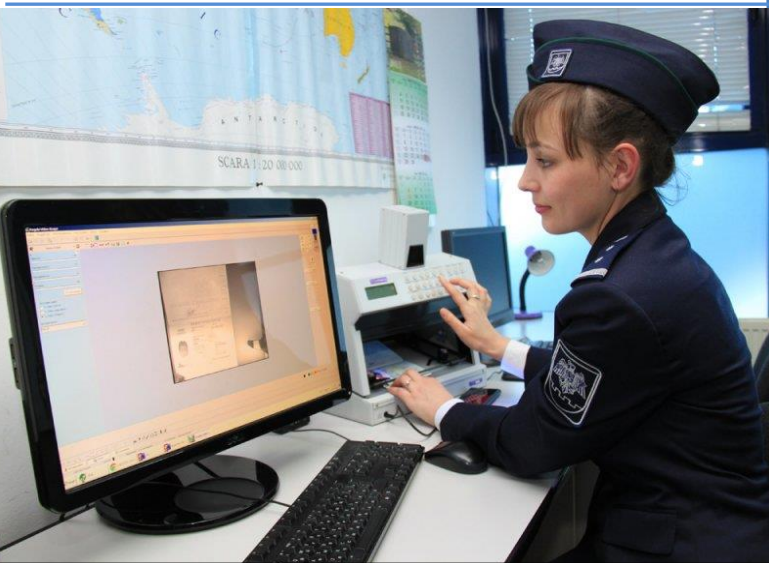




**BORDER POLICE OF THE
REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA**



PERFORMANCE REPORT 2013



Chisinau, 2014

‘A modern approach for a secure border’

About this Report

The Report presents a comprehensive overview of the most relevant facts and results achieved by the Border Police during 2013. It briefly describes the challenges BP had to tackle over 2013, the main achievements, statistical and operational data, the future development and other relevant information that enables both the decision-making actors and the civil society to assess the performance of the agency.

It also provides a summary of the institution’s main programs and strategies. Additionally, the Border Police Department can provide, upon request, other relevant information regarding the activity of the Moldovan border authority.

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Foreword



Dear colleagues, dear friends,

2013 was a crucial year both for our institution and for the Republic of Moldova.

We accomplished the commitments in the context of the RM-EU Visa Liberalization dialogue. We also witnessed a historic event with regards to the European path of the Republic of Moldova – the initialing of the Association Agreement with EU and the proposal of the European Commission to lift visa requirements for Moldovan

citizens.

Moreover, the EU assessment missions on the state of fulfilment of the Visa Liberalization benchmarks confirmed that the Border Police reform was conducted in accordance with European standards.

The Border Police Department was successfully integrated within the Ministry of Internal Affairs. Still, we are aware of the fact that the reform is a continuous process, and we will move forward.

Despite all challenges and difficulties we had to face, we succeeded in achieving our core objectives. It is worth mentioning that, during 2013, good results were achieved in the operational activity, the number of illegal border crossings significantly decreased, and people's confidence in our institution's activity grew up. The external assistance considerably fostered the capacity building of the Border Police in line with international standards.

We will continue to improve border security in order to best address regional and global challenges. Tackling threats, while providing a service in terms of safe border crossings for bona-fide travelers remain at the heart of our work. We will further provide input on the European endeavors of the Republic of Moldova.

Dorin PURICE

Head of the Border Police Department

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Overview

Border security is one of the main criteria assessed within the process of alignment of the RM to EU standards. To this end, capacity building of authorities responsible for border security was identified as key priority in the context of the RM-EU Visa Liberalization Dialogue.

The European choice of the RM determined national authorities to initiate several measures oriented towards counteracting illegal migration and combating cross-border crime. Thus, the activity of the Border Police Department of the MIA of the RM was aligned to EU standards in the view of fostering and strengthening cooperation at regional and international levels.

During 2013, Border Police carried out its main duties in the field of integrated border management, combating of cross-border crime while ensuring respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms and providing quality services to citizens.

The commitments undertaken by the Republic of Moldova within National Program for implementing the RM-EU Action Plan on Visa Liberalization were successfully implemented.

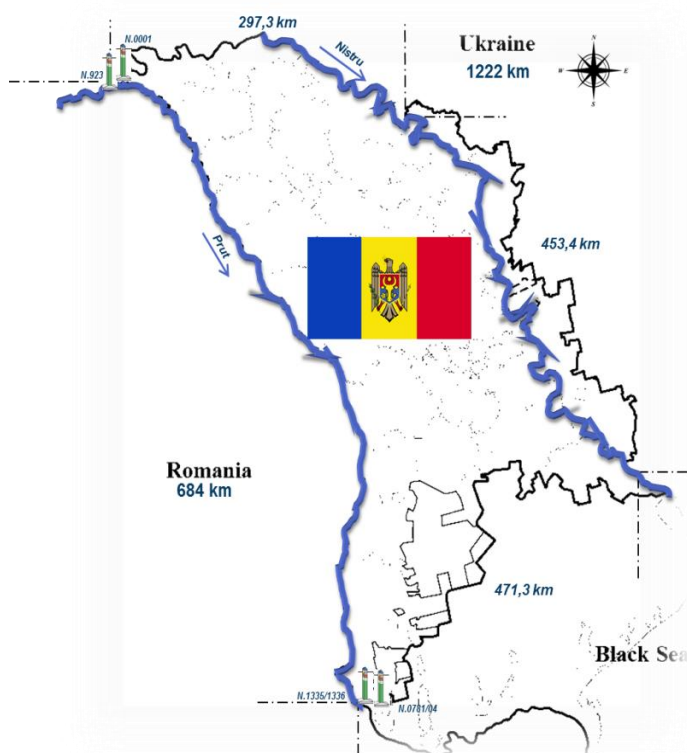


Border security challenges

In 2013, over 15.5 million persons crossed the borders of the Republic of Moldova, figures showing an upward trend. Therefore, one of the top challenges is ensuring the security of Moldovan borders while providing quality service in due time.

In order to effectively ensure security over 1453 km of border (of which 684 km of border with Romania – the external border of the European Union) and prevent and combat cross-border crime, the Border Police has developed a well-defined concept of border control in line with EU best practices.

The border management is continuously developed and improved, but at the same time the cross-border criminality is also growing. The threats linked to this phenomenon are the following:



➤ *Development of illegal border activities as regards irregular migration, persons trafficking, smuggling, narcotics trafficking, stolen vehicles etc.;*

➤ *Change of smuggling routes;*

➤ *Diversification of methods on evading customs control of dangerous and counterfeit goods, understated or undeclared, as well as trafficking of cultural patrimony;*

➤ *Increasing number of forgery and identity theft attempts by using forged or counterfeit documents, abusive use of another person's document, issuing of documents by substitution of person.*

The diverse areas between the border checking points include a wide range of terrains and human settlements - elements that facilitate illegal border activity. The technological progress creates new possibilities for the law enforcement authorities, as for potential offenders. As well, low living conditions of the population and no fixed working places are instrumental to the illegal migration development.

In this context, the Border Police plays the main part in preventing and combating the cross-border crimes and securing the country's frontiers. Therefore, it is of utmost importance to ensure efficient state border surveillance and border check in order to counteract illegal border crossings, smuggling and other unlawful activities, while making legitimate travel faster and easier.

General information

Mission

The Border Police ensures border security by implementing the integrated border management, preventing, and combating illegal migration and cross-border crime. It also ensures the persons' movement and facilitates international traffic of goods over the state border, observing the human rights and fundamental freedoms.

Core values

The Border Police is the authority that ensures a high level of security of the state border and safety of persons crossing the border.

- We have professional and honest employees as well as modern facilities and equipment.
- We cooperate efficiently with relevant national and international partners.
- We provide qualitative services to all citizens by respecting the principles of legality and equity, and the human rights and fundamental freedoms.
- We are vigilant in detecting and preventing the security threats.
- We are guided by the highest ethical and moral principles, and our actions build up our self-image and the overall image of the institution we represent.

Statistical data

Regional Directorates	4
Border Police Sectors	41+1
Flow of persons	15.5 mln. persons
Flow of means of transport	3.13 mln. units
Border crossing non-authorizations	6238 persons
Violation of border legislation	4691 persons
Counterfeit/forged/impostor documents	314
Criminal cases	472
Contraventions	3650
Illegal migration	85 persons
Smuggling	386 cases

Capacity building

Major programs and strategies

As central public administration authority within the Ministry of Internal Affairs, conducting state policy in the area of integrated border management, preventing and combating cross-border crime, Border Police drafts programs and strategies designed to enhance both the border security and the capacity building.

During 2013, Border Police continued planning the activity such as to ensure efficient management of its resources. The planning process consists in identifying the mission, vision and objectives of the BPD, describing activities required for achieving the objectives and ensuring proper implementation.

The planning process provides the opportunity to assess our strategic direction, accommodate new trends, adapt to challenge inside and outside the Border Police, and adjust our corporate priorities to ensure sustained progress toward our strategic goals. The Border Police Department's vision and mission are global in scope and, therefore, require both domestic and international engagement to achieve the established priorities.

By means of effective implementation of the integrated border management, significant positive results are expected namely: development of trade and investments, facilitation and acceleration of cross-border transit, a better control on illegal migration, oriented towards EU, promotion of tourism, decreasing of fiscal and custom losses caused by smuggling, more stable and secured environment in the region.

Over the past year, considerable efforts have been made to implement the additional measures to the National Programme on implementing the RM – EU Action Plan on Visa Liberalisation, approved by the Government Decision no. 463 of July 2, 2013 (previously GD no. 130 of February 24, 2012), which resulted in the European Commission proposal to lift visas for the Moldavian citizens (the Vilnius Summit, November 28-29, 2013).

The Border Police Department uses a risk-based approach and modern management methods aimed at strengthening the institutional capacities.

Institutional reorganization

Starting with 2013, the Border Police has launched a complex reorganization process consisting in the following:

- ✓ amendment of the normative framework regulating the organizational structure and limit number of staff of the Border Police Department;
- ✓ decrease of the number of BPD subordinated subdivisions (from 9 to 4 Regional Directorates, from 73 to 41 Border Police Sectors);
- ✓ capacity building to implement new competences.

Following the reorganization, the number of management positions and maintenance personnel positions decreased with about 35% in favor of execution positions (intended for border control) and the number of officer positions decreased with approximately 25%. As well, capacities of Border Police in criminal investigation, special investigations, and mobile teams were strengthened by increasing the number of positions and staff training at regional level. The infrastructure at regional and local levels was improved and the subdivisions were provided with modern and sufficient equipment. The mobility capacity of central, regional and local subdivisions was significantly increased by providing 90% of subdivisions with vehicles. There were also established responsibility areas and, a very important issue was the effective deployment of personnel in conducting border surveillance and border checks.

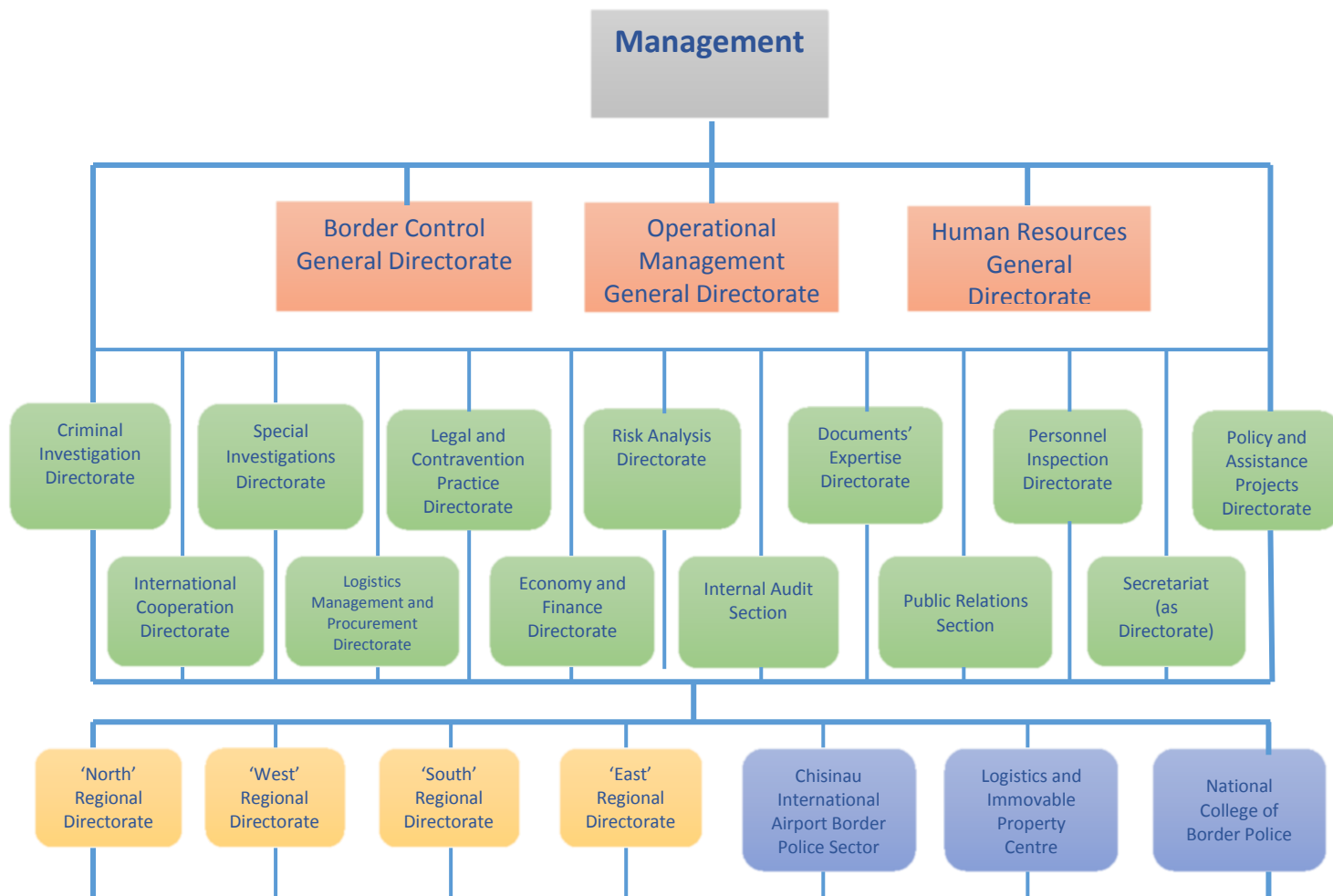


Aiming to inform the staff concerning the reorganization benefits, a well-defined plan has been drafted. As result, most of the officers chose to keep their working places.

The on-going Border Police reform will move forward. We believe that by establishing an optimal and efficient management system at all levels and implementing a modern border management we will raise citizens' confidence in Moldovan Border Police, we will contribute to improving the overall image of the country, and we will further provide input on the European endeavours of the Republic of Moldova.



THE ORGANIZATIONAL CHART OF THE BORDER POLICE DEPARTMENT



* The GD no. 434 of June 19, 2012 on Border Police was amended by GD no. 190 of 13.03.2013 (the limit number of staff – 3500 positions, including 240 maintenance staff, the organizational chart of the Border Police Department, the subdivisions subordinated to the Border Police Department).

Strengthening the legal framework

The Border Police has its own legal consultation system providing essential legal support, advice and guidance in order to ensure the legality of the administrative actions and the observance of fundamental human rights and freedoms.

In 2013, aiming at improving the Border Police activity, 12 legislative and normative documents were amended and supplemented in order to amend the Law no. 215 of November 4, 2011 on the State Border of the Republic of Moldova and Law no. 283 of December 28, 2011 on Border Police which provide for national relevant legislation alignment with above-mentioned laws.

At present, the Border Police applies the relevant national legislation. The border surveillance and border crossing checks are performed in compliance with the European practice and the assumed commitments concerning visa liberalization with the European Union.

Relevant legislation continues to be amended in a way to avoid discrepancy and parallelism with a view to meet the European Union recommendations on border security.

The Border Police Department designed more draft legislative and normative documents, as follows: the draft law on amending and supplementing the Law no. 283 of November 28, 2011 on Border Police, the draft law on amending and supplementing the Law no. 200 of July 16, 2010 on Foreigners in the Republic of Moldova, the draft law on amending and supplementing the Law no. 215 of November 4, 2011 on the State Border of the Republic of Moldova, the draft law on amending the Executive Code of the Republic of Moldova no. 443-XV from December 24, 2004, the Regulation on Mobile Teams of the Border Police etc.

The Border Police strives to increase the level of decisional transparency in compliance with the legislation in force. Thus, the new official web page of the Border Police was launched in November 28 (www.border.gov.md). The new approach aims to ensure a better communication with the society, to promote the institutional transparency as well as to increase interaction with all parties interested in the border police officers' work.



The purpose of amending and aligning the legislative framework to the international standards is the improvement of the agency's activity. These actions directly contribute to enhancing border security, improving the quality of services provided to persons crossing the state border and, the most important, the observance of fundamental human rights and freedoms.

Human resources management

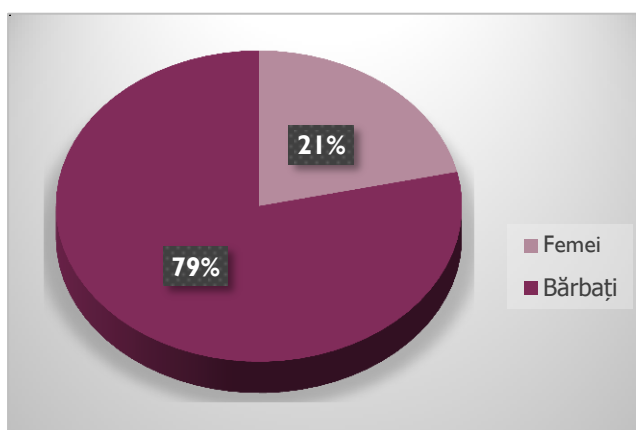
Personnel management

During the reporting period, the main objective in managing the Border Police human resources was, and continues to be, the implementation of an efficient modern human resources management, based on the following principles:

- ✓ Human factor as the most valuable resource of the institution;
- ✓ Integrated correlation of human resources policy with the BPD mission and strategy;
- ✓ Individual capabilities and efforts concentrated and directed towards effectively achieving the established missions and objectives;
- ✓ Developing high organizational culture within the Border Police Department and the subordinated subdivisions;
- ✓ Taking over and implementing the best practices outlined into the national and international policy documents.

Employment of qualified personnel in due time is a cornerstone element in ensuring institution success. Since the beginning of 2013, the human resources unit has initiated an ample reviewing process of the methods of attracting, screening, selecting and employing candidates for filling vacant positions. Information regarding vacancies and employment conditions is permanently placed on the Border Police website. An alternative source of information is a brochure handed during public activities (Europe Day, exhibitions etc.). In the same context, the human resources units from the territorial subdivisions have a close cooperation with local administrations, schools and local population.

During the reporting period, 260 new employees completed the initial training and were integrated within the Border Police team. A guide for newly employed border police officers was elaborated in order to ensure the personnel's fast and proper employment.



Following the reorganization, Border Police employment is over 91%, showing an upward trend.

2315 of the total are men, and 633- women.

Moldovan border agency employs only qualified personnel on a non-discrimination principle. In this context, the Border Police Department implements the relevant measures of the National Human Rights

Action Plan of the Republic of Moldova for the period of 2011-2014, the National Programme on Gender Equality for 2010-2015 and last but not the least, the Action Plan to support Roma ethnic group in the Republic of Moldova for 2011-2015.

Professional training

Improving the level of initial and continuous professional training based on a modern system was another key priority of the border agency. Staff training in all relevant fields (activity of the mobile and patrolling units, risk analysis, examination of travel documents, joint patrolling, Schengen acquis, foreign languages, combating cross-border crime, cooperation, etc.) was intensified.



Therefore, 4409 border police officers were trained on relevant subjects by participating at 353 initial or continuous trainings. At the same time, 1395 border police officers participated at 233 trainings granted by international experts.

With a view to improve its own training system, the Border Police elaborated a new

Concept of initial and continuous training, approved a Regulation on continuous professional training and implemented the Regulation on MIA professional performances.

At present, the initial training of the Border Police working force is ensured by the Academy 'Stefan cel Mare' of Ministry of Internal Affairs, the Armed Forces Military Academy "Alexandru cel Bun" and the National College of Border Police.

The human resources are directly linked to the institution overall image development and promotion, reason for which considerable investments are required.



Professional tactics

Discharging the functions in preventing and fighting against the cross-border crime, the Border Police is aware of the possible confrontations while detaining offenders and that, sometimes, force must be used.

The sensitivity of the situations created when the border police officers use, individually or collectively, the physical force, special equipment and weapons impose a profound knowledge of two aspects concerning the use of force: the legal aspect and the practical aspect.

Thus, the physical training is an important part of the border police officers' training, good physical condition being instrumental in fulfilling the missions properly.



The Border Police Department develops and encourages the sports among its employees by organizing and participating at various competitions like football tournaments, championships of table tennis, volleyball games, athletics, weightlifting competitions, Sambo wrestling competitions. The regular organization of such sport events represents an efficient method of enhancing the personnel's level of professionalism and promotes a healthy lifestyle.

The last year, the Border Police Department organized a range of competitions with the purpose of boosting partnership with domestic and international agencies, our sportsmen manifesting professionalism and friendship.

It is worth to mention that, during the international competitions, our colleagues Dumitru Galagoț – the European Boxing Championship and Alexandru Șpac – the European Weightlifting Championship won the silver medals.

Meanwhile, in order to foster the friendship with the Romanian colleagues, a friendly squared football match was organized.



Disciplinary practice

Our institution has developed a well-defined motivation and reward system for the employees who work hard and manifest accuracy and integrity while ensuring a high level of border security and the safety of the persons crossing it.



In order to discipline the personnel, the Deontological Code of the border police officers was approved by the BPD Head Order no. 500 of November 21, 2013. It represents a set of rules of conduct for the border police officers performing their professional duties, or being out of service, regardless their position or rank.



1748 rewards were offered for good results carrying out their duties.

Unfortunately, there were some cases when some employees acted discrediting the institution's overall image. In this context, 448 inquiry investigations were carried out in 2013, out of which 12 were sent to the competent authorities for further examination, most of them falling under the law on corruption. Consequently, 576 sanctions were applied.

Special attention is paid to disciplinary deviations susceptible of generating corruption.

The Border Police is actively fighting against internal corruption and is intensively cooperating with relevant law enforcement authorities. Thus, with the support of the National Anticorruption Centre, 24 trainings were carried out, where 910 employees were trained on corruption prevention and counteraction technics.



*The Minister of Internal Affairs, Mr. Dorin Recean, handles the medals 'Cross of Merit' to the four border police officers, **Victor Ojog**, **Anatolii Nistor**, **Denis Potoțchi** and **Andrei Gușan**, who prevented the 2013 greatest-sized cigarette smuggling attempt.*

Fostering partnership and cooperation

The Border Police Department aims to foster cooperation with both national and international partners in order to implement an effective management and comply with EU standards.

Inter-agency cooperation

The Border Police interacts with other central public administration authorities at strategically, operational and tactical level. The cooperation is conducted on a well-defined mechanism based on a legal framework in fields of mutual interest as data exchange, the risk analysis, joint operations and the personnel training.



During the reporting period, we approved/updated documents of inter-agency cooperation with the Centre for Fighting Human Trafficking, the State Enterprise 'Moldovan Railway', the Customs Service, the General Police Inspectorate, the Ministry of Environment etc.

Meanwhile, in 2013, we carried out joint operations with law enforcement authorities at both national and international levels.

It is worth to mention the common operation 'April – 2013', carried out jointly with the Customs Service and the joint operation 'OVIDIU', held under aegis of the Mission EUBAM.

Within the border crossing points, all state services activate in accordance with the technological standards regarding the border crossing checking and the customs control. These standards are designed to ensure a proper control within the border crossing points, rapid response to situational alterations as well as other working aspects.



International cooperation



In 2013, the Border Police Department strengthened international cooperation, becoming a trustful partner for the border authorities of other countries.

Aiming at fostering cooperation, 388 coordinated patrolling were carried out jointly with Romanian colleagues.

The activity of the Galati Joint Contact Centre was improved by approving the Regulation on its organization and functioning, and establishing a 24/24 and 7/7 working programme.

Cooperation with Ukrainian counterparts was significantly improved. Thus, it is worth mentioning the approval of signing the Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Moldova and the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine on contact points at Moldova-Ukraine state border, as well as the Protocol between the border authorities of RM and Ukraine on statistical and analytical data exchange.

Negotiations were held in order to draft a trilateral Governmental document on establishing and marking the border junction points (*triplex confinium*) between Republic of Moldova, Romania and Ukraine.



The international cooperation focused *inter alia* on experience exchange on integrated border management implementation, improvement of collaboration in the area of border control, development of operative units' cooperation, and personnel training.

Moreover, about 953 joint patrolling activities at the Moldova-Ukraine border were carried out, aiming to enhancing bilateral cooperation, increasing the level of situational awareness, improving the direct data exchange.

The joint control in 'Briceni-Rossoshany' BCP (on the Ukrainian territory), initiated in 2012, was successfully continued in 2013. In the same context, the parties examined the possibility of carrying out joint control at 'Palanca-Mayaki-Udobnoe' BCP (on the RM territory) and concluding a new agreement in this area. Demarcation of Moldova-Ukraine state border represents a half-accomplished task. In 2013 four meetings of the Joint Moldova-Ukraine Border Demarcation Commission were conducted.

Border Police Department paid a special attention to fostering cooperation with CIS member states (Georgia, Belarus) and EU countries (Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Austria, Germany, France etc.), a novelty being the joint activities with border authorities of Spain and the Netherlands. Consistent support was provided by the Polish partners within the project 'Information management within the system of combating cross-border crime- trainings for representatives of the Border Police of the Republic of Moldova', of the Programme 'Polish Aid'. As result, 96 Moldovan Border Police officers were trained.



The Border Police has developed a fruitful cooperation with the European Union Border Assistance Mission to Moldova and Ukraine (EUBAM) and the European Agency for the Management of Operational Cooperation at the External Borders of the Member States of the European Union (Frontex).



Our institution carried out joint activities with EUBAM in accordance with the 2013 Action Plan provisions. At the same time, EUBAM supported BPD in the following major areas: visa liberalization, drafting and developing the concept of mobile teams and the BP National Coordination Center, implementation of activities in the framework of the EU Strategy for Danube Region (EUSDR). EUBAM experts also participated in the Joint Moldovan-Ukrainian Border Demarcation Commission meetings, bringing their contribution in boosting cooperation between the parties, special attention being paid to the central segment of the state border.



As regards cooperation with Frontex, the parties continued to implement the 2012-2014 Cooperation Plan. Thus, 36 Border Police officers participated at 27 events.

The joint operations 'Flexi Force 2013', 'Focal Points 2013 Land', 'EPN-Minerva 2013', 'Hermes 2013', 'Jupiter 2013' were organized within border crossing points from Poland, Romania, Spain, Italy, Slovakia. It is noteworthy that Moldova was the only third country that hosted two joint operations 'Coordination Points 2013' in BCP 'Criva' and BCP 'Tudora' under the aegis of Frontex. Within the operations above mentioned, European experts shared their experience in the field of forensic expertise of travel documents, stolen vehicles and illegal migration.



Modernization of logistics

Ensuring the public order, monitoring the state border and maintaining the state border security are only a few basic duties of the border police officers. Therefore, the institution reformation has become a must once the equipment was played-out and insufficient, the uniforms well-worn and the border posts did not meet the European standards.

In this context, a set of significant activities were carried out in 2013. To mention only a few, the capital reconstruction project of the BPS 'Cosauti' was designed, the capital construction of the BPS 'Ocnita' was completed, about 1500 employees were worn with the new model uniform (about 43 % of the whole personnel).

Improvement of border security was boosted by a substantial logistics support coming from both state budget resources and external funds. The EU funded Project "Fixed and Mobile Communications Network for Moldovan Border Guard Service" enabled setting up the radio-relay transmissions system. The project allowed providing each BPD subdivision with IT services, and facilitated integration of several services, data centralization and efficiency in transmitting different type of data: voice, video, digital. The system enables secure fixed and mobile communications, video surveillance and transmission of data between locations, thereby improving the quality of activity of BPD staff.



Within another large project – 'Weapons of mass destruction proliferation prevention' Project, financed by the US Defense Department, the Border Police was equipped with dozens of vehicles and special equipment designed to ensure proper border surveillance and border crossing checking. To mention only a few, 80 vehicles Dacia Duster, 30 minivans Opel Vivaro, 10 cars Nissan Pathfinder, 105 ATVs, special equipment including load bearing vests, rucksacks,



patrol belts, handcuffs, binoculars, night vision devices, thermal imagers, GPS receivers, heart beat detectors and many other devices were granted.

The equipment is already used, facilitating

significantly our daily work.

Some border crossing points still use soviet vehicles, played-out devices and well-worn uniforms.

By the time, they are about to be changed, too.

Thus, we can say that, during 2013, the Border Police has recorded notable achievements as regards the complex logistical provision of the Moldavian state border.

Securing Moldova's Borders

The state border control

The Border Police has a multifaceted and complex mission of protecting the Nation against a multitude of cross-border violations and illegal migration. The Moldavian border security is challenged daily by criminals who engage in illegal activity ranging from evading Customs duty to smuggling of narcotics and people into or outside the Republic of Moldova.

In this context, during 2013, we carried out significant measures in order to improve the border surveillance and border crossing checking. Therefore, we implemented new border control methods and modern special equipment in the daily activity.



The border police officers performing border checks have separate booths, modern special equipment designed for consulting the databases and examine the travel documents at the first and second line checks as well as special equipment for checks on vehicles.

The Automated Information System on border crossings of all Border Police subdivisions responsible for border check are connected online to the Border Police central server by means of the national telecommunication companies, allowing checking the validity of travel documents of the RM citizens, foreign citizens and transport means basing upon INTERPOL data. All border control sections are provided with passport machine readable zone readers with RFID.



The Border Police Sectors monitor the state border non-stop by means of mobile/pedestrian patrols using special border control technical means (cross-country vehicles, ATVs, motorboats, specially trained canines, night vision devices thermal imagers, fixed perimeter surveillance cameras etc.). The patrols are in permanent readiness for preventing illegal border activities.

The mobile patrols operating within the border zone are equipped with portable passport readers and special equipment for stopping and controlling vehicles.



The Border Police established a National Coordination Center, 5 Regional Coordination Centers and 41 Local Contact Points designed to strengthen the situational awareness and rapid response in the field of illegal migration prevention and cross-border crimes counteraction. The above-mentioned centers are working non-stop and are responsible for a proper implementation of the national border control system, which consists

in ensuring the Republic of Moldova with a technical and operational framework aimed at implementing the EUROSUR concept (European Border Surveillance System).



During the reporting period, we have continued a fruitful cooperation with relevant counterparts of the neighbouring countries, so 388 coordinated patrols with Romanian colleagues and 953 common patrols with the Ukrainian ones being carried out. At the same time, the border police officers performed 7 joint patrols with EUBAM representatives, 1- with Frontex ones and over 342 patrols with other law enforcement agencies.

Canine enforcement teams



Reliable helpers during the daily practice and trustworthy friends in everyday life. This is about the specially trained canines fighting with concealed persons, drug traffickers and criminals. Presently, over 100 border police dogs, German shepherd, Labrador retrievers and Belgian Shepherd species, secure the country's borders.

The border police officers' work often relies on the canines' help, many successes being achieved due to specially trained dogs accomplishing the duties together with their dog-handlers.

Other Ministerial structures often ask the border police dogs' help. In 2013, 30 requests from the district police stations were recorded. The canines searched for narcotics, stolen objects and criminals. It is worth to mention that since the beginning of the last year, the dogs solved 21 cases when suspects of robbery, homicide or illegal border crossing attempts were detained. The specially trained dogs belonging to the 'North' Regional Directorate tracked half of the recorder cases.



The canine called 'Oscar' is an eloquent example of well-trained dog. It has been patrolling the state border since 2010 and succeeded to track four offences in 2013: two crimes and two thefts.

In one of the cases, the police inspectorate Donduseni asked the help in searching and tracking a suspect of homicide. Over three hours, searching and investigations were carried out jointly with the police officers. The canine 'Oscar' was the one to guide the officers from the place of crime to criminal's home. The police officers detained the suspect in order to determine all circumstances and apply the legal measures.

Another case was the detection of 250 g. of substances of vegetal origin, assumed to be marijuana. In October 30, 2013, into Chisinau-Moscow route train was initiated an operation of combating illegal traffic with narcotics. Thus, the border police officers engaged in this operation the specially trained canine called 'Tegla' and detected, a few minutes later, a bottle containing powdered substance of vegetal origin, looking like marijuana in one of the wagons' entrance.



The border police canines often participate at international dog shows, winning the title of champions and being nominated as the best dogs of the shows 'World Cup 2013' and 'The Champion of Italy 2013'.

Thanks to EUBAM and FRONTEX's systematic organization of international trainings, continuous training and daily care, the Border Police's canines constantly record high results in tracking both border and inland crimes.

Counteracting cross-border crime

The Border Police reformation resulted in assigning the institution with new competences in the field of criminal investigation, special investigation, forensic expertise of documents and issuance of visas at the border in exceptional cases. The new assigned competences ensure a more efficient prevention and counteraction of cross-border crime, including the persons trafficking, illegal border crossings, smuggling, forgery and improper use of documents as well facilitating travel of persons in special cases.

Investigation of border violations

Even though criminal investigation is quite a new competence for the Border Police Department, significant results were achieved.

Thus, the criminal investigation officers have recorded 605 notifications on infringements in 2013, out of which 472 criminal cases were started. Out of the total number of criminal cases, 15 were catalogued as highly serious cases, 26 – serious, 96 – quite serious and 308 – light cases.

A remarkable success, confirming an efficient cooperation with the Romanian colleagues, is the joint operation with the Territorial Border Police Inspectorate Iasi, during which a few searches were carried out and an international organized crime group specialized in smuggling with stolen vehicles was annihilated.

Special attention was paid to fighting against narcotics trafficking. Thus, a highly mediated case was the seizure, jointly with the National Investigation Inspectorate and the General Prosecutor Office of the Republic of Moldova, of the year greatest seized amount of ecstasy tablets, valued at 9.8 million lei on the black market. The 56 thousand pills of ecstasy were brought from Holland and illegally introduced in our country.

After a few months stakeout, an organized crime group specialized in drug smuggling was tracked in December 24, jointly with the General Prosecutor Office. Four members of the group were detained and risk 15 years imprisonment. Based on operative information, we detected and seized five bags of 2 kilos each with marijuana, valued at 3.5 million lei on the black market. The drugs derived from Greece and were intended to be sold all over the territory of the Republic of Moldova.





As result of efficient border control missions, migrants from Afghanistan, Syria, Bangladesh, Egypt, Iran, Congo, and Cameroon were detected and detained within the border zone and along the state borderline.

A highly mediated case, which concurred essentially to the institution's overall image improvement within the society, was the annihilation of an organized crime group specialized in stealing goods from the

passengers' baggage and dealing within the International Airport Chisinau.

The greatest-sized smuggling of cigarettes seized during the reporting period was in November 9, when the border police officers detected and detained 2 310 200 cigarettes of Moldovan production, valued at 800 thousand lei, which were intended to be illegally introduced in Romania.

The smuggling with alcohol is also frequent within the border zone. A case in point is the counteraction of an attempt of crossing illegally 6 tons of ethylic alcohol over the Moldovan-Ukrainian border. After eight searches at the suspects' houses, 30 more tons of alcohol and other delict items were seized.



The criminal and special investigation officers made considerable efforts to observe the human rights, avoid starting unjustified criminal investigation, and improve the criminal investigation quality.

Contraventions examination

According to the statistical data on fact finding and examination within the Border Police, there were 3650 contraventions examined and established during 2013. Meanwhile, the Border Police have collected fines of 1 012 850 lei.

One of the most relevant cases in the area is the detention of three men for illegal presence within the border zone, having a wild boar with them.

Although the Border Police periodically acknowledge the persons passionate in hunting and/or fishing with the rules for staying in the border zone, some of them simply ignore these recommendations. Thus, while accomplishing the mission of border surveillance, the 'North' Regional Directorate's representatives detected a vehicle with three men holding no identity document in December 17.

Moreover, the border police officers detected a wild boar of approximately 60 kilos and various butchering tools. Therefore, the men were sanctioned by a fine of 20 conventional units each, and the boar was passed for veterinarian and sanitary examination in Riscani.



As well, we do apply successfully the new competences concerning the carriers' liability for transporting into the country foreigners without required travel documents. During the reporting period, the Border Police draw-up 78 protocols based on the art. 332 ¹ (1)-(3) of the Contravention Code of the Republic of Moldova.

Fraudulent documents analysis

Aiming at ensuring a proper fulfilment of tasks concerning the forgery and illegal use of travel documents, the Border Police was assigned with new competences in forensic expertise of travel documents.

In order to take over the best European practices and enhance the competences and capacities in the field of documents' security, the Border Police continuously develops its own travel documents control system.

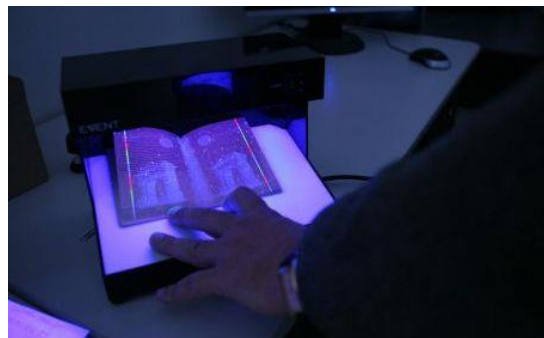


At present, the institution has qualified experts able to carry out and manage proper technical examinations of travel documents.

In 2013, the border police officers carried out 140 technical-forensic expertises and 152 technical-scientific statements.

A sound relevant case was the counteraction, within the International Airport Chisinau, of an illegal border-crossing attempt of eight Indian citizens who presented counterfeit Israel passports.

A group of Indian migrants arrived by Moscow-Chisinau air-route and presented passports issued by Israel authorities. Suspicions on data accuracy determined the border police officers to carry out the documents' thorough examination with the special equipment. Consequently, the documents' forgery was confirmed.



Meanwhile, the inspectors detected the detained persons' genuine documents while checking their baggage. One of the passports' page containing forged Moldovan visas caught the border police officer's attention.

The Indian citizens intended to enter into our country illegally and to continue their way toward European Union. Finally, they were turned back, according to the legal provisions.

It is worth to mention the joint operation between the Border Police Department and the Information and Intelligence Service, ended with the annihilation of a transnational organized group specialized in issuance of illegal official documents of more state institutions.



Thus, the inspectors of Chisinau International Airport Border Police Sector, jointly with IIS agents, carried out a wide operation in September 2013, designed to collect evidence and documents on the illegal activity of four groups issuing illegal official documents, namely Moldovan and Romanian passports, driving licenses designed inclusively to individuals of high terrorist risk countries.

In this context, eight house searches were conducted in Chisinau, which resulted in seizing 400 false documents, writings and specific items used in forging documents. It is to be mentioned that based on the seized false identity documents, Moldovan citizens intended to apply for the acquiring of the Romanian citizenship.

Four criminal investigations were initiated on this case. At present, multifaceted actions are carried out in order to investigate the case and punish the criminals and to identify all Moldovan citizens who already used the illegal groups 'services', obtaining consequently the Romanian citizenship.

The recorded successes in this area determined the Border Police Department to continue implementing the best European practices and the institutional capacity building in the field of travel documents' security.

In 2013, there were 93 visas issued in exceptional cases within the state border crossing points, most of them being issued on the ground of illness of relatives. Most visas (92 cases) were issued in Chisinau International Airport Border Police Sector.

Mobile teams' activity

An important tool in preventing irregular migration and cross-border crime is the control of international road traffic all over the national territory by means of mobile units. They were created within the context of implementation the EUROSUR principles.



The mobile units are working at central and local levels because of the decentralization of some operative duties and the distribution of certain competences to the regional structures. According to destination, they activate within and outside the border zone. The mobile units are present within the border localities, on main communication roads and other places according to the operative situation.

A notable activity was the Operation 'Lease car II', where mixed mobile teams of the Border Police, the National Patrol Inspectorate, the National Investigation Inspectorate, the Customs Service and Interpol's representatives carried out actions designed to combat vehicle thefts.

The operation took place the second consecutive year and resulted in detection of stolen cars, expired tax discs and forged documents.

The actions of combating and preventing illegal activities aimed to detect stolen vehicles on the one hand and, on the other hand, to foster cooperation between the competent authorities of SELEC member states in the field of identification the persons involved in illegal trafficking of vehicles and uncovering the vehicle smuggling schema.



It is worth to mention that all anti-fraud measures undertaken by mixed mobile teams ensure the detection and punishment of any illegal entry of vehicles into the country and illegal stay on the territory of the Republic of Moldova.

As well, the success of this operation served as platform for further individual or joint development of measures aimed to counteract this phenomenon.



Social activities



The Border Police have an active social life, participating in various social events

Going Green

During the sunny day of October 26, the Border Police employees performed laying out works of greening our homeland.

Traditionally, during the National Greening Day, we perform cleaning, laying out works and forest tree planting on the institution's subdivisions territory jointly with the local administration employees, forestry workers but also helped by the border police officers' children.

The measure called 'A tree for our perpetuation' is carried out in accordance with the Presidential Decree starting 1995. Since 2011, such measures are being performed during the last Saturday of October, because the sidling plants strike roots faster on autumn.



Acts of kindness

Besides securing the country borders, we are trying to make disadvantaged children smiling.

In 2013, we organized a few acts of kindness for the disadvantaged children from the Center for Rehabilitation and Social Integration of Mentally Disabled Children 'Cris Cultum' from Stauceni, the Auxiliary Boarding School in Nisporeni and the Community Social Assistance Center of Olanesti. These children and the border police officers' children enjoyed nice surprises and gifts on Easter Holy Day, the Universal Children's Day, the Border Police Day, the First Day of School, the first day of autumn holiday and, of course, on Christmas Day.



Traditionally, the children enjoy visits in the Capital, taking part at interactive programs (funny magic shows, visits at the Zoological Garden, the International Airport Chisinau, including the only aviation museum of Moldova and 'Odeon' Cinema).

The border police dogs are the children's favourites and they show efficiency not only in tracking criminals but are also kind and funny friends.



Future priorities

The Border Police will continue to implement integrated border management in line with EU best practices in order to strengthen capacity building and enhance credibility both at national and international levels.

We will continue improving our activity in order to effectively combat illegal migration, human beings trafficking and other cross-border crime, and also tackle new risks and threats.

Providing high quality services to citizens, while performing duties with high level professionalism and integrity, remains a institution's key priority.

We will strengthen our efforts in alignning with EU standards by developing an efficient cooperation with relevant authorities and international organizations and by implementing provisions of relevant agreements.

The human resources system is a basic element in ensuring security of the state border. Therefore, we will improve the human resources management by developing a continuous training system, and ensuring coherent and transparent assessment.

Border Police will continue to intensively promote the "Zero tolerance to corruption, torture, breaking of human rights and freedoms" concept.

The institution's activity and its overall image are to be continuously improved. We can achieve this objective by developping an integrated and efficient infrastructure oriented towards strengthening professional skills and ensuring the quality and transparency of the services provided.