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***NATIONAL STRATEGY  
FOR DEVELOPMENT OF THE ESTABLISHED SYSTEM OF INTEGRATED  
BORDER MANAGEMENT***

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***National strategy for development of the established system  
Of Integrated border management  
It's adopted on 29.12.2009 year,  
from the Government of the Republic of Macedonia***

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## **INTEGRATED BORDER MANAGEMENT**

### ***Introduction***

The establishment of the system of Integrated Border Management has enabled facilitation of the flow of persons and goods across the national border in line with the European standards and best practices.

Implementation of measures and activities in the system of Integrated Border Management on the basis of the *Strategy for Integrated Border Management and the National Action Plan for Integrated Border Management*, and in line with the Schengen Guidelines, has made it possible to build a system that will develop a database for border management data that will in turn be connected to the *Integrated Border Management Information System*, so as to ensure access to and exchange of information between government agencies that have border management competencies.

Organized and coordinated measures have thus been put in place by government agencies participating in Integrated Border Management with respect to *oversight of legality of entry and exit of persons, goods and vehicles*, prevention and detection of organized crime, foiling attempts of persons and perpetrators to commit crime and prevention of all kinds of smuggling across border crossings, control and prevention of transportation of substances and contagious diseases which pose hazard to people and goods.

The completion of the phase one of the Project "*Export-import one single window and one stop control shop*" has made it possible to reduce the time needed to cross the border for shipment of goods and in turn ease and the procedure of the regime of control.

The establishment of the *National Border Management Coordination Center* as the key coordinating body has yielded enhanced border management coordination between authorities with border management competencies.

## **II. Realized strategic activities in the established system of Integrated Border Management**

1. On 29.12.2005 the Government of RM issued a Decision dated 29.12.2005 to set up an Inter-Ministerial working group for Integrated Border Management as the key agent of activities for implementation of IBM. The Government issued a Decision on 07.04.2006 to rename the Inter-Ministerial working group into the *National Integrated Border Management Commission*.

2. On 29.08.2005 the Border police under the Ministry of Interior took over border security in its entirety.

3. On 07.06.2006 the Government of Republic of Macedonia brought the *Categorization of border crossings* (infrastructure, spatial and technical conditions).

4. On 13.03.2007 the Government of Republic of Macedonia brought the *Decision on Establishment of a National Integrated Border Management Coordination Center*.

5. On 26.03.2009 the *Integrated Border Management Information System* was put into operation. The Information system provides a platform for exchange of information for the purposes of monitoring the situation at border crossings. It will develop a database for border management data aimed at ensuring a coordinated approach and exchange of information between government agencies with border management competencies.

6. On 03.11.2008 the electronic single window system for issuance of licenses for export, import and transit of goods and tariff quota – *EXIM*, which marked the establishment of a segment (phase one) of the Concept “*Single window system for export and import and one stop shop*” became operational. This will reduce border crossing time and in turn make control procedures and regime easier.

7. The PORTAL -“*INTEGRATED BORDER MANAGEMENT*” was launched on the Government web site.

8. The National Integrated Border Management Action Plan passed on October 6, 2005 has been implemented as has the National Integrated Border Management Strategy adopted in 2003 by the Government of Republic of Macedonia.

### **III. Need of a NEW Strategy for improvement and development of the established system of Integrated Border Management**

Efficient management and security of national borders is a top priority for Republic of Macedonia. The main task is to provide a true balance between open borders, though at the same time, safe and controlled border: open borders for trade, tourism and other forms of legitimate movement of persons and goods, and yet, border that are secure and controlled in terms of threats coming from illegal migration, trafficking in human beings, illicit import of goods, activities of criminal networks and terrorism..

The established Integrated Border Management system warrants that all relevant government agencies with competencies in this system work together in a uniform effective and efficient manner.

The established system of Integrated Border Management allows citizens to live in a region of safety and freedom and travel freely, where cross border trade is facilitated, which are the key preconditions for economic growth and poverty reduction. Improved cross border flows will also support the development of more open societies with better understanding and tolerance of their neighbours and their cultural, religious and linguistic differences. At the same time, the threats associated with abuse due to the poor functioning of the border management system, such as illicit trafficking in goods and humans, drugs, weapons and arms and other illegal goods may be handled in a more effective fashion if the authorities in charge of national border management improve their communication, coordination, exchange of information and overall cooperation.

Along such lines, the strategic documents which defined the concept of improvement and development of the established system of Integrated Border Management ought to provide a full consistency and harmonization with the EU concept in the definition and execution of concrete projects.

## **IV. KEY AGENCIES IN INTEGRATED BORDER MANAGEMENT**

### **IV.1. NATIONAL INTEGRATED BORDER MANAGEMENT COMMISSION**

The National Integrated Border Management Commission was set up as an ancillary and advisory body of the Government of Republic of Macedonia with powers to carry out measures and activities pertaining to the established system of Integrated Border Management for the purpose of:

- Proposing to the Government of Republic of Macedonia measure and activities pertinent to the development and improvement of the Integrated Border Management System;
- Executing the National Integrated Border Management Strategy and the National Integrated Border Management Action Plan;
- Promoting the cooperation and coordination between government agencies with border management powers;
- Keeps track of the situation concerning human resources in government agencies with border management powers with respect to their border management responsibilities;
- Provides an opinion about the report produced by the National Border Management Coordination Center;
- Forges and maintains international cooperation concerning integrated border management activities; and
- Makes other proposals to the Government of Republic of Macedonia which are pertinent to integrated border management

Inter-agency cooperation at a strategic level is effected through the National Integrated Border Management Commission.

The National Integrated Border Management Commission answers for its work to the Government of Republic of Macedonia. Under the decision on the basis of which it was constituted, the National Commission is obligated to report to the Government at least once every year about the implementation of activities surrounding the National Integrated border management Strategy and Action plan, as well as about its operation.

The following entities participate in the activities of the National Integrated Border Management Commission as permanent external members: EC (European commission) representatives in the Republic of Macedonia, as well as experts carrying out projects (activities) pertinent to the realization and perfection of the Integrated Border Management concept. Over the past period, representatives of EAR representatives have taken part while now EC representatives are involved, as well as representatives of the International Organization for Migration (IOM).

### **IV. 2. MINISTRY OF INTERIOR**

The Ministry of Interior is competent within the boundaries of its powers for protection and respect of fundamental freedoms and rights of people and citizens guaranteed with the Constitution of Republic of Macedonia, the law and ratified international agreements, for the protection of the system of law, for prevention and detection of crime, for measures taken to prosecute offenders as well as for keeping order and peace in our society.

Within the frames of the system of integrated Border Management, it should take measures and activities to ensure open, yet secure borders and facilitation of flow of persons and goods across national borders.

The strategic plan of MoI adopted for 2009-2011, envisages a Programme Sector for Border Affairs and Migration and regional centers for Border Affairs, the purpose of which is the implementation of adopted best practices and common standards in the area of Integrated Border Management consistent with the Schengen Regulation, Directives and Common Guidelines, then equipment in material and technical terms, and modernization of police stations as well as improvement of cross border cooperation with the neighbouring countries.

For the purposes of further harmonization with the provisions of the Schengen Border Code, the legal framework concerning border management powers will continue to improve on the basis of the Schengen Action Plan.

For the purposes of strengthening the inter-institutional cooperation of institutions participating in IBM, all memoranda of cooperation defined in the Integrated Border Management Action Plan have been signed.<sup>1</sup>

Training provided to border police will be improved as per the annual training programme of MoI and in line with "Curriculum for Advanced and Specialized training of border police". To that end, cooperation has been established between the Ministry of Interior and Frontex (European Agency for coordination of operational cooperation on external borders of EU member countries) as per the Working Agreement for establishment of operational cooperation signed on 19.01.2009.

Under the strategy for implementation of the Model of Risk analysis, an enhanced level of coordination will be attained in the area of border operations and exchange of information as well as in the fight against cross border crime and illegal migration.

In terms of introduction of IT connections between border crossings and the central database, the new central system of control of passengers and vehicles is interconnected and there is a so called central user who inputs data in the stop lists and it has an advanced search system. Border crossings have telecommunication links with the central database hosted in MoI, which allows for transfer of data from border crossings to the Central data base and vice versa. Full IT connections between border crossings and the central database is planned to be completed by the end of 2009.

Operationalization of phase one of the digital police radio TETRA 2009 has been realized. It is expected that the activities planned for this phase will be completed by the end of 2009. The said system will provide secure and safe communication between police services in the country and it has been designed in such way as to be consistent with the similar systems that are already in use in several EEU member countries. Under IPA 2008 a project is envisaged with the title "*Integrated Border Management*" that includes a component: "Further support for implementation of the TETRA standard" (II phase) that will help achieve coverage of about 80% of the territory. IPA 2009 envisages realization of the project "Integrated Border Management" (TETRA phase III), that will provide full (optimal) coverage of the territory of RM with a digital radio signal.

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<sup>1</sup> Memorandum of understanding between the Ministry of Health, Ministry of Finance – Customs Administration, MoI and the Radiation Safety Directorate – signed in June 2007;  
Memorandum amending the Memorandum of understanding between the Ministry of Health, Ministry of Finance – Customs Administration, MoI and the Radiation Safety Directorate – signed in December 2007;  
Memorandum amending the Memorandum of understanding between the Ministry of Health (State Sanitary Inspectorate) and MoI (Border Police) – signed in December 2007  
Memorandum of Understanding between MoI – Customs Administration and Ministry of Environment and physical planning – signed in June 2007;

In 2008 a video surveillance system was installed at border a crossing which enables joint use of equipment by the police and customs services as other IMB entities through the National Border Management Coordination Center.

Under the "feasibility study on the minimum/maximum standards of technical equipment of police stations and police department for border management, PS for securing the national borders and mixed PS", the "Regulation on the minimum standards of technical and material assets, equipment and premises by categorization of passenger border crossings" and "Programme of management, arrangement and maintenance of border crossing facilities for road traffic for 2009"<sup>2</sup>, construction and reconstruction of police stations in charge of border security (PS for NBS) will continue, as will the procurement of technical equipment.

#### **IV. 3. MINISTRY OF FINANCE- CUSTOMS ADMINISTRATION**

Customs Administration performs matters under its competence in accordance with the Law on Customs Administration, the Law on Customs Tariff and other laws which regulate import, export and transit of goods, and it also performs other activities which fall under its competence on the basis of other laws.

Customs administration is responsible for protection of the society and the citizens as well as for facilitation of international trade through provision of unobstructed flow of goods across the border and by effective control of international supply chain.

Cooperation with the relevant institutions which are active in this field at a national and international level is particularly important with respect to the provision of security and safety of citizens, protection of financial interests of the state, protection of society against illegal trafficking, protection of markets against unfair competition and support of legal business activities, creation of an electronic environment, fight against fraud, organized crime and terrorism.

In the promotion of international customs cooperation and simplified customs procedures, particular account is taken of: the role of customs in integrated border management, creation of paper free environment for customs and trade and modifications of national legislation pertinent to customs for the purposes of involvement in security aspects, risk management and the concept of licensed economic operator.

With the use of information and communication technology, efforts are being made to enhance cooperation and enable secure information exchange between custom services, between the customs and the relevant government institutions and between the customs and economic operators or participants in the custom procedure.

Cooperation between custom services for the purposes of improved security and fight against fraud will expand through:

- Strengthening of ties and exchange of data for adequate risk management,
- Exchange of experience, application of best practices and methods of cooperation from EU member countries,
- Enhanced coordination and cooperation with respect to better management of national border crossing procedures.

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<sup>2</sup> Planned projects:

- Reconstruction of PS for the purposes of securing the national border with Serbia, Albanian and Kosovo, starting date 15.10.2008. until 31.12.2012 total value of EUR 2.300.00, of which EUR 1.250.000,00 national co funding.

International cooperation based on common standards and mutual recognition of results of customs checks will be the instrument for efficient reduction of the burden of legal trade and prevention of illegal trafficking and customs irregularities.

Improved cooperation between customs services and between the customs and other authorities will bring about high quality checks at every point of the customs area.

Improved cooperation with international organizations and institutions, in particular with the World Customs Organization and the European Commission, will open the doors for the introduction of best practices in the operation of custom services and exchange of operational data that will help custom services of Republic of Macedonia in the enforcement of custom relevant laws, measures of protection of the market and fight against crime.

In the performance of tasks and duties associated with border control and provision of security in the supply chain, Customs Administration is competent for the application of the World Customs Organization Framework of standards for facilitation and security of international trade.

International trade is the principal driver of economic development. The global trading system is exposed to attacks by terrorists, which seriously impairs the global economy. In their capacity of governmental organizations that control and manage international movement of goods, customs services are the only entities capable of providing increased security and contribute to the socio economic development through collection of revenues and trade facilitation.

In line with the aforesaid, the Customs Administration:

- Provides security and safety of people,
- Protects the financial interests of the Republic of Macedonia,
- Assumes competencies and takes measures of protection of the state against unfair and illegal trade simultaneously supporting economic activities,
- Contributes to enhancing the level of competitiveness of Macedonian economy with the application of modern methods of operation supported by an easily accessible electronic customs environment.

In the performance of the said activities, Customs Administration is active in the prevention and suppression of fraud and in combating organized crime and terrorism, at a national as well as at an international level.

To that end, Customs Administration cooperates with other relevant institutions in particular those that are equally responsible for detection and criminal prosecution of illegal activities. Objectives of the Customs Administration are fair treatment and provision of high level of services.

To accomplish its priority strategic goals over the coming period, through participation in several programmes and technical assistance provided by the European Union and in bilateral cooperation with customs services and other donors, activities will be carried out aimed at further upgrade of institutional and administrative capacities, alignment of customs relevant legislation and customs procedures, modernization and improvement of infrastructure at border crossings and of customs procedures with the use of modern technical means and operating techniques, continuous education of custom officers, the business community and the citizens in areas pertinent to customs operations.

***Development of the established single window system for issuance of licenses for export, import and transit of goods and tariff quota- EXIM system***

Introduction of Single Window environment through the implementation of the Single window system for issuance of licenses for import, export and transit of goods and tariff quotas- EXIM officially started in the Republic of Macedonia with a decision passed by the Government of RM in March 2007. Customs Administration is the lead institution and project coordinator. The Government set up a task force made up of representatives from the Customs Administration, the National Integrated Border Management Commission, Ministry for Information Society, International Development Agency - USAID<sup>3</sup> and representatives from fifteen government institutions participating in different procedures at the border crossing in the cross border flow of goods.

The official name of the system that was put in place is EXIM and it is available on the internet site [www.exim.gov.mk](http://www.exim.gov.mk).

The system has been operational since November 2008, and at present, activities are under way aimed at additional development and expansion of the system.

The basic objective of the introduction of a single window system is to facilitate and speed up access and exchange of data and documents between competent institutions as well as between the institutions and the business community in general. Specifically speaking, the projects has provided conditions for electronic submission of all import and export data only once and at one place, with guarantees of efficient coordination and implementation of cross border checks and inspection procedures.

The plan for the second phase of additional development of EXIM is its integration into the new software for processing of customs Declarations- CDPS, as well as integration of the Ministry of Transport and Communications through inclusion of some of transportation licenses. Also, provisions have been made for production and inclusion of other licenses and certificates which were not covered in phase one and in respect of which the business community files applications with the competent institutions.

#### **IV.4. MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY AND WATER MANAGEMENT**

It is one of the key links in the system of Integrated Border management when it comes to control of import, export and transit of shipments of animal and plant origin. Prompt and ease yet controlled and secure flow of food of animal and plant origin is ensured

- ***Veterinary administration***

The Veterinary administration, which falls under the Ministry of Agriculture, forestry and Water Management<sup>4</sup> has all the powers with respect to administrative and oversight matters in the area of veterinary health. There are four sectors in the Veterinary Administration: sector for border veterinary inspection, sector for public veterinary health, sector for animal health protection and sector for normative and legal matters.

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<sup>3</sup> USAID - United States Agency for International Development

<sup>4</sup> In accordance with the Law on Veterinary Health ("Official Gazette of Republic of Macedonia" no 113/2007) and other legislation in force

It is an obligation assumed by Republic of Macedonia to organize veterinary control at border crossings in accordance with the Law on Veterinary health, the Code of Office of International Epizootics with head office in Paris a member of which is also the Republic of Macedonia, international bilateral agreements on cooperation in the area of veterinary and international conventions on control of goods at borders.

Veterinary inspection is organized at border crossings in the form of a sector for border veterinary inspection under the Veterinary Administration.. Border crossings where import, export and transit of shipments covered in the Law on veterinary health are allowed are designated by the Government of Republic of Macedonia.

Pursuant to the Law on Veterinary health, the official vet at the border crossing, when carrying out official oversight and check has the right and the duty to conduct veterinary examinations and checks with live animals or products of animal origin.

The sector for border veterinary inspection will conduct continuous activities aimed at harmonization of our legislation with the European standards, which in essence means alignment and application of EU principles and policies in accordance with the European norms through implementation of enacted laws and drafting of further laws as provided in Chapter 12 of the National Programme for adoption of Acquis Communautaire:

- Rulebook on the method and the procedure on re-export of products and by-products of animal origin consistent with equivalent European Directives and Regulations with the following CELEX numbers: 31997L0078; 32000D0571; 32005D0092.
- Rulebook on the method and the procedure of import and transit, the form and the content of the Veterinary health certificate or other documents accompanying consignments of live animals, as well as the method and the procedure of conducting checks and examinations of import and transit of live animals, aquaculture and products of animal origin consistent with the equivalent European pieces of legislation with the following CELEX numbers: 31990L0426; 31990L0539; 31992L0065; 31992D0260; 31993D0195; 31993D0196; 31993D0197; 31994D0467; 31996D0540; 32004D0211; 32004L0068; 31992D0340;
- Rulebook on the method of conducting checks and examination at border crossings of consignments of products of animal origin which are introduced as personal luggage of passengers and which are intended for personal use or non-commercial purposes, consistent with the equivalent European regulation: Commission Regulation no. 206/2009/E3 dated March 5 2009 on introduction into the Community of personal consignments of products of animal origin and amending Regulation (EC) no. 136/2004.
- Decision on the amount charged by border veterinary control for all activities and official controls of products of animal origin, food and feed marketed in the Republic of Macedonia and on identification and registration of animals and breeding facilities and issuance of certificates of animal health, consistent with the equivalent European regulation: Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council no.882/2004/EC dated April 29, 2004.

At the same time, the sector for border veterinary inspection will continue to perform ongoing activities aimed at creating conditions for implementation of enacted primary and secondary legislation by:

- *Increasing the number of official vets at key Corridor 8 border crossings (Deve Bair and Kafasan) and Corridor 10 (Tababanovce and Bogorodica) where 24 hour operation will be introduced 7 days a week, as well as*

*continuous upgrade and development of the existing professional staff through education and practical field training,*

- *Activities aimed at meeting the infrastructure requirements (facilities, equipment) as recommended by EU- Commission Decision no 2001/812/EC, on conditions for approval of veterinary inspection premises for checks of products of animal origin introduced from third countries into the Community.*

In May 2007, at the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management, work started on the European Agency for Reconstruction (EAR) Project for support of Integrated Border Management – Agreement no.06MAC01/03/007, under which technical and technological documentation was put together (construction projects) and tender documentation was compiled for a tender for construction of border crossings.

With the completion of the procedure following the public announcement for construction of facilities for veterinary and phytosanitary inspection at border crossing Tabanovce implementation will commence of this activity which will provide excellent condition for the performance of activities of those services.

Under IPA 2010 instrument, application has been filed for approval of funding from pre-accession funds for construction of veterinary and phytosanitary facilities and BC Airport Alexander the Great - Skopje.

Realization of aforementioned activities will contribute to timely implementation of the entire legislation covering veterinary health with respect to border veterinary inspection, thus providing adequate management in the veterinary inspection services on the one hand and introduction of a control system compatible with EU on the other, but also, direct responsibility of veterinary inspection services as a direct consequence of successful veterinary checks in line with EU standards.

In accordance with the principles set out in the National Action Plan for implementation of the Integrated Border Management Strategy of the Government of RM, Veterinary Administration will continue to conduct activities that fall under its competence aimed at further development of coordinated measures in the oversight of application of legislation in the area of veterinary health upon entry and transit of goods and transportation means, prevention and detection of criminal acts, organized crime and all types of smuggling across border crossings, as well as control of transportation of substances and contagious diseases which pose a hazard to public health and animal health with a view to improving the business climate in the Republic of Macedonia as one of the Western Balkan countries and in line with their aspiration for integration into the Euro-Atlantic structures.

In addition to other agencies, Veterinary inspection service is also involved in control of international movement of goods at border crossings. Therefore, Veterinary Administration, as part of this interagency cooperation, is consistent in the performance of certain activities in the designated period and it will continue this successful cooperation with other agencies at border crossings, in particular with customs services and the border police so that it will ensure the development of Integrated Border Management and its growth into a system that will enable facilitation of flow of persons and goods across the national borders in line with the European standards and best practices.

## **- STATE AGRICULTURE INSPECTORATE**

The State Agriculture Inspectorate, which falls under the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management,<sup>5</sup> has all the powers to perform administrative and oversight activities in the area of plant health.

The sector for inspection oversight in the area of phytosanitary policy at border crossings and inland operates under the State Agriculture Inspectorate.

### Phytosanitary control

The obligation of the Republic of Macedonia to organize phytosanitary control at border crossings arises from the Law on plant health, the Code of the International Association for Plant Protection Sciences (IAPPS) headquartered in Rome, the International Plant Protection Organization (IPPO) headquartered in Paris as well as the International Organization FAO, a member of which is Republic of Macedonia, international bilateral agreements of cooperation in the area of plant protection and international conventions for control of goods at the border.

Phytosanitary inspection at border crossings is organized under the Sector for Phytosanitary inspection at the State Agriculture Inspectorate. Border crossings and loading places where import, export, re-export and transit of consignments are allowed covered with the Law on plant health are designated by the Government of Republic of Macedonia.

Pursuant to the Law on plant health, the phytosanitary inspector at a border crossing, when conducting official oversight and control, has the right and the duty to conduct phytosanitary examination of consignments of plants, plant products or other items in import, export and re-export, places of production and all other internal phytosanitary examination to ascertain presence or absence of harmful organisms.

In accordance with the principles of the National Action Plan for Implementation of the Integrated Border Management Strategy of the Government of RM, the State Agriculture Inspectorate will continue to conduct activities that fall under its competence for the purposes of development of coordinated measures of oversight and application of legislation in the area of plant protection in entry and transit of goods and transportation means, prevention and detection of criminal acts, organized crime and all types of smuggling at border crossings, as well as control of transportation of substances and contagious diseases which pose a hazard to public health and plant health with a view to improving the business climate in the Republic of Macedonia as one of the countries in the Western Balkan aspiring to achieve integration into the Euro-Atlantic structures.

In addition to other agencies, phytosanitary inspectorate is also involved in the control of international flow of goods at border crossings. Therefore, the State Agriculture Inspectorate as part of this interagency cooperation is consistent in the performance of certain activities in the designated period and it will continue this successful cooperation with other agencies at border crossings, in particular with customs services and the border police so that it will ensure the development of Integrated Border Management and its growth into a system that will enable facilitation of flow of persons and goods across the national borders in line with the European standards and best practices..

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<sup>5</sup> Under the Law on plant health ("Official Gazette of Republic of Macedonia" no. 29/05,81/08 and 20/09) and other legislation in force,

Priorities of the phytosanitary inspectorate over the coming period are strengthening of human resource capacities and initiation of the functioning of a single window system which will speed up the issuance of the required documentation and in turn the procedure of carrying out phytosanitary inspection of consignments which are subject to a compulsory phytosanitary inspection.

#### **IV.5. MINISTRY OF HEALTH**

Measures and activities of the Ministry of health are aimed at an efficient control (monitoring) of import and export of food and products and substances coming into contact with food, control of drugs, illegal drugs, precursors as well as prevention of outbreak, spread and containment of diseases in international road transportation.

##### **- Food Directorate**

The Food Directorate is a body under the Ministry of Health which became operational on 01.01.2005. The Food Directorate is responsible for the performance of expert and administrative matters in the area of safety of food and products and substances coming into contact with food.

The primary goal of the Food Directorate is provision of safe and quality food in production, distribution and sale, protection of consumers against fraud or deception, protection against diseases which originate or are transferred through food, free flow on the internal and external markets. State food inspectors perform control at all stages of production and sale including catering facilities and import and export of food. Delivery of competencies defined in the law provides protection of consumers and prompt release of information in the area of food for the purposes of protection of health and lives of people by way of putting in place a system of risk analysis based on scientific achievement

The Food Directorate is a contact point for RASFF (Rapid Alert System for Food and Feed).

In 2008, the European Commission – DG SANCO designated a contact person from the Food Directorate with a view to establishing a direct communication between the European Commission and the Republic of Macedonia pertaining to food and two way flow of information through RASFF- system, and in turn a more efficient prevention of threat to human health from unsafe food.

The Food Directorate at the Ministry of Health is the contact point for the pre accession program of the European Food Safety Agency, which has designated a person for the Republic of Macedonia seated in the main office.

##### **- STATE SANITARY AND HEALTH INSPECTORATE**

The State sanitary and health inspectorate is competent for ensuring safety of products and protection of population against contagious diseases<sup>6</sup>.

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<sup>6</sup> Competencies of the State sanitary and health inspectorate are defined in the Law on sanitary and health inspection („Off. Gazette of RM“ nno.71/06), Law on safety of beauty products („Off. Gazette of RM“no.55/07); Law on product safety („Off. Gazette of RM no.33/06), Law on health compliant items for general use (Off. Gazette of RM.53/91, 15/95) . Secondary legislation defines competencies which are defined in the law.

The State sanitary and health inspectorate performs oversight of health compliance of consignments on import at the terminals in the Republic of Macedonia.

The State sanitary and health inspectorate as part of the Ministry of health is an active participant in the Single window and One Stop Shop systems.

Under the "Law on protection from contagious diseases" (Official Gazette of RM" no.66/04), the Rulebook on measure of protection from emergence and spread of cholera, plague, viruses and hemorrhagic fever, yellow fever and malaria („Official Gazette of RM" no "76/03); and the rulebook on the conditions and methods of compulsory immunization, seroprophylaxis, chemoprophylaxis against contagious diseases („Official Journal" no " 6p.68/91) and the International health rulebook, the State sanitary and health inspectorate oversees the flow of passengers and goods in international traffic who travel to or from countries which according to the World Health Organization pose a threat of introduction of the above stated contagious diseases.

#### **IV.6. MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS**

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs defines and marks the national borderline, marks and designates border signs and participates in the resolution of incidents occurring at the border.

The activities performed by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in the development of the system of Integrated Border Management will be focused on Categorization of border crossings and the National visa Information System.

##### **- Categorization of border crossings**

The Government of Republic of Macedonia at the session held on 07.06.2006 adopted the categorization of border crossings.

Categorization of border crossings is based on the general criteria specified in the National Strategy and on the basis of their strategic trade position, trade function and commercial flow of goods:

Category 1 - Strategic

Category 2- Regional

Category 3- Local

##### **Category 1- Strategic:**

The largest border crossings of the Republic of Macedonia with constructed buildings, high standard infrastructure and equipment, round the clock availability of facilities open for international traffic and secured presence of staff from all government agencies competent at the national border.

In light of the traffic volume, crossings of the national border by persons, transportation means and goods, the workload, the position of certain crossings at the Pan European Corridors 10 and 8 and their significance to individual transportation modes the following is proposed:

##### **Designated Category 1 strategic border crossings are:**

1. Tabanovce-road
2. Bogorodica- road
3. Deve Bair- road
4. Kafasan- road
5. Dolno Blace- road

6. Airport-Skopje
7. Tabanovce-railway
8. Gevgelija-railway
9. Medzitlija - road ( 1-A after the creation of Category 1 conditions because of priorities as part of Corridor 10 )

**Category 2 - Regional:**

Border crossings of Republic of Macedonia open to international traffic – movement of persons, transportation means and goods, with a possibility for come constraints and/or bans.

Designated Category 2 regional border crossings are:

1. Delchevo - road
2. Novo Selo - road
3. Jazince - road
4. Airport Ohrid
5. Star Dojran - road
6. Blato - road
7. Sveti Naum - road
8. Pelince - road
9. Stewe - road
10. Volkovo-railway ( 2 - A until conditions are created for categorization into 1 as in Dolno Blace)
11. Ohrid - Podgradec ( blue line)

**Category 3 - Local**

Border crossings of Republic of Macedonia open to cross border traffic – movement of persons, transportation means and goods with a possibility for certain restrictions.

Designated Category 3 local border crossings are:

Border with Republic of Bulgaria:

1. Klepalo (Berovo) - Sandanski
2. Ajduški Kladenec (Pehchevo) - Simitli
3. Crna Skala (Delchevo) - Nevestino

Border with Republic of Albania:

1. Dzepishte ( Debar) - Trebishte

With Republic of Serbia:

1. Ogut - Trgovishte
2. Golema Crkora - Golesh
3. Lojane - Miratovac
4. Sopot - Strezovce
5. Petrovac - Slavujevac

With Republic of Kosovo:

1. Strezimir - Restelica ( operational)
2. Tanushevci - Debalde ( not operational)

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, in coordination with the National Integrated Border Management Commission works regularly on the implementation of Categorization of border crossings.

## **- National visa information system**

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs is in charge of the Visa Center and the National Visa Information System which provides linkages of all segments in the process of issuance of visas for entry and stay in the Republic of Macedonia.

The establishment of the National Information System and Visa center in MFA was one of the priority projects of the Republic of Macedonia and one of the criteria for opening of the dialog on visa liberalization specified on the basis of the Integrated Border Management Strategy, 2003 and the National Visa Module as a joint document of the Republic of Macedonia and the European Union from 2005.

Under the Operating plan of the Visa Center, by September 9, 2009, a total of 35 DCRO of RM abroad were linked with the Visa Center at MFA through the VIS and in those representative offices, the process of issuance of visas (including the imprint of new visa stickers with an integrated photo scan), скенирана фотографија) goes through the visa information system. Also, the Aliens Department and the Readmission department at the MoI, as well as the Employment Agency of RM and the 8 most frequently used border crossings, are integrated into the N-VIS.

Most of the other DCRO have already received the required hardware and some of them a linked with the Visa Center, though training of system users is still pending. Some of the respective embassies are at present moving to new buildings and they will be linked with N-Vis once the relevant technical preconditions are met

All regular users of the system receive regular training on the use of the system and on the relevant legislation concerning visa operations. The training of system users is delivered in the MFA by trained, specialized trainers from the Visa Center who hold certificates issued by experts from SRC SI and EAR, while in the MoI the persons responsible for the training of system users are the trainers from the Departments for aliens and readmission in MoI.

Cooperation and exchange of data between MFA and MoI with respect to visa issuance is regulated with a Memorandum of cooperation between MFA and MoI.

## **IV.7. MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATION**

In the context of Integrated Border Management, the Ministry of Transport and Communication is competent for the planning of border crossings and the design and construction of access roads to the border crossings and definition of the regime and conditions concerning traffic in the vicinity of border crossings.

Generally speaking, strategic orientation with respect to the development of the concept of Integrated Border Management from the perspective of this ministry is along the lines of improvement of capabilities for Strategic and investment planning of border crossings and their immediate environment;

The National strategy for the development of the established system of Border Management provides the basic development concept of the Ministry of Transport and Communications and it contains the projects and activities the implementation of which is planned over the coming three year period. As to *Transport and communications*, the strategic orientation is the creation of a basis for efficient, safe and environmentally friendly conditions in the area of road, railway, freight and air traffic, as well as internal waterway traffic will stimulate

economic development of the Republic of Macedonia and enhance its appeal as an investment destination.

### ***Activities aimed at improved border management***

For the purposes of increased operability and development of the Integrated Border Management system, the following activities are highlighted as being aimed at the development of the established system of Integrated Border Management:

- *Identification and definition of the region of border crossings of Republic of Macedonia;*
- *Adoption of:*
  - ⇒ *Standards and norms of planning and designing the facilities at the border crossings of Republic of Macedonia,*
  - ⇒ *Rulebook on the manner and the procedures for definition of the region of border crossings*
- *Regulation of traffic flows across the border crossings in the Republic of Macedonia*

With account taken of the transportation and its development, as well as the *Recommendations and the best practice provided in the EU Schengen Catalogue*, infrastructure planning, design, rebuilding and reconstruction of border crossings should be focused on:

- *Joint facilities at border crossings with the neighbouring states.* In terms of global security and improvement of neighbourly relations it is a very positive intention consistent with EU recommendations;
- *Improved access to border crossings and improved quality of service on access roads.* This is supposed to be attained by expanding the roads and where necessary construction of new lanes and adequate road links;
- *Traffic separation (passenger vehicles and vans, commercial vehicles and TIR trucks).* Construction of separate lanes for transit and passenger vehicles enables the differentiation of customs operations for the purposes of increased flow of traffic and processing capabilities of border crossings;
- *Parking areas and respective facilities (public places, restaurants) in line with the types of traffic.* Well equipped and safe parking areas, amenities (public phone booths, fax and telex services) and facilities (information and travel offices, banks, forwarding services and the like) are a positive aspect in terms of protection of environment, safety and uninterrupted flow of traffic;

The aforementioned activities are consistent with the satisfaction of requirements and conditions for uninterrupted functioning of border crossings (in terms of traffic and premises) and they will provide huge benefits, such as:

- *Conditions for a more efficient planning, construction and management of border crossings;*
- *Conditions for a more efficient surveillance of border crossings (traffic, pollution monitoring flow of vehicles people and goods);*
- *Possibilities for receipt of all types of information on the premises and conditions for efficient utilization;*
- *Possibilities and conditions for planning and simulation of emergency situations and how to handle such situations;*

#### **IV.8. MINISTRY OF LOCAL SELF GOVERNMENT**

The Ministry of Local Self Government in its role off IPA II component – activities for preparation and implementation of joint multi-year operating programmes for cross border cooperation with the neighbouring counties should make possible project implementation thus improving cross border cooperation at a local level with the neighbouring states.

- Law on self government
- National operational committee for programming and implementation of Component II – Regional and cross border cooperation of the Instrument for Pre Accession Assistance ( IPA) of the European Union

For the purposes of operationalization of cooperation, the Ministry of Local Self Government will be involved in the functioning of the Integrated Border Management system which is under the competence of institutions in charge of Integrated Border Management, above all to ensure facilitation of flow of persons and goods across the national border.

Cooperation between the Ministry of Local Self Government and the relevant authorities and institutions in charge of the Integrated Border Management system will be strengthened, in particular, cooperation between the Ministry of Local Self Government and the National Border Management Coordination Centerra with a view to achieving higher level of efficiency in border operations.

#### **IV.9. MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND PHYSICAL PLANNING**

The functions of Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning in the Integrated Border Management system are exercised by:

- Enforcement of legislation (primary and secondary) in force, as well as international agreements regulating this area
- Implementation of the Memorandum of cooperation with the Customs Administration
- Participation in the work of the National Integrated Border Management Commission, National Border Management Coordination Center and the Integrated Border Management Information System
- Contribution to continuous development of the established Integrated Border Management system

Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning is not directly involved in the activities at the actual border crossings, but it is indirectly involved in the administrative procedure of issuance of import/export licenses and it is a part of the broad Integrated Border Management System.

#### **IV.10. MINISTRY OF DEFENSE**

According to the strategic defense overview, the Ministry of Defense:

- Organizes and participates in the operations of support to the forces of the ministry of interior as regards the securing of the national borders and in asymmetric threats
- In cases of major crisis in Republic, the support that should be provided by ARM and the forces of the ministry of interior is covered in the "Guidelines for operational and other procedures of ARM in support of the police in the cases of crisis situations"
- The support and cooperation with other civilian structures involved in Integrated Border Management will develop in accordance with the laws and bylaws and the mutual plans for tackling certain problems concerning Integrated Border Management.

The supporting role is based on the Strategic defense overview and the commitment to the development of the system of defense and integrity of national borders, all of which is defined in the Constitution.

#### **IV.11. DIRECTORATE FOR RADIATION SAFETY**

Directorate for radiation safety, as far as the system of Integrated Border Management is concerned, is competent for establishing a system of control of import, export and transit of sources of ionizing radiation on the territory of Republic of Macedonia for the purposes of preventing illegal trade with such sources and protection of the environment and the population against the harmful influence of ionizing radiation.

Directorate for radiation safety (DRS) was established<sup>7</sup> as an independent body of state administration as a legal entity for the purposes of establishing control over all sources of ionizing radiation, protection of the population and the environment from exposure to ionizing radiation as well as treatment of radioactive and nuclear substances and implementation of measures of radiation safety and nuclear security. It is also competent for the preparation of a Plan for protection of the population in the cases of radiation emergency event passed by the Government of Republic of Macedonia at a proposal put forward by the Directorate.

Within its powers, the Directorate for radiation safety cooperates with the other institutions involved in Integrated Border Management both through the National Integrated Border Management Commission, as well as through the National Border Management Coordination Center through liaison officers. As part of this cooperation, The Directorate has signed a memorandum of understanding with the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Finance – Customs Administration and Ministry of Interior. Directorate for radiation safety is part of the information system for Integrated Border Management and it has signed a Memorandum of cooperation with the other institutions involved in IBM with respect to the use of the information communication system.

Directorate for radiation safety is part of EXIM- Single window system for issuance of licenses for import, export and transit of sources of ionizing radiation.

Under the Law on protection from ionizing radiation and radiation safety (Official Gazette of Republic of Macedonia no. 48/02 and 135/07) in November

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<sup>7</sup> In accordance with the Law on protection against ionizing radiation and radiation safety (Official Gazette of Republic of Macedonia, 6p. 48/02 и 135/07)

2008, a new Rulebook was passed about the level of charges for issuance of permits and licenses (Official Gazette of Republic of Macedonia no. 140/08).

Under the Law on amending and supplementing the law on protection from ionizing radiation and radiation safety (Official Gazette of Republic of Macedonia no. 135/07), Directorate for radiation safety will adopt in 2009 nine new acts and by the end of first half of 2010 година, the Directorate will adopt another eleven pieces of secondary legislation.

In the process of accession to the European Union, an important priority for the directorate in 2009 is the undertaking of activities for accession of Republic of Macedonia through ratification of the Joint Convention on safety in the handling of used nuclear fuel and safety in handling radioactive waste.

For the purposes of establishing cooperation between the Directorate for radiation safety as the body competent in the area of radiation safety and nuclear security in the Republic of Macedonia and the regulatory bodies from the neighbouring countries, a procedure has been initiated for signing of an agreement with the Nuclear regulatory agency of Republic of Bulgaria.

Also, an initiative has been mounted with the Republic of Albania for the purposes of establishing bilateral cooperation on the basis of signing of a Memorandum of Understanding.

For the purposes of strengthening of inter institutional cooperation with relevant institutions in the Republic of Macedonia, for the period 2009 -2011 activities have been planned to conclude Memoranda of Understanding with institutions responsible for intervention in emergency events (Protection and rescue Directorate and others.), as well as with other relevant institutions.

As part of the cooperation between the Republic of Macedonia and the Multinational Agency for Atomic Energy activities are under way to complete the project MAC4002 „Handling and storing of low and medium level radioactive waste “ and putting into operation of the National warehouse for medium and low level radioactive waste.

For the purposes of meeting the criteria for a full independence of the Directorate as an autonomous body of the state administration with a capacity of a legal entity, as identified by the European Union in the *Progress Report for Republic of Macedonia for година* and the safety standards of the Multinational Agency for Atomic Energy (MAAE), Directorate for radiation safety commenced activities for allocating budgets for 2010 as an independent budget user with a separate item in the budget of Republic of Macedonia.

Directorate for radiation safety has an urgent need for procurement of vehicle so as to ensure smooth operations, which means it needs a special purpose vehicle for transportation of radioactive sources.

Under NPAA, plan for employment in 2009 provides for 2 new members of staff and in 2010 and 2011 3 and 5 respectively.

For the purposes of strengthening of inter-institutional cooperation and strengthening of control of sources of ionizing radiation the Directorate is planning to conduct training: in 2009 training on radiation protection for members of the Ministry of Interior (border police and persons who work for the in country security in the Republic of Macedonia), in 2010.

The Directorate is planning to deliver training on radiation protection for persons responsible for radiation protection in legal entities that use sources of ionizing radiation and in 2011 training for customs officers on radiation protection and prevention of illegal trafficking.

For the purposes of enhancing the control of sources of ionizing radiation the plan is to perform the following activities: ongoing control of ionizing radiation, ongoing control of vehicles intended for export of radiation sources, ongoing control of operations of static panel detectors positioned on customs

terminals on border crossing points, ongoing control of the use of mobile dosimetric devices by customs officers and the border police at border crossings.

For the purposes of establishing a relevant system of readiness for and response to radiation extraordinary events, coordination of all institutions competent to act in extraordinary events, definition of levels of intervention aimed at protection of persons acting in the intervention as well as the population at large, Directorate for radiation safety commenced activities to prepare a Plan for protection of harmful influence of ionizing radiation in the Republic of Macedonia, with the deadline for adoption by the end of 2010 година.

On the bases of compiled results of the enforcement of the Law on protection from ionizing radiation and radiation safety over the period 2007-2011 analysis will begin as well as an assessment for the possible amendments and supplements to the law or passage of a new law in 2012, depending on the need for implementation of new standards for safety and security passed by MAAE and EC.

For the purposes of improving the system of control of all sources of ionizing radiation as well as protection of the population and the environment from exposure to ionizing radiation in Republic of Macedonia, Directorate for radiation safety, through the Secretariat for European Affairs has proposed to the European Commission four projects *„Transfer of radioactive sources from the temporary warehouse in the „Center for radioisotopes“ to the national storage facility for radioactive waste “* and the project *Dismantling, conditioning and disposal of radioactive lightning protectors “* are under consideration awaiting approval by way of merging the two projects into one regional with the title *„Management with closed radioactive sources including radioactive lightning protectors “* where one of the beneficiary institutions is the Directorate for radiation safety. The beginning of the project is the early part of 2010 година.

Concerning the remaining two projects *„Strengthening, upgrade and support of national capacities for regulatory infrastructure in the area of nuclear safety and radiation protection “* and the project named *„Mobile radiological laboratory“*, they will be subject to consideration in some of the future project cycles.

Directorate for radiation safety actively participates in the European commission project *„Assessment of the needs and proposed activities for strengthening of capacities to prevent illegal trafficking in nuclear and other radioactive material in Albania, Bosna and Hercegovina, Croatia, Kosovo (as defined by UNSCR 1244), Monte Negro and Serbia.* Directorate for radiation safety also involved in this project the Customs Administration of Republic of Macedonia and the Border Police, who together with the Mission of the European Commission will make an assessment of the structure and the set-up of border crossings so that prevention can be effected as well as detection and a relevant response provided in the event of illegal trafficking in nuclear and other radioactive material.

#### **IV.12. STATE STATISTICAL OFFICE**

The State Statistical Office (SSO) is an autonomous organization with competencies and remit regulated in the Law on organization and operation of administrative bodies (“Official Gazette of Republic of Macedonia” no.58/00....) and the law on state statistics (“Official Gazette of Republic of Macedonia” no.54/97 и 21/07).

In accordance with the law on state statistics, the State Statistical Office provides on scientific basis to the government agencies, local authorities,

business entities public enterprises and other users information about the situation and the developments in the national economy, human resources, demographics, environmental protection and other areas

Official statistics is produced on the basis of the principles of impartiality, professional independence, rational operation and protection of individual data.

For the purposes of delivering satisfactory services to domestic and foreign users and providing comparable statistical data, note should be taken of significant efforts invested by the SSO to harmonize the statistical system of the country with the statistical systems of the EU member countries. The assessment of the degree of harmonization with Acquis is conducted by Eurostat annually and it is showing continuous progress.

In parallel with the harmonization of methodology for conducting statistical surveys, SSO is permanently working on improving the coverage and the quality of collected statistical data and it is making efforts to reduce the burden of reporting units. Also, it is endeavouring to reduce the time period from collection to publication of statistical data. This is significantly facilitated with the possibility for direct download of administrative data in an electronic format. This opens up the possibility for inclusion of SSO in the system of Integrated Border Management. Several statistical areas will benefit from the direct download in an electronic format:

1. Foreign trade (full access to customs declarations and data on entry and exit of goods)
2. Transport statistics (freight, transport of hazardous substances, transport of passengers)
3. Tourism statistics (number of passengers crossing the border, their nationality, type of transportation vehicle, purpose of travel)
4. Foreign migration statistics

Under the law on State Statistics, the Law on Personal Data Protection and the signed Memorandum of cooperation, SSO appears in the Integrated Border Management system only as user of data.

To cover the needs of statistical survey on immigrants and emigrants (description of nationals of Republic of Macedonia who have immigrated or emigrated as well as of foreign nationals) SSO receive data on a monthly basis in a paper format from the Ministry of Interior. With the establishment of Integrated Border Management Information system, such data can be submitted electronically to ensure better coverage and quality of data.

Following the introduction of the "*Export-import single window and one stop shop*", it will through an interface be linked with the Portal which will allow access to the information on the system. Namely, through the Single window system and through One stop Shop data information and documents required for trade operations are submitted and then control of goods is made ONLY ONCE ON ONE SINGLE PLACE. The concept of a single window system facilitates accessibility to data and information and their use which in turn leads to speeding up and simplification of the flow of information and data between the public and the private sector. Its application will ensure higher degree of alignment and facilitate exchange of information between government agencies.

#### **IV.13. SECRETARIAT FOR EUROPEAN AFFAIRS**

The Secretariat for European affairs provides expert support and coordination of the National Integrated Border Management Commission for the purposes of meeting of obligations in the process of approximation and implementation of the National legislation with the European legislation in the area of external borders and in particular obligations set out in Chapter VII of the Stability and Association Agreement.

Secretariat for European Affairs will be responsible for ensuring consistency of planned activities with the obligations concerning the other documents in the area of European integration, above all with the National programme for approximation of national legislation with that of EU.

Since the adoption of the National Strategy for Development of the established Integrated Border Management system and the Action Plan envisage short term activities, as per the National programme for adoption of EU Law (NPAA), while their implementation is a mid term priority, the Secretariat for European Affairs will continuously follow the realization of those activities to ensure that deadlines set out in NPAA are observed.

Within the boundaries of its competence, the Secretariat for European Affairs will continue to perform coordination and harmonization of the work of the state administration bodies and other organs and institutions involved in Integrated Border Management and it will keep track of the degree of realization of assumed obligations.

At the same time, SEA will follow the policies and legislation of the European Union pertaining to the aforementioned area and it will make proposals as to their incorporation and implementation in the national legislation.

As regards capacity building, it will operate in line with the process of strengthening and capacity building of institutions as required by the requirements of EU law and proposals will be made as well as recommendations and relevant reports.

Given that Integrated Border Management is a complex area which warrants relevant technical and material investments, the Secretariat for European Affairs will define priorities in this area for the purposes of relevant planning of EU and other foreign aid.

#### **IV. 14. NATIONAL BORDER MANAGEMENT COORDINATION CENTER**

The National coordination center is a coordinating body of the Government of Republic of Macedonia the purpose of which is efficient coordination and information and data exchange and enhanced integration in border management.

The National Border Management Coordination Center Националниот was set up in accordance with the National Integrated Border Management Strategy and the National Integrated Border Management Action Plan <sup>8</sup>.

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<sup>8</sup> The organization and functional set up of the National Border Management Coordination Center is regulated in the Law on Surveillance of National bordersОрганизационата ( Off. Gazette of Republic of Macedonia, no. 71/2006), as well as with the Decision on the establishment of a National Border Management Coordination Center ( Off. Gazette of Republic of Macedonia, no. 35/07).

With the establishment of the National Border Management Coordination Center a higher degree of coordination was achieved between the institutions participating in the system of Integrated Border Management, as well as coordination in the implementation of joint plans and procedures for actions in emergency cases.

Higher degree of coordination was achieved as well as easier data and information exchange, and enhanced integration in border management.

Operational Rulebook of the Center has been adopted, as well as the rules of procedure, which has created additional legal grounds for the performance of its functions and activities.

The plan is to adopt Standard procedures for coordination of activities envisaged for phase one of international coordination in border management following the establishment of coordination or similar such centers for border management in the neighbouring countries in the region.

The priorities of the National Border Management Coordination Center, in addition to those defined in the Programme of Operations of the Center are:

- strengthening of the position and the role of the center in accordance with the law and the said decision for the purposes of performance of its function of border management coordination
- strengthening of inter-institutional cooperation with full implementation of signed memoranda of cooperation between ministries and institutions that have competencies in the system of Integrated Border Management, while the center is the institution where coordination shall be provided at a strategic level
- development of the existing system of collection, processing and analysis of data for the purposes of risk assessment in border management
- support of the center in terms of required human resources and strengthening of capacities in terms of expertise, competence and training so that they can perform duties and tasks which constitute the content of the operations of the center
- acceleration of activities of the center in terms of promotion of international cooperation with a view to ensuring better efficiency in border coordination above all with the neighbouring countries and participation of a liaison officer of a foreign country and international organization in accordance with a ratified international treaty.

National Border Management Coordination Center manages the Integrated Border Management Information system through which the center provides a high level of coordination between government agencies that have competencies in border management.

At the same time, the, National Border Management Coordination Center coordinates activities in cross border cooperation between competent government agencies related to border management in accordance with a ratified international agreement.

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## **V. STRATEGIC GOALS**

### ***V.1. Upgrade of legal framework***

Cooperation and coordination of responsibilities of different bodies are strategically defined in the *new* Strategy for development and improvement of the existing system of Integrated Border Management, which as a basic document is approved by the Government of Republic of Macedonia.

The purpose of this document is to define strategic goals pertaining to the strengthening of capacities and improvement of inter-agency cooperation, cooperation and coordination in practice, building and reconstruction of border crossings, IBM information system upgrade, exchange of experiences, preparation of a spectrum of plans which will enable fast and efficient provision of information to facilitate decision making in emergency cases, cooperation in training and mutual coordination between liaison officers from the ministries and institutions who perform regular tasks in the National Border Management Coordination Center, and upgrade of the existing system of Integrated Border Management between agencies that have competencies in Integrated Border Management.

At the same time, adopted primary and secondary legislation, as well as all the rule of procedure, have already defined the legal framework of the established system of Integrated Border Management. Thus the competence of agencies and institutions are clearly defined in the established system of Integrated Border Management. Legal framework upgrade should go along the lines of facilitation of work so that problems can be avoided surrounding any ambiguity with respect to responsibilities, or overlap and reduction of processing time. That means that actions in joint operations, development of plans for extraordinary/emergency situations and organized activities of agencies and institutions should be clearly spelled out.

The need for legal framework upgrade arises from the actual pace of development of Integrated Border Management and the best European practices which warrant upgrade of the existing legal framework.

Also, the established system of Integrated Border Management means that all participating agencies will provide mutual "administrative assistance"-a legal principle under which any agency may request from another agency administrative assistance if due to given circumstances or legal obstacle it is not in a position to perform its legal obligation, in that the legal obligations are not transferred to the assisting agency but they remain with the requesting agency that has to meet all conditions imposed on it by the law.

### ***V.2. Strengthening of capacities and improvement of inter-agency cooperation and, cooperation and coordination in practice***

Particular significance in the established system of Integrated Border Management is attached to the strengthening of capacities of agencies with competencies in Integrated Border Management.

Прва основа е обуката и потребата од дополнителните човечки ресурси на агенциите надлежни во воспоставениот систем за Integrated Border Management.

Training needs analysis will identify the reasons for any oversight in the results and help ascertain and select adequate methods, means, tactics, tools and approaches necessary to satisfy the needs. Identification of indicators of training needs is of pivotal importance to agencies and institutions for their development

and success. Definition of priorities means establishing links with their respective functions and goals.

The need for additional human resources will invariably be defined in the performance of regular activities of agencies and institutions. The profile of human resources will depend exclusively on additional engagements of agencies and institutions in their performance of competencies in the system of Integrated Border Management, which in turn will define the needs for additional human resources. Agencies and institutions will have a large need to supplement their human resources by allowing transfers of subject area experts from one agency or institution to another.

Memoranda of understanding provide the first basis for improvement of inter-agency cooperation. The first strategic level where such cooperation is effected is the National Border Management Coordination Center, while cooperation at border crossings is at an operational level, at which coordination between all the competent institutions takes place. Implementation of memoranda of cooperation provides the basis for the strengthening of the three pillars of the concept of Integrated Border Management: cooperation between services, interagency cooperation and international cooperation. Cooperation between services must be upgraded and strengthened both vertically and horizontally. That will go along the lines of development of joint risk analysis/control network, coordination of joint operations, development and joint action in the execution of joint emergency situation plans, as well as full delegation of powers at border crossings from services that do not have their own members of staff at that particular border crossing. Also, interagency cooperation is based on a horizontal approach which stems from the cooperation and coordination between officials from various services active at the border (local level), as well as between regional and central agencies to which those services are attached. It is along such lines that improvement of international cooperation between agencies involved in border matters with all countries will develop at a local, regional and multinational level.

Thus the international principle of Integrated Border Management is implemented in entirety. It is the national and international coordination and cooperation between competent authorities involved in security of the border and facilitation of trade so that systems can be put in place for effective, efficient and Integrated Border Management, so that the objective of open, yet well controlled and secure borders is achieved.

### ***V.3. Building and reconstruction of border crossings***

Under the proposed programme for management, arrangement and maintenance of facilities at border crossings for road traffic for 2009, (article 49-a, 49-6 and article 49-b of the Customs Administration law) , the following is covered:

#### **1. MANAGEMENT OF FACILITIES AT BORDER CROSSINGS FOR ROAD TRAFFIC**

- Regulation of relations between the customs administration with the other government agencies performing activities to the extent of their competencies in the facilities at border crossings for road traffic as well as with legal and natural persons who use those facilities or their parts at the border crossing,
- Advertising space rental,
- Keeping records of leased business premises and advertising space rented
- Collection of fees for services delivered and

- Provision of conditions for the functioning of border crossings such as heating, water and power supply, telephone, hygiene, horticultural arrangement and other needs.
2. ARRANGEMENT OF FACILITIES AT BORDER CROSSINGS FOR ROAD TRAFFIC
- Initiation of development of urban planning projects, technical plans, documentation and construction requirements in accordance with the law,
  - Initiation of procedures of resolving property relations with respect to land for construction,
  - Planning, construction, positioning, change of purpose, reconstruction and removal of facilities,
  - Initiation of procedures for geomechanical and geotechnical works and
  - Positioning of vertical and horizontal signaling at border crossings
  - Communal infrastructure elements construction (installations, horticultural arrangement on the land for construction),
3. MAINTENANCE OF FACILITIES AT BORDER CROSSINGS FOR ROAD TRAFFIC
- Investment maintenance (rehabilitation, reconstruction and replacement of facilities, installation and other) and
  - Regular maintenance such as of buildings, equipment, ramps, power generators, winter maintenance of access roads to the scale and the terminal, hygiene and fire extinguishers.

Over the coming period, the need to complete the ongoing processes of regulation of property relations over the land around the borderline covered by a border crossings has emerged as a strategic priority, as has the development of planning projects for all border crossings.

At the same time, the Customs Administration, in cooperation with the Ministry of Interior and the other government agencies that use facilities at border crossings will develop a new "Regulation on the minimum standards for material and technical means, equipment and accommodation facilities by category of border crossing".

On the basis of the new Regulation a strategic plan will be developed with defined schedule of implementation of adopted standards at each border crossing separately.

The following are the priority activities at border crossings:

- construction of a new border crossing for road traffic (on the locality of the existing border crossing) Blatse
- development of project documentation for the purposes of completing the construction of content envisaged in the existing urban plan for the terminal at the border crossing Tabanovtse, and expanding the exit from Republic of Macedonia with two new lanes.
- development of a new urban plan for the border crossing Pelintse and Jazintse, expropriation of land along the border line within the coverage of the border crossing and construction of a new terminal with the necessary content as per its category
- expansion of entry into Republic of Macedonia at the border crossings Deve Bair and Novo Selo and reconstruction of existing facilities and addition of required content at the terminal at the border crossing Novo Selo,
- expansion and addition of required content at the terminals at border crossings Delchevo and Blato
- construction of ramps for vehicle checks at the border crossing Doyran
- initiation of modifications of the urban plan for border crossings Medzitliya and Kafasan, development of project documentation for construction of a new import-export terminal at the border crossing as well as reconstruction of existing facilities at the border crossing

- reconstruction of facilities and traffic areas and rehabilitation of the entire horizontal and vertical signalization at border crossings Stenye and Sveti Naum
- putting into operation of a new border crossing with Republic of Albania for ships in Sveti Naum for support of the new line Ohrid - Pogradec
- addition of new content and improvements of infrastructure capacities at the border crossing Strezimir.

In general all border crossings are subject to plans for construction of new waste water treatment stations as required by the environmental standards in force, as well as construction of new power exchanges and power lines for the purposes of improving power supply at border crossings.

As per the activities planned by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in the contacts with the neighbouring countries a strategy will be developed for opening of new local category 3 border crossings:

With Republic of Bulgaria:

1. Klepalo( Berovo )- Sandanski
2. Ajduchki Kladenec ( Pehchevoi) – Simitli
3. CRnan Skala (Delchevo)- Nevestino

With Republic of Albania:

1. DZepishte ( Debar) – Trebishte

With Republic of Serbia:

1. Ogut- Trgovishte
2. Golema Crchorija – Golesh
3. Sopot – Strezovce
4. Petrovac- Slavujevac
5. Lojane- Miratovac

Facilities at all border crossings of all categories will be visited by architects from the Customs Administration of Republic of Macedonia who once they have looked at the state of affairs of each border crossing will make proposals as to possible architectural solutions. Also the entire horizontal and vertical signalization will be renewed and new signposts and billboards will be positioned with visible entry and exit signs, and poles will be positioned to carry the flag of Republic of Macedonia.

#### ***V.4. Upgrade of Information Technology (IT) support and of established systems and projects***

One of the most important pillars of the existing system of Integrated Border Management are the established systems of IT and other systems and projects that allow operability and practical functioning of Integrated Border Management.

##### ***V.4.1. Integrated Border Management Information system***

Putting into operation of the Integrated Border Management Information System allows for:

1. High level of coordination of measures and activities in the system of Integrated Border Management

2. Exchange of data and information between government agencies and institutions that have competencies in the system of Integrated Border Management
3. coordination and assessment of situation in emergency cases at border crossings
4. coordination of cross border cooperation

Integrated Border Management Information system is the principle mechanism through which National Border Management Coordination Center provides a high level of coordination between government agencies and institutions competent in border management.

Integrated Border Management Information System provides a platform for exchange of information in monitoring of situation at border crossings and it will also develop a data base for border management for the purposes of coordinated access and exchange of information between government agencies with competencies in border management.

Thus a system is put in place for organized and coordinated measures of government agencies and institutions participating in Integrated Border Management in terms of oversight of legality of entry and exit of persons, goods and transportation means, detection and prevention of organized crime, prevention of offenders to commit criminal acts and prevention of all types of smuggling through border crossings, control and prevention of transport of substances and contagious diseases which pose hazard to people and livestock.

Efficient implementation of coordinated measures of cross border institutions warrants improvement and upgrade of the existing Integrated Border Management Information System– IBMIS. It should become interoperable in those agencies where it is already operable, as the systems under development at present. Interoperability will allow for adequate exchange of required information for the purposes of OneStopShop control at border crossings.

Integration should be effected by putting in place of relevant interfaces of IMBIS with the existing information systems and systems under development, in the relevant agencies, and electronic notification of receipt of parcel to the relevant institution should be made possible.

As part of the system upgrade, a special functionality should be the introduction of the concept off joint risk analysis and exchange of relevant data that has previously been subject to risk analysis by each agency separately.

On the basis of those risk profiles developed in institutions, control measures should be carried out at border crossings.

Consistent with the practical activities of the National Border Management Coordination Center and the measures that it will take, the analysis and identified risks as part of the coordination shell help identify the best practices for **upgrade** of the Integrated Border Management Information system.

#### **V.4.2. Digital Radio System TETRA**

Operationalization of phase one of digital police radio will provide secure and safe communication between police services in the country. The system has been designed in a manner consistent with similar systems which are already in use in several EU states.

System upgrade is envisaged under IPA 2008 as a project with the title *Integrated Border Management*,, under which there is a component: "further support for the implementation of TETRA standard" (phase II) that will ensure about 80% coverage of the entire territory.

Full (optimal) coverage of the territory of Republic of Macedonia with digital radio signal will be ensured with the project IPA 2009, which envisages realization of the project "Integrated Border Management (TETRA phaseIII).

#### ***V.4.3. Single window system for issuance of licenses for import, export and transit of goods and tariff quotas– EXIM system***

Introduction of a Single Window environment through the implementation of a Single window system of licenses for import, export and transit of goods and tariff quotas– EXIM, is aimed at facilitation and speeding up of access and exchange of data and documents between competent institutions, as well as between institutions and the business community in general. Specifically speaking, the project provides conditions for electronic submission of all import and export data only once and at one place with guarantee of efficient coordination and passage through customs control and inspection procedures

The second phase of further development of EXIM envisages its integration with the new software for processing of customs declaration– CDPS. At the same time, the plan is to integrate the Ministry of Transport and communications by inclusion of transport licenses, as well as development and inclusion of other licenses and certificates were not covered in phase one and in respect of which the business community files applications with the relevant institutions..

The official name of the established system is EXIM and it is available on the web site [www.exim.gov.mk](http://www.exim.gov.mk).

#### ***V.4.4. National visa information system***

The National visa information system provides connectivity between all segments in the process of issuance of visas for entry and stay in RM.

Until the end of September 2009, thirty five DCO of Republic of Macedonia were linked with the Visa Center in MFA through VIS and the entire process of visa issuance in those DCO (including the print of new visa stickers with integrated photo scan) is conducted through the Visa Information System.. At the same time, N-VIS also has the Department for aliens and readmission under the MoI, the employment agency of RM and the 8 border crossings with the highest traffic volume integrated into system.

Given that some embassies are in a phase of moving to new buildings, their linking to N-VIS will happen after the relevant technical conditions are met.

#### ***V.5. Cross border and international cooperation***

Joint projects provide an opportunity for use of EU funds but also an opportunity to bring citizens from two countries closer.

To that end it is necessary to define all aspects of cooperation and make it possible for institutions with competencies in the system Integrated Border Management in the Republic of Macedonia and from the neighbouring countries to realize programmes which serve to improve the level of satisfaction of needs of their citizens who live in border areas for the purposes of faster flow of persons and goods across national borders and also for the purposes of protection and respect of fundamental freedoms and rights, prevention and detection of criminal acts, prosecution measures against offenders.

In that context it is of paramount importance to utilize the possibilities offered by the established system of Integrated Border Management, in particular activities realized by institutions with competencies in this system, above all to ensure facilitation of flow of persons and goods across the national borders.

To that end, cooperation will be strengthened between the Ministry of Local Self Government and the National Border Management Coordination Center so that there will be higher level of efficiency in border operations. Organization of regular round table discussions between the services competent for Integrated Border Management from the relevant countries will provide the bases for building of a shared practice and modules of functioning of the system. Also, designation of liaison officers to work in centers that have coordination in border management is in essence an unequivocal approach to international cooperation in particular in terms of direct exchange of information and direct coordination between the countries in resolution of cases.

Promotion of international cooperation between the agencies participating in border matters with all countries will take place along such lines at a local, regional and multinational level.

## **V.6. Risk analysis**

Implementation of this instrument should be understood in terms of self-improvement in the area of management, planning and improvement in everyday tasks off the задачи на National Border Management Coordination Center.

Nowadays when it comes to the introduction of systems of border management, the benefits from it increasingly point to the need for its use not only as part of security systems, but primarily in terms of the fact that it is applicable in all spheres where leaders and managers off various organizational units make decisions, are engaged in planning or manage large scale operations.

On the other hand, looking at the legal aspects surrounding the application of this instrument, development of Risk analysis at present does not constitute any legal obligation provided in the Macedonian legislation, nor is it an obligation assumed under an international act. However, since the Republic of Macedonia is aspiring to join the European Union and the Schengen zone, the precondition is the adoption and incorporation of European Legislation into the Macedonian system of law. Since development of Risk analysis is a compulsory obligation of all EU members, envisaged as a „Model of integrated risk analysis“<sup>9</sup>, which is developed by the European Agency Frontex, Republic of Macedonia should work on incorporating this European „Model of risk analysis“ along with all the other attributes that might arise from the obligations associated with this issue.

Risk analysis is envisaged as a recommendation in the „Schengen Catalogue of external borders, removal and readmission “ and thus it is an obligation for the Republic of Macedonia on its path towards the European Union. Adoption and incorporation of recommendations and best practices set out in the catalogue are an important precondition for accession of Republic of Macedonia into the Schengen Zone.

Obligations that will be mandatory for Republic of Macedonia with the implementation of Vienna Convention<sup>10</sup>, and those that deal with Risk Analysis are provided in article 7, warrant exchange of data and information as well as

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<sup>9</sup> Article 4, council regulation No.2007/2004, Establishing a European Agency for the Management of Operational Cooperation at the External Borders of the Member States of the European Union.

<sup>10</sup> Implementation of the Vienna convention is predicated upon the signing of bilateral implementation agreements which Republic of Macedonia is supposed to sign In the future.

joint production of risk analysis by parties to this Convention, one of which is also the Republic of Macedonia.

Risk analysis pertinent to border management which is supposed to be developed by the National Border Management Coordination Center will be an analytical method which through the use of processed data and information from government agencies and institutions with competencies in the established system of Integrated Border Management will help achieve better results in border management. Thus at a strategic level, risk analysis will help in the detection of system errors in the functioning of all government agencies with competencies in the established system of, identification of loopholes in the law, it will help in the drafting of relevant laws to overcome mistakes and in the proposals of adequate countermeasures to handle global phenomena of interest in border management. This type of risk analysis requires that the National Coordination Center develop a methodology which will specify profiles and indicators for phenomena, events and behaviour. The latter is with respect to the use of received results in the preparation of the tasks of the center. It does not mean only simple statistics of collected data, but active analysis with proposals of concrete coordinating activities on the part of all government agencies and institutions with competencies in the established system of Integrated Border Management.

Particularly important role in the preparation of risk analysis is played by the relevant data bases that will host all important information on actions taken by officials and on events. They are the basic prerequisite for conducting risk analysis and their development is already under way with the established Integrated Border Management Information system- IMBIS.

Activities and operation of the system of border management should be adjusted to the situation prevailing at the border.

Risk analysis, information flow, awareness of the situation and the possibility to respond and exchange information should be applied in this respect.

Risk analysis may be understood as a tool for highest level of border management and a method of provision of reliable information on the situation at the border. It is a continuous process.

Risk analysis helps in the medium and long term planning of operations, provision of assessments which are required for an effective planning of the situation at the borders and in the checks and surveillance applied.

Data flow management may be used to evaluate the efficiency of information exchange between the agencies.

Joint risk analysis should above all be understood in terms of improvements in the planning, management and enhancement of border management between neighbouring countries and between several countries that have such or similar centers for border management and coordination in border management.

## **VI. CONTINUOUS DEVELOPMENT OF THE ESTABLISHED SYSTEM OF INTEGRATED BORDER MANAGEMENT**

By putting into operation the system of Integrated Border Management, foundations have been put in place for organized and coordinated measures and activities in the management of the border between all agencies with competencies in the system.

The established system of Integrated Border Management will require development of best practices for its functioning. In the functioning of the system, any shortcomings will be identified, but the most important thing is that the areas and the needs for its upgrade will be identified.

Its establishment and upgrade will be a module of real functioning of "INTEGRATED BORDER MANAGEMENT."

The system of Integrated Border Management will continue to develop and it will function in line with the best practices. Functioning and upgrade of the system is a continuous process.

#### **VII. PROVISION OF INFORMATION ON THE FUNCTIONING OF THE ESTABLISHED SYSTEM OF INTEGRATED BORDER MANAGEMENT**

General public must receive information on the established system of Integrated Border Management. The public is who we work for and it is again the public that should feel the benefits of this system.

A web page has been launched on the web site of the Government of Republic of Macedonia which gives details on the functioning and capabilities of the established system of Integrated Border Management.

Agencies with competencies in the system of Integrated Border Management should open their doors and allow "open days".

The public will thus have access to the agencies, it will have an opportunity to see the capacities of the agencies and talk to the staff who will present the functions of the respective agency in the established system of Integrated Border Management.

#### **VIII. IMPLEMENTATION PLAN**

Concrete measures for the implementation the Strategy for improvement and development of the established system of Integrated Border Management will be laid down in the Action Plan for implementation and will be a constituent part of this strategy.