WHAT IS THE INTERNATIONAL CENTRE FOR MIGRATION POLICY DEVELOPMENT?

The International Centre for Migration Policy Development is a key European player in the migration field. The organisation has 15 member states and carries out activities throughout the world.

Besides its headquarters in Vienna and a mission in Brussels, it has 8 field offices and a total of 150 staff.

The organisation was founded in 1993 to serve as a support mechanism for informal consultations, and to provide expertise in the newly emerging landscape of multilateral cooperation on migration and asylum issues.

WHO ARE THE MEMBER STATES OF ICMPD?

ICMPD currently has 15 Member States: Austria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Republic of Macedonia, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Sweden and Switzerland. Turkey holds observer status, awaiting a final decision on membership to ICMPD.

WHERE DOES ICMPD WORK?

ICMPD’s activities focus particularly on developments in Europe and the European Union, as well as in Africa, Central Asia, the Middle East and Latin America. Operations in the field are supported by project offices in Abuja, Ankara, Beirut, Bishkek, Brasília, Skopje, Tbilisi and Tunis.

In 2016, offices are due to be opened in Baku and in Yerevan, with representations to follow in all other Central Asian countries.

HOW IS ICMPD FUNDED?

ICMPD receives funding from its Member States, the European Commission, the UN and other multilateral institutions, as well as bilateral donors. Its annual budget is about EUR 20 million.

HOW IS ICMPD GOVERNED?

The Director General is the highest executive officer of ICMPD and has full managerial responsibility. He/she reports to the Steering Group, constituted by representatives of ICMPD Member States, and which exercises general supervision of ICMPD, approving the annual report and the work programme. The chair of the Steering Group is held in rotation by each of ICMPD’s 15 Member States.

HOW HAS ICMPD REACTED TO THE MIGRATION CRISIS IN EUROPE?

ICMPD has been analysing the migration routes to and through Europe, studying policy options and proposals – as relocation quota, resettlement plans, or measures to reduce smuggling – and evaluating their possible impact on EU member states and the Western Balkans.

In the short term, there is an urge to solve the immediate (humanitarian) crisis. Mid and long term policy discussion in Europe on migration should be guided by strategic questions, not be driven by the crisis.
WHAT DOES ICMPD DO?

ICMPD strives for comprehensive, sustainable and future-oriented migration governance. Our activities cover on a broad range of topics including asylum, border management and visa, irregular migration and return, legal migration and integration, migration and development, and trafficking in human beings.

ICMPD’s is based on a three-pillar approach:

- Research
- Migration Dialogues
- Capacity Building

RESEARCH

We have built a reputation for research on international migration trends, patterns and policies based on comparative analysis. ICMPD’s research is policy-oriented and empirical with an interdisciplinary approach.

We have recently conducted a study for the European Commission looking into the characteristics of human smuggling. Based on this research, we have proposed measures to curb smuggling effectively in Europe.


MIGRATION DIALOGUES

Migration dialogues are successful tools to foster regional or international consultations and cooperation in this field. They have gained importance over the past 20 years. ICMPD acts as permanent secretariat or provides support services for a number of migration dialogues connecting Europe, the Middle East, Central Asia, the Silk Routes Region and Africa.

ICMPD acts as a facilitator of dialogue between the EU and Africa on migration and mobility. We are involved in the preparations and follow up of important EU-Africa meetings. ICMPD has also fostered enhanced cooperation between the two continents through the implementation of concrete projects, for example on the field of diaspora engagement.


CAPACITY BUILDING

Through its capacity building projects, ICMPD develops and organises training programmes, facilitates international and interagency cooperation and supports governmental and administrative bodies in their institution building, policy formulation and legal reform efforts.

ICMPD has been providing support for the foundation of Turkey’s new specialised migration authority. We were working to enhance the operational capacity and institutional development of the government agency. All activities were tailored according to Turkey’s needs.