



IMPACT OF THE BUDAPEST PROCESS

EXAMPLES FROM THE SILK ROUTES REGION

Migration dialogues are useful and relevant instruments for international cooperation when they both generate political support and demonstrate operational results. It is in this spirit that the Budapest Process has matured as a migration dialogue. During its 25 years of existence, the Budapest Process has come **to fully master the balance and inter-play between political dialogue and operational activities**. The meetings, from Ministerial to operational level, are flanked by operational activities in the Silk Routes region, giving the dialogue both purpose and direction.

Migration dialogues contribute to using a common language on migration, which greatly facilitates **mutual understanding between countries** as well as bilateral and multilateral cooperation. The dialogue meetings are excellent networking platforms, the information and expertise shared contribute to a **better understanding of different migration realities** across continents.

The political declaration *Silk Routes Partnership for Migration* has generated many concrete results for partners in and beyond the Silk Routes region. These results were achievable because of the solid foundation of trust and credibility set by the political dialogue. They contribute to the interests of all states participating in the process. Below are examples of such hands-on results which all build on the specific objectives and priorities laid down in the Istanbul Ministerial Declaration *Silk Routes Partnership for Migration*.

Better information to potential migrants

- Several **Migrant Resource Centres** (MRCs) have been established in Pakistan, Afghanistan and Iraq that inform outgoing, intending and potential migrants of the dangers of migrating irregularly. MRCs provide information and counselling services on possibilities for safe, legal and orderly migration as well as on rules and regulations. Additional MRCs will also be set-up in Bangladesh.
- MRCs also run **information campaigns**, do community outreach, organise televised debates on migration, and implement awareness raising measures and sms campaigns. The MRCs also provide pre-departure orientation to potential migrants and clear information on possibilities for safe, regular and orderly migration.

Cross-border cooperation between authorities in charge of managing migration and stopping migration-related crime

- **Cooperation between police and law enforcement authorities** of the Silk Routes countries and Turkey has been fostered through the project Regional Law Enforcement Cooperation (RELEC). Meetings between these authorities have been taking place at regular intervals since 2015.
- **The project RELEC** established a network between officials and elaborated a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), yet to be signed, on information exchange between relevant authorities.
- Currently, the project aims at implementation of the MOU on information exchange in **three main areas of cooperation**: irregular migration, migrant smuggling and human trafficking.

Interplay between dialogue and operational action

Common language and understanding

Networking

Concrete cooperation on the basis of dialogue

Migrant Resource Centres

Information Campaigns

Cross-border law enforcement cooperation

MOU on information exchange



Strengthening of policies and migration structures

- **National and regional workshops and training sessions** were organised in the Silk Routes region in all pillars of the Ministerial Declaration *Silk Routes Partnership for Migration* (legal migration, integration, migration and development, irregular migration including return and smuggling of migrants, trafficking in persons and international protection).
- Intergovernmental working groups were established and/or made better use of, whilst the improvement of training structures was promoted. For example **pilot trainings and a training manual** on trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants were elaborated for officials of the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) of Pakistan and used in pilot trainings. The training manual was also later adapted for Afghanistan and Iraq.

Capacity building in all areas of migration

Training manual on trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants

Targeted support to policy development in the countries of the region

- Support was provided to the Ministry of Refugees and Repatriation of Afghanistan to **develop a Comprehensive Migration Policy**. This framework was set to address issues related to mixed migration flows faced by Afghanistan. A pre-departure system for overseas employment was developed to support the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs.
- In Pakistan, activities supported the elaboration of a National Emigration and Welfare Policy for Overseas Pakistanis which has been submitted to the government for its approval. Measures are also in the pipeline to help **operationalise existing structures for better reintegration**, such as the Facilitation and Reintegration Centre of the Overseas Pakistanis Foundation and its Community Welfare Attachés.
- In Iraq, a zero draft of the National Policy for Engagement with Iraqis Abroad has been presented to national counterparts.
- In Bangladesh, capacity-building measures are ongoing to **develop guidelines and procedures on crisis management and diaspora engagement** and ensure protection of migrants throughout emergencies in their host countries.

Comprehensive migration policy

Pre-departure system

Policy on emigration

Reintegration measures

Engagement with nationals abroad

Protection of migrant workers

Projects:

2017-2021 ■ **“Improving Migration Management in the Silk Routes Region, including three flag-ship projects (RELEC, MRCs and MIGRAP).”**

Funded by the European Union

In support of the above framework, the following projects have been developed:

- *Establishing Migrant Resource Centres in Iraq funded by Norway*
- *Establishing responsive and sustainable Migrant Resource Centres in Bangladesh funded by Switzerland (final decision still pending)*

2019-2022 ■ **“Integrated Border Management in the Silk Routes Countries”**

Funded by the European Union

2014-2017 ■ **“Silk Routes Partnership Project”**

Funded by the European Union, Hungary (Lead Partner), Bulgaria, the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey and the United Kingdom

2013-2014 ■ **“Bridging Measures for Migration Management in the Silk Routes Region”**

Funded by the United Kingdom

2011-2013 ■ **“Fostering Migration Cooperation in the Silk Routes Region”**

Funded by The Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland and Turkey

Funded by

Chair



Co-Chair



Secretariat



ICMPD

International Centre for Migration Policy Development