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European Union



BOMCA | БОМКА
BORDER MANAGEMENT
PROGRAMME IN CENTRAL ASIA
ПРОГРАММА СОДЕЙСТВИЯ
УПРАВЛЕНИЮ ГРАНИЦАМИ В
ЦЕНТРАЛЬНОЙ АЗИИ



State Border Guard
Republic of Latvia

NEWSLETTER

Final Issue
September 2025



MINISTRY OF INTERIOR
HUNGARY



Food and Veterinary Service
Republic of Latvia



State Border Guard Service
Republic of Lithuania



International Centre for
Migration Policy Development



State Revenue Service
Republic of Latvia



RIGA TECHNICAL
UNIVERSITY



Border Guard
Republic of Poland



Central Directorate for
Immigration and Border Police
Italian Republic



Dear Friends,
As we mark the culmination of the tenth phase of the Border Management Programme in Central Asia (BOMCA 10), the European Union takes great pride in reflecting on 54 months of a transformative journey together.

Since its launch in 2003, BOMCA has built steadily on the success of each preceding phase. Every phase has strengthened the foundations for sustainable solutions that address immediate challenges while promoting long-term regional stability.

On behalf of the European Union, I extend my deepest gratitude to our Central Asian partners and counterparts for their dedication and trust throughout this phase.

BOMCA continues to stand as one of the EU's flagship examples of regional cooperation in action, and we look forward to building on these achievements together.

Ambassador Rémi Duflot

Head of the Delegation of the European Union to the Kyrgyz Republic

Dear Friends,
BOMCA 10 has become one of the most extensive and impactful phases of the Programme — both in terms of quality and scale.

Tremendous work has been carried out at both strategic and operational levels, aimed at achieving tangible results in the institutional development of border control agencies, improvement of detection capacities, facilitating legitimate cross-border trade, and strengthening cross-border cooperation.

Our efforts are centred on people and effectively managed borders — together, we are moving towards greater security and sustainable development.

We extend our sincere gratitude to all those who have contributed to the implementation of this ambitious phase: to the European Union — the Programme's donor — for its trust and financial support; and to all partners and beneficiaries whose active engagement has been key to our success.

We look to the future with confidence, building on the solid foundation laid during BOMCA 10.



General Guntis Pujats

*Coordinator of the BOMCA 10 Programme
Chief of the State Border Guard of the Republic of Latvia*

ABOUT BOMCA 10

Since its launch in 2003, the various phases of the Border Management Programme in Central Asia (BOMCA) funded by the European Union with the contribution of Latvia and Lithuania have focused on capacity building and institutional development, developing trade corridors and the facilitation of trade, improving border management systems and eliminating drug trafficking across the Central Asia region.

OVERALL OBJECTIVE

Enhancing security, stability, and sustainable growth in the region, as well as supporting cross-border cooperation and improving living conditions for people living in border areas of Central Asia.

BUDGET



21 650 050

DURATION



**April 2021 -
September 2025**



SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE

COMPONENT 1

INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT OF
BORDER CONTROL AGENCIES

Adopting international security standards, integration of best practices and/or compliance with integrated border management models where applicable



SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE

COMPONENT 2

IMPROVEMENT OF
DETECTION CAPACITIES

Enhancing detection, coordination and investigation effectiveness within and between Central Asian countries



SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE

COMPONENT 3

FACILITATION OF TRADE

Harmonizing institutional, technical and normative practices related to the facilitation of legitimate flows of people and cargo across borders



SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE

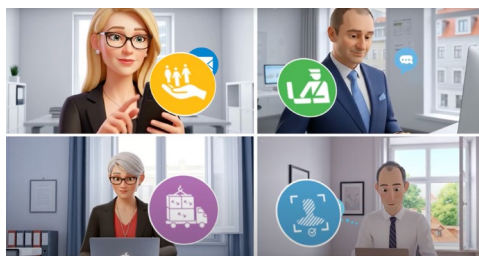
COMPONENT 4

IMPROVEMENT OF CROSS-
BORDER COOPERATION

Improving living conditions in border areas through local economic development, with a focus on human rights, gender equality and vulnerable groups (such as women, children and victims of human trafficking)

On 5 September 2025, the EU-funded Border Management Programme in Central Asia (BOMCA) completed its 10th phase with a **Closing Conference in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan**.

The event marked the final milestone of the Programme, reviewing achievements and discussing the future of EU–Central Asia cooperation in border management. Over 100 representatives attended, including officials from the five Central Asian countries, the EU Delegation to Kyrgyzstan, embassies, international organisations and BOMCA partners. BOMCA 10's efforts have positioned Central Asian countries to further advance border governance, support economic development and reinforce regional collaboration. The European Union reaffirmed its commitment to continue supporting this flagship initiative in the upcoming phase.

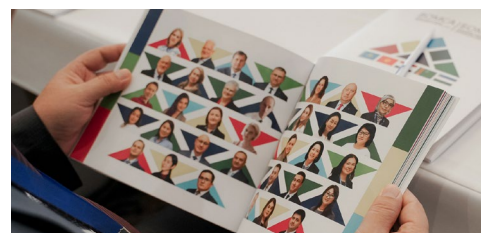


BOMCA 10 has produced a **unique animated video “We’ve come a long way”** to commemorate its 54-month journey across five Central Asian countries. The video brings to life the Programme’s many success stories — from modernised borders and enhanced security to empowered communities and stronger regional partnerships. It reflects how BOMCA 10 has become a symbol of collaboration, progress and tangible impact across the region.

[CLICK HERE TO WATCH THE VIDEO](#)

As part of the Closing Conference, BOMCA 10 presented its visual legacy — **“BOMCA 10: A Photo Chronicle of Phase 10 – 1644 Days Together”**. This publication offers a vivid record of the Programme’s entire journey, capturing the milestones and achievements of its 10th phase.

[CLICK HERE TO READ THE BOOK](#)



A special display of the exhibition **“Outstanding Women Shaping Central Asia”** was showcased at the BOMCA 10 Closing Conference. Launched in 2023 for BOMCA’s 20th anniversary, the initiative showcased 45 inspiring stories of women whose leadership, innovation and competence strengthen border management, security, regional cooperation and community development. The final exhibition brought their portraits and achievements to life, with several of the featured women in attendance. By concluding this initiative at the regional event, BOMCA 10 spotlighted the vital role of women in shaping Central Asia’s future and reaffirmed its commitment to gender equality and inclusiveness.

[CLICK HERE TO WATCH THE ONLINE EXHIBITION](#)

The conference hosted a thematic **“Impact Fair”** showcasing tangible results across all four Programme components.

Component 1 delivered a live masterclass in document examination, demonstrating how forgeries are detected in practice. Component 2 highlighted the benefits of digitalised evidence collection, inviting participants to try palm scanners and see how they capture samples at the crime scenes. Component 3 showcased the work of phytosanitary units at the border, with officers using BOMCA provided kits to inspect the products. And Component 4 displayed national ethno-products from women entrepreneurs supported through small grants.



CAPACITY BUILDING

365
THEMATIC ACTIVITIES

289
DEVELOPED PRODUCTS

7,000+
PARTICIPANTS

Phase 10 reinforced institutional capacities across the region. Thousands of professionals strengthened their expertise through trainings, workshops, study visits, e-learning platforms and specialised manuals. Particular emphasis was placed on human rights, gender equality, and people-centred approaches, embedding knowledge into daily practice and fostering sustainable professional networks.



In February 2025, BOMCA 10 launched the curated video series “The Story of Impact” showcasing powerful stories of transformation from across Central Asia. Covering nine thematic areas and all four components of the Programme, the series highlighted achievements through the voices of national partners. From border officers detecting forged documents with modern equipment, to K9 specialists advancing their skills through international exchanges, to women and businesses boosting local economies in remote areas — each story offers a unique perspective, capturing the human side of progress and cooperation.



[CLICK HERE TO WATCH THE VIDEOS](#)

PROCUREMENT

€ 4,278,000
TOTAL PROCUREMENT



Targeted procurement strengthened the Programme’s thematic components, long-term priorities of beneficiary agencies, and ad hoc operational needs. Equipment and tools were provided to 55 agencies, including: Customs, Border Guards, Ministries of Internal Affairs, National Security, Veterinary and Phytosanitary Services, Migration Authorities, other government bodies and NGOs.

- Key support included:
- upgrades of training institutions and distance learning,
 - K9 services,
 - digital forensics,
 - document security,
 - operational and digital infrastructure.
- These efforts also modernised procedures and enhanced institutional capabilities.

In addition, communities benefited from school equipment and initiatives supporting women entrepreneurs.



BREAKDOWN BY COMPONENTS



21

GRANTS TO NGOS

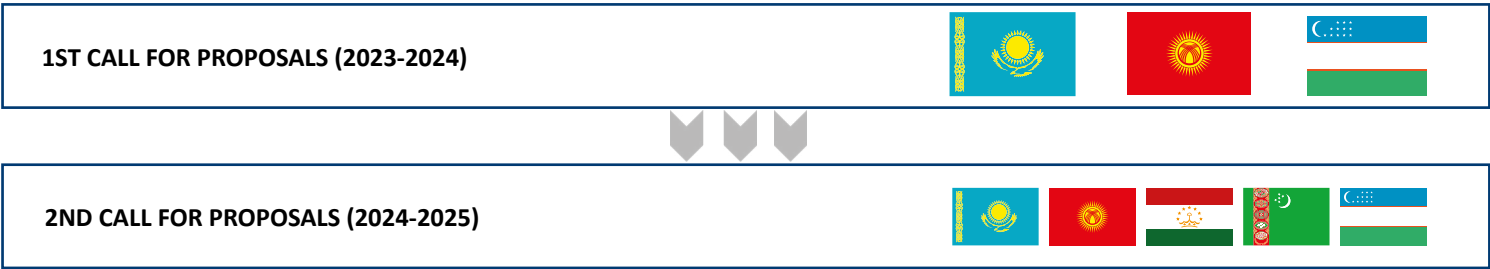
€950,000

TOTAL BUDGET

GRANTS PROJECT BY THEMATIC FOCUS



In its 10th phase, BOMCA 10 worked closely with civil society, recognising NGOs as beneficiaries of its initiatives. Thanks to the grants scheme under Component 4, NGOs received funding to implement community-driven projects aimed at enhancing cross-border cooperation, empowered communities, created jobs in border areas. These projects not only addressed local needs but also fostered dialogue between authorities and communities, building trust and sustainable partnerships at the local levels.



To celebrate the outstanding achievements of civil society organisations in Central Asia that implemented projects under the Programme's grant scheme, BOMCA 10 established the NGO Excellence Award. Award highlighted NGOs contributions while also reflected the internationally recognised OECD DAC evaluation criteria. Each nomination of the Award captured a different dimension of project excellence, with winners representing the most inspiring examples from across the region:

- **Nomination "Exceptional Relevance" – Foundation for Tolerance International (Kyrgyzstan)**, for addressing the needs of women affected by migration through support groups and women-led businesses in the Fergana Valley.
- **Nomination "Effectiveness" – Childhood Institute(Kyrgyzstan)**, for empowering left-behind children by training education professionals and strengthening child protection systems.
- **Nomination "Efficiency" – Republican Information and Educational Center "INTILISH" (Uzbekistan)**, for providing legal and psychological support to migrants and fostering women's entrepreneurship with optimal use of

- resources.
 - **Nomination "Sustainability" – Skills & Prosperity (Tajikistan)**, for supporting vulnerable groups through vocational training, business development and reintegration measures with lasting community impact.
 - **Nomination "Coherence" – Global Changes Foundation (Kyrgyzstan)**, for enabling socially vulnerable families to launch agricultural businesses through strong collaboration with local authorities and partners.
- Through these categories, the Award showcased the diverse ways in which NGOs contribute to security, stability and prosperity in Central Asia.



COMPONENT 1 INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT OF BORDER CONTROL AGENCIES



KEY ACHIEVEMENTS:

- **7 recommendation sets** integrated into national systems, supporting IBM Strategy in Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, and legislative updates in Kazakhstan.
- **12 training programmes** on document security, leading to detection of forged travel documents.
- **5 manuals** on migrant profiling and interviewing, enhancing risk identification while respecting human rights.
- **5 risk analysis and 4 interagency cooperation toolkits** modernising procedures.
- **Situation Centre in Kyrgyzstan** enables real-time monitoring and faster decision-making.



[CLICK HERE](#) TO WATCH A VIDEO

COMPONENT 2 IMPROVEMENT OF DETECTION CAPACITIES



KEY ACHIEVEMENTS:

- **20 trained K9 officers** (10 in narcotics, 10 in explosives) with **25 specially trained dogs**, supported by specialised vehicles and field equipment.
- Developed of **15 standard operating procedures, 5 manuals and 6 brochures** on detection and investigation of cross-border crimes, including guidance on human rights and gender-sensitive approaches.
- Harmonised **investigation methods** through seminars, practical exercises, technical assistance and study visits.
- Enhanced use of **IT tools** for criminal investigations, improving detection, control and operational efficiency at borders.



[CLICK HERE](#) TO WATCH A VIDEO

COMPONENT 3 FACILITATION OF TRADE



KEY ACHIEVEMENTS:

- **E-customs and single-window systems** across the region, remote learning platforms in Tajikistan and Turkmenistan.
- **7 video modules and 3 e-lectures** on customs, veterinary and phytosanitary topics.
- **5 training programmes** for cargo inspection.
- **5 manuals** for e-learning and harmonised legislation with international standards (HACCP, Codex, IPPC, OIE).
- **Advisory councils** were supported in Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan and the Uzbekistan Customs Institute received WCO recognition.



[CLICK HERE](#) TO WATCH A VIDEO

COMPONENT 4 IMPROVEMENT OF CROSS- BORDER COOPERATION



KEY ACHIEVEMENTS:

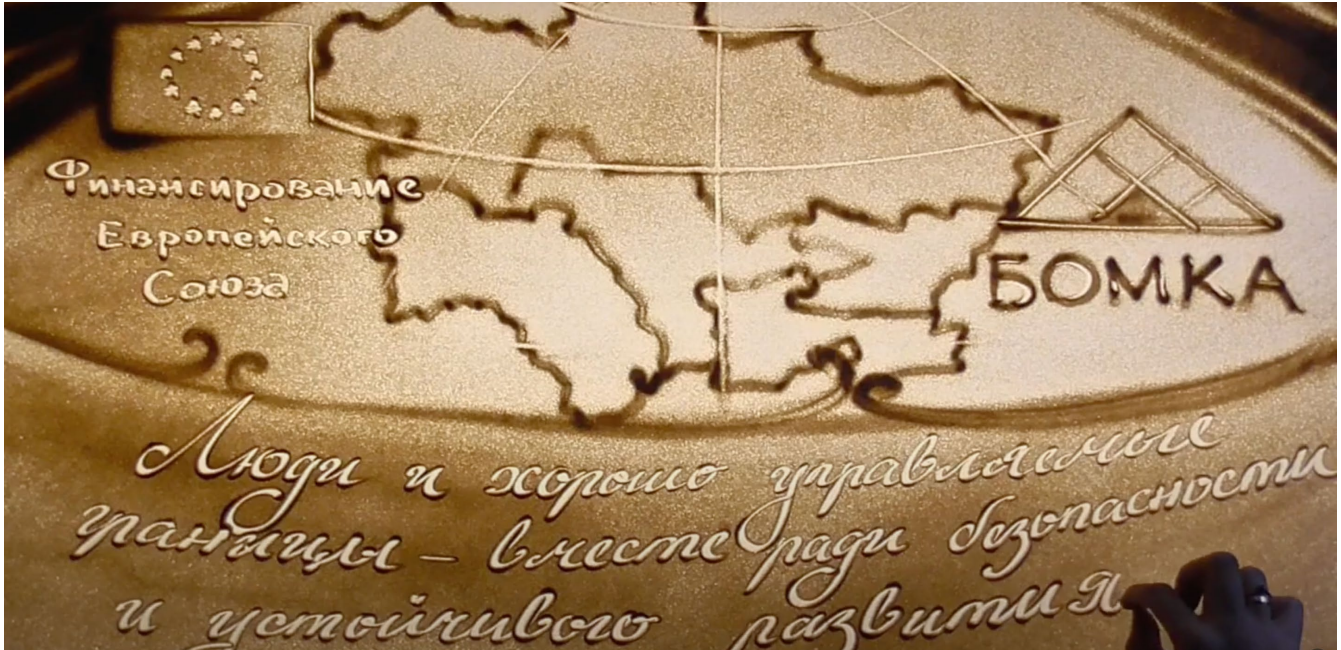
- **Over 350 local officials** trained in psychological support, human rights and anti-trafficking.
- **More than 300 female government staff** strengthened leadership, networks and service delivery in border regions.
- **Above 180 CSO representatives** improved skills in project management, budgeting and communication.
- **6 remote schools** equipped; **over 10 self-employed women**, including from migrant families, supported with tools for small businesses.
- **Around 70 EU-BOMCA-backed initiatives** promoted sustainable development, cooperation and stability in border communities.



[CLICK HERE](#) TO WATCH A VIDEO

A VISUAL TALE OF BOMCA - AS NEVER TOLD BEFORE

At the heart of BOMCA story lies the principle that people and well-managed borders go hand in hand on the path to security and sustainable development. This vision was vividly brought to life through a live sand art performance by Latvian artist Guna Mīkelsone. In real time, the performance told **“A visual tale of BOMCA — as never told before”** — showcasing its achievements, impact and the transformative journey across Central Asia through a creative and unforgettable visual narrative.



[CLICK HERE](#) TO WATCH A VIDEO

AFTERWORD: LOOKING AHEAD

The entire BOMCA 10 team extends its deepest thanks to the donor, the implementing Consortium and to all partners and dear friends for their outstanding contributions, presence and unwavering commitment throughout this remarkable journey!

The achievements of these years reach beyond a single Programme phase: building lasting trust, strengthening co-operation and fostering a shared vision of a stronger, more connected Central Asia. As we conclude Phase 10 of this flagship initiative, we look forward to continued partnership in the next phase.



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Contact us at
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WWW.BOMCA-EU.ORG



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