



Republic of Serbia
Ministry of Interior



This project is funded
by the European Union



Agentur für europäische Integration und wirtschaftliche Entwicklung

TWINNING PROJECT

“SUPPORT TO THE
PREPARATION FOR THE
ESTABLISHMENT OF
THE SUPPLEMENTARY
INFORMATION REQUEST
AT THE NATIONAL
ENTRIES (SIRENE)
BUREAU IN SERBIA”

SR 16 IPA JH 01 18 R

TWINNING REPORT ON ACTIVITIES DURING COVID-19

ABOUT THE PROJECT

/ Twinning Partners

Agency for European
Integration
and Economic
Development

Ministry of Interior
of the Republic of
Serbia

Slovenian Ministry of
Interior

/ Launch

The project implementation started on
March 2nd 2020, with the expected dura-
tion of 24 months.

/ This twinning project will contribute to
meeting security standards for police in-
formation exchange between Serbia and
EU Member States in accordance with
EU standards based on the European In-
formation Exchange Model (EIXM) and as
defined in the Commission implement-
ing Decision 2017/1528 of 31st August 2017

replacing the Annex to Implementing
Decision 2013/115/EU on the SIRENE Man-
ual and other implementing measures
for the second generation Schengen In-
formation System (SIS II) (notified under
document C(2017/5893).

/ Specific objective of this twinning project is
to prepare all the necessary technical, legal
and human resources requirements nec-
essary for the establishment of the "Sup-
plementary Information Request at the
National Entries"(SIRENE) Bureau in Serbia.





INTRODUCTION



MARCELA SKOBALJ

*AEI Senior Project Officer,
Head of AEI TW Office
Croatia*

Dear all,

We are living amidst what is potentially one of the greatest threats in our lifetime to global population, a gigantic crisis. As of March 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic has taught us all that we have to adapt very fast to the new developments and to give our very best to continue with our lives and work and not to give up.

Fortunately, we are seeing a lot of creativity in many countries in the project implementation and we as Austria are very proud to be a part of such a group of people who are more than willing to dedicate their time and efforts for the successful project continuation and providing best results in the given framework. Maintaining not only business relationship but friendship in this difficult time is one of the greatest assets that we have.

Therefore, I am happy that Slovenia and Austria are once more supporting our dear Serbian partners in their preparation for the future EU accession.





STATEMENTS FROM THE TWINNING PARTNERS

“



MR. SLAVKO KOROŠ
*Member State Project
Leader*

Despite the problems caused by the Covid-19 pandemic, we started the project actively and successfully. Further implementation of the project, as long as these exceptional circumstances are present, will certainly require a great deal of professionalism, ingenuity, tolerance and open communication. I am confident that

we will continue to thrive on this as we have included our best experts in the project. I also believe and fully trust all of our partners and other participants in the project. Excellent mutual communication and mutual trust are the foundation of any good cooperation and work. Dear Colleagues and friends, I look forward to working with you."

“



MR. NEBOJŠA KOSIĆ
BC Project Leader

It is impossible to imagine international operational police cooperation without fast and efficient information exchange. Wishing for the Serbian police to reach the highest European standards in that field, The Ministry of the Interior, has launched the project "Support to the Preparation for the Establishment of the SIRENE Bureau in Serbia", in cooperation with the EU Dele-

gation in Serbia and the Twinning partners from Slovenia and Austria. The successful realization of this project is of a great importance not only for the Ministry, but also for our country. The project is tightly related to the European integration process, especially within the implementation of the activities from the Action Plan for the Chapter 24, in the field of international operational police cooperation."

“



MR. DUŠAN KERIN

*Resident
Twinning Adviser*

The project started on 1st of March 2020. Due to the coincidence with the Covid-19 epidemic, it did not start as we planned and wanted, but it did not discourage our willingness to implement it successfully. The desire, hope and above all the motive for further work on the project must be that we will remember the Twinning project not only because of the Covid-19 epidemic, but because of the effective and quality preparation of all the necessary preconditions for Serbia's implementation of SIS II and the establishment of the national SIRENE Bureau. Right at the beginning, the activities were postponed for a month

and a half, but during that time we prepared and distributed two questionnaires related to the international police cooperation in Serbia and IT support in this area. The answers we received from our BC partners were included in the structure of preparations for the assessment of various areas (legal aspects, work organization, work procedures, human resources, IT support, training, etc.). Shortly before the summer holiday, the activities in the project started to function normally, taking into account the prescribed standards regarding the Covid-19 epidemic (distance, hand hygiene, wearing masks). The activities have been and will be carried out in three different ways:

- / On-line on one of the available platforms (Skype, BBB);
- / Combined, with the presence of MS experts in Serbia and on-line;
- / With the physical presence of STEs in Serbia.

By the end of this year, we plan activities in four components, which have also been successfully implemented so far. The

mentioned activities were mainly related to the assessment of the situation in the field of international police cooperation, IT support, human resources, training, etc. Workshops have already started, the primary aim of which is to discuss the identified gaps and recommendations in this regard and to find solutions for solving them. A very important part of the project is also the awareness campaign in all participating institutions/stakeholders (border police, customs, foreign affairs, judicial authorities, criminal police, etc.), which will be end-users of SIS II and SIRENE. In some institutions the project and its objectives have already been presented and in others this will happen in the nearest future. Cooperation with other related projects (EURODAC / EUROSUR; IBM; Schengen Action Plan) should also be mentioned, mainly for the sake of consistency, avoiding duplication of activities and, above all, ensuring adequate communication and visibility platform. To this end, we also made a leaflet with basic information about the project for the needs of the participating institutions."

“



MR. NEBOJŠA RAIČEVIĆ

BC RTA Counterpart

In spite of the initial difficulties caused by the COVID 19 pandemic and a temporary suspension of the Project, thanks to the strong efforts of all the team members, we have succeeded to compensate for the time loss and finish all the planned activities, which were numerous, in the previous six months.

These activities span from the analysis and definition of legal and technical prerequisites, consider-

ation of the need for organizational structure, introduction with the necessary procedures and human resources, to designing the Roadmap in accordance with the SIRENE Manual.

We are facing an ambitious and dynamic period during which it will be necessary to look in detail at all the necessary parameters for the establishment of a functional national SIRENE Bureau."

“



MR. BORUT SELAN

Component Leader 1

"Legal framework for the establishment of the SIRENE Bureau in accordance with the SIRENE Manual improved"

Despite difficulties, we managed to start the project successfully, showing that we can easily adapt and that we are a motivated and a flexible team. In times, when one of the greatest challenges that the police face in every country is the international mobility of criminals posing threats to national security, this project provides an answer to this fundamental question. Enhancement of existing working methods in line with the EU Security Standards for police cooperation exchange and preparations for the establishment of the SIRENE Bureau will provide an additional impetus to boost national security and prevent criminal activity in Serbia. During the project, we will take small but important steps aimed at achieving even better and more effective police cooperation and without doubt, this Twinning Project will also make an important contribution to accomplishing this goal; I think that we will build in the additional stone in the mosaic of efforts in our quest for providing safety and security for our citizens and visitors."

MR. TOMAŽ KERN

Component Leader 2

“



Despite the difficult circumstances caused by the COVID-19 epidemic, the high motivation of all BC and MS experts and their willingness to adapt to the changes allowed a number of planned project activities to be successfully implemented in recent months. During the activities, which were a combination of an on-line workshop or workshops and

visits to the beneficiary country, the experts from BC and MS proved their expertise through presentations, discussions and exchange of knowledge and experience in the field of international police cooperation. I am convinced that the positive energy and enthusiasm of BC and MS during the project will make good results, to the satisfaction of all the participants."

“



MR. ŽABKAR JANEZ

Component Leader 3

"Preparation of the HRM organisation for the establishment of the SIRENE Bureau prepared and Functional HR analysis (with necessary number of staff) in line with the SIRENE Manual developed"

With the COVID-19 situation, the Twinning project started in difficult times, but we all agreed to adapt to the new situation. We organized workshops combined with on-line courses and deskwork and thanks to the flexibility and mo-

tivation of everyone involved, the activities are in full progress. Online work by itself goes hand in hand with the issue of personal contact so we try to organize as many workshops as possible in Serbia. With great management and team, we managed to create a good atmosphere while exchanging information and opinions at the highest level. The project is running in difficult times, nevertheless, there is light at the end of the tunnel we will be able to reach".

“



MRS. SONJA BOŽIČ
Component Leader 4

Training activities will be implemented in the second part of the Twinning Project. In the first phase, a training needs analysis will be carried out, and at the same time a training program based on CEPOL standards will be prepared. The existing e-learning platform will be supplemented with SIS II related content.

Given the very important interaction between the SIRENE staff and the SIS II end-users, first of all trainings for (future) SIRENE staff in the field of the SIRENE Bureau's work will be organized. Candidates for »Train-the-Trainers« sessions will be selected as training participants; in this way, a pool of trainers will be established to train both the SIRENE staff and the SIS II end users in the future. Future trainings will also prepare curricula, among others in the field of international

police cooperation, including international searches for persons and objects within the Interpol and SIRENE channels.

This will be followed by seminars for SIS II end users such as the Ministry of the Interior, the Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Prosecutor's Office, the Customs Administration, data protection authority, vehicle registration authority.

BC participants will also be provided with practical work in the form of internships in MS, where participants will be introduced to the SIRENE Bureau's working procedures and good practices.

Under Component 4, the focus will be on acquiring new knowledge and encouraging the exchange of good practices, which will certainly be useful in the implementation of SIS II. I look forward to working with you."

“



MR. ANDREJ LESJAK
Component Leader 5

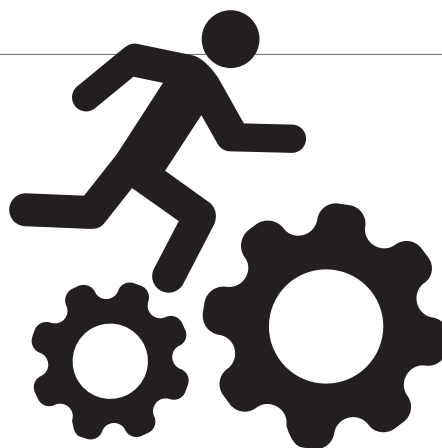
"Technical requirements for the establishment of the SIRENE Bureau identified and capacities of staff for the establishment of the required systems enhanced"

Regardless of the problems caused by Covid-19, we believe that we have commenced our work on SIS II successfully. Serbian Information and communication infrastructure are well prepared for the implementation of IT systems, which are essential for the full operation of the SIRENE Bureau. The server infrastructure is well designed and up-to-date. The core system infrastructure is highly appropriate for imple-

menting the Schengen Information System. The infrastructure for data storage is modern and up-to-date.

Current national application solutions provide a good basis for upgrading to SIS integration. The solutions are implemented on the basis of the national legislation, which will have to be adjusted to the EU rules at some points. The first information showed us the appropriate powers of the information security service. On this basis, we believe that it will be possible to ensure adequate protection of SIS II. For this reason, we look forward to our further work on the implementation of SIS II."

ACTIVITIES IMPLEMENTED IN THE LAST PERIOD



Activity 1.2 Definition of Sub-laws

- / EU legislation related to establishment of SIRENE Bureau with identification of Sub-laws needed for implementation
- / Identification of key changes in working processes
- / Following benchmarks have been achieved:
 - SIRENE Bureau working processes identified
 - Sub-laws related to establishment and functioning of SIRENE Bureau defined

Activity 1.3 Definition of legal pre-conditions for establishment of IT infrastructure

- / Presentation of SIS II legislative and EU MS best practice.
- / Overall assessment of the existing legislative of the BC IT infrastructure
- / Evaluation of IT support of border control in Airport Belgrade and Border-crossing Batrovci
- / Following benchmarks have been achieved:
 - Overall assessment of the existing legislative in the BC IT Infrastructure provided
 - Legal preconditions for establishment IT infrastructure defined

Activity 2.1 Drafting of detailed plan of concrete activities/ measures (including Rules and procedures) for the Roadmap for the establishment of the SIRENE Bureau in line with the SIRENE Manual

- / Site visits, consultation meetings and interviews, and overall assessment of the state of play related to international police cooperation
- / Presentation of the Schengen Acquis – definition, scope, legal framework, best practice, recommendations
- / Presentation of SIRENE Manual and implementation into national procedures
- / Identification of criteria for organization and functioning of SIRENE Bureau

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> / Identification of SIRENE working procedures and standards / Following benchmarks have been achieved: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Detailed plan of concrete activities/measures (including Rules and procedures) for the establishment of the SIRENE Bureau in line with the SIRENE Manual drafted
Activity 3.1 Drafting of HR Gap Analysis with recommendations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> / Consultation meetings and interviews, and overall assessment of the state of play of International Police Cooperation HR. / Presentation of SIRENE organisation, method of staffing, systematization with description of work and tasks, criteria and conditions for filling vacancies / Determine basic and specific skills for SIRENE Bureau and definition of HR organisation methodology / Drafting of HR Gap analysis with recommendations / HR Gap analysis with recommendations drafted
Activity 3.2.1 Workshop on recommendations from HR Gap analysis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> / Presentations and discussion of fundamental standards for establishment and functioning of SIRENE Bureau (standards related to HR; Interpol/ Europol/Sirene – comparison of standards) / Presentation of EC Recommendations and best practice / Following benchmarks have been achieved: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Workshop on recommendations from HR Gap analysis conducted • Workshop minutes produced and forwarded to BC partners
Activity 5.1 Definition of necessary preconditions concerning the establishment of ICT infrastructure including system architecture, application software and server infrastructure/ performance according to the functional requirements of the SIRENE system	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> / Site visits, consultation meetings and interviews, questionnaires and overall assessment of the state of play regarding existing ICT infrastructure, applications and server infrastructure / Defining of organizational issues, compliance of data in national databases with SIS II data, ICT infrastructure, applicative support and data protection / Examining the different approaches regarding development and maintenance of ICT architecture, and application software, organizational solution for NS. SIS II, continuous support for the functioning of ICT, data matching matrix of national databases with SIS II, inserting of biometric data, access to SIS II, inserting/modifying and deleting data in SIS II, providing support for the SIRENE Bureau) / Analysing of collected data. / Following benchmarks have been achieved: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recommendations regarding necessary preconditions for establishment of ICT infrastructure including system infrastructure, application software and server infrastructure/performance according to the functional requirements of the SIS II and SIRENE Bureau drafted