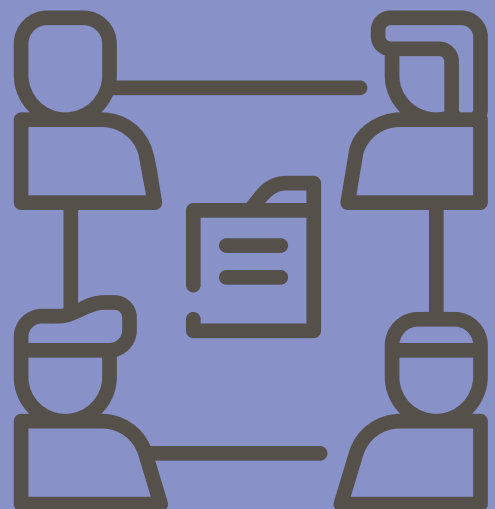


# SHADOW REPORT

FROM MONITORING WORK  
AND EFFECTS OF  
THE SECTOR WORKING  
GROUP FOR HOME AFFAIRS

*January – December 2021*







THROUGH  
DIALOGUE TO  
**EU**

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This project is funded  
by the European Union



**REACTOR**  
research in action



## SHADOW REPORT FROM MONITORING WORK AND EFFECTS OF THE SECTOR WORKING GROUP ON HOME AFFAIRS IN THE PERIOD JANUARY – DECEMBER 2021

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ИЗВЕШТАЈ ВО СЕНКА ОД СЛЕДЕЊЕТО НА РАБОТАТА И ЕФЕКТИТЕ НА СЕКТОРСКАТА РАБОТНА ГРУПА ЗА ВНАТРЕШНИ РАБОТИ ЈАНУАРИ – ДЕКЕМВРИ 2021

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# FOREWORD

## SUMMARY ON PERFORMANCE OF SECTOR WORKING GROUPS IN 2021

Shadow Reports from Monitoring Work and Effects of Sector Working Groups in 2019, 2020 and 2021 were developed under the hypothesis that SWGs are important bodies responsible for sector policy creation and monitoring in the Republic of North Macedonia and serve as forum for coordination of donor support for policy implementation.

The sector-wide approach was indicated as comprehensive approach for IPA II, used to assess and determine the state's qualification level in terms of utilization of IPA assistance for full sector support, and was followed by formation of sector working groups over the period 2015-2020. With the start of IPA III programming for the period 2021-2027, institutions continued the sector-wide approach and operation of sector working groups.

While, in formal terms, sector working groups have potential to be policy makers in relevant sectors, SWG monitoring findings in 2021 indicate to regression in terms of their functionality, civil society participation and effects from their work. Modest improvement is noted in respect to transparency in operation, having in mind that institutions responded to more than 85% of information requests made under the instrument for free access to public information, accounting for an improvement by more than 4% compared to 2020. Openness is also noted in terms of increased communication, especially because in 2021 representatives from all 12 SWGs accepted invitations for interview with the project team that monitors their work and performance.

Based on the analysis of meetings held by SWGs, total of 251 responses made by institutions under the instrument for free access to public information, 12 interviews with

IPA coordinators and discussions with 26 civil society organizations that participate in sector groups, flagship monitoring findings on performance of SWGs in 2021 concern the following:



- In 2021, SWGs held a total of 11 plenary sessions and 8 operational meetings, representing a decrease compared to 2020 findings, when they held a total of 19 plenary sessions and 21 operational meetings.
- None from 12 SWGs has complied with the minimum number of plenary sessions on annual level stipulated in their respective rules of procedure or draft rules of procedure, while 4 sector groups<sup>1</sup> did not hold any plenary session during 2021.
- In the case of 5 from 12 sector groups, civil society organizations have not participated in SWG work during 2021. In the case of 4 SWGs, civil society participation was absent due to the fact that the relevant sector group has not held any meeting, while one sector group has not invited civil society organizations to participate in its work.<sup>2</sup>
- SWGs that have held plenary session and invited civil society organizations to attend these meeting did not fully update data on civil society representatives resulting in invitations being sent to erroneous or non-existing e-mail addresses, which additionally narrows the space for civil society participation.
- Although IPA III Regulation anticipates that civil society organizations should be given space for meaningful participation in IPA programming and sector policy development, in the practice there is no actual space for substantial engagement of civil society organizations during plenary sessions and involvement of civil society representatives in operational meetings organized by SWGs.
- While donor coordination is anticipated as part of activities performed by sector working groups, the monitoring tools did not observe agenda items for SWG meetings held in 2021 that focus on donor coordination matters.

<sup>1</sup> SWG Justice, SWG Public Administration Reform, SWF Roma Integration and SWG Home Affairs

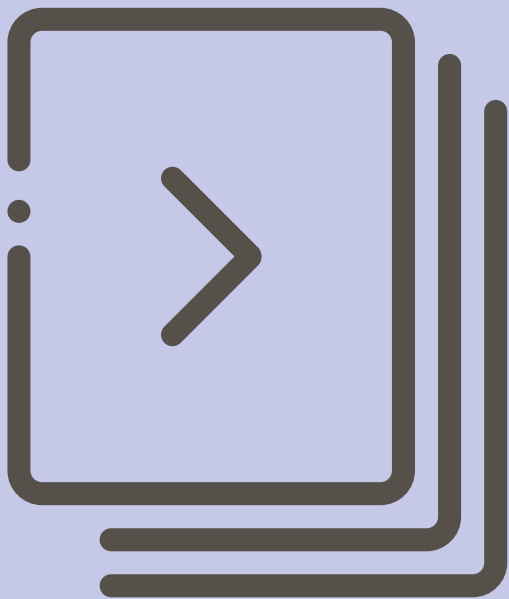
<sup>2</sup> SWG Competitiveness and Innovation



Based on the established state-of-play, encouraging steps have been made in 2021 towards enhanced structural dialogue. In particular, the Secretariat for European Affairs (SEA) initiated the process for amending the rules of procedures for SWGs in order to improve their overall performance and regulate civil society and donor participation. During interviews with representatives from competent institutions it was underlined that they are open to changing the rules of procedure with a view to regulate participation and role of civil society organizations in greater details. Expectations are that predictability of SWG dynamics and functionality will be improved in 2022, by creating the indicative calendar for meetings of all SWGs and by publishing information on phases for future IPA programming, as well as relevant documents for sector policies. Based on responses obtained from civil society organizations, evident is the request for their participation at the level of technical meetings that would allow them to be involved in all stages of policy development and adoption.

## HOW TO MOVE FORWARD?

SEA must urgently open consultations around the new rules of procedures for SWGs, which should include provisions that improve meaningful participation of civil society organizations, primary by ensuring availability and access to materials and information of operational nature, as well as by organizing inception training for new representatives to ensure thorough understanding of sector policy processes and IPA programming. These trainings should also target civil society representatives from Sector Monitoring Committees. The new rules of procedure should regulate in details the procedure for selection and work of civil society representatives, including the method for consultations with the broader civil society. Adherent actions are needed to implement plans aimed at improving participation, work predictability and transparency of SWGs.



# GENERAL INFORMATION

## SECTOR WORKING GROUP ON HOME AFFAIRS

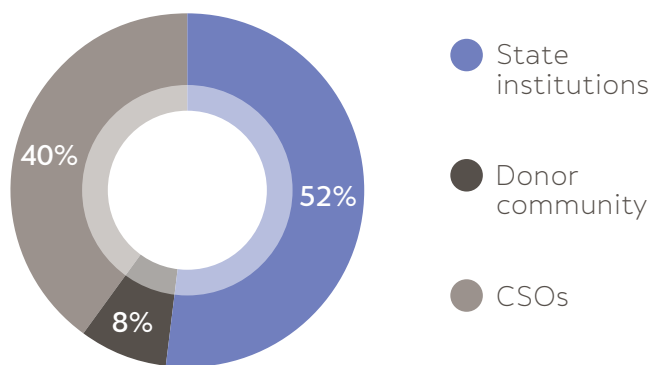
**FORMED:** 2015

**NUMBER OF SWG MEMBERS:** 50, institutions x 26 members, civil society organizations x 4 members, and donor community x 20 members

**NUMBER OF MEETINGS HELD IN 2021:** according to information from MoI, this sector group has not held any plenary sessions or operational meetings in 2021

**SWG CHAIR:** Minister of Interior

**CHART 1.**  
*Distribution of various representatives in SWG Home Affairs*





# METHODOLOGY APPROACH

For the purpose of this report, the project team combined several research methods for data collection, processing and analysis. Research work was comprised of desk analysis and field/online research.

The desk research component included in-depth analysis of documents, laws and strategies that are of significance for this sector working group (*for more information see [BIBLIOGRAPHY](#)*). Moreover, the project team submitted **22 freedom of information requests** to the Ministry of Interior as the institution competent for operation of this sector group. Responses to all 22 information requests were disclosed in timely and complete manner.

As regards field/online research, the project team **interviewed**<sup>3</sup> the IPA coordinator from the Ministry of Interior and one civil society representative that participates in SWG Home Affairs.<sup>4</sup>

According to the monitoring methodology, performance of sector working groups is assessed in respect to five segments:

- SWG functionality;
- civil society participation in SWG;
- CSO capacity for contribution and participation in SWG work;
- effects from SWG work; and
- IPA.

<sup>3</sup> Interview with IPA coordinator from the Ministry of Interior was conducted on 24.01.2022.

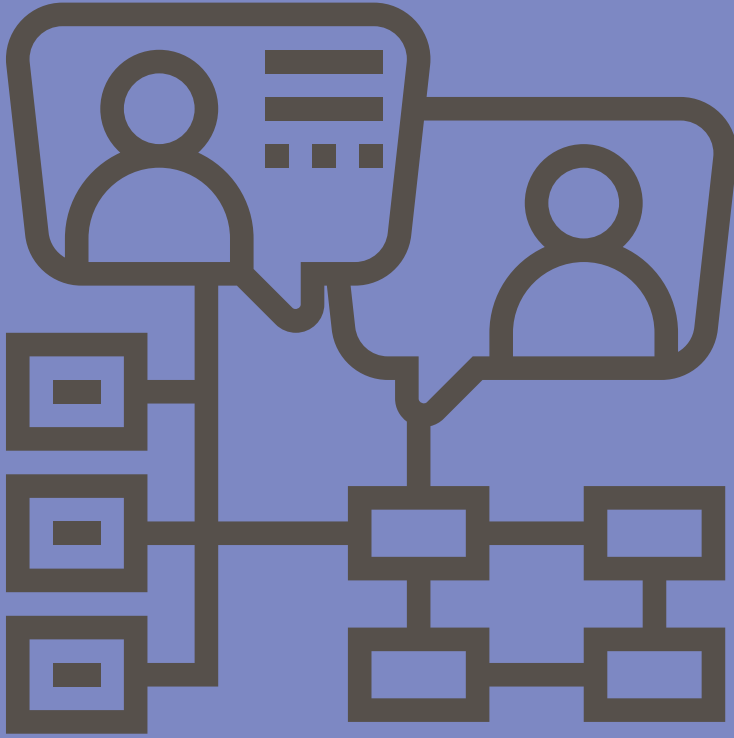
<sup>4</sup> Interview with representative from the Foundation Open Society – Macedonia with status of member in this sector working group.



Based on the methodology for monitoring work and effects of sector working groups, performance of SWGs in all these five segments is measured against 31 standards and 21 indicators. Scores calculated for these standards (1 is the lowest and 3 is the highest) are used to assess progress in work of all 12 sector working groups at annual level.

Nevertheless, having in mind that five of twelve SWGs did not hold plenary sessions in 2021 and given that most standards and indicators are directly related to SWG meetings, unlike last years, this monitoring report does not include scores for individual segments of SWG performance. This method is applied to all SWGs, including those that have held plenary sessions in 2021, in order to maintain same approach to assessment for all 12 sector working groups.







# PART 1

## SECTOR POLICIES

In 2021, the Ministry of Interior adopted two strategies that are of importance for the sector on home affairs: Strategy on Training and Professional Advancement of Employees at Mol 2022-2024 and [National Strategy on Fight against Human Trafficking and Illegal Migration of the Republic of North Macedonia 2021-2025](#).

At the same time, 2021 activities included efforts for development of the Strategy on Prevention and Fight against Cyber Crime. Other valid strategies within this ministry and relevant for this sector include the following: [Strategy on Community Engagement and Communication 2020-2022](#), [Strategy for Development of Mol's Training Centre 2020-2022](#), [Strategy on Human Resource Management 2020-2022](#), Strategy on Further Capacity Building for Crime Technology at Regional and Local Level 2020-2025, and Strategy on Risk Management adopted in 2015 (without expiration deadline). In addition, strategies that also include Mol concern the following: [National Strategy of RNM on Fight against Terrorism 2018-2022](#) and [National Strategy on Control of Small Arms and Light Weapons 2017-2021](#).



It is important to note that the strategy on integrated border management was developed as part of [2016 twinning project](#) and needs to be adopted. Also, activities are completed on drafting the Resolution on Migration, but the same need to be first adopted by the International Organization for Migration (IOM).

As regards legislative activities, 2021 activities included adoption of amendments to several laws:

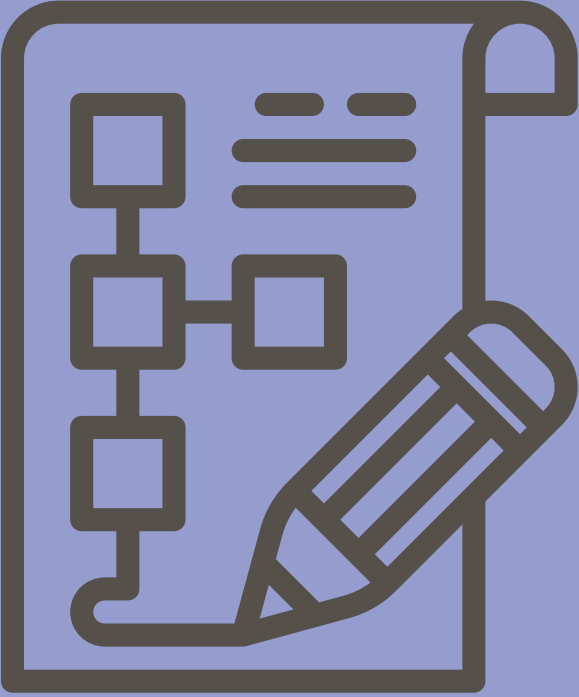
- [Law on Internal Affairs;](#)
- [Law on the Police;](#)
- [Law on citizenship;](#)
- [Law on Travel Documents;](#)
- [Law on Road Traffic Safety;](#)
- [Law on Aliens;](#)
- [Law on Storage and Protection of Inflammable Liquids and Gases;](#)
- [Law on Protection from Explosive Substances;](#)
- [Law on Trade in Explosive Substances;](#)
- [Law on Prevention of Violence and Indecent Behaviour at Sport Matches.](#)

In 2021, three of above-enlisted laws (Law on the Police, Law on Internal Affairs and Law on Aliens) were posted for discussion on the Single Electronic Register of Legislation (ENER), while amendments to the Law on Border Control were open in November 2021 and are still available for submission of comments.

Law on Internal Affairs was amended according to recommendations for Mol put forward in GRECO's Fifth Round Compliance Report on the Republic of North Macedonia "Preventing Corruption and Promoting Integrity in Central Government (Top Executive Functions) and Law Enforcement Agencies", as well as Mol's obligations from the Action Plan to the National Strategy on Prevention of Corruption and Conflict of Interests (2020-2024) adopted by the State Commission for Prevention of Corruption.

At the same, amendments are developed to 10 laws falling within competences of Mol as part of various processes for alignment of the national legislation with the EU acquis (alignment of relevant processes and procedures regulated under laws with the digitalization process and with document “Prevention of Corruption and Promotion of Integrity at Central Government Authorities”), including regulation of practical issues. All these acts are in procedure for adoption, as follows:

- 1.** Proposed Law on Amending the Law on Travel Documents for Citizens of the Republic of North Macedonia;
- 2.** Proposed Law on Amending the Law on Personal Identification Card;
- 3.** Proposed Law on Amending the Law on Enlisting Residence and Stay by Citizens;
- 4.** Proposed Law on Amending the Law on Citizenship in the Republic of North Macedonia.
- 5.** Proposed Law on Amending the Law on Personal Name;
- 6.** Proposed Law on Amending the Law on Single Identification Number;
- 7.** Proposed Law on Amending the Law on Internal Affairs;
- 8.** Proposed Law on Amending the Law on the Police;
- 9.** Proposed Law on Amending the Law on Border Control;
- 10.** Proposed Law on Amending the Law on Aliens.



# PART 2

## SWG FUNCTIONALITY

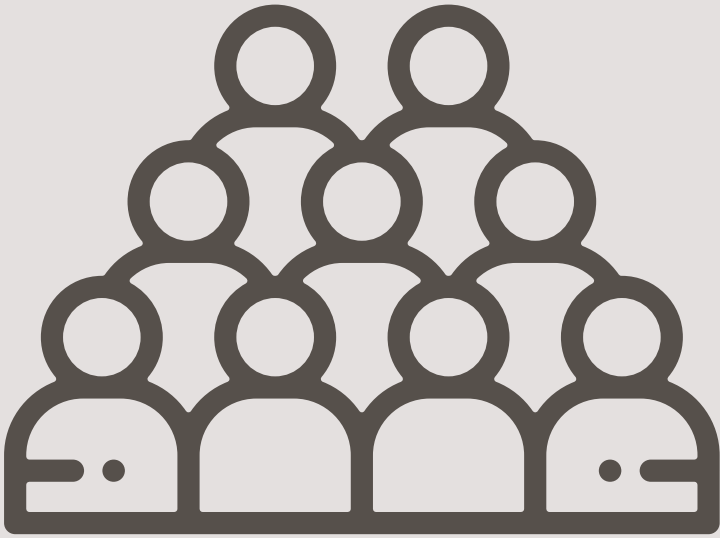
### 2.1 RULES OF PROCEDURE

This sector working group operates on the basis of the rules of procedure and the decision on its establishment. SWG chair is the Minister of Interior. SWG members are representatives from institutions whose competences overlap with the sector-wide approach in this area, donor community and the civil society.

According to the letter on paper, i.e. the draft general rules of procedure, SWG Home Affairs develops and send meeting invitations to its members and takes minutes that are later compiled in standardized form and distributed to SWG participants who are able to comment draft minutes before their formal adoption. In 2021, SWG Home Affairs has not held any plenary session or operational meeting. As regards transparent, official website of the competent ministry (MoI) does not host information on work of this sector group.

### 2.2 ANNUAL PLAN

SWG Home Affairs has not developed an annual work plan. Information provided by MoI highlights the fact that annual plan for SWG Home Affairs does not fall within competences of the Ministry of Interior, but the Secretariat for European Affairs.



# PART 3

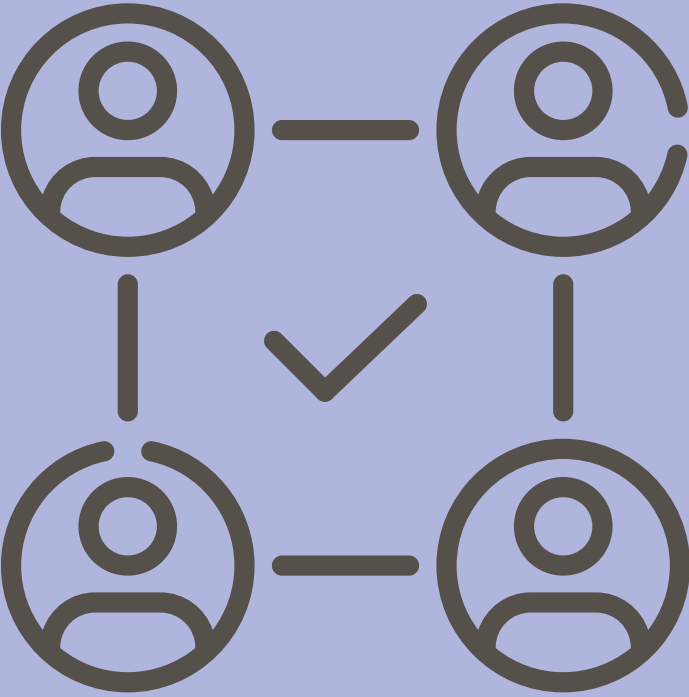
## CIVIL SOCIETY PARTICIPATION

As indicated above, four civil society organizations participate in work of SWG Home Affairs with the status of full-fledged members:

- Foundation Open Society – Macedonia (FOSM);
- European Policy Institute (EPI);
- Eurothink – Center for European Strategies;
- Association for Development Initiatives ZENITH.

In 2021, this sector group has not held any plenary sessions with the explanation that SWG meetings are organized and held when there are current topics that are of importance for the sector on home affairs, whereby Mol referred to the fact that there were no such activities in the last year.

Having in mind that SWG Home Affairs has not held any meetings, the project team is unable to assess civil society participation. However, during the interview with civil society representatives it was stressed that the model for selection of civil society organizations to participate in sector working groups needs to be improved.





# PART 4

## CSO CAPACITY

As regards capacity of civil society organizations that participate in SWG Home Affairs, it could be noted that they have long-standing experience and are implementing activities relevant for this sector, especially those that fall within the scope of Chapters 23 and 24 under the EU accession process. Dominant topics covered by these organizations include public administration reform, anti-corruption, and EU accession. For example, in 2021 EPI published [Shadow Report on Chapter 23](#), Eurothink worked on community policing project and conducted [public opinion survey on performance of the police](#), while FOSM implemented series of activities in the field of fight against discrimination, which inevitably belongs to the sector on home affairs. Based on the above elaborated, it could be concluded that these civil society organizations are definitely adequate to contribute in respect to improved quality of work by this sector group.

IPA coordinator at MoI high assessed operation of these civil society organizations given their commitment and enthusiasm, with the indication that they lack certain technical knowledge which is difficult to be acquired by participants outside state institutions and therefore it is important for these actors to participate in sector working groups.

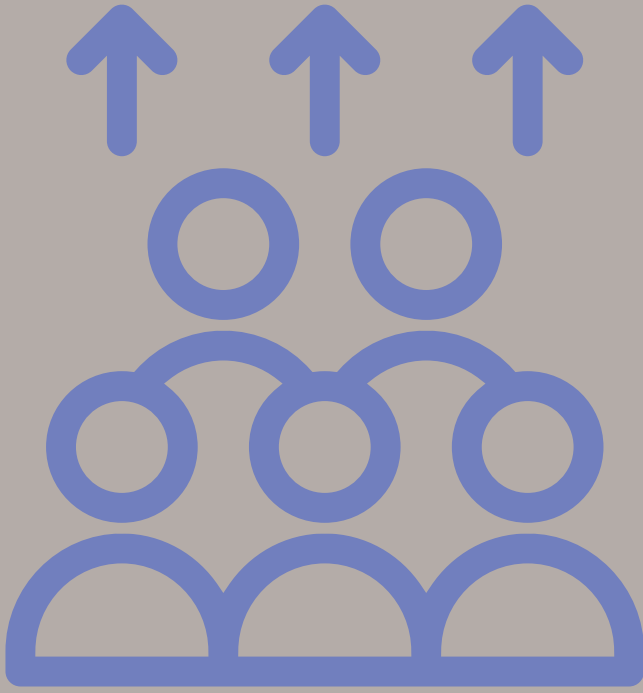


# PART 5

## EFFECTS FROM SWG WORK

According to information provided by Mol, SWG Home Affairs has not held any plenary sessions and operational meetings in 2021. Hence, effects from work of this sector group cannot be properly analysed. However, it can be concluded that SWG work is important and should be pursued according to the dynamics anticipated under the rules of procedures, especially having in mind that important competences assigned to this sector working group include IPA programming within the sector on home affairs. CSOs need to be involved in meetings at plenary and operational level in order to be informed about sector policies in this area and provide their contributions for improving state-of-affairs.





# PART 6

## INSTRUMENT FOR PRE-ACCESSION ASSISTANCE IPA III (2021 2027)

The Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance (IPA III) concerns the programming period 2021 - 2027. The European Commission introduced this instrument together with the new EU multiannual financial framework. IPA III was introduced with adoption of the Regulation on Establishing the Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance and the Regulation on Implementing Rules and Principles for IPA III<sup>5</sup> by the European Union, and is coherent with other funds, programmes and instruments of the Union, primarily the Neighbourhood Development and International Cooperation Instrument.

According to its structure, IPA III is organized around five thematic priorities, i.e. windows:

- 1. Rule of Law, Fundamental Rights and Democracy;**
- 2. Good Governance, Acquis Alignment, Good Neighbourly Relations and Strategic Communication;**

<sup>5</sup> Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing the Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance (IPA III) COM/2018/465 final



3. Green Agenda and Sustainable Connectivity;
4. Competitiveness and Inclusive Growth;
5. Territorial and Cross-Border Cooperation

For more information on IPA III programming (2021-2027) see the report [IPA: Cross-Cutting Issue](#).

## 6.1 IPA III PROGRAMMING (2021-2027) IN THE SECTOR ON HOME AFFAIRS

IPA III funds anticipated for the sector on home affairs are part of WINDOW 1: Rule of Law, Fundamental Rights and Democracy, thematic priority 3: Fight against Organized Crime /Security and thematic priority 4: Migration and Border Management. In 2021, two actions documents were developed for this sector, as follows: “EU against Organized Crime, in Support to Trade”, with total budget of 14,000,000 euros, of which 10,600,000 euros are IPA III funds, and “EU for Border Management”, with total budget of 4,000,000 euros, all anticipated as IPA III contribution. Another action document is planned for 2022 “EU for Improved Border and Migration Management”, with total budget of 8,000,000 euros, all anticipated as IPA III contribution.

Action fiches are not developed for the action “Fight against Organized Crime and Terrorism”, planned for implementation in 2023 and 2024, which means that it remains at the level of strategic indicators in the early stage of development and could be subject to changes in the future.

**TABLE 1:***IPA III programming (2021-2027) in the sector on home affairs*

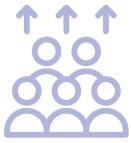
**WINDOW 1:**  
**RULE OF LAE, FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS AND DEMOCRACY**

**Thematic priority 3:** Fight against Organized Crime/Security

**Thematic priority 4:** Migration and Border Management

**Implementation period: 2021**

Action	Estimated total budget (million EUR)	Requested contribution from IPA (million EUR)	Implementation plan/ arrangement
<a href="#"><u>EU against Organized Crime, in Support of Trade</u></a>	14	10.6	This action will be implemented under direct management and indirect management with international organization. The direct management method includes contracts (procurements and services) and grants (twinning). <b>The action document</b> was submitted in March 2021, and the European Commission adopted the implementing decision in December 2021.
<a href="#"><u>EU for Border Management (regional programme)</u></a>	4	4	This action will be implemented by IOM and supports reception centres and border police. <b>EU regional programme</b>



#### Implementation period: 2022

EU for Improved Border and Migration Management

8

8

Possible indirect management with international organization and alternative direct management  
\* depending on the decision taken by DG NEAR, this action may be postponed for implementation in 2023.

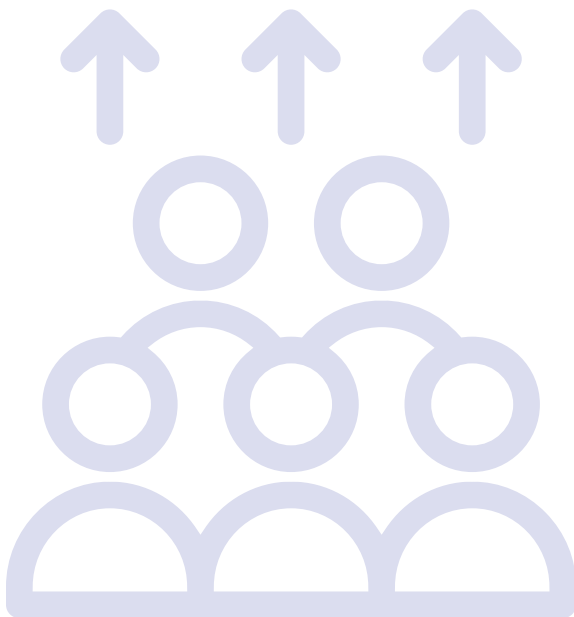
#### Implementation period: 2023 and 2024

EU for Fight against Organized Crime and Terrorism

4

3

Direct management through procurement contracts





**TABLE 2:**  
*2021 Action Document “EU against Organized Crime,  
in Support of Trade”*

2021 ACTION DOCUMENT “EU AGAINST ORGANIZED CRIME, IN SUPPORT OF TRADE”		
Expected outcomes	EU contribution (EUR)	Indicative third party contribution
1.1. Digitalization and expanded use of data and records for investigation and control	1,400,000	400,000
1.2. Enhanced institutional and technology capacity for investigating organized and cross-border crime and corruption	3,000,000	500,000
2.1. Refurbished and upgraded border-crossing points with Bulgaria in line with EU standards	2,200,000	1,700,000
2.2. New computerized transit system (NCTS) phase 5 in line with recent EU requirements	4,000,000	800,000
<b>Вкупно</b>	<b>10,600,000</b>	<b>3,400,000</b>

**TABLE 3:**  
*2022 Action Document “EU for Improved Border  
and Migration Management”*

2022 ACTION DOCUMENT “EU FOR IMPROVED BORDER AND MIGRATION MANAGEMENT”		
Expected outcomes	EU contribution (million EUR)	Indicative third party contribution
1) Enhanced capacity for border and migration management	8,000,000	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>8,000,000</b>	<b>0</b>



# PART 7

## GENDER MAINSTREAMING IN SECTOR WORKING GROUPS

Gender mainstreaming is a process for systematic consideration of implications on women and men from a planned action, including legislation, policy or program, in any area and at all levels.<sup>6</sup> In that, the ultimate goal is to achieved gender equality. Within the national legislation of the Republic of North Macedonia, gender mainstreaming is defined under the Law on Equal Opportunities for Women and Men<sup>7</sup> and represents an obligation for all state bodies and institutions. Failure to incorporate the gender perspective implies adoption of gender-neutral or gender-blind policies that are unable to address existing inequalities and could contribute to deepened gender gaps.

Gender equality is among core values of the European Union.<sup>8</sup> At the same time, EU membership is conditioned with respect and pro-

<sup>6</sup> European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE), Glossary and Thesaurus, A-Z Index, available at: <https://eige.europa.eu/thesaurus/terms/1185?lang=mk>

<sup>7</sup> Article 4, paragraph (1), item 10) of the Law on Equal Opportunities for Women and Men, “Official Gazette of the Republic of Macedonia” no. 6/12, 30/13, 166/14, 150/15 and “Official Gazette of the Republic of North Macedonia” no. 53/21.

<sup>8</sup> Article 2 of the consolidated version of the Treaty on the European Union, available at: <https://bit.ly/3s4gijR>



motion of fundamental European values.<sup>9</sup> The Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance in the period 2021-2027 (IPA III) stipulates that implementation of IPA III should be led by the principles of gender equality and enhanced rights of women and girls,<sup>10</sup> in line with and aimed at attaining the minimum standards established under the EU's new Gender Action Plan 2021-2025 (GAP III) titled "An Ambitious Agenda for Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment in EU External Action".<sup>11</sup> GAP III is organized into five pillars and the third pillar anticipates activities in six key areas of engagement.<sup>12</sup> Moreover, GAP III reflects goals and objectives defined under the EU Gender Equality Strategy 2020-2025.<sup>13</sup> On the other hand, IPA III defines gender equality as specific objective, but also thematic priority eligible for support.<sup>14</sup> In that, it is stressed that gender equality is a cross-cutting issue that should be adequately reflected and integrated in the overall implementation process.<sup>15</sup> Goals of IPA III assistance under the thematic priority on gender equality fully correspond to six areas of engagement from GAP III, which provides an additional indicator for the need for these two documents to be linked. On that account, work within sector groups - that represent forums for interdepartmental cooperation and are competent for creating and implementing national policies and programming, monitoring and evaluating foreign aid - should be guided by and aligned with GAP III. Finally, due consideration should be made of the EU's commitment that, by 2025, at least 85% of all new external actions should include gender equality as important or general goal.<sup>16</sup>

9 Ibid. Article 49, paragraph (1)

10 Regulation (EU) 2021/1529 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 15 September 2021 establishing the Instrument for Pre-Accession assistance (IPA III), available at: <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32021R1529&qid=1643627286827&from=en>

11 EU Gender Action Plan (GAP) III – An Ambitious Agenda for Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment in EU External Action, available at: [https://ec.europa.eu/international-partnerships/system/files/join\\_2020\\_17\\_en\\_final.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/international-partnerships/system/files/join_2020_17_en_final.pdf)

12 Ibid. GAP III anticipates activities grouped into six thematic areas: ensuring freedom from all forms of gender-based violence; promoting sexual and reproductive health and rights; strengthening economic and social rights and empowerment of girls and women; advancing equal participation and leadership; implementing the women, peace and security agenda; addressing challenges and harnessing opportunities offered by the green transition and the digital transformation.

13 A Union of Equality: Gender Equality Strategy 2020-2025, available at: <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A52020DC0152>

14 Regulation (EU) 2021/1529 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 15 September 2021 establishing the Instrument for Pre-Accession assistance (IPA III), available at: <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32021R1529&qid=1643627286827&from=en>

15 Ibid.

16 EU Gender Action Plan (GAP) III – An Ambitious Agenda for Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment in EU External Action, available at: [https://ec.europa.eu/international-partnerships/system/files/join\\_2020\\_17\\_en\\_final.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/international-partnerships/system/files/join_2020_17_en_final.pdf)

An important element of the sector approach to gender mainstreaming is building and enhancing technical competences of all stakeholders involved in implementation of sector policies.<sup>17</sup> Hence, equal importance is assigned to capacity building on gender mainstreaming among policy makers, but also among people involved in policy implementation. For more information, see [Shadow Report on Gender Mainstreaming in Sector Working Groups](#).

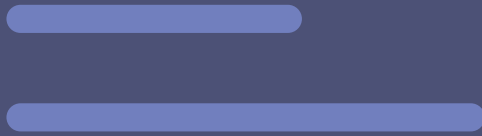
## 7.1 GENDER MAINSTREAMING IN SWG HOME AFFAIRS

SWG Home Affairs has not held any plenary sessions in 2021 and therefore the project team is unable to assess gender mainstreaming as part of its work. Information obtained from the Ministry of Interior (Mol) indicate that gender analyses had not been developed and used in activities related to drafting strategy documents that fall within competences of this sector group. In 2021, Mol has organized three workshops on gender responsive operation, but no detail information was provided that would allow conclusion whether SWG members attended any of these workshops. Mol is one of key institutions involved in IPA III 2022 action document “EU for Improved Border and Migration Management” wherein gender quality is not enlisted among priority goals and objectives.<sup>18</sup>

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17 EIGE, Glossary and Thesaurus, A-Z Index, available at: <https://eige.europa.eu/thesaurus/terms/1359?lang=mk>

18 Secretariat for European Affairs, IPA 2021-2027, available at: <https://www.sep.gov.mk/page/?id=1120#.Yfusd-rMJPY>



## FINAL CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

**1.** SWG Home Affairs has its own rules of procedure and decision for establishment. SWG Chair is the Minister of Interior. SWG members are representatives from institutions whose competences overlap with the sector-wide approach in this area, donor community and the civil society. This sector group did not hold any plenary or operational meetings in 2021, thereby reducing participation of civil society organizations in policy creation on home affairs, including lack of additional efforts to establish efficient mechanisms for civil society participation.

**2.** SWG Home Affairs needs to create an indicative work plan in order to increase predictability and organization of its work processes. Also, the sector group should increase the number of meetings and allow civil society organizations to participate in meetings organized at technical level.

**3.** As regards public communications, efforts are needed to improve and increase visibility of SWG Home Affairs and its operation, especially by improving availability of relevant documents not only on SEA's website, but also on Mol's website, and to increase access to information in implementation of projects.

## BIBLIOGRAPHY

- ◆ Responses disclosed by Mol upon information requests submitted under the instrument for free access to public information
- ◆ Desk analysis of documents relevant for SWG Home Affairs and available on websites of Mol, ENER and SEA
- ◆ Interviews with IPA coordinator from Mol and civil society representatives that participate in SWG Home Affairs

