

BOMCA 9

Border Management Programme in Central Asia (9th phase)

Newsletter №3 (2016)

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BOMCA overview

Since its launch in 2003, the BOMCA Programme has implemented phases targeting capacity building and institutional development, developing trade corridors, improving border management systems and eliminating drug trafficking across the Central Asia region. Every new phase of BOMCA was designed to gradually continue the actions implemented during the preceding phases of the Programme. During its earlier phases, the Programme focused its resources on creating modern border management infrastructure.

Building on the success of the previous phases, this 9th phase intends to continue interventions in the area of institutional development, management of migration flows and trade facilitation. Its overall objective is to increase the effectiveness and efficiency of border management in Central Asia by introducing advanced elements of Integrated Border Management (IBM), assisting governments in developing and reforming their migration governance, mobility and trade facilitation policies, and strengthening capacities of Border and Migration Agencies, and thus contributing to security and economic development at the national and regional levels.

The 9th phase of the BOMCA Programme was launched in June 2015 for 36 months with a total budget of 4 954 784.93 Euro.



Dear friends,

Central Asia is a region that is becoming more and more strategically important for the stability and economic development of Asia and Europe. For this reason, it is a priority of the EU to support regional programmes aimed at enhancing cross border cooperation in Central Asia.

Ever since its start in 2003, BOMCA has been one of the foremost examples of such cooperation. Through the program, the five Central Asian countries have cooperated with the European Union to increase capacity in the area of Integrated Border Management and to develop infrastructure.

The ninth phase of the BOMCA programme is already yielding promising results. Different workshops for increasing the capacity of border services were held in the Central Asian region throughout the summer. Specifically, these workshops focused on the effective implemen-

tation of the Integrated Border Management Strategy, capacity building, sustainable institutional development of border agencies and donor coordination.

In April, the important 12th Central Asia Border Security Initiative (CABSI) Conference was held in Bishkek with BOMCA support and gathered more than 120 participants working in the fields of border security, migration and trade facilitation to discuss ways to counter cross-border organised crime, manage mixed migration and promote trade.

BOMCA is also doing excellent work in raising awareness of the importance of the work of border guard agencies. I was delighted to see the drawings of children from all over Central Asia that were submitted in the BOMCA drawing contest earlier this summer. The creativity and wisdom of the coming generation bodes well for the future of the Central Asian countries.

I would like to thank all participants in BOMCA for their contributions to cross-border cooperation, and I also wish the programme success in the years to come.

**Ambassador
Cesare De Montis**

**Head of the Delegation of the
European Union to the
Kyrgyz Republic**



State Border Guard
Republic of Latvia

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National counterparts are performing in human resources management and financial planning

The second quarter of 2016 was marked by a number of the various events aiming to strengthen the sustainable capacity of the border agencies in the region. These efforts, linked to Component 1, in particular concentrated on further developing human resources (cadre) policies and administrative management, and following the principles of IBM in theory and practice, in compliance with international law enforcement standards and norms.

Two workshops on human resources management, financial planning and control were held in May 2016 in Dushanbe and Bishkek for the officers of the Tajik and Kyrgyz border and customs agencies. The activity aimed to enhance the agencies' human resources management and financial planning – two important processes for the work of the agencies to be effective and also necessary for suc-



cessful governance. After being split into two working groups – one on HR and one on finance – local experts presented their experiences and learned about EU best practices in various areas of intra-service management such as personnel selection and admission processes, code of ethics and conduct, prevention of and fight against corruption, fiscal discipline, budget planning and control, procurement systems, remuneration and social benefits. The workshops provided an opportunity to comprehensively

analyse the existing human resources management and financial management systems in Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan, to share opinions and professional experiences, and to determine where further on-the-job training is needed. Similar workshops will be held in the three other Central Asian countries. Based on its findings, a follow-up study tour to the EU and in-service training will be organised for middle and senior managers of the border management agencies of the Central Asian countries.



Kyrgyzstan and Integrated Border Management (IBM) from the expert point of view

In June 2016, during a technical assistance visit in Bishkek, EU representatives and their Kyrgyz counterparts discussed the main achievements and further steps of IBM implementation in Kyrgyzstan. The IBM strategy for 2012–2022 was adopted as a part of the National Security Concept and defines the border security of the state, which is based on cooperation and interaction among ministries and other administrative bodies.



During bilateral and joint meetings with EU experts, representatives of state agencies, which are the main IBM actors, presented information about the state of play in the implementation of the National IBM Action Plan and clarified the current status of short- and mid-term tasks. Progress was particularly noted in infrastructure modernisation, human resources policy improvement, personnel training and the fight against corruption, as well as cooperation with other Central Asian countries.

Several areas were assessed as challenging and deserving of more attention and other aspects were considered outdated and in need of revision. All national counterparts highlighted the essential role of BOMCA in the strategic planning of IBM in the Kyrgyz

Republic as well as its invaluable support in the successful implementation of IBM.



Based on the discussions and findings of the visit, the experts are developing a set of recommendations on possible amendment and optimisation of the IBM Strategy Action Plan, an important component of Kyrgyzstan's Strategy of Sustainable Development.



Technical Assistance Mission in Kazakhstan and Tajikistan: introducing good practices in readmission and counter-trafficking mechanisms

Further development of the legal and procedural instruments, introduction of advanced practices of cross-border mobility and addressing the multifaceted challenges caused by mixed migration flows are the key objectives of Component 2. A series of workshops, Technical Missions and a study visit were held – which collectively aim at setting up a basis for sustained good governance of migration with a view to strengthening the link between migration, mobility and employment in the region.



National legislation and advanced international practices on dealing with vulnerable groups of migrants crossing the borders were discussed

during technical assistance missions in Kazakhstan and Tajikistan, which took place in June 2016. By assessing international and national practices in readmission and overall return systems, including the advantages and disadvantages of readmission agreements and further development of the readmission institutes, international and local experts took a coherent and balanced approach in discussing mobility and legal migration, facilitating the link between migration and development, and preventing and combating illegal migration through return and readmission.

Delegates from both countries presented their national experiences and practices in the effective return of vulnerable persons for readmission as well as the challenges encountered in the application of readmission agreements and ways to address these challenges. Kazakhstan has carried out a number of positive initiatives in migration governance, including a number

of readmission agreements and bilateral agreements with Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan on regulating labour migration and protecting migrants' rights.

In addition, agreements on the protection of migrants' economic and social rights have been signed within the framework of the CIS and the Eurasian Union.



The expertise provided will assist Kazakhstan and Tajikistan in their continued efforts to build effective cooperation on return and readmission and sustainable reintegration.

Strengthening surveillance capacity on the green borders of Kazakhstan and Tajikistan



In May 2016, BOMCA carried out two technical assistance visits to Kazakhstan and Tajikistan in order to provide advisory support to their border agencies and strengthen their capacities in green border surveillance, bearing in mind that vulnerable green borders could affect regional security in general by making possible the transit of

criminals, terrorists and violent extremists.

While meeting representatives of the border agencies, the expert team provided EU know-how in carrying out field assessments based on gap analyses and needs assessments to enhance green border surveillance capacities. They also presented EU practices in risk analysis and investigation of illegal "green border" crossings, and, together with their national counterparts, reviewed and compared the existing national legislation related to green border surveillance.

The meetings focused on several topics, including the legal framework for

green border surveillance, the search for violators, technical means, planning of services and appropriate resources. Special attention was given to the establishment of coordination mechanisms between and amongst the various border management agencies to enhance intra- and inter-service cooperation.



Border officers of Central Asia enhance their training skills on document security



In June 2016, a train-the-trainer session was conducted in Almaty, Kazakhstan, gathering border guard officers from Central Asia. These participants were successfully trained as

training experts on document security and thus are now able to conduct training sessions on the topic in the national and international context.

The trainers used a variety of interactive tools, and the trainees carried out group and individual exercises covering such topics as types of document security; the use of technical means for the verification of documents and detection of falsification; methods of document production and requirements for inks; composi-

tion of documents; and stapling, perforation and personalisation methods for documents.

The training enhanced the professional development of the border guards by equipping them with a basic curriculum with visual materials. It also strengthened the border guards' professional network as the contact information of regional experts in document security was shared among the participants.

Latvian State Border Guard welcomes its Central Asian partners in Latvia



As part of BOMCA's commitment to share law enforcement best practices and demonstrate the practical joint

work of the EU border security agencies as well as modern approaches in border control, the State Border Guard of Latvia hosted in June 2016 a study visit of Central Asian delegates from border, customs, migration, veterinary and phytosanitary agencies.

During this visit, the participants gained a better understanding of the international practices, principles and tools that govern Integrated

Border Management across Europe and were encouraged to use modern IBM approaches at Central Asian borders. This on-site visit was enriched by the communication and exchange of experiences among the participants and their hosts. In a broader sense, this BOMCA activity contributes to the overall efforts of Central Asian states to strengthen the institutional capacity of their border agencies.

Component 3: Improving the efficiency of the flow of goods

Customs legislation of Tajikistan reviewed and compared with Revised Kyoto Convention

The last of the three components of the programme aims to introduce measures improving the efficiency of procedures regarding flow of goods at borders, and thus facilitate regional and international trade. Workshops and working meetings are being held with national counterparts to reviews national legislation and its compatibility to international standards

In June 2016, BOMCA experts conducted a meeting with the project's main national partners from the Customs Service of Tajikistan in order to review the national customs legislation, to assess its compatibility with the Revised Kyoto Convention (RKC) standards, to improve the knowledge of the partners about the Convention



and its advantages, and to provide recommendations related to accession. Particular issues such as customs control and declaration processing, temporary storage of goods, check of goods and customs clearance were discussed and the relevant legislative documents were evaluated and compared with the RKC standards. Both the EU and na-

tional experts underlined that implementation of the RKC principles will contribute to an effective and efficient clearance of goods and can significantly increase the economic competitiveness of the countries involved by encouraging investment, the development of industry, and the participation of small and medium-sized enterprises in international trade. As a result of the series of meetings conducted in the Central Asian countries, reports were prepared by experts presenting an analysis of the compatibility of national customs legislation with the provisions of the RKC and related measures planned or already implemented by Central Asian customs administrations.



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Cooperation, monitoring and confidence building

Steering group meetings gather national partners to evaluate the progress of BOMCA implementation

In addition to the work done under the three main thematic components, in the second quarter of 2016, BOMCA held several events related to strengthening cooperation with the beneficiaries and international partners and promoting the EU and BOMCA goals in wider society.



From May to July 2016, a series of national steering group meetings, which are important for cooperation and coordination, were held in each Central Asian country. Key partners from Central Asian beneficiary agencies as well as EU representatives participated and reconfirmed their commitment to the programme objectives.

The national focal points, jointly with the BOMCA management team, defined the directions for the programme's implementation for the rest of 2016.

The meetings served as a strong confirmation of the programme's progress and achievements to date. The BOMCA team presented the results obtained, and the beneficiaries acknowledged the progress made and stressed their own commitment to continue their involvement and support. National steering group meetings continue to serve as a platform for monitoring progress and facilitating co-operation and partnership with beneficiaries during the implementation.

Donor coordination meeting in Uzbekistan



In July 2016, an international donor coordination meeting was held in Tashkent, Uzbekistan, with BOMCA support. The range, scale and focus of donor investment in Uzbekistan

were discussed, the significant achievements of donor investment were presented and opportunities for further donor cooperation at the national level were identified.

Donor agencies, represented by the EU Delegation to Uzbekistan, the Embassy of the Republic of Latvia, JICA, UNODC and USAID, among others, and government beneficiaries shared their views on border management strategies and related policy matters. As with the previous meetings in the Central Asian re-

gion, the overall objective of the event was to encourage international donor coordination and greater coherence in donor activities, in particular in the areas of border management and trade facilitation. It provided an opportunity to share information on the ongoing or planned donor projects in Uzbekistan and to discuss the different approaches, gaps, best practices and lessons learnt from the implementation of the various programmes and activities.

Europe Day celebration



In May 2016, BOMCA, together with a number of other EU-funded initiatives, celebrated "Day of Europe". In Kazakhstan, BOMCA participated in an open-air exhibition. In Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan, BOMCA supported the Delegations of the European Union in organizing diplomatic receptions attended by ministers, business leaders, media editors and other

senior figures in government, business, journalism, the diplomatic community and wider society. It was a great opportunity to support the celebration of the deep commercial, cultural, political and historical links between the EU and Central Asian countries and promote BOMCA's goals and objectives among the general public.



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Summing up the results of drawing competition “People working at borders”



In May 2016, BOMCA launched the drawing contest “People working at borders” for children (9–14 years old) to present their vision of border guards’ work and daily life in an artistic way. Young participants from Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan were invited to present their vision of how border guards communicate with their colleagues and with people crossing the border and how they are in daily life.

The wider objectives of the contest were to deepen the general public’s understanding of the work of border guard agencies, to bring about a

positive attitude among children towards people working at the borders and to encourage children to demonstrate their talents and creativity. In total, 128 drawings were received by BOMCA offices in three countries. “It was very difficult to choose the winners. Each child’s drawing, submitted for the competition, is unique and deserves an award”, said Raitis Tiliks, the BOMCA Regional Manager. In addition to the main awards, more than 20 children received honorary awards, drawing kits and special prizes from the BOMCA Regional Manager personally. Each participant received a certificate of appreciation.



Kyrgyz border guards saving drowning man on Kyrgyz-Uzbek border. 1st award . Dastan, 11 y.o



Border guards making gifts to children. 3rd award . Elima, 10 y.o



Friendship of border guards of Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan. 2nd award. Aziz, 11 y.o



Kyrgyz lady-border guard officer offering food to her colleague from Tajikistan. Special award from BOMCA Regional manager. Dariya, 12 y.o



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