



Dr Erik SLAVENAS

Identity Management and Biometrics Officer

Erik Slavenas has 20 years of experience with IOM, ICAO and the Lithuanian diplomatic service. His IBM work locations have been as diverse as Afghanistan, Mali, Canada, Haiti, Cambodia and Finland.

Since July 2017, Erik serves as Identity Management and Biometrics Officer at Immigration and Border Management (IBM) Division at IOM Headquarters (HQ) in Geneva/Switzerland. His task is to develop new initiatives and provide support to IOM Missions in the fast-evolving area of traveller identification management in close cooperation with the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) aligned with the Traveller Identification Programme (ICAO TRIP) Strategy. Erik also acts a Secretariat for the IOM Biometrics for Identity Management Working Group (BIMWG) which performs a broad range of functions related to the use of biometrics. These include driving innovation, improving coordination within IOM, exploiting new technologies, developing IOM's biometrics strategy, providing support and guidance to colleagues in the field, developing guidance and training materials, facilitating contacts with outside partners including the private sector, and ensuring that lessons learned are captured and passed on within the Organization.

Erik's previous assignment was with IOM Mission in Mali developing and delivering border management technical assistance projects to countries in West Africa. His work focused on needs assessment, Integrated Border Management strategy development, and building capacity to combat terrorism and trans-border crime in the Sahel region.

Before returning to IOM, Erik's duties at the ICAO TRIP Programme focused on providing guidance to States, and capacity-building project development and implementation. He provided assistance on the implementation of relevant Standards (Annex 9 - Facilitation), specifications (Document 9303) and best international practices. In particular, he carried out travel document and border assessment missions, identified needs and opportunities, initiated new projects and mobilized relevant expertise for providing assistance to States in the implementation of the ICAO TRIP Strategy. Erik also coordinated a pool of technical experts in the areas of identification management, "breeder" documents, ICAO-compliant passport, visa and ID card tenders and border controls.

Erik has a PhD in Political Science from Vilnius University, Lithuania and postgraduate degrees in international affairs and security management from Central European University, Diplomatic Academy of Vienna and Cranfield University / Defence Academy of the United Kingdom