



EU-funded border management project enters third year

Beirut – Friday 13 February 2015

The International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD) marked today the start of the 3rd year of the European Union's (EU) flagship initiative in Lebanon in the field of border management, namely the EU-funded project "Developing National Capability for Integrated Border Management in Lebanon (IBM Lebanon)."

The event was held in Beirut's Lancaster Hotel on Friday, bringing together national and international stakeholders, including the project's direct beneficiaries, the Directorate General for the Security General (DGSG), the Lebanese Customs Administration (LCA), the Lebanese Armed Forces (LAF) and the Internal Security Forces (ISF).

Borut Eržen, the project's Senior Programme Manager and the chief of ICMPD's Border Management and Visa department, highlighted the positive cooperation among the project partners in recent years and called on international and national stakeholders to continue their collective efforts in addressing Lebanon's challenges, and to seek the potential opportunities that can be harnessed in the continued development of a functional border management system, including economic prosperity and long term stability and security.

Alexis Loeber, Head of the Cooperation Section at the Delegation of the European Union to Lebanon, reiterated the EU's commitment to the stability, security, and prosperity of Lebanon, and praised the progress made through the IBM Lebanon project, while reaffirming the need for continuity and sustained efforts, now and in the future.

The programme included presentations by the project's various beneficiary agencies, namely by Lieutenant-Colonel Marwan Timani on behalf of LAF, Colonel Muhammad Dusouky on behalf of ISF, Colonel Wadih Khater on behalf of DGSG, and Colonel Habib Bejjani on behalf of LCA.

Major Frans Huijgens, Head of Expertise Centre Identity Documents of Royal Netherlands Marechaussee, also addressed the event's participants, highlighting the recent Dutch support to the project.

Implemented by ICMPD, the 3-year long IBM Lebanon project was formally launched in Beirut in February 2012, with the aim of supporting the Lebanese authorities in securing and controlling the borders in accordance with national and international integrated border management standards, thereby increasing the security of Lebanese citizens, promoting regional stability and facilitating trade, development, and human contact.

The project's outputs include the formulation of an IBM strategy and action plan, the formulation and advancement of standard operating procedures (SOPs) amongst relevant national actors, the delivery of sustainable training and institutional capacity building on all aspects of border management and the



Developing National Capability for
Integrated Border Management (IBM) in Lebanon
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Implemented by the International Centre for Migration Policy Development

empowerment of human resources, and the promotion of public outreach (awareness raising) of Lebanon's border regime, particularly in relation to travellers and border communities.

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General Security and Lebanese Customs.*

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