During 2008, ICMPD worked successfully with partner countries and organisations on developing project proposals for submission under the European Commission’s Thematic programme of co-operation with third countries in the areas of migration and asylum. This issue of the newsletter presents all projects contracted to consortia where ICMPD is either lead or junior partner. The thematic coverage of the projects is broad, fostering the improved management of migration flows by targeting specific needs in third countries as well as facilitating international co-operation and co-ordination activities. Geographically, the migratory routes from the East and from the South dominate. The projects include an active ICMPD role in the Czech-led initiative on building migration partnerships with the partner countries in Eastern Europe, Southern Caucasus and Central Asia. In Libya, we are partners in the UNHCR-led project on mixed migration flows together with the Italian Refugee Council and the Libyan NGO IOPCR. Under the leadership of the United Kingdom, we have started a capacity-building exercise for border guards in Ethiopia with IOM, and in Lebanon we work with Caritas and UNHCR on improving reception and detention capacities. Our role in the new project that the Danish Refugee Council is implementing in Georgia focuses on building the capacities of the Georgian authorities on readmission. The i-Map - developed in partnership with Europol, Frontex, Interpol, UNHCR and UNODC within the framework of the Mediterranean Transit Migration (MTM) Dialogue - will grow into a concrete policy-making tool focusing on information exchange and building a solid knowledge base on irregular migration flows in the Mediterranean region. Together with ICMPD, OSCE and IOM, the ILO will be leading a unique anti-trafficking project in the countries of the Southern Caucasus. Another anti-trafficking project implemented in partnership with Brazil, Italy and Portugal seeks to address the increasing challenges related to the exploitation of Brazilian migrants in the EU. Finally, building upon the successful experiences of a comparable project in the Ukraine, ICMPD and its partners will work on improving the institutional capacities of Moldova to identify falsified travel documents. Two special projects - implemented in close co-operation with the European Commission - started earlier this year in the new premises of our Brussels Mission.

You can read more about these projects in this second newsletter of 2009.
Dear Reader,

International migration not only links migrants in different countries to their families, but it also links these countries to each other. In order to maximise benefits for the migrants as well as for the countries of origin and destination, migration policies aim at monitoring these migration flows. Efficient and effective migration management systems therefore include international co-operation as an integral part and, increasingly, as a top priority. Mastering the dialogue with other countries along migration routes has to be considered a key competence of migration processes managed by national authorities that cannot be outsourced. ICMPD fully recognises the need to enhance effective and sustainable migration co-operation among countries and supports states by collecting relevant data and information, analysing developments and trends, providing and maintaining platforms for intergovernmental dialogue, and building capacities for improved migration management systems. Sustainable and successful international co-operation requires a true partnership approach, recognising common and differing interests. Based on the three principles: equality among partners, broad involvement of actors in related policy areas, and innovation, migration partnerships between countries have great potential to provide for both comprehensive and sustainable solutions as well as more effective migration management. This year ICMPD started resp. continued a series of new projects exemplifying intergovernmental co-operation.

New Co-operation Project with Libya Addresses Migration Management

In Spring 2008 a quadripartite agreement of co-operation was signed between ICMPD, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the Tripoli-based NGO International Organization for Peace, Care and Relief (IOPCR), and the Italian Refugee Council (CIR). This framework of co-operation foresees the implementation of joint initiatives among the four partners in Libya, particularly within the context of UNHCR’s 10-point Plan of Action on Refugee Protection and Mixed Migration. The first project in this framework of co-operation, entitled “A Comprehensive Survey of Migration Flows and Institutional Capabilities in Libya,” under the leadership of ICMPD, is currently being implemented with UK, Swiss and Italian funding. Since April 1st 2009, ICMPD is involved in a second project in Libya, as one of the key partners in a UNHCR led project under the EC Thematic Programme, entitled “A comprehensive approach to the effective management of mixed migration flows in Libya”. Additional partners are the Libyan IOPCR and the Italian CIR. In this project ICMPD is mandated with, but not limited to, the management of the elements related to capacity building of the four project components, namely 1) a gaps and needs assessment - management of mixed migration movements, 2) capacity-building support and reception management arrangements for receiving refugees and migrants in reception centres in Libya, 3) legal and procedural responses in the fields of asylum and migration to manage mixed migration movements, and 4) capacity-building and operational assistance: Voluntary Return. The project’s main national target institutions are the Ministry of Interior, the Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and the Ministry of Planning. To facilitate the project implementation an ICMPD Project Office was established in Tripoli on April 1st, at shared premises with the project partners UNHCR, CIR and IOPCR. The ICMPD project team is composed of Project Manager Rami Bathish, based in Vienna, and, in Tripoli, Mustapha Djemali, who is also ICMPD Regional Representative.

Project Details:

- Project title: A comprehensive approach to the effective management of mixed migration flows in Libya
- Target country: Libya
- Project Partners: UNHCR; International Organization for Peace, Care and Relief (IOPCR) Libya; Italian Refugee Council (CIR)
A Continuous Success: the MTM i-Map Expands Further

Within the framework of the Dialogue on Mediterranean Transit Migration (MTM), an informal intergovernmental dialogue addressing the migration-security nexus (Pillar I) and migration-development nexus (Pillar II) in the Mediterranean region, the Interactive Map on Migration (i-Map) concept was jointly developed in 2006 by ICMPD, Europol and Frontex. Responding to the increased need of Partner States for enhanced information and co-operation in the field of migration, the MTM i-Map aims at facilitating information exchange and at supporting the development and implementation of evidence-based co-operation initiatives at the service of the 37 Arab and European MTM Partner States.

Funding Partners of the MTM i-Map include Cyprus, the European Commission, France, Italy, Malta, the Netherlands, Sweden and Switzerland. Thematically, the MTM i-Map is articulated around three layers: irregular migration, legal migration and migration and development. The information within the MTM i-Map is provided in the three working languages of the MTM Dialogue: Arabic, English and French.

The layer currently being developed is on irregular migration, the two additional layers are in a planning phase. The irregular migration layer has two interfaces: a public interface, displaying migration routes and flows as well as general information, and a secured interface, containing detailed information only accessible to representatives of Partner States and Partner Agencies.

The overall objective is to support the beneficiaries in better understanding, through enhanced exchange of information, the geographic and thematic contexts within which their migration policies and actions are implemented and therefore assist the beneficiaries in improving their abilities to manage irregular flows.

Expert international organisations or agencies play a key role in ensuring the accuracy and quality of the information provided: ICMPD (lead), Europol, Frontex, Interpol, UNHCR, UNODC and the Odysseus Academic Network.

The MTM i-Map is accessible at: www.imap-migration.org.

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Project Details:

**Strengthening Reception and Detention Capacities in Lebanon (STREDECA)**

The project is being implemented by ICMPD in partnership with the Directorate General of the Security General (DGSG) of Lebanon, Caritas Lebanon, and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) Lebanon, with financial support from the European Commission. The implementation period is between January 2009 and August 2010.

The objective of the project is to contribute to Lebanon’s capacities to manage its mixed migration flows post interception and/or apprehension - in particular with respect to the sorting of flows and the identification and treatment of asylum seekers, provisions for women, vulnerable groups and trafficked persons, as well as international protection for asylum seekers and refugees. It will do so by evaluating essential national infrastructure and enhancing national institutional capacities for the reception and detention of irregular migrants and asylum seekers in line with international human rights standards.

**Project Details:**

Project title: Strengthening reception and detention capacities in Lebanon

Target country: Lebanon

Project Partners: Directorate General of the Security General (DGSG) of Lebanon; Caritas Lebanon; UNHCR Lebanon
**New Anti-trafficking Projects**

**Focus on: Brazil, Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia**

**Project Details:**

**Project title:** Promoting transnational partnerships - preventing and responding to trafficking in human beings from Brazil to EU Member States

**Target country:** Brazil

**Project Partners:** Immigration and Borders Service (Servico de Estrangeiros e Fronteiras - SEF), Ministry of Internal Affairs of Portugal; Commission for Citizenship and Gender Equality (CIG), Portugal; Associazione On the Road, Italy (Italian NGO network)

The overall objective of the project is to make a comprehensive contribution to counter trafficking in human beings (THB) efforts by reducing the incidence of trafficking in human beings from Brazil to the EU Member States, particularly Portugal and Italy, in the medium to long term. The specific objectives of the proposed action are:

- To contribute to the prevention of transnational trafficking in human beings in the Brazilian territory;
- To build up the capacities of the Federal Police and the Brazilian consular staff in Portugal and Italy to understand THB as a complex crime;
- To strengthen the international co-operation between Brazil and the EU countries of destination.

Target groups of the project are: Brazilian passport applicants, Brazilian Federal Police Officers and Ministries charged with the implementation of the Brazilian National Action Plan against trafficking in human beings. The activities include e.g. research identifying the vulnerable and at-risk groups as well as the relevant transnational trafficking routes; an awareness raising campaign; and research on the existing procedures regarding the transnational referral of victims and training gaps and needs analysis of the Brazilian Federal Police. The project expects to contribute to reducing the incidence of transnational THB; deepen the knowledge concerning THB from Brazil to Europe; strengthen domestic capacities related to counter-trafficking; and foster international co-operation.

**Project Details:**

**Project title:** Strengthening of comprehensive anti-trafficking responses in Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia

**Target countries:** Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia

**Project Partners:** International Labour Organisation (lead); Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE); International Organization for Migration (IOM)

The project seeks to address reduction of all forms of trafficking in human beings through capacity building and provision of protection and assistance to actual and potential victims. Specific objectives:

- To support the development the national institutional framework in the respective countries to address trafficking in human beings (THB) and their practical implementation including victim-centred research, NAP evaluation and monitoring mechanisms;
- To support prevention of THB and irregular migration through labour market interventions and by informing potential migrants on the risk of irregular migration and the possibilities of legal migration;
- To assist the respective Governments to detect, investigate and prosecute criminal activities pertinent to THB;
- To improve identification, referral, protection and assistance including reintegration of victims.

Target groups of the project are: actual and potential victims of THB, potential (irregular) migrants, Government officials of various ministries (in particular Ministries of Interior and Labour), law enforcement authorities (police, labour inspections, prosecutors), judges, NGOs, public employment services (PES), private employment agencies (PEA), trade unions and employers. The expected results of the project include enhancing National Action Plans and developing supportive frameworks in each of the three countries.

**ICMPD to Implement UKBA Project in Ethiopia**

Among the projects arising from the 2008 EC Thematic Call applications, ICMPD is implementing the “Capacity-Building for Immigration Services in Horn of Africa, with initial focus on Ethiopia” (CABIS) project in Ethiopia, which started April 1st, 2009. This project was awarded to the United Kingdom by the European Commission, both providing the funding (80% EC and 20% UK). ICMPD will also act as a project partner through the provision of its expertise.

The project is developed around three major components. The first one consists in providing training to selected Ethiopian border guards and, through the development of an adapted curriculum, in a “train-the-trainer” programme. In a second but simultaneous phase, an assessment of equipment need will be conducted, followed by the actual procurement of the equipment. Mainly targeted are the gates at Bole International Airport and major crossing points between Ethiopia and Kenya. The third component of the project involves co-operation activities with the Kenyan border service, stressing enhanced communications. This aspect will be a first initiative, possibly leading to greater harmonisation in several border management aspects in the future.

The project will last two years. ICMPD is in the process of opening an office in Addis Ababa. Along with the ICMPD Team Leader, three international experts and four national support staff will contribute to the success of the operation. Throughout the course of the project, close links will be maintained with the UK Embassy in Addis Ababa and the European Commission representation office.

**Focus on: Horn of Africa**

**Project Details:**

**Project title:** Capacity-building for immigration services in Horn of Africa, with initial focus on Ethiopia (CABIS)

**Target country:** Ethiopia, Kenya

**Project Partners:** United Kingdom Border Agency (UKBA) (lead); International Organization for Migration (IOM)
New Border Management Project on Document Security

On April 1st, 2009 the Thematic Call project “Strengthening capacities and co-operation in the identification of forged and falsified travel documents at the Moldova-Romania Border” started, which is implemented under the leadership of ICMPD. The project proposal was not only among the top ranked ones of the last Thematic Call, it also met high interest from the side of EU Member States, as the list of project partners shows (see the yellow Project Detail box). The project aims at establishing a comprehensive training system on forged and falsified documents, and at enhancing the co-operation between authorities involved in the fight against illegal migration within Moldova, and also with neighbouring EU countries.

On the beneficiary side the main project partners will be the Ministry of the Interior, the Border Guard Service and the General Consular Service of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration, as well as the Ministry of Informational Development of Moldova.

Monika Weber (photo), former Deputy Head of the Alien and Border Police in Prague, Czech Republic, has joined ICMPD’s border management team as project officer responsible for the managing and day-to-day implementation of the 18-month project, which will build on the successful concept and lessons learned from ICMPD’s document security project in Ukraine.

Project Update: Finnish - Moldovan Knowledge Transfer

The project “Promotion of knowledge transfer to Moldova for strengthening of migration and asylum management capacities” is implemented in accordance with state-to-state experience exchange methodology, using Finnish expertise, and financed by the Finnish Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Finland has in the last few years implemented a policy and institutional reform in the field of migration and was from the outset seen as a very suitable co-operation partner for Moldova in this project, from which the main result expected is a new concept for a migration strategy, to replace the one from 2002. The Office of Migration and Asylum, within the Moldovan Ministry of Interior, has declared that the intention is to have the final draft concept adopted by the Government or the Parliament. The need for such a strategy is furthermore underlined by the fact that Moldova signed the Mobility Partnership with the European Union on June 5th, 2008. The Mobility Partnership has wide-ranging objectives, including facilitating legal immigration and fighting against illegal immigration, while promoting capacity building. During the first half of the project implementation, a preparatory meeting (Helsinki), the launching conference (Chisinau) and the first knowledge transfer workshop (Chisinau) were held. The next knowledge transfer workshop is planned for May. The Moldovan counterparts have demonstrated commitment and interest to actively contribute to the expected results of the project by active and numerous participation in the project activities as well as by being open with regard to the gaps and priorities.
The Czech European Union Presidency organised a Ministerial Conference “Building Migration Partnerships” in Prague on April 27-28th, 2009, which gathered 54 delegations with more than 300 participants on the level of Deputy Prime Ministers, Ministers, Deputy Ministers, State Secretaries and senior officials. The participants of the Prague Ministerial Conference endorsed the “Building Migration Partnerships” Joint Declaration.

The ministerial declaration was elaborated through joint preparatory activities, with the aim to enable the participating states to qualitatively improve mutual relations towards genuine migration partnerships. This initiative aims at providing support to the EU Global Approach to Migration in its Eastern and South-Eastern dimension and the principle has a prominent place in the European Pact on Immigration and Asylum prepared by the French EU Presidency in 2008.

The Building Migration Partnerships Project

The two-year project, which started on January 1st, 2009, is led by the Czech Republic and funded by the European Commission and five partner states. ICMPD provides the partner states with logistical and administrative support. Its objective is to contribute to negotiations and the conclusion of “Migration Partnerships” between EU Member States and the Union’s Eastern neighbour countries, especially focusing on the migration authorities. By active involvement of the above-listed countries and utilising the components of policy dialogue, policy development, and information gathering and management, the project will result in:

- Principles and priorities for the future negotiation and conclusion of “Migration partnerships”;
- “Migration Partnership Strategies” (partnership objectives and policy recommendations);
- “Migration Partnership Mappings” (“Good Practices” of previously developed and implemented measures in the context of the “migration partnership concept”);
- “Migration Profile Reports” for each beneficiary country;
- Interactive map “I-Map Eastern Migration Route”.

All activities and results of the proposed action will be developed and implemented in line with participating states’ and the European Commission’s priorities as defined by the European Neighbourhood Policy and the Global Approach to Migration to the Eastern and South-Eastern regions neighbouring the EU.

Project Details:

Project title: Building migration partnerships - a platform for applying the Global Approach to Migration to the Eastern and South-Eastern regions neighbouring the European Union

Target countries: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Russian Federation, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine and Uzbekistan

Project Partners: Ministries of the Interior of: the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Romania, Slovakia
**Focusing on Ukraine’s Document Security**

**Training for the Inspectors at Border Crossing Points**

Under the EU 2005 AENEAS project “Strengthening capacities and co-operation in the identification of forged and falsified documents in Ukraine”, ICMPD, in co-operation with the State Border Guard Service of Ukraine (SBGSU), organised the final in a series of pilot trainings on identification of forged and falsified travel document for the document controllers at the border crossing points in the Uzhgorod region on January 27th - February 6th, 2009. The training was conducted by two national trainers, representatives of the State Border Guard Service of Ukraine, who were trained as national trainers by the European document security experts in the framework of this project in May 2008.

Some 25 Inspectors from the border crossing points at the western borders of Ukraine with Poland, Hungary, Slovakia and Romania and three international airports (Lviv, Chernivtsi and Boryspil) were trained to conduct second line document control. The participants were trained on substance in detecting document fraud, use of special technical equipment, including VSC 5000, and were familiarised with general EU practices in document security. The efficiency of the training was significantly increased due to the extensive practice in identification of different types of forgeries and falsifications of the documents that were brought by the Hungarian expert for training purposes. All attendants were awarded certificates on the successful completion of the training at the closing ceremony of the training programme. The results of pilot training were discussed during the evaluation seminar in April 2009 in Kyiv.

The training was highly appreciated by the participants and administration of SBGSU. Many participants noted that this is the first time they participated in such well organised training, which will be of great value for their work. Though the project is mainly focused on the western borders of Ukraine, the representatives of the State Border Guard Service of Ukraine expressed their hope to extend such training to the eastern part of Ukraine as well.

**DAR Project - Assisted Voluntary Return to Sub-Saharan Africa - a “major sucess”**

On January 29th, 2009, the concluding seminar of the project “Comprehensive Return Programme Including Re-Integration - DAR” was hosted by the Malta MFA in Valetta. In his opening speech, Dr Tonio Borg, Minister of Foreign Affairs, called DAR a major success and emphasised that the total number of 71 migrants, who have returned voluntarily in the framework of the project, have exceeded both the number of returnees aimed at in the beginning as well as the figures expected by national and international experts.

Since 2002, Malta has increasingly developed into a destination for asylum and irregular migration flows from Sub-Saharan African countries and almost 12,000 irregular migrants and asylum seekers reached its shores until the end of 2008. In response to the challenges resulting from this particular migration situation, DAR was developed by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Malta and selected under the EU-funded RETURN programme. DAR was a pilot project and a starting point for voluntary returns from Malta. In particular, the purpose of DAR was to provide for sustainable voluntary return and re-integration of irregular migrants and rejected asylum seekers. In view of the characteristics of the majority of prospective voluntary returnees in Malta - originating from Sub-Saharan countries of origin, being in early stages of migration projects, having invested large sums in their journey to Europe - it was deemed necessary to devise a programme which offered substantive advice and assistance in order to gain interest among the target group. The project DAR and the development of its voluntary return and reintegration programme have benefited a lot from the expertise and know-how shared by return authorities from European States, namely Denmark, the Netherlands, Switzerland and the United Kingdom. DAR sought to build its activities on the experience of these European countries, while at the same time trying to tailor its activities to Malta’s specific conditions. In this way the project laid the groundwork for other Assisted Voluntary Return programmes to follow and established the knowledge base for further development of the necessary structures and policies for successful voluntary returns in the future.

Concluding, Dr. Borg thanked all Maltese stakeholders for their support and attributed the success of DAR to the support network created, particularly between NGO SOS Malta, ICMPD and Med Europe of Palermo, as well as other authorities and embassies in Malta, European States and those in migrants’ countries of origin.
The Second Steering Group Meeting of the project “Capacity Building and Technical Support to Ukrainian Authorities to Effectively Respond to Irregular Transit-Migration (GDISC ERIT)” was held in Kyiv on February 25th and gathered together around 35 representatives of the project partners, with the aim to review the results of the first implementation phase of the project and to advise on future implementation.

The Steering Group representatives expressed their high satisfaction with the results of the first implementation phase. The project has successfully addressed current needs of Ukraine applying the special methodology of state-to-state exchange of experiences, paying attention to both the rights and interests of migrants as well as to state security interests in migration management. The project has also created an awareness of various institutional and policy aspects, which have emerged as a consequence of the planned migration reform and the possible establishment of a central migration authority.

Both Chairmen of the meeting, Mr Urubek, Head of International Relations Unit, Asylum and Migration Department, Czech Ministry of Interior, on behalf of the project leader, and Mr Marchenko, First Deputy Director of the Department for the Protection of the State Border, Ukraine State Border Guard Service, on behalf of the Ukrainian partner institutions, stated the co-operation has been evaluated very positively so far with high dedication of experts on both sides. Mr Urubek also added: “The project is a model for future co-operation with partner states neighbouring the European Union.”

The Head of the European Commission Delegation, Mr Jose Manuel Pinto Teixeira, stressed the relevance of the project timing during his address: “This project offers to Ukraine co-operation on a wide range of important activities which are all important for EU - Ukraine relations in the area of asylum and migration, including the dialogue on a visa-free travel regime, as well as the implementation of the European Community - Ukraine agreements on visa facilitation and readmission.”

The project partners from the Czech Republic, Hungary, the Netherlands, Poland, Slovakia, the United Kingdom and ICMPD, together with representatives of the Ukrainian counterparts (the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Ukraine, State Border Guard Service of Ukraine, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine, Ministry of Justice, the State Committee of Ukraine for Nationalities and Religion) clearly signalled their readiness to continue the co-operation in the coming implementation phase and possibly even beyond the closure of the present GDISC ERIT project. Following their successful inclusion in some of the project activities, the High Administrative Court and the State Security Service of Ukraine expressed their great interest in further involvement in coming project activities as well.


**Tbilisi Tripartite Regional Conference Addressed THB**

On February 18-20th, 2009, the “Tripartite Regional Conference to address all forms of trafficking in human beings in the Caucasus and related destination countries” took place in the Sheraton Metechi Palace Hotel in Tbilisi, Georgia. The conference was organised jointly by ILO, ICMPD, IOM, OSCE, the OSCE/ODIHR, and UNDP Armenia and was co-hosted by the Government of Georgia. It was organised within the framework of the EU-funded project “Development of a comprehensive anti-trafficking response in Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia” implemented by ILO, ICMPD and OSCE.

The conference brought together government counterparts and law enforcement, workers’ and employers’ organisations, international and non-governmental organisations from countries of origin and destination to learn from the approaches and lessons learned over the past two years in the framework of the above-mentioned project. Participants developed recommendations for harmonised approaches to address all forms of trafficking in human beings in the Caucasus and related destination countries.

In this context also the relevance of regional fora and networks was discussed - focusing on the Budapest Process. As approaches developed in the Caucasus could be of interest to additional countries participating in the Budapest Process, the Secretariat of the Budapest Process took part in the meeting as part of an exploratory exercise to deepen and further Budapest Process activities in the field of anti-trafficking and in the region.

Relevant stakeholders from the countries participating in the Budapest Process were also invited to this effect.

The Regional Conference led to recommendations in all the fields covered.

**ICMPD Anti-Trafficking Projects - Updates:**

**Trafficking in Human Beings, Data Collection and Harmonised Information Management Systems (DCIM EU)**

The Second Project Team and Advisory Board Meeting, co-hosted by the Ministry of Interior and Administration of Poland, took place on March 12-13th, 2009, in Warsaw. During the meeting, ICMPD presented the first draft version of the “Anti-Trafficking Data Collection and Information Management in the European Union - a Handbook.” The situation in the Czech Republic, Poland, Portugal and the Slovak Republic” and the indicators/variables to collect THB victim-centered data and trafficker-centered/ criminal justice data were debated. This discussion was complemented by a presentation of the database software to be tested during the pilot phase of the project, both in Portugal and in the Slovak Republic. The technical solutions to ensure the safety and confidentiality of the data collected were also considered, as the level of confidentiality of the personal data and its subsequent protection is of the highest importance for the implementation of this project. Moreover the possibilities for data analysis and potential transnational data sharing were on the agenda. The Meeting saw participation from representatives of the General Directorate for Internal Affairs, Ministry of Internal Affairs of Portugal, Ministry of Interior of the Czech Republic, Ministry of Interior of Poland, Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic, Bureau of the Dutch National Rapporteur on Trafficking in Human Beings (BNRM), Associazione On the Road, as well as the representatives from the Federal Ministry of Interior of Austria (BMI), the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and Frontex, who attended the meeting in the capacity of Advisory Board Members to this project.

**Development of a Transnational Referral Mechanism for victims of trafficking between countries of origin and destination (TRM-EU)**

The First Transnational Seminar of the project took place in Prague on March 24-25th, 2009.

The main objective of the seminar was to discuss and make recommendations to the Draft TRM-EU Guidelines as well as to present the results of the Project Assessment Phase, which included a research phase, drafting a study on victims’ needs and fact finding missions to the Czech Republic, Hungary and Portugal. The two-day meeting focused on country presentations illustrating their respective national anti-trafficking structures and eventual challenges with regard to transnational co-operation based on their own experience. The participants were then divided into four working groups, 1. Identification; 2. First Assistance and Protection, and Assistance and Social Inclusion; 3. Voluntary Assisted Return and Resettlement; 4. Criminal and Civil Proceedings, focusing on discussing the adaptation of the TRM-EU Guidelines on the national level, discussing best practices for transnational co-operation as well as making recommendations to the Draft TRM-EU Guidelines. At the margins of the Seminar, the third Project Team Meeting was organised to agree on the necessary steps for the transnational implementation phase of the project, including the planning of the upcoming national workshops (May-July 09) and study visits (May-August 09).
Quantifying Irregular Migration in the EU: the Clandestino Project

A Commission-funded research project in which ICMPD is involved as a partner institute shows that there are fewer irregular migrants in the EU than previously thought.

While the European Commission has estimated that between 4.5 and 8 million foreign nationals are residing in its territory without a right to legal residence, a detailed review of the situation in the Member States has led CLANDESTINO researchers to estimate that the range is more likely between 2.8 and 6 million. Both figures were calculated for the year 2005. Flow trends indicate that irregular residence has since declined further. However, it is important to distinguish between irregular residence and irregular work. Irregular work engaged in by regular residents became more relevant with the growth of the European Union and the rise in the number of EU citizens with the right to travel but not to work. The size of the irregular migrant population is thus significantly below that of the US, for which estimates put the irregular migrant population at around 12 million or more than a quarter of the foreign born population. In comparison, the share of irregular migrants in the population born outside the European Union in 2005 was between 10% (low estimate) and 20% (high estimate). One of the factors that might explain the lower share of irregular migrants in the US compared to the EU is the far larger number of foreign nationals tied up in the asylum system in the latter. Thus, in 2005, some 0.49 asylum applications per thousand inhabitants were submitted in the EU compared to 0.16 asylum applications per thousand inhabitants in the US. Although the level of asylum applications has varied significantly both in the EU and the US, the gap of relative asylum levels between the US and the EU has been relatively stable. Significantly, even when asylum applications are rejected, migrants do not necessarily become undocumented in the narrow sense of the term in the European Union, but often remain under a status of formal or informal toleration.

The estimate of 2.8 to 6 million is part of a new database on irregular migration produced by five European research centres, including ICMPD’s Research & Documentation Unit and a European non-governmental organization which form the CLANDESTINO project consortium, funded by DG Research of the European Commission for the period from 2007 to 2009. In order to increase transparency in a sensitive field, the CLANDESTINO project has just made extensive information available online. The new database on irregular migration includes a set of interactive tables with data and estimates on undocumented migration in Europe. With the help of national experts from other EU countries, the CLANDESTINO research team has created a classification scheme for estimates on irregular migration. The classification scheme indicates to users whether the given estimate is provided by a reliable source using a robust methodology, or whether it is more of a “guesstimate.”

The database is supported by a set of country reports that provide a more comprehensive picture of irregular migration in Europe in the 21st century. These country reports were authored by national experts based in the countries studied (notably Austria, the Czech Republic, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Italy, the Netherlands, Poland, Slovakia, Spain and the UK). The reports contain discussions not only of numbers, but also of policies and patterns of irregular migrant flows and stocks in the countries concerned. Morocco, Turkey and Ukraine were also studied, in order to highlight migration challenges in countries that experience ‘transit’ migration to the EU. The main results and policy recommendations for individual countries are also available in the form of research briefs, which appear both in English and in the national language of the country concerned.

For more information, visit: http://clandestino.eliamep.gr (country reports and research briefs), and: http://irregular-migration.hwwi.net (database).

To access any of the ICMPD publications and/or read about ICMPD’s projects in more detail, please visit our website: www.icmpd.org

Research studies can also be downloaded from the Research website: http://research.icmpd.org, along with much more information and news on other research projects.

New Publications:
Regional AMV Guidelines

The “Regional Guidelines for Unified Asylum, Migration and Visa Management in the Western Balkans” were produced by ICMPD under the project “Strong Institutions and a Unified Approach in the Asylum, Migration and Visa Management in the Western Balkans” funded under the European Commission 2005 AENEAS Programme; co-funded by Sweden, Denmark and Norway and implemented by the Swedish Migration Board, the Danish Immigration Service, the Norwegian Directorate of Immigration and ICMPD in 2007-2008. They are available for free download from the ICMPD website: www.icmpd.org

REGINE - ICMPD Study on Regularisation Practices in EU Member States

A new study on regularisation of irregular migrants in the European Union provides a comprehensive review of regularisation policies in the EU, with comparative reflections on regularisation practices elsewhere. The study is entitled “REGINE – Regularisations in Europe. Study on practices in the area of regularisation of illegally staying third-country nationals in the Member States of the EU” has been commissioned by the European Commission, subsequent to its Communication on policy priorities in the fight against illegal immigration of third-country nationals. It has been conducted by a team of ICMPD researchers, with additional contributions from external experts. According to the study, some 5 million applications for regularisations were recorded between 1996 and 2008; some 3.5 million persons have been regularised over the same period. The great majority of EU Member States currently use, or have used, some sort of regularisation measure in the recent past. Based on an analysis of major policy issues and incorporating policy positions of relevant stakeholders and legal principles under Community and international law, the study also outlines a range of possible policy options on the European level.
Migration: EU Expertise (MIEUX)

The first trimester of 2009 saw the launch of a new joint EC-ICMPD initiative - Migration: EU Expertise (MIEUX) - that aims to enhance the capacities of third countries to comprehensively manage migration in order to better address irregular migration. ICMPD Brussels is in the driving seat to implement this 36-month global initiative. MIEUX facilitates the rapid identification and implementation of short-term capacity building actions in migration management: it foresees the start of implementation of activities within a minimum of eight weeks of request.

As the implementing agency, ICMPD Brussels deploys European Union Member State expertise to support, enhance and strengthen migration management capacities in third countries and thus encourage the peer-to-peer transfer of expertise and knowledge to beneficiary countries. MIEUX supports beneficiaries with all logistical and financial aspects related to the successful implementation of quick-reaction technical assistance. This world-wide initiative covers countries intending to enhance their cooperation with the European Commission in migration management, targeting in particular countries covered by the European Neighbourhood Policy, the African Caribbean and Pacific Group of Countries, as well as Latin America.

Third countries are invited and encouraged to send an email to ICMPD MIEUX in Brussels (mieux@icmpd.org) requesting technical assistance in areas of migration management where they note a particular need.

ICMPD Brussels Mission recently moved to new premises at 159 rue Belliard, 1040 Brussels. Having expanded its operations, the mission now has grown both in number and scope. The eight-person staff encompasses a mixture of Vienna-based and Brussels-based experience. ICMPD Brussels’ mandate is to serve and liaise with ICMPD and EU Member States’ representations locally; develop, manage and implement special migration management projects with a clear European scope; as well as provide strategic advice and support to ICMPD Headquarters in Vienna.

The mission’s new contact information is as follows:

ICMPD Brussels Mission
159 rue Belliard
1040 Brussels
Tel : +32 (0) 22 33 11 60
Fax : +32 (0) 22 31 14 30
Email: icmpd-brussels@icmpd.org

International Policy Conference: The impact of the Economic Crisis on Migrants’ Remittances and Development

In the search for effective responses to the challenges that the current global economic crisis poses to state and non-state actors alike, COS Utrecht, Oxfam Novib, Afroeuro Foundation and ICMPD Brussels Mission held an international conference to explore the impact of the crisis on migrants’ remittances and development on countries of origin. The conference took place on March 21st at the Geldmuseum (Money Museum) in Utrecht, the Netherlands. The conference brought together over a hundred participants including policy makers, researchers and practitioners from Europe and abroad, to share views, experiences and good practices on remittances, development, the economy and the like, with the objective of reaching a common understanding on the challenges caused by, and possible policy gaps revealed by the crisis.

The panel discussions addressed the following topics:

1. The Global Economic Crisis and Migrants’ Remittances;
2. Economic Downturn and Migrants’ Coping Mechanisms;

A conference report containing the proceedings of the conference and workshop reports will shortly be released, and made available on ICMPD’s website.

External Thematic Expertise on Migration (ETEM) Project

Since the end of 2008, the Brussels Mission co-ordinates the support of ICMPD to the DG EuropeAid in providing migration-related expertise to operational colleagues in EC delegations and in Brussels HQ. The project focuses in particular on the three following outputs. Firstly, a series of guidance documents provide insight into the core areas of migration policy and practices. Inter alia, these notes present the legal and policy frameworks at EU and international levels, the challenges, as well as orientations for the implementation of EC assistance. In addition, other notes sum up the latest migration trends and give technical information on the topic.

Secondly, ICMPD provides support in holding training sessions for EC staff. These trainings aim at enhancing their knowledge on migration issues and on the external dimension of EU migration policies (the Global Approach to Migration), and familiarise them with the different options and instruments for co-operation. A first such training of EC delegations in East Africa was held in Nairobi at the end of March. A second training session is planned for the EC delegations of Latin America and Caribbean countries in June, and will be followed by two more regional sessions for Eastern Europe and West Africa later in the year.

Finally, standard training manuals for trainers and EC staff will be developed. A manual on the Global Approach to Migration and its implementation options for co-operation with third countries will be based on the training sessions and the orientation notes. In addition, the ‘EC IBM Training Manual’ will provide a basis for furthering the IBM concept on a global level.
New Programme Manager

Mr Borut Eržen, a Slovenian expert who has recently joined the ICMPD Border Management team, will be responsible for running the Integrated Border Management project implemented by ICMPD in Central Asia. During his professional career of more than 20 years within the Slovenian Ministry of Interior, and later assignments for international consultation companies and EU missions, he contributed greatly to the building of the new police services, and border police in particular, in the Balkan region. His past involvement in areas such as border management and border security and infrastructure, complemented by participation in various trainings and projects, is particularly recognised and valued. ICMPD wishes him lots of working success!

Growth Spurt for ICMPD

In last few months ICMPD has experienced a substantial increase in the number of newly started projects, something which you will notice when reading this issue of the Newsletter. It comes naturally that such an expansion in activities must have had an impact on the demand for human resources. Some 20 new staff members have joined existing teams in the ICMPD Headquarters in Vienna and in the ICMPD Mission in Brussels since the beginning of this year, thereby contributing further to the already “traditionally” multinational working environment and increasing the total number of staff members to nearly 100. The Mediterranean Transit Migration Dialogue and Border Management teams have experienced the largest expansion of all. The increase of activities and the new projects that started this year did not only result in boosting the number of persons working at the ICMPD Headquarters in Vienna to 68, but they also necessitated office space expansion. At the beginning of February this year, some of the staff members moved to new office premises on the 6th floor, i.e. just one floor above the present ICMPD office space at Gonzagagasse in Vienna’s first district. Moreover, in connection with the new projects that have started in Libya, Lebanon and Ethiopia, three project offices have been established in Tripoli, Beirut and Addis Ababa respectively, which amounts to a total of five project offices in the field (the other locations being Kiev and Skopje).

CALL FOR EXPERTS

ICMPD is recruiting experts for projects in implementation and under preparation as well as building its expert pool for future opportunities.

The ICMPD Expert Roster provides an opportunity for international development consultants to increase their chances in a highly competitive job market. Registered experts will be contacted directly as soon as ICMPD starts recruiting for positions that match their profile.

Since the nature of ICMPD’s projects frequently requires experts with public administration background, recently retired civil servants are encouraged to register in the Expert Roster and stay active in their field of expertise, bringing their seniority to bearing in technical assistance projects.

Registration of active public administration employees is also highly appreciated. Secondment or temporary release from service for short or long-term assignments can often be arranged when administrations support engagement of their staff in relevant international co-operation projects.

We are seeking senior and junior experts in all fields related to migration. In addition ICMPD projects often require complementary expertise from the broader justice and home affairs sector and other fields, such as public administration reform, economics, employment, social welfare, civil society, training, HR, PR, IT, etc.

Interested experts are invited to register in our online Expert Roster at http://www.icmpd.org/616.html. Registration does not constitute any obligation; it is an expression of interest promoting your expertise and is dealt with confidentially.

At ICMPD we value the experts we work with and strive to build long-term partnerships with them. We look forward to receiving your application.

The ICMPD Expert Roster Team

Forthcoming Events:

29 May 2009, (location tbc): ICMPD Steering Group meeting
1-4 June 2009, Ohrid: Final TRM Regional Seminar
22-24 June 2009, the Hague: Launching meeting of the ICMPD Diaspora project
June 2009, Zagreb: Budapest Process Meeting of the Working Group on Irregular Transit Migration through the South East European Region
June 2009, Addis Ababa: First CABIS project Steering Group meeting.

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