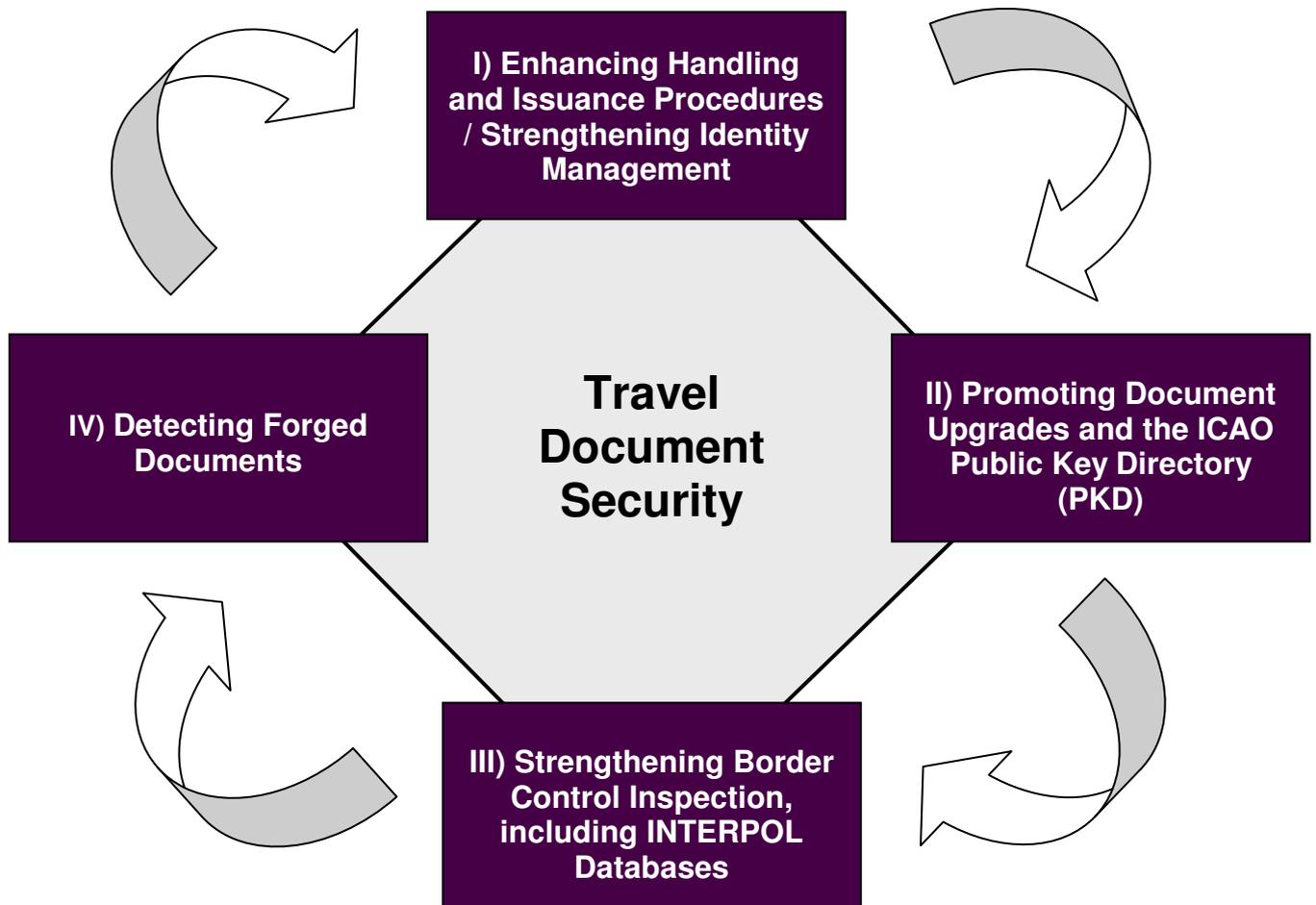**OSCE – TNT/Action against Terrorism Unit**
Email: atu@osce.org
Tel: +43 1 514 36 6881
Fax: +43 1 514 36 6687
Web: www.osce.org/atu/43237

OSCE Travel Document Security Programme

Summary

- TNT/ATU Travel Document Security (TDS) is a **comprehensive programme** with four interlocking components dealing with document security, identity security, access to databases and the physical inspection of travel documents.

- One of the many assets of the TDS programme is that it offers **law enforcement tools** to fight transnational threats such as the movement of terrorists, illegal migration, illicit trafficking in all its forms, as well as other trans-border crime.

- OSCE participating States realized very early the importance of strengthening travel document security for a successful fight against **terrorism**, as well as the added value it provides to **policing and border management.**

I) Enhancing Handling and Issuance Procedures / Strengthening Identity Management

IV) Detecting Forged Documents

Travel Document Security

II) Promoting Document Upgrades and the ICAO Public Key Directory (PKD)

III) Strengthening Border Control Inspection, including INTERPOL Databases

I. Enhancing Handling and Issuance Procedures / Identity Management

To combat the threat of terrorists and criminals using fake identities to obtain a genuine travel document, the TNT/ATU has various assistance packages that can be tailored to the needs of the individual country, including assessment missions, seminars and projects as required. Additionally, recognizing that electronic Machine Readable Travel Documents (eMRTDs) are only as secure as the documents "feeding" into them, activities increasingly also focus on national identity management by strengthening evidence of identity - breeder documents, civil registry systems and other media used to verify and/or validate a travel document applicant's identity.

II. Promoting the use of Electronic Documents & ICAO Public Key Directory

The TNT/ATU offers assistance in upgrading technological security features of travel documents to prevent them from being forged or counterfeited. In this context, it is vital to ascertain that the person holding a passport is indeed the authorized bearer. Since the majority of States are issuing eMRTDs with biographic and biometric data contained on a chip, the ATU us placing an emphasis on participation in the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) Public Key Directory (PKD). The PKD has been established as a multilateral exchange point for certificates used to validate the authenticity of electronic passports and identity cards.

III. Strengthening Border Control Inspection, including INTERPOL Databases

The TNT/ATU offers assistance to States in establishing real-time access to INTERPOL databases, including for Stolen/Lost Travel Documents (SLTD). This includes awareness-raising activities, trainings and technical assistance projects. In doing so it promotes the enhancement of border management systems in order to better capture, verify, share and analyze information on cross-border movements. The PKD is also a vital tool for border control since it is a vital precondition for an integrated travel document control including biometric verification, visa databases, law enforcement checks and traveller screening.

IV. Detecting Forged Documents

The TNT/ATU offers training for border police and customs officials to strengthen operational and analytical capacities of border management officials to detect forged travel documents. This is done by organizing train-the-trainer courses and donating basic inspection equipment, with a view to enhancing travel document forensic capabilities and building a network of experts to improve international co-operation on the latest forgery methods.

Mandate – Relevant Decisions

- **2001 Bucharest Plan of Action for Combating Terrorism**
- **2003 Travel Document Security, Maastricht Ministerial Council** (MC.DEC/7/03)
- **2004 Reporting Lost/Stolen Passports to INTERPOL** (MC.DEC/4/04)
- **2006 Further Measures to Prevent the Criminal Use of Lost/Stolen Passports and other Travel Documents** (MC.DEC/6/06)
- **2009 Travel Document Security – ICAO Public Key Directory** (MC.DEC/11/09)