Civil Status Registration and Mobility

The written administrative identification procedure of a person
The basis for all public or private exchanges: from the individual to the international level

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ISSUANCE OF TRAVEL DOCUMENTS

Modern and operational civil registries

INTERNATIONAL MOBILITY

THE RABAT PROCESS AND CIVIL STATUS REGISTRATION SYSTEMS

Section 1.4 of the Rome Programme: “Protect, promote and facilitate the management of civil status and the issuance of identity and travel documents”

Objective 6 of the Dakar Strategy: “To render civil registers secure and to streamline their management”

Thematic meeting: “Improving civil status registration systems and combating document fraud”
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BENEFITS FOR MIGRATION AND MOBILITY

Modern and operational civil registries

MOBILITY

Allow for delivering passports and visas
Allow for legal border crossing
Contribute to enhanced trust among States

DOCUMENT SECURITY

Reduce risk of document fraud
Present the use of basic information from civil registries as sources to create new fake documents
Contribute to verifying the identity of migrants

ACCESS TO RIGHTS

Are key to all social, economic, cultural, civil and political rights
Help to fight human trafficking, i.e. by increasing both registration of women and children
Contribute to maternal and child health and a child’s right to a name and a nationality
Contribute to preventing statelessness

MIGRATION DATA

Facilitate the recording of vital statistics (birth, marriage, death)
Are the basis for reliable statistics on migration flows, contributing to public planning
Allow for the mobilisation of competences of the diaspora

CHALLENGES

Absence of reliable population census and registration of vital statistics
Outdated legal framework, limited human resources
Tradition and customs

GOOD PRACTICES related to the improvement of civil status registries

KEY AREAS

POLITICAL WILL

Adoption of reforms and laws on civil status
Allocation of sufficient budgetary and human resources
Interministerial collaboration
Launch of pilot projects before starting comprehensive reforms

TRAINING

Training on the construction, consultation and conservation of civil registries
Different curricula for stakeholders at different levels (political, heads of units, IT experts)
Domestic and international legislation, statistics and IT are particularly important to address

REORGANISATION

Action plans for computerisation
Maintenance of paper records and safety copies of new digital entries
Setup of biographic information databases, preferably biometric, respecting confidentiality
Compatibility of software and data collection systems

SERVICES ADAPTED TO SOCIO-ECONOMIC REALITIES

Use of easily accessible new means (i.e. mobile phones) to make declarations
Establishing mobile units in local areas to register births
Obtaining declarations free of charge
Taking into account traditions and customs

AWARENESS-RAISING

Broadcasting TV and radio spots, posters
Communicating the importance of civil status registration for fundamental rights
Awareness-raising among civil servants, particularly in rural areas

Footnotes