



MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

National College of Home Affairs

No.

**Romanian Agency for International
Development Cooperation**

No.

**National College of Home Affairs (Romania)
Romanian Agency for International Development Cooperation**

**Invitation to
“The Challenges of Illegal migration in the Western Balkans” Conference**
Bucharest, 18th-20th of October 2023

Under the aegis of the **Romanian Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MAE)**, the **National College of Home Affairs (CNAI) Romania** and the **Romanian Agency for International Development Cooperation – RoAid Agency** will organize in Bucharest, Romania, from 18th to 20th of October 2023, the conference **"The Challenges of Illegal migration in the Western Balkans"**.

The event, organized in the framework of the project **“Assistance in the field of cross-border cooperation and civil protection”**, will be focused on specific challenges such as border security issues, human trafficking migration routes, regional conflicts and political instability, corruption and cross-border crime.

The conference will be organized in the context of the 15th anniversary of the establishment of the National College of Home Affairs.

The conference is in line with the *Western Balkans Action Plan*, adopted by the European Commission on 5 December 2022, which included concrete measures and important areas for action in response to the challenges of illegal migration on the Western Balkans route. The Action Plan is structured around 5 main pillars: 1) strengthening border management; 2) accelerated asylum procedures and support to reception capacities; 3) fight against smuggling of migrants; 4) strengthening cooperation on readmission and returns; 5) alignment of visa policies. The measures aim at supporting the actions of Western Balkan partners in parallel with EU actions, as well as strengthening cooperation on migration and border control with partners in the region, in the light of these countries' EU accession prospects and their efforts to align with EU rules.

The Western Balkans is a region of strategic interest for Romania, this approach reflecting Romania's commitment to support the European and Euro-Atlantic integration of the Western Balkan states and to promote stability and cooperation in the region.

The conference **"The Challenges of Illegal migration in the Western Balkans"** is designed for representatives from 5 Western Balkans countries (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, North Macedonia and Serbia) and from European Union member states, selected among those who are



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directly or indirectly involved in the management of illegal migration, the protection of migrants and the development of relevant policies and strategies. Priority will have the national authorities' representatives: law enforcement and state officials responsible for integrated border management, counter-terrorism, corruption and cross-border crime, civil protection and emergency situations, foreign policy, regional development and other representatives of relevant public institutions.

The conference activities are designed to create an interactive environment for participants, with an emphasis on practical experience and lessons learned. The practical dimension of the event will consist of case study presentation sessions, panel discussions and interactive sessions. The participants will have the opportunity to benefit from the knowledge and experience of relevant lecturers/speakers and experts on illegal migration in the Western Balkans.

It is therefore with great pleasure that we invite you to nominate participants for the conference **"The Challenges of Illegal migration in the Western Balkans"**.

We look forward to welcoming you to Bucharest.

The final programme and detailed information will be provided to all confirmed participants.

**NATIONAL COLLEGE
OF HOME AFFAIRS**

Director,

Police Quaestor, Prof., PhD
Cătălin ANDRUȘ

**ROMANIAN AGENCY FOR
INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT
COOPERATION**

General Director,

Daniela-Maria DOBRE



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Annex A

“The Challenges of Illegal Migration in the Western Balkans” Conference

Bucharest, 18-20 October 2023

Practical information

- The conference is open to both civilian and military personnel directly or indirectly involved in the border management and illegal migration, the protection of migrants and the development of relevant policies and strategies. Priority will have the national authorities' representatives: law enforcement and state officials responsible for integrated border management, counter-terrorism, corruption and cross-border crime, civil protection and emergency situations, foreign policy, regional development and other representatives of relevant public institutions.
- The language of the conference will be English; translation will not be available.
- Attendance is mandatory for the entire duration of the conference. A certificate of participation will be provided.

Nomination:

- The eligible entities from Western Balkans countries (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, North Macedonia and Serbia) and EU member states should send their nominations for the conference no later than 20 September 2023. For this purpose, we kindly ask you to send us the Registration Form attached to this message.
- In this regard, authorities in each of the Western Balkans aforementioned countries are kindly asked to send a maximum of 6 applications per country (4 participants & 2 back up applications). The final selection will be made by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Romania.
- For all candidates, the registration will not be final until it has been confirmed by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Romania.
- For Western Balkans participants, the Registration Form should be dully filled in electronically and sent (in scanned pdf and also in editable format - Word) by e-mail to cornelia.dumitrescu@roaid.ro, together with a pdf copy of the candidate passport.
- The size of the application file - the registration form completed by the applicant and a copy of the applicant's passport - should not exceed 5 MB.
- For any logistical questions, please do not hesitate to contact Ms. Cornelia DUMITRESCU, RoAid, Mobile phone (with WhatsApp): +40 735 220 703, email: cornelia.dumitrescu@roaid.ro

Details:

- The conference will take place in Bucharest, Romania, from 18 to 20 October 2023 (Wednesday 10.00 to Friday 15.00).
- The event venue will be a hotel in Bucharest (details will be provided in due time).
- On Wednesday 18 October 2023, participants are expected at the event location, between 09.00 and 09.45, for registration and the welcome package. Participants will receive a badge to be worn visibly during the event. The conference opening is planned for 10.00.



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- The dress code is formal or service uniform for the opening and closing ceremonies; business for the working sessions.

Costs:

- All costs related to the selected candidates from the Western Balkans countries (travel and accommodation expenses, including air tickets, visas, accommodation and meals) will be covered by the Romanian Agency for International Development Cooperation.
- The organizing institution will not support any cost for the participants from EU Member States; consequently, they should arrange their own travel, accommodation & meals.
- **NO COURSE FEE IS REQUIRED.**
- When the participant list is finalized, the designated contact person from the organizers will be in touch with the participants by e-mail. *To facilitate this process, each candidate should have a valid personal e-mail address.*