INTRODUCTION AND ACHIEVEMENTS

The Budapest Process is an interregional dialogue on migration stretching from Europe to the Silk Routes region - also covering Europe’s Eastern neighbours, the Western Balkans and Central Asia. Over more than 25 years of existence, the Budapest Process has convened six Ministerial Conferences and continuously widened its geographical and thematic scope as a regional migration policy dialogue. In February 2019, twenty Ministers, several Deputy Ministers and States Secretaries from close to fifty countries participated in the 6th Ministerial Conference in Istanbul, Turkey.

In the presence of Dimitris Avramopoulos, European Commissioner for Migration, Home Affairs and Citizenship, and representatives of relevant organisations, close to 40 Budapest Process participating countries adopted “The Istanbul Commitments on the Silk Routes Partnership for Migration and its Call for Action – a five year plan” applying five key commitments.

Ministers agreed to take concerted action to endorse and implement a five-year plan which lists 41 actions; they follow six priority goals which had been adopted in the 2013 Istanbul Ministerial Declaration to ensure safe, orderly and regular migration.

THE ISTANBUL COMMITMENTS 2019

A FIVE YEAR PLAN (2019-2024) FOLLOWING THE SIX PRIORITY GOALS WHICH INCLUDES 41 ACTION POINTS

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As of 2020, the Budapest Process will focus on implementing the five-year action plan. Following the adoption of the Istanbul Commitments in February 2019, Senior Officials have endorsed the Budapest Process Strategic Document and Implementation Plan of the Call for Action which includes activities under the six priority goals. Three pillars of implementation (Dialogue, Operational Cooperation and Research Knowledge base) will guide the activities of the Budapest Process in the coming years.

The Implementation Plan remains open to added activities following new areas of interest or ad hoc requests. States or a group of countries are welcome to approach the Chairs and the Secretariat with resources, whether expertise or funds, to support the implementation of the Call for Action.

In parallel to implementing the activities, the Budapest Process will develop and launch a Results Oriented Learning Tool to regularly take stock of how activities are linked to the Call for Action and its endorsed implementation plan.

### Key Characteristics of the Budapest Process

- **Successful Policy Dialogue Flanked by Projects in the Silk Routes Region**
- **Networking Platform and Better Mutual Understanding of Different Migration Realities**
- **Solid Foundation of Trust Leading to Concrete Results, Which Operationalise Specific Policy Objectives and Priorities**

### Operational Results

**Information**
- Better Information for Migrants

**Policy**
- Migration Policies and Structures Through Capacity Development

**Cooperation**
- Regional Cooperation for Improved Migration Governance

### Migrant Resource Centres (MRCs)
- Information on Legal Migration and Dangers and Consequences of Irregular Migration
- Pre-departure and Post-arrival Orientation for Labour Migrants

### Policy, Institutional and Capacity Development
- Development of Migration Policies
- Enhancing Institutional Capacities
- Development of Sustainable Training Structures
- Programmes for Migrant Protection

### Regional Law Enforcement Cooperation
- Exchange of Information on Irregular Migration
THE LINK BETWEEN THE DIALOGUE AND REGIONAL PROJECTS

In 2010, Turkey, as Chair of the Budapest Process, invited governments of the Silk Routes region to join the dialogue. Many of them participated in the 5th Ministerial Conference in April 2013; its main outcome, the “Istanbul Ministerial Declaration”, established the operational framework for migration cooperation along the Silk Routes from Asia to Europe.

Subsequently, operational projects, funded by the European Union and several donors, were initiated in the Silk Routes countries. In February 2014, a comprehensive and regional migration management project was launched as a first big step and multilateral pledge to contribute to the implementation of the Istanbul Declaration. During three years, the project strengthened the migration management capacities of authorities in various countries, initiated the development of sustainable training systems and supported migration policy development frameworks.

The EU-funded project “Improving Migration Management in the Silk Routes Countries” builds on these foundations and achievements. It started in August 2017 and aims at maximising the development potential of migration and mobility within the Silk Routes region and towards major labour receiving countries. This project supports and develops the capacities of administrations in all aspects related to migration, supports migration policy development and informs and raises awareness amongst potential and outgoing migrants. It also directly supports several meetings held within the framework of the intergovernmental dialogue, including the 2019 Ministerial Conference.

The project also addresses the priority goals of the 2013 Istanbul Ministerial Declaration as well as the Call for Action in the 2019 Istanbul Commitments. The project results are shared at dialogue meetings and inform senior officials about continued collaboration and prevailing challenges.
The Budapest Process provides a platform for dialogue and operational cooperation for over 50 governments and 10 international organisations. The dialogue is chaired by Turkey and co-chaired by Hungary. The International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD) hosts the Budapest Process Secretariat.

Over 25 years of operation, the Budapest Process has built up a far-reaching network among participating states and wide thematic coverage. The Budapest Process offers a platform for learning and training between peers as well as for facilitating concrete project development and cooperation.

**About the Budapest Process**

**1991**: Initial Ministerial Conference in Berlin with Western, Central and South European countries.

**1993**: Official launch in Budapest with countries in wider Europe. Hungary is Chair.

**2003**: Central Asian countries join the Dialogue.

**2006**: Turkey takes over chairmanship. Hungary becomes co-chair.

**2010**: The Silk Routes countries join the Dialogue.

**2013**: Istanbul Ministerial Conference defines “A Silk Routes Partnership for Migration.”

**2019**: Adoption of The Istanbul Commitments on the Silk Routes Partnership for Migration and Its Call for Action – a five year plan.

**PARTICIPATING AND OBSERVER STATES**

- European Union Member States
- Afghanistan
- Albania
- Armenia
- Australia
- Azerbaijan
- Bangladesh
- Belarus
- Bosnia-Herzegovina
- Georgia
- Iran
- Iraq
- Kazakhstan
- Kyrgyzstan
- Liechtenstein
- North Macedonia
- Moldova
- Montenegro
- Norway
- Pakistan
- Russian Federation
- Serbia
- Switzerland
- Tajikistan
- Turkey
- Turkmenistan
- Ukraine
- Uzbekistan