

Modernisation of Data Collection in the field of Migration and Border Management

Introduction

The border management stakeholders currently faces the parallel challenges of migration management and the fight against terrorism, organised crime and cyberattacks. Threats are becoming ever more complex and transnational, so cooperation and information are becoming ever more important to ensure the safety and security of citizens and travellers. It is essential to make full use of existing legislation and initiatives to promote information exchange among all those involved in the field of migration, border management and security.

Information systems, by providing border guards, migration, customs and asylum officials, and police officers with relevant information on persons, are essential for both border management and internal security in the countries.

Over the last five decades, the numbers of international migrants have increased, to reach to approximately 281 Million of people living in a country other than their country of birth. This increase has made it even more important to understand the changes in scale, emerging trends and challenges, and demographics relating to the political, economic and social landscapes of these migrants and their host countries. As a result, a growing interest to obtain reliable data on migration has emerged for government to understand the dynamics of different groups of migrants they host, as well as, to inform their policies and planning process related to migration. This approach is in line with the principles laid out in the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 10.7 and 17.18, and the Global Compact for Migration (GCM) Objective 1: Collect and utilize accurate and disaggregated data as a basis for evidence-based policies.

Under the Migration Capacities Partnership Framework, ICMPD has been working with the governments of Jordan and Tunisia to strengthen their multi-dimensional migration governance, and professionalisation of multi-sectoral stakeholders, while modernising the resources invested in the process of data management in the field of migration.

MIDAM

From 2019, ICMPD has been implementing the project “*Strengthening the Evidence Base for Migration Policies: (advancing) A Central Migration Data Management Solution for Jordan (MIDAM & MIDAM II)*” that aimed to support the establishment of a data system and improvement of migration management capacities of the Government of Jordan. The project generated a multi-dimensional governance cooperation between governmental stakeholders in the development and acquisition of a Migration Data System. MIDAM has spearheaded the materialisation of the Jordanian vision for a migration data system by procuring the hardware and software for collection of data related to migration, generated buy-in and built capacities of selected involved entities to process and analyse data. MIDAM has demonstrated the necessity and potential for further modernisation of infrastructure and capacities, including knowledge management, among governmental entities related to the production and implementation of

policy that addresses migration and migrants, from a general to a specific dimension. Comprehensive access to data collected by line ministries can foster stronger migration policies and targeted actions by the Jordanian government as a whole. At the same time, the availability of more data and enhanced coordination among government stakeholders will allow individual ministries to mainstream fact-based migration aspects into their policy planning. As outlined in the *Strategic Plan*, Jordan strongly desires to enhance migration management comprehensively. Jordan's notion that these envisioned adaptations should be based on thorough empirical analysis, will be supported through the activities proposed.

ProGreS

ProGreS program (« *Programme Gouvernance et Stratégie* ») is a multi-components program on migration in its large scope, in which ICMPD is implementing the first component "Migration Governance". The project started on 2018 and is actually in its second phase. ProGreS aims at supporting the reinforcement of migration governance through a multi-sectorial approach based on facts. In the case of Tunisia, the production of reliable statistical data on international migration is becoming a national priority. This is done through two main objectives: the implementation of the first national information system on migration and the exploitation of results of the Tunisia-HIMS survey ([link to the survey report](#)), the first national survey on migration in Tunisia, conducted by the National Institute of Statistics in partnership with the National Observatory on Migration (Ministry of Social Affairs). The latter, with the support of ICMPD, will host the national information system on migration and is creating a network of partners for data exchange with all data sources in Tunisia, including the Ministry of Interior. This modernisation of the tools and working methods, through the digitising of data exchange between all the institutions will provide them with up-to-date, on the go data, which, coupled with tailored learning plans will help professionalise the partners capacities in the fields of migration governance and migration data production and exploitation.

Modernisation of Border Management

Effective border management requires the identification of people and goods movements. The use of advanced data to collect and analyse the relevant information to regulate these movements the earliest possible has become an evolving priority in modern border management. This has been highlighted in the New Pact on Migration and Asylum, commissioned by the European Commission, around having an integrated and modern migration and border management system with the improved Eurodac database. Using effective data and innovative approaches as a risk analysis and intelligence tool would eventually turn raw-data into information that would inform evidence-based decision making, and allow border management to invest resources in the most ultimate way. When borders are managed innovatively by using preventive measures that are based on structured and planned interventions, instead of ad-hoc actions, it will eventually contribute to a greater impact of achieving internal security of the country, and protection of potential vulnerable individuals. As well as, regulating customs and trade.

To achieve this, multiple stakeholders needs to work together to feed into the centralised data system and established a central data governance. This will also require professionalisation of

stakeholders involved to enhance their capacity to analyse the data, and explore the potential of predictive analysis, while using advanced tools that could include, risk assessment and mitigation tool.

Furthermore, four dimensions of interoperability must be taken into consideration: a single-search interface, a shared biometric matching system, the interconnectivity of information systems and a common repository of data.

Objective of the session

- Showcase the importance of having a frontline systems for border/immigration authorities, migration database and how it can be used to drive more effective policies and procedures;
- Discuss the opportunities and threats of collecting useful data and modernisation;
- Explore the possibilities offered by data exploitation and migration governance;
- Elaborate a unified recommendations document from outputs of the session.

Tentative agenda

What	Time
Presentation of the BMS actions of ICMPD & objectives the session (BMS Specialist)	10 minutes
Presentation of MIDAM project (MIDAM PM)	10 minutes
Presentation of ProGreS project (ProGreS PM)	10 minutes
Brainstorming on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Data collection - Data management - Data and BMS 	20 minutes
Recap and capitalisation on findings	10 minutes