

## In this issue:

- Director's welcome message
- Message from the founder of the Prague Process
- Voices of the Leading states and partners
- Overview of the Prague Process Pilot Projects and activities
- Outlook on the future activities
- Introducing migration landscape in the Kyrgyz Republic

## Director's welcome message

On behalf of the Republic of Poland, the leading state of the Prague Process, it is my great pleasure to welcome you to the third issue of the Prague Process Quarterly Review covering the period July – September 2014. This issue is special as it will present you the opinions of states participating in the 5-years-long process, already achieved results, current state-of-play together with new projects plans for consideration of Senior Officials' Meeting (SOM) of the Prague Process, which will take place in Berlin on 28–29 October 2014.

We have been cooperating in the framework of the Prague Process since the 1<sup>st</sup> Ministerial Conference that took place on 27–28 April 2009 in Prague under the title "Building Migration Partnerships". Those have been very interesting 5 years. In December 2010 Poland took over the role of the leading state from our neighbours and the founders of the process – Czech Republic, and I must admit, it has been demanding but very satisfying undertaking for us.

Looking back at the Prague Process I would like to emphasize that where we are now is our common achievement of which we can be proud of. Still, there is much to do in our ever-changing-world to increase positive and reduce the

negative impact of migration. Therefore, we should look at our Action Plan 2012–2016 approved by Ministerial conference in Poznan in 2011 and cautiously improve our cooperation.

The current Review will take a closer look at the expectations we all had at the beginning of the Prague Process. We shall evaluate the activities from last 5 years and pick which were the most fruitful and which could be further developed. States opinions matter and constructive criticism is what we all can benefit from to use our time and resources in a right way.

To learn from ourselves and the experience that have been gained during last 5 years we welcome ideas on prospective actions. Voices of all 50 states should be heard during meetings and consultations.

The four Pilot projects of the Prague Process Targeted Initiative are now finished. There are not only memories and skills acquired by the participants, but also handbooks and guidelines that will hopefully prove to be a tool we can make a good use of. This issue of the Review will present the information on the completed activities. It shall also shed some light on the proposed new concrete ini-

tiatives ready to launch from November this year. States interested can still work on adjusting the exact content of the projects to adapt them to their specific needs.

Last but definitely not least, we will have an up-date of the situation in our Knowledge Base. I personally find it motivating as migration profiles require a lot of work and Polish profile is now being prepared. Consequently I strongly encourage all the participating States that have not done it so far, to make this authentic effort with the support of the Prague Process Secretariat and share your migration profiles to Prague Process states.

I truly hope that the current issue of our Review will be interesting for you. I am looking forward to your ideas on the next issue and your contributions with articles on the recent migration developments in your countries. All your comments and requests are more than welcome.

Faithfully yours,

Piotr Mierecki, PP TI Director

## View of the founder

Since the Prague Process was launched in 2009, we have witnessed 5 years of very intensive, inclusive, fruitful as well as challenging cooperation on the whole range of migration issues between the EU Member States and partner states in the Eastern and South-Eastern Neighbourhood of the European Union, Central Asia, Russia and Turkey.

During last five years, altogether, we managed to establish a leading migration dialogue, a truly comprehensive regional platform for building trust, emphasizing the importance of the migration partnerships. The balanced approach of our migration dialogue includes the fight against irregular migration, legal migration, integration, migration and development, and international protection. I firmly believe there is a shared and indisputable understanding, that the external dimension of migration and mutual cooperation among us is an inevitable part of the overall migration governance. The international migration is without doubts a global agenda; nevertheless, practical solutions are most effective when being implemented on regional and local levels. This approach secures that the migration management is implemented at the closest level to the migrants with a migrant-centred approach. In this respect I dare to say the Prague Process succeeded.

The implementation of the Prague Process Action Plan for 2012–2016 endorsed at the Poznan Ministerial Conference in November 2011 in the form of 4 Pilot Projects and projects labelled as “Prague Process umbrella projects” like ERIS and EaP SIPPAP, resulted in a wealth of shared experiences and evidence-based reference point for discussions. Alongside these (pilot) projects, other important objectives of the Prague Process Targeted Initiative have been implemented, be it the building and maintaining of the Knowledge base in the form of development of migration profiles or series of other activities aiming at getting the participating states closer.

The success of the Prague Process wouldn't be possible without the proven interest and active participation of its participating states, without Poland that took the leadership of the process from the Czech Republic at the end of 2010 and without the leading states of the existing projects supporting the implementation of the Action Plan.. My words of appreciation go also to the International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD), the Secretariat of the Prague Process.

### Future...

The Senior Officials of the Prague Process during their meeting in Berlin on 28–29 October will celebrate the 5<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Process' existence. The Process is still young and it has a great potential to develop further, built upon the established network and continue to facilitate our joint intergovernmental dialogue.

In future discussions, further consideration should be given to synergies between the know-how and experience obtained



during the activities of the Prague Process and the actual policy-making of the partner countries. It would be favourable to focus on how to improve policymakers' understanding of the opportunities for and benefits of cooperation on migration issues of mutual interest.

Even though the migration situation in most of the Prague Process states is relative stable, we should remain ready to address and react to possible changes beyond our region, as the international environment is becoming quite volatile and sometimes unpredictable. Only by working together, we can address pertaining and new challenges linked to international migration.

In two-year time, the 3<sup>rd</sup> Ministerial Conference will take place in Slovakia. We, the participating states of the Process, should dedicate the two years to formulating the future direction of the Prague Process and continue designing it jointly so its format and activities on all levels meet our expectations and needs.

The Czech Republic remains actively engaged and will contribute to the successful work of this dialogue. I hope that the continuous strengthened involvement of all relevant actors will respond to partners' needs.

*Tomas Haisman, Director General,  
Department for Asylum and Migration Policy,  
Ministry of the Interior of the Czech Republic*

## Four questions to Leading States

1. What expectations did you have on the Prague Process when the idea to establish this migration dialogue was brought into life 5 years ago?
2. What benefits do you see in the Prague Process format for the states and practitioners to discuss and cooperate on migration issues?
3. What kind of the Prague Process activities (seminars, workshops, study visits, trainings, NCP meetings, etc.) do you find most effective?
4. How do you see the Prague Process future? / What direction should the Prague Process go in the future?

### Mr. Tomas Haisman

**Director General, Department for Asylum and Migration Policy, Ministry of the Interior, Czech Republic**



1. Our expectations back in 2008 where the idea arose were to create a stable, continued but at the same time flexible regional dialogue between EU Member States and Partner States in the East and South East neighbourhood that would engage together into targeted information exchange on migration.
2. Its flexible, often informal and practical cooperation between states' migration authorities is in our opinion the biggest asset. Particularly informal nature of its workshops or study visits (as part of Pilot Projects) provide opportunities to discuss and learn about partners' experiences and know-how in various migration fields in the region. It is states themselves who take up the migration topic of their particular interest and participate in projects. The Prague Process helped also to establish valuable informal contacts between states' administrations.
3. Study visits and trainings have a huge potential as they provide a practical transfer of know-
4. One of the possible ways is to focus on effective implementation of agreed standards and guidelines in (Pilot) Projects' handbook that are to be endorsed in Senior Officials' Meetings, would be establishment of a Prague Process mechanism of how to spread the agreed standards. A Prague Process Training academy might be a suitable answer to this need.

### Mr. Hans-Joachim Stange

**Head of Division, Federal Ministry of the Interior, Germany**



1. The Prague Process as migration dialogue and migration policy consultation process among the EU Member States, the neighbouring states in the east and south-east and beyond has led me to expect closer cooperation and better mutual understanding. I believe this is true of most of the participants. I also expected that the Prague Process would reinforce the eastern dimension (which is particularly important for Germany) of implementing the EU's Global Approach to Migration and Mobility. Both expectations have been met. I would especially emphasize that, in the process of implementing the work plan adopted at the Conference of Ministers in Poznan, it has been possible to make progress on joint capacity-building in this important area by sharing experience on asylum law and international refugee protection. But we must not let up and can certainly improve further in our joint efforts.
2. I find it important to learn more about the work of our colleagues in the non-EU partner countries and to understand their view of the many different migration issues. Mutual understanding is the basis for a discussion which brings us further. Only in this way can we achieve joint results. With its varied activities, the Prague Process offers a good foundation for encouraging and strengthening this mutual understanding.
3. Each of the possible Prague Process activities is effective in its own way. I believe it depends especially on the issue and the desired result. For example, if the aim is to learn more about particular aspects of the asylum system of the EU and its member states, then a seminar or workshop is probably a good choice. For an exchange on current migration policy developments and challenges and a more detailed look from different regional perspectives, the meeting of national contact points makes more sense. Study visits are especially useful for getting a first-hand look at what the partners are doing. We should therefore use all these activities depending on the issue and desired results.
4. The future of the Prague Process depends very much on how we all contribute to this process in the future. We need good ideas and the will to participate in projects and activities, and possibly to develop some ourselves. This is the only way to keep the Prague Process viable. The third Conference of Ministers in 2016, which we will start preparing at the Senior Officials Meeting in Berlin, will be very important for the future of the Prague Process. I hope very much that all participants in the Prague Process will be able to take part in that meeting and that we will achieve good results in Berlin.

## Mr. Peter Stauber

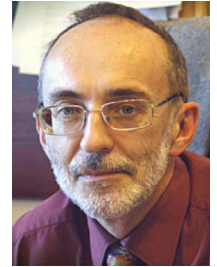
**Head of Department, Department of European Cooperation, Ministry of Interior, Hungary**



1. Hungary has been supportive towards the Prague Process since it was launched. The initial name of the platform says it all: back then we aimed at building migration partnerships. We were and are still convinced that the joint responsibility not only in terms of comprehensive and cooperative migration management on the part of countries of destination, countries of origin and transit countries, but also towards the people migrating between these countries has to be duly recognized.
2. There are countless positive aspects of this format. One of the main benefits of the Prague Process platform is the wide range of topics to be discussed. The priorities set down in the Poznan Action Plan ensure that all relevant issues come into discussion at one point. Another important benefit is that it is designed not only for high level officials but many seminars, workshops or even trainings are taking place where practitioners get the chance to interact with their counterparts. The stable network of national contact points enables smooth communication between one another and good understanding of the common goals. The i-maps and migration profiles can greatly facilitate strategic migration management planning for all, even during everyday work.
3. In my view, the study visits and trainings are the most effective. A study visit enables the participants to deepen their knowledge of a certain country/topic/practice thoroughly and in a detailed fashion. It provides a unique opportunity for interaction in the field. I think there is no need to justify the effectiveness of tailor-made trainings. And personally I also find a seminar combined with a field trip a truly beneficial tool for exchange of both theory and practice.
4. I think we have achieved many of our initial aims: better cooperation, active and lively interaction in a wide range of topics and enhancement of national procedures for the benefit of all. Still, we cannot lean back and enjoy the fruit of our work. In a global environment more volatile than ever, migration is a continuously changing and challenging phenomenon and new and more innovative solutions are required. We certainly need more discussion and interaction on the root causes of migration flows and we should also seek to engage more the countries of the Central Asian region into Prague Process activities.

## Mr. Piotr Mierecki

**Deputy Director, Department for Migration Policy, Ministry of the Interior, Poland**



1. Poland was cheering Czech Republic from the outset of the Prague Process. We really thought that the timing for starting such an undertaking was just the right one and that the challenges that were ahead would require cooperation within the group of states that was being formed. It is without a doubt that over the last decades, migration has shifted toward a more multinational process. The management of migration could no longer solely exist on a unilateral or bilateral basis. The concept of a regional dialogue, which for the first time applied to the southern neighbourhood of the EU in the form of Rabat Process, seemed to be a useful platform for cooperation also in relation to the Union's Eastern Neighbourhood. "Openness" of the formula of dialogue created an opportunity to encompass a large number of countries, regardless of their advancement in the field of migration management. The assumption was that the dialogue would eventually lead to a common understanding of the phenomena of migration and development of the principles of cooperation.
2. Prague Process format combines dialogue at senior official with the exchange of experience at the level of experts. This duality creates conditions conducive to consolidation of achievements earned by experts through the acceptance resting on decision-making level and subsequent dissemination in the areas covered by the process. Seminars and trainings are our preferred way of sharing knowledge and practices. Also the compositions of the groups consisting of experts with different backgrounds have often been giving fresh perspective to the topics we had thought were obvious.
3. As a large state-driven political process there have been many inbuilt risks, such as blurred goals and differences in setting ways to achieve them. Nevertheless the Process formula has proved to work well. The challenge for now is not only to uphold the intensiveness of the cooperation without getting into routines, but to further strengthen the cooperation within the topics of the Action Plan 2012-2016. We would also like to see more bilateral cooperation between Prague Process states.
4. As the Leading State we will do our utmost to pave the way to the new Ministerial Conference in 2016 which will decide on the future of the Prague Process. In the meantime we should all work on the good evaluation of the Action Plan 2012-2016. The declared intention of the Prague Process is to keep the dialogue open for cooperation. Since the dialogue emphasizes an operational approach, practical know-how and joint standards' development are of special relevance in this respect.

## Ms. Emanuela Mosor

**European Affairs Expert, Directorate for European Affairs and International Relations, Ministry of Internal Affairs**



1. When the idea of the Prague Process emerged 5 years ago, Romania considered it as an opportunity to get involved in the finalization of the EU policies on migration and asylum, linking these efforts to promote an increased attention towards an effective neighbourhood policy, especially for the eastern and south-eastern regions of the European Union. Romania was drawn to the idea of cooperation with the countries in its immediate vicinity, the idea of ensuring a secure environment in the region, extending the principles and values applicable in the European space being the cornerstone of the decision to become part of the Prague Process. Meanwhile, the Prague Process proved to be an important and fruitful platform for a strengthened cooperation in the field of migration between the participating EU and non-EU member countries, an excellent basis for building partnerships on various issues, in line with the Global Approach to Migration and Mobility.
2. We consider, as much as other actors do, that the Prague Process is a priority migration dialogue towards the East neighbours. For the Romanian experts who participated in the workshops of the Prague Process projects, there was an opportunity to present their best practices and expertise in the field of migration, both to other Member States and third countries. They also had the opportunity to learn new skills, provided by the involved countries. We strongly believe that all the work that has been done under the Prague Process umbrella can support and stimulate the cooperation between the key players as governmental institutions, representatives of NGOs and academia, as well as the establishment of the inter-professional networks that have led to rapid and efficient exchange of data and information for practitioners.
3. All the formats used to discuss the various topics of interest, whether it is seminars, workshops, study visits, trainings, meetings of National Contact Points, have proven their efficiency specifically by adjusting the framework to the participant / interlocutor.
4. As far as the future of the Prague Process is concerned, we believe that this type of cooperation must follow its route in order to create and maintain common standards for the management of migratory flows, to enhance the exchange of dates between institutions, to implement tools for preventing and fighting illegal migration, promoting readmission, voluntary return and sustainable reintegration.

## Mr. Vladimír Šimoňák

**Director, Department of Foreign and European Affairs, Ministry of Interior, Slovakia**



1. The Prague Process was considered to be a platform that continues to support cooperation between EU member states and the countries of the EU Eastern Neighbourhood, which was established during the implementation of the Building Migration Partnerships project in the period 2009–2011. We expected the Prague Process to expand and deepen the practical cooperation between countries in the area of migration, with the aim to more efficiently manage migration flows in the EU, while at the same time building the capacities in non-EU member states.
2. The Prague Process provides the countries with an opportunity to define joined interests, aims and needs and discuss them on various levels. Moreover, the representatives of the state authorities responsible for migration policies can make personal contacts, what is beneficial for all parties involved. The dialogue and the meetings organised in its framework allow countries to learn from each other and reach mutual understanding. Many countries, the systems of which are still under development, use EU MS migration policy as a good example for improvement of their own system, what in turn ensures proximity of the EU migration policies and the migration policies of third countries. This factor significantly influences the practical cooperation during the training activities.

The general acceptance of the format and status of the Prague process helps the countries to implement joined, in most cases EU financed, projects in the migration area.
3. It is not possible to determine the most effective activity form, because a lot depend on a topic and a problem in focus. Sometimes several activity forms should be combined in order to reach desirable goal. Nevertheless, from the practical point of view, study visits and trainings seem to be the most effective forms, while seminars and workshops can only complement the practical trainings.
4. Currently the Prague Process addresses a number of countries' priority issues in the migration area, which are listed in the Prague Process Action Plan for 2012-2016. The future of the Prague Process depends on whether the countries consider the stated priorities and goals fulfilled or not. At first a detailed analysis of migration situation shall help to define which activities should continue ,and which activities might be considered as being fulfilled on a desired level. And after that it would be possible to decide whether there is an interest and sufficient capacities allowing setting new priorities and activities and identifying a suitable form for their implementation.

In the framework of such topics as the return policy and fighting illegal migration, an effective cooperation with non-EU member states remains the top priority. Concerning the fact that cooperation between the countries has been already established, it is necessary to maintain and expand existing cooperation, where it is appropriate and possible. In this area it is especially important to promote the practical cooperation between EU MS, which border with neighbouring third countries.

## Mr. Martijn Pluim

**Director Eastern Dimension, ICMPD**



1. Originally, the Prague conference was aimed at setting the framework for all migration related cooperation among all the participating states, such as the the Budapest Process, the EU dialogues with individual countries and others. And I had high expectations about that: the conclusions were very elaborate, covered all areas of migration and had been developed in close consultation with all countries. During the implementation of the first follow-up project, however, it became clear that many states wanted a more structured dialogue and that the Prague Process, as it became called, could provide added value for the migration dialogue next to the Budapest Process.
2. The real innovation of the Prague Process was how it put into practice the linkage between active dialogue, research and capacity building. Among others via the development of migration profiles the Prague Process has build up a unique knowledge base on migration and migration management structures and uses this information in the interest of all states. The various pilot projects, led by states, further support the exchange of good practices among states on very concrete migration matters. In this way, the process can not only bring together policy makers, but also operational staff, increasing the impact of the dialogue.
3. It is not a question of which of these activities is most effective. What is important is that the interplay between these activities is optimised. The participating states and the secretariat need to constantly provide feedback on the strengths and weaknesses not only of the individual activities but especially on how all activities are linked. And adapt the process activities when needed. As described above, the real value from the Prague Process is the combination of all the various types of activities, and it has to ensure that the results are used widely – not only within the process but also outside of the PP, by migration professionals, by policy makers etc.
4. Sometimes, I feel that the Process lacks a real narrative, a bit more tangible objective, which can be easily communicated to its target audience, which for me are the migration professionals in all participating states. So, while I don't think the process needs to adapt its direction – a lot of work is still outstanding – it needs to further develop the way it involves the professionals in the states, but also for example in the DG Home. And maybe it should try to be able to more quickly respond to current developments, organise ad hoc consultations on burning issues. But for that, it would need a more flexible funding base, on top of the present generous financial support from the European Commission. ■



## Pilot Project on Illegal Migration (PP1)

The main objective of the Pilot Project on Illegal Migration (PP1) implemented from August 2012 until July 2014 was to strengthen the capacities of countries participating in the Prague Process in the field of combating illegal migration through the transfer of knowledge on the process of concluding Readmission Agreements, as well as through sharing of experience in organising returns of migrants. The project offered unique opportunity to the participating countries to exchange information and share experience in the framework of a series of meetings.

The project was led by Poland with the support of Slovakia and Romania. In total twenty States participated in the Pilot Project: Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Georgia, Hungary, Kosovo (UNSCR 1244/1999), Liechtenstein, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Moldova, Norway, Poland, Romania, Russia, Serbia, Slovakia, Turkey and Ukraine. IOM, Frontex and experts from the academia supported their efforts.

Following the Pilot Project's kick-off meeting held in Lvov on 8–9 November 2012, three expert-level workshops, a study visit and an expert mission were organised in 2013 and 2014. The main objective of the first expert-level meeting organised in Warsaw on 11–12 March 2013 was to share experience and good practices related to the legal aspects of Readmission Agreements, negotiations of such agreements and Implementing Protocols as well as cooperation on readmission and return between state and non-state agents. The second expert-level workshop was organized in Bratislava on 24–25 September 2013 and its main focus was combating human smuggling and assessing the impact of this phenomenon on readmission and returns. The last thematic workshop was

held in Bucharest on 4–5 March 2014 and was focused solely on cooperation on readmission and return and, more specifically, on factors shaping state-to-state cooperation – including through diplomatic missions – as well as the organisation of safe, humane and sustainable returns. The debates were informed by background notes on the current state of play concerning readmission and return policies as well as human smuggling, provided by the States participating in the Pilot Project.

In addition to the workshops, in June 2013 a group of representatives of 10 States participating in the project took part in a study visit to Poland, focusing on the exchange of practices and experiences in the field of readmission and returns, including expulsion by land and air. The practical cooperation between various actors (state and non-state ones) in return policy, including voluntary and forced returns of migrants of different profiles, was also discussed during the visit.

Finally, on 16–18 June 2014 experts from the project leading States – Poland, Slovakia and Romania – participated in an expert mission to Georgia to investigate the migratory situation and migration management system of the country. Special emphasis during the mission was put on readmission and returns, including the execution of the EU–Georgia Readmission Agreement and organisation of returns of Georgian citizens.

The implementation of PP1 enabled its participants to gather sufficient knowledge to develop a handbook and a collection of guidelines on concluding Readmission Agreements and organising migrants' returns. The final text of this document was discussed by the project participants during the concluding workshop organised in Warsaw on 8–9 July 2014. ■



## Pilot Project on Legal Migration (PP2), led by Hungary

The purpose of the Pilot Project on ‘Legal Migration’, implemented from August 2012 until October 2014, was to share experiences and good practices in organizing labour migration, looking in particular at improving the information flow towards potential migrants on available legal migration channels with a view to promote labour matching. Beyond these two focal issues, participating states were also granted the opportunity to look into other thematic areas such as the recognition of migrants’ qualifications, social portability issues, the role of bilateral labour agreements or the post-arrival assistance granted to migrants in hosting countries.

The Project was led by the Hungarian Ministry of Interior with the support of ICMPD. In total, 15 states<sup>1</sup> participated in PP2. IOM, various NGO representatives from across the Prague Process region and experts from academia supported their efforts. The main intention was to bring closer countries of origin and destination in order to discuss common interests and the practical challenges faced and to possibly identify suitable solutions. The project thus offered a unique opportunity to exchange experience and information within the framework of several workshops as well as to visit non-EU partner countries

<sup>1</sup> Albania, Armenia, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Finland, Georgia, Hungary, Kosovo (UNSCR 1244/1999), Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Russia, Sweden, Tajikistan, Ukraine

and EU countries to that end. Participating countries were also requested to describe certain elements of their migration management systems. More importantly, participating countries were able to strengthen their cooperation and improve their capacities.

Following the Pilot Project’s kick-off meeting in 2012, three expert-level workshops, one study visit to Finland and two expert missions to Belarus and the Kyrgyz Republic were organised throughout 2013 and 2014. The main findings of these activities were subsequently used for the ‘Prague Process Handbook on Managing Labour and Circular Migration’. This publication entails a number of non-binding practical policy guidelines for policy makers from the Prague Process region and beyond. The guidelines are complemented by short analytical introductions and other useful information, as well as policy examples of good practices implemented throughout the participating states.

States participating in PP2 were situated in various regions such as Central and Eastern Europe, the Western Balkans or Central Asia. In terms of labour migration management, some states featured advanced, well-elaborated policies, while others had only recently introduced explicit migration policies, aiming to increase their regulatory capacities. In several participating states – both countries of origin and destination – labour migration figured among the top policy priorities. ■



## Pilot Project on Migration and Development (PP3), led by the Czech Republic

Among the actions proposed under the 'Migration and Development' section in the Poznan Action Plan, participating states selected circular migration as the theme of priority interest. Led by the Ministry of the Interior of the Czech Republic, the Pilot Project on circular migration was eventually joined by 15 participating states<sup>2</sup> and implemented between August 2012 and October 2014. The project featured five expert-level workshops, four of which were organised jointly with PP2.

2 Albania, Armenia, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Finland, former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Georgia, Kosovo (UNSCR 1244/1999), Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Russia, Slovenia, Tajikistan and Ukraine.

While the concept of circular migration has not been explicitly introduced into the migration legislation of any of the participating states, a number of states have nonetheless successfully implemented pilot programmes on circular migration with selected partner countries. Several sending countries are heavily dependent on the repeated seasonal migration of their nationals, which in fact comes close to the concept of circular migration. The *'Prague Process Handbook on Managing Labour and Circular Migration'* entails a set of guidelines on how to engage into circular migration and successfully manage it, as well as references to established good practices. ■

## Quality and training in the asylum processes (PP4)

The Pilot Project 4 „Quality and training in the asylum processes: the European Asylum Curriculum“ of the Prague Process Targeted Initiative was implemented in the period from August 2012 till April 2014 and led by Sweden (Swedish Migration Board) with the support of Germany (Federal Office for Migration and Refugees) and in close cooperation with EASO, UNHCR and the Prague Process Secretariat at ICMPD.

The Pilot was focused on possibility to have more long-term and sustainable training program, which influences the quality of work in the asylum system. The pilot group of participants from 7 participating countries (Armenia, Belarus, Georgia, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Turkey, and Ukraine) were invited to go through the training program of the European Asylum Support Office (EASO) called “EASO Training Curriculum”. The overall training included a number of activities that suggested different pace and degree of involvement and aimed at covering different aspects of asylum process and relevant European experience.

The high intensity of the training resulted in more than 80 people being trained in the framework of the Project. Each participating country had an opportunity to participate in the online training, the face-to-face session (also called “Training of trainers”), a study visit to one of the EU countries (Armenia to the Netherlands, Belarus to Hungary, Georgia to the United Kingdom, Kyrgyzstan to Belgium, Moldova to France, Ukraine to Poland and Turkey to Germany), and in the end hold a National training. Today each of the seven countries has their own national trainers, and this fact allows organising the training session again and again, thus ensuring sustainability of the training. Moreover, the work on quality and training in the framework of Pilot Project 4 has motivated countries to improve their national systems, where some states prepared amendments to the laws, while others developed a framework for a regular knowledge exchange. On top of this challenging Pilot Project participating countries prepared their Country

specific roadmaps on trainings, and the leading states developed Prague Process Guidelines on Training in the Asylum Process – Approaches to Achieve Quality, being a general document for all Prague Process countries.

Despite the fact that the Pilot Project 4 has officially ended in April 2014, the trainings for Turkey, which could not follow the initial working plan due to internal changes in the migration authorities, were postponed and will be held in the period September – December 2014. The working plan has already been agreed between the leading states of the Pilot and the Directorate General of Migration Management (DG MM) of Turkey, while the first group of participants has started the online phase of the training on Wednesday, 17 September 2014. ■



## Prague Process Knowledge Base: i-Map and Migration Profiles (Objective 2)

The gathering, analysis, and provision of migration related information constitutes one of the main tasks of the Prague Process. Based on the principle that sound decision making requires a sound knowledge base, the Prague Process Targeted Initiative Support Team at ICMPD assists the countries

in developing the Knowledge Base (KB) on migration, consisting of state-owned migration profiles with comparable data categories and an IT-based information exchange tool on various aspects of migration.

### Migration Profiles

The long-term aim of the Prague Process is to collect national Migration Profiles (MP) for all 50 Prague Process participating states in order to foster the mutual understanding of the migration situation in partner states. The Extended versions of the profiles present a comprehensive overview of such development related aspects as “socio-economic context of migration”, “diasporas”, “remittances”, “economy/economic climate”, “labour market analysis”, “human capital,” etc. The results of the profiles directly found their way in the further programming of the migration dialogue between states.

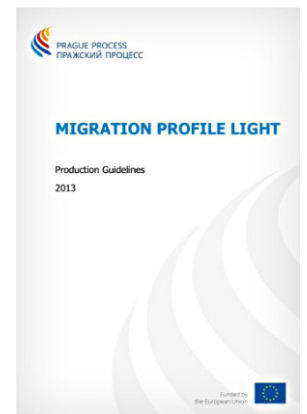
While continuous attention to updating and developing Extended Migration Profiles remains, the PP TI has taken into account the feedback received from the Prague Process participating states and proposed a concept of the Migration Profile Light (MPL). In comparison to the Extended Migration Profile, which contains information that goes beyond pure migration related information, the MPL is an information tool that gathers key facts, figures, priorities, and challenges pertaining strictly to the migration situation. The format of the MPL allows for easy annual updatability and a standardised data for all countries involved.

Following the joint elaboration, discussion, and approval of the MPL development guidelines, Germany volunteered to develop the pilot MPL and shared its experience with the preparation of the document.

In 2014 alone, the Prague Process team assisted five countries in the preparation of their respective MPLs (Armenia, Belarus, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, and Tajikistan), and the MPL for Kazakhstan is currently being elaborated. While the PP TI Support Team actively assists the states in their preparatory work, the ownership and responsibility of the content in terms of data provided in this Migration Profile resides solely with the country elaborating the report. MPLs will be available on-line following their formal endorsement by the respective state.

Today, a total of 16 migration profiles and visualisations of other relevant information are available on the Prague Process website ([www.pragueprocess.eu](http://www.pragueprocess.eu)) and the Prague Process section of the i-Map ([www.imap-migration.org](http://www.imap-migration.org)). From the onset, throughout the existence of the Building Migration Partnerships initiative, as well as during the course of de-

velopment of the Prague Process Targeted Initiative, the content of the Profiles and visualizations has been prepared with the assistance of the European Union, and approved and endorsed by the state authorities of the project partner states. The leading EU MS adopt a reciprocal approach to efficiently channel their efforts in driving the Prague Process forward.



### Visualizations and i-Map

The purpose of this information tool is to serve migration authorities and other interested parties by visualizing key elements of a certain migration theme. The tool represented a step towards the development of an interactive electronic database on migration flows between countries participating in the PP. Migration Profiles and visualizations of other relevant information are available online via the interactive i-Map at [www.imap-migration.org](http://www.imap-migration.org). For example, a visual poster “Migration from Eastern Partnership Countries, Central Asia and Russia to the EU and EFTA” tells a story of legal migration and residence of non-EU citizens in EU countries based on Eurostat data for the period 2008-2012.



## Concrete activities in the nearest future

### **Pilot Project 5 on illegal migration led by Poland and Romania**

The overall objective of the proposed Pilot Project is to increase the ability of participating states in establishing identity and/or nationality of irregular migrants and to develop Prague Process standards in this area. The topic of the Pilot Project 5 corresponds to the specific action 2, point c), and action 3 of Chapter I – Preventing and fighting illegal migration of the Prague Process Action Plan 2012–2016.

Through set of workshops in the course of the 14 months (November 2014 – December 2015), the project aims to facilitate expert-level exchange of experience between the participating states in identification of vulnerable groups, including women and unaccompanied minors, share best practices in application of processes and methods of identification, as well as learning about responsibilities of state authorities in this area. The joint work will result increase capacity of the migration authorities in identification, in established expert network on the topic and in preparing and subsequent endorsement of a compilation of good practices in identification of irregular migrants and Guidelines for utilisation in training and practice by migration authorities of interested states.

### **Pilot Project 6 on Legal Migration, led by Hungary and the Czech Republic**

The overall objective of the proposed Pilot Project is to explore and discuss current policies concerning the cross-border mobility of students in the Prague Process region with the aim of identifying good practices and policy recommendations for promoting student exchange among participating states. The topic of this Pilot Project corresponds to the specific action 6 (“To promote an exchange of students and researchers between higher education institutes of the Parties”) of Chapter III – Addressing legal migration and mobility with a special emphasis on labour migration.

Implemented between November 2014 and December 2015, the project aims to identify and share good practices and challenges in the policy-making, implementing and promoting the exchange of students between higher education institutes of the Parties, both between EU and non-EU states and among non-EU states. Moreover, it will explore and analyse the existing legal and procedural framework regulating students’ mobility between Prague Process participating states and assess it with a view to its impact on the socio-economic development in countries of origin and destination. Examining the labour market implications of student mobility in countries of origin and destination, the possible effects of encouraging employment in the host country or return after the end of studies will be explored against the background of brain drain and brain waste. Finally, the development of concrete guidelines is foreseen,

including concrete recommendations and good practices on how to organise and manage students’ mobility in an efficient and mutually beneficial way.

The project offers an excellent opportunity to the participating countries to exchange their experience and information in the framework of three workshops. As a result participating countries will be able to strengthen their cooperation and improve their capacities in the area.

### **Pilot Project 7 on Asylum and International Protection, led by Sweden and Germany**

The Pilot Project ‘*Quality in Decision-making in the Asylum Process – Focus on Evidentiary Assessment, Due Process and Jurisprudence*’ corresponds to the specific action 2 of Chapter VI – Strengthening capacities in the area of asylum and international protection of the Prague Process Action Plan 2012–2016. The topic was selected based on the analysis of answers of the Prague Process participating states to the questionnaire prepared as part of preparations towards the Senior Officials Meeting that will take place in Berlin on 28–29 October 2014.

The Pilot Project 7 will draw on experiences and results from the Pilot Project 4 “Quality and Training in the Asylum Process” and will aim follow up on the work of quality and creating sustainable training programmes and concepts as a key issue, aiming to reflect on results of Pilot Project 4. It will thus continue the work on enhancing quality in the asylum processes with a focus on decision making.

The Pilot Project will aim at introducing a concept of advanced seminars on selected topics relevant for case workers and decision-makers in the asylum process and to introduce *learning through case studies sessions*. Presentations of involvement in international protection law, including jurisprudence and case law, will be done by invited experts (from academia/courts/tribunals). The seminars will include an approach of training-of-trainers, for national trainers to be able to take active part in. This will ensure a sustainable and multiplying effect building up a cadre of national trainers being able to continue facilitating case studies learning sessions.

The concept of advanced seminars will include case based discussions and case law to a large extent drawing on good practices in several countries in the Prague Process. The participating partner countries will consider and recommend how information and good practices and emerging standards on assessing asylum claims could be shared and exchanged between the countries. The results of the project will be issued in Guidelines of Seminars and case studies sessions on asylum and international protection law, including e.g. Notes for facilitators, guidance note on how to assemble seminars, jurisprudence, draft fictive case studies. ■

## Introducing a Prague Process country

In every issue of the Review, a presentation of migration situation and challenges in a selected country will be offered. In the previous issue, the reader could get acquainted with the situation in the Republic of Belarus. This time we will look in the direction of Central Asia, concretely, at the Kyrgyz Republic.

The summary gives an overview of information compiled during the expert mission to Kyrgyzstan in March 2014. More data on the country-specific aspects of migration is available in the MPL, which will be published following the approval of the respective state authorities.



## The Kyrgyz Republic: migration situation overview

Similarly to the majority of the CIS countries, Kyrgyzstan is both a sending and a receiving country, where outward labour migration occurs in greater numbers than inward migration. Large-scale labour migration flows from Kyrgyzstan can be classified as temporary return flows, due to the fact that over 70% of migrants work in the host countries only seasonally, during the summer, then returning home for the winter months. Russia and Kazakhstan are the principal destination countries. As preliminary estimates indicate, these countries are respectively home to 300,000 and 150,000 Kyrgyz labour migrants, who reside here on a permanent basis. According to the official sources, a total number of approximately 600,000 Kyrgyz citizens are employed in Russia, Kazakhstan, Turkey, the United States, and the Baltic states. This number amounts to 11.7% of the total population of Kyrgyzstan. More accurate registration of migration flows within the CIS is hampered by the existence of the visa-free regime. According to the avail-

able Eurostat data, at the beginning of 2013, 491 Kyrgyz citizens were legally employed in the EU, mainly in Germany and Italy. As for the immigration to Kyrgyzstan, the annual quota for foreign labour force is determined by the regions within the country. China is the main supplier of migrant labour to the Kyrgyz Republic. Thus, 77% of the 2014 annual quota of 12,996 persons was accounted for by Chinese citizens, who were employed in construction and gold mining. According to the World Bank, remittances to Kyrgyzstan amounted to \$ 1.3 billion in 2010, \$ 1.67 billion in 2011, \$ 1.89 billion in 2012, and \$ 2.059 billion in 2013, over 97% of which comes from the Russian Federation. In 2013, the official volume of migrants' remittances exceeded country's budget by 33%. The volume of remittances is 2.4 times higher than the level of official development assistance emanating from foreign sources. It also exceeds the total budget of foreign investment and international aid programmes. ■

### Contacts:

**Ms. Marika Kosiel-Pająk** – Prague Process Targeted Initiative Coordinator  
Ministry of Interior of Poland, e-mail: [marika.kosiel@msw.gov.pl](mailto:marika.kosiel@msw.gov.pl)

**Mr. Radim Zak** – Prague Process Coordinator, ICMPCD  
e-mail: [radim.zak@icmpd.org](mailto:radim.zak@icmpd.org), [ppti@icmpd.org](mailto:ppti@icmpd.org)

