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Ministry of Justice and Security

# 6th International Border Management Conference

## 6 - 7 December 2023, Istanbul



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# Conference Summary

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## INTRODUCTION

The **6<sup>th</sup> International Border Management Conference, organised annually by ICMPD**, took place on **6 and 7 December 2023** at the Renaissance Polat Hotel in Istanbul, Republic of Türkiye. The conference was co-organised by the **Turkish Ministry of Interior, Presidency of Migration Management**, with the support of the **Kingdom of the Netherlands, European Union and several other projects**. This 2-day event welcomed 191 participants from 44 countries and 11 different EU and international organisations.

As in previous years, the conference gave the occasion and opportunity for counterparts from border guard, border and immigration police, customs as well as from other entities involved in border management to meet, exchange and get exposed to other colleagues' experiences. The two prominent topics of this year's conference were human rights and the role of artificial intelligence as a part of modern technologies in border management.

### I. PRE-CONFERENCE PARALLEL SESSIONS (6 December 2023)

This year, to foster **additional interaction and networking among participants**, a number of pre-conference parallel sessions were organised on 6 December prior to the official conference opening. The parallel sessions gave the possibility to share and discuss good practice and lessons learned in regard to the following matters:

**1. Brainstorming session: Role of technologies in Artificial Intelligence (AI) in border management:**

*During the session, presentation and discussion was held by two speakers Mr. Lukas Vilim (Czech Republic) and Ms. Thea Sogenbits (Estonia), moderated by Mr. Emanuel Preda (ICMPD).*

It was stated that crime in cyberspace is growing, and so are hybrid attacks. Terrorists and hackers are faster and more technologically equipped than border management agencies. AI is learning from what we are feeding so it is still prone to mistakes. Specific training on Open Source Intelligence (OSINT)/analysts is available on basic and advanced level in the Czech Republic. AI is brand new so training is also new. Development of tools on OSINT and dark web. Police officers need to work more and more with IT experts. Different levels of training for analysts. Work with Europol on training programme on analysing info, seizing data tools. It was recommended that cybercrime units could include border management agencies in their collective point of contact.

Furthermore, it was stated that AI is here to facilitate the work of people. AI is used at strategic, tactical and operational levels. To fasten the work of border management (BM) agencies, it is used automated surveillance, translation, biometric ID and BM automation, predictive analytics, data analysis and intelligence. Implementation of AI in BM: 1/ Define and establish, 2/ implement and operate, 3/ Monitoring and review 4/ Maintain and improve. Among benefits of AI was mentioned enhanced security, cost savings, efficient screening and processing, data analytics and insights, improved risk assessment and enhanced fraud detection.

**2. Experience sharing: Fundamental rights and their application in border management:**



*During this session, speeches and presentations from three experts were delivered: Ms. Helena Winiarska- Maguin (DG NEAR), Ms. Petra Achbergerova (Slovakia) and Gen.Ziad Rizkallah (Lebanon) by moderation of Ms. Selin Barutcuoglu (ICMPD).*

The session started with presenting Slovak lessons learnt on social aspect as important part in border management with emphasis on human rights. Concrete case study on asylum seeker from Eritrea was mentioned in particular on the psychological damage she went through in her journey to the EU. Individual rights are closely connected to aspects of migration and vulnerable people need to be protected. State's role in protecting human rights was discussed and shared experience of refugees and the migratory route which increases the impact, family separation, physical and mental health, gender, age. Post arrival issues such as not feeling at home, struggles with language, social connections, cultural adaptation, social isolation, marginalized communities were mentioned as well.

Lebanese experience was shared on fundamental rights as universal guarantees for all human beings with focus on protecting individuals and groups from violations of fundamental freedoms which comes from the State's duty to protect and respect human dignity. Since the constitution is the reference for basic rights; the Lebanese constitution has an introduction just as valuable as the constitution itself. Lebanon as active member of the United Nations, committed to its Charter and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The State embodies these principles in all sectors and scopes without exception. Training on the topic for BM agencies is key, however it is challenging job of border agencies to carry out all duties.

Do no harm (DNH) in border management was presented as EU has been financing for years projects on border management and migration management. These are complex projects and difficult to receive full cooperation but research with ICMPD was conducted on how can we ensure the fundamental rights safeguards in the implementation of these projects. These projects have a high impact on general population, national security, international relations, vulnerable groups and victims of crimes. Stakeholders: general public, public administration and project partners. Enhanced border control capacities can increase waiting and processing times, disturb cross border movements and increase cases of fundamental rights violation, increasing pushbacks and denials of asylum seeking.

### **3. Case Study: Fundamental rights in border management:**

*This session was moderated by Mr. Wiliam Huddleston (ICMPD) and expertise was provided by Mr. Duco van Heel (FRONTEX) and Ms. Helena Winiarska – Maguin (DG NEAR)*

The discussion under this session included challenges in implementing fundamental rights in border management. FRONTEX has a Fundamental rights office which is an independent office and housed by a Fundamental Rights Officer. The objectives of the Fundamental Rights Office is to ensure reduced vulnerability while maintaining safe and secure EU external borders. Strategic objectives of the EU IBM Strategy includes:

- Reduced Vulnerability of the External Borders based on Comprehensive Situational Awareness
- Safe, Secure and Well-Functioning EU External Borders
- Sustained European Border and Coast Guard Capabilities

The Strategic objectives upholds the article of fundamental rights 3.1 Respect, Protection and promotion of fundamental rights and Right to Human Dignity Art. 1 UDHR – Art.1 EU Charter of FR. The Fundamental Rights Strategy of FRONTEX is governed by Fundamental Rights Action Plan which



includes Operationalisation; Knowledge, skills and competences; Cooperation around EIBM; Implementation, monitoring and evaluation. Three Case studies were discussed during the discussion which included Asylum at High Sea; Mass Arrival and Asylum at border crossing points.

DG NEAR mentioned the criticism received having financed and implemented IBM projects outside EU and Accession negotiations for Romania and Bulgaria under enlargement package. At the end of the session, few recommendation and leaning points were highlighted

- Fundamental rights are universal.
- Cooperation with neighbouring member states is important
- Coordination and consultations is needed

**4. Roundtable Discussion: Ethics and legal aspect in application of AI in border management:**

*During the session, presentation and discussion was held by two speakers Mr. Lukas Vilim (Czech Republic) and Ms. Thea Sogenbits (Estonia), moderated by Mr. Borut Eržen (ICMPD).*

This session started by sharing experts' thoughts on the ethical and legal considerations regarding the application of AI in border management. The conversation started with Ms. Sogenbits pointing out that AI plays a significant role in effective border management and, therefore, it is imperative to ensure ethical and legal aspects of applying said technology are considered to ensure fairness, privacy, and accountability. She mentioned the ethical aspect is always more challenging to consider than the legal aspect. Ethical considerations stem from acknowledging the stakes of people involved, that is, considering questions such as why certain technologies are being used, what role(s) do they play, why certain regulations are in place etc. Specifically, it involves ensuring the AI systems in place are fair, non-discriminatory, and transparent, as well as offer adequate data protection, privacy, and accountability. Legal aspects determine the constraints of deploying AI tools in specific contexts, and can be defined by national and international laws, data protection regulations, ethical guidelines, and legal safeguards. Ms. Sogenbits mentioned currently there is no specific regulation on the use of AI in border management and emphasized the need for such regulation and controls to be developed and deployed at organizational, human resource, technological, and legal levels. She mentioned encryption and secure data storage, privacy impact assessments, bias detection, user authentication, and security audits as some of the regulation measures that can be used to safeguard against potential threats. In closing, Ms. Sogenbits highlighted the complexity of AI solutions in use and under development, as well as the emerging need to develop regulations and compliance mechanisms that can adequately respond to that complexity. She affirmed up to date compliance mechanisms are vital to curb exploitation of data and privacy of persons.

The next speaker of the session, Mr. Lukas Vilim, underlined the importance of AI in border management. He mentioned AI can play a crucial role by facilitating and automating certain routine tasks, by enhancing surveillance capabilities, and by improving the decision-making processes. He advocated for transparency and accountability in AI systems and for the need to establish responsibility in AI-driven decisions. Regulators and border management staff at operational levels need to understand border management, AI, and national security to develop and deploy effective tools for border management. He stressed security needs should be balanced with individual rights of privacy, and that data collection and storage should be backed by responsible collection practices and by robust storage and protection mechanisms.



After the speakers' presentations, participants asked questions regarding data management (and deletion), extent of data collection, as well as ethical and legal standards and safeguards pertaining to data privacy and use. The moderator, Mr. Erzen, added to the discussion by emphasizing the need for operational level staff to have the appropriate training and expertise to effectively operate technologically advanced systems to ensure accountability and compliance with regulations.

#### **5. Awareness raising session: IBM in the changed security landscape:**

*This session was moderated by Mr. Vladimirs Zaguzovs (Latvia) and presentations were delivered by Colonel Ali Derouiche (Algeria), Gen. Fadi Kfoury (Lebanon).*

Lebanese experience has been presented with focus on inter-agency cooperation and challenges in security procedures inside the airport, large number of passengers and economic crisis (soldiers leaving service, maintenance). ICMPD and German Federal Police Assistance was highlighted which results in enhanced capability of airport staff).

Algerian approach to border management was started by mentioning that migration is a social and humanitarian phenomenon which might cause tensions between countries of people trying to seek a better life. Every country has the right to protect its borders and people have the freedom of movement. In 2022, around 330,000 people illegally migrated across international borders to Europe according to FRONTEX. Since 2014 more than 4000 people have died while migrating around the world (60% in the MED region). Migration in Algeria was presented in details and highlighted was the fact that Algeria and Libya have 20 times more migrants than Europe (2500 weekly, 120 000 annually). Among reasons for migration to Algeria are country of origin: no political stability in neighbouring countries; climate change; economic crises; regional approach where Algeria is close to EU, better life than neighbouring countries; Sahara region is no longer a safe place for living and lack of security. Illegal migration impact on Algeria was listed in human smuggling and trafficking; terrorism; fraud and other crimes; economic downfall (more expenses to deal with the crisis); diseases; clusters of migrants. Mechanism of combatting illegal migration is needed in legal way (international conventions and adapting to local law); organisational (national diwan for migration, national committee to combat human trafficking); developmental and international cooperation.

#### **6. Brainstorming session: How to ensure legal provisions on HR are implemented at the front lines of BM (HR monitors):**

*This session was moderated by Mr. Tony Mihaitoia (ICMPD) and expertise provided Cpt. Jean El Etel (Lebanon) and Mr. Duco van Heel (FRONTEX)*

FRONTEX representative highlighted the EU's legal framework, emphasizing the integration of human rights considerations in border management. Frontex employs measures such as a complaint mechanism, Serious Incident Reports (SIRs), and Fundamental Rights Monitors to ensure transparency and accountability. He also underlined the comprehensive approach that encompasses capacity building and training, and The European Integrated Border Management (EIBM) includes a Fundamental Rights Strategy and a Fundamental Rights Action Plan to guide and ensure adherence to human rights principles in border management.

Representative from Lebanon emphasized the importance of respecting human rights in border management. Lebanon prioritizes aligning its border policies with international human rights



standards, providing training to personnel, and respecting fundamental rights and freedoms. The country's diverse communities receive distinct rights, and individuals seeking asylum are granted fundamental rights during the asylum process. Lebanon addresses challenges in border communities, including political tensions and the refugee crisis, through international cooperation, conflict resolution, and socio-economic initiatives.

The conclusion underscored the paramount importance of safeguarding fundamental rights while addressing border security measures, emphasizing compliance with legal frameworks, the establishment of monitoring systems, and the significance of institutions and international cooperation to ensure human rights.



## II. THE OPENING SESSION OF THE 6<sup>th</sup> INTERNATIONAL BORDER MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE (6 December 2023)



*Conference Chair, Mr. Borut Eržen, Head of ICMPD Border Management and Security Programme, welcomed all participants by introducing the accomplishments of ICMPD on the implementation of Integrated Border Management (IBM) over the last 20 years in over 30 countries. He highlighted next year ICMPD will celebrate the 20-year anniversary of the development of first regional IBM guidelines, which has since then served as a reference for related IBM documentation. He emphasized ICMPD's long lasting and ongoing commitment to the core IBM concept,*

*which has always been adapted to the requirements of varying national and regional contexts. He stated this commitment to fundamental values is particularly essential given the rapid technological advancements in the field. Afterwards, the Chair presented the overview of the 6<sup>th</sup> edition of the International Border Management Conference.*

*Opening speeches were subsequently delivered by:*

- *Ministry of Interior, Republic of Türkiye: Mr. Önder Bakan, Deputy President at the Presidency of Migration Management*
- *The Netherlands: Ms. Sietske Duller, Director for Migration Policy at the Netherlands Ministry of Justice and Security*
- *ICMPD: Mr. Michael Spindelegger, Director General*

*Followed by the Setting the scene speech delivered by Ms. Sedef Dearing, Director MDC, ICMPD*



### Speech of Mr. Önder Bakan, Deputy President at the Presidency

### of Migration Management, Minister of Interior of the Republic of Türkiye

**Mr. Bakan** underscored the significance of Türkiye as a historical nexus for trade and travel routes. He stated this significance continues to exist and grow, however, brings with it many challenges pertaining to security, irregular movement of people and goods, food security, political and economic stability, and others. These challenges are widespread, and, subsequently, have the potential to trigger mass migration across the globe. As such, they would require international solutions. He advocated for a holistic approach to border management that involved the cooperation of all stakeholders, states and private stakeholders alike, as well as the consideration of the numerous variables that impact migration trends. A lack of a global approach would lead to one dimensional and individual solutions, that would only address bleeding wounds. He appreciated the cooperation of European Union (EU) on border management but signalled that there was room for further improvement. Here, he said, ICMPD could play a key role. He stressed as an important member of ICMPD, and as chair of ICMPD's Steering Group, Türkiye intends to work more closely and effectively with all stakeholders in the future. Finally, Mr. Bakan thanked all sponsors and attendees for their contributions to the conference and for their efforts to improve border management practices.



### Speech of Ms. Sietske Duller

### Director for Migration Policy at the Netherlands Ministry of Justice and Security

**Ms. Duller**, appreciated the efforts of ICMPD in arranging the conference as it allowed for a broad representation of countries to discuss ideas, experiences, and good practices from policy and operational perspectives. Ms. Duller expressed migration could foster positive cross border exchanges and cooperation as well as economic prosperity, however, called for the promotion of safe migration practices that honour border commitments. She asserted the Netherlands was proud to support international dialogue to foster common understanding and sharing. Moreover, she stated coordination at local, central, EU, and international levels is not easy, however, is crucial to promote safety and security. She highlighted the role of FRONTEX in supporting training, capacity development, risk analysis and emphasized the need for all stakeholders to cooperate and learn from each other.





## Speech of Mr. Michael Spindelegger

Director General, ICMPD



**Mr. Spindelegger** welcomed all participants to the 6<sup>th</sup> International Border Management Conference on behalf of ICMPD, and by thanking the Ministry of Interior, Türkiye, and the Netherlands for their support in organising the conference. He highlighted that with growing violence, economic and political instability, and natural disasters across the globe, the world of migration moves faster every year, requiring policy makers to move even faster to address changing dynamics, complex challenges, and increasing demands. Nonetheless, he said, the enhanced will for international cooperation and deepening of partnerships shows that a better future on migration governance is possible. ICMPD's annual IBM conference plays a key role in this regard. Border management should guarantee the integrity of the migration systems but not restrict safeguard to those who need it. He remarked AI opens a new chapter in mobility of people, goods, and services, as it allows for the enhancement of capacity of regulators to manage these flows, as well as of other actors to avoid policy and undermine cooperation. Therefore, it is imperative that challenges brought about with technological advancements are discussed and addressed along with more traditional ones. In closing, he emphasized there is no action without adequate coordination and there is no functioning policy or dialogue without adequate implementation. He appreciated the opportunity for practitioners and policy makers to be given an opportunity to discuss these issues at the conference.

## Setting the scene by Ms. Sedef Dearing

Director MDC, ICMPD



**Ms. Dearing** introduced the conference as a platform for open discussion, and shared her interest in hearing ideas, practices, and solutions on a wide range of issues on border management from a broad range of attendees. Border management remains a key pillar of ICMPD's efforts pertaining to migration governance since the organisation's creation 30 years ago. She highlighted ICMPD's work in successfully implementing the IBM approach to migration governance over the last 20 years across the globe, with the support of border management agencies and international actors.

Ms. Dearing underlined the fast-paced nature of the world has a massive impact on international cooperation as observed with an ever-increasing number of emerging challenges such as the Covid-19 pandemic, energy crises, economic nationalism, challenges with cross border trade and supply chains, climate induced crises, demographic crises, war and conflict, and the emergence of AI. She stated that while these challenges demand resilience and adaptation on the part of border agencies, they point to the growing importance of migration governance in playing a central role in nurturing cross border links and exchanges. Border agencies must gear themselves to face the challenge of increasing irregular migrant flows, while dealing with smugglers using increasingly aggressive means, and participating in the technological arms race between law enforcement and criminal organisations.





Furthermore, Ms. Dearing stated, in this context, strong cooperation amongst states and relevant private actors is vital to ensure efficient and effective systems that are as conducive to legitimate movement of goods and people as they are restrictive to cross-border crime. Furthermore, she advocated for border management practices that are fully compliant with human rights and fundamental freedoms, and reaffirmed ICMPD’s commitment to this goal. Finally, Ms. Dearing expressed eagerness to share the collective expertise of ICMPD through this conference, but also use the platform as an opportunity to learn from others working in relevant fields across various regions.

*Following speeches, Mr. Borut Eržen officially announced the launch of the Conference.*



### III. 6<sup>th</sup> INTERNATIONAL BORDER MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE (7 December)

*The second day of the conference gave the opportunity for participants to get acquainted with and exchange on **Setting directions and good practice in border management - policy level** (which was the focus of Panel 1), hear about **What works well – implementation level** (Panel 2), and finally, to be familiarised with **Ways to get there – instruments and practices** (Panel3).*

#### **Panel 1: Setting directions and good practice in border management - policy level**

After a brief welcome Conference Chair Mr. Borut Eržen and a presentation of the overall agenda for the day, Panel 1 was kicked off by moderator Ms. Monika Weber, ICMPD Senior Advisor on Border Management and Security. Ms. Weber reflected on the overall developments worldwide and importance of holding this conference for information exchange and lessons learnt aspect, as well as for networking purposes. The panellists chosen for this first session gave a chance for the audience to learn a bit more some of challenges and good practice in IBM from different perspectives.



- Slovakia: Ms. Petra Achbergerova, Mol: *‘Border management as a social challenge’*

Ms. Achbergerova spoke about the importance of social approach in migration, and how the first contact at the borders between the migrants and border officers can influence the integration into the society. She started with a short presentation of migration phenomena in Slovakia, including the



situation generated by the high afflux of Ukrainian refugees in the last years. The speaker highlighted the importance to find a balance between the humanitarian aspects and fighting trafficking in human beings, and presented the lessons learned from all previous crises in her country: the need to identify and provide support to vulnerable people, training for border staff and the importance of having MoUs with other stakeholders.

- Ghana: Mr. Emmanuel Laryea Kwei, Ghana Immigration Service: *“GIS Strategic Planning, a policy tool for setting directions and good practice in border management”*

Mr. Kwei talked about the importance of strategic planning, providing as an example the national border management strategy, but also highlighted the importance of training, information exchange, involvement of border community residents, to fight all cross-border crimes and address all security challenges at the border, especially in a situation as in Ghana. By the end of his intervention, he presented the challenges – Ghana being of country of origin, transit, and destination for migrants, but also some solutions, focusing on the importance of the strategic planning.

- Nigeria: Mr. Paul Sunny Ogbeche, Comptroller of Immigration: *‘Support to West African States to improve border governance/ security and management’*

Mr. Ogbeche’s presentation focused on international cooperation, highlighting the role of cooperation and coordination at international level, but also the importance of the provided support from all international partners, donors, international organisations. She also introduces some solutions which are applied in Nigeria, with a focus on the importance of international cooperation, both at operational and strategic level, but also mentioned about the importance of having a strong financial support, especially in some specific contexts – donor support.

- FRONTEX: Mr. Duco Van Heel: *‘Safe Borders, safe people. Fundamental Rights at the External Border’*

Mr. Van Heel presented the importance of fundamental rights in border management and what is the approach at EU level and at the level of FRONTEX. He made a short introduction of the institution of the fundamental rights officers, their role and tasks, and the way how to situation is analysed, monitored, reported and addressed at the HQ level. Further, the speakers refer to some other solutions which are implemented at FRONTEX level, as the trainings provided to the staff, cooperation with international organisations and other EU agencies, some working procedures - debriefing of the border guards, evaluation of the programmes, etc.

- UNIDO – Mr. Ashraf Abushady: *“AI and Digital Innovations in Modern Border Management: Strategies for Enhanced Security and Efficiency”*

The presentation focused on the increasing role of technology, digitalization and Artificial Intelligence (AI) in border management. It was highlighted that the challenges are coming with the increase number of passengers and trade, and new measures should be taken. The AI will not replace the humans and the border police officers but will be a very instrumental tool which will support their work. Nevertheless, the technology and AI are coming also with additional challenges, as cybersecurity and the fact that criminals will also use the technology and AI.

- ICMPD: Mr. Borut Eržen, Head of Border Management and Security Programme: *“Capacity building and provision of equipment and infrastructure: a need for a balanced approach”*



Mr. Eržen introduced shortly the Integrated Border Management concept, focusing on the importance of keeping the balance between capacity building and the equipment provided, including, but not limited to training on use, integration and maintenance of the equipment, assets management, etc.

At the end of all presentations, a series of questions were addressed and few remarks from participants were mentioned.

**Panel 2: What works well – implementation level**

Panel 2, moderated by ICMPD Border Management and Security Advisor Mr. Tony Mihaitoiaia, brought together six interventions from different panellists. Moderator opened the panel with an invitation of panellists to share their experience on how IBM strategies are implemented on operational level.



- Tunisia: Ms. Jaouadi Najet– Director General, Customs ‘*Tunisian Experience in Integrated Border Management*’

Ms. Jaouadi informed about the strategic plan for the modernization of the Tunisian customs 2020-2024 and its main objectives: Modernizing and digitizing work methods appropriate to various variables, Strengthening the country's security and protecting citizens and the environment, insuring integrity, transparency, and sense of belonging. The main activities are related to capacity building of the agents of Customs, integration and cooperation between structures, securitization of the borders at the same time ensuring the smooth movement of people and facilitating business operations. These goals shall be achieved, by establishing of two centers for joint training on IBM (in Nefta in southern Tunisia and in Wadi Zarqa in northern Tunisia) and development of training curricula, as well as by modernizing the central and regional operations halls and developing the SMART GATE application for the Tunisian customs.

Ms. Najet underlined the importance of appropriate legal framework, unified training for the national level, as well as on regional level, in order to acquire common operational and field skills while respecting various international practices and standards.

- The Netherlands: Ms. Sietske Duller, Director for Migration Policy at the Netherlands Ministry of Justice and Security: ‘*Implementation of the nationalintegrated border management strategy*’

Ms. Duller shared her experience on IBM strategy development process in the Netherlands and key points to be considered and reminded that IBM strategy is based on multilevel cooperation approach – national, EU and multinational. Cooperation between several national authorities play an important role. It is why on national level the working group was established to analyze the key tasks of each authority, to determine common grounds and responsibilities, to develop the strategy and action plan.



She underlined the importance of sharing the information between authorities. At the same time, she highlighted that the work of this working group would not be possible without political support. Ms. Sietske Duller pointed out that once the agencies have a good, trained staff and equipment, the monitoring on how the legislation and agreements are implemented is needed. And in case any problems or inconsistencies are identified, the relevant adjustments and new agreements must be developed and signed.

- Lebanon: Brigadier General Amine Elkai, Head of Border Control Committee, Lebanese Armed Forces: *'Integration of border communities'*

Mr. Elkai spoke about the public perception in Border Communities, including how to build legitimacy and trust within the local population. Mr. Elkai describe the general challenges and the last border dynamics in Lebanon. Hi reminded about the political crises in the neighboring countries, as well as that 1/3 of Lebanon population are refugees. Mr. Elkai underlined the importance of border population in the context of IBM. As the best practices hi highlighted the activities as: Build Social Safety Nets in areas dependent on smuggling, Increase Public Presence and Engagement in Border Communities, incorporate more female in all the Agencies community engagement efforts and other activities, Increase Communication that can Penetrate Family / Friends Networks.

- Czech Republic: Mr. Lukas Vilim Cyber Security Expert: *'Cyberspace as a new domain for border security and management'*

Mr. Vilim focused on misuse of cyberspace by organised crime which affects border security and explained how sophisticated digital technologies and widespread use of social media and encrypted communications create opportunities for migrant smugglers to propagate their services, to coordinate with each other and recruit victims, eluding law enforcement detection. He underlined the further digitalization of the world and that for security stakeholders, including in the field of border management, data and infrastructure protection are crucial. He also highlighted, that cybercrime and cybercriminals do not acknowledge borders and therefore, strong international cooperation between law enforcement authorities is the key to coping with this ever increasing challenge.

- Latvia: Mr. Normunds Rudzitis, Riga Technical University, Acting Head of Customs and Tax Department: *'Strategic Vision and Future Trends'*

Mr. Rudzitis paid attention on IBM strategy's development stages. He underlined importance of the balance between border security measures and border crossing and trade facilitation. Mr. Rudzitis drew attention to the existing formulations of visions of IBM strategies which demonstrate the organisation's unique values and describes its ambitions in the context of achievable results. Mr. Rudzitis highlighted the importance of use of Artificial Intelligence, Risk Management, Scanning Technologies etc. in order to identify the vision in 2033 as follow: "our external border will be the most secure and low-risk individuals and cargo will cross it without stopping".

- Romania, Ms. Georgiana Dornescu, Specialist Officer, Mol: *'Advanced Passenger Information & Passenger Name Record Targeting Experience'*

Ms. Dornescu presented Romanian Passenger Information Unit (PIU), its development and way forward. Ms. Dornescu explained PNR data processing legal provisions and elements, as well as the role and tasks of PIU in the data processing.



Moderator summarized conclusions on what work well in border management as follows:

- *Harmonized Legal Frameworks and training curricula;*
- *Clear set of mandates for border management agencies, avoiding overlapping;*
- *Adaptive Policies with regular review;*
- *Improved technical standards (Artificial Intelligence, Cyber security, Surveillance Systems, Biometric Systems etc.)*
- *Customs and Trade Facilitation;*
- *Local Border Community Engagement;*
- *International and Regional Cooperation: targeting sharing of information, and addressing common concerns.*

### **Panel 3: Ways to get there – instruments and practices**

The final panel was moderated by Mr. Tamer Kilic, ICMPD Head of the Türkiye and Western Balkans Regional Office. The panel was focused on the future of border management with a focus on best practices already proven in some countries. Moderator invited an audience to listen and enjoy the panel discussion on “what we can do” to improve the mobility of people and goods transportation through borders. One of the biggest challenges is balancing the ambition to keep the facilitated mobility and security aspects of border management.



- Ghana, Ghana Revenue Authority, Mr. Charles Lumor: *‘Joint Mobile Team Concept in Ghana’*

Mr. Lumor, provided the audience with the positive results of the joint mobile team in Ghana. The concept of the joint mobile team responds to the complex border environment to safeguard internal security and combat transnational organised crime such as Drug trafficking, robbery, smuggling, human trafficking, gun running, Terrorism and other emerging security threats. The national, regional, and border security committees manage the team. The joint team comprises officers from all border security agencies - Ghana Immigration Service, Customs Division of Ghana Revenue Authority, National Investigation Bureau, Ghana Police, Narcotics Control Commission, Port Health and other respective state institutions with border roles under the leadership of the most senior officer from the Customs or Immigration office. The success of the joint team depends on the well-defined vertical, horizontal and parallel reporting lines and shared logistics. The joint mobile team is the modern strategy from the security governance initiative to combat modern cross-border organised crime effectively.



- Estonia: Ms. Thea Sogenbits: *'The integration of artificial intelligence in border management and its impact on border guard and customs processes'*

The second panellist, Ms. Sogenbits opened one of the most challenging topics of current and future border management - integrating artificial intelligence (AI) and its impact on border guards and customs processes. AI creates the difference between the past and the present. We face AI in our everyday lives. In border management, the AI has the potential to revolutionise border guard and customs processes by enhancing efficiency, accuracy, and risk assessment capabilities. Border management becomes more streamlined, secure, and resource-optimised with AI-powered technologies such as biometric identification, predictive analytics, automated document verification, and smart surveillance systems. Much less manual work is necessary to recognise potential risks for moving people and goods through the border. At the same time, the AI brought a number of questions, e.g. which data we really need to collect and where to find them, which data are missing, and what is their impact on the accuracy of the AI processes results when the AI starts to lie to people. Integrating AI in border management can enhance efficiency, security, and decision-making processes for border guards and customs officials, resulting in improved border control and a safer environment for travellers and trade.

- UNOCT: Mr. Goran Stojkovski *'UN Countering Terrorist Travel Programme –partnership based global initiative'*

Mr. Stojkovski, provided participants with the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy as a unique global instrument to enhance national, regional and international efforts to counterterrorism. All UN Member States agreed on the common strategic and operational approach to fighting terrorism. The Strategy not only sends a clear message that terrorism is unacceptable in all its forms and manifestations, but it also resolves to take practical steps, individually and collectively, to prevent and combat terrorism. Those reasonable steps include a wide array of measures ranging from - strengthening state capacity to counter terrorist threats to better coordinating the UN System's counter-terrorism activities. The UN Security Council emphasised the importance of addressing issues relating to border security management as a critical component in border security management— several UN resolutions stemming the rules on counterterrorism rules. The UN agencies, Interpol, WCO, IMO, and other organisations coordinate and cohere their support to the Member States in the implementation of counter-terrorist measures in the area of border management and law enforcement with respect for human rights and the rule of law as the fundamental basis and in line with international law. The perpetrators of terrorist offences should face criminalisation in all member states. At the same time, the member states are taking preventive measures, minimising the opportunities for the perpetrators. The informal working groups serve as informal discussion forums, foster cooperation, and share the best practices and other functions on data collection and other BM components. The supporting tools such as the UNOCT International Hub on Behavioral Insight to Counter Terrorism, Handbook (and Pocketbook) on Human Rights and Screening in Border Security and Management were duly promoted to the audience.

- FRONTEX: Ms. Monica Gariup- *'What's so special about European IBM? A guide for understanding key principles, concepts, and expectations'*

Ms. Gariup provided the overview of the European Union IBM (EIBM) understanding of fundamental principles, concepts and expectations from the EU needs point of view. The main questions are on the



EIBM, its specialities, how to understand the EU IBM culture, language, and other peculiarities, such as promoting EIBM principles and good practices. The EU Schengen area creates a specific need to strengthen control at external borders. The EIBM is strictly focused on the movement of persons, not the goods. The complexity of the EIBM includes shared responsibilities and the solidarity of the Member States and Frontex to grant uniform controls supported by the same rules and practices. EIBM's five-year multi-annual strategic cycle aligns EIBM Policy, technical and operational strategy and national IBM strategies. The most important are appropriate resources that cover the achievement of the goals, e.g. facilitate legitimate border crossings, increase the efficiency of the Union's return policy, effectively prevent unauthorised crossings of the external borders, prevent and detect serious crime with a cross-border dimension, effective cooperation with third countries and others. Ms Garioup underlined that EIBM was created for the EU/Schengen-specific peculiarities and cannot be used as a blueprint in its current form. However, the Partners could use some general ideas.

- WCO: Mr. Jean- Yves Charriou: *'Stronger together to address General Aviation threat- the COLIBRI Project'*

Mr. Charriou presented COLIBRI project. General Aviation relates to all non-commercial flights, such as private unpaid, pleasure, or sports aviation use, ultralight amateur, aerial works (e.g., fire brigade) and corporate aviation. General Aviation brings several challenges to adequate border controls, as there is a variety of operations that are barely monitored, while the General Aviation data are either missing or are limited in comparison to commercial aviation. At the same time, it often operated in border areas and could be misused for the smuggling of goods and trafficking of people. In response to these challenges, the WCO introduced the COLIBRI Project, targeting General Aviation. The Project, funded by the EU, supports the harmonised approach to monitoring and control of General Aviation, including coordination and training and exchange of information and joint response among respective law enforcement agencies, e.g. Customs, Police, Gendarmerie, Civil Aviation, Air Force, Forest Guard, Judiciary, Prosecutor's Office, Navy and others. The Project operates in the Latin America and West and Central Africa regions. Project's achievements, we can count on the development of a mobile application monitoring the GA flights, increased awareness about GA threats, a growing network of experts and trainers, more regular and efficient controls, increasing use of techniques, training and tools, improved analysis on trends routes, and strengthened inter-agency and international cooperation.

- Migration Partnership Facility, Ms. Rebecca Adeline: *'Funding opportunities for Borders & Security projects under the MPF Call for Proposals 2023'*

Ms. Adeline, enlightened the role of the Migration Partnership Facility. The Facility was established in 2016 to support migration partnerships between EU Member States and Partner Countries. It is financed by the EU through the Internal Security Fund (ISF), the Border Management and Visa Fund (BMVI) and the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF) and implemented by ICMPD. It currently comprises four main components:

- (a) A grant-making programme,
- (b) Technical Assistance and support for requesting member States,
- (c) Dialogue through the support of the Prague Process and Budapest Process and
- (d) a cross-cutting element related to knowledge management and communication, and which gathers, uses and shares the knowledge captured in the other three components.

Within the Call for Proposals 2023 – Borders & Security, both BMVI and ISF funds are available.



More specifically, 3.9 M EUR is available from BMVI for border management projects and 10 M EUR from ISF for security projects. The minimum budget of each project is 200,000 EUR (no maximum specified), and the grant can cover up to 95% of the total project budget. The remaining % shall be covered by, e.g., applicant or co-applicant(s), covering staff salaries. Ms Adeline provided examples of eligible activities under the BMVI and ISF. The rules for application are as follows: the lead applicant should be a public body of an EU MS or their mandated operator. The co-applicant must be a public body of a partner country or another EU MS or international organisations, non-governmental organisations, and other private law bodies established in the EU or partner countries working on a non-profit basis. The useful links and addresses and the MPF webpage include guidelines, application templates, examples of the projects, and knowledge on how to apply to the call for proposals. It was recommended to consult before the application would be submitted.

*Following a brief question and answer session, the closing address was delivered by Mr. Ahmet Dalkıran, the Head of Department, Directorate General of Border Management, the Presidency of Migration Management, Republic of Türkiye. Mr. Dalkıran expressed it was a great honour for Türkiye to host the 6<sup>th</sup> International Border Management Conference especially as chair of the ICMPD Steering Group. He highlighted the conference was an important and large platform for interactions with old and new colleagues working in border management, for sharing latest developments and trends, and for enhancing IBM practices. He appreciated the active participation of all attendees and the contributions of panellists and speakers on all*



*aspect of IBM but particularly those pertaining to AI and human rights. He stressed the importance of fundamental freedoms and human rights in a rapidly changing world and highlighted Türkiye's commitment to respect them. In closing, Mr. Dalkıran thanked ICMPD for organising the conference and European countries for their contributions towards enhancing migration governance.*

*The chair of the conference, Mr. Eržen, briefly took the floor to thank Türkiye for hosting, ICMPD Türkiye Office for organising, and the Netherlands Ministry of Justice and Security for financing the conference. He appreciated the efforts of panellists and speakers, interpreters, and all partners and participants for their contributions to formal conference proceedings and sideline discussions. Before formally closing the conference, he announced the **7<sup>th</sup> International Border Management Conference would be hosted by Tunisia in 2024.***