BORDER MANAGEMENT PROGRAMME IN CENTRAL ASIA - PHASE 9 (BOMCA 9)

www.bomca-eu.org

Overall objective	To increase effectiveness and efficiency of border management in Central Asia by introducing advanced elements of Integrated Border Management (IBM), assisting governments in developing and reforming their migration governance, mobility and trade facilitation policies and strengthening capacities of Border and Migration Agencies, thus contributing to security and economy developments at the national and regional levels.
Specific objectives	✓ To sustain institutional development in the transition towards more effective and efficient methods of border management, replicating best practices of the IBM paradigm ✓ To develop legal and procedural instruments, as well as advanced practices to manage regular and irregular migration at borders, in compliance with international norms and standards ✓ To introduce measures to increase the efficiency of border checks and procedures facilitating licit trade and transit of goods and countering various forms of smuggling
Coverage	Central Asia (Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan)
Beneficiaries	National border management authorities
Implementing Consortium	Consortium of the EU Partners: State Border Guard of Latvia (Project Leader), Customs Department under the Ministry of Finance of the Republic of Lithuania, Riga Technical University, Food and Veterinary Service of the Ministry of Agriculture of Latvia, State Revenue Service of the Republic of Latvia, and ICMPD. Associate partners: Immigration and Border Service of Portugal, Ministry of Interior of Hungary.
Duration	15 June 2015 – 30 April 2020
Budget	EUR 6 606 380

COMPONENT 1 - Institutional Development of Border Management Agencies

- Resumed functioning of the **Regional Platform of CA** Border Guards and Customs **Training Centres** with which the countries can sustain durable educational cooperation and advance their training processes with modern educational approaches. Building upon the training needs and best practices, **exchanges of trainers and trainees** were organised among CA Training Institutions.

- Promoted the introduction of **IBM elements into the curriculum** of CA Border Guards and Customs higher education and training institutions, and standardisation of study programmes with the professional frameworks of FRONTEX, EC DG TAXUD, and WCO PICARD. Assisted higher education institutions of Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan to prepare Customs specialists with evaluations to improve study programmes against the WCO criteria. The Al-Farabi Kazakh National University became the first university in CA to receive the **WCO Certificate of Recognition,** attesting that its academic programme complies with international standards for the Customs profession.

- Launched the **Distance Learning system** for BG training institutions **in Kyrgyzstan** (Osh & Bishkek) and operationalised the Distance Learning system for the CU higher military institute **in Uzbekistan**, enabling the application of modern technologies to educational processes (e-lectures and webinar sessions) and networking with the national and EU MS counterpart institutions.

- Enhanced the **administrative management pillar** of border management agencies through training and on-the-job practice in human resource management, financial planning and control, in compliance with international standards and EU best practices.

- Assisted with the mid-term review and further upgrade of the **National IBM Strategies and their Action Plans for the period of 2012-2022 in Kyrgyzstan and the period of 2010-2025 in Tajikistan,** generating recommendations for the priority areas of the IBM Action Plans in each country. Additionally, a situational analysis report of the training system in Border Agencies of Tajikistan was elaborated, that provides a baseline of current capacity and gaps, along with key recommendations, contributing to the implementation of Section 16 of the National IBM Strategy / Action Plan.

- Assisted CA border management agencies in strengthening the principles of **law-enforcement ethics and professional standards** through targeted training covering work relations/environment, intra-service and inter-agency cooperation and anti-corruption measures. Assisted Kyrgyzstan with the updates of the Action Plans on the **eradication of systemic corruption** in three border management agencies (State Border Service, State Customs Service and State Inspection on Veterinary & Phytosanitary Security), that were further endorsed by the Government and transferred for implementation.

- Supported CA state officials in attending **high-level dialogues** in the framework of the Central Asia Border Security Initiative (CABSI), Conference of Regional Cooperation on Border Security in CA (Issyk-Kul Initiative) International Border Police Conference (IBPC) and Almaty/ Budapest/ Prague Processes, as well as **study visits** to EU MS professional agencies.

Associate partners

ICMPD
International Centre for
Migration Policy Development

RIGA TECHNICAL
UNIVERSITY

LIETUVOS MUITINE

State Revenue Service
Republic of Latvia

Food and Veterinary Service
Republic of Latvia

MINISTRY OF INTERIOR
HUNGARY

SEF SERVIÇO DE ESTRANGEIROS E FRONTEIRAS
Immigration and Borders Service
Portuguese Republic

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BOMCA
BORDER MANAGEMENT
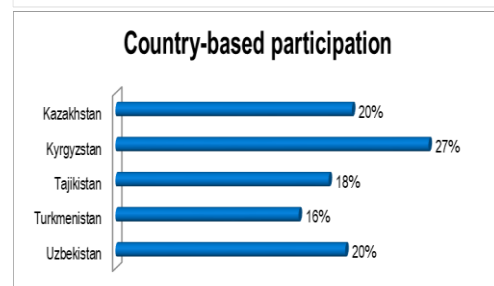PROGRAMME IN CENTRAL ASIA

State Border Guard
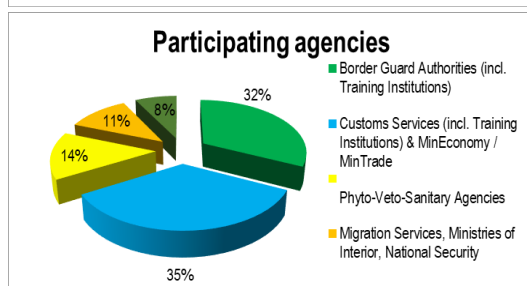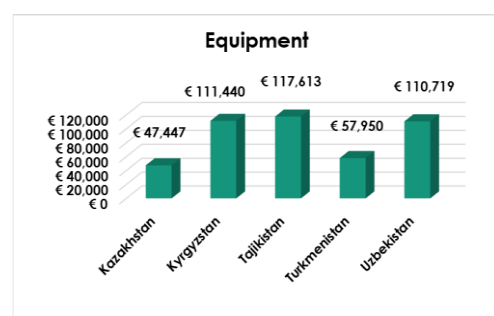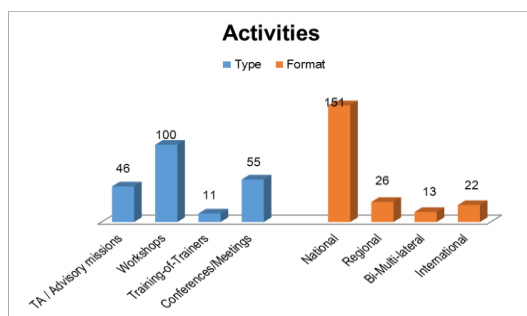Republic of Latvia

COMPONENT 2 - Institutional Framework for Management of Mixed Migration Flows at Borders

- Assisted CA Border Guard Agencies in establishing/strengthening **identification and profiling mechanisms** and developing the Methodology for the identification of Foreign Terrorist Fighters at BCPs.
- Developed recommendations for legal and instrumental procedures governing **inter-agency and intra-service cooperation and information exchange**, as well as strengthened the capacity of management, frontline and patrolling staff on border checks, document security, "green" border surveillance techniques, investigative procedures, reporting and referral mechanisms, public service standards, responses to emergency situations, service dog training, management of mixed migration flows and policies on the return of irregular migrants, readmission arrangements, voluntary return and reintegration practices.
- An assessment was undertaken of the existing legal acts of the Kyrgyz Republic in the field of **migration management and combating irregular migration** for further improvement of the legislative framework.

COMPONENT 3 - Adoption of trade facilitation regimes at borders

- Assisted CA Customs services in developing their **risk management systems** and investigation capacities, as well as developing new working tools for the detection of smuggled goods and fraud, enhanced knowledge and skills in intellectual analysis for risk assessment, Customs cyber intelligence, combatting criminal intelligence and encouraging the integration of risk management into the process of Customs controls.
- Assisted CA **Phyto-Sanitary-Veterinary services in developing risk analysis** for imported animals, food and plants as well as working procedures for risk assessment.
- Helped CA Customs services with advancing their policies towards the **electronic E-Customs environment** for import, export and transit operations by elaborating tailor-made IT strategies and roadmap guidelines for converting paper-based procedures into a paperless Customs environment.
- Assisted with the improvement of the practical skills of Customs and Law Enforcement units in the **prevention and detection of illegal trafficking** of goods and means of transport at the road and maritime BCPs, control of dual-use goods, protection of endangered species of animals and plants (CITES) and the protection of intellectual property rights (IPR).
- Helped CA Customs services to improve and align the national legislation with the **provisions of WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement and Revised Kyoto Convention** by providing legal expertise and training on the measures to be implemented for the accession to and/or implementing the international treaties and conventions.
- Contributed to promoting the awareness of the **EU Generalized Scheme of Preferences (GSP+) for Kyrgyzstan** and strengthening knowledge of the state agencies on GSP+ provisions/ requirements, and making preparations for the introduction of the Registered Exporter System (REX), which came into force in January 2019.
- Supported the State Customs Committee in the **revision of the Customs Code of the Republic of Uzbekistan** for the simplification of Customs procedures as per the norms of international conventions and agreements.

BOMCA 9 in figures (June 2015 – October 2019):

Activities
- Type
- Format

TA / Advisory missions: 46
Workshops: 100
Training-of-Trainers: 11
Conferences/Meetings: 55
National: 151
Regional: 26
Bi-Multi-lateral: 13
International: 22

Equipment

Kazakhstan: € 47,447
Kyrgyzstan: € 111,440
Tajikistan: € 117,613
Turkmenistan: € 57,950
Uzbekistan: € 110,719

Participating agencies

- Border Guard Authorities (incl. Training Institutions): 32%
- Customs Services (incl. Training Institutions) & MinEconomy / MinTrade: 35%
- Phyto-Veto-Sanitary Agencies: 14%
- Migration Services, Ministries of Interior, National Security: 11%
- 8%

Country-based participation

Kazakhstan: 20%
Kyrgyzstan: 27%
Tajikistan: 18%
Turkmenistan: 16%
Uzbekistan: 20%

Associate partners

ICMPD
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