

PRAGUE PROCESS

Key Data

Established: 2009
Partner States: 50
Secretariat: ICMPD

The Prague Process is a political initiative that developed out of the Building Migration Partnerships (BMP) Ministerial Conference, which took place in Prague on 28 April 2009. At this conference, the participating states adopted a Joint Declaration on the principles and initiatives for promoting close migration partnerships. Moreover, the participating states agreed to do so through a comprehensive, balanced and pragmatic approach that respects the human rights of migrants and their family members, as well as of refugees. The text of the BMP Joint Declaration was prepared by all BMP participating states with the active participation of several EU bodies and international organisations.

The Joint Declaration established the following five areas of cooperation:

- preventing and fighting illegal migration;
- integration of legally residing migrants;
- readmission, voluntary return and sustainable reintegration;
- migration, mobility and development;
- legal migration with a special emphasis on labour migration;
- asylum and international protection (added in 2011).

The main aim of the Prague Process has been to implement the objectives of the Global Approach to Migration and Mobility (GAMM), which constitutes the overarching framework for the external dimension of EU migration policy, in close cooperation with the partner countries in the East and South-East of the EU. The Senior Officials comprise the decisive body of the Prague Process.

The Prague Process Action Plan 2012–2016 outlines 22 concrete activities in the above 6 thematic areas. From 2012 to 2017, Poland and six other leading states implemented the EU-funded initiative “Support for the Implementation of the Prague Process and its Action Plan”, also known as the “Prague Process Targeted Initiative (PP TI)”. This initiative was led by Poland together with Czech Republic, Germany, Hungary,

Romania, Slovakia and Sweden, who also took the lead in the initiative’s pilot projects and supported the Prague Process financially on an ad-hoc basis. In 2017, the single-state leadership of the Process transformed into a collective leadership in the form of the Strategic Group composed of the Czech Republic, Hungary, Lithuania, Poland, the ongoing EU Presidency, the European Commission and ICMPD, which has served as the Prague Process Secretariat since the establishment of the Prague Process.

Participants

As of 2018, the following states are participants of the Prague Process: Albania, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Kazakhstan, Kosovo (UNSCR 1244/99), Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Malta, Montenegro, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Moldova, Romania, the Russian Federation, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Tajikistan, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, the United Kingdom and Uzbekistan.

In addition, various EU bodies, such as the European Commission (DG Migration and Home Affairs, DG International Cooperation and Development and DG Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement), Europol, Frontex, European Asylum Support Office and European External Action Service actively participate in the Prague Process. The international organisations ICMPD, IOM, MARRI and UNHCR also take part.



Projects

The “Building Migration Partnerships (BMP)” project (2009–2011) carried out activities to



strengthen relations between the participating states. These activities included missions at senior and expert levels, as well as the elaboration of migration profiles that have provided an overview of the migration situation in the states concerned and further facilitated migration partnerships. All extended migration profiles were transferred to the Prague Process website at www.pragueprocess.eu.

"The Prague Process: Continuation of the Building Migration Partnerships Dialogue (BMP Transitional)" project (July 2011–July 2012) updated the BMP knowledge base, finalised the text of the Prague Process Action Plan for the implementation of the BMP Joint Declaration from 2012–2016 and prepared the document for its endorsement at the Second Prague Process Ministerial Conference in Poznan, Poland on 3–4 November 2011.

The "Prague Process Targeted Initiative (PP TI)" project, aimed to enhance cooperation in the area of migration and asylum between the participating states through the implementation of the process and its Action Plan.

In addition to the PP TI, in 2013 - 2015 other projects, such as ERIS and SIPPAP, were implemented under the umbrella of the Prague Process. These projects were based on the Action Plan but implemented outside of the PP TI and followed the Prague Process's principles of equality and mutual interests, as well as its voluntary nature.

The 3rd Ministerial Conference in Bratislava on 19-20 September 2016 during the Presidency of Slovakia of the Council of the EU endorsed a political mandate for continuing the work of the Prague Process in the period 2017 – 2021 and confirmed the validity of the Action Plan.

After the end of PP TI the transition period from July to December 2017 aimed at the reconstruction of the management structure of the Process and at identification of approaches to implement the Bratislava Declaration. This "Transition Phase" (PP TP) was funded by the contributions of the European Commission through the Mobility Partnership Facility, as well as financial and other support provided by the Czech Republic, Hungary and Poland.

On 1 January 2018, the "**Prague Process: Dialogue, Analysis and Training in Action**" (PP DATA) was launched as strand C of the Mobility Partnership Facility 2 for the coming 36 months. PP DATA will continue the senior and

expert level dialogue and will aim at implementing the Bratislava Declaration, in particular focusing on establishing of the Training and Analytical Centre (TAC) composed of the Migration Observatory East and the Training Academy. The work will build upon the results and achievements of previous actions, working towards the next Ministerial Conference in 2021-2022.

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