

EUROPEAN POLICIES

CIVIC MONITORING ON THE PROGRESS OF BULGARIA AND ROMANIA TOWARDS ACCESSION TO THE SCHENGEN AREA

Project objectives

The civic monitoring on the preparedness to join the Schengen area aims at enhancing public understanding of the process amidst the EU citizens, the Bulgarian and Romanian in particular, on the level of preparedness to the Schengen area in 2011 through expert evaluation of the progress, independent both from the EU and the Romanian authorities.

Project implementation tools

- Signing of a Cooperation Agreement between Open Society Institute – Sofia and Ministry of Interior
- Desk research of the relevant sources of information and content analysis on the legislative and the institutional framework, reports on the evaluations carried out, memos and reports from the work of the coordination team and the intergovernmental group and the target groups – the respective responsible authorities on the political and administrative level.
- Monitoring the work of the respective political and administrative bodies in charge of Schengen – according to the indicators: framework, coordination, and term of reference, procedures, efficiency of the tasks carried out; transparency and accountability of the main activities (unclassified information); engagement and achieved outcomes.
- Evaluation of the procurement procedures and follow on the implementation of the procurement procedures along the terms of the signed contracts of the Schengen Transition Facility
- Key informants interviews with representatives from the relevant political and administrative bodies, independent experts in the field and from the evaluation teams.
- Carry out sociological survey through the Open bus method
- Organise public events and presentation of the mid-term and final findings of the monitoring on the progress of Bulgaria and Romania towards accession to the Schengen area

Scope of work

Civic monitoring will focus on:

1.1. Romania progress in the level of preparedness to join the Schengen area in the following domains of monitoring

- Police cooperation
- Borders – air, land, maritime
- Data protection
- Visas
- Schengen Information System (SIS) and

1.2. The state of affairs of absorption of the Schengen Transition Facility:

- Analysis on the scope of work of the Schengen Facility and the level of absorption of the allocated funds and the level of implementation of the Indicative Programs;
- Evaluation of the procurement procedures
- Follow on the implementation of the procurement procedures along the terms of the signed contracts

Main project outputs of the civic monitoring on the preparedness of Bulgaria and Romania to join the Schengen area

1. Mid-term report on the progress of Bulgaria and Romania for accession to the Schengen area
2. Report on the level of preparedness of Bulgaria and Romania for accession to the Schengen area in 2011
3. Summary report on the efficiency and accountability of spending of the Schengen Transition Facility in Bulgaria and Romania

Project status: in progress March 2010 – January 2011

Experts and partners

- Assya Kavrakova, Program Director, Open Society Institute – Sofia
- Nadya Dimitrova, Justice and Home Affairs Expert, European Institute and International Center for migration policy development
- Hristo Hristev, Justice and Home Affairs Expert
- Magardich Hulian, Expert, European Institute
- Atanas Slavov, Constitutional Scholar
- Dessislava Hristova, Program Coordinator, Open Society Institute – Sofia
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Funding

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