

ENHANCING INTEGRATED BORDER MANAGEMENT ALONG THE UKRAINE-MOLDOVA BORDER

Duration of the action: 28 months (01 November 2017 - 01 March 2020)

Budget: EUR 4,750,000

Donor: Delegation of the European Union to Ukraine

Implementing party: International Organization for Migration (IOM), Missions in Ukraine and in Moldova

Project beneficiaries: State Fiscal Service of Ukraine, State Border Guard Service of Ukraine, General Inspectorate of Border Police of the Republic of Moldova, Customs service of the Republic of Moldova

Background

The Kuchurhan-Pervomaisk crossing point, located at the Transnistrian section of the frontier, is the busiest BCP at the Ukraine-Moldova border, with about 1,800 vehicles and 7,300 persons crossing daily.

The Reni-Giurgiulesti crossing point is also among the busiest BCPs on the Ukraine-Moldova border. Its importance is increasing due to the growth of international trade in the area, where the large Giurgiulesti International Free Port and terminals are located. In particular, a high number of export grain trucks cross the border there.

Flow through these two BCPs reaches about 3 million persons and 810,000 vehicles crossing per year. This is why there is a pressing necessity of smooth coordination and improved information exchange between the two countries and their respective border management and customs agencies, with the aim to maximize the benefits of cross border movements of people and goods while mitigating the risk of border violations.

Project Objective

The **overall objective** of the action is to *further enhance Integrated Border Management (IBM) and improve the transparency and the operational capacity of Ukrainian and Moldovan border and customs authorities* in order to 1) facilitate faster, secure and more efficient border control and to 2) decrease queues and waiting times for travelers and transport, with an overall positive impact on the cross-border trade and movement of persons.

The objective will be achieved by improving the infrastructure, adjusting the premises, enhancing information exchange and optimizing the border crossing procedures at Ukrainian and Moldovan Border Crossing Points (BCP). In particular, the action will focus on (1) Kuchurhan-Pervomaisk BCP, (2) Reni-Giurgiulesti BCP, (3) the Common Contact Point to be established at Palanca BCP and (4) the mechanisms for Automated Information Exchange. These specific objectives were identified by the European Commission as the priorities to be addressed under this project, within the framework of the operationalization of bilateral Agreements and Protocols on border management in force between Ukraine and Moldova.*

The project, and its four components, will be implemented in cooperation with EUBAM.

* *Agreement between the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine and the Government of the Republic of Moldova on Joint Control of Persons, Vehicles, Goods and Items at Joint Border Crossing Points across the Ukrainian-Moldovan State Border, signed on 6 October 2017*

Agreement between the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine and the Government of the Republic of Moldova on the organization of the exchange of information about persons, means of transport in which persons cross the Ukrainian-Moldovan State Border, signed in November 2015

Protocol between the Administration of the State Border Guard Service of Ukraine and the Department of Border Police of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Moldova on contact points at the Ukraine-Moldova State Border, signed on 13 February 2017.



FUNDED BY THE EUROPEAN UNION



IMPLEMENTED BY THE INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR MIGRATION



STATE FISCAL SERVICE OF UKRAINE



STATE BORDER GUARD SERVICE OF UKRAINE



CUSTOMS SERVICE OF THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA



GENERAL INSPECTORATE OF BORDER POLICE OF THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA

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Summary of main project activities

IOM will refurbish and equip two BCPs, Kuchurhan-Pervomaisk and Reni-Giurgiulesti, on the Ukraine-Moldova border. The infrastructure work will be performed on the territory of Ukraine, as the available facilities are better fit for a shared use between the border management authorities. An updated and enhanced procedural framework, designed with the support of EUBAM, will enable joint operations in both BCPs. The new operational regime, together with the renovated premises and the provision of IT and border control equipment, would result in reduced need of human and financial resources to manage the BCP and an improved financial sustainability. The jointly operated BCPs will facilitate more secure, transparent, efficient and faster border control procedures aligned with the best EU practices in IBM, as well as reduced waiting times for border crossing for travelers and goods.

Moreover, the project will contribute to establishing a Common Contact Point (CCP) at Palanca BCP, located in Moldova. The CCP will ensure timely information exchange between border management authorities about persons and vehicles crossing or being refused to cross the border, alert lists, specificities of local traffic, circumstances that could impact or affect the situation at the border as well as any other information that can assist in assessing the conditions at the frontier.

Finally, an Automated Information Exchange system will be established between the central border authorities of Ukraine and Moldova. The system will allow real time exchange of information on persons and vehicles crossing the Ukrainian and Moldovan State border, thereby enhancing border and national security, public order, economic welfare of both countries, contributing to prevent and fight against transnational organized crime.

