



PRAGUE PROCESS
ПРАЖСКИЙ ПРОЦЕСС

PRAGUE PROCESS QUARTERLY REVIEW



#43

OCTOBER-DECEMBER 2025

EDITORIAL

Dear Reader,

We are pleased to present the latest edition of the Quarterly Review for October-December 2025, highlighting recent developments and ongoing cooperation within the Prague Process.

In October, Senior Officials met in Warsaw to review progress and exchange views on current migration priorities. They also discussed the way forward for the Prague Process and launched the preparations for the 5th Ministerial Conference, which Lithuania will be hosting in January 2027.

The Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Armenia hosted the Workshop on Strategic Communication for Migration Governance in Yerevan, providing a platform for intergovernmental exchange of good practices on communicating migration policies in an effective and responsible manner. Later in November, the 8th International Border Management Conference offered valuable perspectives on border governance, emerging trends and shared responsibility. Elsewhere, the General Inspectorate for Immigration of Romania hosted a Study Visit, providing a comprehensive overview of its labour migration policies, contributing to mutual learning. You can find more insights on these recent activities further below.

Meanwhile, the Migration Observatory has been busy updating the migration factsheets of numerous Prague Process states, ensuring access to timely and reliable migration data. The Training Academy continued to provide learning opportunities through its available e-courses. Finally, this issue also includes a selection of reading recommendations for further reflection.

We wish you a pleasant read, a peaceful holiday season, and a successful year ahead!

With best regards,

Prague Process Secretariat

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LOOKING AHEAD: UPCOMING PRAGUE PROCESS ACTIVITIES

- **29 January | Online**
Policy Talk “Looking into 2026: What migration-related developments to expect?”
- **February/ March (tbc) | Online**
Thematic Component 4: Online consultation on capacity development needs in Asylum and International Protection
- **24-25 February | Hungary**
Thematic Component 1: Study Visit on Border Management
- **March | Brussels (tbc)**
Thematic Component 3: Workshop on Labour Migration

SENIOR OFFICIALS MEET IN WARSAW

The Prague Process Senior Officials' Meeting, hosted by Poland's Ministry of the Interior and Administration in Warsaw, brought together more than 70 senior representatives from 31 participating states, alongside key international partners including the European Commission, EUAA, Frontex, FRA, IOM, UNHCR, and ICMPD, to review migration policy developments and provide strategic guidance for implementing the Action Plan 2023–2027. Over two days, participants exchanged perspectives on migration management, policy reforms, and cooperation needs, with discussions covering preparations for the EU Pact on Migration and Asylum, responses to instrumentalisation of migrants along the EU's eastern borders and forced displacement from Ukraine. The meeting highlighted the Process's role as an inclusive, trust-based platform linking EU and non-EU countries, with delegates reaffirming its value in fostering dialogue, practical cooperation, and measurable progress, while endorsing preparations for the 5th Ministerial Conference to be hosted by Lithuania in January 2027.

Read more [here](#).

PRAGUE PROCESS WORKSHOP ON MIGRATION COMMUNICATION HELD IN YEREVAN

The Prague Process Workshop on Strategic Communication for Migration Governance, hosted by the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Armenia on 4–5 November 2025 in Yerevan, brought together representatives of Prague Process states, communication experts, and international organisations to exchange experiences and good practices on communicating migration policies effectively and responsibly. Over two days, discussions explored how migration narratives shape public perception and policymaking, addressing challenges such as misinformation, crisis communication, and the need for fact-based, inclusive messaging in an increasingly digital environment. Participants shared practical approaches to proactive engagement, coordination among government institutions, and cooperation with media, while dedicated sessions examined communication around visa liberalisation processes, crisis situations, and outreach to migrants on legal pathways. The workshop reaffirmed the importance of transparent, evidence-based communication as a core element of effective migration governance and highlighted the Prague Process's role in supporting dialogue, trust, and cooperation among partner states.

Read more [here](#).



INSIGHTS FROM THE 8TH INTERNATIONAL BORDER MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE



The 8th International Border Management Conference (IBMC), organised by ICMPD together with the Ministry of Asylum and Migration of the Kingdom of the Netherlands on 18–19 November 2025 in Amsterdam, brought together more than 200 delegates from 44 countries to discuss border governance under the theme “Resilient Borders in a Changing World.” The conference provided a strategic platform for dialogue and exchange among EU Member States, ICMPD partner countries, and international organisations, with the Prague Process supporting the participation of 23 representatives from its non-EU participating states. The discussions underscored the importance of sustained cooperation, knowledge-sharing, and capacity development, reaffirming the ICMPD’s value in strengthening resilient, rights-based border governance across the wider region.

Read more [here](#).

ROMANIA PROVIDES A THOROUGH INSIGHT ON ITS LABOUR MIGRATION POLICIES TO PRAGUE PROCESS STATES

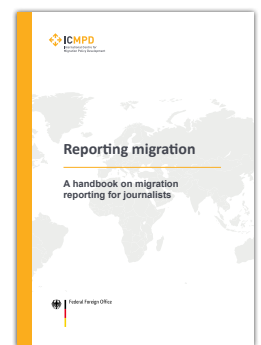


The Study Visit hosted by Romania’s General Inspectorate for Immigration on 19–21 November 2025, brought together representatives from 11 Prague Process states for an in-depth exchange on legal and labour migration policies, digitalisation, and operational practices. Combining expert presentations with site visits to the Constanța County Immigration Service and the Bucharest Immigration Directorate, the programme offered participants a comprehensive overview of Romania’s institutional framework, including its labour migration quota system, employer verification procedures, and coordination with labour authorities. The visit highlighted the practical value of peer learning, reaffirming the importance of cooperation and knowledge-sharing in adapting labour migration governance to evolving labour market needs and policy challenges across the region.

Read more [here](#).

PRAGUE PROCESS AT THE GDISC COMMUNICATIONS WORKSHOP IN ICELAND

Hosted by the Icelandic Directorate for Immigration, the GDISC Communications Workshop focused on the new EU Pact on Migration and Asylum took place in Reykjavík on 30 October 2025. The Prague Process Secretariat, represented by Mr. Radim Zak, took an active part in the event, presenting the ICMPD *Handbook for Journalists: Reporting Migration* as well as updating the audience about the work of PP and ICMPD related to the new EU Pact and developments of National Implementation Plans for some EU MS. Cooperation between the PP Secretariat at ICMPD and GDISC, its respective participating states, including Iceland, and its Secretariat at BAMF, will continue and synergies will be further explored.



EUROPEAN FORUM AGAINST TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS – COUNTERING ORGANISED CRIME AND PROTECTING VICTIMS



15 November 2025 marks the 25-year anniversary of the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime. Known also as the Palermo Protocol, it introduced the requirement of a comprehensive international approach to combating human trafficking. Its definition of trafficking in human beings has become a universally accepted standard with 175 states having ratified the protocol. Its standard laid the foundation also for other regional instruments that followed in the years after – the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings (2005) and the EU Anti-Trafficking Directive (2011 and 2024).

The latest [UNODC Global Report on Trafficking in Persons \(2024\)](#) revealed, among others, that firstly, the number of victims detected globally is on the rise again after reducing during the Covid pandemic, and secondly – most trafficking crimes are perpetrated by organised crime groups.

It is against this backdrop that the [Council of the Baltic Sea States \(CBSS\)](#) and [Europol](#), organised on 3-4 December 2025 the European Forum against Trafficking in Human Beings – Countering Organised Crime and Protecting Victims. It brought together more than 270 representatives from law enforcement agencies and ministries from across Europe and beyond to discuss what must change in Europe's anti-trafficking response and why strong national action remains essential. The participants explored issues such as benefit fraud, the role of online platforms in facilitating trafficking, forced criminality, the digital tools needed to counter human trafficking, and vulnerabilities in the context of Russia's ongoing war of aggression against Ukraine.

The forum was opened by Nina Larsson, Minister for Gender Equality in Sweden, Gustav Lindström, Director General of the CBSS Secretariat, and Katarina Johansson Welin, Prosecutor General of Sweden. The following high-level panel put the spotlight on Diane Schmitt, the EU's Anti-Trafficking Coordinator, Kari Johnstone, the OSCE's Special Representative and Coordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings, Ilias Chatzis, UNODC's Acting Chief of Organised Crime and Illicit Trafficking Branch, and Nenad Nača of Europol, in discussing what must change in Europe's fight against human trafficking. Ms Schmitt underlined the importance of cooperation with third countries as foreseen in the EU's current anti-trafficking strategy, and Mr Chatzis highlighted the fact that while EU and also non-EU countries that are part of the OSCE and Council of Europe frameworks, have these support mechanisms they can rely on in their efforts to combat trafficking, other third countries do not have such possibilities making the UN system the first available support framework. Reacting to this Mr Madis Vainomaa, ICMPD's Anti-Trafficking Expert Team Lead made a reference to the potential of the migration dialogues and encouraged especially the EU Member States participating in dialogues such as the Prague Process to leverage also these frameworks in advancing the cross-border cooperation and sharing of good practices across regions.

The last panel focused on the human trafficking in the context of war in Ukraine. The Prague Process discussed already in its August 2022 [Policy Brief](#) what governments needed to know about vulnerability to trafficking among the people fleeing the war in Ukraine. The governments were offered valuable lessons gathered and analysed in course of a number of ICMPD research initiatives identifying the vulnerability patterns of people on the move (since the start of the war in Syria), and ICMPD offered some of the key lessons learned from the empirical research to guide the governments on their way to tackle vulnerability and understand what drives the resilience of those on the move. Yet, the scale of separating and transferring of Ukrainian children by the Russian Federation has been horrid. As of December 2025, [Children of War](#) reports about 19 546 deported or forcibly displaced children, 1,916 returned to Ukraine, while 676 are known to have died.

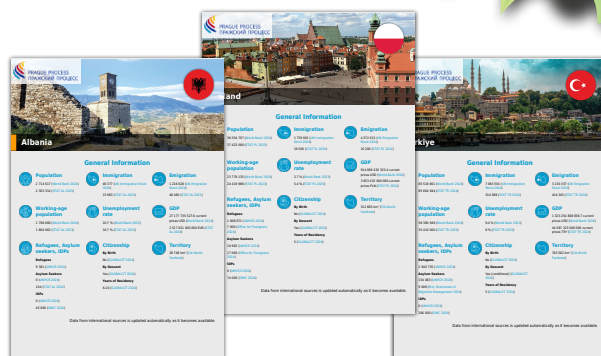


MIGRATION OBSERVATORY: UPDATED COUNTRY FACTSHEETS

The Prague Process Migration Observatory continues to support informed policy-making by providing impartial, evidence-based analysis across the region and in line with the six thematic areas of the Prague Process Action Plan.

During the reporting period, we updated the following factsheets: *Albania, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Finland, Germany, Hungary, Ireland, Latvia, the Netherlands, Poland, Sweden, Switzerland, Türkiye.*

The factsheets are updated every two to three years and include an overview of the most recent developments in terms of migration policy and legislation in each Prague Process state as well as migration data from both national and international sources. All factsheets can be accessed through the [interactive map](#). All publications of the Prague Process Migration Observatory in both languages are stored in the [repository](#) on the website.



TRAINING ACADEMY: AVAILABLE E-COURSES

The Training Academy continues to provide tailor-made and high-quality trainings addressing the priorities of the Action Plan. Since 2021, the e-Learning Platform has served the participating states and partners with educational material for self-paced independent remote learning.

The platform offers the following courses: [Introduction to Migration Studies](#), [Combating Trafficking in Human Beings](#), [Integrated Border Management](#), [Labour Migration](#), [Identification and Profiling at the Border](#), while also providing access to the course [Holistic Approach to the Integration of Migrants and Refugees](#) (available in English).

We invite representatives of the Prague Process states and partner institutions to take advantage of this remote learning opportunity as part of their continuous professional development. Access to all courses is granted to eligible representatives upon [registration](#) on the platform.

READING RECOMMENDATIONS

European Commission: EU-Central Asia Economic Forum

European Commission: Launch of new Skills Guarantee scheme to support workers in transition learning new skills for strategic sectors

European Commission: The 10th European Migration Forum focused on harnessing migrants' skills in the EU

European Commission approves Bosnia and Herzegovina's Reform Agenda

European Commission proposes two solutions to support Ukraine's financing needs in 2026–2027

European Parliament: Reinforced Europol mandate for fight against migrant smuggling

European Parliament: General budget of the European Union for the financial year 2026

EU-Kazakhstan Cooperation Council

EU-Uzbekistan Cooperation Council

EU and Armenia adopt Strategic Agenda to deepen partnership

EUAA: New EUAA report highlights deteriorating human rights and governance conditions in Russia

Frontex study: Use of earth observation technology for border management

Frontex: EU external borders: irregular crossings fall 22% in the first 10 months of 2025

Return and Reintegration Facility, Practical guidebook for return counsellors working with families with children

Return and Reintegration Facility, Practical guidebook on empowering women during return counselling sessions

Migration Partnership Facility, Re-thinking Approaches to Labour Migration – Potentials and Gaps in four EU Member States' Migration Infrastructures

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