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Ireland joins the European migration organisation ICMPD

Ireland becomes 21st Member State of the International Centre for Migration Policy Development

Vienna, 31 July 2024 — ICMPD is growing with another member: Ireland is the 21st Member State to join ICMPD's work in finding innovative solutions to regional migration challenges. Ireland's accession is the latest after Germany (2020), Greece (2021), and the Netherlands (2023) joined ICMPD in recent years.

"Global migration is increasingly complex and multifaceted. Ireland cannot go it alone; effective migration policy cannot be developed or implemented in isolation. Ireland becoming a member of the International Centre for Migration Policy Development is very welcome, and brings a wealth of expertise which will be an invaluable resource to Irish policymakers," Irish Minister for Justice Helen McEntee TD, said.

Ireland and ICMPD have been working together for the past 20 years, collaborating on a number of migration governance projects through research. These include studies around irregular migration and trends and outcomes of regularisation policies, as well as analysis of various policy implementation ([MirreM](#)); evaluating the framework and practice of the Common European Asylum System ([CEASEVAL](#)); and producing evidence to support policy in the EU on complementary pathways to admit adult refugees through technical and vocational skills ([REF-VET](#)), among many others.

Furthermore, Ireland also holds an active role in migration dialogues supported by ICMPD, such as the [Budapest Process](#) and [Prague Process](#); as well as developing a guide to integrate recently arrived migrants in the region ([SPRING](#)); policy research, information sharing, and capacity-building on the Medical Country of Origin ([MedCOI](#)) initiative; and in developing methods and strategies to assist survivors of trafficking, sexual abuse, and exploitation of children particularly those committed using online channels ([HEROES](#)).

"We are happy to welcome Ireland as our newest Member State. ICMPD's Member States represent a group of countries highly relevant to and uniquely positioned in tackling issues around migration; and Ireland has been an active stakeholder in these efforts. As a Member State, Ireland will further strengthen the strategic dimension of our engagement with the broader European Union and beyond," said ICMPD Director-General Michael Spindelegger.

"Beyond being a destination country for migrants, Ireland's active collaboration with ICMPD and the country's experience in responding to various migration themes, will strengthen our possibilities to respond jointly and more effectively to the opportunities and challenges, and work towards improved migration systems at the regional level," Mr Spindelegger added.

ICMPD was founded on the initiative of Austria and Switzerland in 1993, when the migration reality in Europe was dramatically altered by the political changes in Eastern Europe and the Balkan conflicts. The ranks of its Member States saw their first growth in the 1990s with the addition of Hungary in 1995 and Slovenia in 1998. Czechia then followed in 2001; Sweden, Poland and Bulgaria in 2003; Portugal and Croatia in 2004; and Slovakia in 2006.

Romania and Serbia were the next to join in 2011 followed by Bosnia and Herzegovina in 2012 and North Macedonia in 2015. Malta and Türkiye both joined in 2018 followed by Germany in 2020 and Greece in 2021. ###

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About ICMPD

The International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD) is an international organisation, with 21 Member States and working in more than 90 countries worldwide. Contributing to the development of better and safer migration policies and programmes, ICMPD takes a holistic approach to migration: structurally linking policy and research, cooperation, community outreach, and capacity development. With over 500 staff members, it takes a regional approach in its work towards efficient cooperation and partnerships along key migration routes, with a focus on Africa, Central and South Asia, Europe, Mediterranean, and the Middle East.

Founded in 1993 with headquarters in Vienna and liaison office in Brussels, ICMPD holds UN observer status and cooperates with more than 200 partners including EU institutions, UN agencies, Member States, and several other countries. ICMPD receives contributions from its Member States and bilateral donors, the European Commission, UN partners, and other multilateral institutions.

For more information about ICMPD visit: www.icmpd.org

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