The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia becomes ICMPD Member State

On 2 May 2012 in Skopje, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia became the 15th Member State of ICMPD. Ms. Gordana Jankuloska, Minister of Internal Affairs and Mr. Peter Widermann, Director General of ICMPD, signed the agreement for the country to become a member of ICMPD.

MTM celebrates its 10th anniversary

The MTM Dialogue celebrated its 10th anniversary on 22 May 2012 in Valletta, Malta. The event gathered high-level officials from African, Arab and European Partner States, as well as MTM Partner Agencies, to look back on the successful first decade of the dialogue and to look forward to the ambitious work programme for the coming years.

54th ICMPD Steering Group Meeting takes place

The 54th ICMPD Steering Group Meeting took place in Warsaw on 14 May 2012. Poland, which holds the chairmanship this year, led the meeting. The meeting brought together representatives of the current ICMPD Member States and focused on the ICMPD work agenda for the remainder of 2012. The next steering group meeting will take place in Vienna in December 2012.

Prague Process Senior Officials Meeting is held

The Prague Process Senior Official Meeting took place on 2 - 3 April in Warsaw. The purpose of this meeting was to launch the Prague Process Targeted Initiative and to discuss the initiative’s pilot projects. The event was attended by the senior officials from the 50 participating states of the Prague Process. Mr. Widermann, the Director General of ICMPD, delivered an address that focused on the success of the Building Migration Partnerships Initiative and the implementation of the Prague Process Action Plan.

CABSI ministerial conference

The 10th Central Asia Border Security Initiative (CABSI) Ministerial Conference: ‘Lessons Learned and the Way Forward’ took place on 16 - 17 April 2012 in Vienna. The conference brought together ministers and senior officials from Austria, the Central Asian countries, the European Union, the Russian Federation and the United States of America, among others, who contribute to border security in Central Asia. The main outcome of the conference was the Ministerial Declaration, which calls for strengthening border management systems and overall border security in Central Asia, as well as enhancing cooperation in border management.

Upcoming events

6 Jun Rabat Process Senior Officials Meeting in Madrid, Spain

20 Jun World Refugee Day

24-29 Jun GOVAC Summer School in Batumi, Georgia

28-29 Jun Third Budapest Process Working Group on the Silk Routes Region in Tbilisi, Georgia
This quote from the ‘ICMPD Agreement’ reflects one of the main tasks ICMPD Member States expect us to perform. Indeed, since 1993 it has been a core activity to facilitate as secretariat an increasing number of migration dialogues. Several of these are described in greater detail in this newsletter.

The Importance of Dialogue

Informal dialogues are essential instruments in developing long-term cooperation between countries, as well as international organisations. Administrative structures, work processes, history and political priorities differ. Dialogue can help bring these varying, and sometimes opposing, interests closer and lead to mutual trust building.

It is crucial that countries meet and discuss issues without the restrictions often posed by bilateral and/or formal meetings. Informal exchange of expertise, experience and other information strengthens the knowledge base within administrations and ensures informed policy development. At the same time, increased trust between administrations can deepen their relations and improve operational cooperation. Representatives can discuss bilateral matters informally outside of the meetings, and discussions in the meetings often lead to the identification of common priorities and practical cooperation possibilities.

Dialogues Supported by ICMPD

As Secretariat for the Budapest Process since 1993, we have supported efforts to create a common understanding of migration challenges in Europe, Central Asia and – since 2010 – the countries along the historic Silk Route. Recognising the increasingly important role migration has played in the Mediterranean area, the initiative was taken in 2002 to start a dialogue between European, South Mediterranean and later, West African, states: the Mediterranean Transit Migration Dialogue (MTM). Now celebrating its 10th anniversary, this ‘dialogue in action’ has paved the way in developing innovative tools to share knowledge on migration.

Following the adoption of the Ministerial Declaration in 2009, ICMPD was asked to support the newly established Prague Process, including the preparation of the 2011 ‘Poznan Action Plan’. The next three years will focus on the implementation of this action plan, with the support of EU funding and strong political commitments by the partner states. In 2010, ICMPD’s role as a support mechanism for migration dialogues was further extended to include the Rabat Process, as well as the EU-Africa Partnership on Migration, Mobility and Employment (MME).

Martijn Pluim
Director, Eastern Dimension
At the Prague Ministerial Conference in 2009, states from the wider European and Central Asian regions, as well as Russia and Turkey, gathered together to develop a set of principles and initiatives to promote partnerships in migration. This gathering resulted in the Building Migration Partnerships Initiative of 2009 - 2011, which in turn, led to the creation of the Prague Process as the instrument to both implement and drive this initiative. The main aim of the Prague Process has been to assist in achieving the objectives of the 2007 Global Approach to Migration to the Eastern and South Eastern Regions, a component of the EU’s external migration policy.

Prague Process Targeted Initiative

The Prague Process Targeted Initiative (2012 - 2015) is the cornerstone for carrying out the ‘Action Plan 2012 - 2016’, adopted at the Poznan Ministerial Conference in 2011. It is funded by the European Union and is being implemented by a consortium of participating states led by Poland. The initiative aims to continue political dialogue via forums such as the senior officials meetings and the newly created National Contact Points Network, as well as to expand the knowledge base. Four selected pilot projects addressing illegal migration, legal migration, asylum, and migration and development will also be implemented. These activities will lead to a better understanding of the migration challenges faced by the participating states and closer cooperation in dealing with these challenges. ICMPD supports the Prague Process and the initiative through providing organisational support, as well as maintaining, updating and further enhancing the existing knowledge base.

Prague Process Knowledge Base

The Prague Process knowledge base was established during the Building Migration Partnerships Initiative and resulted in Migration Profiles, which show the current migration situation and trends in several Eastern European and Central Asian countries. The knowledge base has been crucial for developing new initiatives and guiding governmental officials and practitioners in the migration field. The results are available online at www.imap-migration.org.

At the Prague Process Senior Officials Meeting in Warsaw from 2 - 3 April, 2012: Mr. Piotr Stachańczyk, Secretary of State, Ministry of Interior of the Republic of Poland
Ministers responsible for migration and development matters in Europe and in North, Central and West Africa gathered in Rabat, Morocco in July 2006 to look for a comprehensive and balanced response to migration challenges. They launched a cooperation process based on the principles of ownership, partnership and joint responsibility between the countries of origin, transit and destination of migration flows. Hence, the Rabat Process was born. A second ministerial conference held in Paris in 2008 confirmed the commitment of African and European Partner Countries through the adoption of an ambitious and wide-ranging cooperation programme for 2009 - 2011.

On 23 November 2011, ministers and representatives of Partner States and Partner Institutions met again in Dakar, Senegal to evaluate the achievements of the Process and to consolidate it. The partners adopted the ‘Dakar Strategy’ for 2012 - 2014, thereby building on the well-established dialogue and the implementation of numerous initiatives between the countries involved in the West African migratory route.

The ‘Dakar Strategy’ is based on five principles that reflect the spirit of the Rabat Declaration: 1) dialogue working towards action, 2) a flexible and balanced approach, 3) a coherent dialogue that includes partners at all levels 4) committed partners and 5) a shared responsibility between the partners. It aims to strengthen dialogue on migration challenges through concrete initiatives structured around ten objectives and a follow-up mechanism to ensure their implementation. All partners are committed to reflecting the priorities of the Rabat Process in the development of their national migration and development strategies.

A senior officials’ meeting will take place on 6 June 2012 in Madrid to define a road map for the implementation of the ‘Dakar Strategy’. Partners will discuss new priority initiatives to complement existing actions and develop new ones. A follow-up mechanism to ensure the next steps of the Rabat Process will be presented.

More information about the Dakar Strategy and the Madrid meeting, as well as the online form to subscribe to the Rabat Review Newsletter, can be found on the Rabat Process website: www.dialogueuroafricainmd.net.
Strong Partnerships in the Mediterranean and Beyond

ICMPD’s presence in the Mediterranean and North Africa region has steadily gained prominence over the last decade, mainly through the initiatives of two migration dialogues in the region: the MTM Dialogue and Euro-Mediterranean Migration (EUROMED Migration), which is currently in its third phase. In carrying out the activities of these dialogues, ICMPD is strengthening trust and cooperation among the countries in the region, enabling them to better deal with migration challenges and opportunities.

MTM Dialogue

On 22 May 2012, the MTM Dialogue celebrated its 10th Anniversary in Valletta, Malta, gathering high-level officials from African, Arab and European Partner States, as well as MTM Partner Agencies. Over the years, the MTM Dialogue has gradually enlarged its geographic focus to facilitate cooperation with key countries along the main migration routes. Today, the MTM has 45 Partner States and 10 Partner Agencies, making it a far-reaching and dynamic forum.

On this basis, in 2012, the MTM began developing a new dimension focusing on the management of migration at the local level through the MTM City-to-City Initiative.

ICMPD, as the MTM Secretariat, strives to develop innovative methodologies and tools to provide MTM Partner States with the most up-to-date and beneficial instruments. In this regard, the year 2012 is of key importance as a new, more user-friendly and more comprehensive i-Map was launched. The i-Map is an interactive online platform that provides information about the current migration situation and trends in regions throughout the world.

Euro-Mediterranean Migration III

EUROMED Migration III is an EU-funded project that facilitates cooperation on migratory issues between EU countries and nine countries from the Middle East and North Africa region that receive assistance from the EU’s Southern European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument (ENPI). Moreover, the project assists the ENPI countries in their efforts to govern international migration. ICMPD is leading the consortium in charge of implementing the project.

The project’s objectives and activities are aligned with the EU’s policy on migration and the EU’s Global Approach to Migration. These activities will result in the creation of national Migration Profiles and communication tools, as well as strengthened cooperation and enhanced technical expertise.
Bringing Countries Together to Strengthen Integrated Border Management

“The integrated border management concept . . . stresses the importance of an effective and efficient approach towards the common goal of all borders being open to licit trade and movement of persons, while at the same time being closed to illegal activities, as well as threats to national security and the health of people . . .” – Mr. Peter Widermann, Director General of ICMPD, at the Central Asia Border Security Initiative Ministerial Conference: ‘Lessons Learned and the Way Forward’

The ‘Eastern Partnership – Integrated Border Management Flagship Initiative Training (EaP IBM FIT)’ is an EU-funded project that is implemented by ICMPD in six Eastern Partnership countries, namely, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine. This two-year project aims to facilitate inter-agency dialogue, to develop a monitoring mechanism, to increase IBM awareness/operational capacities and to support the fight against corruption.

The project covers various topics crucial for achieving these goals. Topics include the implementation of the IBM strategy/action plan, protection of intellectual property rights and the fight against corruption. Document integrity/security, the detection of forgeries/imposter recognition, risk analysis and the detection of drugs/smuggled tobacco products are further focus areas.

The activities mainly involve capacity building training, the training of trainers and identifying further capacity building needs. Representatives from EU Member states play an essential role in these activities, as they provide extensive expertise and knowledge. So far, 12 EU Member States have sent experts to assist in the implementation of the project’s activities. Of these, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, the Netherlands, Poland and Slovakia have been particularly active.

In carrying out this project, ICMPD is not only continuing its long-standing presence in Eastern Europe, but also providing a key platform within the IBM Flagship Initiative in which all six EaP countries meet, take part in training and work together on the basis of a common understanding of integrated border management and EU principles.
As our vehicle passed by the high security walls in front of the embassies in the Wazir Akbar Khan district, we tried to visualise how Kabul must have looked some 40 years ago with beautiful houses and gardens. Apart from our Swedish expert, Wiiu, none of us had been to Kabul before. Judging from the way we were received, we concluded that despite all the hardships, the warmth and hospitality of the Afghan people towards their guest have remained the same. Many Afghans we met had families in Pakistan or Iran. When we asked them why, they told us the schools and health care were better in Pakistan and in Iran, that it was cheaper to live there than in Kabul, and that they did not have to fear for the safety of their families. Despite these difficulties, Afghans want to develop their country and take ownership of the reconstruction process in all areas, including migration governance.– Sedef Dearing, Senior Project Manager, Budapest Process

Indeed, although figures show the return of some 5.7 million displaced Afghan people back from Iran, Pakistan and Europe since 2002, we were told that many of these returnees left again to neighbouring countries. Afghanistan needs the development of a comprehensive migration policy and capacity building assistance in migration management, together with livelihood opportunities, to make returns sustainable. The country is also in need of skills training for its workforce and is interested in developing labour migration plans with other countries. The objective of the visit in early April 2012 was to get a clearer picture of the overall migration situation in Afghanistan and to gather information for the development of a migration profile. This migration profile, one of many activities being carried out by the project ‘Fostering Cooperation in the Area of Migration with and in the Silk Routes Region’, will assist government officials and practitioners working in the migration field to better understand the current situation in Afghanistan.

The project is being implemented under the umbrella of the Budapest Process, a forum for intergovernmental dialogue on migration that has contributed to creating sustainable migration systems for the past 20 years. It has developed from an information sharing tool between European countries to a forum that brings together 54 states to cooperate and develop sound migration policies.

The mission to Afghanistan provided ICMPD with the opportunity to introduce the work of the Budapest Process and the Silk Routes Region Working Group to Afghan authorities. Moreover, it brought about closer working relationships between ICMPD, as the Secretariat of the Budapest Process, and the respective Afghan authorities. Pending the success of the project and the continued work of the Budapest Process, an even further expansion eastward is possible. Turkey will host the next ministerial conference of the process in Istanbul in April 2013. This conference will conclude the geographical reorientation of the Budapest Process towards the Silk Routes countries.
ICMPD Active in Combating Trafficking for Labour Exploitation

Though not a new issue, trafficking for labour exploitation is increasingly attracting the attention of media, policy makers, civil society groups and other stakeholders. There is a significant rise in the number of migrant workers trafficked and exploited in sectors such as agriculture, domestic work, construction and service industries. The full extent of the problem is, however, not sufficiently recognised either at the national or at the international level. This is partially because labour exploitation tends to be less “visible” than, for instance, sexual exploitation, and the victims might not see themselves as such. Moreover, some anti-trafficking practitioners need more knowledge and skills to be able identify and assist exploited persons, as well as prosecute cases of trafficking for labour exploitation.

Since 2011, ICMPD has been using its extensive experience in establishing transnational partnerships against human trafficking to fight against trafficking for labour exploitation. Based on the need expressed by many countries for further training on the issue, ICMPD developed the project ‘Capacity Building for Combating Trafficking for Labour Exploitation’. The project is funded by the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs and brings together 14 countries from wider Europe. The project not only aims at enhancing the national capacities of relevant officials to tackle the issue of labour exploitation, but also strengthening transnational cooperation within the EU and its neighbouring countries in South-Eastern Europe. Vast differences in GDP per capita, as well as differences in unemployment rates and minimum wages, contribute to the mobility of workers between low-income areas and high-income areas, sometimes leading to exploitation and trafficking. Even though the phenomenon of trafficking for labour exploitation is not always easily recognisable, some common features of jobs most prone to exploitation stand out:

- Requirement of lower skill levels
- Prevalence in economic sectors with seasonal peaks in work
- More labour-intensive nature
- Relatively poor regulation
- Prevalence in sectors where regular checks and controls are difficult

To address these challenges, ICMPD will conduct workshops that will bring together labour inspectors, judges and prosecutors, police investigators and policy-making anti-trafficking stakeholders. In this multidisciplinary setting, they will share experiences, discuss approaches and gain knowledge to improve their capacity in combating trafficking for labour exploitation.

Previous ICMPD Initiatives


Focus on trafficking for labour exploitation in ‘Enhancing Transnational Cooperation on Trafficking Cases in South-Eastern Europe (TRM-II)’, funded by USAID (2010 - 2012)
A series of reports presenting the results of the ‘Promoting Sustainable Policies for Integration (PROSINT) Study’, which examines the linkage of integration and admission policies, was released in April 2012 on the website of ICMPD’s Research Unit (http://research.icmpd.org). This series includes 5 comparative reports and a total of 24 country and case study reports summarising the research undertaken in 9 European countries. The countries covered by the project were Austria, the Czech Republic, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and the United Kingdom. Additional publications resulting from the project will be published in the course of 2012 and 2013.

Background

While integration policies as such are not new, and in some countries date back to the 1980s, there have been important shifts in the debates on integration and in integration policymaking in the past decade. One of the main recent trends in integration policymaking is the linkage of integration policy with admission policy and the related increase of attention paid to recent immigrants. A second trend is the increasing use of obligatory integration measures and integration conditions in admission policy. Lastly, integration policy making is increasingly influenced by European developments, both through binding regulations (directives and other legislation, as well as court decisions at the European level) and through policy learning between states.

An increasing number of European States have, in fact, adopted integration-related measures as part of their admission policy. The impact of such measures on integration trajectories of immigrants, however, is far less clear. In addition, EU Member States’ policies follow different, partly contradictory rationales in integration policy shifts by conceptualising integration 1) as rights-based inclusion, 2) as a prerequisite for admission residence rights, with rights interpreted as conditional and 3) as commitment to values and certain cultural traits of the host society.

Project Partners

- International Centre for Migration Policy Development (project coordination)
- Multicultural Centre Prague (CZ)
- European Forum for Migration Studies (DE)
- International and European Forum of Migration Research (IT)
- Erasmus University Rotterdam (NL)
- Department of Social Risks and Safety Studies in the School of Management and Governance, University of Twente (NL)
- University of Barcelona (ES)
- Social Policy Research Centre, Middlesex University (UK)
- Department of Politics, The University of Sheffield (UK)
Objectives

The objectives of the PROSINT Study was to evaluate the impact of admission-related integration policies on the integration of newcomers, to analyse the different logics underlying integration policymaking and to investigate the main target groups of compulsory and voluntary integration measures.

The project investigated different aspects of these questions along five distinct work packages. These analysed 1) the European policy framework on migrant integration, 2) the different national policy frameworks for the integration of newly arrived immigrants in the countries covered by the research, 3) the admission-integration nexus at the local level studied in 13 localities across the countries covered by the research, 4) the perception and impacts of mandatory pre-arrival measures in 4 of the countries covered and 5) a methodologically-oriented study of the impact of admission related integration measures.

Results

The results of the project can be summarised as follows:

- The development of admission-related integration policy measures is mainly driven by political dynamics.
- The scope and importance of the “admission-integration-policy-nexus” is very uneven in the countries investigated by the project. Some countries only very loosely, if at all, link integration and immigration policy and a cluster of more established countries of immigration show a strong tendency to emphasise this link.
- In those countries with a strong linkage of integration measures and admission policy, there is a strong convergence in the rationales for making this link, despite considerable differences in their past policies towards migrants.
- There is a remarkable lack of more comprehensive evaluations of integration measures built into immigration law. As a result, policies tend to be evaluated more on the basis of beliefs about expected impacts, as well as their political success, than on the basis of empirical evidence regarding their actual impact on target groups.
- Due to theoretical, methodological and data reasons, it is extremely challenging to identify the wider impacts of integration measures built into migration law, which partly explains the lack of evaluations. However, there is sufficient evidence to suggest that some of the measures adopted (notably pre-entry tests) do little to promote the integration of third-country nationals, even though other explicit or implicit objectives may be achieved.
- Even though evidence on the impact of post-entry measures is mixed, notably in the medium and long run, the existence of comparable integration programmes for newly arriving immigrants in very different settings (existence versus absence of compulsory programmes, strong national coordination versus lack of coordination, etc.) suggests that these programmes indeed respond to an actual need for specific measures targeting newcomers.
The new i-Map platform was officially launched on 20 March 2012. Reflecting a comprehensive approach to the i-Map concept, the remodelled i-Map platform will bring together all i-Map projects – Prague Process, MTM Dialogue and Budapest Process i-Maps – into one common portal. Launched in 2006, the i-Map concept is an interactive online platform serving a wide range of users, principally governments of participating states, as a source and exchange instrument for information on migration matters. Developed in response to an increased demand for a more user-friendly interface and broader and more up-to-date content coverage, the new i-Map platform is designed to facilitate access to information, while providing the user with the most recent developments in the field of migration. The platform’s ease of use stems from its:

- New designs
- Revised and updated content
- Brand new features (e.g. News Centre)
- Easy-to-navigate pages

The i-Map platform offers a large number of supporting tools such as profiles, mappings, visualisations and daily news updates in various working languages. One of the key features of the new platform is the i-Map News Centre, which was designed as an essential complementary tool to the i-Map profiles and provides the most recent information and news on migration through extensive news screenings and daily updates. With its user-friendly interface allowing i-Map users to navigate their way through their geographic and thematic areas of interest and its ‘get alerts’ function, the News Centre is tailored to all users’ specific needs.

Persons interested in learning more about the common i-Map platform and seeing its innovative features can visit the website: www.imap-migration.org or watch the YouTube video on the i-Map: www.youtube.com/user/ICMPD.
To subscribe to the ICMPD Newsletter and to receive it via email, please send an email to Newsletter@icmpd.org or visit our website at www.icmpd.org for the subscription form. Older issues of the ICMPD Newsletter can be downloaded from the ICMPD website. This issue is comprised of submissions sent by 15 May 2012.