

# BOMCA 9

## Border Management Programme in Central Asia (9th phase)

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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, trade corridor development, the improvement of border management systems and the elimination of drug trafficking across the Central Asian region. Each new phase of BOMCA was designed to gradually build upon and consolidate the results achieved in the previous phases. During its earlier phases, the programme channelled its resources towards creating modern border management infrastructure in five Central Asian countries.

Capitalising on the success of previous phases, this 9<sup>th</sup> 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, thereby contributing to enhanced security at the national and regional levels.

The 9th phase of the BOMCA programme was launched in June 2015 and will last until 30 April 2020. The total budget is 6.6 mln Euros



Dear Friends,

*Since the beginning of 2000, the European Union began to actively engage with Central Asian states on regional security issues and countering transnational threats. The result was the development and implementation of one of the largest European programmes in the region - BOMCA. Over the 16 years of the programme's activities, it can be said with confidence that BOMCA has diligently sought the best and most progressive ways to strengthen the potential of its beneficiaries through technical support, institutional development and the improvement of professional skills and capabilities of agencies involved in border management issues.*

*The State Border Guard of the Republic of Latvia has been a leading partner in the implementation of the BOMCA programme since June 2015.*

*I would like to highlight the successful cooperation that has developed over the years of the BOMCA 9 implementation and the active participation of the government departments-beneficiaries in the programme implementation. Among the most valuable achievements, I would like to mention the possibility of exchanging information and intensive discussions between Central Asian professionals, establishing contacts and expanding partnerships between Central Asia and the European Union. This result was achieved both through the support of the European Union and the*

*equally important role of the well-coordinated work and cooperation between the Central Asian government agencies.*

*Since the current phase of BOMCA is focused mainly on institutional support, our experts worked in a number of areas; developing recommendations on a wide range of issues in the field of competence of border authorities, including anti-corruption measures, the development of a distance learning system, the optimisation of border control procedures and strengthening interagency- and regional cooperation. During recently conducted National Steering Group meetings, we were pleased to know that most of BOMCA's recommendations are being applied in practice or are being considered as potentially applicable.*

*Once again, I sincerely thank all partners for their support and cooperation. Indeed, much has been done, and I hope that our cooperation will continue and build upon our achievements.*

**Vladimirs Zaguzovs**  
**Deputy Project Coordinator**  
**State Border Guard of Latvia**

### In this edition:

- Yearly meeting of Border and Customs Training institutions** 2
- Study visit to Latvia in the field of human resources, financial man-** 3
- Handover of the equipment to beneficiaries** 3
- National workshop on EU standards on identification, detention and return of irregular migrants** 4
- Tajikistan and Turkmenistan customs authorities move towards advanced trade facilitating procedures** 4
- BOMCA and its national partners wrapping up the year and making plans for the future**



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## Component 1: Institutional development of border management agencies

### Yearly meeting of Border and Customs Training institutions of Central Asia

**The objective of Component 1 is to sustain the institutional development of border guard agencies in their transition to more effective methods of border management.**

On 15-17 October 2019, a Regional Workshop for border guard and customs training institutions was held in Tashkent gathering delegates from all five Central Asian countries to discuss joint approaches and the continuous cooperation of their training institutions for the development of a unique, harmonised, and efficient training system for border guards and customs officers in Central Asia.

During the workshop, the national experts presented and discussed current training systems in CA countries, as well as innovative approaches and methodological tools. The professionals identified existing needs, gaps and best practices in training processes.

The activity was built upon earlier results achieved within project implementation. Jointly with the CA representatives, the experts reviewed the action points' implementation progress agreed in 2016, 2017 and 2018, and defined future action plans for the next phase of BOMCA, which will begin in 2020.

The idea of creating a joint platform for the training institutions came up in 2012, and was further developed and implemented with BOMCA sup-

port. It is a voluntary association of training institutions linked through joint scientific research, development of training curricula, lectures and professional training courses and unification of education and training processes. The members of the Consortia endeavour for joint capacity building and institutional development activities, as well as the unique development of training curricula and research activities.



### Studying European experience in the field of human resources, financial management and control



Between 23 and 26 July 2019, a study visit for the border guard, customs, and phytosanitary and veterinary services of Tajikistan and Turkmenistan was held in Latvia. It builds upon results of the national workshops on HR and finance plan-

ning conducted in 2016 and 2017. Based on the training needs identified during the national workshops, the national partners participated in the visit and improved their knowledge and skills in the area of HR management and financial planning and control.

The visit provided an opportunity for a comprehensive evaluation of the human resource and financial management and control systems in Latvian border agencies.

The delegates were divided in groups based on their thematic ex-

pertise – Phytosanitary-Veterinary, Customs, and Border Agencies – and studied EU good practices in areas such as human resource management in institutions incl. implemented policies, personnel selection and admission, fiscal discipline development, budget planning and control.

This study visit is part of BOMCA's activities aimed at providing information exchange on human resource management and financial planning and control in compliance with international standards, and replicating EU good practices.



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

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. During the extension period BOMCA allocated additional funds for further enhancement of technical capacities of the State border agencies.

### Uzbekistan

40 sets of Regula 1025 compact document authenticity control devices and 15 Regula 7024M.111 small-sized desktop document readers were provided to the Uzbek border guards. These devices will allow the border officers to detect fake security elements and to automatically read and verify the authenticity of passports, ID cards, driver's licenses, visas and other documents.

### Kyrgyzstan

12 sets of "Regula 4115" devices for in-depth verification of document authenticity and 7 sets of video surveillance stations, including 56 portable video recorders, were procured for the Border Service of Kyrgyzstan. The latest generation of devices with the "Passport" integrated system contains benchmarks of 20 countries' passports, and allows for immediate comparison of the checked document with the benchmark. The devices can also examine documents at several security levels (document basis, printing protection, physical and chemical protection). It is also possible to examine individual fragments and make a rapid comparative analysis under different light sources. These devices will be used by border officers of Kyrgyzstan for the in-depth verification of documents whenever there is a risk of forgery.

The procured video surveillance systems, consisting of portable video recorders and servers, will be used by

border guards directly at checkpoints. The provided equipment will contribute to more efficient border checks, profiling of people crossing the border, creating, storing and analysing data on possible offenders and potentially dangerous persons, as well as preventing corruption among border officials and people crossing the State border.

Kyrgyz customs was supported in digitalisation of working processes at customs checkpoints, with video equipment purchased for a total amount of 23,256 euros. CCTV systems - multi-channel video recorders, indoor and outdoor video cameras will be installed at the Severnaya customs clearance point. They will also allow to optimise control functions and reduce corruption risks.

### Tajikistan

A multifunctional XEROX WC 7845 printing device was handed over to the Higher Border Institute of the Border Troops of Tajikistan. Wide capabilities of this modern device (printing, scanning, copying in several formats, as well as a stapling) will optimise and modernise the methodological work and the educational process, as such, promptly providing teachers and students with handouts, methodological printouts, newsletters, brochures and other printed materials, which can now be produced/copied at the Institute.

Video equipment was also purchased for the Border Troops of the Republic of Tajikistan. Video surveillance systems will be installed at the checkpoints on the Tajik-Afghan border. It will allow to optimise border checks, create video records and data on potential offenders and potentially dangerous persons and contribute to the fight against drug trafficking; and as well as prevent corruption among border guards and people crossing the State border.



## The national workshop on EU standards on identification, detention and return of irregular migrants

The National workshop on EU standards for identification, detention and return of irregular migrants was held in Nur-Sultan on 16-18 July 2019. The event was a mixture of a workshop and round-table discussions between the European and national experts working in the areas of identification, detention and return of irregular migrants.

The main goal of the event was to introduce good international and European practices for detention, accommodation and return of irregular migrants. The national participants reported on the national procedures in the area of return, detention and readmission; the European experts, in turn, presented international and EU standards and approaches. Special attention was

paid to cooperation between institutions to fight irregular migration at the state border and within the country, as well as to standard procedures for detention. Practical examples of identification of migrants with irregular status, including vulnerable groups, were dis-

cussed and analysed.

Based on discussions and an exchange of views with the national experts, the EU experts developed recommendations related to specific national legislation to be aligned with international best practices.



## Component 3: Adoption of trade facilitation regimes at borders

**Component 3 aims to introduce measures to improve the efficiency of controls and procedures applicable to goods and means of transport, thus facilitating regional and international trade.**



## Tajikistan and Turkmenistan customs authorities move towards advanced trade facilitating procedures

Taking into account that a proper customs function is one of the most important preconditions for trade facilitation, a bilateral workshop on customs value, tariff classification and origin of goods for customs representatives of Tajikistan and Turkmenistan was held in Dushanbe on 03-05 July 2019.

Customs officers from Tajikistan and Turkmenistan, together with

Lithuanian experts, gathered to discuss the system of customs value determination, tariff classification and origin of goods and methods used in their countries, and to evaluate international practices in this area based on Lithuania's experience. The expert team reviewed the existing legal frameworks and respective arrangements, and elaborated steps for further enhancement in this area

based on international experience and best practices.

To a wider extent, this BOMCA initiative will introduce measures improving the efficiency of control procedures applicable to goods and means of transport crossing the border aimed at facilitating regional and international trade.



## BOMCA and its national partners review the progress and outline the future plans

The latest round of the National Steering Group meetings was composed of a series of five meetings in Central Asian countries, which began in Ashgabat (Turkmenistan) on 13 September, continued in Dushanbe (Tajikistan) on 23 September, Tashkent (Uzbekistan) on 26 September, Nur – Sultan (Kazakhstan) on 30 September and finished in Bishkek (Kyrgyzstan) on 03 October 2019.

During the meetings, BOMCA, together with its key partners from the beneficiary agencies, as well as EU representatives, jointly assessed the work done during the previous year and discussed the planned activities until the end of the programme. The beneficiaries provided feedback on the status of recommendations developed by BOMCA in 2016, 2017 and 2018, and informed which recommendations were implemented and which could

be considered as potentially useful in the future. The partners were given the opportunity to share their opinions and ideas related to their participation in BOMCA activities, and to provide their recommendations for the successful implementation of upcoming activities.

The National Steering Group Meetings continue to serve as a basis for monitoring progress towards project goals, and as a reference point for efficiency of cooperation and partnerships with the beneficiaries during implementation.



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