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

## Strengthening the Fight Against Trafficking in Persons and Migrant Smuggling in the Western Balkans

# FACT SHEET

September 2015

### Milestones

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1999	Trafficking in human beings and migrant smuggling were identified as phenomena in the entire Western Balkan region, often perpetrated by the same criminal organizations and not always discerned clearly
Until 2004	BiH has primarily been a country of transit and destination for victims coming from countries of Eastern Europe for sexual exploitation
2004-2013	BiH has been also country of origin for international and domestic victims for forced labour, child begging and forced marriage
2010	The Visa liberalization regime to the Schengen area has reduced the risk of smuggled migrants originated from BiH but not of those in transit through the region/country
2013	BiH becomes border to the European Union
2014	IOM's Needs Assessment Research on the Regional Counter Trafficking Situation in Western Balkans recommends the cross-border cooperation in countering human trafficking in the region

### Project Outline

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Project Code	TC 0770/0782
Geographical coverage	Western Balkan region (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo UNSCR 1244/99-ICJ 2010, Montenegro, Serbia, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia)
Period	01 July 2014 – 30 November 2015
Donors	IOM Development Fund and the Government of Italy
Manager	Andrea Dabizzi
Executing Agency	International Organization for Migration (IOM)
Partners	FRONTEX; EUROPOL; EUROJUST; Italian DNA (National Anti-mafia Directorate)

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## **Project Description**

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### **Objective**

The overall objective of the project is to strengthen the fight against trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants, irregular migration and other cross-border transgressions in the Western Balkans through a more effective and operative cross-border cooperation.

### **Activities**

- 1) Organization of a range of technical workshops, targeting law enforcement agencies (police and border police) and judiciary (prosecutors and judges), following a victim-centered approach. These activities aim to facilitate officials undertaking increased cross-border activities/operations to identify and investigate cases of human trafficking and migrant smuggling. Participants to the workshops devise recommendations on how to strengthen the cross-border cooperation.
- 2) Drafting of the final publication which comprises the findings of the workshops and recommendations on how to strengthen the cross-border cooperation.
- 3) Organization of an event in all countries targeted by the project (overall 6 events) to launch the final report and present findings of the project and recommendations.

## **Project Implementation to date**

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- 1) Four technical workshops for law enforcement agencies and judiciary have been conducted. The workshops served to enhance the awareness among the participants of emerging trafficking, smuggling and irregular migration patterns as well as the knowledge on joint activities and cross-border cooperation in countering those phenomena.
- 2) Drafting of the final publication is in process (which comprises the findings of the workshops and recommendations on how to strengthen the cross-border cooperation).
- 3) The country events to be organized (overall 6 events) to launch the final report, present findings and recommendations of the project.