

BORDER MANAGEMENT/ CAPACITY BUILDING FOR MIGRATION MANAGEMENT

Enhancing Latvia-Belarus border management cooperation during preparation and implementation of large-scale public events (LATBEL)

✔ Project completed

About the Project

The project aimed at strengthening cross-border cooperation between Latvia and Belarus to counter irregular border crossings and the risks associated with irregular transit migration during large-scale cross-border public events. Its main components were capacity building on border management as well as risk analysis and facilitation of communication through an expanded network of common contact points.

Due to the changing geopolitical context, this project saw an early termination in September 2021 and not all activities could be fully completed. For more info on implemented activities, see below.



Partners

This MPF project was implemented by the State Border Guard of the Republic of Latvia in collaboration with the State Border Committee of Belarus.



Countries

Belarus and Latvia



Time frame

October 2019 - September 2021



Budget

EUR 247,855.44 (94.99% from ISF Borders and Visa)

Activities



Capacity Building on Border Management

This component included activities aimed at learning about good practices from Ukraine and Slovakia in hosting and managing large-scale public events, as well as a series of bilateral meetings and trainings aimed at strengthening LV-BY mutual understanding and joint operational capacity. The guidelines for joint investigation of border incidents were updated and used for practical exercises. Moreover, border surveillance and investigation equipment was purchased and delivered to Belarus.



Capacity Building on Risk Analysis

Experts from the region developed SOPs for risk analysis in order to build a joint framework for central and regional-level risk analysts at the Belarus and Latvian border. Additionally, Customs authorities from Latvia and Belarus took proactive part in the activities by bringing valuable information on modus operandi identified at the border.



Bilateral meetings on checks at air border crossing points held on 25 - 28 November 2019 in Minsk, Belarus



Joint Operations and Exercises

National experts met to discuss and agree on a contingency plan incorporating FRONTEX recommendations. A practical exercise was then organised on the prevention of specific unauthorized activities at border crossing points. A wide range of actors was involved in the exercise, including "green border" surveillance units, training institutions, customs, and police.



Common Contact Points and Focal Points

A Joint Protocol was drafted and agreed at operational level between the parties. Moreover, equipment for document examination was purchased and delivered to Belarus.



Joint training on the practical use of the «Guidelines for the joint investigation of border incidents related to the violation of the regime of the Latvian – Belarus state border», held on 26 November 2019 at the common section of Latvia – Belarus border



Joint training of criminal investigation officers on the practical use of the «Guidelines for the joint investigation of border incidents related to the violation of the regime of the Latvian – Belarus state border», held online on 19 February 2021

Implemented by



The Migration Partnership Facility



This project was awarded and contracted in the framework of the Migration Partnership Facility (MPF), an EU-funded initiative implemented by ICMPD in support of the external dimension of the EU migration policy. Through its grants, the MPF facilitates the execution of projects to strengthen dialogue and cooperation on migration and mobility between Member States and partner countries outside the EU.

Funded by the European Union



Contracted by ICMPD

