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FRONTEX EVALUATION REPORT 2017

Joint Operation Coordination Points 2017

Operations Division
Joint Operations Unit
Land Borders Sector

Approved at Warsaw

[signed]
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1. Background information

1.1. Introduction

The JO Coordination Points 2017 was implemented from 7 March until 12 December 2017. The main goal of the JO was to enhance the system for the exchange of information concerning actual and future irregular migration trend towards the EU's external borders through the territories of third countries. Moreover, the JO established and harmonised best practices in order to increase the level of cooperation among the competent authorities involved in the control of irregular migration flows and tackling cross-border crime.

The JO Coordination Points 2017 was implemented at the following land border sections:

- Border between the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Serbia
- Border between Moldova and Ukraine
- Border between Ukraine and Moldova
- Border between Albania and Montenegro
- Border between Bosnia and Herzegovina and Montenegro
- Border between Montenegro and Albania
- Border between Serbia and Bosnia and Herzegovina
- Border between Ukraine and Belarus
- Border between Ukraine and Hungary
- Border between Ukraine and Poland
- Border between Ukraine and Romania
- Border between Ukraine and Slovakia
- Border between Kosovo and Albania
- Border between Kosovo and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

1.2. Brief Risk assessment

1.2.1. The border between Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Serbia

Data collected within the WB-RAN shows that between 1 January and 31 October 2017 at the land border between the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Serbia 240 irregular migrants were apprehended for crossing the border illegally. In comparison with the same period in 2016, when 475 irregular migrants were detected, the number of detected irregular migrants dropped by 50%.

In addition, 277 migrants were refused entry at the BCPs. Of them, 211 were refused by the national authorities of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and 66 by the Serbian national authorities.

At the same time, between 1 January and 31 October 2017, a total of 52 clandestine migrants were detected at the BCPs hidden in means of transport. Compared with 2016 when the number of attempts of clandestine entry was 164 a decrease of 68% was observed in 2017. Moreover, a change in clandestine migrants' movements was observed as almost all of them were detected on entry to the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia from Serbia, compared with none reported at this border in 2016. Importantly, between 1 January and 31 October 2017, only one clandestine migrant was detected on entry to Serbia, compared with 164 reported during the same period in 2016.

Moreover, between 1 January and 31 October 2017, 55 false or falsified documents were registered at this borer section. It represents a decrease of 18% compared with the same period of 2016 with detections of 67 false or falsified documents.

1.2.2. The border between Moldova and Ukraine

At the land border between Ukraine and Moldova, 421 illegal border-crossings between BCPs were recorded during the period 1 January to 31 October 2017. It represents an increase of 9% compared with the same period of 2016 when the number of apprehended migrants was 386. The vast majority of Illegal border-crossings were related to smuggling or 'other' activities not connected with migration purposes.

It is worth noting that no clandestine entry incidents were recorded at the BCPs at this border section in 2017. However, 420 cases (compared with 467 in 2016) were reported from the BCPs at the Moldovan-Ukrainian border section related to other methods (other than clandestine entries) to enter illegally through the BCPs with the intention of avoiding border checks.[1]

The number of refusals of entry issued at the BCPs at the Moldovan-Ukrainian border, and reported within the EaP-RAN network, reached 3 548 in the period 1 January to 31 October 2017. This represents a significant increase of 60% compared with the same period in 2016 when 2 223 refusals of entry were reported. In 2017, 84% of the refusals were issued by Ukraine (2 974), while Moldova issued 16% (574).

At the same time, 21 false or falsified documents were detected. The Ukrainian authorities reported 13 false documents, while the Moldovan authorities reported 8. Compared with the same period of 2016, when 39 false or falsified documents were detected, a decrease of 46% was recorded.

1.2.3. The border between Albania and Montenegro

According to data reported by Albania and Montenegro within the WB-RAN from their common land border, 142 irregular migrants were apprehended for crossing the green border illegally in the period between 1 January and 31 October 2017. In comparison with the same period in 2016, when 80 irregular migrants were detected between

[1] possible other illegal methods to enter/exit illegally; this includes for example the use of force or other physical means to openly but illegally enter/exit the territory such as running through border checks or speeding with a vehicle through a BCP with the intention to avoid border checks; *'Frontex Eastern Partnership Risk Analysis Network Definitions of Indicators'*

BCPs, an increase of 78% was observed. In the period under review, the majority of irregular migrants were reported entering Montenegro from Albania, (69) and 41 detected by Albania (on exit to Montenegro).

At the same time, between 1 January and 31 October 2017, a total of 30 clandestine migrants were detected at the BCPs hiding in means of transport. Compared with 2016, when the number of reported clandestine entries was 18 an increase of 67% was recorded in 2017.

With regard to refusals of entry reported within the WB-RAN network, the number of reported refusals between 1 January and 31 October 2017 was 1 285. It represents a significant increase of 74% compared with the same period in 2016. The vast majority of refusals was reported by Montenegro (97% or 1 250). The Albanian authorities reported 35 refusals of entry.

The number of detections of false and falsified documents at this border section was 25 during the first ten months of 2017. Compared to the same period of 2016, a similar number of false or falsified documents was reported (26).

1.2.4. The border between Bosnia and Herzegovina and Montenegro

At the border between Bosnia and Herzegovina and Montenegro 236 illegal border-crossings between BCPs were reported within the WB-RAN network during the first ten months of 2017. Compared with the same period in 2016 when 41 irregular migrants were apprehended, a significant increase was observed in 2017. The authorities of Bosnia and Herzegovina reported 165 irregular migrants on entry from Montenegro, while the Montenegrin authorities detected 69 migrants on attempted exit and 2 on entry.

Moreover, 9 clandestine migrants were detected by the Bosnian and Herzegovinian authorities hiding in means of transport on entry, compared with none in the same period of 2016.

In addition, according to WB-RAN data, between 1 January to 31 October 2017, 301 persons were refused entry at this border section. Of those refusals, 202 were issued by Bosnia and Herzegovina and 99 by Montenegro.

Furthermore, during the first ten months of 2017, there were 8 false or falsified documents reported from the border of Montenegro and Bosnia and Herzegovina compared with none recorded in the same period of 2016

1.2.5. The border between Serbia and Bosnia and Herzegovina

Between 1 January and 31 October 2017, at the border between Serbia and Bosnia and Herzegovina, 165 irregular migrants were apprehended for illegal border-crossing according to WB-RAN data. During the same period in 2016, 66 migrants were apprehended, which indicates an increase of 150% in 2017. Bosnia and Herzegovina reported 106 detections, mainly on entry (104), while the authorities of Serbia reported 56, including 33 on attempted exit and 26 on entry.

In addition, there were 48 clandestine entries of migrants hidden in means of transport reported from the BCPs, including 29 reported by Serbia on attempted exit and 19 detected by Bosnia and Herzegovina on entry.

There were no clandestine entries reported in the same period of 2016 at the border between Serbia and Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Moreover, 936 person were refused entry along this border section. This represents a decrease of 27%, compared with the same period of 2016, when 1 278 refusals of entry were registered. In 2017, Serbia reported 753 refusals

of entry, while Bosnia and Herzegovina recorded 183 at their common border section. During the period under review, 16 false or falsified documents were detected.

1.2.6. The border between Ukraine and Belarus

At the land border between Ukraine and Belarus 217 illegal border-crossings between BCPs were reported within the EaP-RAN network during the first ten months of 2017. Compared with the same period in 2016 when 287 migrants were apprehended, a decrease of 24% was observed in 2017. Belarus reported 120 irregular migrant detections in total, on entry (61) and on attempted exit (59) to and from Ukraine. The Ukrainian authorities detected 97 irregular migrants at the border with Belarus, including 62 on attempted exit and 35 on entry. With regard to nationalities, mainly regional migrants were detected for crossing the green border illegally. In the vast majority of cases, irregular migration was not the sole purpose of illegal border-crossing. There were no cases of clandestine entries while hiding in means of transport reported from BCPs in 2017.

With regard to refusals of entry reported within the EaP-RAN network, Ukraine and Belarus reported 10 510 at their common border between 1 January to 31 October 2017. It represents a decrease of 16% compared with the same period of 2016, when 12 571 refusals of entry were recorded. The vast majority of refusals was reported by Belarus (87% or 9 144). The Ukrainian authorities reported 1 366 refusals of entry.

In addition, at the same time 15 false or falsified documents were detected. The Ukraine authorities reported 8 false or falsified documents, while the Belarusian authorities reported 7. Compared with the same period of 2016, when 21 false and falsified documents were detected, a decrease of 29% was recorded.

1.2.7. The border between Ukraine and Hungary

At the land border between Ukraine and Hungary 147 illegal border-crossings between BCPs were reported within the EaP-RAN and FRAN network during the first ten months of 2017. Compared with the same period in 2016 when 511 migrants were apprehended, a significant drop of 71% was observed in 2017. Ukraine reported 96 irregular migrants on attempted exit to Hungary, while Hungary reported 45 irregular migrants on entry from Ukraine. Moreover, in the period under analysis, there was one case reported by Hungary of clandestine entry through the BCP of a person hiding in means of transport.

Between 1 January and 31 October 2017, 2 821 refusals of entry were reported from the border between Ukraine and Hungary. It represents a 36% growth compared with the same period of 2016 with 2 069 refusals recorded. In 2017, of the refusals issued at the Ukrainian-Hungarian border, Hungary reported 81% (or 2 276). Ukraine refused entry to 545 persons.

1.2.8. The border between Ukraine and Poland

According to data reported within the EaP-RAN and FRAN network, during the first ten months of 2017 there were 324 illegal border-crossings between BCPs reported at the Ukrainian-Polish border section. The number of detections grew by 10% compared with the same period in 2016 (295). Poland reported 126 detections on entry, while Ukraine reported 186 on attempted exit to Poland and 12 on entry to Ukraine.

Moreover, 29 697 refusals of entry were reported from the Polish–Ukrainian border between 1 January and 31 October 2017. It represents a growth of 24% compared with the same period in 2016 when 23 938 refusals of entry were recorded at the border section in question. The authorities of Ukraine reported 1 803 refusals of entry at the border with Poland.

1.2.9. The border between Ukraine and Romania

At the land border between Ukraine and Romania 254 irregular migrants were apprehended between 1 January to 31 October 2017 for illegal border crossing between BCPs according to EaP-RAN and FRAN data. Compared with the same period in 2016 (307), a decrease of 17% was observed in 2017. Ukraine reported 201 detections, mainly on attempted exit towards Romania (127) and 74 on entry. Romania reported 53 irregular migrants on entry.

Moreover, there was a significant 71% growth in the number of refusals of entry reported from the Ukrainian-Romanian border. Between 1 January and 31 October 2017, 1 891 refusals were issued compared with 1 105 recorded during the same period of 2016. Ukraine refused entry to 406 persons.

1.2.10. The border between Ukraine and Slovakia

According to data reported within the EaP-RAN and FRAN network, an increase of 60% in the number of reported illegal border-crossings at the Ukrainian-Slovak border was recorded in 2017. Between 1 January and 31 October 2017, 333 detections were reported compared with 208 recorded in the same period of 2016. Slovakia reported 193 irregular migrants on entry from Ukraine, while Ukraine reported 136 on attempted exit to Slovakia and 4 on entry. No clandestine entry cases were reported.

In addition, 982 refusals of entry were reported from the Ukrainian-Slovak border during the first ten months of 2017. Compared with the same period of 2016, when 679 refusals were recorded, an increase of 45% was observed in 2017. Slovakia reported the vast majority of refusals (84% or 826). Ukraine reported 156 refusals of entry.

1.2.11. The border between Kosovo* and Albania

At the land border between Kosovo and Albania 105 illegal border-crossings between BCPs were reported within the WB-RAN network during 1 January and 31 October 2017. Compared with the same period in 2016 when 200 migrants were apprehended, a significant drop by 48% was observed in 2017. The authorities of Kosovo reported 63 irregular migrants on entry from Albania and 1 on attempted exit to Albania. The Albanian authorities detected 41 irregular migrants on attempted exit at the border section in question.

There was only one clandestine entry reported by Albania, compared with 4 clandestine entries recorded by Kosovo in the same period of 2016.

In addition, 661 refusals of entry were reported within the WB-RAN network at the border between Kosovo and Albania during the first ten months of 2017. It represents a 9% decrease compared to the same period of 2016, when 728 refusals were recorded. In 2017, the vast majority of refusals was reported by Kosovo (84% or 553). The Albanian authorities reported 108 refusals of entry.

According to data reported within WB-RAN, 16 false or falsified documents were recorded at the border between Kosovo and Albania. Almost all cases were reported by Albania (15).

1.2.12. The border between Kosovo* and Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

According to data reported within the WB-RAN 126 irregular migrants were apprehended for crossing the border between Kosovo and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia illegally in the period between 1 January and 31 October 2017. It represents an increase of 24% compared with the same period in 2016, when 102 irregular migrants were detected for illegal border-crossing at this border. In the period under consideration, the majority of irregular migrants were reported by Kosovo on entry (73 migrants) from the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and 4 on attempted exit. The authorities of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia reported 37 irregular migrants on entry from Kosovo and 12 on attempted exit at the border between Kosovo and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

In addition, during the period under review, 24 clandestine entries of migrants hiding in means of transportation were reported from the BCPs by Kosovo on entry from the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia compared with zero in 2016.

At the same time, the number of reported refusals of entry issued at this border section decreased by 30%. There were 573 refusals of entry issued between 1 January and 31 October 2017 compared to the same period of 2016 (826). The authorities of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia reported 336 refusals. The authorities of Kosovo issued 237 refusals.

Moreover, 57 false or falsified documents were detected. The vast majority was recorded by the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. Kosovo reported 2 false or falsified documents. Compared to the same period of 2016, when 11 false or falsified documents were detected, an increase was observed in the period under examination.

1.2.13.Sources

- Western Balkan Risk Analysis Network (WB-RAN) data[2]
- Eastern Partnership Risk Analysis Network (EaP-RAN) data[3]
- Frontex Risk Analysis Network (FRAN) data[4]
- Operational data from the JO Coordination Points[5]
- Open Sources

The data for the Joint Operation Coordination Points 2017 consists only of data submitted to JORA by the reporting points during the implementation periods, with the exception of Ukrainian Coordination Points activated at the border section with Hungary, Poland, Romania and Slovakia from which reports were sent directly to the Frontex Coordination Centre.

[2] Data provided for the period 1 January to 31 October 2017; database as of 22 December 2017.
[3] Data provided for the period 1 January to 31 October 2017; database as of 22 December 2017.
[4] Data provided for the period 1 January to 31 October 2017; database as of 22 December 2017.
[5] JORA data as of 22 December 2017.

1.3. Operational aim

The operational aim of the Joint Operation Coordination Points was to establish a system for the exchange of information related early detection of recent, actual and future illegal migration trends towards the EU through the territory of the third country. Furthermore, the establishment and exchange of common best practices improved operational cooperation between the competent authorities involved in controlling of irregular migration flows and to tackle other cross-border crime. The collection of operational information from all actors and sources involved supported risk assessments that underpinned operational activities, thus contributing to the implementation of integrated border management in mutually beneficial way.

1.4. Period of implementation and operational areas

The joint operation was implemented during the period 07 March – 12 December 2017. The deployment periods and operational areas were as follows:

1/ Land border between the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Serbia

Commencement	07 March 2017
Termination	12 December 2017

2/ Land border between Moldova and Ukraine

Commencement	13 June 2017	00:00 (local time)
Termination	07 September 2017	24:00 (local time)

3/ Land border between Ukraine and Moldova

Commencement	15 June 2017	00:00 (local time)
Termination	07 September 2017	24:00 (local time)

4/ Land border between Albania and Montenegro

Commencement	11 April 2017	00:00 (local time)
Termination	01 August 2017	24:00 (local time)

5/ Land border between Bosnia and Herzegovina and Montenegro

Commencement	27 June 2017	00:00 (local time)
Termination	19 September 2017	24:00 (local time)

6/ Land border between Montenegro and Albania

Commencement	04 July 2017	00:00 (local time)
Termination	21 November 2017	24:00 (local time)

7/ Land border between Serbia and Bosnia and Herzegovina

Commencement	06 July 2017	00:00 (local time)
Termination	26 October 2017	24:00 (local time)

8/ Land border between Ukraine and Belarus

Commencement	04 July 2017	00:00 (local time)
Termination	29 August 2017	24:00 (local time)

9/ Land border between Ukraine and Hungary

Commencement	10 June 2017	00:00 (local time)
Termination	23 June 2017	24:00 (local time)

10/ Land border between Ukraine and Poland

Commencement	10 June 2017	00:00 (local time)
Termination	20 July 2017	24:00 (local time)

11/ Land border between Ukraine and Romania

Commencement	10 June 2017	00:00 (local time)
Termination	23 June 2017	24:00 (local time)

12/ Land border between Ukraine and Slovakia

Commencement	10 June 2017	00:00 (local time)
Termination	23 June 2017	24:00 (local time)

13/ Land border between Kosovo* and Albania

Commencement	12 September 2017	00:00 (local time)
Termination	07 November 2017	24:00 (local time)

14/ Land border between Kosovo* and Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

Commencement	14 September 2017	00:00 (local time)
Termination	09 November 2017	24:00 (local time)

1.5. Participants

The joint operation was hosted by Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Moldova, Montenegro, Serbia, Ukraine and Kosovo*. 20 MSs and SACs participated in the JO, namely Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain and Switzerland. Each MS/SAC participated with one authority. During the implementation period of the Joint Operation 95 experts were deployed as advanced level document officers, stolen vehicles detection officers, second line officers and dog handlers.

** This designation is without prejudice to positions on the status, and in line with UNSCR 1244/1999 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence*

2. Achievement of objectives

2.1. Enhance border security

The objective was **achieved**. Officers deployed within the JO Coordination Points 2017 Land supported the national authorities in discovering cases of migrant smuggling, and other cross-border crime. During the implementation period of the JO Coordination Points 2017, JORA reporting included a total number of:[6]

- 79 persons, involved in the smuggling of goods, were reported
- 58 persons reported in possession of false or falsified documents
- 33 stolen vehicles reported
- 8 persons reported for illegal border-crossing

The deployment of document and stolen vehicle experts at the appointed Coordination Points during the period of the implementation of the JO Coordination Points 2017 proved to be very useful in strengthening border control and enhancing border security. Experts supported the local authorities by sharing experience and knowledge with hosting countries' officers. The exchange of expertise between EU experts and local border guard officers provided an added value on both sides.

The data reported within the Frontex databases (i.e. FRAN, WB-RAN and EB-RAN) from the border sections where operational activities of the JO Coordination Points 2017 were implemented indicate that the irregular migration pressure exerted on the Western Balkan region was primarily recorded between BCPs, while the pressure recorded at BCPs was much lower.

2.2. Enhance operational cooperation

The objective has been **fully achieved. 20** Member States and Schengen Associated Countries participated in the JO. Most of the Host Third Countries (5 out of 8) contributed to the Joint Operation Focal Points also with deployment of human resources (observers) in order to gain knowledge, experience and to get familiar with the tasks, responsibilities and the work at EU external Borders. Best practises between commanders and Local Coordinators were also exchanged within the framework of Focal Points Staff Exchange.
Moreover, Useful practical cooperation and networking among the local coordinators was initiated and implemented during the common Local coordinators meeting, which was held in Warsaw in June 2017. Local coordinators of JO Focal Points Land and JO Coordination Points had the possibility to meet and discuss the daily work and cooperation during the implementation of the operational activity. Local coordinators and commanders from Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Moldova and Montenegro were deployed for two weeks or one week respectively, as representatives within JO Focal Points 2017 Land in order to gain knowledge, experience and to get familiar with the tasks, responsibilities and the work with the Team Members in the framework of Focal Points Staff Exchange.

[6] *Only the operational results linked to irregular migration and cross-border crime were included here*

In accordance with the objectives of the JO, synergy between the JO Coordination Points 2017 Land and the JO Focal Points 2017 was established thus enabling an enhanced operational cooperation between the involved national authorities as well as with international organizations, such as OSCE and EUBAM.

2.3. Enhance exchange of information

The objective has been **partially achieved**. The insertion of data into JORA was in many cases timely and accurate. However, some CPs submitted no reports in JORA during the implementation period of the JO Coordination Points 2017. Importantly, this was mainly the case of Coordination Points activated for a very short period of time. Therefore, it is highly recommended to establish the minimum activation period for the JO in order to provide a reliable update of the situation at particular CPs.

2.4. Identify possible risks and threats

The objective was **partially achieved**. The data collected during the operational period was primarily quantitative and consisted mainly of statistical data reported through JORA. The lack of second-line experts, such as debriefing or second-line interview experts deployed within the operational area, as well as the lack of intelligence officers appointed by the host Member States affected the data quality.

2.5. Establish and exchange best practices

The objective has been **fully achieved.** Coordination points are used as temporary platform for the exchange of operational information, professional experiences as well as for best practices. The EU Experts, acting as observers, acted not only as contact persons between host and other authorities, but based on request and initiative from the host authorities they occasionally delivered practical field training to local staff members. Cooperation with OSCE continued during the implementation period.

Coordination points were used as a tool for the EU experts to observe the cooperation mechanism during the joint operations carried out at the external land borders of European Union, in particular in Albania, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Serbia.

When it comes to cooperation between JO Coordination points 2017 and JO Focal Points 2017 it has to be noted that several good practices have been established, such as Focal Point Team Members participation in the other operational meetings (Briefing, Debriefing meetings), their involvement in the reporting structure of other operations as well as the deployment of Coordination Point Local Coordinators to Focal Points.

Two General Briefing Meetings and Local Coordinators Network Meeting were organized and implemented in Warsaw, giving the possibility to meet and discuss each other about the daily work and cooperation during the implementation of the Joint Operation.

3. Link to other Frontex activities and best practices

3.1. JO Focal Points 2017 Land

Communication between Team Members and EU experts deployed to Frontex joint operations is an important part of effective information exchange. During the implementation phase of the JO Coordination Points 2017, the EU experts deployed in the area exchanged information with the Team Members deployed to different focal points within the JO Focal Points 2017 Land and vice versa. The support provided by Team Members/EU experts was highly appreciated and proved to be a useful tool in exchanging information, support of the daily work and building a network among various stakeholders. It is worth highlighting that all stakeholders contributed to the exchange of information, thus, the level of cooperation was high.

Useful practical cooperation and networking between the local coordinators was initiated and implemented during the common Local coordinators meetings, which was held in Warsaw in March and June 2017. Local coordinators of JO Focal Points Land and JO Coordination Points had the possibility to meet and discuss the daily work and cooperation during the implementation of the operational activity. Furthermore, the local coordinators and commanders from former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Albania, Montenegro were deployed respectively for two weeks and for one week as representatives within JO Focal Points 2017 Land in order to gain knowledge, experience and to get familiar with the tasks, responsibilities and the work with the Guest Officers in the framework of Staff Exchange LBS product.
Additionally, one local coordinator from Ukraine was deployed eleven days in the framework of JO Focal Points 2017 Land as observer gaining experience, best practise and exchange of information.

4. Operational Results

During the period of implementation of the JO Coordination Points 2017 Land, 19 Coordination Points were activated between 7 March and 12 December 2017. In total, 552 incidents, involving 631 persons were reported in JORA (Joint Operation Reporting Application). Compared to the results of the JO Coordination Points 2016 Land, which was implemented between 8 March and 13 December 2016 (with 8 CPs activated), the number of reported incidents increased by 42% (from 390 in 2016), while the number of persons reported grew by 24% (from 511 in 2016). In the period under examination, reported incidents were mainly related to refusals of entry, smuggling of goods, use of false or falsified documents, detections of overstayers and stolen vehicles.

Of the reported incidents, 53% related to refusals of entry. There were 293 such incidents with 356 persons being refused entry. In addition, 74 cases of smuggling of goods, involving 79 persons were recorded and 56 cases concerning the use of false or falsified documents involving 58 persons were also reported. 49 persons were recorded as overstayers on exit at the BCPs. Moreover, 33 vehicles were reported as stolen during the implementation period of the JO Coordination Points 2017 Land.

4.1.1.1. Border between the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Serbia

During the implementation period of the JO Coordination Points 2017, at the border between the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Serbia between 7 March and 12 December 2017, 168 persons were refused entry. Compared to the same period in 2016 when 195 persons were refused entry, a decrease of 14% was recorded.

In addition, 28 false or falsified documents were recorded on entry to the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. Moreover, during the period under examination, 2 cases of marijuana smuggling were reported in JORA. In total, about 22.5 kilos of marijuana were detected by the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonian authorities.

There were also 23 vehicles detected at the BCPs reported as stolen, most of them on entry to the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (17).

4.1.1.2. Border between the Ukraine and Moldova

During the implementation of the JO Coordination Points 2017, at the border between the Ukraine and Moldova between 13 June and 7 September 2017, 44 cases, involving 45 persons, were reported in JORA.

4.1.1.3. Border between Albania and Montenegro

During the activation period 112 incidents, involving 119 persons were reported in JORA. Also 6 false or falsified documents were detected, as well as four incidents related to the smuggling of hashish (23.8 grams) and marijuana (38.064 kilograms). 67 persons were refused entry to Montenegro and 17 persons were recorded as overstayers.

Moreover, 3 cases of stolen vehicles were recorded.

4.1.1.4. Border between Bosnia and Herzegovina and Montenegro

During the activation period, 26 incidents were reported with 30 persons involved. The majority of reported incidents related to refusals of entry (23), which were issued to 27 persons. In addition, one case of a false or falsified document was recorded and 2 cases of a stolen motorbike and a car were reported.

4.1.1.5. Border between Serbia and Bosnia and Herzegovina

During the activation period, 85 incidents, involving 93 persons, were reported in JORA. The majority of incidents (55) related to the smuggling of goods. Among the smuggled goods marijuana ranked first (27 incidents), followed by anabolic and ecstasy pills reported as ‘other drugs’ (21 incidents), cocaine (3) and hashish (3).

Moreover, 19 cases related to refusals of entry, issued to 25 persons, were reported. There were also 3 false or falsified documents. With regard to the smuggling of stolen vehicle parts, one case was reported.

4.1.1.6. Border between Ukraine and Belarus

During the activation period, 56 incidents were reported, involving 56 persons. There were 30 refusals of entry. 8 incidents were reported as 'other' and related to the violation of Ukrainian law (i.e. to cars entering/exiting Ukraine, minors attempting to exit Ukraine). In addition, there were 3 false or falsified documents recorded as well as one over stayer.

Moreover, there were 7 incidents related to the smuggling of goods including cigarettes and medical pills. With regard to stolen vehicles, 6 cars were recorded.

4.1.1.7. Border between Ukraine and Hungary

During the activation period, 191 503 border checks were made, including 127 464 checked documents, 35 951 checked vehicles and 28 078 interviewed persons. The data concerning the results of these activities, namely the detection of false or falsified documents and stolen vehicles were not shared. In addition, three incidents on refusals of entry were recorded.

4.1.1.8. Border between Ukraine and Poland

During the implementation 708 322 border checks were reported, including 526 983 related to checked documents, 181 145 to checked vehicles and 175 to interviewed persons. In addition, 141 refusals of entry and 28 overstayers were reported. Furthermore, 2 cases related to the smuggling of cigarettes were recorded.

4.1.1.9. Border between Ukraine and Romania

During the activation period, 151 273 border checks were reported, including 113 316 checked documents and 37 957 checked vehicles. In addition, 15 incidents were recorded related to refusals of entry, detection of overstayers and smuggling of cigarettes.

4.1.1.10. Border between Ukraine and Slovakia

During the activation period, 67 260 border checks were reported from the BPC Uzhgorod, including 50 364 checked documents and 16 896 checked vehicles. In addition, 9 incidents related to refusals of entry (5) and overstayers (4) were recorded.

4.1.1.11. Border between Kosovo* and Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

During the implementation period 29 cases, involving 35 persons were reported in JORA. The majority of cases related to refusals of entry (26).

4.1.1.12. Border between Kosovo* and Albania

During the implementation period, no incidents were reported via JORA.

5. Financial information

Final budget: 610,384.32 EUR

Total commitment: 610,384.32 EUR with 59 numbers of SFD issued

Payment consumed: 490,496.49 EUR consumption 80.36 % (consumed budget*100/committed funds (610,384.32 EUR) with 56 final payment issued until 19.01.2018)