

INVITATION

National Convention on European Integration 2021-2023

Working Group II (Justice, Freedom, Security)

Topic: Irregular migration and the increasing threats of smuggling in Albania - protection of migrants' rights and interinstitutional cooperation

6 March 2023, 09:00 – 11:00

Hybrid Format – Grand Hotel Tirana and online on Zoom Platform

European Movement in Albania (EMA) in partnership with the Slovak Foreign Policy Association, with the financial support of SlovakAid under *National Convention on European Integration* and also co-funded by the European Union under the project “*Security for Human Beings and Borders – Combating Smuggling of Migrants in the Western Balkans*” implemented by Group484 (Serbia), are pleased to invite you to this activity focused on “*Irregular migration and the increasing threats of smuggling in Albania - protection of migrants' rights and interinstitutional cooperation*” falling under **Chapter 24** of EU Acquis (Justice, Freedom, Security).

The aim of this activity is to inform about the issues related to irregular migration focused on smuggling as a phenomenon that is increasing in Albania and is becoming a real challenge for the authorities to prevent it and it has negative implications on security and rights of the migrants and victims. It will also serve as an open space for debate and discussions where all participants are welcome to share their inputs, questions and policy recommendations on the topic. The findings of the paper prepared under the project “*Security for Human Beings and Borders – Combating Smuggling of Migrants in the Western Balkans*” will be presented and elaborated by the national author. The added value is the presence of Slovak expert who will try through sharing their country's experience to provide best practices and lessons learned for managing the irregular migration while always keeping in mind the protection of migrants' rights and their best interest.

You may join to the activity through ZOOM Platform:

Zoom Link:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/88582412349?pwd=eGREekRsRy9WcmowK0ovamxudFjjUT09>

Meeting ID: 885 8241 2349

Passcode: NCEI-AL

Due to limited number of physical presence please confirm your participation, specifying whether it will be online or in physical form at: info@em-al.org.

** Interpretation will be provided only via Zoom Platform*

PROGRAMME

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2021-2023**

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08:45 - 09:00 Registration of participants and welcoming coffee

09:00 – 09:10 Opening remark

Gledis Gjipali, Executive Director, European Movement Albania

09:10 – 09:40 Irregular migration and trends in Slovakia - increasing threats of smuggling and best practices

Lt. Col. Mgr. Pavel Eliáš, Deputy director of the National Unit for Combating Illegal Migration, Office of the Border and Foreign Police, Ministry of Interior of Slovakia
- Snapshot of irregular migration in Slovakia – main active routes and measures taken (WB cases)

- Best practices and cooperation

- Main challenges identified in national (Slovak) and EU level

09:40 – 10:00 Open Discussion with participants

10:00 – 10:30 Human trafficking and human smuggling – protection of human rights in Albania and harmonization with EU law

PHD, PHD, Denard Veshi, Lecturer, University College Bedër, Albania

- Irregular migration in Albania – difference between human trafficking and human smuggling

- Main legal framework and responsible institutions in Albania dealing with these issues – main challenges and developments under EU integration process

- Human Trafficking and the Albanian High Court

10:30 – 10:45 Open Discussion with participants

10:45 – 11:00 Concluding remarks