

EU Support to Strengthen the Fight against Migrant Smuggling and Trafficking in Human Beings in the Western Balkans

- TERMS OF REFERENCE N°77 -

Objective and output	Output 1: The ability of Western Balkan law enforcement and judicial authorities to combat migrant smuggling and trafficking in human beings is strengthened.
Work package	1.1
Team involved	CIVIPOL
Code and activity	1.1.1-4.ROL
Expert(s)	6 short term national experts 1 short term international expert
Estimated budget:	12,500 €
Implementation Period:	April to October 2026
End date:	October 2026
Mission Duration:	Total days of expertise 48: 5 days per national expert + 18 days for the international expert
Countries:	WB 6

1. Objective:

The Overall Objective of the project is to strengthen the rule of law in the Western Balkans.

The Specific Objective of the project is to improve the conditions for preventing and combatting migrant smuggling and trafficking in human beings in the Western Balkans.

The project has the following outputs:

- **Output 1:** The ability of Western Balkan law enforcement and judicial authorities to combat migrant smuggling and trafficking in human beings is strengthened.
- **Output 2:** The ability of Western Balkan law enforcement actors to cooperate with Member States as well as JHA agencies and non-EU law enforcement actors in activities related to migrant smuggling and trafficking in human beings including through the active participation in the European Multidisciplinary Platform Against Criminal Threats (EMPACT) is increased.
- **Output 3:** The ability of Western Balkan authorities and frontline workers to identify and provide protection to (potential) victims of trafficking in human beings and refer them to competent state and non-state assistance and support services is improved.
- **Output 4:** The capacity of border authorities of the Western Balkans to prevent and counter migrant smuggling and trafficking in human beings in line with EU standards and human rights is strengthened.

This mission is part of **component 1** described above for the achievement of the work outcome package

Work package 1.1 – Policy strategy and legislation: informing and supporting the administrative and legislative strategy on THB and migrant smuggling.

Based on assessment reports, notably formulated by the European Commission in the framework of the pre-accession process (chapter 24), activities of the work package aim at identifying and bridging gaps in the legislative framework for LEAs and LEA cooperation at national and regional level related to THB and migrant smuggling. It aims to harmonise the legislative and regulatory frameworks and align them with EU acquis and policies. It also aims to facilitate regional cooperation. Building on the existing reports, support to the integration of the proposed recommendations by the beneficiaries is provided, as well as technical assistance to prioritise and implement them.

Desired outcomes of the action:

- Analysis of WB6 national regulatory frameworks on digital evidence in light of EU standards
- Expert recommendations to strengthen WB6 related regulatory framework for effective anti-trafficking and smuggling response in light of EU standards

2. Objectives and expected results of the activity:

Objectives of the activity:

The overall objective is to assess WB6 national regulatory frameworks on digital evidence for effective anti-trafficking and smuggling response in light of EU standards.

Result(s) of the activity:

- By the end of the mission, a comprehensive analysis on WB6 national regulatory frameworks on digital evidence in light of EU standards will be presented to the beneficiaries.
- A final report summarizing findings, recommendations, and proposed measures will be shared with all consortium partners and beneficiaries to ensure alignment and follow-up planning.

3. Progress of the activity:

Elaboration:

- Planning and preparation of the activity
- Recruitment and mobilization of 6 national short-term experts and 1 international short-term expert
- Coordination among EU4FAST components

Implementation:

- Analysis of WB6 national regulatory frameworks on digital evidence in light of EU standards
- Expert recommendations to strengthen WB6 national regulatory frameworks on digital evidence for effective anti-trafficking and smuggling response in light of EU standards
- Submission of report, including recommendations

Deliverables

- One Formal report per expert (observation - analysis - proposals)

4. Recruitment of expertise:

4.1 Submission of applications

Sending of the application by email, including the expert's CV (European model), a copy of a valid identity document with photo, as well as a paragraph of presentation and motivation in the body of the email.

Please send your application electronically to the following e-mail addresses of the EU4FAST team:

- Ms. Tatiana MORALES, Project Manager, CIVIPOL, tatiana.morales@civipol.fr
- Mr. Franck FORTIN, Project Manager, CIVIPOL, franck.fortin@experts.civipol.fr
- Mr. Erwann TOR, Coordinator, Policy Strategy & Legislation, EXPERTISE FRANCE, erwann.tor@expertisefrance.fr

Please mention in the subject line "EU4FAST application – 1.1.1-4 ROL Assessment of WB6 national regulatory frameworks on digital evidence for effective anti-trafficking and smuggling responses in light of EU standards" Incomplete or late applications will not be considered.

4.2 Screening of Applications:

Only applications corresponding to the selection criteria of the expert profiles will be accepted.

4.3 Evaluation of applications:

The evaluation of applications will be conducted by Civipol. Successful candidates will be contacted by EU4FAST to proceed with the formalities related to their mobilization.

5. Required profiles of expertise:

For the realization of this mission, Civipol will recruit six national short-term experts: 1 from Albania, 1 from Bosnia Herzegovina, 1 from Kosovo*, 1 from Montenegro, 1 from North Macedonia and 1 from Serbia; as well one international short-term expert, who will be working collaboratively with the team.

The following table is applicable for both national and international experts, with specific skills/knowledges specified when needed.

Domains of expertise	Digital Evidence
Qualifications	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Advanced Degree: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A master's or equivalent degree in a relevant field such as Law, Human Rights, Public Administration, European legislation or a related discipline. Relevant Certifications (Preferred): Specialized certifications in areas such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cybercrime investigations Digital Forensics
Specific competencies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proven experience in analysing national laws and regulatory frameworks Comprehensive understanding of digital evidence Proven experience in analysing EU standards, Directives and regulatory frameworks Strong analytical skills to assess gaps and propose solutions in existing frameworks. Proven experience in drafting recommendations Excellent communication and interpersonal skills to facilitate cooperation between multinational teams.
General work experience	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minimum 5 years of professional experience in government institutions, prosecution office, law firm, university, law enforcement, NGOs, international organization, or related fields Experience in the field of international cooperation tools Experience working in multi-agency or international environments. Demonstrated ability to work effectively within teams.
Specific professional experience related to the mission	Experience working with government institutions, prosecution office, law firm, university, law enforcement, NGOs or international organizations on regulatory

	frameworks related to digital evidence and related EU standards is highly desirable.
Knowledge	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In-depth knowledge of national regulatory framework on digital evidence (national expert) • In-depth knowledge of EU standards, Directives and regulatory framework on digital evidence (international expert) • Awareness of human trafficking and migrant smuggling response and victim support frameworks, especially within the EU framework.
Assets	Previous experience working with international organizations or projects (e.g., EU-funded initiatives).
Languages	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Excellent reading local language for analysing the national regulatory framework (national expert). • Excellent written English for delivering report.

Payments Daily Fee for National Expert: 150 euros

Daily Fee for International Expert: 350 euros

Duration National Expert: 5 days

International Expert: 18 days

Type of contract short-term service provider contract

Logistics home-based

Assessment Strategy

- Each of the 6 national experts will provide a report assessing the national regulatory framework on digital evidence in his/her respective country, in light of EU standards.
- The international expert will review and harmonize the conclusions of the 6 national assessment reports.
- Based on the conclusions of the 6 finalized national assessment reports, the international expert will provide a regional assessment report, including recommendations to strengthen WB6 regulatory frameworks on digital evidence in light of EU standards.

6. Period, indicative timetable and location of the mission:

For the local expert:

Phase 1: Analysis of the national regulatory framework on digital evidence in his/her country in light of EU standards (2 days)	
Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Collection of the national regulatory framework on digital evidence in his/her country - Analysis of the national regulatory framework on digital evidence in his/her country in light of EU standards
Expected results	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The expert assesses national regulatory framework on digital evidence in his/her country in light of EU standards
Calendar period and place of mission	01/05/25 to 30/05/26
Phase 2: Drafting conclusions (2 days)	
Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Drafting conclusions identifying gaps in the national regulatory framework on digital evidence his/her country in light of EU standards
Expected results	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The expert drafts clear conclusions identifying gaps in the national regulatory framework on digital evidence in his/her country in light of EU standards.
Calendar period and place of mission	01/06/26 to 15/06/26
Phase 3: Drafting & submission of the assessment report of the national regulatory framework on digital evidence in his/her country in light of EU standards (1 day)	
Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Drafting and finalizing the assessment report, including conclusions identifying gaps in the national regulatory framework on digital evidence in his/her country in light of EU standards
Expected results	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The expert drafts and submits the assessment report, including conclusions identifying gaps in the national regulatory framework on digital evidence in his/her country in light of EU standards.
Calendar period	16/06/26 to 30/06/26

For the international expert:

Phase 1: Analysis of the EU standards, Directives and Regulatory Frameworks related to digital evidence (3 days)	
Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Collection of EU standards, Directives and Regulatory Frameworks related to digital evidence - Identification and analysis of the requirements stated in the EU standards, Directives and Regulatory Frameworks related to digital evidence
Expected results	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The expert collects the relevant EU Directives and Regulatory Frameworks and analyses the requirements stated in the EU standards, Directives and Regulatory Frameworks related to digital evidence
Calendar period and place of mission	01/06/25 to 30/06/26
Phase 2: Review and harmonization of the conclusions of the assessment reports of the national regulatory framework in each WB6 on digital evidence in light of EU standards (2 days per national report, up to 12 days)	
Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Review of the conclusions of the assessment reports of the national regulatory frameworks in each WB6 on digital evidence in light of EU standards - Harmonization of the conclusions of the assessment reports of the national regulatory frameworks in each WB6 on digital evidence in light of EU standards
Expected results	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The expert reviews the gaps highlighted in the conclusions of the assessment reports of the national regulatory frameworks in each WB6 on digital evidence in light of EU standards. - The expert completes, amends and harmonizes as required, the conclusions of these reports to provide a clear picture of the gaps identified in each country.
Calendar period and place of mission	01/07/26 to 30/08/26
Phase 3: Drafting recommendations (2 days)	

Actions	- Drafting directly actionable recommendations to amend specific provisions of the national regulatory framework of each WB6 to ensure alignment with specific provisions of EU standards, Directives and Regulatory Frameworks related to digital evidence.
Expected results	- The expert drafts for each WB6 country, directly actionable recommendations to amend specific provisions of the national regulatory framework to ensure alignment with specific provisions of EU standards, Directives and Regulatory Frameworks related to digital evidence.
Calendar period and place of mission	01/09/26 to 30/09/26
Phase 4: Drafting & Submission of the final report (1day)	
Actions	- Drafting and finalizing the regional assessment report, including for each WB6 country, the conclusions of the dedicated assessment and the recommendations to amend specific provisions of the national regulatory framework to ensure alignment with specifically mentioned provisions of EU standards, Directives and Regulatory Frameworks related to digital evidence.
Expected results	- The expert drafts and submit the regional assessment report, including for each WB6 country, the conclusions of the dedicated assessment and the recommendations to amend specific provisions of the national regulatory framework to ensure alignment with specifically mentioned provisions of EU standards, Directives and Regulatory Frameworks related to digital evidence.
Calendar period	01/10/26 to 15/10/26

7. End of mission:

Experts are asked to establish the following service:

- A final mission report with its deliverables, which will be in English and produced in computer version.

It will be sent to:

- Mr. Erwann Tor, Coordinator Policy Strategy & Legislation: Erwann.tor@expertisefrance.fr