

CAPACITY BUILDING FOR MIGRATION MANAGEMENT

Support to the development of the Concept of the National Migration Policy in Belarus

 Project completed

About the Project

The project aimed to support the Government of the Republic of Belarus in elaborating a concept on the country's migration policy that would further enhance migration management and governance based on the socio-economic priorities and needs of the country. This project was in line with the priority areas encapsulated in the Joint Declaration on a Mobility Partnership between the Republic of Belarus and the European Union and its participating Member states signed in October 2018. In particular, the project aimed to improve and implement the policies and the legal framework governing migration and strengthen the institutional capacities of the authorities responsible for migration management through the exchange of experience and support for capacity building, among others.



Partners

This MPF project was implemented by ICMPD on behalf of the Republic of Belarus.



Countries

Belarus



Time frame

February 2019 – February 2020



Budget

EUR 108,946.36 (AMIF)

Activities



Desk Research and Fact-Finding Mission

Desk research was conducted to collect and analyse information and data necessary to understand the overall migration-related framework in Belarus. In particular, the research involved a review of the existing policies, functions of institutions, legislation, studies, international agreements and conventions that Belarus was party to. The desk research results subsequently fed into the preparations for the fact-finding mission to Belarus as the relevant contact points were identified. The fact-finding mission entailed a series of bilateral and/or multilateral meetings with national authorities, the EU Delegation in Belarus, international organizations (e.g. IOM, UNHCR), civil society organizations, academia, private sector and other relevant stakeholders. These consultations enabled a better comprehension of the needs of stakeholders with the main findings, insights and recommendations incorporated into the Concept for National Migration Policy.



Study visit of Belarusian officials to an EU Member State

A study visit was conducted for representatives of Belarus to a selected EU MS to familiarise them with EU MS migration management policy and legislation and engage in practical visits with the officials involved in the development and implementation of migration policies and legislation, thereby facilitating a knowledge transfer exchange.



Knowledge Exchanges on Key Migration Topics and Drafting of Concept of the National Migration Policy

Four knowledge exchanges were held for Belarusian officials with migration management duties to equip them with the necessary knowledge on pertinent migration-related topics. The knowledge exchange events were organized around the following migration themes: (i) the impacts of migration on the national socio-economic development and state of play; (ii) migration and development; (iii) asylum, international protection and integration. Each knowledge exchange event was coupled with group drafting exercises facilitated by experts, focusing on formulating policy options related to the topics fed into the draft of the National Migration Policy Concept.



Finalisation of the Concept of the National Migration Policy and Closing Event

Remote assistance was provided to Belarusian counterparts to co-draft the Concept of the National Migration Policy. A one-day meeting was organized to present the first advanced draft to collect views and recommendations from participants on the draft document and identify the next steps. This was followed by a two-day consultation with suggestions and recommendations incorporated into the draft document and the content further elaborated and refined. In conjunction with the consultation process, the remote assistance culminated in the finalisation of the Concept. This was followed by organising a one-day event in Minsk that convened Belarus and EU officials and other relevant stakeholders, whereby the Final Draft National Migration Policy Concept was presented in February 2020.



The Migration Partnership Facility



This project was awarded and contracted in the framework of the Migration Partnership Facility (MPF), an EU-funded initiative implemented by ICMPD in support of the external dimension of the EU migration policy. Through its grants, the MPF facilitates the execution of projects to strengthen dialogue and cooperation on migration and mobility between Member States and partner countries outside the EU.

Funded by the European Union



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