

FRONTEX



EUROPEAN BORDER AND COAST GUARD AGENCY

What's so special about European IBM? A guide for understanding key principles, concepts, and expectations

6th International Border Management Conference
Istanbul, 7 December 2023

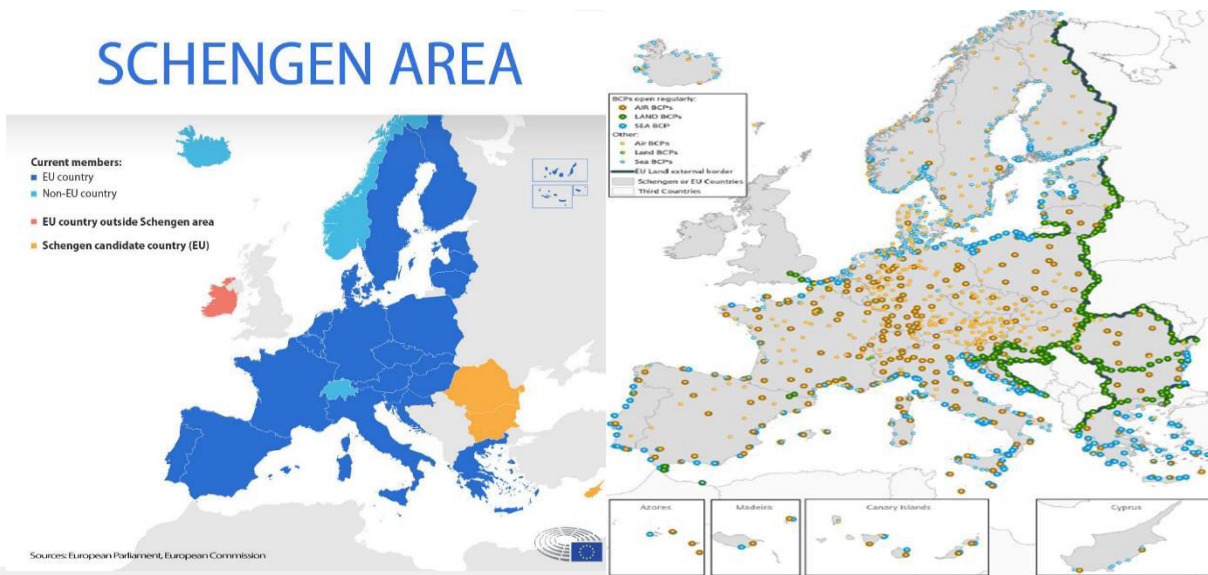
Key Questions

Why European Integrated Border Management (EIBM)?
(or what's so special about it? Or how to understand the EU IBM
culture, language, and “obsession”)

Why, and how, do we promote its principles and good practices with
partners? (or why we think IBM may be the answer to our - and your
- problems)

Why European Integrated Border Management (EIBM)? (or what's so special about it?)

- Internal free movement → ++ compensatory measures: strengthening control at external borders (focus on movement of persons!)
- Shared responsibility + solidarity (Member States + EU/Frontex): as strong as the weakest link (uniform controls - same rules/practices - pooled resources - information sharing → effectiveness/efficiency)
- multiple actors (complexity) + Frontex Standing Corps (!!)- different types of borders/challenges



Integrated? Intelligent?
Intelligence/Information-
based?

EIB Management Strategic Elements

Centralised governance structure
IBM coordination (intra/inter-agency)

(Strategic) Risk Analysis (considers
also outcomes of quality control)

Quality Control (vulnerabilities)

Resources!!!



Integrated planning: Action Plans,
Capability Development Plans,
Contingency Plans

EIBM Multi-annual strategic cycle (5 years)

alignment

EIBM Policy
(European Commission → lead DG HOME) - March 2023

EIBM Technical and Operational Strategy (Frontex + Member States: Management Board) - September 2023

National IBM Strategy(ies)
(MS X) - specific for each MS but “aligned: March 2024



Goals (from Strategic Policy)

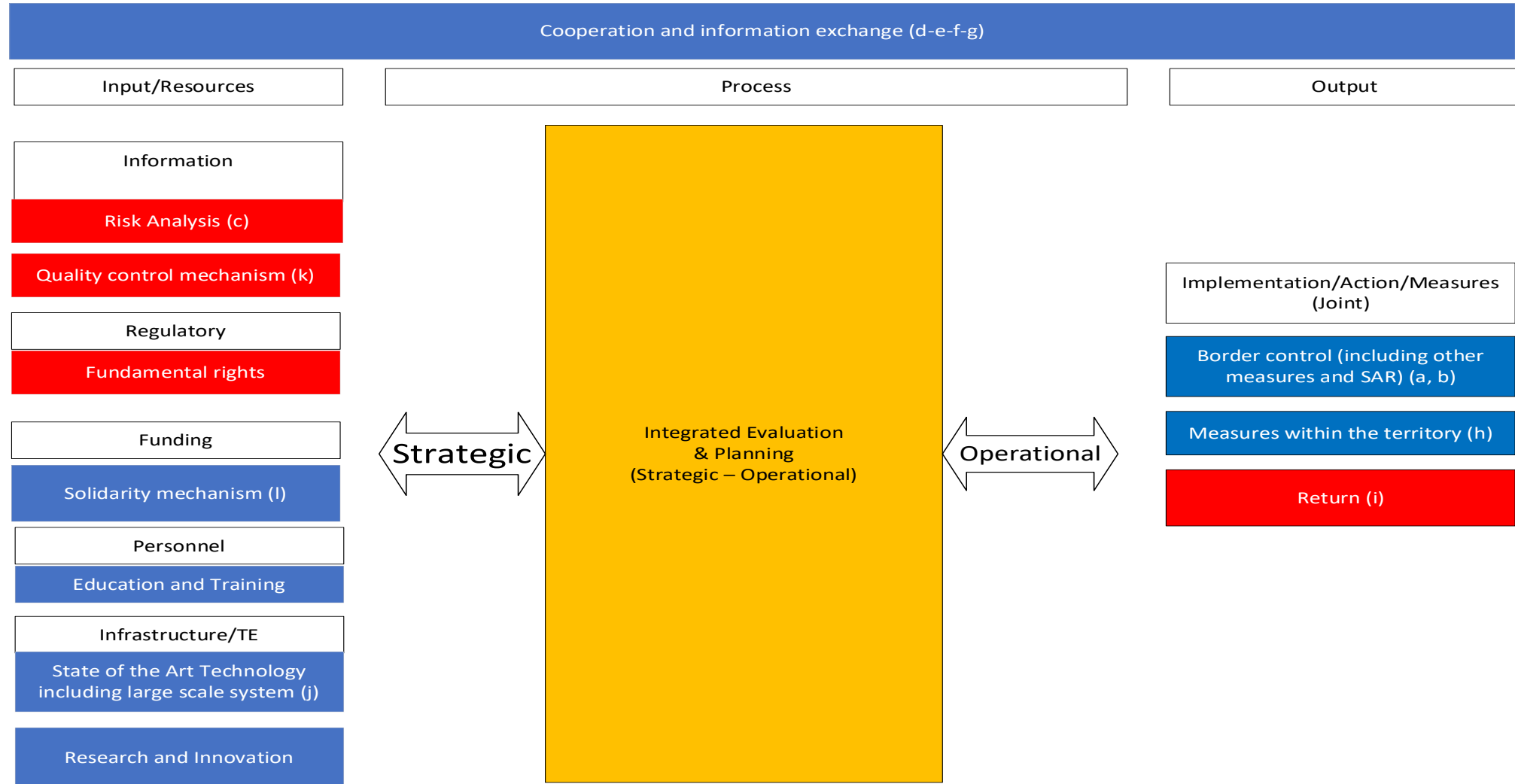
- A. Facilitate legitimate border crossings
- B. Increase the efficiency of the Union’s return policy
- C. Effective prevention of unauthorised crossings of the external borders
- D. Prevent and detect serious crime with a cross-border dimension
- E. Effective cooperation with third countries
- F. Swift registration and provision of care to persons in need of, or applying for, international protection

Additional Goals (from Technical Operational Strategy)

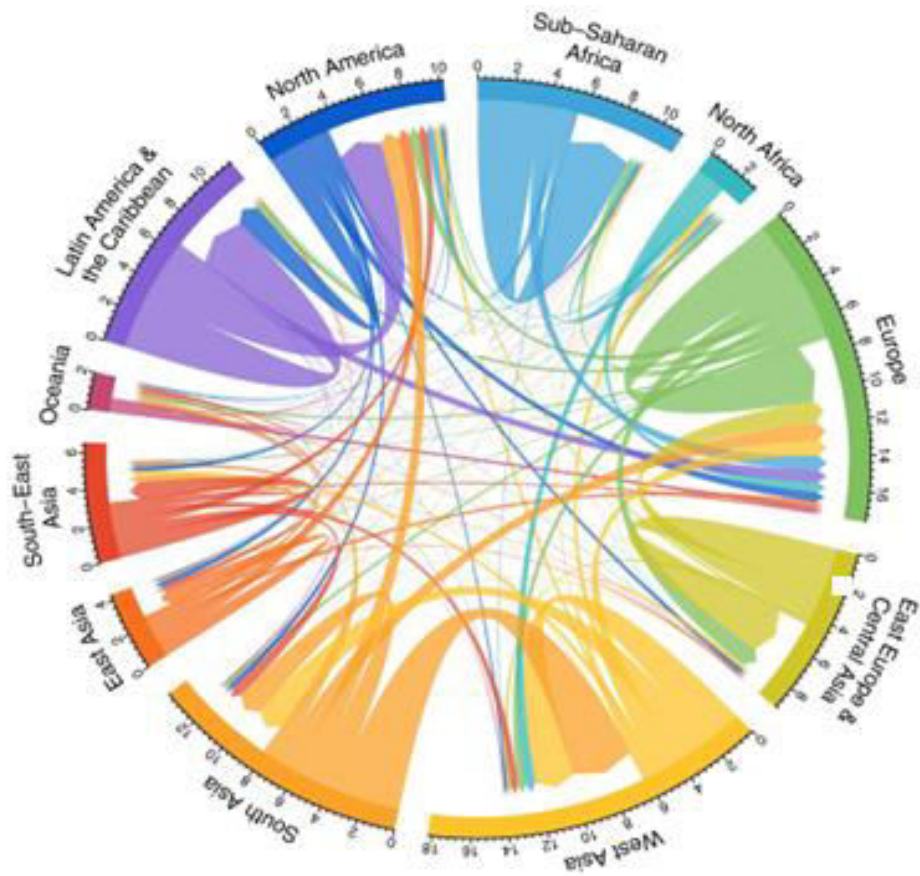
- G. Future-Proof the External Borders and Accelerate Innovation
- H. Ensure Good Governance and Sound Administration

Resources!!!

Making sense of the 15 components of ElBorderM



Why do we promote EIBM principles and good practices with partners?



Abel, Cohen (2022)



How do we promote EIBM with partners?

- Operational cooperation (Joint Ops - deployment of personnel/equipment, Info Exchange)
- Technical cooperation: Training, Advice, Mentoring
- Reference Tool on EIBM for External Partners (**under development** - will replace the 2010 EC Guidelines on IBM)
 - Technical reference/guide for non-EU users (systematic “de-schengenised” collection of existing principles, processes, good practices or **how to understand EIBM principles-jargons-expectations and translate them into practice**)
 - Coherent with E-IBM principles, components, processes, practices as developed and implemented in the EU
 - Authoritative: EBCG, Frontex Management Board
 - Expected by 2024 (see Multiannual Policy Cycle)



Final thoughts

- EIBM is done by/for EU/Schengen (specific idiosyncrasies - cannot be used as a blueprint as is unless....)!
- EIBM “standards”? we are all still learning (what are obligations/requirements and standards for EU/MS are good practices for others)!
- Not everything is IBM !



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