# Migration MPTF

**ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT TEMPLATE**

| PROJECT INFORMATION | |
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| **Joint Programme Title** | Evidence-based migration policy planning and discourse in North Macedonia |
| **Country(ies)/Region (or indicate if a global initiative):** | North Macedonia |
| **Project Identification Number:** | 00124541 |
| **Convening UN Organization:** | International Organization for Migration – IOM |
| **Participating UN Organization(s) (PUNOs):** | United Nations Population Fund – UNFPA<br>United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees – UNHCR |
| **Key Partners:**<br>**(Include Implementing Partner)** | Ministry of Interior; State Statistical Office, Ministry of Labor and Social Policy,<br>Ministry of Information Society and<br>Public Administration, National Bank of the Republic of North Macedonia and Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Secretariat for European Affairs |
| **Project Period (Start – End Dates):** | 28.10.2020-31.10.2023 |
| **Reporting Period:** | 01.01.2022 - 31.12.2022 |
| **Total Approved Migration MPTF Budget:**<br>**(Breakdown by participating UN organization)** | IOM: 653,628 USD<br>UNHCR: 474,010 USD<br>UNFPA: 372,362 USD<br>Total: 1,500,000 USD |
| **Total Funds Received to Date:**<br>**(Breakdown by participating UN organization)** | IOM: 653,628 USD<br>UNHCR: 474,010 USD<br>UNFPA: 372,362 USD<br>Total: 1,500,000 USD |
| **Report Submission Date:** | 01.03.2022 |
| **Report Prepared by:**<br>**(Name, title, email)** | Jelena Krasic, Joint Project Coordinator, IOM, jkrasic@iom.int<br>Petar Dimitrov, Innovation and Transformation Lead, UNHCR, dimitrop@unhcr.org<br>Rajna Krtov-Chemerska, National Consultant, UNFPA, krtov-chemerska@unfpa.org<br>Tatijana Temelkoska, Human Rights Adviser, UN RCO, tatijana.temelkoska@un.org |

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The Joint project (JP) "Evidence-based migration policy planning and discourse in North Macedonia" started with implementation on 28th October 2020 and will end on 31st of October 2023. It aims to support policymakers in North Macedonia to effectively manage demographic and migration dynamics by developing evidence-based migration policies based on improved systemic data collection and analysis, enhanced inter-institutional data exchange, and improving the general public's and policymakers' perception of immigrants and refugees.

In addition to the JP efforts made in 2021, the key achievements of the project during the reference period are elaborated further below:

**Outcome 1**

The increased use of the produced data, migration tools and methodologies is observed among stakeholders. In particular, the produced data for the first ever country Migration Governance Index (MGI) Report and the new country Migration Profile 2021, were used to develop the new Resolution on Migration Policy 2021-2025 and its Action Plan. Also, the developed migration policy, migration profile, MGI Report, the Migration Module in the Labour Force Survey (LFS) and its Guidelines are fully in line with the international and EU data management standards. In addition, the Migration Policy and its Action Plan supported by the JP are aligned with the Global Compact on Migration (GCM). In 2022, **three new data management tools/mechanisms were developed and applied by the State Statistical Office**, that are fully aligned with the EUROSTAT standards.

The process aimed at **piloting the big data and remittances** for government led migration population analysis that started in 2021 continued in 2022. It examined the use of innovative data collection and analytical methods for estimating migration stocks and flows, as a complementary data source, within the established cooperation with respective international and national universities and institutions and the engagement of local experts for data collection and analysis in these areas. As a specific result, in 2022, **two complementary data sources for the migration flows were made available**. A statistical model of migration flows from and to North Macedonia by applying the Bayesian hierarchical approach that triggered specific interest for usage by National Bank of Republic of North Macedonia (NBRNM) and Faculty of Economics; and the second complementary data source was the Comparative Analysis of the Remittances in North Macedonia and Possibility of Measurement Improvements through Surveys that was used by NBRNM for the more accurate measurement of remittance inflows and improvement of the balance of payments statistics.

In 2022, the national stakeholders increased their capacities to develop and support the migration policies implementation that meet EU and international standards. Through engagement of international service

provider "Demos Helsinki oy" a **series of capacity building activities on anticipatory governance were implemented for 328 trainees (67% women)**[1]. In the post-training knowledge assessment, the participants **achieved a final average of 79 per cent correct responses**. The set output target in JP Result Framework of 325 trained with at least 70 per cent correct responds in the post-training questionnaire was exceeded. Following the workshop on anticipatory policy pilots, representatives from American University in Skopje shared that they have begun exploring option to develop a curriculum for anticipatory governance in their institution. The representatives from the Ministry of Health shared that they are looking into applying the newfound knowledge to develop a new strategy on addressing brain drain in the health sector.

**Outcome 2**

Progress has been made in increasing the frequency of inter and intra-institutional data exchange from "low to medium" to "middle to high" measured through: A) Number of mechanisms established B) Number of protocols developed with two developed protocols, and successfully completed 4 requests for support in improvement of IT systems/databases/software/equipment.

Specifically, the "Proposal for amendments and additions to the Rulebook on the standards for the reception of asylum seekers" and the "Handbook on how to implement the integration program for persons granted asylum" developed in 2021 were finalized and shared with the national stakeholders in 2022.

Following four (4) requests for support in procurement of new IT systems/databases/software, or upgrades of the existing ones were successfully completed and used by the respective institutions, which is double than the set target in the Result Framework of 2 systems developed/upgraded: 1 from the Ministry of Information Society and Administration (MIOA), 2 from the Ministry of Interior (MoI) and 1 from the National Bank of Republic of North Macedonia (NBRNM).

The six capacity building trainings to increase the national institutions capacities to exchange migration related data in line with EU and international standards in the area of Remittances and Big Data were organized from October – December 2022 with 169 participants (64% women) working in migration management and data collection area coming from various national institutions[2], civil society

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1 Representatives from the Cabinet of the Prime Minister, President of North Macedonia, Parliament, Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Labour and Social Policy, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Justice, Institute for Social Activities, Reception Centre for Asylum Seekers Visbegovo, Ministry of Foregin Affairs, State Statistical Office, Ombudsman's Office, Ministry of Defense, Minitry of Education, Ministry of Economy, Ministry of transport and connections, City Red Cross, Macedonian Young Lawyers Association, Youth Educational Forum, Smartup, La Strada, Legis,Faculy of Law Justinianus Primus Refugee Law Clinic, South-Eastern European University, Goce Delchev Univeristy and others.
2 Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Labour and Social Policy, Ministry of Health, Cabinet of the Minister without portfolio in charge of Diaspora Affairs, Cabinet of the Secretary-General of the Government, Secretariat for European

organizations[3], academia[4], private sector[5], local authorities, and international organizations[6]. In the post-training knowledge assessment, the participants achieved a final average of 94 per cent correct responses showing increase of knowledge of 26 per cent in comparison with the results achieved in the pre-training questionnaires (68 percent correct responds). The set output target in the JP Result Framework of 150 trained, with at least 70 per cent correct responds in the post-training questionnaire, was exceeded. As noted by the JP team present during the Big data trainings the participants from the Clinic for Child Diseases have pointed out the value of the presented information and findings during this training and possibilities to use the big data in their analytics resulting with exchange of contacts with the experts from the Faculty for Informatic Science and Computer Engineering (FINKI). In addition, the NBRNM, State Statistical Office, Government Department for European Affairs, Ministry of Finance, Customs, Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Labor and Social Policy, Ministry of Informatic Society and Public Administration, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, as well as the civil society and international organizations, have shown specific interest in accessing the data provided through the Big data analytics presented by experts from FINKI, available online or offline including but not limited to the Application Programming Interfaces (APIs), scanned documents and other types of summarized data with potential to contribute towards their migration statistics and estimates alike.

**Outcome 3**

Total of 26 journalists were capacitated in 2022 - 7 journalists from the Association of Journalists of Macedonia successfully finalized organized in cooperation with the Association of Journalists of Macedonia (AJM) and the Council of Media Ethics of Macedonia, and 19 journalists were trained through the media mentorship programme organized in partnership with the Youth Educational Forum (YEF) on how to provide the public with accurate and truthful information on the challenges faced by the refugees and migrants, their struggles, and fears as well as the positive development potential of migration in an effort to address the false perceptions on migration in the country at large. To this effect, participants in the media mentorship programme created and continue to create media products on the subject[7]. The

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Affairs, National Bank of the Republic of Macedonia, State Statistical Office, Office of the Ombudsman, Bureau for Regional Development, Center for Development of Skopje Planning Region, Agency for Quality and Accreditation of Healthcare Institutions, Public Enterprise for State Roads of the Republic of Macedonia and University Clinic for Pediatric Diseases.

[3] KHAM Delcevo, Open Gate La strada, Macedonian Young Lawyers Association, SIEC - Social Integration & Empowerment Centre, LET Station and Center for Change Management and Association of woman Bitola.

[4] Southeast European University, Faculty of Information and Communication Technologies, "Goce Delchev" University, Faculty of Computer Science & Engineering, Faculty of Law, Faculty of economy and Faculty of Philosophy.

[5] Smart Up - Social Innovaton Lab, Fragment and Mak System.

[6] IMF, Embassy of Spain in Skopje, MARRI, World Bank Country Office, and International centre for Migration Policy Development.

7 List of some of the created articles by the trained journalists:
- Лица без државјанство – „СТРАНЦИ ВО СОПСТВЕНАТА ДРЖАВА" (видео сторија) - Кепенци (kepenci.mk)
- Исправена 30 годишна неправда - Битолчанецот Станимир конечно доби државјанство - Кепенци (kepenci.mk)
- Телевизија 24: Македонија веќе околу 10ина месеци е дом за неколку семејства од Украина

set output target in JP of total 50 journalists trained was exceeded (a total of 51 trained) with the set baseline (20) and 2021 results (5).

Fifteen (15) broadcasts (6 films and 6 interviews, and 3 articles from the Journalist awards for professional and sensitive reporting) were conducted in 2022, together with the fourteen (14) broadcasts that were conducted in 2021 and ten (10) set as baseline making total of 39, exceeding the set output target of total of twenty-two broadcasts to be done during the project implementation.

Six (6) public events aimed to support the public to adopt positive narratives and perceptions about migrants are refugees were organized or supported by the Joint Project in 2022 or a total of twelve (12) with the 2021 results and the set baseline: the promotion of Skopje Jazz festival 2022 calendars; observation of the Refugees Day; Participation at the 2022 Skopje Marathon; Skopje Jazz Festival support in 2022; 2022 Journalists' award ceremony and the National Debate Tournament. The JP output target of total 5 events to be organized, including the baseline was exceeded and more than doubled resulting with **increased public participation in spreading the positive messages and naratives about migrants and refugees as well as opportunities for direct internations and discussions with them about their endevours**.

The **regular internal meetings** have been organized between the PUNOs. To facilitate the implementation of the project activities and communicate with stakeholders, PUNOs worked closely with the **Steering Committee (SC) and the Technical Working Group (TWG) members**. Within the reporting period, the **SC,** with support from the RCO, IOM, UNFPA and UNHCR, convened **two meetings** (on the 31st of March and 17th of October 2022) to facilitate the implementation of the planned JP interventions. The **fourth, fifth and sixth TWG** meetings of the JP were held on 31st of January, 4th of May and 26th of September 2022[8]. These meetings further built partnerships with the various entities and organizations involved in migration management such as the Secretariat for European Affairs, Ministry of Interior, State Statistical Office, Ministry of Labour, Ministry of Information Society and Public Administration, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the National Bank of the Republic of North Macedonia, and the civil society organizations:

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- Повеќе од 6 илјади украински граѓани престојуваат во земјава, најголем проблем им е здравството и немањето работа (tv21.tv)
- [Видео] Загубен во бирократскиот лавиринт (radiomof.mk)
- Долгите процедури и предрасудите го прават патот на бегалците и барателите на азил уште подолг | Низ медиумите слушаме многу за проблемите поврзани со барателите на азил и бегалците, но всушност ретко за проблемите со кои самите тие се справуваат.... | By Радио МОФ | Facebook
- Медиумска информативна агенција (mia.mk)
- powerinfo СТОРИЈА - Украинците една година бегалци во Македонија - Power Info
- https://pina.mk/6597-mladi-novinari-spodelija-iskustva-vo-rabota-na-temi-za-begaltsi-litsa-bez-drzhavjanstvo-i-azilanti/
- https://opserver.mk/makedonija/povik-za-rabotilnica-za-mladi-novinari-za-sozdavanje-mediumski-produkti-na-tema-begalci/
- https://www.radiomof.mk/povik-za-rabotilnica-za-mobilno-novinarstvo-povrzana-so-begalci-barateli-na-azil-migranti-i-lica-bez-drzhavjanstvo/

[8] Annex 1 of the 2022 Annual Progress Report are the SC and TWG meetings minutes

Macedonian Young Lawyers Association (MYLA), Macedonian Platform for Poverty Reduction (MPPR), and European Policy Institute (EPI).

Lastly, to ensure the **project visibility**, the following information was presented and shared with the national stakeholders and the donor community, reaching more than **2,000 stakeholders** through the **UN North Macedonia monthly bulletin and IOM Newsletter**: Capacitating National Stakeholders in Migration Data Collection and Exchange and Resolution on Migration Policy 2021-2025 (IOM Newsletter for January – February 2022); Software to support data analyses. of remittances (IOM Newsletter May - June 2022); Announcement of the winners of the journalist awards for professional reporting about refugees and stateless persons, "Advanced certification for anticipatory migration management" training, "Training for Trainers on using foresight methods", Film cycle Solidarity with Refugees, UNHCR donation to MOI, Course series "Foresight and Futures Thinking for Policy-Making" (UN North Macedonia Sustainable Development Bulletins in 2022). The institutional UNHCR Instagram account opened in 2021 to reach a greater portion of youth in the country with the messaging that were and will be developed within the Communication Strategy has succeeded in getting 822 followers by the end of 2022. In addition, posts on JP support and activities were regularly published on the UNHCR North Macedonia Facebook page,which had 7,518 followers at the time of reporting.

| ANNUAL PROJECT PROGRESS |
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**1. Summary and context**

The project "*Evidence-based migration policy planning and discourse in North Macedonia*" started with implementation on 28th of October 2020 and will end on 31st of October 2023[9].

Despite the challenges faced due to the conflict in Ukraine and COVID-19 pandemic the project implementation was on track, during the reporting period with many of the set targets being reached and even exceeded.

For Outcome 1: the data, migration tools and methodologies produced with the JP support have contributed towards the development of an evidence-based migration policy that is in line with the international and EU data management standards. With strengthened capacities, the professionals from the relevant stakeholders can further contribute to more effective data collection and analysis and enhanced inter-institutional data exchange.

The new innovative processes aimed at piloting the "anticipatory governance", the "big data" and remittances for government led migration population analysis were successfully conducted in 2022, with the remaining actions as per developed work plans to be completed in 2023.

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[9] The Request for no-cost extension that was delivered to MPTF in October 2022 is pending response in the first quarter of 2023.

For Outcome 2:  With the provision of four IT systems/databases/software and the development of two protocols, the national stakeholders' capacities for inter and intra-institutional data exchange were improved.

For Outcome 3: the project has continued to support the creation of positive narratives and perceptions towards migrants and refugees focusing on their contributions in the host society through several media initiatives and events.

**2. Results**

The implementation of the Joint Programme results (outcomes and outputs) and the related activities in 2022 are presented hereafter for the year 2022. The activities progress presented is aligned with the JP work plan (Annex D3: Workplan).

**Outcome 1: Policy makers and institutional stakeholders design and implement evidence-based and coordinated migration policies**

The increased use of the produced data, migration tools and methodologies is observed among stakeholders (a level of 3 on a scale of 1-5, per the outcome indicator). In particular, the produced data for the two migration tools, the first ever country Migration Governance Index (MGI) Report and the new country Migration Profile 2021, were used to develop the new Resolution on Migration Policy 2021-2025 and its Action Plan. Also, the developed migration policy, migration profile, MGI Report, the Migration Module in the Labour Force Survey (LFS) and its Guidelines are fully in line with the international and EU data management standards. In addition, the Migration Policy and its Action Plan supported by the JP are aligned with the Global Compact on Migration (GCM).

In 2022, three[10] new data management tools/mechanisms were developed and applied by the institutions, particularly by the State Statistical Office, that are fully aligned with the EUROSTAT standards.

**Output 1.1 New comprehensive Migration Policy is developed and adopted**

The developed Resolution on Migration Policy (June 2021) was endorsed by the Government on 2nd November 2021 and adopted by the Parliament on 23rd of December 2021.

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[10] Namely "*Guidelines on the preparation of the LFS methodology and questionnaire, LFS data transmission and validation and preparation of the Quality Report*"; "*Guidelines on the sample design, break in time series, dissemination of LFS data at a lower level than the national level and calculation of the monthly unemployment rate and new indicators*" and "*Methodological and organizational guidelines with proposed solution for annual migration data production*".

**Activity 1.1.1 Expert support to the inter-ministerial body in development of the Resolution on Migration Policy 2021-2025**

Two local experts have been engaged by JP in 2021 and have provided support to the inter-ministerial body in development of the Resolution on Migration Policy 2021-2025.

**Activity 1.1.2. Support to government entities in coordination of the policy preparation process**

The validation meeting for presentation of the draft Resolution on Migration Policy 2021-2025 was conducted in June 2021.

**Activity 1.1.3. Support in presentation, translation, and publication of the Migration Policy 2021-2025**

The translation of the migration policy from Macedonian into English and Albanian language was conducted in December 2021. In 2022, the design and publication and the distribution of 500 copies of the Resolution among the members of the intra-governmental body for development of the migration policy was conducted as per the distribution table presented as **Annex 2 of the report**.

**Output 1.2 By 2022, data collection mechanisms are strengthened as a key precondition for evidence-based policy making**

In 2022, the data collection mechanisms were further strengthened to aid evidence-based policy making. The project aimed to have five data management tools/ mechanisms applied by the institutions. With JP support **seven data management tools/mechanisms were developed and applied by the institutions exceeding the set target in the JP Result Framework**. As of the end of 2021, a total of four (4)[11] tools have been developed and applied. **In 2022, three (3)[12] more data management tools/mechanisms were developed and applied by the institutions**.

**The process aimed at piloting the "big data" and remittances for government led migration population analysis continued in 2022**. It examined the use of innovative data collection and analytical methods for estimating migration stocks and flows, as a complementary data source, within the established cooperation with respective international and national universities and institutions and the engagement of local experts for data collection and analysis in these areas. As a specific result, in 2022, **two complementary data sources for the migration flows were made available**. A statistical model of migration flows from and to North Macedonia by applying the Bayesian hierarchical approach; and the second complementary data source was the Comparative Analysis of the Remittances in North Macedonia and Possibility of Measurement Improvements through Surveys.

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[11] Namely the Migration Profile 2021; Migration Governance Index 2021; Migration Module Questionnaire for the Labour Force Survey (LFS); and Guidelines for application of the Migration Module in the LFS.
[12] See footnote 10.

**Activity 1.2.1. Develop a country specific Migration Profile.**

The three language versions (English, Macedonian and Albanian) of the Migration Profile (MP) were developed in 2021.  The **design of the Migration Profile 2021** (ENG, MKD, and ALB) **was finalized in 2022**. The next step, planned for the beginning of 2023, is the printing and distribution of 1,000 copies to the relevant institutions.

**Activity 1.2.2. Support the incorporation of the standard migration module in the labour force survey and pilot the survey.**

The questionnaire for piloting of the Migration Module (MM) in the Labour Force Survey (LFS) was developed in 2021 by a team of local experts in close cooperation with the State Statistical Office (SSO) as per the EUROSTAT standards, and it included questions on the country nationals that are living and working abroad. Initially, the piloting of the MM in the LFS was planned for the 3rd quarter of 2022. However, SSO informed that according to the LFS methodology, the piloting (field work) of the MM in LFS will be conducted during the 1st quarter of 2023. Still, additional time will be needed to complete the whole process, i.e to cross-check and confirm the gathered data (by June 2023), produce tables, analyze them, and prepare the report (by Sep-mid of Oct). Based on that and considering that the initial project closure was set for 27th of April 2023, PUNOs and RCO have agreed to proceed with the no-cost extension request. The signature of the Implementation Agreement  with SSO that was planned for 2022, was postponed for January 2023.

**Activity 1.2.3. Support the further alignment with EU and international standards on migration statistics.**

**The first 2-day capacity building training on "***Further alignment with EU and international standards on migration statistics***"** for 12 participants (7 women) from JP TWG was successfully conducted on 27-28th of October 2021. 81 per cent of the trained TWG members were able to provide correct responses in the post-training questionnaire.

**The second two-day training under this activity for the members of the intra-governmental body on "***Improving inter and intra-institutional data collection and exchange mechanisms and practices***"** was organized on 23-24th of February 2022 for 17 members (8 women) of the intra-governmental body for the development of the migration policy and members of the JP TWG. 80 per cent of the trained participants provided correct responses in the post-training questionnaire[13].

Regarding the planned provision of technical assistance through **seconded EU MS Experts,** two experts from Slovenia (EU MS) were engaged.

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[13] Annex 3 - Final Training Report 23-24 February 2022.

During September – December 2022, the engaged experts have successfully developed the following guidelines that were adopted by SSO:

- *"Guidelines on the preparation of the LFS methodology and questionnaire, LFS data transmission and validation and preparation of the Quality Report*[14];
- *"Guidelines on the sample design, break in time series, dissemination of LFS data at a lower level than the national level and calculation of the monthly unemployment rate and new indicators*[15] with the relevant Annexes that were reviewed and adopted by SSO, and
- *"Methodological and organizational guidelines with a proposed solution for annual migration data production"*[16].

**Activity 1.2.4, Implement the" Migration Governance" Index with usage of the Migration Governance Indicators (MGI) methodology**

The Migration Governance Indicators Profile 2021 for North Macedonia was finalized and published in November 2021 in English, Macedonian and Albanian on:

IOM Publications website: https://publications.iom.int/books/migration-governance-indicators-profile-2021-north-macedonia

Migration Data Portal: https://www.migrationdataportal.org/overviews/mgi/north-macedonia#0 , and

IOM North Macedonia web page: https://north-macedonia.iom.int/news/migration-governance-indicators-profile-2021-north-macedonia

**Activity 1.2.5:    Pilot the usage of "big-data" for government led migration population analysis.**

In 2022, the Southampton University (SHU) team **has prepared the Final report on the Migration estimates for North Macedonia by using mirror statistics**[17]**.** This final report, accompanied with the attached explanatory file and the related tables, was also translated into Macedonian language. As a follow-up, an online ***Workshop on migration estimates for North Macedonia using Mirror statistics*** was conducted by the SHU team on 28th of September 2022, with presentation of the Final report and the non-technical user manual to **44** participants from various institutions such as MLSP, MoI,SSO, NBRNM, Ministry of Health, representatives of academia – Faculty of Economics, FINKI, Faculty of Philosophy-Sociology, University Jaume 1 of Castellan (Spain), think-tank organizations "ZMAJ", "Global Initiative", international organizations: UNFPA Srbija, UNFPA Republika Srpska, UNHCR, and individual statistical experts.

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[14] Annex 4 - Guidelines on the preparation of the LFS methodology
[15] Annex 5 - Guidelines on the sample design
[16] Annex 6 - Methodological and organizational guidelines
[17] Annex 7 - Final Report on mirror statistics

In July 2022, SHU informed UNFPA that in order to deliver the Concept note for Stage 2, the needed data sources, **the activity will have to be postponed for 2023 when the data sources on North Macedonia will be available**. This has been included in the PUNOs' request for no-cost extension of the JP.

The **state-of-the-art analysis of Big Data**, has **been finalized in 2022**. It shows among other how the information from Big data has emerged as a new source of migration measurement complementing "traditional" census, administrative and survey data.[18]

Regarding the **work on the Remittances**, the **Landscape and comparative analysis of remittances from migrant workers within their complex socioeconomic perspective[19]** were finalized in July 2022, including its editing and design. In September 2022, the **Report was made available for sharing and use as a reference document.**

The **methodology of the survey of the remittance-receiving households**[20], were completed in 2022 followed by the pre-testing of the questionnaire on a sample of 20 target respondents, and the fieldwork activities.. The database with responses from the interviewed respondents was compiled during July – September 2023, including the control of logical connection between respondents' answers. The prepared Analysis with the database were then delivered to NBRNM for its own data processing, cross-checking, and analysis by usage of the provided SPSS software with JP support. Upon the finalization of the Analysis, it will be available for use by NBRNM as a reference for their policy interventions regarding the balance of payments statistics. In addition, the Analysis and its findings can be used as a reference document by the policymakers, researchers, civil society activists, general public, and other.

In 2022, consultations were initiated regarding the initiation and establishment of the South-South cooperation. The possible theme of the **South-South cooperation** focused on other countries' experience in cross-referencing, the official data from the banking system and the fast money transfers for remittances. An agreement has been reached with the counterparts at the NBRNM about their interest to pay a visit to the Central Bank of Albania (CBA) with the interest of establishing informal channels for improving the information on the inflow of remittances sent through formal channels as commercial banks. The activities remain to be conducted in 2023.

Regarding visibility, the information about the actions foreseen under this activity was presented on 28th of April on the UN MK web page and FB:
https://www.facebook.com/1un.mk/posts/736012661146104

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[18] Annex 8 - Big data analysis
[19] Annex 9 - Comparative analysis on remittances
[20] Annex 10 - Methodology of the survey of the remittance receiving households.

**Output 1.3 The national stakeholders have the capacity to develop and support the implementation of migration policies that meet EU and international standards**

In 2022 the national stakeholders increased their capacities to develop and support the migration policies implementation that meet EU and international standards. Through engagement of international service provider "Demos Helsinki oy" a series of capacity building activities on anticipatory governance were implemented targeting **328 trainees (67% women)**. In the post-training knowledge assessment, the participants achieved a final average of **79 per cent correct responses.** The **set target in JP Result Framework** of 325 trained with at least 70 per cent correct responds in the post-training questionnaire **was exceeded**.

**Fourteen training sessions/ meetings for the national stakeholders were conducted in 2022** that together with the fourteen organized in 2021, **are almost triple than the set target** in the JP of a total of 10 training sessions/meetings.

**Activity 1.3.1. Organize capacity building trainings on strengthening the data management (the collection, processing, analysis and utilization of migration data and statistics)**

In 2022 "Demos Helsinki oy" finalized the **foresight needs assessment**, having interviewed 17 stakeholders in **14 separate interviews** from November 2021[21] to February 2022, selected based on the stakeholder mapping conducted in 2021.

A detailed overview of the activities from the **project's first two phases** is available in the submitted **progress reports 1[22] and 2[23]**. In 2022, the Global Banchmarking (phase 3) and the Capacity building (phase 4) were also successfully completed.

**Global benchmarking[24]:** The benchmark study, focused on the national foresight systems, and also showcased foresight practices in migration policy.

**Capacity building:** Six capacity building trainings and workshops were organized in 2022[25]:

| Anticipatory governance training | Goal of the training/workshop | Date/2022 | Number of Participants | % Of women participants | % Of correct responses in post-training questionnaires |
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[21] 8 in 2021 and 6 in 2022
[22] Annex 11 - Anticipatory Migration Policy in North Macedonia - Report 1
[23] Annex 12 - Anticipatory Migration Policy in North Macedonia - Report 2
[24] Annex 13 - Anticipatory Migration Policy in North Macedonia - Report 3
[25] Annex 14 - Anticipatory Migration Policy in North Macedonia - Report 4

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| **1st Masterclass** | Development of capacities for long-term planning and policy development among national stakeholders. | 20 April | 126 | 69 | 94 |
| **2nd Masterclass** | Learning of the methods for future-oriented migration policy making and develop long-term scenarios for the future of migration in North Macedonia | 11 May | 79 | 67 | 74 |
| **Global Roadshow** | Exchange of experiences in anticipatory governance and policymaking | 21 June | 57 | 67 | 75 |
| **Advanced Certificate in Anticipatory Migration Policy** | Advance usage and application of futures and foresight methods | 13-15 September | 21 | 55 | 71 |
| **Training of Trainers "Mastery"** | Mastery of futures and foresight methods | 16-17 September | 24 | 64 | 76 |
| **Workshop on Anticipatory Experiments** | Experimentation and usage of futures and foresight | 1 December | 21 | 81 | 85 |
| **Total** | | | **328** | **67%** | **79%** |



*Photos 1 and 2. Organization of "Advanced Certificate in Anticipatory Migration Policy" trainings*

**Phase 5** of the Anticipatory governance initiative will be focused on *"Foresight analysis on the future of migration in North Macedonia"* while **Phase 6** on the "*Institutionalization of Anticipatory Migration Policy in North Macedonia*". Phase 5 will conclude with a global publication launch containing the documentation of all previous phases in 2023. Phase 6 aims to provide mentorship to national stakeholders to support the institutionalization of Anticipatory Migration. For a period of 3 months following the workshop done on 1st of December, Demos Helsinki will provide mentorship sessions to national stakeholders to support the anticipatory initiatives developed during the workshop.

*Note:* Regarding the planned IOM support in implementation of Phase 4 of the foresight and futures capacity building initiatives, IOM and UNHCR Legal departments have cleared the Letter of Cooperation drafted by UNHCR and IOM team. The letter was signed by PUNOs Heads, and based on that, IOM has prepared a Purchase Order that was signed by "Demos Helsinki oy" in April 2022. UNFPA has prepared a draft Note to File (NFF) to proceed with the usage of the funds for this activity's Phase 5.  UNHCR and UNFPA have coordinated regarding the preparation of the NFF, and the relevant documentation has been requested from the service provider.

**Activity 1.3.2. Build the capacities of the multi-agency coordination body.**

The *Analysis of the intragovernmental Body for Migration in North Macedonia: Capacity Building Needs and Good Practices* was developed in 2021. It is available in both English and Macedonian languages. Based on the analysis findings, in 2021 the project team supported the organization of six two-day working meetings/capacity building training to develop procedural documents for the body and its members' capacity building: Body Rules of Procedure; Terms of Reference; Communication strategy; tools for Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting; EU Acquis and Good Practices in Migration Management Assessment; and Team Building training to gain knowledge on the suitable models, techniques and tools for teamwork strengthening, relationships building, and communication.

**OUTCOME 2: Inter and intra institutional data exchange mechanisms and collaboration among key institutions with competences on migration management are enhanced**

Progress has been made in increasing the frequency of inter and intra-institutional data exchange from "low to medium" to "middle to high" measured through: A) Number of mechanisms established B) Number of protocols developed with two developed protocols, and successfully completed 4 requests for support in improvement of IT systems/databases/software/equipment.

**Output 2.1. The national institutions have the capacities to exchange migration related data in line with EU and international standards**

The Assessment on the inter and intra institutional data collection and exchange mechanisms was completed in May 2021.

The six capacity building trainings to increase the national institutions capacities to exchange migration related data in line with EU and international standards in the area of **Remittances and Big Data** were organized from October – December 2022 with **169 participants (64% women) working in** migration management and data collection area coming from various national institutions[26], civil society organizations[27], academia[28], private sector[29], local authorities, and international organizations[30]. In the post-training knowledge assessment, the participants achieved a final average of **94 per cent correct responses**. The set target in the JP Result Framework of 150 trained, with at least 70 per cent correct responds in the post-training questionnaire, was exceeded.

The **"*Proposal for amendments and additions to the Rulebook on the standards for the reception of asylum seekers*"** and the **"*Handbook on how to implement the integration program for persons granted asylum*"** that were developed in 2021 were finalized and shared with the stakeholders in 2022. The revised Rulebook aims to enhance intersectoral and inter-ministerial cooperation between the MLSP and MoI. This is achieved by streamlining procedures and reducing required documentation for accommodating asylum seekers, also ensuring that asylum seekers are provided accommodation in a timely and efficient manner. The Handbook compiles standards on various aspects of integration service provision, including outsourcing possibilities, internal coordination and opening of the option for collaboration with public- private partners.

**Four (4) requests for support in procurement of new IT systems/databases/software or upgrades of the existing ones were successfully completed which is double than the set target of 2 systems/software/databases developed/upgraded**: 1 request for procurement of 2 firewalls for protection of Government portal www.uslugi.gov.mk from MIOA, 2 requests from MoI for procurement of IT equipment (PCs and laptops with new software) for the Border Police and Unit for organized crime intelligence and data analysis and (OKRA) and 1 request from NBRNM for procurement of the IBM SPSS statistical software to support the institutional data exchange collected from the remittance receiving households survey.

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[26] Please refere to footnote 2
[27] Please refer to footnote 3
[28] Please refer to footnote 4
[29] Please refer to footnote 5
[30] Please refer to footnote 6

**Activity 2.1.1. Conduct an assessment of needs and preparation of recommendations on inter and intra institutional data collection and exchange mechanisms.**

The "Assessment of the collection and exchange mechanisms of migration data in North Macedonia" report available in both English and Macedonian languages, was completed on 27th of May, 2021. The report includes information about the 1) Context of migration in North Macedonia, 2) International requirements for the migration statistics 3) Governance of migration data collection 4) Data sources, data exchange and statistics on migration 5) Assessment and recommendations and relevant Annexes: Annex 1 – Main international requirements and tools on migration statistics; Annex 2 – Tables proposed under WB-MIDEX; Annex 3 – Availability of the migration-relevant SDG indicators in North Macedonia; Annex 4 – Questionnaire on needs for improving the collection and exchange of migration data and Annex 5 – List of stakeholders and contacts.

**Activity 2.1.2. Provide advisory, capacity-building, and technical support (experts equipment/training/ SoPs, procedures/ upgrading and/or enhancing existing system/databases) for enhancing of data collection, analyses, and exchange.**

In May 2022, the National Bank of the Republic of North Macedonia has received the donation of the **IBM software to support the institutional data exchange mechanisms and collaboration among the relevant institutions**. In particular, the software was used by the National Bank for analysis of the results and data gathered from the survey of the remittance-receiving households in North Macedonia, which was conducted with the Joint UN project support during the second half of 2022.

Regarding MoI requests – **with JP support 15 desktop computers and 5 laptops with software compatible to national databases were donated to the Border Police (BP) regional units** to support the timely data collection and registration of migrants travelling in mixed movements as well as the registration of asylum-seekers along together the digitalization of BP; and **28 desktop computers and 12 laptops were donated to MoI Unit for organized crime intelligence and data analysis and (OKRA)** improving their data collection, analysis, and digitalization.

The donation of the **two firewalls for protection of the Government web portal uslugi.gov.mk**[31] to Ministry of Informatic Society and Administration (MIOA) was conducted in December 2022[32].

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[31] This designated website of National E-Services Portal is an electronic platform which allows citizens of North Macedonia to receive information about public services and to utilize e-services from competent authorities and other entities that provide e-services via the Portal. The Catalogue of Services serves for a structured entry and management of data for all public services, such as: basic data, deadlines, payments, competent authorities, legal grounds, legal remedies, category, and life event, etc. It contains among other a section on "Migration and Visas" that is composed of services related to citizenship, visas, temporary residence, and emigrants. The Portal is also connected to the Central Population Registry (CPR) which is a central electronic base that covers citizens' basic data.

[32] IOM according to its rules will prepare a Donation Agreement Form for its 74.5 per cent of the equipment and funds to MIOA. UNFPA who has donated the remaining 26.5 per cent has proceed as per their internal donation rules.

*Photos 3 and 4. Donations of softwares and IT equipment*

Following a request for support from the Director of the Reception Centre for Asylums Seekers – Vizbegovo in 2021, in 2022 the "**Proposal for amendments and additions to the Rulebook on the standards for the reception of asylum seekers"[33]** was developed and shared with the authorities.

Following the request for support from the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy (MLSP) in 2022, a "**Handbook on how to implement the integration program for persons granted asylum**"[34] was submitted to MLSP.

Regarding the organization of 6 two-day trainings for at least 150 participants on the improvement of data collection, analysis, and exchange in the innovative **"big data" and "remittances"** areas, a total **169 participants (64% women) successfully completed the trainings with 94 per cent correct responses in the post-training questionnaires.**

| Topic | Date | Number of Participants | % Of women participants | % Of correct responds in the post-training questionnaires |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Remittances[35]** | 19-20 October | 29 | 69 | 92 |
| | 25-26 October | 24 | 83 | 86 |
| | 16-17 November | 24 | 58 | 98 |

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[33] Annex 15 - Proposal for amendments and additions to the Rulebook on the standards for the reception of asylum seekers
[34] Annex 16 - Handbook on how to implement the integration program for persons granted asylum
[35] Annex 17 - Final Training Report on Remittances

| Big data[36] | 23-24 November | 29 | 62 | 93 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 30 November - 1 December | 30 | 53 | 96 |
| | 6-7 December | 33 | 61 | 96 |
| **Total** | | **169** | **64** | **94** |

**OUTCOME 3: The general public and the policy makers view migrants and refugees as development actors**

Evidence of progress towards this outcome is not yet available. Implementation of a survey to measure the percentage of increase in policy and opinionmakers' perception towards migrants and refugees as development actors is planned for 2023.

**Output 3.1. The General public has positive narratives and perceptions towards migrants and refugees**

The general public has adopted positive narratives and perceptions of migrants and refugees through the implementation of a country-wide informative campaign, "This is home", in 2021, reaching a total of 449,492 persons, which is 45 times more than targeted in the Joint Project Result Framework (at least 10 000 persons to be reached).

The Informative campaign was available on 3 national TV stations, 3 local TV stations, 3 radio stations, 10 web portals and paid ads on FB and Instagram. In addition, the videos were available on IOM Skopje YouTube channel and shared through PUNOs and UN RCO social media.

**Activity 3.1.1: Implement informative campaign**

From 26th of November to 25th of December 2021, the informative campaign "This is home" for creating positive narratives and perceptions towards migrants and refugees focusing on their contributions to the host society was on. The campaign was composed on one main TV video composed of 3 stories of migrants and refugees and 3 separate YouTube videos for each story,in particular, the main campaign video has reached 207,000 views, while the separate campaign videos have reached 179,000 views (Nikolina Kujaca story), 178,000 views (Igor Majer story) and 176,000 views (Natalija Todorovska story). The produced videos were used for the observance of the International Migrants Day on 18th of December 2022.

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[36] Annex 18 - Final Training Report on Big Data

**Output 3.2. The policy and opinion makers have the capacities to develop and support the implementation of policies based on positive and proactive views on migrants and refugees**

Total of **26 journalists were capacitated in 2022** - 7 journalists from the Association of Journalists of Macedonia successfully finalized training done by the Association of Journalists of Macedonia (AJM) and the Council of Media Ethics of Macedonia, and 19 journalists were trained through the media mentorship programme organized in partnership with the Youth Educational Forum - **on the importance to provide the public with accurate and truthful information on the challenges faced by the refugees and migrants**, their struggles, and fears as well as the positive development potential of migration in an effort to address the false perceptions on migration in the country at large. The set output target in JP of total 50 journalists trained was exceeded (a total of 51 trained) with the set baseline (20) and 2021 results (5).

**Fifteen (15) broadcasts (6 films and 6 interviews, and 3 articles from the Journalist awards for professional and sensitive reporting) were conducted in 2022**, together with the fourteen (14) broadcasts that were conducted in 2021 and ten (10) set as baseline making total of 39, exceeding the set output target of total of twenty-two broadcasts to be done during the project implementation. The films were selected by representatives of UNHCR, the MYLA and a film expert. The criteria included the film to show the human face of migration/refugee experience and to portray migrants and refugees accurately and in a sensitive manner, with the aim of building empathy in the viewers and fostering a positive narrative around refugees and migrants. In the same vein, the journalist award for sensitive reporting has been awarded since 2015 in order to both reward those journalists who go the extra mile and show the viewers and readers the human stories behind the displacement, their struggles and humanity, and to also motivate and inspire other journalists to follow their steps and give up the sensationalist and often fearmongering approach that some media outlets have taken towards migrants and refugees.

In 2021, total 161 officials (61% women) from the governmental bodies and relevant ministries, as well as from civil society organizations and UN entities, were trained on the Strategy for Social Change. On average, 89 per cent of the participants rated the overall experience of the training as excellent.

**Six (6) public events aimed to support the public to adopt positive narratives and perceptions about migrants are refugees were organized or supported by the Joint Project in 2022** or a total of twelve (12) with the 2021 results and the set baseline: the promotion of Skopje Jazz festival 2022 calendars; observation of the Refugees Day; Participation at the 2022 Skopje Marathon; Skopje Jazz Festival support in 2022; 2022 Journalists' award ceremony and the National Debate Tournament. The JP output target of total 5 events to be organized, including the baseline was exceeded and more than doubled.

In addition, in 2021 total of 555,173 persons were reached with the **informative campaign "Not hate – build an attitude".**

**Activity 3.2.1: Implementation of the Strategy for Social Change: Capacity building of national- level stakeholders on greater inclusion of migrants and refugees**

In 2022, activities in line with the Communications Strategy for Social Change continued with the implementation. In partnership with the MYLA, the **film cycle about people on the move** has been successfully completed. The film cycle consisted of 6 films selected[37] by a film consultant and 6 taped [interviews][38] related to each film. Each film was screened twice  and promoted on national TV and across social media to ensure greater visibility[39].

The audiences on both the office's Facebook and Instagram accounts has grown, and new engaging content aimed at awareness-raising and promoting Joint Project activities were regularly prepared. In 2022, the Instagram account has reached a total of 822 Instagram followers, while the Facebook page has reached a total of 7,518 persons who have liked the page.

**Activity 3.2.2 Implementation of the Strategy for social change: Sensitization of the local level stakeholders on proactive approaches for greater inclusion of migrants and refugees**

The implementation of the youth engagement activities foreseen in  the **Communications Strategy for Social Change** also continued in 2022, through the partnership with the Youth Educational Forum (YEF).

As part of the support of Skopje Jazz Festival, in January 2022, a set of visibility activities were conducted. The **event for the promotion of the famous Skopje Jazz Festival calendars for 2022 was organized**, as well as a wall planner that was distributed to partners and relevant stakeholders.[40.] A social media video was published from the evening dedicated to Jazz for Solidarity with Refugees with the speech of Festival Director and UNHCR North Macedonia Representative. All products **contained the MPTF visibility logo**.

In 2022, YEF created a **Handbook with lectures on the topic of refugees, asylum seekers and stateless people,** that served as an organizational curriculum for the delivery of training sessions in the Debate, Street Law, and Media-Activism YEF programmes**:**

- Macedonian Version
- Albanian Version
- English Version

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37 Films in the cycle: "The Other Side of Hope", "Jupiter's Moon", "Welcome to Norway", "Welcome to Germany", "Beyond the Raging Sea" and "For Sama."
38 Interviews:  film 1, film 2, film 3, film 4, film 5, film 6.
39 Facebook: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, Instagram: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, as well as Telma TV's official website, adhering to visibility guidelines.
40 SJF, media and journalists, UNHCR partners (MYLA, MLSP, Vizbegovo Centre for Asylum Seekers) and other national stakeholders.

Approximately **100 high-school students**, with an average age of youth club participant of 15 - 16 years, have **followed these sessions in the 22 youth clubs** in Macedonian and in Albanian languages.

On 20ᵗʰ of June 2022, for the World Refugee Day, **the three winners of the essay contest for youth were announced by YEF.** The activity was announced on Radio MOF, YEF and UNHCR channels. On the day, YEF activists painted a mural broadcasting a message of righteousness, respect, solidarity, and hope, showing a welcoming hand lent to people on the move. In addition, in the evening hours **of the World Refugee Day**, a **walking tour** of the Skopje Centre was organized for asylum seekers and refugees. The activity was implemented through UNHCR's legal partner Macedonian Young Lawyers Association (MYLA).

The **Skopje Marathon was held on 2ⁿᵈ of October 2022** with the participation of approximately 10 thousand participants. All 500 volunteers wore t-shirts (and received raincoats) branded Volunteer – making a better world, and the illustration Run 4 Refugees, with **the visibility of the MPTF logo**. The whole activity was heavily covered on social media. Atmosphere, follow-up post, media article, volunteer post, video of volunteer Tijana, video of volunteer Dragana[41].

The **Skopje Jazz Festival,** with its evening dedicated to solidarity with refugees, **was organized in October 2022**. Skopje Jazz Festival Director, in his opening speech at the festival evening dedicated to solidarity with refugees, focused solely on jazz being a medium that connects and deepens solidarity and our human and societal role and responsibility to help all people leaving their country of origin. The intervention aimed to advance positive narratives and perceptions of refugees and migrants. **Asylum seekers and refugees were guests at the Skopje Jazz Festival and also provided statements for social media videos that were filmed during the festival** (video 1, video 2, video 3).

In addition, the Skopje Jazz Festival published a press release which gave visibility to our cause and the MPTF. The press release was picked and distributed by nearly all national media (Brif, PlusInfo, PlusInfo 2, MakPress, MakPress 2, Republika, Netpress, SkopjeInfo, Kurir, Kurir 2, Kajgana, Opserver, Nezavisen, MKD.mk, MKD.mk 2, Nova TV, Fakulteti, Vecer Press, MIA, Libertas, Libertas 2, Nezavisen, Kulart, Kulart 2, Frontline, and some portals created specific articles on jazz for solidarity with refugees (Republika, Radio MOF). Also, social media were used to additionally spread the message behind this collaboration. Announcement, animation, dedicated evening, in which festival director held a speech about the utmost need for solidarity and protection of persons forced to flee.

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[41] All content was cross posted across the two social media channels and in the report only one occurrence of each post is reported for brevity.

*Photos 5 and 6:. Skopje Jazz Festival 2022 and the promotional poster with MPTF logo*

**From 16 to 18ᵗʰ of December 2022 one hundred sixty-eight (168)** high school students from all regions of North Macedonia took part in the **National Debate Tournament for Beginners** organized by YEF in Skopje. Fifty-six (56) teams took part in the competition, debating on the motion "This House Believes that people escaping from their country of origin to evade military drafting should be granted asylum solely on those grounds." The students had the opportunity to learn about refugees, migrants, and asylum seekers in their local debate clubs, while preparing for the national tournament. Tournament announcement and Facebook post from the finals.

**Activity 3.2.3 Implementation of the Strategy for social change: Capacity building of journalists on migration issues**

One of the goals of the Communications Strategy for Social Change is to create more alliances with the media and develop their capacities.

The capacity building for **seven (7) journalists** (English classes for journalists with a focus on refugee rights) organized in cooperation with the Association of Journalists of Macedonia (AJM) and the Council of Media Ethics of Macedonia was concluded in December 2022 with an 84 per cent increase of the knowledge of the participants recorded.

In October 2022, a media mentorship programme was organized in partnership with the Youth Educational Forum. **Six** (**6) experienced journalists and thirteen (13) young journalists were trained** by PUNOs communication staff on issues pertaining to the work of the three UN agencies as well as sensitive and professional reporting about vulnerable groups of persons in the society, including refugees, asylum seekers, stateless persons, and migrants[42]. The post-training questionnaire had 85 per cent correct answers. The whole activity was heavily covered on social media.

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[42] Please see footnote 7 for the articles developed by the trained journalists

On 25th of November 2022, the **2022 Journalist award for professional and sensitive reporting** about refugees, asylum seekers and stateless persons was organized in partnership with the MYLA and in collaboration with AJM, where the three winners were announced. First place was won by Sonja Delevska, who did a series of articles about Toni Sali, the young man who had passed away while being stateless. Second place went to Valentina Vurmo for the article "Life in a cage - The state did not count Sudahan among the living, but "revived" him when he was being sent to prison!" Third place was awarded to Darko Shtargoski for the multimedia product "For obtaining citizenship in Macedonia they wait even for 15 years - a lot of their rights aren't met".



*Photos 7 and 8. Journalists' Award Event in 2022 and promotional cups with MPTF logo*

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**Result Story 1 : Usage of non-traditional data for policy making**

The usage of Big Data analytics in North Macedonia has been an untapped and unexplored source of non-traditional data relevant for migration policy making. The innovativeness of the Big data analytics has not been used upfront for filling the gaps in the traditional statistics and in overcoming the measurement errors in the population based and administrative data sources. Nevertheless, the JP has addressed this challenge by making the first steps towards identification of the areas in which new innovative approaches have the most practical and concrete potential to be used for research and policy making. To that end, the JP supported the work of the Southampton University team on the application of the hierarchical Bayesian model for estimating migration flows with emphasis on how the model works with illustrative results for North Macedonia. With the whole government approach and the presence of the government stakeholders, academic institutions, expert community, civil society, the JP demonstrated how the model results can be used to produce plots of estimated migration flows from and to North Macedonia.

Furthermore, and following the same whole of the government approach, the JP supported the series of capacity building workshops to demonstrate and present the Big data analytical work and potential for its usage. As a result the NBRNM, State Statistical Office, Government Department for European Affairs, Ministry of Finance, Customs, Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Labor and Social Policy, Ministry of Informatic Society and Public Administration, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Clinic for Chiled Diseases, as well as the civil society and international organizations, have shown specific interest in the data provided

through the Big data analytics available both online or offline including the Application Programming Interfaces (APIs), scanned documents and other types of summarized data with potential for its contribution towards their traditional migration statistics and estimates.

Finally, one of the underying values of the JP, is that it served as constant drive for elevating the culture of cooperation and joint approaches among all stakeholders and a source for innovations that have supported the Government efforts in finding new solutions for the identified migration management challenges.

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*Result Story 2 : Future oriented migration management*

The development of effective migration policies requires improvement in strategic planning and inter-ministerial coordination, as highlighted during the process of developing the Resolution for the Migration Policy. To address this need, Joint Project with the support of Demos Helskinki think tank, and in coordination with the Inter-ministerial body and other UN Agencies, assessed the current needs and capacities in migration management in the country and studied best global practices to recommend their integration into Macedonian institutions.

To promote interest, knowledge, and capacity-building for these methods, the JP team organized a series of in-person and online trainings/workshops/events, which were attended by 328 national counterparts. These events provided opportunities to learn about improved participatory, forward-looking, and innovative migration management and triggered interest among the national stakeholders for usage of the methods in their work, such as among the Ministry of Health (potential for development future oriented strategy for addressing brain drain in the health sector) and the Academia (development of a curriculum for anticipatory governance in the American University in Skopje).

Adopting an Anticipatory Migration Governance approach will enable proactive scanning of different migration futures that could occur in North Macedonia, enhancing the country's capacity to develop policies to respond to and benefit from key migration dynamics and drivers.

This process will conclude in 2023 with the development of a model for Anticipatory Migration Governance for North Macedonia and a foresight study on the future of migration in the country. These two documents, developed in coordination with national stakeholders, will expand the time horizon for the development of migration policies and pave the way for institutionalizing anticipatory migration governance in North Macedonia.

Migration Multi-Partner Trust Fund

| Results Reporting Framework | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| INDICATORS | Baseline | *Results achieved for the reporting period* (Only provide data for the specified year) | | | Cumulative Results Note: For Y1 report, this will be the same; For Y2 report, it will be Y1+Y2; and for Y3 report, it will be Y1+Y2+Y3 | Notes |
| | | Y1 2020 | Y2 2021 | Y3 2022 | | |
| Outcome 1: Policy makers and institutional stakeholders design and implement evidence-based and coordinated migration policies | | | | | | |
| **Indicator 1a - Extent to which stakeholders use the produced data, migration tools and methodologies in the policy development and implementation** | 2 - Limited extent (on a scale from 1 to 5) | 2 - Limited extent | 3- Good extent | 4- Great extent | 4- Great extent | JP targets:  4 - Great extent. Achievement: 4 - Great extent. The produced data for the first ever country MGI report and the new Migration Profile 2021 were used in the development of the new Resolution on migration policy and its Action Plan for 2021-2025 |
| **Indicator 1b - Level of alignment of the policies with the international and EU data management** | Partially aligned with the international and EU standards | Partially aligned with the international and EU standards | Fully aligned with EU and international standards | Fully aligned with EU and international standards | Fully aligned with EU and international standards | JP target: fully aligned with EU and international standards. Achievement:   The developed migration policy, migration profile, MGI Report, the migration module in LFS and its Guidelines are fully in line with the |

| standards | | | | | | international and EU data management standards. In addition, the migration policy and its action plan are aligned with the GCM. The final three (3) data management tools/mechanisms developed and applied by the State Statistical Office and are fully aligned with the EUROSTAT standards. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Output 1.1 New comprehensive Migration Policy is developed and adopted** | | | | | | |
| Indicator 1.1.a – Comprehensive and systematic migration policy available | Migration Policy 2016-2020 | Migration Policy 2016-2020 | Developed Migration Policy 2021-2025 | Developed Migration Policy 2021-2025 | Developed Migration Policy 2021-2025 | JP Target: Developed Migration Policy.<br><br>Achievement:  Developed Migration Policy 2021-2025 endorsed by the Government on 02nd of November 2021 and adopted by the Parliament on 22nd of December 2021. |
| **Output 1.2 By 2022, data collection mechanisms are strengthened as a key precondition for evidenced based policy making** | | | | | | |
| Indicator 1.2a - Number of data management tools and/or mechanisms applied by the institutions | 0 | 0 | 4 | 3 | 7 | JP Target: 5 data management tools and/or mechanisms applied by the institutions.<br><br>Achievement: 7 data management tools and/or mechanisms applied by the institutions:<br><br>- Migration Profile<br>- Migration module in LFS<br>- Guidelines for implementation of the Migration Module questionnaire<br>- Migration Governance Index Report<br>- 3 data collection tools developed by EU MS experts for the SSO usage during September - December 2022. |

| Indicator 1.2b - Complementary data source of migration stocks and flows available | None | None | None | 2 | 2 | JP target: at least 2 complementary data sources available

Achievement: 2 complementary data sources available:

1) One complementary data source for the migration flows was made available: a statistical model of migration flows from and to North Macedonia, by applying the Bayesian hierarchical approach, has been developed and presented before the relevant national stakeholders by the experts from the Southampton University.
2) Second complementary data source on the Comparative Analysis of the Remittances in North Macedonia and Possibility of Measurement Improvements through Surveys made available.

The works under Stage 2 postponed until availability of the social media (FB) data about MKD at the beginning of 2023.

The Report on Big Data analytics has been finalized, submitted, and accepted by UNFPA, and it is considered final.
The Analysis of the data collected and received during specialized survey on a sample of 2 000 remittances receiving HH from all eight regions in the country, |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|

| | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | | | conducted in July and August 2022 awaits the review and approval by the NBRNM.  The Draft Analysis, upon its final approval by the NBRNM, will undergo editing and document design prior to becoming available for sharing and use as a reference document.<br><br>South – South Cooperation, and the potential study visit of the NBRNM team to the Central Bank of Albania remain to be discussed in coordination with UNFPA Regional Office in 2023. |
| **Output 1.3 The national stakeholders have the capacity to develop and support the implementation of migration policies that meet EU and International standards** | | | | | | |
| Indicator 1.3a - Number of individuals trained on data management (gender disaggregated)/ Number of trainees whose knowledge/skills improved | 0 | 0 | 29 (81%) | 328 (79%) | 357 (80%) | JP target: 325 trained/at least 70% with correct responds in the post-training questionnaires.<br><br>Achievement: Overall total 357 trained/80% average correct responds in the post-training questionnaires:<br><br>One 2-day training for average 12 participants (52% women) was successfully conducted on 27-28th of October 2021. At the end of the training 81% of the training participants were able to provide correct answers in the post-training questionnaire.<br><br>Second foreseen training on migration data exchange mechanisms was organized on 23-24th of February 2022 for average 17 intra-governmental body and TWG members (61% women). At the end of the |

| | | | | | | training course 80% of the training participants were able to provide correct answers in the post-training questionnaire. |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 1st | | | | | | 126 individuals trained (69% women) on 1st Masterclass – Introduction to Futures and Foresight with 94% reporting increase in knowledge on foresight methods. |
| 2nd | | | | | | 79 individuals trained (67% women) on 2nd Masterclass – Anticipatory Migration Governance and Policymaking with 74% reporting an increase in knowledge on foresight methods. |
| | | | | | | 57 individuals trained (67% women) at the Online Global Roadshow with 75% reporting an increase in knowledge on foresight methods. |
| | | | | | | 45 individuals trained (60% women) at the Advanced and ToT trainings on anticipatory governance with 74% reporting an increase in knowledge on foresight methods. |
| | | | | | | 21 participants trained during the Workshop on Anticipatory Experiments (77% women) with 85% increase of knowledge. |

| Indicator 1.3b – Number of training sessions/meetings/ conferences | None | None | 14 | 14 | 28 | JP Target: at least 10 training sessions/meetings/conferences organized.<br><br>Achievement: 28 working sessions/meetings/interviews/trainings organized:<br><br>A total of 6 two-day working sessions for the intragovernmental body were organized in October-December 2021.<br><br>8 interviews /meetings with national stakeholders about the anticipatory migration governance conducted in 2021 and 6 interviews /meetings in 2022 including below workshops/meetings/trainings:<br><br>1)Foresight workshop for 13 members of the Intergovernmental Body on 3rd of February 2022.<br><br>2)First International Advisory Board meeting on the Anticipatory Migration Governance in North Macedonia on 23rd of February.<br><br>3) and 4) 1st Masterclass – Introduction to Futures and Foresight on 21st of April 2022 and 2nd Masterclass – Anticipatory Migration Governance and Policymaking – on 11th of May 2022 |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |

| | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 21st of | | | | | | 5)The Online Global Roadshow organized on 21st of June 2022.<br><br>6) and 7) Advance and ToT trainings organized on 13-15 and 16-17th of September 2022.<br><br>8)Workshop on experimentation organized on 1 December 2022. |
| **Outcome 2: Inter and intra institutional data exchange mechanisms and collaboration among key institutions with competences on Migration management are enhanced** | | | | | | |
| **Indicator 2a - The frequency of inter and intra institutional data exchange, measured through** | Indicator 2a - The frequency of inter and intra institutional data exchange, (measured through a frequency of communication and:<br>A) Number of mechanisms established<br>B) Number of protocols | Low frequency of data exchange | Low frequency of data exchange | Middle to High frequency of data exchange | Middle to High frequency of data exchange | JP target: Middle to high frequency of data exchange<br><br>Achievement:  Middle to High frequency of data exchange (a) 4 mechanisms established b) 2 protocols developed. |

| | developed) | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Output 2.1. The national institutions have the capacities to exchange migration related data in line with EU and international standards** | | | | | | |
| Indicator 2.1a – Number of needs assessments on inter and intra institutional data collection and exchange mechanisms | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | JP Target: 1 need assessment<br><br>Achievement: 1 need assessment completed on 27th of May 2021 |
| Indicator 2.1b – Number of individuals trained, disaggregated by sex and institutions / number of trainees whose knowledge/skills improved | 0 | 0 | 0 | 169 (94%) | 169 (94%) | JP Target: 150 trained/at least 70% with correct responds in the post-training questionnaires<br><br>Achievement: Total 169 participants (64% women) with 94% correct responds in the post-training questionnaire trained on Remittances and Big Data by of 2022. |
| Indicator 2.1c – Number of developed/updated SOPs/procedures | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 2 | JP Target: at least 2 developed/updated SoPs/procedures.<br><br>Achievement: 2 developed SoPs/procedures:<br><br>1) Proposal for amendments to the Rulebook for Vizbegovo and<br>2) Handbook for Integration. |

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|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Indicator 2.1d – Number of developed or upgraded data management/exchange systems | 0 | 0 | 1 | 3 | 4 | JP Target: at least 2 systems developed/upgraded. Achievement: 4 systems developed/upgraded:<br>- 1 for MoI Border Police completed in 2021.<br>- 1 for the National Bank completed in May 2022.<br>- 1 for MoI OKRA completed in October 2022.<br>- 1 for MIOA completed in December 2022. |
| **Outcome 3: The general public and the policy makers view migrants and refugees as development actors** | | | | | | |
| **Indicator 3a - % of increase in policy and opinion makers' perception towards migrants and refugees as development actors** | **Indicator 3a - % of increase in policy and opinion makers' perception towards migrants and refugees as development actors** | **Baseline will be determined with the baseline study** | **Baseline will be determined with the baseline study** | **Baseline study available** | **/** | **JP Target: 30% with increase in positive perceptions**<br><br>**Achievement: Study of perceptions to be conducted in 2023.** |
| **Output 3.1 The general public adopts positive narratives and perceptions of migrants and refugees** | | | | | | |
| Indicator 3.1a – Number of persons reached with the country wide and local level campaigns | 0 | 0 | 449,492 persons reached/ 740,000 views | 0 | 449,492 persons reached/ 740,000 views | JP Target: at least 10,000 persons to be reached with the social and other media.<br><br>Achievement: 449,492 persons reached with the information campaign videos / 45 times more than targeted in the JP. |

| Indicator 3.1b – Availability of an informative campaign, developed and disseminated in traditional and social media | No | No | Yes | No | Yes | Target: Yes (availability of the informative campaign)<br><br>Achievement:  Informative campaign was available in 2021 on 3 national TV stations, 3 local TV stations, 3 radio stations, 10 web portals and paid ads on FB and Instagram. In addition, the videos are available on IOM Skopje YouTube channel and shared on PUNOs and UN RCO social media. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Output 3.2: The policy and opinion makers have the capacities to develop and support the implementation of policies based on positive and proactive view on migrants and refugees** | | | | | | |
| Indicator 3.2a - Number of journalists trained, by sex and age/ Number of trainees whose knowledge/skills improved | 20 | 0 | 5 (90%) | 26 (84%) | 31 (86%) | Target: at least 50 journalists trained/ at least 70% with correct responds in the post-training questionnaire.<br><br>Achievement: 31 journalists trained by the JP in 2021 and 2022[43]/ 86% with correct responds in the post training questionnaire:<br><br>5 journalists trained (90% with correct responses in the post-training questionnaire) in 2021.<br><br>AJM training for 7 journalists (84% increase in knowledge) in 2022.<br>19 journalists trained in 2022 through media mentorship prog, with 84% correct answers in the post-training questionnaire. |

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[43] Note: The target of 50 journalists trained by the end of JP includes the baseline of 20 journalists were trained by UNHCR in 2020 outside JP.

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| Indicator 3.2b - Number of articles/broadcasts from journalists with positive narratives and perceptions; | 10 articles/broadcasts | 0 | 14 | 15 | 29 | Target: 22 articles/broadcasts<br><br>Achievement: 29 articles/broadcasts with positive narratives and perceptions:<br><br>14 in 2021:<br>1 journalist testimonial, 2 interviews on Jazz Fest (Telma Utrinska and Utrinski briefing), 1 article (Sloboden pechat), 1 joint press release by SJF and UNHCR on jazz for solidarity with refugees picked up by 12 media outlets, 6 films and 6 interviews on national TV station.<br><br>2 on PINA event Discussions: Media coverage of refugees and stateless persons and on the Shadow Game: Protect Children on the Move<br><br>7 on Radio MOF - YEF campaign (2 stories and 5 op-eds).<br><br>15 in 2022:<br>6 movies and 6 follow up interviews.<br><br>3 articles from the Journalist awards for professional and sensitive reporting |
| Indicator 3.2c - Number of | None | None | 161 (89%) | 0 | 161 (89%) | 161 officials (61% women) from the governmental bodies and relevant ministries, as well as from civil |

| individuals trained on the Communication Strategy for Social Change/ Number of trainees whose knowledge/skills improved | | | | | | society organizations and UN entities. 89% was the average rating by the participants of the overall experience of the training. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Indicator 3.2d – Number of public events organized or supported in order for the public to adopt positive narratives and perceptions of migrants and refugees | 2 baseline events | 2 baseline events | 4 | 6 | 10 | Target: 5 public events held.<br><br>Achievement: Total 10 events organized with MPTF support:<br>4 public events organized in 2021:<br>- Skopje Jazz Festival<br>- Journalists Awards<br>- PINA Media Festival<br>- YEF Research publication<br>6 public events organized in 2022:<br>- promotion of Skopje Jazz festival 2022 calendars<br>- Observation of the Refugees Day<br>- Participation in the Skopje Marathon<br>- support of the 2022 Skopje jazz festival<br>- 2022 Journalists' award ceremony<br>- National Debate Tournament. |

| | | | | | | In addition, 555,173 persons were reached with the informative campaign "Not hate – build an attitude" in 2021. |
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## 3.     PARTNERSHIPS

During the reporting period, IOM, UNFPA, UNHCR and RCO have conducted regular bilateral and multilateral internal coordination and discussions regarding the implementation of the foresight and futures capacity building activities; procurement of IT equipment/systems/database/etc.; organization of CB trainings, JP no-cost extension with the preparation of relevant documents and collection of signatures from the Government, PUNOs and RCOs in the revised JP and other. Relevant coordination has also been conducted with the national stakeholders such as Cabinet of the Prime Minister, SSO, National Bank, MLSP, and MOI.

To facilitate the implementation of the project activities and communicate with stakeholders, PUNOs maintained strong partnerships and worked closely with the SC and the TWG members coming from Secretariat for European Affairs, Ministry of Interior, State Statistical Office, Ministry of Labour, Ministry of Information Society and Public Administration, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the National Bank of the Republic of North Macedonia,  and the civil society organizations: Macedonian Young Lawyers Association (MYLA), Macedonian Platform for Poverty Reduction (MPPR), and European Policy Institute (EPI). Within the reporting period, the SC, with support from the RCO, IOM, UNFPA and UNHCR, convened two meetings (on 31st of March and 17th of October 2022) to facilitate the implementation of the planned JP interventions. The fourth, fifth and sixth TWG meetings of the JP were held on 31st of January, 04th of May and 26th of September 2022[44]. These meetings further built partnerships with the various entities and organizations involved in migration management.

The 3rd SC meeting was organized on 31st of March 2022 with 21 members (61% women) from national institutions, civil society organizations, and international organizations. The meeting, chaired by the MIOA, was used to present JP 2021 achieved milestones and the activities planned for 2022. The SC members have acknowledged the successful year-long interactive and participatory process supported by the JP and the value of the results achieved.

The 4th meeting of the SC of the JP was organized on 17th of October 2022 with 17 SC members (65% women) where the JP team presented the achievements done during the first and the second quarter of the project implementation and the plans for the 3rd quarter and further. There were no comments from the SC members about the status of the undertaken and the planned activities; SC members have also agreed PUNOs request for no-costs extension to be shared with MPTF for its approval; and based on the agreed SC organization and chairmanship the next SC meeting in March 2023 to be led by the Secretariat for European Affairs.

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[44] Please see Annex 1 for the SC and TWG Meetings Minutes for 2022

The 4th TWG meeting was organized on 31st of January 2022 with 16 TWG members (75% women), where PUNOs have presented the 2021 joint project achievements as well as the activities planned for 2022.

On 4th of May 2022, the JP team has organized the 5th TWG meeting TWG for 12 participants out of which 75% women. The meeting was used for presentation of the key achievements reached during the 1st quarter of 2022 and the planned activities for the 2nd quarter and further.

The 6th TWG meeting was organized on 26th of September with 11 TWG members (90% women) where the JP team presented the achievements done during the second quarter of the project implementation and the plans for the 3rd quarter and further. There were no comments from the TWG members about the status of the undertaken and the planned activities, and have agreed to postpone the next TWG meeting from the end of December 2022 to end of January 2023 due to upcoming holidays.

The project ensured a participatory approach and coherent and coordinated implementation of project activities. The national stakeholders from the relevant institutions and organizations, civil society, represented in the SC and TWG members were consulted regularly and have actively participated in the implementation of the activities even beyond the SC and TWG sessions. The civil society organizations (Macedonian Young Lawyers Association – MYLA and Youth Educational Forum (YEF)) have also actively contributed to implementation of the activities foreseen under Outcome 3 as well as in presentation of the project achievements together with the Cabinet of the Prime Minister before the Migration MPTF global evaluators (MYLA). The academia and the private sector also actively contributed to the implementation of the project activities under Outcome 1 as presented in the table below:

| Implementation Agreements | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Name & Type of Partner | Type of implementation agreement (please specify if any MOU or agreement was formally entered) | Relevant outcome and/or output; PUNO counterpart | Financial value (if any) |
| Local government and/or related entities | | | |
| Name of partner<br>Type of partner | | | |
| Name of partner<br>Type of partner | | | |
| | | | |
| Non-governmental stakeholders | | | |
| Name of partner: **Youth Educational Forum (YEF)** | Project Partnership Agreement | Outcome 3/UNHCR counterpart | US$ 103,850 |

| Type of partner: **Civil Society Organization** | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| *Name of partner:* **Macedonian Young Lawyers Association (MYLA)** *Type of partner:* **Civil society organization** | Project Partnership Agreement | Outcome 3/ UNHCR counterpart | US$ 48,170 |
| *Name of partner:* **Southampton University** Type of partner: **Academia** | Under the auspices of a Global partnership agreement between UNFPA and Southampton University, UK | Outcome 1/ UNFPA counterpart | US$ 30,000 |
| Name of partner: **Demos Helsinki o.y.** Type of partner: **Private sector** | Framework Agreement with UNHCR and letter of cooperation between PUNOs | Outcome 1/ UNHCR, IOM and UNFPA counterpart | US$ 117,932[45] |

The project included diverse gender, sexual identity, religious and ethnical representation in both the project team and involved stakeholders. This participatory approach has been indispensable in assuring stakeholders' ownership and directing all efforts and resources to advance the proper implementation of planned activities.

In addition, during the whole reporting period, IOM, UNFPA, UNHCR and RCO have conducted regular coordination with the Migration MPTF Secretariat and have organized number of regular internal coordination meetings to discuss and exchange relevant information needed for the successful project implementation, overcoming the faced challenges, finalization of the monthly progress reports, request for a no-cost extension of the project and planning of the next steps.

For the purpose of expanding the circle of partners who might be interested in following up on the potential use of Big Data and the mirror statistics modelling work, including both potential users and researchers and their respective research organizations, the JP team has engaged in respective activities including sharing of the model results with the wider academia and technical professionals proficient in statistical research such as the University "St. Cyril and Methodious" – Faculty of Economics, FINKI, Faculty of Philosophy- Institute of Sociology, University Jaume 1 of Castellan (Spain), and think-tank organizations "ZMAJ" and "Global Initiative".

After the successfully presented SHU mirror statistics model, based on the application of the Bayesian hierarchical approach, to the North Macedonian technical and non-technical user audience, in the online

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[45] Additional US$ 57,444 were added to MPTF funds as UNHCR contributions to support the implementation of Anticipatory governance initiatives with Demos Helsinki

workshop conducted by the SHU team on 28th of September 2022, the process of further dissemination of the results of this work was conducted.

The series of CB workshops organized in October 2022 on Remittances that continued throughout November and December 2022, along together with CB workshops on Big Data have provided expanded options for entering into new partnerships with larger circles of actors, particularly with civil society organizations, grass root organizations, local government institutions, chambers of commerce, academia, and research institutions[46].

In addition, the observance of the World Refugee Day in 2022, included a walking tour in the Skopje centre with active involvement of the refugees sharing the messages of human rights protection and development opportunities and their contribution in the society. The activity was implemented through UNHCR civil society partner MYLA.

## 4.     CROSS-CUTTING ISSUES

The JP acknowledged that the vulnerability combined with poverty aggravate the gender stereotypes and the social exclusion of women. In this line, the IOM, UNFPA, and UNHCR in close coordination with the RCO has ensured that gender-sensitive disaggregated data is produced and used for gender-sensitive policy making. The appropriate messages on gender equality and gender progressive images were assured and depicted in the materials designed within the joint programme, thus influencing gender mainstreaming in the project results that will remain after the end of the project.

The statistical model of migration flows from and to North Macedonia builds on previous and current research carried out at the University of Southampton (SHU) based on which the SHU team designed and implemented statistical framework for estimating migration, using several macro-level (aggregate) sources of information, either official statistics on migration reported by both origin and destination countries (mirror statistics), or by a combination of different official and other sources for a single country. The SHU team applied this framework to North Macedonia and produced a set of migration estimates along with their measures of uncertainty. The final set of migration estimates have been broken down by origin or destination (for immigration to North Macedonia or emigration from North Macedonia

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[46] Institutions: Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Labour and Social Policy, Ministry of Health, Cabinet of the Minister without portfolio in charge of Diaspora Affairs, Cabinet of the Secretary-General of the Government, Secretariat for European Affairs, National Bank of the Republic of Macedonia, State Statistical Office, Office of the Ombudsman, Bureau for Regional Development, Center for Development of Skopje Planning Region, Agency for Quality and Accreditation of Healthcare Institutions, Public Enterprise for State Roads of the Republic of Macedonia and University Clinic for Pediatric Diseases. CSOs: KHAM Delcevo, Open Gate La strada, Macedonian Young Lawyers Association, SIEC - Social Integration & Empowerment Centre, LET Station and Center for Change Management and Association of woman Bitola. Academia: Southeast European University, Faculty of Information and Communication Technologies, "Goce Delchev" University, Faculty of Computer Science & Engineering, Faculty of Law, Faculty of economy and Faculty of Philosophy. Private sector: Smart Up - Social Innovation Lab, Fragment and Mak System. IOs: IMF, Embassy of Spain in Skopje, MARRI, World Bank Country Office, and International centre for Migration Policy Development.

respectively), by sex and by year. In effect, the SHU team has produced estimates by origin, destination and year, and then has further disaggregated these estimates by sex following a specific methodology described in Wi´sniowski et al. (2016).

The second complementary data source, the Comparative Analysis of Remittances in North Macedonia and the Possibility of Measurement Improvements through Surveys, was aimed at raising awareness of importance of remittances globally, regionally and in North Macedonia, including the importance of accurate measurement of remittances and designing proper methodology for surveying households receiving personal remittances in North Macedonia and their analysis. Despite the fact that this new complementary data source contributed immensely to raising the public knowledge about remittances, as a major interaction between migration and development, this is just a first step into further exploring and providing more insights into the importance of remittances. As such, it has been gender neutral, but with strong potential to focus on the importance of their related gender considerations, in any of the next stages of the research.

Participation is one of the three pillars of the anticipatory governance approach, together with agility and experimentation. This approach was taught to national stakeholders through the interventions aimed at building capacities and systems for anticipatory migration governance in the country. The participatory governance approach ensures inclusion by providing opportunities for women and other marginalized groups to have their voices heard, their needs and perspectives considered, and their participation in decision-making processes ensured. It also provides a platform for women's participation, promotes transparency and accountability, which can help to ensure that policies and programs are implemented in an equitable and inclusive manner and increases access to information and resources for women and marginalized groups. The joint project strongly took into consideration the gender balance of the participants in the capacity building activities and ensured the mainstreaming of gender-based thematic areas in the training curriculums, thus enhancing the capacities of the stakeholders to tailor and implement gender sensitive activities.

Women represented 61 per cent from the participants of the CB training on "Improving inter and intra-institutional data collection and exchange mechanisms and practices" organized on 23-24th of February 2022 for 17 intra-governmental body and TWG members.

Women represented 60 per cent of the members of the International Advisory Board on the Anticipatory Migration Governance in North Macedonia, 61 per cent of the members that attended the 3rd Steering Committee Meeting on 31st of March 2022 and 65 per cent of the members that attended the 4th Steering Committee Meeting on 17th of October; and 75 per cent of the members who attended the 4th and the 5th TWG meeting on 31st of January and 4th of May 2022; and 90 per cent of the 6th TWG meeting members on 26th of September 2022.

Women represented 68 per cent of the total number of participants during the series of anticipatory trainings organized in 2022. In particular, women represented 69 per cent of the training participants during the anticipatory governance 1st Masterclass, which was organized on 20th of April 2022; and 67 per cent of the participants during the 2nd Masterclass, which was organized on 11th of May 2022 and the Online Global Roadshow on 21st of June 2022. In addition, women represented 60 per cent of participants during the *Advanced Certificate in Anticipatory Migration Policy* (13-15th of September 2022) and the *Training of Trainers "Mastery"* (16-17th of September 2022); and 81 per cent of the participants during the *Experimentation Workshop* organized on 1st of December 2022.

Women represented 64 per cent of the training participants during the six (6) CB trainings on Remittances and Big Data organized in October- December 2022. The importance of collection, analysis and sharing of the gender-disaggregated migration management data was noted by both the experts and the participants from the relevant national institutions and civil society organizations during the capacity-building trainings.

IOM continued to provide technical support to the State Statistical Office for piloting the Migration Module in 2023 as part of the Labour Force Survey (LFS), which now includes response options applicable to persons with disabilities.

The "Methodological and organizational guidelines with a proposed solution for annual migration data production" adopted by the SSO points out that main stress in the document shall be on the international annual flows elaborated separately for nationals and foreigners, but also other migration events shall be included to cover the complexity of population movements (internal migration important for re-distribution of population and international/humanitarian protection data important in the international perspective).

The JP, has also supported the protection of human rights by: a) raising awareness of the general public and policy makers through active participation of the refugees in the observance of the International Refugees Day in the centre of the City of Skopje where refugees shared their stories and experiences of being particularly vulnerable to discrimination, exclusion, stigmatization, exploitation in the migration process and the importance of human rights protection, life in dignity and security and, ability to contribute to society both economically and socially; b) raising awareness of the rights of the migrants and migration affected communities on social media through the observance of the International Migrants Day with presentation of the global and national migration status and need for migrants' protection and presentation of informative campaign developed with JP support on migrants and refugees contributions in the society.

**5.        CONSTRAINTS, ADJUSTMENTS, LESSONS AND GOOD PRACTICES**

As noted in the project document, the JP has introduced several innovative tools and methodologies, which will provide new evidence for policy making.

Taking into consideration that one of the main areas of the JP is on "innovations", IOM and UNFPA have agreed to focus the six (6) two-day capacity building trainings for 169 participants on presentation of the findings and recommendations from the assessments/surveys/analysis in the area of alternative data "big data" and "remittances".

Being a growing source of external financing of the national economy, with a clear link to migration, the innovative content of the work on the remittances, presented in this series of CB workshops, reveals the potential of the remittances as a valuable source for compiling migration statistics, apart from their impact on macroeconomic, monetary and in general development policies of the country. The analytical work conducted by the national experts engaged by JP outlined the current system of data collection and options for developing data collection tools for remittances registered through the international transactions reporting system (ITRS) and contributed to the research and selection of approaches towards improving understanding and analysis of the remittance inflows into the country through informal channels.

The Big data analytical work, supported by JP, has prompted professional, expert and more generalized audience, to get insights into the potential of these novel and innovative data sources to infer the migration data with the assumption that the frequency and the volume of these data is too large for a single computer to process. The Big data analytical work conducted by national experts has indicated that there are no integrated data sources but rather that the analysis of migration data is a complex problem which requires multistep research methodology and acknowledging the limitations that need to be addressed, such as quality of data, ownership of data and privacy of personal information. The Big data analytics also provided information about the data sources relevant for migration policies in North Macedonia and what could be their impact on enhance migration policy decision making.

Also, the global futures and foresight methodologies were used to support the government in developing strategic governance capabilities to collectively anticipate future opportunities and challenges and shape future-fit policies. In particular, the anticipatory governance interventions:
   a) Introduced new approach that will enable the exploration of the different migration futures that are possible in North Macedonia and will improve capacity to develop policies to respond to and capitalize on key migration dynamics and drivers.
   b) Provided opportunities for the stakeholders to learn methods for future oriented migration policy making and develop long-term scenarios for the future of migration in North Macedonia.

c) Allowed international exchange of experiences in anticipatory governance and policymaking. The participants from the Parliament, Government, IOs, NGOs, academia and others[47] had the opportunity to hear different actors from different countries and their lessons learned, challenges and the successes in the use of foresight in policymaking.

d) Supported the development of skills for anticipatory thinking in the context of migration, including through research of current issues in migration management.

The Communications Strategy for Social Change, developed in cooperation with professors and experts from the University of Kentucky, continued to utilize the novel approach known as Public Interest Communications to make a lasting change in behaviors and attitudes about refugees and migrants in the country by drawing on insights about how the mind works, systems thinking and human-centered design.

During December 2021, IOM, UNHCR and UNFPA have worked towards the identification of the legal forms for the division of the expenditures for the organization of the foresight CB activities and their coverage. In that regard in March 2022, UNHCR and IOM prepared, signed an exchange of Letters where each PUNOs roles, responsibilities and budgets were determined.

The questionnaire for piloting the Migration Module (MM) in the Labour Force Survey (LFS) was developed in 2021 in close cooperation with the State Statistical Office (SSO) as per the EUROSTAT standards. Initially, the piloting of the MM in the LFS was planned for the 3$^{rd}$ quarter of 2022. However, due to technical reasons, SSO has requested the piloting to be postponed for 2023. According to the LFS methodology, the piloting of the MM in LFS can be conducted during the 1$^{st}$ quarter of 2023 but additional time is needed to complete the whole process, including the cross-checking and confirmation of the gathered data (by June 2023), production of tables, analysis, and preparation of the report (Sep-mid of Oct 2023). SSO is committed to the implementation of the activity, has developed a detailed budget for the survey and is in the process of reviewing the draft of the Implementation Agreement with IOM. Based on the SSO request for additional time for piloting of the MM, IOM in agreement with the PUNOs and RCO, has prepared a No-cost Request for six months and four days extension that was shared PUNOs and RCO for inputs in July 2022.

UNFPA has foreseen the need for Activity 1.2.5. Piloting the usage of Big data for government led migration population analysis to be extended during the requested no-cost extension period. As noted, the partnership arrangement established between the UNFPA and Southampton University (SHU) has been envisioned in a Concept Note which has been conducted in a staged manner with the Stage 1

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47 Representatives from the Cabinet of the Prime Minister, Cabinet of the President, Parliament, Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Labour and Social Policy, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Justice, Institute for Social Activities, Reception Centre for Asylum Seekers Visbegovo, Ministry of Foregin Affairs, State Statistical Office, Ombudsman's Office, Ministry of Defense, Minitry of Education, Ministry of Economy, Ministry of transport and connections, City Red Cross, Macedonian Young Lawyers Association, Youth Educational Forum, Smartup, La Strada, Legis,Faculy of Law Justinianus Primus Refugee Law Clinic, South-Eastern European University, Goce Delchev Univeristy and others.

devoted to producing migration estimates for North Macedonia by using Mirror Statistics. The implementation of the Stage 1 which implied estimation of the North Macedonia's migration flows by using the integrated Modelling of European migration approach, including the use of the Bayesian hierarchical model for producing estimates and their measure of error, has been completed. The work under Stage 2 is envisioned to expand the remit to include the non-traditional data – the Big data as large volumes data including digital traces, satellite imagery, mobile network operator data, social media, Google search data, etc. In the July 2022, SHU team prepared a proposal for exploratory use of non-traditional data with a sufficiently mature basis for their validation hence addressing the gaps in the North Macedonia's migration statistics regarding their granularity, frequency, and reliability. The estimated budget for the financing of the activities under Stage 2 has already been secured accordingly by UNFPA within the existing budget.

On **21st of October JP Coordinator has shared through e-mail communication the request for no-cost extension signed by UN Resident Coordinator and PUNOs Heads together with the Minutes from the 4th SC meeting and revised JP Cover page and Work Plan** and is **now pending MPTF respond**.

Within Activity 2.1.2.3, where the procurement of 2 Firewalls for the Government portal uslugi.gov.mk was included as per the technical specification provided by MIOA in March 2022 one offer was received. On 1st of April 2022 the review of the technical specification was done by MIOA officials and IOM, and the offer was found technically responsive. The amount that was requested by the offeror exceeded the IOM budget planned for this action. Taking into consideration that IOM has already provided support to the National Bank in April 2022 and will have to provide support to the Ministry of Interior OKRA Unit from the same budget line 2.1.2.3, has approached UNFPA JP members for participation in this intervention with their MPTF budget of 20.000 USD under the same budget line. On 8th of April 2022, UNFPA informed IOM that 20.000 USD from budget line 2.1.2.3 can contribute to the IOM MPTF budget for procurement of the 2 Firewalls for the Government portal uslugi.gov.mk as per IOMSKP 018/22.

The service provider ICS Consulting Engineering Dooel was selected for the procurement of 2 Firewalls in April 2022. On 6th of May 2022, an introductory meeting was organized by IOM with the MIOA and ICS Consulting Engineering Dooel. As informed by the service provider, due to the Ukrainian crisis the hardware part of the firewalls is estimated to arrive in the country in October 2022 (with 1 more month needed for installation) while the software part is available in the country. In July 2022, IOM was informed by the Service Provider that the arrival of the hardware is expected earlier than expected, in August 2022 which was confirmed. On 19th of July, ICS Consulting Engineering Dooel informed both MIOA and IOM that the firewalls have been received by them and they are pending MIOA[48] response about the start of the installation process. By the end of September 2022, MIOA response about the start date was still pending due to their internal coordination. IOM has established coordination with the Cabinet of the Minister, and new contact person from the Cabinet was provided before the end of September in order to speed up the

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[48] Due to MIOA staff Annual Leaves (AL)

things. On 10<sup>th</sup> of October the service provider started the installation of the firewalls in MIOA and has requested MIOA to nominate focal point for coordination with the CISCO representative in the country in order to finalize the installation and filling of the support documents by MIOA. Relevant nominations were provided. Additionally, on 25<sup>th</sup> of October, the service provider requested one more nomination of a contact person from MIOA regarding WAF, names of the protecting webs (hostnames) and date for organization of coordination meeting. On 9<sup>th</sup> of November 2022 online presentation of the WAF Implementation was organized by the local service provider and CISCO official representative office for MIOA officials. On 22<sup>nd</sup> of November 2022, MIOA has confirmed the firewalls are physically positioned in MIOA, the WAF cloud presentation was completed, and access was assured.  The signature of IOM Donation Agreement Form with MIOA Minister was conducted on 9<sup>th</sup> of December 2022.

**CONCLUSION AND NEXT STEPS**

Regarding the JP Outcome 1 "*Policy makers and institutional stakeholders design and implement evidence-based, and coordinated migration policies*", the extent to which the stakeholders use the produced data, migration tools and methodologies in the policy development and implementation can be observed as great in comparison to limited prior the project implementation. The developed data management tools/mechanisms adopted by SSO in 2022 are fully aligned with the EUROSTAT standards.

The piloting of the "big data" and remittances for government led migration population analysis was successfully conducted in 2022 in cooperation with respective international and national universities and institutions and engagement of local experts for data collection and analysis in these areas.  Two complementary data sources were made available for the use of innovative data collection and analytical methods for estimating migration stocks and flows and measurement improvements about remittances in North Macedonia through surveys.

In relation to the JP Outcome 2 "Inter and intra institutional data exchange mechanisms and collaboration among key institutions with competences on migration management are enhanced", the frequency of inter and intra institutional data exchange measured through a frequency of communication and A) number of mechanisms established B) number of protocols developed, can be observed as middle to high in comparison to low prior to the project implementation. Indeed, there are two developed protocols, and 4 IT systems/databases/software/equipment were established/upgraded/provided during the reporting period.

Regarding the JP Outcome 3, "The general public and the policy makers view migrants and refugees as development actors" a series of public events, broadcasts and trainings were successfully organized for creating positive narratives and perceptions towards migrants and refugees. An implementation of a

survey is planned before the project closure to measure the percentage of increase in policy and opinionmakers' perception towards migrants and refugees as development actors.

Regular internal meetings have been organized between the PUNOs aiming at creating synergy and properly organized project implementation. To facilitate the implementation of the project activities and communicate with stakeholders, the JP teams worked closely with the SC and TWG. These meetings were held to further build partnerships with the various entities and organizations involved in migration management.

The project assured the donor visibility through number of channels: UN and IOM Bulletin and Newsletter; PUNOs social media; JP Instagram account; published documents and other.

The following actions are planned for 2023:

- Printing and distribution of Migration Profile 2021.
- Piloting of the Migration Module in the Labour Force Survey.
- Implementation of Phase 5 and 6 of the anticipatory migration governance activities.
- Supporting the institutionalization of anticipatory governance.
- Implementation of Stage 2, on the piloting of the expansion of the remit of the migration estimates to/from North Macedonia to include the non-traditional (Big) data sources.
- Final approval of the Analysis of the data collected and received during specialized survey on a sample of 2 000 remittances receiving HH from all eight regions in the country by NBRNM, and its use as a reference document.
- Initiation of the activities under South-South Cooperation
- Continuation of the cooperation with the State Statistics Office in improvement of the quality of statistical data related to migration.
- Implementation of a representative public perception study will be conducted to evaluate the impact of activities implemented under Outcome 3 to improve the public narrative on refugees and migrants.
- Continue with the implementation of the Communications Strategy for Social Change
- Implementation of the final evaluation of the Joint Project
- Develop a final Anticipatory Migration Policy model and foresight analysis for the future of Migration in North Macedonia.
- Mentorship sessions to support the institutionalization of anticipatory governance in North Macedonia.
- Global launch of the publication of Anticipatory Migration Governance in North Macedonia.

**LIST OF ANNEXES**

Annex 1 - SC and TWG Meetings Minutes for 2022

Annex 2 - Distribution of the Resolution 2021-2025

Annex 3 - Final Training Report 23-24 February 2022

Annex 4 - Guidelines on the preparation of the LFS methodology

Annex 5 - Guidelines on the sample design

Annex 6 - Methodological and organizational guidelines

Annex 7 - Final Report on mirror statistics

Annex 8 - Big data analysis

Annex 9 - Comparative analysis on remittances

Annex 10 - Methodology of the survey of the remittance receiving households

Annex 11 - Anticipatory Migration Policy in North Macedonia - Report 1

Annex 12 - Anticipatory Migration Policy in North Macedonia - Report 2

Annex 13 - Anticipatory Migration Policy in North Macedonia - Report 3

Annex 14 - Anticipatory Migration Policy in North Macedonia - Report 4

Annex 15 - Proposal for amendments and additions to the Rulebook on the standards for the reception of asylum seekers

Annex 16 - Handbook on how to implement the integration program for persons granted asylum

Annex 17- Final Training Report on Remittances

Annex 18 - Final Training Report on Big Data