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THE NATIONAL COLLEGE OF HOME AFFAIRS organized the international conference The Challenges of Illegal Migration in Western Balkans

The National College of Home Affairs (CNAI), in partnership with the Romanian Agency for International Development Cooperation - RoAid Agency, under the aegis of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MAE), organized, from 18th to 20th of October 2023, in Bucharest the conference "**The Challenges of Illegal Migration in the Western Balkans**". The event, organized in the framework of the project "Assistance in the field of cross-border cooperation and civil protection", was held in the context of the **15th anniversary of the establishment of CNAI**.



At the opening ceremony participated Mr. Col. **Ștefan-Claudiu Chindriș**, Commander (Rector) of "Al.I.Cuza" Police Academy, Mr. Police Quaestor **Cătălin Andruș**, PhD, Director of the National College of Home Affairs (CNAI) and Mr. **Mihai Sandu**, Deputy Director General of Romanian Agency for International Development Cooperation (RoAid). The event has been moderated by Mr. **Bogdan Marinescu**, PhD, CNAI.

The conference brought together participants from Romania and 5 Western Balkan countries (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Northern Macedonia and Serbia), selected among decision-makers in charge for preventing and combating illegal migration, migrant protection, integrated border management, combating terrorism, corruption and cross-border crime.



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The agenda included presentations by experts such as Mr. **Iulian Chifu**, PhD, former Counsellor for Security of the Prime Minister of Romania, Mr. **Iosiper Edward** – General Director, General Directorate for Financial, Internal Affairs and Justice /MAE, Mr. **Alexandru Ene** - Director, Western Balkans and Regional Cooperation Directorate /MAE, **Liviu-Mihai Dănilă**, PhD, Minister Counsellor, Head of the Centre for Emergency and Crisis Situations/MAE, being moderated by Mrs. **Janina-Diana Toader**/MAE.



On the conference agenda there were also panels held by prestigious experts and specialists, whose lectures were well received by the audience, namely: Mr. **Marius-Viorel Poșa**, Undersecretary of State, Ministry of Research, Innovation and Digitalization; Mr. **Mircea Mocanu**, Office Head of the International Organization for Migration Romania; Mr. PhD Professor **Sergiu Vasile**, "A.I. Cuza" Police Academy; Mr **Răzvan Budeanu** and Mr **Nicholas Garlick**, FRONTEX experts; Mr **Alexandru Niculiță** - CEPOL expert; representatives of the General Directorate for Operational Management (MAI), General Inspectorate of Border Police, General Inspectorate for Immigration, National Society of Red Cross Romania.



The official dinner of the course took place on 20 October 2023 and was offered by the National College of Home Affairs, with the support of the MAI Cultural Centre - *Ansamblul Ciocârlia*, which offered an artistic moment very well appreciated.





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A very interesting panel on the role of strategic communication in the public perception of illegal migration was presented by Mrs. **Miruna Butnaru-Troncotă**, PhD Advisor, Associate Professor and Mrs. **Mălina Ciocea**, PhD, Associate Professor, both from the National University for Political Studies and Public Administration (SNSPA).

Regional cooperation and some case studies on illegal migration in the Western Balkans were the subject of a panel presented by Mr. **Romulus Nicolae Ungureanu**, PhD, Operational Director of the South-East European Law Enforcement Centre (SELEC) and Mr **Nicolae Hamzu**, from the General Inspectorate of the Romanian Police.



The conference ended on 20 October 2023 with the closing ceremony and the handing of the participation certificates by Mr. **Cătălin Andruș**, Director of the National College of Home Affairs (CNAI) and Mrs. **Daniela-Maria Dobre**, Director General of the Romanian Agency for International Development Cooperation (RoAid).

Thus, MAI through CNAI and MAE through RoAid contributed to the joint effort to project Romania as a vector of security and home affairs expertise for the Western Balkans region.



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