

Senior officials' meeting in Moldova, September 2024

Prague Process: Strategic migration dialogue

Recent geopolitical developments, including the Russian war against Ukraine, have had far-reaching implications for migration dynamics across Europe and the Eastern Neighbourhood. While migration remains a core concern of the EU, ongoing political tensions and fragmented approaches impede cooperation. In this complex landscape, the Prague Process serves as a vital platform for dialogue and trust-building among its 47 participating states, comprising both EU and non-EU members with diverse policy priorities. Through its activities, the Dialogue supports cooperation on migration governance, encourages policy harmonisation, and promotes safe and regular migration pathways, contributing to more resilient, rights-based responses to evolving mobility challenges.

Trust building and policy harmonisation



Training workshop on reintegration December 2024

Through its Strategic Group and Senior Officials' Meetings, the Prague Process offers valuable opportunities for dialogue among participating states, including those lacking formal communication channels due to geopolitical tensions. National priorities informed the 2023–2027 Action Plan, ensuring the Dialogue reflected members' needs. The ICMPD Secretariat has also facilitated cooperation with European and international partners, including the European Migration Network and the EU Agency for Asylum.

Strategic dialogue contributes to the development of national migration policies. Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, and Germany have promoted labour mobility while Armenia aligned its migration policies with European standards to enhance migration management.

"The Prague Process provides the possibility for ***expert exchange, knowledge transfer and possibility for informal talks and new contacts*** *at the side of the events, sharing experiences and good practices among states and organisations involved."*
- Prague Process State

Digital knowledge sharing

The creation of a Repository, policy briefs, country migration profiles, and thematic webinars generate reliable data and evidence for migration policy. The e-Learning platform builds capacities in migration management across the thematic priorities. Meanwhile, the Digital Lab and Resilience Hub foster digital skills and data collection efforts. This well-received format enables states to observe, learn from, and adapt effective migration practices to their contexts.

*"Information exchange among the Prague Process participating states **builds a strong migration expert community**. This network is our asset and professional capital that we can rely on for our professional and personal development."* - Prague Process State



Prague Process participants of the International Border Management Conference in Tunis, 2024

Peer learning and policy exchange

Study visits under the Training Academy and four Thematic Components facilitate policy exchange and peer learning, helping to adapt best practices into national legislative frameworks. Participants to the 2023 visit to Germany engaged with the asylum authorities, gaining insights into protection mechanisms. Regional simulation-based trainings have similarly fostered collaboration on countering human trafficking.

*"The key findings and best practices from the anti-trafficking simulation exercise in Kazakhstan in the summer of 2023 **contributed to the organisation of a similar large-scale simulation exercise for national authorities and organisations to educate and raise awareness.**"* Survey respondent



Joint Prague Process-EMN Luxembourg Workshop, 2024

Needs-based and responsive migration dialogue

The Prague Process fosters constructive dialogue through a needs-based, flexible approach that responds to participant diversity and evolving migration dynamics. It facilitates inter-state cooperation on migration management, including limiting irregular migration and human trafficking, managing return and reintegration, border management, enhancing labour migration, integration and protection systems.

About the MPF

The Dialogue is funded by the European Union through the Migration Partnership Facility (MPF), which is implemented by the International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD) and supports the external dimension of the EU's migration policy. MPF funds projects that promote dialogue and cooperation on migration and mobility between EU Member States and partner countries outside the EU.

About the dialogue

The Prague Process aims to strengthen cooperation and dialogue on migration through promotion of migration partnerships among the countries of the European Union, Schengen area, Eastern Partnership, Western Balkans, Central Asian, as well as Türkiye. Its 2023–2027 Action Plan responds to evolving and context-specific priorities of participating states. This is achieved through senior and expert-level dialogue, the Migration Observatory, the Training Academy, and thematic activities aligned with four identified priority areas.

About the evaluation

Testimonies used in this document were gathered as part of the mid-term review of the Prague Process dialogue, conducted between December 2024 and May 2025. The review was led by Samuel Hall, who is part of a consortium of six consultancies and NGOs, namely Blomeyer & Sanz, Diversity Development Group, Migration Policy Group, Policy Impact Lab, and Tandans.

Funded by the European Union

MPF Migration Partnership Facility

ICMPD International Centre for Migration Policy Development

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