EDITORIAL

Most crises have a tendency to exacerbate already existing trends. In terms of migration, the global coronavirus pandemic and the resulting economic recession have increased the need for high-skilled talent and labour migrants in core industries, as well as for simpler and swifter procedures thereto. Moreover, the pandemic further boosted the provision of various electronic services to migrants and regular travellers. It also intensified existing demographic trends and brought more rigorous security measures both at the borders and within nation states and regional blocks.

In the EU, the third quarter of 2020 started with Germany taking over the EU Council Presidency and ended with the release of the EU's New Pact on Migration and Asylum. In its role of acting Presidency, Germany joined the Strategic Group of the Prague Process and will host the upcoming Prague Process Senior Officials' Meeting (SOM) on 16 November, which will take place remotely this year. Lithuania, the current Chair of the Process, attended the annual meeting of the "Inter-State consultation mechanisms

on migration". After two years, it will hand over its chairmanship to the Czech Republic during the upcoming SOM. The Prague Process Secretariat meanwhile continued its webinar series in line with the Contingency Plan, which the Prague Process Strategic Group recently decided to extend.

Across the Prague Process region, many countries adopted new laws on simplified visa procedures and other legislative amendments to facilitate safe travel, stay and work. Along with state efforts to apply new security-related technologies and protect their citizens from the deadly virus, criminal networks have also employed technology to smuggle and traffic human beings. The impact of COVID-19 on these developments should be duly accounted for.

This issue of the Quarterly Review will touch upon most of these regional developments, as well as propose some interesting reading recommendations, including the newest publications of the Prague Process Migration Observatory.

We wish you a pleasant read.

Looking ahead:
upcoming Prague Process activities
2020

22 October — Policy Talk on the EU's New Pact on Migration and Asylum

16 November — Senior Officials' Meeting

17 December — Webinar 'From refugee crises to labour migration – and back? Lessons for migration policies in the Western Balkans'
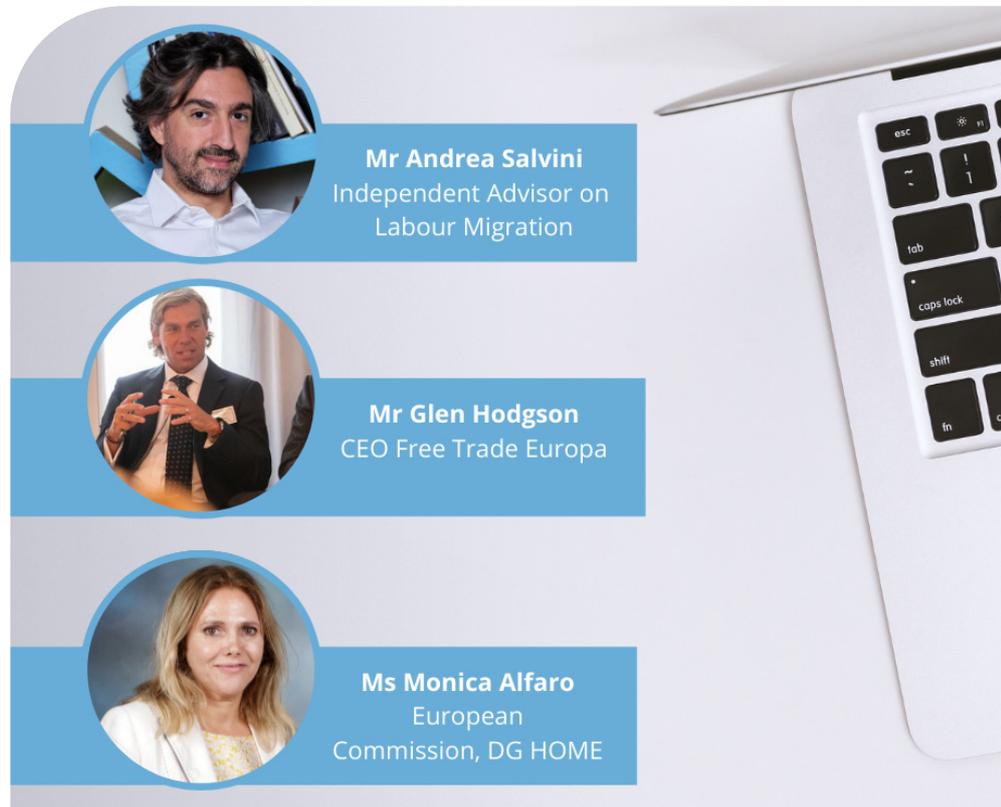
The Prague Process Webinar series

The webinars organised during the third quarter of 2020 mainly addressed legal and labour migration issues: In July, Mr. Andrea Salvini, Independent Advisor on Labour migration, tackled the issue of 'Labour migration outcomes in the Prague Process corridors'. Introducing diagnostic tools to compare countries of destination, he focused on low- and medium-skills sectoral shortages. Mr. Salvini explained how to assess skills shortages while analysing in-migration systems, integration prospects, working and living conditions. The webinar further discussed the trade-offs between circular and long-term migration, and showed ways how to adapt TVET components of both pre-departure and post-arrival services to strategic needs.

In September, Mr. Glen Hodgson, Founder and CEO of Free Trade Europa, in his webinar titled 'Migration and the Platform Economy' outlined the different perspectives of the platform economy for migrants and host countries. With many researchers agreeing that the majority of jobs will be freelance and platform-based in the near future, it is time to make sure that third-country nationals are not locked in a technology-facilitated parallel economy, which leads to unstable incomes, limited training and social isolation. Not only can the platform economy help in turning black jobs white and integrating migrants into the local labour force but also in addressing labour shortages.

Later in September, the webinar 'EU Framework for Legal Migration: Lessons learned and main challenges' with Ms. Monica Alfaro (European Commission, DG HOME) provided an overview of the EU Directives on legal migration, the results of their recent Fitness check and resulting lessons learned. Finally, she also addressed the main challenges faced at EU level in relation to COVID-19.

The webinar recordings are available on the Prague Process website.

Mr Andrea Salvini
Independent Advisor on
Labour Migration

Mr Glen Hodgson
CEO Free Trade Europa

Ms Monica Alfaro
European
Commission, DG HOME

COVID-19 UPDATES

Migrant arrivals to the EU on the rise again

After registering a record low in irregular migrant arrivals in April 2020, the situation swiftly changed over the summer. The Western Balkan route picked up throughout June. Over the first eight months of 2020, the number of arrivals doubled (reaching 13.350) as compared to the same period of 2019. In light of COVID-19 and its economic consequences across the Western Balkans, these new arrivals faced resent by the public and governments, both warry over security.

Bosnia and Herzegovina's north-western areas bordering Croatia have reportedly seen thousands of new migrant arrivals over the summer, which resulted in the deployment of additional police forces to prevent migrant entries. In response, neighbouring regions in Bosnia also blocked all return ways. Meanwhile, the Croatian police continued its pushbacks, widely criticised by various actors. On 5 August, North Macedonia called for a month-long state of emergency in areas bordering Greece and Serbia, which received extensive numbers of migrants. To prevent irregular border crossings, Serbia launched the construction of a fence along its border to North Macedonia.

> *Following a three-month halt due to COVID-19, the search and rescue operations across the Mediterranean Sea slowly resumed in June. In early July, the first rescue vessel was allowed to dock in Italy. In August, some 400 migrants were rescued but managed to come ashore in the port of Palermo only in September following a call by the European Commission and UNHCR to allow the disembarkation. The proportion of casualties among all attempted crossings has remained at 1 % (1,158 in 2019 and 604 in 2020).*

Arrivals on the Central Mediterranean route peaked in July. The calm sea fostered many migrants to attempt the dangerous journey, resulting in over 4.500 persons to reach Malta and Italy. Along with migrants from Bangladesh, Ivory Coast, Algeria, Pakistan, Sudan and Morocco, Italy saw a higher-than-usual number of irregular arrivals from Tunisia facing a corona-fuelled economic crisis. The figures dropped by one third in August, in line with the general trend of fewer arrivals in 2020.

The Western Mediterranean route and Spain also recorded more arrivals, primarily from Algeria, from June to July. Throughout 2020, an estimated 11,460 irregular migrants have reached Spain,

with many arriving to the Canary Islands. The country continues reinforcing its border infrastructure and plans to renew its existing fencing around the enclaves of Ceuta and Melilla, which often face irregular border crossing attempts from Morocco.

Arrivals to Greece on the Eastern Mediterranean have decreased as compared to previous years with some 1,800 irregular migrants arriving in July and August. Nevertheless, Greece has struggled with the processing of asylum applications and transfer of migrants from the overcrowded island facilities. A fire broke out at the infamous Moria camp, severely destroying the infrastructure and leaving 13.000 asylum
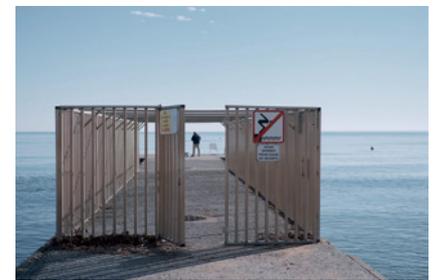
seekers in urgent need for shelter. EU Member States and Germany in particular agreed to relocate some 2,000 migrants, including many unaccompanied minors. Meanwhile, Greece has resettled 9,000 people to a new facility. 243 amongst them have been tested positive for COVID-19.

World day against trafficking in persons: What is the impact of COVID-19 on human trafficking?

July 30th marked the *World Day against Trafficking in Persons* – a crime recognised all across the Prague Process region. According to the Trafficking in Persons Report of June, most Prague Process states qualify as Tier 1 and Tier 2 (or Tier 2 Watch List) countries, thereby proving their continuous efforts to eliminate this crime. The COVID-19 pandemic has majorly affected the international political and security landscape, with the worsened socio-economic conditions enabling new trafficking cases.

The global economic recession leads to higher unemployment rates, which in turn are likely to increase cross-border trafficking from countries most affected by the downturn. A similar trend could already be observed during the Global Financial Crisis in 2007-2010. In 2020, Ukraine is among the first Prague Process states witnessing an increase

in trafficking cases. The first half of 2020 saw 800 Ukrainians identified as victims of trafficking, marking a 40% increase as compared to the first half of 2019. Signs of growing trafficking risks have also come from Russia, which has hosted large numbers of labour migrants from Central Asia. Many of them lost their livelihoods during the COVID-19 outspread in spring. Moreover, as many schools remained closed, the sexual exploitation of children through gaming sites and social media platforms has been on the rise.

Measures aiming to slow down the spread of COVID-19 - closed borders, restricted mobility and limited access to services – have all facilitated human trafficking. Unable to seek assistance, victims cannot be identified as such or leave exploitative situations. In addition, many people were left with limited or no legal support, financial resources

and access to accommodation, which has put identified victims at risk of re-trafficking. International stakeholders have already alerted of a large mass of disadvantaged people who may either fall victim to human trafficking for the first time or become re-victimised.

Read more here, here and here.

MIGRATION POLICY DEVELOPMENTS

Eastern Partnership and Western Balkan countries fulfil requirements for visa-free travel to the EU

In July, the European Commission released its Third Report under the Visa Suspension Mechanism assessing fulfilment of the visa liberalisation requirements by Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, North Macedonia and Serbia, as well as Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine. The report acknowledged that countries continue to meet the visa-free requirements.

The increased mobility of people by virtue of the EU visa-free regime brings economic, social and cultural benefits to EU Member States and partner countries. Most travellers from the eight countries have legitimate grounds for travelling to the EU. The cooperation between the border authorities on readmission and return also shows positive dynamics. The report, however, underlines the limited capacity of some Western Balkan states to accommodate both asylum seekers and returnees, specifically Bosnia and Herzegovina.

While presenting the findings, European Commission Vice-President for Promoting our European Way of Life,

Margaritis Schinas, stressed: "Visa-free travel […] comes with responsibilities and continuous efforts are needed to curb irregular migration and fight corruption and organised crime. We count on our partners to sustain achievements in these fields to ensure we can maintain visa-free travel in our common interest."

Despite the overall positive assessment, the report outlines concrete areas where further action is required. The number of **unfounded asylum applications** on behalf of nationals of the assessed countries decreased in comparison to the previous reporting period, but the total number of asylum applications filed in the EU remains a source of concern when it comes to Albania (18,555 applications lodged in 2019) and Georgia (21,570 in 2019). In 2019, there was an **increase in the number of irregular migrants inside the EU**, particularly from Albania (34,410), Georgia (11,845), Moldova (16,540) and Ukraine (41,705). When it comes to public order and security, the Commission stresses the recurring

issue of organised crime and smuggling (e.g. of drugs and tobacco), as well as the high-level corruption.

The Commission welcomes the continuing efforts of the countries to address these challenges. It urges to strengthen border cooperation through the implementation of the European Border and Coast Guard (Frontex) Status Agreements between the Western Balkans countries and the EU. Furthermore, it recommends addressing the identified issues through information campaigns, strengthening border control, proactive operational cooperation with EU Agencies and with the EU member states to ensure full alignment with the EU visa policy.

Read more here and here.

The EU's New Pact on Migration and Asylum

The Vice-President of the European Commission, Margaritis Schinas, has described the EU's New Pact on Migration and Asylum, released on 23 September 2020, as the most holistic attempt of the European Commission (EC) to establish a common EU migration and asylum system. Taking into account the lessons learned from the more idealistic approaches of the past, this new Pact shall open a new page on migration. It´s realistic and pragmatic nature and the overall importance of migration shall convince EU Member States (EU MS) to accept the Pact and overcome the binary questions of the past – whether referring to voluntary vs. mandatory

solidarity, solidarity vs. security or winners vs. losers.

The Pact entails three main pillars:

External dimension

The Commission proposes a change of paradigm, which shall result in strong and meaningful cooperation agreements. These shall create better opportunities in partner countries; enhance their capacities in border management and return; enhance trade relations, as well as the issuing of visas and scholarships to their citizens. The Pact seeks strong partnership agreements with 20-25

countries of origin and transit, which shall be tailor-made and mutually beneficial to both sides. Migration will become a positive element of cooperation and shared interest. After all, the EU remains the biggest development aid donor worldwide, as exemplified by the Trust Fund for Africa or the EU-Turkey Agreement of 2016.

Strengthening of the EU's external borders

While the EU will continue providing international protection to those in need, irregular migrants shall return right away. The relatively low numbers of

arrivals of the present provide a window of opportunity for creating improved and sustainable policies. The Pact, therefore, foresees an obligatory screening procedure at the border. This will entail identification of the individual, a health check and an assessment whether the person could be eligible for asylum. The screening results in a border procedure or an asylum procedure.

The further reinforcement of the EU's collective capacities to police its external borders - where many improvements have already taken place since 2016 – is another priority. The support of the relevant EU agencies, including Frontex and EASO, will play a key role.

Internal Solidarity

This has been the most sensitive and contested issue among EU MS over the past years. Nonetheless, permanent, effective solidarity amongst them is necessary in a variety of situations, including search and rescue, the risk of pressure at the border or a genuine crisis as experienced in 2015-16. The Pact respects the autonomy of the states and provides for new types of solidarity depending on the concrete situations encountered. There will be annual commitments of EU MS for the envisaged 'solidarity pool'. If individual

states refrain from contributing, EC will prescribe what they have to do. However, this shall only be a last resort. Engaging in the proposed 'return sponsorships' shall provide an acceptable alternative, where EU MS will also receive substantial support on behalf of Frontex.

From the European Commission's perspective, the proposed Pact needs to be accepted as a whole. The EU cannot afford failing a second time in its attempt

to establish a joint migration policy. Its absence has actually represented the main pull factor for irregular migrants. As long as there is no functioning EU migration system, the EU will also not be able to seek changes from its partners. Whether this will influence Member States in their reaction to the EU's proposed Pact and related negotiations within the Council of the EU remains to be seen.

Read more here.

Legislative amendments to visa, residence and citizenship policies across the PP region

Driven by a variety of demographic, strategic and structural factors, some countries of the Prague Process adopted new legislative acts pertaining to the acquisition of a visa, residence permit or citizenship.

On July 16, Ukraine adopted a new statelessness law, which will benefit an estimated 35,000 people in the country who are either stateless or whose nationality is undetermined. Some have been residing in Ukraine since the very dissolution of the USSR, and will finally get a possibility to obtain a temporary residence allowing to freely move, work and access health and education services. In a next step, recognised

stateless persons can get a permanent residence and then naturalise. As of July 21, Ukraine has also officially launched an immigration quota for foreign IT specialists, thus allowing Ukrainian IT companies to employ an additional 5,000 foreign high-skilled workers who are entitled to a ten-year residence permit in the country.

Kazakhstan has changed the conditions for issuing an investor visa and extended its validity from three to five years. It also allowed former Kazakh nationals to obtain a multiple private visa valid for up to three years, abolished an obligatory invitation letter for businesspersons, as well as extended and confirmed the

list of countries whose nationals can obtain various visas electronically.

In July, Russia passed two laws: one that simplifies and streamlines the naturalisation process for some categories of foreigners, and the other that allows foreigners to get a 16-day e-visa as of 2021. The electronic visa shall benefit nationals of 53 countries, including the EU Member States and Turkey. It will be granted within a four-day period against a 50 USD fee for the purposes of tourism, private, business and humanitarian visits. Meanwhile, the citizenship law makes it possible for foreigners who have a Russian parent, are married to a Russian national, have a

child with a Russian citizen, or permanently reside in the country, to quickly obtain a Russian passport. Moreover, ex-USSR citizens will no longer need to reside in Russia for three years prior to applying for naturalisation.

Also in July, the UK relaxed visa conditions for nurses and doctors creating a fast-track visa route for eligible health and care professionals as of August 2020. This new visa shall be issued within three weeks following biometric enrolment and will feature a reduced fee, including an exemption from the Immigration Health Surcharge.

On 1 August, Estonia launched the new Digital Nomad Visa, allowing foreigners to live in Estonia and work remotely for up to one year. This will allow professionals in telecommunications, marketing and finance to come to Estonia but continue working as freelancers or for employers registered abroad. Nevertheless, this visa does not open a road to permanent residence nor Estonian citizenship. Earlier in July, Estonia finished drafting the amendments to the Aliens Act disallowing family members of students residing in Estonia to acquire residence permits automatically.

Georgia, in response to the EU concerns over the state of play of the visa-free regime, restricted its exit rules to own citizens travelling to the EU.

As of January 2020, Georgian citizens travelling to any of the EU or Schengen countries visa-free can be denied exit by the Georgian border authorities if they fail to present a set of documents (e.g. a valid return ticket, a valid hotel reservation, or proof of sufficient financial means) or have an entry-ban to the EU.

IN FOCUS

The German EU Presidency priorities in the sphere of migration and refugees

Article by **Mr. Weinbrenner,**
Director General of the Migration Department of the Federal Ministry of the Interior, Building and Community

Since 2009, the Prague Process developed quickly into a valuable forum for dialogue and cooperation along the Eastern migration routes. From the beginning, it was a two-fold instrument: on the one hand, supporting Eastern partner states in their mutual interchange – and on the other hand as the Eastern dimension of the EU's "Global Approach to Migration". Re-reading the preamble of the 2009 Prague declaration I see

differences but also parallels to our current situation:

"Participating states are (…) aware of the existing diversity in migratory flows according to their respective origins, the need to approach these flows in a constructive and pro-active way and to develop **tailor-made approaches** in responding to the respective challenges and opportunities **according to the migration priorities and interests among our countries**".

You will find some of this thinking also in our Presidency Program.

The motto for the German Presidency is "Together for Europe's recovery". The COVID-19 pandemic has made crisis management and the gradual "return to normality" a new focus of the German Presidency.
For the Federal Ministry of the Interior, Building and Community, one of the core topics during the Council Presidency is certainly the area of migration, asylum and return policy. The control of migration flows and the dealing with refugees in Europe are central issues

for which the European Union needs to find convincing common answers.

From the German perspective, humanity and order are two sides of the same coin. People with a claim to international protection should get protection in Europe. People without a claim for international protection or without a right of residence in the EU should not be able to enter or to stay in the EU.

In order to fill this understanding with life, we need:

● a realigned Common European Asylum System (CEAS) based on the principles of solidarity and sharing of responsibilities,

● an effective European return policy as well as

● well-functioning legal pathways to enter the European Union.

Under the German Presidency, we would like to revive the debate on these issues, also taking new approaches into focus.

Pre-condition for being able to restart this very important debate is, however, that the European Commission presents its proposals for a comprehensive, sustainable and crisis-proof framework for managing asylum and migration in the EU. Further action under the German Presidency and the structuring of the upcoming debate depend heavily on the presentation of the Pact.

As far as the **Realignment of the CEAS reform** is concerned, the issue of external border management will be a central matter. The rapid growth of the Frontex Standing Corps and the implementation of the new Frontex Regulation are just as important as the implementation of mandatory "border procedures" at the external borders or the control of secondary movements within Europe.

Parallel to this, the discussion on the amendments to the EURODAC Regulation announced by the European Commission should take place. Furthermore, we would like to make progress with the negotiations on the EU Asylum Agency Regulation.

For an **effective European return policy,** the extended Frontex mandate that came into force in December 2019 is crucial. It provides, amongst others, the possibility for technical and operational assistance to the Member States at all stages of return. Moreover, voluntary return is now also a core duty of Frontex. We are working on concrete proposals for the further implementation of this new Frontex mandate.

The reform of the Return Directive is one of the priority legislative proposals in the Commission work program for 2020. We hope that the negotiations with the European Parliament on this important legislative act will at least be started under our Presidency.

In the area of **legal migration**, our main goal is the speedy reform of the Blue Card Directive, while recognizing the flexibility requested by Member States for national schemes in addition to the Blue Card. Success in this regard will largely also depend on the content of the New Pact in this area.

The amendment of the Regulation on the Visa Information System will be important, especially for the implementation of the Entry-Exit System, for the European Travel Information and Authorization System as well as for other interoperability projects.

In view of the COVID-19 pandemic, the German Presidency promotes a uniform and coordinated approach by the Member States in the gradual easing of travel restrictions at the Schengen external borders and the normalization of visa issuance processing.

Both the CEAS and the European return policy will only be successful if these areas are closely linked to the **external dimension of European migration policy.** It is essential that the European Union works closely and in a spirit of trust together with transit and countries of origin. Against this background, the German Council Presidency is fostering two concrete initiatives, one related to the Western Balkans and one related to the Mediterranean and North Africa.

To follow up on an Italian initiative to enhance cooperation with Tunisia, Morocco, Algeria, Libya, and Mauritania to address migrant smuggling and border management, the German Presidency is committed to use the current momentum to further strengthen a coordinated and more structured cooperation between the European Union and those five countries at an operational level. Under the coordination of the European Commission, all interested Member States can join the initiative, which is envisioned to cover all areas of migration, notably the fields of anti-migrant smuggling and border management, as a complementary part of the already existing comprehensive and balanced approach to migration management.

The second area with great strategic importance in terms of migration management is the Eastern Mediterranean / Western Balkans region. This was already the case, before we saw the Greek Moria camp burning down. Now, the basic necessity of humanitarian help has to be balanced with our common objective to avoid additional drivers of irregular migration and dangerous maritime crossings.

In this light the German Presidency welcomes the July 2020 Vienna Declaration to establish an "Operational Platform Eastern Mediterranean Route" to guide and manage support measures in the region. Participants include partners of the Western Balkans, EU Member States willing to participate, Frontex, EASO and Europol as well as the EU Commission. The Platform will focus on border management, return, smuggling and asylum.

To implement this ambitious program we will need the support of all EU Member States but also good cooperation with our neighbors, including those participating in the Prague Process.

Border Management Programme in Central Asia (BOMCA) concluded its 9th phase

On 15 September 2020, the EU-funded BOMCA Programme concluded five years of intense work at a final event. Over 100 high-level stakeholders, including the Delegations and Embassies of the European Union, border management agencies of Central Asian states, implementing partners and International Organisations, gathered online to present and acknowledge the achievements of the project's 9th Phase. The event also served the presentation of project results and tools designed to strengthen border management, migration governance, and trade facilitation measures in the Central Asian region.

The first BOMCA operations in Central Asia began in 2003 and since then have played a positive role in promoting cooperation among border management agencies through the concept of Integrated Border Management, as well as in helping the countries of the region to approximate the border control practices to international and EU standards.

Moving ahead, the EU has confirmed its readiness to continue successful cooperation with the five CA countries in the framework of the next 10th Phase of the Programme, which will extend regional cooperation efforts to Afghanistan in order to address security matters and promote cross-border connectivity and trade potential. Building upon its extensive thematic expertise in the area of migration and border management, as well as experiences gained across Central Asia and Afghanistan, ICMPD is entrusted to take the lead in a new thematic component of the programme. This new area of intervention aims at the improvement of living conditions in border areas through local economic development, with a focus on human rights, gender equality and vulnerable groups. It targets local authorities, civil society and non-governmental organisations.

The EU allocated EUR 40.1 million to BOMCA for the whole period spanning from 2003-2020; out of this amount, EUR 6.6 million was assigned to the ninth implementation phase (2015-2020). To this end, the EU has pledged EUR 21.75 million for the 2020-2025 period. ICMPD

has been closely involved in the implementation of the programme since 2004 by facilitating thematic expertise. In 2015, ICMPD joined the EU Member States in the implementing consortium under the lead of the Latvian State Border Guard and will remain in the consortium in the upcoming 10th phase.

More information on BOMCA can be found here.

Information on the EU Strategy for Central Asia can be found here.

ICMPD and Tajikistan formalise and deepen their relations

September 2020 marked a new stage in cooperation of the Republic of Tajikistan with ICMPD. On 10 September, the government of Tajikistan approved the text of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with ICMPD, which was officially signed on September 25th in a remote format.

The document ensures a deeper and more targeted cooperation and paves the way for the establishment of a Migrant Resource Centre (MRC) in Dushanbe. The MRC shall help improve migration governance and mobility, as well as reduce the vulnerabilities and challenges faced by labour migrants abroad by providing them with prompt reliable information and guidance.

For the past 16 years, ICMPD has carried out a number of projects with Tajikistan in different areas of migration such as border management and external labour migration. Tajikistan is also an active member within intergovernmental dialogues on migration. It joined the Budapest Process in 2004 and the Prague Process in 2009. "In light of steady annual population growth, migration abroad is inevitable. However, the migration processes should be well managed. The current global pandemic not only highlights the challenges we face in migration management, but also the opportunities", said Ms. Gulru Jabborzoda, the Minister of Labour of Tajikistan. ICMPD Director General Spindelegger underlined that the signing of the MoU represents a crucial point in this partnership: "We are now at a very special place in our relation with Tajikistan. The establishment of a Migrant Resource Centre is a first and concrete step in our commitment to deepen our cooperation."

Read more here and here.
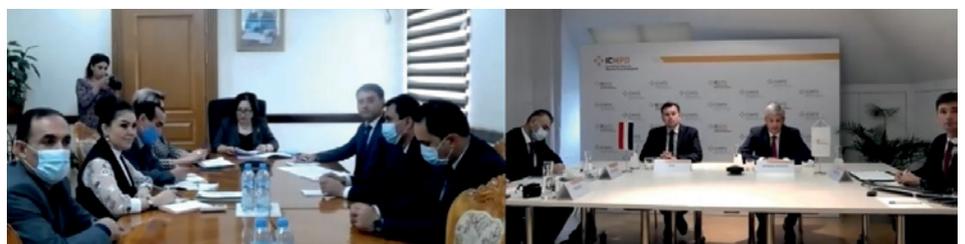
DEMOGRAPHIC CHANGES IN THE PRAGUE PROCESS IN 2020*

+ 0.9 mln

POPULATION CHANGE IN THE **EU27** DUE TO **NET MIGRATION**

NATURAL CHANGE OF THE EU POPULATION HAS BEEN NEGATIVE SINCE 2012

in **18** EU MS — POPULATION **IN**CREASED

in **9** EU MS — POPULATION **DE**CREASED

HIGHEST INCREASE OF POPULATION — EU MS

+41.7‰	+19.7‰	+13.7‰	+12.1‰	+9.5‰
+21,005	+12,214	+12,106	+59,599	+97,404
Malta	Luxembourg	Cyprus	Ireland	Sweden

HIGHEST DECREASE OF POPULATION

-1.9‰	-4.4‰	-5.0‰	-6.4‰	-7.0‰
-114,907	-18,081	-96,474	-12,293	-48,557
Italy	Croatia	Romania	Latvia	Bulgaria
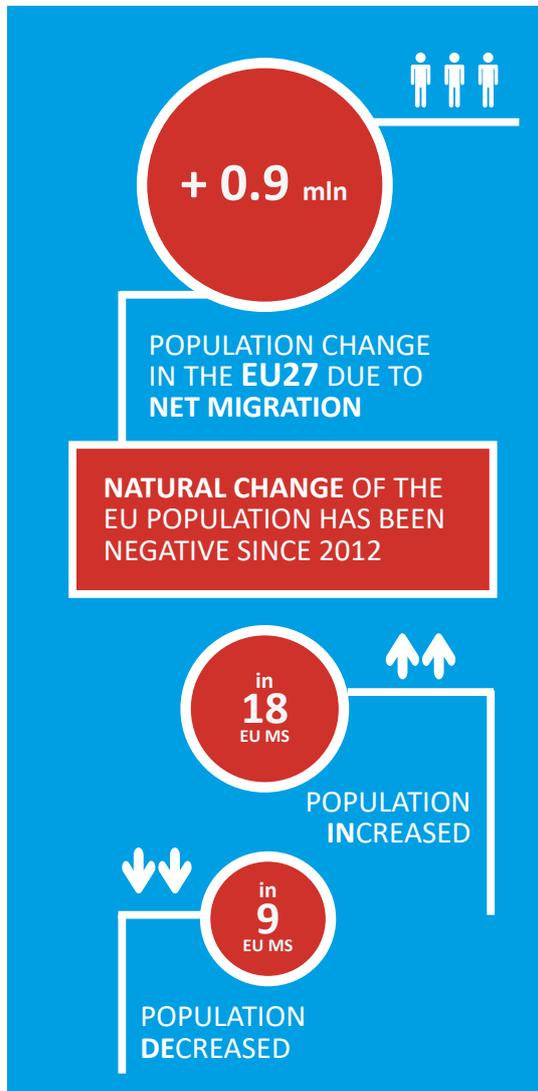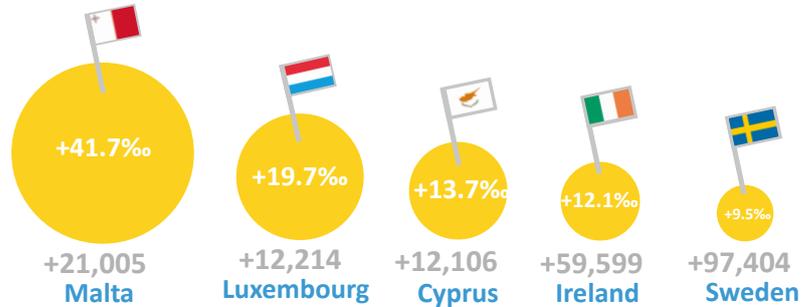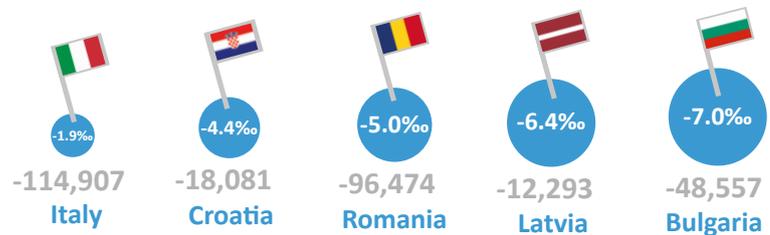
NON-EU STATES

HIGHEST DECREASE OF POPULATION

KOSOVO**	-7‰	- 13,551	SERBIA	-5.3‰	-37,059
UKRAINE	-5.9‰	- 250,785	BELARUS	-2‰	-18,998
ALBANIA	-5.7‰	- 16,472	ARMENIA	-1.8‰	-5,575

HIGHEST INCREASE OF POPULATION

TURKEY	+14‰	+ 1,151,115
LIECHTENSTEIN	+9‰	+ 370
AZERBAIJAN	+8‰	+ 85,651

DEMOGRAPHIC PROJECTIONS UP TO 2100

HIGHEST DECREASE

-40 mln	RUSSIA	
-30 mln	ITALY	
-27 mln	UKRAINE	

HIGHEST INCREASE

+14.5 mln	TAJIKISTAN	
+12.4 mln	KAZAKHSTAN	
+11.9 mln	UZBEKISTAN	
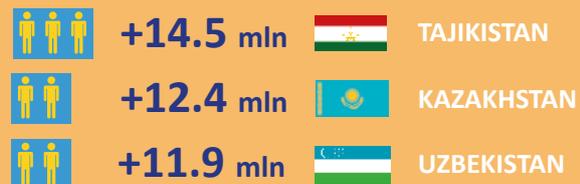
Notes:
* Per 1 thousand residents
** This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSC 1244 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo Declaration of Independence.
Sources:
Eurostat Report: EU population in 2020: almost 448 million LINK
Eurostat database LINK
Fertility, mortality, migration, and population scenarios for 195 countries and territories from 2017 to 2100: a forecasting analysis for the Global Burden of Disease Study, published in Lancet LINK

READS

Newly released publications

**Policy brief by
Glen Hodgson**

'Migration and the Platform Economy'

The brief explains what the platform economy is and underlines that migrants make up a large percentage of the workers in this sector. If third-country nationals get locked in a tech¬nology-facilitated parallel economy this will lead to unstable incomes, limited training and social isolation. Meanwhile, significant demand remains in some sectors - for both low and high-skilled workers - and the platform economy can help in turning black jobs white and integrating migrants into the host country labour market. Work permits should be granted to migrants where jobs are available, while efforts should be made by all stakeholders to build trust in the platform economy through collaboration and the establishment of a Code of Conduct.

Access the brief here.

PRAGUE PROCESS
ПРАЖСКИЙ ПРОЦЕСС

POLICY BRIEF

Migration and the Platform Economy

Glen Hodgson   July 2020

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Much is said and written about the platform economy with many reports and studies highlighting that the majority of jobs will be freelance and platform-based within a few years. In this briefing we look at what the platform economy is, and underline that migrants make up a large percentage of the workers in this sector. Third-country nationals cannot get locked in a technology-facilitated parallel economy which leads to unstable incomes, limited training and social isolation. The COVID-19 crisis has led to rising unemployment and the recovery is likely to be characterised by increased labour market flexibility.

Significant demand remains in some sectors - for both low and high-skilled workers - and the platform economy can help in turning black jobs white and integrating migrants into host country labour forces. Work permits should be granted to migrants where jobs are available, while efforts should be made by all stakeholders to build trust in the platform economy through collaboration and the establishment of a Code of Conduct.

PRAGUE PROCESS
ПРАЖСКИЙ ПРОЦЕСС   ICMPD   MPF   [EU flag]
International Centre for   Mobility Partnership Facility
Migration Policy Development

Analytical Report

**Internal Displacement in Ukraine:
Mapping the Flows and Challenges**

Natalia Husieva
Yekaterina Segida
Tatyana Lesnichaya
Galina Kravchenkova

August 2020

**Analytical Report by
Natalia Husieva et al.**

'Internal Displacement in Ukraine: Mapping the Flows and Challenges'.

Since 2014, Ukraine has faced an armed conflict resulting in a humanitarian crisis and the internal displacement of large parts of its population. The large-scale human displacement brought severe challenges, ranging from the socio-economic integration of IDPs in their host communities to their political, legal or psychological needs. This report provides a time-space analysis of the forced internal displacement in the period 2014-2018. It presents the imminent challenges faced by the IDPs and proposes possible solutions, taking into account the specific characteristics of individual regions as well as international good practices and lessons learned. Thereafter, the report proposes various measures aimed at developing and strengthening the resilience, independence and self-reliance of IDPs in Ukraine. Lastly, the report substantiates policy recommendations aimed at facilitating the adaptation and integration of IDPs into local communities.

Access the report here.

**Background Note by
Olga R. Gulina**

'Asylum seekers from the Eastern Partnership and Central Asian Countries in the EU'

This Background Note provides a statistical overview on the inflows, demographic indicators and recognition rates of asylum seekers coming to the European Union, focusing on eight countries of origin, located in the Eastern Partnership and Central Asia region: Moldova, Ukraine and Georgia, as well as Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan and Tajikistan. The document entails evidence on the socio-economic and political push factors behind these flows and the policy context they are embedded in. Particular attention is given to the classification of these countries as so-called 'safe countries of origin', in spite of the ongoing or frozen territorial conflicts suffered by some of them. Several conclusions and recommendations are drawn at the end.

Access the note here.
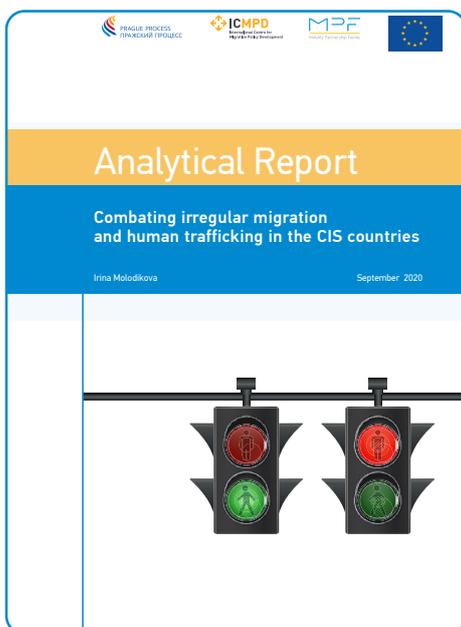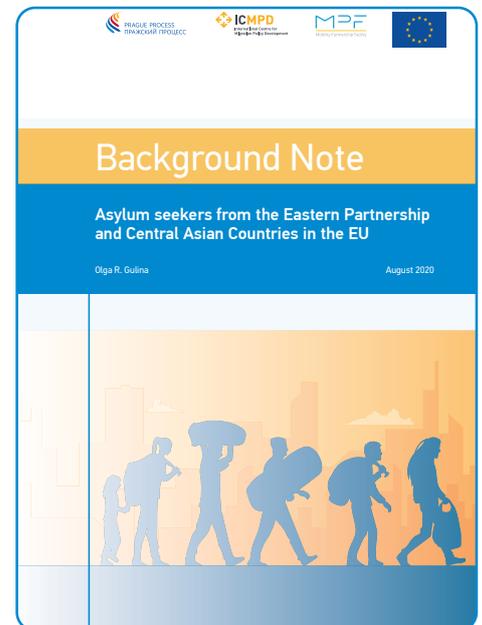
**Analytical report by
Irina Molodikova**

'Combatting Irregular Migration and Human Trafficking in the CIS countries'

In spite of the national regulations developed in order to counter irregular migration, the irregular employment of labour migrants remains a common feature across the CIS. Since their independence, the CIS countries have built a system of collective responsibility in the fight against this phenomenon, but a large number of labour migrants remains outside the legal field. In the area of combating THB, the criminal law approach still prevails over a balance between the criminal prosecution and the protection of the victims. This Analytical Report provides an overview of the irregular migration and human trafficking to, through and from the CIS countries and offers recommendations for possible actions to improve the overall situation.

Access the report here.

Interesting reads

EMN Study 'Long-term resident status in the EU'

Third-country nationals migrate to the European Union for different reasons: economic migration, family reasons, studies, or in search of international protection. Some of these individuals stay in the territory of the Member States for a considerable number of years and develop attachments to the Member State. For this reason, integration of third-country nationals who are long-term residents is considered as a key element in promoting economic and social cohesion in the European Union. This study assesses the implementation of the Council Directive 2003/109/EC of 25 November 2003 concerning the status of third-country nationals who are long-term residents by collecting information through four EMN Ad-Hoc Queries.

Access the report here.

Analysis 'Are agri-food workers only exploited in Southern Europe?: Case studies on migrant labour in Germany, the Netherlands and Sweden' by Open Society Foundations

Sub-standard working conditions and the exploitation of migrant workers are by no means confined to Southern Europe. In recent years, several studies have reported on sub-standard and even abusive working conditions that migrant workers experience in Northern EU member states, especially in sectors such as agriculture and food production. This report therefore focuses on agri-food production in Germany, the Netherlands and Sweden. These three member states also host some of the retail giants with key roles in value chain dynamics. Furthermore, over recent years national policies in these countries have paid attention to the role of migrants in the labour market and to their social inclusion in rural areas.

Read here.

Article 'Fertility, mortality, migration and population scenarios for 195 countries and territories from 2017 to 2100: a forecasting analysis for the Global Burden of Disease Study'

Understanding potential patterns in future population levels is crucial for anticipating and planning for changing age structures, resource and health-care needs, and environmental and economic landscapes. Future fertility patterns are a key input to estimation of future population size, but they are surrounded by substantial uncertainty and diverging methodologies of estimation and forecasting, leading to important differences in global population projections. Changing population size and age structure might have profound economic, social, and geopolitical impacts in many countries. In this study, authors developed novel methods for forecasting mortality, fertility, migration and population. They also assessed potential economic and geopolitical effects of future demographic shifts.

Read here.

World Bank Policy Brief 'Which Jobs Are Most Vulnerable to COVID-19? What an Analysis of the European Union Reveals'

This Research and Policy Brief presents measures of labour market exposure to COVID-19 in the European Union by identifying jobs in non-essential industries that cannot be performed from home. Jobs most at risk account for 30 percent of all EU employment. These jobs are concentrated in lagging regions; tend to be low paid and less secure; and are disproportionately held by young, poorly educated workers and migrants. In the absence of urgent large-scale remedial action, the COVID-19 (coronavirus) is likely to exacerbate pre-existing socioeconomic and regional disparities.

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