ICMPD signs cooperation agreement with Moldova

On 9 January 2012, the “Agreement between ICMPD and the Republic of Moldova on the Status of the Organisation in the Republic of Moldova and on Cooperation in the Migration Field” was signed in Vienna. Cooperation in the migration field, established nearly 15 years ago within the framework of the Budapest Process, has developed significantly and diverse activities have been implemented since. Currently, Moldovan institutions are involved in projects dealing with return and readmission, border management, migration management and combating trafficking in human beings.

Brussels Mission looks forward to an active year

2012 already promises to be an active year for ICMPD’s Brussels Mission. The first few months of the year will see the launch of two major EU-funded programmes on migration that will be implemented by the Brussels Mission team: Migration EU Expertise II (MIEUX II) and External Thematic Expertise on Migration IV (ETEM IV). On 22 March 2012, a special MIEUX event will be held to highlight the success of MIEUX I and to introduce the start of MIEUX II.

EUROMED project begins

The EU-funded project Euro-Mediterranean Migration III (EUROMED III), which commenced in January, is being implemented by ICMPD as part of a consortium. EUROMED III aims to foster cooperation on migratory issues between the EU and European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument (ENPI) South countries and among ENPI South countries themselves. It will also assist these ENPI countries in their efforts to govern migration.

Projects launch websites

Two important ICMPD projects are launching websites that will facilitate the spread and use of information in migration-related topics. The website for the project “Reintegration in Kosovo – Cooperation with Micro-credit Institutions (ReKoKO)” was launched on 21 February 2012 and the website for the new MTM interactive map on migration (i-Map) will be launched in mid-March 2012.

TRM-II project concludes

The ICMPD Project “Enhancing Transnational Cooperation on Trafficking Cases in South-Eastern Europe (TRM-II)”, funded by USAID, concluded with a final seminar on 27 - 29 February in Bucharest. With already 67 events involving more than 2,200 participants, it is clear that TRM has evolved from a project into a concept that promotes international cooperation in anti-trafficking. At the event, the follow-up ICMPD project “Capacity Building for Combating Trafficking for Labour Exploitation”, funded by the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs, was also launched. This project aims to address gaps in the capacity of different national stakeholders to handle cases of trafficking for labour exploitation.

Upcoming events

22 Mar MIEUX Special Event in Brussels, Belgium

2-3 Apr Senior Officials Meeting and Targeted Initiative - Kickoff Meeting of the Prague Process in Warsaw, Poland

25-26 Apr Budapest Process Working Group on the South East European Region in Zagreb, Croatia

22 May MTM 10th Anniversary Meeting in Valletta, Malta
What John Ruskin, a social philosopher, wrote as early as in the 19th century means that only a learning organisation can consistently deliver high quality and ensure that its initiatives create the desired impact. With more than 100 staff members in various locations, organisational learning means to have a system in place which ensures responsiveness towards the requirements of our stakeholders, now and in the future. This system needs to preserve some of our most valued and renowned attributes, such as innovation and flexibility, while at the same ensuring that processes and procedures make us work efficiently and coherently as an organisation. Standardising what is necessary for streamlining and coherence and preserving space for creativity and innovation were, thus, the key considerations in the recent development of our Quality Management System (QMS).

ICMPD decided to implement its QMS based on the ISO 9001:2008 standards. This has the added value of providing objective outside evaluations of the actual implementation of the QMS in line with the standards. The external certification will give our existing and potential partners additional quality assurance. We are looking forward to undergoing the certification process this year.

A key element in the quality management system is Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E). Since the introduction of Project Cycle Management by the European Commission by the early 1990s, M&E has become an integral part of programme/project planning and implementation. Two decades later, at the GFMD meeting in Marseille in 2011, experts still stated a “lack of evaluation culture” for the field of migration. If projects are being evaluated at all, efforts are often restricted to the output level, i.e., the tangible results produced.

At ICMPD we have realised that this is not enough. We do not conduct trainings or develop trans-regional referral systems for victims of trafficking in human beings just for the sake of a project, but because we want to bring about change. To determine the extent of the impact we bring about through our projects and what works best, we need systematic Monitoring and Evaluation also at the outcome level (i.e., at the level of effects). The M&E system will provide ICMPD Member States and donors with answers to questions such as “Does this measure financed by us really work? For whom? Can it be applied to another context?” All these questions are essential to policy making, yet in the area of migration there are hardly any answers available. With the introduction of QMS and strong M&E capacities, it is our aim that future issues of this newsletter will feature answers to some of these questions.

Gabriela Abado
Deputy Director General
Director of Human and Financial Resources

“Quality is never an accident – it is always the result of intelligent effort”.

1/2012 ICMPD Newsletter
The Migration EU Expertise (MIEUX) Programme is a joint EU-ICMPD initiative that aims to enhance the capacities of countries outside the EU to effectively govern migration through providing tailored technical assistance. In doing so, the programme assists not only these countries, but also EU countries, in achieving their political and geographical priorities in the area of migration governance. Funded by the EU, MIEUX enables EU Member States to develop strong partnerships with non-EU countries through the deployment of their experts to countries that receive MIEUX assistance (partner countries).

MIEUX has quickly become an attractive tool for its partner countries, as it enables them to bring about policy and institutional reforms and to upgrade structures to meet international standards. Perhaps its most appealing feature is that it is not based on the usual top-down approach, but on cooperation and mutual learning. This approach allows for the development of trust and open communication between the partner countries, the EU and ICMPD, which can act as a catalyst for longer-term cooperation.

MIEUX Programme Management

The MIEUX programme is managed by the ICMPD Brussels Mission in close cooperation with the European Commission. They provide the partner countries with institutional and administrative support, from organising workshops and trainings to drafting policy documents. Other tasks of the ICMPD team include selecting, managing and supporting the experts deployed. Moreover, the team prepares necessary background documents and ensures that the reports, recommendations and guidelines produced for national authorities and/or EU Member States and institutions are of a high quality. As the ICMPD team members are also experts in the migration field, they are able to provide additional expertise.

Each MIEUX technical assistance action is implemented by a member of the ICMPD team and an EU Member State expert(s) who can be mobilised and deployed rapidly. The ability to quickly mobilise an action team sets MIEUX apart from other technical assistance programmes and makes it an efficient and flexible tool.
The Experts

MIEUX would not be so successful without the assistance of EU Member State experts. These experts provide their peers in partner countries first-hand experience of migration governance from the European perspective and assist in facilitating cooperation between the EU and the partner countries. Therefore, they are crucial in achieving the objectives of MIEUX actions.

Through their experts' participation, EU Member States are able to gain many benefits. Specifically, they can: 1) initiate and promote dialogue/cooperation with requesting countries, 2) increase cooperation among the EU Member States themselves and 3) deepen their knowledge of other EU Member States' structures by working with other EU civil servants or representatives.

The identification of experts is, therefore, a key element to the success of each individual action. It is based on a tailored set of procedures called the Expert Management Mechanism, which has proven to be extremely effective in providing MIEUX with top experts in the migration field.

“MIEUX has strongly contributed to (re)generate synergies with ongoing activities at the bilateral level, with an overall positive impact on the bilateral cooperation strategy on migration with these countries”. – Ana Filipa Silva, External Relations Officer, Service of Foreigners and Frontiers, Portugal

MIEUX I (2009 - 2011) and MIEUX II (2012 - 2014)

In its three years of implementation, the first phase of MIEUX (MIEUX I) received over 50 requests for technical assistance from more than 60 countries and regional bodies. A total of 70 experts from various EU Member States were deployed and contributed to the outstanding achievements of the first phase.

As a result of MIEUX I’s remarkable success, MIEUX II will be able to deliver short-term, tailored technical assistance with a broader thematic scope, now aligned with the objectives of the 2011 “EU Global Approach to Migration and Mobility”. The programme will then encompass all areas of migration governance, from migration and development, to legal migration and labour migration. MIEUX II’s extended scope means that even more experts...
from across the EU Member States will be needed and from a wider range of national authorities (e.g., ministries of labour, integration services, etc.).

MIEUX II will officially commence at a special event in Brussels on 22 March 2012. This event will bring together practitioners and policy makers from EU institutions, EU Member States, non-EU countries, as well as other stakeholders, to reflect on the lessons learned and successes of the past three years and to look ahead to MIEUX II. The event will also feature the launch of the first MIEUX publication: “MIEUX in Action 2009 - 2011”, which reflects on the first phase’s main achievements.

**MIEUX Action Map**

*as of February 2012*

- **Completed**
  - Angola
  - Armenia
  - Bolivia
  - Colombia
  - Kazakhstan
  - MERCOSUR
  - Mozambique
  - Panama
  - SICA

- **Ongoing**
  - Burkina Faso
  - Cape Verde
  - COMESA
  - ECOWAS
  - Gabon
  - Ghana
  - India
  - Kenya
  - Mali
  - Mauritania
  - Palestine
  - Senegal
  - The Gambia
  - The Philippines
  - Uganda
  - Uzbekistan

- **Ongoing and Completed**
  - Argentina
  - Azerbaijan
  - Brazil
  - Costa Rica
  - Ethiopia
  - Malawi
  - Moldova/Eastern Partners
  - Paraguay
  - Sierra Leone
  - Zambia
Currently, two projects are being implemented by ICMPD providing individualised and tailor-made support to migrants returning to their home – one in Kosovo (under UNSCR 1244/1999, referred to under the general name Kosovo for the remainder of the text) and one in Ukraine. They are managed from ICMPD’s headquarters in Vienna in cooperation with field offices in Pristina and in Kiev. The project “Reintegration in Kosovo – Co-operation with Micro-credit Institutions (ReKoKO)” is co-funded by the European Return Fund and the Federal Ministry of the Interior of Austria.

In Ukraine, ICMPD recently launched the second phase of the project “Post-Arrival Assistance to Migrants Returning to Ukraine (PAA UA II)”. This project is co-funded by the European Return Fund and the Repatriation and Departure Service (RDS) of the Netherlands.

Solid Basis for Reintegration Efforts in Countries of Origin

The project design of ICMPD’s reintegration projects is to a large extent based on practical experience, lessons learned from previous projects and recommendations from relevant research studies. The most recent is the “Comparative Study on Best Practices to Interlink Pre-departure Reintegration Measures Carried Out in Member States with Short- and Long-term Reintegration Measures in the Countries of Return”, implemented by Matrix Insight in cooperation with the European Council on Refugees and Exiles (ECRE) and ICMPD.

In the framework of both the ReKoKO and the PAA UA II projects, returnees receive counselling prior to return. Upon arrival, a broad range of individualised services is provided, which is in-kind and decided in close consultation with the returnees. In addition, an online platform supporting the often difficult search for jobs was recently launched in the framework of the ReKoKO project.

The ReKoKO project became fully operational in February 2011. Since then, dozens of returnees coming back from Austria (Vienna and Styria) have participated in the project and have been assisted throughout Kosovo.

The PAA UA II project supports the long-term reintegration of Ukrainian migrants who do not have the legal right to reside in the Netherlands. This project covers persons returning from locations throughout the Netherlands to Ukraine.
Informing the Beneficiaries

In the ReKoKO project, persons who decide to return voluntarily from Austria receive return counselling at the ReKoKO project partners Verein Menschenrechte or Caritas. Once migrants are referred to ICMPD they are supported in Kosovo up to 12 months following the date of return. In the Netherlands, prior to return, each returnee is assigned to a Dutch case manager who provides them with necessary information on the PAA UA II project. As in Kosovo, returnees can be supported up to 12 months following the date of return.

During return counselling, returnees receive a brochure that informs them about the project support offered in their home countries. Lastly, the online platform www.rekoko.org gives migrants returning to Kosovo information on employment opportunities and general information about Kosovo, as well as the contact information of service providers and companies.

Tailor-made Support in Close Consultation with the Returnees

Depending on the returnees’ individual requirements, the assistance offered by the ReKoKO project covers immediate needs, such as social and administrative assistance, as well as health care services. In terms of longer-term needs of returnees, the ReKoKO project assists with job placements and vocational training. Some returnees are also referred to national centres for further vocational training. Together with an economic and bank expert from Kosovo, the ReKoKO project organises business training and coaching, on-the-job training in various companies throughout Kosovo and provides assistance with micro-credit applications.

“I always wanted to study at University. Thanks to the project support, I have attended three levels of English language courses, which is most needed for employment as well as for further studies”. – A student from the municipality of Vushtrri, Kosovo

In order to ensure the same tailor-made assistance to a country the size of Ukraine, the PAA UA II project works with a network of support service providers for returnees in Ukraine. The assistance offered to returnees includes support for basic needs upon arrival in Ukraine, such as temporary accommodation, medical or psychological care, legal assistance and special care for children.

Vocational training and business coaching are also offered to increase the returnee’s prospect of generating adequate income. When needed, returnees can be temporarily assisted with rent payments to give them the opportunity to invest more time in finding a more suitable job. In other cases, referrals to employment centres may suffice to support returnees in finding employment.

“I was lucky and had the pleasure to attend a business training organised by the ReKoKO project. This training helped me to gain basic knowledge in establishing a business, business management and market analysis. This training was very useful for me since we have our own family business, a grocery shop”. – A young man who returned to Kosovo together with his uncle
A Look Back on Switzerland’s Chairmanship of the GFMD

Based on a conversation with Ambassador Dr. Thomas Greminger, Permanent Mission of Switzerland to the International Organisations in Vienna

The Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD) is an outcome of the first UN General Assembly High-level Dialogue on Migration and Development in 2006, but operates outside the UN system. The GFMD gathers states to discuss policies, practical challenges and opportunities related to the migration-development nexus. It is a government-driven, informal and voluntary process with nonbinding outcomes. Mauritius holds the Chairmanship in 2012.

In 2011, Switzerland held the Chairmanship of the GFMD. This year marked a different decentralised and action-oriented approach of the Forum since its establishment five years ago. 2011 also saw the deepening of the global financial crisis and the beginning of the ‘Arab Spring’. The ‘Arab Spring’ brought about not only a wave of democratisation in the North African region, but also significant effects on migration patterns.

The Swiss decided to hold a series of smaller, thematic meetings targeting the “real practitioners on the ground” in all corners of the world. These meetings were organised around three thematic clusters, namely, ‘labour mobility and development’, ‘addressing irregular migration through coherent migration and development strategies’ and ‘tools for evidence-based migration and development policies’. This format provided GFMD meeting participants with opportunities to address issues of global importance and actively include in the discussions relevant stakeholders, such as non-governmental organisations, business leaders, trade unions and migrant associations. Such a wide spectrum of participation enriched the governmental deliberations during the Concluding Debate held in Geneva in December 2011 and helped set the Forum apart from other migration dialogues that typically do not involve these groups. The response to this new format of smaller, thematic meetings in different regions was welcomed, as reflected by the large number of participants (more than 1,200).

Ambassador Greminger supported the statement of Federal Councillor Simonetta Sommaruga at the Concluding Debate: whoever tries to develop national migration policy without looking beyond borders will fail. The challenges can only be addressed in partnership and outcome-oriented dialogue. Hence, the experience of chairing the GFMD was considered valuable for Switzerland and supported this approach.

ICMPD supported the Swiss Chairmanship by sending ICMPD staff member Ms. Malin Frankenhæuser as an adviser on migration and development to the Federal Office for Migration in Bern.
Family Reunification – a Barrier or Facilitator of Integration?

Family reunification has become a main mode of immigration to the EU and as such, is also a matter of increasing political controversy. Family reunification involves reunification with spouses and children or members of the wider family separated by forced or voluntary migration in a country other than their country of origin. In EU Member States, family reunification policies involving third country national sponsors are regulated by Directive 2003/86/EC on the right to family reunification.

However, national policies remain important, as the family reunification directive leaves wide room for discretion by the individual Member States. Family reunification involving EU citizen sponsors exercising their freedom of movement are regulated by a different directive (Directive 2004/38/EC on the right of EU citizens and their family members to move and reside freely in the EU). This directive circumscribes the legal obligations of EU Member States much more narrowly than the family reunification directive. Citizens not enjoying freedom of movement rights are exclusively regulated by national laws.

In recent years, policy makers have increasingly debated the link between family reunification and integration, calling into question whether family reunification is beneficial for the integration of the resident immigrant population and for social cohesion in general, and whether the existing policy framework accurately serves this aim. The ongoing consultation on the family reunification directive (due to be completed in March 2012) has to be seen in this context, although its main aim is to review the implementation of the family reunification directive and explore possible options for its revisions.

The new study, in which ICMPD is one of seven partner organisations, addresses exactly these issues. The aim of the Family Reunification Project is to conduct research – over the next 12 months – on how admission laws and different patterns of migration impact integration, and to promote admission policies that favour the effective integration of third-country nationals within EU Member States. The project is funded under the European Integration Fund and will run over a period of 18 months.
The Family Reunification Project’s kickoff took place in October 2011 when the Immigrant Council of Ireland co-hosted the first meeting of project partners with the Advice on Individual Rights in Europe Centre (AIRE Centre) in London. At each transnational project meeting (five in total), a slot is reserved to discuss the project with stakeholders from the respective national governments and civil society. This way, the dissemination of project results is promoted and the relevance of the research for the policy making process and the work of civil society organisations are guaranteed.

The empirical research with family migrants, policy makers and civil society representatives will be carried out during the first half of 2012. First results are expected in the fall of 2012. In the beginning of 2013, the final comparative findings of the project will be presented at a transnational conference which will take place in Dublin, Ireland. Moreover, the project aims to contribute to the consultation process for the European Commission’s Green Paper over the coming months.

Project Partners
- AIRE Centre (UK)
- Centre for Migration Law, Radboud University Nijmegen (the Netherlands)
- High Commission for Immigration and Intercultural Dialogue (Portugal)
- Immigrant Council of Ireland (lead project partner based in Ireland)
- Institute for State Law and Sciences (Bulgaria)
- International Centre for Migration Policy Development
- Lawaetz Foundation (Germany)

Directive 2003/86/EC on family reunification is available on the European Commission’s website.

The text of the European Commission Directive 2004/38/EC on the right of EU citizens and their family members to move and reside freely in the EU is available on the European Commission’s website.

The European Commission’s Green Paper on the right to family reunification of third-country nationals living in the EU is available on the European Commission’s website.

Links and Resources

Website: http://familyreunification.eu/

The text of the European Commission
The Competence Centre for Migration & Development at ICMPD

Although ICMPD has always dealt with the topic of migration and development, its expertise in this area has been strengthened through the recent appointment of Ms. Malin Frankenhaeuser as the first Programme Manager for the Competence Centre for Migration & Development.

Q: The Competence Centre for Migration & Development is the youngest of ICMPD’s competence centres. As the Centre’s first programme manager, what do you see as its goals in your first year?

A: This competence centre may be the youngest but that does not mean that ICMPD has not been active in migration and development until now. We have. My job is to consolidate our in-house competence, build on the experiences we already have had, draw on our expertise and enhance it further. This means that I am also looking for new ways of working within the organisation to make full use of our potential to grow into a centre of not only competence but also of excellence on migration and development.

Q: Where does the Competence Centre for Migration & Development fit in with the other ICMPD competence centres? Do you see areas of cooperation/synergy?

A: Migration is an outcome of development and a factor of change for human, social and economic development. Given that ICMPD always has had a comprehensive approach to migration, it goes without saying that this calls for a specific competence centre dedicated to the migration-development nexus. And just like migration and development cannot be compartmentalised and dealt with separately, neither can any of our six competence centres. They are all interlinked to various degrees. I would not only like to promote cross-competence centre cooperation, but also close cooperation with our research department and migration dialogues.

Q: Migration and development as a thematic area has been steadily gaining in importance. Why do you think countries and organisations are now so interested in the topic?

A: While the academic debate is old, the past decade has seen a growing interest in the potential of migration to promote development among policy makers, international organisations and development agencies. It coincides with a growing awareness among all actors of the global implications of migration. Migration can be a force for good, but while its impact can be positive for one actor, or one part of society, it can be harmful for another. Promoting coherence between migration policies and development policies is essential.
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