

April 2025 - Newsletter #3

"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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Partnership Agreement Signed Between the Serbian Commissariat for Refugees and Migration and the Swedish Migration Agency

Date: 25-26 March 2025

Location: Swedish Migration Agency, Swedish Ministry of Justice, Stockholm, Sweden

As part of the MIRCO project, a partnership agreement was signed on 26 March 2025 at the Swedish Migration Agency (SMA) between the Serbian Commissioner for Refugees and Migration, Natasa Stanisavljevic, and the Director of the Development Sector of the SMA, Markus Thoremär. The signing ceremony took place in the presence of H.E. Ambassador Jelena Cukic Matic.

The partnership aims to strengthen regional cooperation in migration management, in line with EU legislation and international standards. During the two-day visit, the officials of Serbian and Swedish migration institutions reviewed key outcomes of the ongoing collaboration, including the development of training curricula, delivery of equipment for the Training Centre in Plandiste, and the establishment of a digital learning platform.

Discussions also focused on upcoming steps, such as accreditation of the training centre, digitalization of training content, training of trainers, and further study visits. During her official visit, Commissioner Stanisavljević also met with Sweden's State Secretary at the Ministry of Justice, Andreas Hall, to discuss the current migration situation in Serbia.



Swedish Migration Agency, Stockholm, Sweden, 26 March 2025



Swedish Ministry of Justice, Stockholm, Sweden 25 March 2025.

MIRCO and EUAA Strengthen Cooperation on Migration Capacity-Building Initiatives in the Western Balkans

Date: 4 February 2025

Location: Online

As part of ongoing efforts to enhance institutional capacities in the region, the MIRCO project and the European Union Agency for Asylum (EUAA) are deepening their collaboration to support sustainable migration management and training initiatives in the Western Balkans. During February, the MIRCO project continued its collaboration with the European Union Agency for Asylum (EUAA) through a productive online meeting aimed at strengthening synergies and cooperation in migration and asylum capacity-building initiatives across the Western Balkans.

Building on discussions from October 2024, the meeting brought together key stakeholders, includ-

ing the EU Delegation to Serbia, EUAA, the Swedish Migration Agency, and the MIRCO project office in Belgrade. The session provided valuable insights into EUAA's regional training efforts, ensuring coordination with the MIRCO project to avoid overlapping and maximise efforts. EUAA also shared its training strategy and regional training plan for the Western Balkans, along with the findings of a recent training needs assessment for 2024-2026. This meeting underscored the importance of joint efforts with EU delegations in the region, EU agencies, and international organizations to deliver effective and coordinated solutions for developing regional training programs.

Strengthening the Migration Management: Key Insights from the Study Visit to Training Institute on Migration Capacity Partnership for the Mediterranean

Date: 4-5 March 2025

Location: TI Malta, Valetta, Malta

The study visit to Training Institute on Migration Capacity Partnership for the Mediterranean (MCP Med TI) took place over two days, from 4–5 March 2025 in Valletta, Malta. The visit was attended by 18 representatives from Western Balkans project beneficiary institutions, the Ministry of Interior of the Republic of Serbia, MCP Med TI, ICMPD Western Balkan Office, the Swedish Migration Agency, and members of the MIRCO project team.

During the two-day visit, participants received valuable information and insights related to training curriculum development, as well as the requirements and criteria for the accreditation of both the curriculum and trainers. They also had the opportunity to exchange views on a variety of relevant topics and seek guidance regarding the accreditation process for the future Regional Migration Training Center in Plandiste, Serbia.

The study visit was highly appreciated by the participants, who expressed strong satisfaction with the information shared, the knowledge gained, and the practical insights offered. They particularly valued the in-depth presentations and the opportunity for direct engagement with MCP MED TI Malta on a wide range of relevant topics.

This visit significantly contributed to the MIRCO project's objectives by providing practical guidance on leveraging MCP MED TI Malta's expertise for the development of the Western Balkans Regional Migration Training Center in Plandiste, Serbia. The two-day visit laid a solid foundation for continued collaboration and future knowledge-sharing with MCP MED TI Malta.



TI Malta, Valletta, 4 March 2025



TI Malta, Valletta, 5 March 2025

Study Visit to the Security Academy of the Federal Ministry of the Interior of Austria: Enhancing EU Training Strategies in Migration Management

Date: 18-19 March 2025

Location: Security Academy (SIAC), Vienna, Austria

The MIRCO project's associated partner, the Federal Ministry of the Interior of Austria, organized a two-day study visit on 18–19 March 2025 at the premises of the Security Academy (SIAC) in Vienna, Austria.

In addition to representatives from SIAC, the visit was attended by project beneficiary institutions and partners from the Western Balkans and Sweden.



SIAK, Vienna, Austria, 18 March 2025

The primary objective of the visit was to familiarize Western Balkans migration institutions with European Union training strategies and best practices related to institutional capacity building, career development tools, and approaches to reducing staff turnover. The study visit provided in-depth insights into Austria's innovative training systems, with a particular emphasis on migration management and law enforcement.

The diverse range of topics—from law enforcement training to e-learning technologies—provided participants with an enriched understanding of how law enforcement training practices can be adapted to enhance migration management education.

The exchange of knowledge has set the foundation for continued collaboration between SIAK and the MIRCO project, with plans for further joint efforts in curriculum development and material exchange.

The insights gained during this study visit are invaluable in the ongoing efforts to enhance migration education. By leveraging SIAK's training strategies and institutional support, we aim to empower professionals and institutions across the region to develop effective, sustainable training programs that align with EU standards.

MIRCO Project Coordination Team Meeting

Date: 20 March 2025

Location: Security Academy (SIAC), Vienna, Austria

On March 20, 2025, following the study visit to SIAK, the fourth MIRCO Project Coordination Team (PCT) meeting was held in Vienna. The PCT members convened to review the progress of project activities implemented during the first quarter of 2025 and to plan for the upcoming quarter.

Key topics included an overview of completed and ongoing tasks, an evaluation of current outcomes, and a discussion on planned activities for the second quarter of 2025. The meeting also emphasized strengthening coordination efforts to ensure smooth implementation and alignment with the overall project goals.

A major focus of the meeting was the agreement on thematic areas for the development of the next set of training curricula under the MIRCO project, aimed at enhancing the capacities of Western Balkans migration institutions. The PCT members also outlined a detailed

plan for the implementation of project activities for the period April–June 2025, while discussing priorities and institutional capacities needed for effective execution.



SIAC, Vienna, Austria, 20 March 2025

Advancing Cooperation: MIRCO Partners Meet with ICMPD to Discuss Future Initiatives

Date: 21 March 2025

Location: ICMPD office, Vienna, Austria

On March 21, representatives from the SMA, KIRS, and MIRCO project teams held a meeting with Melita Gruevski, ICMPD Special Representative for the Western Balkans, at their offices in Vienna. The discussion focused on ongoing and planned activities, as well as potential collaboration on the similar projects in the future. The teams exchanged insights on activities and projects in the WB region, exploring opportunities to join forces, avoid overlap, and better coordinate efforts.

The main theme of the meeting was fostering cooperation between the organizations to enhance the impact of future initiatives. This productive exchange marks an important step toward strengthening partnerships and ensuring synergies in upcoming projects.



ICMPD office, Vienna, Austria, 21 March 2025



ICMPD office, Vienna, Austria, 21 March 2025

Development of Regional Migration Training Centre Website

We are pleased to announce the launch of activities for the development of the Regional Migration Training Centre (RMTC) website, which commenced in February 2025. This initiative aims to better showcase regional efforts in collaboration with Western Balkan partners.

In the coming months, the RMTC website will be developed as an effective, user-friendly, and accessible platform to serve all Western Balkans partner institutions, as well as EU and international stake-

holders involved in migration management—including media, academia, NGOs, international organizations, and civil society.

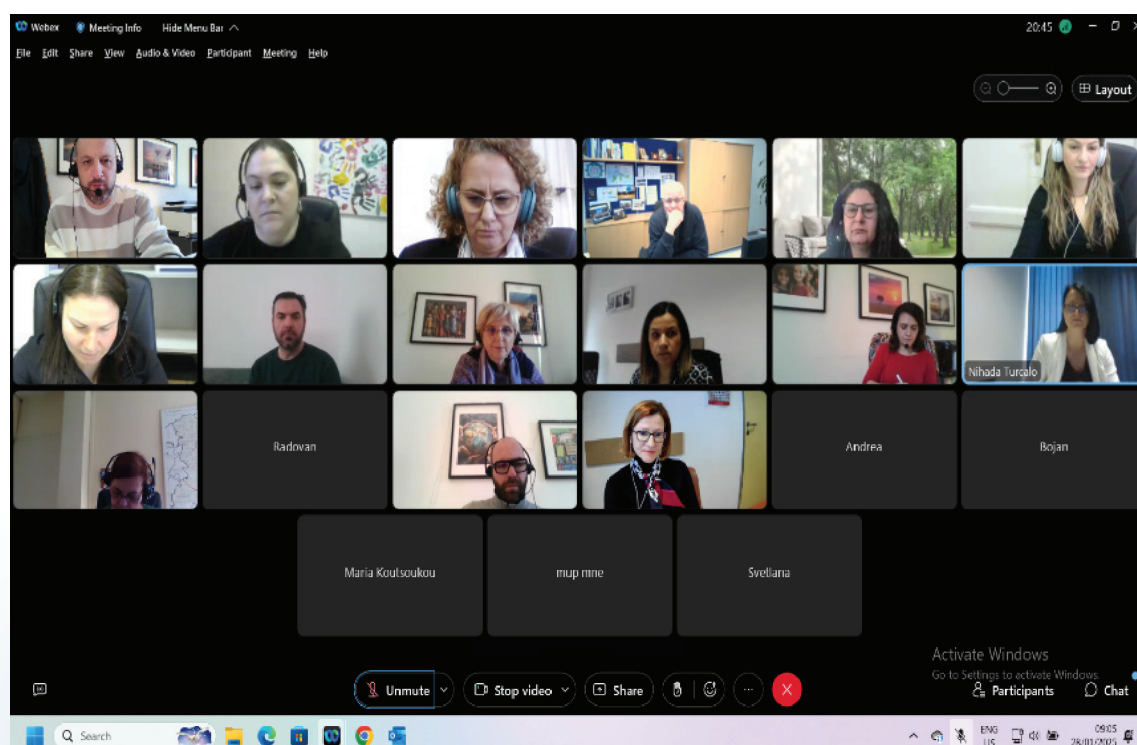
A key feature of the future RMTC website will be its E-learning platform and E-library. These components will allow users to gain knowledge in the field of migration management through interactive training sessions, participate in online collaboration and networking, and access a regional digital library of relevant materials and resources.

Progress Update on Tailor-Made Training Curricula for Migration Management

We are pleased to report that activities related to developing 10 tailor-made training curricula on migration management, is well underway.

On 28 January 2025, the MIRCO project held a successful online workshop, bringing together 25 participants, including training coordinators, representatives of WB project beneficiary institutions, EU Member State experts from Austria and Greece, and members of the MIRCO project team. This event marked a significant milestone in the development of three tailor-made training curricula on migration management. The curricula—Global and Regional Migration Governance, Migration and Gender, and Migration and Development—were identified by the Project Coordination Team in December 2024 and are being developed by UNU-MERIT (Maastricht University).

During the workshop, working groups actively engaged in defining the frameworks, learning objectives, and expected outcomes for each curriculum. The continuous involvement of EU Member State experts throughout the process ensured alignment with EU policies and best practices. Participants contributed valuable feedback, further enhancing the quality and relevance of the curricula. The activity is progressing steadily in close collaboration with UNU-MERIT (Maastricht University), and in cooperation with ICMPD and MCP Med TI Malta, with a strong focus on aligning the training curricula with the European Qualifications Framework (EQF). This collaborative effort marks significant progress in a key project component, with the completion of the first three curricula expected by May 2025.



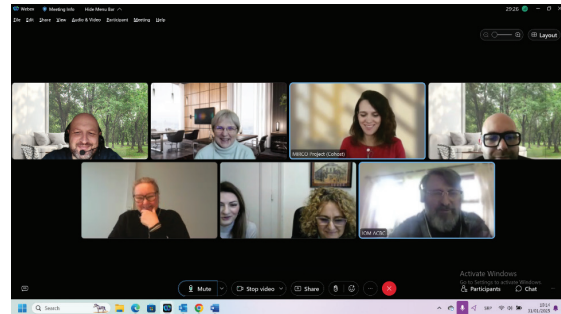
Online Workshop, 28 January 2025

MIRCO Project Continues to Foster Global Collaboration Between Migration Training Centres

As part of its ongoing efforts to strengthen regional and international cooperation and establish a network, the MIRCO project supported a series of online meetings in January and February 2025 to facilitate knowledge exchange between the Regional Migration Training Centre (RMT) in Serbia and other migration training centres and institutions. Separate meetings were held with regional migration training centres in Tanzania and Azerbaijan in January, followed by a session with the Swedish Migration Academy in February.

The discussions focused on sharing best practices in curriculum development, training delivery, and capacity-building strategies between the representatives of the Commissariat for Refugees and Migration of Serbia, the African Capacity Building Centre (Tanzania), the State Migration Service of Azerbaijan and the Swedish Migration Agency.

The meetings also explored opportunities for future collaboration, including study visits and joint training initiatives. These efforts aim to promote long-term partnerships, improve training approaches across regions, and lay the foundation for sustainable cooperation through the exchange of practical knowledge and experiences.



Online meeting with ACBC of Tanzania, 31 January 2025

English Language Courses for Key WB Staff Underway

English language courses are now being implemented across all beneficiary institutions involved in the project to improve the language skills for more efficient participation in the project activities. This important initiative is designed to enhance the language proficiency of key professionals from Western Balkans partner institutions, supporting more effective international cooperation in the migration sector.

Throughout the project duration, tailor-made English language courses will be provided to selected staff, key professionals who will benefit most from this training. The courses are focusing specifically on improving communication skills relevant to the migration sector, ensuring practical and targeted learning. This activity marks a significant step forward in strengthening regional cooperation and professional development through enhanced language capacity.

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