

July 2025 - Newsletter #4

“Strengthening the regional cooperation on migration management between Western Balkans and neighbouring EU Member States in accordance with EU Acquis and international standards – MIRCO”



The project is implemented by the Swedish Migration Agency of the Kingdom of Sweden, as a Lead Partner in close collaboration with the partner the Commissariat for Refugees and Migration of the Republic of Serbia. The project is co-funded by the European Union and contracted by ICMPD through the Migration Partnership Facility.



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From Policy to Practice: The Training of Trainers in Plandiste

Date: 10-12 June 2025

Location: Regional Migration Training Centre,
Plandiste, Serbia

From June 10–12, 2025, the Regional Migration Training Centre (RMTc) in Plandiste hosted a three-day Training of Trainers, aimed at equipping future trainers with the necessary skills to deliver effective training sessions in migration management. This initiative forms part of ongoing efforts to strengthen institutional capacities and regional cooperation, with a strong emphasis on aligning the curricula with MCP Med TI certification standards and the European Qualifications Framework (EQF).

The event brought together representatives from migration and security institutions in Serbia, Montenegro, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and North Macedonia, with the aim of promoting more coherent and harmonized responses in line with EU legislation and international standards. Through presentations, interactive sessions and peer learning, participants explored effective training methodologies, exchanged experiences and best practices, and worked to address current migration challenges while strengthening coordinated efforts across the region.

On the first day, all participants underwent training in facilitation and training skills, conducted by San-

dra Jansson, an expert from the Swedish Migration Agency (SMA).

Further on, during the next two days, the training focused on three newly developed training courses separately:

- Global and Regional Migration Governance
- Migration and Development
- Migration and Gender

These courses were developed in collaboration with Maastricht University (UNU-MERIT) and delivered by its experts through interactive workshops, group exercises, and plenary discussions.

The Training of Trainers session marked a significant milestone in building a skilled regional network of migration professionals equipped to deliver high-quality training sessions. With more training modules underway the MIRCO project continues to foster long-term capacity-building across the region. The successful collaboration between institutions and international experts further highlights the commitment to harmonizing migration management with EU standards and promoting sustainable regional cooperation.



RMTc, Plandiste, Serbia, 12 June 2025



RMTc, Plandiste, Serbia, 10 June 2025.

Development of the New Training Courses in Progress

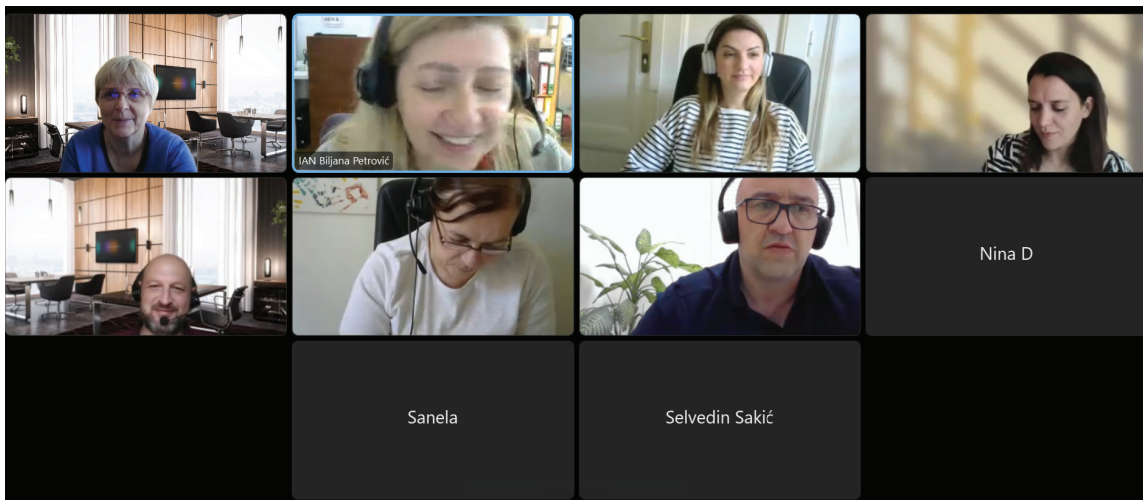
Looking ahead, seven new training courses will cover vital topics including: migrant rights, anti-trafficking, youth in migration, legal pathways, migration-related security issues, and more. Training courses will be available both in person and through a dedicated digital platform.

Three new courses are currently under development, namely:

- Human Trafficking and Protection of Victims – led by the SMA,

- Youth and Migration – also developed by the SMA,
- Prevention of Torture and Protection of Migrants' Rights – being developed by the International Aid Network (IAN) from Serbia.

These topics reflect the MIRCO project's commitment to addressing complex migration challenges across the region. The training program will continue with both in-person sessions and a digital learning platform to ensure broad accessibility.



Online, 9 May 2025

Athens Study Visit: Advancing Migration Knowledge Across Borders

Date: 3-4 June 2025

Location: Ministry of Migration and Asylum, Athens, Greece

The study visit to the Ministry of Migration and Asylum (MoMA) was held over two days, from 3 to 4 June 2025, at MoMA's premises in Athens, Greece. The visit brought together 20 participants representing the project's beneficiary institutions, namely Ministry of Interior of Montenegro, Ministry of Security of Bosnia and Herzegovina and Commissariat for Refugees and Migration of Serbia, as well as MoMA, SMA, and the MIRCO project team.

The purpose of the visit was to explore best practices in institutional training strategies, capacity-building initiatives, and staff development approaches implemented by MoMA.

The hosts offered valuable insights into MoMA's operations, with a particular emphasis on training programmes available in Greece, curriculum development, and their capacity-building efforts. The exchange of knowledge and experiences significantly contributed to the ongoing implementation of the MIRCO project.



MoMA, Athens, Greece, 3 June 2025

Participants had the opportunity to gain insights into Greece's training framework in the asylum process, including key thematic areas and effective methodologies. The visit highlighted the use of the European Sectoral Qualifications Framework (ESQF) for assessing training needs, and the importance of quality assurance tools in maintaining consistent and effective training standards.

Discussions also covered the structure of the Greek reception system, strategies for training reception personnel, and approaches to handling vulnerability in migration contexts, including the certification of Best Interests procedures. Additionally, the implications of the EU Pact on Migration and Asylum were presented, emphasizing the evolving demands on national training systems and future priorities.

This study visit served as a platform for regional dialogue and professional exchange, reinforcing the importance of structured training in building institutional capacity. It provided both inspiration and practical di-

rection for the ongoing implementation of the MIRCO project and the development of coordinated migration training efforts across the Western Balkans.



MoMA, Athens, Greece, 4 June 2025

Project Coordination Meeting: MIRCO Project Progresses Toward Stronger Regional Migration Governance

Date: 5 June 2025

Location: Ministry of Migration and Asylum, Athens, Greece

At the recent Project Coordination Team meeting, partners reviewed the successful implementation of key activities under the MIRCO project's second quarter, including the delivery of audio video equipment, updates to the RMTC website and e-library, and the finalization of three training curricula.

Ongoing efforts focus on capacity building, development of seven more training courses, language courses, and international cooperation with regional migration centres. Notable progress includes the Intercultural Communication workshop, digital newsletter production, and plans for curriculum digitization and training delivery.

Discussions also introduced the MIRCO 2 concept, with beneficiary institutions expressing interest in continued collaboration, enhanced training formats, and new research initiatives. The next coordination meeting is scheduled for September 2025 in Skopje.



MoMA, Athens, Greece, 5 June 2025

Bridging Cultures, Building Skills

Date: 24 April 2025

Location: Online

As part of its continuous efforts to foster cooperation and knowledge exchange, the MIRCO project has further supported collaboration between training professionals both regionally and internationally. A key milestone in this process was the online workshop on “Intercultural Communication,” held on 24 April 2025 in cooperation with the Swedish Migration Academy.

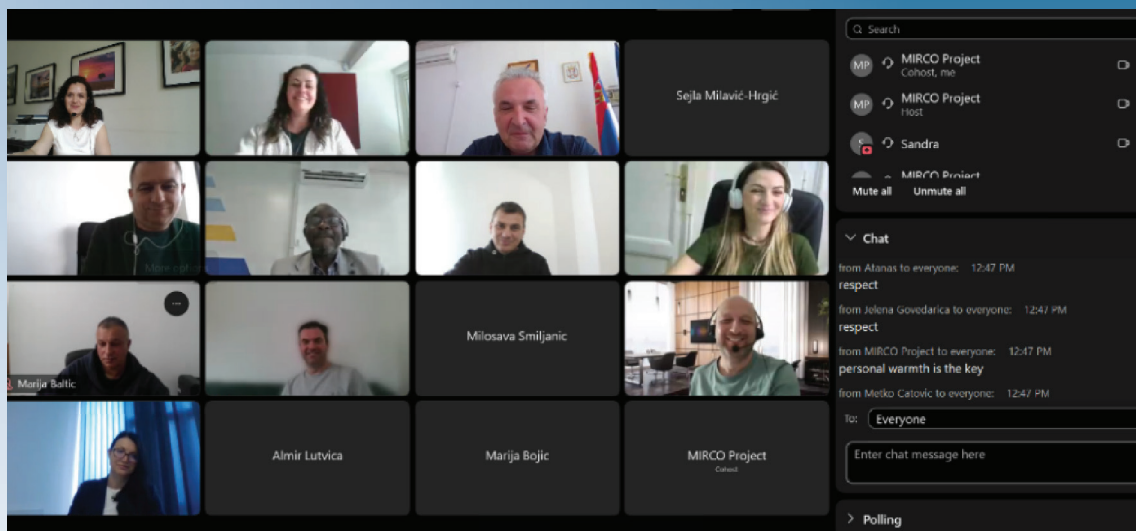
The workshop brought together 19 participants representing institutions from across the Western Balkans, Africa, and Europe. These included the Ministry of Security of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Ministry of Interior of North Macedonia, Ministry of Interior of Montenegro, and the Commissariat for Refugees and Migration of the Republic of Serbia. International participation came from the African Capacity Building Centre (Tanzania) and the SMA, along with the MIRCO Project Office in Belgrade.

This diverse group reflected the project’s growing international network and its commitment to building global bridges in migration management and training.

The central goal of the workshop was to enhance participants’ understanding of intercultural communication within the context of migration management. The training explored the impact of culture on communication, strategies for managing intercultural interactions in professional settings, and tools to overcome common barriers.

Participants were encouraged to reflect on their own communication styles and how cultural differences influence perceptions, expectations, and behaviour in cross-border cooperation. Rather than relying solely on lectures, the workshop used an interactive format, including breakout sessions and guided group discussions. These allowed participants to share their experiences and challenges, and to apply theoretical insights to real-world scenarios.

This successful workshop reaffirmed the importance of intercultural competence in the field of migration. As institutions across regions increasingly collaborate, the ability to communicate effectively across cultures is becoming essential to professional practice and policy implementation.



Online, 24 April 2025

Regional Migration Training Centre in Plandiste Upgraded with Audio-Visual Equipment to Support Capacity Building Activities

As part of the MIRCO project's commitment to strengthening regional migration management, the Regional Migration Training Centre (RMTc) in Plandiste has been equipped with new audio-visual technology. This donation significantly enhances the Centre's technical infrastructure, enabling modern, interactive, and hybrid training delivery.

The new equipment will support the production of professional training materials, including video recordings, e-learning content, and podcast recordings. These tools will play a key role in expanding access to training, sharing expert knowledge across borders, and building the long-term capacity of migration professionals throughout the region.

By creating high-quality digital content, the Centre is now better positioned to support continuous learning, regional knowledge exchange, and the professional development of staff working in migration and asylum systems.

This upgrade marks a strategic step in transforming the Centre into a regional hub for innovation, training, and collaboration in migration management.



RMTc, Plandiste, Serbia, June 2025

RMTc Website with eLearning platform finalised

We are excited to announce that the RMTc website and its dedicated eLearning platform are now fully developed and operational! This digital hub includes a comprehensive e-library that is freely accessible to all partner institutions across the Western Balkans, as well as other stakeholders involved in migration management in the region.



Regional Migration Training Centre, website home page

These digital tools are a major step forward in achieving our shared goal: establishing the Regional Migration Training Centre as a sustainable, long-term hub for training and cooperation in migration and asylum management across the Western Balkans.

The RMTC's eLearning platform provides a modern, user-friendly digital environment designed to meet the needs of public institutions and project partners. It serves as a key resource for strengthening institutional capacities and encouraging regional collaboration in the areas of migration and asylum.

The platform is designed to support a broad range of users, including public officials working on migration, asylum, and refugee issues at the national, regional, or international levels. It also serves representatives of NGOs, international organisations, and civil society engaged in migration management and protection, as well as academics and researchers active in the fields of migration studies, social sciences, human rights, and related disciplines.

English Language Courses for beneficiaries in Bosnia and Herzegovina finished successfully followed by Serbian participants

The English course in Serbia and Bosnia and Herzegovina, organised for the Commissariat for Refugees and Migration and the Ministry of Security as the respective beneficiary institutions, has been successfully completed. Participants in both countries reported a high level of satisfaction with the course. In Serbia, certificate handovers have already been organised for the first group of participants, while the remaining handovers will take place shortly. A total of 25 participants, 15 from Serbia and 10 from Bosnia and Herzegovina, attended English lessons across various levels ranging from A to C levels.

The delivery of English classes in Ministries of Interior in Montenegro and North Macedonia is still ongoing in both countries. The remaining modules will be delivered following the summer break, with the full completion of the course expected in the upcoming months, starting from August and September.



SCRM, Belgrade, Serbia, June 2025

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