



Migration MPTF

ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT TEMPLATE

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):	28.10.2020-27.04.2023
Reporting Period:	01.01.2021- 31.12.2021
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: 457,540 USD UNHCR: 331,807 USD UNFPA: 260,653 USD Total: 1,050,000 USD
Report Submission Date:	16.02.2022
Report Prepared by: (Name, title, email)	Jelena Krasic, Joint Project Coordinator, IOM, jkasic@iom.int Petar Dimitrov, Innovation and Transformation Lead, UNHCR, dimitrop@unhcr.org Rajna Krtov-Chemerska, National Consultant, UNFPA, krtov-chemerska@unfpa.org Sébastien Fahrni, Associate Coordination Officer, UN RCO, sebastien.fahrni@un.org

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The project “Evidence-based migration policy planning and discourse in North Macedonia” started with implementation on 28th of October 2020 and will end on 27th of April 2023. It aims to support policy makers in North Macedonia to effectively manage demographic and migration dynamics through development of evidence-based migration policies based on improved systemic data collection and analysis and enhanced inter-institutional data exchange; and improve the perception of the general public and policy makers about immigrants and refugees.

The key achievements of the project during the reference period are elaborated further below:

Outcome 1

The “**Resolution on Migration Policy and the Action Plan for 2021-2025¹**” was developed and endorsed by the Government and adopted by Parliament in December 2021 (Official Gazette no.290/2021). The project has provided the necessary expert support for the elaboration of the new Resolution and its Action Plan which defines the country’s strategic directions and measures in migration management for the period 2021-2025. The document has been translated into English and Albanian, with design and printing of the publication planned for 2022.

The new country’s **Migration Profile (MP) 2021²** was developed and includes relevant migration management information and data for the period 2009-2019. The data gathered for the MP has contributed to the development of the new migration policy.

Migration Module questionnaire³ and guidelines⁴ were developed and will be piloted in the Labour Force Survey in 2022. The questionnaire was developed in close cooperation with the State Statistical Office (SSO) as per the EUROSTAT standards and includes questions covering information about the country nationals that are living and working abroad.

The **Migration Governance Indicators (MGI) Profile for North Macedonia⁵** was developed jointly by IOM and the Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU). The 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 MGI is a standard set of approximately 90 indicators that assisted the country in assessing its migration policies and helped to advance the conversation on what well-governed migration might look like in practice.

¹ Annex 1 of the 2021 Annual Progress Report

² Annex 2 of the 2021 Annual Progress Report

³ Annex 3 of the 2021 Annual Progress Report

⁴ Annex 4 of the 2021 Annual Progress Report

⁵ Annex 5 of the 2021 Annual Progress Report

Six two-day working meetings/capacity building trainings were successfully conducted for the development of procedural documents to support the intragovernmental body to develop the migration policy and build members' capacity. From October to December 2021 the body **Rules of Procedure⁶ and Terms of Reference⁷, the Communication Strategy and Tools⁸, the Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting Tools⁹**, as well as the **Assessment on the EU Acquis and Good Practices in Migration Management¹⁰** were developed. In addition, a **Team Building¹¹** training was conducted where intragovernmental body members learned about suitable models, techniques and tools for **teamwork strengthening, relationships building and communication**.

In the area of **“big data” usage**, the project has established cooperation with Southampton University aimed at design and implementation of a statistical framework, in a staged manner, with stage 1 devoted to producing estimates of migration to/from North Macedonia by using “mirror statistics”, followed by possible stage 2 through expanding the remit to include non-traditional data sources – the “big data” including geo-spatial data, digital traces, mobile phones, and so on. In cooperation with the Faculty of Computer Science & Engineering (FINKI) in Skopje and the Ministry of Information Society and Administration (MIOA) and the State Statistical Office (SSO), the project supports compilation and exploration of alternative sources of data and potential use of big data analytics as well as the tools to infer the migration data from these alternative sources. In close interaction with the National Bank of the Republic of North Macedonia (NBRNM), the project supports work aimed at exploring the foreign currency remittances as the most tangible link between migration and development, by providing insights and policy guidance on both migration measurement and remittance accounting. With a view to complement the administrative data that the NBRNM uses and improve the accuracy of the remittance accounting, the project supported design of new methodology and survey instruments for conducting a survey targeting remittance receiving households.

The Think Tank **Demos Helsinki o.y.¹²** was engaged in November 2021 as service provider for the institutionalization of participatory, innovative, and forward-looking planning and policy development in migration management in North Macedonia. The selected service provider, under the overall coordination of UNHCR, in collaboration with IOM and UNFPA, will advise and support the UN system in **building capacities and systems for anticipatory migration management¹³** for national stakeholders, with a focus on the entities represented in the intragovernmental body.

During the reporting period, the Demos Helsinki team completed mapping of key stakeholders in the context of anticipatory migration management and conducted eight **interviews** to assess the current institutional capacities and needs for anticipatory migration governance in the country. Based on these interviews and the remaining ones planned for January 2022, the first draft of the Anticipatory Governance Model for North Macedonia will be developed.

⁶ Annex 6 of the 2021 Annual Progress Report

⁷ Annex 7 of the 2021 Annual Progress Report

⁸ Annex 8 of the 2021 Annual Progress Report

⁹ Annex 9 of the 2021 Annual Progress Report

¹⁰ Annex 10 of the 2021 Annual Progress Report

¹¹ Annex 11 of the 2021 Annual Progress Report

¹² Annex 12 of the Annual Progress Report

¹³ Anticipatory governance is a method of decision making that uses predictive measures to anticipate possible outcomes to then make decisions based on the data provided.

The Communications Strategy for Social Change¹⁴ was developed in cooperation with strategic communications professors and experts from the University of Kentucky. The Strategy identifies key messages and tools aimed at changing behavior and attitudes in the host population and national stakeholders to foster positive view on refugees and migrants as development actors. In line with the Strategy, a **Social Media Strategy**¹⁵ was developed, outlining the most effective tools for effecting change in attitudes and its action plan.

The capacities for the successful implementation of the Communications Strategy for **18 key stakeholders**, members of the Advisory Body for the implementation of the Communications Strategy, representatives of national institutions, three journalists, partners and UNHCR staff, were enhanced through participation in **seven courses** on refugee protection, implemented by the International Institute of Humanitarian Law in Sanremo.

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” implemented with the support from the University of Kentucky. On average, 89.2% of participants rated the overall experiences of the training as excellent. The capacity building sessions were funded as a contribution to the project by UNHCR North Macedonia¹⁴.

Outcome 3

A partnership was established with the non-profit organization **Youth Educational Forum (YEF)**, to implement activities aimed at improving the sentiments towards refugees and migrants and increase knowledge about the rights of these groups. During the reporting period, a **Research on the perceptions and attitudes of young people in North Macedonia regarding refugees, asylum-seekers, migrants, and stateless persons** was performed on a representative sample of the population. Based on the research, an **awareness raising public campaign was prepared, and educational materials** were developed for non-formal education programs targeting youth and will be implemented in 2022 onwards.

A youth-targeting info campaign¹⁹ was implemented by the Youth Educational Forum under the slogan **“Not hate – build an attitude!”**. The campaign which ran through December produced one feature video and one animation video shared on social media and in the two busiest shopping malls of the capital Skopje, two media stories and five op-eds, eight social media posts including two videos by youth influencers, as well as campaign posters and fliers on public transportation buses which are frequently used by youth, and a final event. The campaign has **reached 555,173 persons** through the noted media channels.

An **informative campaign called “This is home”**¹⁵ aimed at creating positive narratives and perceptions towards migrants and refugees focusing on their contributions to the host society and addressed to the general public and the policy makers was successfully completed from 26th of November to 25th of December 2021. The campaign covered three national and three local TV stations, three radio stations and 10 web media portals. The tracking of the produced informative videos on the social media and other

¹⁴ Annex 15 of the 2021 Annual Progress Report

¹⁵ Annex 17 of the Annual Progress Report

digital channels resulted with **449,492 persons reached by the campaign on IOM Skopje Facebook page and the YouTube channel which is 45 times more than the set target** in the Joint Project Result Framework of 10,000 persons to be reached.

The **regular internal meetings** have been organized between the PUNOs aiming at creating synergy and proper organized project implementation. To facilitate the implementation of the project activities and communicate with stakeholders, PUNOs worked closely with the **Steering Committee and the Technical Working Group members**. Within the reporting period, the **Steering Committee** with support from the RCO, IOM, UNFPA and UNHCR had convened **two meetings** (on February 10th and September 30th, 2021) to facilitate intragovernmental support in development and adoption of the new migration policy documents. The **second and third Technical Working Group** meetings of the Joint Project were held on March 31st and June 30th, 2021. These meetings further built the partnerships with the various entities and organizations involved in migration management¹⁶.

To assure the **project visibility**, through the **UN North Macedonia monthly bulletin and IOM Newsletter**, the following information was presented and shared with the national stakeholders and the donor community reaching more than **2000 stakeholders**: 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 ([IOM Newsletter](#) May – August 2021 and [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](#)) . A new institutional UNHCR [Instagram account](#) was opened to reach a greater portion of youth in the country with the messaging that were and will be developed within the Communication Strategy. The account has succeeded in getting 529 followers by the end of 2021. In addition, specific design templates were developed for the purpose of communicating messages on social media with a unified Joint Project visual which has been regularly published on the UNHCR North Macedonia [Facebook page](#) that had 6827 followers at the time of reporting.

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 27th of April 2023. It aims to support policy makers in North Macedonia to effectively manage demographic and migration dynamics through development of evidence-based migration policies based on improved systemic data collection and analysis and enhanced inter-institutional data exchange; and improve the perception of the general public and policy makers about immigrants and refugees.

¹⁶ Annex 18 of the 2021 Annual Progress Report

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

The data, migration tools and methodologies produced with the Joint Project support have contributed towards the development of an evidence-based migration policy that is in line with the international and EU data management standards.

The introduction of the online manner of work of the intragovernmental body for migration policy development as well as in the organization of capacity building initiatives, meetings, workshops has assured safe, successful, and timely implementation of the planned activities and achievement of the set results.

With strengthened capacities, the professionals from the relevant stakeholders are able to further contribute to a 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 also initiated during 2021.

Finally, the project has supported the creation of positive narratives and perceptions towards migrants and refugees focusing on their contributions in the host society through number of media initiatives including two informative campaigns – one focused on the general public reaching 449,492 persons and second one focusing on youth, reaching 555,173 persons through various media channels.

2. Results

The implementation of the Joint Programme results (outcomes and outputs) and the related activities in 2021 is presented hereafter for the period of 1st of January – 31st of December 2021. The activities progress presented is aligned the Joint project workplan (Annex D3: Workplan).

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

The increased use of the produced data, migration tools and methodologies is observed among stakeholders (a level of 3 on a scale of 1-5, per the outcome indicator). In particular, the produced data for the two migration tools: first ever country Migration Governance Index (MGI) Report and the new country Migration Profile 2021, were used in the development of the new Resolution on migration policy and its Action Plan for 2021-2025

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 Joint Project are aligned to the Global Compact on Migration (GCM).

Output 1.1 New comprehensive Migration Policy is developed and adopted

The new Resolution on Migration Policy 2021-2025 and its Action Plan was endorsed by the Government on 2nd of 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

The project has supported the development of the new Resolution on Migration Policy and Action Plan 2021-2025 that was endorsed by the Government on 2nd of November and adopted by the Parliament on 23rd December 2021¹⁷. The new Resolution contains the country's strategic directions and measures in the area of migration management for the period 2021-2025.

The development of the migration policy was supported through engagement of two local experts with specific roles and expertise. One with extensive knowledge in the overall migration management area and expertise in regular migration and the second one with extensive knowledge in irregular migration and development of action plans. Both have started with their engagement in March 2021 and completed it with the validation of the developed Resolution by the intragovernmental body at the end of June 2021. During their engagement the experts developed a methodology and work plan for the preparation of the migration policy and conducted a number of coordination and thematic meetings with the intragovernmental body members and the respective stakeholders represented in and outside the body.

Visibility on IOM web page and newsletter: <https://north-macedonia.iom.int/news/development-new-resolution-migration-policy-2021-2025>

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

The project team and the engaged experts have provided support to the intragovernmental body established for the development of the migration policy throughout the whole process of the preparation of the new Resolution on Migration Policy 2021-2025 and further.

The nominations of the Head and Deputy Head of the intragovernmental body in addition to the nominated members and deputy members were completed in March 2021. The first coordination meeting with the body management was conducted on 19th of March and number of regular coordination meetings were conducted with both the body management and the represented institutions and organizations during the policy development.

The project has supported organization of 4 specific thematic meetings with the intragovernmental body for the development of the migration policy. The first thematic meeting was organized on 23rd of April

¹⁷ Official Gazette of the Republic of north Macedonia no.290/2021

with participation of 21 members/deputy members where the Methodology for drafting the Resolution on Migration Policy, the Work plan and the proposed Content of the Resolution on Migration Policy were discussed and agreed. The remaining 3 thematic meetings were organized in May 2021. The second Thematic meeting was organized on 14th of May with participation of 16 body members and/or deputy members, while the third Thematic meeting was organized on 18th of May with 18 participants. The final fourth Thematic meeting of the intergovernmental body was organized on 28th of May with participation of 20 body members and/or deputy members. This meeting was used for discussion and preliminary selection of the proposed general and specific goals as well as the planned activities of the Migration Resolution National Action Plan for 2021-2025.

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

The validation meeting aimed to present and gather inputs and feedback to the pre-final contents of the Resolution on Migration Policy and its Action Plan was held on 22nd June 2021 with participation of 16 body members and/or deputy members. The recommendations gathered during the validation meeting were integrated into the final version of the Resolution, that was shared with the Head of the intragovernmental body and its members on 30th of June 2021. The Head then shared the policy with the Government for its endorsement that was followed by the adoption by the Parliament.

In December 2021 the project has finalized the English and Albanian translation of the adopted Resolution on Migration Policy and its Action Plan 2021-2025 and the process of its design and publication will be initiated in the beginning of 2022.

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

The project aims to have 5 data management tools/ mechanisms applied by the institutions. As of the end of the reporting period, a total of 4 tools have been developed and applied (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). At least 1 more data management tool/mechanism will be developed and applied in 2022.

The process aimed at piloting the “big data” and remittances for government led migration population analysis was also initiated during 2021. It examines the use of innovative data collection and analytical methods for estimating migration stocks and flows, as complementary source of data, within the established cooperation with respective international and national universities and institutions and engagement of local experts for data collection and analysis in these areas.

Activity 1.2.1. Develop a country specific Migration Profile.

The project has supported the development of the new country specific Migration Profile 2021, that covers the period 2009-2019, and includes relevant migration management information and data. The gathered data for the Migration Profile contributed for the development of the new migration policy.

The development of the country Migration Profile 2021 was conducted with local experts' support through a participatory and consultation process and in close cooperation with the officials represented in the joint project Technical Working Group (TWG) and the members of the intragovernmental body for the development of the migration policy. The Migration Profile of the Republic of North Macedonia presents the relevant statistical data about regular and irregular migrations, as well as the analysis of the migration movements trends in the last decade (2009-2019). The Migration Profile contains the following segments:

- Section A that shows the characteristics of the migration trends.
- The impact of the migration on demographic development, the labour market, socio-economic development, health, and environment is presented in Section B.
- Section C presents the findings about the migration management such as the coherency and coordination of the activities in the migration area, the national legislation, and the international cooperation.
- The key findings, the impact of the migration policy and the recommendations are elaborated in Section D of the Migration Profile.

The Migration Profile has been endorsed by the members of the joint project TWG and the members of the intragovernmental body. It has been translated into English and Albanian and shared with IOM Publication Unit for final editing and technical layout taking into consideration the project visibility criteria. This action is expected to be completed by mid of 2022.

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

Two local experts were engaged to support the State Statistical Office (SSO) in the development of the standard migration module questionnaire that will be incorporated in the labor force survey (LFS). Number of coordination and consultation meetings were carried out with the joint project team and the SSO professionals during the process of the questionnaire preparation. The questionnaire was developed in close cooperation with the SSO as per the EUROSTAT standards and it included questions that are covering the information about the country nationals that are living and working abroad. Outside of the Joint Project, the SSO has developed a separate module by following EUROSTAT standards that includes questions about the foreigners residing in the country. The piloting of the migration module in the LFS it is expected to be conducted in last quarter of 2022.

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

On 27 and 28th of October 2021 a two-day training was organized for the members of the joint project technical working group on "Further alignment with EU and international standards on migration statistics" for 12 participants (7 women) during the first and 13 participants (6 women) during the second day. The present were able to learn about the level of alignment of the national migration statistics with the EU Directives 862/2007 and 851/2020 through presentations done by the local consultants and active participation and discussion. At the end of the training 81% of the training participants were able to

provide correct answers in the post-training questionnaire showing increase of knowledge of 17% in comparison to the responds in the pre-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” is planned to be organized in 2022.

The engagement of 2 international experts to support the national stakeholders in strengthening the data systematization and analysis through the provision of technical assistance is also planned to be conducted in 2022.

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

The project supported the national authorities to develop first ever Migration Governance Index (MGI) country profile with the assistance from the IOM Global Migration Data Analysis Centre (GMDAC) MGI team and the engagement of an international expert from the Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU) and active participation of the relevant institutions represented in the joint project Technical working group that provided inputs, data and information to respond to 94 indicators of the MGI Matrix grouped under six main policy domains, considered as “the building blocks” of effective migration governance,: 1) migrants rights; 2) whole of government approach; 3) partnerships; 4) well-being of migrants; 5) mobility dimensions of crises, and safe, orderly and dignified migration.

The Migration Governance Indicators Profile of North Macedonia that was endorsed by the national stakeholders represented in the joint project Steering committee (SC) during the second SC meeting held in September 2021, was published in November 2021 and is available in English, Macedonian and Albanian on IOM Publications website: <https://publications.iom.int/books/migration-governance-indicators-profile-2021-north-macedonia>

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 MGI assisted the country to identify good practices as well as areas with potential for further development and offered insights into the policy levers that country can use to develop its migration governance structures. The information gathered during the process of the MGI development has also contributed towards the development of the country new migration policy for 2021-2025.

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

The aim of this activity is to explore the use of innovative data collection and analytical methods for estimating migration stocks and flows, as additional and complementary source of data, by (1) addressing the potential use of Big data, for example geo-spatial data, mobile phone data, social network data, etc., with potential to provide nearly real-time estimates regarding the migration stocks and flows, and by (2) exploring potential of foreign currency remittances data mainly representing private financial transfers

received from temporary or permanent residents abroad as a growing source of external financing of national economy with clear link to migration and potentially valuable source for compiling migration statistics.

To set the grounds for development of migration estimates the project has established cooperation with Southampton University, the Faculty of Computer Science & Engineering (FINKI) in Skopje, the National Bank of the Republic of North Macedonia (NBRNM), the Ministry of Information Society and Administration (MIOA), the State Statistical Office.

The Southampton University research team has developed a Concept note and an Inception Report for the work structured in a staged manner, with stage 1 devoted to producing estimates of migration to/from North Macedonia by using “mirror statistics “ by implementing a statistical framework for estimating migration based on several macro-level (aggregate) sources of information, either official statistics on migration reported by both origin and destination countries or by a combination of different official and other sources for a single country. The expected outcome is producing migration estimates with their measures of error. This will be followed by a possible stage 2 and expanding the remit to include non-traditional data sources – the Big data, including possible use of geo-spatial data digital traces, mobile phones, etc.

In addition, the project has supported the engagement of a local expert to work on the state-of-the-art analysis of Big Data as an alternative source of migration data. During the reporting period a draft outline of the multistep methodology for use of the Big Data analytics for the purpose of indirect estimation of the migration stocks and flows was prepared. The initial search and analysis indicate several online internet-based sources and offline sources available in other formats. All the possible data sources are aggregated and combined by using the Big Data analytics methods aimed at calculating and estimating migration stocks and flows.

Regarding the work on the Remittances, a landscape and comparative analysis of remittances from migrant workers within their complex socioeconomic perspective has been finalized. It outlines the current system of data collection and options for developing data collection program for remittances by discussing /selecting the main approaches to obtaining the migration data, including the international transactions reporting system (ITRS), direct reporting by remittance service providers, household surveys, and the use of secondary sources such as demographic, administrative, and macroeconomic data.

The design of a new methodology for surveying remittance inflows through informal channels and the survey instruments for conducting a survey targeting remittance receiving households have been completed. The latter has been the first stage of work which requires several upcoming follow up activities such as hiring a survey agency to conduct the survey, processing of the compiled data and final analytical report with actionable recommendations.

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

In 2021 an international service provider “Demos Helsinki oy” was engaged by the Joint Project. The implementation of the capacity building activities targeting at least 325 trainees is scheduled for 2022.

Fourteen training sessions/ meetings for the national stakeholders have been conducted exceeding the set target of 10 training sessions/meetings. Six two-day meetings/training sessions were organized for development of procedural documents and team building of the intragovernmental body conducted from October - December 2021 and eight interview meetings were organized with the national stakeholders to assess the institutional capacities and needs for anticipatory governance in December 2021.

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

In July 2021, UNHCR published a call for proposals for procurement of services to support the institutionalization of participatory, innovative, and forward-looking planning and policy development in migration management in North Macedonia. The Think Tank “Demos Helsinki oy” was selected as a service provider that, under the overall coordination of UNHCR, in collaboration with IOM and UNFPA, will:

- Build capacities and systems for improved participatory, forward-looking, and innovative migration management for national stakeholders with competences in migration management, with particular focus on the entities represented in the Inter-ministerial body.
- Develop capacities for foresight and future thinking across key relevant stakeholders to advocate for a society wide adoption of forward-looking planning and policy development.

The Demos Helsinki oy proposal, which was presented to the JP Steering Committee during the second meeting on 30th of September, has six phases that will be implemented as presented in the table below:

Phase	Implementation period
Anticipatory Governance Model	Oct - Nov 2021
Assessment of institutional capacities and needs	Nov 2021 – Jan 2022
Global study on best practices	Feb 2022 – Apr 2022
Capacity building	Apr 2022 – Dec2022
Foresight study on the futures of migration in MK 2021-2041	May 2022 – Nov 2022
Institutionalization of anticipatory governance	Nov 2022 – Jan 2023

During the reporting period, the Demos Helsinki oy team completed the process of mapping of the key stakeholders in the context of anticipatory migration management and conducted 8 interview meetings with the key stakeholders from Ministry of Labour and Social Policy (MLSP), Reception Centre for Asylum Seekers in Vizbegovo, Macedonian Young Lawyers Association (MYLA), UNHCR, IOM, UNFPA, UNDP and City Red Cross (CRC) in order to assess the current institutional capacities and needs for anticipatory migration governance in the country.

The Service provider has also initiated the work on the first draft of the Anticipatory Governance Model for North Macedonia. In agreement with the project team, delivery of the first draft will be done in January 2022 to include the data from the final interviews that are scheduled for January.

The Demos Helsinki oy performed a mapping of local and international experts in the fields of migration management and foresight for the Advisory Board which will be established at the beginning of 2022 with the aim of providing strategic guidance to the project team in these areas. Invitations to all potential members of the Advisory Board have been sent out by the end of 2021.

On 6th of December, Demos Helsinki oy has also presented the Anticipatory Governance component of the Joint Project to the North Macedonia UNCT to introduce the activities, ensure alignment with the UN and explore synergies.

In 2022, the service provider will proceed with the implementation of the activities outlined in the technical offer. An introductory workshop for the members and deputy members of the intragovernmental body for the development and implementation of the migration policy is planned for the first week of February which will aim to introduce the members of the body to the concept of anticipatory migration management, present the upcoming activities and ensure their buy in.

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

The project has engaged an international expert that conducted an Analysis of the intragovernmental Body for Migration in North Macedonia: Capacity Building Needs and Good Practices during March – April 2021 that was reviewed and cleared by the Head of the Intragovernmental body for development of the new Resolution on Migration Policy and its members. The Analysis is available in both English and Macedonian languages. Based on the analysis findings the project team supported the organization of 6 two-day working meetings/capacity building training for the development of procedural documents for the body and its members' capacity building.

The Body Rules of Procedure and Terms of Reference were developed during the 2 two-day working meetings organized on 7th and 8th and 19th and 20th of October 2021 with average participation of 15 officials during the first meeting (70 % women) and 10 during the second meeting (75% women). During the working meetings the members of the intragovernmental body were presented with drafts of the documents prepared by the engaged local experts and were able to provide the relevant inputs for their finalization.

The Communication strategy and tools and the Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting tools were developed during the 2 two-day working meetings organized on 23rd and 25th and 29th and 30th of November 2021 with average participation of 8 officials during both meetings (with 62% and 85% women). During the Communication strategy and tools working meeting the participants were provided with a comprehensive and efficient framework and tools for communication prepared by the local expert about the various activities related to the Migration Resolution and its Action Plan and the work of the body as well as with additional guidelines for usage of free of charge media platforms such as:

- existing platforms of the institutions/organizations that are members of the body (e-mail, e-bulletins, usage of MailChimp, which is marketing tool for design and sharing of information to the existing e-mail networks).
- usage of the Government Brand Manual from 2019 for guidance about the branding rules when creating body visuals.

- Creation and usage of social platforms for presentation of the work and the achievements of the intra-governmental body (such as Facebook, Instagram and/or Twitter).

During the Evaluation, Monitoring and Reporting tools meeting the members of the intragovernmental body were provided by the local expert with a practical guidance and tools to facilitate the process of monitoring, reporting, and evaluating the set goals in the Migration Resolution and the Action Plan. The Body members were able to learn about the experience from Albania and Montenegro regarding the M&E and the reporting of their migration policy documents.

The Assessment on the EU Acquis and Good Practices in Migration Management was developed 9th and 10th of December with average participation of 11 body members (85% women). The workshop, delivered by the engaged local expert, was used to present, and discuss the recommendations from the EU Progress Report for North Macedonia 2021, the actions for EU acquis alignment in the National Program for EU alignment 2021-2025 vis-à-vis the objectives and the set results in the new Resolution on Migration Policy 2021-2025.

The Team Building training to gain knowledge on the suitable models, techniques and tools for teamwork strengthening, relationships building, and communication was organized on 20th and 21st of December and attended by 11 body members (91% women). The first day of the training, conducted by the local expert, was focused on establishing the group dynamics, discussions about self and the perception of others through the POINTS OF You and DISC Flow models. These models served as a basis of fruitful discussions about what is working and what might be considered for improvement in the teamwork processes and communication. The DISC Flow model was presented through the personalized invitation of the participants to openly discuss their personal styles and models of communication and the team collaboration. On the second day of the training, the overall model was applied in an exercise and discussion about the benefits/strengths and the limitations that may come from each of the communication styles.

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 with two developed protocols and received five 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 capacity building trainings to increase the national institutions capacities to exchange migration related data in line with EU and international standards are planned to be conducted in 2022.

The updated “Rulebook on the conditions and standards for Reception of asylum seekers and their care” and the “Handbook on how to implement refugee integration services” were developed. Both documents are expected to be adopted by the relevant stakeholders in 2022.

Five requests for support in procurement of new IT systems/databases/software or upgrades of the existing ones were received: 2 from the Ministry of Information Society and Administration (MIOA), 2 from the Ministry of Interior (MoI) and 1 from the National Bank of Republic of North Macedonia (NBRNM). 1 request for MoI Border Police support in procurement of 15 desktop computers and 5 laptops with updated software compatible to national databases completed. 1 request for MIOA support in procurement of 2 Firewalls for the government portal uslugi.gov.mk initiated in December 2021.

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

To successfully assess the needs and prepare recommendations on inter and intra institutional data collection and exchange mechanisms, the team of international and local experts was engaged for the period 01st of March until 31st of May 2021. Within this activity, the experts, through conducted desk review and interviews with the relevant stakeholders represented in the joint project TWG, have gathered information related to relevant institutions needs in provision of advisory support, capacity-building and technical support for enhancing of data collection, analyses and exchange and procurement of new or upgrade of existing IT systems/databases/etc. Based on all the collected and analyzed information the team of experts have delivered the “Assessment of the collection and exchange mechanisms of migration data in North Macedonia” that is available in both English and Macedonian language. The report includes information about the 1) Context of migration in North Macedonia, 2) International requirements for the migration statistics 3) Governance of migration data collection 4) Data sources, data exchange and statistics on migration 5) Assessment and recommendations and relevant Annexes : Annex 1 – Main international requirements and tools on migration statistics; Annex 2 – Tables proposed under WB-MIDEX; Annex 3 – Availability of the migration-relevant SDG indicators in North Macedonia; Annex 4 – Questionnaire on needs for improving the collection and exchange of migration data and Annex 5 – List of stakeholders and contacts.

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

Based on the needs expressed by the national stakeholders in the “Assessment of the collection and exchange mechanisms of migration data in North Macedonia” and additionally through bilateral meetings total 5 requests for support in procurement of new IT systems/databases/software or upgrades of the existing ones were received: 2 from the Ministry of Information Society and Administration (MIOA), 2 from the Ministry of Interior (MoI) and 1 from the National Bank of Republic of North Macedonia (NBRNM).

Regarding Mol requests – UNHCR has procured 15 desktop computers and 5 laptops with software compatible to national databases for 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. Currently outdated IT equipment used by the BP makes the registration of migrants travelling in mixed movements as well as the registration of asylum-seekers difficult. The hardware will enable data collection and digitalization, improve registration, and increase the capacity of the Border Police officials to participate in remote meetings and distance learning interventions. The computers have been branded with MPTF visibility and will be handed over to the Mol in January 2022.

Regarding the second Mol request for support for the Department for criminal intelligence and analysis (OKRA) in development of a new software for data collection and exchange regarding the illegal border crossings of foreigners, it was still pending during the reporting period, due to ongoing internal Mol consultations on how and whether to proceed with it.

Regarding the MIOA requests for 1) Procurement of software – Microsoft Exchange Server Enterprise with Exchange CALs for 10 users, UNFPA has initiated process of obtaining specification from MIOA while for the 2) procurement of 2 firewalls for the protection of the government service web portal www.uslugi.gov.mk that among other included relevant migration related information, IOM has initiated the procurement procedure in December 2021 that is expected to be completed during first quarter of 2022.

The request for support NBRNM in procurement of Software “IBM SPSS Statistics” for analysis of results from surveys related to financial transfers was received by UNFPA in December 2021 and during the reporting period UNFPA has continued with internal coordination about the next steps.

Following a request for support from the Director of the Reception Centre for Asylums Seekers – Vizbegovo, a local expert was hired through UNHCR’s partner, the Macedonian Young Lawyers Association to support the institution in drafting the update the “Rulebook on the conditions and standards for reception of asylum seekers and their care in a space determined by the MLSP.” The draft Rulebook was finalized in December and is expected to be adopted by the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy in 2022.

Following the request for support from the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy for the drafting of document with procedures on local integration of refugees that would also include elements of monitoring and evaluation and integration management, a local expert was hired who developed the “Handbook on how to implement refugee integration services”. In December, the draft Handbook was finalized with its adoption is expected to take place during the second quarter of 2022.

Regarding the provision of advisory and capacity building support, the organization of 6 two-day trainings for 150 participants on improvement of data collection, analysis and exchange is planned to be conducted during 2022.

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

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

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

Total of 449,492 persons reached with the informative campaign “This is home” which is 45 times more than targeted in the Joint Project.

The Informative campaign was available on 3 national TV stations, 3 local TV stations, 3 radio stations, 10 web portals and paid adds 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 nation – wide informative campaign.

The informative campaign “This is home” for creating positive narratives and perceptions towards migrants and refugees focusing on their contributions in the host society that was created in cooperation with the local Marketing Agency Grey International LTD was implemented from 26th of November until 25th of December 2021.

The campaign, composed on one main 60 seconds TV video composed of 3 stories of migrants and refugees and 3 separate YouTube videos for each story was available in Macedonian language with subtitles in Macedonian, English and Albanian. The subtitles were added in the Macedonian language version in order make the video accessible for the persons with hearing impairments. The campaign has been broadcasted by 3 national TV stations (Sitel, Alsat and Alfa), 3 local TV stations (TV Nova Gevgelija, TV Vis – Strumica and TV Plus – Kumanovo), 3 radio stations (Time – Gevgelija, Bum and Jehona – Kumanovo), social media (paid add on FB and Instagram) and IOM Skopje YouTube Channel. During the one month broadcast the campaign videos reached more than 740, 000 views or 449,492 persons which is almost 45 times more than the set target in the Joint Project Result Framework of 10,000 persons to be reached. 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).

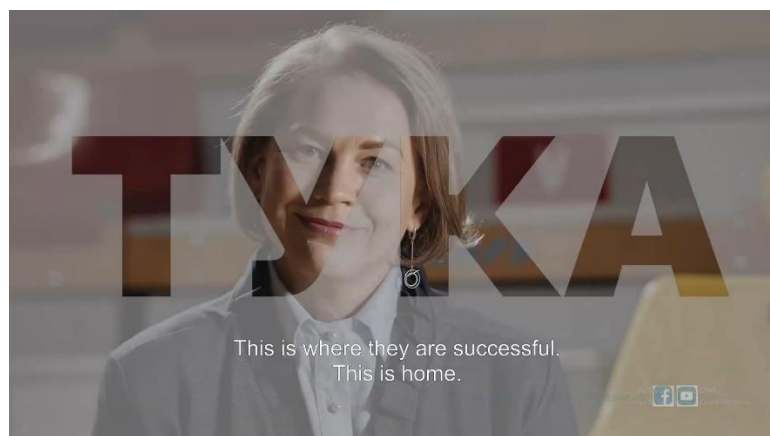


Photo 1: Main Informative campaign video post on IOM North Macedonia FB page

Link of the main campaign video (ENG subtitle):

- This is home <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gysoyVn9a9E>

Links of the separate stories (3 videos, ENG subtitles):

- This is home - Natalija Todorovska <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fE20f1KcAsQ>
- This is home – Igor Meyer Erkoff <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qzMPyA7pet4>
- This is home – Nikolina Kujaca <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jmPXnTmt5oY>

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.

Five journalists were trained in 2021. 3 journalists trained on Sanremo Refugee Law course for Journalists and 2 trained on the trainings by University of Kentucky (89.85% with correct responds in the post-training questionnaire). Ongoing capacity building for 7 journalists by Association of Journalists of Macedonia, to be finalized by Q3 of 2022. 18 more journalists remain to be trained by the end of the project.

Fourteen broadcasts were conducted in 2021 or total 24 with the set baseline, exceeding the set target of total of twenty-two broadcasts to be done during the project implementation.

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 89.2% of the participants rated the overall experience of the training as excellent.

Four public events aimed to support the public to adopt positive narratives and perceptions about migrants are refugees were organized or supported by the Joint Project in 2021 or total six with the set baseline: Skopje Jazz Festival support; the Journalists Awards Event; PINA event and YEF final event, exceeding the set target of five events to be organized or supported by the JP. In addition, 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. The Strategy identifies key messages and narratives aimed at changing behavior and attitudes in host population and national stakeholders to foster positive view 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 (i.e social media calendar).

Th capacities for the successful implementation of the Communications Strategy for **eighteen (18) key stakeholders out of which 3 journalists were built through seven (7) courses on refugee protection,**

implemented by the International Institute of Humanitarian Law in Sanremo. The participants were **the** members of the Advisory Body for the implementation of the Communications Strategy, representatives of national institutions (Office of the President of North Macedonia, Office of the Ombudsman, Ministry of Labour and Social Policy, Ministry of Justice, Commission for Prevention and Protection Against Discrimination, journalists, partners (MYLA, YEF and CRC) and UNHCR staff. Certificates were granted to participants following successful submission of written assignments and at least 70% active participation in the course sessions. A [social media testimonial](#) on the communication techniques for representation of refugees in the media was prepared by one of the journalists who took part in the 1st Online Course on Refugee Law for Journalists at the International Institute of Humanitarian Law in San Remo. The capacity building of the Advisory Body will continue in 2022, to further develop their capacities for the implementation of the Communications Strategy for Social Change.

One hundred sixty-three (163) 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. On average, 89.2% of participants rated the overall experiences of the training as excellent. The capacity building sessions were funded as a contribution to the project by UNHCR North Macedonia.

In October 2021, the project has 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](#)).



Photos 2 and 3: UNHCR Representative speech during the Jazz Festival and Jazz for solidarity with refugees’ poster

In March 2021, a new institutional Instagram account was opened to reach a greater portion of the youth in the country with the messaging that will be developed within the Communication Strategy. During the reporting period the Instagram account, has reached 529 followers. In addition, UNHCR office’s social

media accounts were regularly used for content creation and promotion of the actions foreseen under this activity.

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 Communications Strategy for Social Change identified the youth engagement as one of the key channels for improving the public perception on refugees and migrants. In that vein, in October 2021, UNHCR established a partnership with the civil society organization (CSO) “Youth Educational Forum (YEF)” to analyze the attitudes of young people towards refugees and migrants; use the gathered data to implement public campaign and develop non-formal educational programs targeting young people.

The research on the “Perceptions and attitudes of young people in North Macedonia regarding refugees, asylum-seekers, migrants and persons without citizenship”¹⁸ was finalized by the YEF in December 2021. The research was based on a combined methodological approach – questionnaire-based research on a sample of 1,025 young people aged 15-29 in North Macedonia (with representative sample of the gender, age, place of residence and ethnicity of respondents) and three focus groups with a total of 20 young people for the qualitative part of the study.

Based on the research findings 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](#) and [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.



Photos 4,5 and 6: Information Campaign “Not hate – build an attitude!” promo materials and video presentation

¹⁸ Annex 19 of the 2021 Annual Progress Report

To combat misinformation and build empathy in youth, in collaboration with UNHCR, the Youth Educational Forum also developed a **non-formal educational program** containing detailed lesson plans on refugee rights intended for high school students. These lessons will be incorporated in the existing educational programs of YEF (debate program, street law program and youth activism program) and taught to youth across the country in 2022 and onwards. Additionally, in 2022, UNHCR will also explore channels to introduce these lesson plans into formal education.

The Macedonian Young Lawyers Association (MYLA), second UNHCR partner CSO, concluded a contract with national television provider Telma for implementation of the **Refugee Film Cycle in 2022**. The TV provider will buy the broadcasting rights for 6 films¹⁹, develop Macedonian subtitles, promote, and broadcast them. Each film will be broadcasted twice: a premiere followed by an interview discussion on the morning program show of TV Telma, followed by a second broadcast of the film and a related morning show interview.

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

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



Photo 7: Journalists Awards Event

In the area of capacity building of journalists UNHCR has partnered with the Platform for Investigative Journalism and Analysis (PINA) in organization of thematic sessions about the protection of refugees’

¹⁹ The Other Side of Hope, Jupiter's Moon, Welcome to Norway, Welcome to Germany, Beyond the raging sea and For Sama.



rights and in organization of PINA Media Festival. The journalist discussion about 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. The visibility was given to the MPTF project through the social media post and the website of the Media Festival Skopje.

In addition, UNHCR in cooperation with the Association of Journalists of Macedonia (AJM) and the Council of Media Ethics of Macedonia has organized a learning programme to build the capacities of 7 journalists who will take part in English classes for journalists with a focus on refugee rights. The learning programme will take place remotely due to the COVID-19 pandemic and will be finalized in Q3 of 2022.

Results Reporting Framework						
INDICATORS	Baseline	Results achieved for the reporting period (only provide data for the specified year)			Cumulative Results <i>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</i>	Notes
		Y1 2020	Y2 2021	Y3		
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	/	3- Good 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 standards	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	The developed migration policy, migration profile, MGI Report, the migration module in 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 are aligned with the GCM.

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 endorsed by the Government and adopted by the Parliament.
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		4	Migration Profile Migration module in LFS Guidelines for implementation of the Migration Module questionnaire Migration Governance Index Report
Indicator 1.2b - Complementary data source of migration stocks and flows available	None	None	None		None	4 experts engaged: 1) academic team of researchers to produce migration estimates by using mirror statistics (first stage); 2) Local consultant working on macroeconomic dimensions of Remittances and

						<p>respective data collection systems;</p> <p>3) Local consultant working on developing a methodology for surveying remittance inflows and preparation of actual survey; and</p> <p>4) Local consultant working on state-of-the-art analysis of big data as possible alternative source of migration data.</p>
<p>Output 1.3 The national stakeholders have the capacity to develop and support the implementation migration policies that meet EU and International standards</p>						
Indicator 1.3a - Number of individuals trained on data management (gender disaggregated)/ Number of trainees whose knowledge/skills improved	0	0	0		0	The activity will be implemented from April 2022.
Indicator 1.3b - Number of training sessions/meetings/conferences	None	None	14		14	Total 14 trainings/meetings organized.

						6 two-day meetings/training sessions organization for development of procedural documents and team building of the intragovernmental body conducted from October - December 2021. 8 interview meetings with the national stakeholder about the anticipatory governance conducted in December 2021.
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 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	The frequency of inter and intra institutional data exchange can be observed as middle to high with the two developed protocols and received five requests for support in improvement of IT systems/databases/software/equipment that is planned to be processed in 2022.

Output 2.1. The national institutions have the capacities to exchange migration related data in line with EU and international standards						
Indicator 2.1a – Number of needs assessments on inter and intra institutional data collection and exchange mechanisms	0	0	1		1	The needs assessment was completed on 27 th of May 2021
Indicator 2.1b – Number of individuals trained, disaggregated by sex and institutions / number of trainees whose knowledge/skills improved	0	0	0		0	The capacity building trainings will be implemented in 2022.
Indicator 2.1c – Number of developed/updated SOPs/procedures	0	0	2		2	“Rulebook on the conditions and standards for Reception of asylum seekers and their care” and “Handbook on how to implement refugee integration services” developed. To be endorsed in 2022.
Indicator 2.1d – Number of developed or upgraded data management/exchange systems	0	0	1		1	5 requests received (2 by MIOA, 2 by MOI - OKRA and BORDER POLICE and 1 by NBRNM) 1 procurement completed for Mol BP; 1 procurement process for MIOA firewalls initiated.

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	Baseline will be determined with the baseline study	Baseline will be determined with the baseline study	Baseline study available	/	Baseline study available	Implementation of a survey is planned before the project closure to measure the percentage of increase in policy and opinionmakers' perception towards migrants and refugees as development actors.
Output 3.1 The general public adopts positive narratives and perceptions of migrants and refugees						
Indicator 3.1a – Number of persons reached with the country wide and local level campaigns	0	0	449,492 persons reached/ 740,000 views		449,492 persons reached/ 740,000 views	449,492 persons reached with the information campaign videos / 45 time more than targeted in the JP
Indicator 3.1b – Availability of an informative campaign, developed and disseminated in traditional and social media	No	No	Yes		Yes	Informative campaign available on 3 national TV stations, 3 local TV stations, 3 radio stations, 10 web portals and paid adds 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

<p>Indicator 3.2a - Number of journalists trained, by sex and age/ Number of trainees whose knowledge/skills improved</p>	20	0	5		5	<p>5 journalists trained /89.85% with correct responds in the post-training questionnaire.</p> <p>Ongoing trainings for 7 journalists that will be completed in Q3 of 2022.</p>
<p>Indicator 3.2b - Number of articles/broadcasts from journalists with positive narratives and perceptions;</p>	10 articles/broadcasts	0	14		14	<p>14 articles/broadcasts with positive narratives and perceptions:</p> <p>1 journalist testimonial, 2 interviews on Jazz Fest (Telma Utrinska and Utrinski briefing), 1 article (Sloboden pechat), and 1 joint press release by SJF and UNHCR on jazz for solidarity with refugees picked up by 12 media outlets.</p> <p>2 on PINA event Discussions: Media coverage of refugees and stateless persons and on the Shadow Game:</p>

						Protect Children on the Move 7 on Radio MOF - YEF campaign (2 stories and 5 op-eds).
Indicator 3.2c - Number of individuals trained on the Communication Strategy for Social Change/ Number of trainees whose knowledge/skills improved	None	None	161		161	161 officials (61% women) from the governmental bodies and relevant ministries, as well as from civil society organizations and UN entities. 89.2% 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 events	2 baseline events	4		4	4 public events organized: - Skopje Jazz Festival - Journalists Awards - PINA Media Festival - YEF Research publication In addition, 555,173 persons were reached with the informative campaign “Not hate – build an attitude”.



3. PARTNERSHIPS

The joint project has further built the strong cooperation and coordination with the relevant national stakeholders²⁰ represented the Steering Committee (SC) and the Technical Working Group (TWG). Within the reporting period, the Steering Committee with support from the RCO, IOM, UNFPA and UNHCR had convened two meetings (February 10th and September 30th) while the second and third Technical Working Group meetings were held on March 31st and June 30th, 2021.

The first Steering committee (SC) meeting²¹ was attended by 23 SC members from the national institutions, civil society organizations, IOM, UNFPA, UNHCR and UN Resident Coordinator's Office. The meeting was opened by the Ministry of Interior (Moi) Assistant Minister for European Union and International Cooperation and the United Nations Resident Coordinator in North Macedonia. The IOM Joint Program Coordinator, together with the UNFPA and UNHCR team members presented the main project goal which is to contribute for effective demographic management and migration dynamics through the development of evidence-based migration policies and gave a brief introduction of the project components. The first SC meeting was also used to present the activities planned for 2021 as per the project Work Plan.

The second SC meeting of the Joint Project was held on 30th of September 2021 with 23 SC members. The meeting was used to present the status of the activities and the next steps, as well as to present the key findings from the Migration Governance Index Report for North Macedonia.

The second TWG meeting, attended by 18 TWG members, was used to present the status of the activities, the conclusions from the 1st Steering Committee meeting and the next steps planned for the third quarter of the project implementation.

The third TWG meeting, attended by 9 members, was used to present the status of the activities, the achievements, and the next steps of the project implementation. Particular attention was given to the presentation of the draft Migration Governance Index Report and the findings from the report "Assessment of the collection and exchange mechanisms of migration data in North Macedonia" where specific needs of the institutions were presented, discussed and next steps were agreed.

²⁰ 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, Macedonian Young Lawyers Association (MYLA), Macedonian Platform for Poverty Reduction (MPPR), and European Policy Institute (EPI)

²¹ Information about the SC meeting shared by MLSP on their web page: https://mtsp.gov.mk/pocetna-ns_article-zamenik-ministerot-za-trud-i-socijalna-politika-husejin-ucestvuvash-na-prvata-sredba-na-upravuvacki.nspix



Regarding the organization of the fourth TWG meeting, that was initially planned for October 2021, in coordination with the TWG members, it was decided to be conducted in January 2022, as during October 2021, the project team has organized a thematic capacity building workshop for the TWG members on 27th and 28th of October on “Further alignment with EU and international standards on migration statistics”.

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 including 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. 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 PUNOs 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 of the faced challenges, finalization of the monthly progress reports and planning of the next steps.

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 PUNOs in close coordination with the RCO has ensured that 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 joint project strongly took into consideration the gender balance of the participants at 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.

Both the SC and TWG members have agreed on the importance to mainstream the gender approach in the new migration policy; to follow the migration related recommendations in the EU country progress report; and on the important role that the migration plays in the country development.

The three capacity building workshops for the Communication Strategy for Social Change employed a gender responsive approach, considering gender differences in workshop design and ensuring equal participation opportunities. Of the 163 participants, 61%, were female.



Regarding the gender mainstreaming in the migration policy, the Resolution on Migration Policy 2021-2025 is calling upon the Strategy for gender equality 2013-2020 and has included as one of its main principles the “Respect of the international standards, human rights, and protection of migrants according to the international law, in particular the vulnerable categories of migrants, and the international standards related to migrants’ workers. The principle includes the fight against xenophobia, racism and discrimination, and incorporation of the gender equality in the migration policy”. The challenges faced by the women migrants are also included in migration policy.

The Resolution on migration policy also includes the relevant migration data disaggregated by gender and its Action plan includes gender disaggregated targets. In addition, in the Resolution Action Plan title 18. “Continuing capacity building of the relevant institutions on the international migrants’ rights standards”, a specific activity 5 is included “Development of gender responsive migration policies to address the particular needs and vulnerabilities of migrant women, girls and boys”. The activity foresees Analysis of the gender sensitivity of the migration management strategies with relevant recommendations.

During the two-day training for the members of the TWG on “Further alignment with EU and international standards on migration statistics” women represented 52% of the total number of participants²². The importance of collection, analysis and sharing of the gender disaggregated migration management data was noted by both the experts and the TWG members from the relevant national institutions and civil society organizations.

In addition, women represented on average 78% of the participants in the six two-day working meetings/CB training that were organized for the intragovernmental body members during October-December 2021 for development of procedural documents of the body and its team building.

5. INNOVATION, GOOD PRACTICES AND LESSONS LEARNED

As noted in the project document, the joint project has and will continue to introduce several innovative tools and methodologies, which will provide new evidence for policy making.

The project has supported the development of the first ever country Migration Governance Index (MGI) that is an innovative measurement tool for collection and analysis of data, based on ninety indicators grounded in the six dimensions of the Migration Governance Framework. The MGI was developed with support of The Economist Intelligence Unit in close cooperation with the TWG members and other national stakeholders.

²² 7 women out of the total 12 participants during the 1st day (58%) and 6 women out of the 13 participants (46%) during the second day, or average 52% women during the two-day training.



The project started to explore the potential of using the foreign currency remittances flows to estimate real-time data on emigration. The work on the remittances as alternative source of migration data is new and innovative analytical effort supported by the project. The landscape analysis of remittances represents a rare and comprehensive attempt to shed light about remittances in North Macedonia and contributes to future policy design that will increase the benefits that these transfers produce. The new Methodology for surveying of data on remittances' flows through informal channels based on the sample for surveying the migrant households with members residing abroad, is designed with combination of several currently available data sources. The survey is expected to capture significant volume of data on the remittance inflows which remain outside the official registration. Both, the final draft on the landscape analysis, and the first set of work on the new Survey methodology and survey instruments, contain a wealth of information and distinct data which shed new light on the migration mobility patterns and scenarios in North Macedonia.

Furthermore, the project will support the national stakeholders to attempt to estimate emigration data using big data sets from satellite imagery and/or other alternative data sources such as cell phone records, electricity bills, taxi GPS data and/or new media. This will be the first-time big data would be explored as a new non-traditional source of data used for the improvement of the quality of data relevant for the national migration statistics.

Also, the global futures and foresight methodologies will be used to support the government in developing strategic governance capabilities that will aid the transition to long-term planning and policy making by providing technical assistance and capacity building for government stakeholders in anticipatory governance, a participatory, collaborative process that brings together government, public and private sector organizations, civil society and citizens - to collectively anticipate, future opportunities and challenges and shape future-fit policies. To address the needs for novel and improved forms of data collection, analysis, and exchange in national counterparts outlined in the "Assessment of the collection and exchange mechanisms of migration data in North Macedonia" as well as the activities outlined in the draft Action Plan for the North Macedonia Migration Policy 2021-2025, a Frame Agreement was concluded with Demos Helsinki oy, a Nordic think-tank with extensive international experience in the public governance who will work to build capacities and provide technical assistance for the introduction of Foresight and Anticipatory Migration Governance in the country.

An International Advisory Board on anticipatory migration policy, composed of leading local and international experts and practitioners will be assembled to support the implementation of project activities and provide high-level strategic guidance to the project in some of its key moments. The preliminary anticipatory governance model for North Macedonia will be shared with the Board to receive a broad range of perspectives and promote a high-level discussion about the model's key components and implications.



The Communications Strategy for Social Change, developed in cooperation with professors and experts from the University of Kentucky, utilizes a novel approach known as Public Interest Communications to make a lasting change of 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. The field borrows elements from its sister fields of public relations, advertising, journalism, and marketing, but is informed by sociology, psychology, political science, and neuroscience.

The Advisory Board for the implementation of the implementation of the Communications Strategy for Social Change works to increase the number of partnering organizations, coordinate existing efforts, and improve communication with the public. The board is instrumental in assessing the feasibility, offering additional suggestions, and coordinating the implementation strategy. The Board also serves to decrease the unilateral relationships between individual partners, coordinate existing efforts, and improve communication with the public.

6. CHALLENGES ENCOUNTERED AND MEASURES TAKEN

Due to the use of online tools for meetings and presentations, the PUNOs' saved costs in 2021. These savings were re-allocated to the organization of the foresight and futures capacity building trainings for the national stakeholders under the activity 1.3.1. Based on the JP coordinator and PUNOs analysis of the savings under a number of budget lines, an amount of 115,000 USD was reallocated for the activity 1.3.1.

The table below presents the specific budget lines and amounts that are reallocated per PUNO:



	Outcome/ output/ activity formulation:	PUNO 1 - IOM Budget by recipient organization	PUNO 2 -UNHCR Budget by recipient organization	PUNO 3 - UNFPA Budget by recipient organization	IOM savings for foresight in USD	UNHCR savings in USD	UNFPA savings in USD
PROGRAMMATIC BUDGET							
1.1.2.1	Organization of coordination/development meetings (4 meetings x 1 day x 1500 USD per meeting)	3,000	3,000	0	3,000	3,000	0
1.1.2.2	Organization of validation meeting (1 meeting x 1 day x 2000 USD per meeting)	1,000	1,000	0	1,000	1,000	0
1.1.3.1	Organization of presentation conference (1 day x 5000 USD for rent of premises: translation equipment, materials, lunch and refreshments for 50 participants) - 50 x100 USD	2,500	2,500	0	2,500	2,500	0



1.2.1.2	Organization of 1-day validation workshop (rent of premises; translation equipment, materials, lunch and refreshments for 25 participants) - 25 x 100 USD	2,500	-	0	2,500	0	0
1.2.1.3	Organization of presentation conference 1-day (rent of premises; translation equipment, materials, lunch and refreshments for 50 participants) - 50 x 100 USD	5,000	-	0	5,000	0	0
1.2.3.2	Further alignment with EU and international standards on migration statistics through the provision of capacity building (2 local experts x 200 USD x 10 WD = 4000 USD. Organization of the CB trainings logistics 2 days x 25 participants x 100 USD)	9,000	-	0	5,000	0	0
1.2.4.1	Engagement of international experts (2x 30 days x 500 USD)	30,000	-	0	16,500	0	0
1.2.4.2	Organization of 1-day validation workshop (rent of premises; translation equipment, materials, lunch and refreshments for 30 participants) - 30 x 100 USD	3,000	-	0	3,000	0	0



1.2.4.3	Organization of presentation conference 1-day (rent of premises; translation equipment, materials, lunch and refreshments for 75 participants) - 75 x 100 USD	7,500	-	0	7,500	0	0
1.2.4.4	Translation (MKD/ALB) and Publication of the report (1000 pcs x 15)	15,000	-	0	13,000	0	0
1.2.4.5	Translation services (simultaneous and written translation during the preparation of the MGI and respective meetings and events	4,500	-	0	3,000	0	0
1.3.1	Organize capacity building trainings on strengthening the data management (the collection, processing, analysis and utilization of migration data and statistics) - 6 trainings x 2 days x 25 participants x 80 USD costs for rent of premises, materials, translation, lunch, refreshment and accommodation	8,000	8,000	8,000	8,000	8,000	8,000
1.3.2.2	Engagement of local experts (9 experts x 5 WDs each x 200 USD)	0	3,000	0	0	3,000	0



1.3.2.3	Organization of capacity building workshops for development of protocols, ME mechanisms and other operational documents for the multi-agency body (9 workshops x 2 days x 25 participants x 43.33 USD costs for rent of premises, materials, translation, lunch, refreshment and accommodation)	6,500	6,500	6,500	6,500	6,500	6,500
					76,500	24,000	14,500

overall total
115,000 USD



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 good in comparison to limited prior the project implementation. The developed new Resolution on Migration Policy and its Action Plan 2021-2025, Migration profile 2021, MGI Report, the Migration Module in LFS and its Guidelines are fully in line with the international and EU data management standards. In addition, the Resolution on Migration policy and its Action Plan are also aligned with the GCM.

The process aimed at piloting the “big data” and remittances for government led migration population analysis was also initiated during 2021 in cooperation with respective international and national universities and institutions and engagement of local experts for data collection and analysis in these areas.

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 identified needs and five requests for support were received in improvement of IT systems/databases/software/equipment during the reporting period.

Regarding the JP Outcome 3 “The general public and the policy makers view migrants and refugees as development actors” the informative campaign “This is home” for creating positive narratives and perceptions towards migrants and refugees focusing on their contributions in the host society reached 449,492 persons which is almost 45 times more than the set target in the Joint Project Result Framework of 10,000 persons to be reached. In addition, 555,173 persons were reached with second informative campaign “Not hate – build an attitude” that was targeting youth. An implementation of a survey is planned before the project closure to measure the percentage of increase in policy and opinionmakers' perception towards migrants and refugees as development actors.

The regular internal meetings have been organized between the PUNOs aiming at creating synergy and proper organized project implementation. To facilitate the implementation of the project activities and communicate with stakeholders, the JP teams worked closely with the Steering Committee and the



Technical Working Group. These meetings were held to further build the 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; informative campaigns, JP Instagram account; published documents and other.

The following actions are planned for 2022:

- Design and publication of Resolution on Migration Policy 2021-2025.
- Procurement of the IT systems, equipment, software, databases.
- Organization of capacity building trainings for 150 participants on data collection and exchange.
- Engagement of two international experts to support stakeholders in the improvement of data collection and exchange process and develop relevant tools/mechanisms.
- Organization of a 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”.
- Development of the complementary data sources of migration stock and flows and their piloting.
- Finalization of the assessment of institutional capacities and needs for anticipatory migration governance.
- Establishment of the Advisory Board on Anticipatory Migration Governance.
- Completion of the study on best anticipatory migration practices.
- Building of the capacities of 325 national stakeholders on foresight and anticipatory migration governance.
- Implementation of the foresight study on the future of migration in North Macedonia for the period 2021-2041.
- Supporting the institutionalization of anticipatory governance.
- Building of the capacities of the Advisory Board for the implementation of the Communications Strategy for Social Change.
- Continue with the implementation of the Communications Strategy for Social Change, e.g. Awareness raising campaign, Journalists awards, Film Cycle, Debate Tournament, Essay Contest, Local Youth Actions, Media Mentorship Program and other outreach activities.



ANNEX

- Annex 1 - Resolution on Migration Policy and the Action Plan for 2021-2025
- Annex 2 - Migration Profile (MP) 2021
- Annex 3 - Migration Module questionnaire
- Annex 4 - Migration Module Guidelines
- Annex 5 - Migration Governance Indicators (MGI) Profile for North Macedonia
- Annex 6 - Rules of Procedure of the intragovernmental body
- Annex 7 - Description of the tasks and duties of the head, deputy head, members, and deputy members
- Annex 8 - Communication Strategy and Tools of the intragovernmental body
- Annex 9 - Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting Tools of the intragovernmental body
- Annex 10 - Alignment of the Macedonian Migration Policy with the EU Standards
- Annex 11 - Team Building for the intragovernmental body
- Annex 12 - Demos Helsinki Technical Offer
- Annex 13 - Communications Strategy for Social Change
- Annex 14 - Social Media Plan
- Annex 15 - Communications Capacity Building Trainings Narrative Report
- Annex 16 - Youth Educational Forum youth engagement report
- Annex 17 - Migrants and Refugees Info Campaign Reports
- Annex 18 - Steering Committee and TWG meetings minutes
- Annex 19 - Research on the perceptions and attitudes of young people in North Macedonia regarding refugees, asylum-seekers, migrants, and persons without citizenship.