



UNHCR supports police conduct monitoring project

Under the umbrella of the project entitled "Strengthening Croatian Civil Society in the Field of Migrations and Asylum in the Pre-Accession Process of the Republic of Croatia to the European Union" and financed by MATRA programme of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, the Croatian Law Centre (CLC), in cooperation with the Dutch Council for Refugees and the Ministry of Interior are currently implementing the project entitled "Monitoring Police Conduct in the Field of Illegal Migrations and Asylum".

The aim of the project is to gain an insight into the border system, consistency and methodology of police officers and other officials with regards to human rights protection whilst implementing border control towards illegal migrants and potential asylum seekers. During the project implementation, data will be gathered concerning the number of illegal migrants and asylum seekers.

UNHCR strongly supports the Project and participates at the advisory level. The Project's target coincides with UNHCR's mandate – respect for the principle of *non-refoulement* and assuring access to the territory and asylum procedure in the Republic of Croatia.

The Project's Advisory Board gathers representative of independent legal profession, prof. dr. sc. Dragan Medvedovic, from MoI Mr. Zlatko Sokolar and civil society representative Mrs. Vesna Grubic of CLC. The Board also has its external members, representative of UNHCR, Mrs. Jasna Barberic, Chief of Police Academy, Mr. Stjepan Gluscic, Deputy of Croatian People's Ombudsman, Mr. Dejan Palic and the Director of the Human Rights Center, Mr. Tin Gazivoda.

The project is designed so that independent observers, composed of jurists specially educated in the field of international protection, attend and assess police interviews of illegal migrants and potential asylum seekers.

The first phase of the project was carried out in Zagreb County (including the airport), between March and December 2009. It now continues in the area of Primorje and Gorski Kotar County.