Migration MPTF

<mark>**Final Narrative Report for the period 28.10.2020-31.10.2023**</mark>

PROJECT INFORMATION	
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 United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees – UNHCR
Key Partners: **(Include Implementing Partner)**	Ministry of Interior; State Statistical Office, Ministry of Labor and Social Policy, Ministry of Information Society and 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:	28.10.2020-31.10.2023
Total Approved Migration MPTF Budget: **(Breakdown by participating UN organization)**	IOM: 653,628 USD UNHCR: 474,010 USD UNFPA: 372,362 USD Total: 1,500,000 USD
Total Funds Received to Date: **(Breakdown by participating UN organization)**	IOM: 653,628 USD UNHCR: 474,010 USD UNFPA: 372,362 USD Total: 1,500,000 USD
Report Submission Date:	21.12.2023
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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.

The key achievements of the Joint project during the reference period that are elaborated further below have contributed to the achievement of Sustainable Development Goasls (SDG) 10 "Reduced inequalities" indicator 10.7: Facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people, including through the implementation of planned and well-managed migration policies; SDG 16 "Peace justice and strong institutions" indicator 16.B Promote and enforce non-discriminatory laws and policies for sustainable development; and SDG 17 "Partnership" indicator 17.18 By 2020, enhance capacity-building support to developing countries, including for least developed countries and small island developing States, to increase significantly the availability of high-quality, timely and reliable data disaggregated by income, gender, age, race, ethnicity, migratory status, disability, geographic location and other characteristics relevant in national contexts, as well as to the Global Compact on Migration (GCM) Objectives: 1.Collect and utilize accurate and disaggregated data as a basis for evidence-based policies; 3. Provide adequate and timely information at all stages of migration and 17. Eliminate all forms of discrimination and promote evidence-based public discourse to shape perceptions of migration.

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 addition, the three (3) data management tools/mechanisms developed and applied by the State Statistical Office and are fully aligned with the EUROSTAT standards.

The **piloting the big data and remittances** for government led migration population analysis 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, **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 addition, the conducted comparative analysis, survey research, and exploration of remittance development opportunities that have unveiled their potential, laying the groundwork for investment and development policies. The analysis of anonymized data from mobile operators' call records, categorized as Big Data, has emerged as a powerful tool for studying internal migrations and holds significant potential for shaping effective migration policies. After a gap of 25 years, population projections for North Macedonia were developed, providing insights into demographic changes and their socio-economic impact on the country for the next 50 years. And in order to enhance the State Statistics Office's capacity for collecting and producing data on migration flows, new servers and computer equipment was provided with JP support.

The national stakeholders increased their capacities to develop and support the migration policies implementation that meet EU and international standards. A series of capacity building activities on **data collection and exchange mechanisms and practices; alignment with EU and international standards on migration statistics;** and **anticipatory governance were implemented for 357 trainees (64% women)**[1]. In the post-training knowledge assessment, the participants **achieved a final average of 80 per cent correct responses**. The output target set 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.

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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.

Migration Multi-Partner Trust Fund

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" were finalized and shared with the national stakeholders** in 2022.

Following five (5) 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: 1 from the Ministry of Information Society and Administration (MIOA), 2 from the Ministry of Interior (MoI) and 2 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 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 output target set 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.

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[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 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.

Outcome 3

Total of 40 journalists were capacitated through the trainings organized with the support of the Association of Journalists of Macedonia (AJM) and the Council of Media Ethics of Macedonia, and 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 set output target in JP of total 50 journalists trained was exceeded (a total of 60 trained) with the set baseline (20) and 2021-2023 results[8].

Thirty-one (31) broadcasts[9] with positive narratives and perceptions about refuges and migrants were conducted during the project implementation, exceeding the set output target of total of twenty-two broadcasts to be done in the Results Framework.

Ten (10) 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 (4 in 2021 and 6 in 2022): the promotion of Skopje Jazz festival calendars in 2022; observation of the Refugees Day in 2022; Participation at the 2022 Skopje Marathon; Skopje Jazz Festival support in 2021 and 2022; PINA Media Festival in 2021; YEF Research publication event in 2021 and the 2021 and 2022 Journalists' award ceremony and the National Debate Tournament. The JP output target of total 5 events to be organized, was exceeded and more than doubled resulting with **increased public participation in spreading the positive messages and narratives about migrants and refugees as well as opportunities for direct interactions and discussions with them about their endeavors**.

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[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
- 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] 5 trained in 2021, 26 trained in 2022 and 9 trained in 2023

[9] 14 in 2021, 15 in 2022 and 2 in 2023

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 **six meetings**[10] (2 per year) to facilitate the implementation of the planned JP interventions. In addition **nine TWG meetings**[11] were organized to further built the 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: 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**: the 1st project Steering Committee meeting ([UN North Macedonia Sustainable Development Bulletin February 2021](#)); the implementation of the Migration Governance Index (IOM Newsletter January – February 2021 and September – December 2021); the Information Campaign "This is Home" ([IOM Newsletter](#) September – December 2021); the Migration Resolution 2021-2025 development ([UN North Macedonia Sustainable Development Bulletin March 2021](#)); Information about the process of engagement of the service provider for building capacities and systems for anticipatory migration management ([UN North Macedonia Sustainable Development Bulletin June 2021](#)); [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 [Migration Governance Indicators Success Stories 2023](#) featuring North Macedonia (IOM Newsletter for July-September 2023). 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 1086 followers by the end of October 2023. In addition, posts on JP support and activities were regularly published on the UNHCR North Macedonia [Facebook page](#), which had 8,029 followers at the time of reporting.

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[10] On 10th of February and 30th of September 2021; on the 31st of March and 17th of October 2022; and on 4th of and 20th of October 2023
[11] Annex 1 - SC and TWG Meetings Minutes for 2020-2023

Finally, the information about the Project Closing Event that gathered 70 participants[12] from the Government, civil society, international organizations, academia and others where the key project achievements were presented was shared on Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Labour and Social Policy, UN in North Macedonia, IOM, UNFPA, UNHCR social media and 18 national media portals[13].

ANNUAL PROJECT PROGRESS

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[14].

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 and 2023.

For Outcome 2: with the provision of five 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 supported 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 are presented hereafter for the period of 2020-2023. The activities progress presented is aligned with the JP work plan (Annex D3: Workplan).

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[12] 61 in person and 9 online
[13] Denes Magazin; Maktel; Brif; Kanal 5; Sitel; Makfaks; Republika; Tocka; Mnet; Skopje1; Lokalno; Zurnal; Centar; Biznis vesti; 24 info; Vlada, Tetova sot; MIA
[14] The Request for no-cost extension that was delivered to MPTF in October 2022 and have received approval

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 4 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). The three[15] new data management tools/mechanisms were developed and applied by the institutions, particularly by the State Statistical Office, and 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.

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 project has supported the organization of four specific thematic meetings with the intragovernmental body for the development of the migration policy during April – May 2021. While 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.

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[15] 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*".

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

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)[16] tools have been developed and applied. **In 2022, three (3)[17] 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 was successfully conducted. 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.

Additional products to support the innovative actions were also produced such as the: Predictions of human mobility patterns that can be used as supplementary source for official migration statistics; Landscape and comparative analysis of remittances from migrant workers within their complex socioeconomic perspective; the South-South cooperation focused on North Macedonia and Albania experience in cross-referencing, the official data from the banking system and the fast money transfers for remittances; The recalculations of the statistical data series between the two population censuses; Population projections for North Macedonia, providing insights into demographic changes and their socio-economic impact on the country for the next 50 years; and an Assessment on "Leveraging Migration and Remittances for Sustainable Growth in North Macedonia" that among other explored the policy options for using remittances to drive investments and economic growth, considering both microeconomic and macroeconomic perspectives.

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**.

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[16] 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.
[17] See footnote 13.

The printing and distribution of 1,000 copies to the relevant institutions was successfully completed in May 2023[18].

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 was 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 that was approved by the donor. The signature of the Implementation Agreement with SSO was conducted in January 2023, and the piloting was successfully completed with the delivery of the Migration Module Piloting Report[19] in September 2023 that includes information and data (for both men and women) about the reasons for emigration, education, employment status, countries of destination and reasons for the return of country nationals and other.

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[20].

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[18] Annex 3 - Distribution List of the Migration Profile
[19] Annex 4 - Migration Module Piloting Report
[20] Annex 5 - Final Trainings Report October 2021 and February 2022

Regarding the planned provision of technical assistance through **seconded EU MS Experts,** two experts from Slovenia (EU MS) were engaged. 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**[21];*
- *"**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**[22] **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**".[23]

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

The Migration Governance Indicators (MGI) profile presents a summary of well-developed areas of migration governance in North Macedonia as well as areas with potential for further development, as assessed through the MGI. 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.

The JP partner, the Southampton University (SHU) **has prepared the Final report on the Migration estimates for North Macedonia by using mirror statistics**[24] in 2022. 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",

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[21] Annex 6 - Guidelines on the preparation of the LFS methodology
[22] Annex 7 - Guidelines on the sample design
[23] Annex 8 - Methodological and organizational guidelines
[24] Annex 9 - Final Report on mirror statistics

international organizations: UNFPA Srbija, UNFPA Republika Srpska, UNHCR, and individual statistical experts.

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.[25]

The possibility of using the big data as alternative source of data for estimating internal migration within North Macedonia was done through **established cooperation with A1 mobile phone operator** in the country who provided the anonymized datasets of users' data collected over the period of twelve months and team of national experts who **analyzed the collected data**. The data was disaggregated by sex, age group, and location, allowing identification of the migration events on a weekly, monthly, and seasonal basis. The analyzed data[26] allowed predictions of human mobility patterns and can be used as supplementary source for official migration statistics.

Regarding the **work on the Remittances**, the **Landscape and comparative analysis of remittances from migrant workers within their complex socioeconomic perspective[27]** 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**[28], 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 2022, including the control of logical connection between respondents' answers. In 2023, the **Report on the Analysis of data collected and received during the specialized survey[29]** on a sample of 2000 remittance receiving households from all eight regions in the country was discussed and accepted by the NBRNM and is 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.

The **South-South cooperation** focused on North Macedonia and Albania experience in cross-referencing, the official data from the banking system and the fast money transfers for remittances. A visit, that took place on 10-12 May 2023, was organized for four NBRNM representatives to the Central Bank of Albania (CBA) with the interest of establishing informal channels for improving the information on the inflow of

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[25] Annex 10 - Big data analysis
[26] Available in Macedonian language
[27] Annex 11 - Remittances In North Macedonia - Comparative Analysis
[28] Annex 12 - Methodology of the survey of the remittance receiving households.
[29] The Report on the Analysis of data collected and received during the specialized survey is available in Macedonian language.

remittances sent through formal channels as commercial banks. The activities remain to be conducted in 2023.

In addition, in order to support the SSO in improving the quality of migration statistical data, **recalculation the statistical data series between the two population censuses was supported by JP**. The work resulted with recalculated and adjusted age-sex structures and provided an alternative estimate of the actual development of the age-sex structure of the population in North Macedonia and its eight administrative regions throughout the period between the two censuses (2002 – 2021).[30]

After a gap of 25 years, **population projections for North Macedonia were developed with JP support, providing insights into demographic changes and their socio-economic impact on the country for the next 50 years[31]**. These projections are a crucial component of the new National Strategy for demographic policies (2024-2044) and the new National Development Strategy. The projections were necessary due to the evolving demographic structure characterized by population aging, significant external migrations, and low fertility rates.

Building on the previous work in the area of remittances with JP support the assessment on "**Leveraging Migration and Remittances for Sustainable Growth in North Macedonia**"[32] was conducted. It highlights the rising migration trends, including the "brain-drain" effect caused by a growing number of middle- and highly educated migrants leaving the country and explore policy options for using remittances to drive investments and economic growth, considering both microeconomic and macroeconomic perspectives.

Finally, to enhance the State Statistics Office's capacity for collecting and producing data on migration flows, new servers and computer equipment were donated with JP support.

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

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

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

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[30] Annex 13 – D escription of the Procedure for Reconstruction of Age Sex Structure of the Population in North Macedonia and its Administrative Regions during the Period 2003 2020
[31] Annex 14 – Population projections
32 Annex 15 - Leveraging Migration and Remittances for Promoting Sustaianble Growth

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**.

Twenty-nine (29) training sessions/ meetings for the national stakeholders were conducted during the project implementationin the area of data collection and exchange and anticipatory governance.

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

The **foresight needs assessment** was finalized "Demos Helsinki oy" in 2022, with 17 stakeholders interviewed in 14 separate interviews from November 2021[33] 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[34] and 2[35]**. In 2022, the **Global Benchmarking (phase 3)** and **the Capacity building (phase 4)** were also successfully completed.

Global benchmarking[36]: 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[37]:

Anticipatory governance training	Goal of the training/workshop	Date/2022	Number of Participants	% Of women participants	% Of correct responses in post-training questionnaires
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	11 May	79	67	74

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[33] 8 in 2021 and 6 in 2022
[34] Annex 16 - Anticipatory Migration Policy in North Macedonia - Report 1
[35] Annex 17 - Anticipatory Migration Policy in North Macedonia - Report 2
[36] Annex 18 - Anticipatory Migration Policy in North Macedonia - Report 3
[37] Annex 19 - Anticipatory Migration Policy in North Macedonia - Report 4

	policy making and develop long-term scenarios for the future of migration in North Macedonia				
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[38] of the Anticipatory governance initiative was focused on *"Foresight analysis on the future of migration in North Macedonia"* while **Phase 6**[39] on the *"Institutionalization of Anticipatory Migration Policy in North Macedonia"*. Phase 5 concluded with a global publication launch containing the documentation of all previous phases in 2023. The **"Fortress to Foresight: Global Symposium on**

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[38] Annex 20 - Anticipatory Migration Policy in North Macedonia - Report 5
[39] Annex 21 - Anticipatory Migration Policy in North Macedonia - Report 6

Anticipatory Migration Governance" was successfully organized on 6th of April 2023 with 93 participants (62% female). The event presented new approaches to migration management, explored pathways for institutionalization, and provided insights into anticipatory policymaking developed in North Macedonia. The event also offered alternative futures and fresh perspectives for migration. The symposium was the culmination of two years of work on Anticipatory Migration Governance by PUNOs, think-tank Demos Helsinki, and the Government of North Macedonia, coordinated by the United Nations Resident coordinator's Office.

Phase 6 provided mentorship to national stakeholders to support the institutionalization of Anticipatory Migration. Three mentoring sessions with national stakeholders took place in December 2022. The mentoring sessions focused on supporting the participants in implementing experimental anticipatory approaches in their own work (e.g. practical steps on how to introduce foresight exercises in strategic planning processes).

On 15th of February 2023 an online mini workshop for Interdepartmental Exchange of Experiences was organised by Demos Helsinki for 13 national stakeholders (government, NGO and UN). The purpose of the workshop was to briefly meet with key stakeholders and provide space for the exchange of experience around initiatives to strengthen anticipatory governance in the country.

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 5 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[40], civil society organizations[41], academia[42], private sector[43], local authorities, and international organizations[44]. 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*"** 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 by streamlining procedures and reducing required documentation for reception of asylum seekers. 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.

Five (5) requests for support in procurement of new IT systems/databases/software or upgrades of the existing ones were successfully completed: 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

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[40] Please refere to footnote 2
[41] Please refer to footnote 3
[42] Please refer to footnote 4
[43] Please refer to footnote 5
[44] Please refer to footnote 6

data analysis and (OKRA) and 2 requests from NBRNM for procurement of the IBM SPSS statistical software to support the institutional data exchange collected from the remittance receiving households survey.

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 data collection, analyses, and exchange.

In May 2022 and July 2023, 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[45] 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 and has further enhanced the capabilities of the National Bank in conducting in-depth data analysis and supporting their institutional data exchange mechanisms in 2023 and beyond.

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**[46] to Ministry of Informatic Society and Administration (MIOA) was conducted in December 2022[47].

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"**[48] 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**"[49] was developed and shared with 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[50]	19-20 October	29	69	92

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[46] 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.

[47] 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.

[48] Annex 22 - Proposal for amendments and additions to the Rulebook on the standards for the reception of asylum seekers

[49] Annex 23 - Handbook on how to implement the integration program for persons granted asylum

[50] Annex 24 - Final Training Report on Remittances

	25-26 October	24	83	86
	16-17 November	24	58	98
Big data[51]	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

A survey about the citizen's attitudes towards refugees, migrants and stateless persons was conducted on a representative sample of the population in North Macedonia to evaluate the change of the public perception towards migrants and refugees as development actors. Asked if they would agree for refugees to be settled in North Macedonia, in 2015, 19% of the respondents agreed, that percentage grew to 27% in 2018 and to 49% in 2023, which is a 30% increase over the entire period.

The quantitative research was carried out on a national representative sample of 1,100 respondents, aged 16 and older, via direct, face-to-face interviews, by CAPI (Computer Assisted Personal Interview) technique of data collection. The qualitative research was carried out via six (6) focus group discussions in the following five (5) locations: Bitola, Tetovo, Stip, Skopje (2 FGDs) and Strumica with a total of 44 participants.

Some of the other the findings from the survey are the following:

New baseline data about views on immigration were collected where 25% of the respondents view immigration as a positive development opportunity for the country. There is a stronger preference for immigration from richer countries (49%) compared to poorer countries (20%).

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[51] Annex 25 - Final Training Report on Big Data

The most common association (61%) with refugees is people escaping from war, followed by people looking for a better life/escaping from poverty (39%). Negative associations of refugees like criminals, dangerous/suspicious people, and terrorists are less noted (10%, 5%, 2%, and 1%, respectively).

A noteworthy finding is that approximately half of the respondents (46%) do not believe that refugees who come to live in the country are taking away jobs from the citizens, indicating a more nuanced perspective on the impact of refugees on the job market.

Asked how much refugees could improve the labour market, in 2015, the negative attitudes towards contribution was at 71%, while in 2023, that percentage dropped to 44%.

The largest increase in the positive perceptions is noted in 2023 survey. For illustration, in 2018, when the respondents were asked if they would agree for refugees to settle in the country, only 27% answered affirmatively, while in 2023 the percentage increased to 49%. There is a similar trend with the other questions as well.

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) due to increase interest among the target population in the informative campaign then anticipateted due to quality of the produced materials and developed narratives. 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 International Migrants Day on 18th of December 2022.

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 **40 journalists** were capacitated through the trainings organized with the support of the Association of Journalists of Macedonia (AJM) and the Council of Media Ethics of Macedonia, and 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[52]. The set output target in JP of total 50 journalists trained was exceeded (a total of 60 trained) with the set baseline (20) and 2021-2023 results[53].

Thirty one (31) broadcasts[54] with positive narratives and perceptions about refuges and migrants were conducted during the project implementation, exceeding the set output target of total of twenty-two broadcasts to be done in the Results Framework.

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.

Ten (10) 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 (4 in 2021 and 6 in 2022): the promotion of Skopje Jazz festival calendars in 2022; observation of the Refugees Day in 2022; Participation at the 2022 Skopje Marathon; Skopje Jazz Festival support in 2021 and 2022; PINA Media Festival in 2021; YEF Research publication event in 2021 and the 2021 and 2022 Journalists' award ceremony and the National Debate Tournament. The JP output target of total 5 events to be organized, was exceeded and more than doubled resulting with **increased public participation in spreading the positive messages and narratives about migrants and refugees as well as opportunities for direct interactions and discussions with them about their endeavors**.

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52 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 около 10ина месеци е дом за неколку семејства од Украина
- 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/

53 5 trained in 2021, 26 trained in 2022 and 9 trained in 2023
54 14 in 2021, 15 in 2022 and 2 in 2023

In addition, in 2021 a 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

The **Communications Strategy for Social Change** was developed in cooperation with strategic communication professors and experts from the University of Kentucky in 2021. The Strategy identified the key messages and narratives aimed at changing behavior and attitudes in host population and national stakeholders to foster positive views on refugees and migrants as development actors. In line with the Communication Strategy, a Social Media Strategy was developed, outlining the most effective tools for effecting change in attitudes and its action plan that was successfully implemented during the project implementation.

One hundred sixty-one (161) officials (61% women) from the governmental bodies and relevant ministries, as well as from civil society organizations, UN entities and journalists have completed trainings on the "Effective Crisis Communication", "Social media use and metrics" and the "Social marketing and social capacity building" with the support from the University of Kentucky. The capacity building sessions were funded as a contribution to the project by UNHCR North Macedonia.

31 broadcasts (movies and articles) were conducted during the project implementation. It included fourteen (14) broadcasts in 2021, fifteen (15) broadcasts (6 films and 6 interviews and 3 articles from the Journalist awards for professional and sensitive reporting) in 2022 and two journalist articles (one [interview on Ukrainian refugees](#) and one [news story on ending statelessness](#)) resulting from the media mentorship programme. The criteria included the films that show the human face of migration/refugee experience and 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 journalists stories about vulnerable migrants and refugees 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.

The audiences on both the office's Facebook and Instagram accounts has regularly grown, and new engaging content aimed at awareness-raising and promoting Joint Project activities were frequently prepared. By 31st of October 2023, the Instagram account has reached a total of 1,086 Instagram followers, while the Facebook page has reached a total of 8,029 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** was conducted in partnership with the Youth Educational Forum (YEF).

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

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.

Ten (10) 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 (4 in 2021 and 6 in 2022).

In particular, in **2021** the Joint Project supported the **Skopje Jazz Festival** – one of the most eminent public events in the country - which dedicated one evening to Jazz for Solidarity with Refugees. The festival issued a press release announcing the evening that was picked up by 12 relevant online portals ([Mkd.mk](), [Libertas.mk](), [Okno.mk](), [Nezavisen.mk](), [Plusinfo.mk](), Opserver.mk, MIA, [Makpress.mk](), [Vecer.press](), [Republika.mk](), [Nova Makedonija](), [Slobodna Evropa]()), was published on the [Festival's Facebook page](), and was spoken of in two separate TV interviews ([Telma TV]() and [Slobodna TV]()). During the breaks of all five festival evenings, an animated logo of the cause featuring MPTF visibility was played. The project was also given visibility in a social media post of the UNHCR North Macedonia Facebook page (also, [here]() and [here]()).

On 21st of September 2021 in cooperation with the Macedonian Young Lawyers Association (MYLA) and the Association of Journalists of Macedonia (AJM) an **event was organized to award the journalists** who during 2020 contributed to the media landscape with professional and sensitive stories and photos about the condition of refugees and stateless persons in North Macedonia. This activity was posted to [social media channels](), following MPTF project visibility guidelines.

In addition, JP supported the **YEF Handbook with lectures on the topic of refugees, asylum seekers and stateless people presentation event** and the **Platform for Investigative Journalism and Analysis - PINA Medial Festival in 2021**. The journalist discussion during the Media Festival about the "Media coverage of refugees and stateless persons" reached 1,600 views; and the journalist discussion on the "[Shadow Game: Protect Children on the Move]()" was viewed by 182 people. Visibility was given to the MPTF project through the [social media post]() and the [website]() of the Media Festival Skopje.

In January 2022, as part of the support of Skopje Jazz Festival, the **event for the promotion of the famous Skopje Jazz Festival calendars for 2022 was organized**, that were distributed to partners and relevant stakeholders.[55] 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**.

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[56].

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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55 SJF, media and journalists, UNHCR partners (MYLA, MLSP, Vizbegovo Centre for Asylum Seekers) and other national stakeholders.
56 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

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

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.](#)

An informative campaign targeting youth was organized and implemented by the Youth Educational Forum under the slogan **"Not hate – build an attitude!"**. The campaign which ran through December produced [1 feature video](#) and [1 animation video](#) shared on social media and in the two busiest shopping malls in the country's capital Skopje, 2 media stories ([here](#) and [here](#)) and 5 op-eds, 8 social media posts including 2 videos by youth influencers ([here](#)), as well as campaign posters and fliers on public transportation buses which are frequently used by youth and a final event. During the reporting period, the campaign has **reached a total of 555,173 persons** through the noted media channels.

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 was to create more alliances with the media and develop their capacities. In that regard, the capacities of **40 journalists** on creating positive narratives for migrants and refugees were built.

In 2021, **5 journalists** were trained in sensitive and professional reporting about vulnerable groups with 90 per cent with correct responds in the post-training questionnaire.

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[57]. The post-training questionnaire had 85 per cent correct answers. The whole activity was heavily covered on [social media](#).

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 correct responds recorded.

Finally, on 22-23rd of May 2023, the project supported the organization of a two-day training for **9 young journalists** within the media mentorship programme for creation of media content about refugees, asylum seekers and stateless persons in partnership with the Youth Educational Forum (YEF). Six trainers and also presenters from UNHCR, IOM and UNFPA taught on how to provide the public with accurate and truthful information on the challenges faced by refugees, asylum seekers, migrants, and stateless individuals, as well as their struggles, fears, and the positive development potential of migration in an

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

effort to address the false perceptions on migration in the country at large. The post-training questionnaire was responded with an average correct score of 82 per cent.

The 2023 Media mentorship programme for young journalists cycle was finalized with a debriefing session with the participating journalists. The session was facilitated by psychologists, who provided professional support to the young journalists. The goal of this session was to support the journalists' mental health and increase their capacities and motivation to continue to report on issues connected to asylum and migration. Related content was published on social media (post 1, post 2).

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 taking 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 Child 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 underlying 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.

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 Helsinki 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 concluded 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, have expanded the time horizon for the development of migration policies and paved the way for institutionalizing anticipatory migration governance in North Macedonia.

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 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. 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. Achievement: 7 data management tools and/or mechanisms applied by the institutions: - Migration Profile - Migration module in LFS - Guidelines for implementation of the Migration Module questionnaire - Migration Governance Index Report - 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	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. In addition, following products were developed or actions conducted: 3) Report on identifying internal migration patterns using Big Data analytics developed based on the anonymized mobile phone users from A1 Telecome. 4) The Report on Big Data analytics has been finalized. 5) The Report on the Analysis of the data collected and received during the specialized survey of a sample of 2 000 remittance receiving HH has been shared with the NBRNM.

						6) The South – South Cooperation and the study visit of the NBRNM team to the Central Bank if Albania was conducted on 11-12 May 2023 with 4 participants (2 male and 2 female) from the NBRNM. 7) Within the cooperation with the SSO, aimed at improving the quality of migration statistical data, a recalculation of the statistical data series between the two population censuses was conducted and a report produced. 8) Developed population projections spanning 50 years, marking the first such effort in a quarter-century 9) Report on "Leveraging Migration and Remittances for Sustainable Growth in North Macedonia" developed. 8) IT equipment (servers and 5 computers) donated to SSO to improve migration data collection and exchange.
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	0	0	29 (81%)	328 (79%)	357 (80%)	JP target: 325 trained/at least 70% with correct responds in the post-training questionnaires.

on data management (gender disaggregated)/ Number of trainees whose knowledge/skills improved						Achievement: Overall total 357 trained/80% average correct responds in the post-training questionnaires:
						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.
						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 to the post-training questionnaire.
						126 individuals trained (69% women) on 1st Masterclass – Introduction to Futures and Foresight with 94% reporting increase in knowledge on foresight methods.
						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	15	29	JP Target: at least 10 training sessions/meetings/conferences organized. Achievement: 29 working sessions/meetings/interviews/trainings organized: A total of 6 two-day working sessions for the intragovernmental body were organized in October-December 2021. 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:

						1)Foresight workshop for 13 members of the Intergovernmental Body on 3rd of February 2022. 2)First International Advisory Board meeting on the Anticipatory Migration Governance in North Macedonia on 23rd of February. 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 5)The Online Global Roadshow organized on 21st of June 2022. 6) and 7) Advance and ToT trainings organized on 13-15 and 16-17th of September 2022. 8)Workshop on experimentation organized on 1 December 2022. 9) The "Fortress to Foresight: Global Symposium on Anticipatory Migration Governance" was successfully organized on 6 April 2023.

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: A) Number of mechanisms established B) Number of protocols developed)	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 Achievement: Middle to High frequency of data exchange (a) 5 mechanisms established b) 2 protocols 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	0	0	1	0	1	JP Target: 1 need assessment Achievement: 1 need assessment completed on 27th of May 2021

exchange mechanisms						
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 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. Achievement: 2 developed SoPs/procedures: 1) Proposal for amendments to the Rulebook for Vizbegovo and 2) Handbook for Integration.
Indicator 2.1d – Number of developed or upgraded data management/exchange systems	0	0	1	4	5	JP Target: at least 2 systems developed/upgraded. Achievement: 5 systems developed/upgraded: - 1 for MoI Border Police completed in 2021. - 1 for the National Bank completed in May 2022. - 1 for MoI OKRA completed in October 2022. - 1 for MIOA completed in December 2022.

						- 1 for the National Bank completed in September 2023.
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[58]**	**/**	**JP Target: 30% with increase in positive perceptions** **Asked if they would agree for refugees to be settled in North Macedonia, in 2015, 19% of the respondents agreed, that percentage grew to 27% in 2018 and to 49% in 2023, which is a 30 % increase.** **In addition, new baseline data about views on immigration were collected in 2023: where 25% of the respondents view immigration as a positive development opportunity for the country.**
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 re ached/ 740,000 views	0	449,492 persons reached/ 740,000 views	JP Target: at least 10,000 people to be reached through social and other media. 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,	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	Target: Yes (availability of the informative campaign) Achievement: Informative campaign was available in 2021 on 3 national TV stations, 3 local TV stations, 3

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58 Public Opinion Poll Attitudes of the local citizens about the refugees, UNHCR 2016

developed and disseminated in traditional and social media						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%)	35 (83%)	40 (87%)	Target: at least 50 journalists trained/ at least 70% with correct responds in the post-training questionnaire. Achievement: 40 journalists trained by the JP[59]/ 86% with correct responds in the post training questionnaire: 5 journalists trained (90% with correct responses in the post-training questionnaire) in 2021. AJM training for 7 journalists (84% increase in knowledge) in 2022. 19 journalists trained in 2022 through media mentorship prog, with 84% correct answers in the post-training questionnaire.

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[59] 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.

						9 journalists trained in 2023 through media mentorship prog, with 82% correct answers in the post-training questionnaire.
Indicator 3.2b - Number of articles/broadcasts from journalists with positive narratives and perceptions;	10 articles/broadcasts	0	14	17	31	Target: 22 articles/broadcasts Achievement: 31 articles/broadcasts with positive narratives and perceptions: 14 in 2021: 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. 2 on PINA event Discussions: Media coverage of refugees and stateless persons and on the Shadow Game: Protect Children on the Move 7 on Radio MOF - YEF campaign (2 stories and 5 op-eds). 15 in 2022: 6 movies and 6 follow up interviews.

						3 articles from the Journalist awards for professional and sensitive reporting 2 in 2023: 2 articles resulting from media mentorship programme in Jan-Feb 2023.
Indicator 3.2c - Number of individuals trained on the Communication Strategy for Social Change/ Number of trainees whose knowledge/skills improved	None	None	161 (89%)	0	161 (89%)	161 officials (61% women) from the governmental bodies and relevant ministries, as well as from civil 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. Achievement: Total 10 events organized with MPTF support: 4 public events organized in 2021: - Skopje Jazz Festival - Journalists Awards - PINA Media Festival - YEF Research publication 6 public events organized in 2022: - promotion of Skopje Jazz festival 2022 calendars

						- Observation of the Refugees Day - Participation in the Skopje Marathon - support of the 2022 Skopje jazz festival - 2022 Journalists' award ceremony - National Debate Tournament. In addition, 555,173 persons were reached with the informative campaign "Not hate – build an attitude" in 2021.

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 six meetings (two per year) while the TWG convened nine meetings** to facilitate the implementation of the planned JP interventions. **Average number of participants per SC meeting was 19 SC members with 69 per cent being women; while the average number of participants per TWG meeting was 12 with 79 per cent women.** These meetings were used to further built partnerships with the various entities and organizations involved in migration management

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 *Type of partner*			
Name of partner *Type of partner*			
Non-governmental stakeholders			
Name of partner: **Youth Educational Forum (YEF)** *Type of partner:* **Civil Society Organization**	Project Partnership Agreement	Outcome 3/UNHCR counterpart	US$ 103,850
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[60]
Name of partner: **A1 Telecome operator** Type of partner: **Private sector**	Contract for de minimis services	Outcome 1/ UNFPA counterpart	US$ 4,886

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, planning of the next steps and organization of the Closing Event.

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

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 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[61].

In addition, the observance of the World Refugee Day in 2022, included a walking tour in the Skopje center 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.

In 2023, the project has initiated cooperation with the A1 Telecome operator in North Macedonia for the piloting of the big data usage of the mobile phone data and ITS analysis for locating migration events and for estimating migration stocks and flows. The collected user data has been disaggregated by sex, age group, and location, allowing their analysis aimed at identifying migration events on a weekly, monthly, and seasonal basis and contained useful information for both predicting human mobility patterns and conducting explorative research on mobile phone data as a big data supplementary source for official migration statistics.

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[61] 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.

The Closing Event of the Joint Project was successfully organized on 30ᵗʰ of October 2023 with 70 participants[62] coming from the Government institutions, civil society organizations, international organizations, academia, and others. The welcome addresses were done by the Minister of Interior, Minister of Labour and Social Policy, UN Resident Coordinator, Heads of IOM, UNHCR and UNFPA Offices in North Macedonia, and the donor[63]. During the second part of the event, the achievements done under each of the three JP Outcomes were presented through short, animated videos and presentations done by the management of the intra-governmental body for development of the migration policy coming from the Cabinet of the Prime Minister; the Director of the State Statistical Office and the Executive Director of the Youth Educational Fund. All speakers expressed satisfaction from the achieved results, the established cooperation and presented the future needs in the area of the migration management.

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 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 Wisniowski 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

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[62] 61 in person and 9 online
[63] Through a video message

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 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, 69 per cent average of the members that attended the six Steering Committee Meetings organized during the project implementation; and 79 per cent average of the TWG meeting members who attended the nine TWG meetings.

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 provided 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 for gender disaggregated data and 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 center 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 and analyses 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[64] 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.

Overall, a visionary and anticipatory initiative was implemented that systematically connects foresight knowledge to migration policy based on the local needs and global best practices. The results of the work were published in the report "From Fortress to Foresight" which was launched on the first Global

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[64] 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.

Symposium on Anticipatory Migration Management. The blogpost and publication can be found on the following link.

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 3rd quarter of 2022. However, due to technical reasons, SSO has requested the piloting to be postponed until 2023. According to the LFS methodology, the piloting of the MM in LFS can be conducted during the 1st quarter of 2023 but additional time was 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). The activity was successfully completed by SSO from January until August 2023, with the delivery of the final piloting report in English and Macedonian in September 2023.

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 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 2023, UNFPA has signed established cooperation with A1 mobile operator for collection of big data from their mobile phone users and this activity was succesfully completed.

Based on the above noted needs for no-cost extension 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 that received approval from MPTF on 27th of February 2023.

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[65] 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 a new contact person from the Cabinet was provided before the end of September in order to speed up things. On 10th 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 25th 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 9th of November 2022 an online presentation of the WAF Implementation was organized by the local service provider and CISCO official representative office for MIOA officials. On 22nd 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 9th of December 2022.

During January – June 2023, MIOA has requested additional support from the service provider ICS Consulting regarding the operationalization of the provided firewalls. On 20th of June the service provider

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

informed IOM that the equipment is fully installed, configured, and operationalized. Additionally, the migration of the protected sites from the old to the new firewall has been completed and is functional. The information was confirmed during the JP Coordinator's call with the MIOA IT Director on 21st of June 2023. With this the activity has been finalized.

During January – March 2023, MoI has requested additional assistance from the service provider regarding the activation of the licenses for the procured 40 computers. The activation of the licenses for the donated 40 computers for the MoI OKRA has been successfully completed on 17th of March 2023 and confirmed by MoI (e-mail communications).

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 actions were successfully completed by the end of the JP implementation in cooperation with respective international and national universities, institutions, private sector and engagement of local and international 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 5 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.

A survey about the citizen's attitudes towards refugees, migrants and stateless persons was conducted on a representative sample of the population in North Macedonia to evaluate the change of the public pn 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, including organization of a Closing event for presentation of the key achievements for 70 participants from the Government, civil society organizations, academia, international organizations and other.

This Final evaluation[66] aimed at reviewing the project performance in the frame of the OECD-DAC evaluation criteria of relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, sustainability and likely impact has found the project to be of high relevance as its rationale guiding the long-term goal, the approach, the stakeholder engagement, and activities were the result of a thorough needs assessment, long-standing relations with institutions and analytical capacity of fundamental drivers of migration management. The strong consultative orientation of the project has ensured it is coherent with state programmes as well as initiatives from civil society. This project is an example of coherence of efforts among UN agencies as it has been assessed, designed, and implemented in a true collaborative spirit as a joint project. The joint project was assessed by the evaluators as highly effective since all of the numerous planned activities have been implemented timely, even during the COVID context. The efficiency was also rated as strong, in regard of the complexity of the project, the substantial awareness raising, mind-shifting activities in the initial phase of the project, the number of activities and the quality of the outputs, also considering the strong innovation orientation of the project and its technicality in term of data collection and analysis. The sense of impact of the project the evaluation was able to gather was strong, though its lasting effect requires continued attention. The project sustainability[67] was evaluated as strong with regards to the tangible results it has been able to institutionalize in a relatively short time, considering this has involved substantial consultation, awareness raising and training. Finally, the gender and human rights dimension as well as the Global Compact for Migration (GCM) Principles have been fully considered as it has been fully reflected in the resolution on migration. The project design and proposal also clearly referred to the GCM principles as well as the gender dimension and human rights. The whole-of-government approach has stood at the core of the various project activities, from the involvement in the resolution formulation process, to the supported inter-institutional mechanisms. The project has also systematically collected the gender-disaggregated data and has overall recorded a high female participation rate in project training events.

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[66] Annex 26 - Final Evaluation Report

[67] Annex 27 - Project Sustainability Exit Strategy

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