About the Budapest Process

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. It 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.

During its close to 30 years of operation, the Budapest Process has built up a far-reaching network among participating states and wide thematic coverage. The dialogue is valued in the regions it involves and its methodology is well trusted: the unbinding nature, the setting of trust as well as fostering of an equal level principle have made cooperation possible, also on sensitive issues.

The Budapest Process offers a platform for learning and training between peers as well as for facilitating concrete project development and cooperation. In 2020, activities quickly shifted to a virtual setting due to the Covid-19 pandemic and the dialogue found new ways to engage with partners online.

The Budapest Process has come to master the balance and interplay between political dialogue and operational action, with concrete projects flanking it and creating tangible outcomes of its political objectives. It supports and develops the capacities of administrations in all aspects related to the movement of people, including awareness of how migration could be more beneficial for the development of each country.

Budapest Process Milestones

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1993</td>
<td>Turkey takes over chairmanship</td>
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<td>2006</td>
<td>The Silk Routes countries join the Dialogue</td>
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<td>2011–13</td>
<td>First projects in the region with multiple donors</td>
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<td>2013</td>
<td>Istanbul Ministerial Conference</td>
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<td>2014–17</td>
<td>“Silk Routes Partnership Project” (EU as lead partner)</td>
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<td>2017–22</td>
<td>“Improving Migration Management in the Silk Routes”</td>
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<td>2019</td>
<td>2019 Ministerial Conference</td>
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Strengths of the Budapest Process

Informal and flexible FRAMEWORK for migration policy development

PLATFORM for regional migration policy coordination

SPRINGBOARD for migration policy projects and new approaches

migration policy NETWORK and knowledge hub

Key Data

Chair: TURKEY
Established: 1993
Participating States: 52
Participating Organisations: 17

Co-Chair: HUNGARY
Secretariat: ICMPD
Observer States: 7
Regional Working Groups: 3
Main Results achieved so far

In February 2019, the Budapest Process held its 6th Ministerial Conference and developed an implementation plan of the adopted “Call for Action”.

The Istanbul Commitments on the Silk Routes Partnership for Migration and its Call for Action

- 6th Ministerial Conference in Istanbul, Turkey on 20 February 2019
- Adoption of the political declaration in the presence of the European Commissioner for Migration, Home Affairs and Citizenship, Dimitris Avramopoulos and 20+ Ministers and Deputy Ministers
- Close to 40 countries adopted the political declaration and its action plan
- The Call for Action contains 41 action points listed under 6 priority areas. The action points cover many aspects of migration and mobility, displaying the wide thematic range of the dialogue

The Implementation Plan of the Call for Action

- Senior Officials endorsed the Implementation Plan which includes activities for the next five years
- The Implementation Plan of the Call for Action frames the priorities for the upcoming years and provides an opportunity for states to contribute and fund certain priorities
- The Implementation Plan remains a living document while providing the direction and focus of the Budapest Process until 2024
- The Reference Group was established in 2020. The Group’s main task is to follow up on this implementation and provide a red thread between meetings of the Budapest Process, deepened engagement and its operational activities in the Silk Routes Region

Five Key Commitments

1. Partnership
2. Comprehensive migration governance
3. International human rights
4. Support and solidarity
5. Knowledge

Six Priority Goals

- Prevent and counteract irregular migration, facilitating return and readmission of irregular migrants
- Better organise and improve conditions for legal migration and mobility
- Support integration of migrants and counteract phenomena of discrimination, racism and xenophobia
- Strengthen positive impact of migration on development
- Prevent and combat trafficking in persons
- Promote international protection

One Call for Action

A five year plan (2019–2024) following the six priority goals which includes 41 action points