



International Organization for Migration (IOM)  
Organisation internationale pour les migrations (OIM)  
Organización Internacional para las Migraciones (OIM)

## Enhancing Capacities and Mechanisms to Identify and Protect Vulnerable Migrants in the Western Balkans

# FACT SHEET

August 2016

### Milestones

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2013	IOM and UNHCR commenced a consultative process with the governments of the Western Balkans, encompassing Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, UNSC 1244 Kosovo, Montenegro, and Serbia, to stimulate an initiative on refugee protection and international migration in the region.
2013	IOM commissioned the six-month Needs Assessment: Human Trafficking in the Western Balkans, which identified that Trafficking in Person in the region involves multiple patterns, multiple forms of exploitation, and multiple forms of coercion/vulnerability.
2015	IOM was requested by the Governments of Serbia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia to undertake a quick assessment in both countries.

### Project Outline

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Period	N/A
Donors	N/A
Executing Agency	International Organization for Migration (IOM)
Partner(s)	Ministry of Security of BiH, Border Police BiH, Sector for Asylum, Prosecutor's Office of Bosnia and Herzegovina, High Judicial and Prosecutorial Council of BiH.

### Project Description

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Over the course of 2015, the Western Balkan countries have experienced a sharp increase in numbers of people within mixed migration flows transiting through their territory along the Western Balkan portion of the Eastern Mediterranean migratory route. The mixed migration flows consists of asylum seekers, refugees, and other migrants, including vulnerable migrants, moving towards the EU. The key driving forces behind these flows include conflict and an overall increase in insecurity in the Middle East, Central Asia, and East Africa, as well as deep-rooted economic problems and conditions of poverty.



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The overall objective of the project is therefore to strengthen capacities throughout the target region to manage migration and protect vulnerable migrants in a coordinated manner, which is in line with the strategic goals set out in the RRMRP (Regional Refugee and Migrant Response Plan) launched in January 2016 by IOM and UNHCR.

The proposed project is in the line with the strategic priorities of IOM and UNHCR in the Western Balkans, as well as the Regional Action Plan developed for the Western Balkans, most pertinently the medium and long-term interventions.