ICMPD and IES launch new lecture series on migration in the Mediterranean

BRUSSELS, 3 March 2014 – ICMPD, in association with the Institute for European Studies (IES), Vrije Universiteit Brussel (VUB) is proud to present a new lecture series: “Migration in the Mediterranean”. The series provides an opportunity for reflection on recent issues of concern for Europe, North Africa and the Middle East – from mobility and urbanisation, to policing activities and humanitarian concerns in and around the Mediterranean region. It aims to bring migration discussions to a wide audience of policymakers, practitioners, academics, students, civil society organisations and concerned citizens.

The Mediterranean region is one of the most important areas for the migration of peoples, as it is located at the crossroads of three continents. During recent events in North Africa, thousands of migrants and asylum seekers embarked on very dangerous sea crossings, at great risk to their lives. Human rights concerns arise regarding international protection of, and assistance to, people rescued at sea. The recent Lampedusa tragedy has shown all the more that migration in the Mediterranean remains a pressing policy issue. Given the growing importance of migration in and around the Mediterranean region, different initiatives have been developed in the European Union (EU), EU Member States, North Africa and the Middle East. A number of dialogues and initiatives between the EU and the Southern Mediterranean countries have also been established. Moreover, at the sub-state level, the increasing urbanisation of migration flows in recent years poses new challenges for effective migration planning and management by cities of destination.

This is the 2nd year that ICMPD and IES join forces to organise a lecture series on migration. It will feature lectures with a combination of one high-level practitioner and one academic discussing a particular question related to migration in the Mediterranean region. Each lecture will dedicate ample time to discussions with the audience. A policy brief produced by ICMPD and IES will follow this lecture series. The lectures will take place every Monday from 10 to 31 March 2014 from 18:00–20:00 at the IES, Vrije Universiteit Brussel (VUB). Attendance is free, but registration is required. Interested persons can register here. The lectures will be in English unless otherwise stated. The preliminary programme of the lecture series can be downloaded here.

# # #
For more information, please contact:

**ICMPD Brussels Mission**  
Chantal Lacroix  
Programme Manager  
Deputy Head of Mission  
Tel: +32 2 233 1161  
Fax: +32 2 231 1430  
chantal.lacroix@icmpd.org  
www.icmpd.org

**Communications Unit**  
Amy Nichols  
ICMPD  
Tel: +43 1 504 4677 2395  
Fax: +43 1 504 4677 2375  
media@icmpd.org  
www.icmpd.org

The International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD), established in 1993 by Austria and Switzerland, is an international organisation that works in migration-related fields. Although ICMPD has a European basis, it carries out its activities throughout the world, including in Europe, Africa, Central Asia, the Middle East and South America. Through its six Competence Centres, ICMPD provides its 15 Member States and numerous partners with in-depth knowledge and expertise in dealing with the phenomena of migration. It does so through using a holistic 3-pillar approach: research, capacity building and migration dialogues.

*For more information about ICMPD visit: [www.icmpd.org](http://www.icmpd.org)*

*Follow ICMPD online:*