MTM AMEDIP South-South Workshop Seeks to Engage Diaspora

The MTM AMEDIP Workshop on South-South Cooperation in Migration and Development, which took place on 17 - 18 July 2012 in Dakar, Senegal, identified South-South cooperation mechanisms and frameworks to facilitate the transfer of knowledge and resources diaspora acquired in their countries of destination. The workshop was successful in achieving this goal and an activity of paramount importance for the project was launched: the South-South Expert Exchange.

‘Sestre’ Film Brings Awareness to Human Trafficking Issue

ICMPD invited guests to the special screening, panel discussion and reception for the Serbian film ‘Sestre’ (Sisters) on 5 June 2012 at Artis International Cinema in Vienna. The event was in the framework of the project ‘Enhancing Transnational Cooperation on Trafficking Cases in South-Eastern Europe (TRM-II)’, funded by USAID. It was attended by representatives from the South-Eastern European countries that participated in the TRM-II project, as well as representatives from national and international diplomatic missions and anti-trafficking stakeholders in Vienna. The screening was followed by a panel discussion with Bojana Maljevic, the film’s producer, and a reception. The event provided an ideal opportunity for guests to reflect on the moving film and the importance of combating human trafficking.

Rabat Process Senior Officials Meeting Furthers Dakar Strategy

This meeting, a follow-up to the 3rd Euro-African Ministerial Conference on Migration & Development, was held in Madrid on 6 June 2012 under the co-presidency of Spain and Morocco. The event was attended by eighty high-level representatives and national focal points from partner countries and organisations. Ongoing and new initiatives within the framework of the Dakar Strategy 2012 - 2014 were discussed by the participants. In addition, priority actions and good practices were presented and a road map was endorsed.

Upcoming Events

18 Sep SCIBM Project Final Conference in Brussels, Belgium

18-21 Sep ETEM III Training on External Cooperation in the Area of Migration & Development in Tunis, Tunisia

9 Oct EU Support to Law Enforcement Project Kick-off in Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina

17-19 Oct Training Workshop on the External Dimension of the EU Migration & Asylum Policy for ICMPD Member States

Follow Us
In ICMPD we are led by this quote of Mahatma Gandhi in all our activities, be it in the domain of research and capacity building in different migration-related fields, or when it comes to our role in several migration dialogues. In the end, all our services are dedicated to our Member States and we strive for a forward-looking, comprehensive and, if necessary, critical approach.

ICMPD was established as a cooperation platform and as a service-oriented organisation for its members. Its mandate spans from providing support on issues of interest in the migration field, to expertise, research and efficient services that would reflect and respond to existing migration trends, current policy developments and Member States’ needs. Throughout its years of existence, and next year it will be already its twentieth, ICMPD has supported its Member States to find and implement solutions to the challenges they are faced with.

Services to Member States aim to support them in addressing their priorities and carrying out their tasks related to migration. We recognise that these services are an essential part of our work. Those provided to our Member States should not only reaffirm ICMPD’s reputation as a Member States-based organisation, but also reflect the added value of membership.

Since the establishment of ICMPD, various targeted and tailor-made activities have been conducted within the framework of services to Member States, such as support in the design and management of projects, facilitation of access to EU funding, improvement of administrative practice, support in the development of migration strategies and policies, provision of analyses and research, and access to networking. We have also supported our Member States in increasing the efficiency and effectiveness of their activities in third countries and have facilitated cooperation between these countries. All these are examples of the practical implementation of the mandate and several cases are presented in detail in this Newsletter issue.

Apart from targeted services, we offer our Member States extensive in-house knowledge and expertise that has been acquired through the activities carried out over the last nineteen years. This not only creates a wide and diverse information exchange but also deepens relations with the relevant authorities of our members.

I hope that this Newsletter will help to achieve this aim.

Sabine Klinglmair  
Director, General Affairs & Research
When the six representatives from the Bulgarian Ministry of Interior arrived at ICMPD on 14 February 2012, they were warmly welcomed by ICMPD's Director-General, Peter Widermann, who officially opened the training programme. They were then treated to a series of in-depth lectures on topics ranging from the EU's migration and asylum policies to current migration trends and policy findings with a focus on irregular migration, return and reintegration. The training, which took place from 14 - 16 February 2012, was carried out by ICMPD experts on these topics.

Tailor-made training is one of the principle services that ICMPD offers its Member States. It is also an inclusive service as it offers in-house expertise and a versatile format comprised of workshops, discussions and practical exercises. Moreover, the topics covered are based on the specific requests of the trainees. This combination of a well-rounded, flexible structure with specialised content ensures that the trainees receive the knowledge and skills they need in the most efficient manner.

Indeed, all the participants confirmed that the information and know-how they received in the February training was immensely useful for their daily work at the Ministry of Interior in Bulgaria. Ms. Mariyana Nikolaeva Marinova, a member of the Secretariat of the National Migration Council and Deputy Director of the Migration Directorate, said that the training will “improve the coordination between our [their] responsible bodies” and that it will help them “improve the measures in our [their] action plan for this year”. The EU's policies on migration and asylum, regular migration and irregular migration were the topics most singled out as being particularly relevant for the participants' work. In addition to strengthening the individual expertise of the participants, the training was also “a continuation of the good cooperation between the Bulgarian Ministry of Interior and ICMPD,” said Ms. Marinova.
ICMPD’s Brussels Mission has become a key resource for ICMPD to be able to provide services to its Member States and partners. Indeed, many of ICMPD’s training programmes are planned and executed by the Brussels Mission. Using its location in Brussels and its role as a facilitator between ICMPD and the EU bodies, the Brussels Mission is able to train both ICMPD Member States on EU policies and EU staff on specialised topics.

Training for ICMPD Member States

In July 2010 and November 2011, ICMPD’s staff in Brussels carried out the first two training workshops on EU external migration and asylum policies for representatives of its Member States. The workshops focused on the EU’s Global Approach to Migration and Mobility, a strategic framework that has allowed the EU to take major steps towards developing comprehensive and coherent policies that address a broad range of migration-related issues. Moreover, this framework brings together the areas of justice and home affairs, development and external relations in order to enhance dialogue and cooperation on migration. The political nature of migration gives European Commission (EC) migration projects a high degree of visibility and critical scrutiny from a wide variety of actors, including EU Member States.

The training workshops covered the major areas of migration management (asylum, border management, irregular migration, human trafficking, legal migration and migration development). Their aim was to provide participants with a clear understanding of the tools available at the EU level and nationally for engaging with third countries on migration issues. Trainers were drawn from among ICMPD’s own staff, but also included EC officials and those from the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

Following the two first successful training workshops, which were attended by participants from a majority of ICMPD Member States, the third initiative of this type will take place on 17 - 19 October 2012 at the premises of the ICMPD Brussels Mission. This time, the invitation is also directed to the respective justice and home affairs counsellors based in Brussels, personnel of other ministries, development agencies and staff that might be posted in embassies in third countries.

Training for EU Agencies

Despite the importance of migration issues, efforts to effectively include them into the EC external cooperation agenda have gained ground only in the last 8 - 9 years, reflecting developments at the political level. Therefore, migration remains a relatively new area for cooperation for many EC staff members, especially in the EU Delegations. As a result, specialised training in this area is required, particularly with regard to understanding the options for operational cooperation – the basis for designing implementation strategies. In addition, the ‘deconcentration’ of projects to EU Delegations in the field increases the need to discuss the evolution of projects and to exchange best practices and lessons learnt through implementation.
In view of these needs, the purpose of the EU-funded ‘External Thematic Expertise on Migration’ (ETEM) project, implemented by the ICMPD Brussels team, has been to support the work of the Directorate-General for Development and Cooperation – EuropeAid (DEVCO). Specifically, the project aims to enhance DEVCO’s operational capacities, ensuring that EC cooperation on migration is as effective and informed as possible and that the EC can deliver in operational terms on the political commitments taken.

Several regional/sub-regional training workshops have been carried out with a focus on different aspects of migration and a practical focus on steering projects in the area of migration. Each training has been specifically adapted to meet the needs of the target Delegations, providing an opportunity to bring together practitioners, EU Delegation staff and EC headquarters personnel to exchange views, engage in discussions and keep headquarters up to date.

Under the first phase of the ETEM (ETEM I) project, training programmes were held for EU Delegations throughout the world – from Kenya to Indonesia. Most dealt with the topics of legal/irregular migration, asylum, migration and development and border management. With the completion of the project’s second phase, ETEM II, the aim of giving all EU Delegations in developing regions worldwide access to the trainings once again has been achieved. However, as EU Delegation staff constantly rotates, efforts to provide further trainings on migration in line with the feedback received and needs expressed have been pursued under ETEM III (ongoing). Topics and regions covered include Integrated Border Management in West and North Africa, human trafficking in Asia, Integrated Border Management in Eastern Europe and Central Asia, and migration and development in the Middle East and North Africa. In addition, ICMPD has been implementing 1-day training workshops on migration for staff at the EC’s headquarters on a biannual basis.

By providing expert training that addresses participants’ specific needs, ICMPD is truly a valuable resource for its Member States and partners. The development and execution of training programmes on migration-related topics also allows the organisation to play an important role in furthering sound migration governance.

Participants of the ICMPD Member States Training in November and December of 2011 in Brussels, Belgium

One of the best trainings. Well balanced between theory and practice. Wealth of info. Great expertise and pedagogic skills of trainers.” EC Training Participant, June 2012
Visa policy plays an increasingly important role for the security of countries around the globe. Nevertheless, state institutions worldwide have to solve the dilemma of establishing visa procedures that would correspond to their security needs but would not create unnecessary barriers for the attraction of tourists and investors.

There is little debate about the importance of visas as an instrument that protects state borders and efficiently regulates migration flows, especially nowadays with a globalisation process requires frequent internationals travel. On the other hand, visa applicants, often, are not very keen on fulfilling visa requirements, especially staying in queues, undergoing interviews and spending money on visa processing. From this perspective, the consular posts have to carry out measures to ensure a high-quality customer service and create a proper environment where visa applicants would feel comfortable with the visa procedure and security measures it implies.

The first question one should ask when thinking about establishing an efficient and secure visa system is ‘where to start?’. Should human and financial resources be invested in capacity building, institutional development or modern IT infrastructure or should visa policy development be outsourced to a third party? There is no perfect answer to these questions. Nonetheless, there is little doubt about the fact that the establishment of a comprehensive legal framework should be on top of the list of policymakers.

Countries have adopted different visa models. Some have built their visa decision-making process around the outcomes of the interview between consular officers and visa applicants. Others rely on the evidence confirmed by the documents submitted before the consular officers. There are also countries that are moving the visa process online where there is no direct personal interaction between visa applicants and consular officers.

The future of visa policy is very much straightforward in case of the Republic of Moldova. The Moldovan authorities have strongly committed themselves to using EU standards in its legislation and the visa legal framework is not an exception in this case.

Building partnerships is the key ingredient in achieving any desirable result. The same logic was applied in the case of the project ‘Supporting the Implementation of the EC Visa Facilitation and Readmission Agreements in Georgia and Moldova’ funded by the European Union and implemented by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration of the Republic of Moldova (MFAEI) and the International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD). The MFAEI and ICMPD partnered in order to work on developing an efficient Moldovan legal...
framework in the visa field that would correspond to the EU standards. Thus, the main goal of the project was to develop Moldovan visa regulations and corresponding implementation guidelines.

The Moldovan experts working on the project faced some challenges from the beginning, challenges which are common to countries trying to implement EU standards. Procedures such as appeals against visa refusal, cooperation with external service providers, collection of biometric data and risk assessment were new to Moldovan experts since such concepts did not exist in Moldovan legislation. In order to solve these challenges, the project activities included study visits to EU partners (Hungary and Romania) where experts from the MFAEI had the opportunity to become familiar with the EU’s legal framework on visas and best practices in this field. In addition, visa workshops were organised in the Republic of Moldova where EU experts provided advice and expertise in drafting the visa regulations and the implementation guidelines.

The project had an additional value because of the exchange of knowledge and best practices between the beneficiaries of the project: Moldovan and Georgian authorities. Visa experts from Chisinau and Tbilisi had the opportunity to share their experience in developing an efficient national visa legal framework and to point out the main challenges in the implementation and the solutions to these challenges.

Currently, the regulation on the issuance of visas is at the final stage of development. According to Moldovan national legislation, the draft will have to be sent for comments to the competent authorities, i.e. the Ministry of Internal Affairs, Ministry of Justice and Ministry of Economy. Once the draft is updated according to the comments received, it will be sent to the Government for approval.

The Moldovan experts who have been working on the ICMPD project have learned some very valuable lessons throughout its implementation. The first and most important one is that permanent communication and interaction with EU partners is crucial. Visa policies are constantly evolving in the EU and it is important for third countries to be up to date with new developments. Only by permanent communication can problems be known before they happen. From this point of view, the MFAEI established good partnerships with the Romanian National Visa Center and the Hungarian Department of Consular Affairs with the assistance of the ICMPD project.

Second, building trust can happen only through a proactive approach and taking responsibility for actions. The use of EU visa standards in national legislation can be achieved if state authorities are proactive and work hard in promoting the necessary legal drafts. Furthermore, once you do your ‘homework’, others will be willing to trust you and help in future projects.

Last but not least, the development of a legal framework is only the beginning. The existence of clear regulations and laws does not guarantee an efficient visa system. Further efforts and resources should be devoted to capacity building, institutional cooperation, IT infrastructure and high-quality customer service.

Mr. Radu Cucos is Deputy-Head of the Consular Affairs General Directorate at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration of the Republic of Moldova.

This is part of a series of Newsletter articles written by ICMPD partners or project beneficiaries to offer an external perspective on migration-related issues.
Utilisation of the Services of ICMPD

“The contracting parties are vested with the rights to make unlimited use of any results of ICMPD activities for their own purposes in terms of formulating their migration policies, as well as for their endeavours in the area of international migration policy.”

This quote taken from the ICMPD Agreement is mirrored in the Strategy 2015 and guides a number of our activities, some of which are presented in this Newsletter issue. Below are yet other two examples of the support ICMPD provides to its Member States – support that is based on in-house knowledge, expertise and experience gained through ICMPD’s activities on the international level.

Support in Project Implementation

Cooperation in the area of trafficking in human beings between the Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic and ICMPD was established in the framework of the ‘Data Collection and Harmonised Information Management Systems’ project implemented by ICMPD several years ago. Four ICMPD Member States took part in the project and the Republic of Slovakia was among them. Software that collects data on traffickers and victims of trafficking was one of the project’s key deliverables. The project also created a foundation for further bilateral cooperation between the Ministry of Interior and ICMPD.

When the European Commission launched the call for proposals under the programme Prevention of and Fight against Crime, the Ministry of Interior submitted a proposal that dealt with several outstanding issues that needed to be addressed on the national level. ICMPD was requested to be a partner in the new project, titled ‘Prevention and Extended Harmonised Data Collection System on Trafficking in Human Beings’, due to its expertise in the area of trafficking in human beings, especially in terms of data collection, and its extensive engagement in international cooperation. To this end, the role of ICMPD in this project is to provide expertise and methodological guidance and share lessons learnt from similar projects implemented in other European countries. The proactive sharing of institutional knowledge and experiences gained through project implementation is an important element in the support ICMPD can provide to its members. Moreover, the decision of the Ministry of Interior to build on the outcomes of the earlier project and on the relations developed with ICMPD affirms the level of trust partners have towards ICMPD.

Migration Policy Development at the Core of ICMPD

ICMPD understands the importance of defining the priorities and objectives of migration policy and is prepared to support its Member States in their efforts to draft their national migration strategies. One of the recent examples of such support is the National Strategy on Migration, Asylum and Integration (2011 - 2020) of Bulgaria. Two ICMPD experts supported the newly formed coordination body, the National Council for Migration Policy, in preparing Bulgaria’s migration policy. The process, initiated in 2010, was already well underway when the ICMPD experts joined. ICMPD not only provided input in thematic fields such as return, reintegration and citizenship, but also reviewed the structure and scope of the strategy. This engagement has proved extremely successful and ICMPD is proud to have been involved in the preparations of the strategic document.
The impact of climate and other environmental changes on migration is a topic of growing importance on the agenda of a number of international organisations, UN agencies and bodies, NGOs, as well as on the EU agenda. Acknowledgement of this issue in 2010 at the Mexico Global Forum for Migration and Development (GFMD)¹ and in the Cancun Agreements² is an important milestone in the process towards a consensus to address this new challenge at the international level. Some governments have also recognised the issues at stake. In October 2011, Foresight, the UK Government Office for Science, released the findings from a two-year research project examining how future environmental change could affect human migration around the world over the next 50 years³.

Current Reflections on Migration & Environmental Change at the EU Level

The European Parliament has been raising the issue of the impact of environmental change on migration for more than 10 years. However, it is only since the publication of both a joint paper by the European Commission (EC) and the High Representative in 2008⁴ and the results of the Environmental Change and Forced Migration Scenarios (EACH-FOR) project⁵ that the issue has been taken into consideration at the EU level. In the 2009 Stockholm Programme outlining the EU actions in the area of justice, freedom and security policy for 2010 - 2014, the European Council underlined that “The connection between climate change, migration and development needs to be further explored” and invited the Commission “to present an analysis of the effects of climate change on international migration, including its potential effects on immigration to the European Union”⁶. As a result, the topic appeared in the working programme of the European Commission in 2011. In order to gather ideas, an experts’ consultation on the linkages between climate change and migration was organised in May 2011. Currently, a Staff Working Paper is being drafted by the EC. The fact that four directorates general (HOME, DEVCO, ECHO and CLIMA) are involved in this project shows the complexity of the topic. The document is due to be published in March 2013 attached to a wider communication on the EU Adaptation Strategy.

Roundtable on Migration as an Adaptation Strategy to Climate Change on 9 July 2012 in Brussels, Belgium
ICMPD Activities on Migration & Environmental Change

In 2011, ICMPD published a study on legal and policy responses to environmentally induced migration following a request from the Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs of the European Parliament. This study set out to examine the legal and policy aspects of climate- and environment-related displacement. It assesses to what extent the current EU framework for immigration and asylum, in general, and the individual instruments in regard to asylum, in particular, already offer an adequate response to climate-induced displacement. It also examines how the legal framework could evolve in order to provide an improved response to the phenomenon of environmentally induced migration. The study also clarifies in which way such a modified legal framework can be rooted in the Lisbon Treaty, including the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union.

In the framework of the preparation of the Staff Working Paper, the team from the ICMPD project ‘External Thematic Expertise on Migration’ (ETEM) currently provides general support in terms of policy analysis to the EC on climate change and migration. Additionally, the ICMPD Brussels Mission supported the organisation of two roundtables on parts of the future Staff Working Paper that need to be developed, namely the issue of migration as a strategy of adaptation to climate change and the development impacts of forced and environmental migration. They featured the participation of EU staff, representatives of international organisations, selected non-EU countries and relevant civil society organisations. Conclusions of these events will feed into the future Staff Working Papers. ICMPD also contributed to preparing the 2012 GFMD discussions on this issue by providing input to the background paper of the upcoming Roundtable 2.2. on South-South Migration that covers, among other things, the link between environmental change and migration in the South.

Notes

1 In the framework of the Mexico 2010 GFMD, a specific roundtable was dedicated to the issue of climate change and migration. The background paper of that roundtable highlighted that “Efforts could also be made to facilitate the role of migration as an adaptation strategy to climate change by, for instance, developing international temporary and circular labour migration schemes for environmentally vulnerable communities, particularly at less advanced stages of environmental degradation, and seeking to strengthen the developmental effects of such migration on areas of origin (for example, through remittances and skills transfer)”, http://www.gfmd.org/documents/mexico/gfmd_mexico10_rt_3-2-background_paper_en.pdf.

2 The Cancun Agreements reached at the 16th Conference of the Parties (COP) of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in 2010 invite all parties to undertake “measures to enhance understanding, coordination and cooperation with regard to climate change induced displacement, migration and planned relocation”. The Cancun Agreements: Outcome of the Work of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Long-term Cooperative Action under the Convention, 1/CP.16, chapter on “Enhanced Action on Adaptation”, paragraph 14 (f).

3 Full details of the report findings can be found in the final project report and executive summary: http://www.bis.gov.uk/assets/foresight/docs/migration/11-1116-migration-and-global-environmental-change.pdf. The project has involved around 350 leading experts and stakeholders from 30 countries across the world. More than 70 papers and other reviews of the state of the art of diverse areas of science were commissioned to inform the analysis: http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/+/http://www.bis.gov.uk/foresight/our-work/projects/current-projects/global-migration/reports-publications.


5 More information at http://www.each-for.eu.


7 ICMPD: “Climate Refugees” Legal and Policy Responses to Environmentally Induced Migration, Study commissioned by the LIBE Committee of the European Parliament, Brussels, 2011, PE 462.422
Spotlight

Bridging the Gap: Bringing Migration into the Classroom

Lika Jalagania, a student from the Tbilisi State University, did not know what to expect when she was invited to participate in the Summer School. She, like many of the other participants, did not know much about the topic of applied migration research before preparing for the GOVAC Summer School, as the topic is seldom discussed in the classrooms of academia. The GOVAC International Summer School on Applied Migration Research provided these participants, all young academics from Georgian and Moldovan universities, with an opportunity to learn about migration and its impact on a country’s political, social and economic situation, as well as how it is discussed in the media.

The Summer School took place from 25 - 29 June 2012 in Grgoleti, Georgia. It brought together 31 students from the fields of political/social science, economics, law and journalism to examine and debate on the role of migration in these fields. It is part of the project ‘Building Training and Analytical Capacities on Migration in Moldova and Georgia’ (GOVAC project), which is being implemented by ICMPD and the Danish Refugee Council, along with partners from European governments, research and academia.

The students participated in workshops and discussions, which were led by academic experts from the EU, USA, Georgia and Moldova, and wrote a research paper on a specific area of migration. This opportunity to learn from top experts in the migration field and to carry out their own research proved to be an eye-opening experience for the students. Lika said that she had “more knowledge and experience in [the] migration issue” after attending the Summer School. Ana Janelidze, a M.A. student at the Tbilisi State University in Georgia, concurred: “[The programme] really helped me to look at migration issues from different perspectives and made me think and read much more about debatable questions regarding migration”. In highlighting the important ways migration intersects politics, society and the economy, the one-week programme motivated many of the students to consider doing migration-related research further on in their academic careers. Anna Petrachi from the Moldovan State University concluded: “These kinds of projects are important for our young generation, in order to develop professional technocrats’ skills, which are absolutely necessary in order to ensure our countries’ political future”.

A group of GOVAC Summer School participants discuss a work assignment
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