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### BOMCA overview

Since its launch in 2003, the various phases of the BOMCA programme have focused on capacity building and institutional development, developing trade corridors, improving border management systems and eliminating drug trafficking across the Central Asian region. Each new phase of BOMCA has been designed to gradually build upon and consolidate the results achieved in the preceding phases. During its earlier phases, the programme channelled its resources towards creating modern border management infrastructure in five Central Asian countries. Capitalising on the success of previous phases, this 9<sup>th</sup> phase intends to continue interventions in the area of institutional development, management of migration flows and trade facilitation. Its overall objective is to increase the effectiveness and efficiency of border management in Central Asia by introducing advanced elements of Integrated Border Management (IBM), assisting governments in developing and reforming their migration governance, mobility and trade facilitation policies and strengthening capacities of Border and Migration Agencies, thereby contributing to enhanced security at the national and regional levels.

The 9<sup>th</sup> phase of BOMCA programme was launched in June 2015 for 36 months with a total budget of almost 5mln Euros. In June 2018, the Programme was extended until December 14<sup>th</sup>, 2019 with an additional funding of almost 1,6 mln Euros.



Dear Friends,

The 9<sup>th</sup> phase of BOMCA programme is extended until December 14<sup>th</sup>, 2019— such a decision was made by the European Commission and supported by all five Central Asian States. The consortium of partners implementing BOMCA is pleased to continue our joint work with the national partners for another 18 months.

In the extension period, the programme will continue its efforts under three main components, covering institutional development of border management agencies, the institutional framework for the management of mixed migration flows and the adoption of trade facilitation regimes.

I am a senior staff officer of the Latvian State Border Guard, which is the leading partner of the BOMCA 9 implementing Consortium. Being appointed for the extension period as the Regional Manager, my main task is to broaden the already established cooperation and to ensure the succession and sustainability of the actions implemented over past three years.

Current assessments show that we have reached a high level of cooperation and trust between the BOMCA project and beneficiaries, which leads to successful

implementation of all planned activities and allows us to reach the results this programme is aiming for.

Now the project has reached the stage where it is necessary to consider retrospectively and assess what has been done, how national partners have built upon BOMCA support (recommendations) to strengthen their institutional capacity, and what is still in pending. BOMCA management is very much looking forward to the upcoming Regional Steering Group meeting, which shall take place on 28 November in Dushanbe, Tajikistan, where discussion with beneficiary agencies on the status of the implementation of provided recommendations is foreseen.

Maris Domins

BOMCA Regional manager

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## Component 1: Institutional development of border management agencies

The objective of Component 1 is to sustain institutional development of border guard agencies in their transition to more effective methods of border management. The third quarter of 2018 was marked by numerous events, including training, technical missions and study visits, which aimed to strengthen the sustainable capacity of the border agencies in the region.



### Kazakhstan hosts the 3rd Conference of Regional Cooperation in the field of Border Security

On 24-25 July 2018 in Borovoye, Kazakhstan, BOMCA organised the 3<sup>rd</sup> Conference for Regional Cooperation on the topic of Border Security in Central Asia (Issyk-Kul Initiative), which gathered over fifty participants to discuss modern challenges in border security and ways to address them. Participants at the event included Heads and senior officials of border agencies in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Afghanistan and Iran, as well as international bodies and programmes working in the field of border security, such as BOMNAF, FRONTEX and the CIS Border Troops Commanders Council.

Since 2011, under the framework of the Issyk-Kul Initiative, Central Asian border agencies come together regularly in a regional forum for cooperation and information exchange in the field of border security in Central Asia.

The conference was focused pri-

marily on ways to address cross-border challenges in Central Asia. The key topics on the agenda for thematic panel discussions were: general challenges in the field of border management in Central Asia and Afghanistan; the gradual introduction of the integrated border management approach and its advantages of more effective border management; and the needs and priorities for capacity building in border agencies of Central Asia and Afghanistan.

During the panel discussions, delegates discussed current threats affecting border security in Central Asia and exchanged views on modern technologies useful for the strengthening of the agencies' capabilities. Additional attention was paid to the need for close cooperation and exchange of information among stakeholders.

The participants agreed upon further strengthening of interstate and inter-agency coopera-

tion in order to increase joint efforts; further strengthening cooperation in the exchange of operative information and good practices; continuing joint efforts to combat illegal drug trafficking in the context of measures taken by the world community, including by the Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan and international organisations; and promoting joint risk analysis and threat assessment, including the exchange of preliminary information in order to better predict potential threats, timely identification, escalation tracking and prevention, and communicating the information directly to stakeholders.

Final conclusions of the conference will be used to formulate the areas of action of the BOMCA programme after 2019 and to determine prospects for cooperation in the security sector in the context of the development of the new European Union-Central Asia Cooperation Strategy.





## Training of trainers on fight against corruption in Kyrgyzstan

BOMCA experts conducted the training of trainers on anti-corruption measures for the representatives of the State Border Service, State Customs Service and the State Inspection of Veterinary and Phytosanitary Security.

The activity took place from 11 to 13 September 2018 in Issyk-Kul. BOMCA experts, together with their national counterparts, shared experiences in relation to the fight against corruption and the effective provision and standardisation of public services. During the three-day workshop, the experts reviewed the organisational structure and the regular duties and procedures of the relevant agencies in Kyrgyzstan, and carried out an assessment of consistency in organisational tasks, competences and rights and obligations of employees. Real and potential risks of corruption were reviewed; the resilience of institutions against corruption was assessed and specific cases of corruption were analysed. During the practical exercise, participants defined the highest-risk zones as well as factors and circumstances contributing to corruption.

The format of the event, training of trainers (ToT) was chosen specifically for this activity in order to increase sustainability of the results. ToT equips national experts not only with knowledge on anti-corruption measures, but also with skills to be able to effectively transfer this knowledge within their institutions.

Previously, the programme had conducted several technical adviso-

ry missions in Kyrgyzstan to support the adoption of an Anti-corruption plan for law enforcement agencies. Therefore, this ToT session further contributes to the introduction of anti-corruption measures, in accordance with international law enforcement standards and norms, and thereby increases of the effectiveness of the border management system in Central Asia.



## Studying European experience in the education of border guards



On 2-4 October 2018, BOMCA organised a study visit in Latvia and Estonia for representatives of management from the Border Service Academy of the Kazakh State Security Committee. The delegates had an opportunity to learn about European experiences in the education of border guards with the larger objective of encouraging and supporting the educational and training capacity for cooperation in the field of border management in Central Asia.

During this activity, participants were invited to visit the Latvian Border Guard College and Estonian Police and Border Guard College, where they presented the approach and methodology used in Kazakhstan. The guests became acquainted with the Latvian experience in the field of law enforcement training and the professional development of border guards as well as cooperation mechanisms among European professional training institutions. In addition, the topics of Training of Trainers, protection of green borders in different physical and geographical conditions, training of K-9 and border control specialists, professional development and the retraining of human resources for border agencies were discussed.

Participants had the opportunity to learn about examples of coopera-

tion mechanisms at the regional and local levels, the functional structure and the technical means used in managing migration flows, "green" border surveillance models and good practices from the Latvian-Russian border (at the Ludza Border Guard Section). Practical aspects such as border control procedures and technical means, green border monitoring and joint investigative tactics were demonstrated to participants on the spot during site visits to the border checkpoints.

The study visit was organised with the aim to assist the further development and improvement of the educational and training capacity of the Kazakh Border Service Academy, to develop competencies and to enhance the qualifications of the academic and training staff.



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## Component 2: Institutional framework for management of mixed migration flows at borders

### BOMCA transfers the equipment to Kyrgyz and Tajik Border Services

**Further development of the legal and procedural instruments, introduction of advanced practices of cross-border mobility and addressing the multifaceted challenges caused by mixed migration flows are the key objectives of Component 2. A series of workshops and technical missions were carried out, the equipment purchased and transferred to beneficiaries**

The main focus of the BOMCA programme is capacity-building in the realm of 'soft' components, namely to strengthen professional skills and expertise in the relevant areas. At the same time, the programme offers certain room for technical support in the form of equipment provided to Central Asian beneficiary countries. Between June-October 2018, technical capacities of the Border agen-

cies in Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan were enriched by video surveillance systems with a total cost of 96,000 euros, consisting of servers, indoor and outdoor IP cameras, LED monitors and hard drives. The purchased systems will strengthen the capacities of border service technical equipment in remote border crossing points, which will allow for enhanced profiling of persons crossing the border, creation, storage and analysis of data on perpetrators and potentially dangerous persons, and to efficiently transmit information to the Headquarters. Corresponding BOMCA activities target the optimisation of border control, provision of services to migrants and the fight against corruption, and the equipment provided will improve the quality of border control

and contribute to the prevention of corruption and illegal activities by border guards and people crossing the border.



### Strengthening the legal framework for migration management in Kyrgyzstan



On September 12, 2018 results of On 12 September 2018, recommendations to the migration-related national legislation, developed with expert support from BOMCA, were presented to Government agencies – namely the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Internal Affairs, State Border Service, State Migration service, State Registration Service.

The review of the Kyrgyz Republic legislation in the field of migration management and the fight against illegal migration was done by an expert team consisting of European and national experts, between April and June. Experts identified obstacles in implementing the legislation and the measures to be taken to eliminate them.

First, a desk review of the current legal and regulatory acts was conducted to identify any conflicts, contradictions or norms that have not been implemented in the government decisions, in the sphere of migration management and tackling illegal migration.

The desk review was supplemented by a series of expert interviews

which also took place with staff from the State Migration and Registration Services under the Government of the KR, the Kyrgyz Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Kyrgyz Ministry of Internal Affairs, the Kyrgyz State Committee for National Security and the Kyrgyz State Border Service, on the subject of challenges faced within the implementation of Kyrgyz laws on migration management and tackling illegal migration.

As a result of this activity, recommendations for the Kyrgyz Government and the relevant authorities were developed, aiming to improve the legal and regulatory framework in the sphere of migration management and tackling illegal migration.





## Strengthening inter-agency cooperation towards better contingency planning

On 16-18 October 2018 in Bishkek, a workshop was held on contingency planning at border checkpoints, gathering representatives of different state agencies of Kyrgyzstan: Border and Customs Services, Ministry of Interior and State National Security Committee, Ministry of Emergencies, Ministry of Agriculture.

During theoretical sessions and practical exercises in working groups, BOMCA experts, together with national counterparts, reviewed the existing legal and normative frameworks related to different kinds of emergency situations at the checkpoints and related operational procedures, including the organisational structure of the contingency planning and operational requirements. During the visit to Kyrgyz-Kazakh border checkpoint "Ak-Zhol", capacity, resources and operational procedures of the checkpoint personnel were present-

ed to participants. An example based on the Latvian experience was presented to the participants, of an advanced coordination mechanism that ensures appropriate and effective cooperative response measures.

During the workshop, a draft of joint instructions on interagency operating procedures was elaborated; specifying roles, responsibilities and working methods for different emergency situations at the checkpoints,

including a mass inflow of migrants. The broader goal of this BOMCA activity was to assist in strengthening effective mechanisms to facilitate the prompt exchange of information and actions of institutions involved in border security. Similar activities were already conducted in Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan, and are planned for Kazakhstan in March 2019.



## Component 3: Adoption of trade facilitation regimes at borders

### Polishing skills of Uzbek authorities in detecting smuggled goods and means of transport

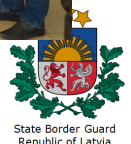
**Component 3 aims to introduce measures to improve the efficiency of controls and procedures applicable to goods and means of transport, thus facilitating regional and international trade**

On 25-27 September 2018, the BOMCA expert team conducted a three-day workshop in Tashkent to improve the practical skills of customs and border authorities in the prevention and detection of illegal trafficking of goods and means of transport. The training aimed to enhance practices and techniques used by customs administrations of Uzbekistan with good practices from the EU MSs. The training covered topics such as the inspection of luggage, personal belongings, cargo and containers, while also

taking into account techniques used to search for contraband and smuggled goods in vehicles and containers.

Customs and border guard officers of Uzbekistan were acquainted with the customs experiences of Lithuania and other EU MSs, and were given a practical exercise to assess the risk

factors in controlling vehicles and goods, to identify forged seals and modified containers and for how to use various technical tools during customs inspections. This initiative contributes to the increase in efficiency during inspection and working procedures related to smuggled goods.



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## Workshop on customs control of strategic goods in Ashgabat



On 26-30 June 2018, the BOMCA expert team met with national partners from Turkmen customs to jointly review existing procedures on customs control of strategic goods, dual use goods, endangered species of fauna and flora (CITES Convention),

the protection of intellectual property rights and to develop new working tools to combat illegal trade, fraud, etc. This BOMCA activity aimed to provide technical assistance in the development and improvement of risk management sys-

tems in Turkmenistan.

By reviewing and consolidating various existing national and international regulations, the national and European experts exchanged experience and practices in areas such as customs controls of import, export and the transit of strategic and dual use goods, military weapons, chemical substances (ozone-depleting substances, dangerous chemicals, etc.), non-food products, endangered species of fauna and flora, protection of intellectual property rights, customs control on radiation and international sanctions in relation to military weapons.

This BOMCA activity raises awareness and equips specific technical knowledge in preparation for the accession to and/or implementation of international conventions, thus facilitating the introduction of advanced, effective and trade-friendly customs controls.

## International practice on criminal investigation in risk management is introduced to Uzbek and Turkmen Customs officers



On 24-27 October 2018 in Ashgabat, and 6-8 November 2018 in Tashkent, technical assistance missions were held on criminal investigations in risk management. International

and local experts gathered to discuss the practical application of criminal investigations in customs control.

By reviewing and consolidating vari-

ous existing national and international regulations, national and European experts exchanged experience and practices on criminal investigation and its principles and the interconnectivity of e-intelligence with risk management. Integration of criminal investigation into the risk analysis system will promote a more harmonised approach to customs control and create a more transparent, up-to-date and effective system of import controls, allowing more coherence and integration in the different control mechanisms in place.

This activity contributed to the development and improvement of risk management systems, and emphasises that proper risk management in the area of customs is one of the most important preconditions for trade facilitation.



State Border Guard  
Republic of Latvia

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# BOMCA 15 YEARS OF EUROPEAN UNION SUPPORT

BORDER MANAGEMENT PROGRAMME IN CENTRAL ASIA

## BOMCA Programme –



Introduction of best practices of Integrated Border Management (IBM)



Support of institutional development

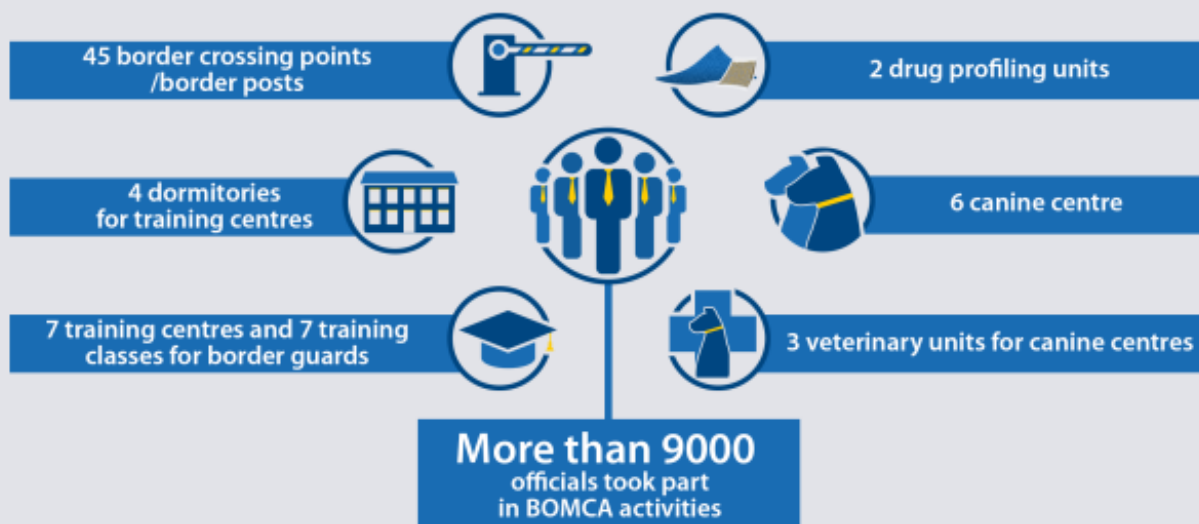


Facilitation of international trade



Supporting efforts to combat drug trafficking

## Main BOMCA achievements 2003-2018



## For more information:

**Ms. Janna Tashieva**

National Coordinator/Regional Communications Officer

Janna.tashieva@icmpd.org

+996312 902576



[www.bomca-eu.org](http://www.bomca-eu.org)



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