



The programme is funded by the European Union



**BOMCA | БОМКА**  
BORDER MANAGEMENT PROGRAMME IN CENTRAL ASIA | ПРОГРАММА СОДЕЙСТВИЯ УПРАВЛЕНИЮ ГРАНИЦАМИ В ЦЕНТРАЛЬНОЙ АЗИИ



State Border Guard  
Republic of Latvia

# NEWSLETTER

## ISSUE 1

October 2021 - March 2022



MINISTRY OF INTERIOR  
HUNGARY



Food and Veterinary Service  
Republic of Latvia



State Border Guard Service  
Republic of Lithuania



International Centre for  
Migration Policy Development



State Revenue Service  
Republic of Latvia



RIGA TECHNICAL  
UNIVERSITY



Border Guard  
Republic of Poland



Central Directorate for  
Immigration and Border Police  
Italian Republic

## FOREWORD

We are pleased to share the first issue of our new newsletter, prepared by the BOMCA implementing Consortium, with the aim of informing you about the key activities of the tenth phase of the BOMCA Programme. The first issue presents the progress related to the project's implementation, covers milestone events, brings success stories to light and provides an overview of the planned activities for the next quarter.

## BOMCA 10 IN FOCUS



**H.E. Eduard Auer, Head of the Delegation, European Delegation to the Kyrgyz Republic**

Dear BOMCA readers,

On behalf of the European Commission, the donor to the Programme, I am pleased to welcome you and introduce the first issue of the newsletter dedicated to the 10th phase of the European Union's *Border Management Programme in Central Asia*. It will keep you informed about the fundamental work and progress of the project in the Central Asian region throughout its implementation.

Recognising that border security is a prerequisite for the stability of the whole region, the European Union launched BOMCA in 2003. Since then, this tailored Programme has been supporting the enhancement of security, countering trafficking and facilitation of trade in Central Asia. The 10th phase also contributes to the cross-border cooperation and improvement of living conditions of people residing in border areas of Central Asia. The Programme has been specifically linked to a number of EU objectives set forth in its strategic documents and it has become an absolute flagship initiative in the region and one of the longest programmes funded by the EU worldwide.

The application of the Integrated Border Management principles, as well as the exchange of know-how and best practices, both with the EU Member States and within the Central Asian region, are among the cornerstones of the Programme.



**General Guntis Pujats, BOMCA 10 Project Coordinator, Head of State Border Guard of the Republic of Latvia**

Dear BOMCA 10 partners, beneficiaries and colleagues!

It is a great pleasure to present you the first issue of the newsletter, providing the latest updates on the implementation of 10th phase of the *Border Management Programme in Central Asia*, funded by the European Union.

Commencing in April 2021, the BOMCA 10 comes as a response to the specific and fairly stringent needs of the Central Asian region in enhancing security, stability as well as support of border communities.

The State Border Guard of the Republic of Latvia, similar to the previous phase, pursues its leadership role in the renewed Consortium of the implementing partners, which includes the law enforcement institutions of Latvia, Lithuania, Hungary, Italy, Poland, and the International Centre for Migration Policy Development. I believe that the cooperation experience we have already gained and the strong professional relationships we have built with the Central Asian authorities (at both national and regional levels) are a sound foundation for the successful implementation of the current BOMCA phase.

Thus, let me encourage you to follow BOMCA 10 updates and stay informed about the project's progress!

## ABOUT BOMCA 10

Since its launch in 2003, the **Border Management Programme in Central Asia (BOMCA)** funded by the European Union has focused on capacity building and institutional development, developing trade corridors and the facilitation of trade, improving border management system and eliminating drug trafficking across the Central Asia region.

**OVERALL OBJECTIVE** | Enhancing security, stability, and sustainable growth in the region, as well as supporting cross-border cooperation and improving living conditions for people living in border areas of Central Asia

**BUDGET** | 21 650 050

**DURATION** | April 2021 - September 2025

**COMPONENT 1**  
INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT OF BORDER CONTROL AGENCIES  
**SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE** | Adopting international security standards, integration of best practices and/or compliance with integrated border management models where applicable

**COMPONENT 2**  
IMPROVEMENT OF DETECTION CAPACITIES  
**SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE** | Enhancing detection, coordination and investigation effectiveness within and between Central Asian countries

**COMPONENT 3**  
FACILITATION OF TRADE  
**SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE** | Harmonizing institutional, technical and normative practices related to the facilitation of legitimate flows of people and cargo across borders

**COMPONENT 4**  
IMPROVEMENT OF CROSS-BORDER COOPERATION  
**SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE** | Improving living conditions in border areas through local economic development, with a focus on human rights, gender equality and vulnerable groups (such as women, children and victims of human trafficking)

# HIGHLIGHTS OF THE PROGRAMME



## INCEPTION PHASE PLACES A SOLID BASIS FOR PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION

From April – September 2021, the BOMCA implementing team dedicated its primary efforts towards setting up a solid foundation for successful multi-year project implementation. To this end, the project implementing Consortium held a series of consultation meetings with Central Asian national beneficiary agencies and international stakeholders, to streamline the Programme's intervention areas and synergies with other initiatives, as well as to re-establish cooperation and communication channels for the upcoming implementation period. The team of dedicated professionals, both international and national, was assembled and the project offices opened in Central Asian capitals, with the Regional Office seating in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan. A particular consideration was given to the conceptualisation of the project's visual identity and communication strategy, in order to raise awareness about the project among all target groups. The project has recently launched a dedicated website, multiple social media accounts and a short video, presenting the focus of the 10th phase and its key features.

[WATCH A VIDEO ON THE BOMCA 10 WEBSITE](#)



## 1ST MEETING OF BOMCA 10 REGIONAL STEERING GROUP

On December 6 2021, the first meeting of the BOMCA 10 Regional Steering Group, attended by representatives of the project beneficiaries from the Central Asian countries, project Consortium partners and EU Delegation to Kyrgyzstan, was held in Bishkek. The meeting served as a forum for informing about the outcomes of the project's inception phase, providing an overview of the conceptual planning and monitoring, as well as endorsing implementation plans for 2022. **General Guntis Pujats, BOMCA 10 Project Coordinator, State Border Guard of the Republic of Latvia**, underlined the importance of the meeting for strengthening regional cooperation and mutual support towards delivering sustainable project results.

[READ MORE ON THE BOMCA 10 WEBSITE](#)



## OFFICIAL KICK-OFF OF THE PROGRAMME'S 10TH PHASE

December 7, 2021 marked the official launch of the 10th phase of BOMCA Programme at the project Opening Conference in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan. Aimed at informing BOMCA beneficiaries and stakeholders about the objectives, implementation strategies and expected project results in all five Central Asian countries, the event gathered over 100 participants representing the project implementing Consortium, national authorities, international organisations, EU Member States and EU Delegations to Central Asian countries. In her welcoming address, **Ms. Terhi Hakala, EU Special Representative for Central Asia**, noted that BOMCA Programme represents the spirit of EU-Central Asian cooperation and is instrumental for ensuring regional security and stability.

[READ MORE ON THE BOMCA 10 WEBSITE](#)



## WORLD CUSTOMS ORGANISATION GIVES ACCREDITATION TO THE UZBEK CUSTOMS INSTITUTE

In November 2021, the Customs Institute of the State Customs Committee of the Republic of Uzbekistan was awarded with a professional standards recognition certificate of the World Customs Organization (WCO), in accordance with the PICARD Programme (Partnership in Customs Academic Research and Development).

## FEATURED STORIES

The international accreditation of the Uzbek Customs Institute's educational programme strengthens scientific cooperation with academic circles abroad, develops the academic mobility of teachers and students, strengthens the Institute's position in the international education market, including contributing to the Institute's reputation as a center of international customs education programmes in Central Asia.

The BOMCA Programme actively supported the Uzbek Customs Institute in the process of achieving WCO recognition by analysing existing customs education and training systems and developing recommendations for fine-tuning academic curricula in the key relevant areas to align them with the WCO PICARD professional standards.

Remarkably, the educational programmes of the 13 higher education institutions in just 10 out of the 183 WCO member countries are accredited in accordance with PICARD standards today.

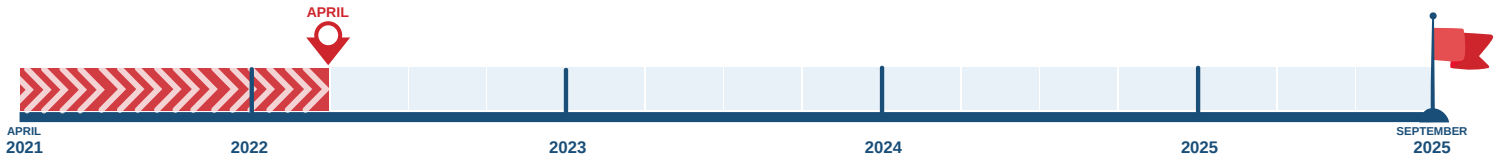
## AFGHANISTAN: RESPONSE TO SECURITY CONCERNS



Recognising political developments in Afghanistan and impact on the Central Asian neighbouring countries, the Programme has prioritised thematic and technical support to national authorities of Tajikistan in addressing pressing needs. Special attention was paid to risk analysis, profiling and identification, document security and initial technical support. It should be however underlined that the main part of procurement of equipment for the beneficiaries will take place at the later stage of the project implementation.

# BOMCA 10 PROGRESS IN A NUTSHELL

## Project implementation timeline



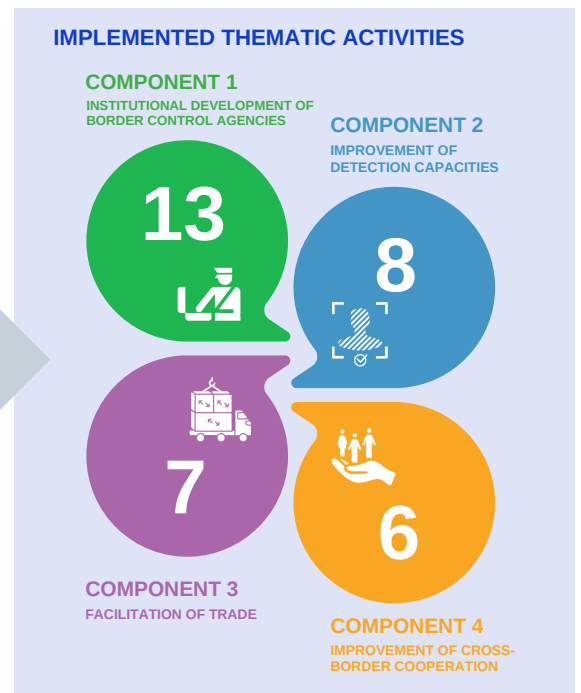
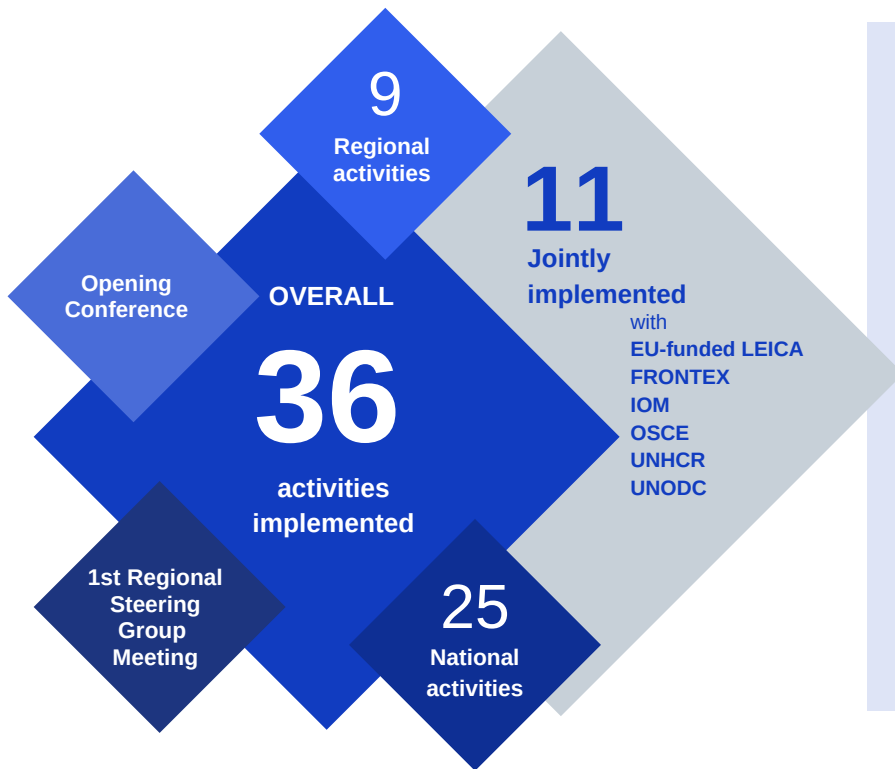
Since the start of its implementation phase in October 2021, BOMCA has concentrated its efforts across all four thematic components and ensured its activities at both national and regional levels.

Recognising the role and work of other international stakeholders in the region, the project has ensured the coordination of activities and cooperation through joint events with various partner organisations and programmes.

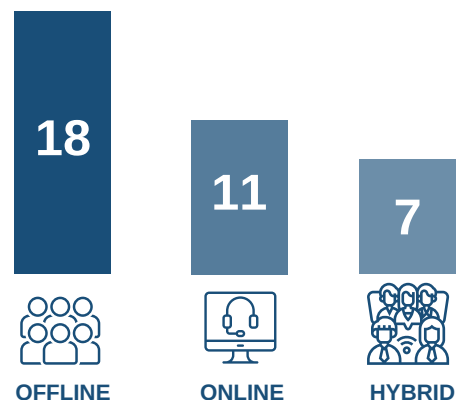
While various waves of Covid-19 went through the region and quarantine measures did not always allow for meetings of national counterparts on a face-to-face basis, solutions have been found through blended or online formats, so that the activities for all five countries of the region could take place.

The speed of implementation has also been steadily increasing and the next period will see even higher number of activities. Infographics on this page present the described major developments in numbers.

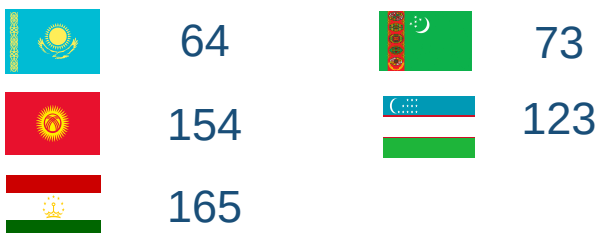
## Project implementation in the period of October 2021 - March 2022



## FORMAT OF THE IMPLEMENTED EVENTS



## NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS IN PROJECT ACTIVITIES ACROSS CENTRAL ASIAN STATES



# THEMATIC AND METHODOLOGICAL FOCUS IN THE NEXT QUARTER (APRIL - JUNE 2022)



Regional workshops



Short-term traineeships



Study visits



Other targeted  
capacity building  
activities



National workshops



Thematic meetings



Exchange of trainers



Training of trainers



International conference



Technical assistance



## COMPONENT 1

### INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT OF BORDER CONTROL AGENCIES

- Strengthening training capacities on document security
- Increasing training capacities on identification and profiling techniques
- Practical training experience of border agencies in Central Asia
- Facilitation of rapid and effective return of irregular migrants
- Support in application of an e-learning methodology
- Support to the international initiatives (International Border Police Conference)
- Facilitation of distance learning
- Support in the development of risk analysis systems
- Development of the IBM strategy and action plans
- Study visits to the EU Member States



## COMPONENT 2

### IMPROVEMENT OF DETECTION CAPACITIES

- Facilitation of cooperation within investigation units, prosecutor's offices
- Enhancing the capacities of crime intelligence officers
- Contributing to the improvement of forensic methods
- Advancing training and cooperation in the field of cynology
- Enhancing awareness on investigation of cross-border crimes
- Raising awareness on human rights and gender sensitivity
- Study visits to the EU Member States



## COMPONENT 3

### FACILITATION OF TRADE

- Development of Education and Training System for veterinary and phytosanitary services
- Improvement of customs processes and e-services related to electronic submission and development of Single Windows
- Development of training capacities in car and truck searches
- Provision of practical training experiences in the EU Member States
- Facilitation of the application of innovative principles and methods of risk management and green channels
- Contributing to the trade facilitation/legal and trade analysis and planning of related measures
- Assistance in the introduction and operation of the Customs and Business Advisory Council
- Contributing to the improvement of transit systems
- Development of distance learning concepts and provision of equipment for customs training institutions



## COMPONENT 4

### IMPROVEMENT OF CROSS-BORDER COOPERATION

- Research and analysis in the area of migration, cross-border and related areas
- Awareness raising on irregular migration, as well as on issues of concern for population affected by migration
- Assistance to vulnerable population groups affected by migration and border proximity (in particular to children and women left behind by migrants)
- Support to entrepreneurship, including social entrepreneurship initiatives, for all population groups and among women in particular, as a special category

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