Integrating Registration Systems at Borders with National Identity Management

Developing approaches to link registered identities at the border with national/regional processes to ensure “One Person – One Identity”

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WORKSHOP CONTENT

Workshop 1:
Functionalities of a Smart Registration System

The Conference document lists some keys questions: Who needs what information in what phase of the process? What is needed to reliably establish and verify identity? or How to check if a traveler/migrant is eligible to enter/reside in a country? Basing itself on these questions, this workshop will put the focus on systems. What kind of functionalities need to be incorporated in a SRS? A BMIS already collects valuable information from a traveler, but in general the traveler will have a short stay in the country, which means that a minimum of information should regularly suffice. If a traveler - or a migrant - has the intention to stay considerably longer in the country of reception, or the person is looking for protection, much more information is needed to also facilitate the work of other entities in a country that carry responsibilities in this more complex process. More information needs to be collected and stored. Additional data entry fields, more adequate equipment and possible direct links to other systems are required. What equipment and systems should be linked to the SRS process? In such more complex processes, it is often considered as necessary to capture all documentation in the possession of the traveler or migrant linked to identity and purpose of entry. In general these documents are often not ICAO-compliant. It may also become necessary to capture more biometric features from persons entering the country for enhanced identification purposes. An important question is whether the SRS should be a stand-alone system or linked to a Border Management Information System, or whether is it more efficient to create a new BMIS that includes all functionalities?

This question will be discussed with experts and policy makers. While from the simple perspective of efficiency and effectiveness the answer could be yes, it has to be explored whether this is also the case from an operational perspective. What would be the impact on the current procedures? This workshop invites experts and policy makers to discuss this new situation and encourage them to find feasible approaches for the future.

Workshop 2:
Ensuring "One Person–One Identity" Begins at the Border

This workshop will examine which procedures should be in place to ensure a proper one-time registration of identity at the border. A one-time registration of identity of travelers and migrants at the border, by professional border officials, could be used to facilitate other processes in a country - or broader region - to ensure that a key tenant of identity management is better respected: “One Person–One Identity”. Professional border officials can be crucial for the accurate registration of identity: They have the legal mandate and the actual expertise to execute a close examination of travel and identity documents and determine if they are genuine or fraudulent. Furthermore, they seem best placed to interview travelers and migrants to verify the information contained in bearer documents against the answers from travelers in interviews, to assess if information obtained from the documents and interviews are aligned, and to determine if there are any gaps in their statements that would require further
investigation. Once an identity is established it should be correctly registered so that it can be easily verifiable by
competent authorities to avoid mistakes, disclosure, misuse or identity theft. The next step is enabling integration of
the unique identities into national or regional identity management systems. Since different stakeholders have
different requirements for information, it is of utmost importance that first an assessment is carried out to identify
which stakeholders in a country or region needs what type of information. An essential aspect of the exchange of
information is that there must be a solid personal data protection and privacy regime in place.

This workshop aims to bring border officials together with officials and experts responsible for identity management
to discuss possible approaches as to how to achieve “One Person has One Identity” throughout the whole process.

| Workshop 3: Linking Border Management and National/Regional Identity Management | 10 November 2016 – Afternoon |
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| The workshop looks into the issues of connectivity, stakeholders and accessibility. How should BMIS and Smart Registration Systems be linked to the national and/or regional identity management systems? What options are available in a country to facilitate this process? The focus should not only be on the latest and most sophisticated technical solutions but also on workable approaches which seem especially relevant for countries still building their identity related information and communication infrastructure; the aim should be to share the data in a timely manner with other stakeholders and - if necessary- using different media. Furthermore, it is important to identify and authenticate entities that should be entitled to access integrated systems and to clarify for what specific purpose? In a number of situations this could be not only government agencies but also non-governmental or intergovernmental organizations, supporting Governments in this process. Besides non-governmental and international organizations such as UNHCR and IOM, financial institutions could also get access to a clearly defined part of information available e.g. to facilitate public financial support to migrants where such entitlement exists.
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| To create connectivity and access to information, it seems essential to follow international standards and to build interfaces which can be easily adopted and used in more countries. For the same reasons it will be important to consider the use of open-source software to constantly improve the performance and efficiency of processes and infrastructure to solve the migration challenges. A bird's-eye view of an effective “chain approach” is the desired outcome of this workshop from which all stakeholders should benefit. |

| Workshop 4: Challenges and Benefits of Biometric Registration at the Border | 10 November 2016 – Afternoon |
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| The use of biometrics at the border is no longer a new process. Today already a significant number of national border management agencies capture one or two biometric features during the border entry or exit process on a regular basis. Benefits are well known; biometric data notably assists border officials to make better decisions as to whether travelers including cross border migrants are the rightful holder of the travel document offered at the inspection process. Nevertheless, today the desired quality of the biometrics still often remains below standard and turns out to be unusable for a strong verification or identification of the traveler/migrant. In order to ensure usability of biometric features for legitimate verification by all stakeholders in the process, it is of utmost importance that the biometric feature meets the quality level set by international standards. The main question to be discussed in this workshop will be what further enhancements to enrolment procedures will be required to guarantee the capture of high quality biometrics for SRS and BMS that could integrate with a national identity management system? This topic will be discussed with experts in biometrics as well as with practitioners who work - in different operational environments - on a daily basis on the enrollment of persons. Practitioners will be able to explain what challenges they face, including exceptional and difficult cases, where it seems hardly possible to capture a particular biometric feature. For exceptional cases it is necessary to have workable alternative procedures and solutions in place. The workshop aims to find valid answers to the issues described above and will allow a valuable exchange between practitioners, experts and migration managers. |