

BOMCA 9

Border Management Programme in Central Asia (9th phase)

Newsletter №8 (2018)

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BOMCA overview

Since its launch in 2003, the various phases of the BOMCA Programme have focused on capacity building and institutional development, developing trade corridors, improving border management systems and eliminating drug trafficking across the Central Asia region. Each new phase of BOMCA was designed to gradually build upon and consolidate the results achieved during the preceding phases. During its earlier phases, the Programme channelled its resources towards creating modern border management infrastructure in 5 Central Asian countries.

Capitalising on the success of 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 enhanced security at the national and regional levels.

The 9th phase of BOMCA Programme was launched in June 2015 for 36 months with a total budget of almost 5mIn Euro. In June 2018 the Programme was extended until December 14th, 2019 with an additional funding of almost 1,6 mln Euro.



Ladies and Gentlemen,

BOMCA represents a unique instrument of cooperation between the EU and the Central Asian national institutions operating in the sphere of border management and trade facilitation, and the added value of this programme includes not only trainings delivery and equipment provision, but also and mostly means shortening the distance between the EU and the CA agencies operating in these strategically important sectors within the broader framework of the EU-CA Strategy.

After 15 years of its presence, instead of celebrating, BOMCA decided to measure its impact. The EUD initiated a strategic evaluation of the programme and I would like to thank the beneficiaries for sharing their comments, inputs, concerns with the evaluators; the findings of the evaluation will influence the future phase of the Programme. This assessment will become an important input to the future regional cooperation in these strategic areas.

Finally, I would like to express my appreciation to the Latvian Border

Guard for implementing a very ambitious programme, I would like to express my gratitude to the Kyrgyz Government for hosting regional management of the programme, and definitely I would like to thank all beneficiaries and authorities in Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, Tajikistan and Kazakhstan for their cooperation and support

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Component 1: Institutional development of border management agencies

Development of guidelines on joint risk analysis for border agencies in Central Asian countries

The first quarter of 2018 was marked by a number of various events within Component 1 aiming to strengthen the sustainable capacity of the border agencies in the region.

Technical assistance missions on joint risk analysis for border agencies continue. The expert team visited Astana, Kazakhstan on January 23-25 and conducted a series of individual meetings and workshops gathering representatives of agencies, involved in border management – Customs service, Border service, Phytosanitary and Veterinary agencies.

The aim of this BOMCA activity was to elaborate joint Risk Analysis Guidelines on inter-agency cooperation, which would allow border management actors to coordinate

their work more effectively, increasing success rate of border checks alongside with facilitation of the legal flow of goods and people across the borders, and significantly improve risk analysis.

During the workshops and meetings with the national partners, the current status of risk analysis in the country, current practices of

interaction among various agencies and joint work on border security joint risk analysis were analysed. Based on the results of the technical mission, Practical Guidelines on joint risk analysis for border management agencies – a tool that shall ensure a greater coherence of actions of relevant agencies in the area of risk management - were elaborated.



The Kyrgyz Customs authority enhances its anti-corruption measures



On January 29-February 2, 2018, upon the invitation of the Kyrgyz Government, BOMCA expert team came to Kyrgyzstan to assist the State Customs Service in the update and actualisation of its anti-corruption plan. During the five-day joint work with senior and operational staff of the main departments involved in customs

control, the experts jointly reviewed the organisational structure, duties, and procedures within the Kyrgyz Customs, and carried out an assessment of conformity of organisational tasks, competences, rights, and obligations of the employees. Real and potential risks of corruption were reviewed and specific cases of corruption

were analysed. As a main result of the Technical Mission, the Intra-agency Action Plan on the fight against corruption was updated with short-term and medium-term objectives and priorities. Also, a set of recommendations was developed on structure optimisation, increasing transparency, and control processes.



Training course on effective use of service dogs for Uzbek K9 Service

A three-day national training course for canine officers from the Border and Customs agencies of Uzbekistan was held in Tashkent on 6-8 February 2018. Dog handlers from the State Border Guard Committee of the National Security Service and the Customs Committee of Uzbekistan examined international K-9 practices and shared lessons learned from their own professional experience related to the use of service dogs.

Experts from the K-9 Department of the Latvian Border Guard College introduced their approach to developing and maintaining a long-term, efficient and high-quality Canine Service. Particular attention was paid to innovative methods of education and training of service dogs, and the creation of an enabling environment for the professional development of dog handlers.

During the training course, participants also acquired knowledge on modern standards for service dog-training based on scientific foundations, underlying principles and new methods of training service dogs, as well as their application in practical exercises, which were designed to

enhance participants' understanding of the role, capacities, and skills of service dogs in the process of detecting explosives, firearms, and drugs and, more broadly, in fighting terrorism and organised crime.



Kazakh and Kyrgyz training institutions exchange experiences in teaching methodology



On February 13-15, 2018, a group of Kazakh Border Guard Academy trainers visited Bishkek with the aim of exchanging knowledge and teaching experiences with their Kyrgyz colleagues – trainers from the Border Service Training Center and Armed Forces Military Institute of the Kyrgyz Republic.

The BOMCA programme has historically attached a great importance to building effective institutional partnerships and dynamic collaboration between the training institutions of the CA and the EU border security

agencies. To this effect, the CA Customs and Border training institutions Consortium was launched at the initiative of the BOMCA Programme in 2011, as a forum for cooperation towards the development of a harmonised and efficient training system for Central Asia Customs and BG staff.

To this end, based on a list of educational topics jointly defined during project Consortium meetings, BOMCA supports the exchange of trainers between Border and Customs training institutions. A pilot exchange was conducted in Dushanbe between 29 May - 1 June 2017, where trainers from the Customs training centers of Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan facilitated a training of trainers for their Tajik colleagues on the issues of radiation control and dual-use goods. As a next step in the exchange of train-

ers' experience, the Higher Military Customs Institute of the Republic of Uzbekistan showcased best practices in X-ray image analysis by hosting a regional training for trainers for Customs officers from Central Asia on 13-15 June 2017. In 2018, the exchange of trainers was successfully continued by Kazakhstan. On February 13-15 trainers from the Border Guard Academy of Kazakhstan conducted a workshop to share their experience on travellers' identification and profiling. As a result, 15 teachers from the BG Training Center and the Military Institute were trained, thus contributing to the development of professional skills alongside with harmonisation of teaching practices in the region.



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Sharing good practices in profiling teaching methodology

On February 27- March 1, a Regional Training of Trainers on profiling at border checkpoints was held in Almaty in cooperation with the OSCE Programme Office and the INL Bureau (US Embassy). The event gathered lecturers from training institutions in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan.

The main goal of the event was to introduce participants to different methods for teaching profiling techniques and to exchange good practices among CA countries. Participants learned about the Kazakh approach in this area and reflected on their training experience of this topic.

As a result, joint recommendations were elaborated regarding enhancing the quality of education and professional development of border training institutions' personnel in the area of

teaching profiling techniques.

Through theoretical and practical exercises, participants gained insights into the approach of their Kazakh colleagues to teaching such topics as operational psychodiagnostics, lie detection, talk analysis, interviewing methods etc. The

trainees also participated in a tour to the Border Service Academy of the State Security Committee of Kazakhstan and observed the training models of border checkpoints and examination polygons.



CA countries exchange experience in K9 management



On March 13-15, 2018, Bishkek hosted multilateral workshop for dog handlers. Managers of K-9 departments of respective border, customs and counter-narcotics agencies from Uzbekistan, Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan gathered together in order to share their experience and discuss perspectives of K-9 development and modernisation in their countries.

During the visit to the Kyrgyz Customs K-9 training center, participants were familiarised with its

facilities, educational infrastructure and training methodology. The Kyrgyz party presented its experience in dog training and selection. Experts from the K-9 Department of the Latvian Border Guard College provided their approach to develop and maintain a long-term, efficient and high-quality Canine Service. Particular attention was paid to innovative methods of education and training of service dogs, and the creation of an enabling environment for the professional development of dog handlers.

During the training course, participants also acquired knowledge on modern standards for service dog training based on scientific foundations, underlying principles and new methods of training service dogs, as well as their applica-

tion through practical exercises. The practical exercises were designed to enhance participants' understanding of the role, capacities, and skills of service dogs in the process of detecting explosives, firearms, and drugs and, more broadly, in fighting terrorism and organised crime.

In addition to skills improvement, the workshop gave a possibility to its participants to discuss K9 management and functioning in their countries, and possible ways of enhancement of regional and international cooperation in this area.

The main goal of this BOMCA activity was to introduce participants to different methods for dog training and selection and to exchange good practices among CA countries.



Risk analysis and border security in Central Asia

On February 21-23, in Ashgabat, March 28-30 in Bishkek and April 2-4 in Astana, experts met with the main border management actors and facilitated the development of the country's risk analysis reporting system, when the main risks for border security are stated and measures for their prevention and elimination are listed. This activity builds upon the guidelines on interagency cooperation, which were previously developed in all three countries.

The aim of this BOMCA activity was to strengthen inter-agency cooperation aiming at enabling border management actors to coordinate their work more effectively; increasing success rate of border checks, alongside with facilitation of the legal flow of goods and people across the borders, and significantly improve risk analysis.

During 3 days of joint work with analysts from the Border and Customs Services, Ministries of Internal Affairs and State Security Committees, the expert team developed several principles of practical joint risk analysis between and within the agencies. Based on the agencies' statisti-

cal data (nature and statistics on flow of persons, vehicles and goods across the border, and the number of violations for 2017), conclusions and the forecasts were made regarding further trends, risk levels and the availability of resources needed in 2018.



Further development of Integrated Border Management discussed in Kyrgyzstan



On April 10-12, Bishkek hosted an EU expert team, whose objective was to assess the strategic development of Integrated Border Management (IBM) in the Kyrgyz Republic. N. Garbars, Chief of Latvian State Border Guard and Coordinator of

BOMCA 9, together with Ingrida Gulbe Otanke, Chief of Latvian Customs Service, discussed border management strategies and the development in Kyrgyzstan.

During their mission, the experts

held a series of bilateral meetings with the management of the Border and Customs Services and the Security Council of the Kyrgyz Republic, and conducted a two-day workshop on opportunities for IBM implementation in the Kyrgyz Republic for managers of all agencies involved in border security and protection. Directions for further IBM implementation in Kyrgyzstan were identified, and concrete suggestions to enhance the current IBM Plan of Action were provided.

Based on the Mission's findings, practical recommendations will be developed aiming at strengthening sustainable coordination between all border security actors at the strategic level.



Component 2: Institutional framework for management of mixed migration flows at borders

Workshops on the methodology of identification and profiling

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 and technical missions were carried out.

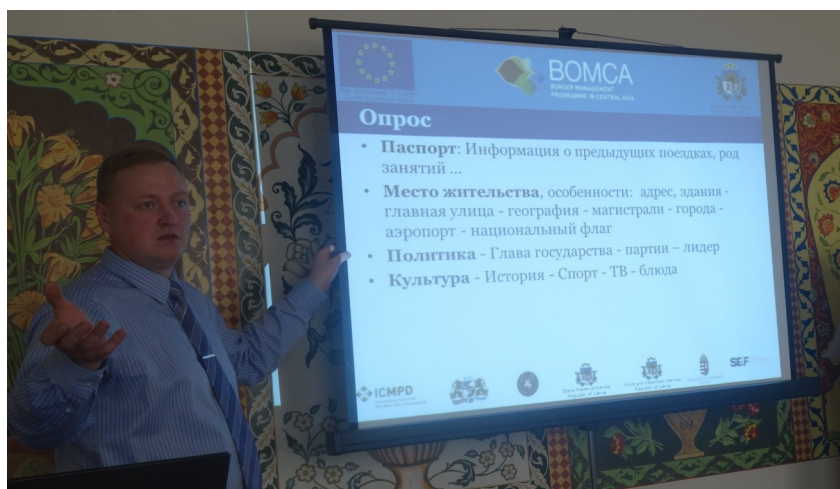
On 21-23 February, in Ashgabat, and 26-28 February, in Tashkent, workshops on identification and profiling of foreign terrorist fighters (FTF) were delivered, building upon results of activities conducted in 2016, when border and law enforcement officers were trained basic profiling and identification techniques. The workshops gathered European experts and professionals from the border and law enforcement agencies of Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan in order to re-

view and enhance existing mechanisms and strengthen cooperation and interaction of the relevant agencies.

During the workshops, the experts shared their experience and good practices in identification and profiling of FTF, and identified the main indicators of FTF. As a result, recommendations to enhance the methodology were elaborated, and

further practical measures to be taken by the national agencies in order to implement the UN Security Council's recommendations in the field of countering violent extremism were discussed.

Overall, this BOMCA activity contributes to strengthening national identification and profiling mechanisms in CA countries.



Strengthening interagency cooperation for effective contingency planning

Between February and March, 2018 three workshops on contingency planning were held in Dushanbe, Tashkent and Ashgabat, gathering representatives of state agencies involved in border control.

Communication and information exchange between various relevant agencies are among the most fundamental aspects of successful cooperation. During the workshop, participants examined the issue of information exchange in various areas of cooperation: flow of passengers and cargo, investigations,

risk analysis, patrolling, special operations. While analysing different areas of cooperation, the issues of effective and efficient information exchange were raised and discussed. Based on the Latvian experience, an example of the advanced national coordination mechanism, ensuring appropriate and effective cooperative preparedness and response measures was presented to the participants.

Overall, this BOMCA activity aims at contributing to the development/strengthening of mechanisms for interagency cooperation in emergency situations.



Component 3: Adoption of trade facilitation regimes at borders

International practice on criminal investigation in risk management is introduced to Tajik Customs officers

The 3rd Component of BOMCA 9 aims to introduce measures improving flow of goods efficiency at the borders, and thus facilitating regional and international trade. Workshops and working meetings are being held with national counterparts to reviews national legislation and its compatibility with international standards and agreements.

The effective risk management system in customs is a powerful tool that allows authorities to focus on the most risky areas of border control, to differentiate those involved in trade and, consequently, to keep a proper balance between facilitation of legal trade and prevention of illegal activities in the international trade chain. Thus, it is important to ensure that such a system is in place and is implemented properly by customs/border officers. To this end, on January 29-31,

BOMCA expert team met with the national partners from the Tajik Customs to jointly assess the existing Tajik practices and procedures for risk analysis and criminal investigation during customs clearance and control. By reviewing and consolidating various existing national and international regulations, the national and European experts shared experience and practices in the area of criminal investigation and its princi-

ples, as well as the issue of e-intelligence interconnectivity with risk management. Integration of criminal investigation into the risk analysis system will promote a more harmonised approach to customs control and create a more transparent, up-to-date and effective system of import controls, ensuring better coherence and integration of different control mechanisms in place.



Assessing Kyrgyzstan's progress in use of GSP+ advantages



The decision of the European Union to grant GSP+ status to the Kyrgyz Republic opened up a new potential in economic relations, and offered opportunities for Kyrgyzstan to increase and diversify its exports and strengthen its economy. The GSP+ means full removal of tariffs on more than 6,000 product categories, and Kyrgyz exporters are now able, at a zero tariff rate, to supply agricultural products such as fruits, processed fruits (canned fruits, juice), dried fruits

(walnuts, almonds, pistachios), food products, tobacco, textiles, felt products, clothing (including leather), and carpets to the European Union.

To assess the current state and the progress made by Kyrgyz authorities in terms of Kyrgyz compliance with the EU import rules, and to recommend further measures to be taken, BOMCA held a second advisory mission in this area. Between April 17 and 19, the expert team met with partners from the Ministry of Economy, Customs and the Chamber of Commerce and Industry, and assessed the progress made regarding issuance and control of certificates of origin, veterinary and phytosanitary certificates and quality certificates.

“At the seminar, the participants learned about the details of import

standards in the European Union. Together we detected the existing gaps in Kyrgyzstan and assessed the progress made since our last visit in March 2017. We familiarised Kyrgyz colleagues with the EU rules regarding the origin of products, and the experience of the Lithuanian customs in the area of issuance and control of certificates of origin for goods,” wrote the European experts.

Following the results of the mission, the experts presented a package of recommendations for further GSP implementation to the Kyrgyz Government. Following their implementation, Kyrgyzstan will benefit from zero customs duties for the delivery of goods to the European market.





BOMCA 15 YEARS OF EUROPEAN UNION SUPPORT

BORDER MANAGEMENT PROGRAMME IN CENTRAL ASIA

BOMCA Programme –



Introduction of best practices of Integrated Border Management (IBM)



Support of institutional development



Facilitation of international trade



Supporting efforts to combat drug trafficking

Main BOMCA achievements 2003-2018

45 border crossing points /border posts



2 drug profiling units



4 dormitories for training centres



6 canine centre



7 training centres and 7 training classes for border guards



3 veterinary units for canine centres



More than 9000 officials took part in BOMCA activities

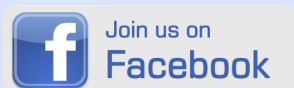
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