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MINISTRY OF SECURITY OF BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA
BORDER POLICE OF BIH

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Dear readers,

In the new edition of the BiH Border Police Brochure, you can read about the most significant activities that were implemented in the previous period, about cooperation with institutions in Bosnia and Herzegovina and international partners in the fight against crime and for border security, then about illegal migration, smuggling, operational actions, training and professional development of police officers, equipment, as well as humanitarian actions within the Border Police of BiH.

In recent years, the Border Police of BiH has faced numerous challenges, starting from global ones such as illegal migration, to internal ones, such as the lack of personnel and material and technical capacities. Despite this, with the maximum efforts of the BP BiH officers, the number of discovered forged documents and people, wanted by the BiH and international authorities on various grounds, has increased. A large number of criminal offences were recorded, especially in connection with people smuggling, and a large number of reports were submitted to the relevant prosecutor’s offices. Activities to cut down organised criminal groups that try to smuggle people across the territory of Bosnia and Herzegovina, as well as other activities to prevent cross-border crime, will continue, with a special emphasis on zero tolerance and the fight against corruption, abuse of official position and lack of commitment in the workplace.

By issuing this publication, we aim to transparently, objectively and validly inform the public about the activities of the Border Police of BiH and highlight important events in the past year.

Sincerely,

DIRECTOR
Chief Inspector General of Police

Mirko Kuprešaković
The Border Police of BiH to mark its 23rd anniversary

The BP BiH has developed into a modern, professional, contemporary police agency at the state level.

The Border Police of Bosnia and Herzegovina is celebrating its 23rd anniversary on 6 June 2023. On this day, with the formation of the first Unit Airport Sarajevo, the BP BiH started its work and thus we became the first multi-ethnic police agency at the level of BiH.

From then until today, the BP BiH has developed into a modern, professional, contemporary police agency at the state level, whose harmony and uniqueness in work and action have earned it the status of one of the most respectable police agencies in our country and the region. Today, the Border Police of BiH has 2,062 employees, of which 1,864 are police officers, 45 civil servants and 153 staff members.

Despite problems that were, more or less, present all previous years, such as an insufficient number of police officers, poor infrastructure at border crossing points, insufficient budget funds for development projects, we demonstrated our ability to perform border control in accordance with the highest European standards.

Over time, we have become a modern police agency that, in cooperation and independently, has done in the suppression of illegal migration through BiH territory and in the fight against all types of cross-border crime. However, as is well known, for the last six years this police agency has been dealing with the influx of migrants in the eastern and north-eastern parts of the country, that is, with the illegal crossing of the state border by migrants entering BiH by the so-called The Western-Balkan Route and other routes, trying to use BiH as a transit area for going to the European Union countries. The path to success and building a positive image in the public was not easy. In order to fulfil the set goals and vision of a modern and professional agency, and a reliable partner for law enforcement agencies and the citizens we serve, members of the management and employees, and above all, the police officers at the border crossing points, being the first to „open” the door to everyone when entering our country and the last to wish a happy journey to all those leaving it, put in lot of effort and commitment. They are the greatest force that contributed to the BP BiH to enjoy respect in the police structures of the country and the world. Thanks to such an outlined vision, which does not depend on the difficulties and problems of the present moment, we have developed into the police agency from the beginning of the story.

Operational independence

The BP BiH was established on the basis of the Law on the State Border Service of BiH, which was adopted on 13 January 2000 by the High Representative in BiH, Wolfgang Petritsch, in accordance with his powers. With the adoption of the new Law on the State Border Service in October 2004, this police agency was defined as an administrative organisation within the Ministry of Security of BiH, with operational independence, established to perform police tasks related to the surveillance and control of crossing of the BiH border and other activities prescribed by law. In its work, the BP BiH applies primarily the basic laws: the Law on Border Control, the Law on Police Officials of BiH, the Law on Aliens, the Law on Civil Service in the Institutions of BiH, etc.
The process of taking over the surveillance and control of crossing of the state border from the entity and cantonal Mols took place in stages, and ended on 30 September 2002 with the inauguration of the State Border Service Unit Strmica. On 30 December 2002, the United Nations Mission in BiH, headed by Special Representative of the UN Secretary General and Head of the UN Mission in BiH, Jacques Paul Klein, accredited the State Border Service of BiH to meet basic standards of democratic law enforcement. Since then, the entire BiH border has been placed under control and surveillance, which are performed in a much more organised and functional manner.

By amendments to the Law on State Border Service, which entered into force on 18 April 2007, the State Border Service of BiH was renamed the Border Police of BiH.

**Organisation and management**

The Border Police of BiH is managed by the Director who has a Deputy and Assistant Director for Organisation and Operations.

The Border Police of BiH is structured to ensure coordination of all activities at the central, regional and local levels. At the central level, there are the Director’s Cabinet, the Central Investigation Office, the Internal Audit Office and the Head Office, which consists of the Operations Administration, the Administration Department, the Professional Standards and Internal Control Office and the Strategic Planning and European Integration Office, the Training and Development Office and the Joint Risk Analysis Centre.

There are, within it, six regional offices: Field Office North-West - Gradiška, Field Office North-East - Bijeljina, Field Office East - Višegrad, Field Office South - Ćapljina, Field Office West - Bosansko Grahovo and Field Office for Airports based in Sarajevo.

On about 1,600 kilometres of the state border, there are 17 Units deployed - BIH BPU Velika Kladuša, BIH BPU Dobrijin, BIH BPU Gradiška, BIH BPU Brod, BIH BPU Orašje, BIH BPU Brčko, BIH BPU Bijeljina, BIH BPU Zvornik, BIH BPU Višegrad, BIH BPU Hum, BIH BPU Trebinje, BIH BPU Neum, BIH BPU Doljani, BIH BPU Gorica, BIH BPU Kamensko, BIH BPU Strmica, BIH BPU Izačić as well as BIH BPUs at four airports: Sarajevo, Banja Luka, Mostar and Tuzla. In addition to the mentioned organisational units, there are, within the BP BiH, Support and Control Units and Observation and Surveillance Units, as specialised units for performing certain tasks and duties.
Control along the 1,600 kilometres of the state border

The surveillance of the border and the border control are performed in accordance with the best standards and practices of related agencies in Europe and worldwide, along the border around 1,600 kilometres long, i.e. the 905-kilometres land border, the 625-kilometres river border and the 21-kilometres sea border. BiH has 86 border crossing points, of which 58 are international and 28 are border crossing points for border area traffic.
Interview with Director of the Border Police of BiH, Mirko Kuprešaković

Mirko Kuprešaković, Chief Inspector General of Police, was appointed to the position of Director of the Border Police of BiH, by the Decision of the Council of Ministers of BiH, starting on 2 March 2023. Director Kuprešaković was born in 1967 in Travnik, where he completed primary and secondary school. He graduated from the Faculty of Law of the University of Mostar and earned a degree in law. He started his professional career in police structures, first in the PS Travnik, the PA Travnik, the CBC MoI and the Federal Police Administration. During his work in the Federal Police Administration, among other things, he was assigned the following jobs and tasks: Head of the Department for War Crimes, Head of the Anti-Sabotage Protection Department, Head of the Department for Combating Terrorism, Head of the Intelligence Department, Head of the Sarajevo Detachment, acting Head of the Unit for Professional Standards, Deputy Chief of the Criminal Police Sector and Head of the Mostar Field Office for the area of Herzegovina-Neretva Canton, West Herzegovina Canton, Canton No. 10 and Una-Sana Canton. Also, during his work, he was both a member and the President of the Police Board, as well as a Deputy or President of the Disciplinary Commission. In his working career, he continuously worked on developing and improving his work and acquiring new knowledge through attending numerous courses, both in BiH and abroad. He has been commended and awarded several times in his work, in addition to numerous awards; he is the holder of the Golden Police Medal for outstanding contribution to solving crimes and the Silver Police Medal for outstanding contribution to the preservation of human lives.

Since March 2023, you have assumed the position of Director of the Border Police of BiH. What will be your priorities in the Border Police of BiH?

Assessing the basic needs of members of the Border Police of BiH and working to improve them, is one of my main goals as Director. Police officers must work under normal conditions; have regular incomes, adequate work equipment and the like. As in any job, the training of police officers is an indispensable part, with the aim of development. Since the beginning of this year, we have had a series of trainings. Recently, a training was held on the subject of smuggling and trafficking in human beings, where members of the Border Police exchanged experiences with other police agencies and absorbed the knowledge they need for their work related to the mentioned topics. One of the trainings was held as part of the bilateral cooperation between the German Federal Police and the Border Police of BiH, called

"Through my activities in the BP BiH, I shall do my best to motivate other employees and police officers to invest maximum efforts in protecting the state border, and to perform their work professionally and honourably, as expected"
Demining Robot, in which members of the Anti-Bomb Team of the Border Police Unit Airport Sarajevo took part. We will continue working on the training of police officers. Therefore, my focus is on providing basic conditions for work, filling vacant positions of officers in the Border Police of BiH, strengthening the material and technical equipment and training of members of the Border Police of BiH. Moreover, we will certainly work on strengthening the improvement of cooperation with other police agencies and institutions, especially in the area of information exchange, as well as joint activities and patrols, both at the national and international levels.

What specialist equipment does the Border Police have and is it sufficient for an adequate response at the state border?

The Border Police of BiH has high-quality specialist equipment, mostly donated by international partners, such as technical equipment for border surveillance, monitoring equipment in day and night conditions, various types of sensor and radar systems for detecting illegal crossings, scoutguard cameras, border monitoring drones, special vehicles for monitoring and surveillance, mobile equipment for direct access to databases with the aim of identifying migrants in the border zone and the like. However, considering current exposure of BiH to increased migratory pressure, and the need for daily increased use of specialist equipment, the BP BiH has a constant need to renew the existing and acquire new specialist equipment, with which they could respond to contemporary challenges in the field of illegal migration and ensure adequate protection of the state border. Therefore, we will work intensively on strengthening material and technical capacities to enable our police officers to more easily fight against all forms of crime.

Considering your enviable biography, will you apply your many years of experience and knowledge in this police agency?

I have been in police structures for 28 years and have learned to deal with different situations and challenges. A police officer must be professional and know how to react concretely in challenging situations and continuously improve. I believe that as Director of the Border Police, but also as someone who has many years of experience in the police, I am obliged to pass on the knowledge that I myself have acquired through various trainings and improvements, but also through working with people and exchanging information and experience. Through my activities in the BP BiH, I shall do my best to motivate other employees and police officers to invest maximum efforts in protecting the state border, and to perform their work professionally and honourably, as expected.

You recently participated in the Regional Conference of the Western Balkans Police Chiefs on fighting High-Risk Criminal networks in. How important is cooperation with other countries in the fight against crime?

I participated in the Regional Conference of the Police Chiefs, during which we exchanged experiences in the fight against identified criminal networks, with a special emphasis on encrypted platforms. This was an opportunity for the delegations to exchange information, experiences and opinions in that area and to look at cooperation modalities for mutual capacity building in relation to dealing with emerging phenomena. Cooperation with other countries is extremely important and one of the main strategic goals of the Border Police of BiH is to strengthen international cooperation through the implementation of international agreements and protocols, through more efficient and faster information exchange, implementation of joint/mixed patrols and the like. By strengthening mutual cooperation,
opportunities are created for a more effective response to migration and all other security challenges.

**What is the current representation of women in the Border Police of BiH?**

The representation of women, in general, in police structures is not at an enviable level. There is a certain number of female police officers in the Border Police of BiH, but this is nowhere near the number of male members of the Border Police of BiH. However, there is an obvious increase in the number of women applying for public vacancies in the police in recent years. With their professional engagement in police structures, women break prejudices about the police profession being a male profession, and their contribution is great. There are many situations in which the presence of women is even more necessary than that of men, for example when it comes to smuggling and trafficking in human beings, rape victims and the like, female victims will always open up to female rather than to male officers. Likewise, when it comes to searches, in situations where women are suspected of a criminal offence, a female police officer, that is, a person of the same sex can only conduct the search.

The Border Police of BiH is definitely open to all those who perform their work professionally and responsibly, without any prejudice or discrimination, because the safety of citizens is our first priority.

The lack of police officers is a long-standing problem in the BiH Border Police. What is the current situation?

The Border police of BiH has been facing a lack of personnel capacity for years, which makes the work of police officers difficult in certain situations. According to the valid Rulebook on Internal Organisation, the Border Police of BiH currently lacks 562 police officials, or 23.2%, of which the largest number is in the rank of police officers. It is necessary to fill vacant positions, above all the positions of police officials, who work intensively to protect the state border. Although I have only been in this position for just one month, we have already announced vacancies to fill vacant positions. The Council of Ministers of Bosnia and Herzegovina has approved the admission of a new class of cadets and new public tenders will be published as soon as certain procedures have been followed. In this way, I want, first, that young and promising people are enabled to get a job, and that we finally have a sufficient number of members of the BP BiH who will protect the state border.

It is clear that you strive to fill the vacant positions as soon as possible and hire a sufficient number of new young forces in the Border Police. What would you say to those who want to do police work?

Police work is a great honour, but also a great responsibility, with a high level of mental and physical strength. To all those who will be involved in police work, I would like to say that they do their work honourably, professionally and honestly, and that they conscientiously and responsibly take care of the safe environment and the safety of their citizens.
The citizen of BiH smuggled 15 889 packs of cigarettes in a purposely built space of the truck

In the beginning of December 2022, members of the Central Investigation Office of the Border Police of BiH prevented smuggling of 15 889 packs of various kind of cigarettes without excise stamps and with excise stamps from the Kosovo area. The smuggling was prevented at entry to Bosnia and Herzegovina at International Border Crossing Point Karakaj. The smuggled cigarettes were discovered on the second line of border checks during a detailed control and inspection of a freight motor vehicle of Man brand and its trailer with BiH license plates. The cigarettes were found in the cargo area of the trailer in a purposely built space, i.e. hidden along the entire floor of the trailer. The vehicle was driven by citizen of BiH. On the grounds for suspicion that the criminal offense of ‘Smuggling’ was committed, the duty prosecutor of the Prosecutor’s Office of BiH and the judge for preliminary proceedings of the Court of BiH were informed about the event, according to whose order the suspects was apprehended and the vehicle was searched. The smuggled cigarettes whose market value is estimated at around BAM 100 000, the vehicle and other evidence were temporarily seized. During their work, members of the Border Police of BiH used specialist equipment donated by the Governments of the Federal Republic of Germany and the Great Britain.

Members of the BP BiH discovered 109 stalks of Indian hemp within the Operational Action ‘Plantaža’

In mid-September 2022, during the Operational Action ‘Plantaža’, members of the Border police of BiH discovered a plantation of narcotic drug Indian hemp in the place Počitelj - Brdo in the border zone in the area of the municipality of Čapljina. During the Operation, 93 stalks of the narcotic drug Indian hemp, from two and a half to three metres high, were discovered. Two citizens of BiH were found at the mentioned plantation. In the continuation of the above mentioned operational action members of the BP BiH discovered another plantation of Indian hemp in the same place and apprehended a citizen of BiH who was found in the border area of Čapljina in the place where was a plantation of 16 stalks of Indian hemp of an average height of two and a half metres. The stalks of Indian hemp were temporarily seized. During the implementation of the action, members of the BP BiH used specialist equipment donated by the Government of the Czech Republic.
In the end of October 2022, members of the BiH Border Police Unit Dobrljin seized 150 kilograms of cut tobacco without excise stamps within the Operational Action code-named ‘Lula’. The illicit trafficking was prevented in Blagaj, in the territory of the Novi Grad municipality, when the members of this Unit controlled a passenger motor vehicle Mercedes, of BiH license plates. The driver of the vehicle was citizen of BiH. Previously, in mid-October 2022, in the same place, officers of this Unit seized 200 kilograms of cut tobacco without excise stamps.

In the beginning of Jun 2022, members of BP BiH Unit Doljani prevented smuggling of 2,999 packs of cigarettes without excise stamps, at the exit from BiH at International Border Crossing Point Zvirići. The cigarettes were detected at the second line of border checks upon detailed control of the vehicle BMW of the BiH license plates. The vehicle was driven by citizen of BiH and the Republic of Croatia, who did not possess documentation on origin of the goods. A prosecutor of the Prosecutor’s Office of BiH was informed about the event. The smuggled cigarettes without excise stamps and other evidence were temporarily seized. Market value of the smuggled cigarettes is estimated at almost BAM 15,000.

In the end of October 2022, members of the BiH Border Police Unit Dobrljin seized 350 kilograms of tobacco within Action ‘Lula’. Tobacco was found in vehicle Golf of BiH license plates driven by citizen of BiH. The Prosecutor’s Office of BiH and the judge for preliminary proceedings of the Court of BiH were informed about these cases and following their orders the suspects were apprehended and the vehicles were searched. On the grounds for suspicion that the criminal offence of ‘Illicit trade in excise goods’, under Article 210 a. of the Criminal Code of BiH was committed, report was submitted to the Prosecutor’s Office of BiH against both perpetrators. Tobacco and other evidence were temporarily seized.

Smuggling of cigarettes prevented at the Border Crossing Point Zvirići

The service dog named Celo detected narcotics during the search

Following the order of Municipal Court in Bihać, in mid-April 2022, officers of the BP BiH Unit Izačić searched the house, ancillary facilities and vehicle, in the Bihać area, owned by a citizen of BiH. During the search, members of the BP BiH Unit Izačić and the BP BiH Unit for Support and Control of Field Office West - Bosansko Grahovo, assisted by the service dog for detection of narcotics, Belgian Malinois, named Celo, detected and temporarily seized the following items: a large amount of dry herbaceous substance resembling the narcotic drug Cannabis sativa, a gas pistol, nine mobile telephones, a large amount of money in various denomination, flowerpots with plant Cannabis sativa, ammunition, grinder, seeds, precise scale and video-surveillance recorder with an adapter.
**Prevented attempt of trafficking 420 ‘Xanax’ pills across the state border**

In mid-November 2022, members of the BP BiH Unit Airport Tuzla detected 420 ‘Xanax’ pills which contain psychotropic substances. The pills were discovered at the second line of border checks during inspection of a citizen of BiH and the Republic of Croatia. She was controlled at exit from BiH on the flight to Memmingen and she had no medical documents nor documents on origin of the medicaments.

Pursuant to the Law on Prevention and Suppression of Narcotic Drug Abuse, this person was prosecuted, while the tablets were temporarily confiscated.

**A large number of mobile phones seized at the Border Crossing Point Orašje**

In the end of November 2022, members of the BP BiH Unit Orašje prevented smuggling of a large number of mobile phones at entry to BiH at International Border Crossing Point Orašje. They were detected during detailed control of the passenger motor vehicle Mercedes of the BiH license plates, at the second line of border checks. The vehicle was driven by a citizen of BiH who did not possess documentation on origin of the goods. Mobile phones were hidden in the space intended for spare tyre. On the grounds for suspicion that criminal offence ‘Smuggling’ was committed, duty prosecutor of the Prosecutor’s Office of BiH and the judge for preliminary proceedings of the Court of BiH were informed about the case and based on their orders the person and the vehicle were searched. The smuggled mobile phones were temporarily seized and a report on committed criminal offence was submitted to the Prosecutor’s Office of BiH. The market value of the mobile phones was estimated at more than BAM 20,000.

**45 375 668 people crossed the state border**

During 2022, the BiH state border was crossed by 45 375 668 people, out of which 22 778 213 were registered at entry, and 22 597 455 at exit from BiH. Comparing to 2021 (31 509 686), traffic of people crossing the border increased by 44 percent.

In 2022, there were registered 2 738 people that the competent authorities had issued warrants, searches, prohibitions of crossing the state border for or who are security-wise interesting people, which is 77 percent more than in 2021 (1 542).

When it comes to search activities at Border Crossing Points during 2022, members of the BP BiH detected 165 BiH documents wanted based on different grounds, or announced by competent authorities as annulled/invalid, i.e. stolen/lost and 284 foreign documents wanted by Interpol. In 2022, members of the Border Police of BiH submitted to the competent prosecutors’ offices in BiH 308 reports on crimes committed, due to the existence of grounds for suspicion that 450 criminal offenses are being committed at border crossing points, in the border zone and in the interior of BiH.
Permanent work on improvement of the surveillance and control of the state border crossing

With the aim of more efficient and functional control of the state border crossing, the Border Police of BiH has achieved significant progress in the material and technical equipment of all organisational units in the past period, which was largely contributed by the understanding and support of institutions and authorities in BiH, donor countries and their diplomatic representatives, and representatives of the international community. Thanks to this, we have adequate material and technical equipment for border control and border checks harmonized with the European Union standards.

Police equipment

In the past period, in addition to the purchase of police equipment, document inspection and night surveillance devices, thermal imaging cameras and sensors, service dogs and other equipment, we also allocated, from our own budget for capital expenditures, considerable funds for the purchase of service vehicles that are mainly used for the surveillance of the state border. Thus, the BP BiH today has 323 service vehicles. Among the transport vehicles used in daily work, special vehicles with thermal imaging devices and specialist equipment have special value. ATVs, motorbikes, sledges and boats are also used daily.

In 2022, the activities of the systematic software upgrade of the Unified Information System (UIS) of the BP BiH continued, primarily on the improvement of the border control process through the continuation of the implementation of the Project “Automatic license plate reading, improvement and upgrading of the existing border checks application and integration of advanced reporting (BI)”, and the work on the optimization of business processes in the BP BiH through the UIS (the DMS and the Project “Electronic records, event logs with the business process management and electronic records of sector files”). New version of the Border Checks Application has been established at 68 international and border zone border crossing points, and has been in active operation since October 2021. There were in total 225 ALPR cameras installed at 44 border crossing points. The system of automatic control of license plates enables the automatic recognition of license plate marks on the vehicle, all vehicles that cross the state border are recorded and through this system, the license plates can be checked in databases. Thanks to this upgraded Application, there has been a significant increase in the number of checks performed on vehicles and license plates, and thus in the detection of stolen vehicles and license plates. In addition, the system enables the linking of the vehicle data with data on persons-passengers in the vehicle that are subject to border control.
Process management

Through the IOM donation, the Data Centre was upgraded, which is reflected in the support upgrade lasting one year, as well as the increase in capacity by installing additional disks. The implementation of the Project “Upgrading the ISM through the acquisition of hardware and software for collecting, archiving and processing biometric data of foreigners and upgrading the ISM through the integration of the acquired equipment” is underway, which is carried out by the Ministry of Security of BiH. In accordance with newly expressed user requests, the Document Management System of the BP BiH is constantly upgraded, as well as the application “Electronic records, event logs with the business process management and electronic records of sector files”. A complete conceptual solution was also created – equipment specification for the “Mobile Set for Access to the Border Check Application”, in order to once again enable the performance of border checks at temporary border crossing points (according to the decision of the Ministry of Security of BiH), as well as the performance of border checks at another place within the border zone (according to the decision of the local competent organisational unit of the BP BiH).

Constant work on improving the execution of tasks of supervision and control of crossing the state border with the use of all available material and technical resources contributed to this police agency to achieve significant results in its work. However, considering current exposure of BiH to increased migration pressure, and the need for daily increased use of specialist equipment, the BP BiH has a constant need to renew existing and acquire new types of specialist equipment, with which they could respond to contemporary challenges in the field of illegal migration and ensure adequate protection of the state border.

Video surveillance system establishment

With the completion of the project of video surveillance equipment installation at international border crossing points, within the framework of the IPA 2015 project, the Border Police of BiH has an integrated video surveillance system at 55 border crossing points. With this project, the BP BiH received significant equipment for the surveillance and control of work processes at border crossing points. In addition to the monitoring of the video surveillance system at the very border crossing point, units and field offices, within their competence, also perform surveillance, as well as the Operational Centre located at the BP BiH Head Office. The system enables operational managers to receive information in real time, which helps them in the decision-making process. It is often essential for the provision of evidence, allowing managers to control the behaviour and work of employees. The closed video surveillance system is of great importance for monitoring and insight into the situation at border crossing points. In addition to the above, the integration of the telephone systems fully connected the telephone switchboards in all units and field offices as well as the border crossing points, which completed the process of connecting the telephone switchboards (abbreviated dialling in the internal Freephone network). This, in addition to functionality, also contributed to a significant reduction in financial expenses for telephone costs.
Members of the Border Police of BiH make maximum efforts in the state border protection

In the last few years, with increased migration pressure in Bosnia and Herzegovina, police officers of the Border Police of BiH discovered more than 300 criminal offences of People Smuggling (Article 189 of the Criminal Code of BiH) and more than 30 criminal offences of Organising a group or association to commit the criminal offence of migrant smuggling.

During 2022, members of the Border Police of BiH deterred more than 6,000 people from attempting to illegally cross the state border. The majority are citizens of Afghanistan, Burundi, and Pakistan, however a certain decrease in the number of citizens of Pakistan, who were previously at the very top when it comes to illegal migration, has been recorded. The largest number of illegal migrants was detected outside the area of border crossing points, i.e. in the border zone. Since the very beginning of the migrant crisis, most attempts at illegal entry into BiH have been on the eastern part of the state border, from the direction of Serbia and Montenegro. There were also frequent attempts to smuggle and hide migrants in trucks, and these cases were most often recorded in the areas of Border Police Units Orašje, Brod, Šamac and Gradiška, where migrants try to hide in truck trailers, tanks and under the very vehicles. Last year, the Border Police of BiH recorded 59 criminal offences of People smuggling (Article 189 of the Criminal Code of BiH) and one criminal offence of International trafficking in human beings, Article 186 of the Criminal Code of BiH, during which 49 official reports against 104 people were submitted to the competent prosecutors.

Prevented smuggling of 30 Turkish citizens

Members of the Border Police Unit Orašje prevented the smuggling of 30 Turkish citizens at the International Border Crossing Point Šamac. Namely, a citizen of the Republic of Croatia tried to illegally transfer across the state border citizens of the Republic of Turkey who did not meet the conditions for legal border crossing, in the cargo area of a freight motor vehicle, with the intention of obtaining illegal property benefits for himself. A report was submitted to the Prosecutor’s Office of BiH on the committed criminal offence of People Smuggling under Article 189 of the Criminal Code of BiH against the mentioned Croatian citizen.

Apprehended for smuggling Turkish citizens in the area of Posušje

As part of the Operational Action Teret, members of the BiH Border Police Unit Gorica apprehended I.S. (1984), after he was discovered smuggling five citizens of the Republic of Turkey. Smuggling was prevented in Vir in the Posušje area when members of this Unit, during the state border surveillance, spotted citizens of the Republic of Turkey that I.S. was trying to smuggle in an Audi vehicle of Italian license plates. According to the order of the duty prosecutor of the Prosecutor’s Office of BiH, the suspect I.S. was apprehended and a report was submitted to the Prosecutor’s Office of BiH against him for the criminal offence of People smuggling and Attack against the official person on tasks of security, detection and apprehension of perpetrators of criminal offences, given that I.S. possessed a cold weapon, a knife, which he left only after several warnings from police officers of the Border Police of BiH.
Prevented smuggling of four African-Asian people

Members of the BiH Border Police Central Investigation Office and the Border Police Unit Brod prevented the smuggling of four people of African-Asian origin at the International Border Crossing Point Donji Svilaj. Namely, the people were found during border checks and control at the second line of border checks by inspecting a freight motor vehicle, which was driven by T.V., a citizen of BiH, in a purpose-built container for people smuggling. According to the order of the Court of BiH, the members of the BP BiH temporarily seized the following items: truck, mobile phones, money and other items that were used to commit the criminal offence, and a criminal investigation was carried out on the BiH citizen who is suspected of the criminal offence of People smuggling. Work on the case continued, in order to document the case of the criminal offence of People smuggling, under Article 189 of the Criminal Code of BiH, under the supervision of the Prosecutor’s Office of BiH.

BiH citizens apprehended for migrant smuggling

Members of the Border Police Unit Zvornik, apprehended two citizens of Bosnia and Herzegovina, after they were discovered in the smuggling of 11 people of African-Asian origin. Smuggling was prevented in Šetinci in the area of Zvornik, when the mentioned people were found without any identification documents during the border control of two vehicles of BiH license plates. According to the order of the duty prosecutor of the Prosecutor’s Office of BiH, the BiH citizens were questioned as suspects and a report was submitted to this institution against them for the criminal offence of People smuggling. The smuggled migrants, who stated in the migrant questionnaires that they came from Burundi (1), Guinea-Bissau (4), Cameroon (2) and Congo (4), were handed over to members of the Service for Foreigners’ Affairs of BiH for further processing.

Prevented smuggling of 48 African-Asian people

Members of the Border Police Unit Gradiška prevented the smuggling of 48 people of African-Asian origin in the border zone in the area of Gradiška. Smuggling was prevented in Gašnica, during the border control of a buses, of BiH license plates. On that occasion, the officers of this Unit determined that all the passengers were foreigners without any identification documents, and in the questionnaires for migrants, they stated that they came from Afghanistan (21), Pakistan (8) and Bangladesh (19). The vehicle was driven by A. H. (1965), a citizen of Bosnia and Herzegovina who, according to the order of the duty prosecutor of the Prosecutor’s Office of BiH, was questioned as a suspect and a report on the criminal offence of People smuggling was submitted to the Prosecutor’s Office of BiH against him. After the criminal investigation and hearing of the witnesses, the foreigners were handed over to the members of the Service for Foreigners’ Affairs of BiH for further processing.
Prevented smuggling of 17 African-Asian people in the area of Zvornik and Bratunac

Officers of the BiH Border Police Unit Zvornik prevented the smuggling of 12 people of African-Asian origin, in cooperation with officers of the Kozluk Police Station of the Ministry of the Interior of the Republic of Srpska. Smuggling was prevented in Kozluk in the area of Zvornik, during the control of two passenger motor vehicles of BiH license plates. The vehicles were driven by two citizens of Bosnia and Herzegovina. The foreigners did not possess any identification documents, and in the migrant questionnaires they stated that they came from Burundi and the Congo. These are six adult women, two adult men and four minors. According to the order of the duty prosecutor of the Prosecutor’s Office of BiH, the BiH citizens were questioned as suspects and a report on the criminal offence of People smuggling was submitted to this institution against them.

A day earlier, members of this Unit prevented the smuggling of people from Afghanistan (3) and from Cuba (2) in Bjelovac in the Bratunac area. In this case, the migrants were smuggled by unknown people in a boat sailing on the Drina river from the Republic of Serbia to the BiH territory.

Three BiH citizens apprehended for smuggling 15 African-Asian people

Officers of the Border Police Unit Gradiška prevented the smuggling of 15 people of African-Asian origin. Smuggling was prevented in Kaoci in the municipality of Srbac, during the control of three passenger motor vehicles of BiH license plates. The vehicles were driven by three citizens of Bosnia and Herzegovina, two men and one woman. The foreigners did not have any identification documents, and in the migrant questionnaires they stated that they came from Afghanistan and Bangladesh. Among the smuggled people are two women, six children and seven men. According to the order of the duty prosecutor of the Prosecutor’s Office of Bosnia and Herzegovina, the citizens of BiH were apprehended and questioned as suspects, and a report on the criminal offence of People smuggling was submitted to this institution against them. Vehicles that were used as means of committing the crime and other evidence were temporarily seized. The smuggled migrants were handed over to members of the Service for Foreigners’ Affairs of BiH for further processing.

Prevented smuggling of Turkish citizens in the area of Velika Kladuša

Members of the Border Police Unit Velika Kladuša prevented the smuggling of five citizens of the Republic of Turkey. Smuggling was prevented in Hukića Brdo in the area of Velika Kladuša, during the border control of a Skoda passenger motor vehicle of BiH license plates. The vehicle was driven by S. M. (1985), a citizen of Bosnia and Herzegovina. According to the order of the duty prosecutor of the Prosecutor’s Office of BiH, the BiH citizens were questioned as suspects and a report on the criminal offence of People smuggling was submitted to this institution against him for the criminal offence of People smuggling. Also, according to the order of the prosecutor of the BiH Prosecutor’s Office, material evidence that can be used in criminal proceedings was temporarily seized. Citizens of the Republic of Turkey were questioned as witnesses. Further work on this case is underway.
Citizens of Afghanistan and Egypt apprehended for smuggling of African-Asian people

Members of the BiH Border Police Central Investigation Office and the Border Police Unit Zvornik prevented the smuggling of 12 people of African-Asian origin. Smuggling was prevented during the surveillance of the state border, when members of the Border Police of BiH spotted a boat from the Republic of Serbia, which was sailing on the Drina river towards the territory of Bosnia and Herzegovina. After they stopped the boat, they found 14 people of African-Asian origin in it, two of whom are suspected citizens of Afghanistan.

On the same day, in another case, officers of the BP BiH Unit Zvornik prevented the smuggling of 19 migrants in the area of Zvornik. A citizen of Egypt, who smuggled migrants in a van of BiH license plates, is linked to this smuggling. The duty prosecutor of the Prosecutor’s Office of BiH was informed about the aforementioned events, according to whose instructions the members of the BP BiH apprehended the suspected citizens of Afghanistan and Egyptian citizens, and have continued further work on documenting the criminal offence of People Smuggling and on determining the identity of the smuggled people, given that they do not have any identification documents.

Members of the BP BiH prevented the smuggling of 22 African-Asian people

Members of the Border Police of BiH apprehended two citizens of Bosnia and Herzegovina, after they were discovered in the smuggling of 16 people of African-Asian origin. Smuggling was prevented in Vrbaška in the area of Gradiška when, during the border control of two vehicles of BiH license plates, the mentioned people were found without any identification documents. In the migrant questionnaire, smuggled migrants stated that they came from Pakistan (3), India (6) and Bangladesh (7).

A day earlier, members of the BP BiH Unit Velika Kladuša, prevented the smuggling of six foreigners without any identification documents, in Ponić in the Velika Kladuša area, who declared that they came from Pakistan. A BiH citizen is connected with this smuggling, who tried to smuggle the foreigners in a passenger motor vehicle with inappropriate license plates.

Following the order of the duty prosecutor of the Prosecutor’s Office of BiH, three citizens of BiH were questioned as suspects and a report was submitted to this institution against them for the criminal offence of People smuggling.

Prevented smuggling of 19 migrants in the area of Zvornik

Members of the BiH Border Police Unit Zvornik, prevented the smuggling of 19 people of African-Asian origin, in the area of Zvornik, in cooperation with members of the Ministry of the Interior of the Republic of Srpska engaged in the state border surveillance. Smuggling was prevented during the surveillance of the state border and with the use of specialized equipment, during which a boat from the Republic of Serbia was spotted sailing the Drina river towards the territory of Bosnia and Herzegovina. The duty prosecutor of the Prosecutor’s Office of BiH was informed about the incident, following whose orders members of the Border Police of BiH continued further work on documenting the criminal offence of People Smuggling.
Attempted smuggling of 30 Turkish citizens in a truck

Members of the BiH Border Police Central Investigation Office and the BiH Border Police Unit Orašje prevented the smuggling of 30 citizens of the Republic of Turkey at the International Border Crossing Point Šamac. Illegal migrants were detected with the use of specialized equipment in the cargo area of a truck, of the license plates of the Republic of Croatia, which was transporting a range of wood. It is a freight vehicle owned by a legal entity, which was driven by S.M. (1970), a citizen of the Republic of Croatia, who tried to smuggle Turkish citizens who did not meet the conditions for legal border crossing, in the cargo area of the freight vehicle, with the intention of obtaining for himself illegal property benefits. On the grounds for suspicion that he committed the criminal offence of People Smuggling, under Article 189 of the BiH Criminal Code, the citizen of the Republic of Croatia was apprehended and questioned as a suspect. Following the order of the prosecutor of the Prosecutor’s Office of Bosnia and Herzegovina, the freight motor vehicle with trailer, money and other objects that can be connected with the perpetration of the criminal offence were temporarily seized. The 30 citizens of Turkey were handed over to the officers of the Service for Foreigners’ Affairs of BiH.

Prevented smuggling of 18 migrants in the area of Zvornik and Gradiška

Members of the BiH Border Police Unit Zvornik apprehended a Pakistani citizen, after he was discovered in smuggling ten people of African-Asian origin. Smuggling was prevented during the surveillance of the state border, when members of the Border Police of BiH spotted a boat from the Republic of Serbia, which was sailing on the Drina river towards the territory of Bosnia and Herzegovina. Following the order of the duty prosecutor of the Prosecutor’s Office of BiH, the suspected Pakistani citizen, who was operating the boat, was apprehended and handed over to the prosecutor of the Prosecutor’s Office of BiH along with a report on the criminal offence of People smuggling. The foreigners did not have any identification documents, and in the questionnaires for migrants, they stated that they came from Pakistan (3), India (2) and Afghanistan (5). The foreigners were handed over to members of the Service for Affairs with Foreigners of BiH for further processing.

A day earlier, the officers of the BP BiH Unit Gradiška apprehended a citizen of BiH, R. S. (1963), because he was smuggling eight citizens of India in a Mercedes vehicle of BiH license plates. Smuggling was discovered in Vrbaška in the area of Gradiška. Following the order of the duty prosecutor of the Prosecutor’s Office of BiH, R.S. was questioned as a suspect and a report on the criminal offence of People smuggling was submitted to the Prosecutor’s Office of BiH. The vehicle and other evidence were temporarily seized, and further work on the Indian citizens was continued by members of the Service for Foreigners’ Affairs of BiH.
Members of the Border Police of BiH intensively work on prevention, detection and investigation of criminal offences directed against the state border security or against duties and tasks of the BP BiH competences. Central Investigation Office of the Border Police of BiH collects and processes intelligence data related to the mentioned criminal offences; monitors and analyses situation regarding organized crime and drafts respective strategic analyses and risk assessments in this regard; gathers information, notification and other data related to organized crime; directly conducts complex police investigations and special investigative activities, in accordance with the law. Members of the Border Police of BiH, despite the many challenges they face every day, achieve excellent results in the fight against all forms of cross-border crime and corruption.

Operational Action San

Migrant smuggling and searches at nine locations

Members of the Border Police of Bosnia and Herzegovina in cooperation with officers of the State Agency for Investigation and Protection (SIPA) carried out an Operational Action codenamed San. Within the mentioned Action, searches were conducted at nine locations in Sarajevo Canton and in Gradiška, with the aim of finding suspects and documenting criminal offenses related to people smuggling. Two migrants, suspected of being the organizers of the people smuggling, were apprehended during the Action. Items which could be used as evidence in further proceedings were found and temporarily seized during the search. By undertaking activities within the Action San, members of the BP BiH prevented smuggling of more than a dozen people. Officers of the Service for Foreigners Affairs of BiH were involved in the Action too.
Operational Action **Insider**

11 people were apprehended

Members of the Border Police of BiH, under the supervision of the Prosecutor's Office of BiH, and following the orders of the Court of BiH, successfully implemented an Operational Action codenamed **Insider**, during which searches were carried out at 9 locations in the areas of Zvornik, Tuzla, Konjic and the Brčko District. The aforementioned activities were carried out on the grounds for suspicion that the criminal offence of 'Association for the purpose of committing criminal offences' under Article 249 of the Criminal Code of BiH, in connection with the criminal offence of 'People smuggling' under Article 189 of the CC of BiH, has been committed. Eleven people were apprehended, all of them BiH citizens, and during the search, items that can be used as evidence in further proceedings (three motor vehicles, mobile phones, SIM cards, etc.) were discovered and temporarily seized. Also certain amount of the narcotic drug marijuana, a digital scale, and 14 stalks of Indian hemp were found.

Operational Action **KOD**

A member of the Border Police of BiH apprehended

Members of the Border Police of BiH, in cooperation with the police officers of the Police Department of the Sarajevo Canton MoI, under the supervision of the Prosecutor's Office of BiH and following the orders of the Court of BiH, implemented an Operational Action codenamed **KOD** in the area of Gacko and Ustikolina. During the implementation of the aforementioned activities, searches were conducted at several locations used by suspects, with the aim of finding evidence and items important for criminal proceedings due to the existence of grounds for suspicion that the criminal offense of 'Organised crime', under Article 250 of the Criminal Code of Bosnia and Herzegovina, in connection with the criminal offences of 'Unauthorized traffic in narcotic drugs', under Article 195 of the CC of BiH and 'Receiving gifts and other forms of benefits', under Article 217, were committed. These activities were aimed at proving illegal activities in which the suspects, as members of an organised criminal group, from the end of 2019 to March 2021, organised and participated in the international illicit traffic of large quantities of narcotic drugs from Montenegro to Bosnia and Herzegovina and further to the European Union countries, by which they achieved a significant financial benefit. A member of the Border Police of BiH, assigned to the Border Police Unit Trebinje, who was apprehended, also participated in the mentioned illegal activities. During the mentioned activities on this case, under the supervision of the Prosecutor's Office of BiH, significant cooperation between law enforcement agencies in BiH, as well as international cooperation, especially with EUROPOL, was achieved.

Operational Action **Zapad**

11 people were apprehended

Members of the Border Police of BiH successfully implemented an Operational Action codenamed **Zapad**, during which searches were carried out at 11 locations. The aforementioned activities were carried out on the grounds for suspicion that the criminal offence of 'Association for the purpose of committing criminal offences' under Article 249, paragraph 1 of the Criminal Code of BiH, in connection with the criminal offence of 'People smuggling' under Article 189, paragraphs 1, 2 and 3 of the CC of BiH, has been committed. Eleven people were apprehended including a member of the Border Police of BiH. A large quantity of weapons and explosive was discovered during the search.
Several people suspected of organized crime

Police officers of the Border Police of BiH carried out an Operational Action codenamed DIABLO 2, in the wider area of Sarajevo, during which searches are being conducted at six locations which were used by the suspects. These activities were carried out in cooperation with EUROPOL, and under the supervision of the Prosecutor's Office of BiH and following the orders of the Court of BiH, due to suspicion that the suspects, as members of an organised crime group, committed the criminal offence of 'Organised Crime' under Article 250 (a) of the CC of BiH, the criminal offence of 'Illicit trafficking in narcotic drugs' under Article 195 of the CC of BiH, and the criminal offence of 'Money laundering' under Article 209 of the CC of BiH, as in an organised manner, they smuggled large quantities of narcotic drug marijuana - skunk from BiH and other countries in the region to the European Union countries. By carrying out measures and actions, police officers of the Border Police of BiH documented that members of the organised crime group smuggled about 1 000 kilograms of the narcotic drug marijuana - skunk, which resulted in illegal property gain in large quantities.

Procurement of narcotic drugs through express mail service

Members of the Border Police of BiH successfully realized Operational Action codenamed Paket 2. As part of the Operation, a person A.R., citizen of BiH and the Netherlands, was searched. Also, the apartment, other premises and movable property whose owner/user is the mentioned person, were also searched, on the grounds for suspicion that he committed the criminal offence of 'Illicit trafficking in narcotic drugs' under Article 195 of the CC of BiH, in such a way that through express mail service, in two recorded events, he made orders for two shipments from the USA, the contents of which were determined to be associated with narcotic drugs by the appearance and smell. The actions in question were undertaken under the supervision of the Prosecutor’s Office of BiH, and in accordance with the orders of the Court of BiH.
The Government of Germany is one of the most important partners in development of the Border Police of BiH

Continued support to work and development  
Enhancement of general and border security in border area and at the BiH airports

For twenty-three years the Government of Federal Republic of Germany provides constant support to work and development of the Border Police of BiH. This support is reflected in the realization of numerous specialist trainings for police officers of this police agency who face increasing challenges in the fight against cross-border crime, primarily in the domain of detecting forged documents, air security, strengthening the ability to monitor the green border, control at the first and the second line border checks, training of service dog handlers, training of mobile units and boat helmsmen, training of officers at the Joint Centre for Police Cooperation between Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro and the Republic of Serbia located in Trebinje, etc.

Specialist equipment

Apart from the above, in past years the Government of Federal Republic of Germany donated specialist equipment worth more than BAM 15 million, aimed to operationally strengthen this police agency. This was equipment for border surveillance, detection of forged documents, endoscopes, detectors, ATVs, boats, vehicles, but also special equipment for the BP BiH Anti-Bomb Squad, worth almost BAM two million.

Also, several workings meetings were held at which management of the Border Police of BiH and representatives of the Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany in BiH agreed on new modalities of cooperation.

In mid-March 2033, at the headquarters of the Border Police of BiH, the ceremony of signing the Donation Agreement and the Protocol on the handover of the donation from the German Federal Police to the Border Police of BiH was held, signed by the Director of the Border Police of BiH, Mirko Kuprešaković, and His Excellency the Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany, Thomas Fitschen.

Namely, the German Federal Police donated commendable equipment to the Border Police of BiH, including: handheld binoculars for day and night observation, a demining robot, a mobile X-ray system and a border surveillance system, with a total value of EUR 750,000. Director Kuprešaković thanked the German Federal Police for the donated equipment and pointed out that it will greatly help members of the Border Police of BiH in more effective protection of the state border, and that within the framework of the bilateral cooperation between the German Federal Police and the Border Police of BiH, which has lasted for more than two decades, The German Federal Police has so far donated funds and equipment for the work of the BP BiH worth more than BAM 15 million.

“At the same time, a several specialist trainings were organized for members of the Border Police of BiH, with a continuous exchange of experience in the field of state border protection, all with the aim of operationally strengthening...
Members of the Border Police of BiH, as part of the SCOPE Project, and with the support of the German Federal Police, held a training session entitled ‘Course on Person Features in Fraudster Detection (TTFFID)’. The course was held in the beginning of November 2022, and 14 police officers of the Border Police of BiH participated. The lecturers were trainers of the Border Police of BiH, Jelena Forcan and Armin Musić, who in the past period, with the support of the German Federal Police, successfully completed a course for trainers in the mentioned field. One of the German Federal Police specialists in this field also provided support during the implementation of the course.

As part of the bilateral cooperation between the Border Police of BiH and the German Federal Police, in mid-December 2022, training for the BP BiH members – ‘Initial examination of illegal migrants’ – was implemented in the premises of the Border Police Unit Zvornik. The aim of the training was to improve the skills and knowledge of police officers who are the first to come into contact with migrants, and the application of which would significantly improve the possibilities to collect relevant information through initial investigation for the purpose of better planning activities, in terms of protecting the state border and preventing illegal crossings. The training was held with the support of experts from the German Federal Police, and was attended by police officers of the BiH Border Police, who in their daily work treat the migrants.

Training course on Person Features in Fraudster Detection (TTFFID)

Participants of the training in Zvornik

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For many years Border Police of Bosnia and Herzegovina has successfully cooperated with the US Government. Thanks to their selfless support to work and development, capacities of the BP BiH have been significantly improved in all segments of fight against cross-border crime. In addition, it should be added that in the past period, through various programmes, US Government, has organized numerous trainings for the BP BiH police officers and donated specialist equipment worth almost BAM 14 million.

Joint activities

Several important meetings were held aimed to improve cooperation and harmonize joint activities with representatives of the Embassy of the USA in BiH. In the end of March 2023, at the Head Office of this police agency, the Director of the Border Police of BiH, Mirko Kuprešaković, received the first visit from nephio Camacho, Attaché of the Ministry of Homeland Security of the Government of the USA. The meeting was also attended by James Lewis, Special Agent of the Ministry of Homeland Security, and Darko Ivić, Project Coordinator at the US Embassy in BiH, and Vladimir Popović, Coordinator for Cooperation with the Anti-Terrorism Group. This was the first visit of Attaché Camacho to BiH and to the Border Police of BiH, so Director Kuprešaković presented him with the work of the Border Police of BiH and the activities carried out in the fight against cross-border crime, and expressed gratitude for the long-term cooperation and support of the Government of the USA. “On behalf of the Border Police of BiH and on my own behalf, I thank the Government of the USA for the long-term cooperation and support they provide to the Border Police of BiH, in the form of specialist equipment and training for our police officers”, said Director Kuprešaković. Attaché Camacho expressed his willingness to visit the Border Police of BiH more often, and pointed out that he had been following the development of the Program implemented by the Ministry of Homeland Security and thanked the Border Police for the cooperation, which he considers to be the most successful cooperation in the region.

In addition to the exchange of experiences and information, the further modalities of cooperation in the coming period between the Border Police of BiH and the Embassy of the USA were agreed upon.

In mid-January 2023, the management of the Border Police of BiH received a visit from the representatives of the Political Department and the Anti-Terrorism Department of the Embassy of the...
The international training **New trends in the illegal trafficking in synthetic drugs, surveillance and security of the scene** was held in Vrnjačka Banja in Serbia during March and April 2022. The training was organised by the US Department of Justice, EUCOM and DEA, and it followed the training **Detection of laboratories for illegal drug production and tactical planning.** ICITAP (The International Criminal Investigative Training Assistance Program the US Department of Justice) has been supporting the work and development of the Border Police of BiH for years.

In mid-June 2022, within the visit to the Western Balkans, Mia DiBenedetto and Randy Wilson, border security experts from the United States Department of State, accompanied by Darko Ivić from the Embassy of the USA in BiH, paid a working visit to the BiH Border Police Unit Airport Sarajevo and the International Border Crossing Point Vardište. On this occasion, Dinko Tvrtković, Assistant Commander for Investigations, Aleksandar Kosmajac, Inspector for Investigations and Sandra Barisić, Police Officer, informed US delegation about passengers border control procedures at Sarajevo International Airport, specialist equipment used in everyday work and other activities carried out by the mentioned Unit. During the visit to the International Border Crossing Point Vardište, Zoran Stupić, Commander of the BiH Border Police Unit Višegrad and his associates visited the mentioned Border Crossing Point together with the representatives of the USA, where they informed them about the current state regarding crime and illegal migration, as well as material and technical equipment of the Border Crossing Point Vardište.

Through various programmes they have organized numerous trainings for BP BiH police officers.

Representatives of the USA informed about the work of the BP BiH Unit Airport Sarajevo.

Visiting Border Crossing Point Vardište.

Training in Vrnjačka Banja.

Training New trends in the illegal trafficking in synthetic drugs, surveillance and security of the scene.
Cooperation between the Border Police of BiH and FRONTEX

During 2022, cooperation between the Border Police of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the European Border and Coast Guard Agency (FRONTEX) was characterized by successfully realized joint operational actions implemented in several countries. Moreover, meetings and conferences were held, aimed at gathering representatives of the key European institutions for border and coast guard management in order to share experience, knowledge and best practice in the area or border control.

Training Border surveillance with respect to human rights

The Police Academy of the Croatian Ministry of Interior and the German Police Academy in cooperation with European Border and Coast Guard Agency – FRONTEX, organized training Border surveillance with respect to human rights. The training was held at the Police Academy Valbandon in the Republic of Croatia and 12 police officers of the Border Police of BiH participated in the training together with the colleagues from European Union member countries as well as countries from the region which are not members of EU.

Operational activities in cooperation with FRONTEX

During 2022, Border Police of Bosnia and Herzegovina had several joint operational activities in cooperation with FRONTEX. Operational activity Joint Action Days – JAD Child Trafficking 2022 was realized in Jun 2022, aimed at detection and prevention of criminal offences of human trafficking, especially child trafficking.

Joint Action Days – JAD DANUBE 7 was operational activity which was conducted last year, aimed at detection and prevention of criminal acts and offences linked to illegal migration, human trafficking, document frauds; gathering operational findings, exchange of available data and information, improvement of cooperation with other police agencies in Bosnia and Herzegovina, improvement of regional and international cooperation as priorities in investigation of criminal acts of cross border crimes. Furthermore, Joint Action Days – JAD Mobile 5 was operational activity implemented in October 2022, aimed to detect and prevent criminal acts and offences related to smuggling of stolen vehicles and stolen vehicles’ parts; smuggling of stolen boats and engines, smuggling of heavy machinery and agricultural machinery, fraud related to vehicle documentation, collection of operational findings, exchange of available data and information, improvement of cooperation with other police agencies of Bosnia and Herzegovina and improvement of regional and international cooperation as a priority in investigations criminal acts of cross-border crime.
Joint operations

Three representatives of the Border Police of BiH participated at online meeting with local coordinators for Joint Operation Coordination Points Land, Air and Sea 2022. Two representatives of the Border Police of BiH participated in the FRONTEX programme Staff Exchange 2022, at Milano International Airport. Last year, the Joint Operation Coordination Points Land 2022 was conducted at the International Border Crossing Point Zupci of the Border Police Unit Trebinje, and the Joint Operation Coordination Points Air 2022 was held at Sarajevo International Airport. Both operations were aimed at enhancing border security, operational cooperation, information exchange, as well as achieving exchange of experience and best practices between the FRONTEX, participating member countries and third countries hosts in the field of border checks and detection of all forms of cross border crimes.

Moreover, four representatives of the Border Police of BiH participated at the First meeting of the regional group for the electronic database Fields which was held in Warsaw, while Deputy Director of the Border Police of BiH Fahrudin Halač attended International Border Police Conference (IBPC), which was also held in Warsaw.

The international cooperation of the Border Police of BiH with the European Border and Coast Guard Agency (FRONTEX) is among the priorities. For years members of the Border Police of BiH have successfully cooperated with the FRONTEX in the areas of joint operational actions, training and risk analysis, and will continue to cooperate in the aforementioned fields in the coming period as well.
IOM is focused on strengthening the BP BiH capacities for migration management

Border Police of Bosnia and Herzegovina and International Organization for Migration (IOM) have cooperated since the establishment of this BiH police agency. As IOM programmes are mostly intended to support relevant BiH authorities which deals with border management, prevention of illegal migration and human trafficking, as well as strengthening of the BiH institutions capacities for regional cooperation, so the entire support by IOM is aimed at operational strengthening of the BP BiH.

Risk analysis

In the beginning of April 2023, Director of the Border Police of BiH, Mirko Kuprešaković held a meeting at the BP BiH Head Office with the IOM (International Organization for Migration) Chief of Mission and Western Balkans Regional Coordinator Laura Lungarotti and her associates.

At the meeting they discussed migratory crisis and the current security situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Director Kuprešaković pointed out that cooperation with the International Organization for Migration (IOM) has been successful from the very beginning, especially regarding participation in trainings and projects organized and implemented by IOM. He thanked the International Organization for Migration and the IOM Chief of Mission, Laura Lungarotti for continuous support and for recognizing the importance of strengthening the capacity of the Border Police of BiH, which they have shown through their cooperation so far in the form of extremely significant donations to the Border Police of BiH. Those present at the meeting, agreed on further modalities of cooperation and the continuation of activities regarding joint projects.

Organized by the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the Kingdom of Denmark, and as part of the Project Western Balkans Integrated Border Management, the training in Neum was implemented by IOM. The first group of attendees was attended by the Director of the BiH Border Police, Mirko Kuprešaković, the IOM Chief of Mission, Laura Lungarotti, and their associates.

Meeting at the BP BiH Head Office

Training of the officers within the Project Strengthening of Capacity in the Western Balkans for Integrated Border Management
Organized by the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the Kingdom of Denmark, and as part of the Project Strengthening of Capacity in the Western Balkans for Integrated Border Management (WBIBM), a sub-regional training for trainers Humanitarian Border Management was held in Podgorica in the end of November 2022. The goal of the training was to support the relevant institutions through the project in strengthening the capacity of personnel on the topic of humanitarian border management (HBM), in order to ensure their adequate response to cross-border migration and the protection of the human rights of migrants and refugees, especially vulnerable categories.

Seven police officers of the Border Police of BiH participated in the training, as well as one representative of the Agency for Education and Professional Training - Mostar.
Continuation of the successful cooperation with DCAF

For more than a decade Geneva Centre for Security Sector Governance (DCAF), through Border Security Programme, enables officers of Border Police of BiH to train, to exchange experience, to create new and upgrade existing programs, as well as approaching European integration of the development of European standards. Representatives of the Border Police of BiH actively participate in meetings and workshops aimed at accelerated course of BiH towards membership in European Union and joint cooperation in the area of security.

In accordance with the invitation of the DCAF, representatives of the BP BiH were in Ljubljana, where they participated in a working meeting with the director of the DCAF, Andrej Rupnik, regarding preparation of the project Standardization of resources of the Border Police of BiH. The main goal of the project is to improve the process of planning, procurement, allocation and use of the BP BiH resources for conducting border checks at border crossings points and surveillance of the state border, through development and implementation of a document which proposes work methodology for surveillance of the state border and defines standards for the use of material and human resources of the BP BiH for effective conduction of border control. A field activity organized by DCAF Ljubljana was held in Trebinje with the following topics: promotion of the Joint Centre for Police Cooperation in Trebinje, an overview of the work of joint centres in the region and plans for further development and the future. Representatives of the Joint centres of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Slovenia, Macedonia and Albania, a representative of the Ministry of Security of BiH, as well as representatives of the police agencies in Bosnia and Herzegovina participated in the aforementioned activity. During the mentioned activities, the attendees were introduced to the work, possibilities and results of the JCPC Trebinje.

Yet another in a series of meetings held between the Border Police of BiH and DCAF was the Regional meeting of representatives of Police cooperation centres – PCCCs in Belgrade when Alem Zukić participated as representative of the Border Police of BiH from the Joint centre for police cooperation Trebinje. Also, three representatives of the Border Police of BiH attended the Meeting of national coordinators of centres for police cooperation (PCCCs), which was held in Kopar.
Border Police of BiH continuously cooperates with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) for years, especially regarding trainings for members of the Border Police of BiH, which are regularly organized by UNODC, in order to provide information exchange and achievement of regional and international cooperation. A number of joint activities and trainings has been realized in cooperation with UNODC.

**UNODC organized activity for members of the BP BiH and ITA BiH**

Organized within UNODC-WCO Container Control Program, a mentor/study visit of Joint Team for Container Control at Border Crossing Points Bijača and Gradiška was organized at international Border Crossing Point Bijača. During working activities, based on risk analysis and gathered information, members of the Joint Team for Container Control Bijača and Gradiška, consisted of officers of the Border Police of BiH and the Indirect Taxation Authority of BiH, detected a large quantity of undeclared goods upon detailed inspection of the vehicle Mercedes-Actros with BiH license plates. They found large different goods including golf cart, IT equipment, surveillance cameras, vehicle spare parts and other technical goods.

**Members of the Border Police Unit Airport Sarajevo participated in the training in Belgrade**

Members of the Border Police Unit Airport Sarajevo participated in training in Belgrade on the topic of *Behaviour Analysis and Lie Detection*. In addition to the participants from Bosnia and Herzegovina, the AIRCOP/CCP teams from the Republic of Serbia and the Republic of North Macedonia took part in the training. The training was organized by the UNODC/WCO/INTERPOL Airport Communication Program (AIRCOP) and the UNODC/WCO Container Control Program (CCP), in cooperation with the UNODC Regional Program for Southeast Europe. The lecturer at the training was an expert from the UNODC organization, Mr. Cristian Fanelli.
Meeting was held with the French Ambassador and Director of the Agency for Education and Professional Training

The Director of the Border Police of BiH, Zoran Galić, met with the delegation of the French Embassy to BiH, led by Ambassador Christine Toudic, and Director of the Agency for Education and Professional Training, Marko Vujević, on the occasion of the training „Airport Security and Analysis of Suspicious Behaviour at Airports”. Director Galić said that in terms of airport security, this is a very important training. „It is only by significant investment in education, training and material and technical equipment that we can keep up with the application of the most modern practices that come to us from the countries of the European Union. In this regard, I would say that these kinds of training put us in a situation where we can raise our overall activities to a higher level, of course to the satisfaction of the citizens of BiH and all those who come to BiH”, Galić said and thanked the Agency for Education and Professional Training, which provides excellent conditions for training, while he told his colleagues to absorb quality knowledge because France, as a country, plays an important role on a global scale when it comes to security. „It gives us a special honour and pleasure to learn from the best”, Galić concluded.

The OSCE representatives and Tajikistan delegation visiting the Border Police Unit Gradiška

The OSCE representatives and the President of Tajikistan delegation, as well as their representatives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of the Interior, and representatives of the Border Police visited the Border Police Unit Gradiška. The Commander of the Border Police Unit Gradiška, Igor Kajtez, introduced them to the competences of the BPU Gradiška and presented the work and results of this Unit, with special reference to the detection of illegal weapons and narcotic drugs. Representatives of the Tajikistan delegation visited the newly built Border Crossing Point in Catrnja and the bridge on the Sava river.
Study visit of the Czech Republic MoI representatives to the Border Police of BiH

As part of the Program Promotion of knowledge in the field of travel documents, residence permits and document review, representatives of the Czech Republic Ministry of the Interior - Police for Foreigners, paid a study visit to the Border Police of BiH. During the study visit, officers of the Border Police of BiH and the Czech Republic Ministry of Interior exchanged experiences in the area of detection of forged documents, standards for creating curricula and training in the mentioned area. They also learned about the work of the Joint Risk Analysis Centre and the BiH Border Police Unit Airport Sarajevo.

Protocol for the implementation of project activities signed between the BP BiH and the OSCE Mission

Director of the Border Police of BiH, Zoran Galić, and the OSCE Mission Project Manager, Andrei Sarban, signed the Protocol for the implementation of project activities between the Border Police of BiH and the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE). The Project of the OSCE Mission Resolution of the security and safety risks of illegal possession, abuse and trade in small arms and light weapons and their associated ammunition in BiH started in November 2020 and will end in 2024. The goal of such a project is the development of police capacity, security cooperation and law enforcement.
The Internal Security Attaché of the Embassy of France in BiH visited the Border Police of BiH

Director of the Border Police of BiH, Mirko Kuprešaković, held a meeting at the Head Office, with the Internal Security Attaché of the Embassy of France in BiH, Phillippe Gangloff. At the meeting, they discussed the current security situation in BiH and the region, as well as training and projects that are carried out as part of cooperation between the Border Police of BiH and the Embassy of France. Director Kuprešaković thanked the Embassy of France and Colonel Gangloff for their long-term support to the Border Police of BiH. He also pointed out that the cooperation between the Border Police of BiH and the Republic of France so far can be considered successful, and it has mainly continuously taken place through the strengthening of the human capacities of the Border Police of BiH. At the meeting, they agreed on additional improvement of cooperation, especially in the exchange of information as well as in participation in various types of joint projects.

Meeting with the police liaison officer of Greece to Bosnia and Herzegovina

On behalf of the Border Police of BiH, police officers of the BP BiH, Nedžad Muratspahić, Head of the Department for International Cooperation, Emir Šuman, Senior Inspector in the Department for International Cooperation, and Nebojša Mandžo, Senior Inspector in the Department for Border Surveillance and Airport Security, met with Dimitrios Asimakopoulos, the newly elected Police Attaché of Greece for the Republic of Serbia, Montenegro and Bosnia and Herzegovina with headquarters in Belgrade. During the meeting, both sides expressed their readiness for mutual cooperation in accordance with the Agreement between the Council of Ministers of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Government of Greece on cooperation in the fight against crime, especially terrorism, illegal trafficking in drugs and organised crime. Further modalities of cooperation were agreed upon.
Cooperation with the neighbouring countries’ MoIs

Representatives of the Border Police Units had 395 meetings at local and regional level

The Border Police of BiH has continuous cooperation with Ministries of Interior of neighbouring countries. In 2022, this police agency ceded to Ministries of Interior of Republic of Croatia, Republic of Serbia and Montenegro 213 cases, including 58 criminal offences, 138 violations, seven information and 13 other subjects.

Border security

In mid-March 2023, a working bilateral meeting of representatives of the Police Directorate of the Ministry of the Interior of the Republic of Croatia, with representatives of the Border Police of BiH, the State Agency for Investigation and Protection and the Service for Foreigners’ Affairs of BiH was held in the Police Directorate of the Republic of Croatia. The working meeting was, beside the Director of the Border Police of BiH, Mirko Kuprešaković, attended by the General Police Director of the MoI of the Republic of Croatia, Nikola Milina, Deputy General Police Director of the MoI of the Republic of Croatia, Jozo Šuker, Assistant General Police Director and Head of the Border Administration of the Republic of Croatia, Zoran Nićeno, Assistant General Police Director and Head of the Criminal Police Administration of the Republic of Croatia, Antonio Gerovac, the Director of the State for Investigation and Protection Agency of BiH, Darko Ćulum, Deputy Director of the State Investigation and Protection Agency, Zoran Galić, and the Director of the Service for Foreigners’ Affairs of BiH, Žarko Laketa.

The working meeting discussed the security situation at the common state border with special reference to the current situation and movement and trends of illegal migration, as well as the implementation of the Agreement between the Republic of Croatia and the Council of Ministers of Bosnia and Herzegovina on the handover and reception of people whose entry or stay is illegal. Cooperation between the Ministry of the Interior of the Republic of Croatia and partner police agencies in BiH is continuous and will further improve, given the numerous challenges they face when protecting the common state border. Suppression of all forms of cross-border crime is the main goal of these police agencies, with special emphasis on the suppression of people smuggling and the prevention of illegal migration, as well as the reception of people at the common state border.

Mixed patrols have proven to be effective in preventing various forms of cross-border crime

Mixed patrol of the BP BiH Unit Hum and Border Police Station Plužine of Montenegro MoI

Director Kuprešaković at the Croatian and BiH police meeting in Zagreb

Source: the Republic of Croatia MoI
Further modalities of cooperation were also agreed at the meeting. Cooperation with colleagues and information exchange are carried out at the meetings which are held at local, regional and central level. Thus in 2022, representatives of the Border Police Units held 395 meetings at the local and regional level, with colleagues from the three neighbouring countries. At those meetings they discussed the following themes: information exchange, joint training and joint planning, implementation of actions, mixed patrols, investigation groups, and everyday contacts at border crossing points. Also, one of the types of successful cooperation are mixed patrols along the common state border with neighbouring countries, thus during 2022 there were 2 639 mixed patrols with 6 227 police officers engaged, including 3 076 police officers of the BiH Border Police and 3 151 officers of the neighbouring countries. These joint patrols are very important as they are not only efficient in preventing various forms of cross-border crimes, but colleagues in them mutually exchange information, knowledges and other skills significant for border security.

**Mixed patrol saved the injured citizen of the Republic of Turkey**

In the beginning of December 2022, members of the Border Police Unit Brod, during a joint patrol with members of the Ministry of the Interior of the Republic of Croatia - BPU Slavonski Samac, found an injured male person without any identification documents. Acting according to the plan to prevent illegal migration in the protected area of the state border on the embankment along the banks of the Sava River, they found him in the Gornji Svilaj locality, and according to the statement, he was a citizen of the Republic of Turkey. The Odžak Health Centre was immediately informed, whose employees determined that the injuries were serious, after which the injured citizen of the Republic of Turkey was transferred to the hospital in Orašje.

**Prevented smuggling of citizens of Iraq and Turkey**

In mid-February 2022, mixed patrol of the Border Police Unit Gorica and the Border Police Unit Imotski of the Ministry of Interior of Republic of Croatia prevented smuggling of three foreign citizens, including two citizens of Iraq and a citizen of the Republic of Turkey. The smuggling was detected during surveillance of the state border in border area of Posušje and during border control of passenger motor vehicle Fiat with German national license plates. The vehicle was driven by the citizen of Romania.
Working meetings aimed at improvement of cooperation

The Border Police of BiH ceded 2,667 cases to competent authorities.

The Border Police of BiH achieves good cooperation with all police and other BiH law enforcement institutions. In order to develop partnerships, meetings are regularly held, at which representatives of BiH law enforcement agencies are considering modalities to improve cooperation in order to prevent all forms of crime, especially cross-border crime. During 2022, due to not being competent for them, members of the BP BiH ceded 2,667 cases to the Indirect Taxation Authority of BiH, and the other inspection and police authorities, including 99 criminal offences, 1,857 minor offences, 658 information and 53 other cases.

Security challenges

In the beginning of April 2023, Director of the Border Police of BiH Mirko Kuprešaković met with the Director General of the Intelligence-Security Agency, Almir Džuvo, at the BP BiH Head Office. During the meeting, they discussed cooperation so far, the security situation in the country, as well as the migrant crisis. Both sides expressed their commitment to intensify operational cooperation in the fight against crime and illegal migration. They expressed their satisfaction with the visit and the information exchanged in the field of security, with special reference to the state border. At the meeting, further modalities for improving cooperation with the aim of preserving a safe and stable environment in Bosnia and Herzegovina were agreed upon.

In the beginning of December 2022, management of the Border Police of BiH met with the Chair of the Independent Board of the BiH Parliamentary Assembly Enes Obralija, and the members Mate Mišetić and Milan Stanić. Attendees of the meeting discussed the recent working results of this police agency, as well as the current situation at the state border and activities in combating cross-border crime. At the meeting, it was pointed out that the Border Police of BiH successfully fights against all forms of crime, with an emphasis on increased enforcement in the field of migration. In addition to the above, other topics were proposed that could be thematised at the workshops, such as vulnerable groups, respect for human rights at work and similar. It was concluded at the meeting, that educational workshops will be organized for members of the Border Police of BiH in order to provide more information and experience, i.e. methods of managing risk situations, especially when it comes to illegal migration, by establishing two-way communication.

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In mid-May 2022, management of the Border Police of BiH received a working visit of the First Deputy Chairperson of the Board for Citizens Complaint regarding work of police officers in police bodies of BiH, Vjekoslav Vuković and a member of the Board, Hana Korać. On this occasion management of the BP BiH informed members of the Board about the activities of this police agency and that all capacities and material resources are engaged in combating all forms of cross border crimes and illegal migration. They pointed out that the biggest problem for further development of this police agency is staff shortage, as well as insufficient budget resources allocated to BP BiH for realisation of development projects, and infrastructure at border crossing points. They also emphasized that the BP BiH continuously enforces measures regarding fighting corruption and other violation of professional duties of the BP BiH police officers. Moreover, they exchanges experiences regarding citizens’ complaints and petitions.

For the last six years, BiH has been exposed to increased migratory pressure, especially in the east and northeast of the country. In response to such a situation, the BP BiH makes significant efforts. However, due to the lack of human and material and technical resources, other ways to suppress and control illegal migration had to be found. From 2018 until today, the Directorate for the Coordination of Police Bodies of BiH, the State Agency for Investigation and Protection of BiH and the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republika Srpska provide us with assistance in surveillance of the state border. In addition to the above, good cooperation is also achieved with the cantonal ministries of interior.
Members of the BP BiH participated in a training in Zagreb

Members of the BiH participated in training for instructors of the Border Police of BiH in the tactics of handling state border surveillance in Zagreb. As part of cooperation with the Ministry of the Interior of the Republic of Croatia, 10 police officers of the Border Police Support and Control Unit participated in the training, who successfully mastered the training.

In accordance with the training curriculum, the members of the BP BiH enhanced their knowledge and improved their skills in the following areas: the use of unmanned systems and drones in the state border surveillance, tactical medicine, shooting with primary and secondary weapons, techniques for approaching and moving inside buildings, tactics for dealing with people in vehicles, control of a large number of people when attempting to cross the state border by force, familiarization with personal and collective intervention equipment and ballistic protection, movement techniques and use of equipment while staying in the mountains.

Advanced training in the field of handling explosive devices was held

As part of the cooperation between the Federal Police of the Federal Republic of Germany and the Border Police of BiH, advanced training in the field of handling explosive devices was held in Germany for police officers who perform the duties of anti-bomb technicians in the Border Police Unit Airport Sarajevo. At the same time, training was held in the use of the robot manipulator „tEODor EVO“ with accompanying tools, with the aim of solving certain specific tasks and manipulating them. In addition to the above, another advanced training was held in deactivating improvised explosive devices with multiple traps and several different igniters (formation and improvised), which requires exceptional knowledge, concentration, and a special set of dedicated equipment for such situations. The training concept is intended for police officers with the aim of improving the acquired knowledge, as well as familiarizing them with new techniques, equipment and standards in the mentioned field.
Trainings held in cooperation with the UNDP

The Border Police of BiH, in cooperation with the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) in BiH, implemented 12 joint trainings on the topic of detecting smuggled weapons. The trainings were attended by 65 police officers of the Border Police of BiH as training participants, while two police officers of the BP BiH participated as lecturers. Representatives of the Prosecutor’s Office of BiH, the State Investigation and Protection Agency, the Indirect Taxation Authorities, representatives of the Republic of Srpska Ministry of the Interior, the Federal Police Administration and representatives of the cantonal MoIs also took part in the training.
Police dog Bord to go to a deserved retirement

He made an immeasurable contribution to the Border Police of BiH • One of the best dogs for detection of explosives

The Border Police of Bosnia and Herzegovina uses service dogs trained to detect narcotics, explosives and explosive substances, and patrol dogs in their work every day. The Border Police of BiH has 19 such “police officers”, mostly Belgian and German shepherd breeds, who are deployed in specialized units and at airports, and are part of the team when inspecting luggage, vehicles and other objects of security importance.

Successful and intelligent

Shipments and luggage cannot be placed at the International Airport Sarajevo without being inspected by Bord, a service dog - Belgian shepherd, trained to detect mines and explosive devices, who is affectionately known as Uštipak. Bord, as his working name is, has been with the Border Police of BiH for 11 years. Regardless of his age, he is still active, goes to work every day and serves the state. He is going to a well-deserved retirement soon, and that was the occasion to talk to his official handler, police officer Jakub Hasković, who taught this dog to do the job flawlessly and with no mistakes.

Hasković says that Bord is very intelligent, successful in work, and that in order to achieve this, daily training and discipline are necessary. Bord’s working day starts at eight o’clock. The official dog handler Hasković told us what his working day looks like.

“Having finished with the morning run, there is an inspection of the premises, luggage, vehicles... After that, there is a break, and then patrolling in the airport building, inspection of shipments and travel bags around the airport and so on until the evening hours. He learned that when he goes to the airport, he knows he has to work, and when he returns to the pit, he just waits for the reward and rest”, says Hasković.

He adds that Bord’s contribution to the Border Police of BiH is immeasurable, because he accompanied all the most

“He replaces 30 police officers. Police officer must open, inspect and close an object, vehicle or facility, whereas a dog just sniffs and marks (sits down) if there are illegal substances
important events, protocol visits of high officials, inspections of hotels, stadiums and other facilities.

“Essentially, he replaces 30 police officers. A policeman has to open, inspect, close an object, vehicle or facility, whereas the dog only sniffs and marks (sits down) if there are illegal substances”, says Hasković.

Bord and his handler make a special team based on love, trust and discipline. We asked Hasković how he would say goodbye to him.

“We’ve been together for twelve years, it’s hard for me to part with him because he was one of the best dogs for detecting explosives. He is like a member of my family, my best colleague and I never had a better one. In eight months, I will send him off to retirement”, Hasković tells us, adding that hundreds of people have applied to adopt Bord, but that his new home will still be in the home of a police officer of the Anti-Bomb Team of the Border Police of BiH, because they were also a team during work and that he will have the care and attention he had in the Border Police of BiH.

“Bord and his handler make a special team based on love, trust and discipline”

Cooperation with the local community

Service dog handler Jakup Hasković and his Bord, apart from regular work, are often hosts and sometimes guests in educational institutions, and there is almost no child who has visited the Border Police Unit Airport Sarajevo without meeting Bord. Namely, the Border Police of BiH, within the framework of the Community Policing project, implements visits by children of kindergarten age, pupils and students, in order to familiarize them with the work and responsibilities of this police agency, but also to establish better partnership relations with the local community.

Luggage inspection at the International Airport Sarajevo

Visit to a kindergarten in Sarajevo
The BP BiH members in actions of saving human lives

Members of the Border Police of BiH in their daily work, apart from regular police work, often face situations in which it is necessary to show readiness and courage by rescuing victims, often in unsafe conditions that are life threatening. But that didn't stop them from reaching out and saving human lives. There are numerous stories of our police officers who saved children and adults from drowning, waded through a cold river at night to help victims or pulled passengers out of cars after accidents, put out fires, returned lost things, etc. In this way, they forever changed the lives of people rescued by police officers of the BP BiH. Thus, in mid-December 2022, in Bosanski Dubočac, Derventa municipality, members of the BiH Border Police Unit Brod found 21 people, 16 of whom were citizens of Morocco and five citizens of Afghanistan, attempting to cross the state border illegally. One of the migrants was found injured, which is why members of the Border Police of BiH took him to the infirmary in Derventa, in order to provide medical assistance for him.

Earlier, in mid-November 2022, members of the BiH Border Police Unit Zvornik spotted a group of migrants on the part of the state border between the towns of Sepak and Branjevo who, due to a sudden rise in the water level of the Drina river, remained trapped in the said area. Namely, following the received information that the migrants were trapped in the mentioned area, members of the BP BiH, using specialized equipment including a drone, located a group of migrants who were surrounded by water. With the help of Civil Protection officers of the city of Zvornik and with the use of their vessel and official vehicles of the BP BiH Unit Zvornik, 33 males - citizens of Afghanistan, were successfully rescued. Of these people, 27 were referred to the Service for Foreigners’ Affairs of BiH, while six people were transported to the Zvornik Health Centre for medical assistance.

Blood donation

At the end of January 2023, in the organisation of the Border Police of BiH and the Institute for Transfusion Medicine of the Federation of BiH, a voluntary blood donation action was organised at the Head Office in Sarajevo. This humanitarian action was joined by a considerable number of police officers and civil servants and employees of the Head Office of the BP BiH. Doctor Mak Čampara from the Institute for Transfusion Medicine of the FBiH thanked everyone who participated in the organisation of the action, especially those who donated blood. „The response of blood donors in the Border Police of BiH is traditionally good. Today we also had donors of relatively rare blood groups such as AB+. We have been organising joint actions for more than ten years and I believe that they will continue in the future“, said Dr. Čampara.

Since 2011, the Border Police of BiH and the Institute for Transfusion Medicine of FBiH have been organising joint voluntary blood donation actions. In addition to the Head Office of the Border Police of BiH, in the previous period, similar actions were organised in the Border Police Units Neum, Gradiška, Gorica, Orašje, Velika Kladuša, Bijeljina and Višegrad. Among the members of the BP BiH, there are also those who participated in other actions and thus, by donating blood, saved human lives.
Members of the Border Police of BiH in the holiday gift-giving action

With a noble action, the BP BiH members brought smiles and joy to children

Members of the Border Police of BiH, in addition to a series of operational actions that they continuously implement with the aim of suppressing cross-border crime, do not neglect actions of a humanitarian nature. In view of the New Year holiday, at the end of December 2022, members of the Border Police of BiH prepared and distributed gifts to people with special needs, cancer patients and to the neediest. Hundreds of packages with basic life necessities, as well as sweets and toys, were distributed during visits to: Association Srce za djecu Sarajevo, Monastery Egipat in Sarajevo, General Hospital Prim. Dr. Abdulah Nakač in Sarajevo, the Association Oplemeni srce Istočno Sarajevo, Mother’s Village in Međugorje, the Home for children with physical or mental development disorder Marija naša Nada, the Association for people with disability Kutak sreće Široki Brijeg, the Association Fra Mladen Hrkać and the Home for people with disability in Višegrad.

With a noble action, members of the Border Police brought smiles and joy to those who are most in need, and once again showed great heart and humanity in action. This is just one in a series of humanitarian actions of the Border Police of BiH, and we would like to thank all the sponsors who, with their donations, greatly helped the implementation of this noble action.
Hanging out with the children of the Primary School Danilo Borković

In mid-December 2022, members of the BiH Border Police Unit Gradiška and the Support and Control Unit of the Field Office North-West Gradiška arranged a visit for the children of the public institution Primary School Danilo Borković from Gradiška. During the visit, members of the mentioned Units of the Border Police of BiH presented the work and responsibilities of this police agency to the students. They also presented the way of performing border checks on the first and second line of border checks at border crossing points, as well as the specialist equipment used in daily work when inspecting vehicles and documents. In addition to the above, they performed several exercises with the service dogs Roka and Boks, which made our visitors the most happy. The visit was organised within the framework of the Community Policing project, through which the members of the Border Police of BiH try to familiarize children with the duties and tasks of a police officer, but also with every other form of cooperation with citizens.

Promoting partnership with the police

Female members of the Border Police of BiH and of the Police Officers’ Network Association visited the kindergarten Sveta obitelj in Sarajevo in mid-April 2022. During the visit, they talked to the children about safety and promotion of partnership with the police. In addition, equal opportunities for boys and girls in different spheres of life and work were promoted. The children were introduced to the tasks and work of officers of different police agencies, and were presented the police equipment. At the same time, this was an opportunity for the youngest citizens to become familiar with the work of the police and to raise awareness of important security issues, as well as to encourage cooperation and a friendly relationship with the police. Moreover, at the beginning of June 2022, members of the Border Police of BiH visited the kindergarten Tom & Jerry in Sarajevo, where the children were introduced to the work of this police agency and the specialist equipment used by police officers in their work. They were also visited by the most interesting member of the BP BiH, the service dog “Uštipak”, who made the little ones immensely happy.
BORDER POLICE OF BIH

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