

PRAGUE PROCESS QUARTERLY REVIEW



#46

JULY-SEPTEMBER 2026

EDITORIAL

Dear Reader,

The Prague Process is heading into a busy autumn. With the **5th Prague Process Ministerial Conference** now only a few months away, preparations are gaining pace, while cooperation across the region continues on asylum, labour migration, skills mobility and capacity development.

At the centre of preparations is the **Prague Process Action Plan 2028-2032**, which will set the framework for cooperation over the next implementation period. Following the first Preparatory Senior Officials' Meeting in Skopje in June, participating states and international organisations – parties to the Process continued to provide comments and proposals on the draft. In a next step, senior officials will meet in Prague on 10-11 November to move discussions on the Action Plan and Ministerial Declaration closer to conclusion and towards their expected endorsement by Ministers.

Beyond preparations for the Ministerial Conference, the past quarter brought asylum and international protection into focus. As the international community marks 75 years since the adoption of the 1951 Refugee Convention, UNHCR hosted the **Training Workshop on Strengthening Access to Asylum and Protection-Sensitive Systems**, bringing together Prague Process participating states and international partners. Discussions ranged from mixed movements and protection-sensitive systems, to identifying vulnerabilities, combining policy perspectives with practical experience from across the region.

Labour migration and skills mobility were another prominent theme. A new report from the Prague Process Migration Observatory takes a closer look at 39 government-led skills mobility partnerships and what they can tell us about addressing labour shortages and skills mismatches. At a time when countries across the region are searching for ways to attract needed skills while making mobility work for countries of origin, destination and migrants themselves, the findings add timely evidence to a rapidly evolving policy debate.

The coming months will bring further opportunities to exchange experience and knowledge and shape the future of the Process. When senior officials meet in Prague in November, they will look back at what has been achieved during the current implementation period, but, more importantly, they will turn their attention to what comes next.

Enjoy the read,

Prague Process Secretariat

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LOOKING AHEAD: UPCOMING PRAGUE PROCESS ACTIVITIES

- 8 October | Online
Migration Observatory: Webinar on Mapping Skills Mobility Partnerships in Selected Prague Process Countries
- 20-22 October | Vilnius, Lithuania
Training Academy & Thematic Component 4: Training Workshop on Asylum and International Protection for Judges, co-organised with the International Association of Refugee and Migration Judges
- 10-11 November | Prague, Czech Republic
2nd Preparatory Senior Officials' Meeting: Towards the 5th Prague Process Ministerial Conference
- 28 January 2026 | Vilnius, Lithuania
5th Prague Process Ministerial Conference (preceded by 3rd Preparatory SOM)

TRANSLATING PRINCIPLES TO PRACTICE: PRAGUE PROCESS, UNHCR MARK 75 YEARS OF REFUGEE CONVENTION WITH CAPACITY-BUILDING WORKSHOP

The Prague Process Workshop on Strengthening Access to Asylum and Protection-Sensitive Systems, held on 15-16 September 2026 in Geneva, brought together Prague Process participating states and international partners to strengthen capacities on asylum and international protection, marking the 75th anniversary of the 1951 Refugee Convention. The workshop, organised under the Prague Process Training Academy and Thematic Component 4 on Asylum and International Protection, addressed current mixed-movement dynamics in Europe and Asia, UNHCR's route-based approach, protection-sensitive entry and border procedures, procedural safeguards and vulnerability identification, including for victims of trafficking. Participants also explored strategies for strengthening national asylum systems, shared country-level challenges and good practices, and discussed practical approaches to improving access to asylum and protection-sensitive systems, with contributions from UNHCR, EUAA, IOM and Prague Process participating states.

Read more [here](#).



ROADMAP TOWARDS THE 5TH MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE: STATE CONSULTATIONS CONTINUE

Following discussions held at the [first Preparatory Senior Officials' Meeting towards the 5th Ministerial Conference in Skopje in June 2026](#), the Prague Process participating states and international organisations-parties to the Process provided further comments and suggestions on the draft **Prague Process Action Plan 2028-2032**. The updated draft reflects these extensive contributions, together with inputs collected through the Prague Process Questionnaire and written comments submitted ahead of the SOM in Skopje. Responding to Member States' call for a more streamlined, concise and coherent document, the Prague Process Secretariat thoroughly revised the wording, removed duplications and improved the clarity and accessibility of the proposed priorities and areas of cooperation, while maintaining the substance and ambition of the previous draft. The updated draft was circulated for a further review, reflecting the continued commitment to an inclusive and participatory consultation process.

The next stage of preparations will take place at the second Preparatory Senior Officials' Meeting in Prague, which will seek to advance and, if possible, conclude the discussions on the draft Action Plan 2028-2032 and the Ministerial Declaration ahead of their expected endorsement by Ministers on 28 January 2027. Senior officials will also take stock of the results achieved and policy developments observed across the Prague Process region during the current implementation period and exchange views on the future priorities, direction and methodology of Prague Process cooperation.



NEW PUBLICATION: SKILLS MOBILITY PARTNERSHIPS IN THE PRAGUE PROCESS REGION

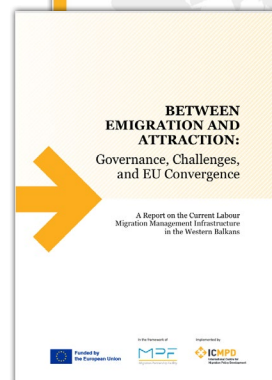
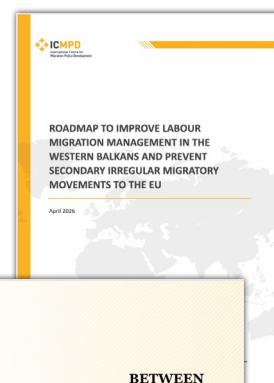
A new report 'Skills Mobility Partnerships in the Prague Process region' produced by the Prague Process Migration Observatory, maps 39 governmental skills mobility partnerships involving selected non-EU Prague Process participating states in the Western Balkans, Eastern Europe and Central Asia. The report highlights how such partnerships can help address labour shortages and skills mismatches while creating opportunities for skills development and legal, mutually beneficial mobility. It also identifies key areas for strengthening future partnerships, including qualification recognition, integration and reintegration support, sustainable mobility models and dual "home and away" tracks, offering practical considerations for participating states seeking to develop or further improve their skills mobility cooperation.

Read in [English](#) or [Russian](#).



NEW PUBLICATION: PSIMM PROJECT PUBLICATIONS ON LABOUR MIGRATION GOVERNANCE

ICMPD published two new outputs on labour migration governance in the Western Balkans under the EU-funded Migration Partnership Facility (MPF) project *Preventing Secondary Irregular Migration Movements to the EU (PSIMM)*. The **Background Report** assesses regional labour migration frameworks, challenges and practices. Meanwhile, the **Regional Roadmap** identifies six priority areas and practical approaches to strengthen labour migration management, worker protection, regional cooperation and the prevention of secondary irregular movements to the EU. A **nine-page Policy Summary** provides an accessible overview of the key findings and policy messages, complemented by a **Partner Voices Video** featuring insights from institutional partners and highlighting the importance of stronger cooperation and adaptive governance.



TRAINING ACADEMY: AVAILABLE E-COURSES

The Training Academy provides tailor-made trainings addressing the priorities set out by the Action Plan 2023-2027. 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**. It also provides 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. Access to all courses is granted to eligible representatives upon **registration** on the platform.



READING RECOMMENDATIONS

CEPS.EU: Who will work for Europe? How EU enlargement can help fill Europe's labour shortages

European Commission: EU Candidate Countries' & Potential Candidates' Economic Quarterly: Western Balkans and Türkiye, Q2 2026

European Commission: Remarks by Executive Vice-President Minzatu on the Fair Labour Mobility Package

European Commission: Questions and Answers on Fair Labour Mobility Package

European Migration Network (EMN): Annual reports – Migration and Home Affairs – European Commission

European Union Agency for Asylum (EUAA): Latest Asylum Trends: Mid-Year Review 2026

Eurostat: 4.43 million under temporary protection in July 2026

Eurostat: Asylum applications in June 2026

Eurostat: First residence permits issued in EU up by 10% in 2025, 11 September 2026

Council of the EU: Council adopts new rules on return for those with no right to stay in the EU

ICMPD: 10 Years of Impact – Adapting, Learning, Delivering: A Decade of MRC

ICMPD: Investing in the next generation of migration experts: how ICMPD supports today's students to become tomorrow's policymakers?

ICMPD: BETWEEN EMIGRATION AND ATTRACTION Governance, Challenges, and EU Convergence Policy Summary

Info Sapiens: Regional report «Women on the Move in Europe and Central Asia»

IOM: Europe and Central Asia | Displacement Tracking Matrix- Western Balkans — irregular migration, asylum and routes

IOM: Ukraine — Internal Displacement Report — General Population Survey Round 24 (July 2026)

IOM: Ukraine-Returning Home from Abroad: Reintegration Barriers, Outcomes and Implications for Ukraine's Recovery-August 2026

Migration Partnership Facility: Common Competency Framework for Healthcare Assistants in Long Term Care

OECD: SME Policy Index for Western Balkans and Türkiye 2026

UNDP: Justice Journeys in Displacement. 2026

UNHCR: RCSEE Route Based Approach Western Balkans Factsheet (August 2026)

Wider Europe Briefing: EU to Sanction Russian Military with New Focus



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