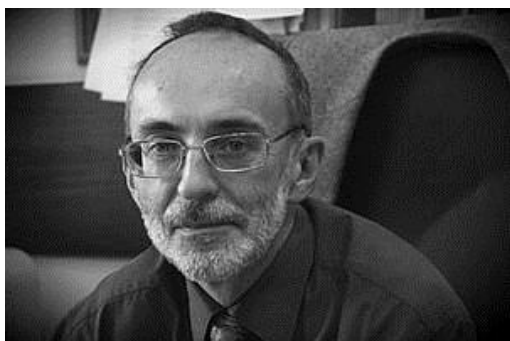


Director's welcome message

It is my pleasure to welcome you to the second issue of the Prague Process Quarterly Review April – July 2014. This issue will bring to your attention both an update on the developments in the Prague Process participating states and an overview of one of the EU mechanisms aimed at supporting countries in their effort to improve the management of migration.



The Extended Migration Profiles and Migration Profiles Light build the knowledge base of the Prague Process. Migration profiles provide relevant and structured information on the migration situation in the Prague Process states that can be used by such key players as governmental institutions, representatives of IGOs and NGOs, as well as academia and everyone interested in migration field. The work on migration profiles made it possible to share with you a brief summary of the migration situation in the Republic of Belarus.

Germany contributed to this issue of the Review with an article on the history and present of the Federal Office for Migration and Refugees (BAMF). With this article we would like to start making you more familiar with the institutions responsible for migration issues in the Prague Process states.

Last, but not least, this issue contains an interview with Mr. Ralph Genetzke, Head of Brussels mission of International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD), on the EU funding mechanisms.

I truly hope that you will enjoy reading the current issue of our Review. As always your ideas on the next issue and your contributions with articles on the recent migration developments in your countries are welcome.

Faithfully yours,



Piotr Mierecki
PP TI Director

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The Prague Process upcoming and past activities

Planned activities within the Prague Process for the upcoming months:

- Implementation of PP4 training in Turkey (September to December 2014, tbc)
- 25-26 September: Joint PP2 and PP3 Concluding Workshop, Prague
- 28-29 October: Senior Officials' Meeting, Berlin, Germany

Past activities of the Prague Process for the period April – July 2014:

- 6-7 May: Joint PP2 (Legal Migration) and PP3 (Migration and Development) Expert Level Workshop, Yerevan, Armenia
- 3-5 June: Study visit within Pilot Project 2 (Legal Migration) to Finland
- 16-18 June: Expert mission within Pilot Project 1 (Illegal Migration) to Georgia
- 24 June: 3rd Core Group meeting, Warsaw
- 25 June: National Contact Points' meeting on asylum and international protection, Warsaw
- 8-9 July: PP1 Final Workshop, Warsaw

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Introducing the migration landscape in the Prague Process states: the Republic of Belarus

Alongside the ICMPD, the countries participating in the Prague Process contribute to the creation of the Knowledge Base on migration. The latter is crafted in the form of Extended Migration Profiles and Migration Profiles Light. The existing Migration Profiles contain information charting the essential aspects of migration in a given country. The Review presented herein comprises concise highlights concerning the key aspects of migration situation in the Republic of Belarus, assembled during the expert mission to Belarus in 2013. More data on the country-specific aspects of migration will be available in the Migration Profile Light for the Republic of Belarus, the publication of which will follow upon the approval by the respective state authorities.

Since 1991, the migration situation in Belarus has been determined by its socio-economic relations with the CIS countries and the European Union. The data as of 2000s show that the number of Belarusian citizens working abroad fluctuates between 800 thousand and 1.3 million people. Seasonal labour migration prevails. Current migration flows are mainly directed towards the EU, the U.S., and the CIS. Russia and Poland are the main destination countries for labour migrants, while, according to the expert estimates, 85-90% of all labour migrants from Belarus choose the Russian Federation. Russia is an attractive destination country due to its extensive labour market, which is open to the Belarusian citizens, lower transport costs, and the recognition of qualifications. As regards immigration, the main countries of origin of labour migrants in the Republic of Belarus are the CIS countries, and immigrants from Russia and Turkmenistan prevail. Furthermore, the Republic of Belarus is a transit country for migration flows from the CIS states and Asia towards Russia, Ukraine, and the countries of the European Union, three of which have a common border with Belarus (Poland, Latvia, and Lithuania). The geographical position of Belarus and the transparency of the Belarusian-Russian border are cited as the main reasons for the fact that inward and outward migration flows include a certain proportion of illegal migrants. The contribution of remittances in GDP in Belarus, according to the national experts, is approximately 3.5%.



PP2 Expert Mission to the Republic of Belarus 2013

BAMF

Decentralised structure – local presence: a federal office in touch with the communities

The Federal Office for Migration and Refugees is a federal agency, which operates under the aegis of the German Federal Ministry of the Interior. With its headquarters in Nuremberg, it is Germany's centre for migration and integration matters, covering a wide range of different tasks and responsibilities regarding these important issues in today's world. Apart from its core responsibility of considering applications for asylum and providing protection for refugees, it is the driving force behind national integration initiatives for migrants, people with migrant backgrounds as well as society as a whole.



The contrast could not be greater: from SS barracks to the Federal Office for Migration and Refugees. From the "gateway to the party rally grounds" to a place where refugees are granted protection from persecution and migrants receive support in integrating into society. The history of this building shows how a society can change. The Federal Office for Migration and Refugees has managed to reverse the building's original purpose", Dr. Manfred Schmidt, President

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Looking at its history, the Federal Office was established in 1953 as the Federal Department for the Recognition of Foreign Refugees. Following adoption of the 1953 Geneva Convention on Refugees, applications for asylum were initially handled at the site of the so-called Valka Camp (in the present-day Langwasser district of Nuremberg). In 1960/1961 the authority was relocated to Zirndorf, which is today still one of the currently 22 branch offices. On the Aliens Act entering into force on 28 April 1965, the federal authority was renamed "Federal Authority for the Recognition of Foreign Refugees". The Federal Office's subsequent course of development reflects global political developments since the 1960s and their effects on German refugee and asylum policy.

From the modest beginnings in the 1950s with an initial staff of 40, the workforce initially grew moderately to 60 in the wake of the Prague Spring in 1968. The military coup in Turkey in 1974 resulted in a substantial rise in the number of asylum applications, with 100,000 being reached for the first time in 1980, including 55,000 asylum seekers from Turkey. The staff increased in size to 240. The disintegration of the Warsaw Pact and the collapse of the Soviet Union triggered an influx of migration which peaked at approximately 438,000 asylum seekers in 1992. The large number of people applying for asylum led to extensive organizational changes: The asylum process was decentralized and a total of 48 branch offices were established in the respective federal states. At one point, the total workforce exceeded 4,000. The asylum compromise of 1993 and Germany's new geopolitical situation at the heart of a free Europe led to a significant drop in the number of asylum seekers.

Today, the Federal Office embraces 22 branch offices and a staff of around 2,000 people. With the current rise of asylum applications, further branch offices will open and more staff will be employed in order to respond to the newly formed needs. Through its countrywide network, the Federal Office works closely with social organisations and institutions – both, national and international – involved in refugee protection and migrant integration matters – with at least one branch office located in each of the 16 federal states.

The existing decentralized system for considering asylum applications, coupled with supporting national integration initiatives means that all these services can now be delivered locally. Equipped with the appropriate technological infrastructure to meet these aims, the Federal Office for Migration and Refugees has developed into one of the most modern and progressive federal authorities in Germany.



Dr. Manfred Schmidt, President of the Federal Office for Migration and Refugees

On the substantial side, the Federal Office takes a leading role in intercultural receptiveness of the German federal administration. One central aim is to increase the proportion of staff hired with migrant backgrounds, aiming to reflect their percentage in the national population. Every Fifth in Germany by now has international roots. Cultural diversity is thus increasingly becoming a topic that modern bureaucracies are dealing with, as is German society. The Federal Office plays here an important role by providing financial support as well as a platform of exchange between key actors in the population. In addition, legislative changes in recent years have accorded the Federal Office new research tasks in procuring and processing scientific data for the purpose of managing migration. This new remit gave birth to the Federal Office's Migration, Integration and Asylum Research Centre. The data and findings resulting from this research enable the Federal Office to provide expert advice on asylum and immigration matters to political institutions and involved parties. They are the basis of the Federal Office's public relations strategy to provide the public with substantial information on migration and integration issues, to take part and help substantiate the public debate around these topics and thus help create a culture of welcome and recognition in Germany.

Homepage:

http://www.bamf.de/SiteGlobals/Forms/Sprachumschaltung/DE/Sprachumschaltung_Formular.html

Organisational structure:

<http://www.bamf.de/SharedDocs/Anlagen/EN/Downloads/Infothek/Sonstige/organigramm.html?nn=1452628>

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EU Funding Mechanisms for External Cooperation on Migration

In view of the EU's new 2014-20 Multi-Annual Financial Framework, we have asked Mr. Ralph Genetzke, Head of the ICMPD Mission in Brussels, about the modifications introduced to the EU's Funding Mechanisms for External Cooperation on Migration.

Mr. Genetzke, could you first provide us with a short overview of the financial instruments available for the EU's cooperation with third countries in the migration area?

The main instruments for external cooperation are divided into 'horizontal' or 'thematic' instruments such as the European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights, the Partnership Instrument or the Instrument for Stability, and geographic instruments, including the Instrument for Pre-Accession (IPA), the European Neighbourhood Instrument (ENI), the European Development Fund (EDF) and the Development Cooperation Instrument (DCI).

Mr. Ralph Genetzke, Head of ICMPD Brussels Office

What are the main characteristics and differences between these instruments?

The overall objective of external cooperation instruments related to development policy, such as the DCI and EDF, is the alleviation of poverty. They are developed in line with the EU development policy framework (Agenda for Change etc.) but also other specific policy frameworks (e.g. European Neighbourhood Policy, Eastern Partnership etc.). The respective funding is programmed through Multi-annual Indicative Programmes and Annual Action Programmes (AAPs).

The so-called Global Public Goods and Challenges Programme (GPGC) provides for 344 million EUR for the period 2014-20. It focuses, amongst others, on enhancing the governance of migration and improving management of migratory flows in their entire dimension. It should thereby contribute to implementation of both the Agenda for Change priorities on migration & development and the Global Approach to Migration and Mobility (GAMM). One requirement is to focus on global and multi-regional initiatives. National projects are thus only granted in exceptional cases related to EU policy priorities.

When it comes to the ENI, it can also be used for supporting the implementation of the GAMM. Total funds available under this instrument amount to 15.4 billion EUR for the Eastern and Southern Neighbourhood for 2014-20. The above-mentioned bilateral multi-annual programming documents identify three focal sectors in agreement with ENI countries. In addition, 15% of all bilateral programmes are allocated to capacity development and institution building, going beyond the three focal sectors.

When it comes to the migration area, two funds are of special importance: The Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (3,137 Mio. EUR), covering legal migration, asylum, readmission etc.; and the Internal Security Fund on borders and visa (2,760 Mio. EUR).

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Is it correct that external cooperation on migration issues can now also be funded by funds dedicated to Home Affairs?

Indeed, the funds newly allocated to DG Home Affairs feature a simplified architecture and a new possibility to fund external actions. When it comes to the migration area, two funds are of special importance: The Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (3,137 Mio. EUR), covering legal migration, asylum, readmission etc.; and the Internal Security Fund on borders and visa (2,760 Mio. EUR). The biggest share of these funds are allocated to national programmes of EU Member States, allowing them to also fund external actions as long as they are coherent with the EU objectives and principles. They can thus also support measures to implement Mobility Partnerships, in particular those being of a bilateral nature and in line with national objectives and priorities. Meanwhile, so-called Union Actions are centrally managed by the Commission and should support transnational initiatives. Union actions can also be funded in or in relation to third countries. Such external actions should focus on non-development-oriented measures and need to be coherent with EU external policies as well as actions funded under external cooperation instruments.

What is the added value of Mobility Partnerships in terms of funding?

Mobility Partnerships are the most explicit cooperation instrument between the EU and partner countries in the area of migration. Whilst they represent important political agreements, they are not automatically accompanied by financial allocations. It is the responsibility of the EU, its Member States and partner countries to mobilise resources for the implementation.

At EU level, funding mechanisms under external cooperation instruments and Home Affairs funds can be combined to support different aspects of Mobility Partnerships such as capacity-building of partner countries in terms of migration management or measures to strengthen the Policy Coherence for Development, relating to issues such as remittances, diaspora or brain drain. External cooperation projects must provide EU added value by supporting the involvement of several Member States in jointly identified activities. Finally, the Commission also envisages setting up a specific Mobility Partnership Facility (MPF) in order to secure flexibility in the allocation of funds and in reacting to new developments and needs and to reduce delays when providing support.

Mr Genetzke, thank you very much for your time!

EU Mobility Partnerships (MPs) with the Eastern Partnership countries

- ❖ Moldova => MP signed in 2008
- ❖ Georgia => MP signed in 2009
- ❖ Armenia => MP signed in 2011
- ❖ Azerbaijan => MP signed in 2013



Where else can you find information?

www.pragueprocess.eu
www.facebook.com/pragueprocess
www.imap-migration.org
www.icmpd.org
www.eap-sippap.eu
www.eapmigrationpanel.org



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