

**WORKING ARRANGEMENT
IN THE FORM OF AN EXCHANGE OF LETTERS BETWEEN
EUROPEAN AGENCY FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF OPERATIONAL COOPERATION AT THE
EXTERNAL
BORDERS OF THE MEMBER STATES OF THE EUROPEAN UNION (FRONTEX)
AND
MIGRATION, ASYLUM, REFUGEES, REGIONAL INITIATIVE (MARRI)
REGIONAL CENTRE**

Objectives

- To further strengthen cooperation between Frontex and Migration, Asylum, Refugees Regional Initiative, Regional Centre (hereinafter, MARRI RC) within the fields of their competence related to the Western Balkans region;
- To coordinate activities and efforts within the framework of missions assigned to Frontex and MARRI RC in line with the constituent acts establishing Frontex and MARRI RC;
- To consult on matters of common interest for the purpose of realising the respective objectives of Frontex and the MARRI RC in any of their fields of competence and projects that are of mutual interest with a view to promoting effective coordination;
- To contribute to the efforts of MARRI Regional Forum Member States' national institutions responsible for border management in achieving EU standards and practices.

Areas for mutual cooperation

- Exchange of relevant information and documentation related to migration management and control issues (excluding personal and operationally sensitive data);
- Sharing of relevant respective bulletins and newsletters;
- Identification of best practices in relation to border management;
- Explore the possibility, in appropriate cases, of MARRI RC assisting in implementation of Frontex training modules in the Western Balkans region;
- Explore the possibility, in appropriate cases, of Frontex supporting relevant projects initiated by MARRI RC;
- Reach a coherent approach in respect of ongoing or future programmes or projects related to border security and migration management, within their respective remits;
- Promote improvement of the operational interoperability between competent authorities of the EU Member States and MARRI Member States;
- In addition to the existing operational contact points established between Frontex and the MARRI Member States, Frontex may use MARRI RC State Officials representing MARRI Member States in the MARRI RC as contact points for their respective seconding countries in respect of broader, regional overarching issues related to the Western Balkans as a whole.

Implementation modalities

- Both parties take appropriate measures to ensure effective cooperation and liaison by appointing contact points in respect of the implementation of this working arrangement;
- Both parties may circulate reciprocal invitations to meetings and conferences on matters of common interest;

- Each party shall bear the costs of any expenditure -including travel and subsistence- related to the attendance at respective management or high-level meetings. However, the participation of the MARRI Member States in Frontex coordinated operational activities may be financed by Frontex under the terms and conditions applied by Frontex. Details of such terms and conditions must be agreed separately on a case-by-case basis.

- Nothing in this working arrangement will replace or affect the implementation of ongoing or future planned bi-lateral operational/technical cooperation which Frontex or the MARRI RC establishes with the national competent authorities of their respective Member States and partner countries

Termination

Either Party may terminate the present working arrangement at any time by providing written notification to the other Party. Termination shall take effect three months after the date of receipt of the notification by the other Party, unless the notification specifies a later date or the notification is rescinded prior to the specified date.

Termination of this working arrangement will not affect any benefits or obligations arising from its application before such termination.

[signed via exchange of letters]