



4TH INTERNATIONAL BORDER MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE

23-24 November 2021 (10:00-13:00)

Hybrid Event: online/venue TBC in Kyiv, Ukraine
(pending current travel and gathering restrictions)

CONCEPT NOTE

Background


Since 2018, ICMPD has been organising an annual event, the **International Border Management Conference**, that provides the opportunity for practitioners and related actors working in the domain of broader border management to exchange and share experiences on issues of common interest.

The **1st International Border Management Conference** took place in Lebanon in 2018, bringing together representatives of numerous countries, institutions and agencies and addressed four main topics: integrated border management (IBM); trade facilitation; technology driven challenges; and educational initiatives for border personnel. The turnout and general interest garnered by the conference confirmed that the decision for organising such an event was well founded. Interactive, vivid and even at times challenging discussions encouraged the organisers and paved a way to continue with the conference as an annual event.

In 2019, the **2nd International Border Management Conference** was organised in Armenia, focusing on various topics related to border management as a part of comprehensive border governance. This topic, as a *fil rouge*, was discussed and presented from different perspectives, ranging from the academic point of view to the perception of practitioners. *Inter alia*, the 2019 event explored how a shift from the management of borders towards comprehensive border governance may provide the tools needed to face dynamic challenges facing border management professionals.

The planning of the **3rd International Border Management Conference** was interrupted by the COVID-19 pandemic declared in 2020, alongside the restrictions imposed thereof. Therefore, the conference was organised for the first time in an online format, and addressed the challenges to border management in the era of tomorrow as well as those related to morphing technologies, and suggested different paths to streamline the work of border agencies in a comprehensive and methodological way.

➤ It is not only the COVID-19 pandemic that negatively affects global mobility and free movements areas such as Schengen, but many other factors are causing a change in the face of border management as we know it. The border environment is a multifaceted “ecosystem” that involves a diversity of actors with complementary, and sometimes, conflicting interests. Throughout human history, borders have always



held a major role within the state, as these constitute one of the most visible and physical demonstrations of its sovereignty and its governance system. In that context, the perception of border management is often (mis)understood as purely a security domain: bringing restrictions, bans, sanctions, limitations and complications to smooth border crossings and overall mobility. Often presented in a very reduced and even biased manner, and as one of the main obstacles to human mobility and freedom of movement, this domain is actually far more complex and presents more opportunities than it may seem to a novice eye. Behind the façade of “security” there are many elements closely related to social and economic development, such as boosting tourism and financial investments, to name a few. Addressing border management from a comprehensive and global perspective could provide answers on how to tackle these multiple challenges and inspire new perspectives for opportunity. Indeed, it is a domain where reforms, if supported and managed with an adequately multi-sectoral approach, can actually strengthen local and regional stability, security, trade and economies, as well as the rule of law and protection of fundamental rights, and thus become an active factor in development. On the other hand, not supporting or inadequately/insufficiently supporting this domain can expose communities in border areas to risks and threats in the form of cross-border crime, radicalisation, displacement of populations, refugees and other less visible impacts such as grey economies, that would have an even larger overall negative impact at national and regional levels.

- Active involvement of all stakeholders at borders and effective cooperation and coordination between them are key components to efficient, cohesive and comprehensive governance, and must be addressed as the primary response to any challenges that states may face.
- And while all of the above-mentioned topics remain highly relevant, integrated border management must adapt continuously to keep up with the highly dynamic political, security, economic and sanitary environments we live in today, as the last two years have already particularly demonstrated via the COVID-19 pandemic which has directly challenged our mobility, work and daily lives.

The 4th International Border Management Conference will touch on a framework that brings together border guard, police and customs agencies, as well as many other actors from the public and private spheres, in an environment where the safe and orderly movement of people and goods across borders is the number one priority. This is especially crucial in the aftermath of the pandemic, where most countries and nations strive to recover from the recent (and ongoing) shock.

Speakers will have the opportunity to present their daily practices, experiences and achievements on two main topics during specific roundtable discussions: **The dual contribution of (integrated) border management to state development while continuing to act as a safeguard of security**, and **Information exchange in the context of border management**. The chosen roundtables will provide the occasion to exchange views and discuss potential developments in border management as a means to address today’s global challenges, whether from a security or economic perspective.



The conference will bring together experts with practical and technical professional backgrounds, including academics, policy-makers and decision-takers from various public institutions and agencies, as well as private sector and civil society organisation representatives working in the international theatre of border governance.

Objectives of the Conference

The main objective of the conference is to share, present and discuss practices and recommendations in regards to **border management's contribution to development, and information exchange in the context of border management**. Sharing worldwide experiences will help suggest different paths to streamline the work of border agencies in a comprehensive and methodological way. The conference will host two thematic roundtables as a platform for open and solution-oriented discussion:

- 1. The role of border management as an enabler of development and a safeguard of security;**
- 2. Flow of Information in the context of border management: the need to strengthen and streamline the information flow among border management actors.**

Conference format

The conference will be organised in a hybrid format, so that participants can join either online by **Webex** broadcast, or attend in person at the venue in Kyiv, Ukraine. Presentations will be made live from Kyiv to the extent possible.

Presentations and discussions will be held in English with simultaneous interpretation into Ukrainian, Russian and French. Participation is free of charge. Only registered participants will have access to the conference. The conference will be recorded and later shared with participants.

Contact Information

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Register

<https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/4th-annual-border-management-conference-registration-151498408819>