migration is promoted.</p> <p>2. Measures in place to facilitate the return of temporary workers and to reintegrate them into their home society; successful reintegration of returnees.</p>	<p>departure training Quality and extent of temporary migration movements Information mechanisms in place Quality of the information disseminated Number of persons benefiting from this information Quality of statistics on labour migration.</p> <p>2. Number of skilled migrants back to their origin countries in the region Number of returnees benefitting from reintegration programmes Number of returned skilled labour forces finding a job up to their skills.</p>		<p>in place - Skilled migrants committed to return</p>
Activities	Means	Costs	Assumptions
<p>Activity 1 Promote and support cooperation initiatives between the relevant actors (public employment services, special state agencies, local authorities, consulates, representation offices, etc) in EU Member States and in the Western Balkans to facilitate the entry of potential migrants to the labour markets in the EU and the Western Balkans.</p> <p>1.1 Strengthen cross border inter-service cooperation so as to enable relevant administration to provide up-to-date and accurate information to potential migrants on the risks linked to illegal immigration, as well on available channels for legal migration, including the entry requirements to EU labour market and conditions of temporary residence;</p> <p>1.2 Develop databases of skills per sector needed in the EU and in the Western Balkans;</p> <p>1.3 Provide information to graduate students for paid trainings in the EU with incentives for return.</p> <p>Activity 2 Develop measures to facilitate the return of skilled labour forces, reintegrating them into their home</p>	<p>A Grant will be awarded through a restricted call for proposals, to be launched in Q1 2010.</p>	<p>EUR 2 000 000</p>	

	society, and supporting the dissemination of new acquired skills.			
2.1	Create temporary or virtual return programmes, i.e. by setting up e-learning schemes, facilitating networking between foreign researchers working in the EU, identifying and disseminating best practices in areas such as secondments or sabbatical leave;			
2.2	Foster institutional partnerships (research institutes, universities, hospitals, etc.) between the EU Member States and the Western Balkans in association with Community Programmes;			
2.3	Promote initiatives to support professional and socio-economic reintegration of the returned migrants (for instance bilateral agreements on social security, implementation of readmission agreements, post-arrival orientation programmes aiming at facilitating their integration into the labour market);			
2.4	Support mechanisms and initiatives of students or other skilled migrants returning to their countries with a view to disseminate their skills for the benefit of these countries;			
2.5	Reinforce consular cooperation between the authorities of the Western Balkans and of EU Members States by developing exchange of information between administrations;			
2.6	Share experience in managing short-term return programmes (EU Member States to be involved).			

ANNEX II: Amounts (in EUR) contracted and disbursed per quarter over the full duration of project (24 months)

Contracted	Q3 2010	Q4 2010	Q1 2011	Q2 2011	Q3 2011	Q4 2011	Q1 2012	Q2 2012	Q3 2012
Contract 1	2 000 000								
Cumulated	2 000 000								
Disbursed									
Contract 1	800 000*				800 000**				400 000***
Cumulated	800 000				1 600 000				2 000 000

*First instalment of pre-financing (80% of the part of the forecast budget for the first 12 months of project implementation)

**Further annual instalment(s) of pre-financing

*****Final payment**

ANNEX III: Description of Institutional Framework

The authorities responsible of the implementation of the action will be the Ministries of Interior, Ministries of Justice, Ministries of Labour and Employment of the Western Balkans, including public employment services, special state agencies, local authorities, consulates, representation offices etc.

ANNEX IV: Reference to laws, regulations and strategic documents:

- Council Decision of 18 February 2008 (2008/210/EC) on the principles, priorities and conditions contained in the European Partnership with Albania and repealing Decision 2006/54/EC
- Council Decision of 18 February 2008 (2008/211/EC) on the principles, priorities and conditions contained in the European Partnership with Bosnia and Herzegovina and repealing Decision 2006/55/EC
- Council Decision of 18 February 2008 (2008/212/EC) on the principles, priorities and conditions contained in the Accession Partnership with the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and repealing Decision 2006/57/EC
- Council Decision of 22 January 2007 (2007/49/EC) on the principles, priorities and conditions contained in the European Partnership with Montenegro.
- Council Decision of 18 February 2008 (2008/213/EC) on the principles, priorities and conditions contained in the European Partnership with Serbia including Kosovo as defined by United Nations Security Council Resolution 1244 of 10 June 1999 and repealing Decision 2006/56/EC
- Multi-beneficiary Multi-annual Indicative Planning Document (2009/2011)
- Communication from the Commission to the Council and the European Parliament integrating migration issues in the European Union's relations with third countries, COM(2002) 703 final
- Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions - Towards a Common Immigration Policy {SEC(2007) 1632}
- Communication from the Commission to the Council, the European Parliament, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions of 1 September 2005 -Migration and Development: some concrete orientations [COM(2005) 390 final
- Communication from the Commission: A strategy on the external dimension of the area of freedom, security and justice [COM(2005) 491 final
- Communication from the Commission of 16 May 2007 to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions applying the Global Approach to Migration to the Eastern and South-Eastern Regions Neighbouring the European Union [COM(2007) 247 final
- Regulation (EC) No 862/2007 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 July 2007 on Community statistics on migration and international protection and repealing Council Directive (EEC) No 311/76 on the compilation of statistics on foreign workers
- Communication from the Commission: Strengthening the global approach to migration: increasing coordination, coherence and synergies, Brussels, 8.10.2008, COM(2008) 611 final

ANNEX V: Details per EC funded contract

A Grant will be awarded following a restricted call for proposals, to be launched in Q1 2010.

Eligibility criteria for applicants: Public sector operators and International Organisations.

	Type of Contract	Amount in EUR	Duration
Contract 1	Grant	2 000 000	24 months

The grant beneficiary will contribute with a minimum of 10% of the total eligible cost of the project.